

## REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS BUREAU



Online meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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**DRAFT REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS BUREAU**

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## 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Thirteen Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau was held from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 using for the first time the videoconference system.
2. It was attended by the Bureau Members: Mr. Fahrettin Ulu (Turkey), Chair of the ACCOBAMS Bureau for 2020/2022, and the Vice-Chairs: Ms. Elvira Garcia-Bellido Capdevila (Spain), Mr. Gaby Khalaf (Lebanon), Mr. Duncan Borg (Malta) and Mr. Abdelali Loudrhiri (Morocco).
3. The Meeting was also attended by Mr. Aybars Altiparmak, as advisor to the Chair, Mr. Simone Panigada, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, four experts assisting the Secretariat as Observers: Mr. Chedly Rais, Mr. Tullio Scovazzi, Mr. Alessio Maglio and Mr. Yanis Souami, and staff members of the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.
4. The full list of participants appears in [Annex 1](#) to this report.
5. The Chair opened the Meeting at 9.30 a.m., on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
6. He welcomed the participants and the new ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary, Mrs. Susana Salvador, as well as the Secretariat's team. He regretted the fact that the COVID restrictions had prevented the meeting from taking place in Monaco as originally planned. He thanked the Secretariat for preparing the meeting and making the technical arrangements to allow it to be conducted online and wished a fruitful meeting.
7. The Executive Secretary also welcomed the participants and provided details about the logistic arrangements for the participants and the documentation of the Meeting.

## 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Executive Secretary introduced the provisional Agenda (BU13/2020/**Doc01**), the Provisional Annotated Agenda (BU13/2020/**Doc02Rev1**), the List of documents (BU13/2020/**Doc03Rev1**) and the Provisional Timetable (BU13/2020/**Doc04**).
9. She suggested the introduction of an item regarding the follow-up of the recruitment procedure under the Agenda item 7-Any Other Business.
10. The Meeting adopted the Agenda and the related timetable. The Agenda appears as [Annex 2](#) to this report.
11. The Executive Secretary explained that the Rules of Procedures for Bureau Meetings had been written with physical meetings in mind but they did not preclude virtual meetings. She introduced the document BU13/2020/**Inf03** "Rules for BU13 online meeting".

12. The Meeting agreed to operate under the Rules of Procedure as proposed in the document Inf 03.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020-2022 BY THE SECRETARIAT AND BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

#### 3.1 Impacts of the Covid19 crisis

13. The Executive Secretary introduced the document BU13/2020/**Doc05Rev1**, presenting 1/ the impact of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis on ACCOBAMS activities and meetings and 2/ proposed procedures for future online Bureau meetings of ACCOBAMS if/when ACCOBAMS presential meetings are not possible.
14. A discussion was held on article 8, related to the working language(s) of the online Bureau meetings, resulting in an amendment proposal to the text.

15. As revised during the Meeting, the proposed procedures for future Bureau online meetings were agreed by the Bureau Members as reflected in [Annex 3](#) to this report. The Secretariat was invited to circulate the document to the National Focal Points for information.

#### 3.2 Report on activities by the Secretariat and by the Scientific Committee

16. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc06**, presenting information about the main activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the last Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS, and the status of each action planned in the 2020-2022 Work Programme.
17. The Executive Secretary introduced the document BU13/2020/**Doc07** and the legal advisor provided further details on this document presenting the Compendium of Resolutions in force according to the New ACCOBAMS Strategy.
18. The Executive Secretary introduced the document BU13/2020/**Doc08** - Roles and Responsibilities of ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, which was developed following the request of the Parties during the last Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS through Resolution 7.4. The legal advisor explained that this document was developed with inspiration from the manual of National Focal Points prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) for the Agreements within the CMS framework.

19. The Bureau members thanked the Secretariat for the report of activities and requested the Secretariat to pursue collaboration with other organizations in order to promote harmonisation and complementarity of actions and facilitate co-funding of activities.

20. The Bureau members recommended to disseminate the compendium of Resolutions as well as the document on the roles and responsibilities of ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, as revised during the meeting, to all ACCOBAMS National Focal Points and through the ACCOBAMS website.

21. The Chair of the Scientific Committee introduced the Progress report on the activities of the Scientific Committee (Document BU13/2020/**Doc09**) and informed the Meeting about the activities of the Scientific Committee since the Seventh Meeting of the Parties in November 2019.
22. The Progress report also included the main topics addressed by the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee, held in February 2020.
23. The Secretariat presented document BU13/2020/**Inf03**, prepared by a member of the Scientific Committee regarding scientific perspective on “potential marine semi-enclosed facilities”. This preliminary document will be circulated early 2021 to Working Group experts, and other researchers with the adequate expertise.

24. The Bureau Members congratulated the Scientific Committee for the extensive work done, despite the COVID crisis, and recommended to further communicate in relation to ongoing projects in order to avoid duplication of efforts within the ACCOBAMS Area.

### 3.3 Provisional list of activities for 2021

25. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc10** on proposed activities for 2021, explaining it consisted of a new template prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 7.6 adopted by the Parties during MOP7. It included an estimate of the proposed expenditures for 2021 in line with the 2020-2022 Programme of Work and foreseen activities. She briefly presented the main activities planned for 2021 pointing out that many of them being supported thanks to voluntary contributions from Parties and external funding.

26. Regarding the development/revision/implementation of the national action plans (planned under activity CA1c), the Bureau recommended the Secretariat to contact all the National Focal Points to assess their interest as regards this activity and their potential needs for support and assistance, and this to plan future developments for this activity.

27. The Bureau agreed the proposed activities for 2021, as revised during the meeting, the provisional list of activities for 2021 appears in [Annex 4](#) of this report.

28. The Secretariat also presented document BU13/2020/**Doc14** on Terms of reference for necropsy training following the best practices on cetacean *postmortem* investigation and tissue sampling which resulted from the harmonization process in ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. Two internationally renowned experts will be appointed to coordinate the training. The 5 day-training is planned for Autumn 2021, tentatively at one of the laboratories of the trainers - University of Padova or University of Liege. Around 30 trainees are expected to attend, at least one per ACCOBAMS Country.

29. The Bureau invited the Secretariat to contact the two potential trainers as soon as possible in order to finalize the Terms of reference, which will be then circulated to all National Focal Point early 2021, enabling the latter to propose the “best” candidate for the training.

30. The Executive Secretary recalled the Bureau of the major achievements of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, with important data and results on cetacean distribution and abundance that will drive ACCOBAMS conservation efforts in future years. In addition to the need of communicating and capitalizing on these results, she underlined that it was important to consider the sustainability of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative to achieve long term monitoring objectives.
31. The Secretariat introduced information documents BU13/2020/**Inf05** and BU13/2020/**Inf06**, which presented the results of the analysis conducted with the ASI data collected, respectively, during the Mediterranean boat-based and aerial surveys of 2018, and the Black Sea aerial Survey of 2019. It was reminded that the ASI analytical approach was aimed to be inclusive, counting with the participation of national scientists, through sub regional analytical workshops conducted over the 2019-2021 period.
32. The Secretariat introduced the information document BU13/2020/**Inf04**, which presented the preliminary maquette of the future ACCOBAMS publication *"Conserving Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and adjacent areas: an ACCOBAMS status report"*. This volume is prepared as an update of the last book on the Conservation Status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area that was published in 2010, and is based on ASI results, on all relevant information collected during the last decade and on the IUCN Red list updated status (re) assessment conducted in parallel. It will be ready and printed in time for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACCOBAMS.
33. The Bureau members commended the work conducted under the ASI and the importance of the Results Reports and the forthcoming publication *"Conserving Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and adjacent areas: an ACCOBAMS status report"*.
34. The Bureau recommended to implement a large communication action on the ASI results, as it is a good opportunity to increase the visibility on ACCOBAMS and its activities, as well as the collaborative spirit of the Agreement.
35. The Bureau recommended to circulate the pre-final version of the ACCOBAMS updated Cetacean Status report to the Focal Points before printing.
36. The Secretariat introduced documents BU13/2020/**Doc11** and BU13/2020/**Doc12** which presented, respectively, the Intermediate assessment of the ASI project and the Preliminary draft of the ACCOBAMS Long-Term Monitoring Program. The ASI project assessment process started at the end of 2020, with the preparation of a mid-term review of the ASI project by the Secretariat, which will support the ASI project external assessment. This evaluation will also support the drawing up of recommendations that will guide the definition of the ACCOBAMS Long-Term Monitoring Programme, as well as the conditions for its implementation, particularly regarding the funding needs.
37. The expert assisting the Secretariat in developing the ACCOBAMS Long-Term Monitoring Programme provided further details on the content of the document, highlighting the main aspects of the draft programme which was built following a first consultation phase with the teams who conducted the ASI surveys.

38. Both documents will be further developed in the coming months and will be presented for consultation at the meeting of National Representatives, at the next meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and at the next ACCOBAMS Bureau meeting in 2021. The final objective of the consultation process is to present a draft resolution on the Long-Term Monitoring under ACCOBAMS, for consideration by the next Meeting of the Parties.

39. The importance to ensure regular synoptic monitoring operations in the ACCOBAMS Area was emphasized by the Bureau members, stressing the need to ensure synergies with the relevant EU directives and the Regional Seas conventions monitoring frameworks.

40. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for this on-going work, recognizing that ensuring ASI sustainability is an important challenge for ACCOBAMS. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts, in consultation with the Scientific Committee and the Focal Points.

41. The Bureau also recommended that the Secretariat liaises with the European Commission, the Secretariats of the Regional Seas Conventions (Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions), ASCOBANS and IWC to (i) inform them about the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, and (ii) to ensure coordination regarding the development of the ACCOBAMS Long Term Monitoring Program.

42. The Secretariat introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc13** on the Draft Terms of Reference for the ASI Technical Recommendations Workshop to be organized in 2021. The ToRs were produced with support from a Consultation Support Group and subsequently shared with the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Members and ACCOBAMS Partners. The ToRs will serve as the basis to organize the workshop, tentatively planned for May/June 2021, through a mix of webinars and presential sessions.

43. Advice was provided from the Bureau to also consider using during the workshop the information issued from the efforts by the cetacean Stranding monitoring networks.

44. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for this work and encouraged to pursue the development of this workshop.

45. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc24** on a Proposal for a peer-reviewed publication based on ASI results as a special issue of a highly rated scientific journal. She explained that the proposal was examined by the Steering Committee of the ASI Project who recommended to submit it for the ACCOBAMS Bureau for consideration.

46. Discussions were held on the financial needs to support the publication fees and the importance of ensuring geographical and gender balance in relation to authorship of the published material.

47. The Bureau recognized the proposal as an interesting opportunity to promote ACCOBAMS visibility and ASI results.

48. The Bureau invited the proponents to further elaborate their proposal in consultation with the Secretariat, namely by establishing an active process aiming at ensuring geographical and gender

balance in relation to authorship, and at promoting a sufficient diversity of topics to be addressed. In this process the Bureau recommended to give further consideration to the possible options regarding the publishing journal and the related costs.

49. The consolidated proposal will be circulated to the Bureau members in view of informing, in a next step, the National Focal Points. The latter would be expected to disseminate this information to the scientist community in their countries in order to spark their interest in submitting proposals for articles to the editors.

#### 4. BUDGETARY MATTERS

50. The Chair recalled the Meeting that according to Annex III “Terms of reference for administration of the budget” of Resolution 7.6, at the end of each calendar year of the financial period, the Secretariat shall submit the annual accounts to the Bureau, for approval.

##### 4.1 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2019

51. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc15** on incomes and expenditures for 2019, as per 31 December 2019 and informed the Bureau that the 2019 accounts have been validated early April by the Auditor/financial controller.

52. Following the presentation of the report on incomes and expenditures for 2019, Bureau Members commended the support received from some Countries, through their voluntary contributions, and the work of the Secretariat to develop projects and activities supported by cofundings.

##### 4.2 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2020

53. The Executive Secretary presented document BU13/2020/**Doc16** on incomes and expenditures for 2020, as of 30 September 2020.

54. She informed the Bureau that since the finalization of the Document, three more Parties had paid their 2020 ordinary contributions. Two voluntary contributions have been received by the Secretariat (from Malta and Monaco), and two others would be transferred in the coming days (Italy and Spain).

55. Regarding unpaid contributions, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to send a reminder to all Parties with unpaid contributions urging them to fulfil their obligations towards the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund as soon as possible.

56. Once again, the Bureau highlighted the important support of voluntary contributions for the good implementation of the Programme of Work, as adopted though Resolution 7.6.



#### 4.3 Estimated and proposed expenditures for 2021

57. The discussion started under agenda item 3.3 was continued under this agenda item with document BU13/2020/**Doc10Rev1**, on planned activities for 2021, in order to address the respective foreseen expenditures for 2021.

58. The Bureau agreed with the estimated and proposed expenditures for 2021 as reflected in [Annex 4](#) to this report and encouraged the Secretariat both to continue monitoring funding opportunities and to develop proposals for multilateral projects and co-funded activities.

#### 4.4 Establishment of the Working Group regarding budgetary provisions

59. The Executive Secretary presented document BU13/2020/**Doc17** and explained that, as reflected in paragraph 15 of Resolution 7.6, an intersessional working group composed of Parties to ACCOBAMS would be established. The Terms of reference for the intersessional working group consist of a description of the mandate of the group and the expected deliverables associated to Resolution 7.6, but also Resolution 7.4 on the ACCOBAMS Strategy, regarding the need to ensure adequate funding of the activities.

60. The Bureau Members highlighted the appropriateness of nominating experts with the relevant profile and background on accounting and/or budgetary matters.

61. Nevertheless, they considered that the proposed timeline was too ambitious and that the work should start in March 2021, instead of January 2021.

62. The Bureau reviewed and approved the Terms of Reference as appearing in [Annex 5](#) to this report and requested the Secretariat to circulate them to all National Focal Points, early 2021.

## **5. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

#### 5.1 Launching of ACCOBAMS new digital platform

63. The Secretariat introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc18** regarding NETCCOBAMS, the ACCOBAMS digital platform for cetacean conservation. The objective of such a platform is to facilitate the visualization of important areas for cetacean conservation, to reinforce exchanges and collaboration amongst all actors in cetacean conservation; and to assist Parties in taking appropriate management and conservation measures.

64. The experts assisting the Secretariat in developing the ACCOBAMS digital platform presented the new platform. They showed the data, information and indicators provided for in the platform, such as Model-based maps of shipping noise in the whole ACCOBAMS area in 2018; Model-based habitat maps for different cetacean species in 2018; as well as acoustic Risk Maps.

65. In response to the question of scientific data sources, the experts explained that all data came from robust sources and that two workshops with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee were held in 2020 to integrate robust and validated biological layers.

66. Bureau members congratulated the ongoing work regarding this new ACCOBAMS digital platform for cetacean conservation. They encouraged the development of NETCCOBAMS and requested to add the projects and a template to be used for the national report, as it was the case in the previous NETCCOBAMS website.

67. They also requested the Secretariat to inform all National Focal Points of the launching of the new ACCOBAMS digital platform and to provide them with a login and password.

### 5.2 Development of a Communication Strategy

68. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc19** related to the selection of the application for developing the ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy in accordance with Resolution 7.4 adopted at MOP7. She recalled that a Call for Applications was launched by the Secretariat in August 2020, based on the Terms of Reference that had been previously validated by the Bureau Members. She informed the Bureau members that one application was received, pointing out the adequacy of the applicant (FCB Lisbon -<https://www.fcb.com/location/lisbon>) in face of the requirement of the Call.

69. The Bureau agreed to engage the proposed external consultant to develop the draft ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy in view of its presentation for adoption at MOP8.

70. The Bureau agreed to create a Steering Group to liaise with the Secretariat and the Consultant during the drafting of the Communication Strategy, and requested the Secretariat to provide all the National Focal Points with this information.

### 5.3 Planning of ACCOBAMS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

71. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Inf07** on the ACCOBAMS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary that will be celebrated in 2021. In order to increase visibility, and similarly with what was done in 2016 for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, several actions are being explored by the Secretariat to celebrate this anniversary:

- Creation of a temporary logo selected through a design contest;
- Publication of an anniversary stamp by the Office des Emissions de Timbres-Poste in Monaco;
- Installation of a commemorative art piece in Monaco to be inaugurated by HSH Prince Albert II on the day of the ACCOBAMS anniversary (24 November 2021).

72. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the planned activities to mark the ACCOBAMS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, pointing out this was a very good opportunity to give highlight on ACCOBAMS and its activities.

73. The Bureau recommended the Secretariat to send a letter to all Parties to inform them about the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to invite them to organize dedicated national events in their countries, with, if needed, the Secretariat's support and assistance (whenever possible).

74. The Executive Secretary presented the document BU13/2020/**Doc20** recalling the contest launched in July 2020 to select the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. She informed the Bureau Members that 55 entries had been received from 23 applicants. Among those, 3 entries had been pre-selected by the Secretariat and were put for the consideration of the Bureau Members.

75. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the organization of the logo design contest and, after due consideration, the Bureau selected the first proposal, to which some changes were agreed and should be proposed to the winning applicant. If he will not agree with the proposed changes, in alternative, the author of the third proposal would be contacted by the Secretariat.

## 6. ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

### 6.1 Programmes of Collaboration with the Secretariat for the 2020-2022 triennium

76. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc22Rev1** on the programmes of collaboration sent by 13 ACCOBAMS Partners to the Secretariat. The document was prepared according to Annex 2 (Rules and Commitments of ACCOBAMS Partners) of Resolution 7.9, adopted during the MOP7, *"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"*.

77. Bureau members raised the low number of collaboration programmes received by the Secretariat from the ACCOBAMS Partners (only 13 ACCOBAMS Partners provided collaboration programmes). In this regard, the Secretariat informed the Meeting that several reminders had been sent prior to the Bureau Meeting and that more contributions were expected in the coming weeks.

78. The ACCOBAMS legal advisor recalled that, according to Annex 2 of Resolution 7.9, relating to the Rules and Commitments of ACCOBAMS Partners, there was a requirement to report to ACCOBAMS and that the Bureau could decide to withdraw the status of ACCOBAMS Partners if no activities are reported.

79. The Bureau welcomed the information provided by the 13 Partners to ACCOBAMS and asked the Secretariat to request remaining contributions, so that they could be examined by the next Bureau Meeting in 2021.

### 6.2 New request(s) for ACCOBAMS Partnership

80. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc21Rev2** on the new requests for ACCOBAMS Partnership, explaining that the Secretariat had received 4 applications in total: two by entities based in States non-Parties to ACCOBAMS (Switzerland and United Kingdom) and two by

entities based in States Parties to ACCOBAMS (Italy and Spain). She further informed the Meeting that all four applicants did send necessary paperwork in support of their submissions for the status of ACCOBAMS Partner, as presented in the Annexes of document BU13/2020/Doc21Rev2.

81. The ACCOBAMS legal advisor recalled that, according to Resolution 7.9, if entities based in States Non-Parties to the ACCOBAMS present an application to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, the Bureau may take any decision, on the basis of the documentation received, and could also request additional documents, if deemed necessary.
82. The Executive Secretary underlined the added value of the partnership network in improving the outreach of ACCOBAMS, recalling how fruitful collaboration with Partners may contribute to disseminate ACCOBAMS' scope of work and field of action, and thus mobilising potential Partners on common objectives.

83. The Bureau decided to grant the status of ACCOBAMS Partners to:

- The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP)
- The Save the Med Foundation
- The NGO KYMA sea conservation & research

84. The Bureau decided to postpone its decision concerning DelTa Association. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to liaise with the Italian Focal Point and with DelTa Association to further investigate the willingness and ability of the latter to cooperate with national governmental Institution. The partnership application will be re-examined at the next Meeting of the Bureau, for decision.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

85. Recalling ACCOBAMS provision related to the ban of drift nets, the Executive Secretary introduced document BU13/2020/**Doc23** on sperm whales' entanglements that occurred in 2020 in Italy (2 cases) and in the Strait of Gibraltar, due to illegal driftnets. Regarding both cases in Italy, she informed on the reply from the Italian Focal Point who informed the Secretariat about internal consultations still ongoing to identify the cause of the entanglements and the intention of the relevant authorities to take appropriate action so to avoid the repetition of such incidents.
86. The Chair of the Scientific Committee pointed out that there is an increasing concern amongst cetacean experts on the use of illegal driftnets in the ACCOBAMS Area, and recalled their huge and critical impacts on cetaceans.
87. The ACCOBAMS Legal Advisor stressed that in case of violation of ACCOBAMS provisions, as it is the case with the use of prohibited driftnets, submissions to the Follow-up Committee could be made by the Parties, the Partners or by the Secretariat upon request of the Scientific Committee.

88. The Bureau underscored that illegal driftnetting is a major issue for the conservation of cetaceans and for ACCOBAMS and mandated the Secretariat to send a letter to all Parties in order to raise attention on

this issue. Through this letter, the Parties will be invited to notify officially the Secretariat on each case of entanglement due to illegal driftnets and to inform about their legal tools and measures conceived to enforce the ACCOBAMS provisions on the issue. The Secretariat will report back to the Bureau the outcome of this consultation.

89. Regarding Italy, the Bureau invited the Secretariat to liaise with the Italian Focal Point in order to obtain further information on the result of the internal enquiries and consultations, and the way in which similar occurrences are to be avoided in the future.

90. Under AOB agenda item, the Executive Secretary recalled that, according to Resolution 7.3, the Bureau has to prepare an assessment of the effectiveness of the person appointed as Executive Secretary before the end of her first year (12<sup>th</sup> April 2021), in order to issue an advice on the continuation of her mandate.

91. The Bureau agreed to organize a meeting of the Bureau Members to tackle the expected effectiveness assessment of the newly appointed Executive Secretary, upon which the Chair will send a letter to the Secretariat informing on the decision of the Bureau to be circulated to all National Focal Points, before April 2021.

## **8. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT BUREAU MEETING**

92. The Bureau Members were invited to decide about the venue and tentative date of the next Meeting of the Bureau. Subject to the evolution of the sanitary conditions and the calendar of international meetings, the Fourteenth Meeting of the Bureau would tentatively take place on 14-15 December 2021 in Monaco.

93. Nevertheless, the Secretariat was requested to adapt the planification of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau as necessary, in view of the changing circumstances linked to the worldwide sanitary crisis and travel limitations, and be ready to organise an online meeting of the Bureau in 2021, if deemed necessary.

## **9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

94. The Chair of the Meeting thanked the Meeting participants and closed the Meeting on Friday 11<sup>st</sup> December 2020 at 13:15.

## ANNEXES

[ANNEX 1](#) - List of participants

[ANNEX 2](#) – Agenda

[ANNEX 3](#) – Practical Rules for online Bureau meetings

[ANNEX 4](#) - Provisional list of activities and proposed expenditures for 2021

[ANNEX 5](#) - Terms of reference for the intersessional Working Group to elaborate a proposal of revision of the budgetary provisions

## Annex 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX 2 - AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-2022 by the Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee**
  - 3.1 Impacts of the Covid19 crisis
  - 3.2 Report on activities by the Permanent Secretariat and by the Scientific Committee
  - 3.3 Provisional list of activities for 2021
- 4. Budgetary matters**
  - 4.1 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2019
  - 4.2 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2020
  - 4.3 Estimated and proposed expenditures for 2021
  - 4.4 Establishment of the Working Group regarding budgetary provisions
- 5. Communication issues**
  - 5.1 Launching of ACCOBAMS new digital platform
  - 5.2 Development of a Communication Strategy
  - 5.3 Planning of ACCOBAMS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 6. ACCOBAMS Partners**
  - 6.1 Programmes of Collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat for the 2020-2022 triennium
  - 6.2 New request(s) for ACCOBAMS Partnership
- 7. Any Other business**
- 8. Date and venue of the next Bureau Meeting**
- 9. Closure of the Meeting**

### **ANNEX 3 - PRACTICAL RULES FOR ONLINE BUREAU MEETINGS**

The Bureau,

Considering that, due to the actual challenging world health situation, understanding that flexibility and support by all those who are committed to the ACCOBAMS purposes are greatly appreciated in order to continue to work together and carry out ACCOBAMS activities;

Noting that the Secretariat is committed to providing the best possible level of service to ACCOBAMS Parties and partners and that, to this end and for the safety of all Bureau Members, it is necessary to put in place a new videoconferencing system for ACCOBAMS meetings until the worldwide sanitary situation improves;

Provisionally adopts the following Practical Rules for Online Bureau Meetings, which are intended to complement the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau, as annexed to Resolution 6.4, in cases where online Bureau meetings are held.

#### **Article 1**

The agenda and the documents for online Bureau meetings shall be sent electronically by the Secretariat to the Parties to ACCOBAMS and to the Bureau members and observers in English and French at least thirty days before the opening of the meeting.

#### **Article 2**

To test the hardware and the quality of the connections, the Secretariat shall invite the participants to the online Bureau meeting to attend an onboarding session that will be held at a given day and time during the week before the online Bureau meeting.

#### **Article 3**

1. The participants are recommended to connect with the Secretariat 15 minutes before the starting of the online Bureau meeting.
2. At the beginning of the meeting the Chairperson shall ask the Bureau members, advisors and observers to confirm the following:
  - his/her name;
  - the location from where he/she is participating;
  - that he/she has received the agenda and all the relevant documents for the meeting; and
  - that only the concerned Bureau member, advisor or observer is attending the online Bureau meeting and has access to the proceedings of the meeting at the location.
3. The Secretary shall immediately after inform the attending Bureau members, advisors and observers of those who are present at the online Bureau meeting, including members of the Secretariat staff.
4. No person other than the Bureau members, advisors, observers or members of the Secretariat shall be allowed access to the meeting, either physically or through electronic means, without the prior permission of the Bureau Chairperson.

#### **Article 4**

1. For the purpose of determining quorum and decision-making, “presence” includes remote presence through electronic means.
2. The Secretariat shall ensure that the required quorum is kept throughout the online Bureau meeting.

#### **Article 5**

1. Subject to the authorization of the participants at the beginning of the meeting, the proceedings of the online Bureau meeting shall be temporarily recorded to facilitate the drafting of the report.
2. The recording shall not be available to anyone, except the Secretariat staff involved in the reporting process.
3. The recording shall be immediately deleted once the online Bureau meeting report has been circulated.
4. All participants to the online Bureau meeting shall keep the confidentiality of the discussions.

#### **Article 6**

1. Following the presentation of each agenda item by the Chairperson or the Secretariat, the Chairperson shall open the discussion and invite comments from participants.
2. Any participant who wishes to take the floor shall raise his/her hand through the system only after the presentation of the agenda item and once the discussion is opened.
3. The Secretariat shall take record of the participants requests for the floor to assist the Chairperson in giving the floor to each participant according to this order.
4. Once the first round of interventions is completed, the same process shall apply if participants wish to take the floor again.
5. Every participant shall identify himself/herself when he/she takes the floor for the first time during the meeting.
6. If a participant’s intervention through video conferencing or any other audio-visual means is interrupted or distorted, the Chairperson or the Secretary may request a repetition by the participant.

#### **Article 7**

If voting is needed, the Chairperson, after having heard the Secretary, shall inform the participants on how the voting shall be effected online, taking into account the functionality of the platform being used.

#### **Article 8**

The working languages of the online Bureau meeting shall be English and French. The Secretariat shall make the arrangements needed to technically ensure the translation from one working language to the other if funds are available.

#### **Article 9**

The Rules of Procedure for the Bureau, as annexed to Resolution 6.4, shall apply to any matters not specifically covered by these Practical Rules for Online Bureau Meetings.

#### **Article 10**

These Practical Rules for Online Bureau Meetings are provisionally adopted by the Bureau and shall be submitted to the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties for their final adoption.

## ANNEX 4 - PROVISIONAL LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR 2021

### Background

In accordance with Annex III “Terms of reference for administration of the budget” of Resolution 7.6, adopted by Parties during MOP7, the Permanent Secretariat presents an estimate of proposed expenditures for the coming year in line with the foreseen activities and the Programme of Work 2020-2022.

The Secretariat also prepared a draft timeline of foreseen activities in relation to the ACCOBAMS milestones and targets over 2020-2022. The ppt document is intended to provide an overview, in a visualisation support tool of the expected deliverables and deadlines guiding the ACCOBAMS work.

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
<b>MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT</b>				
<b>MA 1 – INVOLVEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS</b>				
<i>MA 1a - Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations</i>				
Strengthen involvement of national representatives in formulating actions related to cetacean conservation, according to their national priorities	Organize Meeting of National Representatives to develop the Programme of Work	21 000€ (LB 2400)	15 000€ will be provided by the Principality of Monaco (2020 MoU)	Spring 2021
	Organize the 14 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee	29 000€ (LB 2200)	-	November 2021 Back-to-back with the 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
	Organize the 14 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau	7 000€ (LB 2300)	-	December 2021
Establish/strengthen partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/national entities	Participate Meetings and relevant fora (IUCN congress, CBD, UNEP MAP Meetings,...)	17 000€ (LB 1502)	Financial support from ongoing projects where ACCOBAMS is involved	
<b>MA2 – ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULAR FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES</b>				
<i>MA2a – Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources</i>				
Fund projects under the Supplementary Conservation Grant Fund (SCF) related to cetacean conservation	Launching a new ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects under SCF	-	?	A new call could be launched at the end of 2021 if enough funds are secured (45 000 euros). Until now, only 20 000 € are secured through the 2022 voluntary contribution of the Principality of Monaco.  + 40 000€ from the 2020 Italian Voluntary Contribution (for a project regarding interactions with fisheries/aquaculture- CA2a- and

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
				<i>for a project regarding Marine litter – CA2e)</i>
<b>MA3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS</b>				
<i>MA3a – Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress</i>				
Propose remedy actions in cases of non-follow-up with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Organize the Third Meeting of the Follow-up Committee	5 000€ (LB 2500)	-	<i>Planned in March 2021</i>
<b>CONSERVATION ACTIONS</b>				
<b>CA1 - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE STATUS OF CETACEANS</b>				
<i>CA1a- Cetacean population estimates and distribution</i>				
Interpret and disseminate results / subsequent recommendations of the ASI in the Mediterranean and Black Seas	ASI workshops of data analysis/interpretation  ASI results report  Disseminating the ASI results and experience	-	187 000 € (VC to ASI project, MAVA & FPA2 ASI project)	<i>Finalization of the Data Analysis for the Mediterranean and Black Sea surveys – Reports of results to be circulated in January 2021 for the Mediterranean and during the first semester 2021 for the Black Sea</i>  <i>2 subregional data analysis workshops: end of May for the Western Mediterranean and in fall (TBD) for the Eastern Mediterranean/CeNoBS one.</i>  <i>The ASI Technical Recommendations workshop in May/June</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
				<p>Communication material on the ASI results (ex. short movie or infographics) to be developed during the first semester</p> <p>Participation to relevant meetings or fora (in person or on line) to present the ASI results</p>
Support long-term monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Area using the ASI framework (methodology, network, funding mechanism...)	Developing a strategy to fund ASI on the long-term	-	<p>15 000 € (MAVA ASI Project)</p> <p>+ 13 300 € (MAVA ASI evaluation Grant)</p>	<p>A Long-Term Monitoring Programme for ACCOBAMS is under development. In parallel, an evaluation of the ASI project is to be finalized in spring 2021 and will support the development of a roadmap for the financial sustainability of the ACCOBAMS Long Term Monitoring programme.</p> <p>All these elements will be presented to the meeting of National Representatives, SC14 and BU14.</p>
	Establish a Working Group on cetaceans monitoring among Mediterranean EU countries to facilitate sub-regional coordination under MSFD	-	10 000 €	<p>Within the ABIOMMED project "Support coherent and coordinated assessment of biodiversity and measures across Mediterranean for the next 6-year cycle of MSFD implementation" selected under the DG ENV/MSFD</p>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
				<i>2020 Call is selected.</i>
Promote the use of multidisciplinary surveys , innovative technologies and of platforms of opportunity to collect data on cetacean's distribution and abundance	Developing guidelines / best practices on the implementation of multidisciplinary surveys and on the use of platform of opportunity and innovative  Reviewing the existing surveys/scientific efforts at the national/regional scale	10 000 € (LB 53)	12 500 € (MAVA ASI Project)	<i>A synthesis of the results of the work conducted under ACCOBAMS umbrella on the potential of using drones ( UAV, UFV) for large scale survey to be presented at SC14  Two studies (including guidelines) on 1. multidisciplinary surveys and 2. platforms of opportunity to collect data on cetacean's distribution and abundance to be presented at SC14</i>
<b>CA1b- Cetacean population estimates and distribution</b>				
Improve data collection on cetacean populations genetic in the ACCOBAMS Area	regional trainings on data collection and analysis  Guidelines / Best Practices	-	36 000 <i>2020 Italian Voluntary Contribution</i>	
Encourage better collaboration between tissue banks to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis	specific collaborations among scientific entities	-	4 000 <i>2020 Italian Voluntary Contribution</i>	
<b>CA1c- Monitoring cetacean's status Cetacean population estimates and distribution</b>				
Contribute to IUCN threat status assessment of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it as relevant	Undertaking species assessments	1 000€ (LB 53)	-	<i>Coordination of species assessments - On going work - to be finalized in 2021</i>
Update ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of	Publication of the updated ACCOBAMS Status report	-	19 000 € (MAVA and FPA2 ASI Project)	<i>Publication to be launched for the 25<sup>th</sup> ACCOBAMS anniversary</i>



ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
Conservation of Cetaceans, using ASI results				
Revise the Regional Conservation Plan for cetacean in Black Sea	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€ (LB 53)	-	<i>Only if done in close collaboration with the Black Sea Commission</i>
Develop/ revise/ implement relevant Conservation Management Plans (CMP) for cetacean species	Organizing an experts Workshop(s) to develop conservation Management Plans for common dolphin and Tursiops	20 000€ (LB 53)	15 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from	<i>To be organized ideally before SC14 Part of the funding come from remaining of 2017-2019 ordinary contributions</i>
	Finalizing CMPs for fin whales and Risso's dolphin	2 000 € (LB 53)	-	<i>Will be presented SC14, IWC SC</i>
Facilitate the Development/ revision/ implementation of National or Regional Action Plans for cetaceans	Supporting the revision of the National Action Plans for cetaceans in collaboration with SPA/RAC and national authorities in Algeria	6 000 € (LB 53)	-	<i>Part of the funding come from remaining of 2017-2019 ordinary contributions</i>
	Updating the Regional Mediterranean Action Plan concerning cetaceans	1 500 € (LB 53)	-	<i>In close collaboration with SPA/RAC</i>
<b>CA1 d - Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation</b>				
Set up /Reinforce official national stranding networks (with all national institutions concerned) as appropriate, and encourage collaborations among national networks of Parties	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	3 000 € (LB 53)	-	<i>Study to be presented SC14, BU14</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
	Organizing necropsies training following the best practices on cetacean postmortem investigation and tissue sampling	11 000 € (LB 53)	15 000€ will be provided by the Principality of Monaco (2020 MoU) 15 000 € from the MedBycatch project 20 000€ from the 2020 Italian Voluntary contribution	<i>Training stranding network experts (Fall 2021)</i>  <i>The Italian voluntary contribution will also support the creation of a permanent expert panel on strandings to assist on emergencies and unusual mortality</i>
<b>CA2- Reduce human pressures on cetaceans</b>				
<i>CA2 a - Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture</i>				
Assess / Monitor the impacts of interactions with fisheries/aquaculture (bycatch, depredation and prey depletion) and propose alternative best practices measures and / or technics	Assessing depredation caused by cetaceans in purse seine fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia and in small-scale fisheries in Andalucía (Spain), in Sicily (Italy) and Malta in a harmonised way, and testing different mitigation measures	-	217 000 € (MAVA Depredation2 project)  20 000€ from the 2020 Italian Voluntary contribution	<i>Project Coordination (Project Officer salary, meetings with the national partners,...)</i>  <i>Monitoring of depredation and mitigation measures experiments in pilot areas</i>  <i>Technical assistance to local teams</i>  <i>Preparation of the State of depredation in the Mediterranean fisheries and development of a standardized monitoring methodology</i>  <i>The 20 000€ from the Italian voluntary contribution will support the implementation of project(s) through the Supplementary Conservation Fund in eligible</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
			3 000€ from the 2020 Italian Voluntary contribution	<i>countries</i>  <i>The 3000€ from the Italian voluntary contribution will support the Review of the bycatch data available among the stranding networks</i>
	Monitoring incidental catches of vulnerable species through on-board observers programme and port questionnaires, and testing mitigation measures (Morocco)	-	179 500 € (MAVA Bycatch2 project)	<i>Project Coordination (Steering Committee meetings, meetings with the national partners,...)</i>  <i>Implementation of the bycatch monitoring program in Morocco and mitigation trials</i>
	Assessing bycatch using data available from the national stranding networks	5 000 € (LB 52)		<i>Two experts will be recruited in 2021 to prepare this study. The report will be presented to SC14.</i>
<b>CA2 b - Anthropogenic underwater noise</b>				
Encourage the monitoring of anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Organizing trainings for national entities on noise monitoring (CB), including analyses of PAM collected	-	5 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Malta	<i>Data collection processes should ideally be directed towards improved knowledge on the impacts of underwater noise on cetaceans in order to feed into management regimes. Will be done also in the framework of QUIETSEAS</i>
	Finalizing the revision of impulsive noise hotspots maps of the ACCOBAMS area using Big Data Platform	-	35 000€ 2019 Voluntary Contribution from Italy	<i>Report to be presented at SC14</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
	Supporting monitoring programmes of impulsive noise impact indicator in particular by managing the regional impulsive noise register, proposing methodology to establish threshold values and implementing pilot studies	4 000€ (LB 54)	20 000€ from Quietmed2 4 000€ from CeNoBS project	<i>QuietMed2 and CeNoBS will be completed early 2021</i>
	Supporting the development of projects to monitor continuous noise'	5 000€ (LB 52)	90 000€	<i>In the framework of the QUIETSEAS project" Assisting (sub) regional cooperation for the practical implementation of the MSFD second cycle by providing methods and tools for D11 (underwater noise)"</i>
Encourage the use of mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Promoting the ACCOBAMS Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators' certificate	2 000€ (LB 54)		<i>ACCOBAMS was contacted by IOGP regarding the implementation of a specific training course "ACCOBAMS certification" for Highly qualified MMOs (for a Mediterranean geophysical acquisition project that will take place in 2021)</i>
<b>CA2c - Ship strikes</b>				
Monitor / assess high-risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) in the Mediterranean Sea	Developing a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities  Identifying high risk areas for ship strikes (CCH)	5 000€ (LB 52)	(15 000€)	<i>Form a French 2021 Voluntary contribution in order to organize a specific workshop regarding a proposal of PSSA for the north-western Mediterranean.</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
	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			
Promote the use of mitigation measures	Following up on mitigation measures implemented Promoting the use of relevant mitigation tools/measures (CB) Pursue the development of a “whale safe” certificate	-		
<i>CA2 d - Cetacean watching</i>				
Maximise the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts of whale watching activities on individual cetaceans and on populations	Study aimed at identifying hotspots of WW activities in the ACCOBAMS area  Revision of the ‘Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts of whale watching activities on individual cetaceans and on populations’	4 840 € (LB 52)		
Support the implementation of the HQWW certificate in the ACCOBAMS area	Supporting organization of trainings on HQWW	1 000€ (LB 54)	-	<i>To support the 2 qualified trainers: MIRACETTI (in France) and CIMA Foundation (in Italy)</i>
<i>CA2 e - Marine litter &amp; CA 2 f - Chemical &amp; biological pollution</i>				

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
Monitor the impacts of marine litter (ingested marine litter / microplastics / entanglements in ghost nets) on cetaceans	Study on the hotspots of interactions between cetaceans and marine litter in the ACCOBAMS Area		7 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Italy	<i>Reports to be presented at SC14</i>
Liaise with relevant other Organizations, such as IWC, to assess the impacts of chemical & biological pollution (such as pathogens, invasive species) on cetaceans	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	2 000 € (LB 52)	6 600 € 2019 Voluntary Contribution from Italy  5 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Malta (Training opportunities)  20 000€ from the 2020 Italian Voluntary contribution	
<b>CA2 g - Climate change</b>				
Contribute to regional initiatives on climate change	Study on the evolution of some cetacean's population with environmental changes over 25 years in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea, propose monitoring system		4 000€ 2019 Voluntary Contribution from Italy	<i>Report to be presented at SC14</i>
<b>CA2 h - Captivity related issues</b>				
Identify specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS	Reference document from a scientific perspective on	-	2 000€ 2020 Voluntary	<i>Report to be presented at SC14</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
area, including the case of reintroduction in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 3.20	“potential marine semi-enclosed facilities”, together with the updated overview of specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area		Contribution from Monaco	
<b>C34a – Area-based measures for cetacean conservation</b>				
Regularly update Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH) including by identifying priority areas for action to mitigate the known threats (bycatch...)/ area-based management measures	Supporting the MPA Forum	10 000€ (LB 1501 & LB 53)	-	<i>Reports to be presented at SC14</i>
	Gathering data considering ASI data and the IMMAs & EBSAs process	5 000€ (LB 53)	-	
Support implementation of relevant measures for adequate management in CCH	Identifying and promoting relevant management measures in pilot CCH, in collaboration with all stakeholders	5 000€ (LB 53)		
<b>CA4a – Information / Communication / Awareness about cetaceans</b>				
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	Developing an information/communication strategy	2 000€ (LB 54)	5000 € (MAVA Bycatch2 project)	
	Organizing a Conference on cetacean conservation in South Mediterranean Countries	15 000€ (LB 54)	15 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Monaco + co funding from SPA/RAC according to the Memorandum of Collaboration	In May 2021 (tentatively)

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
area, in particular in Southern Mediterranean countries				
	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	1 000€ (LB 54)	-	<i>Reports to be presented at SC14</i>
	Organizing Public awareness events Developing Information material and tools <b>in the framework of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	4 000€ (LB 54)	1 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Monaco  36 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Italy	The secretariat will inform the Bureau on final budget, once the possibilities are further developed  <i>The Italian voluntary contribution will support the development of communication materials / Tools to reinforce the ACCOBAMS Communication, to promote the visibility of the activities carried out by the Scientific Committee in particular</i>
	Producing annual newsletter (FINS)	500€ (LB 54)	-	Will be published in December 2021
	A Special Issue on the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative		15 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Italy	



ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
	outcomes in a high ranked scientific Journal			
	Supporting the functioning of MEDACES	-	(18 000€ from a 2021 Spanish voluntary contribution?)	
Introduce in a new Country / Disseminate the ACCOBAMS Teaching Module courses	Supporting Teaching Module its dissemination where the module has already been introduced Collaborating in relevant projects	-	6 000€ 2017 Italy Voluntary Contribution  10 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Italy	A collaboration with Medpan has been established regarding training on Conservation and monitoring of cetaceans across Mediterranean MPAs  <i>The Italian voluntary contribution will support the post-graduated course on Conservation Medicine of Aquatic Animals (Sandro Mazzariol)</i>  Collaboration with other projects are also expected

## ANNEX 5 -TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP TO ELABORATE A PROPOSAL OF REVISION OF THE BUDGETARY PROVISIONS

### Background

The general context for the creation of an intersessional budgetary Working Group is provided by the deliberation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) as reflected in paragraph 15 of Resolution 7.6: *“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”*.

Furthermore, the MOP7 decided to *“request 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”*.

*The ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy was adopted through Resolution 7.5. and the ACCOBAMS Strategy adopted through Resolution 7.4 contains a thematic area (TA2) concerning the funding of the activities agreed in the Programme of Work for the triennium 2020-2022.*

### 1. **The general context**

The intersessional Working Group is expected to work during 2020-2022 in order to prepare the relevant proposals to be submitted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties in 2022.

The main documents in relation to the scope of work of the intersessional budgetary Working Group are as follows:

- Resolution 7.4 on the ACCOBAMS Strategy (Thematic Area TA2 concerning the funding)
- Resolution 7.5 on the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy
- Resolution 7.6 Work on the Programme and Budget for the triennium 2020-2022
- Terms of Reference for Administration of the Budget (Annex 3, Res.7.6)
- Eligibility for funding to attend the Meetings of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (Annex 5, Res 7.6)

### 2. **The mandate of the Working Group**

Given the deliberations of the MOP7 on the budgetary analysis and the implementation of the Funding Strategy, the mandate of the Working Group will be composed of two main strands of work:

**a) elaborating a proposal of revision of the budgetary provisions**

The main objective of the proposal is to respond to the need of ensuring the Agreement viability and a more balanced financial effort among all Parties (MOP7);

**b) implementing the Funding Strategy** (Resolution 7.5, ¶ 2)

*“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. The specific objectives**

**a) related to the revision of the budgetary provisions**

The activities associated with the main objectives of creating a Working Group are mentioned in Resolution 7.6, paragraph 15:

- i. *‘methodology for the calculation of Ordinary contributions ‘*
- ii. *‘modalities of eligibility for funding to attend ACCOBAMS institutional meeting’*
- iii. *‘Different kinds of funds’ in accordance with Resolution 7.5*

**b) concerning the Funding Strategy, in support of the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Strategy and of the subsequent 3-years Programs of Work adopted by the Meetings of the Parties, through:**

- i. setting up a general framework for resources mobilization;
- ii. identifying ways of strengthening and optimizing resource mobilization for supporting ACCOBAMS implementation

**4. When addressing specific objectives, the Working Group will examine in particular:**

**a) concerning a proposal on the revision of the current budgetary provisions**

- i. *the existing allocation key for the calculation of national contributions (fixed, negotiated, minimum, those based on UN scale); the difference between each triennium budget; the allocation of the agreed budgetary increase/decrease across different budget sections.*
- ii. *the scope of Annex 5 of Resolution 7.6, applicable to the MOP meetings, including consideration of special requests from countries not listed in Annex 5; the procedure in case of Parties with arrears of more than 3 years, according to paragraph 2. of Resolution 7.6; Consideration of the quorum requirements (at least 13 national delegations), according to Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the MOP meetings.*
- iii. *the structure of the Ordinary budget which comprises 3 categories: administration and general management; institutional meetings; support to conservation actions; Creation of a secured fund equivalent to 30% of the “administrative budget”, as agreed by MOP7 (paragraph 20, Annex 3, Resolution 7.6). The WG will note that although the Ordinary contributions feed the Trust Fund, the*

*latter may also include voluntary/external funds. The Supplementary Conservation Fund exclusively comprises voluntary contributions (Resolution 7.8, paragraph 2);*

*b) concerning the implementation of the Funding Strategy*

- i. the ways in which a general framework for resource mobilization may be set up;
- ii. any means to optimize resource mobilization for supporting ACCOBAMS activities and Programme of Work;
- iii. the kind of deliverables aimed at reflecting i. and ii., to be produced by the Working Group.

**5. Composition of the Working Group**

The Group will be composed by one representative appointed by each interested Party, with appropriate profile on accounting or budgetary subjects.

The nomination by the Parties to the Secretariat should be accompanied by a short profile description of the nominated representative.

The Secretariat will assist and coordinate the work of the Working Group.

**6. Timeline and proposed steps**

- i. Adoption of the Terms of Reference (ToR) by the BU13 meeting, 9-11 December 2020;
- ii. Circulation of the adopted ToR to the National Focal Points and start of the work in March 2021;
- iii. First draft proposal on budgetary provisions by the Working Group, to be circulated to NFPs in April 2021;
- iv. A revised draft is presented at the Meeting of National Representatives planned, for June 2021;
- v. A revised proposal is presented at the BU14 meeting, planned for December 2021;
- vi. BU14 meeting validates the revised proposal on budgetary provisions, which is circulated to all NFPs;
- vii. the validated proposal on budgetary provisions is taken into consideration by the Secretariat when elaborating the draft budget for 2023-2025 to be presented to the Extended Bureau meeting planned for April 2022.
- viii. The MOP8 meeting in 2022 will be invited to consider the validated proposal on budgetary provisions.