

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT
(from November 2019 to September 2022)

Introduction

According to Article IV, paragraph 2, f), at each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, the Agreement Secretariat shall provide a report on the work developed by the Agreement Secretariat, the Sub-Regional Co-ordination Units, the Bureau, and the Scientific Committee, and on the implementation of the Agreement based on information provided by the Parties and other sources.

This document is a report on activities carried out by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, based on the Work Programme 2020-2022 adopted during the Seventh Meeting of the Parties in 2019.

The Report was prepared by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in order to inform the meeting on the status of each action planned under the 2020-2022 Work Program. It describes the activities implemented regarding administrative and scientific issues and on collaboration with other Institutions during the triennium 2020-2022. The report covers the period from November 2019 to September 2022.

From early 2020, the triennium activities implementation was impacted by the COVID-19 sanitary crisis. As it happened with many organisations worldwide, several activities and meetings had to be postponed or organised online. It is only since the end of 2021 that in person meetings could be resumed with all necessary sanitary precautions. Despite this major disturbance, the 2020-2022 programme has been implemented.

The Secretariat attended in person and online meetings and workshops. Each time, the Secretariat took the opportunity to present relevant activities, particularly those that contributed to enhance the Agreement's visibility, as well as to disseminate information material and to explore ways of strengthening relevant cooperation/collaboration for the implementation of ACCOBAMS. These meetings are non-exhaustively indicated in [Annex 1](#).

Lastly, [Annex 2](#) offers a report on the implementation of ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy as required by Resolution 7.5.

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)

MA1	INVOLVEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS
MA1a	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations

Expected outcomes	Involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	<i>Status¹</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
<p>Establish/strengthen partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/national entities</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries to encourage accession to the Agreement of all riparian states and to develop activities with non-Parties</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of national representatives in formulating actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing MoU • Participating in Coordination Meetings and relevant fora • Working through relevant Joint WG • Developing joint actions / projects • Organizing joint Workshops, in particular with Partners • Linking with relevant marine strategies • Contributing to the determination and monitoring of the GES 	<p>Achieved</p>	<p><u>Liaison with the Depository and all Riparian Countries</u></p> <p>Liaising with the Depository was done through a meeting in June 2020 with HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and His Advisor, where details of the ACCOBAMS PoW and foreseen activities in relation to the ACCOBAMS 25th anniversary in 2021 were discussed.</p> <p>Many other meetings were held with high representatives of the Depository country, where both the accession and ratification process were discussed as current priorities for ACCOBAMS.</p> <p>The Secretariat was approached by Israel on the accession process foreseen in the Agreement. Being a “range State”, Israel is entitled to become a party to the ACCOBAMS by depositing an instrument of accession with the Depository, that is the Government of the Principality of Monaco (Art. XVII of the ACCOBAMS).</p> <p>Meetings including at distance were also held with some diplomatic representatives of ACCOBAMS countries and National Focal Points.</p> <p><u>Collaboration with relevant international/national organizations</u></p>

¹ Possible status regarding the 2020-2022 PoW:

- Partially achieved: actions started or developed but still ongoing
- Achieved: actions finalized as foreseen for the period 2020/2022
- Not achieved: actions not initiated or discontinued during 2020/2022

<p>related to cetacean conservation, according to their national priorities (regional workshops)</p> <p>Reinforce synergy between Partners and harmonize activities</p>	<p>(MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 • Liaising with the Depositary to encourage accession to the Agreement of riparian states • Liaising with Sub Regional Coordination Units 	<p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc12</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc13</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc15</p>	<p>Liaison and coordination with partner Organizations was done on a regular basis. In particular, several virtual meetings were organized in 2020 to introduce the new Executive Secretary, namely with CMS, IWC, GFCM, SPA/RAC and IUCN, inter alia, to discuss common priorities for collaboration, based on the 2020-2022 ACCOBAMS Program of Work.</p> <p>Between 2020 and 2022, the Secretariat participated in several institutional Meetings organized by other organizations: CMS, ASCOBANS, Barcelona Convention (including SPA/RAC and MedPOL), IWC, European Commission, GFCM, IUCN, Pelagos Agreement, MedPAN.</p> <p>More specifically regarding Barcelona Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since April 2020 the Secretariat strived for a strengthened collaboration with UNEP/MAP for the EcAp-MED III project and the preparation of the 2023 Quality Status Report. Exchanges are ongoing with SPA/RAC and MedPOL to discuss ACCOBAMS contribution. - the Secretariat participated at meetings organised by Barcelona Convention (SPA/RAC FP Meeting, CORMON Meetings, Meetings dedicated to spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity, SAP BIO Meetings) where strategic priorities and key activities were provided to the organisers. - the Secretariat committed to contribute to the independent evaluation of the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016/2021. - A Memorandum of Understanding between ACCOBAMS and SPA/RAC for the 3-years period 2020-2022 was signed in October 2020. <p>More specifically regarding European Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was this meeting with the Commissioner on by-catch alarming rates - The Secretariat participated to Meetings of the EU-TG-Noise. The 2 co-chairs of the JNWG are involved in the Advisory Board of the EU funded project called QuietSeas.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Secretariat participated at meetings of the Marine Expert Group coordinated by DG Environment of the European Commission. <p>The Secretariat was also invited to some national meetings. OFB France: ACCOBAMS – Executive Secretary, Chair and Vice Chair of SC – participated at a workshop in October 2021, promoted by OFB in Paris, on a possible PSSA proposal to be submitted to IMO in 2022.</p> <p><u>Work through relevant Joint WG</u></p> <p>The First Meeting of the Joint Bycatch Working Group of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS took place from 10 to 12 February 2021. One hundred and fifty participants from 34 countries took part in the meeting organized online. A catch-up meeting was organized on 18 August 2022.</p> <p>A workshop with the JNWG was organized in January 2020 and in February 2022, respectively in the framework of the QuietMed2 project regarding a proposal of a candidate for an impulsive noise indicator in MED Region and in the framework of QuietSeas project to support the implementation and operationalisation of the TG Noise framework methodology and the establishment of threshold values for noise in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea region.</p> <p><u>Participation to international events:</u></p> <p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat participated to the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, France, 5-8 September 2021) and coordinated a Session in the “Mediterranean stand” supported by MAVA, on 6 September 2021 with several other bodies under the theme “Improving partnership and effective and equitable governance of Mediterranean natural resources”. Together with GFCM, ACCOBAMS showcased the ASI integrated approach and NETCCOBAMS platform, and the collaboration with GFCM with examples of joint mobilisation towards an effective Strategical Alliance on spatial-based protection and conservation measures for marine biodiversity. The ACCOBAMS</p>
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			<p>Secretariat also participated at a Side-event “Contributing into building governance for a transboundary” in North-Western Mediterranean Sea, organised by OFB, France.</p> <p>The ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary attended the UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, Portugal, 27 June – 1 July 2022) and participated as a panellist at three side-events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “At United by the Sea film sessions” within the side-event “Women with a strong bond with the sea who inspire communities” the ES showcased ACCOBAMS institutional approach towards cetacean conservation, where the video produced following the last ACCOBAMS (25th) anniversary was publicly shared on screen (28 June); - At the Together for the Med side-event “« From user conflicts to sustainable fishing and marine conservation: Mediterranean success stories and best practices sharing » under the theme “promote sustainable fisheries” the ES presented the Mediterranean Sea situation on unwanted interactions, particularly depredation in small-scale fisheries (30 June) - At the “United by the Sea Film Sessions” – under the Overfishing theme, the ES showcased the MAVA funded joint project - MedBycatch – on “Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa bycatch of vulnerable species and testing mitigation: a collaborative approach” as a partnership between ACCOBAMS, GFCM, SPA/RAC, and other partners; the short fiction film “An Important Job” produced by Vergi Film Productions in the framework of the MedBycatch project was publicly shared on screen, to raise awareness on the important choice that fishers around the Mediterranean make towards a more sustainable future (1 July).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing ACCOBAMS Institutional Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting of the Parties - Scientific Committee Meetings 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc11</p>	<p><u>Scientific Committee Meetings</u></p> <p>The Thirteenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (SC13) was organized in Cap d’Ail, France, between 26 and 28 February 2020.</p> <p>The Fourteen Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (SC14) was organized in Monaco from 22 to 26 November 2021, during the week of the 25th anniversary of ACCOBAMS.</p>

	<p>- Bureau Meetings</p> <p>- Meeting of National Representatives to develop the Programme of Work</p>	<p>Committee ACCOBAMS- MOP8/2022/Doc09</p> <p>ACCOBAMS- RW05/2021/Doc08</p>	<p><u>Bureau Meetings</u></p> <p>The Secretariat facilitated the organization of a meeting of the Bureau – acting as Recruitment Committee – on 10 February 2020 to interview the shortlisted candidates for the position of Executive Secretary</p> <p>The Thirteenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (BU13), initially planned to take place at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 9-10 December 2020, had to be organized online, 9-11 December 2020, due to worldwide travel restrictions.</p> <p>The Fourteen Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (BU14), initially planned to take place in Monaco in December 2021, had to be organized online, 18-19 January 2022, due to sanitary conditions.</p> <p>The Fifth meeting of the ACCOBAMS Extended Bureau was organised in Monaco, 26-27 April 2022.</p> <p><u>Meeting of National Representatives</u></p> <p>The Fifth Meeting of National Representatives was organized online from 12 to 15 July 2021.</p>
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MA2	ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULAR FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES
MA2a	Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources

Expected outcomes	Additional funds mobilized for conservation actions Regional capacities in project development and fundraising increased
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Fund projects under the Supplementary Conservation Grant Fund (SCF) related to cetacean conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching a call for proposals for projects related to cetacean conservation 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf05</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf06</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf07</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf08</p>	<p>Over the three projects selected through the 2018 ACCOBAMS Call for proposals, one has been completed (“Monitoring and mitigation of cetacean bycatch in Bulgarian waters”) and the two others encountered delays and are still ongoing (“Establishing the bank of cetacean tissue samples in Ukraine” and “Mise en place d’un nouveau réseau opérationnel pour le suivi des échouages de cétacés sur le littoral algérien”).</p> <p>The 2022 ACCOBAMS Call for proposals was launched by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, on 16 February 2022 for 4 projects. Eleven project proposals were received before the deadline (31 May 2022).</p> <p>An Extraordinary Meeting of the Bureau was organized online on 19 September 2022 to decide on the 4 projects to be funded through the Supplementary Conservation Grant Fund.</p>
Monitor funding opportunities and develop (or support the development of) proposals for multilateral projects and co-funded activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing information on funding opportunities Using established partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/ national entities Sharing information on funding opportunities Organizing a training workshop on project development/fundraising 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>Annex 2</p>	<p>News on funding opportunities is published on the ACCOBAMS website or disseminated via emails as often as possible.</p>
Monitor funding opportunities			<p>A Call for voluntary contributions for the implementation of the Work Programme 2020-2022 was sent to all Focal Points and Bureau Members in July 2020.</p>
Support the development of capacities in project development and fundraising			<p>Phases 2 of MAVA Depredation and MedBycatch projects have been developed in 2020 and funding has been allocated by the MAVA Foundation. ACCOBAMS participates as Partner in the MedBycatch2 project and as Coordinator in the Depredation2 project.</p>

			<p>Additional support was granted from MAVA for the evaluation of the ASI project, in view of developing an ACCOBAMS long term Monitoring Programme.</p> <p>A small grant was provided by MAVA to capitalize on the experience and knowledge acquired through the MedBycatch project in the implementation of the bycatch observer programs.</p> <p>ACCOBAMS Secretariat participates as Partner in two projects funded by EU under DG ENV/MSFD 2020 Call: Marine Strategy Framework Directive – Support to the preparation of the next 6-year cycle of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ABIOMMED “Support coherent and coordinated assessment of biodiversity and measures across Mediterranean for the next 6-year cycle of MSFD implementation”;- QUIETSEAS “Assisting (sub) regional cooperation for the practical implementation of the MSFD second cycle by providing methods and tools for D11 (underwater noise)”.
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MA3	IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS
MA3a	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress

Expected outcomes	Level of implementation and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions improved
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Implement the mid-term revised ACCOBAMS Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflecting in the Work Programme the revised ACCOBAMS Strategy following the mid-term evaluation of its effectiveness 	Partially achieved	Implementation of the 2020-2022 Working Programme
Propose remedy actions in cases of non-follow-up with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convening a Follow up Committee meeting Applying Follow up Procedures 	Achieved Please refer to: ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc14 ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc26 ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf11	<p>The third meeting of the Follow-up Committee was organised in March 2022.</p> <p>Following the submission by OceanCare regarding the failure by ACCOBAMS Mediterranean Countries to implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins, received at the Secretariat on 1st December 2016, the Focal Point from Malta has provided the information in August 2020. This information was provided to the Follow up Committee Members.</p> <p>In 2020, during BU13 meeting, the Secretariat raised the attention of Bureau members on the occurrences of whale entanglements in illegal driftnets. The Bureau underscored that illegal driftnetting is a major issue for the conservation of cetaceans and ACCOBAMS and instructed the Secretariat to send a letter to all Parties on this issue and report back to BU14 on responses received. The Secretariat also tasked the Legal Advisor, Prof. Tullio Scovazzi, to prepare a review of relevant treaties and national legislation related to the use of driftnets in the ACCOBAMS Area for presentation at BU14.</p> <p>In 2022, during BUEXT5, the Secretariat raised the attention of Bureau members on the implementation of Resolution 4.18 related to the granting of exceptions for research activities at sea that are likely to cause harassment of cetaceans. The Bureau mandated the Secretariat to address an official letter accompanied by an explanatory note on relevant legal provisions to all National Focal Points, Scientific Committee members, Sub-Regional Coordinating Units, Partners and relevant partner organizations, in order to remind them about the applicable procedure for granting exemptions to research</p>

			activities at sea that are likely to cause harassment of cetaceans, and to invite Parties to inform the Secretariat about exemptions that they may have granted during the five past years.
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MA4	ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA
MA4a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas

Expected outcomes	ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards implemented in the adjacent areas
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Encourage ratification of Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic		Achieved Please refer to: ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc08	<p>The Executive Secretary took opportunities to discuss this issue with several Focal Points and the Depository country.</p> <p>Italy has ratified the Amendment in July 2021 and Malta in January 2022. At present, 10 Parties have ratified the Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic.</p> <p>Contacts with Portuguese authorities were made since mid-2020 and allowed to understand the technical difficulties in relation to the application of Annex 2 (par.1.a) to the overall PT EEZ. These are preventing PT from launching the ratification process of the Amendment regarding the extension of ACCOBAMS geographical area.</p>

CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)

CA1

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE STATUS OF CETACEANS

CA 1 a

Cetacean population estimates and distribution

Expected outcomes

Improved knowledge of cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS Area
Global distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Seas established, based on results of surveys

Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	<i>Status</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
Interpret and disseminate results / subsequent recommendations of the ASI in the Mediterranean and Black Seas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing workshops dedicated to ASI data analysis/interpretation (CB) • Publishing a report on the ASI results • Disseminating the ASI results and experience in relevant regional/international fora 	<p style="text-align: center;">Achieved</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please refer to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf15</p>	<p>3 subregional data analysis ASI Workshops were conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central Mediterranean (18-29 November 2019, Castel Gandolfo, Italy), - Western Mediterranean (14-18 February 2022, Monaco) - Eastern Mediterranean/Black Sea (1-3 March 2022, online). <p>The Black Sea Training workshop was partly conducted online through the CeNoBS project in September 2019 together with a session on the definition of threshold values as well as during the Eastern Mediterranean/Black Sea workshop (March 2022, online).</p> <p>A Consultation Support Group was set up to guide the organisation and development of the ASI Technical Conservation recommendation workshop. On the basis of detailed ToRs, the workshop was prepared by the Secretariat, with support from a consultant, a Moderating Agency and speakers and contributors. Set up in three online sessions, the workshop was held on 11-12 and 14-15 October 2021. The workshop report includes recommendations and outcomes which emerged from this collaborative work.</p> <p>The Data analysis process was finalised for the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea in 2021. Both reports (<i>Estimates of abundance and distribution of cetaceans, marine mega fauna and marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea from 2018 2019 surveys</i> and <i>Estimates of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea from 2019 surveys</i>) were launched during an ASI short online event on 22 April 2021, who gathered around 200 participants. The reports are available online on ACCOBAMS website, as well as the recording of the online event.</p> <p>The ASI results and experience were also shared during different events:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Black Sea Habitats Workshop, 30 October 2020, - a EC Black Sea Green Diplomacy virtual event, 16 November 2020, - an online workshop organized by the CARIMAM project in the Caribbean Region in November 2020, CeNoBS final workshop, 9-11 June 2021, - CORMON meetings on Biodiversity and Fisheries 10-11 June 2021 and 28-29 March 2022 - IUCN World Conservation Congress, 4-9 September 2021, - UN Ocean Conference, 28 June 2022. <p>Exchanges were held with SPA/RAC, MEDPOL and the Barcelona Convention Secretariat to assess how the ASI data regarding cetaceans/sea turtles/marine litter distribution and abundance could be integrated in the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report. The Secretariat and SC members participated at several meetings in this context, including to the CORMON meetings in December 2020, June 2021 and March 2022 and bilateral meetings with INFO RAC and the SPA RAC on the development of IMAP Info System and data dictionaries.</p> <p>A special issue was opened in the Journal Frontiers for Marine Sciences on the Research topic The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI): Implementing Large Scale Surveys for Marine Megafauna the Mediterranean and Black Seas, under supervision of the Editor board. Pre-Selected manuscripts are being prepared and published as they become available.</p>
<p>Support long-term monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Area using the ASI framework (methodology, network, funding mechanism...)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing coordination meetings at the sub-regional level • Developing a strategy to fund ASI on the long-term • Supporting the development of specific collaborations among scientific entities • Supporting implementation of sub regional surveys 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc27</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf16</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf17</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf18</p>	<p>Ensuring ASI sustainability:</p> <p>The Secretariat developed an intermediate assessment of ASI project, which is a basis for the work related to the sustainability of monitoring in the Area. In this context, two consultants were recruited in 2020 to assist the Secretariat in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. defining the ACCOBAMS long Term monitoring programme 2. developing an evaluation of ASI Project and a roadmap to support a long-term monitoring programme, including the identification of funding and institutional mechanisms. <p>Following a request from 14th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau in January 2022, an <i>ad hoc</i> group composed of National Focal Points was established to support the preparation of the draft Resolution on the LTMP in view of facilitating MOP8 discussions and decision, in particular on budgetary and financial implications. Coordinated by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and with the support of a consultant, this Ad Hoc Group met on 21 April and 15 June and developed specific provisions for the LTMP draft resolution and additional recommendations to be presented during MOP8.</p>

			<p>In parallel, a brochure on the ASI and the LTMP was finalised in August 2022 to support future fundraising efforts to seek for external funding of the next surveys.</p> <p>Strengthening synergies within the MSFD context: A Workshop ACCOBAMS/AFB “Towards coordinated marine mammal monitoring programmes for MSFD second cycle 2020-2026” was organized at the World Marine Mammals Conference on 8 December 2019 in Barcelona producing recommendations to foster collaboration and transboundary consultations between existing and upcoming marine mammal monitoring programmes, including MSFD related monitoring programs.</p> <p>The two-year EU-funded ABIOMMED project (‘Support coherent and coordinated assessment of biodiversity and measures across Mediterranean for the next 6-year cycle of MSFD implementation’) started in July 2021. Within this project, the Secretariat is coordinating the Work Package “Streamlining Descriptor’s D1 selected criteria regarding mammal’s species groups (small, toothed cetaceans, deep diving toothed cetaceans and baleen whales) towards coordinated monitoring and assessment in the Mediterranean region”. ACCOBAMS supports in particular the establishment of a working group composed by the researchers/managers appointed by the MSFD national competent authorities for cetaceans monitoring in each EU Mediterranean country, aimed at strengthening the coordination for monitoring cetacean MSFD related criteria, including proposals for regionally harmonized monitoring strategy and thresholds values.</p>
<p>Promote 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing guidelines / best practices on the implementation of multidisciplinary surveys and on the use of platform of opportunity and innovative technologies to collect data on cetacean’s distribution and abundance • Reviewing the existing surveys/scientific efforts at the national/regional scale that could be used to collect data on distribution and abundance of cetaceans 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf19</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf20</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf21</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf22</p>	<p>A feasibility study and experimentation on the use of drones for Cetaceans monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Agreement area was finalized by IMMRAC/University of Haifa and Murdoch University. Reports and results were provided during the summer 2020. Part of this work was published in a peer-review paper in September 2022.</p> <p>In the context of the Sphyrna Odyssey 2019 project, an experiment was conducted with Marine Conservation Research in March 2019 in the South of France to test the feasibility of unmanned surface vehicles in estimating the distribution and abundance of cetacean species.</p> <p>Experts were contracted to work on the use of UAVs, multidisciplinary surveys and platforms of opportunity to collect data on Cetacean distribution and abundance. The results of those 3 studies were presented during to the Fourteenth Scientific Committee meeting in November 2021. In addition, the Secretariat and the SC co-Chair participated in an online Expert Event on the use of drones in the marine environment late 2020 (France – Pôle Méditerranée) and have been following other relevant initiatives on the use of UAVs.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating with relevant Organisations, such as ICCAT, to collect data on distribution and abundance of cetaceans 	<p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf23</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf24</p>	
Initiate the establishment of a regional repository for data on cetacean's distribution and abundance based on the conclusion of the ASI preparatory study for an information management system for cetacean survey data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing proposal(s) for a data repository system 	Partially achieved	ASI results related maps were uploaded on NETCCOBAMS for visualisation purposes. Subsequently, a reflection on the use of NETCCOBAMS will be undertaken in the perspective of becoming a repository data system.

CA 1 b	Population Structure
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Expected outcomes	Improved knowledge on population structure in the ACCOBAMS Area and species conservation management plans completed Exchanges of samples facilitated for joint analysis Data exchanges facilitated for basin wide analysis
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Improve data collection on cetacean populations genetic in the ACCOBAMS Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing regional trainings on data collection and analysis (CB) Establishing Guidelines / Best Practices 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf25</p>	<p>ACCOBAMS Focal Points and experts were requested to provide the Secretariat with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing cetacean samples within the ACCOBAMS area Procedure for the exchange of cetacean samples between ACCOBAMS Parties List of genetics laboratories within the ACCOBAMS area that could process samples for population genetics analysis
Encourage better collaboration between tissue banks to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and contacting reference laboratories in the ACCOBAMS Area Supporting the development of specific collaborations among scientific entities 	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat organized in a 2-part workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first session was a half day online session on Friday 2nd of September 2022, 9:30-12:30 CEST. The second session is a 2-day in-person session held in Monaco on the 20th & 21st of September 2022.
Improve photo ID data collection and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering data in photo ID Catalogues Using Web based databases Organizing regional trainings on photo ID Catalogues (CB) 	<p>Not implemented by the Secretariat</p>	<p>External funds were needed to implement this action</p>

CA 1 c	Monitoring cetacean's status
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Expected outcomes	<p>IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area is assessed</p> <p>ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans is updated and made available on IUCN and ACCOBAMS websites</p> <p>Regional conservation plan for cetaceans in the Black Sea is revised and implemented at the national level</p> <p>Conservation management plans for cetacean species are developed and implemented</p> <p>National Action Plans for cetaceans are developed and implemented</p>
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	<i>Status</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
Contribute to IUCN threat status assessment of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it as relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking species assessments • Organising joint ACCOBAMS–IUCN experts' workshop 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf26</p>	<p>New assessments of the conservation status of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans and update of existing ones according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria were launched in 2019 in the context of a dialogue between ACCOBAMS and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga, with the involvement of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.</p> <p>All new assessments of Mediterranean species were submitted and reviewed by the Red List Authority and were published by IUCN end of 2021. Black Sea species were also submitted and are under final review by the Red List Authority. Iberian harbour porpoises were also assessed.</p>
Update ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans, using ASI results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing and publishing an updated ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf27</p>	<p>The writing of the book on the Conservation Status of Cetacean in the ACCOBAMS area started in May/June 2019 (two co-authors contracted under the ASI project). The content was reviewed by the Scientific Committee and shared with NFPs. The book was developed with an Editor and printed versions were delivered for the 25th ACCOBAMS Anniversary. An online version was posted online right after the Anniversary. The publication of the book was done in synchronization with the IUCN Red list reassessment process.</p>
Revise the Regional Conservation Plan for cetacean in Black Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat coordinated with the Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission the revision of the Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans. The draft is to be revised by relevant BSC Advisory groups.</p>

<p>Develop/ revise/ implement relevant Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing ACCOBAMS-IWC-IUCN Experts Workshop(s) to develop/ revise/ conservation Management Plans for cetacean species, taking into account all national conservation plans Supporting the implementation of relevant actions of the approved Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species with emphasize of coordination actions and organization with stakeholders' workshop Organize a joint workshop on common dolphin with ASCOBANS during ECS 2021, (depending on Voluntary Contribution or Ext funds) 	<p>Partially achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf29</p>	<p>4 Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are under drafting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fin whale Risso's dolphin Bottlenose dolphin Common dolphin <p>An ACCOBAMS experts' workshops on Bottlenose / common dolphin CMP took place in Monaco from 7th to 9th March 2022. Scientists involved in the relevant research in the Mediterranean were invited to collaborate towards a draft final CMP for Bottlenose and a draft final CMP for common dolphins.</p> <p>Due to the COVID crisis, the joint workshop on common dolphin with ASCOBANS during ECS 2021 could not be organized.</p>
<p>Facilitate the Development/ revision/ implementation of National or Regional Action Plans for cetaceans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the revision / development of two National Action Plans for cetaceans in collaboration with SRCUs and national authorities (Algeria already identified) 	<p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>The National Action plan in Algeria is under finalization.</p> <p>The meeting initially planned in Alger in April 2020 with national authorities, national experts, ACCOBAMS and SPA/RAC representatives was cancelled due to COVID crisis. Several online meetings with national authorities were held in 2021 and Actions and Activities factsheets were presented during SC14.</p> <p>The Secretariat worked in close collaboration with SPA/RAC to update the Mediterranean Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans which was circulated to SC Members for review. The updated UNEP/MAP Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans was adopted by COP22 of the Barcelona Convention in December 2021.</p>

CA 1 d	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation
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Expected outcomes	Official National Stranding networks are established and operating Information on stranding events regularly exchanged among national networks
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	<i>Status</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
Set up /Reinforce official national stranding networks (with all national institutions concerned) as appropriate, and encourage collaborations among national networks of Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Organizing trainings on necropsies, live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS area following the best practices on causes of death including marine litters, and on the use of relevant databases (CB) • Entering relevant national data into relevant databases, such as MEDACES • Promoting the use of a database of experts/stranding authorities • Encouraging the creation of a permanent expert panel on strandings to 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc28</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf30</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf31</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf32</p>	<p>In 2020: The Secretariat supported the participation of 3 experts from Lebanon, Egypt and Montenegro at the marine mammal necropsy workshop, organized by the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liege (Belgium). The workshop was held on 10th July (online marine mammals' <i>post-mortem</i> investigation). The face-to-face marine mammal post-mortem workshop, originally planned from 13th to 15th October 2020 was tentatively postponed to 2022.</p> <p>In 2021: In June and September the Secretariat organized a 5 days-training on necropsies, following the best practices on the investigation of causes of death including incidental catches during fishing operations (bycatch) and marine litter ingestion, entanglement, but also impacts caused by noise, ship strikes and infectious diseases – “Best Practices on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling resulted from the harmonization process in ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS”.</p> <p>The training was planned to be subdivided in 2 sessions:</p> <p>(1) A 2-days online marine mammal post-mortem investigation webinar using a videoconferencing system, 28-29 June, followed by an on-line evaluation 5 July. Only experts passing the evaluation would be admitted to the face-to-face training.</p> <p>(2) A 3-days face-to-face marine mammal post-mortem training was foreseen for 27-29 September in Liege and on 12-14 October in Padova, accommodating 20 participants each.</p> <p>After the summer evaluation, and in concertation with the trainers due to the restrictions related to the current COVID situation, it was decided to postpone the practical training especially since not all participants could obtain the green pass/sanitary pass and also in face of the need to quarantine in and out from/to different countries. Nevertheless, additional online demonstrations were assured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - late September 2021: an online demonstration from Liege on necropsies - late October 2021: an online demonstration from Padua - until November 2021: online asynchronous lessons released from both Liege and Padua Universities

	assist on emergencies and unusual mortality		<p>- a second questionnaire prepared end of November are to be filled late December: both questionnaires will be considered for final approval allowing also to the persons who did not pass the first to repair</p> <p>Given the stranding of a 19 m fin whale in Calais, north coast of France, Thierry Jauniaux, an ACCOBAMS expert on necropsy, has performed a field necropsy and provided the opportunity to all ACCOBAMS experts to follow the ongoing live necropsy procedures.</p> <p>During CSMC5, participants from southern Mediterranean countries were encouraged to provide their data to MEDACES</p> <p>In 2022:</p> <p>3-days face-to-face marine mammal <i>postmortem</i> trainings were organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Padova (Italy)- 22-24 February 2022 – 14 participants - Liege (Belgium) - 22-24 March 2022 and 12-14 July 2022 17 participants - <p>The establishment of an ACCOBAMS expert panel on strandings to assist with emergencies and unusual mortality events (Task Force) is ongoing with a specific topic on Black Sea.</p> <p>Moreover, a feasibility study on the development of teleneecropsy is ongoing in order to better assist experts during unusual mortality events.</p> <p>ACCOBAMS Focal Points were requested to provide the Secretariat with formal text of measures/legislation which have been adopted in their own Country concerning the establishment of stranding networks in order to prepare 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.</p>
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CA2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)
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CA 2 a	Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture
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Expected outcomes	<p>Impacts of cetaceans' bycatch and depredation are assessed, and mitigation measures are tested</p> <p>Regional bycatch/depredation strategy is developed</p> <p>Ecotourism activities (whale watching and pescaturism) are promoted as an alternative income source to fishermen impacted by depredation</p>
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
<p>Assess / Monitor the impacts of interactions with fisheries/ aquaculture (bycatch, depredation and prey depletion) and propose alternative best practices measures and / or technics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replicating projects on interactions with fisheries • Implementing on-board observers programme and port questionnaires, and testing mitigation measures in the countries supported by the MAVA funded projects • Assessing /updating the extent of interactions with fisheries/ aquaculture in other countries, including through the use of stranding data • Collaborating with relevant entities, in particular with GFCM and IWC BMI 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf33</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf34</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf35</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf36</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf37</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf38</p> <p>Pilot site report ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf39</p>	<p><u>Bycatch monitoring/assessment/mitigation:</u></p> <p>After the 1st phase initiated in 2018, the 2nd phase of the MAVA-funded MedBycatch project ('Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa bycatch of vulnerable species and testing mitigation') started in July 2020 and will stop at the end of October 2022. The main objective of Phase 2 was to test mitigation measures taking into consideration Phase 1 monitoring results. The overall coordination was facilitated by Birdlife-Europe through a project Steering Committee composed of all regional partners, including the ACCOBAMS Secretariat. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat was also in charge of facilitating the coordination of the project activities in Morocco with the national partners (INRH, Maritime Fisheries Department and GREPOM).</p> <p>Monitoring activities have been continuing until April-June 2022 in Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye using the GFCM Methodology for data collection that follows a multitaxon approach with on-board observers and port questionnaires. Some mitigation measures were tested for different fishing gears (testing circular hooks or changes in baits for longlines, modification of the trawls with some excluding devices, use of light in set nets...). Some monitoring and mitigation activities were also carried out in Croatia and Italy with the inclusion of new national partners during Phase 2. Data from phases 1 and 2 are to be centralized in a common database hosted by GFCM. Several activities related to communication and awareness were led by local partners in the countries.</p> <p>An additional grant was provided by MAVA Foundation to capitalize on lessons learnt from the MedBycatch project, mainly through the organization of national workshops with observers and relevant stakeholders. These activities are led by local partners (TUDAV in Türkiye and INRH in Morocco).</p> <p>As data from stranding can be a complementary source of information on bycatch, the Task Managers on Interactions with Fisheries of the Scientific Committee were recruited</p>

		<p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf40</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf41</p>	<p>to prepare a review of available bycatch data in stranding databases. The report of this study was presented at SC14 for review.</p> <p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat was also involved in the CeNoBS project pilot on cetacean bycatch monitoring carried out in Bulgaria, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine, facilitating in particular exchanges with GFCM.</p> <p><u>Depredation monitoring/assessment/mitigation:</u></p> <p>After the 1st phase initiated in 2018, the 2nd phase of the MAVA-funded Depredation project (“Mitigating dolphin depredation in Mediterranean fisheries – Joining efforts to strengthen cetacean conservation and sustainable fisheries”) started in October 2020 and will stop at the end of October 2022.</p> <p>Depredation caused by bottlenose dolphins in small pelagic purse seine fisheries is monitored in Morocco and Tunisia, and mitigation measures have been tested (innovative strengthened nets and acoustic deterrent devices, respectively). The Moroccan team (INRH) was trained to photo-ID and visual monitoring methods. Acoustic monitoring training and equipment set up and trials were made with the supports of dedicated experts in Morocco as well as with the Tunisian team (INSTM & INAT).</p> <p>New activities dedicated to a better understanding of the Depredation issue (through monitoring of depredation events, dolphins’ population and behaviours, socioeconomic studies); and to test and propose technical mitigation solutions have been conducted in collaboration with fishers in Italy (Sicily), Malta and Spain (Andalusia) within Phase 2 of the Depredation project. All the results of these field activities are described in dedicated Report from each of the 5 sites, alongside recommendations for the continuation of depredation monitoring/mitigation related activities.</p> <p>In addition, thanks to Phase 2 of the Depredation project, the contract of Julie Belmont (recruited as ASI Project Officer) was extended until December 2022, and thus she took the lead of the Depredation Project in 2021.</p> <p>Two exchange workshops were organized within the framework of MAVA Depredation project to facilitate exchanges of experiences between different national teams and with other projects/initiatives addressing depredation. The first one was organised online in November 2020 and the second one took place in June 2022 in Catania, Sicily. Both events gathered around 40 persons and produced a set of conclusions and recommendations on the issue of depredation.</p>
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			<p>A standardized methodology to collect data on depredation in ACCOBAMS Area was developed by a GFCM expert so to ensure alignment with the bycatch monitoring methodology. This work was presented at the 14th Scientific Committee Meeting and is in its final phase of publication by the GFCM.</p> <p>A Status review on depredation in ACCOBAMS Area was developed by an expert from ACCOBAMS and is under final review by a set of experts. It is planned to be released as a GFCM publication.</p> <p>Communication material has also been developed for awareness raising and sharing for information at the regional level on the issue of depredation. This includes a movie, comics strips and technical briefs of the above-mentioned studies. A brochure on the results of the project and recommendations on mitigation measures is under development.</p> <p><u>Collaboration with other organizations:</u></p> <p>Both MedBycatch and Depredation projects are implemented in collaboration with GFCM and other relevant regional partners such as SPA/RAC.</p> <p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat also collaborates with the ASCOBANS Secretariat for the Joint Bycatch Working Group of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. The first Meeting of the JBWG was held online from 10 to 12 February 2021. Recommendations were presented at SC14. An online catch-up meeting was organized on 18 August 2022.</p> <p>The Secretariat is also involved in the MAVA-funded “Together for the Med” Partnership project aimed at strengthening communication and synergies among the different MAVA partners involved in the MAVA Action Plan related to interactions between fisheries and biodiversity and the preservation of living marine resources. By improving the visibility of the partnership, the objective is also to attract new funding to ensure the sustainability of the partnership after 2022 when MAVA Foundation will come to an end.</p>
<p>Develop a regional strategy on cetaceans’ bycatch and depredation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of Cetaceans’ bycatch and depredation issues in the strategy document to be prepared in the MedBycatch project • Collaborating with relevant entities, in particular with GFCM and IWC BMI 	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>This action was developed through the MedBycatch project. Instead of developing a single strategy document, project partners agreed that as 2020 was a milestone year for a number of key organizations in the Mediterranean and that multiple Mediterranean countries would be revising/updating their priorities and action plans in view of a post-2020 framework it would be of greatest value to integrate the bycatch issue in these various processes, so that related aspects would be considered and increasing the chances</p>

			of being tackled as priority. Bycatch and depredation are then among the priorities of the GFCM 2030 Strategy and the UNEP/MAP Post-2020 SAPBIO .
Provide support to Parties to promote the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Guidance policy document for the development of sustainable ecotourism and whale watching activities • Supporting the identification of areas for the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen 	Partially achieved	In Morocco, in collaboration with the Maritime Fisheries Department, a consultant prepared a draft legal text aimed at defining the regulatory basis for the practice of pescatourism. This draft legal text is being reviewed by other competent authorities (Ministry of Transport).

CA 2 b	Anthropogenic underwater noise
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Expected outcomes	Core anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise are monitored in the ACCOBAMS Area Mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise are used
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Encourage the monitoring of anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing trainings for national entities on noise monitoring (CB), including analyses of PAM collected data in some identified priority areas • Taking into consideration work achieved and advices provided by the JN WG • Revising/completing impulsive noise hotspots maps of the ACCOBAMS area using Big Data Platform • 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 • Disseminating deliverables of the QuietMed and QuietMed2 projects on guidance for underwater noise monitoring and assessment, • Supporting the development of projects to monitor continuous noise’. • Revising and updating the ACCOBAMS Guidelines on underwater noise • Developing cooperation on underwater noise issue with other international Organizations 	<p>Partially achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf42</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf43</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf45</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf46</p>	<p>The revision of impulsive noise hotspots maps of the ACCOBAMS area using Big Data Platform is ongoing by experts recruited by the Secretariat. It was presented during SC14.</p> <p>CeNoBS and QuietMED2 projects finished in 2021 (respectively January and June). Several workshops and training were organized end of 2019 and 2020 in order to build awareness amongst competent authorities on regional impulsive noise register and to propose methodology aiming at defining threshold values.</p> <p>The Secretariat is involved in a new EU funded project “QUIETSEAS project” Assisting (sub) regional cooperation for the practical implementation of the MSFD second cycle by providing methods and tools for D11 (underwater noise)”. The Secretariat participated at TG-Noise Meetings in 2020,2021 and 2022 and has been approached by the Chair of the EU-TG-Noise to be involved in the Drafting Group on deliverable 3 (DG DL3): “Assessment framework for EU threshold values for continuous underwater noise”. An ACCOBAMS expert was designated to participate at this Drafting Group.</p> <p>A workshop with the JN WG was organized in January 2020 and in February 2022, respectively in the framework of the QuietMed2 project regarding a proposal of a candidate for an impulsive noise indicator in MED Region and in the framework of QuietSeas project to support the implementation and operationalisation of the TG Noise framework methodology and the establishment of threshold values for noise in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea region.</p> <p>The Secretariat was contacted by the Barcelona Convention for contributing to the 2023 MED QSR taking into account the assessment methodologies set in IMAP Guidance Fact Sheets for Candidate Common Indicators 26 and 27.</p>

			<p>The Secretariat is involved, as associated Partner, in a European project Life-PIAQUO, led by Naval Group, which aims at reducing the impact of maritime traffic noise on marine ecosystems.</p> <p>The Secretariat is a member of a French Working Group on noise which aims at identifying priorities to mitigate underwater noise impacts at a national level.</p> <p>The Secretariat was invited by “Monacology” teams to organize a workshop on underwater noise in March 2020. Since the event was cancelled, the Secretariat participated with an article on noise in IMPACT magazine published by Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.</p> <p>New Terms of Reference for a Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS and Operational Procedures for the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS were agreed and presented for information during the SC13 Meeting.</p> <p>Moreover, to facilitate consultation with industry experts on the technical feasibility of proposed measures as well as on any alternative measures or solutions, an Industry Advisory Group (IAG) has been created.</p>
<p>Encourage the use of mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the ACCOBAMS Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators’ certificate • Granting the status of ACCOBAMS HQMMO Partners to entities for the implementation of the Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators’ certificate • Revising and updating the ACCOBAMS “Guide for Parties to use mitigation measures “ • Developing cooperation on underwater noise issues with other International Organizations 	<p>Partially achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf47</p>	<p>The Secretariat 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 was initially planned for 2021/2022).</p> <p>On 25th of March 2021 an online MMO/PAM WG workshop took place, aiming at improving the process to better promote the ACCOBAMS Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators’ certificate.</p> <p>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 preventing face-to-face meetings.</p>

CA 2 c	Ship strikes
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Expected outcomes	Occurrence of ship strikes in high risk areas is reduced
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	<i>Status</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
Monitor / assess high-risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) in the Mediterranean Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the entry of ship strikes data in relevant databases • Developing a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities • Identifying high risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) • 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 	Partially achieved	<p>During the IUCN World Conservation Congress (September 2021), in the framework of the Mediterranean stand, the Secretariat co-organized, in collaboration with French authorities, a specific side-event regarding a proposal for a new PSSA in the north-western Mediterranean.</p> <p>The Secretariat participated at a technical workshop (18-19 October 2022, Paris, France): « Cooperation for a Transboundary PSSA in NW Mediterranean Sea »</p> <p>The Secretariat is involved as an associated Partner in project SICOMAR+ as well as in a French project called “Stop Collision”.</p>
Promote the use of mitigation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following up on mitigation measures implemented • Promoting the use of relevant mitigation tools/measures (CB) • Pursue the development of a “whale safe” certificate 	Achieved	

CA 2 d	Cetacean watching
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Expected outcomes	Cetacean watching activities are properly conducted in the ACCOBAMS Area
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Maximize the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts of whale watching activities on individual cetaceans and on populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering information on cetacean watching activities and identifying potential issues in order to identify the hotspots of WW activities in the ACCOBAMS area • Testing the proposed common procedure (data collection system) for whale watching vessels in pilot areas and a variety of operation types (e.g. the Liguro-Provençal Basin, Gibraltar Strait, and south Portugal), in collaboration with relevant projects such as EcoStrim • Revising the Guidelines for commercial cetacean-watching in the ACCOBAMS Area (in accordance, if relevant, with the guidance document to be prepared on the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen) • Working in close cooperation with IWC and other relevant International Organizations 	<p style="text-align: center;">Partially achieved</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please refer to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf48</p>	<p>Several virtual meetings of the Whale Watching Working Group were facilitated by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat between March and November 2021. The report of the Whale Watching Working Group was presented at SC14.</p> <p>A consultant (Gianna Minton) was recruited by the Secretariat to conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a study aimed at identifying hotspots of WW activities in the ACCOBAMS area, based on questionnaires circulated to data collection partners in each country of ACCOBAMS Area. The methodology and the questionnaires were developed under the guidance of the Whale Watching Working Group. The first phase of the data collection process was initiated in November 2020 and the second phase will be concluded in November 2021. A progress report of this study was presented at SC14 for review. - a full 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. The draft Guidelines for the management of cetaceans watching activities in the ACCOBAMS Area were presented at SC14 for review.

<p>Support the implementation of the HQWW certificate in the ACCOBAMS area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the implementation of the HQWW certificate by Parties and in areas -based management measures in collaboration with relevant projects such as EcoStrim • Organizing Trainings on HQWW (CB Parties) • Liaising with relevant tourism Organisations 	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>In 2020 and 2021 the Secretariat provided MIRACETI with a small financial support for the animation of the HQWW label in France and particularly for the training session for operators in February 2021.</p> <p>The Secretariat organised 3 meetings (July and November 2020 and April 2021) with the French authorities and animators of the label, with the purpose of investigating possible ways to improve and better implement the certification system. Consideration was given to the role of ACCOBAMS as the owner of the HQWW® Certificate, which can constitute an important “touch point” in the framework of the future communication strategy.</p> <p>The Secretariat participated with MIRACETI and Pelagos Agreement at the session organised by CARIMAM so to illustrate the example and experience of the ACCOBAMS HQWW® Certificate and certification process.</p>
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CA 2 e	Marine litter
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Expected outcomes	The monitoring of marine litter in relation with cetaceans is improved
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Monitor the impacts of marine litter (ingested marine litter / microplastics / entanglements in ghost nets) on cetaceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the implementation of the standardized necropsy protocol including the assessment of ingested marine litter and entanglement in ghost nets • Supporting pilot monitoring activities at the sub regional level through the implementation of the standardized necropsy protocol including the assessment of ingested marine litter and entanglement in ghost nets • Encouraging the report in stranding databases of marine litters data collected during necropsies • Identifying potential hotspot areas for cetacean entanglement and ingestion of marine litter, including through the assessment of entanglements/ingested marine litters during necropsies • Promoting/ supporting/ liaising with projects, research activities in order to evaluate and assess impact of microplastic on cetaceans using big data platform 	<p>Partially achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf49</p>	<p>A study on the hotspots of interactions between cetaceans and marine litter in the ACCOBAMS Area is being prepared by the Task Manager on Marine Litter and Chemical Pollution (Cristina Fossi) in liaison with relevant experts and scientists from the ACCOBAMS Area. The draft report was presented at SC14 for review.</p> <p>A collaboration with RAMOGE and Pelagos Agreement was established in the framework of the 2020 European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) and during the 2021 Monaco Ocean Week. A presentational video of ACCOBAMS, RAMOGE et Pelagos was produced and disseminated on the ACCOBAMS social networks, in order to raise awareness on the impacts of litter in marine environment. The video was also broadcasted at the MedStand during the UICN Congress in September 2021.</p> <p>Exchanges are ongoing with MEDPOL and Barcelona Convention Secretariat to assess how ASI data/results regarding marine litter distribution could be integrated in the 2023 MedQSR. The Secretariat participated in several meetings in this context, in particular CORMON meetings on Marine Litter in December 2020, June 2021 and May 2022.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborating with relevant Organizations (MEDPOL) and projects, in particular Plastic Busters MPAs, Healthy Seas and Black Sea projects		
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CA 2 f	Chemical & biological pollution
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Expected outcomes	ACCOBAMS collaborates with relevant Organizations on this issue
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Liaise with relevant other Organizations, such as IWC, to assess the impact of chemical & biological pollution (such as pathogens, invasive species) on cetaceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a 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 • Developing specific collaboration • Participating in relevant Meetings and Side events 	<p style="text-align: center;">Achieved</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please refer to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf51</p>	<p>A bibliographic review on the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans (including the identification of ad hoc research projects aimed at assessing chemical pollution on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area) is being prepared by the Task Manager on Marine Litter and Chemical Pollution (Cristina Fossi). The draft report was presented at Sc14 for review.</p> <p>Guidelines on best practices to assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans / to measure the chemical contamination on cetaceans are being prepared by the Task Manager on Marine Litter and Chemical Pollution (Cristina Fossi). These guidelines are intended to provide simple information on scientific protocols to be implemented for collecting/analysing samples. Draft guidelines were presented at SC14 for review.</p>

CA 2 g	Climate change
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Expected outcomes	ACCOBAMS cooperates with regional initiatives on climate change, taking into account cetacean conservation
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	<i>Status</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
Contribute to regional initiatives on climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with relevant CMS Working Group • Participating in Meetings and side events 	Partially achieved	A consultant was recruited by the Secretariat to conduct a study on the evolution of cetaceans' population with environmental changes over 25 years in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea is ongoing. Results were presented at SC14 in November 2021 for review.

CA 2 h	Captivity related issues
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Expected outcomes	All specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area are listed The identification of origin of <i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i> bred or kept in captivity is undertaken
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Identify specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area, including the case of reintroduction in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 3.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating and completing the overview of specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area, including the case of reintroduction in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 3.20 Legal and scientific analysis // Evaluating the situation of semi-captivity in ACCOBAMS area and providing Guidelines or reference document 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf52</p>	<p>The Secretariat contracted an expert for technical and scientific assistance in the implementation of the work programme activities regarding captivity issues. He produced <i>inter alia</i> an overview of specimens held in captivity across the ACCOBAMS area.</p> <p>A draft document “Scientific perspective on “potential marine semi-enclosed facilities” in the ACCOBAMS Area” was presented during SC14 for review.</p>
Identify origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity /Genetic passport for dolphins in captivity / in order to support the implementation of the CITES decisions 17.299 to 17.301 on bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops Truncatus ponticus</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of genetic passport in view of disseminate protocol or methodology for such cases Support the development of a genetic registry for Black Sea bottlenose dolphins by CITES 	Not Achieved	-

CA3	ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS
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CA 3 a	Area-based measures for cetacean conservation
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Expected outcomes	Cetacean Critical Habitats are updated Implementation of relevant measures are initiated in some pilot Cetacean Critical Habitats
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
Regularly update Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH) including by identifying priority areas for action to mitigate the known threats (bycatch...) / area-based management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering data, in particular through the organization of regional workshops to update CCH, considering the IMMAs and EBSAs process 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc30</p> <p>ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf53</p>	<p>CCH process is ongoing. A consultant was recruited by the Secretariat to gather data. Progress in revising Cetacean Critical Habitats was presented during SC14.</p> <p>An expert workshop was organised on 10-11 March 2022 for a full review of progress.</p> <p>On 10-11 May 2022 (Barcelona, Spain), the Secretariat and the SC participated to a MSP workshop whose aimed at addressing the compromise between environmental protection strategies and economic development policies through a specific focus on the conservation of marine mammals and the development of several sectors as maritime transport and Offshore Wind Farms.</p>
Support implementation of relevant measures for adequate management in CCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and promoting relevant management measures in pilot CCH, in collaboration with all stakeholders (CB) Collaborating with other Organizations, such as UNEP-MAP/RAC-SPA, BSC, IMO, IWC, and GFCM, in particular through the Strategical Alliance 	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>The Secretariat led a coordinator's role in organising the IUCN Med Stand sessions under theme 3 – "Improving Partnership and effective and equitable governance of Mediterranean natural resources" – where a global message in relation to the partnership and governance of the Med resources was provided together with other organisations.</p> <p>The Secretariat was involved in the organisation of the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum (organized in December 2021) and was involved in 3 other working groups: « Policy and Governance », « Management and Knowledge » et « Capacity and Awareness ».</p> <p>The Secretariat is engaged in the OECM process and showcased ACCOBAMS during the first Workshop webinar "Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) for the Mediterranean", on 14 June 2021.</p> <p>The Secretariat participated at 3 meetings with Barcelona Convention, GFCM, IUCN and SPA/RAC under the Strategical Alliance so to explore synergies and alignment of respective priorities.</p>

CA4	ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS
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CA 4 a	Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans
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Expected outcomes	<p>All ACCOBAMS Bodies, national focal/contact points, Partners and other relevant national institutions, Organizations and experts are familiar with activities implemented by or relevant for ACCOBAMS and share information accurately</p> <p>General public and other relevant stakeholders are aware about cetaceans and need for their conservation through activities supported by or linked to ACCOBAMS</p>
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Proposed Action(s)	Means of implementation	Status	Achievements
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an information/ communication strategy 	<p style="text-align: center;">Achieved</p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf09</p>	<p>The Secretariat recruited an international Consultant to develop an ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy proposal in view of its adoption at the Eighth Meeting of the Parties. Beginning of 2021 this work has started with a diagnosis stage, whose preliminary results were presented to the Fifth Meeting of National Representatives and the 14th SC meeting.</p> <p>A Steering Committee composed of Parties representatives was set up to provide views on the drafting of the Communication Strategy. This Steering Committee met on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st December 2021, - 9 May 2022, - 11 July 2022. <p>Comments received from the Steering Committee Members were integrated in the different drafts of the Communication Strategy and the final version has been included in a draft Resolution submitted to MOP8.</p> <p>In addition, during BUEXT5, recognizing the need to strengthen the ACCOBAMS brand positioning, the Bureau agreed that it would be beneficial to have all conditions in place for an efficient implementation of the Communication Strategy during the next triennium. With that in mind and considering the recommendation by the company to refresh the visual image of the ACCOBAMS brand before launching the implementation of the Communication Strategy in 2023, the Bureau mandated the Secretariat to work on proposals for a new or a modernized logo to be submitted for the consideration and decision by MOP8, through a corresponding draft Resolution.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing a Conference on cetacean conservation in South Mediterranean Countries – CSMC (CB) 	Achieved	CSMC5 was held online in April 2021. Please see the Report of the Fifth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Organizing Public awareness events Developing Information material and tools Promoting cetacean conservation actions during national and international events Producing annual newsletter (FINS) Posting on ACCOBAMS Website and social media Posting on NETCCOBAMS 	Achieved	<p>On 24 November 2021, ACCOBAMS celebrated its 25th Anniversary, with the occasion having been officially celebrated on 23/11/2021. A short video on the ACCOBAMS mandate and action was released during this event at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco and broadcasted later on with the images taken at the ceremony, including those of HSH Prince Albert II unveiling the artistic piece made of recycled plastics that was offered by ACCOBAMS and is displayed in Monaco close to the Oceanographic Museum.</p> <p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat launched a contest for creating the ACCOBAMS 25 years anniversary logo. The winning design was selected by the ACCOBAMS Bureau Members in December 2020.</p> <p>The Secretariat approached the Stamp Issuing Office in Monaco in order to publish a commemorative stamp as well as a postal flame. The stamp was issued in May 2021 and is available for purchase in any postal office until 31 December 2021. The postal flame is issued periodically over the course of 2021.</p> <p>A consultant was recruited by the Secretariat to review the current citizen sciences initiatives in the ACCOBAMS area and evaluate the relevance of “Citizen Science” input of cetaceans’ sightings in expert-supervised databases. Results were presented at SC14.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the functioning of MEDACES 		The Secretariat exchanged with SPA/RAC and the Spanish Focal Point regarding MEDACES support.
Introduce in a new Country / Disseminate the ACCOBAMS Teaching Module courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the Teaching Module in a new country and supporting its dissemination where the module has already been introduced (CB) Collaborating in relevant projects such as the realization of the Master of first level in “Conservation Medicine of Aquatic Animals” 	Partially achieved	A collaboration between the Secretariat and MedPAN was established regarding trainings on Conservation and monitoring of cetaceans across Mediterranean MPAs (October 2020).

	and the project “Human Oceans Professional Experts” (HOPE)		
Enhance public awareness about cetacean’s conservation in the ACCOBAMS area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the ACCOBAMS Cetacean Day • Delivering a conservation Awards (ECS, Partners) • Producing Press releases • Posting on social media 	Achieved	<p>News and tweets have been regularly posted on the ACCOBAMS website, and ACCOBAMS social networks.</p> <p>Dolphin day celebration together with ACCOBAMS cetacean day, mainly online due to COVID 19 restrictions.</p> <p>The short video produced for the 25th anniversary ceremony was released prior to the official event at the Oceanographic Museum on 23 November and broadcasted in December in social media with the images taken during the ceremony, including those of HSH Prince Albert II unveiling the artistic piece made of recycled plastics that was offered by ACCOBAMS to the hosting Country.</p> <p>A book “Conserving Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and adjacent areas: an ACCOBAMS status report (2021)” was provided to each of the three ECS student award winners (ECS Conference 5-7 April 2022 : Student award)</p>

ANNEX 1
Main meetings attended by the Secretariat in 2020-2022 (up to September 2022)

Dates	Name of the Meeting	Location	Organized by
2020			
16 January	1 st workshop of the French collective on underwater noise in the Mediterranean	Paris, France	Office Français de la Biodiversité
23 January	12 th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Pelagos Agreement	Monaco	Pelagos Agreement Permanent Secretariat
6-7 February	Steering Committee for the 2020 MPA Forum	Marseille, France (online video conference)	MedPAN
10 February	GIAS project workshop on “Sharing best practices for the management of large cetacean carcasses adrift”	Savona, Italy	CIMA Foundation
12-24 May	68th IWC Scientific Committee Meeting	Online	IWC
2 June	15th Meeting of the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy Technical Group on Underwater Noise (TG Noise)	Online	European Commission (DG ENV)
26 June	EU Roundtable on preventing by-catch of common dolphins and harbour porpoises in fisheries (with Commissioner Sinkevicius and DG MARE)	Online	European Commission (DG MARE)
30 June	JONAS - Joint Framework for Ocean Noise in the Atlantic Seas online Underwater Noise Visualisation Workshop	Online	Jonas Project consortium
10 July	Marine mammal post-mortem workshop (1 st part)	Online	University of Liège
7-11 September	ASCOBANS 9 th Meeting of the Parties	Online	ASCOBANS Secretariat
8 September	Kick-off meeting of the PIAQUO project	Toulon, France	Naval Group
23 September	France National Committee meeting for the Pelagos Sanctuary	Saint Jean Cap Ferrat, France	Port-Cros National Park

Dates	Name of the Meeting	Location	Organized by
5-9 October	Training on the conservation and monitoring of cetaceans across Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Marine Observatory of the Gulf of Saint-Tropez	MedPAN
6 October	16th Meeting of the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy Technical Group on Underwater Noise (TG Noise)	Online	European Commission (DG ENV)
6- 7 October	EU TG Noise Thematic Sessions on the assessment frameworks for the definition of threshold values for impulsive and continuous noise	Online	European Commission (DG ENV)
26 October	Workshop “Start of MAVA OAP M4/5 phase 2”	Online	MAVA Foundation
27-30 October	Regional Workshop on common approaches to habitats and species conservation in the Black Sea Marine Biogeographical Region	Online	Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water
29 October	EU TG-Noise Thematic Session on the assessment framework for the definition of threshold values for continuous noise	Brussel, Belgium	European Commission (DG ENV)
3 November	HQWW Certificate - Working meeting on the future developments of the certificate in France	Online	MIRACETI
3 November	High-level meeting on “Building a new strategy for Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture”	Online	GFCM
1-3 December	Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAF Implementation (CORMONS)	Online	UNEP/MAP
8 December	1 st Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM)	Online	SPA/RAC
2021			
22-23 February	Meeting of the Marine Expert Group	Online	EC DG ENV
22-26 February	Regional Workshop for the Identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas in the Black Sea, Turkish Straits System and Caspian Sea	Online	MMPA Task Force
22-24-26 March	Short course “Science-Policy-Society interactions in ecosystem-based marine resources management and planning”	Online	the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC) & the BlueMed CSA

Dates	Name of the Meeting	Location	Organized by
9-11 March	Subregional Committee for the Central Mediterranean (SRC-CM)	Online	GFCM
15-19 March	European Cetacean Society Webinar 2021	Online	ECS
22-27 March	Monaco Ocean Week	Online	Monaco
31 March - 1 April	First Meeting of the Working Group of Experts on Upgrading the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management	Online	MED POL Programme
7 April	Meeting of the Online Working Group on marine mammals	Online	SPA/RAC
3-4 May 2021	2 nd Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM)	Online	SPA/RAC
5 May	Post-2020 SAPBIO 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting	Online	SPA/RAC
27 April – 15 May	68th IWC Scientific Committee Meeting	Online	IWC
18 May	ASCOBANS Workshop on Management of MPAs for Small Cetaceans	Online	ASCOBANS Secretariat
19-20 May	Final event of the EcoSTRIM project	Online	CIMA Foundation
31 May – 2 June	14th Meeting of REMPEC National Focal Points	Online	REMEPC
4 June	MBPC project workshop on “Mediterranean solutions towards zero pollution impacts on biodiversity and health”	Online	ETC-UMA
10-11 June	Correspondence Group on IMAP implementation (CORMON) on Biodiversity and Fisheries	Online	SPA/RAC
7-10 June	ASCOBANS Workshop on Management of MPAs for Small Cetaceans - conservation measures	Online	ASCOBANS Secretariat
14 June	Workshop Webinar 1- Mediterranean Marine OECMs: Virtual Workshop Series on catalyzing identification, recognition and reporting of OECMs in the Mediterranean	Online	IUCN Med
21 June	Celebration of 100 th anniversary of International Hydrographic Organization	Monaco	IHO
23-25 June	15th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points	Online	SPA/RAC

Dates	Name of the Meeting	Location	Organized by
5 & 9 July	Extraordinary meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Pelagos Agreement	Monaco / Online	Pelagos Agreement Permanent Secretariat
9 July	High-level meeting on “A new vision for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea “	Online	GFCM
28-30 July	Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS)	Online	GFCM
9-10 September	2021 Virtual Special Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC)	Online	IWC
4-9 September	IUCN World Conservation Congress – Mediterranean solutions Stand	Marseille, France	IUCN
10-17 September	Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points	Online	UNEP/MAP
25 September	Forum de la Mer, Bizerte, Tunisia & online	Online	Tunisia
30 September	Gala dinner of Annual Meeting of OSPAR Commission	Lisbon, Portugal	OSPAR
18-19 October 2021	Technical Workshop “Cooperation for a transboundary PSSA in NW Mediterranean Sea”	Paris, France	French Ministry for ecological transition
2-6 November	GFCM 44 th Session of the Commission	Online	GFCM
8-12 November	ASCOBANS 26 th Meeting of the Advisory Committee	Online	ASCOBANS
28 November – 1 December	Mediterranean MPA Forum	Monaco & Online	MedPAN, SPA/RAC, WWF, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
15-16 December	Pelagos Agreement MOP	Online	Pelagos Agreement Permanent Secretariat
17 December	Workshop on the PSSA proposal for the North-Western Mediterranean	Online	Italian Presidency in the framework of the 8th Meeting of the Parties of the Pelagos Agreement

2022			
12 January	Final event of the SICOMAR plus project	Livorno, Italy & online	SICOMAR plus project
1 February	Virtual training course on the identification and handling of vulnerable species incidentally caught during fishing operations (marine mammals)	Online	GFCM
3 February	Meeting of the Online Working Group on marine mammals	Online	SPA/RAC
7-10 February	MAVA OAP M4/M5 Steering Committee meeting and fundraising workshop	Malaga, Spain & online	MAVA Foundation
16-17 February	FAO/GFCM Expert Meeting on fisheries-related other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean	Online	FAO/GFCM
28 February	Opening event of the Life CONCEPTU MARIS Project	Online	ISPRA
20-21 March	Monaco Blue Initiative	Monaco	Monaco
21-26 March	Monaco Ocean Week	Monaco	Monaco
28-29 March	SPA/RAC CORMON meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries	Online	SPA/RAC
5-7 April	ECS Conference 2022	Israel - Online	ECS
19-22 April	GFCM Subregional Committee for the Western Mediterranean (SRC-WM) 19-22 April 2022	Online	GFCM
9-12 May	MSPMED project workshop "Underwater noise assessment for decision support in MSP and related policies"	Barcelona, Spain	IEO
20 May	SPAMI Day 2022 special event	Monaco	SPA/RAC
24 May	21 st Meeting of Technical Group on Underwater Noise (TG-Noise)	Online	European Commission (DG ENV)
31 May	CORMON Marine Litter	Online	MED POL Programme
21-24 June	23rd Session of the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)	Online	GFCM
23-24 June	EU Marine Expert Group Meeting	Online	EC DG ENV

27 June – 1 July	UN Ocean Conference	Lisbon, Portugal	UN
6 July	5th Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean	Online	MED POL Programme
27-28 September	GFCM Working Group on Fishing Technology	Online	GFCM
28-30 September	27th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC27)	Online	ASCOBANS Secretariat
29 September – 1 October	IUCN-Med 20 th anniversary	Malaga, Spain	IUCN-Med

ANNEX 2

Report on the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy

The ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy was adopted at the Seventh Meeting of the Parties in 2019 through Resolution 7.5. The Secretariat is expected to report on progress on this Funding Strategy to each Meeting of the Parties. The progresses presented below follow the key actions of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy.

a) Monitor external funding opportunities

The Secretariat kept a watch on funding opportunities that could be of interest to support ACCOBAMS priority themes of the Program of Work. During the triennium 2020-2022, the Secretariat coordinated proposals (or collaborated to the development of proposals) under the following calls for proposals:

- The call for proposals “DG ENV/MSFD 2020” - Marine Strategy Framework Directive: Support to the preparation of the next 6-year cycle of implementation

Two project proposals in which ACCOBAMS Secretariat participated as Partner were submitted under this call:

- ABIOMMED “Support coherent and coordinated assessment of biodiversity and measures across Mediterranean for the next 6-year cycle of MSFD implementation”;
- QUIETSEAS “Assisting (sub) regional cooperation for the practical implementation of the MSFD second cycle by providing methods and tools for D11 (underwater noise)”.

Both projects were selected for funding.

- A call launched by MAVFA Foundation in October 2020 “Keeping nature at the heart of post-COVID recovery”

Two proposals were developed by ACCOBAMS Secretariat:

- Assist stakeholders in determining a recovery strategy for shipping industries, that includes sustainable practices to mitigate pressures from vessel traffic to the marine environment, by analyzing vessel traffic data and their effects;
- Promoting the High-Quality Whale-Watching® certificate as a model tool in the post-COVID era for improving sustainability of marine wildlife watching tourism industry in the Mediterranean.

None of the proposals was selected.

In addition, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat participated to the MAVFA-funded project “Together for the Med” aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the partnership established by MAVFA since 2017 through their Action Plans related to interactions between fisheries and biodiversity, and the preservation of living marine resources. The main objective being to maintain communication and coordination amongst different partners, and to improve partnership visibility, in order to attract new funding after 2022, when MAVFA Foundation will come to an end. Several fundraising dedicated actions were carried out by the “Together for the Med” team with the support of MAVFA, like a side-event organized during UN Ocean Conference, or a donor fair in Tunis, July 2022, to present different projects. In this framework, efforts were initiated in June 2022 to start developing a project proposal that would ensure continuity to activities undertaken through MAVFA-funded MedBycatch and Depredation projects, with all partners involved in the latter. No donors have yet been identified. This partnership emerges as an excellent platform for exchange of information in relation to funding opportunities.

b) Encourage development of multilateral/transboundary project

In line with the above efforts to explore external funding opportunities, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat supported the development of a potential consortium of partners to develop a project proposal under the call issued by Biodiversa+

(European Biodiversity Partnership) on “Supporting the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems across land and sea”. Unfortunately, the too short time frame unable the development of a sound proposal and partners decided to refrain from submitting a project proposal.

c) *Build capacities in project development/management*

This activity was foreseen in the 2020-2022 Program of Work through the organization of a training workshop on project development/fundraising, but no voluntary contribution was targeted to implement this activity.

d) *Strengthen the mobilization of voluntary contributions from ACCOBAMS Parties, including for the Supplementary Conservation Funds*

Calls for Voluntary Contribution were considered as a necessary step in facilitating the mobilization of voluntary contributions from Parties for the organization of specific actions.

In July 2020 a Call for voluntary contributions for the implementation of the Work Programme 2020-2022 was issued to all National Focal Points and Bureau Members. Four Parties provided voluntary contributions to support specific actions under the 2020-2022 Work Program: Malta, Monaco, Italy and Spain.

The ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy also encourages Parties to continue providing support through voluntary contributions to the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Funds, considering its significant role in supporting cetaceans’ conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Thanks to voluntary contributions provided by Italy and Monaco during 2020-2022 a call for proposals was launched in 2022 in order to financially support 4 projects.

e) *Develop or strengthen relationships with donors*

Meeting donors, organizing meetings or round tables with potential donors was identified as a way to raise interest and attention on ACCOBAMS work, and constitute opportunities to present project ideas. The participation of ACCOBAMS Secretariat in high-level events organized in the region, such as the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2020, the UN Ocean Conference in 2022, the Monaco Blue Initiative every two years, were good opportunities to initiate contacts with potential donors.

In addition, in the framework of efforts to replicate the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, a list of potential donors to be approached was elaborated and will be used as a roadmap for contacts by the Secretariat in future fundraising efforts.

f) *Animate and mobilize the ACCOBAMS community*

The ACCOBAMS Partners network was identified by the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy as a structuring support for the ACCOBAMS community. The animation of this network, including the “recruitment” of new partners, can contribute to the development of new collaboration settings and joint projects and initiatives.

5 organizations have been given the ACCOBAMS Partner Status during 2020-2022.

g) Strengthen communication and outreach on ACCOBAMS

The development of an ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy was identified as a key step for strengthening ACCOBAMS visibility and reputation, being mindful of the virtuous cycle between communication, outreach and fundraising.

In consultation with the Bureau, a specialized company was recruited in 2020 in order to develop a draft ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy. The finalized draft ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy is presented at MOP8 for adoption through draft Resolution 8.6. Allocating sufficient means in the next future is necessary to ensure a concrete and efficient implementation of the ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy.

h) Collaboration, key success factor in fundraising

Strengthening collaborations and ensuring synergies with relevant organizations are fundamental to avoid duplication of efforts and to contribute to increase visibility on ACCOBAMS activities. This also contributes to reinforce sustainability of actions undertaken under ACCOBAMS auspices and to "reassure" potential funders on the non-duplication of funding.

i) Develop partnerships with the private sector

No progress to report on that matter.

j) Engage in crowdfunding

No progress to report on that matter.

k) Explore innovative financing mechanisms

No progress to report on that matter.