



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)



REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ACCOBAMS



Istanbul, Turkey, 5 - 8 November 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Participants	4
AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME ADDRESSES	5
AGENDA ITEM 2 – ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES	6
2.1 – Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS	6
2.2 – Granting the right to vote	6
2.3 – Admission of observers	7
2.4 – Election of the Bureau	8
2.5 – Adoption of the Agenda	8
2.6 – Establishment of the Credentials Committee	8
AGENDA ITEM 3 – OPENING STATEMENTS	8
AGENDA ITEM 4 – PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE AGREEMENT	10
4.1 – National Reports.....	10
4.2 – Report of the Depositary	10
4.3 – Report of the Bureau	11
4.4 – Report of the Secretariat.....	11
4.5 – Report of the Scientific Committee	12
4.6 - Reports of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units	13
4.7 - Report of the Follow-up Committee	13
4.8 - Report of the ACCOBAMS Partners.....	15
4.9 – Budgetary matters.....	15
AGENDA ITEM 5 – REPORT BY THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.....	17
AGENDA ITEM 6 – INSTITUTIONAL AND BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS	17
6.1 – Functional structure and Personnel of the Permanent Secretariat	17
6.2 – Recruitment procedure of the Executive Secretary	18
6.3 – ACCOBAMS Strategy.....	19
6.4 – ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy	20
6.5 – Work Programme and Budget for the 2020-2022 triennium	20

6.6 - Scientific Committee	21
6.7 - ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee.....	22
6.8 – Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call of proposals submitted under the Supplementary Conservation Funds.....	23
6.9 – ACCOBAMS Partners	24

AGENDA ITEM 7 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT: TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES24

7.1 - Cetacean population estimates and distribution.....	24
7.2 – Monitoring cetacean species’ conservation status.....	26
7.3 - Interactions between fisheries / aquaculture activities and cetaceans	26
7.4 - Ship Strikes	28
7.5 - Anthropogenic noise	29
7.6 – Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation	31
7.7 – Marine debris	31
7.8 - Cetacean Watching	32
7.9 – Area-based measures for cetacean conservation.....	32
7.10 – ACCOBAMS mobilization for marine biodiversity conservation beyond the 2020 biodiversity framework	33

AGENDA ITEM 8 – ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS33

AGENDA ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS.....34

AGENDA ITEM 10 – DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES.....34

AGENDA ITEM 11– ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING34

AGENDA ITEM 12 – CLOSURE OF THE MEETING35

ANNEXES

Annex I - List of participants	37
Annex II - Welcome addresses.....	53
Annex III - Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS	59
Annex IV - Agenda.....	72

Annex V - Opening Statements.....	75
Annex VI - Report of the Depositary.....	90
Annex VII - Report of the Bureau.....	94
Annex VIII - Report of the Secretariat.....	101
Annex IX - Report of the Scientific Committee and recommendations	142
Annex X - Report of the Black Sea Sub-Regional Coordination Unit	180
Annex XI - Report of the Mediterranean Sub-Regional Coordination Unit.....	202
Annex XII - Report of the Follow-up Committee	231
Annex XIII - Information provided by Portugal on the submission on the assessment and control by Portugal of petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo.....	256
Annex XIV - Statement by OceanCare about the Follow up Committee procedure, and information provided by Portugal.....	262
Annex XV - Resolutions	265
Annex XVI - Statement on anthropogenic noise by the IUCN MMPA Task Force, NRDC, OceanCare, the Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Tethys Research Institute and WWF	420
Annex XVII - Statements on anthropogenic noise by IOGP	422
Annex XVIII - Statement on anthropogenic noise by OceanCare.....	425
Annex XIX - Statement by France on the Resolution 7.17 “Global Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework: ACCOBAMS mobilization” jointly submitted with Algeria and Monaco.....	427

Introduction

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) was held in Istanbul, Turkey, at the Grand Hyatt Istanbul Hotel, from 5 to 8 November 2019. This Meeting followed the entry into force of the Agreement on 1 June 2001, the First Meeting of the Parties held in Monaco in 2002, the Second Meeting of the Parties held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in 2004, the Third Meeting of the Parties in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in 2007, the Fourth Meeting of the Parties in Monaco in 2010, the Fifth Meeting of the Parties in Tangier, Morocco, in 2013, and the Sixth Meeting of the Parties in Monaco, in 2016 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Agreement.

Participants

2. Representatives of the following States Party to the Agreement took part in the Meeting: Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Egypt, France, Georgia, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. Three non-Party States, Bosnia Herzegovina, Israel and the Russian Federation, were represented by observers.
4. The following inter-governmental Organizations were represented: the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the UNEP/CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (UNEP/ASCOBANS), the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the UNEP/MAP Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (UNEP/MAP/SPARAC), the Black Sea Commission (BSC), the European Commission, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Pelagos Agreement, and the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med).
5. The following Partners were represented: ALNILAM, CIMA Research Foundation, EcoOcean Institut, Green Balkans, Mare Nostrum NGO, Marine Mammals Research Association (DMAD), Marine Protected Area “Capo Carbonara”, OceanCare, Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW), Tethys Research Institute, Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), and WWF Mediterranean Programme Office.
6. Other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions were represented: International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), Kadir Has University, Marine Conservation Research International (MCR), I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, and SINAY.
7. The Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS acted as Secretariat for the Meeting.
8. The full list of participants appears as [Annex I](#) to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME ADDRESSES

9. The Chair of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, Mr. Yann Wehring, opened the Meeting by thanking the Government of Turkey for hosting the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS in this beautiful city of Istanbul and welcomed the participants. He congratulated the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative during the 2017-2019 triennium which allowed to improve our knowledge on cetacean populations in the whole ACCOBAMS Agreement area. He expressed the wish that this survey should mark the beginning of a regular monitoring of the abundance and distribution of cetacean species in the Agreement area. Referring to the results of the IPBES global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services, he encouraged Parties to actively participate in the process of developing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In this context, he highlighted the urgent need to increase the efforts in biodiversity conservation, underlining the fact that the Mediterranean and Black Sea are biodiversity hot spots deserving special attention and to join efforts for their preservation. The full text of the welcome address of the Chair of the ACCOBAMS Bureau appears in [Annex II](#) to this report.
10. The Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS informed the meeting that Ms. Amy Fraenkel, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species was not able to attend as the CMS Secretariat was preparing for a series of meetings in Bonn, starting the week after. These were preparatory meetings for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS that would take place next February in Gandhinagar (India).
11. In her welcome address, presented at the meeting by the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS, Ms. Amy Fraenkel commended the significant achievements under ACCOBAMS, emphasizing that over two decades, ACCOBAMS had been an effective part of the global efforts on the conservation of cetaceans, and an important member of the wider CMS Family. She added that CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS had a long history of fruitful cooperation – particularly in addressing bycatch and marine noise.
12. She emphasized that next year would be an important one for biodiversity, starting with the CMS COP13, which includes a strong focus on aquatic species. Furthermore, a UN Summit on Biodiversity is planned for later in the year in New York. The year will culminate in the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October in China, which is expected to agree on a new global framework for biodiversity. CMS and the wider CMS Family are engaging in this process, in particular to better address the need for “ecological connectivity”. The full text of the welcome address of the Acting Executive Secretary of CMS appears in [Annex II](#) to this report.
13. Mrs. Florence Descroix-Comanducci, the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS, expressed her gratitude to the Turkish authorities for hosting this Meeting of the Parties, just after Turkey became

the 24th Party to ACCOBAMS. She added that the Permanent Secretariat was particularly pleased to organize the Meeting in the iconic City of Istanbul, which constituted crossroads of civilizations and the link between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

14. She expressed her hope to see in the coming years more achievements for cetacean conservation, building in particular on the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. The full text of the welcome address of the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS appears in [Annex II](#) to this report.
15. Mr. Ismail Uzmez, Director General at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey, welcomed, on behalf of the Meeting's host country, the participants and stressed the importance of ACCOBAMS recalling its main objective to conserve the cetaceans by mitigating the impacts on these species and protecting their habitats. He emphasized that Turkey was party to many environmental Agreements and from February 2018 had also become a Party to ACCOBAMS. He stressed however that cetaceans were protected by the Turkish law long time before 2018 to preserve them from the adverse impacts of some human activities. He added that Turkey was surrounded by a marine environment particularly rich in terms of biodiversity. Eleven species of cetaceans were present in the Turkish waters, which placed it among the countries that could play a significant role in protecting cetaceans. He confirmed in this context the commitment of Turkey to collaborate with the Parties for the achievement of the ACCOBAMS goals and commended in this context the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative that covered also the Black Sea and whose results would be very helpful for the conservation programmes. The full text of the welcome speech of Mr. Ismail Uzmez appears in [Annex II](#).

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

2.1 – Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS

16. The Chair informed the Meeting that the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties, adopted by the Fifth Meeting of the Parties in 2013, applied to the present Meeting.
17. The Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties appear in [Annex III](#) to this report.

2.2 – Granting the right to vote

18. The Executive Secretary recalled that according to Article 14.2 of the Rules of Procedure for the MOP, "Representatives of Parties which are three or more years behind in paying their subscriptions on the date of the opening session of the Meeting of the Parties shall not be eligible to vote. However, the Meeting of the Parties may allow such Parties to continue to exercise their right to vote if it is satisfied that the delay in payment arises from exceptional circumstances".

19. She informed the Meeting that the Bureau, during the Fourth Meeting of the Extended Bureau (Monaco, 18-19 April 2019), had asked the Permanent Secretariat to contact the Focal Points of two Parties requesting them to provide the Permanent Secretariat with a formal letter explaining such circumstances. The Permanent Secretariat received a letter from Libya explaining that the country was facing exceptional circumstances that led to a delay in the payment of its ordinary contribution to the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund.
20. She also recalled that during the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MOP6, Monaco, 2016), the representative of Italy requested that a legal analysis on “granting the right to vote” be prepared by the Permanent Secretariat and submitted to the MOP7. In this context, the Legal Expert of the Permanent Secretariat prepared the “Note on the granting the right to vote” presented in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc05.
21. The Legal Expert of the Permanent Secretariat introduced the document emphasising that there was no provision in the ACCOBAMS Agreement on the suspension of the right to vote at the Meeting of the Parties. This question was regulated by Art. 14 (paragraph 2) of the Rules of procedure that the Meeting of the Parties had adopted at its first session (2002). This suspension was limited to the right to vote at the Meeting of the Parties and did not affect the participation of the defaulting Party to the ACCOBAMS Agreement as a whole or any other rights and obligations arising from this treaty. The defaulting Party therefore kept the right to attend the Meeting of the Parties and to participate in its work, even though it was not entitled to cast its vote. The Legal Expert explained also the other aspects addressed in the document, such as the purpose of the Suspension of the Right to Vote and its implications for the concerned country.
22. After the exchange of views on the subject, the Meeting decided not to apply the sanction of the suspension of the right to vote to Libya, because of the existence of exceptional circumstances.

2.3 – Admission of observers

23. In accordance with Article III, paragraph 4 of the Agreement, the Permanent Secretariat presented to the Parties the list of organizations that wished to take part in the Meeting as observers (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc07Rev1).
24. The Meeting allowed all the observers listed to be present.

2.4 – Election of the Bureau

25. The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that, during their pre-Meeting consultations, the Heads of Delegations had proposed that the new Bureau should be composed of representatives from the following Parties: Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Turkey.
26. The Meeting approved the suggestion of the Heads of Delegations and elected the following members of the Bureau:
- Chairperson: Mr. Fahrettin Ulu (Turkey)
 - Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Gaby Khalaf (Lebanon)
 - Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Duncan Borg (Malta)
 - Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Abdelali Loudrhiri (Morocco)
 - Vice-Chairperson: Ms. Elvira Garcia-Bellido Capdevila (Spain)
27. Mr. Fahrettin Ulu, the new Chair of the Bureau, thanked the Meeting for electing him and congratulated the Chair and the members of the outgoing Bureau for their excellent work. He welcomed the participants and wished a fruitful meeting.

2.5 – Adoption of the Agenda

28. The Executive Secretary presented the proposed provisional agenda (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc01Rev02), the provisional annotated agenda (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc02Rev5) and timetable (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc04Rev1).
29. The Meeting reviewed the proposed agenda and timetable. The agenda of the meeting as adopted by the Meeting appears in [Annex IV](#) to this Report.

2.6 – Establishment of the Credentials Committee

30. In accordance with Article IV of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties, a Credentials Committee was set up. Spain chaired this Committee, with Algeria, Malta, Slovenia and Turkey as members. The Permanent Secretariat assisted the Committee in its works.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – OPENING STATEMENTS

31. The Chair invited Parties or Organisations that wished to make a statement to do so under this Agenda item and asked those that wanted their opening statement to be annexed to the Report to

provide the Secretariat with a copy of the text, in written or electronic form, in English or in French. ([Annex V](#)).

32. The representative of Slovenia expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Turkey for hosting this meeting and thanked the Secretariat for its devoted and engaged work on conservation of cetaceans in the past triennium, in particular regarding the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative.
33. Ms. Tatjana Hema, Deputy Coordinator of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan, congratulated the Parties to ACCOBAMS and the Secretariat on the work undertaken since MOP6 and the successes achieved through joint cooperation. She highlighted that ACCOBAMS and UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC had been working together, in particular through the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, the EU-funded EcApMed II Project and through the different MAVA funded projects. She also thanked ACCOBAMS for the collaboration with the MED POL programme regarding the EU-funded QuietMed project. She informed the Meeting that the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols would be held in Naples, Italy, on 2-5 December 2019.
34. Ms. Iryna Makarenko, representing the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC), welcomed the fact that for the first time the ACCOBAMS MOP was being hosted by a Black Sea riparian country and she congratulated Turkey on its accession to the Agreement. She reminded the Meeting that under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2002 between the BSC and ACCOBAMS, the Commission served as the Black Sea Sub-regional Coordination Unit for the Agreement and she commended the outstanding level of cooperation between both organizations for improving the conservation of the cetaceans of the Black Sea.
35. Ms. Jenny Renell, ASCOBANS Coordinator, congratulated ACCOBAMS on the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. She praised the cooperation between ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, exemplified by the Joint Noise and Bycatch Working Groups. She informed the Meeting about the 9th Meeting of Parties to ASCOBANS that would take place in Belgium in 2020 and the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, scheduled for February 2020 in India. Many topics of joint importance would be addressed during those events, including marine wildlife watching, live capture of cetaceans and marine noise, based on CMS Res.12.14 which endorsed Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities.
36. Ms. Costanza Favilli, Executive Secretary of the Pelagos Agreement, congratulated ACCOBAMS for its work and important achievements during the 2017-2019 triennium. She informed the Meeting about the scientific projects supported by the Pelagos Agreement on plastic waste (including micro-plastics and ghost nets), collisions with vessels and chemical pollution, whose results would be presented at the next Technical and Scientific Committee and Meeting of the Parties to Pelagos

scheduled for March 2020. Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two Agreements, she expressed her willingness to continue cooperating with ACCOBAMS on topics of common interest.

37. Ms. Théa Jacob, representing WWF Mediterranean Programme Office, underlined the concerns of WWF on the threats faced by cetaceans in the region, in particular with respect to bycatch, marine traffic impacts and hydrocarbon exploration. She expressed WWF's support on several resolutions presented at this Meeting for adoption. She also congratulated the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and stressed that it provided an unprecedented dataset about the diversity and distribution of cetacean populations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE AGREEMENT

4.1 – National Reports

38. The Permanent Secretariat introduced the synthesis on the implementation of ACCOBAMS by the Parties contained in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc08 and presented a brief description of the relevant activities undertaken by ACCOBAMS Parties during the triennium 2017-2019 within the framework of the implementation of the Agreement. The synthesis was based on the information provided by the Focal Points using the new online reporting system developed and made available by the Permanent Secretariat. The full text of the national reports for the reporting period (2017-2019) is available in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf03Rev1. The Permanent Secretariat emphasised that thanks to the comments from National Focal Points, the bugs in the new online reporting system had been fixed.

4.2 – Report of the Depositary

39. The representative of the Depositary of the Agreement (the Principality of Monaco), introduced the "Report of the depositary and status of ratifications" contained in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc09Rev2 and appearing as [Annex VI](#) to this report. She informed the Meeting that since the Sixth Meeting of the Parties, the Department of External Relations and Cooperation of the Principality of Monaco, in its capacity as Depositary, had registered the instrument of accession of the Republic of Turkey.
40. In accordance with the provisions of Article XIV, paragraph 2 (c), the ACCOBAMS Agreement entered into force for the Republic of Turkey on 1st February 2018. As of 22nd July 2019, there were therefore 24 Parties to ACCOBAMS.

41. With regard to the Amendments to the text of the Agreement and its annexes, relating to the extension of the geographical area of ACCOBAMS adopted during the MOP4 in 2010, the Depositary had registered, since the last Meeting of the Parties in 2016, the deposit of the instrument of approval of the French Republic. This brought to 8 the number of countries that had ratified the Amendment, out of the 16 ratifications required for the entry into force of the Amendment.
42. The representative of the Depositary of the Agreement added that the Depositary also supported the Permanent Secretariat's efforts to raise awareness among the other riparian States with a view to their accession to the Agreement and to encourage them to approve the Amendments.

4.3 – Report of the Bureau

43. Mr. Yann Wehring, Chair of the Bureau during the period 2017-2019, presented the Bureau report contained in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc10. He recalled that the composition of the Bureau was as follows:
- Chairperson: Mr. Xavier Sticker, replaced in March 2019 by Mr. Yann Wehring (France);
 - Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Klodiana Marika (Albania);
 - Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Rahima Berkat (Algeria);
 - Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Savvas Michaelides (Cyprus);
 - Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine).
44. Emphasising that the Bureau had met three times during the triennium period, he thanked the Vice-Chairs for their support and presented the major items addressed by the Bureau. During this triennium, the Bureau had to deal in particular with questions related to the Structure and Staff of the Permanent Secretariat and the Mid-term evaluation of the ACCOBAMS Strategy. The report of the Bureau, including its decisions for the triennium 2017-2019 appears in [Annex VII](#) to this Report.
45. The Chair congratulated the outgoing Chair and the members of the Bureau of ACCOBAMS for their efforts and all the work done.

4.4 – Report of the Secretariat

46. Referring to Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc11, the Executive Secretary presented an overview of the activities carried out by the Permanent Secretariat during the intersessional period. She recalled that the report was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Article IV, paragraph 2, f), of the Agreement that requested the Permanent Secretariat to provide to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties a report on the work of the Agreement Secretariat. She highlighted that, following a Decision from the Extended Bureau at its last meeting, the

Permanent Secretariat had prepared a document with the activities supported by the Secretariat for countries paying minimum contributions. This document appears in Annex 2 of the Report of the Secretariat.

47. The Meeting took note of the report, commended the activities undertaken and congratulated the Permanent Secretariat for its efforts in particular for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative.
48. The full report of the Secretariat appears as [Annex VIII](#) to this report.
49. The Executive Secretary also presented Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc36 on 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, highlighting that the first draft presented at MOP6 in 2016 had been reviewed on UNEP/MAP side. She highlighted that the updated version did not present substantial changes compared to the draft version welcomed by the Parties during the MOP6 in 2016.
50. The Meeting welcomed the updated version of the Joint Cooperation Strategy as contained in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc36.

4.5 – Report of the Scientific Committee

51. Mr. Simone Panigada, Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee during the 2017-2019 triennium introduced document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc12, which contained the Report of the Scientific Committee and its recommendations. He informed the meeting that the Scientific Committee had convened twice during the intersessional period, the Eleventh Meeting having been held in February 2017 and the Twelfth in November 2018.
52. The Scientific Committee had re-elected, at its 1st Meeting, Simone Panigada as Chair and had elected Ayaka Amaha Oztürk as Vice-Chair. The four Task Managers were Ayaka Amaha Oztürk, (Interactions with fisheries), Greg Donovan (Species Conservation Management Plans), Aviad Scheinin (Functional Stranding Networks and Responses to Emergency Situations) and Léa David (Protected Areas for Cetaceans).
53. He described the subjects discussed by the Scientific Committee and indicated the topics of the eight recommendations of the Scientific Committee prepared during the last Meeting of the Scientific Committee. The full report of the Scientific Committee and the Recommendations appear as [Annex IX](#) to this report.
54. The Meeting took note of the report and commended the work achieved by the Scientific Committee during the triennium 2017-2019.

4.6 - Reports of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units

55. Ms. Iryna Makarenko, representing the Black Sea Commission, presented the report of the ACCOBAMS Black Sea Sub-Regional Coordination Unit ([Annex X](#)). She provided examples of activities implemented with ACCOBAMS such as the “Cetacean conservation” module adapted for the Black Sea and welcomed the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative held through the CeNoBS Project during the summer 2019 to estimate cetacean populations abundance and distribution in the Black Sea. She welcomed Turkey’s accession to ACCOBAMS and indicated that the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC PS) was engaged in efforts to reach out to institutions in the Russian Federation, now the only non-Party among Black Sea riparian State. She mentioned that the level of cooperation and assistance of ACCOBAMS was much appreciated and emphasized the need to further support and expertise for drafting and improving relevant documents such as the Conservation Plan for Cetaceans. She informed on the readiness of the BSC PS to contribute to other relevant ACCOBAMS activities, in particular to dissemination and sustaining the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in the Black Sea.
56. Ms. Lobna Ben Nakhla, representative of SPA/RAC, presented the report of the Mediterranean Sub-Regional Coordination Unit ([Annex XI](#)). She recalled that a joint programme had been established every triennium and was annexed to the MoU established between the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and SPA/RAC based on Resolution 1.4 (MOP1, 2001) and taking into account the Updated Action Plan concerning Cetaceans in the Mediterranean (Decision IG.22/12, COP 19, 2015). She emphasized that the joint support to the Mediterranean countries was marked, during the last triennium, by the strengthening of the national capacities through the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) capacity building component. This covered in particular cetacean monitoring and was conducted in close synergy with the EU-funded EcApMED II Project. She provided examples of other actions implemented with ACCOBAMS and relevant partners, including through the EU-funded project QuietMED II relating to underwater noise monitoring and through the MAVA-funded projects on mitigating the effects of interactions with fisheries, as well as activities implemented in relation to the Ecosystem Approach process of the Barcelona Convention.

4.7 - Report of the Follow-up Committee

57. Mr. Victor Escobar, Chair of the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee, making reference to Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc7, presented the main considerations and recommendations issued from the First Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee which was convened in Monaco on Monday, 5th March and on Tuesday, 6th March 2018 ([Annex XII](#)), at which four submissions, by one ACCOBAMS Partner, were presented:

- Submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Greece of military activities around South-East Crete;
- Submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Spain of petroleum exploration activities around the Balearic Islands;
- Submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Portugal of petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo basins;
- Submission by OceanCare on the failure by Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Tunisia to implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins.

58. The Chair of the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee informed the Parties that Portugal had provided the Follow-up Committee with information on the submission on the assessment and control by Portugal of petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo basins, by a letter sent on 31st October 2019. The representative of Portugal presented the content of this letter ([Annex XIII](#)) to the Parties.

59. Concerning the submission related to the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins, Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Lebanon, Malta and Morocco made remarks regarding the modalities and the difficulties in ensuring the implementation of the conservation plan.

60. The Chair of the Follow-up Committee stressed the importance of the timely provision by State Parties of the relevant information to the Committee following the procedures established in Resolution 6.8. He added that the consideration of the two submissions relating to the assessment and control by Portugal of petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo basins and to the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins, would be resumed at the next Meeting of the Follow-up Committee in the light of the new information available.

61. Moreover, the Chair of the Follow-up Committee introduced to the Meeting of the Parties the reviews, as reproduced in document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc16, that the Follow-up Committee was requested to make by the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (22-25 November 2016, Monaco) according to Article 6, paragraph 1d, of the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Procedure, on the legal and technical issues of implementation and follow-up:

- of existing obligations and commitments related to seismic and military activities producing underwater noise,
- relating to interactions between humans and dolphins addressed by Resolution 3.13 (Dolphin interaction programme).

62. He finally reminded the Parties that the Follow-up Committee had recommended them to consider requesting the Committee to review, under Article 6, paragraph 1, d, of the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Procedure, the legal and technical issues of implementation and follow-up relating to interactions between humans and dolphins addressed by Resolution 3.13 (Dolphin interaction programme).
63. OceanCare stressed the importance of having in place a proper and effective Follow-up Procedure and drew the attention of the Committee to the possibility of working through electronic communications. The statement by OceanCare, in reaction to the document sent by Portugal, will be forwarded to the Follow-up Committee for its consideration ([Annex XIV](#)).
64. The Meeting of the Parties endorsed the measures recommended by the Follow-up Committee.

4.8 - Report of the ACCOBAMS Partners

65. The Permanent Secretariat introduced document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc17Rev1 containing the synthesis of the ACCOBAMS Partners' Reports. The Permanent Secretariat recalled that the synthesis had been prepared based on the reports received for the 2017-2019 triennium concerning specifically capacity building activities, public awareness activities and research activities. The Permanent Secretariat added that the activities developed by the Partners during 2017-2019 were strongly correlated to the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and the CeNoBs Project.

4.9 – Budgetary matters

a) Report on incomes and expenditures relevant to the Trust Fund and external contributions for 2017-2019

66. The Executive Secretary presented the report on incomes and expenditures related to the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund for 2017-2019 (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc18Rev1) and explained that the figures for 2019 covered the period up to 15th July 2019. The balance due on 15th July 2019 was €151,790. She mentioned that late ordinary contributions were received since the 15th July.
67. She also presented the state of the voluntary contributions and emphasised that the Permanent Secretariat was grateful for the support received from the Governments and non-governmental organizations regarding implementation of the Agreement. She expressed special acknowledgments to the Principality of Monaco and to Italy for their voluntary contributions during the triennium as well as to the MAVA Foundation for its substantial financial contribution to several projects.

68. Following a request from the delegation of Italy for additional details to include in the budget report concerning the differences between the adopted budget and the reported budget, the Executive Secretary took note of the request that would be taken into account in the next triennium Budget Report.
69. Following a request by the representative of the Principality of Monaco to make changes in the report to reflect correctly the allocation of the voluntary contribution of her country, the Permanent Secretariat took note of the request and ensured that the requested changes would be made in the report on incomes and expenditures related to the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund for 2017-2019.

b) Report on the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund

70. Regarding the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund (SCF), the Executive Secretary provided an overview of the incomes and expenditures for the Fund in 2017, 2018 and 2019 up to 15th July 2019 (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc19). She reported that this Fund had been replenished twice during the period of 2017-2019. A first replenishment of €14,000 was made to the SCF in 2017 with funds remaining from the 2016 voluntary contribution of the Principality of Monaco for the organisation of the MOP6. A second replenishment of €24,000 was decided by the Bureau in 2019 thanks to voluntary contributions from Italy and Monaco, as well as remaining amounts from payment of arrear ordinary contributions.
71. She also informed the meeting that thanks to the SCF mechanism, four projects received funding during the triennium 2017-2019. On the 15th July 2019, the remaining balance was €36,740, with €19,500 allocated to on-going projects and €17,240 being available for commitment from the SCF.

c) Report by the Fund Management Controller

72. In accordance with Annex 3 of Resolution 6.6, the Permanent Secretariat presented the report of the fund management controller for the triennium 2017-2019 (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc20Rev1) emphasising that all financial reports of the triennium were approved by the fund management controller.
73. At the end of the work on this agenda item, the Meeting endorsed the three reports.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – REPORT BY THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

74. The representative of Spain, as Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, reported that the credential letters received from 17 Parties (Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) had met the criteria of Article IV of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties. Three representatives had not provided their credential letters.
75. The Legal Expert recalled the Parties that in accordance with Article IV of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties, only the Representative of a Party with credentials was entitled to exercise the voting rights of that Party.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – INSTITUTIONAL AND BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 – Functional structure and Personnel of the Permanent Secretariat

76. The Executive Secretary introduced the explanatory note on draft Resolution 7.2 “Structure and Personnel of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat” contained in Document ACCOBAMS/MOP7/2019/Doc21. She presented the evolution of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat Personnel from the first Meeting of Parties (MOP1) held in 2002 and recalled that in 2014, the Fifth Meeting of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare Staff Regulations for presentation to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (Resolution 5.6 on Staff Regulations). However, at their Sixth Meeting (November 2016), Parties decided that there was the necessity to assess the staffing needs of the Permanent Secretariat prior to addressing the staff regulations issue. In this context, they mandated the Executive Secretary (Resolution 6.3) to entrust a specialized consultant to carry out by the end of 2017 a functional assessment of the personnel needs of the Permanent Secretariat and associated costs. They also asked the Executive Secretary to develop, in consultation with the Host Country and the Bureau, a proposal on (i) the structure of the Permanent Secretariat taking into account the results of the functional assessment and (ii) a mechanism to implement the proposal with the view of submitting them to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties.
77. She informed the Meeting that in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 6.3, the Permanent Secretariat had recruited a consultant to conduct the requested functional assessment, including an on-site visit in Monaco. The report of the consultant containing recommendations for an optimum functioning of the Permanent Secretariat, considering the missions listed in the Agreement text and the relevant Resolutions adopted by Parties, in particular the Work Programme, was distributed to all National Focal Points and to the Bureau Members in July 2017. It is presented in document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf37.

78. The Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS emphasised that the elements presented in Annex 1 to draft Resolution 7.2 “Structure and Personnel of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat” were the result of a long process of consultation that involved the Bureau of ACCOBAMS, the relevant authorities of the Principality of Monaco and all the National Focal Points. It had been finalised by the Fourth Meeting of the Extended Bureau held in April 2019 taking into consideration the views and opinions formulated by the National Focal Points on the options proposed during the consultation process started in July 2018.
79. She then presented in detail draft Resolution 7.2 stressing that in order to reduce the financial impact on budget, the Permanent Secretariat structure contained in Annex 1 to the draft Resolution did not include the new positions recommended by the functional assessment and kept the current number of staff.
80. The Chair invited the meeting to comment on the presentation by the Executive Secretary and to consider the draft Resolution.
81. During the substantive debate that followed the presentation by the Executive Secretary, the views expressed by the participants were divergent, in particular in relation to the financial implications of the proposed functional structure of the Permanent Secretariat.
82. The representative of Italy raised concerns about the creation of permanent positions other than those covered by the voluntary contribution of the Principality of Monaco, under the Headquarters Agreement and he proposed to establish a working group to review the draft Resolution.
83. After the exchanges on this issue and considering that a number of delegations were in favour of approving the proposed draft, the participants agreed to finalize it in plenary. The Resolution 7.2 as amended by the Meeting was approved, it appears in [Annex XV](#) to this report.
84. The Meeting also mandated the Permanent Secretariat to verify that all the provisions of the Resolution 7.2 and its annexes are consistent with Monaco laws. In this respect, the Principality of Monaco will provide assistance to the Permanent Secretariat.

6.2 – Recruitment procedure of the Executive Secretary

85. Introducing draft Resolution MOP7/2019/Draft Res 7.3 "Recruitment procedure for the Executive Secretary", the Executive Secretary recalled that until now, the Executive Secretary had been seconded by the Principality of Monaco and that at their Sixth Meeting (Monaco, 2016) the Parties adopted Resolution 6.3, entrusting the Bureau, in consultation with the Host Country, to address the question of the recruitment procedure for the Executive Secretary as a matter of priority.

86. She explained that the procedure presented in the draft Resolution was the result of a series of consultations between the relevant authorities of the Government of the Principality of Monaco and the Bureau of ACCOBAMS. The National Focal Points were also involved in the consultation since the draft procedure was included in the document on the Functional Structure of the Permanent Secretariat and its Personnel circulated in July 2018 and in January 2019 to the National Focal Points. The comments received on the revision of the procedure were considered, a draft Resolution 7.3 was prepared and this was finalised by the Fourth Meeting of the Extended Bureau (17-18 April 2019) including (i) a recruitment procedure for the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary and (ii) selection criteria for the appointment of the Executive Secretary.
87. Following the presentation by the Executive Secretary, the Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution introducing amendments in particular those regarding the composition of the Recruitment Committee and the selection criteria for the appointment of the Executive Secretary. The draft Resolution was later adopted as Resolution 7.3 "Recruitment procedure for the Executive Secretary" ([Annex XV](#)) as amended during the discussion.

6.3 – ACCOBAMS Strategy

88. The Executive Secretary recalled that Resolution 5.1 on the ACCOBAMS Strategy provided that a mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy should be undertaken in 2018-2019.
89. Mr. Alain Jeudy de Grissac, the Consultant selected for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014-2025, presented his report (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf38) and its recommendations. The evaluation considered in particular the existing national reports, the implementation of the resolutions, the ratification of the amendments and highlighted specific elements such as the necessary revision of the Strategy, the strengthening of the role of the National Focal Points in their relations with the Secretariat and national partners and the proposal for a self-assessment mechanism by each country to be used when preparing its national report.
90. Referring to Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc 34 Rev1, Mr. Alain Jeudy de Grissac presented the proposed new format for the ACCOBAMS Strategy detailing the six thematic areas.
91. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.4 "ACCOBAMS Strategy" ([Annex XV](#)).

6.4 – ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy

92. The Executive Secretary reminded the Meeting that one of the specific objectives of the ACCOBAMS Strategy was to “Ensure adequate funding, in particular for conservation activities” specially through the development of an ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy. The Permanent Secretariat prepared a preliminary draft of the funding strategy that had been presented at the Eleventh Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (Monaco, 14-15 December 2017) for guidance on the format and content. After the Bureau review, the revised draft was presented to the National Representatives during the Fourth Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops (Tunis, 7-12 May 2018) and was then further elaborated with a view to it being presented at MOP7.
93. The Permanent Secretariat introduced draft Resolution 7.5 “ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy”, presenting the different key actions included in the Funding Strategy and aimed at setting up a general framework to support efforts for resource mobilization.
94. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.5 “ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy” ([Annex XV](#)).

6.5 – Work Programme and Budget for the 2020-2022 triennium

95. The Executive Secretary presented draft Resolution 7.6 Rev1 indicating that, as requested by Parties during MOP6 (Resolution 6.5), it merged previous Resolutions on the budget and the work programme. The latter was developed according to the format agreed by country representatives during the regional workshops of May 2018. She highlighted the additional ordinary contribution of Turkey following its ratification of the Agreement, and presented scenarios for the budget 2020-2022 and the related ordinary contributions figures.
96. Following a preliminary discussion on the proposed budget options and given the divergent opinions expressed by Parties, the Meeting decided to establish a Working Group to examine the budget proposals and revise the budget and the Ordinary Contributions of Parties for the next triennium.
97. The representative of Monaco, in its capacity of coordinator of the Working Group, reported to the plenary the options agreed by the participants to the Working Group. She presented a new version of the annexes 1 and 2 of the draft Resolution explaining that the Working Group had agreed to consider the minimum ordinary contributions in terms of percentages of the total contributions instead of fixed amounts, as proposed by the Secretariat, and agreed on a value of 0.8%.
98. The Meeting approved the budget as well as the scale and amounts of the ordinary contributions, and made a series of amendments to the other annexes of the Resolution.

99. The representative of Italy requested that the Secretariat include in the Programme of Work and Budget Resolution to be submitted to the next MOP an overall table of the expected incomes to the Trust Fund.
100. The Chair invited the participants to review the Programme of Work for the triennium 2020-2022 proposed in Annex 6 of draft Resolution 7.6 Rev1.
101. Several delegations expressed their appreciation of the new format used to present the Programme of Work, which will facilitate the evaluation by the Parties of its implementation.
102. The Meeting approved the changes to the Programme of Work and the other amendments made to the Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.6 ([Annex XV](#)).
103. The Executive Secretary welcomed the declaration by the representative of France regarding the voluntary contribution that her country would provide to support activities on ship strikes under ACCOBAMS and the declaration by the representative of Monaco who announced a voluntary contribution of €120,000 for the triennium for conservation actions. The Executive Secretary thanked France and Monaco for their support.
104. The representative of Italy asked the Permanent Secretariat to prepare an additional version of the Work Programme in which the totals of secured / non-secured budget are calculated for each section. This version of the Work Programme will then be circulated to the Parties. The Bureau will provide guidance on the budget line transfer that may be needed to implement the activities of the Work Programme.
105. In response to the concerns expressed by the representative of OceanCare regarding the insufficient budget allocated to the Follow-up Committee, delegates stressed that in case of special circumstances, the Secretariat may allocate additional resources to organize a meeting of the Follow-Up Committee. To this end, it would use the mechanism for transferring funds between budget lines provided for in the Terms of Reference for administration of the budget.

6.6 - Scientific Committee

106. The Executive Secretary presented the names of the experts designated by CIESM (Mrs. Loriane Mendez, Mrs. Ayaka Amaha Oztürk, Mr. Simone Panigada) and IUCN (Mrs. Léa David, Mrs. Cristina Fossi, Mrs. Souad Lamouti).

107. She added that the representatives designated by CMS, the European Cetacean Society and the IWC were respectively, Mr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Mr. Joan Gonzalvo and Mr. Greg Donovan.

108. Following the consultation between Parties for the designation of the regional representatives in the Scientific Committee, the Meeting appointed the following members and alternates:

- **for the Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area:**
 - Mrs. Marina Sequeira (Portugal): Regional representative
 - Mr. Vincent Ridoux (France): Alternate
- **for the Central Mediterranean:**
 - Mr. Tilen Genov (Slovenia): Regional representative
 - Mr. Drasko Holcer (Croatia): Alternate
- **for Eastern Mediterranean:**
 - Mrs. Celine Mahfouz (Lebanon): Regional representative
 - Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt): Alternate
- **for the Black Sea:**
 - Mr Arda Tonay (Turkey): Regional representative
 - Mr Marian Paiu (Romania): Alternate.

109. The Executive Secretary invited the National Focal Points to communicate all relevant information to their respective regional representative in order to facilitate the preparation of the reports on the conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities of the region.

110. The representative of Portugal requested that the regional distribution of Parties be clearly indicated in order to facilitate the work of regional representatives of the Scientific Committee.

111. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.7 “Scientific Committee”, as it appears in [Annex XV](#) to this report.

6.7 - ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee

112. Referring to the Rules on the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Procedure adopted through Resolutions 5.4 and 6.8, the Legal Expert, Mr. Tullio Scovazzi, informed the Meeting that rotation of membership of the Follow-up Committee meant that one of the three members elected by the Parties and one of the two members elected by the Partners together with their alternates had to be replaced.

113. Parties were asked to elect by secret ballot one member from the candidates proposed by Parties as listed in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc27.

114. The Heads of Delegations of the 17 Contracting Parties that had presented satisfactory credentials were entitled to vote. Monaco and Turkey were appointed tellers.
115. The election took place according to the procedure set forth in Art. 18 of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties.
116. Mrs. Imane Tai (Morocco) obtained the highest number of votes, followed by Mr. Zurab Gurielidze (Georgia). Mrs. Imane Tai will serve as member and Mr. Zurab Gurielidze would serve as the alternate.
117. Considering that one of the two candidates from the Partners had withdrawn, the Meeting declared elected Mrs. Aurélie Moulins. It was agreed that the existing alternate member, Mr. Dimitar Popov, would remain in post.
118. The Chair of the Follow-up Committee for 2013–2019, Mr. Victor ESCOBAR, expressed his appreciation in being part of this Committee for 6 years. He also thanked all the Members of the Follow-up Committee for their support over the years.

6.8 – Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call of proposals submitted under the Supplementary Conservation Funds

119. The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting about a decision of the Fourth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Extended Bureau to revise the procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals as adopted through Resolution 5.5 in order to further clarify the procedure and overcome some gaps and weaknesses that appeared during the last round of the call for proposals.
120. The Permanent Secretariat introduced draft Resolution 7.8 “Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Grant Funds”, highlighting the proposed amendments to the procedure.
121. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution, which was later adopted as Resolution 7.8 “Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Grant Funds” ([Annex XV](#)).
122. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat also raised the need to update the Resolution 3.6 on the procedure for the projects submitted for institutional support (through the provision of a letter of support from the Secretariat). The Meeting of the Parties mandated the Secretariat to prepare, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, a proposal for amending Resolution 3.6 on the procedure for the projects submitted for institutional support, in view of its presentation to MOP8.

6.9 – ACCOBAMS Partners

123. The Executive Secretary introduced draft Resolution 7.9 “ACCOBAMS Partners”. The draft Resolution aimed at further strengthening the involvement of qualified entities in the implementation of ACCOBAMS and at encouraging them to undertake further action to achieve the Agreement’s objectives. She emphasised that the ACCOBAMS partnership could be developed with international, regional and national Entities concerned with the conservation of cetaceans and activities in line with the spirit of the Agreement.
124. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.9 “ACCOBAMS Partners” ([Annex XV](#)).
125. The Permanent Secretariat introduced Document MOP7/2019/Doc37 presenting a partnership request from the Environmental Research Foundation of Basilicata Region (FABRAS).
126. After examining the request, the Parties decided not to grant FABRAS the ACCOBAMS Partner Status and asked the Permanent Secretariat to send a letter to the applicant explaining the reasons for the decision and encouraging it to re-submit its application once its activities will be in line with the ACCOBAMS conservation objectives.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT: TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

7.1 - Cetacean population estimates and distribution

127. The Permanent Secretariat recalled the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) which led to cetacean surveys being conducted throughout the whole ACCOBAMS area in 2018 and 2019. All details of the development and implementation of the surveys can be found in the technical reports of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Surveys (ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Inf33).
128. The Permanent Secretariat also informed the Meeting about the work undertaken in relation to the management and the use of the large amount of data collected during the ASI. In accordance with the ASI data policy (ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Inf13), part of the ASI data is now available online on the ACCOBAMS website (<https://www.accobams.org/asi-data-presentation/>), subject to acceptance of the ASI Data Terms of Use and after filling in an online form about the intended use of the data.

129. The Chair of the Scientific Committee introduced draft Resolution 7.10 “Improving monitoring and assessment of cetacean population abundance and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area” that included in particular a part dedicated to capitalizing on the ASI.
130. The representative of France stated that it would be particularly relevant to capitalize on the ASI results, as well as on the results of the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA) processes, to support the development of mitigation measures in the North Western Mediterranean, which particularly suffered from multiple anthropogenic impacts. In view of this, she invited Italy, Monaco and Spain, which shared common responsibilities and conservation concerns for this area with France, to start discussing possible mitigation measures - including a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) designation - for the multiple anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals in their relevant marine waters.
131. The representatives of Italy, Monaco and Spain thanked France for its initiative and confirmed their interest in joining it and as result the four countries would initiate discussion on mitigation measures in the north western Mediterranean Sea including a proposal for a PSSA designation.
132. The representative of Italy informed the Meeting that his country was planning to carry out new aerial survey over Italian waters during the summer 2020, as part of the implementation of the Second Cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).
133. The representative of Morocco recalled the commitment of ACCOBAMS Parties since 2013 to promote ASI project implementation nationally and internationally. He recalled the support of Morocco to the ASI during the last triennium, in particular through the provision of national scientific and technical personnel involved in both the aerial and boat-based survey campaigns. He emphasized that the results of the ASI were expected to help Morocco in the implementation of the Agreement’s provisions, and in particular with regard to the distribution of the bottlenose dolphin populations in Moroccan waters.
134. The representative of the Tethys Research Institute stressed the urgent need to mitigate human threats to cetaceans in particularly sensitive areas and supported the proposal of the representative of France.
135. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.10 “Improving monitoring and assessment of cetacean population abundance and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area” ([Annex XV](#)).

7.2 – Monitoring cetacean species’ conservation status

136. The Chair of the Scientific Committee presented document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc28 and informed the Meeting of the ongoing process of assessment / reassessment of conservation status of resident species of the ACCOBAMS area. The process of assessment started in 2006 in collaboration with IUCN-Med; in light of the new results on cetacean distribution and abundance issued from the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, an updating process was currently ongoing.
137. He then introduced information document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf39 describing the progress related to the species conservation management plans (CMP) that were developed during the triennium following Resolution 6.21 “Species Conservation Management Plans” adopted by the MOP6. He also introduced information document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf40 containing the draft re-assessment of the IUCN status of the killer whale sub-population of the Strait of Gibraltar.

7.3 - Interactions between fisheries / aquaculture activities and cetaceans

138. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item stressing that the activities in relation to the interactions with fisheries were particularly important during this triennium, and had been addressed mainly through MAVA-funded projects and collaboration with relevant organisations.
139. Referring to document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc13, Mrs. Ayaka Amaha Oztürk, Task Manager on Interactions with Fisheries of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, presented an update on the ACCOBAMS-ASCOBANS Joint Bycatch Working Group (JBWG) which had been operational since January 2019. She informed the Meeting about the main activities undertaken since then by the JBWG, as well as the different meetings and workshops attended by the two Co-chairs. She informed the Meeting that a workshop of the JBWG would probably be organized in 2020 at the kind invitation of France.
140. The representative of France welcomed the report from the Joint Bycatch Working Group and commended the coordination between the JBWG and the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI) which was strongly supported by France. She added that the IWC would welcome further collaboration between the JBWG and the BMI including on bycatch in gillnet fisheries and low-cost/low-tech mitigation measures and innovative approaches with chefs to promote sustainable fishing products.
141. The representative of WWF Mediterranean Programme Office pointed out that despite the efforts to assess the scale of the bycatch issue in the ACCOBAMS region, the lack of data still prevented the development and implementation of effective conservation measures. She encouraged ACCOBAMS Parties to improve cetacean bycatch data collection and reporting, and to implement

mitigation measures, so as to decrease the bycatch rate and prevent intentional killing of cetaceans occurring as a result of depredation and gear damage incidents.

142. Mr. Jacques Sacchi, Expert in fishing gear technologies, introduced document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc29 on the review of bycatch rates of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. He highlighted the fact that gillnets were with the greatest impact fisheries, affecting mostly dolphin species. The persistence of illegal driftnetting for large pelagic fishes had also been pointed out despite several recommendations from various international Agreements. He also underlined that most of the studies that he reviewed focused on limited areas or on particular fisheries and that there was a lack of harmonized bycatch monitoring programmes.
143. The representative of Morocco recalled that in his Country, the use of driftnets is prohibited by regulation since 2010 following recommendations of ACCOBAMS and other international bodies.
144. Referring to document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc30, Mr. Jacques Sacchi also presented a bibliographic review on mitigation solutions and techniques tested worldwide to minimize bycatch of vulnerable species and depredation. The measures were presented according to the four large classes of fishing activity (gill and trammel nets, longlines, trawls and purse seines) for the four main groups of protected species (cetaceans, birds, elasmobranchs and sea turtles).
145. The Permanent Secretariat informed the Meeting about the three MAVA-funded projects addressing the issues of interactions between fisheries and cetaceans (bycatch and depredation).
146. Mrs. Ayaka Amaha Oztürk, Task Manager on Interactions with Fisheries, introduced the draft Resolution 7.11 “Interactions between fisheries and cetaceans”.
147. The representative of the European Commission, Mrs. Amanda Perez Perera, thanked the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for inviting DG MARE to this meeting. She congratulated ACCOBAMS for the work undertaken in addressing cetacean bycatch, indicating that the efforts promoted by DG MARE were going in the same direction. She took the opportunity to inform the Meeting about the recent adoption of the multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and the new EU Regulation on Technical Measures, both instruments providing the adoption of concrete measures to mitigate bycatch. She concluded highlighting that DG MARE submitted a Resolution on enhancing conservation of cetaceans in the GFCM area of competence which was being reviewed by the 43rd Session of the GFCM.
148. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.11 “Interactions between fisheries and cetaceans” ([Annex XV](#)).

7.4 - Ship Strikes

149. Mr. Simone Panigada, Chair of the Scientific Committee, presented draft Resolution 7.12 on ship strikes.
150. The representative of Spain expressed support for the draft Resolution and described the proposed actions to be undertaken in the Spanish Corridor, an MPA covering a surface area of 46,000km², for which a detailed management plan would be drafted addressing, among other things, ship traffic and fisheries interactions. The Ministry of Ecological Transition of Spain had approved a study looking at habitat use and seeking to reduce mortality from collisions focusing on the Balearic Shelf and Slope IMMA. Spain was also looking to collaborate with other countries in the North-Western Mediterranean.
151. The representative of Morocco commented that there was intense shipping traffic passing through the Strait of Gibraltar, an area of high nutritional sources frequented by cetaceans. He proposed to hold a one- or two-day workshop under the aegis of ACCOBAMS to assess the issues and identify potential mitigation measures.
152. The representative of Spain supported Morocco's proposal and confirmed her interest in participating in this initiative, in particular to ensure an integrated approach of this particular area of the Strait of Gibraltar.
153. The representative of the IWC welcomed the intensive collaboration between the IWC and ACCOBAMS on the issue of ship strikes, much of which had already been mentioned by the Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee. He further informed the Meeting that the workshop recommendations endorsed by the IWC Scientific Committee, and as mentioned by the Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, will be provided to the Meeting of the IWC Commission in September 2020.
154. The representative of WWF Mediterranean Programme noted that the impact of ship strikes on cetaceans was growing with increasing vessel traffic around the globe, and more collaborative efforts were required to develop, test, and implement mitigation measures to reduce the risk of collision in areas of high vessel density such as the Mediterranean.
155. She suggested to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to urge Greece, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, to submit a formal proposal of risk reduction measures to mitigate ship strike impacts to sperm whales in the Hellenic Trench to the International Maritime Organization.
156. The representative of OceanCare supported the proposal of WWF Mediterranean Programme Office and congratulated Spain for declaring the whale migration corridor as a Marine Protected Area and for the described initiatives in consultation with stakeholders moving forward addressing

the impacts of intense shipping traffic on cetaceans in the region. He underlined that draft Resolution 7.12 was well developed and promoted the available measures which are proven to be effective reducing the risk of collisions between, in particular, cargo vessels and large whales. OceanCare wanted to draw specific attention to areas of high risk for collisions, such as the Hellenic Trench, which was an important habitat for sperm whale.

157. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.12 “Ship strikes” ([Annex XV](#)).

7.5 - Anthropogenic noise

158. The Secretariat introduced draft Resolution 7.13, indicated that an informal working group convened during this meeting had improved the draft Resolution and invited the coordinator of the working group to inform the meeting about the changes that resulted from the review.
159. The Coordinator emphasised that the aim of the review was mainly to simplify the wording and to take into account CMS Resolution 12.14. Furthermore, since draft Resolution 7.13 was meant to replace ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17, the working group identified from the latter the provisions that were still relevant and had transcribed them in draft Resolution 7.13.
160. The Co-Chair of the joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on Noise (JNWG) introduced the “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area” contained in Annex 2 of draft Resolution 7.13 and indicated that a significant progress had been made on anthropogenic noise during the triennium, in particular thanks to the involvement of ACCOBAMS in two EU-funded projects: QuietMed and QuietMed2. He added that although all the provisions of the draft Resolution were important, he would stress the urgent need to further address the impact of sonar on marine mammals and to invite Parties and non-Parties to ACCOBAMS to provide the Secretariat with a Point of Contact in their Navy in order to facilitate the exchange of information with ACCOBAMS and the implementation of the Action Plan issued by the ACCOBAMS workshop on "Sonars and Cetacean Interactions".
161. Considering the high density of maritime traffic in the Strait of Gibraltar and its impacts on the marine mammals in the area, the representative of Morocco invited ACCOBAMS to provide assistance to his country to monitor underwater noise with a view to assessing its magnitude and identifying mitigation measures.
162. The Expert on underwater noise referred to several achievements of two projects on underwater noise funded by DG-Environment to implement Descriptor 11 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union, and also relevant for IMAP of the Barcelona Convention: the QuietMed and QuietMed2 projects (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf24 and Inf25). A regional data tool,

the International Noise Register, had been developed to gather data from countries bordering the Mediterranean and the Black Sea about the distribution in space and time of human activities that produced impulsive underwater noise. To this end, a call for data would be issued soon for the attention of countries.

163. In response to a question by the representative of Italy who expressed concerns about some provisions of the guidelines that he considered unrealistic, the Expert on underwater noise recalled the introductory statement of point A (General Guidelines) contained in Annex 2 of draft Resolution 7.13. This statement indicated that "*Procedures should be practical in that they should use data that can be readily collected by cetacean observers, account for operating conditions and constraints, and, as far as possible, minimize disruption of operations while maximizing environmental protection*". This implied that these guidelines did not contain recommendations aimed at forbidding any kind of maritime activity regardless of consequences that this might have. Instead, they were meant to mitigate the acoustic impact and more broadly to sustainably manage noise-generating activities having the potential to cause negative effects on cetaceans, also considering all kinds of constraints related thereto.
164. The representative of WWF Mediterranean Programme Office made a statement on behalf of the IUCN MMPA Task Force, NRDC, OceanCare, the Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Tethys Research Institute and WWF ([Annex XVI](#)) urging Parties to exclude any oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities from cetacean key habitats (like Cetacean Critical Habitats – CCH- and Important Marine Mammals Areas – IMMAs). They are especially concerned by the situation in the Hellenic Trench, an area that had been identified as both CCH and IMMA, as the situation in Greece will create a negative precedent for other existing and future oil and gas developments within cetacean key habitats in the Mediterranean.. .
165. Referring to WWF MedPO's previous statement, the Tethys Research Institute informed the Meeting that during summer 2019 it had collected evidence of mid-frequency active sonars and air gun activities in the Pelagos Sanctuary and a short report had been prepared and was available.
166. The representative of IOGP replied that oil and gas operations would be conducted responsibly and in a sustainable manner in sensitive areas ([Annex XVII](#)).
167. After congratulating the Scientific Committee and the informal working group which met during MOP7 on the work done, the representative of OceanCare said that OceanCare was available to support Parties in their capacity building activities on a national and regional basis ([Annex XVIII](#)).
168. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.13 ([Annex XV](#)).

7.6 – Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation

169. The Chair of the Scientific Committee introduced the draft Resolution 7.14 on Best practices in monitoring and management of cetacean stranding. He highlighted that particular efforts were made to standardize best practices for necropsy on cetaceans in collaboration with ASCOBANS and IWC. He invited the Parties to refer to the Annex 1 of the Resolution which constituted an operational summary of the best practices and criteria associated with diagnoses of the most relevant threats for cetaceans.
170. The representative of IWC reported on the involvement of IWC in the work of harmonization of best practices for cetacean necropsy and tissue sampling. He welcomed the draft Resolution and noted that it raised new opportunities for collaboration on IWC priorities on assistance to response emergencies and unusual mortality events, and capacity building for stranding networks. He indicated that input from ACCOBAMS would be sought on the IWC next two-year work programme for strandings (2020-2022) and invited ACCOBAMS experts to the forthcoming WMMC workshop on “Harmonising Global Strandings Response”.
171. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.14 “Best practices in monitoring and management of cetacean stranding” ([Annex XV](#)).

7.7 – Marine debris

172. The Executive Secretary explained that considering the amount of information provided on marine debris in the ACCOBAMS area by the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and the harmonized approach taken for necropsies, draft Resolution 7.15 had been prepared with the objective of stressing the importance of evaluating and addressing negative impacts of marine litter on cetaceans.
173. The Chair of Scientific Committee presented draft Resolution 7.15 “Assessing marine litter impacts on cetaceans”.
174. The Chair of the IWC welcomed the draft Resolution and in particular the encouragement for further cooperation between ACCOBAMS and the IWC that it contained. He looked forward to the forthcoming IWC workshop on Marine Debris organized just before the 2019 WMMC in Barcelona.
175. The draft Resolution “Assessing Marine litter impacts on cetaceans” was reviewed and later adopted as Resolution 7.15. It appears in [Annex XV](#) to this report.

7.8 - Cetacean Watching

176. The Chair of the Scientific Committee introduced draft Resolution 7.16 “Commercial Cetacean Watching Activities”.
177. The representative of France informed the Meeting that her delegation fully endorsed the provisions of the proposed draft Resolution. She explained that this topic was of high importance for her country and France was working to include the Code of Good Conduct, elaborated within the framework of ACCOBAMS, in its national regulation to be implemented in French waters (including the Mediterranean, the Atlantic Ocean and overseas).
178. The Chair of the IWC informed the Meeting about the new Whale Watching Strategic Plan endorsed by the IWC at its 67th meeting last year. He further explained that the Whale Watching Handbook, developed by the IWC in partnership with CMS, had been published in October 2018 and was available at www.handbook.iwc.int. It had been widely promoted including on Twitter and at various events. The Convention on Migratory Species was continuing to have the Handbook translated. In the coming year, the Handbook would be updated with new industry content, case studies and country profiles in collaboration with the relevant national authorities. The IWC would welcome suggestions for inclusion of case studies or country profiles from the ACCOBAMS area in the Handbook. In addition, the IWC Scientific Committee had been discussing updates to the guiding principles on whale watching which would be brought to the next biennial Commission meeting in September 2020.
179. The Meeting reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.16 “Commercial Cetacean Watching Activities” ([Annex XV](#)).

7.9 – Area-based measures for cetacean conservation

180. The Executive Secretary reminded the Meeting about the ongoing effort to revise the Cetacean Critical Habitats, in particular through cooperation with relevant Organisations.
181. Ms. Léa David, Task Manager on Protected Areas for Cetaceans of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, introduced document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc35 “Progress in revising Cetacean Critical Habitats”. The document presented the process engaged in order to define new CCH, based on existing scientific results coming from studies conducted at the regional level on cetaceans and on human activities, and following a validation process.

182. The Executive Secretary highlighted in particular the upcoming use of the results from the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative both in Mediterranean and Black Seas through CeNoBs to improve the mapping of Cetacean Critical Habitats that would be presented to the next Meeting of the Parties.

7.10 – ACCOBAMS mobilization for marine biodiversity conservation beyond the 2020 biodiversity framework

183. The Executive Secretary indicated that the concept of the draft Resolution 7.17 “Global Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework: ACCOBAMS mobilization” was proposed by the Chair of the Bureau at its Twelfth Meeting as an ACCOBAMS contribution to the global mobilization to address biodiversity erosion. It was co-authored by France, Monaco and Algeria.

184. Invited to introduce the draft Resolution, the Representative of France presented draft Resolution 7.17 jointly submitted with Algeria and Monaco ([Annex XIX](#)), calling for an ACCOBAMS’ strong involvement in determining and implementing the forthcoming global framework for biodiversity, and the importance for its State Parties to strengthen the implementation of measures of cetacean conservation and better take into account cetaceans in relevant sectoral policies. The Resolution also mandates the Permanent Secretariat to collaborate with other International Organizations, entities and networks dealing with marine biodiversity and related activities, to jointly present commitments at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2020.

185. The representative of Algeria informed the Meeting that her Country supports the Declaration, however, it cannot commit to achieving the "short-term" objectives contained in item f. Algeria has not yet implemented its Management Plan or its National Stranding network. She added that her Country It intends to do so as early as 2020 with the assistance of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS.

186. The Meeting then examined and reviewed the draft Resolution which was later adopted as Resolution 7.17 “Global Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework: ACCOBAMS mobilization”. It appears in [Annex XV](#) of this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

187. Further to the work of the meeting, the Parties adopted the following Resolutions:

Resolution 7.1	Granting the right to vote
Resolution 7.2	Functional structure and Personnel of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Resolution 7.3	Recruitment procedure for the Executive Secretary
Resolution 7.4	ACCOBAMS Strategy

Resolution 7.5	ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy
Resolution 7.6	Work Programme and Budget for the triennium 2020-2022
Resolution 7.7	Scientific Committee
Resolution 7.8	Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund
Resolution 7.9	ACCOBAMS Partners
Resolution 7.10	Improving monitoring and assessment of cetacean population abundance and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area
Resolution 7.11	Interactions between fisheries and cetaceans
Resolution 7.12	Ship strikes
Resolution 7.13	Anthropogenic noise
Resolution 7.14	Best practices in monitoring and management of cetacean stranding
Resolution 7.15	Assessing marine litter impacts on cetaceans
Resolution 7.16	Commercial Cetacean-Watching activities
Resolution 7.17	Global post 2020 biodiversity framework: ACCOBAMS mobilization
Resolution 7.18	Tribute to organisers
Resolution 7.19	Date and venue of the Eighth Meeting of the Parties

188. The participants wanted to pay tribute to the organizers of the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS. For this purpose, they adopted Resolution 7.18 ([Annex XV](#)).

AGENDA ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

189. There were no additional issues raised by the participants under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

190. The representative of Malta presented her country's offer to host the Eighth Meeting of the Parties in 2022.

191. The Parties attending the Meeting expressed their gratitude to the Maltese Government for this kind and generous offer.

192. The Resolution 7.19 "Date and venue of the Eighth Meeting of the Parties" was adopted ([Annex XV](#)).

AGENDA ITEM 11– ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

193. The Meeting reviewed the draft Report prepared by the Permanent Secretariat and adopted it as amended.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

194. The Meeting warmly thank the Permanent Secretariat and more specifically the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Florence Descroix-Comanducci, for the excellent work achieved during the last 6 years. Participants wished Mrs. Florence Descroix-Comanducci the best for her future once she will leave the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.
195. After exchanging the usual civilities, the Chair closed the Meeting at 17.30 p.m. on Friday, 8th November 2019.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTIES

ALGERIA

AMARA Abdelghani**Head of Delegation**

General Consul

General Consulate of Algeria in Istanbul

Gazeteciler Sitesi,

23 Temmuz Meydan Sokak No:7

34387 Şişli/İstanbul

BERKAT Rahima

Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche

Directrice d'Etudes / Secrétariat Général

12 Boulevard Colonel Amirouche

16 000 Alger

Tel: +213 23 50 31 36

rahimaberkat@gmail.com

BULGARIA

STAMENOVA Iva**Head of Delegation**

Ministry of Environment and Water

Junior Expert

Biodiversity Department

22 Maria Louiza Blvd.

1000 Sofia

Tel: +359 2940 6679

istamenova@moew.government.bg

CROATIA

UROS Jelena**Head of Delegation**

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Institute for Environment and Nature Conservation

Radnička cesta 80/3

10 000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 1 4866 112

jelena.uros@mzoe.hr**MARIĆ Martina**

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Expert Associate

Institute for Environment and Nature Conservation

Radnička cesta 80/3

10 000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 1 5502 954

martina.maric@mzoe.hr

EGYPT**FOUDA Moustafa****Head of Delegation**

Ministry of Environment

Minister Advisor on Biodiversity

Nature Conservation Sector

4 Ali El Kordy Street, behind Holiday Inn Hotel Maadi

P.O. 11728 Cairo

Tel: +202 0122 2283890

drfoudamos@gmail.com**FRANCE****WEHRLING Yann****Head of Delegation**

Ambassadeur à l'environnement

27 rue de la Convention

75015 Paris - FRANCE

Tel : +33.1.43.17.63.74 / 64.21

Yann.wehring@diplomatie.gouv.frsec.ambassadeursthematiques@diplomatie.gouv.fr**DECKERT Nadia**

DGM/DDD/CLEN

Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères

27 rue de la Convention,

75015 Paris

Tel: +33 7 62 09 83 47

nadia.deckert@diplomatie.gouv.fr**GROSSET André**

Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée

BCRM Toulon BP 900

83800 Toulon cedex 9, France

Tel: +33 626919646

andre.grosset@premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr**NAVINER Magali**

Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire

Tour Sequoia -92055 La Défense cedex

Tel: + 33 140813364

magali.naviner@developpement-durable.gouv.fr**GEORGIA****LOMASHVILI Irine****Head of Delegation**

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Chief Specialist

Department of Biodiversity and Forestry

6 Marshal Gelovani Ave

0159 Tbilisi

Tel: +995 595 11 9787

Irinaloma@yahoo.comIrine.Lomashvili@mepa.gov.ge

ITALY**MONTANARO Oliviero****Head of Delegation**

Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection

General Director

Directorate for sustainable development, environment, damage, European union and International affairs

Via Cristoforo Colombo 44

00144 Rome

Tel: +39 0657228487

montanaro.oliviero@minambiente.it

svi-udg@minambiente.it

LAURIANO Giancarlo

ISPRA

Researcher

Marine Habitats and Biodiversity Protection

V. Brancati 60

00144 Rome

Tel: +390650074762

giancarlo.lauriano@isprambiente.it

SARTORI Silvia

Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection

Expert - Directorate General for Nature and Sea Protection

Unit IV - Coastal and Marine Environment Protection – International Issues

Via Cristoforo Colombo 44 - 00144 Rome

Tel: +39 0657228410

sartori.silvia@minambiente.it

LEBANON**FAKHRI Milad****Head of Delegation**

CNRS Lebanon

Director

National Centre for Marine Sciences

189 Jounieh

Tel: +961 349 6680

milosman@cnrs.edu.lb

KHALAF Gaby

CNRS Lebanon

Senior Consultant

National Centre for Marine Sciences

189 Jounieh

Tel: +961 330 3969

bihar@cnrs.edu.lb

LIBYA**SAIED Almokhtar****Head of Delegation**

Head of Marine and Wild Life Section

Conservation Department

Environment General Authority (EGA)

Janzor Road Alghiran

00218- Tripoli – LIBYA

Tel: + 218 214 873 764

mok405@yahoo.com

MALTA**GAMBIN Marie Therese****Head of Delegation**

Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)
 Unit Manager Thematic – Biodiversity and Water
 Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)
 Hexagon House, Spencer Hill
 MRS 1441, Marsa
 Tel: +356 2292 3659
marie-therese.gambin@era.org.mt
accobams.malta@era.org.mt

TABONE Luke

Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)
 Assistant Environment Protection Officer, Biodiversity & Water Unit
 Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)
 Hexagon House, Spencer Hill
 MRS 1441, Marsa
 Tel: +356 2292 3681
luke.tabone@era.org.mt

MONACO**ROSABRUNETTO Isabelle****Head of Delegation**

Département (Ministère) des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération
 Directeur Général
 Place de la Visitation
 98000 Monaco
 Tel : +377 9898 8818
irosabrunetto@gouv.mc

IMPAGLIAZZO Céline

Département (Ministère) des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération
 Chef de Division
 Place de la Visitation
 98000 Monaco
 Tel : +377 9898 4470
cevanklaveren@gouv.mc

MONTENEGRO**BATAKOVIC Milena****Head of Delegation**

Environmental Protection Agency
 Senior Advisor
 Nature protection, monitoring, analyses and reporting
 IV Proleterske no.19
 81000 Podgorica
 Tel: +382 2044 6531
milena.batakovic@epa.org.me

MOROCCO**LOUDRHIRI Abdelali****Head of Delegation**

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts

Département de la pêche maritime

Cadre

Quartier Administratif

Avenue Mohamed V

Agdal - B.P. 476

10080 Rabat

Tel : +212 537 688 277

loudrhiri@mpm.gov.ma**TAI Imane**

Institut National de Recherche Halieutique

02, Boulevard Sidi Abderrahmane

Corniche Casablanca 20180 - Maroc

Tel: +212522397385

taiimane.it@gmail.com**PORTUGAL****SEQUEIRA Marina****Head of Delegation**

Institute for Nature Conservation and Forestry

Biologist

Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

Av. da República, 16 – 16B

1050-191 Lisboa

Tel: +351 213 507 900

marina.sequeira@icnf.pt**ROMANIA****DUMITRACHE Camelia Iulia**

National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa"

Marine Ecology and Environmental Protection

Researcher

Blv. Mamaia, 300

900581 Constanta

Tel: +40 241543 288

iulia@alpha.rmri.ro**SLOVENIA****BIBIC Andrej****Head of Delegation**

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Senior Expert

Sector for Nature Conservation

Dunajska 47

1000 Ljubljana

Tel: +386 1 478 7471

andrej.bibic@gov.si

SPAIN**GARCIA-BELLIDO CAPDEVILA Elvira****Head of Delegation**

Ministry for Ecological Transition
 Head of Marine Species Unit
 Division for the Protection of the Sea
 Pl. San Juan de la Cruz, s/n
 E-28071-Madrid
 Tel: +34 91 597 6579
Emgbellido@miteco.es

ESCOBAR PAREDES Victor

Head of International Affairs Unit
 Ministry for Ecological Transition
 General Directorate for Sustainability of the Coast and the Sea
 Division for the Protection of the Sea
 Pl. San Juan de la Cruz, s/n
 E-28071-Madrid
 Phone: +34 915976038
vaescobar@miteco.es

TUNISIA**SOHLOBJI Donia****Head of Delegation**

Ministère de l'Agriculture, des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche
 Directrice de la Préservation des Ressources Hydraulique
 Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture
 30 Rue Alain Savary
 1002 Belvédère - Tunis
 Tel: + 216 5343 1307
doniasohlobji@gmail.com

TURKEY**ÇOLAK Muhammet****Head of Delegation**

Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
 Deputy Director General
 Alparslan Türkeş cad. N°71
 06560 Ankara

ALTIPARMAK Aybars

Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
aybars.altiparmak@tarimorman.gov.tr

ULU Fahrettin**Chair of ACCOBAMS**

Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
 Director
 General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks
 Alparslan Türkeş cad. N°71
 06560 Ankara

UYSAL Irfan

Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
 General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks
 Head of Marine Protected Areas Division
 Alparslan Türkeş cad. N°71

06560 Ankara
 Tel: +90 312 207 5903
uysal.irfan@tarimorman.gov.tr

UZMEZ Ismail

Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
 Director General
 General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks
 Alparslan Türkeş cad. N°71
 06560 Ankara

UKRAINE

DOMASHLINETS Volodymyr

Head of Delegation

Ministry of Energy and Protection of Environment
 Head of Fauna Conservation Division
 Mytropolyta Vasylya Lypkivskogo str., 35
 03035 Kiev
 Tel: +380 44 206 3127
vdomashlinets@yahoo.com

NON-PARTIES

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ŠAROVIĆ Mirko

Head of Delegation

Deputy Chairman of Council of Ministers
 Minister of Foreign Trade of Economic Relations
 Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
 Musala 9
 71 000 Sarajevo
 Tel: +38733220093
Kab.ministra@mvteo.gov.ba

BOGDANOVIĆ Ranka

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
 Interpreter to the Minister
 Musala 9
 71 000 Sarajevo
 Tel: +38733220093
Kab.ministra@mvteo.gov.ba

ISRAEL

NEMTZOV Simon

Head of Delegation

Israel Nature and Parks Authority
 Science Division
 Coordinator for International Treaties
 Wildlife Ecologist
 3 Am Ve'Olam Street
 Jerusalem 9546303
 Tel : +972-58-5063118
simon@npa.org.il

RUSSIAN FEDERATION**EVDOKIMOV Dmitry****Head of Delegation**

Deputy Consul General

Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul

Istiklal Cad, 219-225a, 34430, Beyoglu, Istanbul - Turkey

Tel: +90 (212) 292-5101/03

TIMOSHCHENKO Artem

Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul

Istiklal Cad, 219-225a, 34430, Beyoglu, Istanbul - Turkey

Tel: +90 (212) 292-5101/03

astimoshchenko@gmail.com**BLACK SEA SUB REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT****MAKARENKO Iryna****Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution**

Permanent Secretariat

Pollution Monitoring & Assessment Officer

Maslak Mh., Buyukdere Cd., 265, Sariyer

34398 Istanbul TURKEY

Tel : +905333936225

irina.makarenko@blacksea-commission.org**MEDITERRANEAN SUB REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT****BEN NAKHLA Lobna****Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre**

Programme Officer

Bd. Du Leader Yasser Arafat B.P. 337

1080 Tunis cedex - TUNISIA

Tel: +216 71 206485- Fax: +216 71 206490

lobna.bennakhla@spa-rac.org

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PANIGADA Simone**Chair**

Tethys Research Institute
 Viale G.B. Gadio 2
 20121 Milan, Italy
panigada69@gmail.com

OZTÜRK Ayaka Amaha**Vice-Chair / Task Manager on Interaction with Fisheries**

Turkish Marine Research Foundation
 Fistikli Yali Sok. N°34/5 Beykoz,
 34820 Istanbul – TURKEY
 Tel : +90-533 7475915
ayakamaha@hotmail.co.jp

DAVID Léa**Task Manager Protected Areas for Cetaceans**

EcoOcéan Institut
 Chargée de mission
 18 rue des Hospices
 34090 Montpellier, France
 Tel : +33 4 67 84 28 87
lea.david2@wanadoo.fr

MEMBER OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

ESCOBAR PAREDES Victor**Chair of the ACCOBAMS Follow-Up Committee**

Head of International Affairs Unit
 Ministry for Ecological Transition
 General Directorate for Sustainability of the Coast and the Sea
 Division for the Protection of the Sea
 Pl. San Juan de la Cruz, s/n
 E-28071-Madrid
 Phone: +34 915976038
vaescobar@magrama.es

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

UN Environment/CMS/ASCOBANS**RENELL Jenny**

ASCOBANS Coordinator
 Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
 53115 Bonn GERMANY
 Tel: +49 228 815 2418
jenny.renell@un.org

UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat**HEMA Tatjana**

Deputy Coordinator
 Vassileos Konstantinou 48
 11634 Athens
 Tel: +302107273115
tatjana.hema@un.org

UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan - Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)

ATTIA Khalil

Director

Bd. Du Leader Yasser Arafat B.P. 337

1080 Tunis cedex

Tel: +216 71 206 649

director@spa-rac.org, car-asp@spa-rac.org

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

BIBIC Andrej

Chair

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Senior Expert

Sector for Nature Conservation

Dunajska 47

1000 Ljubljana

Tel: +386 1 478 7471

andrej.bibic@gov.si

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PEREZ PERERA Amanda

Rue Josep II, 99, Belgium

Tel: +32 22959785

Amanda.PEREZ-PERERA@ec.europa.eu

BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC)

GONCHARENKO Sergei

Darüşşafaka Cad.

Seba Center İş Merkezi, No:45 Kat 3

Istinye 34460 Sarıyer-Istanbul – Turkey

Tel: +90 5333 71 24 86

sng0837@mail.ru

PELAGOS Agreement

FAVILLI Costanza

Executive Secretary

Tour Odéon B1 – 36, avenue de l'Annonciade

MC - 98000 Monaco

Tel : +377 92 16 11 55

costanzafavilli@pelagos-sanctuary.org

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

NUMA Catherine

calle Marie Curie 22

29590, Campanillas, Malaga - Spain

Tel: +34952028430

catherine.numa@iucn.org

ACCOBAMS PARTNERS AND OTHER OBSERVERS

ALNILAM**VASQUEZ Jose Antonio**

Paseo Del Canal N2, E1, Spain

Tel: +34677081833

ggbvaboj@gmail.com

CIMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION**MOULINS Aurélie**

Via Magliotto 2, 17100 Savona - Italy

Tel : +3901920271

aurelie.moulins@cimafoundation.org

ECOOCEAN INSTITUT**DI-MEGLIO Nathalie**

18 rue des Hospices

34090 Montpellier, France

Tel : + 33 467842887

nathalie.di-meglio@wanadoo.fr

GREEN BALKANS**MESHKOVA Galina**

1 Skopje str., office 10

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Tel : +359879977271

gmeschkova@greenbalkans.org

GREEN BALKANS**POPOV Dimitar**

1 Skopje str., office 10

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Tel : +359885108712

dpopov@greenbalkans.org

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS (IOGP)**JULLIAND Marine**

Health Safety Environment Senior Delegate

TOTAL

24 Cours Michelet

92069 PARIS LA DEFENSE CEDEX - FRANCE

Tel : +33141355844

Marine.julliand@total.com

KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY**ERBAS ACIKEL Aslihan**

Law Faculty

Kadir Has Üniversitesi Kadir Has Caddesi Cibali İstanbul

Tel: + 02125336532

aslihan.acikel@khas.edu.tr

MARE NOSTRUM NGO**PAIU Romulus-Marian**

Expert in ecology

Biodiversity Conservation Department

Bogdan Voda Street, No 16

900711 Constanta, Romania

Tel: +40763255731

marian_paiu@marenosttrum.ro

MARINE CONSERVATION RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

BOISSEAU Olivier

94 High Street, Kelvedon
Essex CO5 9AA UK
Tel: +44 1376573071
oboisseau@mcr-team.org

MARINE CONSERVATION RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

MCLANAGHAN Richard

94 High Street, Kelvedon
Essex CO5 9AA UK
Tel: +44 1376573071
rmclanaghan@mcr-team.org

MARINE MAMMALS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (DMAD)

AWBERY Tim

Kuskavagi Mah. 543 Sok. No.6/D Dükkan, Turkey
Tel: + +44 7803308350
tim.awbery91@gmail.com

MARINE MAMMALS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (DMAD)

LYNE Patrick

Disert, Castletownbere
county Cork, P75 TF98, Turkey
Tel: +3532771930
patricklyne1@gmail.com

MARINE PROTECTED AREA "CAPO CARBONARA"

ATZORI Fabrizio

Director
Municipality of Villasimius
Via Roma 60 - 09125 Villasimius, Italy
Tel: + +39 070790234
direzione@ampcapocarbonara.it

OCEANCARE

ENTRUP Nicolas

Gerbestrasse 6
P.O.Box 372
8820 Waedenswil
Tel: + 43 660 211 9963
nentrup@oceancares.org

OCEANCARE

MÜLLER Johannes-Alexander

An der Alten Post 2 - Germany
Tel: +49 15789 795147
muller.johannes@gmail.com

OCEANCARE

SKARSOULIS Emmanuel

Research Director and Deputy Director of IACM
Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas
Inst. Of Applied and Computational Mathematics
P.O. Box 1385 GR-71110 Heraklion, Greece
Tel: +30-2810-391776,
eskars@iacm.forth.gr

SCHMALHAUSEN INSTITUTE OF ZOOLOGY

GOL'DIN Pavel

vul. Bogdana Khmelnytskogo, 15, 01030, Kyiv Ukraine

Tel: +380673900118

pavelgoldin412@gmail.com

SINAY

SOUAMI Yanis

CEO SINAY

14 Rue Alfred Kastler

14000 Caen - France

Tel: +33 250011550

Yanis.souami@sinay.fr

SYRIAN SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

HASSOUN HOMSI Imad

General Assembly member

Mezzah, Sheikh Saad

Damascus, Syria

Tel: +963 11 6622 263

Imadhossoun51@gmail.com

Sscw.syria@gmail.com

TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

PIERANTONIO Nino

6 The Pippin, SN118JE

Calne, Wiltshire

Tel: +44(0)1249813815

nino.pierantonio@protonmail.com

TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ZANARDELLI Margherita

Honorary President

Viale G.B. Gadio 2

20121 Milano, Italy

Tel: +39 02 72001947

marghez133@gmail.com

TURKISH MARINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

OZTÜRK Bayram

President

PO Box: 10 Beykoz

34820, Istanbul - TURKEY

Tel: +90 216 424 0772

tudav@tudav.org

WWF - Mediterranean Programme Office

JACOB Théa

Marine Species and Fisheries Officer

6 rue des Fabres

13001 Marseille – France

Tel: +33 6 15 39 19 81

tjacob@wwf.fr

TURKISH GUESTS INVITED TO THE MEETING OPENING

ALDEMİR Nigar
ŞUBE MÜDÜRÜ

GÜNAYDIN Uğur
ADALAR ŞEFİ

CANBAKKAL Sebahattin
AVCILIK VE YABAN HAYATI ŞUBE MÜDÜRÜ

KAHRAMAN Nezi
MİLLİ PARKLAR ŞUBE MÜDÜRÜ

CERİT İkb
UZMAN

ÖZYANIK Mevlüt
İSTANBUL ŞUBE MÜDÜRÜ

CEYHAN Erdal
BÖLGE MÜDÜRÜ YAR.

USLU Merih
SULAK ALANLAR ŞUBE MÜDÜRÜ

DOĞAN Resul
BÖLGE MÜDÜRÜ

YILMAZ Ayşe
SARIYER ŞEFİ

FURTUN Ömer
BÖLGE MÜDÜRÜ YAR.

YÜKSEL Sevilay
İDARİ VE MALİ İŞLER ŞUBE MÜDÜRÜ

ZENGİN Süleyman
PLANLAMA ve KOOR. ŞUBE MÜDÜRÜ

EXPERTS OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

JEUDY DE GRISSAC Alain
ACCOBAMS Consultant for Mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014 – 2025
Tel: +34 690 298 747
jeudy2g@gmail.com

MAGLIO Alessio
Expert in underwater noise monitoring
Tel : +33 7 86 17 92 85
alessio.maglio@sinay.fr

SACCHI Jacques
Expert in fishing gear technologies
Sète, France
jacques.sacchi@gmail.com

SCOVAZZI Tullio
Legal expert
Via A. Cossa, 29 20138 Milano, Italy
Tel: +39 02 7610149 - Fax: +39 02 7610149
tullio.scovazzi@unimib.it

ACCOBAMS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI Florence

Executive Secretary
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: +377 9898 8010 – Fax: +377 98 98 42 08
fcdescroix@accobams.net

BELMONT Julie

ASI Project Officer
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: +377 98 98 42 43 - Fax: +377 98 98 42 08
jbelmont@accobams.net

VAGG Robert

Report writer
Winzerstr 11,
53113 Bonn, Germany
Rvagg@cms.int

COSTA Lesley

Documents translator
LC Traduction
Stade Louis II – Entrée E
13 ave des Castelans - MC 98000 Monaco
Tél. +377 93 25 17 96
info@lctraduction.com

LE RAVALLEC Célia

Project Officer
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: +377 98 98 40 74 - Fax: +377 98 98 42 08
cleravallec@accobams.net

MONTIGLIO Camille

Communication Assistant
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: +377 98 98 20 78 - Fax: +377 98 98 42 08
cmontiglio@accobams.net

MOZZONE Jean-François

Accountant
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: + 377 98 98 42 43 - Fax: + 377 98 98 42 08
jfmozzone@accobams.net

RAIS Chedly

Advisor to the Secretariat
Menzah VIII, Tunis – TUNISIA
Tel: +216 98444629 - Fax: +216 71 708621
rais.c@planet.tn

SALIVAS Maïlis

Programme Officer
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: +377 98 98 42 75 - Fax: +377 98 98 42 08
msalivas@accobams.net

ANNEX II

WELCOME ADRESSES

(addresses are shown in chronological order)

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. YANN WEHRLING
CHAIR OF ACCOBAMS DURING THE TRIENNIUM 2017 – 2019**

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je vous souhaite à toutes et à tous, la bienvenue à Istanbul pour cette Septième Réunion des Parties à l'ACCOBAMS. Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier la Turquie qui nous fait le plaisir de nous accueillir dans cette magnifique ville d'Istanbul. Je tiens également à féliciter la Turquie qui a rejoint l'ACCOBAMS en février 2018, renforçant l'action qui est la nôtre et qui nous rassemble aujourd'hui.

La France, que je représente ici en plus d'être Président de l'Accord, salue avec un vrai plaisir les efforts de l'ACCOBAMS qui termine le triennium avec la présentation de résultats concrets et je salue en particulier le succès que représente l'ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. Après cette première campagne de surveillance de la méga faune marine, ce projet permet aujourd'hui de mieux connaître l'abondance et de la répartition des espèces de cétacés et de certaines pollutions en Méditerranée et en mer Noire. En effet, pour bien protéger et préserver, il faut bien connaître, et c'est l'un des objectifs de ce projet. Je formule le souhait qu'au cours des prochains trienniums, nous puissions continuer à assurer un suivi régulier pour connaître l'état de nos écosystèmes. La Méditerranée et la mer Noire sont des hotspots de biodiversité, c'est un joyau, une fierté pour nous tous. Or, les menaces sur la Méditerranée et la mer Noire sont nombreuses et sa fragilité nous impose une action de protection.

La biodiversité est un sujet qui dorénavant va de pair avec les enjeux climatiques. La France a porté la question à l'échelle internationale en accueillant en avril dernier les scientifiques de l'IPBES, le GIEC de la biodiversité, et nous nous engageons pleinement à ce que ce sujet monte en puissance. Comme vous le savez, nous avons à la fin de l'année prochaine un rendez-vous majeur avec la Quinzième Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique qui devrait nous inviter à répondre à l'alerte donnée par les scientifiques. La surveillance, les contrôles, les mesures c'est ce qui nous permet aujourd'hui de suivre l'état de santé de nos écosystèmes. Le fait d'avoir des accords régionaux comme l'ACCOBAMS participe pleinement à cet engagement international qui devrait être fait l'année prochaine. A ce titre, comme vous avez pu le voir, Monaco et la France ont souhaité vous soumettre un projet de Résolution sur la mobilisation de l'ACCOBAMS en vue de cette COP15 Biodiversité qui se tiendra en octobre 2020 à Kunming en Chine.

Voilà pour ces mots d'introduction à nos travaux, je vous souhaite à toutes et à tous une bonne semaine de travail.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MRS. AMY FRAENKEL
ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES**

I am pleased to provide a few words to all of you attending the 7th Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the government of Turkey for hosting this important meeting.

I truly regret not being with you in Istanbul, as we are preparing for a series of meetings in Bonn, starting next week, to prepare for our 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. That meeting will take place in February in Gandhinagar, India, and I hope to see many of you there.

I would like to congratulate you all on the significant achievements under ACCOBAMS. For over two decades, ACCOBAMS has been an effective part of the global efforts on the conservation of cetaceans, and an important member of the wider CMS Family. CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, your sister Agreement covering Europe's northern waters, have a long history of fruitful cooperation – particularly in addressing bycatch and marine noise.

The global assessment released earlier this year by IPBES sounded an urgent note for us to step up our commitments and actions to address biodiversity loss and its underlying drivers. The decisions taken at this meeting will add an important component to the work we must do together in every region of the world.

Next year is an important one for biodiversity, starting with the CMS COP13, which includes a strong focus on aquatic species. A UN Summit on Biodiversity is planned for later in the year in New York. The year will culminate in the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October in China, which is expected to agree on a new global framework for biodiversity. CMS and the wider CMS Family are engaging in this process with the view to better addressing the issues of key importance to migratory species, including the need to more effectively address the need for ecological 'connectivity' in the future framework.

I wish you all an excellent meeting in Istanbul, and hope to see you at the CMS COP13 in February.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MRS. FLORENCE DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ACCOBAMS**

Monsieur le Président de l'Accord,
Monsieur le Directeur Général adjoint du Ministère Agriculture et Forêt de Turquie
Mesdames, Messieurs les représentants des pays,
Chers partenaires ACCOBAMS,
Chers participants,

C'est un plaisir pour le Secrétariat d'être accueilli par le Gouvernement de Turquie à Istanbul, dans cette ville qui fait le lien entre la Méditerranée et la mer Noire, dans cette ville carrefour de civilisations et tellement emblématique. C'est également la première fois que la Réunion des Parties se tient aux portes de la Mer Noire !

Je voudrai exprimer toute ma gratitude aux autorités turques pour avoir bien voulu organiser cette Réunion des Parties, juste après que la Turquie soit devenue le 24^{ième} pays Partie à l'ACCOBAMS, un nouveau témoignage de l'engagement de la Turquie dans la conservation des cétacés.

J'émet le souhait que le prochain triennat nous permette de récolter les fruits des efforts du triennat qui se termine, en particulier en capitalisant sur la connaissance acquise par l'ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative et je fonde un grand espoir dans les issues de cette réunion, dans ses conclusions et dans les actions qui en découleront.

Les décisions que vous allez adopter guideront la mise en œuvre d'ACCOBAMS et doivent faire partie intégrante des développements mondiaux en matière de conservation de la biodiversité, tels que le Cadre mondial de la CDB sur la diversité biologique pour l'après 2020, la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la gestion de l'océan et les Objectifs pour le Développement Durable. Le programme de travail proposé vise à renforcer les capacités de l'ACCOBAMS en matière de conservation des cétacés et à renforcer les capacités nationales et les collaborations internationales. Une structure pour le Secrétariat Permanent et son personnel, attendue depuis longtemps, fournira un cadre clair et robuste pour parvenir à cette fin.

J'espère que l'ambition et la vision de l'ACCOBAMS et de son Secrétariat Permanent, en collaboration avec le Comité Scientifique, guideront vos décisions !

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. İSMAİL ÜZMEZ
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF NATURE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS IN TURKEY

Dear ACCOBAMS Term Chairman,
Dear ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary,
Dear Executive Director of the Immigration Convention,
Distinguished Country Representatives,
Precious Observers,
Distinguished Members of National and International Press,
Ladies,
Gentlemen,

Today, we have come together to hold the **7th Session of the ACCOBAMS Convention on the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and the adjacent Atlantic Sea Region.**

First of all, I would like to express my satisfaction that this meeting is being held in Istanbul, our rare city that has hosted many international meetings and organizations.

Hereby, you are very welcome.

Today, the importance of protecting the marine environment and especially preserving marine mammals is increasing day by day.

The ACCOBAMS Convention is one of the most important international mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity at sea.

As it is known, the said Convention; Designed to reduce threats to marine mammals living in areas that are bound to the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Atlantic areas and to increase their knowledge of these species.

Republic of Turkey, to protect and to provide sustainable management of natural areas, species, ecosystems and habitats;

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- CITES Convention,
- Ramsar Convention,
- Barcelona Convention,
- Bern Convention,
- Bucharest Convention,
- European Landscape Convention becoming a party by signing contracts.

Our country has been a party to the ACCOBAMS Convention on **1 February 2018** and by being a party to the Agreement and Turkey has been supporting the efforts to protect the living, feeding and reproductive areas of endangered marine mammals for future generations.

Possession of biological diversity is having different characteristics have led to the differentiation of the seas surrounding Turkey.

The protection and sustainability of marine living resources is also important in terms of the genetic resources, species and ecosystem diversity of our country as well as the economy. As the Ministry, we make an important effort to protect our seas and marine species, which we call 'blue homeland'.

There are currently 11 different marine mammals in our own waters and we host a total of 21 different marine mammals with occasional species entering the Mediterranean.

The protection of marine biodiversity has a great importance in our country, which is surrounded by seas on three sides.

We believe that our country's contribution to the process is important in terms of both its position and its determined approach to the issue in order to ensure the successful cooperation with ACCOBAMS.

As you know, monitoring of marine mammals is an important part of conservation activities

The fact that our country is the only country on the coast of both the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea increases our sensitivity towards protecting marine environment and marine mammals.

In this context, I would like to underline the contributions of Turkish scientists with the support and full support of relevant Ministries, Universities and Civil Society Organizations to the research of the census of whale and dolphin populations in Aegean and Mediterranean regions in 2019 and in the Black Sea in 2018 organized by ACCOBAMS Research Initiative.

Although Turkey became a party in 2018 to the agreement, the hunting of marine mammals is prohibited since 1983 in our country and this issue is under protection of particularly Law No. 1380 on Fisheries and related international treaties to which our country is a party, including the law and under the associated lower Protocols protection.

As a country, we have initiated a total mobilization in order to prevent pollution which is the first and greatest threat to marine mammals' habitats and lives.

In order to reduce the use of plastics and prevent human resources from accessing the seas, lakes, rivers and aquatic ecosystems, "Zero Waste Project" has been implemented under the auspices of Emine ERDOĞAN, the precious wife of Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN.

With the motto of "Zero Waste Blue", which is a new step of the aforementioned project, all mobilization activities are carried out with the participation of all public institutions, municipalities, private sector and NGOs and every citizen to ensure the cleanliness of our seas, lakes and rivers.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring the benevolence of the 7th meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS to all countries, all living beings and humanity.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the stakeholders and participants, especially the staff of the Ministry, who have contributed to our meeting here today in this important organization and I greet you all with my heartfelt feelings

ANNEX III

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING OF
THE PARTIES TO ACCOBAMS**

ANNEX III RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**PURPOSE****Article 1**

1. These rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation on Cetaceans of the Black sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, convened in accordance with article III of the Agreement.
2. Insofar as they are applicable, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation on Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area.

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETINGS**Article 2**

1. Ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held at intervals of not more than three years.
2. The Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Meeting of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country. If more than one Party issues an invitation to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the venue of the next session by secret ballot.
3. If no invitation has been received, the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in the country where the Secretariat has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat of the Agreement or the Secretariat of the Convention.
4. Extraordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be convened by the Agreement Secretariat on the written request of at least two thirds of the Parties.

DELEGATES, CREDENTIALS, OBSERVERS

Article 3

Representatives

1. A Party to the Agreement (hereafter referred to as a "Party¹") shall be entitled to be represented at the Meeting by a delegation consisting of a Head of Delegation and such Alternative Representatives and Advisers as the Party may deem necessary.
2. The Representative of a Party shall exercise the voting rights of that Party. In his/her absence, an Alternative Representative of that Party shall act in his place.
3. States or regional economic integration organizations that have ratified, accepted or approved the Agreement or have signed it without reservations in respect of ratification, acceptance or approval or have acceded to it are represented at the Meetings of the Parties and exercise their voting rights, even though the Agreement has not yet entered into force for them.
4. Logistic and other limitations may require that no more than four delegates of any Party be present at a plenary session. The Secretariat shall notify Parties, observers and other participants of any such limitations in advance of the Meeting.

Article 4

Credentials

1. The Representative or any Alternative Representative of a Party shall, before exercising the voting rights of the Party, have been granted powers by, or on behalf of, a proper authority, such as the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the head of an executive body of any regional economic Organization, enabling them to represent the Party at the Meeting and to vote.
2. Such credentials shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Agreement at the beginning of the Meeting.
3. A Credentials Committee of not more than five representatives shall examine the credentials and shall report thereon to the Meeting. Pending a decision on their credentials, delegates may participate provisionally in the Meeting.
4. If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Meeting (French and English), they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these two languages to permit their efficient validations by the Credentials Committee.

¹ See Articles I, paragraph 3.i), and XIV of the Agreement. A Party is a State which has deposited with the Government of the Principality of Monaco its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in due time before the Meeting.

Article 5

Observers²

1. The United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and any State not a Party to the Agreement may be represented at the Meeting by observers
2. Any Body or Agency technically concerned *inter alia* with the conservation of cetaceans and fisheries management, which is either:
 - a) an international Agency or Body; or
 - b) an international non-governmental Agency or body, or a national governmental Agency or body; or
 - c) a national non-governmental Agency or Body which has been approved for this purpose by the State in which it is located;

and which has informed the Secretariat of the Agreement of its desire to be represented at the Meeting by observers, shall be permitted to be represented unless, for those referred to in paragraph 2b and 2c, at least one-third of the Parties present object.

3. Bodies and Agencies desiring to be represented at the Meeting by observers shall submit the name of their representatives and in the case of Bodies and Agencies, referred to in paragraph 2b and 2c, of this Article, evidence of the approval of the State in which they are located, to the Secretariat of the Agreement prior to the opening of the Meeting.
4. Logistic and other limitations may require that no more than two observers from any non-Party State, Body or Agency be present at the Meeting. The Secretariat shall notify Parties, observers and other participants of any such limitations in advance of the Meeting.

AGENDA

Article 6

1. The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each Meeting, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the Sub Regional Coordination Units.
2. The provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:
 - a) Items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;
 - b) Items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous Meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous Meeting;
 - c) Items referred to in paragraph 6 of the present article;
 - d) Any item proposed by a Party, the Scientific Committee or the Secretariat.

² See Agreement, Article III, paragraph 4

3. The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Bureau, include any item that has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the Meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.
4. The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer, or amend items. Only items, which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important, may be added to the agenda.
5. The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for this session. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary session.
6. Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the session, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next session, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

DOCUMENTS

Article 7

The documents for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, as per Article 6 paragraph 5 and proposals received from the Parties, as per Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure, shall be distributed to the Parties in the two working languages by the Secretariat at least sixty days before the opening of the Meeting.

BUREAU

Article 8

1. At opening session of each ordinary Meeting, the acting Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson, a representative of the same Party or in its absence the Head of the Delegation of the host country of the Meeting of the Parties, shall preside until the Meeting of the Parties has elected its Chairperson.
2. At the commencement of the first sitting of each ordinary Meeting³, a Chairperson and a maximum of four Vice Chairpersons shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the Meeting, based on informal consultations conducted by the Secretariat.
3. The Chairperson shall participate in the Meeting in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another

³ See Agreement, Article VI, paragraph 1

representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the Meeting and to exercise the right to vote.

4. If the Chairperson and/or one of the Vice-Chairpersons resign or are otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that office's mandate.
5. For the purpose of the Meeting of the Parties and the Meeting of the Bureau, and throughout session, one of the Vice Chairpersons will be Reporter.

RULES OF ORDER AND DEBATE

Article 9

Powers of Presiding Officer and Vice-Presiding

1. In addition to exercising powers conferred elsewhere in these Rules, the Presiding Officer shall at plenary sessions of the Meeting:
 - a) open and close the session;
 - b) direct the discussions;
 - c) ensure the observance of these rules;
 - d) accord the right to speak;
 - e) put questions to the vote and announce decisions;
 - f) rule on points of order; and
 - g) subject to these Rules, have complete control of the proceedings of the Meeting and the maintenance of order.
2. The Presiding Officer may, in the course of discussion at a plenary session of the Meeting, propose to the Meeting of the Parties:
 - a) time limits for speakers;
 - b) limitation of the number of times the members of a delegation or the observers from a State not a Party, body or agency may speak on any question;
 - c) the closure of the list of speakers;
 - d) accord the right of reply to any delegate after the closure of the speakers;
 - e) the adjournment or the closure of the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion; and
 - f) the suspension or adjournment of the session.
3. Without prejudice to Article 8, paragraph 4, for the debates the Presiding officer may be supply by the Vice-Presiding.

Article 10

Seating, Quorum

1. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the names of the Parties in the French language.
2. A quorum for plenary sessions of the Meeting shall consist of more than one-half of the Parties having delegations at the Meeting. No plenary session shall take place in the absence of a quorum.

Article 11

Right to Speak

1. The Presiding Officer shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak, with precedence given to the delegations of the Parties.
2. A delegate or observer may speak only if called upon by the Presiding Officer, who may call a speaker to order if the remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. The speaker may, however, with the permission of the Presiding Officer, give way during their speech to allow any delegate or observer to bring complement on a particular point in his speech.
4. The Chairperson of a committee or working group may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that committee or working group.

Article 12

Submission of Proposals for Amendment of the Agreement and its Appendices

1. As a general rule, subject to any provisions of the Agreement itself,
 - a) proposals shall have been communicated at least 150 days before the session to the Secretariat, which shall have circulated them to all Parties in the working languages of the Meeting⁴,
 - b) proposals arising out of discussion of the foregoing may be discussed at any plenary session of the Meeting provided copies of them have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the session.
2. The Presiding Officer may also permit the discussion and consideration of urgent proposals arising after the period prescribed with the subparagraph a) of this Article provided that they relate to proposed amendments which have been circulated in accordance with the subparagraph b) of this Article and that their consideration will not unduly inhibit the proceedings of the Meeting. The Presiding Officer may, in addition, permit the discussion of motions as to procedures, even though such motions have not been circulated previously.

⁴ See Agreement, Article X, paragraph 2

3. After a proposal has been adopted or rejected by the Meeting it shall not be reconsidered unless a two-thirds majority of the Representatives participating in the Meeting so decide. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider a proposal shall be accorded only to a delegate from each of two Parties wishing to speak against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.

Article 13

Point of Order

1. During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a point of order, and the Presiding Officer in accordance with these Rules shall immediately decide the point of order. A delegate may appeal against any ruling of the Presiding Officer. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the decision of the Presiding Officer shall be maintained unless a majority of the Representatives present and voting otherwise decide. A delegate rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.
2. The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the Meeting:
 - a) to suspend the sitting;
 - b) to adjourn the sitting;
 - c) to adjourn the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion;
 - d) to close the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion.

VOTING

Article 14

Methods of Voting

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 1, each delegation shall have one vote. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with the number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties. In such case, the member States of such organizations shall not exercise their right individually⁵.
2. Representatives of Parties which are three or more years behind in paying their subscriptions on the date of the opening session of the Meeting of the Parties shall not be eligible to vote. However, the Meeting of the Parties may allow such Parties to continue to exercise their right to vote if it is satisfied that the delay in payment arises from exceptional circumstances.
3. The Meeting shall normally vote by show of hands, but any Representative may request a roll-call vote. The roll-call vote shall be taken in the French alphabetical order. The Presiding Officer may require a roll-call vote on the advice of the tellers where they are in doubt as to the actual number of votes cast and this is likely to be critical to the outcome.

⁵ See Agreement, Article III, paragraph 5.

4. All votes in respect of the election of officers or of prospective host countries for the next Meeting shall be by secret ballot and, although it shall not normally be used, any Representative may request a secret ballot for other matters. If seconded, the question of whether a secret ballot should be held shall immediately be voted upon. The motion for a secret ballot may not be conducted by secret ballot.
5. Voting by roll-call or by secret ballot shall be expressed by "Yes", "No" or "Abstain". Only affirmative and negative votes shall be counted in calculating the number of votes cast.
6. Procedural decisions are taken by a simple majority.
7. If votes are equal, a second vote shall be taken. If the vote is also equal, the motion or amendment shall not be carried.
8. The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for the counting of the votes and shall announce the result. Tellers appointed by the Secretariat may assist the Presiding Officer.
9. After the Presiding Officer has announced the beginning of the vote, it shall not be interrupted except by a Representative on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The Presiding Officer may permit Representatives to explain their votes either before or after the voting, and may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

Article 15

Majority

Except where otherwise provided for under the provisions of the Agreement, these Rules or the Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Fund, all votes on procedural matters relating to the forwarding of the business of the Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast, while all other decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

Article 16

Procedure for Voting on Motions and Amendments

1. A delegate may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for such division, the motion for division shall be voted upon first. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be accorded only to a delegate from each of two Parties wishing to speak in favour of and a delegate from each of two Parties wishing to speak against the motion. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or amendment that are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.
2. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Meeting shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another

amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes or revises part of that proposal.

3. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting may, after voting on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Article 17

Elections

1. If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the Presiding Officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.
3. In the case of tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the Presiding Officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 18

Election of Members of the Follow-up Committee

1. The election of members of the Follow-up Committee shall be held by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection by one Party, the Meeting of the Parties decides on the members by consensus without taking a ballot.
2. Before the elections begins, the Chairperson shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates. He/she shall hand to them the list of States Parties and of organizations and institutions having the status of ACCOBAMS Partners (hereinafter referred to as "ACCOBAMS Partners") entitled to vote, as well as the lists of candidates nominated respectively by States Parties and ACCOBAMS Partners.
3. The Secretariat shall prepare voting papers with the list of candidates nominated by States Parties and shall distribute them to the States Parties entitled to vote.
4. The Secretariat shall prepare voting papers with the list of candidates nominated by ACCOBAMS Partners and shall distribute them to the ACCOBAMS Partners entitled to vote.
5. Each delegation shall cast its vote by encircling the names of those candidates (three in the case of States Parties and two in the case of ACCOBAMS Partners) for whom it desires to vote.

6. The States Parties and the ACCOBAMS Partners shall deposit their voting papers in the ballot box according to the roll call made by the Chairperson in the alphabetical order.
7. The tellers shall proceed to count the voting papers and to read the names encircled under the supervision of the Chairperson.
8. Voting papers on which more names have been circled than there are seats to be filled shall be considered invalid.
9. The candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected up to the number of seats to be filled.
10. If there still remain seats to be filled, there shall be another round of voting.
11. If two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes and, as a result, the number of these candidates is greater than the remaining number of seats to be filled, there shall be an additional round of voting restricted to those candidates who obtained the same number of votes. If in this additional round of voting two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairperson shall draw lots among them.
12. After each round of voting the Chairperson shall announce the results.

SECRETARIAT

Article 19

1. The Agreement Executive Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Secretariat shall provide and direct the staff as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

Article 20

1. The Secretariat shall⁶ :
 - a) Arrange for interpretation at the Meeting;
 - b) Prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents which will be useful during the Meeting;
 - c) Draft the report of the Meeting, under the guidance of the Reporter, for consideration by the Bureau first and for final approval by the Meeting of the Parties;
 - d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the Meeting;
 - e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Meeting
 - f) Publish and circulate the official documents which result from the Meeting;
 - g) Generally perform all other work that the Meeting of the Parties may require.

⁶ See Article IV of the Agreement.

LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Article 21

Official and Working Languages

1. French and English shall be the official and working languages of the Meetings.
2. The official documents of the Meeting shall be distributed in those two languages.
3. Speeches made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

Article 22

Other Languages

1. A delegate may speak in a language other than a working language. He shall be responsible for providing interpretation into a working language, and interpretation into the other working language may be based upon that interpretation.
2. Any document submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by a translation into one of the two working languages, this translation being trustworthy.

Article 23

Report

1. The report of the Meeting shall be circulated to all Parties in the official languages of the Meeting.
2. Committees and working groups shall decide upon the form in which their report shall be presented.

PUBLICITY OF DEBATES

Article 24

Plenary Sessions

All plenary sessions of the Meeting shall be open to the public, except that in exceptional circumstances the Meeting may decide, by a two-thirds majority of Representatives present and voting, that any single session be closed to the public.

Article 25

Sessions of Committees and Working Groups

As a general rule, sessions of committees and working groups shall be limited to the representatives and to observers invited by the Chairpersons of the committees or working groups.

THE BUREAU, OTHER COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Article 26

1. During the Meeting of the Party, the Bureau and the Reporter of the Meeting shall meet as often as necessary on request of his Chairman.

Article 27

Credentials Committee and Working Groups

1. In addition to the Credentials Committee, the Meeting of the Parties may establish working groups as may be necessary to enable them to carry out their functions. They shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group, the size of which shall be limited according to the number of places available in assembly rooms.
2. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such working group may meet in the period between ordinary Meetings.
3. The Credentials Committee and each working group shall elect their own officers.
4. Insofar as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of committee and working groups; however, interpretation may not be provided in sessions of the committee and working groups.

AMENDMENT

Article 28

These Rules may be amended as required by decision of the Meeting.

ANNEX IV

AGENDA

ANNEX IV - AGENDA

I. Welcome addresses

II. Organizational issues

- 1) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS
- 2) Granting the right to vote
- 3) Admission of observers
- 4) Election of the Bureau
- 5) Adoption of the Agenda
- 6) Establishment of the Credentials Committee

III. Opening Statements

IV. Progress reports of the Agreement

- 1) National Reports
- 2) Report of the Depositary
- 3) Report of the Bureau
- 4) Report of the Secretariat
- 5) Report of the Scientific Committee
- 6) Report of the Sub Regional Coordination Units
- 7) Report of the Follow-up Committee
- 8) Report of the ACCOBAMS Partners
- 9) Budgetary Reports

V. Report by the Credentials Committee

VI. Institutional and budgetary arrangements

- 1) Functional structure and Personnel of the Permanent Secretariat
- 2) Recruitment procedure of the Executive Secretary
- 3) ACCOBAMS Strategy
- 4) ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy
- 5) Work Programme and Budget for the 2020-2022 triennium
- 6) Scientific Committee
- 7) ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee
- 8) Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call of proposals submitted under the Supplementary Conservation Funds
- 9) ACCOBAMS Partners

VII. Implementation of the Agreement: technical and scientific issues

- 1) Cetacean population estimates and distribution
- 2) Monitoring cetaceans' species conservation status
- 3) Interactions between fisheries / aquaculture activities and cetaceans
- 4) Ship strikes
- 5) Anthropogenic noise
- 6) Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation
- 7) Marine debris
- 8) Cetacean Watching
- 9) Area-based measures for cetacean conservation
- 10) ACCOBAMS mobilization for marine biodiversity conservation beyond the 2020 biodiversity framework

VIII. Adoption of Resolutions

IX. Other business

X. Date and venue of the Eighth Meeting of the Parties

XI. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

XII. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX V

OPENING STATEMENTS

(Statements are shown in chronological order)

STATEMENT BY SLOVENIA
(Delivered by Mr. Andrej BIBIČ, ACCOBAMS Focal Point)

Distinguished Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates and Secretary General
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, Slovenia is grateful to the Republic of Turkey for hosting this meeting and for the great hospitality provided to us.

Slovenia would like to use this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for its devoted and engaged work on conservation of cetaceans in the past triennium. Especially we would like congratulate you for the implementation of the ASI, and extends its congratulations to the Scientific Committee. Last but not least we are grateful to France for chairing the Agreement in the period from the last MOP.

We look forward to a successful meeting and progress that can be achieved through constructive deliberations on issues of importance to this Agreement, including those on workplan, functional structure of the Secretariat and the Budget.

Thank you

**STATEMENT BY UN ENVIRONMENT/MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - BARCELONA
CONVENTION SECRETARIAT**

(Delivered by Mrs. Tatjana HEMA, Deputy Coordinator)

I am very pleased to attend MOP 7 of ACCOBAMS on behalf of UNEP MAP Secretariat and Gaetano Leone MAP coordinator and congratulate the Parties to ACCOBAMS as well as the Secretariat of the work undertaken since MOP6 and successes and significant results achieved through your cooperation, commitment and dedication. I would like to thank Turkish Government for their hospitality.

During the last 20 years, ACCOBAMS and UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC have been working together to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status for cetaceans in the Mediterranean, in the spirit of the recommendations of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties at their COP 14 (Portoroz, November 2005) concerning the relation between the implementation of ACCOBAMS and the SPA/BD Protocol.

Main challenges of cetacean conservation in the Mediterranean deal with the improvement of knowledge about the state of cetaceans, the reduction of human pressures on cetaceans, the reinforcement of national capacities and the enhancing of effective conservation of cetacean critical habitats.

Our joint efforts to the Mediterranean countries was marked, during the last triennium, by the strengthening of the national capacities through the implementation of the ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE (ASI) capacity building Component on cetacean monitoring (collection, preparation and use of data). This component has been achieved in close synergy with the EU funded EcApMedII Project: 2 regional workshops were conducted in 2018 (pre-campaign phase) and 4 sub-regional workshops during 2018/2019. Support was also offered to some Mediterranean countries to carry out national field survey in order to fill key knowledge gaps for vulnerable and highly mobile species and to assess their interaction with fishery activities (Bycatch, Depredation, etc.), thanks to the MAVA Foundation fund.

I would like to extend a special thanks to ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the great work done with regards to noise monitoring in the context of the implementation of IMAP for the Mediterranean adopted in 2016 by COP 19 of the CP to the Barcelona Convention. Thanks to the work of ACCOBAMS and MED POL programme of UNEP MAP, and EU funded QuietMed project facts sheets for two marine noise related indicators of IMAP were recently reviewed by the UNEP MAP governing bodies. We look forward to their follow up and implementation by all our Contracting parties in establishing their national marine noise monitoring programmes.

Meanwhile, 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 aiming to address the issue of common interest related to the adoption of spatial based management and conservation measures including their promotion and fund raising, has been amended and will be submitted for consideration by the 21st Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Contracting Parties.

The ASI survey data collected on Cetaceans but also on other species like marine turtles, birds as well as on marine litter and particularly plastics are very precious and useful for IMAP and could be very useful to define the baseline for the QSR 2023. The data collected on highly mobile species are also useful to define conservation areas linked to relevant species such as IMMA (Important marine mammals areas) and eventually for MPAs declaration. On the other hand, this survey is done for the first time in the world. So, it could be presented as Mediterranean/Black sea/contiguous region of the Atlantic Flagship initiative during the CBD COP15 in Beijing 2020, and could inspire the post2020 action in other marine parts of the world.

Finally, we will convene the 21th meeting of the CP to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. COP 21 will be held in Naples, Italy on 2-5 December in Castello del'Ovo a famous inheritance of Italian culture and history. We expect to receive two important mandates of relevance to ACCOBAMS scope of work and its CP related to the development of the new/revised SAP BIO and Mid-term Strategy for MAP. We count on our stronger cooperation with you ACCOBAMS Parties and Secretariat to maximize our synergies towards the respective shared goals taking also into account the forthcoming post 2020 Biodiversity agenda.

Congratulations again for your contribution to our common and shared agenda and I wish you a very successful MOP 7 of delivery!

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE BLACK SEA AGAINST POLLUTION

(Delivered by Mrs. Iryna MAKARENKO, Pollution Monitoring & Assessment Officer)

Your Excellences, Mr. ACCOBAMS Chair, ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary, distinguished participants of the Meeting, ladies and gentleman,

Welcome to Istanbul and it is a **great honor for me to be here** today and I would like to extend my **gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey and ACCOBAMS Secretariat** for hosting and excellent organization of this distinguished meeting and for this **chance to be given a floor** on behalf of the Black Sea Commission' Permanent Secretariat.

We are **extremely happy** that the ACCOBAMS MoP is **hosted for the first time by the Black Sea riparian country** and I also take this chance to **congratulate Republic of Turkey with its accession** to the ACCOBAMS Treaty!!!

As you may know, the **Black Sea Commission was created as an executive body** to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution also known as Bucharest Convention, and being a Regional Sea Convention, the Black Sea Commission is **responsible for promoting the implementation of Bucharest Convention** and its Protocols, it was established to, *inter alia*, monitor and assess pollution, control pollution from land-based sources, ensure conservation of biological diversity, address environmental safety aspects of shipping, address environmental aspects of management of fisheries and other marine living resources and, last but not least, promote integrated coastal zone management and maritime policy.

As you may know, since 2002, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant **Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Commission and ACCOBAMS**, the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) **has an honour to serve as Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit for ACCOBAMS** in regards to the conservation of the cetaceans of the Black Sea. It is my **pleasure to mark today an outstanding level of cooperation between our organizations and a solid intention to continue our efforts** in the Black Sea region together with other relevant partners.

I will be given a floor later today to present the **report of our sub-regional unit**, concluding my address, let me **extend cordial congratulations to all of us!!!** Let me wish **every success as well as long years of prosperity and well-being to your distinguished organization**. Let me also wish **success to this meeting and to our future endeavors aimed at conservation of cetaceans** in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

STATEMENT BY CMS AND ASCOBANS
(delivered by Jenny RENELL, ASCOBANS Coordinator)

1. As an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range. As of 1 November 2019, CMS has 130 Parties.
2. The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) is one of the two legally-binding cetacean agreements concluded under the framework of CMS. ASCOBANS was established 27 years ago, and has been in force for 25 years. It currently has 10 Parties, which are all EU Members States.
3. CMS continues to build up its coverage and activities on cetaceans. Fifty-four cetacean-related resolutions have been adopted by the Parties since the first CMS Conference of the Parties in 1985, addressing issues such as species status and urgent conservation action on bycatch, captures, climate change, marine debris, tourism, chemical and noise pollution.
4. The mandates that CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS all have for the conservation of cetaceans present clear opportunities for close collaboration and synergies. Relevant developments and decisions since ACCOBAMS MOP6 are listed below. The CMS and ASCOBANS Secretariats are looking forward to working together with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the ACCOBAMS Parties on these topics, and on the ones that ACCOBAMS brings to the attention of CMS and ASCOBANS.

13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS

5. The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12, October 2017, Manila, Philippines, www.cms.int/cop12) adopted 61 resolutions. The 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13, Gandhinagar, India, 15-22 February 2020, www.cms.int/cop13/) will report back on implementation and decisions related to some of those resolutions. COP13 documents directly relevant for cetacean conservation are listed below, indicating which resolution they relate to. All CMS resolutions in effect are available at <https://www.cms.int/en/documents/cop-resolutions>.
 - COP13/Doc.26.2.1 Important Marine Mammal Areas (Res.12.13)
 - COP13/Doc.26.2.2 Marine Noise (Res.12.14, which endorsed the Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities and invites ACCOBAMS Parties to consider adopting these Guidelines)
 - COP13/Doc.26.2.3 Bycatch (Res.12.22)
 - COP13/Doc.26.2.4 Aquatic Wild Meat (Res.12.15)

- COP13/Doc.26.2.5 Marine Wildlife Watching (Res.12.16 *Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals*, and Res.11.29 (Rev.COP12) *Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching*, which endorsed guidelines covering e.g. general considerations concerning boat-based wildlife watching, including the need for EIAs, considerations about vessels, and licensing)
 - COP13/Doc.26.4.8 Climate Change and Migratory Species (Res.12.21)
 - COP13/Doc.26.2.8 Live Captures of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes (Res.11.22 (Rev.COP12), which adopted the best practice guidelines)
 - COP13/Doc.26.2.10 Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans (Res.10.12 (Rev.COP12) and Res.12.17 *Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region*)
 - COP13/26.4.1 Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity (Res.11.23 (Rev.COP12), which urged Parties to apply a precautionary approach to the management of populations, for which there is evidence that influence of culture and social complexity may be a conservation issue)
 - In addition to the above-mentioned resolutions, COP12 adopted Res.12.23 *Sustainable Tourism and Migratory Species*, and Res.12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*.
6. CMS COP12 also included three cetacean species in the list for Concerted Action¹ (CA), signaling their need for urgent attention for their population. COP13 will report on implementation progress:
- COP13/Doc.28.1.2 The Sperm Whales of the Eastern Tropical Pacific (CA 12.2)
 - COP13/Doc.28.1.3 The Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CA 12.3)
 - COP13/Doc.28.1.4 The Humpback Whales of the Arabian Sea (CA 12.4)
7. New Concerted Actions proposed, that will also be discussed at ScC-SC4 include [COP13/Doc.28.2.7](#) Harbour Porpoise: Baltic and Iberian populations.

Relevant Publications

8. **Fact Sheets on Connectivity:** CMS and its Family of Agreements have been providing the primary specialized intergovernmental framework for cooperative efforts on issues of connectivity in relation to the conservation of migratory species. Prompted by the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019), which noted that connectivity should play a greater role in a new strategic framework for biodiversity, the following CMS Fact Sheets were produced: on **Connectivity and the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework: An Introduction**² (June 2019) and **Elements for New Goals and Targets**³ (August 2019).

¹ <https://www.cms.int/en/documents/concerted-actions>

² <https://www.cms.int/en/publication/fact-sheet-connectivity-and-post-2020-biodiversity-framework-introduction>

³ <https://www.cms.int/en/publication/fact-sheet-connectivity-and-post-2020-biodiversity-framework-elements-new-goals-and-targets>

9. **IWC-CMS Whale Watching Handbook⁴**: Launched in October 2018, this joint initiative is an online resource, aimed at supporting the whale watching industry and regulators, as well as members of the public, to minimize adverse impacts on whale populations from these activities while assisting the communities that benefit from them to apply best practices. The handbook offers comprehensive, impartial advice, and provides periodically updated country and species information, case studies, and management advice.
10. **Fact Sheet on Marine Noise⁵**: Published in June 2018, this fact sheet aims to raise awareness on marine noise as a threat to migratory species and their prey. It includes a list of impacts of noise on marine wildlife, link to the Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities, and information on how the CMS Family is taking action.
11. **Review of Methods Used to Reduce Risks of Cetacean Bycatch and Entanglements⁶**: This review was published as CMS Technical Series No. 38 in May 2018. Using case studies, the report summarizes the mitigation methods that have been undertaken with the objective of reducing cetacean bycatch, and assesses their efficacy and future potential. The review, funded by WWF, is intended to support initiatives to address cetacean bycatch, including those by CMS, its associated regional agreements, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS, and the IWC, by providing a summary of the current state of mitigation techniques.
12. **Cetaceans of the Red Sea⁷**: This review was published as CMS Technical Series No. 33 in October 2017. Cetaceans in the Red Sea is among the world's least known fauna. This review updates and expands preliminary work presented to the European Cetacean Society and the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, and it is a first exhaustive effort to produce a comprehensive and up to date account of the species occurring in the region.

ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

13. The 23rd Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC23) met in September 2017 in Le Conquet, France. In line with the updated national reporting system (see Resolution 8.1⁸) the AC23 focussed on the following topics: underwater noise, ocean energy, marine spatial planning and unexploded ordnance. All relevant documents can be accessed at <http://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/ac23>.
14. The 24th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC24) met in September 2018 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The AC24 focused on bycatch, resource depletion, marine debris, surveys and research, and the use of bycatch and strandings. The final report and meeting documents can be accessed at <https://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/ac24>.

⁴ <https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/>

⁵ <https://www.ascobans.org/en/publication/fact-sheet-marine-noise>

⁶ <https://www.cms.int/en/publication/review-methods-used-reduce-risks-cetacean-bycatch-and-entanglements-cms-technical-series>

⁷ <https://www.cms.int/en/publication/cetaceans-red-sea-cms-technical-series-no-33>

⁸ <https://www.ascobans.org/en/document/national-reporting>

15. The 25th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC25) took place on 17-19 September 2019 in Stralsund, Germany. This was the last AC meeting before the 9th Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) and prepared inputs for the MOP. The AC25 focused on cetacean watching industry, recreational sea use, pollution and hazardous substances, ship strikes, climate change, physical habitat change, and marine protected areas, in line with national reports submitted by the Parties. A special species session was held on Beaked Whales. Adopted action points and recommendations from AC25 are available at <https://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/ac25>, and the meeting report will be posted in due course.

ASCOBANS Working Groups

16. Several working groups⁹ report to the Advisory Committee, including the following of interest to ACCOBAMS:

- a. **Joint Bycatch Working Group**

The ASCOBANS working group on bycatch, established in 2010, was replaced by a joint working group with ACCOBAMS in early 2019 in order to increase the impact and influence of this group's work. The Joint Bycatch WG aims to address mandates of relevant resolutions; provide updates on bycatch mitigation measures and their effectiveness; review information on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and provide technical support when needed to facilitate dialogue with relevant bodies. The first report of the Joint Bycatch WG was submitted to AC25, available at [ASCOBANS/AC25/Inf.3.1a](https://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/ac25/inf3.1a).

- b. **Common Dolphin Group**

Established in February 2019, the Steering Group of the Species Action Plan (SAP) for North East Atlantic Common Dolphin (Common Dolphin Group) aims to coordinate and drive the implementation of the SAP; collate report on the progress of implementation; encourage countries to harmonize efforts; encourage cooperation between ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and other Range States; promote the SAP and evaluate its effectiveness. From ACCOBAMS, Joan Gonzalvo has been nominated as a member of the group. The first meeting of the Common Dolphin Group was held in September 2019, back to back with AC25 (report of the meeting will be available on <https://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/cd1> in due course). The AC25 also requested the Secretariat to organize a joint ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS workshop on the Common Dolphin at the European Cetacean Society conference in 2021.

- c. **Resource Depletion Working Group**

With mandate from AC24, this WG was established to (i) review new information on resource depletion and its impacts on small cetacean populations and (ii) make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action. The [Terms of Reference](#) were adopted intersessionally in August 2019, and ACCOBAMS was invited to nominate a member to join the working group.

⁹ <https://www.ascobans.org/en/working-groups>

d. **Joint Noise Working Group**

The working group jointly serves the needs of the two cetacean Agreements, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, as well as of the CMS Scientific Council. Established in 2009 with the terms of reference updated several times, its most recent report was submitted to AC23, available at [ASCOBANS/AC23/Inf.5.1.1.c](#).

e. **Joint Working Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**

This WG was established in 2011 and is co-chaired to cover the unique situation in the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Areas while allowing for synergies. The most recent report was submitted to AC25, available at [ASCOBANS/AC25/Inf.6b/Rev.1](#).

f. **Extension Area Working Group & Informal Working Group on Large Cetaceans**

Established in 2011, the experts supporting this activity produce joint reports, mainly related to the western extension of ASCOBANS Area that came into force in 2008. This WG also considers ship strikes. Since ASCOBANS only covers small cetaceans, the work relating to large cetaceans aims to identify major issues likely having a negative effect on large cetacean populations in the ASCOBANS Area, assessing the extent to which they can be addressed alongside small cetaceans, and making informal recommendations on appropriate mitigation measures. The latest report regarding the ASCOBANS extension area was [presented at AC24](#) in 2018.

9th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

17. Meetings of the Parties to ASCOBANS take place every four years. Belgium has confirmed to host the 9th Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) in September 2020 (date and venue to be confirmed). The meeting is expected to discuss draft resolutions on bycatch, marine debris, ecosystem approach to examine the effects of pressures on small cetaceans, harmonizing cetacean stranding response, Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic, resource depletion, the work plan 2021-2024 for the AC and the Secretariat, and options for future meetings of the AC. It is also anticipated to update existing resolutions on conservation of Common Dolphin and national reporting.

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Work Plan 2017-2020

18. At each meeting of the AC, the Secretariat produces an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the Work Plan adopted by the MOP (the most recent progress report is available at [ASCOBANS/AC25/Doc.10](#)). The Work Plan focusses on tasks for the AC, its Working Groups and the Secretariat. The AC meetings also make recommendations on action to be taken by Parties. Some of the key achievements of interest to ACCOBAMS relate to:
19. **Common Dolphin:** The ASCOBANS Species Action Plan (SAP) for the North East Atlantic Common Dolphin was adopted intersessionally in August 2019. The SAP is available at <https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/action-plans>.

20. **Bycatch:** In February 2017, ASCOBANS organized an Expert Workshop on ‘Unacceptable Interactions’ and Bycatch¹⁰ which developed draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for a second workshop on ‘unacceptable interactions’ and for the Joint Bycatch WG. The working group was established in January 2019, after TOR had been adopted by both ACCOBAMS SC and ASCOBANS AC the previous year. In May 2019, the ASCOBANS Secretariat advertised two consultancies related to bycatch: one to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of different monitoring methods aboard fisheries with regards to cetacean bycatch, and the other to conduct a cost analysis for mitigation measures in fisheries with high bycatch levels. These TOR are available in ACCOBAMS/MOP7/Doc.13 and results are anticipated early 2020.
21. **Strandings:** A joint workshop with ACCOBAMS was held in June 2019 (Padua, Italy) on harmonization of the best practices for necropsy of cetaceans and for the development of diagnostic frameworks. The resulting *Best practice for cetacean post mortem investigation and tissue sampling* was presented to AC25, who endorsed the process, and recommended that the final protocol be adopted at ASCOBANS MOP9 as an Annex to a resolution.

¹⁰ <https://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/expert-workshop-unacceptable-interactions-bycatch>

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE PELAGOS AGREEMENT

(Delivered by Mrs. Costanza FAVILLI, Executive Secretary)

I am very pleased to take part in the 7th Meeting of the Parties of the ACCOBAMS Agreement. I would like to thank the Government of Turkey for its warm welcome and I take the opportunity to congratulate the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for its work and for its important achievements.

The Pelagos Agreement is finalizing the activities identified on the basis of the working program 2018-2019, in accordance with the management plan established by the Parties. From a scientific perspective, the Pelagos Agreement promoted scientific partnership along with partners of the three countries. In fact, it opened a public tender enabling the selection of three research projects on themes which have been identified as priorities issues in order to face and focus on effective management measures in the Sanctuary. The three main topics are:

- a) plastic waste (including micro-plastics and ghost nets);
- b) collisions between marine vessels and large cetaceans;
- c) chemical and biological pollution from land-based sources.

The results of these projects will be presented to the authorities of the Agreement at the next Technical and Scientific Committee and at the next Meeting of the Parties in March 2020.

With regard to the governance of the Agreement, among the most important actions recently finalized, we can include:

- a) the procedure for the renewal of the SPAMI status of the Pelagos Sanctuary;
- b) the recent appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Agreement;
- c) the initiation of the procedure that will lead to the appointment of the Assistant of the Executive Secretary.

The cooperation is going on with the ACCOBAMS and RAMOGE Agreements.

As regard with the cooperation with ACCOBAMS, as established by the Working Program and in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two Agreements, the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement has sent a formal request to use the data of the ASI Survey of the area of the Sanctuary. This request will be further detailed following the notice expressed by the ASI Steering Committee.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for its continued availability and its constant willingness to cooperate and to communicate with the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement.

I wish you a great success at the 7th Meeting of the Parties.

STATEMENT BY WWF MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME OFFICE

(Delivered by Mrs. Théa JACOB, Marine Species and Fisheries Officer)

WWF is pleased to attend the seventh Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS and is grateful to the Secretariat for the invitation. We believe that ACCOBAMS set out an important set of objectives and targets the key issues that need to be addressed if we are to secure better conservation status for cetaceans in Mediterranean and Black Sea waters. We are particularly concerned on a number of threats that cetaceans face in the region, particularly with respect to bycatch, marine traffic impacts and hydrocarbon exploration. There is an urgent need to strengthen conservation efforts to address these critical issues particularly in this era of blue growth.

WWF is already contributing to the ACCOBAMS strategy in several ways: through research on cetacean PCB and microplastics contamination (activities B221 and B262), population structure (activity B121), marine traffic impacts (activities B241 and B242), cetacean population estimates and distribution (activity B111), interactions with fisheries (activity B211) and the NETCCOBAMS network (activities A111 and A112).

WWF congratulates the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, which provides an unprecedented dataset about the diversity and distribution of cetacean populations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

We hope to remain engaged with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and member Parties on these important issues in the future and look forward to a productive meeting to advance on the issues of most concern to cetacean conservation in the region and beyond.

Monitoring and Mitigation of Cetacean Bycatch (MOP7/Res7.11)

Entanglement in fishing gear has long been recognized by scientists and policy makers around the globe as the most important human-induced threat to cetaceans. Efforts in the ACCOBAMS region have focused primarily on the collection of data to assess the scale of the problem. Unfortunately, to date the lack of data is still preventing the development and implementation of optimal conservation measures to reduce bycatch of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Sea areas. Therefore, WWF strongly supports the draft resolution on Interactions between Fisheries and Cetaceans and recommends that all member Parties of ACCOBAMS support the resolution. Moreover, increased international collaboration with other organizations would ensure more effective exchange of technical expertise and integration of ACCOBAMS priorities into international policy frameworks. WWF welcomes the establishment of the ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS joint bycatch working group that will allow both organizations to benefit from shared learning and experience, and more effectively join forces to influence European and other fisheries' management policies and regulations throughout both agreement areas.

Ship Strikes (MOP7/Res7.12)

As the impact of ship strikes to cetaceans is growing with increasing vessel traffic around the globe, more collaborative efforts are required to develop, test, and implement mitigation measures that can reduce collision risk in areas of high vessel density like the Mediterranean. WWF fully endorses the recommendations made by the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee, as well as in the joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop, especially with respect to the North Western Mediterranean and the Hellenic Trench. WWF welcomes and supports the draft resolution on Ship Strikes and Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and we recommend all member Parties of ACCOBAMS to support the resolution.

Concluding Remarks

Furthermore, WWF supports the resolutions on the mitigation of whale watching impacts (MOP7/Res7.16), assessing marine litter impacts on cetaceans (MOP7/Res7.15) and improving the assessment and mitigation of anthropogenic noise on cetacean populations (MOP7/Res7.13). We would also like to see these resolutions approved and supported by member Parties and remain available to support in any way we can.

STATEMENT BY TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE**(Delivered by Mrs. Margherita ZANARDELLI, Honorary President)**

The Tethys Research Institute has a long and successful history of collaboration with ACCOBAMS starting over 20 years ago, when the Agreement came into force. Tethys has contributed over the years with a series of sound scientific initiatives, research programmes and joint activities and is keen to continue its efforts towards the conservation of Mediterranean and Black seas cetaceans. The Institute expertise and its long-time data series on presence and distribution of cetaceans have constituted the backbone for the preparation of several ACCOBAMS resolutions which are still operational. More recently, Tethys has also contributed to the ASI with expert personnel previously trained in aerial surveys and it envisages for this fruitful collaboration to endure during future years. Tethys strongly wishes to continue to provide robust scientific support to all ACCOBAMS initiatives, particularly to those directed to mitigate threats to cetaceans, such as ship strikes, noise and pollution. Tethys would like to express its gratitude to the hosting Country and warmly thank the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the excellent work and commitment

ANNEX VI

REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

ANNEX VI - REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY AND STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS

The Depositary of the Agreement, the Department of External Relations and Cooperation of the Principality of Monaco, has the honour of submitting this report to the State Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS).

Since the Sixth Meeting of the Parties, held in Monaco from 22 to 25 November 2016, the Department of External Relations and Cooperation, in its capacity as Depositary, registered the instrument of accession of the Republic of Turkey and the accompanying declaration and reservation on November 3rd, 2017.

By verbal Note dated December 15th, 2017, the Depositary informed, through diplomatic channels, the signatories and/or Parties to the Agreement, the Council of the European Union, the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) as well as the United Nations Treaty Service.

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIV, paragraph 2 (c), the said Agreement entered into force for the Republic of Turkey on February 1st, 2018.

By verbal Note dated January 16th, 2019, the Depositary informed the signatories and/or Parties to the Agreement, the Council of the European Union, the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) as well as the United Nations Treaty Service of the objections raised by the Republic of Cyprus and the Hellenic Republic respectively to the reservation and declaration made by the Republic of Turkey on November 3rd, 2017 when depositing its Instrument of Approval to the Agreement.

These Objections did not affect the entry into force of the Agreement for the Republic of Turkey.

As of 22nd July 2019, there are 24 Parties to ACCOBAMS (Table 1).

With regard to the Amendments to the text of the Agreement and its annexes, relating to the extension of the geographical area of ACCOBAMS adopted during the MOP4 in 2010, this Department has registered, since the last Meeting of the Parties in 2016, the deposit of the instrument of approval of the French Republic.

The Depositary has not failed to inform, through diplomatic channels, the signatories and/or Parties to the Agreement, the Council of the European Union, the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

As of 22nd July, there were eight Parties that had approved the Amendments (Table 2).

For the record, in accordance with Article X, paragraph 3 of the Agreement, these amendments will enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which two-thirds of the States Parties to the Agreement, i. e. sixteen (16) Parties, have ratified them.

In addition, during the 2017-2019 triennium, the Depositary, through the various diplomatic agents of the Principality of Monaco, supported the Permanent Secretariat's efforts to raise awareness among the other riparian States with a view to their accession to the Agreement and to encourage them to approve the Amendments.

Table 1

The following table presents the status of the Parties to the Agreement as of 22nd July 2019.

COUNTRY / PAYS	SIGNATURES	RATIFICATIONS		ENTRY INTO FORCE ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR
	Dates	Tool / Instrument	Deposit of the tool Dépôt de l'instrument	
ALBANIA / ALBANIE	24/11/1996	25/05/2001	03/07/2001	01/10/2001
ALGERIA / ALGERIE		19/03/2007(AA)	25/09/2007	01/12/2007
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE				
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	16/09/1999	23/09/1999	10/11/1999	01/06/2001
CROATIA / CROATIE	24/11/1996	03/05/2000	10/07/2000	01/06/2001
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	24/11/1996	30/01/2006	14/02/2006	01/05/2006
EGYPT / EGYPTÉ		04/03/2010	19/04/2010	01/07/2010
EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPEENNE				
FRANCE	24/11/1996	26/02/2004 (AA)	10/03/2004	01/06/2004
GEORGIA / GEORGIE	24/11/1996	30/03/2001	31/05/2001	01/06/2001
GREECE / GRECE	24/11/1996*	24/11/1996*	24/11/1996*	01/06/2001
ISRAEL				
ITALY / ITALIE	24/11/1996	10/02/2005	24/06/05	01/09/2005
LEBANON / LIBAN		05/05/2004(A)	13/12/2004	01/03/2005
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA / LIBYE		12/05/2002	18/06/2002	01/09/2002
MALTA / MALTE	23/03/2001*	23/03/2001*	23/03/2001*	01/06/2001
MONACO	24/11/1996	25/04/1997	30/04/1997	01/06/2001
MONTENEGRO		17/02/2009 (AAA)	18/05/2009	01/08/2009
MOROCCO / MAROC	28/03/1997	13/05/1999	05/07/1999	01/06/2001
PORTUGAL	24/11/1996	30/09/2004 (A)	15/10/2004	01/01/2005
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	28/09/1998	13/06/2000	17/07/2000	01/06/2001
RUSSIA / RUSSIE				
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE		12/07/2006	25/09/2006	01/12/2006
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	24/11/1996	07/01/1999	02/02/1999	01/06/2001
SYRIA / SYRIE		07/02/02 (A)	22/03/2002	01/06/2002
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	24/11/1996	31/12/2001	15/01/2002	01/04/2002
TURKEY / TURQUIE		29/05/2017 (AA)	03/11/2017	01/02/2018
UKRAINE		09/07/2003	23/10/2003	01/01/2004
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME UNI				

* Signature valid for ratification / Signature valant ratification

A = Adherence / Adhésion

AA = Approval / Approbation

AAA= Accession / Accession

Table 2

The following table presents the status of the Parties having approved the Amendments as of 22nd July 2019.

COUNTRY / PAYS	RATIFICATIONS		ENTRY INTO FORCE ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR
	Tool / Instrument	Deposit of the tool Dépôt de l'instrument	
ALBANIA / ALBANIE			
ALGERIA / ALGERIE			
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE			
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	08/02/2012 ³	14/03/2012	
CROATIA / CROATIE			
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	11/08/2014 ³	22/08/2014	
EGYPT / EGYPTÉ			
EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPEENNE			
FRANCE/FRANCE	15/10/2016 ²	10/11/2016	
GEORGIA / GEORGIE			
GREECE / GRECE			
ISRAEL/ISRAEL			
ITALY / ITALIE			
LEBANON / LIBAN			
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA / LIBYE			
MALTA / MALTE			
MONACO/ MONACO	24/02/2011 ²	02/03/2011	
MONTENEGRO/ MONTENEGRO	03/12/2014 ³	09/07/2015	
MOROCCO / MAROC			
PORTUGAL/PORTUGAL			
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE			
RUSSIA / RUSSIE			
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE	09/06/2016 ²	09/06/2016	
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	26/11/2012 ¹	10/01/2013	
SYRIA /SYRIE			
TUNISIA / TUNISIE			
TURKEY / TURQUIE			
UKRAINE / UKRAINE	26/11/2012 ³	02/01/2013	
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME UNI			

1 = Ratification / ratification

2 = Approval / Approbation

3 = Acceptance / Acceptation

NB: 16 approvals are needed for the entry into force of the amendments / 16 approbations sont nécessaires pour l'entrée en vigueur des amendements

ANNEX VII

REPORT OF THE BUREAU

ANNEX VII - REPORT OF THE BUREAU

Three Meetings of the Bureau were held during the 2017-2019 triennium:

- The Eleventh Bureau Meeting (Monaco, 14-15 December 2017),
- The Twelfth Bureau Meeting (Monaco, 3-4 December 2018),
- The Fourth Meeting of the Extended Bureau (Monaco, 18-19 April 2019).

The composition of the Bureau was as follows:

- Chairperson: Mr. Xavier STICKER, replaced in March 2019 by Mr. Yann WEHRLING (France);
- Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Rahima BERKAT (Algeria);
- Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Klodiana MARIKA (Albania);
- Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Savvas MICHAELIDES (Cyprus);
- Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Volodymyr DOMASHLINETS (Ukraine).

All the Meetings of the Bureau were also attended by the Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Mr. Simone PANIGADA) and by the members of ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.

The Fourth Meeting of the Extended Bureau was also attended by:

- a representative of the State holding the next Meeting of the Parties: Mr. Irfan UYSAL (Turkey);
- a representative of the Host Country: Mrs. Isabelle ROSABRUNETTO;
- Two National representatives: Mrs. Céline IMPAGLIAZZO (Monaco) and Mrs. Nela MIAUTA (Romania);
- The three following experts nominated by the Bureau Members: Mr. Ali Cemal GÜCÜ, Mrs. Carmen MIFSUD and Mr. Patrick VAN KLAVEREN.

A report was prepared after each Meeting (ACCOBAMS-BU11/2017/Doc 15, ACCOBAMS-BU12/2018/Doc 15 and ACCOBAMS-BUEXT4/2019/Doc 11). These three reports are presented to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties as reference documents.

The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the main issues discussed during those three Bureau Meetings.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

1) Status of ratification of the Agreement and of the amendment on extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope

The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau about the status of ratification of the Agreement and of the amendment on the extension of the Agreement area.

During this triennium, the Republic of Turkey acceded to ACCOBAMS (on 1st February 2018).

2) Structure and Staff of the Permanent Secretariat

In accordance with Resolution 6.3, the Permanent Secretariat recruited in 2017 a specialized consultant to carry out a functional assessment of the personnel needs of the Secretariat and associated costs. The main findings and recommendations of the consultant's report were presented at BU11 Meeting.

BU11 Conclusion:

The Bureau members took note of the conclusions of the report and invited the Secretariat to develop, on the basis of these conclusions, and in consultation with the Host Country and the Bureau, a proposal on the structure of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS (including different options, where possible) and a mechanism to implement the proposal to be submitted to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties, as requested by Resolution 6.3. The budgetary implications of each proposed option should be considered.

Resolution 6.3 also entrusted the Bureau to address the question of the recruitment procedures for the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Host Country. A draft procedure for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary, prepared by the Government of the Principality of Monaco and the Permanent Secretariat, was presented at BU 11 Meeting.

BU11 Conclusion:

Following the debate on this Agenda item, the Bureau asked that the proposed procedure be further elaborated taking into account in particular the views expressed during the meeting. A new version of the procedure document shall be proposed by the Principality of Monaco.

The draft structure and personnel of the Permanent Secretariat, as well as the revised draft procedure for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary were then presented at BU12 Meeting.

BU12 Conclusion:

The Bureau members invited the Secretariat to:

- Amend the draft procedure for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary proposed in Document ACCOBAMS-BU12/Inf04 by indicating that the appointment process shall be conducted by the Bureau with the assistance of the Secretariat and that the Bureau and a representative of the host country shall act as the recruitment committee and shall use for its deliberations its Rules of Procedure as set in Resolution 5.7 and amended by Resolution 6.4.
- Compile the views and opinions received from the National Focal Point (NFPs) to elaborate a new version of the structure of the Secretariat and the related budget implications and submit it to the NFPs for a second round of consultation. The results of the consultation shall be used by the Secretariat to elaborate the draft Resolution on the Structure and Personnel of the Permanent Secretariat and the draft Resolution on Programme and Budget to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Extended Bureau.

3) Format of National Reports

In accordance with Resolution 6.9, the Permanent Secretariat prepared, in collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, an amended format for the National reports and a proposed template for the ACCOBAMS regional representatives' report that were both presented during BU11 Meeting.

BU11 Conclusion:

The Bureau members welcomed the two amended formats and requested the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to go ahead with their implementation in the NETCCOBAMS website.

4) Mid-term evaluation of the ACCOBAMS Strategy

In accordance with Resolution 5.1 and as provided by the 2017-2019 Programme of Work, a Mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy was carried out in 2018/2019. The Terms of Reference of the mission were presented during BU11 Meeting.

BU 11 Conclusion:

The Bureau members approved the proposed ToRs and invited the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to launch the call for expertise early 2018. Conclusions and outcomes of the evaluation should be taken into consideration in order to propose amendments to the Strategy, when appropriate.

A summary of the consultant's work was then presented during BU12 Meeting.

BU12 Conclusion:

The Bureau members congratulated the consultant for his work. They requested the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to provide all Focal Points with a document on the mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy in January 2019.

5) Funding Strategy

In accordance with Resolution 5.1 and as provided by the 2017-2019 Programme of Work, the Permanent Secretariat elaborated a funding strategy. A preliminary draft was presented during BU11 Meeting.

BU11 Conclusion:

After discussion, the Bureau thanked the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, welcomed this preliminary draft and invited the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to continue the development of the funding strategy, and initiate a process of a wide consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

6) Budgetary matters

The Permanent Secretariat regularly informed the Bureau about the Trust Fund and the Supplementary Conservation Grant Fund. In accordance with Resolution 6.6, reports on incomes and expenditures were presented for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

BU11, BU12 and BUEXT4 Conclusions:

The Bureau Members congratulated the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for the presentation and the management of the Contributions.

The Bureau members highlighted and commended the important support of the Principality of Monaco, through its significant voluntary contribution for the organization of MOP6 in 2016, its voluntary contributions and the contribution through the Headquarters Agreement.

The Bureau noted with satisfaction the importance of the voluntary contributions received, especially from Italy, to support the implementation of the activities of the 2017-2019 Programme of Work, in particular for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. They also highlighted the importance of co-funding especially through joint projects.

The Bureau requested the Permanent Secretariat to invite Parties with unpaid pledges to settle their balance as soon as possible, in order to allow the implementation, by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, of activities relevant to the Agreement before the MOP7.

In accordance with the Bureau's decision, a new call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund was launched in 2018 by the Permanent Secretariat.

BU12 and BUEXT4 Conclusions:

The Bureau agreed to support, through the Supplementary Conservation Fund, which was replenished thanks to the voluntary contributions from Italy and Monaco, the following projects:

- 1/ "Establishing the bank of cetacean tissue samples in Ukraine" coordinated by the I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology (IZ) of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- 2/ "Monitoring and mitigation of cetacean bycatch in Bulgarian waters" coordinated by Green Balkans NGO (Bulgaria)
- 3/ "Mise en place d'un nouveau réseau opérationnel pour le suivi des échouages de cétacés sur le littoral algérien" coordinated by the Centre National de Recherche et de Développement de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (CNRDPA).

The Bureau also mandated the Permanent Secretariat to review the procedure of the ACCOBAMS Call for proposals to cover some gaps and weaknesses in the procedure that appeared after this round of the call for proposals.

7) Preparation of the MOP7

The Secretariat regularly informed the Bureau Members on the progress made in the preparation of the Seventh Meeting of the Parties (MOP7).

BU12 and BUEXT4 Conclusions:

The Bureau welcomed the invitation of Turkey to host MOP7 from 5th to 8th November 2019, in Istanbul. A special event to present the ASI will be held in the morning of the 4th of November 2019

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat was requested to specify in the MOP7 letter of invitation, the mandatory presence of national representatives during the meeting of the Head of delegation.

The Bureau asked the Permanent Secretariat to contact the Focal Points from Libya and Syria requesting them to provide the Secretariat with a formal letter explaining the "exceptional circumstances" that led to the delay in the payment of their contributions. This document will be then examined at the opening of MOP7 in order to decide if these Parties will be exceptionally granted the right to vote during MOP7.

8) ACCOBAMS Partners

At each Meeting of the Bureau, the Permanent Secretariat presented the requests for ACCOBAMS partnership received.

BU11, BU12 and BUEXT4 Conclusions:

During the triennium 2017-2019, the Bureau granted the status of ACCOBAMS Partners to 8 organizations:

- Marine Mammals Research Institute (Turkey);
- Centre National de Recherche et de Développement de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (Algeria);
- Association Ecologique Marine BARBAROUS (Algeria);
- Association Protection des Cétacés et de l'Environnement Marin (Algeria) ;
- Cybelle Planète (France);
- Menkab, il respiro del mare (Italy);
- Marecamp Onlus (Italy);
- Capo Carbonara MPA (Italy).

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT: TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

At each Meeting of the Bureau, the Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee provided the Bureau with an overview of the recent developments and activities of the 2017-2019 Programme of Work. In particular, progresses were made on the following topics:

- Improve capacities of national organisations and experts
- Improve knowledge about state of cetaceans
- Species conservation plans
- Interactions with fisheries
- Underwater noise
- Ship strikes
- Cetaceans stranding
- Cetacean watching
- Interactions with marine litter
- Protected areas for cetaceans.

BU11, BU12 and BUEXT4 Conclusions:

The Bureau commended all the activities implemented and congratulated the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee for their work.

The Bureau commended the progresses of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and congratulated the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and all ASI stakeholders for the impressive work achieved leading to a successful implementation of the survey in the Mediterranean Sea. The Bureau stressed the importance of conducting a similar survey in the Black Sea.

The Bureau encouraged the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee to continue and strengthen cooperation with all relevant Organizations in order to capitalize on ongoing efforts undertaken for the conservation of cetacean, especially in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

At the 11th and 12th Meetings of the Bureau, the Permanent Secretariat presented a list of proposed activities (respectively for 2018 and 2019), in accordance with the Work Programme adopted by Parties and taking into consideration priority implementation levels and relevant budgetary implications.

BU11 and BU12 Conclusions:

The Bureau Members approved the provisional list of activities for 2018 and 2019 and the related budget allocations noting that some of them are pending budget availability.

In this context, they highlighted and commended the important support of voluntary contributions, especially from Italy.

ANNEX VIII

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

ANNEX VIII - REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT
(from 1st January 2017 to 15 October 2019)

Note of the Secretariat

According to the Article IV, paragraph 2, f), the Agreement Secretariat shall provide to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties a report on the work of the Agreement Secretariat, the Sub-Regional Co-ordination Units, the Bureau, and the Scientific Committee, and on the implementation of the Agreement based on information provided by the Parties and other sources.

This document is a report on activities carried out by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, based on the Work Programme 2017-2019 adopted during the Sixth Meeting of the Parties in 2016.

The Secretariat prepared a report on its activities regarding administrative and scientific issues and on collaboration with other Institutions during the triennium 2017 -2019.

The Permanent Secretariat attended meetings and workshops. Each time, the Secretariat presented the activities of the Agreement to enhance its visibility as partner, disseminated information material and investigated ways of strengthening relevant cooperation/collaboration for the implementation of ACCOBAMS. All these meetings are presented in [Annex 1](#).

Moreover, during the Fourth meeting of the Extended Bureau (18-19 April 2019, Monaco), Bureau Members recommended the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to prepare an information document with activities carried out by the Secretariat and funded by ACCOBAMS since 2014, benefiting to Countries having minimum ordinary contributions. This information appears in [Annex 2](#) of this document.

The Parties will be invited to comment and take note of the Report.

ACCOBAMS WORK PROGRAMME 2017 - 2019

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA).....	104
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION.....	104
Establish regular communication	104
INVOLVEMENT OF ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS	105
Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations.....	105
ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.....	106
New funding possibilities	106
IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS	109
Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress.....	109
ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA	110
Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas....	110
CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)	111
IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS	111
Cetacean population estimates and distribution	111
Population Structure.....	113
Monitoring cetaceans status	114
REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION).....	115
Interaction with fisheries	115
Anthropogenic noise.....	117
Ship strikes.....	119
Cetacean watching.....	120
Marine debris.....	122
Climate change	123
Species conservation plans.....	123
Captivity related issues	125
Chemical & biological pollution	126
ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS	127
Public awareness	127
IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS	128
Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation.....	128
Capacity to use cetaceans photo id and undertake aerial surveys	130
Capacity building for other cetacean conservation issues	131
Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes	132
ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS.....	132
Protected areas for cetaceans	132
Main meetings attended by the Permanent Secretariat in 2017-2019 (up to 15 th October 2019).....	134
Activities carried out by the Secretariat and funded by ACCOBAMS since 2014, benefiting to Countries having minimum ordinary contributions,	137

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 ¹¹
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)	The ACCOBAMS Secretariat contracted a new IT Company (Lydaxius) early 2017 to update the NETCCOBAMS website. New version is online since October 2017: http://www.netccobams.com It also includes new National Reports formats	Done
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		
3- Continue organising Regional Workshops with the representatives of Parties and representatives of the Scientific Committee		Regional Workshops organised in 2018	3 Regional workshops were organized from 7 th to 12 th May 2018 in Tunis, Tunisia	Done Please refer to ACCOBAMS-RW04/2018/Doc07
4- Continue organising Biennial Conferences for the Southern Mediterranean countries		Biennial conferences organised in 2017	CSMC4 was organized in Oran, Algeria from 11 th to 13 th November 2017	Done Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf41
5- Regularly update ACCOBAMS website , and newsletter FINS. Link with the Black Sea bulletin		New and accurate information available on the website FINS regularly published	New ACCOBAMS website in both English & French. Regular news on ACCOBAMS activities New edition of FINS dedicated to the ASI distributed at MOP7.	Done Please refer to FINS

¹¹ Done, Partially Done, Not Done, Not relevant for the Secretariat activity report

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Dec30/AmC04

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
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 (MSFD ¹²), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, Pelagos Agreement, international, regional and local NGOs		<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 participation in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023	Joint actions undertaken and regular communication ensured, in particular regarding improving knowledge on cetacean abundance and distribution, reducing human pressures on cetaceans and harmonizing approaches among Organizations to strengthen management of cetacean conservation	Done / Ongoing
- Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage accession of all riparian states to the Agreement• Develop activities with non-Parties		All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS	An explanatory note from the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat regarding the accession to the ACCOBAMS was provided to non-Parties through the Depositary. Turkey became Party to ACCOBAMS on 1 st February 2018	Done / Ongoing
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	Discussion have been held with ASCOBANS Secretariat to approach EC on bycatch issues and to organize a meeting with the CMS Executive Secretary	Ongoing

¹² EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD) 		
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 	OSPAR, OGP, ICES have been consulted on noise issues (especially in the framework of QuietMed and QuietMed2 Projects) An ACCOBAMS workshop with NATO on sonar and cetacean interaction organized on 8 th and 9 th October 2019 in Toulon, France.	Done / Ongoing Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf26
5- Establish connections with other relevant organizations (EBA, WTO...)		-	Not Done
6- Organise a Workshop of Partners	Reinforcement of synergy between Partners and harmonisation of activities	A 5-days training workshop on databases and photo-ID for experts was organised in Lebanon in October 2018 in collaboration with the SPA/RAC, IUCN Med, MedPAN and the Lebanese CNRS	Done Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf10

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	A preliminary Draft Funding Strategy was presented at the 11 th Meeting of the Bureau in December 2017 as well as during the Regional Workshops in May 2018. The final Draft was circulated to NFP in June 2019. Draft Resolution is submitted for adoption by MOP7.	Done Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Res7.5
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	A new call for proposals was launched at the end of 2018 as per BU12 Decision. The priority topics considered for this call were:	Done Please refer to: • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf04

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the assessment and mitigation of interactions with fisheries in the areas not already covered under the MAVA funded projects on interactions with fisheries; - Support to the establishment/reinforcement of stranding networks and tissue banks and to the monitoring of marine litter during necropsies, in particular through dedicated collaborations. <p>The selection of the 3 SCF-funded projects was done by the Bureau during BUExt4. Following Bureau's Decision, an amended procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Grant Funds is submitted for adoption by MOP7.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Res7.8
3- Support development or develop multilateral/ transboundary projects	Project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies	<p>Six projects were developed by the Permanent Secretariat or with its contribution in collaboration with other partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Med-Bycatch project ("Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa 'bycatch' of vulnerable species and testing mitigation - a collaborative approach") granted by the MAVA Foundation - MAVA Depredation project ("Support to mitigating depredation caused by Bottlenose dolphins in fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia") granted by the MAVA Foundation - MAVA Species project ("Support mechanism for filling key knowledge gaps for vulnerable and highly mobile species impacted by 	<p>Done / Ongoing Please refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf19 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf20 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf24 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf25

		<p>fisheries in the Mediterranean”) granted by the MAVA Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QuietMED project (“Joint programme on noise (D11) for the implementation of the Second Cycle of the MSFD in the Mediterranean Sea”) granted by the European Commission - QUIETMED2 project (“Joint programme for GES on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region”) granted by the European Commission - CeNoBS Project (“Support MSFD implementation in the Black Sea through establishing a regional monitoring system of cetaceans (D1) and noise monitoring (D11) for achieving GES”) granted by the European Commission. <p>The Permanent Secretariat ensured coordination or acted as direct Partner in these six projects. The Permanent Secretariat also provided support to and advice in the development of several other project proposals (successfully funded or not) coordinated by other organizations or ACCOBAMS Partners.</p> <p>Following the offer by Italy of a significant Voluntary contribution, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat provided the Italian FP with a proposal to experiment best available and new technologies to collect, analyse and model data on cetaceans as well as on impacting human activities, in order to support the threat-based management approach and the identification of new Cetaceans Critical Habitats.</p>	
--	--	--	--

		<p>The activity will be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct contribution to the “Sphyrna Odyssey” project for the collection of data in North western Mediterranean Sea using Autonomous Underwater and Surface Vehicles; - in link with this project, further analysis of data collected together with the construction by ACCOBAMS of a “Big Data” analytics tools. 	
--	--	---	--

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)	The Permanent Secretariat issued a call for consultancy. Mr. Alain Jeudy de Grissac, was contracted to undertake the assessment of the level of effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014-2025. The first report on the evaluation was circulated to all Focal Points early 2019. The “New ACCOBAMS Strategy” is submitted for adoption under draft Resolution 7.4	Done Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Res7.4
2- Propose remedy actions in cases of non-compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Proposal of remedy actions	The Second Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee was held in Monaco on 5 th & 6 th March 2018	Done Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc16• ACCOBAMS-FC2/2018/Doc 14

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/DCSP/Annex

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	<p>To facilitate the acceptance process, the Secretariat approached the Depositary in order to ensure timely information of ACCOBAMS Focal Points when the Minister of Foreign Affairs of their Countries is contacted through diplomatic ways on this issue</p> <p>In September 2019, 8 Parties have deposited their instrument of acceptance with the Depositary: Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine</p>	Done / Ongoing

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative is under implementation since 2017. Regular consultation of ASI Contact Group and the ASI Steering Committee are carried out• Standardized and harmonized cetacean monitoring protocols were developed by the ASI Scientific Coordinator and his team• The Mediterranean campaign was implemented during the summer 2018. Due to challenging contexts, boat surveys in Syria and Egypt were conducted in 2019• The Black Sea campaign was implemented during the summer 2019 through the EU funded project <i>CeNoBS - Support MSFD implementation in the Black Sea through establishing a regional monitoring system of cetaceans (D1) and noise monitoring (D11) for achieving GES</i>• The ASI Data Analysis started in 2018 and the first results on distribution and abundance of cetacean are presented at the occasion of MoP7• Implementation of the ASI capacity building Component on cetacean monitoring (collection,	Done / Ongoing Please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf11• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf12• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf13• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf33

		<p>preparation, use of data) in collaboration with the RAC/SPA (in synergy with the EcAp project): 2 regional workshops were conducted in 2018 (pre-campaign phase) and 4 sub-regional workshops in 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several Communication support, actions and media coverage tools were developed along the ASI project, in particular during the surveys, ASI events and at national levels. • Presentations of the ASI and its preliminary results were made during several regional relevant meetings/ conferences and events. • The implementation of a <i>“Feasibility study and experimentation on the use of drones for Cetaceans monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Agreement area”</i> started in 2019 through a collaboration between Israel Marine Mammal Research & Assistance Center (IMMRAC) and Murdoch University • The ASI data policy and Term of Use were developed in view of making the ASI data available. • A call for proposals was launched in Sept 2019 to recruit an expert to conduct a study on <i>‘Developing proposals for long-term funding mechanism(s) for periodical large-scale cetacean monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Area’</i> 	
--	--	---	--

ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Dec30/Annex

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	This issue will be considered as action in CMP since stock structure is essential to understand the conservation implications of threats	Not Done
2- Investigate and implement modes for better collaboration between tissue banks and Countries to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of entities involved in cetacean stranding networks<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ survey conducted in March 2018, supplemented by direct contact with certain Focal Points, members of the SC, ACCOBAMS Partners or other scientists✓ Two questionnaires were e-mailed and posted in line in NETCCOBAMS: databanks and tissue banks• Development of a searchable metadata bank on cetacean strandings in ACCOBAMS Area• Development of a Searchable metadata on cetaceans' tissue banks in ACCOBAMS Area• Collaboration with WDC and NRDC regarding CITES recommendation	Done / Ongoing Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf43 and Inf44
3-In order to facilitate the exchange of samples, a list of tissue banks registered with the CITES Secretariat should be made available			

ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Doc28/Annex

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	Awaiting results from an ongoing 2-years project funded by the Pelagos that will assess mortality trends due to ship strikes through strandings and live animals (photo-identified) in the Pelagos Sanctuary.	Not relevant (to be done by SC)
2- Assess IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly, and more specifically: <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	Assessment of IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites	New assessments of the conservation status of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans and update of existing ones according to the IUCN Red List Categories and criteria were launched mid- 2019 through a collaboration with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. The results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative will be used in this process. The sub-population of killer whales has been assessed and is currently being evaluated by the IUCN Red List authorities	Partially Done Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc28• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf40
3- Prepare Red Books of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and communicate with European Union. Coordinate with the Black Sea Red Data Book	Preparation of Red Books of cetaceans	Unavailability of voluntary contributions and/or external funding	Not Done

ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Doc30/Annex

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	<p>Pilot actions of the ACCOBAMS/GFCM project on mitigating interactions between endangered marine species and fishing activities were achieved in 2017. The project closure workshop was organised on 20 March 2018, in Fuengirola, Spain, back to back with an ACCOBAMS/GFCM Expert Meeting on the mitigation of interactions of predators and vulnerable species with fisheries (Fuengirola, Spain, 21 March 2018).</p> <p>In addition to the pilot actions experiences and results, the main outputs of this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The publication of Good practice guides for the handling of animals caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries (for cetaceans, sea turtles, seabirds and elasmobranchs)- The preparation of bibliographic reviews on bycatch rates of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black and on technics/measures tested worldwide to mitigate bycatch/depredation. <p>The three-years MAVA Depredation project (“Support to mitigating depredation caused by Bottlenose dolphins in fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia”) was approved by the MAVA Foundation in December 2017. This project is coordinated by ACCOBAMS and GFCM, in collaboration with SPA/RAC. In Tunisia, the activities are coordinated by scientists from INAT and INSTM. In Morocco, the</p>	Done / Ongoing Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc29• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc30• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf15• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf16• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf17• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf20

		activities are coordinated by INRH. Technical assistance is provided to both national teams, through the recruitment of dedicated experts.	
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 	<p>The Med Bycatch project funded by the MAVA Foundation (“Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa ‘bycatch’ of vulnerable species and testing mitigation - a collaborative approach”) was launched in 2018. The coordination of this project involves ACCOBAMS, GFCM, SPA/RAC, IUCN Med, BirdLife International and MEDASSET.</p> <p>Main progresses in this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The First Regional review on bycatch of vulnerable species and mitigation technics - The elaboration of a unique methodology to monitor the incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries - Bycatch data collection by trained observers across more than 40 ports in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey through on-board observations, self-reporting and questionnaires, covering bottom fishing gears (longlines, trawls, gillnets) and purse seines - The development of a regional bycatch database. 	<p>Done / Ongoing Please refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf18 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf19
3- Investigate the establishment of connection with the EU bycatch reporting system	Contribution to the implementation of EU Policies	The methodological manual “Monitoring the incidental catch of vulnerable species in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries” developed by GFCM in collaboration with all the partners of the Med Bycatch project is in line with the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF).	<p>Done / Ongoing Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf18</p>
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	<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>	The Permanent Secretariat supported the development of the CeNoBS project “Support MSFD implementation in the Black Sea through establishing a regional monitoring system of cetaceans (D1) and noise monitoring (D11) for achieving GES”, which include pilot monitoring activities on bycatch in the Black Sea countries.	<p>Done / Ongoing</p>

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	The Joint Bycatch Working Group was established in January 2019 and the 2 Co-Chairs were nominated in February 2019.	Done Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc13
--	--	--	---

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)	Partially addressed under the EU Projects QuietMed and QuietMed2 Overview of the noise hot spots in the ACCOBAMS area in preparation for presentation at SC13 in 2020	Done / Ongoing Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf24• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf25
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	Addressed under the EU Project QuietMed with the ACCOBAMS Impulsive Noise Register in the Mediterranean region: http://80.73.144.60/CTN_Geoportal/home/ The ongoing EU QuietMED2 project will facilitate the assessment through the establishment of link between the pressure and the associated environmental risk	Done / Ongoing Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf24• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf25
3- Develop a regional project to implement a monitoring of underwater noise, particularly in critical habitats and in interactions hot spots	Regional Project	Addressed under the EU funded Projects QuietMed and QuietMed2	Done / Ongoing Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf24• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf25
4- Develop and update more detailed guidelines to mitigate impacts of anthropogenic noise (using the existing	Updated guide to use mitigation measures	Efforts initiated by experts from JNWG in 2019 in order to present final document to MOP7	Done Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc31

guidelines Res 4.17) and update the guide for Parties to use mitigation measures			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Res7.13
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	Unavailability of voluntary contributions and co-funding -	Not done
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	<p>Cooperation developed by the Permanent Secretariat, in particular through QuietMed and QuietMed2 projects</p> <p>Workshop with National Navies in order to improve dialogue on noise issues in Toulon, France, on 8 and 9 October 2019.</p>	Done / Ongoing Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf24 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf25 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf26
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 MSFD “measure” programme for EU countries for example / EcAP process)	MMO certification	<p>Courses for trainers, for the MMO certificate were finalized</p> <p>Call for MMO trainers was undertaken in March / April 2018 - First trainers organizations were accredited in November 2018</p> <p>In September 2019, 4 organizations are accredited.</p> <p>First Training for MMO was organized in September 2018 in Romania</p>	Done / Ongoing Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf22 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf23
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	CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities, elaborated through a joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS initiative under the CMS Champions Programme, were adopted at CMS COP12	Not relevant (to be done by Parties)
9- implement the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities			Not relevant (to be done by Parties)

ACCOBAMS MOP 7/2019/SC33/Annex

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	Following the workshop on CCH and IMMAs during the 2018 ECS, a document has been presented to the IWC SC on using IMMAs to create a liaison with the IMO. A joint workshop IWC/IUCN/ACCOBAMS on ship strikes and IMMAs was organized in April 2019.	Ongoing Please refer to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf31• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf32• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf34
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		
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		
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	The Permanent Secretariat requested the Chair of the SC to evaluate the relevance and the feasibility of a “whale-safe from ship strikes” certificate for shipping Companies – document presented during SC12	Ongoing
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 (to be done by SC)

ACCOBAMS MOP 7/2019/0030/Annex

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	Workshops "Towards the development of sustainable whale watching and pescatourism activities” in Tunisia and in Morocco were organized in Tunisia on 14 and 15 March 2017 and on 17-18 January 2018 in Morocco. Exchange visits for Moroccan and Tunisian delegations took place on 11-15 September 2017 and on 16-20 April 2018 with the objective to discover pescatourism and sustainable whale watching activities in particular the HQWW certificate. The Permanent Secretariat follows the progress of the Eco-STRIM project “Eco-Sustainable TouRism Investments to stimulate and promote the competitiveness and innovation of the Marine cross-border cooperation activities”. Coordinated by CIMA Foundation, this project is aimed at promoting high quality certificates, including the “High quality whale watching®” certificate.	Done / Ongoing Please refer to • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf15
2 - Provide a definition on the different types of whale watching operators (commercial, research, others)	Definition on the different types of whale watching operators	To be done by the Whale Watching Working Group which needs to be reactivated.	Not done
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	Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, updated		

Agreement area, Gibraltar Strait, and south Portugal).	Common procedure on the data collection updated	To be done by the Whale Watching Working Group which needs to be reactivated.	
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		
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		
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		
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	Regular contact made with relevant Organisations addressing cetacean watching initiatives	Ongoing

ACCOBAMS MOP 7/2019/Doc59/Annex

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	No funding opportunity identified to develop activities on this topic. The Secretariat follows MEDPOL and GFCM activities in order to join any action related to ghost nets impacts that would be initiated by them.	Not done
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	A bibliographic synthesis has been prepared in the framework of the joint ACCOBAMS /ASCOBANS/SPARAC/ECS workshop in La Spezia (6th April 2018) Pilot monitoring activities implemented in the Adriatic, in collaboration with the University of Padova and relevant organizations from Adriatic countries involved in cetaceans necropsies.	Done/On going Please refer to • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf27 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf29
	• Focus on secondary effects more than ingestion • Suggested mitigation measures	Draft Resolutions stranding to be submitted to MOP7 prepared based on Recommendation of SC12 regarding marine debris and cetacean	Done
3- Encourage cooperation with ongoing regional initiatives on marine litter.	Joint programmes at the Agreement level Synergies with EU MSFD	The Permanent Secretariat attended the meetings of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter coordinated by MEDPOL, as well as relevant MEDPOL meetings to follow the progress in the definition of the IMAF Candidate Indicator 24 “Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organism focusing on selected mammals, marine birds and marine turtles”. Several collaborations with relevant regional projects and initiatives (MedSeaLitter, PlasticBusters MPA, INDICIT, PANACEA) were initiated to share the floating marine litter data collected during the ACCOBAMS	Done/On going

		Survey Initiative in view of risk assessment modelling studies.	
--	--	---	--

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	Expert representing ACCOBAMS participated in the CMS workshop on climate change 20-21 February 2017 Following the offer by Italy of a significant Voluntary contribution, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat provided the Italian FP with a proposal to compare evolution of some cetacean's population with environmental changes over 25 years in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea and propose monitoring system, using the ACCOBAMS Big Data analytics tools constructed	On going
2- Liaise with the relevant CMS Working Group to participate to its future activities	Joint activities		On going

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	To be endorsed by BSC CBD Advisory Group and Black Sea Commission	Ongoing Please refer to • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc14

2- Complete the Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin	Scientists in charge of relevant Conservation Plans identified Finalized Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin Drafts of Conservation Management Plans for: ○ Fin whale ○ Cuvier’s beaked whales ○ Killer whales ○ Long finned pilot whales List of other species of interest	Initial drafts of Conservation Management Plans for four species (fin whales, Risso’s dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea) were prepared and presented by experts of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee during its 12th Meeting in 2018. Expert workshops organized to be held in December 2019 to finalize fin whales and Risso’s Dolphins CMP	Ongoing Please refer to • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf39
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			
4- Consider the preparation of regional conservation plans based on the IWC conservation and management plans for: • Cuvier’s beaked whales, • Killer whales • Long finned pilot whales And Identify other species of interest			
5- Consider update existing conservation plans (e.g. short-beaked common dolphins)			
6- Implement existing conservation plans (e.g. short-beaked common dolphins)	Existing conservation plans updated and implemented		
7- Develop or revise National Action Plans	National Action Plans in most of the ACCOBAMS Parties developed/revised and mostly implemented	Contacts established with SPA/RAC on this issue. SPA/RAC will assist the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in updating the NAP in Algeria	Ongoing Please refer to • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf14
8- Implement National Action Plans			Not relevant (to be done by Parties)

ACCOBAMS MOP 7/2019/Dec39/Annex

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	Regular contact with the Black Sea SRCU, in charge of updating the inventory of BS bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity	Ongoing
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	The Secretariat was approached to provide a guiding document as a protocol or methodology to be followed by this Scientific Authority to implement proper genetic analysis in order to allow setting conclusions. Permanent Secretariat is liaising with WDC who is following up with expert on genetic	Ongoing
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	Permanent Secretariat liaised with ACCOBAMS legal expert. This study is finalized and should be published.	Done Please refer to • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf39

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	Following the offer by Italy of a Voluntary contribution, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat provided the Italian FP with a proposal to establish a state of the art on the impacts of pollution on cetaceans and provide guidance to Parties to further support the development of scientific projects and initiatives related to this issue.	Ongoing
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			

ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Inf11

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	3 rd Edition organized on 8 June 2017 by the Secretariat, back to back with the World Ocean Day and the MONACOLOGY event 4 th Edition organized on 8th June 2018 back to back with the ASI celebration event in Monaco, at the occasion of the World Ocean Day 5 th Edition organized by the Secretariat, back to back with the World Ocean Day and the MONACOLOGY event	Done/Ongoing
2- Create and disseminate communication tools targeted to future generations	Communication tools distributed to relevant subjects	The ACCOBAMS Secretariat contracted a new IT Company early 2017 to update the NETCCOBAMS website. New version is online since October 2017: http://www.netccobams.com	Done/Ongoing
3-Promote ACCOBAMS activities using the social networks (such as Facebook, Twitter,...)		Regular posting of information / news on Facebook and twitter	Done/Ongoing
4- Organise public awareness related survey (Opinion of public)	Survey format and instructions Survey report		Not Relevant (to be done by Parties)
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	3 celebration events during the ASI Mediterranean Campaign and the Song of the Whale Ports of call (Malaga, Monaco and Bizerte) 7 Small communication projects were supported through the ASI project to raise awareness on the ASI, cetaceans and marine biodiversity at large.	Done Please refer to: • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf11

		A conference on the ASI results delivered to country representatives and general public during the Monaco Ocean Week in March 2019 ECS/ACCOBAMS student award in 2017 and in 2018	
6- Establish a Partner Award for public awareness on Cetaceans Conservation	Project proposals selected among ACCOBAMS Partners for implementation with support from ACCOBAMS	Selection process completed. The first Partner will be awarded at MOP7	Done/Ongoing
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	The ACCOBAMS Secretariat prepared a Preliminary overview of opportunity platforms and Citizens observations. This document was presented during SC12	Ongoing
8 - Implement specific national activities on public awareness	National specific public awareness activities implemented		Not Relevant (to be done by Parties)

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	Participation of 3 experts to the marine mammal necropsy workshop in Liege, Belgium in 2017, 2018 and in 2019	Ongoing
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of entities involved in cetacean stranding networks<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ survey conducted in March 2018, supplemented by direct contact with certain Focal Points, members of the SC, ACCOBAMS Partners or other scientists	Done Please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf43

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two questionnaires were e-mailed and posted in line in NETCCOBAMS: databanks and tissue banks • Elaboration of a searchable metadata bank searchable metadata bank on cetacean strandings in ACCOBAMS Area 	
3- Develop a common operational stranding protocol, in collaboration with IWC, ECS and ASCOBANS	Common operational protocol implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/SPA-RAC Workshop on marine debris and cetacean stranding held in April 2018 in La Spezia, Italy, • Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Workshop held in June 2019 in • Best Practices on cetacean postmortem investigation and tissue sampling produced as a result of the harmonization process led jointly by the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Secretariats 	Done Please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Res7.14 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc33 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf28 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf29
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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of a Searchable metadata on cetaceans' tissue banks in ACCOBAMS Area 	Done Please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf44

ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Inf11/Annex

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	- 3 ASI Sub regional Training Workshops were conducted in Lebanon, Tunisia and Montenegro on Cetaceans monitoring techniques, including on Photo ID methods. - Organization of a 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use (Lebanon, October 2018)	Done Please refer to: • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf11 • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf10
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	- Organization of a 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use (Lebanon, October 2018)	Done Please refer to: • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf10
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 Feb.2015)		Provided relevant Parties with photo-id equipment (camera, lenses), upon funding availability (approach Companies for sponsorship)	Cameras and lenses (3 sets) provided for the ASI Boat Surveys in Syria and Egypt.	Done Please refer to: • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf11

ACCOBAMS MOP7/2019/Inf10/Annex

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)	- Participation of experts with less knowledges to workshops/ conferences - Organization of a 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use (Lebanon, October 2018)	Done Please refer to: • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf10
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		
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	Voluntary contributions and co-funding required	Not done
5- Organize training sessions for national experts to fill databases (NETCCOBAMS, OBIS-Seamap, Medaces, Intercet,...)		Experts trained on relevant databases	- Organization of a 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use (Lebanon, October 2018)	Done Please refer to: • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf10

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Doc59/Annex

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	Implementation of the ACCOBAMS module in Istanbul (Turkey) for students for all Black Sea Parties to ACCOBAMS	Done
2- Translate existing cetacean conservation modules in other languages (such as Arabic, Russian, ...)		Cetacean conservation modules available in different languages of the Agreement	ACCOBAMS module translated in Russian to facilitate its dissemination in the Black Sea	Done
3- Encourage Parties that have already introduced the module, to disseminate the module to others universities		Dissemination of cetacean conservation modules in universities	Contacts made with some Universities in Algeria (e.g. veterinary University)	Ongoing

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	Workshop entitled “Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas” held on Sunday 30 th April 2017 in Middelfart (Denmark)	Ongoing Please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc35• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/ Inf30• ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/ Inf31
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	Updated lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas) Identification of areas with the same threats for cetaceans (bycatch areas, harassment areas...)	Workshop entitled “Towards understanding the overlap of selected threats and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) across the Mediterranean Sea » held on Saturday 7 th April 2018 in La Spezia, Italy A joint workshop IWC/IUCN/ACCOBAMS on ship strikes and IMMAs was organized in April 2019	

	IMMAs in the ACCOBAMS area identified Establishment of links with the BSC CBD activities centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/ Inf32
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"	Dissemination during Conferences: ECS, CSMC4, Forum AMP, IMPAC4, ICMMPA5	Ongoing Please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/ Doc35
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	Can only be done with knowledge of stock structure and abundance, threats and mitigation measures	Not done
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	An Overview on the use of Passive Acoustic Monitoring in MPAs was prepared and presented during SC12	Ongoing
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	It is not expected that this issue can be resolved within the current triennium	Not done
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	Revised document on strategical Alliance was presented by MAP Secretariat during the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019). Comments by partner Organizations mentioned in the draft strategy will be submitted for consideration by the 21 st Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Contracting Parties	Ongoing Please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc36

ANNEX 1**Main meetings attended by the Permanent Secretariat in 2017-2019 (up to 15th October 2019)****2017**

- **ASCOBANS** - Expert Workshop 'Unacceptable Interactions Part II' & Bycatch (Bonn, Germany, 22-23 February 2017)
- **UNEP/MAP** – Meeting of the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON), Biodiversity and Fisheries (Madrid, Spain, 28 February - 1 March 2017)
- **CBD** - Workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas for the Black Sea and Caspian Sea (Baku, Azerbaijan, 24-29 April 2017)
- Annual Meeting of the **IWC** Scientific Committee (Bled, Slovenia, 06-16 May 2017)
- **UNEP/MAP/SPA-RAC** – 13th Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017)
- **GFCM** – 19th Session of the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 16-19 May 2017)
- **UNEP/MAP** - Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points (Rome, Italy, 29-31 May 2017)
- **GFCM** – 6th Meeting of the Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) (Constanta, Romania, 15-16 June 2017)
- **CMS** – 2nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (Bonn, Germany, 10-13 July 2017)
- **ASCOBANS** – 23rd Advisory Committee Meeting (Le Conquet, France, 5-7 September 2017)
- International Marine Protected Areas Congress (**IMPAC4**) (La Serena, Chile, 4-8 September 2017)
- **UNEP/MAP** - 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 11 September 2017)
- **UNEP/MAP** - Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017)
- 10^{ème} Comité scientifique et technique de **Pelagos** (Monaco, 25 septembre 2017)
- **European Commission** - Workshop on fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 sites in the Mediterranean Sea (Zadar, Croatia, 10-12 October 2017)
- **GFCM** – 41st Session of the Commission (Budva, Montenegro, 16-20 October 2017)
- **CMS** – Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Manila, Philippines, 23-28 October 2017)
- 7^{ème} Réunion des Parties de l'Accord **Pelagos** (Monaco, 12-13 décembre 2017)
- **UNEP/MAP** - 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Tirana, Albania, 17- 20 December 2017)

2018

- **MAVA** OAPs M4 and M5 regional meeting (Rome, Italy, 30-31 January 2018)
- **IFREMER** - Réunion d'information campagnes océanographiques mettant en œuvre des sources sismiques (La Seyne-sur-Mer, France, 15 mars 2018)

- **Pelagos Agreement** – Réunion extraordinaire des Parties (Monaco, 9 février 2018)
- **ACCOBAMS/GFCM** Expert Meeting on the mitigation of interactions of predators and vulnerable species with fisheries (Fuengirola, Spain, 21 March 2018)
- **Pelagos Agreement** – 11ème Reunion du Comité Scientifique et Technique (Monaco, 20 April 2018)
- **CMS** – 3rd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (Bonn, Germany, 29 May-1 June 2018)
- **MedPAN** – 2018 MedPAN Advisory Committee Meeting (Marseille, France, 4 June 2018)
- **GFCM** – 20th session of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) (Tangier, Morocco, 26-29 June 2018)
- **MAVA** OAPs Strait of Sicily Sub-Region Steering Committee Meeting (Tunis, Tunisia, 19-20 September 2018)
- Comité National du Sanctuaire **Pelagos** (Villefranche-sur-Mer, France, 20 septembre 2018)
- **ASCOBANS** – 24th Advisory Committee Meeting (Vilnius, Lithuania, 25-27 September 2018)
- **MEDPOL** – Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 October 2018)
- **MEDPOL** – Third Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Izmir, Turkey, 11-12 October 2018)
- **GFCM** – 42nd Session of the Commission (Rome, Italy, 22-26 October 2018)
- **BSC** – 34th Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Istanbul, Turkey, 25th October 2018)
- 2nd Environmental Acoustic Big Data workshop (La Garde, France, 14 November 2018)
- Réunion du Comité d'évaluation du Certificat HQWW (La Ciotat, France, 15 November 2018)
- Inception Seminar of the SICOMAR plus project (Livorno, Italy, 22 November 2018)
- **GFCM** Forum on Fisheries Science in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (Rome, Italy, 10-14 December 2018)
- Réunion du Groupe de Travail HQWW (La Seyne sur Mer, France, 11 December 2018)
- **CMS** - the 3rd Meeting of Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Monaco 10 - 14 December 2018)

2019

- **UNEP/MAP** - Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) Biodiversity and Fisheries - Marseille, France, 12-13 February 2019
- **UNEP/MAP** 5th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) - Marseille, France, 13-14 February 2019
- **European Commission** Joint Research Centre Floating Marine Macro Litter workshop Rome, Italy 14- 15 February 2019
- **Joint GFCM/OceanCare** workshop on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise and impacts on fish, invertebrates and fish resources – Rome, Italy 21-22 February 2019

- 10th **edition** of the Monaco Blue Initiative - Monaco, 24 -25 March 2019
- Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring - Podgorica, Montenegro, 2-3 April 2019
- **UNEP/MAP** Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators -Podgorica, Montenegro, 4-5 April 2019
- **ICMMPA5** - 5th International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas - Messinia, Greece, April 8 – 12, 2019
- **EU-TG-Noise** Meeting, Heraklion, Greece, 9 April 2019
- **MARLICE** 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy, Seville, Spain 10-12th April 2019
- **MAVA** OAPs M4 and M5 Alboran sub regional steering committee meeting Motril, Spain 6-7 May 2019
- **CMS Family** - Strategic discussion Connectivity and Post-2020 – 17th May 2019
- International **Whaling** Commission Scientific Committee meeting (SC68a) – Nairobi, Kenya, 10-22 May 2019
- **MAVA** OAPs Strait of Sicily Sub-Region 2nd Steering Committee Meeting, Monastir and Kuriat islands, Tunisia, 22-24 May 2018
- **UNEP/MAP** Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points - Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019
- **JRC - STECF** EWG19-07 Review the implementation of the EU Regulation on the incidental catches of cetaceans, Ispra, ITALY, 17-21 June 2019
- **UNEP/MAP** Sixth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) Portorož, Slovenia, 18 June 2019
- **UNEP/MAP** – 14th Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points, Portorož, Slovenia, 18 – 21 June 2019
- **GFCM** 12th session of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) - Cairo, Egypt, 24 – 27 June 2019
- **MEDSEALITTER** Final Event | International conference and workshop Roma, Italy, June 11-12, 2019
- **MAVA** OAPs M4 and M5 regional meeting, Porto Cesareo , Italy, 2-4 July 201
- **OSPAR-HELCOM** workshop to examine possibilities for developing indicators for incidental bycatch of birds and marine mammals Copenhagen, Denmark 3-5 September 2019.
- **UNEP/MAP** 7th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Athens, Greece, 9 September 2019
- **UNEP/MAP** Focal Points Meeting 2019 Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019
- **ASCOBANS** 25th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, Stralsund, Germany 17-19 September 2019
- **TG-Noise** Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 15-16 October 2019

ANNEX 2**Activities carried out by the Secretariat and funded by ACCOBAMS since 2014, benefiting to Countries having minimum Ordinary Contributions**

During the Fourth meeting of the Extended Bureau (18-19 April 2019, Monaco), Bureau Members recommended the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to prepare an information document with activities carried out by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and funded by the ACCOBAMS, which benefit to Countries having minimum Ordinary Contributions.

Country	Triennium	Trainings	Conservation projects / activities	Meetings, Conferences and Workshops
Albania	2014-2016			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation/Participation to the MOP6
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Training on cetacean monitoring technics • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Contact Group Regional Workshop • Invitation to the MOP7
Bulgaria	2014-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training on Intercet (Web-GIS application on photo identification) during the ACCOBAMS workshop (ECS Conference, 21 March 2015, Malta) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation/Participation to the MOP6 • Third ACCOBAMS Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops (Menton, France, 13 - 17 April 2015).
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean aerial survey observers training • CeNoBS Black Sea aerial survey training • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use • First training to become an" ACCOBAMS Highly Qualified MMOs/PAM operators", in Romania, in September 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CeNoBS Black Sea survey • CeNoBS bycatch monitoring pilot actions • Monitoring and mitigation of cetacean bycatch in Bulgarian waters (SCF funded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of experts to the workshop "Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas" organized by ACCOBAMS in April 2017 and to the ECS Conference (April 2017, Middlefart, Denmark) • Participation of expert to the joint ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS/ SPA-RAC / ECS workshop on Marine Litters and Stranding organized on 6th April 2018, (La Spezia, Italy) as part of the ECS Conference • Invitation/Participation to the MOP7
Cyprus	2014-2016			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert workshop to identify Mediterranean IMMAs
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey 	

Country	Triennium	Trainings	Conservation projects / activities	Meetings, Conferences and Workshops
Georgia	2014-2016			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation/Participation to the MOP6
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use • First training to become an "ACCOBAMS Highly Qualified MMOs/PAM operators", in Romania, in September 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CeNoBS Black Sea survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to the MOP7
Lebanon	2014-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training on Intercet (Web-GIS application on photo identification) during the ACCOBAMS workshop (ECS Conference, 21 March 2015, Malta) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries • Third ACCOBAMS Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops (Menton, France, 13 - 17 April 2015). • Joint RAC/SPA-GFCM-ACCOBAMS meetings including ACCOBAMS workshop on the effectiveness of MPAs containing critical habitats of cetacean • Expert workshop to identify Mediterranean IMMAs • Invitation/Participation to the MOP6
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI boat survey observers training • ASI Training on cetacean monitoring technics • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey • Invitation to Quietmed workshop in Malta in October 2018 • Invitation to Quietmed2 workshop in Barcelona, Spain in December 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Contact Group Regional Workshop • Fourth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries, included a capacity building session on MMO/PAMs • Participation of experts to the workshop "Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas" organized by ACCOBAMS in April 2017 and to the ECS Conference (April 2017, Middlefart, Denmark) • Participation of expert to the joint ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS/ SPA-RAC / ECS workshop on Marine Litters and Stranding organized on 6th April 2018, (La Spezia, Italy) as part of the ECS Conference • Fourth ACCOBAMS Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops • Invitation/Participation to the MOP7

Country	Triennium	Trainings	Conservation projects / activities	Meetings, Conferences and Workshops
Malta	2014-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of the ACCOBAMS Teaching module in Malta 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert workshop to identify Mediterranean IMMAs
	2017-2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Contact Group Regional Workshop • Fourth ACCOBAMS Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops
Monaco	2014-2016			
	2017-2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey • Invitation to Quietmed workshop in Malta in October 2018 • Invitation to Quietmed2 workshop in Barcelona, Spain in December 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Conference during the SOTW stop • ASI Conference during Monaco Ocean Week
Montenegro	2014-2016			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation/Participation to the MOP6
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Training on cetacean monitoring technics • ASI Hand-on training on SOTW • Workshop on ingested marine litter monitoring & entanglement evidences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey • Invitation to Quietmed workshop in Malta in October 2018 • Invitation to Quietmed2 workshop in Barcelona, Spain in December 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Contact Group Regional Workshop (Adriatic) • Invitation/Participation to the MOP6
Morocco	2014-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshop on technical measures to mitigate interactions of endangered species with fisheries and to reduce post-capture mortality • training on Intercet (Web-GIS application on photo identification) during the ACCOBAMS workshop (ECS Conference, 21 March 2015, Malta) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of the Moroccan cetacean stranding network (SCF funded) • MAVA Pilot action on interactions between killer whales and bluefin tuna in the Strait of Gibraltar • MAVA Pilot action on dolphin interactions with purse seine sardine fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries • Third ACCOBAMS Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops (Menton, France, 13 - 17 April 2015). • Joint RAC/SPA-GFCM-ACCOBAMS meetings including ACCOBAMS workshop on the effectiveness of MPAs containing critical habitats of cetacean • Expert workshop to identify Mediterranean IMMAs • Invitation/Participation to the MOP6

Country	Triennium	Trainings	Conservation projects / activities	Meetings, Conferences and Workshops
			in the Moroccan Mediterranean	
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean aerial survey observers training • ASI Hand-on training on SOTW • ASI Training on cetacean monitoring technics • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey • ASI awareness small action • MAVA MedBycatch project • MAVA Depredation project • Invitation to Quietmed workshop in Malta in October 2018 • Invitation to Quietmed2 workshop in Barcelona, Spain in December 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries, included a capacity building session on MMO/PAMs • ASI Contact Group Regional Workshop • Participation of experts to the workshop “Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas” organized by ACCOBAMS in April 2017 and to the ECS Conference (April 2017, Middlefart, Denmark) • Participation of expert to the joint ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS/ SPA-RAC / ECS workshop on Marine Litters and Stranding organized on 6th April 2018, (La Spezia, Italy) as part of the ECS Conference • Invitation/Participation to the MOP7
Syria	2014-2016			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries • Expert workshop to identify Mediterranean IMMAs • Invitation to the MOP6
	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI boat survey observers training • ASI Training on cetacean monitoring technics • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI Mediterranean survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries, included a capacity building session on MMO/PAMs • ASI Contact Group Regional Workshop • Invitation to the MOP7
Tunisia	2014-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshop on technical measures to mitigate interactions of endangered species with fisheries and to reduce post-capture mortality • training on Intercet (Web-GIS application on photo identification) during the ACCOBAMS workshop (ECS Conference, 21 March 2015, Malta) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of the Tunisian cetacean stranding network (SCF funded) • Tunisian Dolphin project (SCF funded) • MAVA Pilot action on Dolphin and seabird interactions with purse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries • Third ACCOBAMS Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops (Menton, France, 13 - 17 April 2015). • Joint RAC/SPA-GFCM-ACCOBAMS meetings including ACCOBAMS workshop on the effectiveness of MPAs containing critical habitats of cetacean • Expert workshop to identify Mediterranean IMMAs

Country	Triennium	Trainings	Conservation projects / activities	Meetings, Conferences and Workshops
			seine small-pelagic fisheries in Kelibia • MAVA Pilot action on Interactions between bottom and surface longline fisheries and endangered species in the Gulf of Gabès	• Invitation/Participation to the MOP6
	2017-2019	• ASI Mediterranean aerial survey observers training • ASI Hand-on training on SOTW • ASI Training on cetacean monitoring technics • 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use	• ASI Mediterranean survey • ASI awareness small action • MAVA Depredation project • Invitation to Quietmed workshop in Malta in October 2018 • Invitation to Quietmed2 workshop in Barcelona, Spain in December 2019	• Fourth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries, included a capacity building session on MMO/PAMs • ASI Contact Group Regional Workshop • ASI Conference during the SOTW stop • Participation of experts to the workshop “Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas” organized by ACCOBAMS in April 2017 and to the ECS Conference (April 2017, Middlefart, Denmark) • Participation of expert to the joint ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS/ SPA-RAC / ECS workshop on Marine Litters and Stranding organized on 6 th April 2018, (La Spezia, Italy) as part of the ECS Conference • Fourth ACCOBAMS Session of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops • Invitation/Participation to the MOP7

ANNEX IX

**REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

ANNEX IX - REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(Since the Sixth Meeting of the Parties of ACCOBAMS)

During the triennium 2017-2019, the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee was composed by:

- 2 experts nominated by CIESM: Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK and Aviad SCHENIN
- 3 experts nominated by IUCN: Ibrahim BEN AMER, Léa DAVID and Simone PANIGADA
- 1 expert nominated by IWC: Greg DONOVAN
- 1 expert nominated by ECS: Joan GONZALVO
- 1 expert nominated by CMS: Giuseppe NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA
- 4 Regional Representatives: Vincent RIDOUX, Hedia EL HILLI, Vasilios PETROPOULOS and Romulus-Marian PAIU

The new Scientific Committee at its 1st Meeting elected:

- A Chair – Simone PANIGADA
- A Vice-Chair – Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK
- Four Task Managers (selected according to ACCOBAMS work plan and conservation priorities)

Each Task Manager is supported by a group of colleagues and mainly operates by email.

The nominated Task Managers for the current triennium (2017-2019) are:

- Interaction with fisheries: Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK
- Species Conservation Management Plans: Greg DONOVAN
- Functional Stranding Networks and Responses to Emergency Situations: Aviad SCHENIN
- Protected Areas for Cetaceans: Léa DAVID

Two Scientific Committee Meetings were held during this triennium:

- the 11th Scientific Committee Meeting (Monaco, 7-9 February 2017)
- the 12th Scientific Committee Meeting (Monaco, 5-8 November 2018)

During the 12th Scientific Committee Meeting, 8 Recommendations have been approved by the Members. These Recommendations are presented in [Annex](#).

In several occasions the SC has envisaged collaborations and synergies to strengthen the conservation and mitigation effort at the ACCOBAMS level.

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA).....	145
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION.....	145
Establish regular communication.....	145
INVOLVEMENT OF ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS	146
Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations	146
ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.....	147
New funding possibilities	147
IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS	148
Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress.....	148
ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA	148
Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas.....	148
CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)	149
IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS	149
Cetacean population estimates and distribution.....	149
Population Structure	149
Monitoring cetaceans status.....	150
REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION).....	151
Interaction with fisheries	151
Anthropogenic noise	152
Ship strikes	154
Cetacean watching.....	155
Marine debris.....	157
Climate change.....	158
Species conservation plans	159
Captivity related issues	160
Chemical & biological pollution	160
ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS	161
Public awareness.....	161
IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS	162
Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation	162
Capacity to use cetaceans photo id and undertake aerial surveys.....	163
Capacity building for other cetacean conservation issues.....	163
Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes.....	164
Protected areas for cetaceans	165

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 ¹³
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) New and updated information filled into NETCCOBAMS Link with the BSIS (Black Sea information system) prototype		
2- Maintain and regularly update NETCCOBAMS , including information about cetacean conservation scientists and experts operating in the region				
3- Continue organising Regional Workshops with the representatives of Parties and representatives of the Scientific Committee		Regional Workshops organised in 2018		
4- Continue organising Biennial Conferences for the Southern Mediterranean countries		Biennial conferences organised in 2017		
5- Regularly update ACCOBAMS website , and newsletter FINS. Link with the Black Sea bulletin		New and accurate information available on the website FINS regularly published		

¹³ Done, Partially Done, Not Done, Not relevant

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Doc39/Annex

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 / 4.8/4.17/ 4.20 / 6.11/ 6.12				
Action in the WP 2017-2019		Expected Outputs in the WP 2017-2019	Achievement of the WP 2017-2019	Status
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 (MSFD ¹⁴), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, Pelagos Agreement, international, regional and local NGOs		<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 participation in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023	<p>Participation to meetings and conferences, presenting ACCOBAMS and related projects.</p> <p>Joint ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Workshop on harmonization of the best practices for necropsy of cetaceans and for the development of diagnostic frameworks, took place in Padova, Italy on the 24th-26th of June 2019.</p>	
- Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage accession of all riparian states to the Agreement• Develop activities with non-Parties		All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
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		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee

¹⁴ EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD) 		
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 Scientific Committee
5- Establish connections with other relevant organizations (EBA, WTO...)			Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
6- Organise a Workshop of Partners	Reinforcement of synergy between Partners and harmonisation of activities		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee

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		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
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		
3- Support development or develop multilateral/ transboundary projects	Project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies		

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 / 6.8			
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		

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/ 6.13			
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	See ASI dedicated side-event.	Data collection completed, analysis ongoing.

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS		
CA 1 b	Population Structure		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.10/ 2.11/ 3.9/ 4.18/ 6.14			
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		ongoing
2- Investigate and implement modes for better collaboration between tissue banks and Countries to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis.		This aspect will be addressed with the preparation of species-specific Conservation and Management Plans (CMP)	
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 / 6.15			
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	IWC database is constantly monitored and populated. MEDACES is available for those who are keen to use it.	ongoing
2- Assess IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly, and more specifically: <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	Assessment of IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites	Thanks to ASI results, IUCN status for Med and BS cetaceans will be re-evaluated and a new assessment will be done for those species needing it. Preliminary meeting scheduled during WMMC in Barcelona in December 2019, after ASI results will be presented. In 2018, an assessment process of the Gibraltar strait subpopulation of the killer whale was launched in view of its submission to be included in the Mediterranean IUCN Red List. The assessment document was presented to the 12 th Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS for review before submission to the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) in August 2019.	ongoing
3- Prepare Red Books of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and communicate with European Union. Coordinate with the Black Sea Red Data Book	Preparation of Red Books of cetaceans	To be addressed in the next triennium	

ACCOBAMS MOP 17/2019/DCRF/Annex

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 / 6.16			
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	MAVA funded projects	ongoing
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	MAVA funded projects	ongoing
3- Investigate the establishment of connection with the EU bycatch reporting system	Contribution to the implementation of EU Policies	ACCOBAMS representative (Task Manager) participated the meetings related to EU bycatch regulation, which includes the EU reporting system.	ongoing
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	CeNOBS, a project concerning the Black Sea cetaceans, started to examine the bycatch situation in the Black Sea.	Ongoing
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	The ToR has been prepared and agreed. The dialogue has been started regarding the joint workshop.	Ongoing

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 / 6.17/ 6.18			
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)		ongoing
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	EU funded Project QuietMed and QuietMed2 (involvement of some Members of the JNWG)	ongoing
3- Develop a regional project to implement a monitoring of underwater noise, particularly in critical habitats and in interactions hot spots	Regional Project	EU funded Project QuietMed and QuietMed2 (involvement of some Members of the JNWG)	ongoing
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	Efforts initiated by experts from JNWG in 2018 and 2019 in order to present document to MOP7 (Guidelines and guide updated)	
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		ongoing
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	Meeting on sonar with National Navies was held in October 2019	ongoing
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	MMO Working Group provided, early July 2017, the Scientific Committee with titles of the training modules to allow it to review the scope of the training envisioned and to comment if any contents were considered missing	ongoing

MSFD “measure” programme for EU countries for example / EcAP process)		The Chair of the MMO WG is an expert from the SC She ensures the link between the WG and the SC. She was in particular involved in the organisation of the first training to become an « ACCOBAMS HQMMO/PAM operators ».	
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,		
9- implement the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities			

NETCCOBAMS WP 17/2019/DOCS/Annex

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 / 6.19			
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	Monitoring is done on a regular basis	ongoing
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	Discussed during a dedicated workshop in Greece in April 2019	
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		
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	This will be addressed during the next 8 months	ongoing
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	Discussion ongoing with relevant potential partners who have been dealing with similar certificates in the US and New Zealand	ongoing
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	IWC database is currently being assessed to verify each single data	ongoing

<p>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,</p> <p>(ii) the common procedure on the data collection and report on this issue to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties</p>	<p>Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, revised</p> <p>Common procedure on the data collection revised</p>		
<p>7- Strengthen collaboration with relevant organisations addressing cetacean watching initiatives, in particular the IWC 'Online Handbook' for whale watching (under development)</p>	<p>Collaboration strengthened with relevant organisations</p>	<p>Link with IWC and WW initiative established</p>	

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Doc30/Annex

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	Workshop planned for December 2019	
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	Workshop planned for December 2019	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on secondary effects more than ingestion• Suggested mitigation measures	Workshop planned for December 2019	
3- Encourage cooperation with ongoing regional initiatives on marine litter.	Joint programmes at the Agreement level Synergies with EU MSFD	Workshop planned for December 2019	

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Doc30/Annex

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	Expert representing ACCOBAMS participated in the CMS workshop on climate change 20-21 February 2017	
2- Liaise with the relevant CMS Working Group to participate to its future activities	Joint activities		

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/0030/Annex

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 / 6.21			
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	Revision was made but the adoption is pending. Further revision is needed for the adoption and implementation by all the riparian countries.	Ongoing
2- Complete the Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin	Scientists in charge of relevant Conservation Plans identified Finalized Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin Drafts of Conservation Management Plans for: ○ Fin whale ○ Cuvier’s beaked whales ○ Killer whales ○ Long finned pilot whales List of other species of interest	Ongoing effort to prepare CMP for the selected species,	
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		Draft text presented during the SC12 and planned workshops for the next triennium	
4- Consider the preparation of regional conservation plans based on the IWC conservation and management plans for: ● Cuvier’s beaked whales, ● Killer whales ● Long finned pilot whales And Identify other species of interest			
5- Consider update existing conservation plans (<i>e.g.</i> short-beaked common dolphins)	Existing conservation plans updated and implemented	Draft text for Mediterranean Common dolphins, following IWC CMP template, presented during the SC12 and planned workshops for the next triennium	Ongoing
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		Ongoing
8- Implement National Action Plans			Ongoing

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Doc59/Annex

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	Regular update was made at the BS Commission expert meetings and presented to SC meetings	Ongoing
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		
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	Ongoing work by the University of Siena	
2- Review of existing work (literature review) and identify knowledge gaps	Updated bibliography of chemical pollution in cetaceans		
3- Suggest ad hoc research projects for targeted areas and species	Identify target areas and species for <i>ad hoc</i> projects		

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		Link with IWC sub-committee on Environmental Concerns	

CA 3	ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS		
CA 3 a	Public awareness		
Relevant Resolutions: 2.21, 2.23, 4.9, 6.23			
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		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
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,...)			
4- Organise public awareness related survey (Opinion of public)	Survey format and instructions Survey report		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
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		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
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 Scientific Committee

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		
8 - Implement specific national activities on public awareness	National specific public awareness activities implemented		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee

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 / 6.22 / 6.23				
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	Joint ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Workshop on harmonization of the best practices for necropsy of cetaceans and for the development of diagnostic frameworks, took place in Padova, Italy on the 24 th -26 th of June 2019.	Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
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		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
3- Develop a common operational stranding protocol, in collaboration with IWC, ECS and ASCOBANS		Common operational protocol implemented	ACCOBAMS expert has been working on this	ongoing
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)	Funded projects in the BS under the Conservation Grants	

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Doc59/Annex

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 / 6.13/ 6.23				
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	• Participation of members of the SC to the 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use (Lebanon, October 2018)	
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	• Participation of members of the SC to the 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use (Lebanon, October 2018)	
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: 6.23			
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)		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee

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 Scientific Committee
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	Participation of members of the SC to the 5 days training session for experts of the ACCOBAMS area on photo-identification and related database use (Lebanon, October 2018)	

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 d	Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes			
Relevant Resolutions: 6.23				
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		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
2- Translate existing cetacean conservation modules in other languages (such as Arabic, Russian, ...)		Cetacean conservation modules available in different languages of the Agreement		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee
3- Encourage Parties that have already introduced the module, to disseminate the module to others universities		Dissemination of cetacean conservation modules in universities		Not relevant for the Scientific Committee

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/00330/Annex

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	List regularly updated	ongoing
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		Updated lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas) 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	Revised and new CCH are mapped, taking into account existing knowledge on species, human activities and threats up to date.	ongoing
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”		
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 Scientific Committee

ANNEX
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION 12.1 - GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THE PREPARATION OF THEIR REGIONAL REPORTS	168
RECOMMENDATION 12.2 - CETACEAN POPULATION ESTIMATES	169
RECOMMENDATION 12.3 - CETACEAN INTERACTION WITH FISHERIES: BYCATCH, DEPREDACTION AND PREY DEPLETION	171
RECOMMENDATION 12.4 - ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE	172
RECOMMENDATION 12.5 - SHIP STRIKES.....	174
RECOMMENDATION 12.6 - COMMERCIAL WHALE WATCHING ACTIVITIES	175
RECOMMENDATION 12.7 - STRANDINGS AND MARINE LITTER	176
RECOMMENDATION 12.8 - VALUE OF THE DESIGNATION OF IMMAs AND CCH TO ACHIEVE ACCOBAMS OBJECTIVES	1788

RECOMMENDATION 12.1 - GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THE PREPARATION OF THEIR REGIONAL REPORTS

The Scientific Committee includes four representatives of the ACCOBAMS Regions appointed by the Meeting of the Parties. According to the rules of the Scientific Committee (annexed to the Resolution on the Scientific Committee) each regional representative shall provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities in the region he/she has the responsibility of.

In order to ensure harmonization and consistency in the information to be reported, the Scientific Committee stresses that the reports should be prepared bearing in mind that they are aimed at:

- Presenting a global picture of the activities carried out in the region considered
- Identifying hot topics and proposing recommendations
- Informing the Permanent Secretariat about “new” contacts in order to update the list of experts
- Providing information and feedback to national authorities.

For supporting the preparation of the reports, the Scientific Committee **recommends** that each Regional Representative contacts the ACCOBAMS Focal Points from the countries of the region he/she has the responsibility of, the national relevant experts listed by ACCOBAMS Parties (the list of national experts is updated on the occasion of each Meeting of the Parties by the Permanent Secretariat in consultation with the Parties) and ACCOBAMS Partners in order to collect information on the projects carried out in the region, the arising issues and the recommendations proposed. The Regional Representatives should initiate the request for information 2 months before the Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee **invites** the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to provide a letter of support to each Regional Representative to facilitate the collection of information.

The Scientific Committee **recommends** that the Regional Representatives also consider information included in the national reports as well as in NETCCOBAMS to prepare their report.

The Scientific Committee **recommends** the Parties to:

- Contribute to the preparation of the reports of the regional representatives by sharing any relevant information
- Share any relevant data through NETCCOBAMS
- Include as data providers, in the Resolution on Work Program, all national Experts designated by ACCOBAMS Parties.

On a practical point of view:

- The 1st Regional report (to be presented to the first Meeting of the Scientific Committee after the MOP) shall be based on the national reports presented by Parties during the MOP.
- The 2nd Regional report to be presented to the second Meeting of the Scientific Committee after the MOP) shall be based on the 1st Regional Report (presented to the first Meeting of the Scientific Committee after the MOP). It shall be an update in order to assist FP for their future national reports.

RECOMMENDATION 12.2 - CETACEAN POPULATION ESTIMATES

In 2003, the Scientific Committee first drew the attention of the ACCOBAMS Parties to the fundamental importance of obtaining baseline population estimates and distributional information of cetaceans within the Agreement area as soon as possible through a synoptic summer survey. At that time and subsequently, it was stressed that without such information (and a suitable subsequent monitoring programme) it is impossible to *inter alia* (1) determine whether ACCOBAMS is meeting its conservation objectives, (2) properly assess and prioritise risk from potential threats and (3) identify and evaluate appropriate mitigation measures and the associated determination of priority actions. This work was identified as the highest priority for research within the ACCOBAMS area and a number of workshops and iterations of the programme, known as the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), have taken place.

Thanks to the several resolutions supporting the ASI and great efforts by many people, the ASI was officially launched in November 2016 during the ACCOBAMS Meeting of Parties. The field-work was mainly carried out in summer 2018 and initial data analyses are underway. Not only is the ASI fundamental to allowing ACCOBAMS to meet its objectives and the ACCOBAMS strategy, but the results will also make a fundamental contribution to initiatives outside ACCOBAMS, including for example the MSFD of the European Commission and the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention, the Aichi targets and UN SDG14.

In this context, the Scientific Committee makes the following additional and/or reiterated recommendations given below.

A. Administration, funding and communication

(1) The Scientific Committee **commends** the efforts of:

- (a) the Secretariat to secure funding for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, and for the implementation of the different activities carried out so far (in particular the macro regional survey conducted in the Mediterranean) and
- (b) those Parties who facilitated the issuance of research permits within the Mediterranean in line with the actions presented in the ACCOBAMS work-plan.

(2) The Scientific Committee **recommends** that the Secretariat to continue its fund-raising efforts and **strongly urges** the Parties and others to contribute with financial or in-kind support (including facilitating the issuance of permits) to complete the ASI by implementing it in the remaining area, the Black Sea, as soon as possible.

(3) The Scientific Committee **recommends** that the Parties, Secretariat and Partners continue to actively promote the ASI, underlining its scientific, conservation, capacity building, educational and awareness raising components.

B. Scientific process, analyses and use in conservation

(4) The Scientific Committee **stresses** the importance of having standardised protocols for data collection and analysis and thus

- (a) **re-endorses** the document 'Monitoring guidelines to assess cetacean's distributional range, population abundance and population demographic characteristics' (Annex xx)
- (b) **recommends** that these guidelines be considered as a living document to be reviewed at least every triennium by the Scientific Committee and updated as necessary as methods and technology evolve and
- (c) **recommends** that Parties and Range States ensure that any proposed national programmes on the study of abundance and distribution of cetaceans are compatible with the ASI and the guidelines

(5) The Scientific Committee **stresses** that the data collected under the ASI represent an unparalleled conservation resource for the region and thus every effort should be made to ensure that the data are used in the most efficient and robust way for conservation purposes in the Agreement area. To achieve this the Scientific Committee **recommends** that:

- (a) in addition to the already agreed analyses of the cetacean data, additional in-depth analyses occur (including analyses of data on non-cetacean species, as well as data on anthropogenic activities including marine debris and acoustic mapping) are undertaken, in collaboration with other stakeholders as relevant;
- (b) the Secretariat produces a summary of the available data for the website and develops a system to allow scientists to request the data with the provision of details of the analytical methods proposed for review and approval by the Scientific Committee;
- (c) the analyses of the data are then used to develop recommendations to facilitate area- and threat-based conservation efforts to contribute to the objectives of ACCOBAMS and other targets such as the Aichi targets under the CBD framework;
- (d) once the cetacean data are analysed, the Scientific Committee focusses on developing a suitable monitoring programme for the ACCOBAMS region to enable trends and potential distributional changes to be identified, and
- (e) efforts are made to survey those additional regions that did not receive either aerial or vessel survey effort in 2018.

RECOMMENDATION 12.3 - CETACEAN INTERACTION WITH FISHERIES: BYCATCH, DEPREDAATION AND PREY DEPLETION

The Scientific Committee **recognises** that that bycatch poses the main threat to cetaceans in the Black Sea and a significant threat also in the Mediterranean Sea, it reiterates that addressing the issue of bycatch requires collaboration with many stakeholders and in particular it encourages co-operation with the IWC (and its Bycatch Mitigation Initiative), CMS, ASCOBANS (through the joint working group) and GFCM and other relevant organisations.

The SC **stresses** the need to produce a realistic estimate of cetacean (and other megafauna species) bycatch for different types of legal fishing activities, for illegal unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing and ghost net fishing. To undertake this challenging task, the SC recommends the use of a combination of methods, following guidelines included the Manual “Monitoring Incidental Catch of Vulnerable Species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea: Methodology for Data Collection” developed by GFCM in collaboration with other partners. It includes measures/methods such as:

- a. Trained observers on-board fishing vessels.
- b. Fishermen interview surveys.
- c. Self sampling by the fishermen (training may be necessary for the fishermen in order to collect accurate and robust data).
- d. Strandings data collection.
- e. Remote electronic monitoring.

In addition to the methods mentioned above to facilitate data collection, it is also suggested to consider how to integrates information from different media sources including social media channels.

A multi-taxa approach is to be followed in collaboration with other relevant national, regional and global initiatives, as well as liaising with other projects running in the region regarding bycatch and depredation (e.g. the MAVA Multi-taxa Bycatch Project).

The issue of cetacean depredation is another issue of importance in the region, given the economic impact that it may pose to local fishing communities. Hence, socio-economic studies on the extent of these interactions are also recommended, in order to elaborate possible compensation and mitigation measures, which may help to prevent retaliation actions by fishermen.

Finally, prey depletion is a potential threat to cetaceans in the region, and also affects the socio-economic situation of fishermen. Assessments to evaluate the sustainability of fish stocks, while securing prey availability for cetacean species, should be conducted in parallel to the aforementioned actions by competent bodies such as GFCM and FAO.

SC **recommends** that the Parties make every effort to support global and regional efforts to investigate the most appropriate measures to mitigate bycatch and depredation and implement them as necessary in close collaboration with the fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION 12.4 - ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE

- 1- The Scientific Committee did endorse the Recommendations developed during a workshop hosted by OceanCare, NRDC and in collaboration and support by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) on 22 and 23.November 2017 in Split, Croatia, for mitigating the impact of underwater noise on marine biodiversity in the south eastern European waters in the Mediterranean Sea, as presented in the Annex of ACCOBAMS-SC12/2018/Doc17. To achieve consensus for such endorsement, the wish was expressed in context to Recommendation No.11 of the workshop to introduce the statement that “the integrated maps will depict a combination of IMMAs and MPAs and will have an advisory role since the nature in the mandate of the two areas differ. Thus, common ground on spatial and area based management on the integrated map areas could be achieved when we speak of the same nature of areas”.

- 2- The Scientific Committee **reiterates** the threat posed by anthropogenic noise to cetaceans and **recognises** the continuing importance of ACCOBAMS-MOP6/2016/Res.6.17. the importance to further develop together in the next triennium with the JNWG the concept of “quiet zones” as outlined in Recommendation 10.5 of the Scientific Committee with a focus on a quantitative elaboration and evaluation of the scientific evidence for establishing such areas both in space and time.

- 3- The Scientific Committee therefore **recommends** that a project is undertaken, similar to that recommended for ship strikes and incorporating acoustic data from the ASI and other sources, that overlays acoustic noise mapping (including main shipping lanes and areas close to ports) and cetacean density mapping, to identify priority areas for mitigation, including consideration of the concept of ‘quiet areas’. This effort should include consideration of information on impulsive noise (e.g. areas targeted by seismic surveys or military exercises).

- 4- Given the existing evidence for anthropogenic noise having an adverse on cetaceans, the Scientific Committee **encourages** Parties and other authorities to undertake mitigation actions as soon as possible including:
 - engaging in the development of incentive programmes to promote speed reduction as a measure by vessels to reduce noise and gashouse emission within the ACCOBAMS area;
 - Parties to apply the *IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life* (circular MEPC.1/Circ.833).

- 5- Regarding the QUIETMED project, the SC **asks** the Secretariat:
 - to inform Parties about the deliverables of the QUIETMED project on guidance for underwater noise monitoring and assessment (<http://www.quietmed-project.eu/deliverables/>), and to encourage Parties to make relevant stakeholders of the private sector become aware of these developments.
 - to disseminate the results obtained especially on the establishment of an international register for impulsive noise sources in the ACCOBAMS area to Parties and relevant regional organisations, such as the RSC in the Agreement area.

- 6- Regarding the QUIETMED project, the SC also **encourages** Parties to contribute to the international noise register.

- 7- The SC **stresses** the importance to develop noise hotspot maps in the Black Sea.

- 8- The SC **reiterates** the importance for Parties to grant, in priority, permits for activities in their national area to industrial companies employing ACCOBAMS Highly Qualified MMOs/PAM operators.

- 9- The SC **encourages** the Secretariat and any stakeholder active in the ACCOBAMS region to promote “Tools ensuring Highly Qualified MMOs/PAM operators in the ACCOBAMS Area” to the private sector
- 10- Regarding PAM techniques, the SC **recommends** the Secretariat:
- to promote the undertaking of a project aimed at building a central repository (such as Netccobams), at the regional scale, as a tool to have an overview of monitoring programs using PAM techniques in marine protected areas and other area designated as important for cetaceans. The objective of this repository would be to monitor the number of PAM-based programs, the location and periods of execution, the objectives of the programs and target species and/or other environmental elements.
 - to organise an expert workshop to examine the available PAM techniques and how they can be incorporated most effectively in the ACCOBAMS context with a view on fostering the implementation of PAM-based monitoring programs as a mean of contributing to conservation.

RECOMMENDATION 12.5 - SHIP STRIKES

The Scientific Committee **reiterates** that the issue of ship strikes, particularly affecting large whales such as fin and sperm whales, remains of concern within the ACCOBAMS region. These concerns span the issues of conservation, animal welfare and human safety.

The Scientific Committee therefore:

- (1) **recognises** the present effective collaborative work with the IWC's Scientific and Conservation Committees on this issue and **recommends** that this continues, along with collaboration with CMS, IMO, ASCOBANS and other international Organisations;
- (2) **advises** that the only effective measures to avoiding serious injury and death of cetaceans from ship strikes at present are (a) avoidance (including use of shipping lanes or closed areas) by ships of areas/times with high densities of whales, or (b) speed reductions (slowing vessels down to speeds below about 10-12 knots¹⁵) in high density areas/times;
- (3) **advises** that speed restrictions can also reduce underwater noise and greenhouse gas emissions that can assist with meeting other international targets;
- (4) **notes** that advice to ACCOBAMS range states on measures to avoid and reduce ship strikes will arise out of several forthcoming activities including (a) the drafting of a CMP for Mediterranean fin whales and (b) the holding of a joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop on how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist in identifying areas of high risk for ship strikes and (c) the project to develop and evaluate mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of ship strikes to fin and sperm whales in the Pelagos Sanctuary; and any other relevant initiatives, projects and workshops in the ACCOBAMS Area
- (5) **encourages** Parties to
 - (a) take note of the recommendations and advice coming out of the activities noted in (4);
 - (b) begin to integrate speed reduction of vessels into port policy strategies and within key areas (e.g. Marine Protected Areas, SPAMIs, IMMAs, etc.) at times of the year when large whales might be present;
 - (c) develop incentive programmes to promote the application of speed and greenhouse emission reduction measures by vessels / operators within the ACCOBAMS region;
 - (d) develop a 'whale safe' certificate to be delivered to shipping companies adopting suggested mitigation measures to reduce ship strike risk;
 - (e) submit a proposal for Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS) where scientific evidences have demonstrated to be an effective mitigation measure, such as the Hellenic Trench, as recommended by the IWC Scientific Committee, by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee within Recommendation 10.6 and in Resolution 6.19 adopted by the Parties in 2016; and
 - (f) support the undertaking of a project within the next triennium identifying areas of potential conflict (CCH) where main shipping lanes / maritime traffic cross sensitive / important habitat for large cetacean species (sperm and fin whales) in the Agreement area following methods developed by the activities referred to under (4).
 - g) consider other IMO measures to mitigate ship strikes through the ACCOBAMS area.

¹⁵ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2008-10-10/pdf/E8-24177.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION 12.6 - COMMERCIAL WHALE WATCHING ACTIVITIES

The ACCOBAMS region is an important area for a great number of cetacean species, whether as a permanent habitat, a breeding or feeding ground or a migratory corridor. The presence of such a diversity of cetaceans has led, over the past decade, to the development of high number of commercial whale watching (that term is used to include all cetaceans) operators.

Recalling that commercial whale watching activities, if well managed and within a suitable management framework, can foster a valuable educational tool, create direct and indirect economic benefits for many countries and communities and can promote research on cetaceans and their conservation. However, it is also important to underline the potential negative impacts of commercial whale watching activities that have been documented in some cases including both short-term and long-term negative effects on cetaceans such as: changes in their swimming behaviour, fast changes in direction, a decrease in population size, or a movement of cetaceans away from the area targeted for tourism.

In addition, with reference to ACCOBAMS Resolutions 4.7 and 4.18¹⁶, adopted by ACCOBAMS Parties (November 2010), it is also important to recall that harassment risk begins when a vessel is voluntarily closer than the minimum distance identified in common rules for commercial cetaceans watching as such it is obvious that swim-with dolphin activities which implies a proximity of the boat and the animals should be considered as harassment. Moreover, direct interactions between swimmers and animals is demonstrated as presenting risks of animal violent behaviour and transmission of diseases. The Scientific Committee is also concerned by the emergence of some dolphin-feeding mainly proposed during whale watching activities, which could change the behaviour of the animals, favouring confidence and proximity.

In an effort to minimize the risk of negative impacts of cetaceans and to ensure the sustainable development of such commercial activity, effective management strategies need to be reinforced. The Scientific Committee noted that the development of guidance for sustainable whale watching is also priority topic for the IWC and the CMS and as such is an item for further cooperation.

In light of the above, the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee:

- **Welcomes** the online whale watching handbook developed by the IWC with CMS and **recommends** continued co-operation with those bodies on the evaluation of effects of whale watching on cetaceans and the review and update of guidelines for sustainable whale watching;
- **Urges** Parties to ensure the effective implementation of the existing ACCOBAMS Resolutions on whale watching;
- **Recommends** that Parties do not authorise/ grant any exception for direct interactions with cetaceans in particular while carrying out commercial whale watching activities (such as feeding and 'swim-with' cetaceans);
- **Recommends** that the Secretariat, Parties and partners continue to raise awareness and communication about the ACCOBAMS "High Quality Whale Watching"® Certificate (a) with official regional, national and international tourism Organisations; (b) with commercial whale watching operators, stressing the positive impact of the granting of the HQWW Certificate and the long-term benefits both from an economic and ecological sustainability of such commercial activity; (c) with the public at-large to promote awareness about participating only with certified responsible operators.

¹⁶ <http://www.accobams.org/documents-resolutions/resolutions/>

RECOMMENDATION 12.7 - STRANDINGS AND MARINE LITTER

Marine debris (or marine litter) pollution is a global environmental concern, with the Mediterranean Sea being heavily affected. It can be a conservation concern for many marine species that may be harmed and/or killed. To help evaluate the actual and potential deleterious effects of marine debris (including entanglement in abandoned, discarded and lost fishing gear (ADLFG) and direct ingestion of both macro- and micro plastics) and other threats to cetaceans, common best practices for strandings have been drafted and discussed by several other Organisations (e.g. IWC, ASCOBANS and ECS).

The IWC has held two Expert Workshops (IWC, 2014 and 2015)¹⁷ one science-oriented and the other policy oriented on this issue. Building upon these, a Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/SPA-RAC Workshop on marine debris and cetacean stranding was held on 8 April 2018 in La Spezia (Italy) and a joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS workshop will be organised between to harmonize the existing documents before the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS.

Joint ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Workshop on harmonization of the best practices for necropsy of cetaceans and for the development of diagnostic frameworks, took place in Padova, Italy on the 24th-26th of June 2019. The out come of the workshop will be an update best practice necropsy tool guide.

The Scientific Committee notes that evaluating and addressing threats such as marine debris is a key part of the ACCOBAMS objectives and it is relevant to past decisions related to *inter alia* the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan, the 2017-2019 work programme and Resolutions 6.22 and 8.10. The Scientific Committee therefore:

- (1) **reiterates** the importance of evaluating and addressing issues related to marine debris in the ACCOBAMS region;
- (2) **recommends** that the Scientific Committee identifies pilot areas with an existing stranding network where the level 1 basic tiered guidelines on necropsies approach can be adopted and systematically implemented throughout 2019 to gather a *de minimis* set of data including presence/absence of ingested and entangling debris, species, sex and total length of the animals¹⁸;
- (3) **endorses** increased international co-operation on this issue with other bodies including those with an emphasis on cetaceans (e.g. IWC, ASCOBANS, ECS) as well as regional initiatives on marine debris (e.g. MSFD, ECAP and EU) and **supports** the proposal for a workshop on Marine Debris organised by IWC, preferably to coincide with the World Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Barcelona in December 2019;
- (4) **stresses** that a multi-disciplinary approach delivered across different spatial and temporal scales is necessary to tackle the issue effectively and **advises** ACCOBAMS and its Parties to liaise with other relevant bodies, Organisations and initiatives at the Regional scale to:
 - support effective means to reduce marine debris in the environment (including voluntary and legislative initiatives to reduce production and consumption of single-use items, and investment in the collection, recycling and sustainable disposal of waste) and

¹⁷ International Whaling Commission. 2014. Report of the IWC Scientific Committee Workshop on Marine Debris. Journal of Cetacean Research and Management 15 (suppl.): 521-41.

International Whaling Commission. 2015.

Report of the IWC Workshop on Mitigation and Management of the Threats Posed by Marine Debris to Cetaceans. Report of the 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission 2014: 277-305

¹⁸ Refer to: R. Puig-Lozano, Y. Bernaldo de Quirós, J. Díaz-Delgado, N. García-Álvarez, E. Sierra, J. De la Fuente, S. Sacchini, CM. Suárez-Santana, D. Zucca, N. Câmara, P. Saavedra, J. Almunia, M.A. Rivero, A. Fernández, M. Arbelo. 2008. Retrospective study of foreign body-associated pathology in stranded cetaceans, Canary Islands (2000–2015). Environmental Pollution 243 Part A: 519-527. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2018.09.012>

- develop an implement educational and public awareness programmes related to marine debris and cetaceans and steps individuals can take to reduce marine debris; and

(5) **recommends** that work is undertaken under the auspices of the Scientific Committee to identify potential hotspot areas for cetacean entanglement and ingestion of marine debris, for example through ecological risk assessment methods or other mapping and modelling approaches.

In addition, recognising the importance of data from strandings in addressing this and other threats, the Scientific Committee:

(1) **endorses** the work and recommendations of ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, ECS and IWC towards the identification of standardised best practices and on this matter;

(2) **reiterates** the importance of effective strandings networks throughout the ACCOBAMS region and **encourages** ACCOBAMS and its Parties to assist in establishing or strengthening such networks through co-operation, capacity building and sharing of best practices;

(3) **recommends** the re-establishment of an ACCOBAMS expert panel on strandings to assist with emergencies and unusual mortality events as well as to assist in the establishment and strengthening for regional networks referred to under (2) above;

(4) with respect to data on marine litter in particular, **recommends** that:

- standard post-mortem protocols to support systematic collection of data on marine macrolitter ingestion/entanglement are disseminated throughout the region by the Secretariat;
- all stranding networks adopt at least the basic level of the tiered common best practices on macro-litter to collect *de minimis* information on marine debris;
- ingested and/or entangling marine macrolitter recovered during post-mortem examinations is collected and preserved for further identification analysis including retrospective studies;
- rates of debris ingestion and entanglements in stranded/bycaught cetaceans are collated and submitted via national progress reports and/or other reporting mechanisms;
- increase efforts to quantify the relevant contributions of ADLFG and active gear to cetacean entanglement following the approaches discussed in Bernaldo de Quirós *et al.* (2018)¹⁹;

(5) **recognises** the benefits of a well-documented, searchable database on entities involved in stranding networks, databanks and tissues banks (NETCOBAMS) and calls upon the Scientific Committee and other scientists involved in stranding networks to provide the ACCOBAMS secretariat with relevant information using the templates available on NETCOBAMS; and

(6) **encourages** the development of new tools and the use of existing tools for citizen science participation in the ACCOBAMS Region having a potential for strandings early warning and/or preliminary action (e.g. OBSenMER, WhatsApp groups).

¹⁹ Bernaldo de Quirós *et al.* (2018), Hartwick M, Rotstein D, Garner M, Bogomolni A, Greer W *et al.* (2018) Discrimination between bycatch and other causes of cetacean and pinniped stranding. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms* 127: 83–95.)

RECOMMENDATION 12.8 - VALUE OF THE DESIGNATION OF IMMAs AND CCH TO ACHIEVE ACCOBAMS OBJECTIVES**Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)**

IMMAs, are “discrete portions of habitat, important to marine mammal species, that have the potential to be delineated and managed for conservation”, and are an initiative of the Joint IUCN SSC/WCPA Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (the “Task Force”). Identification is achieved through the application of IMMA criteria covering key biological and ecological considerations for marine mammal species (Tetley et al. 2016). These criteria were created through an expert process with additional public consultation with the wider marine mammal science and conservation community. The Convention on Migratory Species, with Resolution 12.13 adopted at COP12 in Manila in October 2017, acknowledged the IMMA process, and *inter alia* requested Parties and invited Range States to identify specific areas where the identification of IMMAs could be beneficial.

In October 2016, the Task Force joined efforts with ACCOBAMS to identify IMMAs in the Mediterranean Sea, with support from the MAVA Foundation. An expert workshop proposed the identification of 41 candidate IMMAs (cIMMAs), later reduced to 26 IMMAs, 5 cIMMAs and 39 Areas of Interest (AoI) by an independent Review Panel²⁰.

Cetacean Critical Habitat (CCH)

According to the Agreement’s Conservation Plan (Annex 2 of the Agreement), Parties shall ‘endeavour to establish and manage specially protected areas corresponding to the areas that serve as habitat of cetaceans’. To assist in the meeting of ACCOBAMS objectives, Resolution 3.22 was adopted in 2007 on the need for criteria for the selection of protected areas in the region. The concept of “Critical habitat” is commonly referred to in the context of MPAs. However, in the context of cetacean conservation and management in the ACCOBAMS region, it is important to incorporate within the concept of ‘Cetacean Critical Habitat (CCH)’, information on actual and/or potential threats at the population level; this will then form the basis for determining appropriate candidates for an MPA or network of MPAs. This can be best addressed on a case-by-case basis in the light of the available scientific knowledge. The spatial modelling approach is a powerful tool in this regard.

Criteria to identify potential sites for ACCOBAMS CCH may include:

- areas used by cetaceans for feeding, breeding, calving, nursing and social behaviour;
- migration routes and corridors and related resting areas;
- areas where there are seasonal concentrations of cetacean species;
- areas of importance to cetacean prey;
- natural processes that support continued productivity of cetacean foraging species (upwellings, fronts, etc.);
- topographic structures favourable for enhancing foraging opportunities for cetacean species (canyons, seamounts).

These criteria can be used to identify potential sites for evaluation of the occurrence of significant interactions between cetaceans and human activities, e.g.:

- reported conflicts between cetaceans and fishing activities (mainly due to depredation when cetaceans are taking fish from fishing gear);
- reported significant/frequent bycatch of cetaceans;
- intensive whale watching or other marine tourism activities occur (i.e. potential for harassment);
- intensive shipping that may lead to ship strikes (and noise);

²⁰ These IMMAs have now been added to IMMAs from other regions in the world’s oceans, accruing within the framework of a global process, and available to users and public scrutiny on the Task Force’s website (www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-atlas/).

- military exercises are known to routinely occur that may involve ship strikes and noise); and
- seismic activities are known to occur (primarily noise but the potential for ship strikes).

The Scientific Committee stresses that the two tools are **different** and **complementary**:

	IMMA	CCH
Spatial scale	Global tool (not Black Sea for the moment)	Regional tool (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)
Baseline info given	Baseline info on marine mammal important areas	Cetacean important areas under threat
Role	Identify specific areas for marine mammals (biocentric)	Identify issues in specific areas for cetaceans and propose management measures (threat-based)
Species covered	All marine mammals	Cetaceans
Assessment	10 years	3 years
Link	The process of identification of CCH uses IMMAs, candidate IMMAs and Areas of Interest where they are in place (along with other baseline data on cetacean distribution, abundance). CCH can be one of the sources for consideration of IMMA identification.	

The Scientific Committee **recommends** that in providing advice to the Parties under the ongoing ACCOBAMS threat-based management approach, it incorporates the concepts of both IMMAs and CCH. IMMAs provide an initial biocentric process (through the spatial definition of the animals' most important habitats) to be followed by use of the CCH, in which the spatial distribution of threats is identified. Management advice is then based upon an integration of the two approaches and the prioritization of mitigation approaches on a case-specific basis. This will assist in providing the parties with advice on targeted and effective conservation measures (where appropriate on a seasonal basis) including:

- designation of new (or the extension of existing) MPAs with appropriate focused management actions
- zoning within existing MPAs
- corridors between MPAs
- threat-specific mitigation measures for application throughout the region (e.g. shipping or noise guidelines, e.g., through CMS, IMO)
- during marine spatial planning processes.

Using both the IMMA and CCH concept in the ACCOBAMS region will have significant added value, since these two concepts reinforce each other. Indeed, the global scope of IMMAs will help in promoting recognition and visibility at the international level, while CCHs provide a tool to foster the regional commitment and to provide the possibility to revise, on a more frequent basis (every 3 years), the list of areas of special concern for cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region, as well as supporting the related conservation and management measures.

The Scientific Committee **encourages** Parties to use both tools in order to feed other initiatives in the region.

ANNEX X

**REPORT OF THE BLACK SEA SUB-REGIONAL
COORDINATION UNIT**

ANNEX X - REPORT OF THE BLACK SEA SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT**WORK PROGRAMME 2017 – 2019**

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)	182
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	182
Establish regular communication	182
INVOLVEMENT OF ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS	183
Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations.....	183
ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	185
New funding possibilities	185
IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS	185
Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress.....	185
ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA	186
Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas.....	186
CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)	187
IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS	187
Cetacean population estimates and distribution	187
Population Structure.....	187
Monitoring cetaceans status	188
REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)	189
Interaction with fisheries.....	189
Anthropogenic noise.....	190
Ship strikes.....	191
Cetacean watching.....	192
Marine debris.....	193
Climate change	194
Species conservation plans.....	194
Captivity related issues	195
Chemical & biological pollution	196
ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS	197
Public awareness	197
IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS	198
Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation.....	198
Capacity to use cetaceans photo id and undertake aerial surveys	198
Capacity building for other cetacean conservation issues	199
Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes	200
ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS	200
Protected areas for cetaceans	200

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 ²¹
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

²¹ Done, Partially Done, Not Done, Not relevant

5- Regularly update ACCOBAMS website , and newsletter FINS. Link with the Black Sea bulletin	New and accurate information available on the website FINS regularly published	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) TV program about ACCOBAMS (in Turkish) https://youtu.be/uKo7gQCWjBk Article in Turkish newspaper http://m.milliyet.com.tr/gozumuze-ilk-carpan-cop-yiginlari.../	
---	---	---	--

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
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 (MSFD ²²), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, Pelagos Agreement, international, regional and local NGOs	<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	<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.	

²² EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

	participation in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023		
<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 	All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS	<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> <p>Cetaceans survey in Russian waters carried out in September 2019.</p>	
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

RECORDING WP 7/2019/DOCS/Annex1

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 funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund. BSC PS participated in the call for proposals aimed at supporting the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive on cetaceans monitoring.	

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: <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	Assessment of IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Prepare Red Books of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and communicate with European Union. Coordinate with the Black Sea Red Data Book	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
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

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
--	--	--	---

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, (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		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

	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	Assessment of plastic materials impacts on cetaceans by providing bibliographic synthesis		Not relevant for the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit

synthesis and Scientific Committee recommendation	<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		
2- Liaise with the relevant CMS Working Group to participate to its future activities	Joint 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 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 Finalized Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin Drafts of Conservation Management Plans for: ○ Fin whale ○ Cuvier's beaked whales ○ Killer whales ○ Long finned pilot whales List of other species of interest		
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			
4- Consider the preparation of regional conservation plans based on the IWC conservation and management plans for: • Cuvier's beaked whales , • Killer whales • Long finned pilot whales And Identify 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 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			

ACCOBAMS MSF 7/2019/Doc56/Annex1

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.)	

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/Doc50/Annex1

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		

ACCOBAMS WP 17/2019/B0030/Annex1

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	Updated lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas) 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		
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

ANNEX XI

REPORT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT

ANNEX XI - REPORT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT**WORK PROGRAMME 2017 – 2019**

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)	182
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	182
Establish regular communication	182
INVOLVEMENT OF ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS	183
Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations.....	183
ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	185
New funding possibilities	185
IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS	185
Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress.....	185
ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA	186
Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas....	186
CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)	187
IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS	187
Cetacean population estimates and distribution	187
Population Structure.....	187
Monitoring cetaceans status	188
REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)	189
Interaction with fisheries.....	189
Anthropogenic noise.....	190
Ship strikes.....	191
Cetacean watching.....	192
Marine debris.....	193
Climate change	194
Species conservation plans.....	194
Captivity related issues	195
Chemical & biological pollution	196
ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS	197
Public awareness	197
IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS	198
Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation.....	198
Capacity to use cetaceans photo id and undertake aerial surveys	198
Capacity building for other cetacean conservation issues	199
Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes	200
ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS	200
Protected areas for cetaceans	200

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 ²³
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)		
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		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
		Link with the BSIS (Black Sea information system) prototype		
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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
4- Continue organising Biennial Conferences 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 ACCOBAMS web-site , and newsletter FINS. Link with the Black Sea bulletin		New and accurate information available on the web-site		
		FINS regularly published		

²³ 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
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 (MSFD ²⁴), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, Pelagos Agreement, international, regional and local NGOs	<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 participation in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023	<p>SPA/RAC is collaborating with the ACCOBAMS secretariat for the implementation of the following MAVA funded projects Projects:</p> <p>“Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa ‘bycatch’ of vulnerable species and testing mitigation- a collaborative approach” Med Bycatch Project:</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” species project:</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>	ongoing

²⁴ EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

		<p>“Towards solutions to interactions between fishing communities and cetaceans in Moroccan and Tunisian waters” Depredation project:</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"> -Purse seine small pelagic fisheries in Kelibia; -Bottom and surface longline fisheries in the Gulf of Gabès. <p>ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative Project:</p> <p>The ASI Capacity Building Programme is coordinated and Implemented by SPA/RAC in close collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat</p> <p>The EU funded Project “Joint Programme for GES assessment on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region” QUIETMED2:</p> <p>QuietMED2 is a project developed by a consortium made up of 11 entities including SPA/RAC, and</p>	
--	--	---	--

		coordinated by the CTN-Marine Technology Center del Mar . 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>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 	All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS	<p>Within the implementation of the ASI Capacity Building Programme, SPA/RAC involved all riparian countries.</p> <p>Within the Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, 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>	done
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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
5- Establish connections with other relevant organizations (EBA, WTO...)			Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub

			Regional Coordination Unit
6- Organise a Workshop of Partners	Reinforcement of synergy between Partners and harmonisation of activities		Not relevant for the Mediterranean 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	See section MA2.1	
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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Support development or develop multilateral/ transboundary projects	Project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies	See section MA2.1	ongoing

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">the main activities undertaken since January 2017;the status of each action planned in the 2017-2019 Work Programme;- the proposed follow-up for the 2020-2022 Work Programme.	
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 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	<p>Within the implementation of the ASI Capacity Building Programme, SPA/RAC involved all riparian countries.</p> <p>Within the Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, 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">• Tunisia (Kneiss and MPA of Kerkennah)• Greek islands: Samos, Lipsi, Agathonisi, Arki, Patmos, Anidro/Petrokaravo, Fourni and Ikaria	done

Records MOP 17/2019/Doc50/Annex1

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 Mediterranean 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	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	done

		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.	
2- Assess IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly, and more specifically: <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 	Assessment of IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
3- Prepare Red Books of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and communicate with European Union. Coordinate with the Black Sea Red Data Book	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
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	SPA/RAC is collaborating with the ACCOBAMS secretariat for the implementation of the following MAVA funded Projects: “Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa ‘bycatch’ of vulnerable species and testing mitigation- a collaborative approach” Med Bycatch Project:	Ongoing

		<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” species project: 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>“Towards solutions to interactions between fishing communities and cetaceans in Moroccan and Tunisian waters” Depredation project: 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"> -Purse seine small pelagic fisheries in Kelibia; -Bottom and surface longline fisheries in the Gulf of Gabès. <p>Within the MAVA Med Bycatch project, a standardized protocol “Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable</p>	
--	--	---	--

		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	
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 	See section CA.2a.1	
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		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 noise /cetaceans’ interactions hot spots 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 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 Mediterranean 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 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 guide 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 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 Mediterranean 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 MSFD “measure” programme for EU countries for example / EcAP process)	MMO certification		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub 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 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 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

ACCOBAMS MoU 7/2015/Doc56/Annex1

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 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	Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit

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	individual cetaceans and on populations, revised Common procedure on the data collection revised		
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 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 Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on secondary effects more than ingestion• Suggested mitigation measures		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	Done

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

ACCOBAMS MOP 7/2019/Doc50/Annex1

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		Not relevant for the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit
2- Complete the Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin	Scientists in charge of relevant Conservation Plans identified Finalized Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin	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 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	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: • Cuvier’s beaked whales, • Killer whales • Long finned pilot whales And Identify other species of interest	List of other species of interest		
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	SPA/RAC will collaborate with ACCOBAMS Secretariat to support the elaboration of the National Action for the conservation of cetacean in Algeria	
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		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		
2- Review of existing work (literature review) and identify knowledge gaps	Updated bibliography of chemical pollution in cetaceans		

3- Suggest ad hoc research projects for targeted areas and species	Identify target areas and species for <i>ad hoc</i> projects		
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	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	Done

		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 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		

ACCOBAMS MoU 7/2019/Doc56/Annex1

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	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.	Done
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	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	Done

<p>3- Promote and facilitate exchange of expertise, such as participation of experts with less knowledge in the specific projects implemented by experienced researchers, etc...</p>	<p>Experts trained through participation in the specific projects</p>	<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"> • ASI Contact Group Workshop: (Gammarth Tunisia, November 2017). • ASI Aerial Observers Training Workshop: (Cuers, France, May 2018). • ASI Workshop on Boat-based Survey Methods, (Samos, Greece, June 2018) <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"> • The EcAp Med II/ ASI Regional Workshop on Data processing and Analysis: (Bizerte, Tunisia, February 2019) • The EcAp Med II/ ASI National Workshop on Cetaceans Research Methods: this workshop was dedicated to Libya (Monastir, Tunisia, Mars 2019) • The ASI/ EcAp Med II Regional Workshop on Data Processing and Analysis: (Jounieh (Lebanon, July 2019). • The ASI/ EcAp Med II workshop on Cetaceans Research Methods and Monitoring in Kotor (Montenegro) during September 2019. 	<p>Done</p>
--	---	--	--------------------

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	Done

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	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”	Done
2- Translate existing cetacean conservation modules 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	ongoing
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 list of areas containing habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region	Lists of areas containing cetaceans habitats available on NETCCOBAMS	SPA/RAC cooperated with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the organization of dedicated workshops during the European Cetaceans Society (Ia Spezia, Italy, April	

	Updated lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas)	2018) "Toward understanding the overlap of selected threats and Important Marine Mammals Areas (IMMAs) in the Mediterranean Sea"	
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>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>	<p>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).</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 Mediterranean 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	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 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	

		<p>(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 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	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	

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.

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.

ANNEX XII

REPORT OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

ANNEX XII - REPORT OF THE ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE

The ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee was created by the ACCOBAMS Parties at MOP5 through the adoption of the Resolution 5.4.

The following members were appointed:

Members nominated by Parties

Victor ESCOBAR PAREDES	Full term (2014-2019)
Nadia DECKERT	Full term (2017-2022)
Moustafa FOUDA	Full term (2017-2022)
Imane TAI	Alternate

Members nominated by ACCOBAMS Partners

Drasko HOLCER	Full term (2014-2019)
Tilen GENOV	Full term (2017-2022)
Dimitar POPOV	Alternate

The Second Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee was convened in Monaco (Auditorium Rainier III) on Monday 5th March and Tuesday 6th March 2018.

The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has received four submissions, all by one ACCOBAMS Partner that has reservations about a Party's follow up with its obligations under the Agreement:

- Submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Greece of military activities around South-East Crete;
- Submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Spain of petroleum exploration activities around the Balearic Islands;
- Submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Portugal of petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo basins;
- Submission by OceanCare on the failure by Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia to implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins.

Moreover, the Follow up Committee was requested by the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (22-25 November 2016, Monaco) to review under Agenda item 5, and according to Article 6, paragraph 1d, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure, the legal and technical issues of implementation and follow up:

- of existing obligations and commitments related to seismic and military activities producing underwater noise,
- relating to interactions between humans and dolphins addressed by Resolution 3.13 (Dolphin interaction programme).

CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS BY THE FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE

Consideration of submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Greece of military activities around South-East Crete and adoption of the relevant recommendation

**ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
on the Submission by OceanCare on the Assessment and Control by Greece of
Military Activities around South-East Crete**

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai;
Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 10 February 2016, as well as and the written reply and supporting information sent by the Party concerned, Ministry of Environment and Energy, on 7 April 2016;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the consideration of the submission;

Noting that the Party concerned did not participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Party concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The submission is divided in two parts, namely:

“1. Greek authorities did not assess and control military maneuvers and especially active sonar around south east Crete, in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17, that may have resulted in the atypical mass stranding of Cuvier’s beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) in 2014;

2. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat has not received or communicated a response from the Greek authorities within six months, and has subsequently failed to bring the matter to the attention of the Follow up Procedure Committee. (Resolution 5.4, Article 8(2))”

The first part of the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

As shown in the relevant documents, it has been confirmed that the ACCOBAMS Secretariat did receive and communicate within six months the response by the authorities of the Party concerned and brought the matter to the attention of the Committee. Consequently, the second part of the submission is not founded. In addition, it should be noted that the second part of the submission is not admissible, in so far as it relates to an alleged behaviour by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, given that submissions can be made by ACCOBAMS Partners only if they “have reservations about a Party’s follow up with its obligations under the Agreement” (Art. 9, para. 1, AFuP).

Coming to the merit, OceanCare alleges that the Greek authorities did not assess and control military maneuvers and especially the use of active sonar around South-East Crete, in a manner consistent with Resolution 4.17 (Guidelines to address the anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area), and that this likely caused the atypical mass stranding of Cuvier’s beaked whales in 2014.

On this question the Party concerned stated:

- in the letter from the Greek authorities to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, dated 7 April 2016, that after the military exercise of 2014 there “has not been information of mass stranding of marine mammals in the area of south Crete”, and

- in the letter from the Greek authorities to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, dated 21 May 2014, that, from 31 March to 10 April 2014, Greek Military Navy participated in a transnational military exercise performed by the military Navies of Israel, the United States and Greece, which took place in the marine area of Israel (Haifa) up to South–East Crete. The letter reports that, from 1 to 10 April, in total, 5 to 10 Cuvier’s beaked whales were stranded in an area of 70 km. It also points out that “during the exercise, the sonar device of the Greek unit started from the lowest possible power and increased gradually with a step of 5 db. The maximum sonar device power can come up to 225 db and the frequency of emission is in the area of medium frequencies. Greek Navy has edited and follows a specific order, which is in line with the Resolutions of ACCOBAMS. Till now there has been no incident of marine mammal stranding linked with an exercise of the Greek Military Navy. Further on, a presentation to inform the Greek Navy on the new developments of MOP 5, as regards addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans, is planned.”

The Committee is not in a position to determine with total precision what were the reasons for the atypical mass stranding of beaked whales which occurred in the first ten days of April 2014 around South-East Crete. Nor it is possible to determine whether this could be the result of the use of sonar by Greece or by another State non-Party to ACCOBAMS. However, given this situation, the Committee finds that it is likely that the mass stranding brought to its attention was the result of the military exercises taking place from 31 March to 10 April 2014, in which Greece was also involved.

In this regard, the Committee notes that the use of sonar is a well-known source of anthropogenic underwater noise and that it can be detrimental to the maintenance of a favourable conservation status for cetaceans, as it is required by Art. II, para. 1, ACCOBAMS. To address this concern, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted Resolution 4.17, which includes a set of “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area”. Some of the Guidelines specifically address military sonar and civil high power sonar and are consequently applicable also to military activities.

The Committee acknowledges the reported efforts and commitments by the Greek Navy to be in line with the ACCOBAMS Resolutions addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans (see the above mentioned letter of 21 May 2014). These last developments are a matter of appreciation by the Committee.

It would be helpful, as a way to address the issues raised by the submission, if the Party concerned were to provide information to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat about how the Guidelines annexed to the Resolution 4.17 have been implemented after 2014 till now. This will, in particular, enable the Scientific Committee to assess whether there are difficulties in implementing the Guidelines annexed to the Resolution 4.17 and if any other actions are needed.

All this considered, the Committee,

finds that the second part of the submission is not admissible and not founded;

finds that the first part of the submission is admissible;

finds that it is likely that the atypical mass stranding of beaked whales brought to its attention by this submission was the result of the military exercises taking place from 31 March to 10 April 2014, in which Greece was also involved;

invites Greece to pursue all efforts to be in line with the ACCOBAMS Resolutions addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans, such as Resolution 4.17, and commends Greece for what is being done in this direction;

invites Greece to provide information to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat about how the Guidelines annexed to the Resolution 4.17 have been implemented after 2014 till now;

invites the Secretariat to share the received information from Greece with the Scientific Committee;
invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Party and the Partner concerned.

Monaco, 6 March 2018.

Consideration of submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Spain of petroleum exploration activities around the Balearic Islands and adoption of the relevant recommendation

**ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 On the Submission by OceanCare concerning Spanish Assessment and Control of Petroleum
 Exploration Activities (Specifically Seismic Surveys) around the Balearic Islands**

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai;
 Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 10 February 2016, as well as and the written reply and supporting information sent by the Party concerned, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, on 12 April 2016;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the oral consideration of the submission;

Noting that the Party concerned did not participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Party concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The submission is divided in two parts, namely:

“1. Spanish authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys) around the Balearic Islands in 2013, in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17, and have risked species vulnerable to loud implosive noise pollution—sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in important habitat;

2. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat has not received or communicated a response from the Spanish authorities within six months, and has subsequently failed to bring the matter to the attention of the Follow up Procedure Committee. (Resolution 5.4, Article 8(2))”

The first part of the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

As shown in the relevant documents, it has been confirmed that the ACCOBAMS Secretariat did receive and communicate within six months the response by the authorities of the Party concerned and brought the matter to the attention of the Committee. Consequently, the second part of the submission is not founded. In addition, it should be noted that the second part of the submission is not admissible, in so far as it relates to an alleged behaviour by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, given that submissions can be made by ACCOBAMS Partners only if they “have reservations about a Party’s follow up with its obligations under the Agreement” (Art. 9, para. 1, AFuP).

Coming to the merit, OceanCare alleges that in 2013 the Spanish authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys) around the Balearic Islands, in a manner consistent with Resolution 4.17, with the consequent risk for species vulnerable to noise pollution, such as sperm whales.

In its letter, the Party concerned confirms that unidentified noise was recorded, adding that all the inquiries it has made were not able to identify the sources and excluding that any authorizations to produce noise were ever issued in that period by the Spanish authorities.

In this regard, the Committee notes that offshore exploration and exploitation is a well-known source of anthropogenic underwater noise and that it can be detrimental to the maintenance of a favourable conservation status for cetaceans, as it is required by Art. II, para. 1, ACCOBAMS. To address this concern, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted Resolution 4.17, which includes a set of “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area”. Some of the Guidelines specifically address seismic surveys and airgun uses.

However, in this specific case there was no evidence at all that the authorities of the State concerned either authorized noise producing activities from July 2012 to July 2013 or were negligent in controlling what was taking place in the waters or seabed subject to the Spanish jurisdiction.

The fact that underwater noise can be detected at long distance from the place where it is produced leads the Committee to conclude that, in this specific case, the noise could have originated from activities beyond the control of the Spanish authorities.

The Committee further remarks that, at present, no ACCOBAMS Resolution specifically relates to cases where a source of noise of distant origin affects cetaceans found in the waters subject to the jurisdiction of an ACCOBAMS Party and calls for Parties to co-operate to address the situation. The Meeting of the Parties could consider the possibility to elaborate such a Resolution and to encourage the reporting of data in the noise register.

All this considered, the Committee,
 finds that the second part of the submission is not admissible and not founded;
 finds that the first part of the submission is admissible;
 finds there is no evidence that the authorities of the State concerned either authorized noise producing activities from July 2012 to July 2013 or were negligent in controlling what was taking place in the waters or seabed subject to the Spanish jurisdiction;
 recommends for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties the elaboration of a Resolution calling for the development of a co-operation mechanism among Parties to identify the source of long distance underwater noise in order to address its transboundary effects;
invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Party and the Partner concerned.

Monaco, 6 March 2018

Consideration of submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Portugal of petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo basins and adoption of the relevant recommendation

ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
On the Submission by OceanCare on the Assessment and Control by Portugal of Petroleum
Exploration Activities in the Algarve and Alentejo Basins

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai;
Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 25 July 2016;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the consideration of the submission;

Noting that the Party concerned did not participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Party concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The Committee finds that the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

The submission alleges that the Portuguese authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys), in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17.

The Committee regrets that no written or oral information on the subject of the submission has been provided to it by the Party concerned, preventing the Committee from gathering all the relevant views on the present submission. The information on whether or not environmental impact assessments and public consultations are required under the domestic legislation, and have in fact been carried out in the case of the offshore concessions granted by Portugal in the Algarve and Alentejo Basin, should be easily available to the Party concerned.

The Committee notes that the submission includes exploration concessions located in an area falling under the scope of the ACCOBAMS Area and in an area falling under its subsequent extension, which is not yet in force, and consequently limits its considerations only to the former one.

The Committee is mandated to limit its action to cases where there are “reservations about a Party’s follow up with its obligations under the Agreement” and cannot elaborate, as the submission does, on whether there are other obligations, such as those arising from European Union instruments, under which the Party concerned is bound to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments and public consultations for the activities in question.

The Committee finds it appropriate to recall that ACCOBAMS Parties are bound, *inter alia*, to require impact assessment for allowing or prohibiting activities that may affect cetaceans or their habitat, such as offshore exploration and exploitation (see ACCOBAMS Annex 2, para. 1, c) and that, to address the concern of underwater noise, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted a number of Resolutions, including Resolution 4.17, which sets “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area”. Moreover, under Art. II, para. 4, the Parties are bound to apply the precautionary principle in implementing the conservation, research and management measures prescribed in Annex 2 to the Agreement.

All this considered, the Committee,
finds that the submission is admissible;

regrets that the Party concerned has not provided information on the issue raised in the submission and invites Portugal to ensure co-operation to address the submission;

recalls that ACCOBAMS Parties are bound, *inter alia*, to apply the precautionary principle (Art. II, para. 4. ACCOBAMS), to require impact assessment for allowing or prohibiting activities that may affect cetaceans or their habitat, such as offshore exploration and exploitation (see ACCOBAMS Annex 2, para. 1, c) and that, to address the concern of underwater noise, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted Resolution 4.17, which includes a set of “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area”;

invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Party and the Partner concerned;

invites the Meeting of the Parties to consider the next steps, if need be.

Monaco, 6 March 2018

Consideration of submission by OceanCare on the failure by Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia to implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins and adoption of the relevant recommendation

ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the Submission by OceanCare on the Failure by Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Tunisia to Implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for the Mediterranean Common Dolphins

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai; Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 1st December 2016, as well as the written replies and supporting information sent by Morocco on 20 March 2017 and by Spain on 2 March 2018;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the consideration of the submission;

Noting that the eighteen Parties concerned did not participate in the oral consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Parties concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The Committee finds that the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

The Committee regrets that no written or oral information on the subject of the submission has been provided to it by sixteen among the eighteen Parties concerned, preventing the Committee from gathering all the relevant views on the present submission.

The submission alleges that eighteen Parties, being all Parties bordering the Mediterranean Sea, have not sufficiently implemented the agreed actions contained in the Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins, as referred to in Resolution 2.20, subsequently replaced by Resolution 4.13.

The Committee recalls that, under Resolution 4.13, the implementation of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea (Mop2, doc. 49), is a high priority in the region and, accordingly, this Resolution urges Parties and invites range States to take a number of actions, based on international co-ordination and adequate funding.

The Committee also notes that the only two Parties that have provided information on the present submission have referred only to general legislation and measures for the protection of cetaceans, without mentioning any specific measure of implementation of the Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins.

The Committee emphasizes that, although the distribution of common dolphins can be uneven in the waters falling under the jurisdiction of Parties and in the Mediterranean basin, the Plan sets forth obligations falling on every Mediterranean Party.

All this considered, the Committee,
 finds that the submission is admissible;
 regrets that sixteen Parties concerned have not provided information on the issue raised in the submission and invites them to ensure co-operation to address the submission;
 recalls that ACCOBAMS Parties are bound, *inter alia*, to apply Resolution 4.13, which stresses that the implementation of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea, is a high priority in the region;
 invites all the Parties concerned to provide information to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat on specific measures taken for the implementation of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea, or any other measures considered relevant for their protection;
 invites the Secretariat to share the information received from Parties with the Scientific Committee;
invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Parties and the Partner concerned;
 invites the Meeting of the Parties to consider the next steps, including giving priority to the review and updating of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea.

Monaco, 6 March 2018

Four official letters co-signed by the President of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee and by the Executive Secretary, sent to relevant ACCOBAMS Focal Points listing the considerations and recommendations of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee regarding the submission by OceanCare ([Annex 1](#), [Annex 2](#), [Annex 3](#) and [Annex 4](#) of the report).

REVIEW GENERAL ISSUES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW UP UNDER THE AGREEMENT AS REQUESTED BY MOP6

During the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (Monaco, 22-25 November 2016), Parties took note of the report of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee and approved the six recommendations it contained, especially Recommendation 4 stating that priority is given to consideration of specific submissions and then to general issues of implementation and follow up. Recommendations 2 and 3 requested to review, under Article 6, paragraph 1,d, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure, the legal and technical issues of implementation and follow up:

- of existing obligations and commitments related to seismic and military activities producing underwater noise,
- relating to interactions between humans and dolphins addressed by Resolution 3.13 (Dolphin interaction programme).

Existing obligations and commitments related to seismic activities producing underwater noise

Members of the Follow up Committee were invited to review the legal and technical issues of implementation and follow up of existing obligations and commitments related to seismic activities producing underwater noise.

When referring to impact assessment, the Committee recommends to use the best available impact assessment tools, such as Environmental Impacts Assessment under the EU instruments, the ESPOO procedure or any other tools as appropriate. The Committee also recommends to share information about practices used by the Parties.
The Committee considers that seismic activities fall under the category of “industrial activities” and therefore, Parties have to collect, analyze and report data on direct and indirect interactions between humans and cetaceans in relation to such activities. In that context, the noise register that is being developed under Resolution 6.17 is relevant. In addition, the Parties should implement the relevant ACCOBAMS Guidelines.
The Committee recommends to take special care when managing seismic activities in specially protected areas or in their vicinity and exchange information on the actions taken by Parties. The impact that such activities may have in the cetacean acoustic habitat is also an issue that should be addressed.
The Committee recommends that all these elements (from Conservation Plan, “ <i>Research and monitoring</i> ”) shall be taken into consideration in connection with seismic activities
The Committee recommends Parties to provide data in MEDACES and in the noise register with the technical assistance of the Secretariat, as need be.
The Committee considers that seismic activities can determine “exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions” leading to emergency situations and, therefore, emergency responses should be considered.
The Committee recommends to exchange information on codes of conduct already implemented, data collected during those events, in particular when a link with seismic activities is suspected

Existing obligations and commitments related military activities producing underwater noise

Participants were then invited to discuss ACCOBAMS Parties obligations and commitments related to **military activities**

The Committee **understands** that military activities are in principle within the scope of application of ACCOBAMS, as there is no provision in the Agreement that excludes its application to such activities. Military activities are consequently not allowed if they result in the “taking” of cetaceans, as defined under article 1, para I of the Bonn Convention, meaning “taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in any such conducts”.

The Committee **is fully aware** of Article 236 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states: “The provisions of this Convention regarding the protection and preservation of the marine environment do not apply to any warship, naval auxiliary, other vessels or aircraft owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. However, each State shall ensure, by the adoption of appropriate measures not impairing operations or operational capabilities of such vessels or aircraft owned or operated by it, that such vessels or aircraft act in a manner consistent, so far as is reasonable and practicable, with the said Convention”. In this regard, the Committee notes that the second sentence of Article 236 obliges the UNCLOS Parties to operate State vessels and aircraft in the manner consistent with UNCLOS, so far as reasonable and practicable and without impairing operations or operational capabilities. Moreover, Article 237 of the UNCLOS does not prejudice agreements, such as ACCOBAMS, which may be concluded in furtherance of the general principles of UNCLOS. Such principles include the general principle of preservation and protection of the environment.

When referring to impact assessment, the Committee **recommends** to use the best available impact assessment tool. It is also recommended to share information about practices used by the Parties in connection with impact assessment related to different military activities

The Committee **encourages** Parties to provide information on military activities relevant to human- cetacean interactions, in particular those producing underwater noise, and report them to the noise register

The Committee **recommends** to take special care when assessing the impact of military activities in specially protected areas or in their vicinity, and exchange information on the actions taken by Parties to minimize the impact. An issue that should be addressed is the impact that such activities may have in the cetacean acoustic habitat

The Committee **considers** that military activities can determine “exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions” leading to emergency situations and, therefore, emergency responses should be considered.

Interactions between humans and dolphins addressed by Resolution 3.13 (Dolphin interaction programme)

Participants were invited to discuss ACCOBAMS Parties obligations and commitments related to **interactions between humans and dolphins**.

The Follow up Committee Members **recommended** the Parties to consider requesting the Committee to further review, under Article 6, paragraph 1, d, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure, the legal and technical issues of implementation and follow up relating to interactions between humans and dolphins addressed by Resolution 3.13 (Dolphin interaction programme), based on the relevant documents prepared by ACCOBAMS bodies, such as the Document of Scovazzi and Tani (“Taking of cetaceans, dolphinarium and quasi-dolphinarium: a legal analysis relating to ACCOBAMS Parties”) and any other identified documents compiled and summarised by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.

The Follow up Committee Members **invited** Parties to inform the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat of any future initiatives related to the creation of quasi dolphinarium and dolphin refuges and inform the Scientific Committee through the appropriate channels.

The ACCOBAMS National report

The Committee **recommended** that all National Reports should be updated before the Follow up Committee and should be made available to the Committee.

Late response by the Party concerned by a submission

The Follow up Committee members **recommended** that the consideration of a late document should be decided by the Committee at the beginning of its Meeting, on a case by case basis, taking into consideration that the Procedure shall be carried out in a simple, flexible, expeditious, fair, transparent, cost-effective and non-confrontational way.

Annex 1 – Letter signed by the President of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee and by the Executive Secretary, sent to the ACCOBAMS Focal Point in Greece listing the considerations and recommendations of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee regarding the submission by OceanCare on the assessment and control by Greece of military activities around South-East Crete

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés
de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et
de la zone Atlantique adjacente*



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans
of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea
and contiguous Atlantic Area*

Monaco, 20th September 2019

M. G. ALVANOPOULOS

Ministry for the Environment, Energy and
Climate Change
Directorate General for the Environment
Head of the Department
Natural Management Station
36, Trikalon, Str. GR 11526 Athens,
Greece

Dr. Eleni TRYFON

Ministry for the Environment, Energy and
Climate Change
Directorate General for the Environment
Natural Management Station
36, Trikalon, Str. GR 11526 Athens,
Greece

Our/Ref.: FDC/ms/2019-146

Dear Sir, Focal Point,

On 10th February 2016, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has received from OceanCare (an ACCOBAMS Partner), a reservation concerning Greek assessment and control of military sonar activities around south east Crete.

Mrs. Eleni Tryfon has been contacted, in her position of ACCOBAMS Focal Point for Greece, on this issue on 11th February 2016 and came back to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat on 11th April 2016.

The submission from OceanCare and the reply of the Focal Point, were provided to the Follow up Committee Members on 26th April 2016.

In accordance with the Rules on the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure, this submission was discussed during the Second Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee (5th – 6th March 2018) in order to elaborate the considerations and recommendations.

The considerations and recommendations related to this submission, adopted by consensus, are presented here below:

**ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
on the Submission by OceanCare on the Assessment and Control by Greece of
Military Activities around South-East Crete**

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille - MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: (+377) 98 98 20 78 Fax: (+377) 98 98 42 08
Email: accobams@accobams.net - Web: www.accobams.org

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai; Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 10 February 2016, as well as and the written reply and supporting information sent by the Party concerned, Ministry of Environment and Energy, on 7 April 2016;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the consideration of the submission;

Noting that the Party concerned did not participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Party concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The submission is divided in two parts, namely:

“1. Greek authorities did not assess and control military maneuvers and especially active sonar around south east Crete, in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17, that may have resulted in the atypical mass stranding of Cuvier’s beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) in 2014;

2. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat has not received or communicated a response from the Greek authorities within six months, and has subsequently failed to bring the matter to the attention of the Follow up Procedure Committee. (Resolution 5.4, Article 8(2))”

The first part of the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

As shown in the relevant documents, it has been confirmed that the ACCOBAMS Secretariat did receive and communicate within six months the response by the authorities of the Party concerned and brought the matter to the attention of the Committee. Consequently, the second part of the submission is not founded. In addition, it should be noted that the second part of the submission is not admissible, in so far as it relates to an alleged behaviour by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, given that submissions can be made by ACCOBAMS Partners only if they “have reservations about a Party’s follow up with its obligations under the Agreement” (Art. 9, para. 1, AFuP).

Coming to the merit, OceanCare alleges that the Greek authorities did not assess and control military maneuvers and especially the use of active sonar around South-East Crete, in a manner consistent with Resolution 4.17 (Guidelines to address the anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area), and that this likely caused the atypical mass stranding of Cuvier’s beaked whales in 2014.

On this question the Party concerned stated:

- in the letter from the Greek authorities to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, dated 7 April 2016, that after the military exercise of 2014 there “has not been information of mass stranding of marine mammals in the area of south Crete”, and

- in the letter from the Greek authorities to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, dated 21 May 2014, that, from 31 March to 10 April 2014, Greek Military Navy participated in a transnational military exercise performed by the military Navies of Israel, the United States and Greece, which took place in the marine area of Israel (Haifa) up to South-East Crete. The letter reports that, from 1 to 10 April, in total, 5 to 10 Cuvier’s beaked whales were stranded in an area of 70 km. It also points out that “during the exercise, the sonar device of the Greek unit started from

the lowest possible power and increased gradually with a step of 5 db. The maximum sonar device power can come up to 225 db and the frequency of emission is in the area of medium frequencies. Greek Navy has edited and follows a specific order, which is in line with the Resolutions of ACCOBAMS. Till now there has been no incident of marine mammal stranding linked with an exercise of the Greek Military Navy. Further on, a presentation to inform the Greek Navy on the new developments of MOP 5, as regards addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans, is planned.”

The Committee is not in a position to determine with total precision what were the reasons for the atypical mass stranding of beaked whales which occurred in the first ten days of April 2014 around South-East Crete. Nor it is possible to determine whether this could be the result of the use of sonar by Greece or by another State non-Party to ACCOBAMS. However, given this situation, the Committee finds that it is likely that the mass stranding brought to its attention was the result of the military exercises taking place from 31 March to 10 April 2014, in which Greece was also involved.

In this regard, the Committee notes that the use of sonar is a well-known source of anthropogenic underwater noise and that it can be detrimental to the maintenance of a favourable conservation status for cetaceans, as it is required by Art. II, para. 1, ACCOBAMS. To address this concern, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted Resolution 4.17, which includes a set of “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area”. Some of the Guidelines specifically address military sonar and civil high power sonar and are consequently applicable also to military activities.

The Committee acknowledges the reported efforts and commitments by the Greek Navy to be in line with the ACCOBAMS Resolutions addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans (see the above mentioned letter of 21 May 2014). These last developments are a matter of appreciation by the Committee.

It would be helpful, as a way to address the issues raised by the submission, if the Party concerned were to provide information to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat about how the Guidelines annexed to the Resolution 4.17 have been implemented after 2014 till now. This will, in particular, enable the Scientific Committee to assess whether there are difficulties in implementing the Guidelines annexed to the Resolution 4.17 and if any other actions are needed.

All this considered, the Committee,

finds that the second part of the submission is not admissible and not founded;

finds that the first part of the submission is admissible;

finds that it is likely that the atypical mass stranding of beaked whales brought to its attention by this submission was the result of the military exercises taking place from 31 March to 10 April 2014, in which Greece was also involved;

invites Greece to pursue all efforts to be in line with the ACCOBAMS Resolutions addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans, such as Resolution 4.17, and commends Greece for what is being done in this direction;

invites Greece to provide information to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat about how the Guidelines annexed to the Resolution 4.17 have been implemented after 2014 till now;

invites the Secretariat to share the received information from Greece with the Scientific Committee;

invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Party and the Partner concerned.

Kindly note that this letter will be included in the report of the Chair of the Follow up Committee which will be a working document to be presented to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (5-8 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey).

Please do not hesitate to contact the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat should you need further information.

Best regards,



Florence DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI
ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary



Victor ESCOBAR
Chair of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee

Annex 2- Letter signed by the President of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee and by the Executive Secretary, sent to the ACCOBAMS Focal Point in Spain listing the considerations and recommendations of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee on Spanish Assessment and Control of Petroleum Exploration Activities (Specifically Seismic Surveys) around the Balearic Islands

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés
de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et
de la zone Atlantique adjacente*



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans
of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea
and contiguous Atlantic Area*

Monaco, 20th September 2019

Mrs. Elvira GARCÍA-BELLIDO CAPDEVILA
SG para la Protección del Mar
DG de Sostenibilidad de la Costa y del Mar
Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica
Pl. San Juan de la Cruz, s/n
E-28071-Madrid (Spain)

Our/Ref.: FDC/ms/2019-147

Dear Focal Point,

On 10th February 2016, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has received from OceanCare (an ACCOBAMS Partner), a reservation concerning Spanish Assessment and Control of Petroleum Exploration Activities (Specifically Seismic Surveys) around the Balearic Islands.

The ACCOBAMS Focal Point for Spain has been contacted on this issue on 11th February 2016 and he came back to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat on 12th April 2016.

The submission from OceanCare and the reply of the Focal Point, were provided to the Follow up Committee Members on 26th April 2016.

In accordance with the Rules on the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure, this submission was discussed during the Second Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee (5th – 6th March 2018) in order to elaborate the considerations and recommendations.

The considerations and recommendations related to this submission, adopted by consensus, are presented here below:

ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
On the Submission by OceanCare concerning Spanish Assessment and Control of Petroleum
Exploration Activities (Specifically Seismic Surveys) around the Balearic Islands

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai;
Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 10 February 2016, as well as and the written reply and supporting information sent by the Party concerned, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, on 12 April 2016;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the oral consideration of the submission;

Noting that the Party concerned did not participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille - MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: (+377) 98 98 20 78 Fax: (+377) 98 98 42 08
Email: accobams@accobams.net - Web: www.accobams.org

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Party concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The submission is divided in two parts, namely:

“1. Spanish authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys) around the Balearic Islands in 2013, in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17, and have risked species vulnerable to loud implosive noise pollution—sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in important habitat;

2. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat has not received or communicated a response from the Spanish authorities within six months, and has subsequently failed to bring the matter to the attention of the Follow up Procedure Committee. (Resolution 5.4, Article 8(2))”

The first part of the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

As shown in the relevant documents, it has been confirmed that the ACCOBAMS Secretariat did receive and communicate within six months the response by the authorities of the Party concerned and brought the matter to the attention of the Committee. Consequently, the second part of the submission is not founded. In addition, it should be noted that the second part of the submission is not admissible, in so far as it relates to an alleged behaviour by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, given that submissions can be made by ACCOBAMS Partners only if they “have reservations about a Party’s follow up with its obligations under the Agreement” (Art. 9, para. 1, AFuP).

Coming to the merit, OceanCare alleges that in 2013 the Spanish authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys) around the Balearic Islands, in a manner consistent with Resolution 4.17, with the consequent risk for species vulnerable to noise pollution, such as sperm whales.

In its letter, the Party concerned confirms that unidentified noise was recorded, adding that all the inquiries it has made were not able to identify the sources and excluding that any authorizations to produce noise were ever issued in that period by the Spanish authorities.

In this regard, the Committee notes that offshore exploration and exploitation is a well-known source of anthropogenic underwater noise and that it can be detrimental to the maintenance of a favourable conservation status for cetaceans, as it is required by Art. II, para. 1, ACCOBAMS. To address this concern, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted Resolution 4.17, which includes a set of “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area”. Some of the Guidelines specifically address seismic surveys and airgun uses.

However, in this specific case there was no evidence at all that the authorities of the State concerned either authorized noise producing activities from July 2012 to July 2013 or were negligent in controlling what was taking place in the waters or seabed subject to the Spanish jurisdiction.

The fact that underwater noise can be detected at long distance from the place where it is produced leads the Committee to conclude that, in this specific case, the noise could have originated from activities beyond the control of the Spanish authorities.

The Committee further remarks that, at present, no ACCOBAMS Resolution specifically relates to cases where a source of noise of distant origin affects cetaceans found in the waters subject to the jurisdiction of an ACCOBAMS Party and calls for Parties to co-operate to address the situation. The Meeting of the Parties could consider the possibility to elaborate such a Resolution and to encourage the reporting of data in the noise register.

All this considered, the Committee,

finds that the second part of the submission is not admissible and not founded;

finds that the first part of the submission is admissible;

finds there is no evidence that the authorities of the State concerned either authorized noise producing activities from July 2012 to July 2013 or were negligent in controlling what was taking place in the waters or seabed subject to the Spanish jurisdiction;

recommends for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties the elaboration of a Resolution calling for the development of a co-operation mechanism among Parties to identify the source of long-distance underwater noise in order to address its transboundary effects;

invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Party and the Partner concerned.

Monaco, 6 March 2018

Kindly note that this letter will be included in the report of the Chair of the Follow up Committee which will be a working document to be presented to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (5-8 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey).

Please do not hesitate to contact the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat should you need further information.

Best regards,



Florence DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI
ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary



Victor ESCOBAR
Chair of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee

ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille - MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: (+377) 98 98 20 78 Fax: (+377) 98 98 42 08
Email: accobams@accobams.net - Web: www.accobams.org

Annex 3 – Letter signed by the President of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee and by the Executive Secretary, sent to the ACCOBAMS Focal Point in Portugal listing the considerations and recommendations of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee on the Assessment and Control by Portugal of Petroleum Exploration Activities in the Algarve and Alentejo Basins; letter sent to the ACCOBAMS Focal Point in Portugal

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés
de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et
de la zone Atlantique adjacente*



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans
of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea
and contiguous Atlantic Area*

Monaco, 20th September 2019

Ms. Marina SEQUEIRA

Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e
das Florestas, I.P.
Divisão de Gestão de Espécies da Fauna e
da Flora
Av. da República, 16 – 16B
1050-191 Lisboa - PORTUGAL

Our/Ref.: FDC/ms/2019-148

Dear Focal Point,

On 25th July 2016, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has received from OceanCare (an ACCOBAMS Partner), a reservation concerning Portugal's assessment and control of petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo Basins.

The Portuguese Focal Point has been contacted on this issue by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat on 26th July 2016.

On 20th October 2016 and then in 1st February 2017, the Portugal Focal Point requested the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to consider the possibility of extending the deadline for sending information related to the follow-up submission

Up to date the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has still no received any information related to the follow-up submission.

In accordance with the Rules on the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure, this submission was discussed during the Second Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee (5th – 6th March 2018) in order to elaborate the considerations and recommendations.

The considerations and recommendations related to this submission, adopted by consensus, are presented here below:

**ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
On the Submission by OceanCare on the Assessment and Control by Portugal of Petroleum
Exploration Activities in the Algarve and Alentejo Basins**

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai;
Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 25 July 2016;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the consideration of the submission;

ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille - MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: (+377) 98 98 20 78 Fax: (+377) 98 98 42 08
Email: accobams@accobams.net - Web: www.accobams.org

Noting that the Party concerned did not participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Party concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The Committee finds that the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

The submission alleges that the Portuguese authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys), in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17.

The Committee regrets that no written or oral information on the subject of the submission has been provided to it by the Party concerned, preventing the Committee from gathering all the relevant views on the present submission. The information on whether or not environmental impact assessments and public consultations are required under the domestic legislation, and have in fact been carried out in the case of the offshore concessions granted by Portugal in the Algarve and Alentejo Basin, should be easily available to the Party concerned.

The Committee notes that the submission includes exploration concessions located in an area falling under the scope of the ACCOBAMS Area and in an area falling under its subsequent extension, which is not yet in force, and consequently limits its considerations only to the former one.

The Committee is mandated to limit its action to cases where there are “reservations about a Party’s follow up with its obligations under the Agreement” and cannot elaborate, as the submission does, on whether there are other obligations, such as those arising from European Union instruments, under which the Party concerned is bound to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments and public consultations for the activities in question.

The Committee finds it appropriate to recall that ACCOBAMS Parties are bound, *inter alia*, to require impact assessment for allowing or prohibiting activities that may affect cetaceans or their habitat, such as offshore exploration and exploitation (see ACCOBAMS Annex 2, para. 1, c) and that, to address the concern of underwater noise, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted a number of Resolutions, including Resolution 4.17, which sets “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area”. Moreover, under Art. II, para. 4, the Parties are bound to apply the precautionary principle in implementing the conservation, research and management measures prescribed in Annex 2 to the Agreement.

All this considered, the Committee,

finds that the submission is admissible;

regrets that the Party concerned has not provided information on the issue raised in the submission and invites Portugal to ensure co-operation to address the submission;

recalls that ACCOBAMS Parties are bound, *inter alia*, to apply the precautionary principle (Art. II, para. 4. ACCOBAMS), to require impact assessment for allowing or prohibiting activities that may affect cetaceans or their habitat, such as offshore exploration and exploitation (see ACCOBAMS Annex 2, para. 1, c) and that, to

address the concern of underwater noise, the ACCOBAMS Parties adopted Resolution 4.17, which includes a set of "Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area";

invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Party and the Partner concerned;

invites the Meeting of the Parties to consider the next steps, if need be.

Monaco, 6 March 2018

Kindly note that this letter will be included in the report of the Chair of the Follow up Committee which will be a working document to be presented to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (5-8 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey).

Please do not hesitate to contact the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat should you need further information.

Best regards,



Florence DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI
ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary



Victor ESCOBAR
Chair of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee

Annex 4 - Letter signed by the President of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee and by the Executive Secretary, sent to the ACCOBAMS Focal Points in Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Tunisia, on the failure by Mediterranean Parties to implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés
de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et
de la zone Atlantique adjacente*



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans
of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea
and contiguous Atlantic Area*

Monaco, 20th September 2019

All relevant ACCOBAMS Focal Points

Our/Ref.: FDC/ms/2019-149

Dear Focal Points,

On 1st December 2016, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has received from OceanCare (an ACCOBAMS Partner), Reservation concerning a failure of short-beaked common dolphin ACCOBAMS Party Range States to implement the ACCOBAMS' Conservation Plan for Mediterranean Common Dolphins' (Resolution 2.20).

Focal Points from Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Tunisia were contacted on this issue on 15th December 2016.

In accordance with the Rules on the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure, this submission was discussed during the Second Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee (5th – 6th March 2018) in order to elaborate the considerations and recommendations.

The considerations and recommendations related to this submission, adopted by consensus, are presented here below:

ACCOBAMS FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the Submission by OceanCare on the Failure by Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Tunisia to Implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for the Mediterranean Common Dolphins

The ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee,

Composed of Mr. Victor Escobar Parades (Chairperson), Mr. Tilen Genov, Mr. Drasko Holcer, Mrs. Imane Tai; Meeting in Monaco on 5 and 6 March 2018;

Having considered the submission and information presented by the ACCOBAMS Partner OceanCare on 1st December 2016, as well as the written replies and supporting information sent by Morocco on 20 March 2017 and by Spain on 2 March 2018;

Having considered the views presented by the representative of OceanCare on 5 March 2018 during the consideration of the submission;

Noting that the eighteen Parties concerned did not participate in the oral consideration of the submission by the Committee on 5 March 2018;

Having elaborated and discussed the subject of the submission;

ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille - MC 98000 MONACO
Tel: (+377) 98 98 20 78 Fax: (+377) 98 98 42 08
Email: accobams@accobams.net - Web: www.accobams.org

Adopts by consensus the following considerations and recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties and to the Parties concerned, under Art. 6, paras. 3 and 4, of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure (hereinafter AFuP), as well as to the Partner concerned.

The Committee finds that the submission is admissible, as none of cases of inadmissibility listed in Art. 9, para. 3, AFuP occurs.

The Committee regrets that no written or oral information on the subject of the submission has been provided to it by sixteen among the eighteen Parties concerned, preventing the Committee from gathering all the relevant views on the present submission.

The submission alleges that eighteen Parties, being all Parties bordering the Mediterranean Sea, have not sufficiently implemented the agreed actions contained in the Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins, as referred to in Resolution 2.20, subsequently replaced by Resolution 4.13.

The Committee recalls that, under Resolution 4.13, the implementation of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea (Mop2, doc. 49), is a high priority in the region and, accordingly, this Resolution urges Parties and invites range States to take a number of actions, based on international co-ordination and adequate funding.

The Committee also notes that the only two Parties that have provided information on the present submission have referred only to general legislation and measures for the protection of cetaceans, without mentioning any specific measure of implementation of the Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins.

The Committee emphasizes that, although the distribution of common dolphins can be uneven in the waters falling under the jurisdiction of Parties and in the Mediterranean basin, the Plan sets forth obligations falling on every Mediterranean Party.

All this considered, the Committee,
finds that the submission is admissible;
regrets that sixteen Parties concerned have not provided information on the issue raised in the submission and invites them to ensure co-operation to address the submission;
recalls that ACCOBAMS Parties are bound, *inter alia*, to apply Resolution 4.13, which stresses that the implementation of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea, is a high priority in the region;
invites all the Parties concerned to provide information to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat on specific measures taken for the implementation of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea, or any other measures considered relevant for their protection;
invites the Secretariat to share the information received from Parties with the Scientific Committee;
invites the Secretariat to transmit these considerations and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the Parties and the Partner concerned;

invites the Meeting of the Parties to consider the next steps, including giving priority to the review and updating of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea.

Monaco, 6 March 2018


Kindly note that this letter will be included in the report of the Chair of the Follow up Committee which will be a working document to be presented to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (5-8 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey).

Please do not hesitate to contact the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat should you need further information.

Best regards,



Florence DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI
ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary



Victor ESCOBAR
Chair of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee

ANNEX XIII

**INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PORTUGAL ON
THE SUBMISSION ON THE ASSESSMENT AND
CONTROL BY PORTUGAL OF PETROLEUM
EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE ALGARVE
AND ALENTEJO**

ANNEX XIII - INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PORTUGAL ON THE SUBMISSION ON THE ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL BY PORTUGAL OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE ALGARVE AND ALENTEJO

OCEANCARE SUBMISSION TO THE ACCOBAMS FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURE: RESERVATION CONCERNING PORTUGAL'S ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE ALGARVE AND ALENTEJO BASINS

Recommendations sought from the Committee

OceanCare asserts that the Portuguese authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys) in the Algarve and Alentejo Basins, in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17.

We seek evidence from the Government of Portugal that this assertion is wrong, or a commitment by the Portuguese authorities that all future offshore petroleum exploration will undergo rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment and public consultation, that will be transparently available to ACCOBAMS process

Comments and observations from the Portuguese Authorities to consider:

Overview: Portugal is a Contracting Party to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Adjacent Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and to the Convention on the Conservation of Wild Fauna Migratory Species (Bonn Convention).

Article III (8) (c) of the ACCOBAMS Agreement provides that "At each of its ordinary sessions, the Meeting of the Parties shall:... c) make recommendations to the Parties as it may be necessary or appropriate to improve the effectiveness of this Agreement;"

Within the framework of Article III (8) (c), Resolution 5.4, adopted at the 5th MoP (Meeting of the Parties - MoP) in 2013, instituted a "Follow up procedure" in order to facilitate, promote and improve the follow-up to the Agreement. The "follow-up procedure" established by resolution 5.4 was amended by resolution 6.8, adopted in 2016 at the 6th MoP. This resolution also establishes a Committee that assesses submissions made under the "follow-up procedure", adopts the recommendations it deems appropriate and reports to MoP on its activities.

Under the "follow-up procedure" established by resolution 5.4, notably under Article 9 (ACCOBAMS Partner Submissions), OceanCare has reservations about Portugal's assessment and control of hydrocarbon exploration in Algarve and Alentejo basins. Specifically, they express concern that, allegedly, the Environmental Impact Assessment was not carried out or any public consultation was conducted regarding the prospection and exploration activities on hydrocarbons in the Algarve and Alentejo basins.

On what regards OceanCare Reservations:

Statement

As an ACCOBAMS Partner, OceanCare has reservation about Portugal's commitment to their obligations under the Agreement. (Resolution 5.4, Article 9(1)). Specifically, we are concerned that Portuguese authorities have not conducted environmental impact assessments or any form of public consultation for petroleum exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentejo Basins of Portugal, despite the direction provided with Resolution 4.17.

The OceanCare reservation is:

1. Portuguese authorities did not assess and control petroleum exploration activities (specifically seismic surveys), in a manner consistent with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17.

In fact, the existing legal framework in Portugal has been in line with EC requirements in this area and, until 2015, this has been translated into the transposition of the Community Directive by including hydrocarbon extraction in Annex II project typologies.

In 2015, with the publication of Decree-Law No. 179/2015, of 27 August, which became mandatory to subject to EIA research and / or prospecting hydrocarbons by unconventional methods (including hydraulic fracturing), subjecting to a case-by-case analysis all those not falling within the thresholds defined for the general case.

This was the legal framework in force at the time the OceanCare Reserve was filed.

It should also be noted that the national legislative framework in this area has been progressing to ensure an approach guided by the precautionary principle, culminating in the adoption of Law No. 37/2017, in the meanwhile incorporated in Decree-Law No. 152-B / 2017, amending and republishing Decree Law No. 151-B / 2013.

Based on the above approach, all activities, whether on exploration or exploitation, fall under the EIA legal regime, triggering, according to the characteristics of the project and its location, the obligation of an environmental impact assessment procedure or subject to a prior appraisal procedure (the so-called screening / case-by-case analysis) which in itself consists of a simplified assessment.

Both the environmental impact assessment procedure and the case-by-case analysis procedure are part of a public consultation stage as well as consultation with relevant entities on the grounds of the matter, to support the decision-making.

In fact, there is a broad set of legislation that governs the Petroleum Legal Regime, the Use of Maritime And Safety Space of offshore oil and gas operations and the Legal Regime for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The various diplomas concerned are presented below.

1. Relevant Portuguese Legislation:

a) Petroleum Legal Regime

Decree-Law n.º 109/94, of 26 April	Legal regime of oil exploration, research and production activities. ²⁵ .
Ordinance n.º 790/94, of 5 September	Contractual bases for the concession contract referred to in Articles 18, 20 and 83 of Decree-Law No. 109/94 of April 26.
Decree-Law n.º 82/2017, of 22 August	1st amendment to Decree-Law No. 109/94 of April 26 – Mandatory prior consultation to municipalities.

b) Use of Maritime Space and Security of oil and gas operations

Decree-Law n.º 13/2016, of 9 March	It lays down provisions on the safety of offshore oil and gas operations, transposing Directive No. 2013/30/EU, of the European Parliament and the Council of 12 June 2013 and through Article 35 extends to onshore oil drilling operations.
Decree-Law n.º 38/2015, of 12 March	Application for Awarding the Single Private Title of the Maritime Space (TUPEM).

²⁵. The Petroleum Law (DL109 / 94) regulates the access and exercise of petroleum exploration, research, development and production activities in the available areas of the onshore surface, inland waters, territorial sea and continental shelf (offshore), as well as conducting studies to evaluate the potential interest in the said activity.

c) Environmental impact assessment legal regime

Decree-Law n.º 151-B/2013, of 31 October	Environmental Impact Assessment (IAE) legal regime for public and private projects that could produce significant effects on the environment. This diploma integrates the extraction of hydrocarbons as one of the typologies of projects covered by.
Decree-Law n.º 47/2014, of 24 March	1st amendment to Decree-Law n.º 151-B/2013
Decree-Law n.º 179/2015, of 27 August	2nd amendment to Decree-Law n.º 151-B/2013
Law n.º 37/2017, of 2 June	3rd amendment to Decree-Law n.º 151-B/2013. It makes it mandatory to evaluate environmental impact in the operations of exploration, research and extraction of hydrocarbons.
Decree-Law n.º 152-B/2017, of 11 december	4th amendment – proceeds to amendment and republication of the Decree-Law n.º 151-B/2013.

Regarding the seismic prospections listed in **n. 6 Corroborating information**, in the OceanCare submission to the ACCOBAMS Follow-Up Procedure, it should be noted that, to date, only requests for research surveys have been presented, and those situations were subject to the applicable legal regime.

Moreover, environmental studies have been developed and promoted for all situations to support the approval of the proposed work, including for concessions falling within the area of the Agreement corresponding to the ratification by Portugal.

In fact, the area covered by the Agreement, in what concerns the version that was ratified by the Portuguese State, does not cover the coast of Alentejo, but only the south coast of the Algarve, that's why - and although studies have also been carried out for the prospections carried out in these areas, - these observations and remarks will focus primarily and mainly on the area to which Portugal is bound by the Agreement, namely:

- *Onshore - Bacia do Algarve: 2 Areas*

*The concession contracts for Aljezur and Tavira were signed, on 2015/09/25, with the company Portfuel - Petróleos e Gás de Portugal, Lda. – **Now extinct. No seismic survey was made in this area.***

- *Deep-Offshore - Algarve Basin: "Sapateira" e "Caranguejo" Areas*

*The concession contracts were signed, on 2015/09/04, with the consortium Repsol / Partex. – **Now extinct. No seismic survey was made in this area.***

- *Deep-Offshore - Algarve Basin: "Lagosta" and "Lagostim" Areas*

The concession contracts were signed, on 2011/10/21, with the consortium Repsol / RWE.

*Since 2012/09/13, by Addenda to the contracts, these concessions were held by the consortium Repsol / Partex. – **Now extinct.***

It should be noted that all concession areas of the Algarve basin, whether in the emerged area or in the immersed area, have already been extinguished.

Concerning the “Aljezur” and “Tavira” concession areas, in the emerged zone, the concession contracts were signed on September 25, 2015 and were extinguished on December 7, 2016. Under these concessions, field work involved only gravimetric and magnetometric data acquisition on foot, with hand-held equipment for measuring the natural values of gravity and the value of the natural magnetic field of geological formations, and therefore no environmental impact was caused at all.

With regard to the concession areas "Sapateira" and "Caranguejo", in the immersed area, the contracts were signed on September 4, 2015 and were extinguished on March 13, 2017, and no field operations/work were carried out. The consortium only performed data reprocessing in cabinet.

Finally, regarding the “Lagosta” and “Lagostim” concession areas, in the immersed area, contracts were signed on October 21, 2011 and terminated on March 13, 2017. In addition to data reprocessing in cabinet, a 3D seismic campaign was carried out in 2012. In addition to the Baseline Environmental Study submitted by the consortium regarding this project and the adoption of international best practices during the operation, as mentioned below, prior to the operation, and in compliance with Decree Law 52/85 of 1 March and 2 of article 35.º of Decree-Law 278/87 of 7 July, the authorization of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs was requested for the entry of the respective seismic vessel and supporting vessels in Portuguese waters, having previously submitted the technical project that included HSA Plan (Hygiene, Safety and Environment) as well as the characteristics of the seismic vessel and the support boats, certificates and specialized training staff members to integrate the work.

It should be noted that for all seismic prospecting operations that have been carried out, even for those outside the area of the Agreement covered by Portugal's ratification, safety and monitoring procedures have been triggered in what concerns nature conservation, in accordance with existing best practices and within certified organisations in these matters, complying with strict scientific and duly monitored criteria as can be seen in daily records drawn up at the time they were carried out, in annex, in computer record, not only in what refers to the Repsol 3D Seismic Survey in Algarve campaign, but also in several others whose records are also listed in annex, by means of example.

In this campaign, the JNCC Guidelines were followed in order to minimize any potential effect on marine mammals, including the use of passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) and mammal observation (through the presence of marine mammal observers (MMO)).

It should be noted that the data were recorded according to the new JNCC registration forms for such expeditions. When mammals were observed, JNCC forms were completed and JNCC “Record of Sightings forms” completed. As already mentioned, a daily log was always kept, including the location of marine mammals, weather and sea conditions (JNCC 2010).

It should be noted that in the exercise of prospecting activities under the assigned concessions mentioned by OceanCare, the Portuguese General-Directorate of Energy and Geology (DGEG), the national competent authority in this domain has never been contacted by OceanCare nor has it ever received any requests of clarification from it, so one has to question how the information set in the present Reservation was obtained, noting as well, the total absence of confirmation of its accuracy and validity. It should be pointed out also that Portuguese authorities have always been available to provide such information.

As mentioned above, the portuguese legislative framework in this area has been progressing in order to ensure a precautionary approach, culminating in the adoption of Law 37/2017, incorporated, in the meantime, by Decree-Law no. 152-B / 2017, which amends and republishes Decree-Law No. 151-B / 2013.

Based on the abovementioned elements, it must be stressed that all activities, whether on exploration or exploitation, fall under the EIA legal regime, triggering, on the basis of the characteristics of the project and its location, the direct obligation of an environmental impact assessment procedure or the obligation of a prior appraisal procedure (the so-called screening / case-by-case analysis) which consists in itself of a simplified assessment.

Therefore, all the activities listed and referred in this present Reservation were bounded by studies, precautions and security measures during the time they were accomplished. Nevertheless, Portugal has a complete and stringent legal framework that governs this matter, as explained above, and most of all, is deeply committed to the protection and the safeguard of the sea life, specifically cetaceans in full respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area.

On the basis of the elements above, Portugal proposes the withdrawal of the considerations and recommendations of the ACCOBAMS Follow Up Committee regarding the Submission by OceanCare on the Assessment and Control by Portugal of Petroleum Exploration Activities in the Algarve and Alentejo Basins.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sequeira', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marina Sequeira
(ACCOBAMS National Focal Point)

ANNEX XIV

**STATEMENT BY OCEANCARE ABOUT THE
FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE PROCEDURE,
AND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
PORTUGAL**

ANNEX XIV - STATEMENT BY OCEANCARE ABOUT THE FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE PROCEDURE, AND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PORTUGAL

Thank you Chair, As this is the first intervention by OceanCare, we would like to thank the government and the people of Turkey for their hospitality and for hosting the 7th MOP of ACCOBAMS and the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for all their efforts in preparing the Meeting. We also wanna thank the conference organizers for providing reusable dinnerware, like glass, and by doing so avoiding single-use plastic in the conference facilities. This should be congratulated

To the substance.

Allow us to make a general comment about the follow up committee procedure, as well as one comment regarding the information provided within the document provided by Portugal a few days ago and commented on today.

First of all OceanCare would like to reiterate its belief that a proper, effective implementation mechanism is of upmost importance to any conservation Treaty. Furthermore, we are conscious of the fact that the ACCOBAMS follow-up committee is still relatively new and therefore we understand that it is a learning process for all of us. We also would like to thank the Members of the follow up committee, the Secretariat and the Parties for efforts within this process. Still, we'd like to point out a select number of aspects to consider for further improving this important mechanism:

The budget of past triennium did not allow for more than one meeting within the intersessional period. We are unaware of whether the follow up Committee has made use of the Article 4. para.7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee which allows the Committee to, "in appropriate circumstances, undertake some of its activities through electronic communications". Conversely, the Committee has not been in a position to react in a timely manner in cases of non implementation.

In consideration of our busy schedule at this Meeting, **we have decided not to comment on the outcomes of each of the submitted cases, but would welcome clarification on the following procedural aspects:**

- please clarify whether the Report of the Follow Up committee is from now on a public document, as it is already publicly available on the Agreement website, as well as what documents within this process have to remain confidential?
- what are next steps in absence of response to a submission within the intersessional period by one or more Parties or do you treat the comments provided during today's discussion as part of the formal process?

We conclude on this general remark that a proper implementation process requires a more frequent consultation amongst the Members of the follow-up Committee and reaction by Parties to allow it to respond more flexible to events as they may arise.

Furthermore, we see ourselves forced to react to Doc. 38 provided by the government of Portugal uploaded on the 2nd of November 2019. After OceanCare has submitted concerns about the procedures for hydrocarbon exploration activities in the Algarve and Alentjo Basins in July 2016, Portugal has not reacted to requests from the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in response during the follow-up committee process and the committee was not able to review information provided by the Party as documented within the report.

OceanCare very much regrets that no transparent review of information was possible. While not commenting on the substance of the document provided by Portugal, at this stage, we refer to page 5 where the Party is directly criticizing OceanCare as follows:

„It should be noted that in the exercise of prospecting activities under the assigned concessions mentioned by OceanCare, ... , the national competent authority in this domain has never been contacted by OceanCare nor has it ever received any requests of clarification from it, so one has to question how the information set in the present Reservation was obtained, noting as well, the total absence of confirmation of its accuracy and validity. It should be pointed out also that Portuguese authorities have always been available to provide such information “.

This information however lacks validity. In particular, on Friday, 18. March 2016 I myself wrote to the Portuguese focal point submitting a full set of documents in concern over this case. This E-Mail was following a formal submission of concerns raised by a number of NGOs, both national and international, which OceanCare submitted on February 3rd 2016 to Minister Ana Paula Vitorino, Ministry of Sea, Minister João Pedro Matos Fernandes, Ministry for Environment and Minister Manuel Caldeira Cabral, Ministry for Economy, at the time.

We do ask for specific clarification, whether the document submitted by Portugal can be treated as public document. From our side, we ask this issue to remain on the Agenda of the follow up Committee and to be addressed there in its entirety.

In reaction to the report from the Chair of the Follow up Committee how to progress addressing seismic and military activities. We want to draw attention to the CMS EIA Guidelines, which cover all noise generating activities, including military and seismic, which should be applied by all Parties to CMS and encourage all non-Parties to use this useful instrument, too. This document is an ideal complementary instrument to the ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines adopted by Resolution 4.17 and up for adoption as revised version in 7.13.

Regarding the feedback given on the implementation of the Conservation Plan for the Common Dolphin in the Mediterranean Sea, we are grateful for the reaction by countries. We do believe that we shall follow the agreed procedure and reflect on the proper implementation of the conservation plan within the Follow up committee. OceanCare appreciates every single effort towards better conservation of cetaceans in the Agreement area.

Thank you for your attention and for having given us the floor.

ANNEX XV

RESOLUTIONS

ANNEX XV - RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 7.1 - GRANTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE	267
RESOLUTION 7.2 - FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL OF THE ACCOBAMS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT	268
RESOLUTION 7.3 - RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	273
RESOLUTION 7.4 - ACCOBAMS STRATEGY	278
RESOLUTION 7.5 - ACCOBAMS FUNDING STRATEGY	284
RESOLUTION 7.6 - WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2020-2022	297
RESOLUTION 7.7 - SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	336
RESOLUTION 7.8- PROCEDURE FOR THE ACCOBAMS CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY CONSERVATION GRANTS FUND	344
RESOLUTION 7.9 - ACCOBAMS PARTNERS	363
RESOLUTION 7.10 - IMPROVING MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF CETACEAN POPULATION ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA	369
RESOLUTION 7.11 - INTERACTIONS BETWEEN FISHERIES AND CETACEANS	372
RESOLUTION 7.12 - SHIP STRIKES	375
RESOLUTION 7.13 - ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE	381
RESOLUTION 7.14 - BEST PRACTICES IN MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF CETACEAN STRANDING	399
RESOLUTION 7.15 - ASSESSING MARINE LITTER IMPACTS ON CETACEANS	411
RESOLUTION 7.16 - COMMERCIAL CETACEAN-WATCHING ACTIVITIES	413
RESOLUTION 7.17 - GLOBAL POST 2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK:ACCOBAMS MOBILIZATION	415
RESOLUTION 7.18 - TRIBUTE TO ORGANISERS	418
RESOLUTION 7.19 - DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES	419

RESOLUTION 7.1
GRANTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article III, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Agreement regarding the right to vote,

Recalling Article 14, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties, which provides that “Representatives of Parties which are three or more years behind in paying their subscriptions on the date of the opening session of the Meeting of the Parties shall not be eligible to vote. However, the Meeting of the Parties may allow such Parties to continue to exercise their right to vote if it is satisfied that the delay in payment arises from exceptional circumstances”,

Convinced that decision-making at the Seventh Meeting of the Parties will benefit from the active participation of as many Parties as possible,

1. *Decides* that, although Libya is more than three years behind in paying its ordinary contribution, it is satisfied that the delay for payment arises from exceptional circumstances, and that this Party shall exercise its right to vote at the Seventh Meeting of the Parties.

RESOLUTION 7.2
FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL OF THE ACCOBAMS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Considering that, under Resolution 1.2, the Meeting of the Parties accepted the offer of the Government of the Principality of Monaco to host the Permanent Secretariat and agreed with the terms of reference, as annexed to the said Resolution,

Recalling Resolution 6.2, amending the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country,

Conscious that there is a need to formally establish a functional structure for the Permanent Secretariat and its personnel,

Recalling Resolution 6.3, requesting the Executive Secretary, on the basis of a functional assessment of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, and in consultation with the Host Country and the Bureau, to develop a proposal on the structure of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and a mechanism to implement the proposal to be submitted to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties,

Having entrusted the Permanent Secretariat to hire a specialized consultant to carry out a functional assessment of the personnel needs of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the associated costs,

Taking note of the recommendations listed in the report of the functional assessment of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat,

1. *Adopts* the Functional Structure and Personnel of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, as in the [Annex](#) to the present Resolution;
2. *Charges* the Executive Secretary, without prejudice to any acquired rights, to implement the present Functional Structure;
3. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolutions 5.6 and 6.3.

ANNEX - FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS)

PREAMBLE

At their First Meeting in 2002, Parties to the ACCOBAMS adopted Resolution 1.2 creating a Permanent Secretariat whose functions are defined in Article IV of the Agreement.

A Headquarters Agreement, signed between the Government of the Principality of Monaco and the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat on the 11th November 2010 and adopted by Parties at their 4th Meeting under Resolution 4.2, provided the Permanent Secretariat with a legal personality, allowing to act as an employer as per the Monegasque legislation. An Amendment to the Headquarters Agreement was adopted by Parties in November 2016 at their 6th Meeting, through Resolution 6.2.

1- DEFINITION OF THE POSITIONS AT THE ACCOBAMS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

At the Permanent Secretariat, the positions include those supported by the Host Country under the Headquarters Agreement, as well as positions funded through the Agreement Trust Fund or through specific projects, and those seconded by Parties, as described in documents ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc22 and ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc23 related to the position profiles and salary scales.

1.1 Positions under the Headquarters Agreement

These positions, core of the Permanent Secretariat, include those listed in the amended Headquarters Agreement and financially supported by the Host Country, namely:

- ✓ Executive Secretary
- ✓ Assistant to the Executive Secretary

1.2 Positions under the Agreement Trust Fund

These positions ensure the remaining scientific, technical and administrative functions.

1.3 Positions funded under specific projects and/or seconded by Parties

These positions ensure specific scientific, technical or administrative functions. They are supported by external funds or seconded by Parties and their duration is limited to the extent of the specific project or activity.

2- RULES GOVERNING THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL

The Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS is registered with the Monegasque Employment Service as an employer. Its employees are subject to the laws in force that regulate the conditions of hiring and dismissal in the Principality of Monaco (Law No. 629 of July 1957) and set, in particular, the following points:

- ✓ Weekly working time;
- ✓ Duration of annual leave;
- ✓ Official public holidays observed being the legal holidays envisaged in the Principality of Monaco by the Law No. 798 of 18 February, 1966.

3- FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

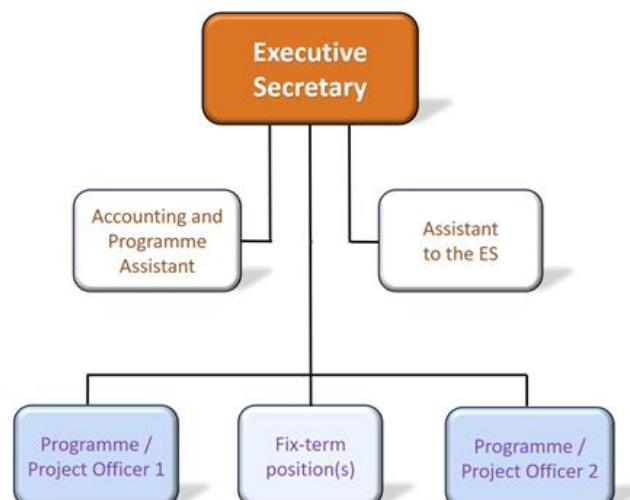
The functional organizational structure of the Permanent Secretariat is supported by documents ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc22 and ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc23. It is as follows:

- ✓ Executive Secretary, in charge of leading and managing the Permanent Secretariat, the personnel and the Agreement budget;
- ✓ Assistant to the Executive Secretary, providing direct secretariat support and general office assistance to the Executive Secretary; general communication / information assistance; logistical, operational and administrative support for institutional meetings, including travel arrangements and translation of documents;
- ✓ Programme and Project Officer (1), developing and implementing the Programme of Work on assigned topics; in charge of identifying, developing and managing specific co-funded projects and preparing and presenting documents for institutional meetings and conferences;
- ✓ Programme and Project Officer (2), developing and implementing the Programme of Work on assigned topics; in charge of identifying, developing and managing specific co-funded projects and preparing and presenting documents for institutional meetings and conferences;
- ✓ Accounting and Programme Assistant performing the accounting of the ACCOBAMS Funds and providing administrative support related to human resources and to the implementation of the Programme of Work and projects, including workshops and meetings;
- ✓ Staff recruited on a fix-term basis, according to the duration of a specific project or activity or provided through secondment by a Contracting Party to support Work Programme implementation.

The Executive Secretary is the supervisor of the personnel of the Permanent Secretariat and all of them report to her/him. However, the Executive Secretary may request a Programme and Project Officer to oversee the work of a staff recruited, on a fix-term basis, for a specific project or activity.

The positions, other than those included in the Headquarter Agreement, are not permanent and depend on the workload and the available financial resources. The personnel are contracted accordingly and in compliance with legislation of the Principality of Monaco.

The functional organizational chart of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat is as follows:



4- SALARIES AND OTHER REMUNERATIONS

The Monegasque legislation stipulates that the classification of employees in the various occupational categories is determined by the employer or his representative, under the supervision of the labor inspector²⁶.

Salaries and other remuneration shall be paid in Euros. The minimum amount of wages is fixed by Ministerial Decree²⁷.

- ✓ The salary of the Executive Secretary position is provided by the Host Country through its allowance for the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat. A ceiling amount is set as per the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement which specifies the equivalent grade in the Monegasque civil services and the corresponding salary scale (Resolution 6.2 Appendix 1, para. 4, b). The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat salary scale for this position is identified as A5, step 3 of the A5 salary scale corresponding to the above-mentioned ceiling amount, as referred in Annex 2 of Resolution 7.3. In addition, a Housing Allowance is provided from the Trust Fund to the Executive Secretary if not a national from the Host Country.
Considering that the Executive Secretary is recruited for a limited period of maximum nine years, then he/she shall be appointed at step 1 of the salary scale and have a normal step increase every three years.
- ✓ The salary of the Programme and Project Officer positions is supported by the Trust Fund.
In addition, the two apartments provided to ACCOBAMS by the Principality of Monaco according to the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement, are allocated to these positions by the Executive Secretary, taking into account the income and the family quotient.
- ✓ The salary of the position of Assistant to the Executive Secretary is supported by the Host Country allowance for the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat. A ceiling amount is set as per the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement which specifies the equivalent grade and the corresponding salary scales (Resolution 6.2, Appendix 1, para. 5). The remuneration grid of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for this position, inspired by salary scales used by the Monegasque Civil Services for B category employees, starts at B1 scale, continues with B2 scale and terminates at B3 scale (at the above-mentioned ceiling amount) as referred in document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc23.
The grade level at appointment shall normally begin at Step 1 of the lowest scale. However, under exceptional circumstances, the Executive Secretary might decide that the appointment is done at a higher step to reflect seniority and/or experience.
- ✓ The salary for the position of Accounting and Programme Assistant is supported by the Trust Fund.
- ✓ The salary of the personnel recruited over the life of a particular project or activity, with limited duration, is determined and supported under this project or this activity.

The performance of the personnel, other than the Executive Secretary, shall be assessed annually in January by the Executive Secretary.

²⁶ Article 11. 1 of Law n. 739 – March 1963 regarding the salary.

²⁷ Article 11: of Law n° 1.068 of December 1983: Except as otherwise provided by law, the minimum amounts of salaries, bonuses, allowances of any kind and supplements other than those provided for by the legislative provisions relating to hours of work may not be lower than those fixed by ministerial decree. Subject to the provisions of the following paragraph, they shall be at least equal to those prescribed under regulations or collective agreements, for identical working conditions, in the same occupations, businesses or industries of the neighbouring economic region.

5- RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE PERSONNEL OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

5.1 Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary is recruited according to the provisions of Resolution 7.3 “Procedure for the Recruitment of the Executive Secretary”.

5.2 Personnel other than the Executive Secretary

Personnel working in the Permanent Secretariat is recruited by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat acting as employer, namely by the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the Monegasque legislation (in particular Law No. 629 of July 1957 on the conditions of hiring and dismissing in the Principality of Monaco).²⁸

Recruitment is carried out according to the qualifications required and according to the laws in force in Monaco. It is undertaken on the basis of a job offer submitted to the Employment Service of the Principality of Monaco and can be effective, for a foreign national, after obtaining a work permit²⁹ only.

Personnel can also be seconded by Parties to support the implementation of the Programme of Work.

6- SEPARATION FROM SERVICE

- a. Personnel of the Permanent Secretariat, including the Executive Secretary, may resign at any time in accordance with the terms of the laws in force which regulate the conditions of hiring and dismissal in the Principality of Monaco (Law No. 629 of July 1957 and Law No. 729 of March 1963).

The Executive Secretary shall give a six months prior notice. A shorter period shall be approved by the Bureau.

- b. The Executive Secretary, or the Bureau in concertation with the Government of the Principality of Monaco in the case of the Executive Secretary, may terminate the appointment of staff members, upon prior written notice (period of notice set under Law No. 729 of March 1963), when this is deemed to be for the benefit of the operating efficiency of the Permanent Secretariat, due to the restructuring of the Permanent Secretariat as a consequence of budget shortage, or if it is considered that the staff member's services are not satisfactory.
- c. In the event of the resignation of a staff member or the decision by the employer of termination of services, the corresponding indemnities are established in accordance with the Law in force in the Principality of Monaco (Law N° 845 of June 1968).

²⁸ **Article 5** of Law No. 1.091 of 26 December 1985;

For job candidates who have the qualification required for the post, and in the absence of candidates of Monegasque nationality, the authorization provided for in the preceding article (hiring or rehiring) shall be issued in the following order of priorities:

- 1) foreigners married to Monegasques who have kept the Monegasque nationality and are not legally separated, and non-Monegasques who have a Monegasque parent;
- 2) foreigners who are domiciled in Monaco and have already been in employment there;
- 3) foreigners who are domiciled in neighbouring communes and are authorized to work there.

²⁹ **Article 1:** (Modified by Law No. 1.429 of 4 July, 2016) No foreigner may be employed in the private sector in Monaco unless that person has a work permit. He may not be employed in a trade or profession other than that stated on the permit. The work permit application mentions, where applicable, the exercise of a teleworking activity and the places where it is performed.

RESOLUTION 7.3
RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article IV of the ACCOBAMS, setting the functions of the Agreement Secretariat,

Aware that under Resolution 1.2, the Meeting of the Parties accepted the offer of the Government of the Principality of Monaco to host the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and agreed with its terms of reference, as annexed to the said Resolution,

Recalling Resolution 6.2 amending the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country which defines, *inter alia*, the financial arrangements for the Executive Secretary position expenses,

Recalling Resolution 6.3, entrusting the Bureau, in consultation with the Host Country, to address the question of the recruitment procedure for the Executive Secretary as a matter of priority,

1. *Adopts* the recruitment procedure for the Executive Secretary, as in [Annex 1](#), the profile of the Executive Secretary position and salary scale, as in [Annex 2](#), and the selection criteria, as in [Annex 3](#) to the present Resolution;
2. *Entrusts* the Executive Secretary with the implementation of the Agreement, in consultation with the President of the Bureau and the Host Country;
3. *Entrusts* the Bureau to make any proposal for amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 and to submit them to the subsequent Meeting of the Parties for adoption.

ANNEX 1 - RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE ACCOBAMS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

When the position of ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary is or becomes vacant, the following recruitment procedure shall be used:

1. The Bureau initiates, in the shortest period of time, a recruitment procedure according to the modalities below and designates, if necessary and in coordination with the Host Country, an Executive Secretary *ad interim* until the recruitment procedure is completed. If the *ad interim* or current Executive Secretary is a candidate, she/he shall not be involved in the recruitment procedure;
2. The Bureau, to which a representative of the Host Country is added (if not already member), acts as Recruitment Committee, with the assistance of the Permanent Secretariat, using the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau as set out in Resolution 5.7 and amended by Resolution 6.4. Parties willing to send a representative as observer may do so at their own cost
3. Upon request by the President of the Bureau, the Permanent Secretariat publishes on the ACCOBAMS website, a vacancy notice in English and French, including a deadline for application, based on the selection criteria presented in [Annex 2](#) and notifies all National Focal Points, all ACCOBAMS Partners and the Secretariats of the relevant Conventions as well (CMS, CBD, Barcelona Convention, IWC, etc.) for publication on their institutional web site and in the media considered appropriate;
4. After the deadline set in the vacancy notice, all *curricula vitae*, references and other documents presented by the candidates are compiled by the Permanent Secretariat to assist the Recruitment Committee in the preparation of an analytical table of applications, based on, but not necessarily limited to and without priority order, the selection criteria presented in [Annex 3](#) of the present Resolution and on the description of the duties and responsibilities contained in Article IV of the ACCOBAMS;
5. On the basis of the scores of the analytical table, the Recruitment Committee prepares a list of maximum four candidates;
6. The Recruitment Committee decides a date and a place considered as the most convenient and cost effective to meet and invites the four candidates for an interview face to face;
7. The Recruitment Committee proceeds with the interviews and ranks the four candidates;
8. The employment process is finalized in compliance with the law in force in the Principality of Monaco, regulating, among others, the conditions of hiring and dismissal; the President of the Bureau signs the declaration of employment of the candidate retained;
9. The name of the candidate retained, as well as the date of entry on duty, are notified to the Parties by the President of the Bureau;
10. The Executive Secretary is recruited for a period of six (6) years, including the first year on probation. Before the end of the first year, the Bureau prepares an assessment of the effectiveness of the person concerned, in order to issue an advice on the continuation of the mandate. The term of office of six (6) years may be extended for a period of three (3) years;
11. The meeting of the Recruitment Committee is private and its deliberations are considered as confidential.

ANNEX 2 – PROFILE OF THE ACCOBAMS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION AND SALARY SCALE

A- PROFILE OF THE ACCOBAMS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION

1. IDENTIFICATION OF POST

1. Role: Executive Secretary
2. Place of work: Agreement Headquarters, ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, Principality of Monaco.

2. MAIN PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

1. The position of the Executive Secretary of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat is supported by the Principality of Monaco as per the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement.
2. The Executive Secretary is in charge of managing the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, the functions of which are set out under Article IV of the ACCOBAMS.

3. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Posts supervised: staff on long term and temporary positions, comprising at least three scientific and technical employees and an administrative employee responsible for accounting and day-to-day administration.
2. Post supervisor: Meeting of Parties.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for the operation of the Permanent Secretariat, coordinates and supervises staff and their activities;
- Encourages and assists countries to implement the Agreement;
- Facilitates implementation of the ACCOBAMS work programme;
- Develops and maintains contact with National Focal Points, Ministers, Heads of ministerial departments and the diplomatic corps of Parties and other governments in the geographical area covered by the Agreement and the relevant ministers in those countries, in order to assess their needs and the level of implementation of the Agreement and/or its objectives;
- Ensures relationships with the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties and the Bureau, the Scientific Committee, working groups and media representatives;
- Manages the Agreement budget and Host Country grant in connection with the Headquarters Agreement;
- Seeks extra budgetary funding for activities related to the work programme priorities;
- Establishes the triennial work programme for adoption by the Parties;
- Promotes the objectives and interests of the Agreement; coordinates and supervises its implementation;

- Represents ACCOBAMS at the national and international level, establishing links with officials and members of government institutions and governmental and non-governmental organisations, with the aim of encouraging their involvement in implementing the Agreement;
- Facilitates the integration of Agreement activities with those of other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations;
- Formalises links with these organisations and sign relevant interinstitutional agreements;
- Actively participates in CMS' family activities and promote them in the ACCOBAMS' area;
- Organises Meetings of the Parties, of the Scientific Committee and of the Bureau, workshops and working groups set up as part of the operation of the Agreement;
- Reports to the Bureau and the Parties on the operations of the Secretariat and its efforts to implement the Agreement objectives;
- Ensures compliance with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement;
- Maintains a close relationship with the Host Country within the framework of the Headquarters Agreement;
- Encourages non-member Range States to become Parties to the Agreement;
- Carries out awareness-raising activities for the public and media at the national and international level.
- Develops proposals for international events;
- Interprets the Resolutions/Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties, the decisions made by the Bureau and the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee;
- Is self-directing and accountable to the Meeting of the Parties.

B- SALARY SCALE FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION

Considering that work-related laws in force in the Principality of Monaco shall apply to the personnel of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, then a salary scale has been elaborated, in collaboration with the Government of the Principality of Monaco, following a Decision of the Bureau at its 12th Meeting (3-4 December 2018).

The provisions of the amended Headquarters Agreement (Res. 6.2 Appendix 1, para. 4, b) specify that “the staff expenses of the Executive Secretary are covered by the Host Country through reimbursement of relevant expenditures incurred by the Permanent Secretariat within the limit of a gross annual remuneration equivalent to the one provided to civil servants classified as **Department Head of the 3rd Group** of the Monaco Civil Services”. Based on the above, the salary scale **A5**, inspired of those used for senior A category employees of the Monegasque Civil Services, is set for the Executive Secretary position.

Salary scales are based on steps. The career plan shall begin at Step 1 of the salary scale. The normal step increase is each three years. On an exceptional basis, the elapsed period among two steps could be reduced to two or one year, on the basis of demonstrated outstanding performance and upon proposal by the Bureau.

The Executive Secretary is appointed for a maximum of 9 years. Therefore, and considering that Step 3 corresponds to the ceiling amount set as per the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement, then the normal career progression for the Executive Secretary position, will be as follows:

SALARY SCALE	STEPS	STEP INCREASE (years)	ANNUAL GROSS SALARY (€)	ANNUAL SALARY MASS (€) (Supported under HQ)
A5	1	+3	81 709	120 823
A5	2	+3	84 185	124 503
A5	3	+3	86 661	128 156

These are indicative values, as at 1st January 2019, and may change according to what is provided in the ACCOBAMS Headquarters Agreement

ANNEX 3 -SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In the selection of the Executive Secretary, the Recruitment Committee shall be guided by, but not necessarily limited to, the following criteria:

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Diploma equivalent or superior to Master 2;
2. Fluency in English and French;
3. A minimum of 7 years of professional skills in several of the fields related to the job description;
4. Familiarity with biodiversity conservation issues;
5. Demonstration of an appropriate level of leadership and experience in managing staff and financial resources and in organising high-level meetings;
6. Experience or detailed knowledge of the operations of environmental Intergovernmental Organisations;
7. Excellent interpersonal, representation and promotional skills, especially within a multicultural/multilingual environment.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

8. National of an ACCOBAMS Party;
9. Familiarity with marine biodiversity conservation;
10. Knowledge of a third official language of the Agreement;
11. Publications and reports related to the position profile;
12. Participation with active role, to meetings or conferences within intergovernmental bodies.

RESOLUTION 7.4

ACCOBAMS STRATEGY

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article III, paragraph 8, sub-paragraphs a), b) and c), of the ACCOBAMS Agreement,

Recalling Resolution 4.24 “ACCOBAMS Strategy” adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (Monaco, 9-12 November 2010),

Recalling also Resolution 5.1 adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (Tangier, Morocco, 5-8 November 2013) on the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy, since Parties consider that the effectiveness of ACCOBAMS and of the Resolutions adopted within this framework would be strengthened by an elaboration of a long-term Strategy,

Stressing that chapter 9 of the ACCOBAMS Strategy (Annex 1 to the Resolution 5.1) states that monitoring of the progress on the implementation of the Strategy will include regular monitoring of operational work programmes and implementation of Resolutions,

Aware that the ACCOBAMS mission is to continue to promote and facilitate regional cooperation at all levels, providing best expertise and standards and supporting implementation of all necessary measures for conserving cetaceans in the region,

Aware also that the ACCOBAMS vision is that cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS area will be in a favourable conservation status, expressed as healthy populations and habitats with minimized adverse human impacts, with ACCOBAMS also having the role of a key regional player in promoting active regional cooperation,

Aware of the developments at the international level that need to be taken into consideration in concrete terms in the present ACCOBAMS Strategy,

Stressing the importance of operational work programmes for the implementation of the Strategy and of regular monitoring of progress in implementing the Strategy,

Welcoming the new format of the online national report on the NETCCOBAMS website,

Welcoming the work carried out by the expert contracted to evaluate the level of effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014 – 2025,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014-2025 as presented in the document MOP7/Inf38;
2. *Decides* to adopt the new ACCOBAMS Strategy, as presented in the [Annex](#) of the present Resolution;
3. *Requests* the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive compendium of Resolutions in force, ordered by subject matter, in the light of the new Strategy;

4. Requests the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to produce a final guidance document on the roles and responsibilities of ACCOBAMS National Focal Points;
5. *Invites* Parties to encourage their ACCOBAMS National Focal Points to:
 - further liaise, for the implementation of the Strategy, with all the relevant National Focal Points of other international or regional instruments involved in marine conservation (such as Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean , the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, etc.), in order to identify the actions already or to be taken at the national level (integrated approach) and to include them in the relevant sections of their national reports (in particular in relation to fisheries, pollution, marine spatial planning, conservation areas and climate change);
 - provide, for capacity building, a realistic list of needs of the country in order for the Permanent Secretariat to develop projects or programmes for tackling the regional top priorities;
 - identify potential international funding options opportunities and develop projects with other countries and the Permanent Secretariat. This could allow the Permanent Secretariat to prepare or develop a fundraising plan on priority topics;
 - liaise with other relevant national entities, for science, education, awareness, communication, and communicate information on actions to the Permanent Secretariat for regional dissemination;
6. *Encourages* ACCOBAMS Partners to liaise with their National Focal Point and provide him/her with information regarding their activities to be included in the national report;
7. *Encourages* Parties, after completing the relevant sections of their national report, to proceed to a self-evaluation and repeat this regularly to improve the national implementation of the Strategy;
8. *Decides* that the present Resolution amends Resolution 5.1.

ANNEX
New 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 CBD, the Barcelona Convention, IWC, etc.), - Relevant international 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 the Agreement's overall effectiveness Propose the necessary adjustment in organisational matters of all the constituents (composition, staff, rules of procedure, etc.)

Under the leadership of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat Under the supervision of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat	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.	Develop, implement and review as needed a funding strategy for mobilizing and diversifying funding sources Inform Parties about project calls proposals and funding possibilities Participate in the development of multilateral or national projects, with the support and advice of the scientific community
Under the leadership of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat Under the supervision of the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat	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, ...)
Under the leadership of all constituents Under the supervision of all constituents	TA4- Concerning the communication and awareness	4.1- Develop, implement and monitor a common communication, information and awareness plan	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 Identification of the cetacean community, including Parties, Partners, international, regional and national entities, scientific institutes and scientists, NGOs, volunteers, etc.

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>
--	--	--	---

RESOLUTION 7.5

ACCOBAMS FUNDING STRATEGY

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Resolution 5.1 adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (Tangier, Morocco, 5-8 November 2013) on the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy, in particular its specific objective to “Ensure adequate funding, in particular for conservation activities”,

Concerned that the lack of sufficient financial resources is one of the main obstacles to achieving the goals and objectives of ACCOBAMS, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recognizing the successful efforts of the Permanent Secretariat to secure funding and mobilize additional resources for the adequate fulfilment of the ACCOBAMS Strategy and related Programmes of Work and *acknowledging* with appreciation the financial supports provided by Parties, Partners and other donors,

Stressing that the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy requires effective involvement and coordination of all ACCOBAMS bodies,

Recognizing that resource mobilization also requires well-structured and continuous work on communication issues, in order to raise interest in the work and role of ACCOBAMS and to ensure awareness on the impacts of the activities implemented by ACCOBAMS,

1. *Adopts* the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy, contained in the [Annex](#) to the present Resolution;
2. *Requests* the Parties and the Permanent Secretariat to implement the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy, in connection with Resolution 7.4 on the ACCOBAMS Strategy, in order to contribute to ensure adequate funding of the activities;
3. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat to report on progress on this Funding Strategy to the Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Calls upon* Parties, Partners and supporting Organizations to support the implementation of the Funding Strategy, including through innovative ways, in order to ensure adequate financial resources for the implementation of conservation actions as per the ACCOBAMS Strategy and related 3-year Programme of Work;
5. *Invites* Parties to inform the Meeting of the Parties about the potential allocation of voluntary contributions for the next triennium period, in order to facilitate the planning and prioritization of conservation actions;

6. *Strongly encourages* Parties to continue providing supports through voluntary contributions, in particular to the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund, considering its significant role in supporting cetacean's conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
7. *Encourages* Parties to provide in-kind contributions through, for example, the secondment of staff, to support activities of the ACCOBAMS Programme of Work.

ANNEX - ACCOBAMS FUNDING STRATEGY

Rationale

The lack of sufficient financial resources has been identified as one of the main obstacles to achieving global objectives related to environment protection and biodiversity conservation. To overtake this issue, several intergovernmental organizations addressing environmental issues, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), have elaborated resource mobilization strategies for strengthening their implementation and their action.

In 2013, the Parties to ACCOBAMS adopted the “ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2014-2025)”³⁰ as an instrument for strengthening the effectiveness of ACCOBAMS and the Resolutions adopted within this framework. It provided a 10-years strategic framework and a roadmap to support the implementation of the Agreement.

This Strategy provides an Action Plan in order to reach the ACCOBAMS vision which is that *“cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS area will be in a favourable conservation status, expressed as healthy populations and habitats with minimized adverse human impacts, with ACCOBAMS having a role of key regional player also in promoting active regional cooperation.”*

A specific objective of the ACCOBAMS Strategy is to “Ensure adequate funding, in particular for conservation activities” (Specific Objective A.3). This specific objective includes 4 activities related to new funding possibilities:

- Appoint one projects preparation/implementation assistance and fundraising officer in the Secretariat (A.3.1.1)
- Analyze available funding possibilities in the region (EU funds, private funds, etc....) and develop a funding strategy (A.3.1.2)
- Regularly inform Parties about project call of proposals and other funding possibilities (A.3.1.3)
- Encourage development of multilateral/ transboundary projects (A.3.1.4).

In addition, the activities identified in the 2014-2025 Strategy Action Plan cannot be covered solely by the ACCOBAMS budget. Efforts to mobilize external funding are required. Possible sources of funding are identified within the Strategy for each activity: Agreement Funds, national co-funding/in kind or External Funds.

The ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy has been elaborated to support the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Strategy by setting up a general framework for resources mobilization. Based on an overview of the ACCOBAMS funding (part 1 of this document), the funding strategy is aimed at identifying ways of strengthening and optimizing resource mobilization for supporting ACCOBAMS implementation (part 2).

³⁰ Resolution 5.1

1. ACCOBAMS FUNDING

1.1. The Agreement budget

ACCOBAMS is a Multilateral Environmental Agreement. Its functioning is based on a budget adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at each of its ordinary sessions for the next financial period (Art. III, para. 8 (e), of the Agreement). The Meeting of the Parties decides also upon any matters relating to the financial arrangements for the Agreement (Art. III, para. 8 (e), and Article IX of the Agreement). The Permanent Secretariat is in charge of the administration of the budget of the Agreement (Art. IV, para. 2 of the Agreement).

In accordance with the terms of reference for administration of the Agreement Budget included in the Resolution on Financial matters³¹, *“the financial resources of the budget shall be derived from:*

(a) Contributions from the Parties (...), as well as contributions from new Parties, and

(b) Voluntary contributions from Parties, contributions from States not Party to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental Organizations and other sources.”

a) Ordinary contributions to the Agreement Trust Fund

The Trust Fund depends on the contributions of the countries Parties to the Agreement. The annual amount of each Party's contribution is established, for each triennium, by the Resolution on Financial Matters adopted at each Meeting of the Parties.

To facilitate the administration of the budget, the Parties are requested to pay their contributions as promptly as possible, but in case no later than at the end of March of the corresponding year. The Parties, in particular those that pay the minimum contribution, are also requested to consider paying for the entire triennium in one installment at the beginning of the period.

With 23 Parties between 2011 and 2017, the average of ordinary contributions received was around 250,000 Euros per year (including arrears from previous years received).

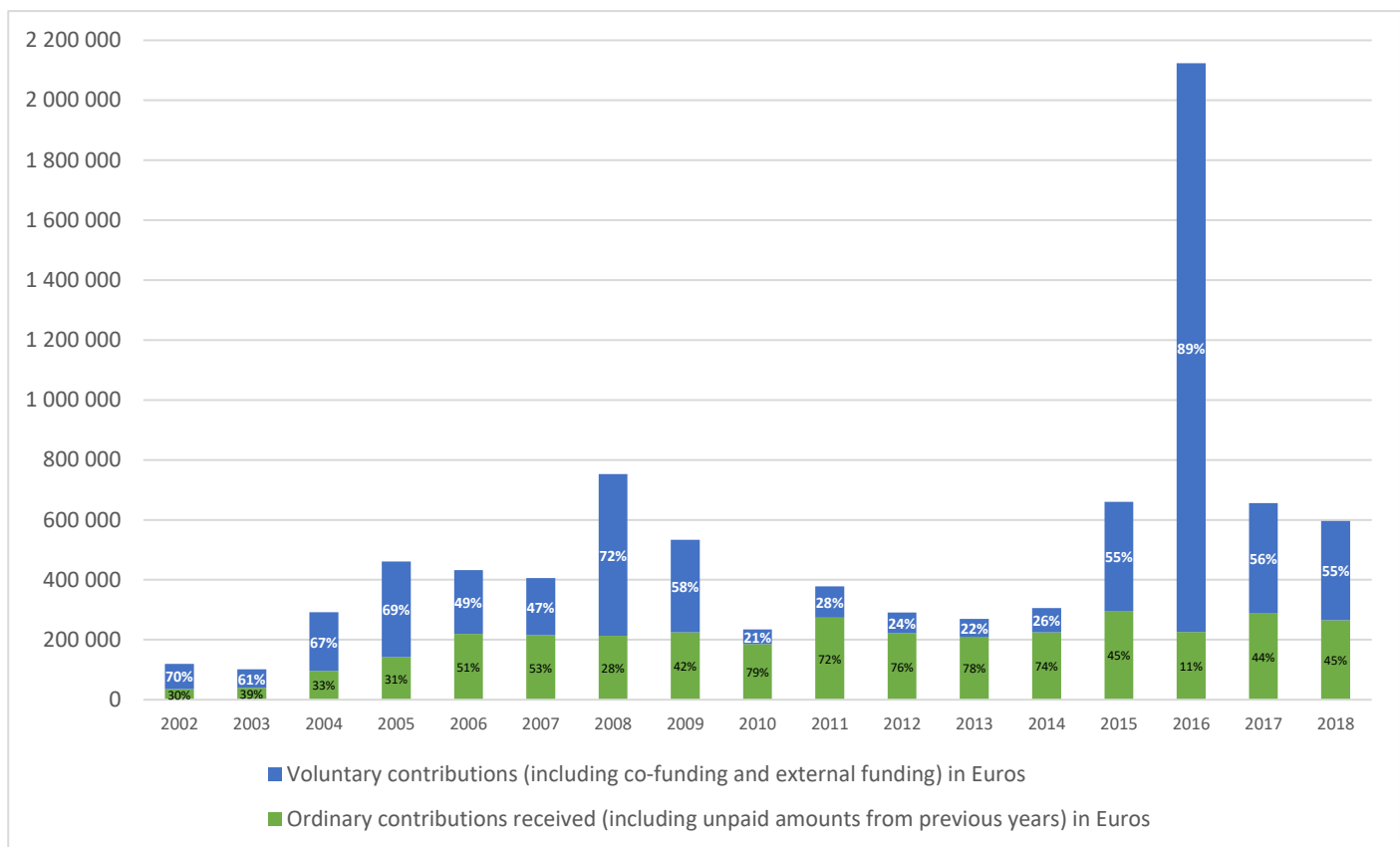
b) Voluntary contributions, including co-funding

Voluntary contributions to ACCOBAMS include the voluntary contributions from Parties and external funding provided by partner organizations for joint activities (co-funding) or by donors for the implementation of *ad-hoc* projects. ACCOBAMS has also received, in the past, voluntary contributions from non-Party Range States or from private companies.

Between 2002 and 2018, the cash budget of the Agreement has averaged 500,000 Euros per year coming from 39% of ordinary contributions and 61% of voluntary contributions.

³¹ Annex 3 of Resolution 6.6 – Financial matters for the triennium 2017-2019

**Evolution of ordinary and voluntary contributions of the ACCOBAMS cash budget
between 2002 and 2018**



It should be emphasized that the administrative functioning of the Agreement is strongly supported by the Principality of Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country. This contribution is estimated at around 180 000 Euros per year since 2014 (this support was not assessed before 2014).

From the 2020-2022 triennium, voluntary contributions and external funding (including co-funding from other organizations) will be presented separately in the budget tables so that voluntary contributions be specific to countries.

c) ACCOBAMS budget structure/organization

The ACCOBAMS ordinary budget (i.e. adopted at each Meeting of the Parties) is organized in three categories: i) administration and general management, ii) institutional meetings and iii) support to conservation actions.

The budget allocated to the first two categories is aimed at supporting the institutional functions of the Agreement, in particular the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat and the meetings of the different ACCOBAMS bodies.

The budget allocated to support conservation actions allows to cover activities that contribute to the implementation of the Agreement or that support the Parties in implementing ACCOBAMS provisions. These activities include the organization of expert workshops or trainings, the elaboration of technical documents (such as guidelines) or the implementation of pilot studies. This is one of the ACCOBAMS specificities and added value compared to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements who do not have budget allocated to support conservation actions.

However, even if this budget from ordinary contributions allows the implementation of some activities, it is not sufficient for expensive or large-scale conservation activities, in particular for field work, or for the development of a comprehensive capacity building program.

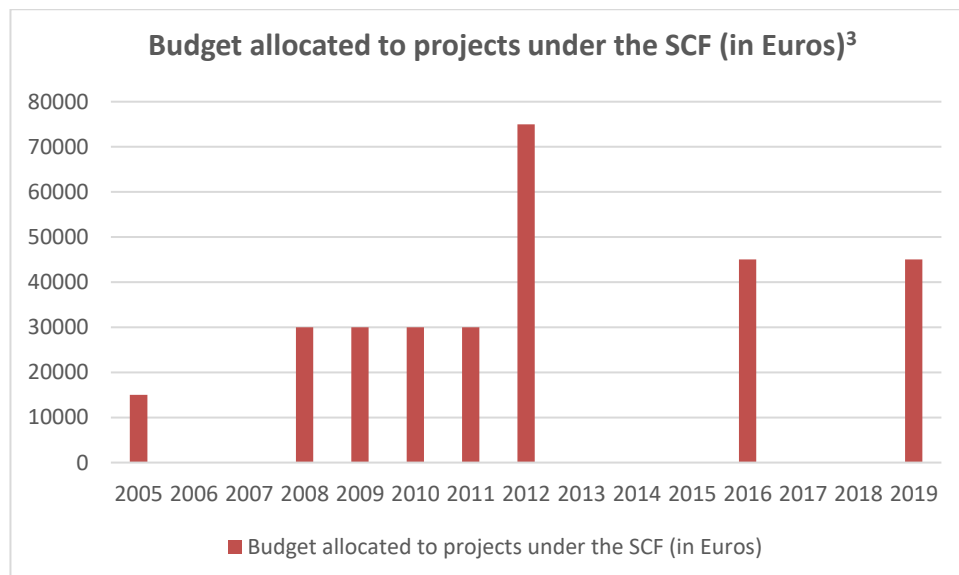
Except for the voluntary contributions made by some Parties to support the organization of institutional meetings, such as the Meetings of the Parties, voluntary contributions from Parties are mainly intended to support conservation actions. *Ad-hoc* projects supported by donors are also intended to support conservation actions.

As the administrative and institutional functioning of the Agreement is ensured through the ordinary contributions and the contribution of the Principality of Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement, ambitious conservation actions rely therefore largely on the mobilization of additional funding (voluntary contributions and external funding).

Between 2015 and 2018, 46% of the total cash budget of the Agreement was provided through external funding, specifically 44% was provided by the MAVA Foundation. The peak in the voluntary contributions in 2016 corresponds to the 1.5 Million Euros provided by the MAVA Foundation to support the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. Considering the closure of the MAVA Foundation in 2022, it is necessary to ensure diversification of the external sources of funding.

In addition to the Trust Fund, ACCOBAMS also has the Supplementary Conservation Funds (SCF) established in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the Agreement *“in order to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation of cetaceans”*. Funds for the SCF are provided by voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other sources.

The SCF became operational in 2004 at the Second Meeting of the Parties and since 2005, 20 projects with a budget less than 15.000 euros have been funded under the SCF.



³² The amounts presented in this graph correspond to the total budget committed for the projects the year of the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding with the project beneficiaries. The figures shown in this graph do not correspond to the amounts reported in the Reports on Income and Expenditures for the Supplementary Conservation Funds prepared by the Permanent Secretariat which correspond to the payments occurring in a year.

Since 2011, projects to be funded under the SCF are selected through calls for proposals launched by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Parties. The procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals has been adopted in 2013 through Resolution 5.5.

The SCF has a significant role in supporting ACCOBAMS conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It allows to support applied conservation projects, including field work, to support capacity building and exchange of best practices on cetaceans monitoring and conservation. These projects contribute in particular to provide seed money to organizations with limited access to other funding sources.

1.2. In-kind contributions from Parties, Partners and other stakeholders to ACCOBAMS implementation

ACCOBAMS, as a regional cooperation organization, represents a community of stakeholders working towards a common goal. Its functioning is based on the mobilization of stakeholders - such as countries representatives, scientists, experts, professionals... - and the animation of networks of stakeholders.

In addition to the ACCOBAMS Parties represented by their National Focal Points, other stakeholders, such as experts and scientists, MPA managers, as well as organizations, such as national research institutes, NGOs, Foundations... that could be referred to as "ACCOBAMS community", develop and implement actions / projects aimed at the conservation of cetaceans or that contribute to cetacean conservation.

Some of these stakeholders are involved in ACCOBAMS, within the framework of the Scientific Committee or as Partners of ACCOBAMS, but this is not systematic.

If we consider the ACCOBAMS community in its broadest sense, a vast set of activities and projects is implemented in the whole Agreement area. Although these actions are not carried out within the institutional framework of the Agreement and financed through the Agreement's budget, they contribute to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

Taking into consideration the diversity of activities and projects covered, it is difficult to assess the total funding mobilized by the ACCOBAMS community. However, after a quick review of the available information (from the reports of the Parties, the Scientific Committee, the Partners and of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units), it appears that these actions and projects are financed through:

- public funds of States,
- own funds of the organizations that implement them or
- external funding mobilized in the framework of specific projects³³.

All these activities can be considered as in-kind contribution to the Agreement implementation.

In addition, involvement and participation of experts and other stakeholders in ACCOBAMS activities (contribution and time dedicated to ACCOBAMS activities, such as participation in expert workshops, participation in ACCOBAMS bodies meetings...) is done on a voluntary basis and represents contribution in-kind to the implementation of ACCOBAMS. For example, for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative project, the involvement of national experts and scientists was considered as national in-kind contributions to the project.

³³ The European funding aimed at supporting the implementation of European policies - environmental policy or neighborhood policy – are part of this last category. For example, the LIFE instrument of the European Union has supported a dozen projects contributing to the conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS geographical area since it was set up in 1992.

The ACCOBAMS community participates in the mobilization of funding for conservation actions that contribute to the implementation of ACCOBAMS, beyond the ACCOBAMS institutional framework *sensu stricto*. Taking into account contributions in kind, the contribution of the Parties to the implementation of ACCOBAMS goes far beyond ordinary contributions.

2. FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION

2.1 Objective of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy

The objective of the funding strategy is to support the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Strategy and of the subsequent 3-years Programs of Work adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

It is intended for all stakeholders who contribute, directly or indirectly, to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

2.2 Duration

The ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy has been developed taking into consideration the ACCOBAMS Strategy timeframe and shall be revised when updating the ACCOBAMS Strategy.

2.3 Key actions

The actions identified below are not listed in order of priority and some of them are interlinked.

a) Monitor external funding opportunities

The overview of available funding possibilities in the region presented to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (Monaco, 22-25 November 2016)³⁴ lists the donors (both public and private) that may be of interest to the ACCOBAMS community to develop projects and activities that would contribute to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

The ACCOBAMS Strategy also provides that Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners regularly inform Parties about call of proposals and other funding opportunities, through emailing list (Activity A.3.1.3). In addition to email, the NETCCOBAMS platform can be used to disseminate this information.

Monitoring funding opportunities allows to be informed and to disseminate information on the funding opportunities in order to support the development of project proposals.

b) Encourage development of multilateral/transboundary projects

The ACCOBAMS Strategy provides that Secretariat, Parties, Partners, Scientific Committee encourage development of multilateral/transboundary projects so that project proposals be developed with the support of ACCOBAMS bodies (Activity A.3.1.4).

Coordination, collaboration, exchange of information, standardization and synchronization of monitoring programs and scientific protocols are key elements to be sought in the development of multilateral/transboundary projects and donors pay particular attention to these questions when evaluating project proposals.

³⁴ Information document ACCOBAMS-MOP6/2016/Inf10 "Overview of available funding possibilities in the region"

Advising project leaders in the development of their projects, facilitating liaison between partners, catalyzing efforts are actions that can contribute to successful fundraising.

For cetacean conservation projects developed outside the ACCOBAMS framework, a link could be established with ACCOBAMS to ensure that the results of these projects are duly taken into consideration by ACCOBAMS. This could be done for example by participating in the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee meetings during which relevant projects and results could be presented (if relevant as regards the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee priorities) or by inviting ACCOBAMS as a partner of the project or as member of the project advisory body (Steering Committee, Advisory Board...). This would contribute to increase the leverage effect of the projects and contribute to avoid duplication of efforts with ACCOBAMS activities.

In the case of cetacean conservation projects developed outside the scope of ACCOBAMS, project coordinators are encouraged to establish a link with ACCOBAMS to ensure the results of their project be taken into consideration by ACCOBAMS, in particular recommendations, lessons learned and best practices.

c) *Build capacities in project development/management*

Some stakeholders in the ACCOBAMS community, especially researchers and civil society organizations (NGOs) from developing countries, do not always have the necessary experience to develop solid project proposals in the context of international fundraising.

Organizing training activities (such as workshops) on project formulation, design and management can contribute to increase the capacities of the ACCOBAMS community in fundraisings, in particular for experts and organizations from developing countries.

If budget allows, a training workshop on project development and fundraising could be organized during the 2020-2022 triennium.

It should be underlined that projects funded under the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund can provide a first experience in project development/management to project coordinators and help them to develop their skills in this field.

d) *Strengthen the mobilization of voluntary contributions from ACCOBAMS Parties, including for the Supplementary Conservation Funds*

The lack of visibility on activities that can be funded through voluntary contributions is a challenge for ensuring efficient elaboration and planning of the 3-years Program of Work.

Consulting and liaising with Parties, as it was done for example through the Call for Voluntary Contribution issued by the Permanent Secretariat for the 2014-2016 and 2017-2019 trienniums, is necessary for mobilizing voluntary contributions for the realization of certain actions.

The new format for the Program of Work and Budget of the triennium will allow the Parties to identify the actions that could be funded through voluntary contributions during the Meeting of Parties.

Parties are invited to inform the Meeting of the Parties about potential allocation of voluntary contributions in order to facilitate the planning of the activities on the 3-years triennium period.

The ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund, which relies on voluntary contributions from ACCOBAMS Parties, is a significant tool for ACCOBAMS to support conservation initiatives. It allows to fund applied conservation projects, to support capacity building and exchange of best practices on cetaceans monitoring and conservation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Parties are strongly encouraged to continue providing supports through voluntary contributions to the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Funds considering its significant role in supporting cetaceans conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

e) Develop or strengthen relationships with donors

Mobilizing external resources involves developing a network of donors interested in supporting actions that contribute to the ACCOBAMS objectives. To ensure efficient consultation of donors, increasing visibility on ACCOBAMS goals and activities is necessary to demonstrate ACCOBAMS reliability and added value in implementing projects and initiatives.

Going to meet donors, organizing meetings or round tables of donors contribute to raise interest and attention on ACCOBAMS and are opportunities to present project ideas.

f) Animate and mobilize the ACCOBAMS community

As mentioned above, the cooperation dimension is essential in cetacean conservation and developing synergies between stakeholders contribute to increase the impact of conservation actions undertaken.

The ACCOBAMS Partners network is a structuring support for the ACCOBAMS community. The animation of this network, including the "recruitment" of new partners, can contribute to the development of new collaboration and of joint projects and initiatives. The ACCOBAMS Partner status is granted according to specific rules and criteria established by Resolution 4.20 adopted by ACCOBAMS Parties.

In each country, a review of the organizations which contribute to ACCOBAMS goals and objectives can be done and information on the ACCOBAMS Partner status can be disseminated to organizations that are not Partners in order to invite them to apply for this status.

Also, the NETCCOBAMS platform should be an excellent media to share information and to animate the community in a perspective of developing new collaborations and efforts for resource mobilization. All interested stakeholders (experts, organizations...) can create an account on NETCCOBAMS to share and receive information.

The use of NETCCOBAMS platform should be strengthened and systematized for ensuring appropriate dissemination of information within the ACCOBAMS community.

g) Strengthen communication and outreach on ACCOBAMS

Successful fundraising relies on effective and relevant communication. Disseminating information on cetacean conservation issues, highlighting the actions carried out by ACCOBAMS and communicating on their impacts contribute to enhance the image of ACCOBAMS, to raise interest on cetacean conservation and to attract new funds and support.

Updating the ACCOBAMS webpage regularly, publishing news on social media and creating outreach material are decisive to increase visibility on ACCOBAMS. Participating in national/regional/international fora, meetings and conferences relevant to ACCOBAMS objectives, organizing side events on specific activities also contribute to present ACCOBAMS activities and to strengthen ACCOBAMS's reputation.

The development of an ACCOBAMS Information/Communication Strategy is a key step for strengthening ACCOBAMS visibility and reputation, being mindful of the virtuous cycle between communication/outreach and fundraising.

h) Collaboration, key success factor in fundraising

In a context of growth in maritime activities (fisheries, maritime transport, industries, tourism, oil and gas exploitation ...), and therefore of pressures on cetaceans, the ACCOBAMS mission can only be fully realized within the framework of collaboration with relevant international/regional organizations, such as the Regional Seas Conventions – the Barcelona Convention and the Bucharest Convention - aim to protect the marine environment, GFCM-FAO when addressing interactions with fisheries, IMO for maritime traffic issues...

In addition, several activities supported by ACCOBAMS contribute directly to the implementation of regional environmental policies, such as the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Ecosystem Approach promoted by the Regional Sea Conventions.

Defining ACCOBAMS priorities and activities taking into consideration other relevant frameworks, strengthening collaborations and ensuring synergies with relevant organizations are fundamental to avoid duplication of efforts and to contribute to increase visibility on ACCOBAMS activities. This also contributes to reinforce the sustainability of the actions undertaken under ACCOBAMS auspices and to "reassure" potential funders on the non-duplication of funding.

i) Develop partnerships with the private sector

Engagement with the private sector should be seen as a long-term effort that, if properly structured, can attract new support to ACCOBAMS efforts.

When addressing interactions between cetaceans and specific human activities, the sectoral economic actors, such as the oil and gas exploration and production companies, the fisheries sector, the maritime traffic companies, ... can be mobilized for considering contributions and support to ACCOBAMS activities. This action could be led at different levels, local, national and regional.

Engagement with the private sector can be done through its involvement and participation in relevant ACCOBAMS Working Groups, but organizing bilateral meetings or roundtables with relevant actors can also contribute to raise their awareness on cetacean conservation issues and to support ACCOBAMS activities. The development of specific initiatives, such as the Migratory Species Champion Programme developed under the CMS Family, could also contribute to involve the private sector in cetacean conservation efforts.

j) Engage in crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is a financing method that involves funding a project with relatively modest contributions from a large group of individuals, rather than seeking substantial sums from a small number of investors. The funding campaign and transactions are typically conducted online through dedicated crowdfunding sites, often in conjunction with social networking sites. Depending on the project, campaign contributors may be essentially making donations, investing for a potential future return on investment, or prepaying for a product or service³⁵.

³⁵ <http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/crowdfunding>

Crowdfunding can be developed by any organization willing to do so. However, successful crowdfunding requires significant visibility and reputation, in particular on social media, and can be considered for supporting concrete conservation activities only.

k) Explore innovative financing mechanisms

The issue of innovative financing mechanisms emerged in the 2000s with the establishment of the High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development under the UN General Assembly, taking into consideration the limits of traditional development assistance to fulfill the commitment of the United Nations Millennium Declaration to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty. A number of innovative financing initiatives have been launched since then, most of them to contribute to fund new global programs on health or climate change mitigation/adaptation. As an example, UNEP/MAP, as part of its Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted in 2017 at COP20³⁶, introduced a reflection on the opportunity to establish an environmental tax for cruise ships.

3. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

To achieve ACCOBAMS goal and mission as stated in the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy, ambitious conservation actions are necessary.

ACCOBAMS administrative and institutional functioning relies on annual ordinary contributions paid by the Parties and on the Principality of Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement. However, additional funds are necessary for supporting conservation actions, from voluntary contributions offered by Parties or from external sources (including co-funding from other organizations).

The actions identified in this Funding Strategy are way forward to strengthen resource mobilization. Some of them can be implemented by ACCOBAMS bodies on a daily basis and do not require specific means, some others require allocating specific budget.

Some of the main recommendations of this Funding Strategy are specifically targeted to ACCOBAMS bodies. Others are intended for all stakeholders who contribute, directly or indirectly, to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

The recommendations of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy as listed below could be considered as a toolbox for supporting ACCOBAMS funding and implementation:

1. Monitoring funding opportunities allows to be informed and to disseminate information on the funding opportunities in order to support the development of project proposals.
2. Advising project leaders in the development of their projects, facilitating liaison between partners, catalyzing efforts are actions that can contribute to successful fundraising.
3. In the case of cetacean conservation projects developed outside the scope of ACCOBAMS, project coordinators are encouraged to establish a link with ACCOBAMS to ensure the results of their project be taken into consideration by ACCOBAMS, in particular recommendations, lessons learned and best practices.

³⁶ Decision IG.23/5

4. Organizing training activities (such as workshops) on project formulation, design and management can contribute to increase the capacities of the ACCOBAMS community in fundraisings, in particular for experts and organizations from developing countries.
5. Parties are invited to inform the Meeting of the Parties about potential allocation of voluntary contributions in order to facilitate the planning of the activities on the 3-years triennium period.
6. Parties are strongly encouraged to continue providing supports through voluntary contributions to the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Funds considering its significant role in supporting cetaceans conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
7. Going to meet donors, organizing meetings or round tables of donors contribute to raise interest and attention on ACCOBAMS and are opportunities to present project ideas.
8. In each country, a review of the organizations which contribute to ACCOBAMS goals and objectives can be done and information on the ACCOBAMS Partner status can be disseminated to the organizations that are not Partners in order to invite them to apply for this status.
9. The use of NETCCOBAMS platform should be strengthened and systematized for ensuring appropriate dissemination of information within the ACCOBAMS community.
10. The development of an ACCOBAMS Information/Communication Strategy is a key step for strengthening ACCOBAMS visibility and reputation, being mindful of the virtuous cycle between communication/outreach and fundraising.
11. Defining ACCOBAMS priorities and activities taking into consideration other relevant frameworks, strengthening collaborations and ensuring synergies with relevant organizations are fundamental to avoid duplication of efforts and to contribute to increase visibility on ACCOBAMS activities. This also contributes to reinforce the sustainability of the actions undertaken under ACCOBAMS auspices and to "reassure" potential funders on the non-duplication of funding.

RESOLUTION 7.6**WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2020-2022**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Acting in accordance with the commitments of the Parties to conserve cetaceans in conformity with the Agreement, especially the fundamental obligations placed upon Parties in Article II,

Recalling Article IX, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Agreement, stating that the Parties shall determine the scale of contributions to the budget and that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt a budget by consensus,

Taking into account the ACCOBAMS Strategy (2014-2025), as adopted under Resolution 5.1,

Commending the Permanent Secretariat, the Parties, the Non-Party Range States, the Scientific Committee, all partnering organizations and all persons involved for the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative campaigns,

Acknowledging the relevant work being carried out in other Organizations, in particular within the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the instruments adopted within its framework, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the system of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

Acknowledging with appreciation:

- a. the financial support and the contributions in kind provided by the Government of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco for the Permanent Secretariat under the Headquarters Agreement,
- b. the voluntary contributions provided by the Governments of France, Italy, Monaco, and Spain,
- c. the co-financing from SPA/RAC and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),
- d. the financial support provided by MAVA Foundation, Prince Albert II Foundation, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and European Union (EU) through specific projects,
- e. the support from Partner Organisations for Agreement activities,

Thanking the Scientific Committee for its involvement, its work and its wise advice to Parties in setting up accurate conservation measures,

Thanking also the Sub-Regional Coordination Units and the ACCOBAMS Partners for their continuous support to the implementation of the Agreement,

Aware that scientific research in Agreement area remains essential to identify populations with the least favourable conservation status and to address the conservation priorities,

Conscious that the current heterogeneity of management and research capacity in the area covered by the Agreement must be addressed by capacity-building and public awareness,

Stressing the need to increase collaboration with other relevant International Organisations in the spirit of the ecosystem approach,

Recognizing the need to set priorities,

Taking into consideration the results of Regional Workshops organised in 2018 within ACCOBAMS, where the needs and priorities of Parties for the implementation of the Agreement have been identified,

Stressing the importance of the payment by all Parties of the contributions due to the budget of the Agreement,

Recalling that Article IX, paragraph 3, calls for voluntary contributions to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects related to conservation,

Recalling Resolutions 1.7 and 5.5, establishing and implementing a Supplementary Conservation Fund,

1. *Takes note* with satisfaction of the audited accounts for the period 2017-2019 presented by the Permanent Secretariat;
2. *Agrees* to provide financial support for the participation to the ACCOBAMS Meetings of the Parties of delegates (one delegate by country) from countries with middle and low incomes, as classified by the World Bank in July 2019 and as listed in [Annex 5](#) to the present Resolution, excluding countries with arrears of more than three years of contribution to the Trust Fund;
3. *Adopts* the Budget for 2020-2022, as in [Annex 1](#) to the present Resolution;
4. *Confirms* that Parties shall contribute to the budget, in accordance with Article III, paragraph 8 (e), of the Agreement, at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties;
5. *Agrees* to apply, for the calculation of the minimum Ordinary Contributions, a percentage of the total budget, instead of a fixed amount;
6. *Agrees* to the scale and amounts of contributions of Parties to the Agreement, as listed in [Annex 2](#) to the present Resolution, and to the application of that scale to new Parties *pro rata* of the remaining financial year;
7. *Requests* Parties, in particular those that pay the minimum contribution, to consider paying for the entire triennium in one instalment at the beginning of the period;
8. *Further requests* Parties to pay their contributions as promptly as possible, but, in any case, no later than at the end of March of the corresponding year;
9. *Asks* the Parties that have unpaid pledges to pay their pending contributions within a reasonable time, at the latest two to three months after the end of 2019, in order to close the budget for the 2017-2019 triennium as soon as possible;

10. *Invites* Parties, Range States and Organisations to consider the feasibility of providing personnel for the Permanent Secretariat;
11. *Also invites* States that are not Parties to the Agreement, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental Organizations and other possible donors, to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
12. *Encourages* Parties and Range States, when allocating funds for ACCOBAMS-related research, to take into account the priorities of the ACCOBAMS Work Programme and *asks*, as appropriate, for the advice of the Scientific Committee in identifying activities that:
 - a. are most directly in accordance with the conservation priorities identified in Resolutions adopted by the Parties, in particular the Work Programme, and
 - b. will directly assist the Scientific Committee in its priority work;
13. *Approves* the terms of reference for administration of the Agreement Budget for the period 2020-2022, as set out in [Annex 3](#) to the present Resolution, as well as the guidelines for the acceptance of financial contributions, as set out in [Annex 4](#), provided that no voluntary contribution shall entail any present or future financial liability for the Agreement Trust Fund without the prior consent of the Parties or the Bureau;
14. *Entrusts* the Permanent Secretariat with the task of exploring the availability of appropriate external funds to support the implementation of the Agreement;
15. *Decides* to establish an intersessional working group composed of Parties to ACCOBAMS, on a voluntary basis, whose mandate shall be to elaborate a proposal of revision of the budgetary provisions, such as, but not limited to, the methodology for the calculation of Ordinary Contributions, the modalities of eligibility for funding to attend ACCOBAMS institutional meetings and the different kinds of funds. The main objective of the proposal shall be to ensure the Agreement viability and a more balanced financial effort among all Parties. The Permanent Secretariat shall coordinate the Working Group;
16. *Adopts* the Programme of Work for 2020 – 2022, as presented in [Annex 6](#) to the present Resolution;
17. *Urges* Parties to support projects and activities in line with the Work Programme by means of financial and in-kind contributions and to report thereon to the Eight Meeting of the Parties;
18. *Urges* Parties to fully commit themselves in the ACCOBAMS Meeting of National Representatives, which should be organized in 2021, by having a representative attending the Meeting;
19. *Recommends* Parties, in order to prepare this ACCOBAMS Meeting of National Representatives, to organize through ACCOBAMS Focal Points a half-day national meeting to collect all the relevant data prior the Meeting;
20. *Urges* Parties and specialized International Organizations to develop international cooperative projects for implementation of the Work Programme and to keep the Permanent Secretariat fully informed of progress;
21. *Further urges* Parties and *encourages* other donors to provide financial assistance to Countries in need of capacity-building to support the implementation of the Agreement and of the Work Programme, directly or through the financial mechanisms of the Agreement, in particular through the Supplementary Conservation Fund;

22. *Asks* Parties, non-Parties, Partners, all relevant Organizations and experts to share with the Permanent Secretariat all relevant information regarding their activities in NETCCOBAMS;
23. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee, the Permanent Secretariat, the Bureau, the Sub-Regional Coordinating Units, ACCOBAMS Partners and international and national non-governmental Organizations to promote the actions necessary to facilitate implementation of the Work Programme, bearing in mind the Resolutions adopted by the Meetings of the Parties;
24. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee to further promote cooperation with scientific Institutions of the ACCOBAMS area;
25. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat to strengthen co-operation and develop activities with other relevant bodies;
26. *Instructs* the Permanent Secretariat to:
 - a. disseminate the Work Programme for priority actions for 2020-2022, collaborate closely in its implementation with the Secretariats of other relevant Conventions, international Organizations and ACCOBAMS Partners and seek appropriate donors;
 - b. inform in time the National Focal Points of workshops and meetings, as well as of the establishment of working groups within the ACCOBAMS framework.

ANNEXES

[Annex 1](#): Budget 2020 -2022

[Annex 2](#): Annual contributions of Parties to the Trust Fund of ACCOBAMS

[Annex 3](#): Terms of reference for administration of the Budget

[Annex 4](#): Guidelines for accepting voluntary financial contributions

[Annex 5](#): Eligibility for funding to attend the Meetings of the Parties to ACCOBAMS

[Annex 6](#): Programme of Work 2020 - 2022

ANNEX 1
BUDGET 2020 - 2022

		2020	2021	2022
General Management and Administrative support				
General Management				
110	Administrative staff			
1 101	Executive Secretary Housing Allowance	10 000*	12 000	12 000
1 102	Programme & Project Officer 1	44 500	44 500	44 500
1 103	Programme & Project Officer 2	44 500	44 500	44 500
1 104	Accounting and Programme Assistant (50%)	20 000	20 000	20 000
1 105	<i>Executive Secretary**</i>	<i>120 823</i>	<i>120 823</i>	<i>120 823</i>
1 106	<i>Assistant to the Executive Secretary**</i>	<i>60 462</i>	<i>60 462</i>	<i>60 462</i>
120	Administrative Assistance			
1 201	Translators	1 000	1 000	1 000
1 202	Fund management controller	2 000	2 000	2 000
1 203	External Assistance	2 000	2 000	1 300
130	Bank fees	800	800	800
140	Hospitality	500	500	500
	Total General Management	125 300	127 300	126 600
Administrative support				
1 501	Coordination Units – MA1a & CA3a	7 200	7 200	7 200
1 502	Secretariat staff travels – MA1a	18 000	17 000	15 000
	Total Administrative support	25 200	24 200	22 200
Total General Management and Administrative support		150 500	151 500	148 800
Total General Management and Administrative support for the triennium 2020 - 2022		450 800		
<i>Host Country contributions under Headquarters Agreement (HQA) ***</i>		<i>720 000</i>		
TOTAL cost General Management and Administrative support including Host Country contributions under HQA		1 170 800		

* 10 months for 2020 (entry on duty of the new Executive Secretary planned for 1st March 2020)

** Indicative amounts provided by the Host Country as per the provisions of appendix 1 (Financial arrangements between the Government of H.S.H the Prince of Monaco and the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS) of Resolution 6.2 on Amendment to the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country.

*** Indicative amount representing both in cash (including Executive Secretary and Assistant salaries) and in-kind contributions (Permanent Secretariat premises in Monaco, two apartments...).

		2020	2021	2022
Institutional Meetings				
210	Meeting of the Parties – MA1a	0	3 000	58 000
220	Scientific Committee – MA1a	20 000	29 000	-
230	Bureau – MA1a	14 000****	7 000	11 000
240	Meeting of National Representatives – MA1a	-	21 000	-
250	Follow-up Committee Meeting – MA3a	0	5 000	-
Total institutional Meetings		34 000	65 000	69 000
Total institutional Meetings for the triennium 2020 – 2022		168 000		

**** Including the extraordinary Bureau Meeting as Recruitment Committee for the Executive Secretary position

		2020	2021	2022
Support to Conservation actions				
52	Human-cetacean interactions / Emergency situations	10 000	22 000	19 000
	Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture - CA2a			
	Anthropogenic underwater noise - CA2b			
	Ship strikes - CA2c			
	Cetacean watching - CA2d			
	Marine debris - CA2e			
	Chemical & biological pollution - CA2f			
	Climate change - CA2g			
	Captivity related issues - CA2h			
53	Habitats / Research and monitoring	45 000	53 000	35 000
	Cetacean population estimates and distribution - CA1a			
	Population Structure - CA1b			
	Monitoring cetaceans status, including Species conservation plans - CA1c			
	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation - CA1d			
	Area-based measures for cetacean conservation – CA3a			
54	Information/ Communication/Public awareness	25 000	15 000	21 000
	Communication Strategy – CA4d			
	CSMC– CA4d			
	Citizen Science – CA4d			
	Databases & website management – CA4d			
	Public awareness – CA4d			
	Production of materials – CA4d			
	ACCOBAMS Module – CA4d			
Total conservation actions		80 000	90 000	75 000
Total conservation actions for the triennium 2020 - 2022		245 000		

	2020	2021	2022
Total administration, meetings and conservation	264 500	306 500	292 800
Total budget for the triennium 2020 - 2022	863 800€ (287 933 €/year)		
Total budget for the triennium including Host Country contributions under HQA*****	1 583 800€		

***** The indicative value of the contributions of the Principality of Monaco for the triennium, under the Headquarters Agreement with the host Country is 720 000 €.

ANNEX 2
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF PARTIES TO THE TRUST FUND OF ACCOBAMS

	UN scale 2019-2021	ACCOBAMS Key	2020-2022
Albania	0,008	0,80	2 304
Algeria	0,138	1,50	4 328
Bulgaria	0,046	0,80	2 304
Croatia	0,077	0,92	2 661
Cyprus	0,036	0,80	2 304
Egypt	0,186	1,42	4 086
France	4,427	23,16	66 712
Georgia	0,008	0,80	2 304
Greece	0,366	4,40	12 662
Italy	3,307	22,49	64 769
Lebanon	0,047	0,80	2 304
Libya	0,03	1,17	3 360
Malta	0,017	0,80	2 304
Monaco	0,011	0,80	2 304
Montenegro	0,004	0,80	2 304
Morocco	0,055	0,80	2 304
Portugal	0,35	3,66	10 538
Romania	0,198	1,72	4 947
Slovenia	0,076	0,80	2 304
Spain	2,146	19,70	56 732
Syrian Arab Republic	0,011	0,80	2 304
Tunisia	0,025	0,80	2 304
Turkey	1,371	9,50	27 370
Ukraine	0,057	0,96	2 769
TOTAL		100	288 582

ANNEX 3
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUDGET

1. The terms of reference for administration of the budget of ACCOBAMS shall refer to the financial years beginning 1st January 2020 and ending 31st December 2022.
2. The budget shall be administered by the Executive Secretary.
3. The budget shall be administered according to these Terms of reference.
4. The financial resources of the budget shall be derived from:
 - (a) Contributions from the Parties according to Annex 2, as well as contributions from new Parties, and
 - (b) Voluntary contributions from Parties, contributions from States not Party to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations and other sources.
5. All contributions to the budget shall be paid in Euros.
6. With regard to contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, until the end of the financial period) shall be determined *pro rata* on the basis of the contributions of other Parties according to the adopted scale of assessments and depending on the remaining annual financial exercise.
7. Contributions by all Parties throughout the triennium 2020-2022 are calculated on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessments applicable for 2019, with the modifications needed to adapt it to the ACCOBAMS Parties.
8. The contributions are due on 1st January 2020, 1st January 2021 and 1st January 2022. Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

<i>Account holder</i>	<i>Swift code</i>	<i>IBAN code</i>
ACCOBAMS	CFMOMCMX	MC 02 1273 9000 7001 0702 3000 M76

9. For the convenience of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall notify as soon as possible the Parties to the Agreement of their assessed contributions for each of the years of the financial period.
10. Voluntary Contributions received into the budget and not immediately required for financing activities shall be invested at the discretion of the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, and any generated income shall be used to implement the Agreement.
11. The budget shall be audited by a fund management controller.
12. The budget estimates of income and expenditures for each calendar year of the financial period shall be prepared in Euros and submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.
13. The estimates for each calendar year covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objectives of expenditure, be specified according to budget lines, be consistent with the programmes of work to which they relate, and be accompanied by information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors.

14. The proposed budget, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Permanent Secretariat to all Parties at least 90 days before the date established for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.
15. The budget shall be adopted by consensus at the Meeting of the Parties.
16. The Permanent Secretariat can, if needed, transfer funds up to 20% from one budget line of the approved budget, to another budget line within the same budget section. If the needed transfer of funds within the same budget section is more than 20% of the budget line from which the transfer is made, the Secretariat shall request the authorization of the Bureau.
17. Should the Permanent Secretariat anticipate a shortfall in resources over the financial period, the Permanent Secretariat shall consult the Bureau about its priorities for expenditure.
18. Commitments against the resources of the budget may be made only if they are covered by sufficient income.
19. No transfer of funds shall be authorized from the Ordinary Contribution of the Trust Fund to the Supplementary Conservation Fund.
20. A secured fund is created, equivalent to thirty per cent of the administrative budget.
21. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period, the Permanent Secretariat shall submit the accounts of the year to the Bureau. These shall include details of actual expenditures and comparisons with the original provisions for each budget line.
22. The Permanent Secretariat shall give the Bureau an estimate of proposed expenditures for the coming year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after, the communication of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.
23. The Permanent Secretariat shall present the audited accounts for the financial exercises to the Meeting of the Parties.
24. The present terms of reference shall be implemented by the Executive Secretary.

ANNEX 4

GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

1. General Rules

No voluntary contribution, gift or donation for a specific purpose may be accepted if incompatible with the policies and aims of the Agreement or the UNEP/CMS.

2. Approval of donors

- 2.1 Donors who are not Governmental Institutions of Parties or Economic Integration Organizations or riparian States not Party to the Agreement, must be approved as such by the Bureau before their contributions are accepted by the Permanent Secretariat.
- 2.2 Sources known to have been involved in interests or activities which conflict with the aims of the Agreement or the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and any Organisation or individual who has deliberately brought, or might bring, the Agreement into public disrepute, shall be excluded. The same shall apply where there is a risk that a source might try to influence the decisions of any organ of the Agreement where in the opinion of the Scientific Committee, this source has, or has had in the past, an environmentally unfriendly attitude.

3. Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions

- 3.1 Voluntary Contributions shall only be accepted when the purpose is consistent with the policies and aims of the Agreement.
- 3.2 No Voluntary Contributions shall have an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the Agreement Trust Fund without the prior consent of the Parties or the Bureau.
- 3.3 If indirect costs occur, in relation to administrative support of the activity implemented through a Voluntary Contribution, including financial and information resources management, and not included in the project budget targeted by the Voluntary Contribution, then the Secretariat can retain a percentage up to 4% of the dedicated Voluntary Contribution, up to 50 000€, and of 7% for the dedicated voluntary contribution of more than 50 000€. The Secretariat is asked to report on the application of this provision to the Bureau and to the Meeting of Parties.
- 3.4 All monetary contributions shall be paid in freely convertible currency; exceptions may, however, be made for special projects if the currency in question can effectively be used.
- 3.5 Voluntary Contributions in kind may be accepted, provided that they are used to cover activities approved by the Meeting of the Parties. These may include, *inter alia*, direct or indirect involvement in a joint project, free office accommodation, equipment, or the secondment of staff.

ANNEX 5**ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO ACCOBAMS**

Based on the scale of middle and low incomes, from the World Bank in July 2019, the Permanent Secretariat is authorised to cover, upon budget availability, the travel and accommodation fees of the representatives of the following Parties for the Meetings of the Parties of ACCOBAMS (one delegate/Party):

- Albania
- Algeria
- Bulgaria
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Lebanon
- Libya (pending on settlement of unpaid pledges)
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Romania
- Syrian Arab Republic (pending on settlement of unpaid pledges)
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Ukraine

ANNEX 6
PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2020 - 2022

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)	311
MA1 - INVOLVEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS	311
MA1a- Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations	311
MA2 - ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULAR FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	313
MA2a - Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources	313
MA3 - IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS	314
MA3a - Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions	314
as well as the monitoring of its progress	314
MA4 - ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA	315
MA4a - Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas	315
CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)	316
CA1 - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE STATUS OF CETACEANS	316
CA 1 a - Cetacean population estimates and distribution	316
CA 1 b - Population Structure	318
CA 1 c - Monitoring cetacean's status.....	319
CA 1 d - Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation	321
CA2 - REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)	322
CA 2 a - Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture	322
CA 2 b - Anthropogenic underwater noise.....	324
CA 2 c - Ship strikes	326
CA 2 d - Cetacean watching	327
CA 2 e - Marine litter	328
CA 2 f - Chemical & biological pollution.....	330
CA 2 g - Climate change	331
CA 2 h - Captivity related issues.....	332
CA3 - ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS	333
CA 3 a - Area-based measures for cetacean conservation	333
CA4 - ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS	334
CA 4 a - Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans	334

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)

MA1	INVOLVEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS
MA1a	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations

Expected outcomes	Involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2019-2022	VC	EF	
<p>Establish/strengthen partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/national entities</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries to encourage accession to the Agreement of all riparian states and to develop activities with non-Parties</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of national representatives in formulating actions related to cetacean conservation, according to their national priorities (regional workshops)</p> <p>Reinforce synergy between Partners and harmonize activities</p>	Core	Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing MoU Participating in Coordination Meetings and relevant fora Working through relevant Joint WG Developing joint actions / projects Organizing joint Workshops, in particular with Partners Linking with relevant marine strategies Contributing to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD) Participating in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 Liaising with the Depositary to encourage accession to the Agreement of riparian states Liaising with Sub Regional Coordination Units 	80 000€	<p>50 000€ (LB 1502)</p> <p>14 600 (LB 1501)</p>				15 400€

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing ACCOBAMS Institutional Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting of the Parties - Scientific Committee Meetings - Bureau Meetings - Meeting of National Representatives to develop the Programme of Work 	182 000€	61 000€ (LB 2100) 49 000€ (LB 2200) 32 000€ (LB 2300) 21 000€ (LB 2400)				19 000
TOTAL MA1a - Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations				262 000€	227 600€	-	-	-	34 400€

MA2	ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULAR FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES
MA2a	Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources

Expected outcomes	Additional funds mobilized for conservation actions Regional capacities in project development and fundraising increased
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)	
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF		
Fund projects under the Supplementary Conservation Grant Fund (SCF) related to cetacean conservation	Core	Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launching a call for proposals for projects related to cetacean conservation	45 000 €					45 000€	
Monitor funding opportunities and develop (or support the development of) proposals for multilateral projects and co-funded activities	Core		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sharing information on funding opportunitiesUsing established partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/ national entities	30 000 €						30 000€
Monitor funding opportunities	Core		Sharing information on funding opportunities							
Support the development of capacities in project development and fundraising	Core		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizing a training workshop on project development/fundraising							
TOTAL MA2a - Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources				75 000 €	-	-	-	-	75 000€	

MA3	IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS
MA3a	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress

Expected outcomes	Level of implementation and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions improved
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Implement the mid-term revised ACCOBAMS Strategy	Core	Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflecting in the Work Programme the revised ACCOBAMS Strategy following the mid-term evaluation of its effectiveness 	-					
Propose remedy actions in cases of non-follow-up with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Core	Follow up Committee, Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convening a Follow up Committee meeting Applying Follow up Procedures 	5 000€	5 000€ (LB 2500)				
TOTAL MA3a - Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress				5 000€	5 000€	-	-	-	-

MA4	ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA
MA4a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas

Expected outcomes	ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards implemented in the adjacent areas
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Encourage ratification of Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic	Core	Secretariat, Depositary		-					
TOTAL MA4a - Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas				-	-	-	-	-	-

TOTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
			OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
	342 000€	232 600€	-	-	-	109 400€

CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)

CA1

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE STATUS OF CETACEANS

CA 1 a

Cetacean population estimates and distribution

Expected outcomes

Improved knowledge of cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS Area
Global distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Seas established, based on results of surveys

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Interpret and disseminate results / subsequent recommendations of the ASI in the Mediterranean and Black Seas	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing workshops dedicated to ASI data analysis/interpretation (CB) Publishing a report on the ASI results Disseminating the ASI results and experience in relevant regional/international fora 	182 000 €			134 000 € (VC to ASI Project)	48 000 € (MAVA and FPA2 ASI Project)	
Support long-term monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Area using the ASI framework (methodology, network, funding mechanism...)	High	Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing coordination meetings at the sub-regional level Developing a strategy to fund ASI on the long-term Supporting the development of specific collaborations among scientific entities Supporting implementation of sub regional surveys 	30 000 €				15 000 € (MAVA ASI Project)	15 000 €

Promote the use of multidisciplinary surveys (such as fisheries / acoustic surveys), innovative technologies (UAV, satellite) and of platforms of opportunity (ferries, whale watching vessels, navy vessels, etc..) to collect data on cetacean's distribution and abundance	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing guidelines / best practices on the implementation of multidisciplinary surveys and on the use of platform of opportunity and innovative technologies to collect data on cetacean's distribution and abundance Reviewing the existing surveys/scientific efforts at the national/regional scale that could be used to collect data on distribution and abundance of cetaceans Collaborating with relevant Organisations, such as ICCAT, to collect data on distribution and abundance of cetaceans 	32 500 €	20 000 € (LB 53)			12 500 € (MAVA ASI Project)	
Initiate the establishment of a regional repository for data on cetacean's distribution and abundance based on the conclusion of the ASI preparatory study for an information management system for cetacean survey data	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat SRCUs Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing proposal(s) for a data repository system 	10 000 €					10 000 €
TOTAL CA1a - Cetacean population estimates and distribution				254 500€	20 000€	-	134 000€	75 500€	25 000€

CA 1 b	Population Structure
---------------	-----------------------------

Expected outcomes	Improved knowledge on population structure in the ACCOBAMS Area and species conservation management plans completed Exchanges of samples facilitated for joint analysis Data exchanges facilitated for basin wide analysis
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Improve data collection on cetacean populations genetic in the ACCOBAMS Area	Medium	Secretariat Scientific Committee Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing regional trainings on data collection and analysis (CB) Establishing Guidelines / Best Practices 	36 000€					36 000€
Encourage better collaboration between tissue banks to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and contacting reference laboratories in the ACCOBAMS Area Supporting the development of specific collaborations among scientific entities 	2 000€					2 000€
Improve photo ID data collection and dissemination	High	Partners, Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee Secretariat, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering data in photo ID Catalogues Using Web based databases Organizing regional trainings on photo ID Catalogues (CB) 	20 000€					20 000€
TOTAL CA1b - Population Structure				58 000€	-	-	-	-	58 000€

CA 1 c	Monitoring cetacean's status
--------	------------------------------

Expected outcomes	IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area is assessed ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans is updated and made available on IUCN and ACCOBAMS websites Regional conservation plan for cetaceans in the Black Sea is revised and implemented at the national level Conservation management plans for cetacean species are developed and implemented National Action Plans for cetaceans are developed and implemented
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Contribute to IUCN threat status assessment of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it as relevant	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking species assessments Organising joint ACCOBAMS--IUCN experts' workshop 	10 000€	5 000€ (LB 53)				5 000€
Update ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans, using ASI results	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing and publishing an updated ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans 	20 000€				20 000 € (MAVA and FPA2 ASI Project)	-
Revise the Regional Conservation Plan for cetacean in Black Sea	Core	Secretariat, SRCUs Parties Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking the revision of the Regional Conservation Plan for cetacean in Black Sea, in collaboration with the BSC, taking into consideration the IWC Conservation Management Plan. 	2 000€	2 000€ (LB 53)				-

Develop/ revise/ implement relevant Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing ACCOBAMS-IWC-IUCN Experts Workshop(s) to develop/ revise/ conservation Management Plans for cetacean species, taking into account all national conservation plans Supporting the implementation of relevant actions of the approved Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species with emphasize of coordination actions and organization with stakeholders' workshop Organize a joint workshop on common dolphin with ASCOBANS during ECS 2021, (depending on Voluntary Contribution or Ext funds) 	45 000€	35 000 (LB 53)				10 000€
Facilitate the Development/ revision/ implementation of National or Regional Action Plans for cetaceans	High	Parties Non-Party Range States, Secretariat, SRCUs Scientific Committee, Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the revision / development of two National Action Plans for cetaceans in collaboration with SRCUs and national authorities (Algeria already identified) 	13 000€		5 000€			8 000€
TOTAL CA1c - Monitoring cetacean's status				90 000€	42 000€	5 000€	-	20 000€	23 000€

CA 1 d	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation
--------	--

Expected outcomes	Official National Stranding networks are established and operating Information on stranding events regularly exchanged among national networks
-------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Set up /Reinforce official national stranding networks (with all national institutions concerned) as appropriate, and encourage collaborations among national networks of Parties	Core	Parties, Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing a study on legal/institutional status of National stranding networks in order to assist experts in the establishment of official national stranding network when relevant Organizing trainings on necropsies, live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS area following the best practices on causes of death including marine litters, and on the use of relevant databases (CB) Entering relevant national data into relevant databases, such as MEDACES Promoting the use of a database of experts/stranding authorities Encouraging the creation of a permanent expert panel on strandings to assist on emergencies and unusual mortality 	41 000€	17 000€ (LB53)		6 000€ (Italian voluntary contribution 2018)		18 000€
TOTAL CA1d - Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation				41 000€	17 000€	-	6 000€	-	18 000€

CA2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)
------------	--

CA 2 a	Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture
---------------	--

Expected outcomes	Impacts of cetaceans' bycatch and depredation are assessed and mitigation measures are tested Regional bycatch/depredation strategy is developed Ecotourism activities (whale watching and pescatourism) are promoted as an alternative income source to fishermen impacted by depredation
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	ET	
Assess / Monitor the impacts of interactions with fisheries/ aquaculture (bycatch, depredation and prey depletion) and propose alternative best practices measures and / or technics	Core	Parties Scientific Committee, through the JBWG Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replicating projects on interactions with fisheries Implementing on-board observers programme and port questionnaires, and testing mitigation measures in the countries supported by the MAVA funded projects Assessing /updating the extent of interactions with fisheries/ aquaculture in other countries, including through the use of stranding data Collaborating with relevant entities, in particular with GFCM and IWC BMI 	211 000€	11 000€ (LB 52)			150 000 €	50 000 € for replicating projects
Develop a regional strategy on cetaceans' bycatch and depredation	High	Scientific Committee, through the JBWG Parties Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of Cetaceans' bycatch and depredation issues in the strategy document to be prepared in the MedBycatch project Collaborating with relevant entities, in particular with GFCM and IWC BMI 	5 000 €				5 000 € (MAVA Medbycatch project)	-

Provide support to Parties to promote the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen	High	Scientific Committee, [through the WWWG] Parties Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Guidance policy document for the development of sustainable ecotourism and whale watching activities • Supporting the identification of areas for the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen 	5 000 €				5 000 € (MAVA Depredation project)	-
TOTAL CA2a - Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture				221 000€	11 000€	-	-	160 000€	50 000€

Expected outcomes	Core anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise are monitored in the ACCOBAMS Area Mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise are used
--------------------------	---

324

Encourage the use of mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Core	Scientific Committee including through the JNWG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the ACCOBAMS Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators' certificate Granting the status of ACCOBAMS HQMMO Partners to entities for the implementation of the Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators' certificate Revising and updating the ACCOBAMS "Guide for Parties to use mitigation measures " Developing cooperation on underwater noise issues with other International Organizations 	10 000€	2 000€ (LB 54) 4 000€ (LB 52)					4 000€ promoting MMO/PAM certificate
TOTAL CA2b - Anthropogenic underwater noise				153 000€	24 500€	-	30 000€	57 000€	41 500€	

CA 2 c	Ship strikes
--------	--------------

Expected outcomes	Occurrence of ship strikes in high risk areas is reduced
-------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	ET	
Monitor / assess high-risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) in the Mediterranean Sea	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging the entry of ship strikes data in relevant databases Developing a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities Identifying high risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) Developing cooperation on ships strike issue with other International Organizations, such IWC, EMSA (EU) / REMPEC / IMO and contributing in any other relevant initiatives, projects and workshops in the ACCOBAMS Area 	24 000€	10 000 € (LB 52)				14 000€
Promote the use of mitigation measures	High	Secretariat, Scientific Committee Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following up on mitigation measures implemented Promoting the use of relevant mitigation tools/measures (CB) Pursue the development of a “whale safe” certificate 	6 000€					6 000€
TOTAL CA2c - Ship strikes				30 000€	10 000€	-	-	-	20 000€

CA 2 d	Cetacean watching
--------	-------------------

Expected outcomes	Cetacean watching activities are properly conducted in the ACCOBAMS Area
-------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	ET	
Maximize the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts of whale watching activities on individual cetaceans and on populations	High	Scientific Committee through the WWWG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering information on cetacean watching activities and identifying potential issues in order to identify the hotspots of WW activities in the ACCOBAMS area Testing the proposed common procedure (data collection system) for whale watching vessels in pilot areas and a variety of operation types (e.g. the Liguro-Provençal Basin, Gibraltar Strait, and south Portugal), in collaboration with relevant projects such as EcoStrim Revising the Guidelines for commercial cetacean-watching in the ACCOBAMS Area (in accordance, if relevant, with the guidance document to be prepared on the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen) Working in close cooperation with IWC and other relevant International Organizations 	17 000€	4 000€ (LB 52)		4 000€ (French voluntary contribution 2010)		<p>9 000€</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 000€ Identification of hotspots of WW activities 6 000€ Testing proposed common procedure

Support the implementation of the HQWW certificate in the ACCOBAMS area	High	Parties Partners Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the implementation of the HQWW certificate by Parties and in areas -based management measures in collaboration with relevant projects such as EcoStrim Organizing Trainings on HQWW (CB Parties) Liaising with relevant tourism Organizations 	3 600 €	3 000€ (LB 54)		600€ (French voluntary contribution 2010)		-
TOTAL CA2d - Cetacean watching				20 600€	7 000€	-	4 600€	-	9 000€

CA 2 e	Marine litter
---------------	----------------------

Expected outcomes	The monitoring of marine litter in relation with cetaceans is improved
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	ET	
Monitor the impacts of marine litter (ingested marine litter / microplastics / entanglements in ghost nets) on cetaceans	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the implementation of the standardized necropsy protocol including the assessment of ingested marine litter and entanglement in ghost nets Supporting pilot monitoring activities at the sub regional level through the implementation of the standardized necropsy protocol including the assessment of ingested marine litter and entanglement in ghost nets 	65 000€	11 500€ (LB 52)		18 000€ (Italian voluntary contribution 2019)		35 500€ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 000€ Pilot monitoring activities 5 500€ Collaboration

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the report in stranding databases of marine litters data collected during necropsies • Identifying potential hotspot areas for cetacean entanglement and ingestion of marine litter, including through the assessment of entanglements/ingested marine litters during necropsies • Promoting/ supporting/ liaising with projects, research activities in order to evaluate and assess impact of microplastic on cetaceans using big data platform • Collaborating with relevant Organizations (MEDPOL) and projects, in particular Plastic Busters MPAs, Healthy Seas and Black Sea projects 						
TOTAL CA2e - Marine litter				65 000€	11 500€	-	18 000€	-	35 500€

CA 2 f		Chemical & biological pollution							
Expected outcomes		ACCOBAMS collaborates with relevant Organizations on this issue							
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	ET	
Liaise with relevant other Organizations, such as IWC, to assess the impact of chemical & biological pollution (such as pathogens, invasive species) on cetaceans	Medium	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a bibliographic review on the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans Developing Guidelines on the best practices to assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans with a focus on emerging contaminants Developing specific collaboration Participating in relevant Meetings and Side events 	5 000 €			5 000€ (Italian voluntary contribution 2019)		
TOTAL CA2f - Chemical & biological pollution				5 000€	-	-	5 000€	-	-

CA 2 g	Climate change
--------	----------------

Expected outcomes	ACCOBAMS cooperates with regional initiatives on climate change, taking into account cetacean conservation
-------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Contribute to regional initiatives on climate change	Medium	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with relevant CMS Working Group • Participating in Meetings and side events 	2 000€			2 000€ (Italian voluntary contribution 2019)		
TOTAL CA2g - Climate change				2 000€	-	-	2 000€	-	-

CA 2 h	Captivity related issues
--------	--------------------------

Expected outcomes	<p>All specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area are listed</p> <p>The identification of origin of <i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i> bred or kept in captivity is undertaken</p>
-------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Identify specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area, including the case of reintroduction in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 3.20	High	Scientific Committee Parties Non-Party Range States, Secretariat Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating and completing the overview of specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area, including the case of reintroduction in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 3.20 Legal and scientific analysis // Evaluating the situation of semi-captivity in ACCOBAMS area and providing Guidelines or reference document 	6 000€					6 000€
Identify origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity /Genetic passport for dolphins in captivity / in order to support the implementation of the CITES decisions 17.299 to 17.301 on bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>)	Medium	Secretariat Scientific Committee Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of genetic passport in view of disseminate protocol or methodology for such cases Support the development of a genetic registry for Black Sea bottlenose dolphins by CITES 	15 000€					15 000€
TOTAL CA2h - Captivity related issues				21 000€	-	-	-	-	21 000€

CA3	ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS
------------	--

CA 3 a	Area-based measures for cetacean conservation
---------------	--

Expected outcomes	<p>Cetacean Critical Habitats are updated</p> <p>Implementation of relevant measures are initiated in some pilot Cetacean Critical Habitats</p>
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
Regularly update Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH) including by identifying priority areas for action to mitigate the known threats (bycatch...) / area-based management measures	Core	Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Parties, Partners, Non-Party Range States, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering data, in particular through the organization of regional workshops to update CCH, considering the IMMAs and EBSAs process 	28 000€	24 000€ (LB 53) 4 000€ (LB 1501)				
Support implementation of relevant measures for adequate management in CCH	Core	Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and promoting relevant management measures in pilot CCH, in collaboration with all stakeholders (CB) Collaborating with other Organizations, such as UNEP-MAP/RAC-SPA, BSC, IMO, IWC, and GFCM, in particular through the Strategic Alliance 	33 000€	30 000€ (LB 53) 3 000€ (LB 1501)				€
TOTAL CA3a - Area-based measures for cetacean conservation				61 000€	61 000€	-	-	-	-

CA4	ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS
------------	---

CA 4 a	Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans
---------------	---

Expected outcomes	<p>All ACCOBAMS Bodies, national focal/contact points, Partners and other relevant national institutions, Organizations and experts are familiar with activities implemented by or relevant for ACCOBAMS and share information accurately</p> <p>General public and other relevant stakeholders are aware about cetaceans and need for their conservation through activities supported by or linked to ACCOBAMS</p>
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2017/2019	VC	ET	
Maintain regular information/ communication about ongoing activities, cooperation and funding possibilities, cetacean conservation scientists and experts operating in the region and other relevant information; facilitate communication among cetacean conservation actors of the ACCOBAMS area, in particular in Southern Mediterranean countries	Core	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners, SRCUs, Parties, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an information/ communication strategy 	10 000€	10 000€ (LB 54)				
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing a Conference on cetacean conservation in South Mediterranean Countries - CSMC (CB) 	40 000€	15 000€ (LB 54)				25 000€
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the current citizen sciences initiatives in the ACCOBAMS area and produce basic guidelines on the use and how to gather information Evaluating the relevance of “Citizen Science” input of cetaceans’ sightings in expert-supervised databases Organizing Public awareness events Developing Information material and tools Promoting cetacean conservation actions during national and international events Producing annual newsletter (FINS) 	30 000 €	22 000€ (LB 54)				8 000€ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 000€ Citizen sciences 5 000€ Awareness events and information material

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting on ACCOBAMS Website and social media • Posting on NETCCOBAMS 						
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the functioning of MEDACES 	67 500€					67 500€
Introduce in a new Country / Disseminate the ACCOBAMS Teaching Module courses	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the Teaching Module in a new country and supporting its dissemination where the module has already been introduced (CB) • Collaborating in relevant projects such as the realization of the Master of first level in " Conservation Medicine of Aquatic Animals" and the project "Human Oceans Professional Experts" (HOPE) 	15 000€/ Country					15 000€
Enhance public awareness about cetacean's conservation in the ACCOBAMS area	Core	Secretariat, Parties SRCUs Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the ACCOBAMS Cetacean Day • Delivering a conservation Awards (ECS, Partners) • Producing Press releases • Posting on social media 	6 000€	1 000€ (LB 54)				5 000€ Partner Award
TOTAL CA4a - Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans				168 500€	48 000€	-	-	-	120 500€

TOTAL CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)	Total Budget (€)	OC 2020/2022	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
			OC 2017/2019	VC	EF	
	1 190 600€	252 000€	5 000€	199 600€	312 500€	421 500€

RESOLUTION 7.7

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article VII of the Agreement on the composition and functions of the Scientific Committee,

Recalling Resolution 6.7 adopting the rules concerning the Scientific Committee with a rotation between the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be entrusted with the Chairmanship of the Committee,

Considering the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and the Bureau,

Commending the participation in the Scientific Committee of representatives from CIESM, IUCN, the European Cetacean Society (ECS), the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS),

Taking into account the ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2014-2025), as adopted by Resolution 5.1, and the Work Programme 2020-2022, as adopted by Resolution 7.6,

Stressing the need for establishing a closer link between the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS and the rest of the scientific community working on cetaceans in the Agreement Area,

Stressing the need for strengthening the representation of the Parties' scientific community in the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, by allowing Parties to designate, on a voluntary basis, national experts to participate to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Considering that the "Task Managers" and the regional representatives should have an active role in supporting the Chair during the meetings of the Scientific Committee and other works,

Stressing the need to ensure the diversity of experiences and competences and the equitable geographical distribution and gender balance of membership within the Scientific Committee,

1. *Decides* to amend the text of the Appendix of the Rules of the Scientific Committee, as annexed to this Resolution, in order to include Turkey in the regional distribution of Parties for Regional Representatives;
2. *Decides* to adopt the Rules of the Scientific Committee, as [annexed](#) to this Resolution;
3. *Entrusts* the Chair of the Scientific Committee to CIESM and the Vice-Chair to IUCN, according to the modalities described in the Rules of the Scientific Committee, as annexed to the present Resolution;

4. *Takes note* of the experts appointed by CIESM and IUCN for the period 2020-2022 as follows:
 - **CIESM:**
 - Mrs. Loriane MENDEZ,
 - Mrs. Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK,
 - Mr. Simone PANIGADA,
 - **IUCN:**
 - Mrs. Léa DAVID,
 - Mrs. Cristina FOSSI,
 - Mrs. Souad LAMOUTI;
5. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to appoint, at its first Meeting of the triennium, its Chair among the experts designated by CIESM, its Vice-Chair among the experts designated by IUCN and its “Task Managers”;
6. *Invites* each of the two Organizations listed in the previous paragraph to appoint one of their experts to assist the Permanent Secretariat in the preparation of the first Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the triennium;
7. *Appoints* the regional representatives as follows:
 - Mrs. Marina SEQUEIRA, representing the Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area,
 - Mr. Tilen GENOV, representing the Central Mediterranean,
 - Mrs. Celine MAHFOUZ, representing the Eastern Mediterranean,
 - Mr. Arda TONAY, representing the Black Sea;
8. *Takes note* of the representatives designated by CMS, ECS and IWC for the period 2020-2022 as follows:
 - Mr. Giuseppe NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA, representing the Scientific Council of the CMS,
 - Mr. Joan GONZALVO, representing the ECS,
 - Mr. Greg DONOVAN, representing the Scientific Committee of the IWC;
9. *Thanks* CIESM, CMS, IUCN and IWC for shouldering the responsibility for their experts’ participation expenses;
10. *Invites* the Sub-Regional Coordination Units to fully participate in the work and the Meetings of the Scientific Committee;
11. *Invites* the Permanent Secretariat, if resources allow, to ensure, where necessary, the participation in the Meetings and/or work of the Scientific Committee of experts in disciplines that are not covered by the members of the Scientific Committee, including legal and socio-economic aspects, after consultation with the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee as for the selection and the definition of tasks of these experts;
12. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 6.7.

ANNEX - RULES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

Article 1

1. The Scientific Committee, established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, provides scientific advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties or to the Parties through the Permanent Secretariat.
2. The functions of the Scientific Committee are defined in Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Agreement.
3. The scientific Committee is alternatively entrusted, on a triennial basis, to one of the Expert Organisations (CIESM, IUCN) which will take turns in ensuring the function of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Article 2

1. The Scientific Committee shall consist in principle of the following members, namely:
 - Three experts, including the Chair, appointed by the Organisation to which the Scientific Committee has been entrusted under Article 1.3;
 - Three experts, including the Vice-Chair, appointed by the Organisation other than the one to which the Scientific Committee was entrusted under Article 1.3;
 - Four representatives of the Regions defined in the Appendix, appointed by the Meeting of the Parties from a list of experts submitted by the Parties together with their *curriculum vitae*;
 - One representative from the European Cetacean Society (ECS), one representative of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and one representative of the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);
2. Additional members of the Scientific Committee may be designated by the Parties on a voluntary basis. The cost of their participation to the meetings of the Scientific Committee shall not be covered by the Agreement's funds.

SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Article 3

1. The selection of the Scientific Committee members must take into consideration the following criteria, finalized by the Extended Bureau in accordance with the Work Programme proposed to the Parties:
 - a) To be an expert in one or more fields relevant to cetacean conservation science;
 - b) To possess an appropriate level of quality, relevance, productivity and originality in activities related to cetacean conservation, as demonstrated through scientific publications and reports, communications to conferences, participation in working groups or committees at national or international levels;

- c) To be available to participate in the work of the Scientific Committee, attend its meetings and contribute to the working groups, with the required continuity;
- d) To be proficient in one of the Agreement's two working languages (English and French) and preferably in both.

2. The qualified experts designated by CIESM and IUCN are designated in close consultation with the Executive Secretary, who reports on the outcome of these consultations to the Meeting of the Parties.

3. The priorities set in the Work Programme for each triennium, as well as the need to ensure a balanced geographical representation, shall be taken into account in selecting the members of the Scientific Committee by the Meeting of the Parties.

4. At its first Meeting, four "task managers" are designated by the Scientific Committee among the experts referred to in Article 2.1. As far as necessary, these appointments can be modified during the triennium upon decision of the Chair of the Scientific Committee in consultation with the Vice-Chair and in concertation with the Executive Secretary.

Article 4

The terms of office of the members shall expire at the closure of the ordinary Meeting of the Parties following the one at which they were appointed.

MEETINGS

Article 5

1. The quorum for an ordinary meeting shall consist of the two thirds of the members of the Committee, without considering the additional members referred to in Article 2, paragraph 3. The quorum shall be reduced to half of the members in extraordinary meetings.

2. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the Scientific Committee, prepare the provisional agenda in consultation with the Permanent Secretariat, and liaise with members between meetings of the Committee. The Chair may represent the Committee as required and carry out other functions as may be delegated to him/her by the Committee, within the limits of the Committee functions.

3. The Vice-Chair, shall assist the Chair.

4. At its first meeting after the Meeting of Parties, the Scientific Committee shall assign specific topics for each task manager taking into account the priorities set in the Work Programme for the triennium.

5. Each task manager, in addition to his/her role as member of the Scientific Committee, shall coordinate the works of the Scientific Committee concerning the topics that he/she has been assigned by the Scientific Committee.

6. Each task manager shall provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the topics he/she is in charge of.
7. Each regional representative shall provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities in the region he/she has the responsibility of.

Article 6

1. The Scientific Committee may establish *ad hoc* working groups as needed to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.
2. The meetings of the working groups shall be held, where possible, in conjunction with other events.
3. The Scientific Committee may consider reports from other relevant meetings and working groups established under the Agreement, when necessary.
4. These Rules shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the meetings of working groups.

Article 7

1. The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, may decide to invite, as observers, other experts as deemed necessary.
2. The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, may decide to invite, as observers, experts in disciplines that are not covered by the members of the Scientific Committee, including legal and socio-economic matters.
3. ACCOBAMS Partners may participate as observers to the Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Article 8

1. Notices of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties, to the members of the Scientific Committee and to the ACCOBAMS Partners, by the Permanent Secretariat at least 45 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.
2. The Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement, with the support of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, shall undertake secretarial tasks during the meetings of the Scientific Committee and of its working groups and shall provide administrative and logistical support.
3. A report of each Meeting shall be prepared by the Permanent Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all members and observers of the Scientific Committee, to all Parties and ACCOBAMS Partners.
4. The report shall be posted on the ACCOBAMS website.

Article 9

1. Decisions of the Scientific Committee shall be taken by consensus.

2. If consensus cannot be reached regarding an issue, all the positions expressed about it during the meeting shall be included in the meeting report.

Article 10

1. The Meeting of the Scientific Committee shall be convened once a year during the first two years of the triennium by the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement in consultation with the Chair.

2. Extraordinary meetings may be convened if the Bureau agrees.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE

Article 11

1. In application of Article II, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, when a Party asks for advice on exceptions to the prohibition on deliberate taking of cetaceans, the Permanent Secretariat shall immediately communicate the request to the Chair and to the members of the Scientific Committee for advice.

2. Within 30 days, the Chair takes a decision on the request also on the basis of the advices received from the other members of the Scientific Committee and communicates it to the Permanent Secretariat for immediate communication to the requesting Party.

Article 12

1. Between sessions, any member of the Scientific Committee or the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, through the Permanent Secretariat, or the Permanent Secretariat directly may submit a written proposal to the Chair for a decision within the limits of the functions of the Scientific Committee.

2. The Chair shall communicate the proposal to members of the Scientific Committee for comments within 60 days from the date of that communication.

3. Any comments received within the 60-day period shall be communicated to members of the Scientific Committee and to the Permanent Secretariat.

4. If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Permanent Secretariat has not received any objection from a member of the Scientific Committee, the proposal shall be considered as adopted. Its adoption shall be notified to all members and to those who have made the proposal.

5. If any member of the Scientific Committee objects to a proposal within the 60-day time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Article 13

When in the opinion of the Scientific Committee an emergency arises, requiring the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more cetacean species, the Chair may ask the Permanent Secretariat to contact the relevant Parties urgently.

WORKING LANGUAGES

Article 14

1. The working languages of the Scientific Committee shall be English and French.
2. Simultaneous translation in English and French may be provided for the plenary sessions of the meetings of the Scientific Committee if funding is available.
3. Working documents shall be made available in English or in French and may be translated if funding is available.

REPORT

Article 15

The Chair of the Scientific Committee shall submit to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties and to each meeting of the Bureau a written report on the Scientific Committee's work since the previous ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 16

These Rules shall apply immediately upon their adoption by the Parties.

Article 17

These Rules may be amended as required by a decision of the Meeting of the Parties.

Appendix

Article 1

In order to ensure balanced geographical representation in the Scientific Committee, the geographical scope of the Agreement is divided into four regions.

Article 2

For the purpose of facilitating Scientific Committee members' nomination, the regional distribution of Parties is as follows:

Region	Parties
Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area	Algeria, France, (Italy), Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, (Tunisia)
Central Mediterranean	Albania, Croatia, (Greece), (Italy), Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, (Tunisia)
Eastern Mediterranean	Cyprus, Egypt, (Greece), Lebanon, Syria, (Turkey)
Black Sea	Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, (Turkey), Ukraine

Article 3

At the moment of the designation of representatives of the Regions, because of their geographical situation, Greece, Italy, Tunisia and Turkey can select their attachment to a region:

- 'Western Mediterranean' or 'Central Mediterranean' for Italy and Tunisia;
- 'Central Mediterranean' or 'Eastern Mediterranean' for Greece;
- 'Black Sea' or 'Eastern Mediterranean' for Turkey;

Article 4

Article 3 applies to any other Party that wishes to be associated with another region, unless one Party in that region disagrees.

RESOLUTION 7.8**PROCEDURE FOR THE ACCOBAMS CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY CONSERVATION GRANTS FUND**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article IX, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, which provides that “the Meeting of the Parties may establish a supplementary conservation fund from voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other source in order to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation of cetaceans”,

Aware that the implementation of the Agreement requires the development and implementation of conservation projects that are in line with the objectives and priorities of ACCOBAMS,

Recalling that many fundamental obligations of Parties require actions which may significantly benefit from small scale funding, but often do not meet the eligibility criteria of national or international project funds,

Reiterating its conviction that, in some countries, the implementation of the Agreement is severely constrained by the lack of adequate financial resources,

Considering Resolutions 1.7 and 2.4, relating to the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund (SCF), and Resolutions 3.6 and 5.5, relating to the procedure for submission of projects,

Appreciating the successful operation of the SCF which has attracted both a significant number of project proposals as well as additional voluntary contributions,

Thanking the financial support from the Governments of Italy and Monaco for the replenishment of the SCF during the 2017-2019 triennium,

Taking into account similar procedures established by other International Organisations,

Recognising the need to improve the procedure on the basis of lessons learned from the previous calls for proposals,

Desirous to establish a fully transparent and efficient procedure for the evaluation and the selection of project proposals,

1. *Decides* that the goals and objectives of the SCF are as follows:

- to catalyze the development and implementation of concerted or cooperative actions that should clearly contribute to the implementation of the Agreement and the priorities adopted by the Parties;
- to support applied conservation projects;
- to provide seed money to initiate long-term projects that have a multiplying impact well beyond the funding period;

- to stimulate dialogue and cooperation at the local and regional level in order to improve the conservation status of the cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area;
 - to assist in the development of national capacities to conserve cetaceans and their habitats;
 - to raise awareness on the conservation and management needs of cetaceans and their habitats;
 - to make small funds available to communities and other conservation stakeholders with limited access to alternative funding sources;
2. *Decides* that the Fund is financed through voluntary contributions according to Resolution 7.6, Annex 4;
 3. *Urges* Parties and donor Organisations to provide voluntary contributions to the SCF;
 4. *Agrees* to transfer to the SCF, if appropriate, the unspent balance of previous triennium fund concerning voluntary contributions under the Trust Fund and *mandates* the Bureau to set the amount thereof on the basis of recommendations by the Permanent Secretariat;
 5. *Notes* that the SCF will be implemented within the Agreement area;
 6. *Encourages* transboundary projects between countries Party to ACCOBAMS;
 7. *Instructs* the Permanent Secretariat to:
 - manage and coordinate the SCF;
 - launch calls for proposals of projects to be funded under the SCF, in consultation with the Bureau of the Parties and the Scientific Committee;
 - inform the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, the members of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, the ACCOBAMS Partners and other relevant Organisations, about the launch of a call for proposals;
 - inform the applicants about the results of the selection, and the Focal Point(s) of the countries in which the selected projects will be carried out;
 8. *Authorises* the Permanent Secretariat to facilitate contacts between potential applicants in order to establish partnerships;
 9. *Authorises* the Bureau to select the project proposals to be granted, taking into account the procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the SCF and the budget available;
 10. *Adopts* the procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the SCF in [Annex](#) to this Resolution;
 11. *Decides* that the present Resolution amends Resolution 3.6 and replaces Resolution 5.5.

ANNEX

Procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund

Content

1. Introduction.....	347
2. Functioning of the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund.....	347
3. Eligibility criteria and submission conditions	348
4. Selection procedure	349
5. Transfer of funds and reporting	350
6. Terms of Small-Scale Funding Agreement to be concluded with Selected Applicants	350
7. Reporting to ACCOBAMS and other donors	351

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Project Concept Form	353
Appendix 2: Project Presentation Form	354
Appendix 3: Endorsement Form	360
Appendix 4: Declaration of non-conflict of interest	361
Appendix 5: Project Evaluation Form	362

Introduction

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) is an intergovernmental legal instrument that aims to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for cetaceans through the implementation of coordinated conservation measures. Signed in Monaco in 1996 and entering into force in 2001, ACCOBAMS aims to reduce threats to cetaceans and improve knowledge on them.

The geographical scope of the Agreement is constituted by all the maritime waters of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean and their gulfs and seas, and the internal waters connected to or interconnecting these maritime waters, and of the Atlantic area contiguous to the Mediterranean Sea at the west of the Strait of Gibraltar.

Taking into account Article IX, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, the Parties to ACCOBAMS decided to establish, at their First Meeting (Monaco, 28 February – 2 March 2002), a Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund (SCF) from voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other source in order to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation of cetaceans in the Agreement area.

The SCF became operational as of the Second Meeting of the Parties (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 9-12 November 2004) and has been playing a significant role in supporting ACCOBAMS conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Functioning of the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund

The goals and objectives of the voluntary contributions to the SCF are as follows:

- To catalyze the development and implementation of concerted or cooperative actions that should clearly contribute to the implementation of the Agreement and the priorities adopted by the Parties;
- To support applied conservation projects;
- To provide seed money to initiate long-term projects that have a multiplying impact well beyond the funding period;
- To stimulate dialogue and cooperation at the local and regional level in order to improve the conservation status of the cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area;
- To support development of national capacities to conserve cetaceans and their habitats;
- To raise awareness on the conservation and management needs of cetaceans and their habitats;
- To make small funds available to communities and other conservation stakeholders with limited access to alternative funding sources.

Projects to be funded under the SCF are submitted in the framework of calls for proposals launched by the Permanent Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Parties and the Scientific Committee.

The cycle for launching calls for proposals depends on the funding accrued for this purpose. Therefore, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat shall take into consideration the amount available for projects funding when informing the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, the members of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, the ACCOBAMS Partners and other relevant organisations, about the launch of a call for proposals.

Eligibility criteria and submission conditions

a. Eligible applicants

Only projects submitted from low- and middle-income countries as classified by the World Bank that are Parties to ACCOBAMS, except countries more than three years in arrears with their contributions, shall be eligible for funding.

Project proposals must be submitted by Organizations legally based in the country where the activities are implemented.

In case of a transboundary project that includes a non-eligible country, funding granted from the SCF will be devoted only to activities carried out in the eligible country.

List of ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, list of eligible countries, deadlines for project proposal submission and any restriction depending on the requirements set by the respective funding body will be communicated by the Permanent Secretariat through the ACCOBAMS webpage dedicated to the call for proposals and after consultation with the Bureau of the Parties.

Governmental institutions, research institutes and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) may submit proposals. Projects shall be submitted through entities that are legally established and have among their objectives the study, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Projects can receive a maximum grant of €15.000. No more than 10% of the requested funds can be allocated to project personnel expenses.

Projects that can demonstrate that co-funding is available, either provided by the applicants themselves or from another sources, will be favored.

Partnership and collaboration with Governmental Institutions, research institutes and NGOs from other Parties to ACCOBAMS are encouraged, provided that the amount of budget allocated to the partner(s) does not exceed 30% of the requested grant.

The maximum duration of projects shall be two years.

The data produced by the project will be public and, if relevant, will be communicated through NETCCOBAMS, OBIS-SEAMAP and MEDACES databases upon completion of the project.

Proposals from Organizations having among their employees or board, one or more members of the Bureau of the Parties, of the Scientific Committee, or of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS are not eligible. Applicants should submit a declaration of non-conflict of interest.

b. Submission

Project proposals can be submitted in English or in French.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their project proposal in English for facilitating the evaluation by the Scientific Committee. However, submitting proposals in French will not be a disadvantage.

Application must include the following documents:

- Doc 1: the Concept Form completed (Appendix 1);
- Doc 2: the Project Presentation Form completed (Appendix 2);
- Doc 3: a cover letter addressed to the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS;

- Doc 4: the CV of the team leader;
- Doc 5: an endorsement form signed by the ACCOBAMS national Focal Point of the country where the proposed project will be implemented (Appendix 3). In case of transboundary projects, application should include endorsement forms signed by each of the ACCOBAMS national Focal Point of the countries where the proposed project will be implemented;
- Doc 6: a declaration of non-conflict of interest (Appendix 4).

An applicant is allowed to submit a maximum of two proposals on a given call. No more than one project submitted by a given applicant shall be selected for the same call.

Selection procedure

The Permanent Secretariat will check the project proposals' eligibility upon their submission.

The eligible proposals will be sent to the Scientific Committee to be evaluated using the evaluation sheet (Appendix 5) and the scoring system described hereafter:

a. Scoring criteria

1. *Potential impact on the conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area (Score max: 5):*

- contribution to achieve the objectives of ACCOBAMS;
- appropriateness of the proposed activity in relation to the priorities of the ACCOBAMS work programme.

2. *Quality and efficiency of the methodology and team (Score max: 5):*

- skills and experience of the team leader as for the proposed activities;
- soundness of the proposed methodology and associated work plan;
- relevance of the proposed means (budget, staff, equipment) as for the proposed activities.

b. Scoring scale

Scores must be in the range 0-5. Half marks may be given.

- **0:** The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
- **1:** Poor. The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **2:** Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
- **3:** Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
- **4:** Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
- **5:** Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question, any shortcomings are minor.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will organise the evaluation of the project proposals by establishing and coordinating an evaluation group composed of Scientific Committee members.

The composition of the evaluation group shall be decided by the Chair of the Scientific Committee in consultation with the other Members of the Scientific Committee. Each project proposal should be assessed by at least three members of the evaluation group. To ensure fair evaluation process, all proposals should be assessed by the same number of members of the evaluation group.

The final decision about the projects to be financially supported by the ACCOBAMS SCF will be made by the Bureau of the Parties, taking into account the eligibility check performed by the Permanent Secretariat, the scientific and technical evaluation of the project proposals by the Scientific Committee, and the consistency and the sustainability aspects of the proposal.

The final decision shall be communicated to the National Focal Points.

If necessary, the Permanent Secretariat will ask the applicants for further information, based on the comments and suggestions made by the Members of the Scientific Committee when evaluating the project proposals.

Transfer of funds and reporting

Once a project is approved and funding has been granted by the Bureau of the Parties, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat shall prepare the Small-Scale Funding Agreement with the selected applicant.

During the project implementation, each recipient Organization shall provide:

- a mid-term Progress Report on the implementation of the funded project, including a financial report, not later than 12 months after receipt of the initial payment for projects with duration of up to 24 months, and not later than 6 months for projects with duration up to 12 months.
- a Final Report, not later than three months after completion of the project. The Final Report shall include a statement of expenditure for the funds provided and copies of any materials produced under the project.

The exact deadlines for submission of both reports will be specified in the Small-Scale Funding Agreement.

Progress and Final Reports shall be sent to the relevant ACCOBAMS National Focal Points and to the Permanent Secretariat.

Terms of Small-Scale Funding Agreement to be concluded with Selected Applicants

In the Small-Scale Funding Agreement to be concluded between the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the recipient Organization, the following shall be specified:

- a) the extent and purpose of the funding granted;
- b) the obligations of the recipient towards the implementation of the project;
- c) the obligation of the recipient to display the ACCOBAMS logo on all correspondence or material produced in connection with meetings or activities financed under the project (such as invitations, announcements, agendas, reports, etc.) and to refer to the activity as being sponsored by ACCOBAMS;
- d) the obligation of the recipient to reimburse to ACCOBAMS any portion of any cash advance remaining unspent or uncommitted on completion of the activities of the Small-Scale Funding Agreement, within one month of presentation of the expenditure report.

Reporting to ACCOBAMS and other donors

Final Reports of the projects shall be presented to the Meeting of the Parties. They are also to be posted on the ACCOBAMS website.

The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat shall provide donors with summary reports of project results, prepared on the basis of the Final Reports provided by the recipients, highlighting the effective results of the projects and of their contribution to the ACCOBAMS objectives and Work Programmes.

Appendix 1: Project Concept Form

<i>Reserved to ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat</i>

Form reference:

Title of the project:
Project category: ☐ Research and monitoring ☐ Capacity building ☐ Public awareness
Project topic(s):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bycatch/Depredation | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Stranding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-identification | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine litter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Ship Strikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Cetacean watching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency situation | | |

*[Project topics relevant to the work programme of the triennium at the launch of calls for proposals.]*Project amount (Euro):Project duration:Geographical area of the project:*[List of eligible countries at the launch of calls for proposals.]*Partnership if relevant:

Date:

Signature and Organisation stamp:

Appendix 2: Project Presentation Form

Reserved to ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat

Form reference:

A. THE APPLICANT**1. Identity**

Full legal name	
Acronym	
Legal status	
Official address	
Contact person	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail address	

2. Description of applicant

2.1. When was your Organisation founded, and when did it start its activities?

--

2.2. What are the main activities of your Organisation?

--

2.3. Will the project be implemented in collaboration with a partner organisation?

Yes ☐No ☐

If Yes, please indicate:

- the identity of the partner:

Full legal name	
Acronym	
Legal status	
Official address	
Contact person	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail address	

- the role of the partner:

--

B. THE PROJECT**1. Description****1.1. Title**

--

1.2. Coordination

--

1.3. Location

Provide here a brief description of the area in which the project will be carried out (Please attach a map to this document).

--

1.4. Duration

--

1.5. Countries participating in the project

--

1.6. Objectives (maximum 150 words)

--

1.7. Justification

Please indicate how the activities contribute to ACCOBAMS objectives, with special reference to the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan and reference of the appropriate ACCOBAMS Resolutions (maximum 250 words).

--

1.8. Activities to be carried out and timetable

--

1.9. Expected outputs and methodology (maximum: 400 words)

--

1.10. Impacts and sustainability

Please describe the expected impacts that the project will have and the plan to sustain and build upon them (maximum: 400 words).

--

1.11. Budget estimates

Please provide for each activity a breakdown of

- personnel
- non-consumable equipment
- consumables
- travel
- field work
- other (specify).

Please provide all budget costs in Euros. If the financial arrangements for the project include any other financial support for an extra-funding, please provide detailed information on the amount(s), the donor(s) and the relevant commitments. Please also indicate any “in-kind” contributions to the project and their value.

Activities	Categories	Applicant		Partner	
		Budget requested to ACCOBAMS	Co-funding (in-kind or from other sources)	Budget requested to ACCOBAMS	Co-funding (in-kind or from other sources)
Activity 1	Personnel (Please specify)				
	Non-consumable equipment (Please specify)				
	Consumables (Please specify)				
	Travel (Please specify)				
	Field work (Please specify)				
	Other (Please specify)				
Activity 2	Personnel (Please specify)				
	Non-consumable equipment (Please specify)				
	Consumables (Please specify)				
	Travel (Please specify)				
	Field work (Please specify)				
	Other (Please specify)				
...					
Total					
GRAND TOTAL					

1.12. Issues relevant to transfer of technology/capacity building

The project should include the concept of transfer of technology or capacity building, with detailed proposals. Please provide information.

1.13. Links with other initiatives

(*Remark: the Permanent Secretariat might consult with other organisations to check if the Project activities were submitted to them for funding or are complementary to activities having received funding from them*).

Please indicate here if the proposed activities:

(i) were presented for funding under other initiatives/organisations:

Yes ☐

No ☐

If Yes please indicate the initiative/organisation.

- (ii) have direct links or are complementary to other activities having received funding from other organisations:

Yes ☐

No ☐

If Yes please indicate such link or complementary.

C. DECLARATION OF THE APPLICANT

“The information submitted in this application is true, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Should any significant developments arise after this application is made, I shall notify the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat. I consent to the information contained in this application being held on computer and circulated to the National Focal Point, the Bureau, the Scientific Committee and other relevant bodies.”

Date, Signature

Appendix 3: Endorsement Form

This form is to be completed and signed by the ACCOBAMS National Focal Point of the country where the proposed project will be implemented (host country). In case of transboundary projects, application should include endorsement forms signed by each of the ACCOBAMS National Focal Point of the countries where the proposed project will be implemented and for the respective areas.

Host country:

Project title:

Organisation submitting the application:

Title and name:

Contact details:

I have read the procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund of ACCOBAMS and reviewed the above-mentioned project, and would herewith like to endorse it for support from the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund.

Date:

Signature

Appendix 4: Declaration of non-conflict of interest

This form is to be completed and signed by the applicant.

Subject: Declaration confirming the absence of any conflict of interest

I, _____ the undersigned, representative of _____ submitting a project proposal for funding under the SCF in respect of declaring the non-conflict of interest, hereby confirm:

- that I do not have any conflict of interest in connection with the submitted project proposal. A conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family, emotional life or any other relevant connection or shared interest with any employee or board member of the Bureau of the Parties, of the Scientific Committee, or of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat;
- that I will inform the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, without delay, of any situation constituting a conflict of interest or which could give rise to a conflict of interest.

Signed:

Date signed: _____

Appendix 5: Project Evaluation Form*Reserved to ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat*Form reference:

Project Title:

Applicant:

Do you have a collaborative relationship or conflict with the applicant or with its staff or the proposed project team?Yes ☐No ☐

If yes, please explain why.

1. Are the project objectives in line with the objectives of ACCOBAMS?Yes ☐No ☐**2. Will the proposed project clearly contribute to the implementation of the Agreement and the priorities adopted by the Parties?**Yes ☐No ☐

If no, please explain why.

3. Do the proposed activities duplicate or overlap with previous or ongoing projects?Yes ☐No ☐

If yes please give details

4. General appreciation☐ The project is acceptable☐ The project needs improvements

Please specify

☐ The project cannot be accepted

Please explain

5. Other suggestions and/or comments (if any)

To Summarise:

Potential impact on the conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area (please choose a score):

0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---

Quality and efficiency of the methodology and team (please choose a score):

0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---

Name of the evaluator:

Date:

RESOLUTION 7.9

ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recognizing the significant role played by many Entities in the conservation of cetaceans in the Agreement area,

Recalling Resolution 1.14, 4.21 and 4.20 on strengthening the status of ACCOBAMS Partners,

Desirous of further strengthening the involvement of qualified Entities in the implementation of ACCOBAMS and of encouraging them to undertake further action to achieve the Agreement's objectives,

Aiming at clarifying the role of the different ACCOBAMS Partners,

Aware that partnership can be developed with international, regional and national Entities concerned with the conservation of cetaceans and of their habitat, human-cetacean interactions or other activities relevant with the spirit of the Agreement,

Taking note of the information provided by the Permanent Secretariat on the activities of the ACCOBAMS Partners,

1. *Decides* that international, regional and national Entities interested in being granted the status of Partners to the ACCOBAMS shall:
 - in the case of Entities based in ACCOBAMS Parties, present an application to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, which will be transmitted to the National Focal Point for advice and submitted to the subsequent meeting of the Bureau for approval. In case of objection by the National Focal Point, the final decision shall be taken by the Meeting of the Parties;
 - in the case of Entities based in States Non-Parties to the ACCOBAMS, present an application to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for approval by the subsequent meeting of the Bureau;
2. *Adopts* the Criteria for applying for the status of ACCOBAMS Partner ([Annex 1](#)), the Rules and Commitments of ACCOBAMS Partners ([Annex 2](#)) and the Application form ([Annex 3](#));
3. *Decides* that:
 - ACCOBAMS Partners shall be taken into consideration as regards to their involvement in the implementation of ACCOBAMS Programme of Work;
 - ACCOBAMS Partners shall provide information to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat on all relevant activities whenever needed for communication and awareness purposes;
 - ACCOBAMS Partners shall report each triennium on the implementation of their activities and on the use of the ACCOBAMS Partner logo;
 - ACCOBAMS Partners shall provide their report, through NETCCOBAMS, at the latest two months before the Bureau meeting held to prepare the Meeting of the Parties;

- the status of ACCOBAMS Partner may be reviewed and, if appropriate, withdrawn by the ACCOBAMS Bureau based on the information provided by the Permanent Secretariat and/or the relevant National Focal Point, if any, in accordance with the Rules and Commitments of ACCOBAMS Partners;

4. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 4.20.

ANNEX 1
CRITERIA FOR APPLYING TO THE STATUS OF ACCOBAMS PARTNER

1. ACCOBAMS Partners can be an Entity based either within ACCOBAMS Parties, or in States Non-Parties to the ACCOBAMS, whose cetacean conservation actions are developed within the Agreement area;
2. These Entities shall belong to one of the following types:
 - Public National Entities;
 - Non-Governmental Organizations;
 - Public and private Research Institutes;
 - Private Companies;
3. The following documents shall be sent to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat by the applicant:
 - a) a copy of the Entity's statute, in original language and translated into English or French, indicating the objectives of the Entity;
 - b) a signed Declaration of Commitment (included in the Application form here attached as Annex 3), declaring that the Entity actions include conservation of cetaceans and of their habitat, human-cetacean interactions or other activities relevant with the spirit of the Agreement;
 - c) a note concerning the applicant's capacities with particular attention to:
 - (i) experience in providing support to cetacean conservation by implementing practical research, collection and analysis of information or other educational and training activities;
 - (ii) demonstrated experience in implementing partnership ventures, such as for training and education, technical and scientific expertise, policy development or evaluation and assessment, particularly when such ventures would bring new and additional benefits to the functioning of the ACCOBAMS partnership;
 - (iii) demonstrated willingness and ability to cooperate with national and international governmental and non-governmental bodies;
 - (iv) readiness to contribute actively on a regular basis to the further development of policies and tools of the Agreement and their application, particularly by assisting Parties to meet their obligations under the Agreement;
 - (v) if any, previous experience in communicating with the Secretariat and cooperating with ACCOBAMS in the achievement of its objectives;
 - (vi) the benefits expected for the Entity and for ACCOBAMS;
 - d) the *Curriculum Vitae* of the person responsible of the entity applying for the ACCOBAMS Partner status;
 - e) a signed copy of the Rules and Commitments (here attached as [Annex 2](#)), together with a commitment to comply with them;
 - f) a copy of the Application form duly filled and signed (here attached as [Annex 3](#)).

ANNEX 2

RULES AND COMMITMENTS OF ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

1. ACCOBAMS Partners shall be expected to contribute on a regular basis and to the best of their ability to the further development of policies, technical and scientific tools of the Agreement and to their application.
2. ACCOBAMS Partners shall present, at the latest two months after each Meeting of the Parties, a programme of collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat during the triennium. The programme shall include all activities carried out in the frame of the partnership and related to the conservation plan and the support to the Permanent Secretariat.
3. ACCOBAMS Partners shall make proper use of the ACCOBAMS Partners logo in compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.21.
4. ACCOBAMS Partners shall communicate with the Permanent Secretariat on activities related to ACCOBAMS objectives. ACCOBAMS Partners shall share information, including their publications, with their National Focal Point. ACCOBAMS Partners that own original data on cetaceans in the Agreement area are strongly encouraged to share such data, as appropriate, through NETCCOBAMS, the MEDACES stranding database and through the OBIS SEAMAP database and any other relevant tools.
5. Before each Meeting of the Parties, ACCOBAMS Partners shall report on the implementation of their activities and on the use of the ACCOBAMS Partner logo. To this end, their reports shall reach the Permanent Secretariat and the relevant National Focal Point at the latest two months before the Bureau meeting held to prepare the Meeting of the Parties.
6. Partners shall be invited to participate, in an observer capacity and as advisors, in all activities of the Agreement, except when otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.
7. ACCOBAMS Partners could be invited to contribute to the development of project proposals, project implementation and to the evaluation of project results.
8. The ACCOBAMS Bureau may decide to withdraw the status of ACCOBAMS Partner if no activities are reported, if they are considered not to be relevant and if they are contrary to the achievement of ACCOBAMS objectives or to the present Rules and Commitments. Withdrawal of the Partner status does not prejudice any legal action for improper use of the ACCOBAMS Partner logo.

Date and place

Name of the person responsible of the entity applying for the ACCOBAMS Partner status and Signature

Stamp and/or logo if applicable.

ANNEX 3 APPLICATION FORM

Applicants shall send all relevant documents by email at: secretariat@accobams.net or by mail at the following address:

ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
Jardin de l'UNESCO
MC-98000 Monaco

The _____ (name of the Entity applying) represented by (Name of the person responsible of the entity applying for the ACCOBAMS Partner status) _____ in quality of _____ with the aim to apply for the ACCOBAMS Partner status declares that the application contains the following elements:

	YES	NO
1. A copy of the statute of the Entity (in original language and a translation into English or French);		
2. The signed Declaration of Commitment (included in the Application form) declaring that the Entity actions include conservation of cetaceans and of their habitat, human-cetacean interactions or other activities relevant with the spirit of the Agreement;		
3. A note concerning its capacities with a particular attention to:		
(i) experience in providing support to cetacean conservation by implementing practical research, collection and analysis of information or other educational and training activities;		
(ii) demonstrated experience in implementing partnership ventures, such as for training and education, technical and scientific expertise, policy development or evaluation and assessment, particularly when such ventures would bring new and additional benefits to the functioning of the ACCOBAMS partnership;		
(iii) demonstrated willingness and ability to cooperate with national and international governmental and non-governmental bodies;		
(iv) readiness to contribute actively on a regular basis to further development of policies and tools of the Agreement and their application, particularly by assisting Parties to meet their obligations under the Agreement;		
(v) if any, previous experience in communicating with the Secretariat and cooperating with ACCOBAMS in the achievement of its objectives;		
(vi) the benefits expected for the Entity and for ACCOBAMS		
4. <i>Curriculum Vitae</i> of the person responsible of the entity applying for the ACCOBAMS Partner status		
5. A signed copy of the Rules and Commitments (Annex 2 of the Resolution)		

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

On behalf of the Entity, I commit to comply with the rules and commitments specified in the Resolution. Actions of the entity include conservation of cetaceans and of their habitat, human-cetacean interactions or other activities relevant with the spirit of the Agreement.

Name of the Entity Address, Telephone/fax email website Social media link(s)	
---	--

Date and place

Name of the person responsible of the entity applying for the ACCOBAMS Partner status and Signature

Stamp and/or logo if applicable.

RESOLUTION 7.10**IMPROVING MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF CETACEAN POPULATION
ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article II, paragraph 3, of the Agreement and its Annex 2 (Conservation Plan), paragraph 2,

Recalling Resolution 2.11 on the facilitation of scientific research campaigns and programmes,

Recalling Resolution 5.1 on the ACCOBAMS Strategy for the period 2014-2025, in particular its specific objective B.1 “Improve the knowledge about state of cetaceans”,

Recalling Resolution 6.13 on “Comprehensive cetacean population estimates and distribution in the ACCOBAMS Area (Monitoring of cetacean distribution, abundance and ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative)”, which has replaced the previous Resolutions 2.19, 3.15 and 5.9,

Taking into consideration Recommendation 12.2 of the 12th ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting on cetacean populations estimates,

Welcoming strongly the realization of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in the Agreement Area and *commending* the Parties, the non-Party Range States, the Permanent Secretariat, the sub-regional Co-ordination Units, the Scientific Committee, all partner Organizations and all persons involved for the successful implementation of the survey campaigns in summer 2018 in the Mediterranean Sea and in summer 2019 in the Black Sea,

Expressing its gratitude to France, Italy, Monaco, Slovenia, Spain, the MAVA Foundation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) for their voluntary contributions and financial support, and to other Parties that have provided in-kind contributions for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in the Mediterranean Sea,

Acknowledging the financial support provided by the European Commission for the project CeNoBS (Support MSFD implementation in the Black Sea through establishing a regional monitoring system of cetaceans (D1) and noise monitoring (D11) for achieving GES) that supports the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in the Black Sea,

Commending in particular the efforts of the Parties that have facilitated the issuance of research permits within the Mediterranean and the Black Seas in the context of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative,

Thanking also the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature - Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB), the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and the PELAGIS Observatory for their support within the Steering Committee of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative,

Stressing that initial data analyses of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative are presently underway and that the results will contribute to the achievements of the ACCOBAMS objectives and can also make a fundamental contribution to initiatives outside the ACCOBAMS, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Stressing the need to explore new and alternative sources of data to assess cetaceans' distribution and abundance, in particular through the use of existing marine monitoring programmes and innovative technologies,

I – Capitalizing on the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

1. *Stresses* that the data collected under the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative represent an unparalleled conservation resource in the Agreement area and thus every effort should be made to ensure that the data are used in the most efficient and robust way for conservation purposes;
2. To achieve this aim, *recommends that*:
 - a) in addition to the already agreed analyses of the cetacean data conducted in the context of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, the Parties, the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat promote further in-depth analyses, including analyses of data on anthropogenic activities (i.e. marine debris and acoustic mapping) and on non-cetacean species, in collaboration with other stakeholders, as relevant;
 - b) the Scientific Committee develops recommendations based on the results of the analyses to facilitate area- and threat-based conservation efforts to contribute to the achievements of the ACCOBAMS objectives and of other relevant initiatives;
 - c) once the cetacean data are analysed, the Scientific Committee focusses on developing a suitable monitoring programme for the ACCOBAMS region to enable abundance trends and potential distributional changes to be identified, consistently with the reporting cycles of EU-Habitat Directive, EU-MSFD and IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and related Assessment Criteria) of the Barcelona Convention;
 - d) such data are used for the assessment of conservation status for cetacean species in the region.

II – Improving cetaceans' distribution and abundance monitoring efforts in the Agreement Area

3. *Recommends* that Parties and Range States ensure that any proposed national programmes on the study of abundance and distribution of cetaceans are compatible with the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and the guidelines annexed to Resolution 6.13;
4. *Recommends* that Parties, Range States and ACCOBAMS Partners, where relevant, coordinate the implementation of national monitoring programmes, in particular by synchronizing their survey campaigns, and consider joint survey efforts, whenever possible, assisted by the Scientific Committee and the Permanent Secretariat;
5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to develop guidelines / best practices on the implementation of multidisciplinary surveys and on the use of platforms of opportunities and innovative technologies to collect data to assess cetaceans' distribution and abundance;
6. *Encourages* the Scientific Committee, in addition to the ongoing efforts to estimate the population size of cetaceans in the Agreement area, to explore other direct and/or indirect methods which utilize historical time

series data from any kind of source that can provide indications of trends in cetaceans abundance (such as data collected within the framework of fisheries hydro-acoustic surveys);

7. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to investigate the opportunity to establish a regional repository for data related to cetaceans' distribution and abundance;
8. *Decides* that the present Resolution complements Resolution 6.13 and constitutes an addition to it.

RESOLUTION 7.11**INTERACTIONS BETWEEN FISHERIES AND CETACEANS**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling the provisions of Article II, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, inviting Parties to implement, within the limits of their sovereignty and/or jurisdiction and in accordance with their international obligations, appropriate measures for the assessment and management of human-cetacean interactions and stressing that measures concerning fisheries activities shall be applied in respect of any vessel under their flag or registered within their territory, including in all waters under their sovereignty and/or jurisdiction, and outside these waters,

Recalling the following Resolutions:

- Resolution 2.12 on guidelines for the use of acoustic deterrent devices,
- Resolution 2.13 on pelagic gillnets,
- Resolution 2.21 on assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS area,
- Resolution A/3.1, amending Annex 2 to the ACCOBAMS, as regards the use of drift nets,
- Resolution 3.8 strengthening collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),
- Resolution 4.9 on fisheries interactions with cetaceans,
- Resolution 6.16 on interactions between fisheries and cetaceans,

Taking into consideration Recommendation 12.3 of the 12th ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting on “Cetacean interactions with fisheries: bycatch, depredation and prey depletion”,

Fully aware of the complexity of the cetacean-fisheries interaction issue with its negative impacts on cetacean populations, as well as its socio-economic implications in some zones of the Agreement Area, in particular the situation of severe conflicts generated between fishermen and dolphins due to the damages caused to fishing gear,

Recognizing that by-catch poses the main threat to cetaceans in the Black Sea and a significant threat in the Mediterranean Sea and the contiguous Atlantic area,

Recalling the commitment of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to reduce cetacean-fisheries interaction through the implementation of Decision IG.22/12 related to the adoption of the updated Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea,

Conscious of the related work underway under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and *recalling* related decisions, in particular CMS Resolution 12.22 on Bycatch,

Conscious of the related work underway under the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), and *recalling* related decisions, in particular ASCOBANS Resolution 8.5 on Monitoring and Mitigation of Small Cetacean Bycatch,

Welcoming the establishment of the Joint Bycatch Working Group with ASCOBANS,

Commending the collaboration bounds established between the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS and the GFCM, in particular regarding the mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the Agreement area,

Noting with appreciation the development, with GFCM, of good practice guides for the handling of vulnerable species caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries,

Noting with appreciation the recommendations adopted by the GFCM on the mitigation of incidental catches of cetaceans in the GFCM area (Recommendation GFCM/36/2012/2) and on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea (Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/2), as well as the guidelines included in the manual “Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea: Methodology for Data Collection”, developed by GFCM in collaboration with other partners,

Noting the validation by GFCM of the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) that includes incidental catches of vulnerable species,

Taking note of the documents “Review of by-catch rates of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” and “Mitigation measures for protected species”, distributed at this Meeting of the Parties,

Taking into account Regulation (EU) No 1241/2019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures,

Greatly appreciating the financial support provided by the MAVA Foundation for the projects aimed at addressing the issues of interactions between fisheries and cetaceans,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments of the Parties to protect cetacean species against by-catch;
2. *Stresses* the need to produce a realistic estimate of cetacean and other megafauna species by-catch for different types of legal fishing activities, for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and for ghost net fishing;
3. *Requests* Parties to assess the level of cetacean by-catch arising from their fisheries using a combination of methods, following the guidelines included in the manual “Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea: Methodology for Data Collection”, developed by GFCM in collaboration with other partners, such as:
 - a) trained observers on board fishing vessels, where possible;
 - b) fishermen interview surveys;
 - c) self-sampling by fishermen, where possible;

- d) strandings data collection;
- e) remote electronic monitoring;

4. *Invites* Parties to enhance fishing gears identification and traceability, as well as retrieval of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears, to eliminate by-catch of cetaceans in ghost gears;
5. *Further requests* Parties, if relevant, that socio-economic studies be conducted on the extent of depredation caused by cetaceans, where appropriate at regional level, in order to elaborate possible mitigation measures, which may help to prevent retaliation actions by fishermen;
6. *Invites* Parties and the Permanent Secretariat to disseminate to relevant organizations, in particular fishery professional organizations, the good practice guides for the handling of vulnerable species caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries;
7. *Recommends* that the Parties and non-Party Range States make every effort to support global and regional initiatives to investigate the most appropriate measures to mitigate by-catch and depredation and implement them, as necessary, in close collaboration with the fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders, including through relevant regional instruments;
8. *Recommends* that assessments be conducted to evaluate the sustainability of fish stocks, while securing prey availability for cetacean species, in parallel with the aforementioned actions;
9. *Recommends* Parties that have fish farms and/or tuna pens in their marine areas to ensure that the operators of such farms/tuna pens avoid feeding dolphins as this may cause an ecological issue;
10. *Invites* the Permanent Secretariat to provide assistance to Parties in addressing the issue of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities, including IUU fishing, taking into account the social and economic aspects of this issue, ensuring that all activities undertaken in this context are in line with the objectives of ACCOBAMS and considering mutual impacts of mitigation measures;
11. *Invites* the Scientific Committee, in close collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat, to keep a watch over the recent advances in technology regarding the acoustic devices and progress in fishing gear technologies for mitigating the interactions between cetaceans and fishing gears and, where necessary, propose amendments to the Guidelines for the use of acoustic deterrent devices adopted by the Parties (Resolution 2.12);
12. *Invites* the Permanent Secretariat to pursue its collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat and strengthen its involvement in the relevant works and initiatives undertaken under GFCM;
13. *Invites* the Permanent Secretariat to strengthen its collaboration also with the Secretariats of CMS, ASCOBANS, IWC and other relevant Organizations to investigate approaches for achieving significant decrease in the cetacean by-catch levels, using, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Scientific Committee;
14. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 6.16.

RESOLUTION 7.12**SHIP STRIKES**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling the ACCOBAMS Resolutions 5.11 and 6.19,

Taking into consideration Recommendation 12.5 “Ship strikes” of the 12th ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting,

Reiterating that the issue of ship strikes, particularly affecting large whales, such as fin and sperm whales, remains of concern within the ACCOBAMS Area,

Aware that the speed, rather than the shape or displacement, of vessels is the most significant factor in ship strikes,

Noting that the only effective measures to avoid serious injury and death of cetaceans from ship strikes at present are (a) avoidance by ships of areas or times with high density of whales, including the establishment of shipping lanes or non-shipping zones, and (b) speed reductions in such areas or times, slowing ships down to speeds below 10-12 knots,

Noting also that speed restrictions can also reduce underwater noise and greenhouse gas emissions that can assist with meeting other international targets,

Recalling IMO Guidelines (MEPC.1/Circ.833) for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life and, in particular, paragraph 10.5 “Rerouting and operational decisions to reduce adverse impacts on marine life”, recommending speed reductions or routing decisions to avoid sensitive marine areas, including well-known habitats or migratory pathways when in transit, that will help to reduce adverse impacts on marine life,

Aware that the volume of shipping traffic will continue to increase substantially in the near future,

Recalling the joint IWC (International Whaling Commission) - ACCOBAMS Workshop on Reducing Risk of Collisions between Vessels and Cetaceans, held in Beaulieu, France, in 2010,

Stressing that the highest priority is the collection and reporting of data, including near misses, to the Global Ship Strikes Database hosted by the IWC, which will both facilitate a proper evaluation, prioritisation and monitoring of ship strikes as a threat to various populations and regions, and assist in the development of mitigation measures,

Recognizing the present effective collaborative work with the IWC Scientific and Conservation Committees on the issue of ship strikes,

1. *Encourages* Parties to:

- (a) consider the recommendations from the “joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop on how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist in identifying areas of high risk for ship strikes” (6-7 April 2019, Messinia, Greece) as presented in [Annex](#) of the present Resolution, and more particularly regarding (i) the process for the designation of a PSSA by IMO at a scale that includes the North West Mediterranean Sea, Slope and Canyon IMMA, plus potentially the Spanish corridor, and (ii) risk reduction measures in the Hellenic Trench;
- (b) take note of the recommendations and advices resulting from other initiatives, such as the drafting of a Conservation and Management Plan for Mediterranean fin whales, the project to “develop and evaluate mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of ship strikes to fin and sperm whales in the Pelagos Sanctuary” and any other relevant projects such as “SICOMAR plus” in the ACCOBAMS Area;
- (c) begin to integrate speed reduction of vessels into port policy strategies, but also when approaching the port and within key areas (e.g. Marine Protected Areas, SPAMIs, Cetacean Critical Habitats, IMMAs, etc.) at times of the year when large whales might be present;
- (d) develop incentive programmes to promote the application of speed and greenhouse gas emission reduction measures by ships / operators within the ACCOBAMS region;
- (e) submit a proposal for Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS) in zones where there is scientific evidence regarding their effectiveness as mitigation measure, such as the Hellenic Trench, as recommended by the IWC Scientific Committee, by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee through Recommendation 10.6 and in Resolution 6.19 adopted by the Parties in 2016;
- (f) support the undertaking of a project within the next triennium identifying areas of potential conflict (Cetacean Critical Habitats) where there are main shipping lanes / maritime traffic cross sensitive / important habitats (IMMAs) for large cetacean species (sperm and fin whales) in the Agreement area, following methods developed by the initiatives referred to under (a);
- (g) consider other IMO measures to mitigate ship strikes through the ACCOBAMS area;

2. *Recommends* to the Parties that they continue to support projects that will improve knowledge of ship strikes and potential mitigation strategies, including telemetry and photo-identification studies;

3. *Strongly encourages* Parties to submit information on ship strikes to the Global Ship Strikes database hosted by the IWC, which has streamlined the data entry process with advice from members of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and others;

4. *Encourages* the Scientific Committee and its relevant Working Group to facilitate reporting to, and feedback from, IWC Global Database;

5. *Asks* the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee to:

- investigate 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;
- continue to monitor high risk areas for ship strikes in the Mediterranean Sea (the Strait of Gibraltar, the Pelagos Sanctuary, the area south west of the island of Crete, the area around the Balearic Islands, the area between Almeria and Nador at the eastern side of the Alborán Sea and the Strait of Sicily);
- suggest and facilitate implementation of the IMO or national mitigation measures (PSSA, TSS, ATBA) in selected areas;

- facilitate the scientific evaluation of the efficacy of tools to prevent and mitigate ship strikes, in the next triennium;
6. *Asks* the Scientific Committee and the Permanent Secretariat to continue to work with the IWC, the European Cetacean Society, ASCOBANS and other relevant Organisations in finalising necropsy protocols to identify causes of death, including those in relation with ship strikes;
 7. *Charges* the Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee to evaluate the feasibility and develop a “whale safe” certificate to be delivered to shipping companies adopting suggested mitigation measures to reduce ship strike risk;
 8. *Recommends* that the collaborative work with the IWC Scientific and Conservation Committees continues, along with collaboration with CMS, IMO, ASCOBANS and other relevant International Organizations;
 9. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolutions 5.11 and 6.19.

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JOINT IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS WORKSHOP TO EVALUATE HOW THE DATA AND PROCESS USED TO IDENTIFY IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREAS (IMMAS) CAN ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING AREAS OF HIGH RISK FOR SHIP STRIKE

(6-7 April 2019: Messinia, Greece)

1- Best practice guidelines for future determination of high-risk ship strike areas for cetaceans

The workshop **agreed** that Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) represent a systematic and biocentric approach to identifying important habitats, and that as such they can be helpful in identifying potential high-risk areas for ship strikes. In particular, if an IMMA contains a species or population that is vulnerable to ship strikes, and it is transited by significant shipping, the area can be “flagged” for further investigation and potential mitigation.

Acknowledging that there is currently no universal technological solution to prevent ship strikes, the group **recommended** that the best overall, current mitigation measures, are to voyage plan to avoid high risk areas or, if they cannot be avoided, restrict speed to 10 knots, which has been shown to be an effective speed to reduce fatal collisions with most large whales (Vanderlan and Taggart, 2007; Conn and Silber, 2013; Laist *et al.*, 2014).

The workshop **recommended** the following steps are undertaken by the IWC Ship Strikes Working Group and the IWC Scientific Committee as part of a process to identify High Risk Areas for Ship Strikes based on IMMAs:

Traffic information (e.g. Types of vessel, size, speed, flag, etc.): plotting major ship routes and see if they cross IMMAs which host significant or high-density populations of species that are threatened and/or vulnerable to ship strikes.

- Recommend analysing spatial patterns of traffic levels in IMMAs to examine the potential for management of vessel traffic within an IMMA.
- Recommend working with relevant agencies (e.g. National Coast Guard offices) that hold this information, for access to shipping data including vessels that are not equipped with AIS.
- Recommend analyses to estimate the proportion of vessel traffic that is not equipped by AIS (e.g. using remote sensing data).

Species information (e.g. Relative abundance, status, Animal Behaviour/seasonality/key lifecycle use in and within IMMAs)

- Recommend presenting risk analysis in a way that allows comparisons between areas (e.g. Redfern *et al.* 2013; Bezamat *et al.* 2014; Priyadarshana *et al.* 2016; Rockwood *et al.* 2017).
- Recommend when an IMMA is “flagged” that modelling of data within IMMA is conducted for a more refined estimate of risk (e.g. correct for effort at a minimum, etc.).
- Recommend possible use of tracking and/or behavioural profiling data to further refine risk assessment in the IMMA.

If this cannot be done, the group recommends a review of documented behaviours, preferably within the IMMA (e.g. surface feed or deep, social, travel, etc.).

Where dive profile data exist, these should be used in an approach similar to (Silber *et al.* 2010) to estimate the proportion of time at depths of high risk for types of vessel operating in the area.

Investigate stranding data near “flagged” IMMA including drift modelling to estimate locations of strikes.

Investigate availability of distribution data of at-risk species within and around the IMMA, if shipping may be re-routed into other areas. Also, investigate other unintentional consequences of the move (e.g. other species, safety, human activities, etc.)

Management and Mitigation

Where a High-Risk Area has been identified as requiring management action, the workshop **recommended** the following steps in developing a mitigation strategy:

- Recommend identifying and engaging with shipping “nodes” (e.g. big company “command centers”, port meetings, etc.).
- Recommend a collaborative approach with stakeholders, prior to going to the IMO (if warranted).
- Recommend maintaining a feedback loop with shipping will help encourage and sustain success.

2- Recommendations to the IWC in relation to its ongoing scientific work on the topic, and the implementation of its Ship Strikes Strategic Plan.

The workshop **recommended** that, subject to funding, the IWC, working with the IUCN MMPA Task Force and the CMS and its daughter agreements, undertake an initial analysis of global IMMAs, overlaid with shipping data, to identify potential high risk areas, taking into consideration the outputs of the workshop (Ships Strikes Working Group; IWC Scientific Committee; IUCN MMPATF; ACCOBAMS; CMS). The group recommends that the IWC Secretariat develop a costed proposal and seek funds to accomplish this (IWC Secretariat)

The workshop **recommended** that the IWC Ship Strikes Working Group develop case studies to demonstrate the benefits, anticipated and actual costs of measures introduced to reduce ship strikes. The workshop **recommended** that the IWC Secretariat consider whether an intern could be recruited to support the development of these case studies.

3- Opportunities for engagement with other Organisations

The workshop **suggested** that Simone PANIGADA become the liaison between the IWC Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee, ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, the CMS and the IUCN MMPA Task Force.

4- Other future work needed

The workshop **agreed** that IMMAs could potentially be used to identify high risk areas for other threats, including combined threats, e.g. bycatch and noise. The workshop noted that some measures may help address multiple threats (e.g. keeping vessels and whales apart and/or reduced vessel speed may reduce ship strikes and noise impacts). The workshop requested the IWC Scientific Committee consider this issue.

The workshop **recommended** that the IWC Scientific Committee and the IUCN MMPA Task Force review the potential uses of the IWC databases (e.g. historical catch, sightings, strandings etc) in helping to identify Areas of Interest (AOI) for future surveys, and for the verification of the longevity of IMMAs.

Reinforcing the IWC67b Scientific Committee recommendation which “recommends continued work to develop and evaluate mitigation measures, such as speed restrictions, that might be associated with the designation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the Pelagos Sanctuary area”, the workshop **recommended** to the **ACCOBAMS Secretariat and ACCOBAMS Parties** to further develop the process for the designation of a PSSA by IMO at a scale that includes the North West Mediterranean Sea, Slope and Canyon IMMA, plus potentially the Spanish corridor, to take into account whale population movement and distribution. Zoning within the area with ship strike mitigation tools such as speed reduction and routing measures could be proposed as part of Associated Protective Measures within the PSSA. The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat welcomes this recommendation.

The workshop **recommended** that the Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy work with other Greek Ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Energy) and relevant stakeholders including the shipping industry, the European Commission and other countries, NGOs, IGOs and scientists to put in place risk reduction measures in the Hellenic Trench and submit a formal proposal by 2020 to the IMO for approval. In order to facilitate this process, a short document providing specific risk reduction options could be prepared by relevant experts to provide the necessary information.

RESOLUTION 7.13**ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Resolutions 4.17 on “Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area”, 5.15 on “Addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise” and 6.17 on “Anthropogenic noise”,

Taking into consideration Recommendation 12.4 “Anthropogenic Noise” of the 12th ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting,

Recognizing that a large portion of the Mediterranean area is impacted by noise-producing human activities and that it is likely that such activities will increase,

Recognizing also that cetaceans and other marine mammals, reptiles and fish species, and their prey, are vulnerable to noise disturbance and subject to a range of human impacts,

Convinced that environmental impact assessment procedures should be carried out prior to projects that may affect cetaceans and especially those involving impulsive noise,

Recalling IMO Guidelines (MEPC.1/Circ.833) for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life and taking note of the need for a full implementation of the guidelines by governments and the shipping industry,

Welcoming Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment,

Noting that the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union (MSFD) and its implementing act, requires that Member States in European Union marine waters take necessary measures by 2020 to achieve or maintain the good environmental status, which is established by each of them and in coordination at the European Union, regional and sub-regional levels, and which include underwater noise among the descriptors of such environmental status (Descriptor 11),

Also welcoming the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) of the Barcelona Convention, which includes candidate common indicators for underwater noise (Ecological Objective 11), with the intention for these candidate common indicators to be tested on an indicative basis as appropriate, prior to incorporating them into IMAP upon completion of its initial phase, *Further welcoming* the work undertaken by ACCOBAMS during the triennium 2017-2019 regarding the management of noise-producing activities, more particularly:

- the QuietMed project, which aimed to improve the level of coherence and the comparability as regards Descriptor 11 (underwater noise) by enhancing cooperation among Mediterranean Sea Basin countries within the implementation of the second cycle of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- the QuietMed2 project which aims to support the assessment of the extent to which Good Environmental Status has been achieved in the Mediterranean Region regarding underwater noise to get updated, improved and more complete regional assessments;
- the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/CMS/ECS workshop entitled “Best Practice Workshop: Fostering inter-regional cooperation in underwater noise monitoring and impact assessment in waters around Europe, within the context of the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive”, which was held on 29th April 2017 in Middelfart, Denmark;
- the finalization of the ACCOBAMS MMO/PAM Courses for the standard MMO/PAMs training of all accredited “trainer” Organizations, the accreditation of the three first “ACCOBAMS Highly Qualified MMOs/PAM operator” trainer Organizations and the implementation of the first ACCOBAMS training for High Quality MMO/PAM Operator in Constanta, Romania, on 12-16 September 2018;
- the ACCOBAMS workshop on “sonars and cetaceans’ interactions” which aimed to improve dialogue and cooperation of national navies with ACCOBAMS, especially regarding military activities of navies (8 – 9 October 2019, Toulon, France);

Taking into consideration recommendations from the Second Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee (Monaco, 5-6 March 2018) regarding underwater noise issue,

Conscious of the related work by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and *recalling* its related decisions, in particular Resolution 12.14 on Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species with the attached CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities,

Taking note of the IWC Resolution 2018-4 on Anthropogenic underwater noise,

Considering the recommendations developed during the workshop hosted by OceanCare and NRDC, in collaboration and with the support of the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, on 22-23 November 2017 in Split, Croatia, for mitigating the impact of underwater noise on marine biodiversity in the South Eastern European waters of the Mediterranean Sea,

Recalling Article 236 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states: “The provisions of this Convention regarding the protection and preservation of the marine environment do not apply to any warship, naval auxiliary, other vessels or aircraft owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. However, each State shall ensure, by the adoption of appropriate measures not impairing operations or operational capabilities of such vessels or aircraft owned or operated by it, that such vessels or aircraft act in a manner consistent, so far as is reasonable and practicable, with the said Convention,”

1. *Reaffirms* that there is a need for ongoing and further internationally coordinated efforts, including research, addressing the impact of underwater noise in order to provide adequate protection to cetaceans;

2. *Invites* Parties and non-Parties to implement CMS Resolution 12.14 on Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species with the attached CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities;
3. *Invites* the ACCOBAMS Parties to take into consideration the revised Methodological Guide: "Guidance on underwater noise mitigation measures" (MOP7/2019/Doc31) in their future work in the ACCOBAMS Area;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to implement the Action Plan resulting from the ACCOBAMS Workshop on "Sonars and Cetacean Interactions" ([Annex 1](#)) and to report on this issue during the Eighth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties;
5. *Requests* Parties and non-Parties to ACCOBAMS to provide the Secretariat with a Point of Contact in their Navy in order to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan from the ACCOBAMS workshop on "Sonars and Cetacean Interactions";
6. *Adopts* the revised detailed Guidelines to address the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area that are presented in [Annex 2](#) to the present Resolution, and which include recommendations for both impulsive and continuous noise;
7. *Mandates* the Secretariat to disseminate the guidelines annexed to this Resolution to the Parties and to operators who are likely to produce underwater noise (e.g., seismic exploration industry, offshore windfarms);
8. *Encourages* Parties and operators to take these guidelines as a reference in conducting noise-producing activities;
9. *Strongly encourages* Parties and other authorities to undertake as soon as possible mitigation actions, such as ship speed reduction in some specific sensitive areas, as described in the revised detailed Guidelines to address the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area;
10. *Welcomes* the establishment of the ACCOBAMS regional register for impulsive noise sources in the ACCOBAMS area and *agrees* to support its management;
11. *Strongly encourages* Parties to contribute to the ACCOBAMS regional register for impulsive noise sources, especially by sharing their data, and *calls* the Parties for the development of a co-operation mechanism to identify the source of long-distance underwater noise in order to address its long-distance effects;
12. *Strongly encourages* Parties to collect more data and develop capacity building programs about noise;
13. *Stresses* the importance of:
 - developing noise hotspot maps in the Black Sea during the 2020-2022 triennium;
 - further developing with the Joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on Noise (JNWG) the concept of "quiet zones" as outlined in Recommendation 10.5 of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee with a focus on a quantitative elaboration and evaluation of the scientific evidence for establishing such areas both in space and time;

14. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat:

- to inform Parties about the deliverables of the QuietMed and QuietMed2 projects on guidance for underwater noise monitoring and assessment, and to encourage Parties to make relevant stakeholders of the private sector become aware of these developments;
- to disseminate the results obtained from the establishment of an international register for impulsive noise sources in the ACCOBAMS area to Parties and relevant regional organisations, such as the RSC in the Agreement area;
- to support the implementation of monitoring programmes of underwater noise;
- to continue developing cooperation on noise issue, including capacity building, with other relevant international Organizations such as the CMS Family, the European Union, OSPAR, ICES, the Barcelona Convention, the Black Sea Commission, CBD, IWC, NATO, IMO, IUCN;

15. *Reiterates* the importance for Parties to grant, in priority, permits for industrial activities in their national area to industrial companies employing ACCOBAMS Highly Qualified MMOs/PAM operators;

16. *Encourages* Parties:

- to fully address the issue of anthropogenic noise in the marine environment, including cumulative effects, in the light of the best scientific information available and taking into consideration the applicable legislation of the Parties, particularly as regards the need for environmental impact assessments being undertaken before granting approval to proposed noise-producing activities;
- to integrate the issue of anthropogenic noise in management plans for marine protected areas;
- to avoid or minimize producing noise in marine protected areas, as well as in particular in areas containing critical habitat of cetaceans likely to be affected by man-made noise;

17. *Strongly urges* Parties to fully apply the precautionary approach and to envisage the appropriate mitigation measures, including a provision for expert review by specialists and a provision for the action to be taken if unusual events, such as atypical mass strandings, occur;

18. *Recommends* to the Permanent Secretariat and to the Scientific Committee to develop a project that overlays continuous noise mapping (including main shipping lanes and areas close to ports) and cetacean density mapping, to identify priority areas for mitigation, including consideration of the concept of 'quiet zones'. This effort should also include ongoing initiatives on impulsive noise (e.g. areas targeted by seismic surveys or military exercises);

19. *Encourages* the Permanent Secretariat and any stakeholder active in the ACCOBAMS region to promote the "Tools ensuring Highly Qualified MMOs/PAM operators in the ACCOBAMS Area" to the private sector;

20. *Recommends* the Permanent Secretariat:

- to promote the undertaking of a project aimed at building a central repository (such as NETCCOBAMS), at the regional scale, as a tool to have an overview of monitoring programs using PAM techniques in marine protected areas and other area designated as important for cetaceans. The objective of this repository would be to monitor the number of PAM-based programs, the location and periods of execution, the objectives of the programs and target species and/or other environmental elements;

- to organise an expert workshop to examine the available PAM techniques and how they can be incorporated most effectively in the ACCOBAMS context with a view of fostering the implementation of PAM-based monitoring programs as a mean of contributing to conservation;

21. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces the Resolution 4.17.

ANNEX 1

ACTION PLAN resulting from the ACCOBAMS Workshop on sonars and cetacean interactions

N°	Action	Pilot
Organisation		
1	Request the TG-Noise/MSCG ³⁷ chairs to share information on EU parties point of contact (POC)	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
2	Request MEDPOL Focal Points to share information on POC for non-EU Contracting Parties	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
3	Encourage Parties (Focal Points) to assign a POC in national navies by MOP7 using Resolution 6.17	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
4	Allow the ACCOBAMS secretariat to get in direct contact with navies' POC for the purpose of implementing the action plan	- Parties
5	Allow the Secretariat to get into contact with NATO (working group)	- Parties
6	Request the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, with the engagement of the Scientific Committee, to organize information/training/formation session of appropriate bodies in navies (planners and CO), also recalling final report of MOP6	Parties
Information Sharing		
7	Provide ACCOBAMS with clarification of the distinction between exercises and operations, for purposes of informing how impacts from naval sonar activities can be mitigated (consider more the activity rather than the area)	French Navy
8	Map/identify sonar exercise areas, including where major NATO exercises are carried out	ACCOBAMS Secretariat in coordination with navies
9	Produce an overview of sonar types	ACCOBAMS Secretariat in coordination with navies
10	Consider listing and prioritizing areas for avoiding or limiting active sonar use	ACCOBAMS SC
11	Provide navies with available practical information on cetacean distribution (map) and seasonality, in a way that is understandable by navy planners and crews	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
12	Improve knowledge on cetacean distribution and seasonality, particularly on beaked Whales and unsurveyed areas, and provide updated information to navy planners and crews	ACCOBAMS SC
13	Provide feedback to ACCOBAMS SC and Secretariat on how information on cetacean distribution and seasonality has been used in planning and mitigation of active sonar activities	Navies
14	Ask the appropriate scientific organisations in countries to establish cooperation (e.g., data collection) with ACCOBAMS SC	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
15	Collect data from appropriate bodies (e.g. CMRE ³⁸) on cetacean distribution	ACCOBAMS SC

³⁷ Marine Strategy Coordination Group³⁸ Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation

16	Analyse data gaps pertaining to marine mammal conservation and request the ACCOBAMS SC to fill these gaps; priority should be given to areas planned for exercises	ACCOBAMS SC
17	Hold follow-up workshop(s), inclusive of additional navies and NATO, to aid in implementing the elements of this action plan	ACCOBAMS Secretariat, in coordination with navies
Protocols/Procedures		
18	Prioritize areas of high risk to beaked whales for spatial avoidance (following Bernaldo de Quiros et al. 2019)	ACCOBAMS Secretariat and SC, in coordination with Navies
19	Ask the navies to provide standing protocols they use, then synthesize and propose a global protocol	ACCOBAMS Secretariat with ACCOBAMS SC
20	Propose a pilot project to perform scientific surveys of the exercise areas before and after the exercise	ACCOBAMS SC
21	Propose sending gliders (with hydrophones) to monitor a proposed exercise area ahead of exercises in suitable beaked whale habitat to avoid beaked whales	Navies
22	Support permanent monitoring of areas used recurrently	Parties
23	Investigate how to transpose to sonar the best practices used by Germany's Sound Protection Concept (StUk3) for pile driving	ACCOBAMS SC
24	Ask the relevant bodies to provide guidelines they have already published (e.g. TG Noise)	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
25	Encourage national navies to make use of relevant guidelines (ACCOBAMS/CMS)	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
26	Explore the possibility of replacing the notion of "moratorium area" with that of "sensitive zone"	ACCOBAMS SC
27	Use information on cetacean distribution and seasonality provided by ACCOBAMS in planning and mitigating active sonar activities, and provide feedback to ACCOBAMS on actions taken to reduce impact of sonar on cetaceans	Navies
28	Give available information relating to use of sonar before, during and after exercises	Navies
29	Include risk assessment for marine mammals in the planning of major exercises or of regular sonar activity in an exercise area	Navies

ANNEX 2

GUIDELINES TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE ON CETACEANS IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA

(Revisions highlighted in bold)

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Procedures should be practical in that they should use data that can be readily collected by cetacean observers, account for operating conditions and constraints, and, as far as possible, minimize disruption of operations while maximizing environmental protection.

Besides procedures for specific activities, the following guidelines and concepts should be taken into account for any activity:

- a) Consult databases of cetacean spatial and seasonal distribution and habitat databases so that activities can be planned and conducted to avoid critical habitats and when and where animals are unlikely to be encountered.
- b) Collect information and, if required, organize surveys (shipboard and/or aerial) or monitoring with fixed detectors (buoys, bottom recorders, etc.) to assess the population density in the areas chosen for operation.
- c) Avoid cetaceans' key habitats and marine protected areas, define appropriate buffer zones around them; consider the possible impact of long-range propagation.
- d) Closed areas should be avoided and surrounded by appropriate buffer zones.
- e) Consider cumulative impacts not just of noise but of all anthropogenic threats over time; consider effects modelling; include consideration of seasonal and historical impacts from other activities (shipping, military, industrial, other seismic) in the specific survey area and nearby region. For these purposes, databases/GIS that track the history of sonar/seismic and other industrial activities and anthropogenic threats **should be consulted: the best tool currently available meeting this need is the International Noise Register developed by ACCOBAMS which is aimed at centralising data on positions and periods of occurrence of human activities producing impulsive noise.**
- f) Model the generated sound field in relation with oceanographic features (depth/temperature profile, sound channels, water depth, seafloor characteristics) to assess the area possibly affected by relevant impacts.
- g) Determine safe / harmful exposure levels for various species, age classes, contexts, etc. This must be precautionary enough to handle large levels of uncertainty. When making extrapolations from other species, measures of uncertainty should quantify the chances of coming up with a wrong, and dangerous conclusion.
- h) There should be a scientific and precautionary basis for the exclusion zone (EZ) rather than an arbitrary and/or static designation; exclusion zones should be dynamically modelled based on the characteristic of the source (power and directionality), on the expected species, and on the local propagation features (cylindrical vs spherical spreading, depth and type of sea bottom, local propagation paths related to thermal stratification). These EZ should be verified in the field.
- i) In the case of multiple EZ choices, the safest, most precautionary option should be adopted.
- j) Consider establishment of an expanded exclusion zone aimed at reducing behavioural disruption. This should be based on received levels much lower than those supposed to produce physiological and physical damage. Whenever possible, consider an expanded exclusion zone where exposure could be limited by reducing the emitted power (power-down) whilst maintaining acceptable operative capabilities.

- k) Cetacean mitigation guidelines should be adopted and publicized by all operators, whether military, industrial or academic.
 - l) A system of automated logging of acoustic source use should be developed to document the amount of acoustic energy produced, and this information should be available to noise regulators and to the public.
 - m) Mitigation should include monitoring and reporting protocols to provide information on the implemented procedures, on their effectiveness, and to provide datasets to be used for improving existing cetacean databases.
 - n) During operations, existing stranding networks in the area should be alerted; if required, additional monitoring of the closest coasts and for deaths at sea should be organized.
 - o) If required, organize post cruise survey to verify if changes in the population density or anomalous deaths occurred as a possible consequence of operations (this requires a knowledge of the area before any operation has occurred – see points a & b).
 - p) In the case of strandings possibly related with the operations, any acoustic emission should be stopped, and maximum effort devoted to understanding the causes of the deaths.
 - q) In the case of abnormal behaviours observed in animals close to the operations, any acoustic emission should be stopped, and maximum effort addressed at monitoring those animals.
 - r) Trained and approved Cetaceans Observers (visual observers and/or acoustic operators where appropriate) should be employed for the monitoring and reporting program including overseeing implemented mitigation rules.
 - s) Cetacean observers and bio-acousticians in charge of the monitoring program must be qualified, dedicated and experienced, with suitable equipment. **To this end, ACCOBAMS has developed a certification system for Highly Qualified MMO and PAM operators. The goal of this certification is to guarantee, throughout the Agreement area, a high-quality standardized training of MMOs and PAM operators thanks to:**
 - a. The high-quality training of MMOs and PAM operators,
 - b. The standardization of training content,
 - c. The standardization and quality of the data collected,
- More information on this certification system is available by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.**
- t) Marine mammal observers should report to the National Focal Point **and** the ACCOBAMS Secretariat using a standardized reporting protocol. **This reporting protocol has been developed in the framework of the certification system for Highly Qualified MMO and PAM operators.** Any unexpected condition and/or change in applied protocols should be discussed with the Secretariat in collaboration with the Scientific Committee.
 - u) Accurate reporting is required to verify the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** hypotheses and the effectiveness of mitigation.
 - v) Procedures and protocols should be based on a conservative approach that reflects levels of uncertainty. They should include mechanisms that create an incentive for good practice.
 - w) Take a precautionary approach every time uncertainties emerge; in the case of unexpected events or uncertainties refer to the National Focal Point.
 - x) **Detailed data on the execution of the activities emitting impulsive noise should be reported to the International Noise Register developed by ACCOBAMS, especially the following: geographical position, start and end dates, source description, source level, frequency band.**
 - y) **Procedures for reporting impulsive noise data to the International Noise Register developed by ACCOBAMS should follow national instructions related to Descriptor 11 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union, or Ecological Objective 11 of the Ecosystem-Approach being implemented by the Barcelona Convention.**

B. GUIDELINES FOR (MILITARY SONAR AND CIVIL) HIGH POWER SONAR

For sonar operations the following guidelines and key concepts should apply in addition to the general guidelines. **Guidelines concerning MMOs and PAM operators refer, as far as possible, to the high-quality standards defined in the certification system for Highly Qualified MMO and PAM operators developed by ACCOBAMS. Reporting of sonar activities to the International Noise Register should follow national instructions related to Descriptor 11 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union or to the corresponding Ecological Objective 11 of the Ecosystem-Approach process being implemented by the Barcelona Convention.**

- a) Sonar surveys should be planned so as to avoid key cetacean habitat and areas of cetacean density, so that entire habitats or migration paths are not blocked, so that cumulative sonar sound is limited within any particular area, and so that multiple vessels operating in the same or nearby areas at the same time are prohibited.
- b) Use of the lowest practicable source power.
- c) Adapt the sequencing of sonar lines to account for any predictable movements of animals across the survey area and avoid blocking escape routes.
- d) Continuous visual and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) with a specialized team of cetaceans observers and bio-acousticians to ensure that cetaceans are not in the “exclusion zone” before turning on the acoustic sources and while sources are active.
- e) Equipment for visual monitoring should include suitable binoculars, including big eyes, to be used according to the monitoring protocol.
- f) High power sources should be restricted at night, during other periods of low visibility, and during significant surface-ducting conditions, since current mitigation techniques may be inadequate to detect and localize cetaceans. Because of the impact of adverse weather conditions on the visual detection of mammals, emission during unfavourable conditions should be restricted as well.
- g) Passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) (towed array technology or other suitable technologies with enough bandwidth to be sensitive to the whole frequency range of cetaceans expected in the area) should be used to improve detection capabilities. PAM should be mandatory for night operations or when visibility is poor. However, PAM may be inadequate mitigation for night operations if cetaceans in the area are not vocal or easily heard.
- h) At least two dedicated Cetacean Observers should be on watch at every time on every operative ship; organize shifts to allow enough rotation and resting periods to MMOs. In case of acoustic monitoring, at least one operator should be on watch and shifts should be organized to allow 24/24h operation, unless automatic detection/alerting systems with proven effectiveness are available.
- i) Before beginning any emission there should be a dedicated watch of at least 30 minutes to ensure no animals are within the EZ.
- j) Extra mitigation measures should be applied in deep water areas if beaked whales have been seen diving on the vessel trackline or if habitats suitable for beaked whales are approached: in such cases, the watch should be prolonged to 120 minutes to increase the probability that deep-diving species are detected (e.g. Cuvier’s beaked whales). Ideally, however, sonar exercises should not be done in areas that beaked whales are known to inhabit.
- k) Every time sources are turned on, there should be a slow increase of acoustic power (ramp-up or soft start) to allow cetaceans sufficient opportunity to leave the ensonified area in the event that visual and passive searches are unsuccessful. Ramp-up should be at least 30 minutes (the effectiveness of this procedure is still debatable).
- l) The beginning of emissions should be delayed if cetacean species are observed within the exclusion zone (EZ) or approaching it. Ramp-up may not begin until 30 minutes after the animals are seen to leave the EZ or 30 minutes after they are last seen (120 minutes in case of beaked whales).

- m) Avoid exposing animals to harmful acoustic levels by preventing them from entering into the EZ, by changing the ship course, if applicable, or by reducing (power-down) or ceasing (shut-down) the acoustic emissions.
- n) Shut-down of source(s) whenever a cetacean is seen to enter the EZ and whenever aggregations of vulnerable species (such as beaked whales and sperm whales) are detected anywhere within the monitoring area.

C. GUIDELINES FOR SEISMIC SURVEYS AND AIRGUN USES

Guidelines for mitigating the effects of seismic surveys have been **first** experimented in the context of academic seismic surveys conducted under NMFS permits. **Since then the diffusion of such guidelines and their adoption during commercial hydrocarbon exploration has not ceased to increase.** Most of the following guidelines are equivalent to those required for sonar operations and should apply in addition to general guidelines. **Guidelines concerning MMOs and PAM operators always refers to the high-quality standards defined in the certification system for Highly Qualified MMO and PAM operators developed by ACCOBAMS. Reporting of seismic surveys and airgun uses to the International Noise Register should follow national instructions related to Descriptor 11 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union or to the corresponding Ecological Objective 11 of the Ecosystem-Approach process being implemented by the Barcelona Convention.**

- a) Seismic surveys should be planned so as to avoid key cetacean habitat and areas of cetacean density, so that entire habitats or migration paths are not blocked, so that cumulative seismic noise is limited within any particular area, and so that multiple vessels operating in the same or nearby areas at the same time are specifically regulated or prohibited.
- b) Use of the lowest practicable source power.
- c) Limit horizontal propagation by adopting suitable array configurations and pulse synchronization and eliminating unnecessary high frequencies.
- d) Adapt the sequencing of seismic lines to account for any predictable movements of animals across the survey area and avoid blocking escape routes.
- e) Modelling of the generated sound field in relation with oceanographic features (depth/temperature profile, water depth, seafloor characteristics) to dynamically set the Exclusion Zone. Confirm models by EZ tests in the field.
- f) Mitigation procedures should be practical in that they should use data that can be readily collected by cetacean observers during offshore operations, account for operating conditions and constraints of seismic surveys and, as far as possible, minimize disruption of surveys while maximizing environmental protection.
- g) Continuous visual and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) with a specialized team of cetacean observers and bio-acousticians to ensure that cetaceans are not in the Exclusion Zone before turning on the acoustic sources and while sources are active.
- h) Equipment for visual monitoring should include suitable binoculars and big eyes to be used according to the monitoring protocol.
- i) Ideally, high power airgun configurations should be prohibited at night, during other periods of low visibility, and during significant surface-ducting conditions, since current mitigation techniques may be inadequate to detect and localize cetaceans. Because of the impact of adverse weather conditions on the visual detection of mammals, emissions during unfavourable conditions should be restricted as well.
- j) Passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) (towed array technology or other suitable technologies with enough bandwidth to be sensitive to the whole frequency range of cetaceans expected in the area) should be used to improve

detection capabilities. PAM should be mandatory for night operations or when visibility is scarce. However, PAM may be inadequate mitigation for night operations if cetaceans in the area are not vocal or easily heard.

- k) At least two dedicated Cetacean Observers should be on watch at one time on every operative ship; shifts should be organized to allow enough rotation and resting periods to MMOs. In the case of acoustic monitoring, at least one operator should be on watch and shifts should be organized to allow 24/24h operation., unless automatic detection/alerting systems with proven effectiveness are available.
- l) Before beginning any emission there should be a dedicated watch of at least 30 minutes to ensure no animals are within the EZ.
- m) Extra mitigation measures should be applied in deep water areas if beaked whales have been seen diving on the vessel trackline or if habitats suitable for beaked whales are approached: in such a cases the watch should be at least 120 minutes to increase the probability that deep-diving species are detected (e.g. Cuvier's beaked whales).
- n) Every time sources are turned on, there should be a slow increase of acoustic power (ramp-up or soft start) to allow cetaceans sufficient opportunity to leave the ensonified area in the event that visual and passive searches are unsuccessful (the effectiveness of this procedure is still debatable).
- o) The beginning of emissions should be delayed if cetacean species are observed within the exclusion zone (EZ) or approaching it. Ramp-up may not begin until 30 minutes after the animals are seen to leave the EZ or 30 minutes after they are last seen (120 minutes in case of beaked whales).
- p) Exposing animals to harmful acoustic levels should be avoided by preventing them from entering the EZ, by changing the ship course, if applicable, or by reducing (power-down) or ceasing (shut-down) the acoustic emissions.
- q) There should be a shut-down of source(s) whenever a cetacean is seen to enter the EZ and whenever aggregations of vulnerable species (such as beaked whales) are detected anywhere within the monitoring area.
- r) If more than one seismic survey vessel is operating in the same area, they should maintain a minimum separation distance to allow escape routes between sound fields.
- s) Data sharing among surveyors should be encouraged to minimize duplicate surveying. Also, if old seismic data can be usefully re-analyzed using new signal processing or analysis techniques, this should be encouraged.

D. GUIDELINES FOR COASTAL AND OFFSHORE CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Coastal and offshore construction works, which may include demolition of existent structures, may produce high noise levels, even for prolonged periods, depending on the technologies used and on local propagation features that include propagation through the substrate.

Construction works on the coast or on the shoreline, including harbours, may propagate noise (e.g. from pile drivers and jack hammers) over wide areas in particular where the substrate is rocky. Traditional percussive pile-driving produces vibrations that propagate far and can ensonify large marine areas at distances of more than 100km; in such conditions alternative technologies should be used. **Updated information on the available mitigation technologies is maintained by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.**

In the case of prolonged activities, such as construction works of large structures, a scheduling of the most noisy activities could be evaluated as a measure to avoid continuous exposures especially during critical periods for cetaceans living or transiting in the area; the concentration of noisy operations in short periods of time and alternative construction technologies should be also evaluated to minimize noise impacts.

Guidelines concerning MMOs and PAM operators always refers to the high-quality standards defined in the certification system for Highly Qualified MMO and PAM operators developed by ACCOBAMS. Reporting of coastal and offshore construction works to the International Noise Register should follow national instructions related to Descriptor 11 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union or to the corresponding Ecological Objective 11 of the Ecosystem-Approach process being implemented by the Barcelona Convention.

- a) Modelling of the generated sound field in relation to geological and oceanographic features (depth/temperature profile, water depth, coastal and seafloor characteristics) should occur, in addition to verification in the field; the area where animals could receive harmful noise levels (Exclusion Zone) should be defined.
- b) Noise producing activities should be scheduled according to the presence of cetaceans, if seasonal.
- c) Alternative technologies should be used or countermeasures to reduce noise diffusion, i.e. bubble curtains should be adopted.
- d) Noise monitoring stations at given distances from the source area should be set up to monitor for both local and long-range noise levels and verify if predicted levels are reached or not.
- e) Visual observation points/platforms to monitor for the presence and behaviour of cetaceans should be set up.
- f) Before beginning any noise producing action there should be a dedicated watch of at least 30 minutes to ensure no animals are within the EZ.
- g) In areas where water depths in the EZ exceed 200m the watch should be at least 120 minutes to increase the probability that deep-diving species are detected.

It is also important to consider the noise that will be generated by the structures once they are operative. Bridges propagate vibrations related to the traffic; offshore windfarms and oil extraction platforms produce their own noise and thus their environmental impact should be carefully evaluated and mitigated with dedicated rules.

E. GUIDELINES FOR OFFSHORE PLATFORMS

Offshore platforms may be used for a variety of different activities, such as seafloor drilling, oil/gas extraction, electricity production (windfarms), each one with its own particular impacts on the marine environment. Their placement should be carefully regulated; if their impacts include noise, they should be required to undergo a specific implementation of monitoring and mitigation procedures to be defined on a case by case basis and separately for the construction phase and for the operative life. The growing number of windfarms in coastal areas may have an impact on cetaceans, in particular because of the noise they make. They should be designed and operated to produce the lowest possible noise in all activity phases.

F. GUIDELINES FOR PLAYBACK & SOUND EXPOSURE EXPERIMENTS

Playback and Controlled Exposure Experiments (CEEs) are experiments in which animals in the wild are exposed to controlled doses of sound for the purposes of assessing their behavioural or physiological responses. CEEs are one of several methods that have historically been and are increasingly being applied to the study of cetacean behavioural responses to sound. These approaches can complement opportunistic observations or the tagging of animals around noise-producing activities. CEEs (which include some recent experiments under the generic heading of Behavioural Response Studies (BRS)), are designed to introduce small amounts of additional sound into the ocean in order to scientifically determine responses and assess the potential risk from human activities. However, playbacks may carry

some risks themselves to target individuals and potentially expose not only the target species and/or individuals to be studied, but also additional ones. These considerations need to be carefully addressed through precautionary protocols in the execution of CEEs and the possible risks should be balanced against the potential for these studies to provide answers to management and/or scientific questions on a case by case basis.

Given that some CEEs can be controversial, and because of the known underlying concerns, it is particularly important that they are carefully designed and carefully conducted and their limitations and risks acknowledged. In order to achieve optimal scientific and conservation value, those involved in conducting, funding and managing large-scale CEE experiments should strive for international cooperation, coordination and very transparent information exchange and where possible joint programmes of work. Avoidance of duplicative or overlapping research will also help to prevent any unnecessary introduction of noise into the marine environment.

Controlled Exposure Experiments typically strive to use, without exceeding harmful levels, sound exposures that are as realistic as possible (relative to known human sound sources), but with the capability of close control over the type and nature of exposures. Many CEEs are designed to minimize the exposure required to elicit a detectable response. Opportunistic studies, on the other hand, involve actual sound sources and, thus, more realistic exposures, though the lack of experimental control in some circumstances can limit the power of resulting observations.

Both kinds of studies must include (or be preceded) by baseline studies of behaviour and physiology so that the results of the experiments are meaningful and can be properly interpreted. . To increase the utility of the results to regulatory decision-making, researchers conducting CEEs should openly communicate the design, procedures, and results of such studies to policymakers.

As with all biological research, methods that can yield conclusive results with less risk of harm to the animals should be preferred. Systematic observations using ongoing sound-producing activities should be used in place of CEEs if they can provide similar information with similar power to detect effects. It is noted, however, that the lack of experimental control over sources in opportunistic contexts, as well as the safety and/or national security considerations inherent in some situations can significantly limit their value in many real-world applications. Systematic studies of ongoing sound-producing activities can validate and strengthen monitoring efforts required as mitigation and have the benefit that such studies do not introduce additional sound directed at the mammals. The advantages of both observational and experimental studies are increased as more attention is given to optimizing measurement methods and study designs with the greatest power to detect real effects and provide convincing results. In practice, research investigating the impacts of large sound sources could be most successful when using a suite of approaches including observations of both controlled and uncontrolled sound exposures. Therefore, controlled experiments and opportunistic observations are usually best seen not as alternatives, but rather as complementary approaches that yield the most powerful results when both are conducted.

Sound exposure experiments require an explicit protocol to manage possible interactions among the sound source(s) and the target(s); in general, while designing and conducting such experiments, these guidelines should be taken into consideration:

- a)** use sound exposures that are as realistic as possible (while minimizing exposure required to detect responses) and with the same or similar characteristics of sound that the mammals are likely to be exposed to.
- b)** model sound propagation from the source to the targets based on local oceanographic features and background noise information.

- c) use available technologies to monitor both target and non-target animals; monitor other individuals and species – which may require different methods but may provide additional information.
- d) design experiments so that monitored animals are those exposed to highest levels.
- e) halt sound emission if adverse response or behavioural changes are observed on either target or non-target animals.
- f) limit repeated exposures on the same target(s) unless required by the research protocol.
- g) avoid enclosed areas, avoid blocking escape routes.
- h) avoid “chasing” animals during playbacks; if they move away -- don’t modify the course to follow them with the playback source.
- i) exposures that are expected to elicit particular behavioural responses (e.g., responses elicited by predator sounds, conspecific signals) may be particularly useful control stimuli in CEEs; however, such exposures should be used only as necessary as part of a careful experimental paradigm that includes specific mitigation and monitoring protocols. In such cases, it is important to consider that the response may not be related to the loudness of the exposure but to the behavioural significance of the signal used.

G. GUIDELINES FOR SHIPPING

The international community recognizes that underwater-radiated noise from commercial ships may have both short and long-term negative consequences on marine life, especially marine mammals. Guidelines for shipping, developed by IMO/ASCOBANS working group in 2014 and available online (*Guidelines for the Reduction of Underwater Noise from Commercial Shipping to Address Adverse Impacts on Marine Life*, IMO/ASCOBANS 2014 Circ.833), consider common technologies and measures that may be relevant for most sectors of the commercial shipping industry and can be applied to any commercial ship. A successful strategy to reduce radiated noise should consider interactions and contributions from measures provided to achieve other objectives such as reduction of onboard noise and improvements in energy efficiency. These Guidelines do not address the introduction of noise from naval and war ships and the deliberate introduction of noise for other purposes such as sonar or seismic activities.

For commercial shipping, the following guidelines and key concepts should apply in addition to the general guidelines:

- a) Underwater noise computational models may be useful for both new and existing ships in understanding what reductions might be achievable for certain changes in design or operational behaviour.
- b) Underwater noise should be measured to an objective standard for any meaningful improvements: ISO/PAS 17208-1, ISO/DIS 16554. Several research ships have been designed using the noise specification, designed for fishery research ships, proposed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Cooperative Research Report No.209 (CRR 209). Other underwater noise rating criteria are available and may prove useful as guidance.
- c) The optimal underwater noise mitigation strategy for any ship should at least consider all relevant noise sources.
- d) The largest opportunities for reduction of underwater noise will be during the initial design of the ship. For existing ships, it is unlikely to be practical to meet the underwater noise performance achievable by new designs. For effective reduction of underwater noise, hull and propeller design should be adapted to each other. Propellers should be designed and selected in order to reduce cavitation, the ship hull form with its appendages should be designed such that the wake field is as homogeneous as possible. Consideration can

be given to the investigation of structural optimization to reduce the excitation response and the transmission of structure-borne noise to the hull.

- e) Consideration should be given to the selection of onboard machinery along with appropriate vibration control measures, proper location of equipment in the hull, and optimization of foundation structures that may contribute to reducing underwater radiated and onboard noise.
- f) In addition to their use for new ships, the following technologies are known to contribute to noise reduction for existing ships: design and installation of new state-of-the-art propellers, installation of wake conditioning devices and installation of air injection to propeller (e.g. in ballast condition).
- g) Although the main components of underwater noise are generated from the ship design (i.e. hull form, propeller, the interaction of the hull and propeller, and machinery configuration), operational modifications and maintenance measures should be considered as ways of reducing noise for both new and existing ships. These include, among others: propeller cleaning, underwater hull surface, selection of ship speed, rerouting and operational decisions to reduce adverse impacts on marine life.
- h) When efforts have been made to mitigate underwater noise, as far as reasonable and practical, evaluation should be undertaken to determine the success or otherwise of ship noise reduction efforts and to guide and enhance future activities at noise reduction. Such evaluation can include forms of radiated-noise measurements, simulations or other ways of data gathering.
- i) Noise from ships should be evaluated both at close range for its direct possible effects on local marine life and at long-range for the contribute to background noise at low frequencies. It is still difficult to say how much the radiated noise should be reduced to get visible effects. However, noise reduction should be evaluated in order to reduce both local and long-range effects (see quieting technologies).
- j) **Designers, shipbuilders, and ship operators are encouraged to also consider technologies and operational measures not included in these Guidelines, which may be more appropriate for specific applications.**

H. GUIDELINES FOR OTHER MITIGATION CASES

Any activity that produces noise levels that may pose risks to cetaceans requires attention and the implementation of monitoring and mitigation procedures. Some of the cases reported in this chapter (touristic boats and whale watching) may not produce physical injuries; however, they contribute to the underwater noise and may have a significant impact on the behaviour and welfare of the animals, and, in the long term, a negative effect on the local population. At least in sensitive areas these should be taken under control and eventually limited.

Touristic boats

Tourist traffic in some areas is becoming a serious problem; noise irradiated by engines and propellers is an important component of the disturbance to animals.

Tourist boats should avoid approaching dolphins and dolphins schools, as well as larger cetaceans, and especially if calves are present. Specific guidelines are already available (**please refer to code of conduct of the ACCOBAMS HQWW® Certificate**) and their distribution should be supported as much as possible.

In case of sensitive habitats and marine protected areas, the relevant authorities should severely restrict the use of tourist motorboats and eventually encourage the use quieter electric engine boats.

Boats should be as quiet as possible and noise controls should be made at the beginning of every field season. Noise limits should be set to reduce the behavioural disturbance to animals as much as possible.

Whale watching

Whale watching is a **commercial tourism activity through which people observe whales and dolphins in their natural environment from a boat. This activity** is increasing every year and that may have an impact on cetacean populations, stocks, and individuals. Rules and permits are already in force in many countries, but the noise issue is seldom taken into consideration. Noise irradiated by engines and propellers is an important component of the disturbance to animals. Beyond complying with national rules and restrictions, whale watching operators should also comply with noise emission restrictions.

Boats should be as quiet as possible and noise controls should be made at the beginning of every field season. Noise limits should be set to reduce the behavioural disturbance to animals as much as possible.

Created in 2014 to supervise an expanding tourism activity and guide volunteer operators, the High-Quality Whale-Watching® (HQWW) certificate is an ACCOBAMS trademark jointly developed with the Pelagos Sanctuary. This certification, created to frame and harmonize whale watching activity, have an international dimension with a naturalist approach: the label guarantees a whale and dolphin approach respectful of the code of good conduct for the observation of Mediterranean cetaceans. Any certified operator can provide educational information acquired during his formation. Finally, in the framework of responsible ethics certified operators commit to waste sorting on-board their vessels. Each of the member countries should mandate a private or public structure to animate the certification on its territory.

Explosive disposal of residual war weapons, use of explosives for testing or for decommissioning structures

In many areas of the Mediterranean Sea the detonation of residual war weapons is a recurrent activity that needs special care; also, explosives are used widely for offshore decommissioning of structures and for military trials, e.g. for testing ships and submarines.

In all such cases, the definition of an Exclusion Zone is required, based on the power of the expected explosion(s) and on the oceanographic features; consequently, the EZ area should be monitored to be sure no animals are inside. The watch before starting operations should be at least 30 min, it should be prolonged to 120 minutes in areas where deep divers could be present. Additional measures could include the use of absorbing materials, e.g. bubble curtains that are proven to attenuate the shock wave or at least to dampen the shock wave onset. The use of aversive sound devices to remove animals from the danger area for the relatively short period of blasting holds great promise for mitigation. However, further studies to develop and test such devices with the range of species of interest would be required before these could be relied on for mitigation.

Underwater acoustically active devices

Underwater acoustics is an expanding field and new acoustic technologies are continuously developed, tested and applied for a variety of uses, e.g. for searching/monitoring/exploiting environmental resources, for conducting scientific research, and for military purposes.

Examples of activities that may require a permit include: oceanographic experiments based on the use of high power acoustic sources, including the use of acoustic positioning devices, the use of deterrent devices (Pingers, Acoustic Deterrent Devices, and Acoustic Harassment Devices, in particular if used in array configurations), e.g. to protect commercial fisheries or to protect industrial water intakes (cooling systems).

In all cases where high noise levels are expected in areas with the potential presence of cetaceans, at least the following guidelines should apply:

- a)** There should be modelling of the generated sound field in relation to oceanographic features (depth/temperature profile, water depth, coastal and seafloor characteristics) and verification in the field; the area where animals could receive harmful noise levels (Exclusion Zone) should be defined.
- b)** Activities should be planned for areas with low cetacean densities, avoiding wherever possible sensitive species, such as beaked whales, and sensitive habitats (e.g. breeding areas, nursing areas, etc.).
- c)** Noise producing activities should be scheduled according to the presence/absence of cetaceans, if seasonal.
- d)** Noise monitoring stations should be set up to monitor for both local and long-range noise levels and verify if predicted levels are reached or not.
- e)** Visual observation points or mobile platforms should be set up to monitor for the presence and behaviour of cetaceans.
- f)** PAM stations or mobile platforms should be setup to monitor for the presence and behaviour of cetaceans.
- g)** Before beginning any noise producing action there should be a dedicated watch of at least 30 minutes to ensure no animals are within the EZ.
- h)** In areas where water depths in the EZ exceed 200m the watch should be at least 120 minutes to increase the probability that deep-diving species are detected.

RESOLUTION 7.14**BEST PRACTICES IN MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF CETACEAN STRANDING**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling its previous resolutions relevant for cetacean stranding, in particular Resolution 1.10 on cooperation between national networks of cetacean strandings and the creation of a database, Resolution 2.10 on facilitation of exchange of tissue samples, Resolution 3.25 on cetacean live stranding, Resolution 4.16 on guidelines for a coordinated cetacean stranding response and Resolution 6.22 on cetacean live strandings,

Considering that common best practices in case of cetacean stranding have been discussed in several fora, including the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the European Cetacean Society (ECS),

Taking note of the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/SPA-RAC Workshop on marine debris and cetacean stranding that was held on 8 April 2018 in La Spezia, Italy, and the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Workshop held on 24-25 June 2019 in Padua, Italy,

Recognizing the importance of strandings data in addressing population biology and threats to cetaceans, such as entanglement in, and ingestion of, marine debris,

Recalling Recommendation 12.7 “Strandings and Marine Litter” of the 12th ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting,

Referring to Resolution 7.15 on marine litter in link with cetacean necropsies, adopted at this Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties,

1. *Stresses* that evaluating and addressing threats generating cetacean stranding, is a key part of the ACCOBAMS objectives and is relevant to past decisions related to, inter alia, the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan;
2. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to identify pilot areas covered by existing stranding monitoring networks, where the “level A” basic tiered guidelines on necropsies approach (Appendix 1 of the Annex 2 of the ACCOBAMS Resolution 6.22 “Cetacean live stranding”) can be adopted and systematically implemented to gather a *de minimis* set of data, including presence/absence of ingested and entangling debris, species, sex and total length of the animals;
3. *Takes note* of:
 - a. The recommendations from the joint workshop ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and ECS towards the identification of standardized best practices in cetacean stranding monitoring and management presented in ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf29;
 - b. The report of the Joint ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Workshop on harmonisation of the best practices for necropsy of cetaceans and for the development of diagnostic frameworks ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf28;

- c. The document on Best Practices on cetacean postmortem investigation and tissue sampling resulted from the harmonization process in ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc33)
4. *Adopts* the [Annex](#) “Evidence-based diagnostic assessment frameworks for cetacean necropsies on specific issues/threats” to the present Resolution. This annex constitutes an operational summary of the Best Practices for cetacean postmortem investigation and tissue sampling and for the development of diagnostic frameworks for specific threat to be investigated during cetaceans’ strandings, namely bycatch, marine debris effects, sound related mortalities, pollution, infectious diseases and others;
5. *Asks* the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to widely disseminate information contained in [Annex](#);
6. *Reiterates* the importance of effective strandings networks throughout the ACCOBAMS Area;
7. *Encourages* Parties to grant, in compliance with relevant national legislation, the necessary sampling permits to those institutions involved in strandings networks which have a recognized expertise;
8. *Encourages* Parties to assist other Parties in establishing or strengthening such networks through cooperation, capacity building and sharing of best practices;
9. *Recommends* the re-establishment of an ACCOBAMS expert panel on strandings to assist with emergencies and unusual mortality events, as well as to assist in the establishment and strengthening of networks throughout the ACCOBAMS Area;
10. *Recommends* Parties that, with respect to data on marine litter:
 - a) all stranding networks adopt at least the basic level of the tiered common best practices on macro-litter to collect de minimis information on marine debris;
 - b) ingested and/or entangling marine macrolitter recovered during post-mortem examinations is collected and preserved for further identification analysis including retrospective studies;
 - c) rates of debris ingestion and entanglements in stranded/bycaught cetaceans are collated and submitted via national progress reports and/or other reporting mechanisms;
 - d) efforts be increased to quantify the relevant contributions of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and active gear to cetacean entanglement;
11. *Encourages* the updating of a well-documented, searchable database on entities involved in stranding networks, databanks, such as MEDACES, and tissues banks (NETCCOBAMS) and *calls upon* the Scientific Committee and other scientists involved in stranding networks to provide the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat with relevant information using the templates available on NETCCOBAMS;
12. *Encourages* the development of new tools and the use of existing tools for citizen science participation in the ACCOBAMS Area having a potential for strandings early warning and/or preliminary action (*e.g.*, OBSenMER, WhatsApp groups).

ANNEX

EVIDENCE-BASED DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORKS FOR CETACEAN NECROPSIES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES/THREATS

Sandro Mazzariol & Cinzia Centelleghes

Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science - University of Padova

Interpreting post-mortem findings and evidences collected during a thorough necropsy, not limited to gross examination, needs specific skills and expertise. More in detail, these data should be elaborated by skilled professionals to properly hypothesize the possible cause, mechanism and manner of death.

A necropsy is a specialized medical procedure comprising of a thorough examination of a carcass by dissection. Sampling and testing should be complete and not be driven by any previous hypothesis or speculation; interpretation of evidences should be based on the best existing literature and protocols already published and/or used, ruling out any possible causes of death without bias. Even if it depends on the specific country's legal framework, post-mortem investigations with diagnostic aims should be performed by a veterinarian trained in animal pathology with an experience in marine mammal diseases.

In the present document, best practices and criteria associated with diagnoses of the most relevant threats for marine mammals (i.e. bycatch, marine litter ingestion, underwater noise) found during cetacean post-mortem examinations are resumed along with the most recent pertinent literature. These set of findings constitute an evidence-based diagnostic assessment framework and could support the interpretation of data and observations collected during a thorough and complete necropsy by a veterinary pathologist and/or a governmental veterinarian.

It should be stressed that the following frameworks are not shortcuts that justifies rapid diagnoses from inexperienced personnel; rather they are a support tool for trained and authorized professionals to harmonize interpretation and evaluation. Total or partial presence or absence of the reported evidences obtained through the reported best practices should be considered along with the other results from the entire necropsy in order to gain the final diagnosis, and evidences should be interpreted by the experienced veterinarian or biologist involved after a complete necropsy. Without a complete post-mortem investigation, carried out according to a standardized procedure by expert and trained personnel, final diagnoses are not supported and have no value.

The following issues are herein resumed:

- a. [bycatch](#)
- b. [entanglement](#)
- c. [marine litter ingestion](#)
- d. [underwater noise](#)
- e. [ship strikes](#)
- f. [infectious diseases](#)

All the most relevant findings and diagnostic criteria for each single issue and reported in the most relevant literature will be summarized in tables including the type of examination, the tiers at which it could be detected according the European Cetaceans post-mortem investigations best-practices and some notes. It is not necessary that all the listed evidences are contemporary present, but they should be interpreted with the results of the complete necropsy and all the other possible causes of death should be ruled out. Since this information is included in the most recent literature, it is highly recommended a periodic update.

a. Bycatch

The challenge of identifying the cause of death in bycaught cetaceans arises from the nonspecific nature of the lesions of drowning/asphyxiation, lack of previous history of the dead animal and the varied nature of fishing gear, with no pathognomonic changes recognized for acute underwater entrapment. Several publications recognize signs of acute external entanglement, bulging or reddened eyes, recently ingested gastric contents, pulmonary changes, and decompression-associated gas bubbles as most commonly reported changes, but these findings cannot be surely related to acute bycatch and many others could support the interpretation and final diagnosis.

All these findings should be collected during a standardized, thorough necropsy performed by skilled personnel. The necropsy could allow to interpret all the reported findings, to exclude any other cause of death and to advance a final diagnosis.

Investigation	Evidences	Tier	Notes	Literature
External examination	Nutritional condition: very good to sub-optimal	1	difficult to detect in case of interaction with gillnets and trawling	1. Bernaldo de Quiros et al., 2018 2. Moore et al., 2013 3. Kuiken et al., 1994
	In vivo evidence of entanglement: . contact with fishing gear (superficial: impressions, depigmentation etc.) . presence of fishing gear . physical injuries (amputation, laceration, fracture etc.) . haemorrhagic findings			
	Bulging/red eyes			
Pathological examination (gross and/or microscopic)	Evidence of undigested gastro-oesophageal contents	1	nonspecific and/or pathognomonic	1. Bernaldo de Quiros et al., 2018 2. Moore et al., 2013 3. Kuiken et al., 1994 4. Bernaldo de Quiros et al., 2016
	Multi-organ congestion	2		
	Multi-organ gas bubbles with high score in coronary, renal, iliac, subcutaneous vessels and perirenal tissues	2	requires training	
	Pulmonary oedema	2	nonspecific finding associated to many other pathological conditions	
Chemical analyses of gas bubbles	Gas bubbles are not consistent with post-mortem gases.	3	sampling requires training and very few laboratories are skilled in this type of analyses	5. Bernaldo de Quiros et al., 2013 6. Bernaldo de Quiros et al., 2011
Microscopic and immunohistochemical examination	Muscle changes consistent with stress	3	sampling requires training and very few laboratories are skilled in this type of analyses	7. Sierra et al., 2017.
Pathological and microbiological examinations	Absence of infectious agents impairing animal health	3	results from microbiology should be compared to microscopic examination	2. Moore et al., 2013 3. Kuiken et al., 1994
Diatoms research technique	Diatoms in the long bones	3	not pathognomonic; may support diagnosis	8. Rubini et al., 2018

1. Bernaldo de Quirós Y, Hartwick M, Rotstein DS, Garner MM, Bogomolni A, Greer W, Niemeyer ME, Early G, Wenzel F, Moore M. **Discrimination between bycatch and other causes of cetacean and pinniped stranding.** *Dis Aquat Organ.* 2018 Jan 31;127(2):83-95.
2. Moore MJ, der Hoop Jv, Barco SG, Costidis AM, Gulland FM, Jepson PD, Moore KT, Raverty S, McLellan WA. **Criteria and case definitions for serious injury and death of pinnipeds and cetaceans caused by anthropogenic trauma.** *Dis Aquat Organ.* 2013 Apr 11;103(3):229-64. Kuiken T, Simpson VR, Allchin CR, Bennett PM, Codd GA, Harris EA, Howes GJ, Kennedy S, Kirkwood JK, Law RJ, et al. **Mass mortality of common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) in south west England due to incidental capture in fishing gear.** *Vet Rec.* 1994 Jan 22;134(4):81-9
3. Bernaldo de Quirós Y, Saavedra P, Møllerløkken A, Brubakk AO, Jørgensen A, González-Díaz O, Martín-Barrasa JL, Fernández A. **Differentiation at necropsy between in vivo gas embolism and putrefaction using a gas score.** *Res Vet Sci.* 2016 Jun;106:48-55.
4. Bernaldo de Quirós Y, Seewald JS, Sylva SP, Greer B, Niemeyer M, Bogomolni AL, Moore MJ. **Compositional discrimination of decompression and decomposition gas bubbles in bycaught seals and dolphins.** *PLoS One.* 2013 Dec 19;8(12):e83994.
5. Bernaldo de Quirós Y, González-Díaz O, Saavedra P, Arbelo M, Sierra E, Sacchini S, Jepson PD, Mazzariol S, Di Guardo G, Fernández A. **Methodology for in situ gas sampling, transport and laboratory analysis of gases from stranded cetaceans.** *Sci Rep.* 2011;1:193
6. Sierra E, Espinosa de Los Monteros A, Fernández A, Díaz-Delgado J, Suárez-Santana C, Arbelo M, Sierra MA, Herráez P. **Muscle Pathology in Free-Ranging Stranded Cetaceans.** *Vet Pathol.* 2017 Mar;54(2):298-311.
7. Rubini S, Frisoni P, Russotto C, Pedriali N, Mignone W, Grattarola C, Giorda F, Pautasso A, Barbieri S, Cozzi B, Mazzariol S, Gaudio RM. **The diatoms test in veterinary medicine: A pilot study on cetaceans and sea turtles.** *Forensic Sci Int.* 2018 Sep;290:e19-e23

b. Entanglement

Entanglement refers to the wrapping of materials of anthropogenic origin like lines, ropes or nets around the body of an animal and differs from bycatch, which refers to the unintentional capture of species such as small cetaceans in fishing nets.

Entangled animals do not die immediately after wrapping but the materials around the cetacean's body could injure it and impair its swimming, diving and feeding, inducing a chronic condition. In these conditions, death could be due to progressive starvation due to a reduction in food intake and an increase of energetic cost. Possible secondary infections could infect wounds associated with entanglement or affect the animal due to an impairment of the immune system. The following table resumes the main finding that could be reported during post-mortem examinations on entangled cetaceans.

Investigation	Evidences	Tier	Notes	Literature
External examination	Nutritional condition: poor to cachectic	1		1. Moore et al., 2006 2. Moore et al., 2013
	In vivo entanglement evidence: . contact with anthropogenic materials around the body of the animal (superficial changes) . presence of anthropogenic materials around the body of the animal . chronic physical injuries (laceration, scars, etc.)			
Gross examination	Muscular atrophy	2	possible findings that may be detected singularly or associated with muscular atrophy	1. Moore et al., 2006 2. Moore et al., 2013
	Absence of food remains in the stomach	2		
	Pale discoloration of muscle and tissues	2		
	Severe parasitic infestation	2		
	Gelatinous atrophy of the subcutaneous tissues	3		
	Haemorrhagic changes to subcutaneous and serosal surfaces (petechiae, bruises, etc.)	3		
	Opportunistic infections	3		
Microscopic examination	Muscular atrophy with scattered fiber necrosis	3	described in terrestrial mammals; only in single case reports in cetaceans	3. Sierra et al., 2017.
	Liver steatosis and/or hemosiderotic pigment in Kupffer cells	3		4. Gerdin et al., 2016
	Splenic hemosiderophages	3		
	Opportunistic infections	3		2. Moore et al., 2013
Microbiological investigations	Possible infectious diseases	3		2. Moore et al., 2013

1. Moore MJ, der Hoop Jv, Barco SG, Costidis AM, Gulland FM, Jepson PD, Moore KT, Raverty S, McLellan WA. **Criteria and case definitions for serious injury and death of pinnipeds and cetaceans caused by anthropogenic trauma.** *Dis Aquat Organ.* 2013 Apr 11;103(3):229-64.

2. Kuiken T, Simpson VR, Allchin CR, Bennett PM, Codd GA, Harris EA, Howes GJ, Kennedy S, Kirkwood JK, Law RJ, et al. **Mass mortality of common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) in south west England due to incidental capture in fishing gear.** *Vet Rec.* 1994 Jan 22;134(4):81-9
3. Moore MJ, Bogomolni AL, Bowman R, Hamilton PK. **Fatally entangled whales can die extremely slowly.** *Ocean'06 MTS/IEEE*, Boston, MA: 2006.
4. Sierra E, Espinosa de Los Monteros A, Fernández A, Díaz-Delgado J, Suárez-Santana C, Arbelo M, Sierra MA, Herráez P. **Muscle Pathology in Free-Ranging Stranded Cetaceans.** *Vet Pathol.* 2017 Mar;54(2):298-311.
5. Gerdin JA, McDonough SP, Reisman R, Scarlett J. **Circumstances, Descriptive Characteristics, and Pathologic Findings in Dogs Suspected of Starving.** *Vet Pathol.* 2016 Sep;53(5):1087-94.

c. Marine litter

The ingestion of marine litter can occur in many cetacean species and the number of reports of foreign bodies found in the stomachs of stranded marine mammals is increasing. Despite these numbers, it should be noted that findings of plastic debris are not often deemed to be the main cause of stranding and are poorly reported in pathology literature. Recent papers published in the Canary Islands (Díaz Delgado et al., 2018; Puig-Lozano et al., 2018) underline that only a few species seem to be lethally affected by plastic ingestion, with deep divers such as sperm whales and beaked whales more affected than others; young age and poor nutritional condition seems to be another relevant factor. With regards to the nutritional condition, it is not yet clear if it is a predisposing factor for the ingestion of marine litter, or a consequence thereof.

While, during necropsy, it is easy to state the possible ingestion of marine debris, it is more difficult to assess the impact it has on the animal's health. The findings summarized in the above table could be observed, alone or associated, and they can support the interpretation of the pathologist in the assessment of the cause of death during the complete necropsy.

Investigation	Evidences	Tier	Notes	Literature	
External examination	Nutritional condition: normal to poor	1		1. Puig-Lozano et al., 2018 2. Diaz-Delgado et al., 2018	
Gross examination	Plastic debris	1			
	Gastric perforation	2	may lead to acute death		
	Ulcerative gastritis	2			
	Gastric impaction/obstruction	2			
	Muscular atrophy	2	only when a poor nutritional condition has been determined		
	Severe parasitic infestation	2			
	Opportunistic infections	3			
Microscopic examination	Muscular atrophy	3		3. Sierra et al., 2017.	
	Opportunistic infections	3			
Microbiological investigations	Possible infectious diseases	3			

1. Puig-Lozano R, Bernaldo de Quirós Y, Díaz-Delgado J, García-Álvarez N, Sierra E, De la Fuente J, Sacchini S, 1. Suárez-Santana CM, Zucca D, Câmara N, Saavedra P, Almunia J, Rivero MA, Fernández A, Arbelo M. **Retrospective study of foreign body-associated pathology in stranded cetaceans, Canary Islands (2000-2015)**. *Environ Pollut*. 2018 Dec;243(Pt A):519-527.
2. Díaz-Delgado J, Fernández A, Sierra E, Sacchini S, Andrada M, Vela AI, Quesada-Canales Ó, Paz Y, Zucca D, Groch K, Arbelo M. **Pathologic findings and causes of death of stranded cetaceans in the Canary Islands (2006-2012)**. *PLoS One*. 2018 Oct 5;13(10):e0204444.
3. Sierra E, Espinosa de Los Monteros A, Fernández A, Díaz-Delgado J, Suárez-Santana C, Arbelo M, Sierra MA, Herráez P. **Muscle Pathology in Free-Ranging Stranded Cetaceans**. *Vet Pathol*. 2017 Mar;54(2):298-311.

d. Underwater impulsive noise-related strandings

The diagnostic assessment framework for the investigation of underwater impulsive noise as a possible cause of strandings is not as complete as for other causes due to lack of knowledge. In fact, only a spatial and temporal association of middle and low frequency military sonar to a gas and fat embolic syndrome developed in beaked whales has been reported, while for any other species and/or sound sources there is not yet enough literature to draw possible diagnostic criteria. Investigations performed on the inner ear conducted according to a specific protocol could support the diagnosis of cochlear damage.

Due to these limitations, to date, it is only possible to exclude any other possible cause through a complete and detailed necropsy. The stranding pattern (active vs. passive, location of strandings, marine currents etc.), the number of animals involved (individual or multiple animals in good nutritional condition stranded within hours or a few days of a military exercise), the spatial and temporal association with a functioning impulsive noise source are fundamental to support the diagnostic hypothesis. From a pathological point of view, the post-mortem findings included in the following table may be observed.

Investigation	Evidences	Tier	Notes	Literature
External examination	Bleeding from main orifices	1		1. Fernandez et al., 2005 2. Bernaldo de Quiros et al., 2019
	Good nutritional status	1		
Gross examination	food remnants in the first gastric compartment ranging from undigested food to squid beaks	2		
	abundant gas bubbles widely distributed in veins (subcutaneous, mesenteric, portal, coronary, subarachnoid veins, etc.)	2	requires training	
	gross subarachnoid and/or acoustic fat hemorrhages;	2		
	absence of other relevant diseases	2		
Microscopic examination	microscopic multi-organ gas and fat emboli associated with bronchopulmonary shock	3		
	diffuse, mild to moderate, acute, monophasic myonecrosis (hyaline degeneration) in fresh and well-preserved carcasses	3		
	multi-organ microscopic hemorrhage of varying severity in lipid-rich tissues such as the central nervous system, spinal cord, and the coronary and kidney fat (when present)	3		
	Hemorrhage in the inner ear visible with HE-stain after decalcifying tympano-periotic complex	3	decalcification process may alter microscopic findings	3. Jepson et al., 2013
	absence of other relevant diseases	3		
Chemical analyses of gas bubbles	mainly N ₂	3	requires training to collect bubbles from veins and perform chemical analyses	4. Bernaldo de Quiros et al., 2011
Electron microscopy	scars and damage to the cochlear hair cells of the inner ear	3	requires training to collect and preserve inner ear; possible until 30 hours after death	5. Morell et al., 2017

1. Fernández A, Edwards JF, Rodríguez F, Espinosa de los Monteros A, Herráez P, Castro P, Jaber JR, Martín V, Arbelo M. **"Gas and fat embolic syndrome" involving a mass stranding of beaked whales (family Ziphiidae) exposed to anthropogenic sonar signals.** *Vet Pathol.* 2005 Jul;42(4):446-57
2. Bernaldo de Quirós Y, Fernandez A, Baird RW, Brownell RL Jr, Aguilar de Soto N, Allen D, Arbelo M, Arregui M, Costidis A, Fahlman A, Frantzis A, Gulland FMD, Iñíguez M, Johnson M, Komnenou A, Koopman H, Pabst DA, Roe WD, Sierra E, Tejedor M, Schorr G. **Advances in research on the impacts of anti-submarine sonar on beaked whales.** *Proc Biol Sci.* 2019 Jan 30;286(1895):20182533
3. Jepson PD, Deaville R, Acevedo-Whitehouse K, Barnett J, Brownlow A, Brownell RL Jr, Clare FC, Davison N, Law RJ, Loveridge J, Macgregor SK, Morris S, Murphy S, Penrose R, Perkins MW, Pinn E, Seibel H, Siebert U, Sierra E, Simpson V, Tasker ML, Tregenza N, Cunningham AA, Fernández A. **What caused the UK's largest common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) mass stranding event?** *PLoS One.* 2013 Apr 30;8(4):e60953. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0060953.
4. Bernaldo de Quirós Y, González-Díaz O, Saavedra P, Arbelo M, Sierra E, Sacchini S, Jepson PD, Mazzariol S, Di Guardo G, Fernández A. **Methodology for in situ gas sampling, transport and laboratory analysis of gases from stranded cetaceans.** *Sci Rep.* 2011;1:193
5. Morell M, Brownlow A, McGovern B, Raverty SA, Shadwick RE, André M. **Implementation of a method to visualize noise-induced hearing loss in mass stranded cetaceans.** *Sci Rep.* 2017 Feb 6;7:41848. doi: 10.1038/srep41848

e. Ship strikes

In the last decades, collisions between vessels and cetaceans have significantly increased worldwide and they are deemed to be a major threat for large cetaceans living in the ACCOBAMS area. In case of collisions, external features may be pathognomonic with extensive subcutaneous, muscular and visceral hemorrhage and hematomas, indicating unequivocal *ante-mortem* trauma. However, when carcasses are highly autolyzed, it is challenging to distinguish whether the trauma occurred *ante-* or *post-mortem*. The presence of fat emboli within the lung microvasculature is used to determine a severe “*in vivo*” trauma in other species, and they can be used also in these cases. These aspects are summarized in the following tables.

Investigation	Evidences	Tier	Notes	Literature
External examination	Sharp traumas with one or more linear to curvilinear laminar incising wounds that cause damage to axial muscles, skull and vertebral column	1	mainly on the back and sides	1. Moore et al., 2013 2. Campbell-Malone et al., 2008
Gross examination	Blunt traumas with hemorrhage and edema in the blubber, subcutaneous tissue, and skeletal muscle	2		
	fractures and luxations	2		
Microscopic examination	Muscular hemorrhages and edema	3		3. Sierra et al., 2014.
	flocculent, granular or/and hyalinised segmentary degeneration; contraction band necrosis; discoid degeneration or fragmentation of myofibres	3		
	Fat emboli in the lung tissue	3	not relevant if death is immediate after trauma	4. Arregui et al., 2019

1. Moore MJ, der Hoop J, Barco SG, Costidis AM, Gulland FM, Jepson PD, et al. **Criteria and case definitions for serious injury and death of pinnipeds and cetaceans caused by anthropogenic trauma.** *Dis Aquat Organ.* 2013; 103 (3): 229–264
2. Campbell-Malone R, Barco SG, Daoust PY, Knowlton AR, McLellan WA, Rotstein DS, et al. **Gross and histologic evidence of sharp and blunt trauma in North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) killed by vessels.** *J Zoo Wildl Med.* 2008; 39 (1): 37–55.
3. Sierra E, Fernández A, Espinosa de los Monteros A, Arbelo M, Díaz-Delgado J, Andrada M, et al. **Histopathological muscle findings may be essential for a definitive diagnosis of suspected sharp trauma associated with ship strikes in stranded cetaceans.** *PLoS One.* 2014
4. Arregui M, Bernaldo de Quirós Y, Saavedra P, Sierra E, Suárez-Santana CM, Arbelo M, Díaz-Delgado J, Puig-Lozano R, Andrada M and Fernández A (2019) **Fat Embolism and Sperm Whale Ship Strikes.** *Front. Mar. Sci.* 6:379

f. Infectious diseases

Cetaceans can be affected by many infectious agents that can cause diseases and death. Among these pathogens, Cetacean Morbillivirus (CeMV), *Brucella* spp. and *Toxoplasma gondii* are the most relevant ones.

As in terrestrial mammals, the diagnosis of a disease is supported by the contemporary evidence of pathological changes, immunohistochemical and microbiological findings. If all three are not present at the same time, the diagnosis is weak, and it should be interpreted in accordance with other findings. In the following table, main findings for CeMV diseases are reported in order to aid pathologists in their diagnosis for this virus considered as the more dangerous for the cetaceans' conservation in the ACCOBAMS waters. Other pathogens are often reported as single case reports.

Investigation	Evidences	Tier	Notes	Literature
Gross examination	Meningeal congestion	2	not always present at the same time	1. Van Bressem et al., 2014
	Lymph node enlargement	2		
	Bronchopneumonia	2		
	Secondary infections and parasitic infestation	2		
Microscopic examination	Chronic meningoencephalitis with astrogliosis and possible demyelination	3		
	Interstitial bronchopneumonia	3		
	Lymphoid depletion with multinucleated giant cells	3		
	Secondary infections and parasitic infestation	3		
Immunohistochemistry	Positive using anti-CDV antibodies	3		
Molecular analyses	Positive target organs (brain, lymph nodes, spleen, thymus, lungs)	3	highly specific but limited by conservation code	2. Verna et al., 2017
		3	time-consuming but highly sensitive for large cetaceans and conservation codes 3-4	3. Centelleghé et al., 2016
		3	all CeMV strains	4. Rubio-Guerri et al., 2013

1. Van Bressem MF, Duignan PJ, Banyard A, Barbieri M, Colegrove KM, De Guise S, Di Guardo G, Dobson A, Domingo M, Fauquier D, Fernandez A, Goldstein T, Grenfell B, Groch KR, Gulland F, Jensen BA, Jepson PD, Hall A, Kuiken T, Mazzariol S, Morris SE, Nielsen O, Raga JA, Rowles TK, Saliki J, Sierra E, Stephens N, Stone B, Tomo I, Wang J, Waltzek T, Wellehan JF. Cetacean morbillivirus: current knowledge and future directions. *Viruses*. 2014 Dec 22;6(12):5145-81.
2. Verna F, Giorda F, Miceli I, Rizzo G, Pautasso A, Romano A, Iulini B, Pintore MD, Mignone W, Grattarola C, Bozzetta E, Varello K, Dondo A, Casalone C, Gorla M. Detection of morbillivirus infection by RT-PCR RFLP analysis in cetaceans and carnivores. *J Virol Methods*. 2017 Sep; 247:22-27.
3. Centelleghé C, Beffagna G, Zanetti R, Zappulli V, Di Guardo G, Mazzariol S. Molecular analysis of dolphin morbillivirus: A new sensitive detection method based on nested RT-PCR. *J Virol Methods*. 2016 Sep; 235:85-91.
4. Rubio-Guerri, C. et al. Simultaneous diagnosis of Cetacean morbillivirus infection in dolphins stranded in the Spanish Mediterranean Sea in 2011 using a novel Universal Probe Library (UPL) RT-PCR assay. *Vet Microbiol* 165, 109–114 (2013).

RESOLUTION 7.15**ASSESSING MARINE LITTER IMPACTS ON CETACEANS**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Stressing that marine litter (or marine debris) pollution is a global environmental concern, with the Mediterranean Sea being heavily affected, and can be a conservation concern for many marine species, in particular cetaceans, that may be harmed or killed by it,

Aware of the related work underway under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and *recalling* related decisions, in particular CMS Resolution 12.20 on Management of Marine Debris,

Recalling that litter and micro-litter ingested by marine animals is addressed by Descriptor 10 and its related criteria under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EU and Decision 2017/848/EU), as well as by the Ecological Objective 10 of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) of the Barcelona Convention,

Considering that, to contribute evaluating the actual and potential deleterious effects of marine debris, including entanglement in abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and direct ingestion of both macro- and micro-plastics, and other threats to cetaceans, common best practices for stranding events have been drafted and discussed in several other fora,

Considering also that, in 2014 and 2015, the IWC held two Expert Workshops on this subject, one science-oriented and the other policy-oriented,

Taking note of the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/SPA-RAC Workshop on marine debris and cetacean stranding that was held on 8 April 2018 in La Spezia, Italy, and the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Workshop on harmonization of the best practices for necropsy of cetaceans and for the development of diagnostic frameworks, held on 24th and 25th June in Legnaro, Italy,

Recalling Recommendation 12.7 of the 12th ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting on strandings and marine litter,

Referring to Resolution 7.14 on best practices on cetacean stranding, adopted at this Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties,

Emphasizing that a multi-disciplinary approach delivered across different spatial and temporal scales is necessary to tackle the issue of marine litter effectively,

1. *Reiterates* that evaluating and addressing threats, such as marine litter, is a key part of the ACCOBAMS objectives and is relevant to past decisions related to, *inter alia*, the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan, the ACCOBAMS 2014-2025 Strategy, the 2017-2019 work programme and Resolution 6.22 on cetacean live strandings;
2. *Stresses* the importance of evaluating and addressing negative impacts of marine litter on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area, in particular through monitoring ingested marine litter and entanglement evidences during necropsies;
3. *Recommends* the Scientific Committee to consider the results and recommendations from relevant projects, initiatives and workshops, including the workshop to be organized by the IWC in Barcelona, Spain, in December 2019, aimed at assessing impacts of marine litter on cetaceans and to identify potential hotspot areas for cetacean entanglement and ingestion of marine litter, for example through ecological risk assessment methods or other mapping and modelling approaches;
4. *Encourages* increased international cooperation on this issue with other bodies, in particular those relevant for cetaceans, as well as regional initiatives on marine litter (*e.g.* those promoted by the European Union under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and those promoted by the Barcelona Convention under the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria of the Barcelona Convention and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean);
5. *Invites* Parties and the Permanent Secretariat to liaise with other relevant Bodies, Organizations and Initiatives at the regional scale to:
 - a) support effective means to reduce marine debris in the environment, including voluntary and legislative initiatives to reduce production and consumption of single-use items, and to invest in the collection, recycling and sustainable disposal of waste;
 - b) develop and implement educational and public awareness programmes related to marine litter and cetaceans and the steps that individuals can take to reduce marine litter.

RESOLUTION 7.16**COMMERCIAL CETACEAN-WATCHING ACTIVITIES³⁹**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article II of the Agreement, according to which the Parties shall prohibit and take all necessary measures to eliminate any deliberate taking of cetaceans, including harassing or attempting to engage in such conduct,

Recalling Section 2 of Annex 2 to the Agreement, according to which Parties shall develop guidelines and/or codes of conduct to regulate or manage activities that create direct and indirect interactions between humans and cetaceans, such as tourist activities,

Taking into consideration Recommendation 12.6 “Commercial whale watching activities” of the 12th ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting,

Recalling that the ACCOBAMS Area is an important area for a great number of cetacean species, whether as a permanent habitat, a breeding or feeding ground or a migratory corridor, and that the presence of such a diversity of cetaceans has led, over the past decade, to the development of a high number of commercial cetacean-watching activities that need to be regulated,

Recalling that commercial cetacean-watching activities, if well managed and within a suitable management framework, can foster a valuable educational tool, create direct and indirect economic benefits for many communities and can promote research on cetaceans and their conservation,

Concerned about the potential negative impacts of commercial cetacean-watching activities that have been documented, such as changes in cetaceans swimming behaviour, fast changes in direction, decrease in population size or movements of cetaceans away from the area targeted for tourism,

Aware that the First Meeting of the Parties adopted a set of Guidelines for commercial cetacean-watching activities in the ACCOBAMS Area and that these Guidelines have been revised on the basis of evolution of scientific knowledge (Resolution 4.7),

Recalling Resolution 6.20, which took note of the regulations governing use, associated with the High-Quality Whale-Watching[®] Certificate, and adopted its logo,

Recalling Resolution 11.29 on “Sustainable Boat Based Marine Wildlife Watching”, Resolution 12.16 on “Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals” and Resolution 12.23 on “Sustainable tourism and migratory species” adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS),

³⁹ In this Resolution the terms “cetacean-watching” and “whale-watching” are used as referred to the same type of activity.

Desirous of minimizing the risk of negative impacts on cetaceans and of ensuring the sustainable development of cetacean-watching commercial activities through effective management strategies,

Concerned also by the emergence of dolphin-feeding practices, mainly carried out during cetacean-watching activities, which could change the behaviour of the animals, favouring confidence and proximity,

Welcoming the online whale-watching handbook developed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) with the CMS Secretariat,

1. *Urges* Parties to ensure the effective implementation of the existing ACCOBAMS Resolutions on whale watching;
2. *Recommends* Parties to consider that harassment risk also begins when a vessel is voluntarily closer than the minimum distance identified in rules for commercial cetacean-watching and that, consequently, swim-with-dolphin activities, which imply a proximity of the boat and the animals, should be considered as harassment and as presenting risks of animal violent behaviour and transmission of diseases;
3. *Recommends* Parties to not authorise or grant any exception for direct interactions with cetaceans, such as feeding and swim-with-dolphins, including in proximity of fish farm activities;
4. *Recommends* that the Permanent Secretariat, Parties and ACCOBAMS Partners continue to raise awareness and communication about the High-Quality Whale Watching® Certificate with official regional, national and international tourism Organizations;
5. *Encourages* the Scientific Committee to continue consideration, including collation and review of scientific literature, on potential adverse effects of cetacean-watching on cetaceans and means to mitigate them, with an emphasis on population-level impacts, swim-with activities, feeding and use of aerial spotter aircraft, and also on the concept of “carrying capacity”;
6. *Recommends* that the Permanent Secretariat continues co-operation with the Secretariats of IWC and CMS on the evaluation of effects of cetacean-watching and on the review and update of the guidelines for sustainable cetacean-watching;
7. *Acknowledges* that the present Resolution complements Resolutions 4.7 and 6.20 and constitutes an addition to them.

RESOLUTION 7.17**GLOBAL POST 2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK:
ACCOBAMS MOBILIZATION**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling the 2050 Vision of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 “living in harmony with nature”.

Fully aware of the commitment expressed by the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) at the Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Secretariats of biodiversity-related Conventions: “2020 is just around the corner marking a crucial year for biodiversity with the expected adoption of a new Global Framework for biodiversity conservation for the following decade. UNEA4 call for innovative solution to environmental challenges and biodiversity loss is timely and we are committed to facilitating its reflection in our own processes, whenever the opportunity arises”,

Recalling the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), confirming that biodiversity is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, and *taking note* of its recommendations,

Recalling the Agreement objective to reach and maintain a favourable conservation status for all species of cetaceans and a protection of their habitats,

Recalling the commitment of each Party, under Resolution 5.8 on Rio+20 perspectives for ACCOBAMS, “to base its present and future actions for the implementation of the ACCOBAMS on the spirit and objectives of the document “The Future We Want”,

Recalling Resolution 6.11 on a Strategical Alliance concerning management and conservation measures for the Mediterranean environment, which “*Welcomes* the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity, among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN”,

Recalling Resolution 12.26 of CMS on Improving Ways of addressing Ecological Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species,

Recalling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, in particular SDG 14 relating to sustainable conservation and exploitation of oceans, seas and marine resources for the purpose of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the vulnerability of cetaceans to growing threats from anthropogenic sources in the ACCOBAMS area, combined to the impacts of climate change, warrants the implementation of specific conservation measures,

Aware that the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative”, an unprecedented evaluation, at the Mediterranean and Black Sea scales, of the abundance and distribution of megafauna, has produced a significant overall vision based on robust data,

Stressing, as underlined by Resolution 7.10, that these data represent an unparalleled conservation resource, and should be used in the most efficient way for conservation purposes,

Stressing also the need to fight against marine biodiversity erosion, in particular by achieving a good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea in relation with the work undertaken under the Barcelona and the Bucharest Conventions,

Relying in this regard on the full support and co-operation by all ACCOBAMS partners,

1. *Stresses* that ACCOBAMS Parties will:

- a. Cooperate towards intensifying the implementation of Aichi biodiversity targets, especially Targets 6 on fisheries and their adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems, Target 8 on pollution, Target 11 on conservation of coastal and marine areas through effective area-based conservation measures, and Target 12 on improved and sustained conservation status for threatened species;
- b. Actively participate in the process of developing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and promote the adoption of ambitious goals, particularly with respect to marine biodiversity issues such as fishing activities and pollution, as well as area-based measures of conservation and ecological connectivity at the national level that will need to be both qualitative and quantitative;
- c. Improve the implementation effectiveness of the Resolutions adopted under ACCOBAMS, in order to mitigate the impact of human activities on cetaceans, in collaboration with relevant regional and national Organizations and entities regulating those activities, and therefore contribute in tackling biodiversity erosion;
- d. Act in support of marine biodiversity conservation by using ACCOBAMS outputs and results, in particular by valorising the first ever overall assessment of the abundance and distribution of the megafauna and floating marine litter in the ACCOBAMS area provided by the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative”;
- e. Foster the conducting of periodic regional surveys of the Agreement area using the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative” methodology, at least every 6 years, to comply with their duties to monitor the marine environment under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and/or the Ecosystem Approach implemented by the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions;
- f. Implement effective cetacean conservation measures and to better integrate cetaceans into relevant sectoral policies in order to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status for cetaceans and protect their habitats, in particular by developing, revising and effectively implementing Conservation Management Plans and/or National Action Plan, including in particular the:
 - monitoring of accidental catch of cetaceans during fisheries activities, through a regionally harmonized approach, and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures,
 - monitoring of underwater noise, the use of the ACCOBAMS Regional Register for Impulsive Noise and the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Highly Qualified MMO/PAM certification for Marine Mammals Observers and passive acoustic operators, applying Best Available Techniques et Best Environment Practice to reduce, mitigate and avoid marine noise pollution, integrating the issue of anthropogenic noise

into the management plans of MPAs, and ensuring that Environmental Assessment takes full account of the effects of anthropogenic noise from activities on cetaceans,

- monitoring and prevention of risks of ship and cetaceans collisions,
- implementation of a national stranding network using the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/IWC/ECS necropsies protocol,
- implementation of good practices for whale-watching activities, in particular the ACCABAMS High Quality Whale Watching® certificate,
- particular attention given to Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH), Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA), taking into account the information available through the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas process (EBSA),
- declaration of effective area-based management tools for cetaceans such as, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs);

2. Ask the Permanent Secretariat to collaborate with other International Organizations, entities and networks dealing with marine biodiversity and related activities, to jointly present commitments at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2020.

RESOLUTION 7.18**TRIBUTE TO ORGANISERS**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Welcoming the recent ratification of the ACCOBAMS by the Government of the Republic of Turkey,

Recalling the offer of the Government of the Republic of Turkey to host the Seventh session of the Meeting of Parties,

Commending the efforts undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Turkey in the preparation of this session of the Meeting of the Parties and its financial support for its organization,

Remarking with appreciation that this session of the Meeting of the Parties is the first to be held in a country bordering the Black Sea,

Aware of the significant efforts required in preparing and organizing the present session of the Meeting of the Parties,

1. *Expresses* its gratitude for the invaluable support of the Government of the Republic of Turkey to provide an excellent venue and facilities for the Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Congratulates* the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the present session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;
3. *Expresses* its appreciation to all the support provided by the Extended Bureau, the Sub Regional Coordination Units and the Scientific Committee, which contributed to the preparation of the Meeting of the Parties.

RESOLUTION 7.19**DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article III, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, which states that the Agreement Secretariat shall convene, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise,

Noting that the Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties was hosted by the Government of Turkey, from 5 to 8 November 2019,

Aware of the benefits that can accrue to the Agreement and to Parties, particularly developing countries and those with economies in transition, that host sessions of the Meeting of the Parties in regions in the Agreement area,

1. *Decides* that the Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties shall take place at the end of 2022;
2. *Welcomes* and accepts with great appreciation the offer of Malta to host the Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

ANNEX XVI

**STATEMENT ON ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE BY
THE IUCN MMPA TASK FORCE, NRDC,
OCEANCARE, THE PELAGOS CETACEAN
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, TETHYS RESEARCH
INSTITUTE AND WWF**

ANNEX XVI - STATEMENT ON ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE BY THE IUCN MMPA TASK FORCE, NRDC, OCEANCARE, THE PELAGOS CETACEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND WWF

Thank you Chair. On behalf of the IUCN MMPA Task Force, NRDC, Ocean Care, the Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Tethys Research Institute and WWF, we recommend the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to urge Member Parties to exclude any Oil and Gas exploration and exploitation activities from cetacean key habitats (like Cetaceans Critical Habitats and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)).

This is in line with the Anthropogenic Noise Resolution 7.13 and the Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area according to which, in the Section A. General Guidelines, it reads as follow “the following guidelines and concepts should be taken into account for any activity: c) Avoid cetaceans’ key habitats and marine protected areas, define appropriate buffer zones around them; consider the possible impact of long-range propagation” and more specifically Section C. “Guidelines for seismic surveys and airgun uses: a) Seismic surveys should be planned so as to avoid key cetacean habitat and areas of cetacean density, so that entire habitats or migration paths are not blocked, so that cumulative seismic noise is limited within any particular area, and so that multiple vessels operating in the same or nearby areas at the same time are specifically regulated or prohibited. “

We are particularly concerned about the progress of Oil and Gas concessions in Greece, especially in the Hellenic Trench, an area that is identified as both a Cetacean Critical Habitats and an IMMA. In addition, we are concerned that the situation in Greece will create a negative precedent for other existing and future Oil and Gas developments within cetacean key habitats in the Mediterranean.

Thank you very much.

ANNEX XVII

STATEMENTS ON ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE BY

IOGP

ANNEX XVII - STATEMENTS ON ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE BY IOGP

FIRST STATEMENT

Thank you Mr. Chair.

In response to WWF France's statement, IOGP would like to say that Oil and Gas operations can be conducted responsibly and in a sustainable manner in sensitive areas.

Site specific mitigation measures are agreed upon with the Competent Authorities during the planning phase to ensure that potential impacts are appropriately managed. In that regards, IOGP report 579 provides recommended monitoring and mitigation measures for cetaceans during marine seismic survey geophysical operations.

IOGP would also like to remind the audience that – for areas that are designed as Specially Protected Areas as per the SPA BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention and other areas defined as per Article 21 of the Offshore Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, guidelines are being developed.

They are expected to be adopted in December at the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention. The document is called “ Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards - Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA) within the Framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan” and seismic operations are in scope of these guidelines.

Thank you.

SECOND STATEMENT

Thank You Mr Chair.

IOGP welcomed the opportunity to comment on working document 31 -GUIDANCE ON UNDERWATER NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES which is referenced in the resolution.

We think it contains useful information. But that in order for the document to fully serve its educational and informative role (for Regulators, Industry and other stakeholders), it seems important to us that operational constraints associated with the listed mitigation technologies are clearly indicated. Otherwise, it can be misleading.

Indeed, most of the listed mitigation technologies are only effective in shallow waters and as such are not relevant to deep water oil and gas drilling or pile driving operations.

It is also important that the proposed measures are in a state of technology readiness and not just promising technology, which cannot currently be implemented.

Last, we recommend that all the information provided in the document be based on sound and recent science.

I am taking the opportunity to invite the audience to visit the website <http://www.soundandmarinelife.org> which provides information on the Joint Industry Project on underwater noise, including access to all the peer reviewed publications.

We have sent our detailed comments on the guidance document to the Secretariat and are -of course – fully available to discuss further.

THIRD STATEMENT

Thank you Mr Chair.

IOGP would like to reiterate that we are fully available to discuss on both what is being done in terms of research on underwater noise and also, on this important topic of feasibility of the mitigations raised by Italy, to provide information on what can be implemented and feedback on challenges we may encounter from an operational viewpoint on implementation of the current version of the GUIDELINES TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE ON CETACEANS IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA.

ANNEX XVIII

STATEMENT ON ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE BY

OCEANCARE

ANNEX XVIII - STATEMENT ON ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE BY OCEANCARE

On behalf of OceanCare, I'd like to provide some clarification towards the discussion about the specific article within the ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines, quoted by WWF and raised by the Italian delegation. In support of the statement just provided in response by the Co-Chair of the JNWG, we want to stress that this particular article is part of the ACCOBAMS Guidelines in the version adopted within Resolution 4.17 and therefore already agreed upon by the Parties.

OceanCare welcomes draft resolution 7.13 and are grateful for the constructive work within the working group which met during this MOP7 to optimize the text. We are also in appreciation by the productive reactions of Parties to address the issue.

Due to the restricted time, we like to stress the appreciation of the work of the Scientific Committee which again has provided helpful recommendations on ocean noise pollution and measures to avoid, mitigate and/or reduce noise levels. Furthermore, the Resolution does assist to progress the important work addressing the impacts of military activities generating noise and we welcome the French's delegation's solution oriented language to keep this provision within the Resolution.

The Resolution also strengthen the collaboration with international organizations requesting Parties to implement and make use of the CMS EIA Guidelines, the IMO ship quieting guidelines and of course the ACCOBAMS Guidelines. Those are Guidelines developed by experts and already agreed by parties of CMS, the IMO and ACCOBAMS and shall be made use of by regulators as well as private sector.

We like to stress that OceanCare is available to Parties in support of capacity building activities on a national and regional basis.

ANNEX XIX

STATEMENT BY FRANCE ON THE RESOLUTION 7.17 “GLOBAL POST 2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: ACCOBAMS MOBILIZATION” JOINTLY SUBMITTED WITH ALGERIA AND MONACO

ANNEX XIX - STATEMENT BY FRANCE ON THE RESOLUTION 7.17 “GLOBAL POST 2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: ACCOBAMS MOBILIZATION” JOINTLY SUBMITTED WITH ALGERIA AND MONACO

“France has the honour to introduce the draft Resolution 7.17 submitted jointly with Monaco and Algeria. We are fully committed on the issues of biodiversity, which have far too long been overshadowed by climate change, and particularly the ongoing process, which will lead us to determine at the end of next year a framework of renewed global objectives and indicators for global biodiversity.

Mobilization from each of us is imperative and regional agreements are perfectly legitimate to channel and facilitate the involvement of States and Partners in this cause. With this aim in mind, Algeria, France and Monaco wished to submit a draft Resolution on ACCOBAMS’ mobilization within this global process.

In its substance, the purpose of this draft Resolution is to recall the importance of ACCOBAMS’ strong involvement as a matter of general principle in determining and implementing the forthcoming global framework for biodiversity. It stressed how important it is for State Parties to strengthen the implementation of effective measures of cetacean conservation and better take into account cetaceans in relevant sectoral policies, so as to reach and maintain a conservation status that is beneficial for cetaceans and their habitats. This includes among other things, the implementation and compliance with Resolutions adopted by the States within the framework of ACCOBAMS as well as the associated guidelines.

Last but not least, we ask with this text to mandate the Permanent Secretariat to collaborate with other International Organizations, entities and networks dealing with marine biodiversity and related activities, to jointly present commitments at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2020.”