



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
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Invitation to IWC to Participate in Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Process

At IWC67 the Commission welcomed progress in cooperation other organisations (in IWC/67/19) and endorsed a series of recommendations for next steps including that the Secretariat should further consider and take forward opportunities to cooperate with members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG), including with regards to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and discussions on post-2020 follow up.

Subsequently, the IWC has been invited to be a part of a two-year preparatory process led by the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. As a member of the BLG, the IWC is requested to provide scientific and policy background into the development of the next round of biodiversity targets, goals and indicators.

In our initial contact with the CBD, the Secretariat has reminded the CBD of the scope of our regulatory mandate as well as the work of our ASW subcommittee and more recent work by the Scientific and Conservation Committees on other anthropogenic impacts to marine mammals. We have also offered to share the strategic plan of the CC as well as the SC's workplan, along with eventual access to the Database of Recommendations once this is ready for the public.

The engagement of a broad range of BLG members and other partners in this post-2020 process offers an opportunity for the IWC's work to be incorporated into the actual setting of targets and how they are measured. This could help to foster synergies between the IWC's work and those of other organisations and provide inroads into addressing threats to marine mammals that are beyond the reach of the IWC Convention's mandate, such as bycatch, underwater noise, and ship strikes.

Our input to this process would be based on existing mandates and work programmes. Anything beyond this will be brought to the attention of the Commission at its next meeting for review and if appropriate, endorsement. We will continue to provide updates on our engagement and seek your guidance in how this post-2020 exercise can be of help in meeting our IWC mandate.

The Secretariat welcomes any comments from Contracting Governments regarding IWC's participation in this process, including from those who would like to be more closely involved.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC