



## 7. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACCOBAMS LONG-TERM MONITORING PROGRAM

*ASI Intermediary Review report*

Julie Belmont, ASI project officer

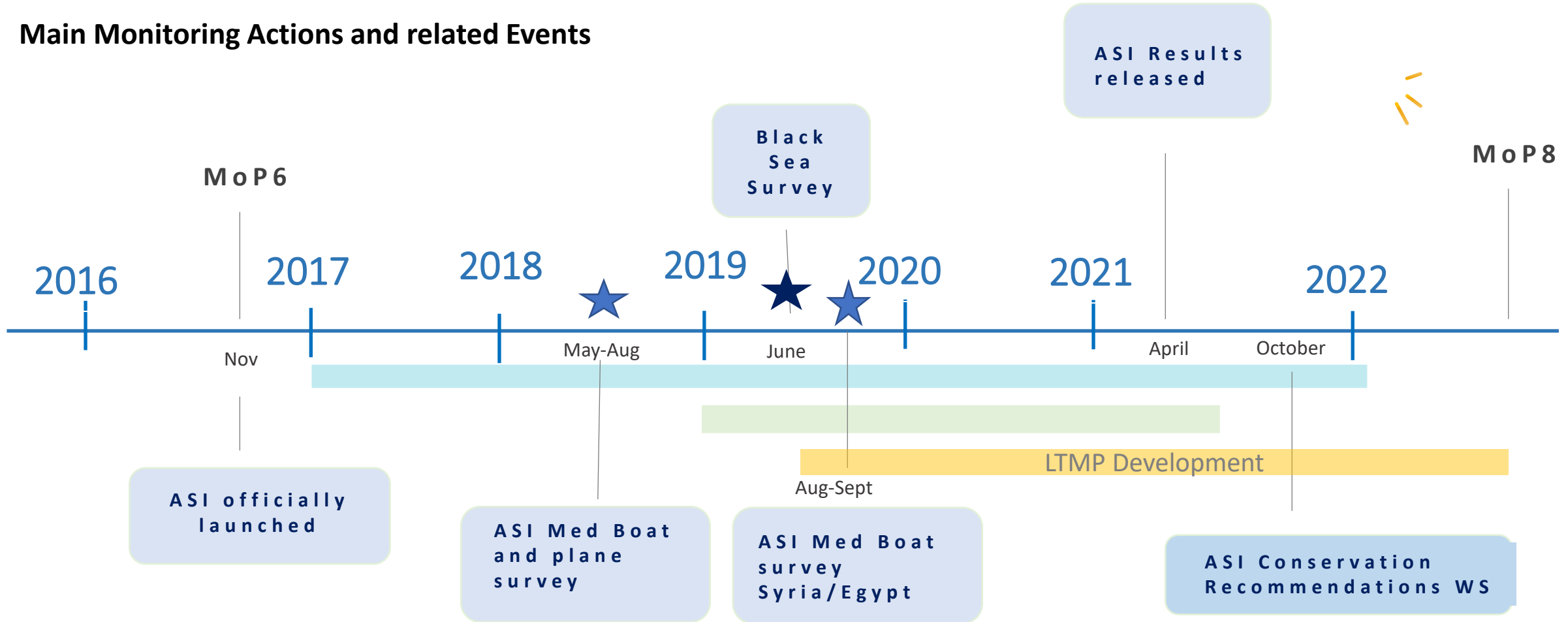


The ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties validated the **Project Identification Document** that was circulated and presented in 2016 during the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (22-25<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, Monaco). This format evolved over time due to donors granted supports and requirements. Ultimately, **the ASI project was declined into two phases:**

- 1- The Mediterranean Region**, the ASI project has evolved as a fairly faithful variation of the PID, towards a definitive format described in the 2017 Action plan that supported the project implementation;
- 2- The Black Sea region** had to be treated separately from the Mediterranean. Following the ACCOBAMS Secretariat fundraising efforts, the survey in the Black Sea could be funded through the EU funded project CeNoBS in 2019. The Black Sea aerial survey and associated activities were conducted as part of the CeNoBS project under the coordination of ACCOBAMS Secretariat and Mare Nostrum.



### Main Monitoring Actions and related Events



**5th Meeting of ACCOBAMS National Representatives 12-15 July 2021, online**

## ***ACTION PLAN ASI MEDITERRANEAN & BLACK SEA***

Short description of activity	Ref Activity ASI Med	Ref Activity CeNoBS
Survey Preparation	<b>Activity 1</b>	Activity 2.2
Survey Implementation	<b>Activity 2</b>	
Development of an information management system for ASI data	<b>Activity 3</b>	NA
Using drones to monitor marine mammals	<b>Activity 4</b>	NA
Analysis of the results of the survey (abundance and distribution of species),	<b>Activity 5</b>	Activity 2.2
Analysis - Spatial modeling and identification of critical and preferential habitats	<b>Activity 6</b>	
drawing up of conservation recommendation	<b>Activity 7</b>	
Capacity-building component	<b>Activity 8</b>	Activity 2.2
Preparatory study for a long-term funding mechanism for monitoring operations	<b>Activity 9</b>	NA
Communication & Awareness	<b>Activity 10</b>	Activity 4.2
Project Coordination, reporting and monitoring	<b>Coordination</b>	Activity 1.1

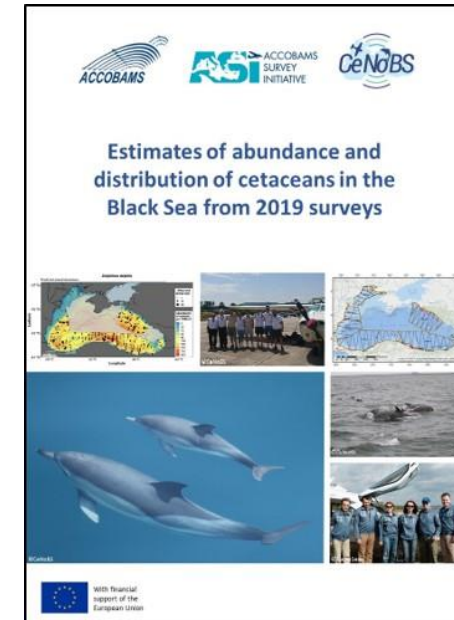


### ***BLACK SEA → CeNoBS project completed in June 2021***

- ***Survey implementation in CeNoBS targeted area + Russian waters***
- ***Survey results published & Data Sharing ToUs soon to be finalized***
- ***Regional Capacity enhanced ( training workshops, participatory analysis)***
- ***Awareness & communication outputs ( CeNoBS website, presentations, conferences, material..)***
- ***Capitalization of the project results with the MSFD Competent authorities in Bulgaria & Romania***

### ***Perspectives and follow up:***

- ***Scientific publication, data sharing, participation to ASI Recommendation WS, dev. of ACCOBAMS LTMP, fundraising for next surveys and monitoring efforts***



Short description of activity	Ref Activity ASI Med	
Survey Preparation	<b>Activity 1</b>	
Survey Implementation	<b>Activity 2</b>	
Development of an information management system for ASI data	<b>Activity 3</b>	
Using drones to monitor marine mammals	<b>Activity 4</b>	
Analysis of the results of the survey (abundance and distribution of species),	<b>Activity 5</b>	<i>2 ASI sub regional WS remain to be conducted in 2022</i>
Analysis - Spatial modeling and identification of critical and preferential habitats	<b>Activity 6</b>	
drawing up of conservation recommendation	<b>Activity 7</b>	Technical WS in October 2021
Capacity-building component	<b>Activity 8</b>	
Preparatory study for a long-term funding mechanism for monitoring operations	<b>Activity 9</b>	ASI Review, Evaluation, LTMP
Communication & Awareness	<b>Activity 10</b>	→ ACCOBAMS Book - 25th Anniversary
Project Coordination, reporting and monitoring	<b>Coordination</b>	until the end of project





## ***FOCUS ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MONITORING ACTIVITIES***

***Activity 9 : Preparatory study for a long-term funding mechanism for monitoring operations relating to the species in question, through optimization of existing resources***

**1- An expert consultant (C. Rais) to assist the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in the development of the ACCOBAMS Long Term Monitoring Programme (ACCOBAMS LTMP) (Doc7)** which aims to describe how monitoring efforts should be systematically and regularly replicated over time, so to estimate trends in abundance and distribution of cetacean populations, at regular intervals.

**2 – An expert consultant (H. Léthier) to elaborate the evaluation and a detailed draft roadmap for the financial sustainability of the ACCOBAMS LTMP** (*additional MAVA funding*)

**3 - To complete the question of the sustainability of cetacean monitoring**, in accordance with ACCOBAMS PoW (2020-2022), studies are developed by experts in 2021 related to the use of multidisciplinary surveys, such as fisheries / acoustic surveys, innovative technologies (UAV, satellite) and of platforms of opportunity (ferries, whale watching vessels, navy vessels, etc..) to collect data on cetacean's distribution and abundance.

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