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Document : ACCOBAMS-SC13/2020/Inf 21  
Distribution : 25/02/2020

# OVERVIEW OF CMS COP13 OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO ACCOBAMS

## OVERVIEW OF CMS COP13 OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO ACCOBAMS

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held in Gandhinagar, India, from 17 to 22 February 2020. Many items on the agenda were relevant to ACCOBAMS. In this document, a brief overview is given of the most relevant issues under the responsibility of the CMS Aquatic Species Team.
2. It should be noted that many other agenda items, such as those dealing with climate change, renewable energy, and connectivity, are also relevant. Since the meeting took place last week, the adopted decisions can currently be found under In-session Documents on the [CMS website](#).

### Conservation Measures Relevant for CMS-listed Species Evident from the Identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)

3. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.1/Rev.1](#) on IMMAs reports on progress to implement Decisions 12.40 and 12.41 relating to [Resolution 12.13](#). It contains a report by the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force on activities related to the identification of IMMAs undertaken since CMS COP12. The collaboration between CMS and the IMMA process has worked organically through the involvement of the Chair of the Aquatic Mammals WG as well as through the considerable overlaps between the experts of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group and participants of the following workshops and IMMA implementation visits.
4. To date, IMMAs have been developed with relevance for 18 CMS-listed species e.g. Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*, App I), Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*, App I & II), and Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*, App I & II).
5. The CMS Aquatic Mammals Working Group believes it would be useful if the CMS Secretariat and Parties could help engage national support toward a new decade of scientific research, focusing on gaining substantial data about the habitats of marine mammals and other migratory species in the high seas (largest portion of the world's oceans). This will require engagement of governments, scientists and scientific institutions, as well as of the funding bodies capable of financing such a large initiative.
6. Decisions adopted at COP13 (see Annex 1) include a request to Parties to make use of the identified IMMAs posted on the [website](#) of the IUCN Joint Species Survival Commission/World Commission on Protected Areas (SSC/WCPA) Task Force, when identifying habitat at risk or designing threat mitigation measures, and when designating MPAs.

### Marine Noise

7. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.2/Rev.1](#) reports on progress to implement Decisions 12.42 and 12.43, which both relate to [Resolution 12.14](#) on *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*. It also recommends further decisions in order to advance implementation of the Resolution.
8. Decisions adopted at COP13 (see Annex 1) include a request for the CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Joint Noise Working Group to review the report on *Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys, and Pile Driving* published as UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.9 and publish the resulting version as a Technical Series to make the information easily accessible to Parties.
9. CMS Secretariat should add the *Advisory Note: Further guidance on independent, scientific modelling of noise propagation* (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.8) to the *Technical Support Information* provided [online](#). It was also agreed that CMS Scientific Council should assess the need for updating the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental*

*Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities and/or its Technical Support Information* prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## Bycatch

10. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.3](#) reports on a number of activities for marine mammals, turtles and seabirds that have been undertaken by the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to implement [Resolution 12.22](#) on *Bycatch*; and makes suggestions for future activities related to chondrichthyan species.
11. In Annex 1 to Doc.26.2.3, the CMS Scientific Council recommends decisions directed to the Parties, the Council and the Secretariat on concrete activities to implement Resolution 12.22, in particular on the application of existing new guidelines to reduce bycatch of marine mammals, reviewing the overall bycatch situation for aquatic species in general and for chondrichthyans in particular, and identifying appropriate bycatch mitigation measures.
12. The information documents linked to Doc.26.2.3 included [Inf.11](#) *Technical Mitigation to Reduce Marine Mammal Bycatch and Entanglement in Commercial Fishing Gear: Lessons learnt and future directions* and [Inf.12](#) *Report of the FAO Expert Workshop on Means and Methods for Reducing Marine Mammal Mortality in Fishing and Aquaculture Operations*.
13. One of the decisions adopted at COP13 (see Annex 1) urges Parties, that manage fisheries with identified marine mammal bycatch problems, to take account of the Hamilton and Baker (2019) assessment<sup>1</sup>; and the FAO Technical guidelines to reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries, once available; and the Leaper and Calderan (2018) study of methods used to reduce risks of cetacean bycatch and entanglements (CMS Technical Series Publication No. 38) – in addition to the best available scientific advice for the fisheries concerned and implement effective bycatch mitigation measures for marine mammals.

## Aquatic Wild Meat

14. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.4](#) reports on progress in implementation of Decisions 12.44 to 12.46 relating to [Resolution 12.15](#). It includes the progress report of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, which it presented to the Scientific Council. The document is accompanied by two further annexes posted separately. These deal with the *Harvest of CMS Appendix I-Listed Sharks and Rays as Aquatic Wild Meat* and with *Determining the Extent of Interplay between Bycatch and Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests*.
15. The results of these two papers are reflected in the decisions, which direct the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group to increase collaboration with the Bycatch Working Group and to incorporate Appendix I-listed sharks and rays into their further work. The decisions were adopted as is (see Annex 1).

## Marine Wildlife Watching

16. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.5](#) reports on progress to implement relevant decisions made at COP12, and combines the workstreams of *Recreational In-Water Interactions* ([Res.12.16](#)) and *Sustainable Boat Based Marine Wildlife Watching* ([Res.11.29 \(Rev.COP12\)](#)) as requested by Parties.
17. The Secretariat developed a review of existing guidelines and issues of concern related to recreational in-water interactions with aquatic species, which the COP was recommended to take note of. The review can be found in Annex 2 of Doc.26.2.5. The Secretariat also worked closely with the International Whaling Commission to develop the [joint IWC-CMS Whale Watching Handbook](#). Both activities were possible thanks to funds made available by the Government of the Principality of Monaco under the Migratory Species Programme.

<sup>1</sup> Available as UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.11.

18. Decisions adopted at COP13 (see Annex 1) include a request to Parties to provide the Secretariat with copies of the relevant documents for any measures adopted regarding recreational in-water interactions with aquatic mammals; and regarding sustainable boat-based marine wildlife watching.

### **Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes**

19. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.8](#) reports on three COP12 decisions. To implement these decisions, the Secretariat requested information from Parties on the implementation of the Best Practice Guidelines relating to the Live Capture on Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes. The guidelines can be found as an Annex to Resolution 11.22 (Rev.COP12).
20. By the deadline, the Secretariat had received one response (from Spain), which can be found as UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.16. The Secretariat proposed to provide Parties more time to submit information, through the extension of the decisions. The decisions were adopted (see Annex 1).

### **Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans**

21. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.10/Rev.2](#) contains a compilation of several activities which relate to the activities foreseen in very comprehensive programme of work contained in [Resolution 10.15 \(Rev.COP12\)](#). The draft decisions address three topics:
- Decision 12.16, which foresees the development of similar work programmes for other aquatic mammal species, is proposed for renewal in amended form.
  - Part of the Decision dealing with *Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals*, but addressing wider issues faced by cetaceans in the Red Sea, is reported on. A review of threats was submitted by the Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals and is attached as Annex 1 to Doc.26.2.10/Rev.2. The authors recommend the development of an Action Plan for the cetacean populations found in the Red Sea.
  - A new work area focusing on the role of whales in ecosystems, to be addressed in collaboration with the International Whaling Commission, is being introduced.
22. These three topics all address issues relevant to Resolution 10.15 (Rev.COP12), but the proposed decisions not an attempt to cover all regions or topics included in the Resolution. There is clearly scope for many more activities, as has also been pointed out by some partners in advance of this meeting, and their support to the Council and the Secretariat in addressing more issues will be most welcome.
23. Decisions adopted at COP13 (see Annex 1) include a request for the CMS Aquatic Mammals Working Group to review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals not included in the Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans and undertake a revision of the POW leading up to COP14, including a review of the implementation of the POW to date, preparation of a gap analysis and identification of the priorities going forward.

### **Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity**

24. [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.1/Rev.1](#) reports on progress in implementing Decisions 12.75 to 12.77 related to [Resolution 11.23 \(Rev.COP12\)](#). It also provides the progress report of the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity to the Scientific Council, and recommends new Decisions to carry forward this work.

25. Decisions adopted at COP13 include a request for the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture to progress work on the development of a management tool at a workshop proposed for 2020 (offer for hosting already received); and instructions to Secretariat to issue questionnaire to Parties before COP14. Decisions went through as is (see Annex 1).

### **Concerted Actions**

26. A new Concerted Action (CA) for Harbour Porpoise, concerning Baltic and Iberian populations, was adopted. This can be found in [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.2.7/Rev.1](#). Activities in the CA aim to support the work of ASCOBANS and the Baltic Porpoise Action Plan and also strengthen the collaborative effort by all CMS Parties bordering the Baltic Proper. The Iberian population will similarly benefit from the actions recommended, and particularly with regard to reducing unintentional mortality from fisheries bycatch.
27. The CA for Harbour Porpoise recommends Parties to implement, as soon as possible, a coherent system for data collection on fishing effort and bycatch of protected, endangered and threatened species, including Harbour Porpoise, for vessels of all sizes; take immediate management actions and measures, including fisheries regulations to protect porpoises within and outside marine protected areas such as Natura 2000 sites; actively participate in the development of an Action Plan for the Iberian Harbour Porpoise population with immediate effect; and list the two Harbour Porpoise populations on CMS Appendix I at the earliest opportunity and also add the Iberian porpoise population to Appendix II.
28. The following Concerted Actions for cetaceans were approved for extension: [CA12.2](#) Sperm Whales, [CA12.3](#) Atlantic Humpback Dolphin, and [CA12.4](#) Humpback Whales in the Arabian Sea.

## Annex 1

### Decisions Adopted at CMS COP13 on Relevant Topics to ACCOBAMS

#### IMMAs

##### ***Directed to Parties***

13.AA Parties are requested to make use, as appropriate, of the identified Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) posted on the website of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force ([www.marinemammalhabitat.org](http://www.marinemammalhabitat.org)) when identifying habitat at risk or designing threat mitigation measures, and when designating marine protected areas, for marine spatial planning purposes, for CMS-listed pinnipeds, sirenians, otters, polar bears and cetaceans.

##### ***Directed to Parties that are Range States to the Dugong***

13.BB Parties that are Range States to the Dugong are requested to consider, including consulting the Dugong MOU, whether their regional population of the species merits inclusion on Appendix I of CMS.

##### ***Directed to the Scientific Council***

13.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) upon request, support Parties to make use of the identified Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) posted on the website of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force ([www.marinemammalhabitat.org](http://www.marinemammalhabitat.org)) when identifying habitat at risk or designing threat mitigation measures for CMS-listed pinnipeds, sirenians, otters, polar bears and cetaceans;
- b) collaborate with the IUCN Joint Species Survival Commission/World Commission on Protected Areas (SSC/WCPA) Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force to include data on CMS-listed pinnipeds, sirenians, otters, polar bears and cetaceans in the identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs);
- c) provide advice to Parties on request on the scientific merits of including regional populations of *Dugong dugon* on Appendix I of CMS.

##### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources,

- a) transfer information on newly identified IMMAs received from the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force to the Scientific Council and to the Parties and invite contributions from Parties and Range States;
- b) support the engagement of national support for a new decade of scientific research about the habitats of marine mammals and other migratory species on the high seas;
- c) continue to engage in the negotiation process for and implementation of the BBNJ treaty, with a view to its relevance for marine mammals as well as other migratory marine species.

#### Marine Noise

##### ***Directed to the Parties***

13.AA Parties are requested to:

- a) disseminate the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities* annexed to Resolution 12.14 to all national departments involved in deciding on noise-generating activities;
- b) inform the Scientific Council about experiences and lessons-learned in the application of these guidelines, and the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise.

##### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) draw Resolution 12.14 and the annexed *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities* to the attention of other relevant intergovernmental organizations and initiatives;
- b) strengthen coordination with other international fora to encourage coherence in implementation of policies addressing noise impacts on marine life;

- c) add the *Advisory Note: Further guidance on independent, scientific modelling of noise propagation* (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.8) to the *Technical Support Information* provided online at <https://www.cms.int/en/guidelines/cms-family-guidelines-EIAs-marine-noise>;
- d) request the CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Joint Noise Working Group to review the report on *Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys, and Pile Driving* published as UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.9 and publish the resulting version as a Technical Series to make the information easily accessible to Parties;
- e) prior to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before COP14, request Parties to submit information on experiences and lessons-learned in the application of the CMS Family Noise EIA Guidelines, and the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise.

#### **Directed to the Scientific Council**

13.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- a) review the report on *Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys, and Pile Driving* after it has received input from the CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Joint Noise Working Group, and if required develop voluntary noise mitigation guidelines on these activities of concern;
- b) assess the need for updating the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities* and/or its *Technical Support Information* prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Bycatch**

##### **Directed to Parties**

13.AA Parties that manage fisheries with identified marine mammal bycatch problems are urged to take account of the Hamilton and Baker (2019) assessment, available as UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.11 and, once available, the FAO Technical guidelines to reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries and the Leaper and Calderan (2018) study of methods used to reduce risks of cetacean bycatch and entanglements (CMS Technical Series Publication No. 38), in addition to the best available scientific advice for the fisheries concerned and implement effective bycatch mitigation measures for marine mammals, as appropriate to their fishing operations including the introduction of alternative gears.

##### **Directed to the Scientific Council and its Working Group on Bycatch**

- 13.BB The Scientific Council and the Working Group on Bycatch are invited, subject to the availability of funds and in cooperation with other relevant organizations such as the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee and regional fisheries management organisations to:
- a) review current data and knowledge about levels of bycatch of CMS-listed chondrichthyan species and existing measures to mitigate bycatch based on species, fishing area, fisheries, fishing season and gear type;
  - b) based on the above, identify priorities for bycatch mitigation and make recommendations to Parties and the CMS Sharks MOU on the most effective and appropriate measures to mitigate and reduce bycatch based on the above categories, while ensuring that recommended measures do not act to the disadvantage of other CMS-listed marine species.

##### **Directed to the Secretariat**

13.CC The Secretariat is requested to, subject to the availability of funds:

- a) upon the request of Parties, and, as appropriate, in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental organizations, including regional fisheries management organisations:
  - i. commission national or regional reviews to determine relative levels of bycatch of all CMS-listed marine species in commercial and artisanal fisheries;
  - ii. identify and prioritize fisheries and areas in which adverse impacts of bycatch are highest for CMS-listed marine species; and

- iii. organize, if warranted, regional workshops to identify appropriate bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries of highest priority.
- b) support the Scientific Council with the implementation of its task agreed in Decision 13.BB, including by commissioning a review on bycatch in chondrichthyan species and by facilitating cooperation between the Scientific Council and the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee.

## **Aquatic Wild Meat**

### ***Directed to the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group of the Scientific Council***

13.AA The Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group of the Scientific Council should, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) work with the Bycatch Working Group to develop analysis of the extent of instances where bycatch transitions to aquatic wild meat harvest and report on this for the Scientific Council to provide clear recommendations to CMS COP14.
- b) undertake the following tasks over the course of the intersessional period and report to the Scientific Council with clear recommendations for CMS Parties for CMS COP14, ensuring that perspectives of species conservation, human health and sustainable livelihoods are taken into account:
  - i. incorporate CMS Appendix I-Listed Sharks and Rays into all relevant activities of the working group;
  - ii. continue discussions to establish an online knowledge base as a repository of papers (journal articles, meeting documents etc) and other information related to aquatic wild meat;
  - iii. serve as an expert resource for CMS Parties, the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to contribute to the bushmeat/wild meat discussions within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), or when international coordination and cooperation about aquatic wild meat is required;
  - iv. explore opportunities for greater engagement with the work of the CPW;
  - v. develop a criterion for considering if some Appendix II-listed sharks and rays should be included within the scope of the Working Group;
  - vi. share information with IWC and participate in future Small Cetacean Sub-committee meetings with a focus on aquatic wild meat;
  - vii. provide support to the Abidjan Aquatic Wildlife Partnership, where the development of the Action Plan to Combat Trade, Direct Consumption, Illegal Logging, and Other Uses of Endangered, Threatened or Protected Coastal and Marine Species overlaps with the conservation of CMS-listed species in the western African region;
  - viii. collect and present information about seabird harvests as aquatic wild meat;
  - ix. develop a sub-regional aquatic Wild Meat action plan for the Gulf of Guinea for consideration by Range State Parties in the region; and develop regional, sub-regional or national actions plans for Range State Parties that request assistance.

### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to the availability of resources, continue to liaise with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) to promote the inclusion of aquatic wild meat in their work.
- b) with the assistance of the Working Group, work with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat to ensure synergies between the work of both Conventions on Aquatic Wild meat, in the implementation of CMS COP13 and Abidjan Convention COP13 decisions.

## Marine Wildlife Watching

### *Directed to the Parties*

13.AA Parties are requested to:

- a) provide the Secretariat with copies of the relevant documents for any measures as described in paragraph 1 of UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.16 on Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals that they have adopted regarding recreational in-water interactions with aquatic mammals or other CMS-listed species, attached to the national report;
- b) provide the Secretariat with copies of the relevant documents for any measures that they have adopted as described in paragraph 1 of UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12) on Sustainable Boat-Based Marine Wildlife Watching, attached to the national report;
- c) provide the Secretariat with country profiles for countries not already covered, or for suggestions for case studies for inclusion in the joint IWC-CMS Whale Watching Handbook.

### *Directed to the Secretariat*

13.BB The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, support the Scientific Council in the development of the Guidelines on recreational in-water interactions.

### *Directed to the Scientific Council*

13.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to availability of resources, to:

- a) utilize the review of existing guidelines undertaken in partial fulfillment of Decision 12.51b<sup>2</sup> and presented to COP13, develop guidelines, including a recommended code of conduct for operators on recreational in-water interactions with CMS-listed species;
- b) consult with the Secretariats and Advisory Committees, where appropriate, of the CMS MOUs dealing with aquatic species, in the development of these guidelines;
- c) consult with the IWC Scientific Committee in the development of these guidelines and, if practical, consider agreeing a joint product, at least with respect to cetaceans;
- d) present the guidelines and recommended code of conduct for operators concerning recreational in-water interaction to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for formal consideration.

## Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes

### *Directed to the Secretariat*

13.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) request Parties to submit information on the implementation of the Best Practice Guidelines relating to the Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes via the National Report process.
- b) upon request and subject to the availability of resources, provide assistance to Parties to amend their national legislation, in line with the recommendations contained in the Best Practice Guidelines relating to the Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes.

### *Directed to Parties*

13.BB Parties are requested to cooperate with the Secretariat in the implementation of Decisions 13.AA, by providing information in response to the request mentioned in paragraph a).

## Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans

### *Directed to Parties*

13.AA Parties are requested to:

- a) liaise with the Secretariat regarding the potential for the development of an Action Plan for the cetaceans in the Red Sea region;
- b) provide voluntary contributions support the implementation of these Decisions.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.5/Annex 2.

**Directed to the Aquatic Mammals Working Group of the Scientific Council**

- 13.BB The Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:
- a) review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals not included in the Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans and undertake a revision of the POW leading up to COP14, including a review of the implementation of the POW to date, preparation of a gap analysis and identification of the priorities going forward;
  - b) based on this assessment of threats and regional priorities, prepare work programmes for these other aquatic mammal species for consideration by the Scientific Council at its 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee;
  - c) if applicable, provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region.

**Directed to the Scientific Council**

- 13.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:
- a) review the assessments of regional threats and resulting work programmes developed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting;
  - b) if applicable, review the draft Action Plan for the cetaceans in the Red Sea region and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting;
  - c) promote work in collaboration with the IWC to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions to support the implementation of the Action Plan and other conservation measures in the South Atlantic area.

**Directed to the Secretariat**

- 13.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:
- a) consult Red Sea Range States to investigate the potential for the development of an Action Plan for the cetaceans in the Red Sea region;
  - b) organize a workshop of interested Parties, scientists and conservation organizations working in the Red Sea region to identify how to best take forward cetacean conservation there and, if so desired by Parties, to assist in the development of an Action Plan;
  - c) consult with suitable regional bodies including the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) to seek its support to take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea, as recommended by the abovementioned workshop;
  - d) liaise with the IWC Secretariat with a view to co-hosting a workshop on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning to review the existing data and research and identify opportunities to expand this work;
  - e) report on the outcomes of the workshop to the next meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

**Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity****Directed to Parties**

- 13.AA Parties are requested to:
- a) liaise with the chair and vice-chair of the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity regarding the development of concerted action for species or populations identified as priorities;
  - b) submit to the Secretariat for transmission to the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity information on any assessments of anthropogenic threats to socially complex mammalian species on the basis of evidence of interactions of those threats with social structure and culture, as well as any publications of pertinent data for advancing the conservation management of these populations and discrete social groups;
  - c) support the implementation of these Decisions with voluntary contributions.

**Directed to the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture**

- 13.BB The Expert Group is requested to:
- a) progress work on the development of a management tool at a workshop proposed for 2020, with the specific task of testing the tool on the CMS Appendices and identifying priority species and social groups;

- b) continue further development of case studies so that these can be brought forward at the 2020 workshop to inform this process;
- c) once key priority species have been established, develop a more comprehensive workplan beyond 2020, which should include:
  - Identification of case studies relevant to CMS;
  - Development of robust criteria and a management tool for prioritising species and social groups on the CMS Appendices;
  - Development of any relevant concerted actions arising from the prioritisation process;
  - Identification of key daughter agreements which might benefit from dissemination of this work;
- d) make recommendations to the Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council preceding the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.CC The Secretariat shall:

- a) request Parties to submit about 18 months before the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties information on any assessments of anthropogenic threats to socially complex mammalian species on the basis of evidence of interactions of those threats with social structure and culture, as well as any publications of pertinent data for advancing the conservation management of these populations and discrete social groups for transmission to the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity;
- b) subject to the availability of resources, convene a workshop to assist the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity with identifying priority species and populations on the CMS Appendices and specifically to provide advice to Parties on rapid assessment techniques and how to augment existing conservation efforts using insights on aspects of sociality.

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

13.DD The Scientific Council should:

- a) invite newly appointed Councillors that have relevant expertise to engage in the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity;
- b) consider the outputs of the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity and make recommendations to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties, based on its findings.