



Accord conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces
Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)
Agreement concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation
of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)



**Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea,
Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area**

**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BUREAU**

Monaco, 24 March 2003

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Introduction

1. Following the entry into force on 1 June 2001 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (hereafter “ACCOBAMS” or the “Agreement”), the members of the Bureau were elected by the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
2. The Meeting of the Bureau was held in Monaco on 24 March 2003.
3. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Bernard Fautrier, Minister Plenipotentiary in charge of International Cooperation for Environment and Development (Monaco). It was attended by the following members: Mr. Besnik Baraj (Albania), Mr. Simion Nicolaev (Romania), Ms. Maria Jesus de Pablo (Spain). Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (Chair of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS) also participated at the Meeting.
4. Mrs. Marie-Christine Van Klaveren, Executive Secretary of the Agreement, Mrs. Ebru Coskun Francour and Ms. Nathalie Ansaud ensured the Secretariat of the Meeting.
5. The detailed list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. H.E. Mr. Bernard Fautrier, welcomed the participants. He expressed his pleasure to host the First Meeting of the Bureau in Monaco and wished a full success for the work, emphasizing that this Meeting will enhance the implementation of the Agreement.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

7. The meeting adopted the agenda (Annex II).

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties to ACCOBAMS and Development of the Agreement

8. The Executive Secretary presented her report on activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties until December 2002; she also supplemented her report by the activities developed since January 2003. The report of the Secretariat is attached as Annex III.
9. Concerning the accession to the Agreement, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that for now, 12 Countries were Parties to the Agreement, and that the process of accession was underway for mainly five other riparian States.
10. The Executive Secretary indicated that since September 2002, the Ministry of Environment of Turkey has appointed Mrs. Ebru Coskun Francour, an expert in biology, to second the Secretariat for a period of 6 renewable months.

11. H.E.M. Fautrier, informed the participants about his exchanges with the new Minister of Environment of Turkey on the renewal of the appointment of Mrs. Ebru Coskun Francour.

DECISION

The Meeting of the Bureau :

- **expresses its appreciation to the Turkish Government for its contribution in the assistance of the Secretariat, considers that the experience is very positive and, in accordance with the Resolution 1.6 (appendix 4), encourage the Parties or Countries to follow this example;**
- **acknowledges the activities of the Secretariat and invited Countries to help him to increase its actions.**

12. The Executive Secretary indicated the follow up of the appointment by the Contracting Parties of two sub-regional coordination units, which were already developing activities on biodiversity conservation in the region, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement and to ensure synergy between Organizations.
13. Mr.Simion Nicolaev expressed that, compared to the Regional Activity Center in Tunis, the Black Sea Commission Secretariat had to face some difficulties to support activities in the frame of ACCOBAMS implementation due to the lack of available experts. In this context, he proposed to ask to the Commission Secretariat to transfer their responsibilities to his National Institute in Romania in order to enhance ACCOBAMS implementation for the Black Sea Countries. In the same spirit he informed that in April 2003, the responsibilities between the Center in charge of Conservation of Biodiversity and the Center in charge of Living Marine Resources will be clearly defined. The Meeting took note of this proposal.
14. The Executive Secretary expressed all the interest of the strong support brought by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), Marine Mammals Protection (ASMS) and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in the development of conservation actions for 2003.
15. The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting for the partnership with the Civil Society. The Bureau took note with interest of the investment portfolio prepared by the Secretariat to promote the Civil Society/ACCOBAMS partnership. H.E.M. Fautrier, expressed his wishes that beyond contributions in kind already brought by some Countries and organizations, this type of partnership could be developed by other Riparian Countries.

Agenda Item 4: Report by the Chair of the Scientific Committee

16. Dr.Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC) informed the Bureau about the SC Meeting which was held in Tunis (3-5 October 2002). He also described the actions and projects issued from the international priorities adopted by the Parties and which have been decided by the SC Meeting to be implemented in an early stage. In this context, he informed the Meeting about the

strong contribution of IFAW in the "Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) survey Pilot Phase in Mediterranean" which will be implemented in summer 2003. He added that, IFAW's research vessel "Song of the Whale" will sail to the Mediterranean during this summer to develop this study in Ionian Sea.

He also mentioned that for several actions requiring important funds currently unavailable and not yet developed, the SC started only preparatory works. The report of the Chair of the SC is attached as Annex IV.

17. The Bureau expressed his interest on this action and to the collaboration with IFAW and addressed his gratitude for its strong support.
18. Mr. Simion Nicolaev, informed the Meeting about the European Community Strategy for protection and conservation of the Marine Environment and asked to the Scientific Committee to link with the core team of this Strategy. The Chair of the SC, took note of this requirement.
19. Answering to the question of H.E.M Bernard Fautrier, about the spread and use of acoustic devices in the Mediterranean, the Chair of the SC explained that, there are two kinds of such devices which prevents the cetaceans to come into the nets: one with low energy called "pingers"; the second using very high level of energy and detrimental for the animals.

Agenda Item 5: Program of Activities

20. The Secretariat presented the list of activities to be implemented in 2003 and their budgetary implications. The Bureau agreed on all the activities in the document with some modifications. This document is attached to this report as Annex V.
21. The Bureau expressed his satisfaction that the Secretariat was able to keep the policy to devote 50% of budget for the conservation of actions.

DECISION

- **The program of activities for the year 2003 is adopted as in Annex V.**

Agenda Item 6: Budgetary Issues

22. The Secretariat presented the financial situation, and asked for advice on the repartition of ordinary contribution for 2004. The Executive Secretary reminded that in 2002 and 2003 the ordinary contributions were calculated as all Riparian States were Parties to the Agreement in order to avoid too high contributions for some Countries. The Bureau agreed the proposal of the Secretariat on the budgetary issue and adopted it with some modifications. The final document is attached as an Annex VI.
23. The Members of the Bureau expressed thanks to France and United Kingdom for their voluntary contribution.

DECISION

- **The Bureau decides to prorogate to 2004, the 2002/2003 system of calculation for ordinary contribution of the Parties, in Resolution MOP 1/1.6 annex 2 (Annex VII)**

Agenda Item 7: ACCOBAMS Partners

24. The Secretariat introduced the proposals from the Organisations asking the status of ACCOBAMS' partner. She informed the meeting that, according to the Resolution 1.13, Organizations and Institutions technically qualified in the conservation of cetaceans, formally recognized as Partners of ACCOBAMS, will be expected to contribute on a regular basis and to the best of their ability to the further development of policies, technical and scientific tools of the Agreement and to their application. With this context, she noted that the Secretariat received three proposals namely: Spanish Cetacean Society (SEC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes of Montpellier in France (EPHE).
25. Ms. Maria Jesus de Pablo, informed the meeting about the aim and activities of the Spanish Cetacean Society and presented the letter of support of her Government for this NGO.
26. The Meeting welcomed with satisfaction these three new "Partners" and indicated that their nomination will be officially acknowledged by the next Meeting of the Parties.
27. The Meeting also asked to Secretariat to inform these Organizations and Institutions about the Bureau decision.

DECISION

The Meeting of the Bureau:

- **acknowledges with satisfaction the interest brought by IUCN, SEC and EPHE to the implementation of the Agreement,**
- **recognizes that these Organizations fulfill the provisions of the Resolution MOP 1/1.13.**

Agenda Item 8: Policy for accession of non-riparian Countries

28. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the interest from some non-riparian Countries in acceding to the Agreement and asked advice on the further policy to develop on this issue. The Meeting took note that this item was also a political question and indicated that any formal proposal from a non-riparian country should be supplied with complete information foresee by the Article XIII of the Agreement.

DECISION

- **In order to help the Secretariat in his relation with potential inquiries on accession to the Agreement by non Riparian Countries, the Meeting of the Bureau asks the Secretariat to strictly rely the Article XIII referring to Article I.3 g. In this context, the Bureau asks the Secretariat to get information from the Countries who would like to access to ACCOBAMS as non-riparian Countries. As far as necessary, the Secretariat will look for advice from the Scientific Committee on the relevance of the impact of the activities deployed by the ships of these Countries.**

Agenda Item 9: Arrangements for the second Session of the Meeting of Parties (MOP2)

29. Ms. Maria Jesus de Pablo informed the Meeting that the MOP2 venue could be held in Balearic Islands (probably), or Barcelona as optional place.
30. H.E.M. Bernard Fautrier expressed his greetings to the Spanish Government for its kind invitation.

Agenda Item 10: The Next Meeting of the Bureau

31. The Secretariat reminded that no budget had been allocated for a Bureau Meeting in 2004. After some discussions the Bureau decided that its next meeting could be convened in Spring 2004, only if some activities of the SC require particular decision. If not, the Bureau will meet the day before the Second Meeting of the Parties in November 2004 (Spain).

Agenda Item 11: Any other business

a. Impact of the Sonars on Cetaceans

32. The Chair of the SC informed the Bureau about impact of sonars on cetaceans and the workshop organized in Las Palmas which brings together whale biologists, acousticians and other experts in order to identify possible mitigation measures for the impact of sonars. He emphasized that, a list of recommended actions be prepared for: a) cetacean scientists; b) government agencies; c) fisheries scientists and oceanographers; and d) the military. The Chair of the Scientific Committee also added that he will maintain a close link with the workshop organizer, Dr. Peter Evans (Oxford, UK), to ensure that the conclusions and the recommendations of the workshop will provide opportunities on this topic for: strengthening intervention

capabilities, devising appropriate lines of action and building capacity in the ACCOBAMS area.

33. The Bureau took note of this issue.

DECISION

The meeting of the Bureau:

- **takes note of the conclusion of the workshop held during the last ECS meeting (Las Palmas, 2003) (Annex VIII), and of the decision¹ adopted by the First Meeting of the Contracting Party of the Agreement Related to the Establishment of a Marine Mammals Sanctuary in the Mediterranean.**
- **recalls Article II (1,2) of ACCOBAMS concerning the prohibition of any kind of cetacean harassment unless special derogation granted for scientific research after advice from the Scientific Committee,**
- **urges the Scientific Committee to prepare a recommendation directed to government agencies, the scientists, the industry and the military, on the use of active sonars and other man-made, high level underwater impulsive sounds.**

b. Label “Dolphin Friends”

34. H.E.M. Bernard Fautrier, introduced this item and informed the Meeting about the label “Dolphin Free” in United States. He mentioned the opportunity to set up some mechanism devoted to increase awareness of some products (i.e. issued from fisheries or aquaculture) created in conformity with the objective of the Agreement. In this spirit, he proposed to the Meeting to create a label “Dolphin Friend” in ACCOBAMS area.

35. To implement this proposal, the SC will determine the main activities that could benefit from such actions.

36. The member of the Bureau agreed with the idea as well as the necessity to consider the importance of the legal control for the labeling.

¹ The Contracting Parties of the Agreement Related to the Establishment of a Marine Mammal Sanctuary in the Mediterranean mandated the Depositary of this Agreement (Monaco) to raise the awareness of the US/ NOAA and NATO/Saclant Cent on their concerns related to scientific acoustic experiments projected by an American scientist involving cetacean harassment in the Ligurian Sea.

DECISION

The meeting of the Bureau:

- recognizes that, to be efficient, maritime activities impact mitigation tools need a strong commitment of the sea users. This commitment could be facilitate by several means like awarding or labelisation;
- in order to have a first approach on this topic, asks the Scientific Committee to determine main human activities that could benefit from such action.

Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the decisions of the Meeting

37. The meeting adopted the decisions which as listed in Annex IX.

Agenda Item 13: Closure of the Meeting

38. H.E.M. Fautrier thanked the members of the Bureau for their active participation, underlining that this meeting was an encouragement for the future activities of the Agreement. He hoped that, many Countries will join ACCOBAMS in a very short time.
39. The Executive Secretary also thanked the participants. She expressed her gratitude and thanks to the Bureau and to the President of the Scientific Committee for their strong engagement in ACCOBAMS activities.
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ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties to ACCOBAMS (Monaco, 28 February- 02 March 2002) and development of the Agreement**
- 4. Report by the Chair of the Scientific Committee**
- 5. Program of activities**
- 6. Budgetary Issues**
- 7. ACCOBAMS Partners**
- 8. Policy for accession of non-riparian Countries**
- 9. Arrangements for the second Session of the Meeting of Parties**
- 10. Date and venue of the next Meeting of the Bureau**
- 11. Any other business**
- 12. Adoption of the decisions of the meeting**
- 13. Closure**

ANNEX III

Report by the Secretariat

March 2002 – December 2002

I. Accession to the Agreement.

The Agreement has been in force since the 1st June 2001 ; twelve countries are actual Parties (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, Georgia, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Romania, Syria, Tunisia) and five other riparian States are well advanced in their accession procedures, for example France, Italy and the Ukraine.

Since the first Meeting of the Contracting Parts, Libya who deposited its instrument for accession in June 2002 joined the Agreement last September.

II. Reinforcement of the Permanent Secretariat.

In September 2002, the Ministry of the Environment of Turkey appointed Mrs Ebru Coskun Francour, a biology expert, to second the Secretariat for a period of 6 renewable months. Mrs.Coskun Francour was in charge of some international Conventions on biodiversity conservation in her own country. Her expertise is not only valuable on technical issues but this example of secondment also improves national and regional cooperation in implementing the Agreement.

III. Designation of Sub-Regional Coordination Units.

To facilitate implementing the Agreement and ensure a synergy between Organizations which are already active in the region, two sub-regional coordination units have been appointed within the Agreement zone ; they are already in charge of matters linked to biodiversity conservation under the auspices of the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions.

The Contracting Parties have given this task to the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of the Mediterranean and the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against the Pollution (BSC) as the Sub-Coordination Units. A memorandum of Cooperation within those two Coordination Units, describing the collaboration necessary for implementing the Agreement was signed : for the Mediterranean, at the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties, and for the Black Sea, during the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against the Pollution (12-14 June 2002, Sofia).

IV. Scientific Committee.

The first Scientific Committee meeting was organized in Tunis (Tunisia), 3 to 5 October 2002.

The 12 members of the Committee elected during the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties were: representatives from each of the four geographical regions, five experts appointed by CIESM, one representative from IUCN, one from ECS and one from the Scientific Committee of the IWC.

With regard to international priorities adopted by the MOP1, the meeting defined a series of necessary implemental actions. These actions focused on the increased knowledge of cetacean populations for conservation measures, and on the development of capacity building to help Countries apply the ACCOBAMS objectives.. Eleven themes of work were identified and four Recommendations issued.

Furthermore, following the decision of the Parties, a Protocol on Strandings and a Code of Deontology were adopted. The members of the Scientific Committee asked the Secretariat to finalize with the RAC/SPA the necessary harmonization between RAC/SPA and ACCOBAMS on this topic.

The next meeting of the Scientific Committee is expected to be held at the end of 2003 in Istanbul, on the premises of the Black Sea Commission.

V. Activities linked with the Conservation Plan

Capacity reinforcement mobilized the Secretariat in 2002. Considered an implemental priority for the Agreement objectives, this reinforcement was a follow up of actions already undertaken by the interim Secretariat:

- *training of a Scientist from the National Institute for Marine Research and Development of Constanta in Romania*, on research and techniques for cetaceans conservation organized by the Tethys Research Institute on the island of Kalamos in Greece (9 to 27 June 2002).

- *a pedagogic kit*, designed to serve as a tool for young scientists involved in implementing the Agreement, and in preparation since 2001 was presented to the Scientific Committee. This tool will include relevant documents prepared in cooperation with Mediterranean and Black Sea experts. Its prototype will be finalized during the first trimester, 2003.

- The Secretariat has participated in the annual training session organized by l'Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE) of Montpellier, organized for foreign and French students intending to work on cetacean conservation (April 2002).

- ACCOBAMS was presented by the Secretariat to the UNITAR training workshop on Environmental Law (October 2002)

Thirty participants from the Maghreb and involved in different administrative activities attended the meeting. Lectures were focussed on Environmental Law and international Conventions with regional examples.

- ACCOBAMS participated to the Monaco Yacht Show in September 2002. Documents presenting the Agreement and its objectives were distributed to a wide public of yachtsmen.- Action was taken to stimulate the awareness of children during Monaco's Environment Day (5 June 2002) and on the occasion of a Conference, on Environment, organized by the Young Economic Chamber in collaboration with the Nicolas Hulot. Foundation.

- Posters illustrating the aims of the Agreement were realized for exhibition in international manifestations

- An exhibition of pictures of the main species of cetaceans found in the Agreement area was realized in collaboration with the Caroline Library in Monaco

- A Cetacean Club has been created in one of the schools in the Principality and a program of activities is in preparation.

- Since 1999, four bulletins have been published and widely distributed (700 copies). Bulletin number 4 was distributed during the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

- The ACCOBAMS poster, realized and published in 1999, was up-dated in 2002 and widely distributed, particularly during Secretariat meetings. .

- A leaflet presenting the Agreement and completing the poster information was published in English.

- In November 2002, in Monaco, during the 8th Children's Festival organized by the Promocom Society, ACCOBAMS was presented to the young public.

-Implementation of the Resolution 1.12 relevant to the conservation of the Black Sea *Tursiops truncatus*:

Following the proposal to up-list the Black Sea Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus* from Annex II to Annex I of the International Convention on the Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), a scientific document on its population was prepared. This document, together with information on international trading, was used for discussion with the CITES Animal Committee. Since the last CITES Conference of Parties (in 2000), the Permanent Secretariat has participated in the work of a task force on this subject.

To prepare scientific arguments for CITES on this question, the Secretariat has coordinated the genetic analyses. A preliminary report demonstrating the existence of a distinct population of Black Sea *Tursiops truncatus* has brought supplementary arguments to the Georgian proposal to prohibit this trade. The proposal was discussed during the last CITES meeting of the Contracting Parties (November 2002). The ACCOBAMS scientific document permitted the adoption of a zero quota for export and blocked the trading of live specimens.

VI. Promotion of the Agreement in Range States.

To help set up the Agreement, the Secretariat, representatives of the Principality and representatives of the CMS or its Agreements have established contacts within each Riparian Country, notably during meetings relevant to biodiversity and /or the conservation of the marine environment.

Tasks were distributed between the Secretariat of the CMS and the Secretariats of the Agreements so as to " prospect " States more efficiently. The Secretariat of the Agreement was in charge of CMS, Eurobats and AEWA of south and east Mediterranean Countries.

Within the international cooperation programmes implemented by the Principality of Monaco, components linked to the Agreement Conservation Plan, especially those developed in Croatia were included by the Secretariat

Ministers of the Environment of Egypt and Italy received the Executive Secretary to discuss their adhesions to the Agreement; these are under way in the two Countries.

VII. Promotion of the Agreement within relevant Inter-governmental Organizations

The Secretariat developed contacts with various Inter-governmental Organizations and participated in their meetings:

- the Council of Europe

In the setting-up of the Pan-European Ecological and Emerald Networks, the Secretariat stressed the importance of protected marine areas and ecological corridors in marine environment especially where migratory species are concerned (Llandudno, Wales, June 2002) .

- the Bonn Convention

The Secretariat participated at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and in its Scientific Committee, in Bonn (September 2002).

- ASCOBANS

The Secretariat is following the works of this Agreement closely. Common expertise areas have been identified (Hindas, Sweden, June 2002).

- the Barcelona Convention

Several years ago, the Barcelona Convention implemented an Action Plan for Cetaceans. Relations between the Permanent Secretariat and the Centre for Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean in charge of this Action Plan have been developed since the beginning. In the same context the Secretariat is a member of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee (Strategic Action Program for the Biological Diversity in Mediterranean) which was adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1997. One of the components has activities linked to Fisheries (Tunis, May 2002).

In addition, the Secretariat has participated in a Workshop on the impact of Fisheries on the Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (Palma of Majorca, June 2002) organized by COPEMED (program of the FAO) and the Center of Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention (CAR/ASP). During the workshop, international experts discussed *inter alia* the impact of acoustic deterrent devices on cetacean. The report of meeting has been distributed to the relevant Convention Secretariats for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea as well as to the ASCOBANS Secretariat.

Furthermore, the Secretariat has contributed to the elaboration of a conservation plan project for cartilaginous fish (Sharks, Skates, ...); some species are concerned by accidental catches in fishing gear.

- the International Whaling Commission

Initial contacts have been established with this institution linking its participation with ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee in the elaboration of common projects.

- the Black Sea Commission

The Secretariat participated in 9th Ministerial Meeting of the Commission. On this occasion, the Contracting Parties adopted a list of actions for developing protocol on landscapes and biodiversity within Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area and the Black Sea and on which the Secretariat had been consulted, (Sofia, Bulgaria, June 2002).

In November 2002, the Secretariat attended the 3rd meeting of the Advisory Committee on biodiversity conservation which was held in Istanbul. During this meeting the objectives linked to ACCOBAMS were defined.

- Within the Europhlukes programme on cetacean photo-identification, contacts between Scientists and the Secretariat have been established. One of the priorities of the Agreement will be to widen this programme to the whole ACCOBAMS area.

- In April 2002 by the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Executive Secretariat met with the staff of the DG Environment/Fisheries of the European Community to identify collaboration fields to implement ACCOBAMS priorities.

- The Secretariat participated in the First International Conference on protected areas and possible development in Egypt (October 2002) and on this occasion also attended the Convention on Migratory Species.

- Finally, Mr. Simion Nicolaev, ACCOBAMS Vice Chair, represented the Agreement in the Conference on the development of a European strategy for the protection and conservation of the marine environment organized by the European Community in Koge (Denmark). He also represented the Agreement at the joint meeting of Advisory Committees on Biodiversity and Marine living resources of the Bucharest Convention in Istanbul, (December 2002).

VIII. Promotion of the Agreement within nongovernmental Organizations and relevant Institutions.

The Secretariat participated at the annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society (Cork, April 2002), uniting international cetacean conservation scientists. On this occasion, contacts between the two Organizations were made, concerning the membership of the ECS in the Agreement Scientific Committee.

IX. Partnership with the civil society.

The Agreement anticipates receiving additional Funds for implementing conservation actions. To this end, the Secretariat prepared a portfolio of investment and approached societies installed in the Principality and willing to develop a programme linked with environmental conservation, in view of active partnership.

Among these societies:

- The Promocom Society offered a contribution of 1000 euros,
- The Monegasque Gas and Electricity Society showed great interest in the Agreement, presenting the investment portfolio to its Governing Council in view of a future contribution,
- The Monaco Marine Society, accepted to sponsor the Agreement,
- The President of the Hellenic Community in Monaco considered organizing a manifestation focused on fund-raising,
- The Festival Cruise Society and its foundation might be able to collaborate in 2003.

ANNEX IV

Report of the Chair of the Scientific Committee to the Bureau of ACCOBAMS

1. First meeting of the Scientific Committee²

The meeting took place in Tunis from 2 to 5 October 2002.

The meeting was attended by 20 persons. Of these, 11 were members of the Committee, five were experts invited by the Secretariat, two represented, respectively, the Mediterranean/Atlantic and the Black Sea Sub-Regional Coordinating Units, and two represented the Secretariat.

The members of the Committee included: (a) the four Regional Representatives (Abdellatif Bayed, Morocco; Drasko Holčer, Croatia; Anastasia Komnenou, Greece; Akaki Komakhidze, Georgia); the five components of the CIESM Panel of Experts for ACCOBAMS (Alex Aguilar; Alexei Birkun, Jr.; Pierre-Christian Beaubrun; Alexandros Frantzis; Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara); (c) Representatives from the European Cetacean Society (Juan Antonio Raga) and the World Conservation Union (Andrew Read). Greg Donovan, Representative of the International Whaling Commission, did not attend and apologised for his absence.

The five experts invited by the Secretariat were: Giovanni Bearzi to report on various issues, in particular capacity building and the Mediterranean common dolphin conservation plan; Stefan Bräger to report on the availability of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to cooperate with ACCOBAMS; Simone Panigada to facilitate a link with the EU-funded “Europhlukes” Programme; Peter Reijnders to facilitate a link with ASCOBANS; Mark Simmonds to report on various issues, in particular the Habitat Degradation Workshop and whale watching.

At the beginning of the meeting the Committee adopted its rules of procedure and elected its Chair. Furthermore, the Committee adopted a protocol on strandings, and four recommendations.

Concerning the stranding protocol, the Scientific Committee invited the Secretariat to collaborate with the RAC/SPA to achieve with a modified text the necessary harmonisation between ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA concerns. A final document to be concluded in 2003 will be distributed to the Parties and to the Range States.

The recommendations (Annex 1) included:

1.1 Recommendation on the use of acoustic devices

A matter of some urgency given that the use of acoustic devices in the Agreement area (pingers and Acoustic Harassment Devices) is on the increase. It was suggested that the matter be brought to the attention of the Parties as soon as possible.

1.2 Recommendation on by-catch

In response to Implementation Priorities n. 2 and 3 adopted by MOP1, it was suggested that the matter be brought to the attention of the Parties as soon as possible, in order to

² The full report of the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS is provided as Bu1/Inf3.

allow the Secretariat to secure updated information on cetacean bycatch in the Agreement area on an annual basis.

1.3 Recommendation on fin whale research in the Mediterranean

Focussing on the opportunity of establishing a link between ACCOBAMS and the Agreement on the International Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals, *in primis* to harmonise research activities through an ad hoc meeting, possibly to be held in March 2003 at the ECS Annual Meeting in the Canary Islands.

1.4 Recommendation on the establishment of tissue banks.

In response to Implementation Priority n. 17 adopted by MOP1, to draft appropriate protocols for the collection, preservation and dissemination of samples to be presented for adoption at MOP2.

2. Actions arising

The list of the actions decided during the meeting is presented in Annex 2 to this report. An extensive programme of work was launched, along the lines indicated by MOP1, including:

- actions in support to conservation and management efforts (items 3, 6, 19 and 25 in Annex 2);
- actions to gain a better scientific understanding of the ecology of cetaceans in the region and of their main conservation problems (items 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18 and 20);
- actions to promote capacity building, education and awareness in the region (items 13, 14, 15, 17 and 22);
- actions to enhance the functioning of the Scientific Committee (items 1, 2, 16, 21, 23 and 24).

Annex 3 provides a list of the actions that were completed by 1 March 2003.

In order to implement such actions, eleven working groups (listed in Annex 4) were established.

3. Next meeting

Finally, it was agreed that the second Meeting of the Scientific Committee be scheduled to take place in October 2003, most likely in Istanbul.

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara
Chair

Recommendations adopted by the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS

Recommendation 1.1 (on acoustic devices)

Acoustic devices used to avoid dolphin interaction with fishing activities and aquaculture have the potential to adversely impact cetacean and other animal populations. They may damage the hearing of cetaceans and, if used extensively, exclude them from significant portions of their habitat. These undesired effects are well documented for “acoustic harassment devices” (AHD) which are used, for example, to prevent animals from approaching aquaculture facilities; AHD produce high source levels (>185dB re 1 P at 1m) and operate primarily in the mid to high frequency range (c.5-30kHz).

The Scientific Committee reiterated the recommendations of the Rome workshop (Reeves *et al.*, 2001) and concludes that it is *inappropriate* to use AHDs to alleviate conflicts between cetaceans and fisheries or mariculture operations in the Agreement area. Member countries should strictly regulate the use of these potentially harmful devices.

In contrast, “pingers” are used primarily to alert cetaceans to existence of fishing gear and thus avoid entanglement. These are low-intensity (generally <150dB re 1 P at 1m) sources that operate in the mid to high frequencies between about 2.5-109kHz, with harmonics to much higher frequencies (Reeves *et al.*, 2001). These devices are considered to be less invasive than AHD and their use is, in principle, oriented towards cetacean conservation.

Nevertheless, the Scientific Committee noted that if pingers are used extensively, they may produce significant noise pollution and possibly exclude cetaceans from certain areas. There have been few controlled studies of the efficacy of pingers in reducing by-catches in the Agreement area. The Scientific Committee **recommended** against the use of these acoustic alarms until controlled studies have been conducted and they have been shown to be effective in reducing by-catches and not harmful to cetacean populations. Furthermore, as in other areas, the Scientific Committee stressed that eventual implementation of any management scheme using pingers should be accompanied by an observer scheme designed to monitor their effectiveness over time.

Reeves, R.R., Read, A.J., Notarbartolo di Sciara, G. 2001. Report of the Workshop on Interactions between Dolphins and Fisheries in the Mediterranean: Evaluation of Mitigation Alternatives, Roma 4-5 May 2001. Istituto per la Ricerca Applicata al Mare (ICRAM), Via di Casalotti 300, 00166 Roma, 44 pp.

Recommendation 1.2 (on by-catch)

By-catch, the unintended capture and mortality of cetaceans in fishing gear, is a major conservation concern throughout the Agreement area. Especially regarding the effects of cetacean by-catches in bottom-set gill nets in the Black Sea and in pelagic drift nets in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Scientific Committee noted that some measures concerning the by-catch of small cetaceans in the Black Sea have already been recommended by the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Black Sea Commission (CS1/Inf. 1). The Scientific Committee endorsed the following recommendations:

- (1) Promotion of regional efforts to establish common methodologies to avoid by-catches;
- (2) Prohibition of bottom-set gill nets for turbot during May-June in coastal waters inhabited by the harbour porpoise;
- (3) Development of new turbot fishing regimes and fishing gear, less dangerous for small cetaceans; and
- (4) Monitoring of numbers of stranded and by-caught small cetaceans.

Furthermore, the Scientific Committee noted the following:

- (1) The occurrence and magnitude of cetacean by-catches vary geographically in the Agreement area;
- (2) There are few if any, regions within the Agreement area, where scientific estimates of the magnitude of these by-catches or an understanding of their impacts exist; and
- (3) In general, our understanding of the nature and magnitude of this threat is at best fragmentary.

Therefore, the Scientific Committee **recommends** that a study be commissioned of current knowledge regarding the extent and magnitude of cetacean by-catches in the Agreement area. The Scientific Committee suggests the following terms of reference for this study:

- (1) This study should review, as fully as possible, the areas in which cetacean by-catches are known or suspected to occur; the relative magnitude of

these catches, and the identity of fisheries in which the by-catches are made.

- (2) The study should review evaluations of the magnitude of cetacean by-catches in the Agreement area made by other organizations, including the IWC Scientific Committee and the European Commission (e.g. CS1/Inf. 8);
- (3) Regional representatives of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee should be consulted;
- (4) Consultations should also be made with other individuals and organizations familiar with cetacean by-catches in the Agreement area;
- (5) In addition to direct information on cetacean by-catches, the study should provide data on the relative effort (measured by landings, number of vessels, or some other metric) in fisheries, such as pelagic drift nets and bottom-set gill nets that are likely to take cetaceans as by-catches for all countries in the Agreement area. Data on fishing effort held by the FAO, ICCAT, regional and national fisheries organizations should be reviewed.
- (6) The study should be conducted by someone familiar with the fisheries of the Agreement area.

The Scientific Committee noted that, given the limited funds available to the Secretariat and the large amount of work required to implement other priority actions, it would be preferable if other sources of funds were used to commission this work. In particular, the Scientific Committee requested that the Secretariat explore the possibility that funds from the IWC Small Cetacean Fund could be used.

Finally, the Scientific Committee **recommended** that all Parties and range states should provide estimates of cetacean by-catches to the Secretariat on an annual basis.

Recommendation 1.3 (on fin whale research)

Considering the priority listed in Action 10 (Identification of Mediterranean sites, in addition to the Ligurian-Corsican-Provençal (LCP) basin, important for the conservation of fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), and assessment of the functional relationships of such sites to the LPC basin concerning the species' habitat needs), the Scientific Committee:

- Acknowledges the great interest of this topic and its major importance
 - a) to enhance the conservation of fin whales in the Mediterranean
 - b) to widen to the Mediterranean basin the management measures actually implemented in fin whale feeding areas.
- Invites the Parties to join efforts to identify, as soon as possible, wintering areas and migratory routes of this species.
- Recommends to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to establish necessary links with the Sanctuary Agreement on matters related to marine mammals conservation.

Recommends that a workshop be organised, as soon as possible, on the identification of the best available study techniques on Mediterranean fin whale ecology, as a necessary step preliminary to the implementation of realistic field studies.

Recommendation 1.4 (on tissue banks)

The aim of tissue banks is to provide researchers with geographically- and temporally-comprehensive collections of samples that may be used as a cost-effective diagnostic tool for the management of populations. Although these samples may eventually be of use for other types of research, the sampling priorities and preservation conditions will be those appropriate for genetic and reproductive-oriented studies, for the determination of pollutant levels and their biomarkers, and for the assessment of pathological conditions. Once in operation, they become a potential key element in conservation-oriented research and, in this way, assist national and international organizations in developing sound management policies for marine mammal populations and their habitats. Given that, at present, there are several initiatives to create banks of this type in the ACCOBAMS region, the Scientific Committee expresses its support to such initiatives and **recommends** that a workshop be carried out to develop agreed protocols for collection, preservation and release of tissue samples, as well as to ensure effective networking between suppliers of samplers and potential users in the various ACCOBAMS countries.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM SC1

Annex 2

ITEM	TITLE	REF No. IN SC1 REPORT	ACTIONS/ ACTORS	OUTPUT
1	Database on research activities	16-17	Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enlist the support of an IT expert to place the form as in Annex 8 on a website in an user-friendly format; 2. Ensure that access to entering data on the database be open, and that the database is easily updated; 3. Find a moderator to ensure that the data entered is relevant to the conservation goals of the Agreement; 4. Ensure, with the help of the RRs, that the initiative be given a wide information through all possible means, including specialised email discussion lists. 5. Report to SC2 	Web-based database
				Report
2	Operational procedures for the SC	20	Working Group n. 1: Alex Aguilar, Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara Prepare procedures	Procedures
			Secretariat: Circulate the procedures for comments to the SC members, possibly reach consensus	Communication
3	Whale watching	24 (I.P. action 1)	Working group n. 2: Mark Simmonds, Simone Panigada Establish an e-mail correspondence group on ww, to prepare recommendations on modifications to ww guidelines to accommodate needs of different species and different local situations.	Email discussion group Recommendations

ITEM	TITLE	REF No. IN SC1 REPORT	ACTIONS/ ACTORS	OUTPUT
			Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enlist the support of an IT expert to place the form as in Annex 11 on a website in an user-friendly format; 2. Ensure that access to entering data on the database be open, and that the database is easily updated; 3. Find a moderator to ensure that the data entered is relevant to the conservation goals of the Agreement; 4. Ensure, with the help of the RRs, that the initiative be given a wide information through all possible means, including specialised email discussion lists. 	Web-based database
			Chair: Establish a link between the ACCOBAMS SC and the IWC SC	Communication
4	Investigation of competitive interactions between coastal dolphins and artisanal fisheries	28 (I.P. action 2)	RRs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a WG (WG n. 3) to establish a procedure for the collection of relevant information on the existence of problem areas in which damage from cetaceans to fishing or aquaculture activities occur; 2. Prepare a questionnaire to collect the above information; 3. Report to SC2 	Creation of WG
				Questionnaire
				Report
			Secretariat: Involvement of the appropriate offices of the EC DG Fisheries, GFCM, RAC/SPA	Communication
5	Creation of a cetacean by catch database	30-31 (I.P. action 3)	Secretariat and Chair: To follow Recommendation 1.2 (Annex 13) of the SC by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. commissioning a study of the current knowledge regarding the extent and magnitude of cetacean by-catches in the Agreement area; 2. explore the possibility that funds from the IWC Small Cetacean Fund could be used in this regard; 3. request all Parties and Range States to provide to the Secretariat on an annual basis estimates of cetacean by-catches through their fishing operations. 4. facilitate the participation of ACCOBAMS in the efforts undertaken by the European Commission on by-catch 5. Reporting to SC2 	Study (pending availability of funds)
				Communication to Parties and Range States
				Communication to EC Report

ITEM	TITLE	REF No. IN SC1 REPORT	ACTIONS/ ACTORS	OUTPUT
6	Development and implementation of pilot conservation and management actions in well-defined key areas containing critical habitat for populations belonging to priority species.	32 (I.P. action 4)	Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To request to RR to solicit proposals to undertake such actions in additional areas. Proposals should be sent to the SC which will then evaluate them according to the procedure that is being elaborated by the <i>ad hoc</i> WG. Proposals should include area of Losjini for bottlenose dolphins, area of SW Crete for sperm whales, and area of Crimea for harbour porpoises (area of Kalamos for common dolphin already included in following item n. 32). To report back to SC2 	Communication Report
7	Workshop on methods for the evaluation of habitat degradation and its effect on cetacean populations.	32 (I.P. action 5)	Chair: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To contact the IWC SC to provide advice on the potential impact of habitat degradation on the demography of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. To report back to SC2 	Communication Report
			Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To contact the IWC Secretariat to explore availability to co-operate on the workshop in the future. To report back to SC2 	Communication Report
8	Conservation plan for cetaceans in the Black Sea.	35 (I.P. action 6)	Secretariat + Alexei Birkun: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To follow up the procedure for approval of the GEF medium-sized project throughout; To report to SC2 	Follow up of an ongoing process Report
9	Conservation plan for short-beaked common dolphins (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>) in the Mediterranean area.	37 (I.P. action 7)	Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising Fund conservation plan as presented in SC1/Doc24, Annex 14 to the SC1 Report. Report to SC2 	Conservation Plan Report

ITEM	TITLE	REF No. IN SC1 REPORT	ACTIONS/ ACTORS	OUTPUT
10	Conservation plan for bottlenose dolphins (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) in the Mediterranean Sea.	38 (I.P. action 8)	Working Group n. 4: Alex Aguilar, Giovanni Bearzi, Drasko Holčer, Anastasia Komnenou, Andy Read To prepare a proposal for a conservation plan for bottlenose dolphins in the Mediterranean	Proposal
			Chair: 1. To contact the IWC SC to explore availability to co-operate on bottlenose dolphin conservation. 2. To report back to SC2	Communication Report
11	Basin-wide Mediterranean sperm whale survey.	39 (I.P. action 9)	Working Group n. 5 (Steering Committee): Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Alexis Frantzis, Alex Aguilar, Pierre Beaubrun, Stefan Bräger , with the involvement of Jaume Forcada and Jonathan Gordon To prepare a proposal	Proposal
			Secretariat: To raise funds for the proposal Note: IFAW may implement a pilot study in Summer 2003.	Fundraising
12	Identification of Mediterranean sites of conservation importance for fin whales.	40 (I.P. action 10)	Secretariat: 1. To establish a link with the Sanctuary Agreement to ensure cooperation on matters related to fin whale research and conservation; 2. To organise jointly with the Sanctuary Agreement a workshop on Mediterranean fin whale field study techniques having conservation as a goal	JWP with Sanctuary Agreement
				Workshop
13	Development of photo-identification databases and programmes encompassing the entire ACCOBAMS Area.	41 (I.P. action 11)	Working Group n. 6: Alexei Birkun, Simone Panigada, Giovanni Bearzi, Stefan Bräger To prepare a proposal for a pilot project in the Black Sea, to be undertaken in 2003, involving a Ukrainian and a Russian team, supervised by A. Birkun, to be submitted to the Secretariat	Proposal
			Secretariat: To raise funds for pilot project	Fundraising

ITEM	TITLE	REF No. IN SC1 REPORT	ACTIONS/ ACTORS	OUTPUT
			Chair + Simone Panigada: To report on SC decision to Europhlukes at Madeira meeting	Communication
14	Establishment and implementation of a long-term training programme on cetacean research, monitoring and conservation.	42 (I.P. action 12)	Working Group on Capacity Building (WG n. 7): Pierre Beaubrun, Abdellatif Bayed, Alexei Birkun, Stefan Bräger, Toni Raga, Giovanni Bearzi <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a strategy for capacity building, with the involvement of members of the scientific community at large, as well as professional fundraising and capacity building experts; Within the framework of such strategy, to consider proposals which were presented to SC1 as SC1/Doc17, 18 and 23; To report to SC2 	Capacity building strategy
				Report
			Secretariat: To raise funds	Fundraising
15	Development of an educational tool for the organisation of research projects and basic technical studies.	43 (I.P. action 13)	Secretariat/SCS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To finalize the kit To raise funds 	Kit
				Fundraising
16	Creation of sub-regional directories of national authorities, research and rescue centres, scientists, governmental and non-governmental organisations	44 (I.P. action 14)	Secretariat + SRCUs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enlist the support of an IT expert to place a Directory entry form on a website in an user-friendly format; Ensure that access to entering data on the database be open, and that the database is easily updated; Find a moderator to ensure that the data entered is relevant to the conservation goals of the Agreement; Ensure, with the help of the RRs, that the initiative be given a wide information through all possible means, including specialised email discussion lists. Compile the directory onto a PDF file, a version of which (updated on a six-months basis) be posted on a website. 	Web-based Directory, PDF-based Directory posted on web

ITEM	TITLE	REF No. IN SC1 REPORT	ACTIONS/ ACTORS	OUTPUT
17	Development of a network of specialised bibliographic collections and databases.	46 (I.P. action 16)	Working Group on Capacity Building WG: Pierre Beaubrun, Abdellatif Bayed, Alexei Birkun, Stefan Bräger, Toni Raga, Giovanni Bearzi To consider this proposal (CS1/Doc23) once a capacity building strategy is in place.	Incorporate into capacity building strategy, and eventually implement
18	Establishment of a system of tissue banks	47-48 (I.P. action 17)	Working Group n. 8: Alex Aguilar, Bruno Cozzi Proposal for the organisation of a workshop, to develop agreed protocols for collection, preservation and release of tissue samples, as well as to ensure effective networking between suppliers of samplers and potential users in the various ACCOBAMS countries (SC1 Recommendation 1.4, Annex 17 to SC1 Report)	Workshop proposal
			Secretariat: To raise funds for the workshop	Fundraising
19	Establishment of a Task Force for special mortality and strandings events.	49 (I.P. action 18)	Working group n. 9: Mark Simmonds, Anastasia Komnenou, Alex Aguilar, Stefan Bräger, Toni Raga: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide precise indications on the type of scientific support, both preventive and as a follow up, in case of special events; 2. To prepare the relevant scientific protocols to be included in the guidelines for the stranding network concerning the rescue of live-stranded cetaceans 3. To consider the issue of capacity building, and ensure linkage with the Capacity Building WG; Secretariat: To provide all possible assistance to the WG, including providing a link with the Bureau	Proposal for the establishment of an Emergency Task Force (ETF)
20	Protocol on strandings and code of deontology.	50 (I.P. action 15)	Secretariat: To liaise with the RAC/SPA in order to ensure appropriate harmonisation of the Protocol on strandings and of the annexed Code of deontology to incorporate in such documents both ACCOBAMS' and RAC/SPA concerns.	Finalisation of documents: Protocol on strandings and code of deontology
21	Cooperation with other	52-54	Secretariat:	Communication

ITEM	TITLE	REF No. IN SC1 REPORT	ACTIONS/ ACTORS	OUTPUT
	international organisations.		To ensure liaisons with COPEMED, IFAW, and the ASCOBANS and IWC Secretariats.	
22	Scientific publications.	55	Working Group on Capacity Building: Pierre Beaubrun, Abdellatif Bayed, Alexei Birkun, Stefan Bräger, Toni Raga, Giovanni Bearzi To consider these proposals (CS1/Doc17 and 18) once a capacity building strategy is in place.	Incorporate into capacity building strategy, and eventually implement
23	CBD/CMS Joint Working Programme.	56-58	Working Group n. 10: Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Marie-Christine Van Klaveren, Stefan Bräger, Toni Raga, Alexei Birkun 1. To elaborate together concrete proposals for joint future work; 2. To circulate within the SC for comments and suggestions.	Proposal
24	Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS).	59	Working Group n. 10: Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Marie-Christine Van Klaveren, Stefan Bräger, Toni Raga, Alexei Birkun To prepare a proposal on possible links between ACCOBAMS and GROMS	Proposal
25	Guidelines on the precautionary principle.	60	All SC members: To review draft (SC1/Doc19) and send comments to the authors who will provide a new and final version	Correspondence
			Working Group n. 11: Mark Simmonds, Will Burns: To prepare final document	Guidelines

Actions Arising from SC1 which have been completed (21 March 2003)

1. Database on research activities, web-based and moderated (www.accobams.org): established;
2. Operational procedures for the Scientific Committee: concluded;
3. E-mail discussion group on whale watching: established and operant.
4. Database on commercial whale watching activities, web-based (www.accobams.org): established;
5. Working-group on competitive interactions between coastal dolphins and artisanal fisheries: established;
6. Conservation Plan for common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea: funds raised for first year of activity.
7. Basin-wide Mediterranean sperm whale survey: organisational meeting conducted; pilot cruise (2003) in planning phase, funds raised.
8. Fin whale research in the Mediterranean: joint ACCOBAMS – Sanctuary meeting conducted.
9. Photo-identification Black Sea training project. Organisational and funding aspects concluded.
10. Web-based directory of experts (www.accobams.org): established;
11. Protocol on strandings and code of deontology: concluded;
12. CBD/CMS Joint working programme/GROMS: proposal sent to CMS.

Working Groups

(names of WG coordinators in bold)

Annex 4

No.	Working Group Name	Components
1	Operational Procedures	1. Alex AGUILAR 2. Giuseppe NOTARBARTOLO di SCIARA
2	Whale watching Guidelines	1. Mark SIMMONDS 2. Sabina AIROLDI 3. Giovanni BEARZI 4. Pierre BEAUBRUN 5. Ana CANADAS 6. Caterina FORTUNA 7. Alexandros FRANTZIS 8. Maddalena JAHODA) 9. Giancarlo LAURIANO 10. Simone PANIGADA
3	Competitive interactions	1. Drasko HOLCER 2. Abdellatif BAYED 3. Akaki KOMAKHIDZE 4. Anastasia KOMNENOU 5. Caterina FORTUNA 6. Giancarlo LAURIANO 7. Jordi LLEONART 8. Rafaël ROBLES
4	<i>Tursiops</i> Conservation Plan	1. Alex AGUILAR 2. Giovanni BEARZI 3. Drasko HOLCER 4. Anastasia KOMNENOU 5. Andy READ
5	Basin-wide Survey	1. Giuseppe NOTARBARTOLO di SCIARA 2. Alex AGUILAR 3. Pierre BEAUBRUN 4. Stefan BRÄGER 5. Jaume FORCADA 6. Alexis FRANTZIS 7. Jonathan GORDON
6	Photo-identification	1. Giovanni BEARZI 2. Alexei BIRKUN 3. Stefan BRÄGER 4. Simone PANIGADA
7	Capacity Building	1. IUCN Center for Mediterranean 2. Pierre BEAUBRUN 3. Abdellatif BAYED 3. Giovanni BEARZI 4. Alexei BIRKUN 5. Stefan BRÄGER 6. Juan Antonio RAGA
8	Tissue Banks	1. Alex AGUILAR 2. Bruno COZZI
9	Emergency Task Force	1. Mark SIMMONDS 2. Alex AGUILAR 3. Stefan BRÄGER 4. Anastasia KOMNENOU 5. Juan Antonio RAGA
10	Joint CMS/CBD Activities - GROMS	1. Giuseppe NOTARBARTOLO di SCIARA 2. Alexei BIRKUN 3. Stefan BRÄGER 4. Juan Antonio RAGA 5. Peter REIJNDERS (GROMS) 6. Marie-Christine VAN KLAVEREN
11	Precautionary Principle guidelines	1. Mark SIMMONDS 2. Wil BURNS

ANNEX V

ACCOBAMS Programme of Activities for 2003		
	Trust Funds	Voluntary contributions
	€	€
Administrative functions		
100 Staff		
101 Executive Secretariat*	-	
102 Fund management controller	500	
103 Secretary (1/2 time, full time when MOP)*	-	
110 Support to sub regional coordination Units	10 000**	
120 Consultants		
121 Administrative Consultants	6 000	
200 Premises		
201 Rent and maintenance cost*	-	
210 Equipment		
211 Office equipment*	-	
212 Miscellaneous office supplies*	-	
220 Operation and maintenance		
221 Computer*	-	
222 Photocopy		
223 Other		
300 Communication		
301 Postage and miscellaneous	1 000	
302 Telephone and fax*	-	
400 Travel on official business		
401 Secretariat staff	8 000	
402 Experts or Secretariat representative on mission	3 500	
500 Meetings		
501 Meeting of the Parties	-	
502 Meeting of the Scientific Committee	14 000	
503 Meeting of the Bureau	6 000	
504 Interpreters (Bureau)	1 500	
505 Reviewer	-	
506 Secretariat staff	-	
600 Reporting costs		
601 Reports of Meetings	1 050	
602 Promotional material (bulletin, poster,...)	10 000	
603 Translators (Sc.Com.)	1000	
604 Web site maintenance	-	
700 Documentation, suscription, cotisations	500	
800 Hospitality	1000	
Sub total administrative items	64 050	

*Provided by the Principality of Monaco as Secretariat hosting Country.

** As far as concrete task is assigned upon Sub Regional Coordination Unit proposal.

Conservation Actions

[illegible]

³ Implemented under a bilateral cooperation between Croatia and Monaco.

3.2 Workshop on methods for the evaluation of habitat degradation and its effects on cetaceans populations: - Make contact with IWC SC to provide advice on the potential impact of habitat degradation on the demography of cetaceans in the Agreement area - Report to the SC2.	-	-
4. Research and monitoring		
4.1 Conservation plan for cetaceans in the Black Sea - Follow up the procedure for approval of the GEF medium-sized project - Report to the SC2	-	-
4.2 Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>) in Mediterranean Sea - Review of short beaked common dolphin status and information relevant to their conservation in Mediterranean - Short-beaked common dolphin section in ACCOBAMS web site (2003) - Elaboration of the Conservation Plan (end 2004)	4 000	8 000 (granted by WDCS) 4 000 (granted by ASMS)
4.3 Conservation plan for common bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) in Mediterranean Sea - Prepare a proposal - Make contact with IWC SC to explore the availability to co-operate on bottlenose dolphin conservation - Report to the SC2	-	-
4.4 Basin-wide Mediterranean sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) survey (first steps) - Pilot study in Summer 2003	5 000	(full support from IFAW to be officially confirmed)
5. Capacity building, training and education		
5.1 Establishment and implementation of a long-term training program on cetacean research, monitoring and conservation/management techniques and procedures. - Develop a strategy for capacity building. - Pilot project on photo identification in the Black Sea - Publication and dissemination of scientific studies - Training in the field of young scientists: travel ,subsistence expenses and training cost for one scientist from: <u>Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Libya, Bulgaria, Georgia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon (upon availability of funds)</u>	- 20 000 - 4 000	- 4 000 (SMEG) 14 000
5.2 Educational tools for the organisation of research projects and basic technical studies. Finalization of the pedagogic kit: - Translation and duplication cost	4 500	7 500 (30 specimen)
5.3 Information missions in countries - Fixed appropriation for consultant	-	-

6. Collection and dissemination of information		
<u>6.1 Regional directory of national authorities, research and salvage centres, of scientists and governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned with the Agreement's objectives:</u> - Directory entry form on the website with a moderator to ensure that the data entered is relevant to the conservation goals of the Agreement (ongoing)	3 000	-
<u>6.2 Stranding network and Centralised tissue bank</u> - Organisation of a specialised training in standings in samples collection and a workshop to develop agreed protocols for collection, preservation and release of tissue samples and to ensure effective networking between suppliers of samples and potential users in the ACCOBAMS countries. Travel and subsistence expenses for one scientist for: *Albania, Croatia, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania (supported by ACCOBAMS), Cyprus, Israel, Greece, Malta, France (invited to participate) Algeria, Bosnia, Egypt, Slovenia, Lebanon, , Portugal, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia (upon availability of funds) Travel and subsistence expenses for trainers: 2/4 scientists (Italy and Spain) - Publication and diffusion of the Guidelines on strandings of dead animals (Part 1) - Enlargement of the MEDACES database to include the Black sea data	5 000 1 000 - -	5 000 <i>(granted by RAC/SPA)</i> 15 000 <i>(hosting Country required)</i> 1 000 2 000
<u>6.3 Diffusion of national reports formats to the Parties for a synthesis to be achieved in 2004.</u>	-	-
<u>6.4 Development and availability of a network of specialised bibliographic collections and databases.</u> To be consider once a capacity building strategy is in place	-	-
7. Response to emergency situation		
<u>7.1 Development of intervention protocols and codes of conduct to be implemented in case of emergency situations.</u> Provide precise indications on the type of scientific support, both preventive and as a follow up, in case of special events Prepare the relevant scientific protocols to be included in the guidelines for the stranding network concerning the rescue of live- stranded animals	-	-
8. Cooperation with other international Organizations		
<u>8.1 CMS/CBD Joint Working Program</u> Elaborate concrete proposals for joint future work and reporting to the <i>ad hoc</i> meetings	-	-
<u>8.2 Global register of Migratory Species (GROMS)</u> Prepare a proposal on possible links between ACCOBAMS and GROMS	-	-
<u>8.3 World Marine Mammals action plan and Marine Mammals Atlas</u> Collaboration with UNEP	-	-
Sub total	66 800	
Total	130 850	

ANNEX VI

Budgetary issues

I Contributions to the Trust funds (Annex II)

1. Ordinary contributions:

12 Countries are parties to the Agreement. Eight already paid their contribution for 2002. The total amount of the received contributions is **35 902,69 Euros** and **2 485,31 Euros** remain to be perceived.

Recall letters have been sent.

The contributions not regulated for 2002 and remaining 50 Euros to perceive on the contribution of Malta and 90,31 Euros from Syria were deferred on the calls to contribution for 2003.

2. Voluntary contributions

The voluntary contributions announced during the Meeting of the Parties by the Principality of Monaco, France and the United Kingdom were versed. The amount these voluntary contributions is: **84 100 Euros**

The total amount of the ordinary and voluntary contributions to the Trust funds for 2002 is: **120 002,69 Euros**

II. Budgetary situation at 31 December 2002 (Annex III)

1. Expenditure related to the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (MOP1).

One part of the expenditure related to the first Meeting of the Contracting Parties was charged to the voluntary contribution of the Principality of Monaco after it was transfer to the budget of the Agreement.

The amount of this expenditure is **21 013,23 Euros**.

2. Administrative functions.

The essential expenditure in this chapter covers the Meeting of the Scientific Committee, travels of the Permanent Secretariat staff, the production of information material and postal expenses.

The administrative expenses for “equipment” (line 210), “operation and maintenance” (line 220) are covered by the contribution of the Principality of Monaco transferred to the budget of the Agreement.

The amount of expenditures for administrative functions is:

33 870,20 Euros

3. Actions of conservation.

Due to the heavy task needed to launch the Secretariat mechanisms and the late meeting of the Scientific Committee, only two actions, which needed budgetary support, have been developed.

These two actions aimed:

- Genetic identification of the Black Sea population of the bottlenose Dolphin within the framework of the Resolution 1.12 implementation;

- Training on cetacean monitoring of a young Rumanian scientist by the Tethys Institute, partner of ACCOBAMS.

The amount of the expenditure for these actions is: **8 028,82 Euros**.

The total amount of expenditure for year 2002 is:

62 912,25 Euros

4. VAT Recovery.

According to the financial arrangements for the Secretariat, the VAT, on operations carried out in Principality, will be recovered. The amount is: **1 971 Euros**. It will be perceived on the financial year 2003.

5. Assessment.

Budgetary Situation 2002	
Receipts:	
- Ordinary contributions	35 902,69
- Voluntary contributions	84 100
Under total	120 002,69
Expenditure:	
- MOP1 (participation in the cost of the Meeting)	21 013,23
- Administrative functions	33 870,20
- Conservation actions	8 028,82
Under total	62 912,25
Balance at 31 December 2002	57 090,44

Annexe II

❖ **Trust Funds contributions**

2 002					2003	
Parties	Contributions 2002	Received	Income due for 2002		Contributions 2003	To be cashed in 2003
Albania	200	200			200	200
Bulgaria	200	200			220	220
Croatia	585	585			660	660
Spain	32 533	32 533			36809	36 809
Georgia	200		200		200	400
Libya	1 005		1 005		1133	2 138
Malta	225	175 *	50		254	304
Morocco	675		675		744	1 419
Monaco	200	200			200	200
Romania	885	885			981	981
Syria	1 215	1 124,69**	90,31		1370	1 460,31
Tunisia	465		465		507	972
Total	38 388	35 902,69	2 485,31		43 278	45 763,31

* Contribution received before the MOP1 on a theoretical basis.

Overhead charges due to payment by check. The difference is included in the amount to be paid in 2003

** Contribution received in dollars. The difference due to bank fees is included in the amount to be paid in 2003

❖ **Voluntary contributions**

Monaco	37 800
France	36 300
United Kingdom	10 000
Total	84 100

Annex III

Budgetary performance for 2002

	Trust Funds	Expenses		
	€	€		
Administrative functions			BUDGETARY REV ENUES	
100 Staff			Contributions	
101 Executive Secretariat				
102 Fund management controller	2 300	0	Albania	200
103 Secretary (1/2 time, full time when MOP)			Bulgaria	200
			Croatia	585
110 Support to sub regional coordination Units	15 000	0	Spain	32 533
			France	36 300
120 Consultants			Malta	175
121 Administrative Consultants	5 000	0	Monaco	6 000
			Monaco	32 000
200 Premises			United Kingdom	10 000
201 Rent and maintenance cost*		0	Romania	885
			Syria	1124,69
210 Equipment			Total	120 002,69
211 Office equipment *		0		
212 Miscellaneous office supplies		1 157,01		
			BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE	
220 Operation and maintenance			MOP1 Expenses	21 013,23
221 Computer *		0		
222 Photocopy			2002 Expenses	41 899,02
223 Other		271,00	Total	62 912,25
300 Communication				
301 Postage and miscellaneous	950	937,98		
302 Telephone and fax *		0		
			Cash balance	57 090,44
400 Travel on official business				
401 Secretariat staff	7 700			
402 Experts or Secretariat representative on mission	3 000	7 095,11		
500 Meetings				
501 Meeting of the Parties**		0		
502 Meeting of the Scientific Committee	13 000			
503 Meeting of the Bureau		0		
504 Interpreters (MOP**, Sc. Com)	1 500			
505 Reviewer (MOP)**		0		
506 Secretariat staff (MOP)**		13 969,95		
600 Reporting costs				
601 Reports of Meetings (MOP**, Sc. Com)	1 000			
602 Promotional material (bulletin, poster,...)	15 000			
603 Translators (MOP**,Sc.Com.)	7 700			
604 Web site maintenance		0		
		10 439,15		
700 Documentation, suscription, cotisations	800	0		
800 Hospitality	2 000	0		
Sub total administrative items	74 950	33 870,20		

	2 002	
	Trust Funds	Expenses
	€	€
Conservation actions		
910 Adoption and reinforcement of national legislations		
911 Technical and legal support to Contracting Parties	4 000	
912 Harmonisation of whale watching regulation	4 000	0
920 Assessment and management of human-cetacean interaction		
921 Competitive interaction between coastal dolphins and artisanal fisheries	4 000	
922 Cetacean bycatch database	4 000	0
930 Habitat protection		
931 Development and implementation of pilot conservation and management actions in well defined key areas containing critical habitats for populations belonging to priority species	10 000	
932 Workshop on methods for the evaluation of habitat degradation and its effects on cetaceans populations		0
940 Research and monitoring		
941 Conservation plan for cetaceans in the Black Sea		
942 Conservation plan for short-beaked common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>) in Mediterranean Sea	4 000	
943 Conservation plan for common bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) in Mediterranean Sea	4 000	
944 Basin-wide Mediterranean sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) survey (first steps)	8 000	692,79
950 Capacity building, training and education		
951 Establishment and implementation of a long-term training program on cetacean research, monitoring and conservation/management techniques and procedures	5 000	15 000
952 Educational tools for the organisation of research projects and basic technical studies	6 000	6 000
953 Information missions in countries	6 000	7 336,03
960 Collection and dissemination of information		
961 Regional directory of national authorities, research and salvage centres, of scientists and governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned with the Agreement's objectives		
962 Stranding network	4 000	
963 Synthesis of national reports		
964 Development and availability of a network of specialised bibliographic collections and databases	5 000	
965 Centralised tissue bank	4 000	0
970 Response to emergency situation		
971 Development of intervention protocols and codes of conduct to be implemented in case of emergency situations.	4 000	0
Sub total conservation actions	76 000	8 028,82
Total	150 950	41 899,02

*Provided by the Principality of Monaco as Secretariat hosting Country.

** Provided by the Principality of Monaco

ANNEX VII

RESOLUTION 1.6

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area,

Recalling Article IX, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the text of the Agreement, stating that Parties shall determine the scale of contributions to the budget and that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt a budget by consensus;

Appreciating the voluntary contributions of the Principality of Monaco during the period of the functioning of the Interim Secretariat;

Recognising the importance of all Range States being able to participate in the implementation of the Agreement and related activities;

1. *Confirms* that all Parties shall contribute to the budget adopted at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Agrees* that, thanks to substantive budgetary savings due the hosting by the Principality of Monaco of the Permanent Secretariat, a budget line for conservation measures is created;
3. *Adopts* the budget for 2002 - 2004 attached as annex 1 to the present Resolution;
4. *Agrees* to the scale of contributions of Parties to the Agreement, and a standard fixed contribution as listed in annex 2 to the present Resolution, and to the application of that scale, *pro rata* to new Parties as described in annex 3, paragraph 6;
5. *Decides*, in order to ensure immediately a minimum Agreement implementation, to pay for 2002 a contribution calculated according to annex 2 and to rely on the agreed scale as of 2003, unless circumstances require measures adopted for 2002 to be applied again;
6. *Invites* the Secretariat as far as possible to use ordinary contributions from any new Parties or voluntary contributions towards the conservation actions listed in Annex I of the present resolution, according to the priorities approved by the Bureau;
7. *Requests* all Parties to pay their contributions as promptly as possible but in any case no later than the end of June of the year to which they relate;
8. *Invites* States not Parties to the Agreement, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental Organisations and other sources to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
9. *Approves*, without prejudice to the decisions related to the financial exercises 2002 and 2003 as stated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present Resolution, the terms of reference for the administration of the Agreement budget as set out in annex 3 to the present Resolution for the period 2002–2004 and the guidelines for the acceptance of financial voluntary contributions as in annex 4.

ANNEXE 2

contributions 2002- 2004 avec une contribution plancher de 200 € with a minimum contribution of 200 €	2002				2003				2004			
	clef / Key	clef	Contributions	clef	clef / Key	clef	Contributions	clef	clef / Key	clef	Contributions	clef
	ONU 2002	zone	€	ACCOBAMS	ONU 2003	zone	€	ACCOBAMS	ONU 2003	zone	€	ACCOBAMS
Albanie / Albania	0,003	0,017	200	0,134	0,003	0,017	200	0,123	0,003	0,017	200	0,097
Algérie / Algeria	0,071	0,405	1 065	0,714	0,070	0,402	1 184	0,705	0,070	0,402	1 450	0,705
Bosnie Herzégovine / Bosnia Herzegovina	0,004	0,023	200	0,134	0,004	0,023	200	0,123	0,004	0,023	200	0,097
Bulgarie / Bulgaria	0,013	0,074	200	0,134	0,013	0,075	220	0,131	0,013	0,075	269	0,131
Chypre / Cyprus	0,038	0,217	570	0,382	0,038	0,218	643	0,383	0,038	0,218	787	0,383
Croatie / Croatia	0,039	0,223	585	0,392	0,039	0,224	660	0,393	0,039	0,224	808	0,393
Égypte / Egypt	0,081	0,462	1 215	0,815	0,081	0,465	1 370	0,815	0,081	0,465	1 678	0,816
Espagne / Spain	2,534	14,464	32 533	21,823	2,518	14,449	36 809	21,829	2,518	14,449	45 096	21,914
Fédération de Russie / Russian Federation	1,200	6,850	18 002	12,076	1,200	6,886	20 296	12,080	1,200	6,886	24 866	12,083
France	6,503	37,119	32 533	21,823	6,466	37,102	36 809	21,829	6,466	37,102	45 096	21,914
Géorgie / Georgia	0,005	0,029	200	0,134	0,005	0,029	200	0,123	0,005	0,029	200	0,097
Grèce / Greece	0,542	3,094	8 131	5,454	0,539	3,093	9116	5,426	0,539	3,093	11 169	5,427
Israël / Israel	0,418	2,386	6 271	4,206	0,415	2,381	7019	4,178	0,415	2,381	8 599	4,179
Italie / Italia	5,090	29,054	32 533	21,823	5,064	29,058	36 809	21,829	5,064	29,058	45 096	21,914
Jamahiriya Arabe Libyenne/ Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0,067	0,382	1 005	0,674	0,067	0,384	1133	0,674	0,067	0,384	1 388	0,675
Liban / Lebanon	0,012	0,068	200	0,134	0,012	0,069	203	0,123	0,012	0,069	249	0,121
Malte / Malta	0,015	0,086	225	0,151	0,015	0,086	254	0,151	0,015	0,086	311	0,151
Maroc / Morocco	0,045	0,257	675	0,453	0,044	0,252	744	0,443	0,044	0,252	912	0,443
Monaco	0,004	0,023	200	0,134	0,004	0,023	200	0,123	0,004	0,023	200	0,097
Portugal	0,466	2,660	6 991	4,690	0,462	2,651	7 814	4,651	0,462	2,651	9 573	4,652
République Fédérale de Yougoslavie/ Yugoslavian Republic Federation	0,020	0,114	300	0,201	0,022	0,126	372	0,221	0,022	0,126	456	0,222
République de Syrie / Syrian Republic	0,081	0,462	1 215	0,815	0,081	0,465	1 370	0,815	0,081	0,465	1 678	0,816
Roumanie	0,059	0,337	885	0,594	0,058	0,333	981	0,584	0,058	0,333	1 202	0,584
Slovénie / Slovenia	0,081	0,462	1 215	0,815	0,080	0,459	1 353	0,805	0,080	0,459	1 658	0,806
Tunisie / Tunisia	0,031	0,177	465	0,312	0,030	0,172	507	0,302	0,030	0,172	622	0,302
Turquie / Turkey	0,044	0,253	666	0,447	0,044	0,255	751	0,447	0,044	0,255	920	0,447
Ukraine	0,053	0,303	795	0,533	0,053	0,304	896	0,534	0,053	0,304	1 098	0,534
Royaume Uni / United Kingdom** CE / EC***			1 874				2 285				3 418	
Totaux	17,519	100	150 950	100	17,427	100	170 400	100	17,427	100	209 200	100

* Clef des Nations Unies adaptée au nombre de Pays riverains de la zone ACCOBAMS compte tenu qu'aucune Partie ne doit contribuer à plus de 22%

* UN key adapted to the ACCOBAMS zone riparian Countries taking into account that no Party should cover more than 22% of the budget

** Etant présent dans la zone au travers de territoires à statut particulier, le Royaume Uni proposera à la première Réunion des Parties sa contribution au budget de l'Accord

** Being present in the Agreement zone only by special statute territories, United Kingdom will propose its contribution to the Agreement budget to the first Meeting of the Parties

*** 2,5% des charges de fonctionnement/ 2.5 % of the administrative charges

ANNEX VIII

WORKSHOP ON ACTIVE SONAR AND CETACEANS

European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 8 March 2003

Active sonar, operating with sound source levels of up to 245 dB re1 μ Pa @ 1 m at frequencies mainly between 1 and 150 kHz, is frequently used for fish-finding, oceanography, charting and in military activities (for example locating submarines). Over the last six years, concern has been expressed over the potential impact these sounds may have upon cetaceans (particularly odontocetes like beaked whales), and post mortem studies of mass stranded animals in the Bahamas and, most recently, in the Canaries have revealed multifocal haemorrhaging and ear damage.

A full-day workshop was organised on 8 March 2003 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, before the Annual Meeting of the European Cetacean Society, to bring together whale biologists, pathologists, acousticians, and other representatives of the disciplines involved, to objectively review the existing evidence and, where detrimental effects are implicated, to identify possible mitigation measures.

Attention was given to species involved and any characteristics that may make them especially vulnerable, as well as to the nature of the sound source (sound levels, peak frequencies, usage, oceanographic conditions). A standardized protocol for dealing with potential future strandings was envisaged, and research needs (such as controlled experiments) reviewed. Finally, it was suggested that a list of recommended actions be prepared for: a) cetacean scientists; b) government agencies; c) fisheries scientists and oceanographers; and d) the military. These might include guidelines for adoption before and during a sonar experiment, design of a standardized EIA model including investigation of the feasibility for time-area closures, and possible technological modifications of the sonar.

The Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee will maintain a close link with the workshop organiser, Dr. Peter Evans (Oxford, UK), to ensure that the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop will provide opportunities for strengthening intervention capabilities, devising appropriate lines of action and building capacity in the ACCOBAMS area with respect to the problems created to cetaceans by active sonar and other man made noise.

ANNEX IX

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE 1st BUREAU MEETING

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties to ACCOBAMS and Development of the Agreement

DECISION:

The Meeting of the Bureau :

- expresses its appreciation to the Turkish Government for its contribution in the assistance of the Secretariat, considers that the expertise was very positive and, in accordance with the Resolution 1.6 (appendix 4), encourage the Parties or Countries to follow this example.
- acknowledges the activities of the Secretariat and invites Countries to help him to increase its actions.

Agenda Item 5: Program of Activities

DECISION:

The program of activities for the year 2003 is adopted as in Annex V.

Agenda Item 6: Budgetary Issues

DECISION:

The Bureau decides to prorogate to 2004, the 2002/2003 system of calculation for ordinary contribution of the Parties, as explained in Resolution MOP 1/1.6 annex 2 (Annex VII)

Agenda Item 7: ACCOBAMS Partners

DECISION :

- The Meeting of the Bureau:

- acknowledges with satisfaction the interest brought by IUCN, SEC and EPHE to the implementation of the Agreement,
- recognizes that these Organizations fulfill the provisions of the Resolution MOP 1/1.13.

Agenda Item 8: Policy for accession of non-riparian Countries

DECISION:

- In order to help the Secretariat in his relation with potential inquiries on accession to the Agreement by non Riparian Countries, the Meeting of the Bureau asks to the Secretariat to strictly rely the Article XIII referring to Article I.3 g. In this context, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to get information from the Countries who would like to access to ACCOBAMS as non-riparian Countries. As far as necessary, the Secretariat will look for advice from the

Scientific Committee on the relevance of the impact of the activities deployed by the ships of these Countries.

Agenda Item 11: Any other business

a. Impact of the Sonars on Cetaceans

DECISION:

-The meeting of the Bureau:

- takes note of the conclusion of the workshop held during the last ECS meeting (Las Palmas, 2003), and of the decision⁴ adopted by the First Meeting of the Contracting Party of the Agreement Related to the Establishment of a Marine Mammal Sanctuary in the Mediterranean (Annex VIII),
- recalls Article II (1,2) of ACCOBAMS concerning the prohibition of any kind of harassment unless special derogation granted for scientific research after advice from the Scientific Committee,
- urges the Scientific Committee to prepare a recommendation on the use of active sonar and the man-made, high level underwater impulsive noise directed to the government agencies, scientists, the industry and the military.

b. Label “Dolphin Friends”

DECISION:

-The meeting of the Bureau:

- recognizes that, to be efficient, maritime activities impact mitigation tools need a strong commitment of the sea users. This commitment could be facilitate by several means: awarding or labelisation;
- in order to have a first approach on this topic, asks the Scientific Committee to determine main human activities that could benefit from such action.

⁴ The Contracting Parties of the Agreement Related to the Establishment of a Marine Mammal Sanctuary in the Mediterranean mandated the Depositary of this Agreement (Monaco) to raise the awareness of the US/ NOAA and NATO/Saqlant Cent on their concerns related to scientific acoustic experiments projected by an American scientist involving cetacean harassment in the Ligurian Sea.