



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.317

Call for Applications to the IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund for events in 2018

As noted in Circular IWC.ALL.315, the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-6 at IWC66 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'. 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 2018. Those meetings include but are not limited to:

- The Scientific Committee's SC68 meeting from 23 April - 5 May 2018;
- The Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting on Monday 7 May¹
- The meeting of the joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee working group on Tuesday 8 May²
- The in -person meeting of the Bureau expected on Monday 7 May 2018 (in Bled)
- Any other IWC meetings or workshops in 2018.

Applications to attend the Commission meeting and its committees taking place in September 2018 will be invited later in the year.

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

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

- 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.

Due to a delayed decision on venue and scheduling, it has not been possible to meet these deadlines in respect of the 2018 Scientific Committee meeting, the Joint Conservation Committee - Scientific Committee working group meeting and the Conservation Committee planning group meeting. We therefore 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 **1 March 2018**. Successful applicants will be notified one month later, i.e. by 1 April 2018. Applications with respect to other meetings in 2018 can be submitted at any time but must be received 90 days before the start of the meeting in question. The deadline for applications to attend the Commission meeting is **12 June 2018**.

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