



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1386

**13th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species
(CMS COP 13)**

The purpose of this Circular is to inform Contracting Governments that the IWC Secretariat will attend the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in India 15-22 February 2020 ([CMS COP 13](#)).

At IWC66 and IWC67 the Commission endorsed a series of recommendations relating to engagement with other organisations. These included a commitment to continue cooperation already underway with the CMS, and its daughter agreements: the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS). The Commission has also supported co-operation with CMS on the Whale Watching Handbook and a co-hosted workshop on Ecosystem Functioning, which will be held in Cambridge in May 2020 just prior to the SC68B meeting.

The IWC secretariat will intervene on topics of mutual interest, based only on existing IWC mandates and recommendations endorsed by the Commission. Specific interventions are being developed on particular topics of mutual interest with the CMS, in consultation with IWC leads on these areas as needed. The Secretariat will also participate in side events as an opportunity to highlight work at IWC relevant to the CMS.

Contracting Governments are invited to contact the Secretariat if they will be present at CMS COP 13 and would like to use the opportunity to join the Secretariat at side events and for discussions with the Secretariat.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC