



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)*



---

## **Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS**

*Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 5 - 8 November 2019*

29/10/2019

English

Original: English

ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc 08

---

# **SYNTHESIS OF IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF ACCOBAMS BY PARTIES**

*Delegates are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.  
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.*

## SYNTHESIS OF IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF ACCOBAMS BY PARTIES

### Note of the Secretariat:

Article VIII (paragraph b) of ACCOBAMS invites Parties to prepare for each ordinary session of their Meeting a report on the implementation of the Agreement.

Moreover, during the last Meeting of Parties, the Permanent Secretariat was requested, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, to complement the On-line Reporting format with relevant elements, based on the priorities of the ACCOBAMS Work Programme for 2017-2019 and to present this amended format to the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, for approval.

In this context, the template proposed for the ACCOBAMS national report online was presented by the Permanent Secretariat and by the Scientific Committee to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau (14-15 December 2017, Monaco). It takes into consideration priorities of the ACCOBAMS Work Programme as well as general issues raised by the Follow-up Committee. The objective was to link the all the activities held in the ACCOBAMS Area by using NETCCOBAMS. When NETCCOBAMS members will add projects, all relevant information inserted will fill the relevant section of the report.

The template was then presented to all participants to the Fourth session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops (7-12 May 2018, Tunis, Tunisia).

Due to some technical problems, the new Online National Reports was available in NETCCOBAMS ([www.netccobams.com](http://www.netccobams.com)), early July 2019 only.

In order to assist the ACCOBAMS Focal Points, some parts were previously filled in by the Secretariat, taking into account information from:

- Previous National Reports submitted to ACCOBAMS MOP;
- Reports on "Implementation levels of the Work Programme 2017-2019" presented by Countries Representatives during the Fourth Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops in May 2018;
- Regional reports presented during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee in November 2018;

Moreover, all relevant information already registered in NETCCOBAMS and regarding ACCOBAMS Parties was also indicated in relevant parts of the National Report.

The objective was to facilitate the work of the National Focal Points in filling the National Report with pre-filled sections (which could be modified by the Focal Point), in order to gain efficiency for a better knowledge of Parties needs and *in fine* for a better implementation of the ACCOBAMS.

ACCOBAMS Focal Points were invited by the Secretariat to review the information contained in the reporting system regarding their countries and amend it as appropriate with the view of presenting it to MOP7 as national reports of their respective countries (document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf03).

This document is a brief synthesis of the relevant activities undertaken by ACCOBAMS Parties during the triennium 2017-2019 within the framework of the implementation of the Agreement. It has been prepared based on the information provided by the Focal Points Parties using the online reporting system developed and made available by the Secretariat in accordance with Resolution 6.9.

*This document solely reflects the inputs of each ACCOBAMS National Focal Point.*

Done - **D**  
 Not Done - **ND**  
 Partially Done- **PD**  
 Not Relevant- **NR**  
 No Information - **NI**

ALB = Albania; ALG= Algeria; BUL= Bulgaria; CRO= Croatia; CYP= Cyprus; EGY= Egypt; FRA= France; GEO= Georgia; GRE= Greece; ITA= Italy; LEB= Lebanon; LIB= Libya; MAL= Malta; MC= Monaco; MNT= Montenegro; MOR= Morocco; POR= Portugal; ROM= Romania; SLO= Slovenia; SP=SPAIN; SYR= Syria; TUN= Tunisia; TUR= Turkey; UKR= Ukraine

Specific questions and requests from Parties are annexed to the present report.

	ALB	ALG	BUL	CRO	CYP	EGY	FRA	GEO	GRE	ITA	LEB	LIB	MAL	MC	MNT	MOR	POR	ROM	SLO	SP	SYR	TUN	TUR	UKR	
<b>NATIONAL FOCAL POINT, NATIONAL REPORTS, MAIN ISSUES AND NEEDS</b>																									
National Focal Point is designated	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
National reports updated in 2019	D	D	D	D	ND	PD	D	D	ND	D	D	ND	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Specific questions and requests	Please refer to the <a href="#">Annex</a>																								

	ALB	ALG	BUL	CRO	CYP	EGY	FRA	GEO	GRE	ITA	LEB	LIB	MAL	MC	MNT	MOR	POR	ROM	SLO	SP	SYR	TUN	TUR	UKR	
<b>MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT</b>																									
ACCOBAMS is ratified	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Amendment of Article 2 of the Conservation Plan concerning the driftnets (Resolution A3.1) transferred in the national legislation	ND	ND	D	D	NI	NI	D	ND	NI	ND	NI	NI	PD	D	D	D	ND	D	D	D	NI	NI	ND	ND	ND
Amendment concerning the extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope (Res. A4.1 and 6.10) has been accepted, signed or ratified	ND	ND	D	ND	D	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	D	ND	ND	ND	D	D	ND	ND	NR	D	D
National authorities, administrations are designated or mandated for ACCOBAMS implementation	NI	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	NI	D	D
National NGOs are supporting activities on cetaceans	NI	D	D	D	D	NI	D	D	D	D	NI	NI	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
National research centres, universities are working on cetaceans	NI	D	D	D	NI	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	NI	D	NI	D	D
National legislative and regulatory texts pertinent or specific for conservation of cetaceans are adopted and enforced	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	NI	D	NI	D	D	D	D	D	D	PD	D	D	D	D
Funds are earmarked for activities for the conservation of cetaceans	D	D	NI	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	D	NI	NI	D	NI	D	D	NI	PD	D	D	NI	D	NI	D	D
Country is Party to most of international or regional instruments involved in conservation of cetaceans	D	D	D	D	NI	NI	D	D	D	D	PD	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Country has bilateral or multilateral fishing agreement	D	NI	NI	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	D	NI	NI	D	NI	D	D	D	NI	D	D	NI	D	D	D	PD

	ALB	ALG	BUL	CRO	CYP	EGY	FRA	GEO	GRE	ITA	LEB	LIB	MAL	MC	MNT	MOR	POR	ROM	SLO	SP	SYR	TUN	TUR	UKR
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>																								
Research programs and research projects related to cetaceans (national, bi-lateral or multi-lateral) are conducted in national waters	D	D	D	D	PD	PD	D	D	PD	D	PD	PD	D	PD	D	PD	D	D	PD	D	PD	PD	NI	D
A national Cetacean stranding network is in place and data are compiled in a national database and sent to the regional one (MEDACES)	ND	PD	D	PD	NI	NI	D	PD	NI	D	PD	NI	D	NI	ND	PD	PD	D	D	D	ND	D	ND	PD
The evaluation of the status of cetacean in national waters (or at the sub regional level) has been conducted and species afforded specific protections measures	ND	ND	D	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	NI	PD	NI	ND	PD	D	D	NI	NI	D	D
Conservation management plan for cetacean species have been developed and are implemented	PD	PD	NI	PD	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	NI	PD	PD	NI	PD	PD	D	PD	D	ND	PD
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / MANAGEMENT MEASURES</b>																								
Interaction between fisheries and cetacean (by catch and depredation) are taken into consideration	PD	D	D	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	NI	PD	NI	ND	D
Navigation regulations are in place in sensitive areas for reducing ship strikes (navigation schemes, observers on board)	PD	D	NI	D	NI	NI	D	ND	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	ND	PD	NR	D	NI	NI	ND	PD
Underwater anthropogenic noise is regulated and considered in Environmental Impact Assessment procedures (EIA)	ND	D	PD	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D	D	ND	NI	D	D	D	NI	NI	ND	NI
Whale watching, and other commercial tourism activities are regulated	NR	NR	NR	PD	NI	NI	D	NR	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D	D	D	D	D	NR	D	NI	NI	ND	NI
Marine pollution, including marine debris, is managed using national legislation or regional instruments (such as the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions)	NI	PD	D	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D	NI	PD	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	D	D
Emergency plans for specific events (pollution, strandings) are adopted and implemented	PD	ND	D	PD	NI	NI	D	ND	NI	D	NI	NI	D	D	D	D	NI	D	NI	D	ND	NI	ND	PD
Captivity related issues and Dolphinarium are strictly regulated or banned	D	NI	PD	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D	D	NI	D	D	D	NI	NI	NI	D	D
Marine protected areas (MPA), fishery zones, fisheries reserves, or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM-CBD) are in place and relevant for conservation and management of cetaceans.	D	D	D	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	PD
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS</b>																								
Events (meeting, symposium, awareness activities, etc.) are organized / attended and products (newsletter, brochure, leaflet, poster, video, sticker, etc.) are produced and disseminated	NI	NI	D	D	NI	NI	D	NI	NI	D	NI	NI	D	D	D	D	NI	D	NI	D	NI	NI	D	D
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / CAPACITY BUILDING</b>																								
Capacity building on cetaceans, including training sessions, lectures and syllabus are realised at the national level or attended abroad	NI	D	D	D	NI	NI	D	D	NI	D	NI	NI	D	NI	D	D	NI	D	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	D

## Annex - Specific questions and requests from some Parties

### ALBANIA

- Training activities for the capacity building, in particular **necropsy** for veterinarians is a necessity.
- **National stranding network** to be established as soon as possible. So far only incidental cases of stranding are reported by the fisherman.

### ALGERIA

- Need of assistance from the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in order to implement a **National Action Plan**

### GEORGIA

- To fill the knowledge gaps on **distribution and migration routes**.
- Elaboration of regulations on **noise pollution** and scientifically proved data.
- Field laboratory equipped with relevant devices for **autopsy** and **necropsy**
- Elaboration of **relevant rescue** plan in cases of **mass strandings**

### LEBANON

Lebanon has difficulties in implementing the Agreement for the following reasons:

- Lack of highly qualified staff
- Lack of equipment, especially for the histology centre
- Lack of adequate fundings
- Difficulties in convincing public opinion of the value of the Agreement and of cetacean conservation
- Episodically tense security situation that does not allow the implementation of research and awareness missions on an ongoing basis

### MALTA

A relatively “hot” topic at the moment is the issue of **marine litter** and single use **plastics** (which includes the issues linked with the impacts of marine litter on marine life); the issue is being addressed through the Single-Use Plastic Products Strategy 2019-2025 and the Saving Our Blue Campaign – for further information, refer to <https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/PublishingImages/Pages/2019/June/05/pr191254/pr191254a.pdf>.

The general needs relate to additional **scientific surveys at regional scale**; further **training of fishers** and **sea-users**; as well training to new officials operating within relevant institutions, like ERA, DFA, MESDC and the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM); as well as veterinarians and NGOs assisting in stranding and rescue operations; the setting up of **genetic data banks**; and the need for **appropriate assessment tools** and approaches and data analysis for cetacean sightings and overall population assessments

### MONTENEGRO

Support to put in place **national stranding network** is absolutely necessary including with **necropsy training** for veterinarians and equipment needed to perform necropsy. Also support in relation to set up **tissue bank** and training on Passive acoustic training, **MMO-PAM** is of high relevance

### MOROCCO

- Need of ACCOBAMS assistance in particular, through the development of trainings and support projects to strengthen the capacity of scientists for the **ACCOBAMS Certification for Highly Qualified Marine Mammals Observers / Passive Acoustic Surveillance (PAM)**.
- Developing a strategy to enable Morocco to understand experiences from other Parties with more experience in marine mammal observations and to develop an action plan to protect cetaceans from threats resulting from maritime traffic in the Strait of Gibraltar.
- Need for **capacity building** in photo identification

- Need for capacity building in **necropsy**
- Need for capacity building to set up and manage **whale watching and pescaturism** projects
- Need of training on the ACCOBAMS **High Quality Whale-Watching certificate**
- Need of training for ship captains to predict and mitigate the adverse effects of cetacean **collisions**

### ROMANIA

The suggestion would be to assess the situation of cetaceans in the Black Sea and to draw a **monitoring plan** for future which could be used for analysis and to obtaining trends. It could be broken at the national level and propose for implementation

### SPAIN

**Ship-strikes** is quite an important issue for Spain; it is a special threaten regarding Sperm whales along the Balearic Island waters and the Gibraltar Strait

### SYRIA

Several important issues need a lot of attention:

- **Noise** in the Levant probably became elevated than the others times, due to the increased shipping, and military activities.
- **Pollution** and other forms of habitat degradation, caused by the unsustainable and growing human activities.
- **Interactions** between dolphins and purse seines have been recorded in Syrian **fisheries**, targeting the entangled fish in the nets, damaging the gear, which has a negative economic impact on local fishermen. It is urgent to start using biodegradable fishing nets and lines.

### TUNISIA

- Strengthening the **stranding network** through trainings on: [1] necropsy; [2] diet
- **Habitat** modelling;
- Creating a **photo-identification** database;
- Setting up of a **tissue bank**;
- **Passive acoustic** training: [1] MMO / WFP; [2] Noise (marine traffic - Seismic activities); [3] Ethology.

### UKRAINE

- There is a need of **research and monitoring programs of noise** and **development of mitigation actions guidelines** and legislative tools relevant to the conservation of cetaceans in regard with anthropogenic pressure like seismic surveys, drilling, marine traffic, fisheries etc
- Effective, long-term resolution of the conflict would require further detailed research on the frequency of damage suffered by **fishermen and the potential impact of repellent devices as a way to mitigate the conflict**. Which will be the base for creating financial opportunities for fishermen to implement effective mitigation measures and sustainable use and protection of the Black Sea biodiversity.
- Mitigation **of the effects of fishing**. One of the monitoring tasks may be the **photoidentification** of dolphins during the trawl fishery to determine the number of animals that have adapted to such way of eating.
- International **support for establishing MPAs, including transboundary** areas
- **Databank, analysis and expertise in pathology**: creating a **bank of biological materials** will solve many problems of the population ecology of marine mammals.
- Collaboration **with academic and scientific bodies, the Black Sea Commission**
- Other difficulties in Ukraine are:
  - lack of legal instrument and administrative mechanism for shifting ACCOBAMS provisions and resolutions from decisions, agreed and adopted on the international level, to real day-to-day activities on-site;
  - lack of due information about ACCOBAMS as well as relevant guidelines and training for authorities operating at the local level;
  - lack of adequate funds to implement the Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans