



CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS AND  
MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.ALL.342

**Call for Applications to the IWC's Voluntary Assistance Fund for the Scientific Committee  
Meeting and Other Events in 2019**

At its 2016 meeting, 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'.

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.

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.

This Circular Communication calls for applications to the fund from eligible Contracting Governments for the Scientific Committee meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2019. Key topics on the agenda include bycatch, stock assessments, whale watching and small cetaceans. The full agenda will be issued shortly.

The 2018 report of the Scientific Committee that contains the 2019-2020 workplan can be found [here](#).

### **Deadlines for Application**

The deadline for applications to attend the Scientific Committee meeting is **7 March 2019**. Applicants will be notified on 8 March 2019 as to whether their application has been successful.

### **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.

Any questions or enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Lent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Lent  
IWC Executive Secretary