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**Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Accredited IWC Observers**
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Call for Voluntary Contributions

This Circular highlights funding needs in the coming year for IWC work programmes that are not core-funded and invites Contracting Governments, accredited observers and other organisations to make voluntary contributions.

Recent discussions, including during the Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting on 25 May 2020, highlighted that it would be useful for the Secretariat, working with the Chair of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening Finance to collate information on the funding needs for IWC work programmes in the coming year. Funding needs relate to existing agreed work programmes, and work programmes that will be presented to the forthcoming Conservation Committee meeting 28 September to 2 October 2020.

Many current IWC activities depend in whole or in part on voluntary contributions. Currently there are five formal voluntary funds:

- The Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Fund, which assists aboriginal hunters to achieve compliance with measures identified by the Commission. Funds have also been donated to support the hunters' initiatives to improve the welfare aspects of their hunts, and to fund relevant workshops or intersessional meetings.
- The Voluntary Conservation Fund was established in 2014, prioritising and supporting a wide range of conservation initiatives that are not covered by core funding. This Fund supports the implementation of the Conservation Committee [Strategic Plan](#), including the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, Conservation Management Plans and the Whale Watching Handbook.
- The Voluntary Fund for Small Cetaceans Research & Conservation which supports high priority research to improve conservation outcomes for populations of small cetaceans, particularly those that are threatened or especially vulnerable to human activities.

- The Southern Ocean Research Partnership Fund, an integrated, collaborative consortium for non-lethal whale research in the Southern Ocean.
- The Voluntary Assistance Fund, aiming to strengthen the capacity of governments of limited means to engage in the work of the IWC by providing travel funds to participate in meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

In addition, funding for implementation of the Welfare Action Plan (including strandings and entanglement) is administered under IWC's Other Work Fund.

Voluntary donations to these funds are most welcome as they are critical to progressing these important programmes. Further details relevant to some of these funds are attached. Funding needs in the coming year will significantly exceed current balances. Indicative costs are given where possible, whilst in some cases, costed work plans are still being refined and a description of activities has been provided. It is likely that further funding needs will emerge from discussions at the forthcoming Conservation Committee meeting.

Contributions to the IWC Voluntary Funds are [welcomed](#) from member governments, international organisations and other appropriate donors. Donors may specify a particular purpose for their contribution if they wish, by designating one of the funding needs specified here. All member governments and observers are notified when a contribution is received.

Please contact secretariat@iwc.int for further information.



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