



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

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# **REPORT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN 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 MEDITERRANEAN 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 <sup>1</sup>
1- Maintain regular <b>communication</b> 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)		
2- Maintain and regularly update <b>NETCCOBAMS</b> , 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		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Continue organising <b>Regional Workshops</b> with the representatives of Parties and representatives of the Scientific Committee	Regional Workshops organised in 2018		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Continue organising <b>Biennial Conferences</b> for the Southern Mediterranean countries	Biennial conferences organised in 2017	SPA/RAC cooperated with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the organization of the “Fourth Biennial Conference for the conservation of cetaceans in the South Mediterranean countries” (Oran, Algeria, 11-13 November 2017)	
5- Regularly update <b>ACCOBAMS web-site</b> , and newsletter FINS. Link with the Black Sea bulletin	New and accurate information available on the web-site  FINS regularly published		

<sup>1</sup> Done, Partially Done, Not Done, Not relevant

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 <b>partnerships</b>: 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 (MSFD<sup>2</sup>), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, Pelagos Agreement, international, regional and local NGOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint activities/ projects with relevant organizations</li> <li>• Joint working groups on particular issues</li> <li>• Regular meetings of relevant Secretariats</li> <li>• Cetacean conservation activities included in all relevant regional strategic documents, such as in the Black Sea status environment report</li> <li>• Regular communication/meetings with representatives of the relevant NGOs</li> </ul> <p>participation in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023</p>	<p><b>SPA/RAC is collaborating with the ACCOBAMS secretariat for the implementation of the following MAVA funded projects Projects:</b></p> <p>“Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa ‘bycatch’ of vulnerable species and testing mitigation- a collaborative approach” <b>Med Bycatch Project:</b></p> <p>The project is jointly implemented by SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN Med, BirdLife International (Project coordinator) and MEDASSET. Started in September 2017, end in June 2020.</p> <p>“Support mechanism for filling key knowledge gaps for vulnerable species (marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles and elasmobranchs) impacted by fisheries in selected areas of the Mediterranean” <b>species project:</b></p> <p>The Project is coordinated by SPA/RAC in collaboration with ACCOBAMS, BirdLife International, MEDASSET, and IUCN Med. The project started on 1 January 2018 and will end on December 2021.</p>	<p><b>ongoing</b></p>

<sup>2</sup> EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

		<p>“Towards solutions to interactions between fishing communities and cetaceans in Moroccan and Tunisian waters” <b>Depredation project:</b></p> <p>The coordination of the project is ensured by the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and GFCM, SPA/RAC is responsible for the management of the pilot action “Mitigation of negative interactions between endangered marine species (Delphinidae and Marine Birds) and small pelagic fishing activities in the Kelibia region, Tunisia”. Started on January 2019 and will end on December 2020.</p> <p>Project on mitigating interaction between endangered marine species and fishing activities, SPA/RAC, as partner to this project, coordinated the achievement of the two following pilot actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Purse seine small pelagic fisheries in Kelibia;</li> <li>-Bottom and surface longline fisheries in the Gulf of Gabès.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative Project:</b></p> <p>The ASI Capacity Building Programme is coordinated and Implemented by SPA/RAC in close collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat</p> <p><b>The EU funded</b> Project “Joint Programme for GES assessment on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region” <b>QUIETMED2:</b></p>	
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		<p>QuietMED2 is a project developed by a consortium made up of 11 entities including SPA/RAC, and coordinated by the <a href="#">CTN-Marine Technology Center del Mar</a>. The project aims to support member states competent authorities in the assessment of the extent to which GES on D11 has been achieved in the Mediterranean Region to get an updated, improved and more complete regional assessment by providing practical outcome to implement the 2017/848 Decision in collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, starting since February 2019 and will end on February 2021.</p>	
<p>2- Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage accession of all riparian states to the Agreement</li> <li>• Develop activities with non-Parties</li> </ul>	<p>All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS</p>	<p>Within the implementation of the <b>ASI Capacity Building Programme</b>, SPA/RAC involved all riparian countries.</p> <p>Within the Mediterranean Implementation of the <b>Ecosystem Approach</b>, in coherence with the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) SPA/RAC supported the elaboration of the National Monitoring programme related to biodiversity in the Southern Mediterranean Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention; Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.</p>	<p>done</p>
<p>3- Establish collaboration with the EC jointly with ASCOBANS and as feasible with assistance from CMS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the relevant fora and Meetings</li> <li>• Contribution to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD)</li> </ul>		<p>Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit</p>
<p>4- Establish / strengthen collaboration with NATO – NURC, OGP, ICES, OSPAR</p>			<p>Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub</p>

			Regional Coordination Unit
5- Establish connections with other relevant organizations (EBA, WTO...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the relevant fora and Meetings</li> <li>• Joint activities</li> </ul>		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
6- Organise a <b>Workshop</b> of Partners	Reinforcement of synergy between Partners and harmonisation of activities		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit

<b>MA 3</b>	<b>ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>MA 3 a</b>	<b>New funding possibilities</b>		
Relevant Resolutions: 1.7/ 3.6/ 5.16/5.5			
<b>Action in the WP 2017-2019</b>	<b>Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019</b>	<b>Achievement of the WP 2017-2019</b>	<b>Status</b>
1- Develop a funding strategy	Funding strategy in particular for joint projects	See section MA2.1	
2 – <b>Launch calls for proposals</b> for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund (SCF)	Conservation activities implemented through projects funded under the SCF		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Support development or develop <b>multilateral/ transboundary projects</b>	Project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies	See section MA2.1	<b>ongoing</b>

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)	SPA/RAC took part to the Fourth regional workshops for central/western and central Mediterranean areas (9-14 May 2018, Tunis, Tunisia) where the following points has been presented and discussed by ACCOBAMS, Mediterranean countries and the Sub - Coordination Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the main activities undertaken since January 2017;</li> <li>• the status of each action planned in the 2017-2019 Work Programme;</li> <li>• - the proposed follow-up for the 2020-2022 Work Programme.</li> </ul>	
2- Propose remedy actions in cases of non-compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Proposal of remedy actions		Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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 <b>ratification</b> 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 <b>survey</b> of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the <b>Mediterranean Sea</b> 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	<p>Within the implementation of the <b>ASI Capacity Building Programme</b>, SPA/RAC involved all riparian countries.</p> <p>Within the Mediterranean Implementation of the <b>Ecosystem Approach</b>, in coherence with the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) SPA/RAC supported the implementation of the National Monitoring programme related to biodiversity and including the cetacean Monitoring Programem in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tunisia (Kneiss and MPA of Kerkennah)</li> <li>• Greek islands: Samos, Lipsi, Agathonisi, Arki, Patmos, Anidro/Petrokaravo, Fourni and Ikaria</li> </ul>	done

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- <b>Identify isolated populations</b> 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Investigate and implement modes for better <b>collaboration</b> between tissue banks and Countries to facilitate <b>exchanges of samples</b> 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- <b>Monitor mortality trends</b> 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	Within the framework of the implementation of MAVA projects, illustrated and water-proof good practice guides for handling sea turtles, seabirds, pelagic sharks and rays, and cetaceans caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries were produced in both English and French (FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018) SPA/RAC coordinated the translation into Arabic. These guides were specifically designed for fishers and illustrate simple techniques	<b>done</b>

		to release these animals from fishing gear and to handle them once onboard the fishing vessel. They also include illustrations to identify the species and guidelines to register properly the incidental catches on the logbooks.	
<p>2- Assess <b>IUCN threat status</b> of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly, and more specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather information to assess the Data Deficient species</li> <li>• Evaluate species within the region not previously assessed (e.g. the rough-toothed dolphin)</li> <li>• Consider killer whales in the Agreement area</li> </ul>	<p>Assessment of <b>IUCN threat status</b> of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area</p> <p>Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites</p>		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
<p>3- Prepare <b>Red Books of cetaceans</b> in the ACCOBAMS area and communicate with European Union. Coordinate with the Black Sea Red Data Book</p>	Preparation of Red Books of cetaceans		

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
<p>1- Assess cetaceans bycatch and depredation impacts and propose <b>mitigation measures</b> through pilot actions in the framework of the joint ACCOBAMS/GFCM project</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>SPA/RAC is collaborating with the ACCOBAMS secretariat for the implementation of the following MAVA funded Projects:</b></p> <p>“Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa ‘bycatch’ of vulnerable species and testing mitigation- a collaborative approach” <b>Med Bycatch Project:</b></p> <p>The project is jointly implemented by SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN Med, BirdLife International (Project coordinator) and MEDASSET. Started in September 2017, end in June 2020.</p> <p>“Support mechanism for filling key knowledge gaps for vulnerable species (marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles and elasmobranchs) impacted by fisheries in selected areas of the Mediterranean” <b>species project:</b></p> <p>The Project is coordinated by SPA/RAC in collaboration with ACCOBAMS, BirdLife International, MEDASSET, and IUCN Med. The project started on 1 January 2018 and will end on December 2021.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

		<p>“Towards solutions to interactions between fishing communities and cetaceans in Moroccan and Tunisian waters” <b>Depredation project:</b></p> <p>The coordination of the project is ensured by the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and GFCM, SPA/RAC is responsible for the management of the pilot action “Mitigation of negative interactions between endangered marine species (Delphinidae and Marine Birds) and small pelagic fishing activities in the Kelibia region, Tunisia”. Started on January 2019 and will end on December 2020.</p> <p>“Project on mitigating interaction between endangered marine species and fishing activities, SPA/RAC, as partner to this project, coordinated the achievement of the two following pilot actions (2016-2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Purse seine small pelagic fisheries in Kelibia;</li> <li>-Bottom and surface longline fisheries in the Gulf of Gabès.</li> </ul> <p>Within the MAVA Med Bycatch project, a standardized protocol “Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - Methodology for data collection” was elaborated by FAO/GFCM in close collaboration with SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Med, BirdLife International and MEDASSET</p>	
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2- Assess the <b>bycatch levels in the Agreement area</b> , in connection with GFCM and EU regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaining data on bycatch levels</li> <li>• Contribution to GFCM DCRF</li> <li>• Contribution to the implementation of the EU Policies</li> </ul>	See section CA.2a.1	
3- Investigate the establishment of connection with the <b>EU bycatch reporting system</b>	Contribution to the implementation of EU Policies		
4- Investigate funding opportunities to address impacts of interaction between fisheries and cetaceans <b>in the Black Sea</b> through the identification of mitigation measures and the preparation of a draft Strategy for reducing cetacean bycatch	<p>Improving knowledge on interaction of fisheries on cetaceans in the Black Sea (Coordinate with strategic action plan implementation report -SAPIR)</p> <p>Contribution to GFCM DCRF</p>		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
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 Mediterranean 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 <b>noise</b> /cetaceans' interactions <b>hot spots</b> in the ACCOBAMS area	Overview of noise hot spots (Phase II III)		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Monitor all activities in the region including impulsive <b>noise component through the development of an ACCOBAMS Common database</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview(s) of approved activities including impulsive noise component</li> <li>• National Noise databases</li> <li>• ACCOBAMS Common database</li> </ul>		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Develop a regional project to <b>implement</b> a monitoring of underwater noise, particularly in critical habitats and in interactions <b>hot spots</b>	Regional Project		Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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 <b>guide</b> for Parties to use mitigation measures	Updated guide to use mitigation measures		Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
6- Develop <b>cooperation</b> on noise issue with other <b>international Organizations</b> 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
7- Develop certificate or deliver certification in existing MMO training centres and	MMO certification		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub

encourage Focal Points to make mandatory the use of MMO in their countries (under the MSFD “measure” programme for EU countries for example / EcAP process)			Regional Coordination Unit
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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
9- implement the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities			Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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 <b>high risk areas</b> 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 <b>mitigation measures</b> 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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit

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” <b>certificate</b> , including organisation of training for operators	Awareness campaign to adopt and establish HQWW <sup>®</sup> certificate  Member States with intensive cetacean watching activities use the certificate		Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean 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, (ii) the common procedure on the data collection	Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, used by Parties  Common procedure on the data collection used by Parties		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean 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 <b>ghost nets</b> on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area in collaboration with <b>MedPOL and GFCM</b> , with emphasis on the development of the removal methods	Assessment of ghost nets impacts on cetaceans		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Assess the impact of <b>plastic bags</b> , 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on secondary effects more than ingestion</li> <li>• Suggested mitigation measures</li> </ul>		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Encourage cooperation with ongoing regional initiatives on marine litter.	Joint programmes at the Agreement level Synergies with EU MSFD	Cooperation and synergies have been established between SPA/RAC and several EU-funded projects (e.g. INDICIT, MEDSEALITTER, Life Euro Turtles projects) for the implementation of the biodiversity component of the Eu funded Marine litter MED Project	<b>Done</b>

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	Within the MAVA Med Bycatch project, a standardized protocol “Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - Methodology for data collection” was elaborated by FAO/GFCM in close collaboration with SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Med, BirdLife International and MEDASSET.	Done
2- Liaise with the relevant CMS Working Group to participate to its future activities	Joint activities	For the implementation of the integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) and its 10th Ecological Objective (EO10) i.e. Marine Litter, partly based on the Candidate indicator 24 “Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles”, The use of cetaceans as indicator species can only be considered on an opportunistic basis, and at the initiative of each Contracting Party that has pre-existing stranding monitoring networks.	Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit

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 <b>conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans (prepared in 2014)</b> , in cooperation with relevant stakeholders	Revised and adopted regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans and implementation at the national level in BS Parties		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Complete the Conservation Plan for <b>Bottlenose dolphin</b>	Scientists in charge of relevant Conservation Plans identified Finalized Conservation Plan for <b>Bottlenose dolphin</b>	The MAVA funded Project addresses the depredation caused by the bottlenose dolphins to the small pelagic purse seine fisheries and will assess the interaction with aquaculture.	
3- Prepare the Conservation Plan for <b>Fin whale</b> , 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	Drafts of Conservation Management Plans for: ○ Fin whale ○ Cuvier's beaked whales ○ Killer whales ○ Long finned pilot whales		
4- Consider the preparation of regional conservation plans based on the IWC conservation and management plans for: • <b>Cuvier's beaked whales</b> , • <b>Killer whales</b> • <b>Long finned pilot whales</b>  And Identify <b>other species of interest</b>	List of other species of interest		
5- Consider update existing conservation plans (e.g. short-beaked common dolphins)	Existing conservation plans updated and implemented		
6- Implement existing conservation plans (e.g. short-beaked common dolphins)			

7- Develop or revise <b>National Action Plans</b>	National Action Plans in most of the ACCOBAMS Parties developed/revised and mostly implemented	SPA/RAC will collaborate with ACCOBAMS Secretariat to support the elaboration of the National Action for the conservation of cetacean in Algeria	
8- Implement <b>National Action Plans</b>			

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		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Make Parties aware of new captivity issues: disseminate the document "Taking of cetaceans and dolphinaria: a legal analysis within the framework of ACCOBAMS" updated with the "quasi dolphinaria" 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 <b>ACCOBAMS cetaceans day</b> and promote annual celebration, linked with existing dates for nature conservation	ACCOBAMS cetaceans day regularly celebrated in the area		
2- Create and disseminate <b>communication tools</b> targeted to future generations	Communication tools distributed to relevant subjects	MAVA Med Bycatch project, SPA/RAC produced an awareness leaflet on bycatch of vulnerable species (AR, FR, EN) in coordination with the project's partners	Done
3-Promote ACCOBAMS activities using the social networks (such as Facebook, Twitter...)			
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	In coordination with ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN Med, BirdLife International and MEDASSET, SPA/RAC organized the Technical launch workshop of the MAVA Med Bycatch project in Tunisia (Monastir, 8 May 2018) and contributed to the technical launch workshop of the project in Turkey (Istanbul, Turkey, 9 July 2018) and in Morocco (Tangier, Morocco, 17 July 2018). Additionally, a regional scientific committee for bycatch was set up by the project partners and the 1st scientific committee meeting was held in Rome on 13 December 2018, at FAO Head Quarters during the GFCM Fish Forum. Furthermore, SPA/RAC set up a bycatch data collection programme (Schedule, port selection, national priorities identification, data collection methodology) and contracted a team of bycatch observers in close	Done



		collaboration with the Tunisian national authorities (project national partners), the Bycatch project National Focal points and the Project Local NGO partner AAO/BirdLife Tunisie. The implementation of the bycatch observation programme started in Tunisia (Duration: March 2019-June 2020) in collaboration with AAO/BirdLife Tunisie and National Tunisian Partners	
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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
8 - Implement specific national activities on public awareness	National specific public awareness activities implemented		

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 <b>trainings on necropsies</b> , live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS area	Participants from all Parties trained	SPA/RAC cooperated with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the organization of dedicated workshops during the European Cetaceans Society (Ia Spezia, Italy, April 2018): Joint Workshop ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/ECS/SPA-RAC on marine debris and cetaceans stranding.	<b>Done</b>
2-Maintain/ Establish <b>(sub)regional mailing lists</b> of participants in the stranding networks to facilitate exchange of information, particularly in the South Mediterranean region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and synthesis of subregional mailing lists</li> <li>• Regularly exchanged information on stranding events in particular on the occasion of Biennial Conference</li> </ul>	SPA/RAC, in collaboration with the secretariat of ACCOBAMS support the update of the Mediterranean database on cetaceans stranding (MEDACES) through its promotion among the SPA/BD and ACCOBAMS national focal points.	Ongoing
3- Develop a common operational stranding protocol, in collaboration with IWC, ECS and ASCOBANS	Common operational protocol implemented	Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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)	SPA/RAC, in collaboration with the secretariat of ACCOBAMS support the update of the Mediterranean database on cetaceans stranding (MEDACES) through its promotion among the SPA/BD and ACCOBAMS national focal points	<b>Done</b>

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 <b>trainings</b> 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 <b>INTERCET</b> or analogue systems both in Mediterranean and Black Seas	Disseminate the use of INTERCET or other analogue systems		Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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 <b>managers</b> 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 Mediterranean 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	<p>Within the implementation of the capacity building component of ASI, SPA/RAC organized in close collaboration with the secretariat of ACCOBAMS the following gathering: (see more details in the annex I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASI Contact Group Workshop: (Gammarth Tunisia, November 2017).</li> <li>• ASI Aerial Observers Training Workshop: (Cuers, France, May 2018).</li> <li>• ASI Workshop on Boat-based Survey Methods, (Samos, Greece, June 2018)</li> </ul> <p>The second stage of the Capacity Building Programme was initiated in collaboration with the Ecosystem Approach Initiative (EcAp MED II) since they are sharing mutual goals of monitoring 4 joint regional/national workshops were launched. These workshops targeted countries that required more capacity building programmes during the Contact Group workshop (point number 1). These workshops were organised taking in consideration the different requirements, logistics and language needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EcAp Med II/ ASI Regional Workshop on Data processing and Analysis: (Bizerte, Tunisia, February 2019)</li> <li>• The EcAp Med II/ ASI National Workshop on Cetaceans Research Methods: this workshop was dedicated to Libya (Monastir, Tunisia, Mars 2019)</li> </ul>	Done

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASI/ EcAp Med II Regional Workshop on Data Processing and Analysis: (Jounieh (Lebanon, July 2019).</li> <li>• The ASI/ EcAp Med II workshop on Cetaceans Research Methods and Monitoring in Kotor (Montenegro) during September 2019.</li> </ul>	
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	SPA/RAC supported the organisation of the TRAINING COURSES ON PHOTO ID AND DATABASES FOR EXPERTS	<b>Done</b>

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 <b>cetacean conservation modules</b> in all ACCOBAMS Countries	Post-graduate programmes with included cetacean conservation modules	SPA/RAC supported the preparation of the Engineer final project of Tunisian student entitled “ Study of the interaction between Delphinids and Fishing activities in Monastir Bay”	<b>Done</b>
2- Translate existing <b>cetacean conservation modules</b> in other languages (such as Arabic, Russian, ...)	Cetacean conservation modules available in different languages of the Agreement	SPA/RAC adapted from French to Arabic the FAO/GFCM-ACCOBAMS-SPA/RAC good practices guides for the handling of vulnerable species caught incidentally in Mediterranean Fisheries	<b>ongoing</b>
3- Encourage Parties that have already introduced the module, to disseminate the module to others universities	Dissemination of cetacean conservation modules in universities		

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 <b>list of areas</b> containing habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region	Lists of areas containing cetaceans habitats available on NETCCOBAMS  Updated lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas)	SPA/RAC cooperated with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the organization of dedicated workshops during the European Cetaceans Society (la Spezia, Italy, April 2018) “Toward understanding the overlap of selected threats and Important Marine Mammals Areas (IMMAs) in the Mediterranean Sea”	
2- <b>Revise the existing Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCHs)</b> , taking into account (i) the <b>candidates IMMAs</b> 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	Identification of areas with the same threats for cetaceans (bycatch areas, harassment areas...)  IMMAs in the ACCOBAMS area identified  Establishment of links with the BSC CBD activities centre	Following the GEF Adriatic Project Inception Meeting and Steering committee meeting (May 2018) SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC supported Albania and Montenegro to set up their National team of experts (biodiversity, NIS, fisheries; coast and hydrography; eutrophication and contaminants; marine litter). SPA/RAC supported both Albanian and Montenegrin experts to elaborate the national knowledge GAP assessment related to EO1 (Marine Habitat, Sea turtle, Seabirds, Marine mammals) and EO2 (NIS).	
3- Disseminate <b>tools for adequate management</b> 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Evaluate <b>effectiveness</b> 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	In conformity with COP 20 Decision IG.23/9, SPA/RAC collaborated with the relevant authorities in France, Italy, Lebanon, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia in order to carry out, through mixed independent/national technical advisory commissions (TACs), the ordinary	

		<p>periodic review for the following 19 SPAMIs (by alphabetical order):-Blue Coast Marine Park (France);- Embiez Archipelago -Six Fours (France);-Port-Cros (France);-Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (France, Italy and Monaco);-Capo Carbonara Marine Protected Area (Italy);-Marine Protected Area of Penisola del Sinis -Isola di Mal di Ventre (Italy);-Porto Cesareo Marine Protected Area (Italy);-Palm Islands Nature Reserve (Lebanon);-Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon);-Alboran Island (Spain);-Columbretes Islands (Spain);-Medes Islands (Spain);-Mar Menor and the Oriental Mediterranean zone of the region of Murcia coast (Spain); -Natural Park of Cabo de Gata-Níjar (Spain);-Natural Park of Cap de Creus (Spain);-Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria (Spain);-Kneiss Islands (Tunisia); -La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia); and-Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia)</p> <p>SPA/RAC undertook an evaluation of the “Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean” to assess the progress made (including success and possible failure) by the Mediterranean countries towards achieving the Aichi Target 11. The results of such an evaluation, along with post-2020 recommendations for the Mediterranean region, will be presented to the 14th SPA/BD thematic Focal Points meeting (June 2019)</p>	
5-Promote the use of <b>Passive Acoustic Monitoring in MPAs</b> 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 <b>for adequate management</b> of areas within CCH, after the evaluation of management <b>effectiveness</b> has been implemented	ACCOBAMS Document “Place-based conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area: a handbook on management effectiveness” updated		



<p>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</p>	<p>Joint Cooperation Strategy document</p>	<p>SPA/RAC has elaborated a revised draft for the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity Among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, and UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC, with some alternative text fragments, based in feedback by Parties. The document was provided to the Coordinating Unit for further processing</p>	<p>Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit</p>
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## ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) Capacity Building Programme

Implemented by SPA/RAC

1. *ASI Contact Group Workshop*: this workshop took place in Gammarth (Tunisia) in November 2017. During the event, the Contact Persons from each riparian country of the ACCOBAMS agreement sat the step-by-step milestones of the project implementation. Part of the workshop sessions were dedicated to the capacity building aspect in which the CPs discussed the organization of training workshops, preliminary venues and dates to host these workshops. Based on these sessions, the Capacity Building programme was divided into two stages, the first was to prepare the field teams for the upcoming ASI survey which was to take place in the summer of 2018. Two Regional workshops were conducted in that line which are:
  2. *ASI Aerial Observers Training Workshop*: this workshop took place in Cuers, France during 23 – 28 May 2018. The workshop targeted more than 40 participants mainly from countries where the survey will be implemented by airplanes (including few participants from the Black Sea). The workshop instructed the different teams on the techniques applied on the field (from the airplane) along with data processing and handling after the survey.
  3. *ASI Workshop on Boat-based Survey Methods*: this workshop took place in Samos, Greece, during the period from 18-23 June 2018. The workshop targeted the Cruise Leaders from each country in which the survey will be conducted by marine vessels (namely: Egypt, Libya, Syria and Lebanon).

Once the fieldwork for the ASI was done by the end of Summer 2018, the second stage of the Capacity Building Programme was initiated in collaboration with the Ecosystem Approach Initiative (EcAp MED II) since they are sharing mutual goals of monitoring (please refer to this [link](#) for more information on the EcAp Med II Initiative). Through this collaboration, 4 joint regional/national workshops were launched. These workshops targeted countries that required more capacity building programmes during the Contact Group workshop (point number 1). These workshops were organised taking in consideration the different requirements, logistics and language needs. Hence they may seem similar in context but they are wither in different languages or repeated following other logistical, availability or budget justifications:

4. *The EcAp Med II/ ASI Regional Workshop on Data processing and Analysis*: this workshop was conducted in Bizerte (Tunisia) during February 2019. 16 participants from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia attended the workshop that was 4 days long. Data processing, organising and analysis was practiced in this workshop including running different statistic softwares that could assist in the analysis and interpretation of the data.

5. *The EcAp Med II/ ASI National Workshop on Cetaceans Research Methods:* due to linguistic/logistic and security consideration, this workshop was dedicated to Libya. 20 participants from different universities, NGOs, Governmental bodies and research institutes participated in this workshop. The workshop was 5 days long and was aimed at different research methods that can be applied to cetaceans.
6. *The ASI/ EcAp Med II Regional Workshop on Data Processing and Analysis:* this workshop targeted 11 participants from Egypt, Lebanon and Syria and was conducted in Jounieh (Lebanon) during July 2019. This workshop was 5 days long and was mainly reading data analysis using dedicated softwares such as MARK to estimate abundance and other important variables related to biodiversity and conservation.
7. *The ASI/ EcAp Med II workshop on Cetaceans Research Methods and Monitoring in MPAs:* this workshop was dedicated to few Adriatic countries namely Albania and Montenegro and trained 8 participants on establishing a monitoring schemes in relation to MPAs. The workshop took place in Kotor (Montenegro) during September 2019.