

DRAFT RESOLUTION 8.3
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling Article VII of the Agreement on the composition and functions of the Scientific Committee,

Considering that it is appropriate to amend the Annex to Resolution 7.7 (Rules of the Scientific Committee), as regards the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee,

Considering the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and the Bureau,

Commending the participation in the Scientific Committee of representatives from CIESM, IUCN, the European Cetacean Society (ECS), the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS),

Taking into account the ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2014-2025), as adopted by Resolutions 5.1 and 7.4, and the Work Programme 2023-2025, as adopted by [Resolution 8.2],

Stressing the need for establishing a closer link between the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS and the rest of the scientific community working on cetaceans in the Agreement Area,

Stressing the need for strengthening the representation of the Parties' scientific community in the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, by allowing Parties to designate, on a voluntary basis, national experts to participate to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Considering that the "Task Managers" and the regional representatives should have an active role in supporting the Chair during the meetings of the Scientific Committee and other works,

Stressing the need to ensure the diversity of experiences and competences and the equitable geographical distribution and gender balance of membership within the Scientific Committee,

1. *Decides* to amend the Rules of the Scientific Committee, as [annexed](#) to this Resolution,
2. *Entrusts* both to CIESM and to IUCN the leadership of the Scientific Committee during the next triennium, according to the modalities described in the [Rules of the Scientific Committee](#), annexed to this Resolution;

3. *Takes note* of the experts designated by CIESM and IUCN for the period 2023-2025, as follows:
 - **CIESM:**
 - Loriane MENDEZ,
 - Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK,
 - Simone PANIGADA;
 - **IUCN:**
 - Rimmel BEN MESSAOUD,
 - Léa DAVID,
 - Cristina FOSSI,
 - Simone PANIGADA;
4. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to appoint, at its first Meeting of the triennium, a Chair and a Vice-Chair amongst experts designated by CIESM and IUCN, as well as “Task Managers”;
5. *Decides* that the Chair and Vice-Chair to be appointed by the Scientific Committee shall not be experts designated by the same Organization;
6. *Invites* each Organization listed in paragraph 3 to appoint one of their experts to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of the first Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the triennium;
7. *Appoints* regional representatives, as follows:
 - [to be appointed by MOP8], representing the Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area,
 - [to be appointed by MOP8], representing the Central Mediterranean,
 - [to be appointed by MOP8], representing the Eastern Mediterranean,
 - [to be appointed by MOP8], representing the Black Sea;
8. *Takes note* of the representatives designated by CMS, ECS and IWC for the period 2023-2025, as follows:
 - Mark SIMMONDS, representing the Scientific Council of the CMS,
 - Joan GONZALVO, representing the ECS,
 - Greg DONOVAN, representing the Scientific Committee of the IWC;
9. *Thanks* CIESM, CMS, IUCN and IWC for bearing the responsibility for their experts’ participation expenses;
10. *Invites* the Sub-Regional Coordination Units to fully participate in the work and the Meetings of the Scientific Committee;
11. *Invites* the Secretariat, if resources allow, to ensure, where necessary, the participation in the Meetings and/or work of the Scientific Committee of experts in disciplines that are not covered by the members of the Scientific Committee, including legal and socio-economic aspects, after consultation with the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee as for the selection and the definition of tasks of these experts;
12. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 7.7.

ANNEX
RULES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

Article 1

1. The Scientific Committee, established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, provides scientific advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties or to the Parties through the Secretariat.
2. The functions of the Scientific Committee are defined in Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Agreement.
3. **The functions of the Scientific Committee are entrusted, on a triennial basis, to Expert Organizations (CIESM and IUCN).**

COMPOSITION

Article 2

1. The Scientific Committee shall consist in principle of the following members, namely:
 - **Three experts appointed by CIESM;**
 - **Three experts appointed by IUCN;**
 - Four representatives of the Regions defined in the Appendix, appointed by the Meeting of the Parties from a list of experts submitted by the Parties together with their *curriculum vitae*;
 - One representative from the European Cetacean Society (ECS), one representative of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and one representative of the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);
2. **The Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee are elected by the members of the Scientific Committee, at the first Meeting of the triennium, among the experts designated by CIESM and IUCN.**
3. **The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee to be appointed shall not be experts designated by the same Organization.**
4. Additional members of the Scientific Committee may be designated by the Parties on a voluntary basis. The cost of their participation to the meetings of the Scientific Committee shall not be covered by the Agreement's funds.

SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Article 3

1. The selection of the Scientific Committee members must take into consideration the following criteria, finalized by the Extended Bureau in accordance with the Work Programme proposed to the Parties:
 - a) To be an expert in one or more fields relevant to cetacean conservation science;
 - b) To possess an appropriate level of quality, relevance, productivity and originality in activities related to cetacean conservation, as demonstrated through scientific publications and reports, communications to conferences, participation in working groups or committees at national or international levels;

- c) To be available to participate in the work of the Scientific Committee, attend its meetings and contribute to the working groups, with the required continuity;
 - d) To be proficient in one of the Agreement's two working languages (English and French) and preferably in both.
2. The qualified experts designated by the CIESM and IUCN are designated in close consultation with the Executive Secretary, who reports on the outcome of these consultations to the Meeting of the Parties.
 3. The priorities set in the Work Programme for each triennium, as well as the need to ensure a balanced geographical representation, shall be taken into account in selecting the members of the Scientific Committee by the Meeting of the Parties.
 4. At its first Meeting, four "task managers" are designated by the Scientific Committee among the experts referred to in Article 2.1. As far as necessary, these appointments can be modified during the triennium upon decision of the Chair of the Scientific Committee in consultation with the Vice-Chair and in concertation with the Executive Secretary.

Article 4

The terms of office of the members shall expire at the closure of the ordinary Meeting of the Parties following the one at which they were appointed.

MEETINGS

Article 5

1. The quorum for an ordinary meeting shall consist of the two thirds of the members of the Committee, without considering the additional members referred to in Article 2, paragraph 3. The quorum shall be reduced to half of the members in extraordinary meetings.
2. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the Scientific Committee, prepare the provisional agenda in consultation with the Secretariat, and liaise with members between meetings of the Committee. The Chair may represent the Committee as required and carry out other functions as may be delegated to him/her by the Committee, within the limits of the Committee functions.
3. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair.
4. At its first meeting after the Meeting of Parties, the Scientific Committee shall assign specific topics for each task manager taking into account the priorities set in the Work Programme for the triennium.
5. Each task manager, in addition to his/her role as member of the Scientific Committee, shall coordinate the works of the Scientific Committee concerning the topics that he/she has been assigned by the Scientific Committee.

6. Each task manager shall provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the topics he/she is in charge of.
7. Each regional representative shall provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities in the region he/she has the responsibility of.

Article 6

1. The Scientific Committee may establish *ad hoc* working groups as needed to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.
2. The meetings of the working groups shall be held, where possible, in conjunction with other events.
3. The Scientific Committee may consider reports from other relevant meetings and working groups established under the Agreement, when necessary.
4. These Rules shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the meetings of working groups.

Article 7

1. The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, may decide to invite, as observers, other experts as deemed necessary.
2. The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, may decide to invite, as observers, experts in disciplines that are not covered by the members of the Scientific Committee, including legal and socio-economic matters.
3. ACCOBAMS Partners may participate as observers to the Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Article 8

1. Notices of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties, to the members of the Scientific Committee and to the ACCOBAMS Partners, by the Secretariat at least 45 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.
2. The Secretariat of the Agreement, with the support of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, shall undertake secretarial tasks during the meetings of the Scientific Committee and of its working groups and shall provide administrative and logistical support.
3. A report of each Meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all members and observers of the Scientific Committee, to all Parties and ACCOBAMS Partners.
4. The report shall be posted on the ACCOBAMS website.

Article 9

1. Decisions of the Scientific Committee shall be taken by consensus.
2. If consensus cannot be reached regarding an issue, all the positions expressed about it during the meeting shall be included in the meeting report.

Article 10

1. The Meeting of the Scientific Committee shall be convened once a year during the first two years of the triennium by the Secretariat of the Agreement in consultation with the Chair.
2. Extraordinary meetings may be convened if the Bureau agrees.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE

Article 11

1. In application of Article II, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, when a Party asks for advice on exceptions to the prohibition on deliberate taking of cetaceans, the Secretariat shall immediately communicate the request to the Chair and to the members of the Scientific Committee for advice.
2. Within 30 days, the Chair takes a decision on the request also on the basis of the advice received from the other members of the Scientific Committee and communicates it to the Secretariat for immediate communication to the requesting Party.

Article 12

1. Between sessions, any member of the Scientific Committee or the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, through the Secretariat, or the Secretariat directly may submit a written proposal to the Chair for a decision within the limits of the functions of the Scientific Committee.
2. The Chair shall communicate the proposal to members of the Scientific Committee for comments within 60 days from the date of that communication.
3. Any comments received within the 60-day period shall be communicated to members of the Scientific Committee and to the Secretariat.
4. If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Secretariat has not received any objection from a member of the Scientific Committee, the proposal shall be considered as adopted. Its adoption shall be notified to all members and to those who have made the proposal.
5. If any member of the Scientific Committee objects to a proposal within the 60_ daytime limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Article 13

When in the opinion of the Scientific Committee an emergency arises, requiring the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more cetacean species, the Chair may ask the Secretariat to contact the relevant Parties urgently.

WORKING LANGUAGES

Article 14

1. The working languages of the Scientific Committee shall be English and French.
2. Simultaneous translation in English and French may be provided for the plenary sessions of the meetings of the Scientific Committee if funding is available.
3. Working documents shall be made available in English or in French and may be translated if funding is available.

REPORT

Article 15

The Chair of the Scientific Committee shall submit to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties and to each meeting of the Bureau a written report on the Scientific Committee's work since the previous ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 16

These Rules shall apply immediately upon their adoption by the Parties.

Article 17

These Rules may be amended as required by a decision of the Meeting of the Parties.

Appendix

Article 1

In order to ensure balanced geographical representation in the Scientific Committee, the geographical scope of the Agreement is divided into four regions.

Article 2

For the purpose of facilitating Scientific Committee members' nomination, the regional distribution of Parties is as follows:

Region	Parties
Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area	Algeria, France, (Italy), Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, (Tunisia)
Central Mediterranean	Albania, Croatia, (Greece), (Italy), Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, (Tunisia)
Eastern Mediterranean	Cyprus, Egypt, (Greece), Lebanon, Syria, (Türkiye)
Black Sea	Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, (Türkiye), Ukraine

Article 3

At the moment of the designation of representatives of the Regions, because of their geographical situation, Greece, Italy, Tunisia and Türkiye can select their attachment to a region:

- 'Western Mediterranean' or 'Central Mediterranean' for Italy and Tunisia;
- 'Central Mediterranean' or 'Eastern Mediterranean' for Greece;
- 'Black Sea' or 'Eastern Mediterranean' for Türkiye;

Article 4

Article 3 applies to any other Party that wishes to be associated with another region, unless one Party in that region disagrees.