



For the benefit of species and people

Global Guardian Trust

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OPENING STATEMENT
TO THE 64TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA, JULY 2012

Global Guardian Trust (GGT), a non-profit organization established in 1993 to promote the conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources, strongly urges the IWC that the rule of law and science be immediately restored to the conduct of its business.

For many years, GGT has reminded the Commission that the moratorium on commercial whaling was adopted in 1982 without advice from the Commission's Scientific Committee that such measure was required for conservation purposes.

We have also expressed our deep concern that maintaining the moratorium is contrary to the object and purpose of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) and that in doing so, the IWC continues to disregard the principles of science-based rule-making and good faith interpretation of international law that are the global standard for good governance related to resource management including all ocean resources.

In our view, it is regrettable that anti-whaling interests continue to place whales outside of the broadly accepted framework of sustainable use and continue their refusal to compromise.

The World is now closely watching to see for how many more years the IWC could continue to hobble along. Obviously, *pacta sunt servanda* is the only way for the IWC to remain as a viable and credible international organization for the promotion of sustainable use and scientific management of whale resources and the ecosystem to which they belong.