

Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments  
IWC.CCG.1471  
*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

### 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.

In 2020, it was 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.

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 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.

Contributions to the IWC Voluntary Funds are welcomed from member governments, international organisations and other appropriate donors. Please contact [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int) for further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Lent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Rebecca Lent  
Executive Secretary