



# National implementation for Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme on Marine Mammals

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## Introduction

In line with principles of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean and in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) regarding the ecosystem approach and the Aichi targets, the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (IMAP), through a participatory process involving Contracting Parties and the scientific community.

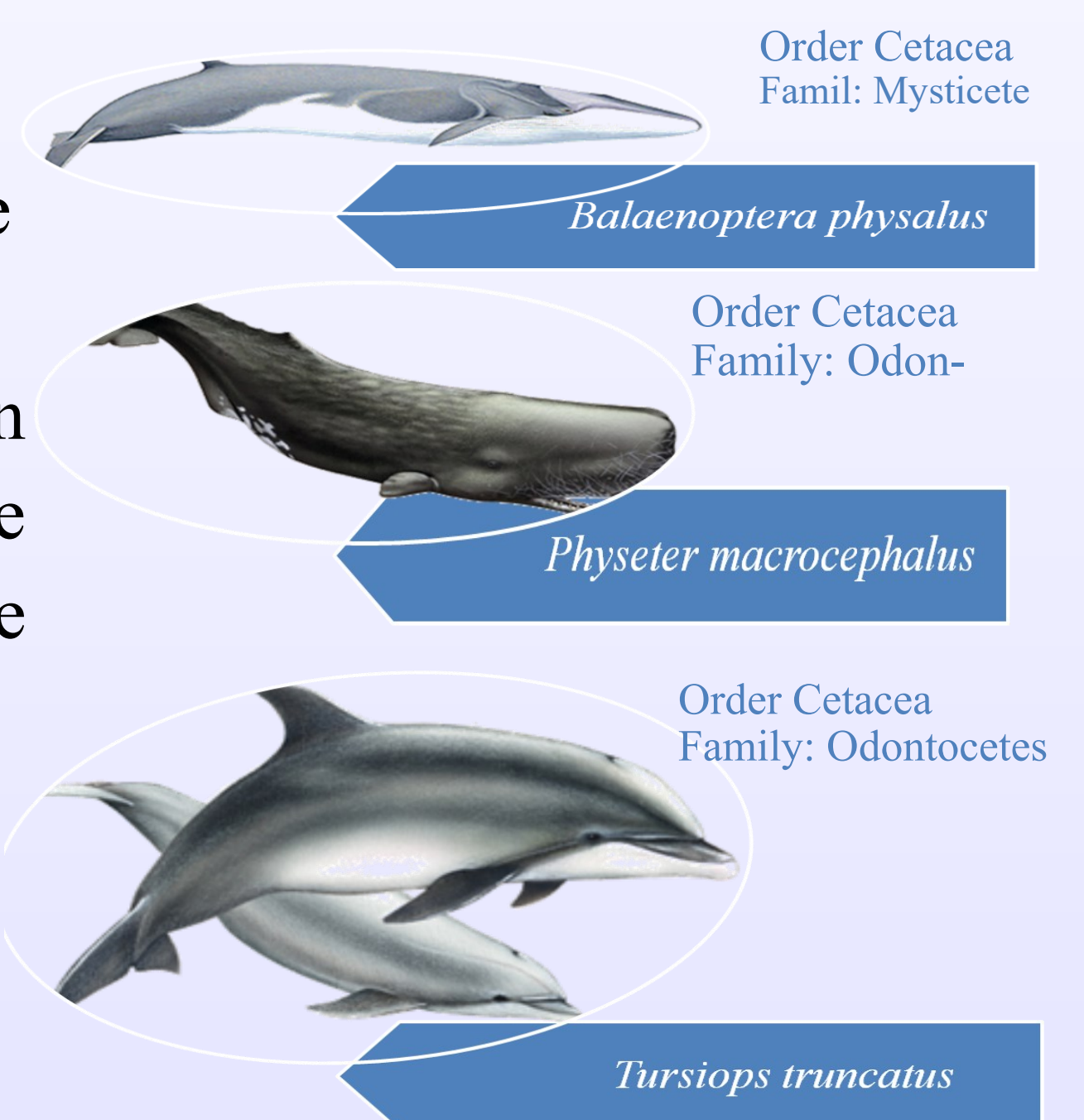
In this context, Egypt has prepared the **National Monitoring Programme for Biodiversity and Non-indigenous Species in the Egyptian Mediterranean Waters** supported the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/ RAC) that funded by the European Union through EcApMedII project in 2017. This Programme adopted at the national level at the national workshop held in October 2017 with the participation of all relevant stakeholders; national institutions, universities, research centres, MPAs managers, and NGOs to select the potential monitoring sites and the key habitats and species to be monitored including Marine and Coastal Habitats, Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles, Marine Birds, and Non-indigenous Species.

## Egyptian Marine Mammals & IMAP

Eight species of marine mammals out of eleven that occurring in the Mediterranean water can be presumed to be regularly occurring in the Egyptian Mediterranean coasts and the adjacent pelagic waters.

In this context, the National Action Plan for the conservation of marine mammals in the Egyptian Mediterranean water, as well as, the National Programme for Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Components of Marine Biodiversity and Non-indigenous species have taken care of preparing and adopting a general framework for the protection of cetaceans in Mediterranean waters in line with national regulations.

The national monitoring program has adopted methods for monitoring cetaceans in the Egyptian Mediterranean waters, which include: **Incidental sightings and stranding, Land-based monitoring, Platforms monitoring, Boat surveys, Photoidentification, Acoustic monitoring, Biopsy sampling, and Spatial modeling**, within Damietta, Port Said, Gamasa, and Matrouh territories. As well as, the Resources needed/ tools.



## Challenges of Egyptian Marine Mammals' IMAP

Despite the plethora of initiatives, major challenges face the implementation of the national action plans and strategies and fulfilling regional and international commitments that related to achieving and maintaining the favorable conservation status of marine mammals living in the Egyptian Mediterranean waters, among them:

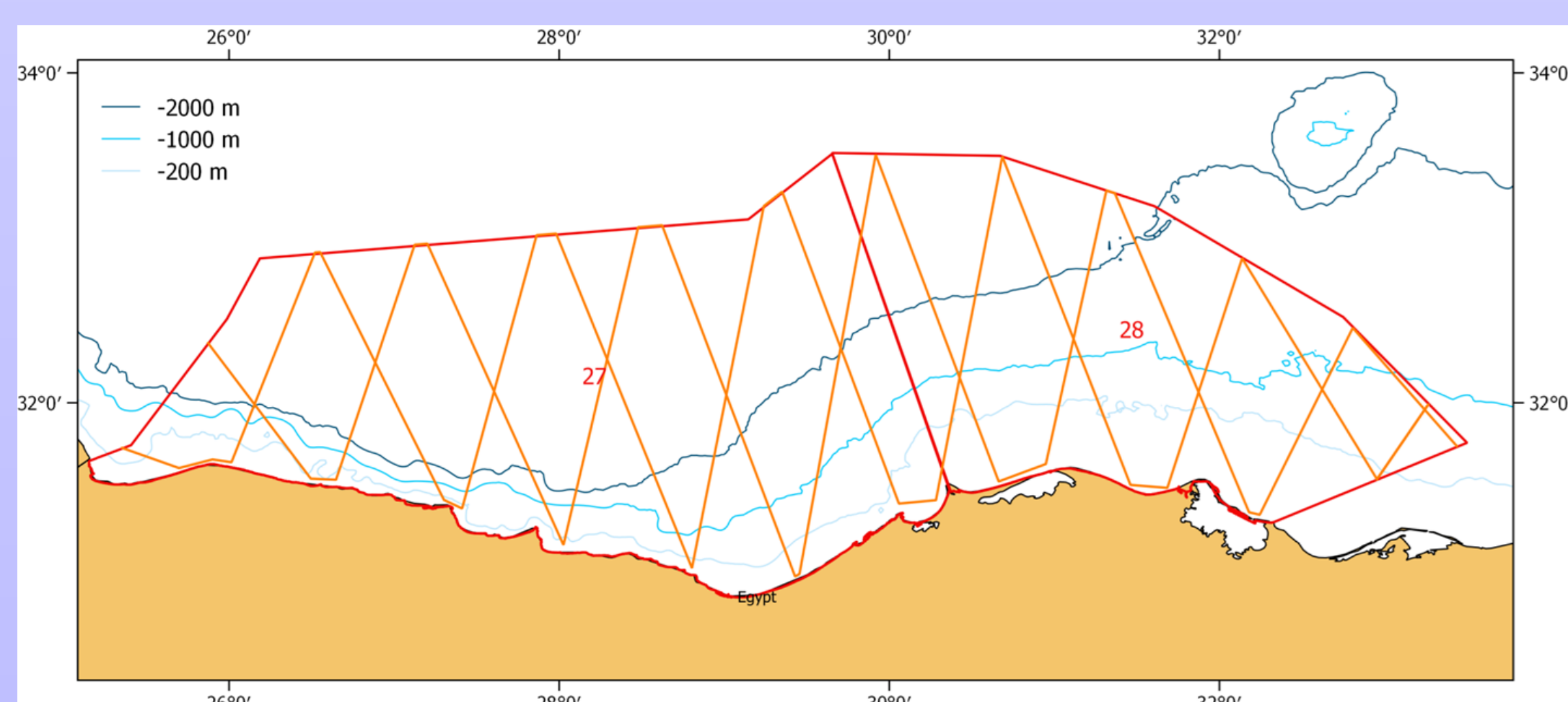
**Basic;** Financial support, Capacity building , administration aspect, etc.

**Hidden / Real Challenges;** Choosing what to monitor (including what, where, and how to monitor), the availability of knowledge in the best possible manner, translate the principles of the legislative directives into realistic, need for spatial prioritization, transboundary governance and collaboration, the cost-effective use of available resources, taking into consideration the existing opportunities, and the new trends in information technology.

## ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI)

### ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative at the Egyptian Mediterranean water (Territorial & EEZ)

The marine mammal's survey initiative organized by the ACCOBAMS at the Mediterranean level represented a good opportunity to achieve legislative and regulatory frameworks and conservation of marine mammals, among the national expertise and tools in collaboration with Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and Arab Federation for Wildlife Protection (AFWP).



ASI Training programs for national team (August 2019)



Observation of Sperm Whales in group at distance at 80 – 90 NM from coast in block 27

Block	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Survey days	Actual Works days for boat use (rent) including days for logistics rather than bad weather	Total track (km)	Coverage %
27	109,0077	23	30	2603	2.4
28	60,589	16	23	1888	3.1



ASI Field training programs for national team



ASI - part of the Egyptian team

## ASI - Egypt (benefits)

- First marine survey of Cetacean, large fishes, birds, and turtles, ..etc. in the eastern Mediterranean, covered 200,000 Km<sup>2</sup>. (about 8% of the total area of the Mediterranean).
- Enrich the Egyptian Bio-map with new recording and phenomena, that be used for the implementation of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Collection of new information useful to fishing regulation.
- Egypt becomes has a national team of at least 16 members from several agencies with a high skill for any future surveys.



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