



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

16/10/2019

English

Original: English

ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc 34Rev1

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON DRAFT RESOLUTION 7.4 “ACCOBAMS STRATEGY”

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON DRAFT RESOLUTION 7.4 “ACCOBAMS STRATEGY”

Prepared by Alain Jeudy de Grissac

Proposals for the revision of the ACCOBAMS Strategy

During the evaluation of the agreed Strategy for ACCOBAMS for the period 2014 2025 as defined in the resolution 5.1, a gap was shown between the Strategy requirements and the national reports content. It was considered appropriate to review the format of the National reports and at the same time to adjust the format of the Strategy, in order to identify precisely what are the responsibilities of each ACCOBAMS constituency element and in particular the following elements:

- What is directly the responsibility of each ACCOBAMS constituent, alone or jointly with others?
- What has to be developed with other entities at the international or regional levels, such as the Barcelona Convention for the Mediterranean (MedPOL and EcAp process) concerning pollution, the Bucharest Convention for the Black Sea, the GFCM-FAO concerning fisheries, the CITES for trade of endangered species, the IMO for maritime transport regulations or the UNFCCC for climate change aspects?
- What can be developed at the national level with the national partners?

Presently, the strategy general objective is: *“to improve the conservation status of cetaceans and of their habitats in the area of competence of the Agreement by 2025”*.

This objective could be modified as follow: *“to manage effectively the Agreement and to improve the conservation status of cetaceans and of their habitats in the area of competence of the Agreement by 2030”*.

Presently, the strategy includes 10 specific objectives (SO): 5 for the good management of the agreement (MA) and 5 for the conservation actions for cetaceans and their habitats (CA).

For the **good management of the Agreement**, the 5 specific objectives are:

- A1 Improve communication across, up and down ACCOBAMS as an organisation
- A2 Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations, including all riparian countries
- A3 Ensure adequate funding, in particularly for conservation activities
- A4 Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress
- A5 Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas in close cooperation with other CMS instruments

For the **cetacean's conservation actions**, the 5 specific objectives are:

- B1 Improve the knowledge about state of cetaceans
- B2 Reduce human pressures on cetaceans, particularly those related to interaction with fisheries, habitat loss and degradation
- B3 Enhance public awareness about cetaceans
- B4 Improve capacities of national organisations and experts
- B5 Enhance effective conservation of cetacean's critical habitats

As several of the 10 specific objectives included in the Management of the Agreement and in the Conservation Actions are concerning similar topics, the specific objectives could be reconsidered and grouped under 2 main sections (effectiveness of the agreement - EA and conservation actions - CA) covering 6 different thematic areas (TA), as follow:

Section 1: Effectiveness of the Agreement (EA)

TA1 concerning the Agreement and its management

TA2 concerning the funding

TA3 concerning the enhancement of capacities for conservation of cetaceans

TA4 concerning the communication and awareness

Section 2: Conservation Actions (CA)

TA5 concerning the improvement of knowledge for conservation

TA6 concerning the development of conservation activities and of management measures

The following table provides a summary of the proposed structure of the Strategy, providing for the two proposed sections (Section 1: Agreement effectiveness - **AE**, and Section 2: Conservation Activities – **CA**) the leadership and the supervision bodies (column 1), the thematic areas- **TA** 1 to 6 (column 2), the specific objectives- **SO** for each of them (column 3) and the corresponding activities.

PROPOSED NEW FORMAT FOR THE ACCOBAMS STRATEGY

Overall objective: “to manage effectively the Agreement and to improve the conservation status of cetaceans and of their habitats in the area of competence of the Agreement by 2030”.

Section 1: Effectiveness of the Agreement (EA)			
<i>Leadership/supervision</i>	<i>Thematic areas (TA)</i>	<i>Specific objectives (SO)</i>	<i>Activities</i>
Under the leadership of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat Under the supervision of the Parties, the Bureau, the Follow-up Committee and the Permanent Secretariat	TA1- Concerning the Agreement and its management	1.1 - Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with the ACCOBAMS agreement, its amendments and its resolutions, through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders	Negotiate accession of all riparian states to the Agreement and promote the adoption of the amendments Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders for cetacean conservation in the area of application of the Agreement Organise Meeting of Parties, Meetings of the Bureau, Meetings of the Scientific the Committee, Meeting of National Representatives to develop the Programme of Work regional or sub-regional conferences and workshops, events for supporting cetacean conservation
		1.2- Assist the other instruments or organisations that tackle more specific issues (such as fisheries, navigation, tourism) or more general ones (such as pollution, climate change) with an impact on the conservation of cetaceans or of their habitats	Pursue / Intensify collaboration with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant international or regional nature conservation and environmental protection agreements (such as the CBD, the Barcelona Convention, IWC, etc.), - International relevant stakeholders (such as NATO, IMO and WTO), - Regional or sub regional organisations or initiatives (such as GFCM, IMO, EU Biodiversity Strategy and MSFD, SAP BIO, IUCN, WWF, MedPAN, etc.), - ACCOBAMS partners
		1.3- Monitor the progress in all the sectors of activities of the Agreement and propose the necessary adjustment	Develop a complete monitoring system for all activities using in particular the Follow-up Committee Evaluate regularly overall Agreement's effectiveness

			Propose the necessary adjustment in organisational matters of all the constituents (composition, staff, rules of procedure, etc.)
<p>Under the leadership of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat Under the supervision of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat</p>	TA2- Concerning the funding	2.1- Develop, implement and review as needed a funding strategy, for the management of the agreement, for enhancement the communication and awareness, for the improvement of knowledge, for the development of conservation activities and for the upgrade of local, national and regional capacities.	<p>Develop, implement and review as needed a funding strategy for mobilizing and diversifying funding sources</p> <p>Inform Parties about project call of proposals and funding possibilities</p> <p>Participate in the development of multilateral or national projects, with the support and advice of the scientific community</p>
<p>Under the leadership of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat Under the supervision of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat</p>	TA3- Concerning the enhancement of capacities for conservation of cetaceans	3.1- Develop, implement and monitor a capacity enhancement plan	Identify needs and priorities at the regional or national levels on most relevant topics (such as photo-identification, aerial surveys, necropsies, live stranding, response to emergency situation at regional and national levels, exchange and study tours, university or educational cursus, small projects implementation, ...)
<p>Under the leadership of all constituents Under the supervision of all constituents</p>	TA4- Concerning the communication and awareness	4.1- Develop, implement and monitor a common communication, information and awareness plan	<p>Develop a mechanism to be used as the central tool for communication, information and awareness and progressively as the central repository of knowledge about cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area</p> <p>Identification of the cetacean's community, including parties, partners, international, regional and national entities, scientific institutes and scientists, NGOs, volunteers, etc.</p>

Section 2 : Conservation Actions (CA)			
<i>Leadership/supervision</i>	<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>	<i>Activities</i>
Under the leadership of the Parties and the Scientific Committee Under the supervision of the Parties, the Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee	TA5- Concerning the improvement of knowledge for conservation	5.1- Centralize, organize and disseminate the existing knowledge on cetaceans, their habitat, the pressures and impacts, the national institutions, legislations and capacities	Develop a mechanism for centralising and disseminating knowledge on cetaceans (documents, projects, events, photos, etc.), in particular on legislation, populations abundance, structure and distribution, species monitoring and status (IUCN red list assessment), strandings, mortalities and casualties, ...
		5.2- Identify the gaps in knowledge and propose actions or programmes to improve the knowledge on cetaceans	Develop international, regional or sub-regional, national projects or programmes: -to identify gaps in knowledge - based on identified gaps in knowledge
Under the leadership of the Parties and the Scientific Committee Under the supervision of the Parties and the Scientific Committee	TA6- Concerning the development of conservation activities and of management measures	6.1- Identify the pressures on cetaceans and propose measures to reduce the impacts on the species or their habitats	Pursue the ACCOBAMS threats-based management approach based on pressures such as: Interactions with fisheries (all), Pollution including marine litter, Anthropogenic noise, Ship strikes, Cetacean watching, Captivity related issues, Climate change impacts, others, ... Prepare relevant management or conservation tools such as guidelines for eliminating, reducing or mitigating the impacts considering the regional or national needs
		6.2- Identify cetaceans' critical habitats and based on the existing pressures propose changes in the national legislation (environment, fisheries, maritime transport, etc.) and support the implementation of area-based conservation measures	Identify Critical Habitats for Cetaceans (CCHs), Identify or list other areas of interest for cetacean conservation, Propose conservation, management and monitoring measures for areas of interest for cetacean conservation and in particular: Important Marine Mammals Areas (IMMAs), Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas (EBSAs), Sanctuaries, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), Fisheries Reserves, Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

			<p>Prepare and implement Species Conservation Management Plans and/or Conservation areas for cetacean's management plans (such as National Action Plan, Regional Conservation Plan...)</p> <p>Support the preparation of Tools for management (such as legislation or guidelines)</p> <p>Monitor management effectiveness</p>
--	--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

In order to visualise the difference between the proposed system and the existing one (previous strategy), the next table list the thematic areas, the proposed specific objectives (SO) and the corresponding specific objectives of the existing strategy, showing the new ones that will be included.

Thematic Areas TAs	Proposed Specific Objectives	Corresponding specific objectives of the previous strategy
TA1- Concerning the Agreement and its management	1.1 - Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with the ACCOBAMS agreement, its amendments and its resolutions, through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders,	A4. Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress A.2. Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations, including all riparian countries A.5. Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas in close cooperation with other CMS instruments
	1.2- Assist the other instruments or organisations that tackle more specific issues (such as fisheries, navigation, tourism) or more general ones (such as pollution, climate change) with an impact on the conservation of cetaceans or of their habitats	
	1.3- Monitor the progress in all the sectors of activities of the Agreement and propose the necessary adjustments	
TA2- Concerning the funding	2.1- Develop, implement and review as needed a funding strategy, for the management of the agreement, for enhancement the communication and awareness, for the improvement of knowledge, for the development of conservation activities and for the upgrade of local, national and regional capacities.	A.3. Ensure adequate funding, in particularly for conservation activities
TA3- Concerning the enhancement of capacities for conservation of cetaceans	3.1- Develop, implement and monitor a capacity enhancement plan	B.4. Improve capacities of national organisations and experts
TA4- Concerning the communication and awareness	4.1- Develop, implement and monitor a common communication, information and awareness plan	A.1. Improve communication across, up and down ACCOBAMS as an organisation B.3. Enhance public awareness about cetaceans
TA5- Concerning the improvement of knowledge for conservation	5.1- Centralize, organize and disseminate the existing knowledge on cetaceans, their habitat, the pressures and impacts, the national institutions, legislations and capacities,	B.1. Improve the knowledge about state of cetaceans

	5.2- Identify the gaps in knowledge and capacities and propose actions or programmes to improve the knowledge on cetaceans	
TA6- Concerning the development of conservation activities and the development of management measures	6.1- Identify the pressures on cetaceans and propose measures to reduce the impacts on the species or their habitats	B.2.Reduce human pressures on cetaceans, particularly those related to interaction with fisheries, habitat loss and degradation
	6.2- Identify cetaceans critical habitats and based on the existing pressures propose changes in the national legislation (environment, fisheries, maritime transport, etc.) and support the implementation of area based conservation measures	B.5. Enhance effective conservation of cetaceans critical habitats

The following table provides more details for the actions to be developed under each Specific Objective (SO), to be considered when preparing the work programme for each triennium. This list of activities is not exhaustive and could be modified or incremented as needed.

Specific objectives	Activities to be considered for an Action Plan	Corresponding specific objectives of the previous strategy
1.1 - Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with the ACCOBAMS agreement, its amendments and its resolutions, through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders,	<p>Negotiate accession of all riparian states to the Agreement and promote the adoption of the amendments</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in the area of application of the Agreement, including CMS, all riparian countries, partners and international, regional and local NGOS</p> <p>Organise Meeting of Parties, Meetings of the Bureau, Meetings of the Scientific the Committee, Meeting of National Representatives to develop the Programme of Work regional or sub-regional conferences and workshops, events for supporting cetacean conservation</p>	<p>A4. Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress</p> <p>A.2. Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations, including all riparian countries</p> <p>A.5. Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas in close cooperation with other CMS instruments</p>
1.2- Assist the other instruments or organisations that tackle more specific issues (such as fisheries, navigation, tourism) or more general ones (such as pollution, climate change) with an impact on the conservation of	<p>Pursue / Intensify collaboration with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant international or regional nature conservation and environmental protection agreements (such as the CBD, the Barcelona Convention, IWC, etc.), - International relevant stakeholders (such as NATO, IMO and WTO), - Regional or sub regional organisations or initiatives (such as GFCM, IMO, EU Biodiversity Strategy and MSFD, SAP BIO, IUCN, WWF, MedPAN, etc.), - ACCOBAMS partners 	

cetaceans or of their habitats		
1.3- Monitor the progress in all the sectors of activities of the Agreement and propose necessary adjustments	<p>Develop a complete monitoring system for all activities, using in particular the Follow-up Committee</p> <p>Evaluate regularly overall Agreement's effectiveness</p> <p>Propose the necessary adjustment in organisational matters of all the constituents (composition, staff, rules of procedure, etc.)</p>	
2.1- Ensure that adequate funding is made available, for the management of the agreement, for enhancement the communication and awareness, for the improvement of knowledge, for the development of conservation activities and for the upgrade of local, national and regional capacities.	<p>Develop, implement and review as needed a funding strategy for mobilizing and diversifying funding sources</p> <p>Inform Parties about project call of proposals and funding possibilities</p> <p>Participate in the development of multilateral or national projects, with the support and advice of the scientific community</p>	A.3. Ensure adequate funding, in particularly for conservation activities
3.1- Develop, implement and monitor a capacity enhancement plan	<p>Identify needs and priorities at the regional or national levels on most relevant topics (such as photo-identification, aerial surveys, necropsies, live stranding, response to emergency situation at regional and national levels, exchange and study tours, university or educational cursus, small projects implementation ...)</p>	B.4. Improve capacities of national organisations and experts
4.1- Develop, implement and monitor a common communication, information and awareness plan	<p>Develop a mechanism to be used as the central tool for communication, information and awareness and progressively as the central repository of knowledge about cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area</p> <p>Identification of the cetaceans community, including parties, partners, international, regional and national entities, scientific institutes and scientists, NGOs, volunteers, etc.</p>	<p>A.1. Improve communication across, up and down ACCOBAMS as an organisation</p> <p>B.3. Enhance public awareness about cetaceans</p>
5.1- Centralize, organize and disseminate the existing knowledge on cetaceans, their habitat, the pressures and impacts, the national institutions,	<p>Develop a mechanism for centralising and disseminating knowledge on cetaceans (documents, projects, events, photos, etc.), in particular on legislation, populations abundance, structure and distribution, species monitoring and status (IUCN red list assessment), strandings, mortalities and casualties, ...</p>	B.1. Improve the knowledge about state of cetaceans

legislations and capacities		
5.2- Identify the gaps in knowledge and propose actions or programmes to improve the knowledge on cetaceans	Develop international, regional or sub-regional, national projects or programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify gaps in knowledge, - based on identified gaps in knowledge 	
6.1- Identify the pressures on cetaceans and propose measures to reduce the impacts on the species or their habitats	Pursue the ACCOBAMS threats-based management approach based on pressures such as: Interactions with fisheries (all), Pollution including marine litter, Anthropogenic noise, Ship strikes, Cetacean watching, Captivity related issues, Climate change impacts, others, ... Prepare relevant management or conservation tools such as guidelines for eliminating, reducing or mitigating the impacts considering the regional or national needs	B.2.Reduce human pressures on cetaceans, particularly those related to interaction with fisheries, habitat loss and degradation
6.2- Identify cetaceans critical habitats and based on the existing pressures propose changes in the national legislation (environment, fisheries, maritime transport, etc.) and support the implementation of area based conservation measures, such as, but not limited to, sanctuaries, marine protected areas or fisheries reserves	Identify, list, manage and monitor sites and corridors such as: Critical Habitats for Cetaceans (CCHs), Important Marine Mammals Areas (IMMAs), Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas (EBSAs), Sanctuaries, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), Fisheries Reserves, Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) Prepare and implement Species Conservation Management Plans and/or Conservation areas for cetaceans management plans (such as National Action Plan, Regional Conservation Plan, ...) Support the preparation of Tools for management (such as legislation, guidelines, others) Monitor management effectiveness ...	B.5. Enhance effective conservation of cetaceans critical habitats

The *implementation of the new Strategy* will allow improving different aspects such as:

- The level of implementation of and compliance with the ACCOBAMS agreement (SO-1.1)
- The mechanisms of coordination and cooperation with all cetaceans conservation stakeholders (SO-1.2)
- The monitoring of the effectiveness of the Agreement (SO-1.3)
- The development and the implementation of a funding strategy (SO-2.1)
- The development of a capacity enhancement plan (SO-3.1)
- The development of a communication, information and awareness plan (SO-4.1)
- The centralisation of knowledge (SO-5.1)
- The identification of gaps in knowledge and the development of specific programmes/projects (SO-5.2)

- The identification of pressures on cetaceans and of adapted management measures (SO-6.1)
- The identification of Cetaceans Critical Habitats, their declaration and management (SO-6.2)

The implementation of the new strategy will certainly necessitate an adjustment of the staff with a redefinition of their tasks and responsibilities, in particular during heavy load working period.

It will also necessitate more funding than the Agreement funds (trust fund, voluntary contributions), with more emphasis on external funding and the participation of all the staff for identifying and securing new funding options.