



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)



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REPORT OF THE BLACK SEA SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT INCLUDING ACTIVITIES FROM NON-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.*

REPORT OF THE BLACK SEA SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT INCLUDING ACTIVITIES FROM NON-PARTIES

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MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)

MA 1	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION		
MA 1 a	Establish regular communication		
Relevant Resolutions: -			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status ¹
1- Maintain regular communication to inform about ongoing activities, cooperation possibilities, funding possibilities, project call of proposals and other relevant information	Active e-mailing list (regular exchange of information)	Regular communication on planned and on-going activities, invitation to relevant BSC meetings, participation in relevant calls of proposals and sharing of all relevant information between Secretariats	On-going
2- Maintain and regularly update NETCCOBAMS , including information about cetacean conservation scientists and experts operating in the region	New and updated information filled into NETCCOBAMS Link with the BSIS (Black Sea information system) prototype	BSC PS joined the CeNoBS project, Advisory Board	Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Continue organising Regional Workshops with the representatives of Parties and representatives of the Scientific Committee	Regional Workshops organised in 2018		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Continue organising Biennial Conferences for the Southern Mediterranean countries	Biennial conferences organised in 2017		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

¹ Done, Partially Done, Not Done, Not relevant

<p>5- Regularly update ACCOBAMS web-site, and newsletter FINS. Link with the Black Sea bulletin</p>	<p>New and accurate information available on the web-site</p> <p>FINS regularly published</p>	<p>Improving the knowledge on the cetaceans populations in the Black Sea (Article in the Annual newsletter of EU Horizon 2020 project MERCES (on ecosystem restoration http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES_BusinessNewsletter_03_LQ.pdf)</p> <p>TV program about ACCOBAMS (in Turkish) https://youtu.be/uKo7gQCWjBk</p> <p>Article in Turkish newspaper http://m.milliyet.com.tr/gozumuze-ilk-carpan-cop-yiginlari.../</p>	
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MA 2	INVOLVEMENT OF ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS		
MA 2 a	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.2/ 2.30 / 3.8 / 4.8/ 4.20			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
<p>1- Strengthen existing partnerships: CIESM, IUCN, GFCM, IMO, CMS and relevant CMS agreements such as ASCOBANS, the Barcelona Convention, RAC/SPA, the Black Sea Commission, IWC, EU Biodiversity Strategy, marine strategies in the ACCOBAMS area (MSFD²), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, Pelagos Agreement, international, regional and local NGOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint activities/ projects with relevant organizations • Joint working groups on particular issues • Regular meetings of relevant Secretariats • Cetacean conservation activities included in all relevant regional strategic documents, such as in the Black Sea status environment report • Regular communication/meetings with representatives of the relevant NGOs <p>participation in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cetacean conservation” module was introduced in the existing postgraduate programs, workshop for teachers and PhD students was held at Istanbul University (Istanbul, Turkey) from 18 to 21 March 2019. • BSC PS jointly with ACCOBAMS on 20th March, 2019 carried out Public Awareness event on ACCOBAMS Master Course in cetacean conservation in Mediterranean and Black Sea; • ACCOBAMS provided translation of the training course materials into Russian language. 	
<p>2- Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage accession of all riparian states to the Agreement • Develop activities with non-Parties 	<p>All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS</p>	<p>Republic of Turkey joined the ACCOBAMS Agreement.</p> <p>Negotiations with officials from Russian Federation were held.</p> <p>Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) organization was invited to cooperate with ACCOBAMS Agreement.</p>	

² EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

		Cetaceans survey in Russian waters carried out in September 2019.	
3- Establish collaboration with the EC jointly with ASCOBANS and as feasible with assistance from CMS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the relevant fora and Meetings • Contribution to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD) 		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Establish / strengthen collaboration with NATO – NURC, OGP, ICES, OSPAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the relevant fora and Meetings • Joint activities 		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
5- Establish connections with other relevant organizations (EBA, WTO...)			Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
6- Organise a Workshop of Partners	Reinforcement of synergy between Partners and harmonisation of activities		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

MA 3	ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES		
MA 3 a	New funding possibilities		
Relevant Resolutions: 1.7/ 3.6/ 5.16/5.5			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Develop a funding strategy	Funding strategy in particular for joint projects		
2 – Launch calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund (SCF)	Conservation activities implemented through projects funded under the SCF		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Support development or develop multilateral/ transboundary projects	Project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies	Black Sea institutions participated in ACCOBAMS Call for proposals for projects to be	

		<p>funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund.</p> <p>BSC PS participated in the call for proposals aimed at supporting the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive on cetaceans monitoring.</p>	
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MA 4	IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS		
MA 4 a	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress		
Relevant Resolutions: 5.4			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Evaluate the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy (including evaluation of the work programme and level of resolutions implementation by Parties as a basis for new triennial work programme planning)	Mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy (including evaluation of work programme and evaluation of the implementation of ACCOBAMS by Parties)		
2- Propose remedy actions in cases of non-compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Proposal of remedy actions		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

MA 5	ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA		
MA 5 a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas		
Relevant Resolutions: A/4.1			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Encourage ratification by Parties of the existing Amendment for geographical extension to the Atlantic	Amendment has entered into force		

CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS		
CA 1 a	Cetacean population estimates and distribution		
Relevant Resolutions: 5.9			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Undertake a comprehensive survey of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Black Sea (based on 2013 survey and conclusions in the final report to EC DG MARE, 2014) using the most appropriate methodology	Distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the different parts of the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea based on results of the survey	Comprehensive survey of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea was carried out by ACCOBAMS in summer 2019.	On-going

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS		
CA 1 b	Population Structure		
Relevant Resolutions: 4.11			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Identify isolated populations and improve description of population of several species	Characterisation of Mediterranean, Atlantic and or Black Sea Sub populations Identification of isolated populations Exchanges of samples facilitated for joint analysis		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Investigate and implement modes for better collaboration between tissue banks and Countries to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis.			
3-In order to facilitate the exchange of samples, a list of tissue banks registered with the CITES Secretariat should be made available			

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS		
CA 1 c	Monitoring cetaceans status		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.22/ 3.19			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Monitor mortality trends and cases of animals injured through human activities (e.g. ship strikes, bycatch, pollution, epidemic), using existing tools (such as MEDACES, IWC database on ship strikes,...)	Mortality trend reports		
2- Assess IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly, and more specifically:	Assessment of IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information to assess the Data Deficient species • Evaluate species within the region not previously assessed (e.g. the rough-toothed dolphin) • Consider killer whales in the Agreement area 	<p>Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites</p>		
<p>3- Prepare Red Books of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and communicate with European Union. Coordinate with the Black Sea Red Data Book</p>	<p>Preparation of Red Books of cetaceans</p>		

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 a	Interaction with fisheries		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.13/ 2.21/ 2.25/ 3.13/ 4.9			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Assess cetaceans bycatch and depredation impacts and propose mitigation measures through pilot actions in the framework of the joint ACCOBAMS/GFCM project	Gaining data on cetacean bycatch and depredation impacts in pilot areas in the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent Atlantic waters and on mitigation measures Contribution to GFCM DCRF	Cetaceans by-catch is one of the indicators assessed in the annual reporting by the BSC Contracting Parties.	
2- Assess the bycatch levels in the Agreement area , in connection with GFCM and EU regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining data on bycatch levels • Contribution to GFCM DCRF • Contribution to the implementation of the EU Policies 		
3- Investigate the establishment of connection with the EU bycatch reporting system	Contribution to the implementation of EU Policies		
4- Investigate funding opportunities to address impacts of interaction between fisheries and cetaceans in the Black Sea through the identification of mitigation measures and the preparation of a draft Strategy for reducing cetacean bycatch	Improving knowledge on interaction of fisheries on cetaceans in the Black Sea (Coordinate with strategic action plan implementation report -SAPIR) Contribution to GFCM DCRF		
5 - Develop a joint working group with ASCOBANS on bycatch, and explore opportunities for linking this to the Bycatch Initiative established under the IWC.	joint working group with ASCOBANS on bycatch		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 b	Anthropogenic noise		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.16 / 3.10/ 4.17/ 5.15			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Pursue the identification of anthropogenic noise /cetaceans interactions hot spots in the ACCOBAMS area	Overview of noise hot spots (Phase II III)		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Monitor all activities in the region including impulsive noise component through the development of an ACCOBAMS Common database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview(s) of approved activities including impulsive noise component • National Noise databases • ACCOBAMS Common database 		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Develop a regional project to implement a monitoring of underwater noise, particularly in critical habitats and in interactions hot spots	Regional Project		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Develop and update more detailed guidelines to mitigate impacts of anthropogenic noise (using the existing guidelines Res 4.17) and update the guide for Parties to use mitigation measures	Updated guide to use mitigation measures		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
5- Assess the feasibility to develop best practice guidelines for an EIA review process	Assessment of feasibility to develop best practice guidelines for an EIA review process		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
6- Develop cooperation on noise issue with other international Organizations such as CMS Family, EC, OSPAR, ICES, the Barcelona Convention, Black Sea Commission, CBD, IWC, NATO and with relevant international NGOs	Joint activities Meetings Workshop		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
7- Develop certificate or deliver certification in existing MMO training centres and encourage Focal Points to make mandatory the use of MMO in their countries (under the	MMO certification		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

MSFD “measure” programme for EU countries for example / EcAP process)			
8- Support the finalization of the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities, encourage their adoption at CMS COP12	Implementation of CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities,		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
9- implement the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities			Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 c	Ship strikes		
Relevant Resolutions: 5.11			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Continue to monitor high risk areas for ship strikes in the Mediterranean Sea	Overview of high-risk areas for ship strikes		
2-Suggest and facilitate implementation of IMO or national mitigation measures (PSSA, TSS, ATBA) in selected areas	New shape files in NETCCOBAMS IMO or national measures in place		
3- Promote use of mitigation measures to shipping companies in the region (speed restrictions, avoidance area) in particular in Cetacean Critical Habitats	Ships/boats in areas inhabiting large whales using the REPCET or other systems		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Encourage the use of tools such as REPCET in the Pelagos Agreement as a pilot area to facilitate statistical testing of the system	REPCET statistically tested		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
5-Evaluate the relevance and the feasibility of a “whale-safe from ship strikes” certificate for shipping Companies	Decision on relevance of a “whale-safe from ship strikes” certificate for shipping Companies		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

6- Facilitate and encourage reporting to and feedback from IWC database on ship strikes injuries and mortalities	Protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
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CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 d	Cetacean watching		
Relevant Resolutions: 3.23/ 4.7/ 5.10			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Promote the use of the “High quality whale watching” certificate , including organisation of training for operators	Awareness campaign to adopt and establish HQWW [®] certificate Member States with intensive cetacean watching activities use the certificate		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2 - Provide a definition on the different types of whale watching operators (commercial, research, others)	Definition on the different types of whale watching operators		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Test (i) the Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, (ii) the common procedure on the data collection in some pilot areas representing a variety of operation types (e.g. the Pelagos Agreement area, Gibraltar Strait, and south Portugal).	Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, updated Common procedure on the data collection updated		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Use (i) the Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations,	Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, used by Parties		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

(ii) the common procedure on the data collection	Common procedure on the data collection used by Parties		
5- Compile the information collected from whale watching companies through the data collection forms annexed to the Resolution [6.20]	Specific entry created in NETCCOBAMS to compile the information collected from whale watching companies		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
6- Revise, if necessary, (i) the Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, (ii) the common procedure on the data collection and report on this issue to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties	Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, revised Common procedure on the data collection revised		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
7- Strengthen collaboration with relevant organisations addressing cetacean watching initiatives, in particular the IWC 'Online Handbook' for whale watching (under development)	Collaboration strengthened with relevant organisations		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 e	Marine debris		
Relevant Resolutions: 4.8			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Assess the impact of ghost nets on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area in collaboration with MedPOL and GFCM , with emphasis on the development of the removal methods	Assessment of ghost nets impacts on cetaceans		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Assess the impact of plastic bags , microplastic and other plastic materials ingestion on cetaceans in cooperation with existing initiatives, such as IWC: bibliographic synthesis and Scientific Committee recommendation	Assessment of plastic materials impacts on cetaceans by providing bibliographic synthesis		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on secondary effects more than ingestion • Suggested mitigation measures 		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Encourage cooperation with ongoing regional initiatives on marine litter.	<p>Joint programmes at the Agreement level</p> <p>Synergies with EU MSFD</p>	Reference to ACCOBAMS Agreement in the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter management for the Black Sea (adopted in October, 2018)	

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 f	Climate change		
Relevant Resolutions: 4.14			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Identify indicator species, in cooperation with existing initiatives, such as EU, CMS Family, Barcelona Convention/EcAp, BSC, IWC, IUCN, GFCM, and propose a monitoring system for these species	Proposed monitoring system for indicator species		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Liaise with the relevant CMS Working Group to participate to its future activities	Joint activities		

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 g	Species conservation plans		
Relevant Resolutions: 1.8/ 1.12/ 3.7/ 3.11/ 4.6/ 4.13/5.12/ 5.13/ 5.14			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Revise regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans (prepared in 2014) , in cooperation with relevant stakeholders	Revised and adopted regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans and implementation at the national level in BS Parties	Adoption of revised Conservation Plan is in progress	
2- Complete the Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin	Scientists in charge of relevant Conservation Plans identified		
3- Prepare the Conservation Plan for Fin whale , including investigation of the existing data to determine the efficacy of undertaking a spatial modelling exercise for fin whales in the Mediterranean for comparison with information on shipping traffic	Finalized Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin Drafts of Conservation Management Plans for:		

<p>4- Consider the preparation of regional conservation plans based on the IWC conservation and management plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuvier's beaked whales, • Killer whales • Long finned pilot whales <p>And Identify other species of interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fin whale ○ Cuvier's beaked whales ○ Killer whales ○ Long finned pilot whales <p>List of other species of interest</p>		
5- Consider update existing conservation plans (<i>e.g.</i> short-beaked common dolphins)	Existing conservation plans updated and implemented		
6- Implement existing conservation plans (<i>e.g.</i> short-beaked common dolphins)			
7- Develop or revise National Action Plans	National Action Plans in most of the ACCOBAMS Parties developed/revised and mostly implemented		
8- Implement National Action Plans			

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 h	Captivity related issues		
Relevant Resolutions: 5.14			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Update regularly the inventory of specimens of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity	Updated inventory of BS bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity	Indicator “BS bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity” is included into the reporting parameters of the Black Sea Monitoring and Assessment Program (2017-2022)	
2- Encourage the implementation of the CITES decisions based on the draft Resolution prepared by ACCOBAMS on the identification of origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity	Identification of origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Make Parties aware of new captivity issues: disseminate the document “Taking of cetaceans and dolphinarium: a legal analysis within the framework of ACCOBAMS” updated with the “quasi dolphinarium” together with the re-introduction issues	Relevant ACCOBAMS document on captivity and “semi-captivity” largely disseminated		

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)		
CA 2 i	Chemical & biological pollution		
Relevant Resolutions: 5.14			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans (Focus on emerging contaminants, comparison between pristine areas and polluted ones)	Assessment of impacts of pollution on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area Updated bibliography of chemical pollution in cetaceans Identify target areas and species for <i>ad hoc</i> projects		
2- Review of existing work (literature review) and identify knowledge gaps			
3- Suggest ad hoc research projects for targeted areas and species			
4- Study the possibility/consequences of enhanced transfer of pollutants via ingested microplastics			
5- Encourage international or regional cooperation, such as UNEP/MAP, BSC, IWC, in sampling and analyses of chemical pollution			

CA 3	ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS		
CA 3 a	Public awareness		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.23			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1-Continue and facilitate ACCOBAMS cetaceans day and promote annual celebration, linked with existing dates for nature conservation	ACCOBAMS cetaceans day regularly celebrated in the area		
2- Create and disseminate communication tools targeted to future generations	Communication tools distributed to relevant subjects		
3-Promote ACCOBAMS activities using the social networks (such as Facebook, Twitter...)		ACCOBAMS activities are regularly promoted using the BSC social networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)	
4- Organise public awareness related survey (Opinion of public)	Survey format and instructions Survey report		
5- Promote cetacean conservation actions during different events at international and national levels (such as Black Sea day celebration, ECS/ACCOBAMS student award ...)	Side events, exhibitions, website, public lectures, awareness material	Cetaceans conservation actions are being promoted regularly during celebrations of the International Black Sea Day on 31 st of October (films, presentations, etc.)	
6- Establish a Partner Award for public awareness on Cetaceans Conservation	Project proposals selected among ACCOBAMS Partners for implementation with support from ACCOBAMS		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
7- Evaluate the relevance of 'Citizen Science' input of cetacean sightings into a newly established, expert-supervised, database, before transferring to ObisSeamap	Decision on the relevance of 'Citizen Science' input of cetacean sightings into a newly established, expert-supervised, database, before transferring to ObisSeamap		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
8 - Implement specific national activities on public awareness	National specific public awareness activities implemented	Relevant Public awareness activities on cetaceans are being implemented in all Black Sea riparian countries, some of them under dedicated projects (EMBLAS+, ANEMONE etc.)	

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS		
CA 4 a	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation		
Relevant Resolutions: 1.10/ 3.25/ 4.16			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Undertake trainings on necropsies , live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS area	Participants from all Parties trained		
2-Maintain/ Establish (sub)regional mailing lists of participants in the stranding networks to facilitate exchange of information, particularly in the South Mediterranean region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and synthesis of subregional mailing lists • Regularly exchanged information on stranding events in particular on the occasion of Biennial Conference 		
3- Develop a common operational stranding protocol, in collaboration with IWC, ECS and ASCOBANS	Common operational protocol implemented		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Encourage data / tissue exchanges through collaboration with relevant databases and tissue banks	Data / tissue exchanges facilitated for Basin wide analysis (list of tissue banks registered with the CITES Secretariat should be made available)		

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS		
CA 4 b	Capacity to use cetaceans photo id and undertake aerial surveys		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.28/ 5.9			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Undertake trainings on the use of photo-id (and theodolites)	Trained experts from all Parties with identified needs Selected trainers from Partners		
2- Promote the use of, catalogue or web-based database of photo-IDs, such as INTERCET or analogue systems both in Mediterranean and Black Seas	Disseminate the use of INTERCET or other analogue systems		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Provide photo-id equipment to the relevant organisations from Parties with least capacities (based on the scale of middle and low incomes, from the World Bank in [February 2015])	Provided relevant Parties with photo-id equipment (camera, lenses), upon funding availability (approach Companies for sponsorship)		

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS		
CA 4 c	Capacity building for other cetacean conservation issues		
Relevant Resolutions: -			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Identify protected areas managers from the areas within cetacean critical habitat and facilitate exchanges to suggest good management practices between neighbouring area (organising visits for example)	staff from protected areas within cetaceans critical habitats have participated in the exchange programmes (e.g. study tours and other types of visits)		
2- Train staff of Marine Protected Area to be updated on cetacean conservation issues	Staff from Marine Protected Areas trained by Parties in cetacean conservation		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub

			Regional Coordination Unit
3- Promote and facilitate exchange of expertise, such as participation of experts with less knowledge in the specific projects implemented by experienced researchers, etc...	Experts trained through participation in the specific projects		
4- Encourage exchanges between universities and laboratories for training on genetic and molecular biology, in Southern Mediterranean countries and Black Sea	Experts trained on genetic and molecular biology through exchanges between universities and laboratories		
5- Organize training sessions for national experts to fill databases (NETCCOBAMS, OBIS-Seamap, Medaces, Intercet,...)	Experts trained on relevant databases		

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS		
CA 4 d	Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes		
Relevant Resolutions: -			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Introduce cetacean conservation modules in all ACCOBAMS Countries	Post-graduate programmes with included cetacean conservation modules	Module delivered in March 2019 in Istanbul University	
2- Translate existing cetacean conservation modules in other languages (such as Arabic, Russian, ...)	Cetacean conservation modules available in different languages of the Agreement	Module is translated into Russian language	
3- Encourage Parties that have already introduced the module, to disseminate the module to others universities	Dissemination of cetacean conservation modules in universities	Dissemination process in progress, inter alia, via BSC CBD and FOMLR Advisory Groups	

CA 5	ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS		
CA 5 a	Protected areas for cetaceans		
Relevant Resolutions: 3.22/ 4.15			
Action in the WP 2017-2019	Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
1- Update regularly a list of areas containing habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region	Lists of areas containing cetaceans habitats available on NETCCOBAMS		
2- Revise the existing Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCHs) , taking into account (i) the candidates IMMAs proposed and the Areas of Interest identified during the first workshop on the Identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the Mediterranean Sea , and (ii) the threat-based management approach	<p>Updated lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas)</p> <p>Identification of areas with the same threats for cetaceans (bycatch areas, harassment areas...)</p> <p>IMMAs in the ACCOBAMS area identified</p> <p>Establishment of links with the BSC CBD activities centre</p>		
3- Disseminate tools for adequate management of areas within CCH, including evaluation of management effectiveness and using examples of best practice	Adequate management of areas within CCH implemented, based on the ACCOBAMS document "Place-based conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area: a handbook on management effectiveness"		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Evaluate effectiveness of management of protected areas within CCH using existing initiatives (such as MedPAN endeavours in that context).	Evaluation of effectiveness of protected areas for cetaceans, foremostly their contribution to achievement/maintenance of favourable conservation status		

5-Promote the use of Passive Acoustic Monitoring in MPAs and in control sites as a management effectiveness monitoring tool	Use of PAM in MPAs and in control sites		
6- Revise and update the tools for adequate management of areas within CCH, after the evaluation of management effectiveness has been implemented	ACCOBAMS Document “Place-based conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area: a handbook on management effectiveness” updated		
7-Participate actively in a strategical alliance on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN	Joint Cooperation Strategy document		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit