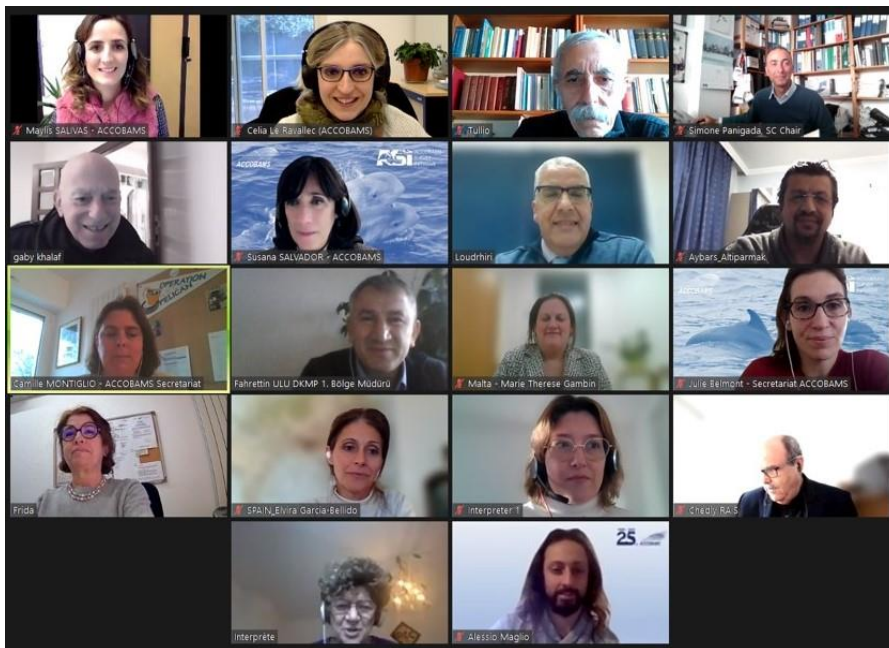


REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS BUREAU



Online meeting
18th - 19th January 2022

REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS BUREAU

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Fourteenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau was held online from 18th to 19th January 2022.
2. It was attended by Bureau Members for 2020/2022: Mr. Fahrettin Ulu (Turkey), Chair of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, and the Vice-Chairs: Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Gambin (Malta), Ms. Elvira Garcia-Bellido Capdevila (Spain), Mr. Gaby Khalaf (Lebanon) and Mr. Abdelali Loudrhiri (Morocco).
3. The Meeting was also attended by Mr. Aybars Altiparmak, as advisor to the Chair; by Mr. Simone Panigada, Chair of the Scientific Committee; by four experts assisting the Secretariat as Observers - Mr. Hervé Lethier, Mr. Alessio Maglio, Mr. Chedly Rais; by Prof. Tullio Scovazzi and by staff members of ACCOBAMS Secretariat.
4. The full list of participants is shown in [Annex 1](#) to this report.
5. The Chair opened the Meeting at 9.00 a.m., on Tuesday 18th January 2022.
6. He welcomed participants and ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary, Mrs. Susana Salvador, as well as the Secretariat's team. He regretted that the COVID-19 restrictions had prevented the meeting from taking place face-to-face in Monaco as originally planned. He thanked the Secretariat for preparing the meeting and wished a fruitful meeting.
7. The Executive Secretary also welcomed the participants and provided details about logistic arrangements and documentation for the Meeting.
8. Working languages used during the Meeting were English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Executive Secretary presented the provisional agenda (ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc01Rev1**), alongside the provisional annotated agenda (ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc02Rev1**), the list of documents (ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc03Rev1**), as well as the provisional timetable (ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc04Rev1**).
10. The Meeting adopted the draft agenda and related timetable. The agenda is shown as [Annex 2](#) to this report.

3. PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT

11. The Executive Secretary presented document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc05**, summarizing the activities developed since the last Bureau Meeting in 2020 and the progress made in promoting the Agreement, as well as collaborative activities with other instruments.

12. Regarding the state of ratification of the 2010 Extension Decision, the Executive Secretary informed Bureau Members that Italy has ratified the Amendment in July 2021. Thus, at present, 9 Parties have ratified the Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic.
13. Regarding the celebration of the ACCOBAMS 25th Anniversary: the Executive Secretary informed the Meeting about the event organized on 23 November 2021, at the occasion of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee. A recorded video speech by the ACCOBAMS Chair M. Fahretin ULU opened the ceremony, followed by a presentational video on ACCOBAMS achievements. Finally, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco addressed the participants, which was followed by the unveiling ceremony of the artwork "Ainsi soit-il!" offered by ACCOBAMS to the Principality of Monaco.
14. Regarding the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative: the Executive Secretary recalled that the reports on the results of Mediterranean and Black Sea surveys were officially released in April 2021 during an online event that gathered more than 200 participants. A Technical Conservation Recommendation Workshop was also organized in October 2021. It was aimed at building on the project achievements and turning the ASI survey results into conservation outputs for cetacean conservation and management of human uses of the sea through a collaborative approach. ASI results were likewise useful for the publication on the Conservation status of cetacean species that was released on time for the 25th ACCOBAMS Anniversary. This publication offers a 3rd conservation assessment and was developed alongside with the process led in collaboration with IUCN to evaluate and/or update the IUCN Red List status of cetacean species.
15. Regarding interactions with fisheries: the Executive Secretary informed the Meeting about the main progresses in the different MAVA-funded projects (Bycatch Phase2 and Depredation Phase2) highlighting the ongoing studies, such as the Review of available data on cetacean bycatch in stranding databases from ACCOBAMS Area and the development of a standardized methodology for data collection on depredation in Mediterranean fisheries.
16. Regarding strandings: the Executive Secretary explained that a training on necropsy procedures was initiated in 2021, following "Best Practices on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling resulted from the harmonization process in ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS".
Due to restrictions related to the current COVID situation the training was subdivided in different online and practical sessions, from June to October, and will be continued through practical sessions planned for February and March 2022, respectively in Padua and Liege.
17. Regarding ship strikes: the Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that during the IUCN Congress 2020 held in September 2021, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat co-organized, in collaboration with French authorities, a specific side-event on a proposal for a new PSSA in the north-western Mediterranean. Furthermore, the Secretariat participated to a technical workshop (18 & 19 October 2021, Paris, France) on "Cooperation for a Transboundary PSSA in NW Mediterranean Sea" organised by French authorities.
18. Regarding noise: the revision of impulsive noise hotspots maps of the ACCOBAMS area using Big Data Platform is ongoing by experts recruited by the Secretariat. Both EU projects initiated in 2019 - CeNoBS and QuietMED2 – came to end in 2021 (respectively January and June). The ACCOBAMS Secretariat is currently involved in a new EU-funded project - QUIETSEAS project on "Assisting (sub)regional cooperation for the practical implementation of the MSFD second cycle by providing methods and tools for D11 (underwater noise)".

Discussions are ongoing with the MMO/PAM WG and Industrials in order to improve the existing training and to develop online training so to overcome the COVID-19 situation restrictions, which is preventing face-to-face gatherings.

19. Regarding CCH: the Executive Secretary informed that the ACCOBAMS Secretariat was the Coordinator of a Session at the “Mediterranean stand” gathering many other entities during the international IUCN Congress (Marseille, France, 5-8 September 2021), which was supported by MAVA Foundation, and was dedicated to “*Improving partnership and effective and equitable governance of Mediterranean natural resources*”. Together with GFCM, ACCOBAMS showcased the ASI integrated approach and NETCCOBAMS platform, as well as the collaboration developed with GFCM through examples of joint mobilisation towards an effective Strategic Alliance on spatial-based protection and conservation measures for marine biodiversity.

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

4.1 Report on activities

20. The Chair of the Scientific Committee introduced the Progress report on the activities of the Scientific Committee (ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc06**) and informed the Meeting about the activities of the Scientific Committee since the last Bureau Meeting in December 2020.
21. Regarding the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI): A technical on-line workshop was organized, where participants had the opportunity to discuss and contribute to a list of conservation recommendations based on ASI results. The Scientific Committee was involved in the review of a draft Long-Term Monitoring Program (LTMP) document. Efforts have also been devoted to planning an ASI Special Issue to be published in "Frontiers of Marine Science" Journal.
22. Regarding the IUCN Red List: the Chair of the Scientific Committee explained that the ASI results allowed to further clarify cetacean population structure within the ACCOBAMS area, facilitating the reassessment, under the IUCN Red List criteria, of all species occurring in the ACCOBAMS region, including those which were listed as Data Deficient and those which had not been previously assessed.
23. Regarding Conservation Management Plans (CMPs): the Chair of the Scientific Committee informed the Meeting that the effort developed on basin-wide conservation plans for selected species was ongoing following the template developed and adopted by the International Whaling Commission. He further informed that a drafting workshop for bottlenose and common dolphins was planned for March 2022.
24. Regarding Cetacean captivity issues: the Chair of the Scientific Committee informed the Meeting that a reference document on Potential Semi-Enclosed Facilities in the ACCOBAMS Area has recently been produced with the aim of contributing to the development of international standards for cetacean holding facilities related to the creation of marine semi-enclosed facilities for cetaceans, referred to as refuges in the ACCOBAMS area. The document also includes the creation, for future consultancy, of an Advisory Committee composed of experts in a variety of fields (i.e.: ecology and behavior of odontocetes, odontocete husbandry...).

4.2 Recommendations from the Fourteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC14)

25. The Chair of the Scientific Committee presented the Recommendations issued by the 14th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (Monaco, 22-26 November 2021):
- **Recommendation 14.1:** ACCOBAMS Long-Term Monitoring Programme (LTMP)
 - **Recommendation 14.2:** IUCN Red List
 - **Recommendation 14.3:** Conservation Management Plans (CMPs)
 - **Recommendation 14.4:** Cetacean Stranding Networks (CSNs)
 - **Recommendation 14.5:** Bycatch
 - **Recommendation 14.6:** Noise
 - **Recommendation 14.7:** Ship strikes
 - **Recommendation 14.8:** Commercial whale watching activities
 - **Recommendation 14.9:** Marine litter and chemical pollution
 - **Recommendation 14.10:** NETCCOBAMS
 - **Recommendation 14.11:** Citizen science

Conclusion 1:

The Bureau commended all the activities implemented and congratulated the Secretariat and the Scientific Committee for their work undertaken, particularly in collaboration with other organizations, which improved and developed the importance of ACCOBAMS on the international scene. The Bureau recommended to continue this collaborative approach.

The Bureau requested the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to disseminate amongst ACCOBAMS National Focal Points and relevant entities the booklet on the new IUCN Red List assessments to be issued by the IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga, as soon as it becomes available.

5. FOLLOW-UP OF THE ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE

26. The Executive Secretary introduced documents ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc07** and ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc08** on the Draft ACCOBAMS Long Term Monitoring Programme (LTMP) for estimating trends in abundance and distribution of cetaceans; and the Roadmap to sustain financial resources necessary for its implementation. She recalled that the first draft of the LTMP was presented to BU13 in December 2020 and circulated to the Members of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee for review and comments. It had also been presented to the 5th Meeting of ACCOBAMS National Representatives in July 2021 alongside with the Roadmap on its financial sustainability. Updated versions of both documents were presented to the 14th Scientific Committee in November 2021. The final LTMP version will be included in a draft Resolution to be submitted to MOP8, also including the financial aspects based on the options described in the Roadmap.
27. Chedly Rais, ACCOBAMS Secretariat expert, presented BU14/2022/**Doc07** describing the ACCOBAMS Long Term Monitoring Programme (LTMP). He emphasized that it is a framework document that builds on the approach followed by the ASI. He reminded that it is a policy-oriented document aiming at describing the objectives, the geographical scope and other important aspects of the LTMP. He highlighted the importance of involving the Scientific Committee throughout the different implementation stages of the LTMP, as well as of ensuring a strong involvement of the Parties in the preparation and logistics necessary for future surveys.

28. Hervé L  thier, ACCOBAMS Secretariat Expert, presented BU1414/2022/**Doc08** describing a Roadmap based on different *scenarii* aimed at financially sustaining the implementation of the ACCOBAMS LTMP. The Roadmap was developed by building on several lessons learnt and on recommendations drawn from the assessment and review of the ASI project. M. L  thier presented the three proposed *scenarii* for funding the LTMP, i.e. a fully comprehensive internal funding scheme, a full external support scheme or a mixed approach. He reminded the importance of a regional inclusive approach as many efforts are already funded through countries environmental monitoring policy commitments (i.e. MFSD). He concluded by recommending a reflexion to be promoted at the countries level, in particular on the financial scenario to be followed, and to set up an *ad hoc* group in order to facilitate the preparation of a LTMP draft Resolution to be submitted to MOP8.

Conclusion 2:

The Bureau commended the work of the experts regarding the development of the Long-Term Monitoring Program (LTMP) and the Roadmap to sustain financial resources necessary for its implementation, and highlighted the importance of the LTMP in supporting ACCOBAMS mission and objectives.

The Bureau agreed to establish an *ad hoc* group composed of National Focal Points to support the preparation of the draft Resolution on the LTMP in view of facilitating MOP8 discussions and decisions regarding the funding of the LTMP.

6. BUDGETARY MATTERS

6.1 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2020

29. The Executive Secretary made a presentation in relation to document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc09** on incomes and expenditures for 2020, as per 31st December 2020, recalling that the 2020 accounts had been validated by the management controller in April 2021.

Conclusion 3:

The Bureau approved the 2020 accounts properly validated, and commended:

- the financial support provided in 2020 by Italy, Malta and Monaco, through voluntary contributions,
- the work of the Secretariat to develop projects and activities supported by co-funding (EU projects, MAVA Foundation and IUCN).

6.2 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2021

30. The Executive Secretary presented document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc10** on a provisional report of incomes and expenditures for 2021, as of 30th November 2021.

Conclusion 4:

The Bureau approved the provisional report and requested the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to invite Parties with unpaid pledges to settle their balance as soon as possible, in order to allow for the implementation of activities relevant to the Agreement before MOP8.

The Bureau advised the Secretariat to contact Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Countries with more than 3 unpaid annual contributions.

6.3 Provisional list of activities for 2022

31. The Executive Secretary presented document BU14/2022/**Doc11** on estimated expenditures for 2022 based on proposed new activities. In accordance with Annex III “Terms of reference for administration of the budget” of Resolution 7.6, adopted by MOP7, the Secretariat is to give the Bureau an estimate of proposed expenditures for the coming year.

Conclusion 5:

The Bureau agreed with the proposed activities for 2022 and the estimated expenditures as reflected in [Annex 3](#) to this report and encouraged the Secretariat to continue monitoring funding opportunities and to develop proposals for multilateral projects and co-funded activities.

7. COMMUNICATION

7.1 ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy

32. The Executive Secretary presented document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc12** on the state of play regarding the development of a Communication Strategy, which had been considered crucial to strengthening the ACCOBAMS communication means and outreach, with the main purpose of improving ACCOBAMS visibility as a successful regional cooperation mechanism.
33. Following BU13 decision, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat recruited a Consultant - FCB Lisboa - to develop a draft Communication Strategy to be submitted for adoption by MOP8, and a step-by-step approach had started with the examination of current communication tools used by ACCOBAMS. The outcomes are reflected in the document, in the form of a Diagnostic Report - an overview of ACCOBAMS current communication activity – which also highlights areas where an intervention is advised. This document had been previously presented to the meeting of National Representatives, in July 2021.
34. The diagnostic phase had been followed by the creation of a Communication Steering Group aimed at liaising with both the Secretariat and FCB, and to provide guidance on the drafting of the Communication Strategy. The Communication Steering Group encompasses the ACCOBAMS Secretariat; the CMS Secretariat; the sub-regional coordinating units - SPA/RAC and Black Sea Commission Secretariat – as well as national representatives appointed by ACCOBAMS countries that have expressed interest in joining the Group: Algeria, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco and Syria.
35. She further informed that a first draft Communication Strategy elaborated by FCB had been shared with the Communication Steering Group in view of receiving initial inputs prior to a first discussion, which was held in December 2021. Following this first Steering Group meeting a draft Communication Strategy incorporating their suggestions is reflected in the document.
36. On next steps, the Executive Secretary explained that FCB is assisting the Secretariat with different options for implementing the strategy, following the Steering Committee’s advice. The Secretariat will prepare a summary document to accompany the draft Resolution to be presented to the Extended Bureau meeting in April 2022. The proposal, as well as the means needed for the strategy implementation are to be presented to the Steering Committee.

Conclusion 6:

The Meeting appreciated the work so far undertaken by the consultant and underlined the importance of having a Communication Strategy and promoting ACCOBAMS as a brand, in particular to support future fundraising efforts. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to finalise the Draft Communication Strategy and include it in the related draft Resolutions that will be submitted to MOP8.

7.2 NETCCOBAMS

37. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat, together with Sinay representative presented the development of NETCCOBAMS since the last Bureau Meeting in December 2020. They indicated that thanks to a Voluntary Contribution from Italy, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat started the implementation of a “cetacean digital platform” aimed at (i) facilitating the visualization of important areas for cetacean conservation, (ii) reinforcing exchanges and collaboration of all actors in cetacean conservation and (iii) assisting Parties in taking appropriate management and conservation measures. The platform has been developed since early 2020 by (i) updating and improving the previous versions of the NETCCOBAMS tool and (ii) tackling the willing expressed by the Secretariat to experiment best available science and new technologies to collect, analyse, and model data on cetaceans as well as on acoustic risk areas, in order to support the threat-based management approach and implement all relevant conservation measures promoted by ACCOBAMS.
38. The Bureau welcomed the progress in the development of NETCCOBAMS since the last Bureau Meeting in 2020. It noted that its 2 previous requests - adding projects and a template to be used for national reporting - were taken into consideration.

Conclusion 7:

The Bureau requested the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to provide all National Focal Points with their password and invite them to fill in their National Reports for MOP8 before the end of July 2022.

The Bureau agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a draft Resolution on NETCCOBAMS to be submitted to MOP8.

8. PROJECTS8.1 Call for proposals for projects under the Supplementary Conservation Fund

39. Referring to Resolution 7.8, the Executive Secretary recalled the procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation grants Fund. She then presented document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc13** on a proposal for launching a new ACCOBAMS Call for proposals in 2022, thanks to voluntary contributions perceived from Italy and Monaco.

Conclusion 8:

After discussions, the Bureau Members:

- welcomed voluntary contributions received from Italy and Monaco that will allow to open a new call for proposals in 2022 for 4 projects;
- invited the Secretariat to consider additional priorities and launch the call for proposals in accordance with the schedule proposed in document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/**Doc13**;
- agreed to proceed with the selection of projects through a dedicated online meeting to be organized in June 2022;

- requested the Secretariat to provide additional information on the selection procedure in view of the June online meeting.

8.2 Proposal for amending the procedure for projects submitted for institutional support

40. Recalling MOP7 decision (para. 122 of MOP7 report), the Executive Secretary presented document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2021/**Doc14** containing a proposal for amending the procedure on institutional support to projects.

Conclusion 9:

The Bureau Members reviewed the Proposal for amending the procedure on institutional support to projects and agreed to include the Procedure, taking into consideration Bureau Members' comments, in a draft Resolution to be submitted to MOP8.

9. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCOBAMS PROVISION RELATED TO THE BAN OF DRIFTNETS

41. The Executive Secretary recalled the BU13 decision that instructed the Secretariat to send a letter to all Parties on the implementation of the ACCOBAMS provision related to driftnet ban and to report back to the Bureau based on responses received.

42. The Legal Advisor, Prof. Tullio Scovazzi, presented document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2021/**Doc15** on a review of relevant treaties and national legislation, based on the information provided by the ACCOBAMS Parties that had responded to the consultation launched in March 2021 by the Secretariat - Croatia, France, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco and Spain.

Conclusion 10:

The Bureau Members noted the information provided and expressed their concerns about the low number of replies received from ACCOBAMS Parties on their implementation of ACCOBAMS driftnet ban. In order to get additional feedback on this important issue, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to get in touch with the countries that have not yet replied, including through direct contacts - phone calls - with Focal Points and/or through official contacts with Ministries of Foreign Affairs as appropriate, so that the Legal Advisor could update his report for MOP8.

As the illegal use of driftnets in the ACCOBAMS area continues to be a serious cause for concern, the Bureau further requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft Resolution on this issue to be submitted to MOP8.

10. ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

43. The Executive Secretary introduced document BU14/2022/**Doc16Rev1** on the new request for ACCOBAMS Partnership, explaining that the Secretariat had received one application from an organisation registered in a State Party to ACCOBAMS - "Museu da Baleia da Madeira", Portugal. She further informed the Meeting that the applicant did send necessary paperwork in support of his

submission for the status of ACCOBAMS Partner, as presented in Annex 1 of document BU14/2022/**Doc16Rev1**.

44. The Executive Secretary recalled that during BU13, the Bureau decided to postpone its decision concerning DelTa Association to further investigate the willingness and ability of the latter to cooperate with national governmental Institution. She informed the Meeting that the Secretariat re-submitted the application form and the programme of collaboration which are under review by the Italian National Focal Point.

Conclusion 11:

The Bureau decided to grant the status of ACCOBAMS Partner to the “Museu da Baleia da Madeira”.

The Bureau decided to postpone its decision concerning DelTa Association awaiting the advice of the Italian National Focal Point. The partnership application will be re-examined at the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Extended Bureau in April 2022 for decision.

45. The Executive Secretary introduced BU14/2022/**Doc19** on the additional programmes of collaboration received by the Secretariat since the last Meeting of the Bureau (December 2020) in accordance with BU13 decision that asked the Secretariat to request remaining contributions. In total, 23 Partners out of 50 provided their collaboration programmes for the triennium.

Conclusion 12:

The Bureau welcomed the additional programmes of collaboration received by the Secretariat since its last Meeting. However, considering the low feedback received, the Bureau invited the Secretariat to request partners who have not provided their programmes of collaboration to do so before mid-March 2022; and requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of ACCOBAMS Partners reflecting their reporting contributions to ACCOBAMS, which will be presented to the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Extended Bureau in April 2022.

11. PREPARATION OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING

46. Referring to Resolution 6.4 on Rules of Procedure for the Bureau, the Executive Secretary presented document ACCOBAMS-BU14/2021/**Doc17** on the appointment of three experts for supporting the Extended Bureau Meeting, in preparation for the next MOP. She recalled that a Working Group, made up of 3 experts having extensive experience in social and economic aspects of conservation and management of marine biodiversity, is to be created. All 3 experts are to be selected based on their background, according to the expected development of the Working Programme and the priorities to be considered for the next 3-years period.
47. In response to a question about the procedure followed to identify the proposed three experts, the Executive Secretary recalled that, as provided for by Resolution 6.4, the three experts should be selected by the Bureau in close consultation with the Secretariat. They were identified according to the Working Programme and the priorities to be taken in consideration for the next triennium. They will attend the Extended Bureau meeting as observers in their expert capacity and not as representatives of their respective countries. They will not be paid for their participation and the Secretariat will cover exclusively their travel and *per diem* expenses.

Conclusion 13:

The Bureau agreed that the Secretariat would invite the three proposed experts - Ana Štrbenac, Mihaela Mirea Candea and Alain Jeudy de Grissac - to attend the next Extended Bureau Meeting as members of the working group.

48. The Executive Secretary also informed Bureau Members on progress made in preparation for the MOP8 to be held in November 2022 in Malta and presented a proposal on a draft list of Resolutions for MOP8 (ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/Doc18).

Conclusion 14:

After few amendments, the Bureau Members approved a revised list of Resolutions to be submitted to MOP8 as shown in [Annex 4](#).

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

49. There were no other issues submitted for consideration by the Meeting.

13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

50. The Chair of the Meeting thanked all the participants and closed the 14th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 12:30.

ANNEXES

[ANNEX 1](#) - List of participants

[ANNEX 2](#) – Agenda

[ANNEX 3](#) - Provisional list of activities and proposed expenditures for 2022

[ANNEX 4](#) - Provisional list of draft Resolutions to be submitted to MOP8

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ANNEX 2 - AGENDA

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Progress report by the Secretariat**
- 4. Progress report on the activities of the Scientific Committee**
 - 4.1 Report on activities
 - 4.2 Recommendations from the Fourteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
- 5. Follow up of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative**
- 6. Budgetary matters**
 - 6.1 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2020
 - 6.2 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2021
 - 6.3 Provisional list of activities for 2022
- 7. Communication**
 - 7.1 ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy
 - 7.2 NETCCOBAMS
- 8. Projects**
 - 8.1 Call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund
 - 8.2 Proposal for amending the procedure for the projects submitted for institutional support
- 9. Implementation of ACCOBAMS provision related to the ban of driftnets**
- 10. ACCOBAMS Partners**
- 11. Preparation of the Extended Bureau Meeting**
- 12. Any other business**
- 13. Closure of the Meeting**

ANNEX 3 - PROVISIONAL LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR 2022

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT				
MA 1 – INVOLVEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS				
<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 the 14 th Meeting of the Bureau	7 000€ (LB 2300)	-	January 2022
	Organize the 5 th Meeting of the Extended Bureau	11 000€ (LB 2300)		April 2022+
	Organize the 8 th Meeting of the Parties	61 000€ (LB 2100)		November / December 2022
Establish/strengthen partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/national entities	Participate in Meetings and relevant fora (UN BBNJ session, CBD, UNEP MAP Meetings, GFCM, BSC, Pelagos Agreement, MedPAN...)	15 000€ (LB 1502)	Financial support from ongoing projects where ACCOBAMS is involved	
MA2 – ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULAR FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES				
<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	-	20 000€ (2022 Voluntary Contribution from Monaco) and 40 000€ (2020 Italian voluntary	A new call for proposals will be launched beginning of 2022 (see ACCOBAMS-BU14/2022/Doc13)

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
			contribution)	
MA3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS				
<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 3 rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee	5 000€ (LB 2500)	-	<i>Follow-Up Committee meeting planned for March 2022 – hybrid format</i>
CONSERVATION ACTIONS				
CA1 – IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE STATUS OF CETACEANS				
<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 Disseminating the ASI results and experience	-	70 000 € (VC to ASI project, MAVA & FPA2 ASI project)	<i>2 subregional data analysis workshops: 14-18 February 2022 for the Western Mediterranean and first week of March for the Eastern Mediterranean</i> <i>Communication material on the ASI results (ex.Short movie or infographics) to be developed during the first half of 2022</i> <i>Finalization of the analysis of the material from the ASI Technical Workshops (Dialogue Matters)</i> <i>Participation at relevant meetings (in person or on line) to present ASI results</i>
Support long-term monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Area using the ASI framework (methodology, network, funding mechanism...)	Organizing coordination meetings at the sub-regional level	-	7 000€ ABIOMMED project	<i>Establish a Working Group on cetaceans monitoring among Mediterranean EU countries to facilitate sub-regional coordination under MSFD</i> <i>Preparation of a review of the different elements of the MSFD related to cetacean in the EU Mediterranean countries</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
<i>CA1b – Population structure</i>				
Improve data collection on cetacean populations genetic in the ACCOBAMS Area	Regional training on data collection and analysis + Guidelines or Best Practices	-	36 000€ 2020 Italian voluntary contribution	<i>ToR presented during SC14. Training will be organized in Autumn 2022, before MOP8 Relevant good practices will be presented during MOP8 (possible Resolution)</i>
<i>CA1c - Monitoring cetacean's status Cetacean population estimates and distribution</i>				
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 Monaco	<i>To be organized ideally before Extended Bureau</i>
	Finalizing the 4 ongoing CMPs for fin whales, Risso's dolphins, common dolphins and Tursiops			<i>To be presented at MOP8</i>
	Initiating a CMP for sperm whale	4 000€ (LB 53)		<i>Progress report to be presented at MOP8</i>
Facilitate the Development/ revision/ implementation of National or Regional Action Plans for cetaceans	Supporting the revision of National Action Plans for cetaceans in collaboration with SPA/RAC and national authorities	6 000 € (LB 53)	-	

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
CA1 d - Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation				
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 at MOP8</i>
	Organizing necropsies training following the best practices on cetacean postmortem investigation and tissue sampling	5 000 € (LB 53)	10 000€ will be provided by the Principality of Monaco (2020 MoU) 10 000€ will be provided by the 2020 Italian voluntary contribution 2 500 € will be provided by the 2020 Maltese voluntary contribution 2 500 € from the MedBycatch project 5 000€ from the 2021 SPA/RAC co-funding	<i>Trainings were initiated online in 2021 and face to face training will be organized in Padova and Liege in February / March 2022</i>
CA2 - Reduce human pressures on cetaceans				
CA2 a - Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture				
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	-	100 000 € (MAVA Depredation2 project)	<i>Within the MAVA Depredation2 project:</i> <i>Coordination meetings with project partners</i> <i>Technical assistance to local teams and exchange visits</i> <i>Monitoring of depredation and mitigation measures experiments</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
	harmonised way, and testing different mitigation measures			<p><i>in pilot areas (additional activities)</i></p> <p><i>Preparation of a review of depredation in the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries</i></p> <p><i>International exchange workshop in June 2022</i></p> <p><i>Dissemination material</i></p>
	Monitoring incidental catches of vulnerable species through on-board observers programme and port questionnaires, and testing mitigation measures (Morocco)	-	115 000 € (MAVA MedBycatch2 project)	<p><i>Within the MAVA MedBycatch2 project:</i></p> <p><i>Coordination meetings with project partners and participation in regional project events</i></p> <p><i>Bycatch mitigation trials in Morocco</i></p> <p><i>Development of a national strategy to limit the impact of fishing activities on vulnerable species in Morocco</i></p> <p><i>Training of bycatch observers</i></p> <p><i>Bycatch monitoring program in Morocco</i></p> <p><i>Training/raising awareness events for Moroccan fishers</i></p>
CA2 b - Anthropogenic underwater noise				
Encourage the monitoring of anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Supporting monitoring programmes of impulsive noise impact indicator in particular by managing the regional impulsive noise		20 000€ (Quietseas project)	<i>In the framework of QUIETSEAS project, a workshop on noise with members of the JNWG will be organized in winter 2022</i>

ACTIONS UNDER THE 2020-2022 PoW	FORESEEN ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH:		COMMENTS/UPDATE/STATE OF PLAY
		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
	register, proposing methodology to establish threshold values and implementing pilot studies Supporting the development of projects to monitor continuous noise'	4 000€ LB 52	24 000€ (Quietseas project)	<i>In the framework of QUIETSEAS project, a training on noise will be organized in autumn 2022</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revising and updating the ACCOBAMS Guidelines on underwater noise 	4 000€ LB 52	4 000€ 2022 Voluntary Contribution from Monaco	<i>To be presented at MOP8</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)	5 000€ 2020 Voluntary Contribution from Malta	<i>The training course "ACCOBAMS certification" for Highly qualified MMOs will be done online</i>
	Revising and updating the ACCOBAMS "Guide for Parties to use mitigation measures		4 000€ 2022 Voluntary Contribution from Monaco	<i>To be presented at MOP8</i>
CA2c - Ship strikes				
Monitor / assess high-risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) in the Mediterranean Sea	<p>Developing a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities</p> <p>Identifying high risk areas for ship strikes (CCH)</p>	10 000€	10 000€ 2022 Monaco Voluntary Contribution	<p><i>A workshop on identification of high risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) will be organised in May 2022 in Monaco</i></p> <p><i>Protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities would be presented at MOP8</i></p> <p><i>Collaboration with Ramoge on the impacts of marine traffic on the biodiversity</i></p>
CA2 d - Cetacean watching				
Maximise the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts of whale watching activities on individual cetaceans and on	Gathering information on cetacean watching activities and identifying potential issues in order to identify	2 500 € (LB 52)		<i>Strengthening data collection for identifying whale watching hotspots in the ACCOBAMS Area</i>

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populations	the hotspots of WW activities in the ACCOBAMS area			
Support the implementation of the HQWW certificate in the ACCOBAMS area	Promoting the implementation of the HQWW certificate by Parties and in areas-based management measures in collaboration with relevant projects such as EcoStrim	500 € (LB54)		<i>Contribution to the training of WW operators to be organized in France by MIRACETI</i>
CA2 e - Marine litter & CA 2 f - Chemical & biological pollution				
<i>No new activities planned for 2022</i>				
CA2 g - Climate change				
<i>No new activities planned for 2022</i>				
CA2 h - Captivity related issues				
<i>No new activities planned for 2022</i>				
C34a – Area-based measures for cetacean conservation				
Regularly update Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH) including by identifying priority areas for action to mitigate the known threats (bycatch...) / area-based management measures	Gathering data considering ASI data and the IMMAs & EBSAs process	5 000€ (LB 53)	-	<i>Experts workshop on CCH in March 2022</i> <i>Final CCH proposals to be presented to MOP8</i>
Support implementation of relevant measures for adequate management in CCH	Identifying and promoting relevant management measures in pilot CCH, in	25 000€ (LB 53)		

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		ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (€)	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS/CO-FUNDING (€)	
	collaboration with all stakeholders			
CA4a – Information / Communication / Awareness about cetaceans				
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 area, in particular in Southern Mediterranean countries	Producing annual newsletter (FINS)	500€ (LB 54)	500€ (LB 6900)	A first FINS early 2022 and a second FINS after MOP8
	Supporting the functioning of MEDACES	-	(18 000€ from a 2022 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	Collaboration with other projects are also expected

ANNEX 4 – PROVISIONAL LIST OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO MOP8

Administrative items	
Draft Res 8.0	Granting the right to vote (if needed)
Draft Res 8.1	Scientific Committee
Draft Res 8.2	Work programme and Budget 2023-2025
Draft Res 8.3	ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy
Draft Res 8.4	NETCCOBAMS
Draft Res 8.5	Procedure for the projects submitted for institutional support
Draft Res 8.6	National Action Plans
Draft Res 8.7	ACCOBAMS Partners
Draft Res 8.8	Tribute to the Organisers
Draft Res 8.9	Date, venue and funding of the Ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties
Conservation issues	
Draft Res 8.10	The ACCOBAMS long-term monitoring programme (LTMP)
Draft Res 8.11	IUCN Red List
Draft Res 8.12	Conservation Management Plans (CMPs)
Draft Res 8.13	Cetacean Stranding Networks (CSNs)
Draft Res 8.14	Bycatch
Draft Res 8.15	Illegal driftnets
Draft Res 8.16	Noise
Draft Res 8.17	Ship strikes
Draft Res 8.18	Commercial whale watching activities
Draft Res 8.19	Marine litter and chemical pollution
Draft Res 8.20	Cetacean Critical Habitats
Draft Res 8.21	Citizen Science