

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION FUND

Purpose

The purpose of this voluntary fund is to support the International Whaling Commission's conservation initiatives, consistent with the purpose and provisions of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, particularly in providing for the proper and effective conservation and development of whale populations. This is a dedicated IWC fund, to ensure financial transparency in monitoring and auditing the use of any voluntary contributions made for the purposes above.

Voluntary Contributions

The Commission welcomes contributions to the fund from Contracting Governments, non-Contracting Governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and other entities as appropriate.

Acceptance of contributions from entities other than Contracting Governments will be subject to the Commission's procedures for voluntary contributions as described in the Financial Regulations.

Donors, including Contracting Governments, may further specify a particular purpose for their contribution in accordance with the agreed Project Categories that are eligible for utilisation of this fund. The Commission may not accept funds for which the earmarks would undermine the Commission's ability to carry out objectives established by the Commission.

The Secretariat will administer the use of such funds in accordance with Commission procedures, including relevant audit processes. The Secretariat will notify all Contracting Governments on receipt of such voluntary donations, providing information about the donor, donation amount and any earmarked purpose. The Secretariat will inform donors as appropriate when their contribution has been utilised unless other arrangements have been made.

Distribution of Funds

A Conservation Fund Project Steering Group will oversee the selection of projects and distribution of funds in accordance with the guidance in the terms of reference for the Group and:

- the established Project Categories*
- the established Eligibility Criteria¹*

The Steering Group will submit a prioritised list of projects that are recommended for funding to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration and subsequent agreement by the Commission. The Steering Group will also be responsible for monitoring and reporting on progress.

¹ *Project Categories and Eligibility Criteria were agreed by the 64th meeting of the Commission. On the advice of the Conservation Fund Project Steering Group, the Commission may decide to revise these documents as required to ensure they remain relevant.*

