

Prime Minister of Iceland Mr. Geir H. Haarde
Prime Minister's Office
Stjornarradshusinu vid Laekjartorg
150 Reykjavik
Iceland

14 March 2007

Dear Prime Minister Haarde,

Following the decision by Iceland in October 2006 to resume commercial whaling, the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) elected to seek to raise from public donations the sum of £95,000, estimated at that time to be the market value of one fin whale. If successful, our intention was for these funds to effectively purchase the life of one of the nine fin whales targeted by Iceland. The WSPA believes that Iceland's whaling should cease due to the inherent cruelty of modern hunting methods.

This action attracted considerable media and public attention and support. The WSPA has collected over 20,000 signatures from concerned members of the public who believe that your government should put more emphasis on supporting Iceland's already valuable and growing whale-watching industry, instead of defending an untenable and outdated whaling industry.

The WSPA is pleased to report that, as a reflection of the strength of public feeling against whaling, the WSPA has now raised the funds necessary to honour our proposal. However, in light of the fact that the market value of whalemeat in Iceland is considerably lower than anticipated, due to lack of demand, we now believe that the sum of £95,000 would more than compensate for the economic value of the two remaining fin whales in the Icelandic quota for 2007.

We hereby make the following offer to the government of Iceland:

WSPA offers the sum of £95,000 to the government of Iceland in return for a legally binding agreement that the government of Iceland will:

- i) Prohibit the catching of the final two fin whales awarded in the 2006-2007 season quota;
- ii) Direct the £95,000 from the WSPA towards the development of Iceland's whale-watching tourism industry including some or all of the following:
 - a. Government sponsored public promotion of whale-watching in Iceland;
 - b. Government sponsored public promotion of Icelandic whale-watching tourism in key international markets (i.e. EU, US);
 - c. Make publicly available subsidies to existing Icelandic whale-watching companies to assist in their growth;
 - d. Make publicly available subsidies to facilitate the foundation and establishment of new whale-watching companies in Iceland.

I look forward to hearing your response to this proposal.

Kind regards,

Peter Davies
Director General of the WSPA

