



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
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New-Style Annual Report – Intersessional Period August 2012-August 2013

The move to biennial meetings prompted the Secretariat to review IWC annual reports and assess the most effective way to record progress and publish the annual financial statement in years where there is no IWC meeting. Separately, we have registered an increasing number of requests for information about the IWC from museums, schools, other organisations and individuals.

Attached is a new-style annual report which attempts to meet both these demands. It offers a twelve month snapshot report on the inter-sessional work of the IWC, in a format that I hope is succinct and accessible. We have made greater use of images to try and bring to life, some of the complex issues covered.

I hope you will understand that, in order to keep the report short and easily digestible, it has been necessary to focus on just a small number of issues from the many valuable work programmes undertaken under the umbrella of the IWC. Please alert us to any omissions you feel are significant, but remember that the aim of this new report is to provide an overview rather than a comprehensive account.

Such a comprehensive account will continue to be produced as usual in years where an IWC meeting is held. In these, alternate years, the tested and valued standard format of an Annual Report incorporating the Chair's and Sub-Committee Reports will continue to be produced in the normal way.

In keeping with our efforts to reduce costs and paper usage, there are no plans to produce hard copies of this new-style report.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

C.C. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC