



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments
and Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.278

Call for Applications to the IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund for events in 2017

At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-6 and thereby established a Voluntary Assistance Fund.

The purpose of this fund is 'to facilitate Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2 that are not EU member states or members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to participate fully in the work of the Commission'.

Under this fund, Contracting Governments may request funds relating to travel and subsistence for full participation in IWC meetings and activities including capacity building exercises, scientific research, and conservation and welfare activities.

This Circular Communication calls for applications to the fund from eligible Contracting Governments for meetings in 2017. Those meetings include but are not limited to:

- The Scientific Committee's SC67a meeting from 9-21 May 2017;
- The Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting (provisionally expected Monday 22 May am but awaiting confirmation)¹
- The meeting of the joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee working group (provisionally expected Monday 22 May pm but awaiting confirmation)²
- The in person meeting of the Bureau expected in September or October of 2017
- Any other IWC meetings or workshops in 2017.

¹ The terms of reference of the Conservation Committee Planning Group, agreed at IWC66, state that this group is intended to be small and focused. Attendance will not be restricted but may be limited by available space. It will primarily be composed of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Committee; Chairs of the Committee's Standing Working Groups; and nominees from Contracting Governments.

² The terms of reference of the joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee working group indicate that the CC/SC working group will comprise of nominees from the Conservation Committee, Scientific Committee and Contracting Governments. Additional expertise may be included as appropriate at the discretion of Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee Chairs

Resolution 2016-6 defines 'full participation' as:

- Taking forward the work of the Commission as an officer of the IWC or its subsidiary bodies; as a member of the Bureau; as a member of an IWC Working Group or subsidiary body; by making a presentation; or by reporting back from one of these bodies; or
- Attending an IWC activity for the purposes of training and capacity building for the benefit of the Contracting Government.

Deadlines for Application

Resolution 2016-6 states that the Secretariat should notify Contracting Governments no less than 180 days in advance of the dates and venues of meetings for which funding applications may be submitted. The Resolution also states that applications for funding must be received 90 days before the date on which the activities to be funded are expected to occur.

However, this is the first year that the Fund is operational, and the 180 deadline has already passed in respect of the 2017 Scientific Committee meeting, the Joint Scientific Committee – Conservation Committee working group meeting and the Conservation Committee planning group meeting. As a result, we are working to an accelerated timetable for these meetings.

Applications to the Fund for attendance at either the Scientific Committee Meeting, the Joint Conservation Committee –Scientific Committee Working Group, or the Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting must be received at secretariat@iwc.int by **28 February 2017**. Successful applicants will be notified one month later, i.e. by 31 March 2017. Applications with respect to other meetings in 2017 can be submitted at any time but must be received 90 days before the start of the meeting in question.

Prioritisation

In the event of a shortfall in funding required to fund all applications received, the prioritisation process outlined in Annex 2 to Resolution 2016-6 will be followed.

How to apply

Applications for funding should be submitted on the attached form. The fields in the form reflect the application criteria stated in Resolution 2016-6 which include the following:

- Eligible countries are IWC Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2; and
- Countries must not be in arrears with contributions to the IWC; and
- Countries must not be European Union member states, or members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The full text of Resolution 2016-6 is also attached to this Circular Communication. Any questions or enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to secretariat@iwc.int



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Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC