

NJG/JAC/30953

30 July 2009

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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Voluntary contributions from Australia

I am pleased to inform you that we received a voluntary contribution of 1.5 million AUD (equivalent to 733,350 GBP) on the 18 June from the Government of Australia to be divided equally to support activities in three areas: (1) Conservation Management Plans; (2) The Southern Ocean Research Partnership; and (3) small cetaceans conservation research.

I am also pleased to inform you that we received a voluntary contribution of 31,000 AUD (equivalent to 15,155.83 GBP) on the 24 July from the Government of Australia. This represents a contribution of 25,000 AUD towards financial assistance for developing country participation relating to the Future of the IWC Small Working Group and Support Group and a contribution of 6,000 AUD towards "Intersessional Workshop to consider climate change and small cetaceans" to be held in Vienna in November 2009.

With regards to the 25,000 AUD, Australia notes that this contribution underlines the importance that Australia attaches to constructive engagement in the process, and ensuring that all Small Working Group and Support Group members can join in discussions towards a possible package. Australia has made this contribution in response to, and in accordance with, the statement on 'Proposal for Financial Assistance for Developing countries' adopted by the Commission on 25 June 2009.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission