

## REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS BUREAU



**Paris, 9-10 December 2014**

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## 1. OPENING SESSION

The Ninth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau was convened to take place, thanks to the kind support of the Oceanographic Institute (Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco), at “Maison des Oceans”, 195 Rue Saint-Jacques 75005 Paris (France) on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

It was attended by Mrs. Zakia DRIOUICH, Chair of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (Morocco), Mrs. Ana ŠTRBENAC (Croatia) and H.E.M. Patrick VAN KLAVEREN (Monaco).

Ms. Irine LOMASHVILI (Georgia) and Mrs. Martine BIGAN (France) were not able to attend the Meeting. Nevertheless, Ms Martine BIGAN provided the Bureau Members and the Secretariat with her comments on all Meeting documents.

It was also attended by Mrs. Florence DESCROIX-COMNADUCCI (Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS), Mr. Simone PANIGADA (Chair of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS), two consultants and staff members of the Permanent Secretariat. The full list of participants appears in [Annex 1](#) to this report.

The Chair of the Bureau welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting at 9.00 a.m., on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude to the Oceanographic Institute (Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco) for its support. She provided details about the logistic arrangements for the participants and the documentation of the Meeting.

## 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Executive Secretary introduced the provisional Agenda (BU9/2014/Doc 01), the Provisional Annotated Agenda (BU9/2014/Doc 02 Rev1), the List of documents (BU9/2014/Doc 03 Rev1) and the Provisional Timetable (BU9/2014/Doc 04).

The Meeting reviewed and adopted the Agenda. It appears as [Annex 2](#) to this report.

## 3. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Executive Secretary introduced the Document BU9/2014/Doc 05, presenting information about the activities carried out since the last Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS and about the progress made in promoting the Agreement and strengthening collaboration with other instruments.

### 3.1 Administrative matters

The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that as of November 2014, 23 States were Parties to the Agreement and that 22 Parties have nominated a Focal Point to liaise with the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS. The Secretariat was still waiting for the official nomination of the Focal Point for Montenegro.

The Bureau Members instructed the Secretariat:

- to prepare a letter to be sent by the Chair of ACCOBAMS inviting the relevant authorities of Montenegro to nominate a Focal Point;
- to send a letter to the relevant national authorities of non-Party Countries in the ACCOBAMS area inviting them to become ACCOBAMS Parties.

### **3.2 Management of the Agreement**

#### ***Third Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries (CSMC3)***

The Secretariat informed the bureau that the CSMC3 was organized in Jounieh (Lebanon) from 21 to 23 October 2014 with the participation of scientists from seven South Mediterranean Countries as well as Scientists from other Parties to ACCOBAMS and representatives of the relevant regional organizations. The Conference offered the opportunity to take stock of the scientific works on cetaceans undertaken during the last years in the South of the Mediterranean. It also offered the opportunity to the participating scientists to exchange and to build collaboration initiatives.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee underlined that the papers and posters presented during the Conference showed that a significant scientific work is being done in the South Mediterranean Countries whose results deserve to be disseminated and made available for the cetacean scientific community.

The Bureau Members commended the scientific work carried out in South Mediterranean Countries. They underlined the importance of the CSMC and its role in stimulating the development of conservation actions and promoting the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Agreement.

They encouraged:

- the Scientific Committee to facilitate and support the publication of data in peer-reviewed papers;
- the scientific community in South Mediterranean Countries to use the ACCOBAMS interactive database to disseminate the available data.

#### ***Implementation of the MSFD and other similar initiatives in the ACCOBAMS area***

The Secretariat introduced the progress report on the survey on implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other similar initiatives in the ACCOBAMS area (BU9/2014/Doc 12).

To facilitate further cooperation between EU-ACCOBAMS member States and non EU-ACCOBAMS member States, the Secretariat requested the co-Chair of the Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on the MSFD to prepare an overview of existing relevant initiatives at national level by using a questionnaire survey methodology.

As per November 2014, only 5 Countries have sent the filled questionnaire:

- 4 EU Mediterranean Countries: Croatia, Cyprus France and Spain
- 1 non EU Mediterranean Country: Lebanon

The Bureau invited the Secretariat to send the questionnaire once again to all Focal Points in January 2015 and to be more involved in the European Commission work related to the European Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

#### ***The ACCOBAMS Partners workshop***

The Secretariat informed the Meeting that, in accordance with the Work Programme 2014-2016 adopted by the Fifth Meeting of the Parties (Resolution 5.2), the first workshop for ACCOBAMS Partners was organized on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014, at the occasion of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific Committee. It offered the opportunity to the ACCOBAMS partnership to explore options for further contribution from the ACCOBAMS Partners in implementing the Work Programme adopted by the Fifth Meeting of the Parties.

The Bureau recommended to continue the organization of this workshop (every two years for example). It may be planned back to back with the ACCOBAMS Scientific Meeting since most of the ACCOBAMS Partners attend it.

### ***The ACCOBAMS extension area***

Regarding the ACCOBAMS extension area, the Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that on November 2014 Bulgaria, Cyprus, Monaco, Spain and Ukraine deposited their instrument of acceptance with the Depositary. To facilitate the acceptance process, the Secretariat approached the Depositary in order that ACCOBAMS Focal Points be informed as soon as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of their Countries is contacted through diplomatic ways on this issue.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to send a letter to the relevant national authorities of the ACCOBAMS Parties that have not yet ratified the amendments to the Agreement in order to encourage them to speed up the ratification process with the view of having these amendments into force before the next Meeting of the Parties.

This letter should be sent together with a note from the Secretariat explaining that only an acceptance is required and requesting the Focal Points to feed back with the ongoing process in their Countries.

Regarding the previous request received for the extension of the ACCOBAMS area to cover the Red Sea, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that, in accordance with the Work Programme for 2014-2016, it is planning to approach in 2015 relevant Countries and experts, in order to evaluate the added value of the proposed extension and to evaluate the legal, institutional and financial implications it may involve.

The Bureau requested the Scientific Committee to address this issue during its next Meeting in 2015 in order to provide the Secretariat with a scientific and technical opinion regarding the proposed extension.

### **3.3 Conservation Actions**

#### ***The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative***

The Secretariat informed the Members of the ACCOBAMS Bureau about the progress made in developing the "ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative", since the Fifth Meeting of the Parties (Tangier, November 2013) making reference to document BU9/2014/Doc 10. In order to analyze the conditions for the operational feasibility of the project at the national level, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat has sent a questionnaire to each Country. This document was designed to provide information at the national level about the feasibility of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) and about the constraints and opportunities which would be associated with the project.

The Secretariat also informed the Meeting about the next steps, in particular the elaboration of funding requests to potential donors based on (i) the scientific and technical elements already elaborated by the Scientific Committee and (ii) the conclusions of the feasibility survey conducted by the Secretariat through the questionnaire sent to the Focal Points. The Secretariat stressed that the funding request document will be prepared in close cooperation with the established contact group and the Scientific Committee through the Task Manager on Cetacean population estimates. It also stressed that the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative could provide significant contribution to the MSFD of the EU and the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention, it is therefore essential to streamline efforts among these two initiatives.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee indicated that a series of large scale surveys for cetaceans was initiated in European Atlantic waters in 1994 (SCANS) and continued in 2005 (SCANS-II) with the purpose of providing estimates of abundance needed to put bycatch in a population context and to allow EU member States to discharge their responsibilities under the Habitats Directive. A third survey is now planned (SCANS-III). He informed the Bureau that members of the "ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative" Working Group are involved in SCANS projects and that if SCANS-III is to be funded by EU funds, the protocols and instruments would be available for ACCOBAMS.

The Bureau invited:

- (i) the Secretariat to pursue its contacts with the relevant authorities in the EU Mediterranean Countries and to encourage them to support the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative at the level of the European Commission, and
- (ii) the Scientific Committee to liaise with the scientists of the entire ACCOBAMS area to stress the importance of orienting their population survey works towards the objectives of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI).

The Chair of the Bureau will send a letter to the Focal Points that didn't reply to the questionnaire asking them to give further consideration to the assessment of their needs and contributions in relation to the Survey Initiative, stressing that their prompt reply to the questionnaire will contribute to speed up the development of the ASI.

The Bureau invited the Secretariat to investigate ways and modalities for a joint Working Group SCAN-ASI and to take the needed steps for its establishment as soon as possible.

The Bureau supported the idea of having the survey as a long term program (not a one shot action), that could be conducted on a 6 years-period basis focalizing on key areas identified during the first survey.

### **Population structure**

A draft Recommendation was prepared by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and accepted during MOP5, on the establishment of individual identification system(s) of cetaceans kept in captivity to be presented by one (or more) ACCOBAMS Party to the next CITES COP in 2016

The Scientific Committee advised the Secretariat to approach Countries with dolphinarium as Countries with particular interest to the issue, which could potentially endorse the presentation of the Recommendation.

The Bureau Members agreed with the Scientific Committee proposal and requested the Secretariat to approach Countries with dolphinarium to submit the Recommendation to the next CITES COP in 2016.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that it was contacted by the NGO Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) regarding the follow up of the CMS Recommendation on live capture adopted at the CMS COP12 (Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014). WDC would like to initiate an inventory of all the CMS Party Countries with national legislation for both live captures and the international transit of cetaceans through their borders.

The Bureau Members considered that the transboundary issue was covered by CITES provisions. They recommended the Secretariat to answer to WDC, specifying the ACCOBAMS provisions on this issue and developing on what the Secretariat can do, making also reference to the document ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Inf37 "Taking of cetaceans and dolphinarium: a legal analysis within the framework of ACCOBAMS".

### **Anthropogenic noise**

The Secretariat presented the progress made on this issue since MOP5, especially the international and regional cooperation developed. ACCOBAMS is leading the elaboration of the Good Environmental Status (GES) definition and of targets related to the Ecological Objective on Energy including underwater noise (EO11) under the **Ecosystem Approach process (EcAp) of the Barcelona Convention**. In this context, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat was requested to draft a "**monitoring guidance on marine noise**", which has been presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group in October 2014. The objective is to have the GES and targets for EO11 adopted at the next Barcelona Convention COP.

The Bureau Members requested the Secretariat to provide them with the draft "monitoring guidance on marine noise" before it will be finalized and presented to the EcAp CORMON Meeting in March 2015.

Following the presentation of the report of the Secretariat and the discussion about the issues raised under this Agenda Item, the Chair, on behalf of the other Bureau Members, commended the work undertaken by the Secretariat and congratulated the Executive Secretary for the relevance and quality of the working documents.

#### 4. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Scientific Committee introduced the Progress report on the activities of the Scientific Committee (Document BU9/2014/Doc 06) and informed the Meeting about the new composition of the Scientific Committee as well as about the activities of the Scientific Committee since the Fifth Meeting of the Parties.

He emphasized that the different Scientific Members were working on the actions included in the 2014-2016 ACCOBAMS Work Programme, in preparation of the next Meeting, during which the Members will draft recommendations to be used by the Extended Bureau to draft Resolutions to the next Meeting of the Parties (MOP6). These included:

- collaborating with the Secretariat in the preparation of a workshop planned for June 2015 on “Effectiveness of MPA with Critical Habitat for Cetaceans”;
- drafting Conservation Plans for cetacean in the Spanish waters and in assessing the IUCN cetacean species currently listed as Data Deficient (DD);
- organizing, together with the Secretariat, a Scientific Committee Operational Meeting in Monaco in December 2014. The aim of this meeting will be to draw a road map, to assign specific tasks and to facilitate the effective implementation of the Work Programme between now and the next Scientific Committee Meeting at the end of 2015, in light of the next MOP in 2016;
- devoting efforts to facilitate exchanges between scientists and stakeholders for the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee informed the Meeting that the regional representatives presented, for the SC9, reports about their subregions, including recommendations. The Scientific Committee Members endorsed the recommendations and agreed to prepare a new template for the reports by the regional representatives allowing further harmonization between the regional reports and ensuring further comprehensiveness of the topics covered by these reports.

He also briefed the Bureau about the meetings of relevance for ACCOBAMS where the Chair of the Scientific Committee or other Members participated. In this context he underlined that in several occasions the Scientific Committee envisaged collaborations and synergies, especially with CMS and IWC, to strengthen the conservation and mitigation effort at the ACCOBAMS level.

##### ***The Joint IWC-SPAW ship strikes Workshop Panama (17-20 June 2014)***

The Chair of the Scientific Committee reported about the Joint IWC-SPAW Workshop to Address Collisions between Marine Mammals and Ships with a Focus on the Wider Caribbean, held in June 2014 in Panama. During the Workshop, two Mediterranean cases were presented: Cabo di Gata and Gibraltar strait. With respect to mitigation measures that would also apply in the Mediterranean region (and in fact, globally) the Workshop agreed that those that separate whales from vessels (or at least minimize co-occurrence) in space and time are the most effective. The Workshop emphasized that the most effective and only demonstrated general method to ameliorate lethal strikes available at present is reduced speed, although it has an economic impact on the shipping companies.

The Bureau Members requested the Scientific Committee to provide more feedback on this Workshop. It could be an important input of ACCOBAMS to the Pelagos Sanctuary, regarding the PSSA issue.

### ***The revised Black Sea dolphins Conservation Plan***

The Task Manager on Capacity Building (including public awareness and communication) represented ACCOBAMS to the Regular Meeting of the Black Sea Commission (November, 2014). The revised Black Sea dolphins Conservation Plan (CP) was presented and supported by the chairs of FOMLR and CBD AGs and by the Member States except Russia. Bulgarian commissioner pointed out some issues but she was supportive as a whole. Russia claimed that the CP was based on the provisions of ACCOBAMS to which Russia is not a Member. It was explained that technical support was offered by ACCOBAMS but the CP is only for Black Sea dolphins and was prepared by the experts of Black Sea Countries. Russia requested that the CP be prepared in accordance with the Bucharest Convention and its strategies.

The Bureau Members requested the Secretariat to liaise with the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat to identify the most appropriate option to push forward with the adoption of the Conservation Plan by the Black Sea Commission. The relevant Scientific Committee Members shall be involved as appropriate.

### ***Statement of Concern on past and proposed offshore exploration activities in the Adriatic Sea***

A Statement of Concern on past and proposed offshore exploration activities in the Adriatic Sea has been developed by the Joint Noise Working Group in response to a request from the Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

Ana Štrbenac explained that there was an ongoing Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Framework plan and program for oil and gas exploitation and exploration in the Adriatic and that further steps will depend on results of the SEA process. She also stressed that the SEA study will be displayed for public consultations early 2015. The entire process is followed by the European Commission through so called "EU pilot" project.

The Secretariat informed the Meeting that during the CSMC 3, the participants expressed their concern about the increasing number of seismic surveys in the Southern Mediterranean Sea and recommended to establish a Working Group on the impact of seismic surveys on cetaceans in the Southern Mediterranean Sea. The Working Group should report its conclusions and recommendations to the Joint Working Group ACCOBAMS/ ASCOBANS/ CMS on noise. They also recommended to establish a system for collection of data from Marine Mammals Observers (MMOs) during seismic surveys.

The Bureau Members congratulated the Scientific Committee for the extensive and excellent work done, and recommended further involvement of experts from the South Mediterranean Countries, in its works.

## **5. BUDGETARY MATTERS**

The Executive Secretary introduced the documents BU9/2014/Doc 07 and BU9/2014/Doc 08 on incomes and expenditures of 2013 and of 2014 as per 10 November 2014.

### ***Discussion on the 2015 invoice***

The Secretariat requested the Bureau Members views on the possibility to send the next invoice with the amount of the Ordinary Contributions for 2015 and 2016 (and unpaid amounts from previous years, if any) recalling the Resolution 5.16 (Financial and administrative matters for 2014 2016). Considering the amount of unpaid contributions in 2014 in addition to the amount of unpaid contributions for longer time, the objective of the Secretariat is to secure funds in order to allow the timely implementation of the activities.

The Chair congratulated the Secretariat for the quality and the clarity of the financial documentation presented and invited the Bureau Members to comment the statements of incomes and expenditures and the proposals by the Secretariat.



Following the discussion about the financial situation of the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund and considering the unpaid pledges as well as the proposals made by the Secretariat as for the invoicing procedures to be applied for the next ordinary contributions, the Bureau Meeting instructed the Secretariat to contact the Focal Points to ask whether they agree that the ordinary contributions of their countries for 2015 and 2016 be invoiced and paid in 2015. It is in line with Resolution 5.16 that invited Parties to consider paying for the entire triennium in one instalment at the beginning of the period. The three largest contributors (France, Italy and Spain) should be specifically approached by the Secretariat on this matter.

The Bureau Meeting also invited the Secretariat to set in the next invoices a deadline for the payment in accordance with Resolution 5.16 that required Parties to pay their contributions as promptly as possible, but in any case no later than at the end of March of the year to which they relate.

Regarding the working documents, the Bureau Meeting recommended that for the future it would be useful to also display all incomes and expenses according to the source of funding (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contribution etc.).

#### ***Discussion on the Supplementary Conservation Fund***

The Secretariat requested the Bureau views on options to increase the available amount of the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund in order to allow a call for projects in 2015.

Since the Voluntary Contribution from Monaco is dedicated to conservation actions, the Bureau Members invited the Secretariat to replenish the Supplementary Conservation Fund with remaining from the 2014 Voluntary Contribution of Monaco. The objective being to have a call for proposals for at least 2 projects in 2015.

#### ***Discussion on the unpaid contributions***

The Bureau underlined the important amount of unpaid contributions.

The Bureau Members recommended the following:

- a special action should be made for Greece concerning the unpaid amount. A letter from the Chair of ACCOBAMS will be send to the Foreign Affairs through the National Focal Point;
- a letter from the Secretariat should be sent to the Embassy of Libya in Geneva, through the Monaco Ambassador in Geneva, regarding the unpaid pledges of Libya;
- a letter from the Secretariat should be sent to the General Consulate of Monaco in Portugal soliciting its support to urge the payment of the unpaid pledges of Portugal to the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund;
- a reminder should be sent to all Parties with unpaid Contributions urging them to fulfil their obligations towards the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund and providing them with an overview of ACCOBAMS expenses for each Country.

Concerning the unpaid amounts of Tunisia and Montenegro, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to include these amounts in the contributions of these two Countries in the draft table of Ordinary Contributions to be submitted to the next MOP.

## **6. PROVISIONAL LIST OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2015**

The Secretariat presented the document BU9/2014/Doc 09 with a provisional list of activities for 2015.

The Bureau Members approved the proposed list of activities for 2015 and requested the Secretariat to:

- (i) amend the table adding 3 columns for each proposed activity: the minimum amount required, who is willing to contribute and who will be in charge of particular activity;
- (ii) send the amended table to all Focal Points and Partners with a request for Voluntary Contribution.

### ***Dissemination of scientific protocols***

The Secretariat presented a note about the dissemination of scientific protocols, methodologies and Guidelines developed under ACCOBAMS (BU9/2014/Doc11).

In order to strength coherence between ACCOBAMS and other regional policies that integrate issues related to cetacean conservation, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to provide all relevant international and regional Organizations and all ACCOBAMS Focal Points with the Guidelines and technical tools elaborated under ACCOBAMS.

It also instructed the Scientific Committee to prepare a document on minimum requirements for cetaceans monitoring that the Secretariat could make available to the integrated monitoring programme being developed under the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach process and the implementation of the MSFD.

### ***MEDACES***

The Secretariat informed the Meeting that it was contacted by the Spanish Focal Point for additional financial support to MEDACES for 2015, based on the consideration that the actual total budget for the update and maintenance of MEDACES is 27 000 €/ year (and not 10 000€/year as it was understood during MOP5). The Secretariat requested the Bureau views on the financial contribution to MEDACES in 2015 as well as on the sustainability of this database.

The Executive Secretary recalled that during the Fifth Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS (5-9 November 2013, Tangier) the representative from Spain had informed the Meeting about the current situation of MEDACES, which has not been operational since June 2012. He also indicated that Spain was willing to contribute with 9 000 € for 2014-2015 in order to continue the maintenance of MEDACES by the University of Valence, hoping that the remaining of the necessary budget will be provided by both the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the RAC/SPA (it was understood by both the ACCOBAMS and the RAC/SPA Secretariats that the cost for yearly maintenance of MEDACES was 10 000 €). She indicated that this amount was paid by the RAC/SPA in December 2013 as agreed.

The Bureau Members requested the Secretariat to send a letter to the Spanish Focal Point, asking for the budget breakdown of MEDACES. An evaluation will be requested to the Scientific Committee regarding the functioning of the current database and its utility for ACCOBAMS.

### ***Mapping anthropogenic noise hotspots in the ACCOBAMS area***

The Secretariat presented a note of intent on this issue (BU9/2014/Doc15), which has been validated by the Ninth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (15-17 April 2014, Monaco) and circulated through the Joint Noise Working Group (JNWG) ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/CMS. The note included a proposed work plan with the relevant information to be collected and a time estimates for the activities needed to map anthropogenic noise hot spots in the ACCOBAMS area.

The Bureau Members recommended to ensure that the produced maps will not give a wrong picture of the situation otherwise they could be used to play against conservation measures.

Terms of reference to approach the potential consultancy providers should be drafted in consultation with the Scientific Committee.

### ***Marine Mammals Observers***

The Secretariat informed the Meeting that it was approached by some Focal Points and some Partners regarding the “Marine Mammals Observers” (MMO) issue, in particular regarding the legitimacy and credibility of the different MMOs trainings in the ACCOBAMS area (BU9/2014/Doc14).

The Secretariat invited the Bureau Members to provide their opinion as for the need (i) of a standardized reporting protocol, (ii) of an inventory of national MMOs trainings in the ACCOBAMS area, and of the national legislation (if any) on this issue, and (iii) of a framework document on this issue, to be submitted to

the MOP6, in order to assist Parties to implement relevant training for MMOs, in full compliance with ACCOBAMS.

The Bureau Members confirmed the importance of the issue, agreed with the three proposals and invited the Secretariat to also prepare a tool ensuring high qualification for such training courses (for example a high quality label for training centers, including relevant Terms of Reference and requirements). ACCOBAMS could organize courses (may be linked with the ACCOBAMS teaching module) with certificate or deliver certification in existing training centers. The Secretariat will work with the Scientific Committee on the issue. This issue will be addressed during the next Scientific Committee and a framework document will be submitted to the next MOP.

### **Activities on collisions**

The Chair of the Scientific Committee presented the document BU9/2014/Inf06 on Whalesafe and REPCET projects. The Bureau Members were invited to provide guidance about the position to be taken by the Secretariat regarding the implementation of these two similar projects promoting collision mitigation measures in the ACCOBAMS area.

The Bureau Members recommended to promote the cooperation and synergy between REPCET and WHALESAFE since they are complementary.

### **ACCOBAMS Cetaceans Day**

The Secretariat informed the Meeting that the ACCOBAMS Cetaceans Day will be implemented in 2015, in close collaboration with ACCOBAMS Partners. The choice of the date will be chosen bearing in mind dates of know relevant events (World Day for environment, World Oceans Day...).

The Bureau Members recommended to approach ASCOBANS to suggest the establishment of a Joint Cetaceans Day.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **7.1 - Fundraising Strategy**

In accordance with the ACCOBAMS Strategy (Resolution 5.1), the Secretariat presented an overview of available funding possibilities in the region (BU9/2014/Doc 18).

The Secretariat invited the Bureau Members to provide guidance on the need (i) to provide this document to all ACCOBAMS bodies, (ii) to review it for each Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, and (iii) to keep a watching brief on the calls for proposals issued by the organizations identified in this document and to email relevant information to the different ACCOBAMS bodies.

The Bureau Members endorsed the three proposals made by the Secretariat, recommending that the Secretariat keep the document alive without necessarily come back to the Bureau.

They recommended the Secretariat to approach all National Focal Points (and/or foreign affairs and/or Ministry of Fisheries) to collect information about the ongoing projects.

They also requested the Secretariat to amend the document by adding:

- the types of expenses that could be covered by each fund identified as well as the percentage of the required co-funding part (where applicable);
- the funding provided directly by DG MARE to marine conservation, (for example the call for proposal regarding MSFD);

- the transboundary programs that would be launched again for EU countries (such as the EU IPA Adriatic programme Italy-Croatia and Slovenia-Croatia);
- the Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs;
- the list of Focal Points and other contact persons at national level of the different funding initiatives (Life, GEF...);
- the EU structural and investment funds.

## 7.2 - Staff regulations

According to the Resolution 5.6, the Executive Secretary presented to the Bureau Members a note on the ACCOBAMS Staff regulations (BU9/2014/Doc 19).

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the vice-Chair of the Bureau for Monaco reviewed the staff regulations of international bodies for the environment having a Headquarters Agreement with Monaco and Agreements similar to the ACCOBAMS. It was considered that the ACAP Staff Regulations (ACAP\_MoP4/Final Report / Annex 3) would provide the most appropriate basis for developing the document. This Agreement is indeed very similar to the ACCOBAMS since both Instruments are within the CMS Family, are not ruled by UNEP and are not located in the Headquarters of CMS in Bonn, Germany, like the others CMS Agreements Secretariats.

H.E.M. Patrick Van Klaveren indicated that the Government of the Principality of Monaco was investigating several options taking into account the specificity of the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS, including its size.

The Bureau Members encouraged the Secretariat to continue working with the authorities in Monaco, keeping the Bureau informed in order to have a transparent recruitment process for the Executive Secretary in relation with the Bureau.

## 7.3 - Sixth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS

The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau Members that since no offer for hosting the MOP6 was made during MOP5, she made some informal consultation and the Principality of Monaco offered to host the MOP6 in 2016 (tentatively from 22 to 25 November 2016), which is also the year of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ACCOBAMS.

The Bureau Members welcomed the offer of the Principality of Monaco. They underlined that since no Meeting of Parties has been made in Black Sea, some ACCOBAMS technical Meeting should be held this triennium in this region such as regional workshops or Bureau Meeting (subject to available funding).

## 8. NEW REQUEST FOR ACCOBAMS PARTNERSHIP

The Secretariat presented the document BU9/2014/Doc 20 regarding the new applications of partnership.

The Bureau granted the status of ACCOBAMS Partners to :

- The NGO “**Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)**”
- The NGO “**Association Monégasque pour la Protection de la Nature (AMPN)**”
- The **CIMA Research Foundation**

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

### 9.1 –ACCOBAMS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Executive Secretary presented proposals for a formal logo to be used starting from 2015.

The Bureau welcomed this initiative and decided to create a Coordination Committee conducted by Monaco (H.E.M. Patrick Van Klaveren). It will be in charge of the agenda of sides events for the MOP6, regarding the ACCOBAMS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This agenda will be discussed to the next Bureau Meeting in 2015.

## 9.2 - Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs

The Secretariat presented a document regarding the creation of a trust fund dedicated to the funding of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (BU9/2014/Inf 05).

The bases of this fund, whose relevance was highlighted by MedPAN and all the participants to the Forum of Mediterranean MPAs held in Antalya in November 2012, were clarified by the fruitful exchanges engaged between the Tunisian, French and Monegasque partners. It should strengthen and sustain existing MPAs, support regional networks of MPAs in the Mediterranean, strengthen the involvement of non-EU countries via their national MPA strategy and gradually fund new MPAs. Actions implemented by the Trust Fund will help creating in the Mediterranean, an ecologically representative and well connected network of MPAs that are effectively and equitably managed, thus meeting the Aichi Target 11.

The Bureau Members were invited to provide their views and guidance to the Secretariat about a potential circulation of a background and pedagogic document on why such fund is needed to improve the protection of the marine environment.

The Bureau expressed its interest in the Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs and invited the Secretariat to disseminate the information, as soon as the pedagogic document will be finalized.

The Secretariat should approach the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation to have the contact detail of focal point designated by Countries for the Trust Fund and to provide this information to the ACCOBAMS Focal Points.

## 9.3 – Any other business

There was no other issue raised by the participants under this agenda item.

## 10. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT BUREAU MEETING

The Bureau Members were invited to decide about the venue and tentative date of the next Meeting of the Bureau.

The Chair of ACCOBAMS (Morocco) offered to host the next Meeting.

The Bureau welcomed the offer to host the next Bureau Meeting in Morocco.

Taking into account other relevant events from other organizations, the tentative date for the BU10 would be the last week of November 2015.

## 11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chair of the Bureau thanked the Meeting participants and closed the Meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 11.30 a.m.

## ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU

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## **ANNEX 2: AGENDA**

- 1. Opening session**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Report of the Secretariat**
- 4. Progress report on the activities of the Scientific Committee**
- 5. Budgetary matters**
- 6. Provisional list of activities for 2015**
- 7. Administrative matters**
- 8. New request for ACCOBAMS Partnership**
- 9. Other business**
- 10. Date and venue of the next Bureau Meeting**
- 11. Closure of the Meeting**