



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1364

Opportunity to Host the 2021 Annual IWC Scientific Committee Meeting

This Circular offers IWC member governments the opportunity to host the SC69A Annual IWC Scientific Committee Meeting in May/June 2021.

With sincere thanks to the Government of Kenya for hosting SC68A this month, the Secretariat is now seeking expressions of interest from contracting parties for hosting SC69A.

The benefits of hosting a prestigious international scientific meeting of up to 200 participants from around the world on such an important topic as cetacean conservation and management are clear. It provides an opportunity to showcase the host country to a wide audience and to demonstrate the commitment of the country to its international obligations as a member of the International Whaling Commission. It also provides an opportunity to allow interested local scientists, connected to local Universities, scientific institutions or Organisations, to observe the Scientific Committee meeting and be exposed to a wide range of expertise and experiences in this field.

The role of the host Government is to provide an appropriate venue and backdrop for this meeting and the IWC and its Secretariat are there to assist throughout the process. The IWC budget has an allowance for the Annual Scientific Committee Meeting, based on a reference venue so the cost to the Host Government may be minimal depending on the venue and the level of activities (e.g. receptions, trips) that the host may wish to lay on.

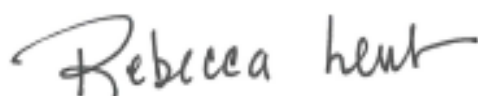
A list of recent venues is attached to this Communication. It shows a wide variety of countries have hosted previous IWC Annual SC meetings, and that venues have ranged throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and North, Central and South America.

The duration of SC69A in 2021 will be similar to that in 2019, i.e. approximately two and a half weeks. This includes sub-committee and working group meetings and a split plenary session over five days. There is some flexibility over dates although the meeting is scheduled to be held in May/June of 2021.

If you would like to know more about what hosting would involve or would like to explore this opportunity informally, please don't hesitate to contact the IWC Secretariat in confidence at secretariat@iwc.int. If no offers or expressions of interest are received by **01 September 2019**, the IWC Secretariat will commence with booking the reference venue (FAO) or an alternative venue within budget if this is unavailable.

If any contracting parties are aware of any dates that we should aim to avoid, please contact the Secretariat so this can be included in the preparation planning.

For further detailed information on host and Secretariat responsibilities and associated timelines please see The Handbook for potential hosts [IWC/67/FA/17](#).

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

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC