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The International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) Policy on Accepting Private and Corporate Donations

Adopted by vote of IBA Council 1 February 2016

Introduction

The International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) solicits donations for its Bear Conservation Fund (BCF) from individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations. All donations to the Bear Conservation Fund directly support annual grants programs of the IBA, primarily Research and Conservation Grants, and, in lesser amounts, Experience and Exchange Grants, and Conference Travel Grants.

The BCF is supported by outside donations and an annual charitable distribution from IBA's internal donor-directed endowment, the Homer Bear Conservation Fund.

To provide stability for IBA's grants programs and thereby enhance our ability to meet goals and objectives, it is important to develop relationships with funders that both agree with our vision and support IBA's mission.

Currently, most donations to the Bear Conservation Fund come from private foundations, private individuals, and zoological societies. As we increase our reach and look to approach potential corporate funders, it is important to establish clear principles for maintaining ethical and transparent relationship between funders and IBA's grants programs. IBA Council has established the following guidelines to that end.

Guideline 1: Donor support for IBA mission

The IBA will share its policy, vision, and goals with all potential donors to ensure their support for IBA's mission and that of its grants programs.

Guideline 2: Independence of the grant selection process

Whereas donors may request that their gifts be applied to work on particular bear species or general topics (e.g., conservation vs. basic research) or world regions, donor interests and project selection will



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be independent in all other aspects. Grant selection committees for any of the aforementioned grant programs will follow IBA and BCF selection criteria only. Fundraising and grant selection processes will be completely independent. No IBA member can serve simultaneously as a BCF fundraiser and on any grant selection committee.

Guideline 3: Protection of scientific integrity

No donor shall have any influence on the results, communications, or publications arising from the work that their donation supported.

Guideline 4: Independence from influence in policy statements

Donors shall not influence the IBA in taking public stances on bear conservation issues. For example, Council will follow its own policy in determining when providing input on an issue is warranted. Should the situation arise that IBA chooses to comment on an issue involving a current or past donor, Council will not consider that donor's personal or business interests in the situation as it drafts a response on behalf of IBA. Moreover, if there is a link between an issue of concern and an IBA donor, no one associated with raising funds for the BCF will author or vote on any related IBA position statement.

Guideline 5: IBA's right of refusal

In rare cases, IBA Council may direct the president and BCF chair to refuse donations from individuals, organizations, or businesses, where a majority of Council believes, through a Council vote, that IBA's association with these entities would compromise IBA's reputation for scientific, environmental, or ethical integrity. This guideline will be applied with great care, on a case-by-case basis.