

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>
<p>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</p>	<p>TA1- Concerning the Agreement and its management</p>	<p>1.1 - Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with the ACCOBAMS agreement, its amendments and its resolutions, through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Negotiate accession of all riparian states to the Agreement and promote the adoption of the amendments</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders for cetacean conservation in the area of application of the Agreement</p> <p>Organise Meeting of Parties, Meetings of the Bureau, Meetings of the Scientific the Committee, Meeting of National Representatives to develop the Programme of Work regional or sub-regional conferences and workshops, events for supporting cetacean conservation</p>
		<p>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</p>	<p>Pursue / Intensify collaboration with:</p> <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
		<p>1.3- Monitor the progress in all the sectors of activities of the Agreement and propose the necessary adjustment</p>	<p>Develop a complete monitoring system for all activities using in particular the Follow-up Committee</p> <p>Evaluate regularly the Agreement's overall effectiveness</p> <p>Propose the necessary adjustment in organisational matters of all the</p>

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

Section 2: Conservation Actions (CA)			
<i>Leadership/supervision</i>	<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>	<i>Activities</i>
<p>Under the leadership of the Parties and the Scientific Committee Under the supervision of the Parties, the Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee</p>	<p>TA5- Concerning the improvement of knowledge for conservation</p>	<p>5.1- Centralize, organize and disseminate the existing knowledge on cetaceans, their habitat, the pressures and impacts, the national institutions, legislations and capacities</p>	<p>Develop a mechanism for centralising and disseminating knowledge on cetaceans (documents, projects, events, photos, etc.), in particular on legislation, populations abundance, structure and distribution, species monitoring and status (IUCN red list assessment), strandings, mortalities and casualties, ...</p>
		<p>5.2- Identify the gaps in knowledge and propose actions or programmes to improve the knowledge on cetaceans</p>	<p>Develop international, regional or sub-regional, national projects or programmes: - to identify gaps in knowledge - based on identified gaps in knowledge</p>
<p>Under the leadership of the Parties and the Scientific Committee Under the supervision of the Parties and the Scientific Committee</p>	<p>TA6- Concerning the development of conservation activities and of management measures</p>	<p>6.1- Identify the pressures on cetaceans and propose measures to reduce the impacts on the species or their habitats</p>	<p>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, ...</p> <p>Prepare relevant management or conservation tools such as guidelines for eliminating, reducing or mitigating the impacts considering the regional or national needs</p>
		<p>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</p>	<p>Identify Critical Habitats for Cetaceans (CCHs),</p> <p>Identify or list other areas of interest for cetacean conservation,</p> <p>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>

			<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>
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