

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION FUND - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Projects eligible for IWC endorsement will be those that can be demonstrated to be consistent with the principles also established for financial arrangements in the Financial Regulations paragraph C2(a) (programmes or activities decided on by the Commission and/or to advance programmes and activities which are consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention), particularly projects supporting the objectives of the conservation committee, AND:

- a) can be demonstrated to deliver concrete cetacean conservation outcomes, with additional priority given to projects targeting cetacean populations and species most at risk;
- b) clearly identify conservation targets and milestones;
- c) are technically and financially coherent and feasible and provide value for money;
- d) have identified funding partners and institutional affiliations (with in-kind contributions clearly demarcated);
- e) have identified a project team and team members' credentials with clear illustration of the capacity to produce quality research that will be communicated to a wide range of stakeholders;
- f) have been endorsed by the process to be determined in accordance with the fifth term of reference;
- g) have the endorsement of one or more range states and IWC members;
- h) are consistent with legislative responsibilities of any relevant range states and those of the IWC;
- i) incorporate mechanisms to ensure periodic review and reporting;
- j) have an outreach and capacity building component targeting identified stakeholders and local communities (where appropriate);
- k) meet appropriate ethical guidelines with respect to the treatment of animals involved, ensuring interference with cetaceans is within acceptable levels and does not cause distress to cetacean individuals intersecting with the project;
- l) research methods are non-lethal only;
- m) fund only actions that are not otherwise the core responsibility or business of governments or industry, and that do not subsidise commercial enterprises.