



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.362

**Call for Applications to the IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund for the
Scientific Committee Meeting and Other Events in 2020**

Deadline 8 February 2020

At its 2016 meeting, the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-6 and thereby established a Voluntary Assistance Fund. The purpose of this fund is 'to facilitate Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2 that are not EU member states or members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to participate fully in the work of the Commission'.

Contracting Governments may request funds relating to travel and subsistence for full participation in IWC meetings and activities including capacity building exercises, scientific research, and conservation and welfare activities. Resolution 2016-6 defines 'full participation' as:

- Taking forward the work of the Commission as an officer of the IWC or its subsidiary bodies; as a member of the Bureau; as a member of an IWC Working Group or subsidiary body; by making a presentation; or by reporting back from one of these bodies; or
- Attending an IWC activity for the purposes of training and capacity building for the benefit of the Contracting Government.

This Circular Communication calls for applications to the fund from eligible Contracting Governments for the Scientific Committee meeting in Cambridge, UK in May 2020. Key topics on the agenda include bycatch and entanglement, environmental concerns, stock assessments, whale watching and small cetaceans. The full agenda will be issued shortly.

The 2019 report of the Scientific Committee that contains the 2019-2020 workplan can be found [here](#).

The Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group and the Conservation Committee Planning Group will meet on 25 May 2020.

There will also be a meeting of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) in Cambridge on 26 May 2020 for which funding is available to participants from eligible Contracting Governments.

Deadlines for Application

The deadline for applications to attend the Scientific Committee/CCPG/CC-SC/WG-OE meeting is **8 February 2020**. Applicants will be notified on 19 February 2020 as to whether their application has been successful.

Prioritisation

In the event of a shortfall in funding required to fund all applications received, the prioritisation process outlined in Annex 4 of the Financial Regulations will be followed.

How to apply

Applications for funding should be submitted on the attached form. The fields in the form reflect the application criteria stated in Annex 4 of the Financial Regulations which include the following:

- Eligible countries are IWC Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2; and
- Countries must not be in arrears with contributions to the IWC; and
- Countries must not be European Union member states, or members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Any questions or enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to secretariat@iwc.int

We welcome voluntary contributions to support the Voluntary Assistance Fund.



Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC