

WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2026-2028**Explanatory Note of the Secretariat on the proposed Budget and Ordinary Contributions for 2026 - 2028****1. Introduction**

In response to the mandate from the Eighth Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) and the Bureau's guidance, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat has developed three budgetary scenarios for the 2026–2028 triennium:

- Scenario A: 0% increase (zero nominal growth)
- Scenario B: 3% increase (intermediate growth)
- Scenario C: 9% increase (real nominal growth)

Key considerations

The following considerations were taken into consideration in drafting the three proposed scenarios:

- **Salary adjustments for Secretariat staff:** Needed to keep up with inflation and retain qualified personnel.
- **Evaluation and new ACCOBAMS strategy (2026/2028):** Dedicated funding is required for strategic review and planning.
- **Inflation increases the cost of all in-person meetings:** There is a need of balance between in-person (MOP and at least one Scientific Committee), hybrid (Bureau), and online-only meetings (National Representatives, Follow-up Committee).
- **Scientific Committee composition:** The number of experts from regions (4 or up to 12) has a significant budget impact. For 2023–2025, the cost with 12 experts from was 56 000€ (with 4 experts in the previous triennium it was 44 000€).

1.1- Scenario A: Zero Nominal Growth Budget

This scenario keeps the total budget exactly the same as the previous triennium, with no increase to account for inflation or new needs. Total contributions from Parties and total expenditures remain unchanged.

In practice, this means that the purchasing power of the budget decreases, since real costs (such as salaries, services, and logistics) rise with inflation while resources remain fixed.

The total triennial budget remains at 863 800€.

1.2- Scenario B: Intermediate Budget (Moderate Growth)

This scenario represents a compromise.

The budget is increased of 3%, which is less than the full inflation rate.

This adjustment partially absorbs cost increases but does not fully maintain the budget's purchasing power.

The total triennial budget is set at 894 000€.

1.3- Scenario C: Zero Real Growth Budget (Real Nominal Growth)

This scenario aims to maintain the real value (purchasing power) of the budget by adjusting for observed inflation.

The budget is increased by the average inflation rate (9%), so available resources keep their real value. This allows ACCOBAMS to cover rising costs (including salaries, services, and operations) without losing operational capacity.

The total triennial budget is set at 943 500€.

Summary Table: Budget Scenarios

Scenario	Calculation Logic	Comments
Zero Nominal Growth	Budget unchanged	Strict continuity, no inflation adjustment, decrease of purchasing power
Intermediate Budget	+3%	Partial adjustment, compromise
Zero Real Growth	+9% (Inflation)	Maintain purchasing power, cover cost increases and new needs

Consequences by Scenario

- Scenario A (0%): Secures only minimal operations; does not guarantee the additional cost linked to the possible increase in the Scientific Committee composition, unless external additional resources are found.
- Scenario B (3%): Partially absorbs impact of inflation, but external additional resources would be needed to cover the cost related to the possible increase in the increase of Scientific Committee composition.
- Scenario C (9%): Provides better conditions to maintain strategic actions and to cover the cost related to the possible increase in the Scientific Committee composition.

The choice of scenario will determine ACCOBAMS' ability to maintain commitments, adapt to changing needs, and support effective cetacean conservation. Parties must balance budgetary caution, partial adjustment, or full coverage of inflation and new needs.

2. Strategic Prioritization in the Work Programme

The 2026–2028 Work Programme was developed through a participatory process involving National Representatives and the Scientific Committee. Actions were classified into three levels of priority:

- Main Priority: These actions are considered essential to achieving the core objectives of ACCOBAMS. They require immediate and substantial resource allocation. Examples include the implementation of the Long-Term Monitoring Programme and the coordination and funding of ASI-II.
- High Priority: These actions are very important and contribute significantly to the programme's success but are secondary to main priorities in terms of urgency and resource needs.
- Medium Priority: These actions are supportive and necessary for the comprehensive success of the programme but can be addressed once the main and high priority actions are underway.

3. Budgetary Overview

The proposed budget includes adjustments across administrative, strategic and conservation domains.

	Scenario A (0%)	Scenario B (3%)	Scenario C (9%)
Total Budget (2026–2028)	863 800	894 000	943 500
Institutional meetings and Management Costs	708 800	714 000	726 000
Conservation Support	155 000	180 000	217 500
<i>Annual Budget</i>	<i>287 933</i>	<i>298 000</i>	<i>314 500</i>

4. Institutional Meetings and Management costs

As recalled during the 6th Meeting of the Extended Bureau, there had been no increase in contributions since 2020, despite a significant rise in the cost of living and inflation, which had affected operational projects, general administrative costs and institutional Meetings.

To maintain the current level of operations and continue delivering high-quality results, it was deemed necessary to adjust the budget to reflect these economic changes, including salary increases for the Secretariat staff in the coming years and increase of budget for in-person institutional meetings.

It shall be noted that one Project Officer will be tasked with coordinating ASI-II, thereby avoiding the need for additional recruitment and ensuring efficient use of human resources.

A strategic evaluation of ACCOBAMS and a new strategy are scheduled for 2026/2028. These tasks will require dedicated funding to support consultations, assessments, and reporting.

The proposed budget includes a specific new budgetary line: 40 000€ under the 0% and 3% scenarios, and 44 000€ under the 9% scenario.

During MOP8, Parties adopted Resolution 8.3, which temporarily increased the number of experts from regions in the Scientific Committee from 4 to 12. This change was implemented on a trial basis for the 2023–2025 triennium.

It is important to note that:

- Overall expenditures increased during the 2023–2025 triennium, reflecting higher costs, particularly for the participation of regional experts in the Scientific Committee.
- Italy generously covered the additional participation costs for eligible countries during this period.
- If Parties decide to maintain the tested composition of 12 experts from regions beyond 2025, the associated costs will remain higher than those required previously.

		2023 -2025	2026 -2028	2026 -2028	2026 -2028
		Scenario with non-decrease for conservation actions thanks to remaining amounts	Scenario 0% (from OC) Zero nominal growth scenario	Scenario 3% (from OC)	Scenario 9% (from OC) Real nominal growth scenario
Institutional Meetings, General Management and Administrative support					
General Management					
1100	Administrative staff				
1 101	Executive Secretary Housing Allowance	36 000	36 000	36 000	39 600
1 102	Programme & Project Officer 1	150 000	165 000	165 000	165 000
1 103	Programme & Project Officer 2	150 000	165 000	165 000	165 000
1 104	Accounting and Programme Assistant (50%)	75 000	82 500	82 500	82 500
1200	Administrative Assistance				
1 201	Translators	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000
1 202	Fund management controller	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000
1 203	External Assistance	9 000	12 000	12 000	12 000
1300	Bank fees	1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500
1400	Hospitality	2 400	2 400	2 400	2 400
Administrative support					
1 501	Coordination Units	9 600	10 000	10 000	10 000
1 502	Secretariat staff travels	39 400	40 400	40 600	41 000
ACCOBAMS Strategy					
1 600	Evaluation and ACCOBAMS Strategy	0	40 000	40 000	44 000
Institutional Meetings					
2100	Meeting of the Parties	61 000	61 000	66 000	66 000
2200	Scientific Committee	49 000	52 000	52 000	56 000
2300	Bureau	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000
2400	Meeting of National Representatives	15 000	5 000	5 000	5 000
2500	Follow-up Committee Meeting	5 000	2 000	2 000	2 000
TOTAL Institutional Meetings & Management		636 900	708 800	714 000	726 000

significant cost of living rises affecting operations and administrative costs. Salary adjustments needed for Secretariat staff.

ACCOBAMS evaluation and new strategy scheduled for 2026/2028 requiring dedicated funding

Increase experts from region (4 to 12)

Reduced costs by proposing online-only formats

Overview of main proposed changes, depending on scenarios, regarding Institutional Meetings and Management costs

Host Country contributions under Headquarters Agreement (HQA)

Moreover, it is essential to emphasize the significant contributions provided by the Host Country, in accordance with Appendix 1 (Financial arrangements between the Government of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco and the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS) of Resolution 6.2 on the Amendment to the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country. These contributions include both substantial cash support (covering, among other items, the salaries of the Executive Secretary and Assistant) and valuable in-kind support (such as the Permanent Secretariat premises in Monaco and two apartments). Based on the 2023/2025 triennium, the indicative amount for 3 years is around **760 000€**.

5. Use of expected remaining funds from the 2023–2025 Triennium to support conservation actions

Regarding the conservation actions component, the main project to be implemented during the 2026–2028 triennium is ASI-II, with a total funding of 3.5€ million to be mainly mobilised from external funding.

The Secretariat proposes allocating the expected remaining funds from the 2023–2025 Triennium (86 000€) as follows: 56 000€ to support key conservation actions and 30 000€ to the implementation of ASI-II.

The proposed budget for the conservation actions is as follows:

Human-Cetacean Interactions / Emergency Situations (LB 52)

- 50 000€ (0%), 60 000€ (3%), 67 500€ (9%)
- 26 000€ from remaining amounts

Habitats / Research and Monitoring (LB 53)

- 50 000€ (0%), 60 000€ (3%), 67 500€ (9%)
- 25 000€ from remaining amounts

Information / Communication / Public Awareness (LB 54)

- 55 000€ (0%), 60 000€ (3%), 82 500€ (9%)
- 5 000€ from remaining amounts

One of the two Project Officers will be responsible for implementing the ACCOBAMS communication strategy, which was previously managed by an external company during the 2023–2025 triennium. This internalisation is expected to reduce expenses.

6. Ordinary Contributions (OC)

As agreed during MOP8, for each budget scenario, ordinary contributions were calculated based on the 2025 UN scale, with a minimum threshold of 0.8%. Following the Bureau's request (BUEXT6, April 2025, Nice), the Secretariat has also prepared options with a minimum contribution increase to 1% for each scenario.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 9.5
WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2026-2028

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

Acting in accordance with the commitments of the Parties to conserve cetaceans in conformity with the Agreement, especially the fundamental obligations placed upon Parties in Article II,

Recalling Article IX, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Agreement, stating that the Parties shall determine the scale of contributions to the budget and that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt a budget by consensus,

Acknowledging the relevant work being carried out in other organisations, in particular within the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) and the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

Acknowledging with appreciation:

- a. the financial support and in-kind contributions provided by the Government of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco for the ACCOBAMS Secretariat under the Headquarters Agreement,
- b. the voluntary contributions provided by the Governments of Italy, Monaco, and Spain,
- c. the co-financing from SPA/RAC, CIESM and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),
- d. the financial support provided by MAVA Foundation, European Union, UNEP/MAP and FAO/GFCM through specific projects and initiatives,
- e. the support from Partner organisations for Agreement activities,

Thanking the Scientific Committee for its work and advice to Parties in setting up accurate conservation measures,

Thanking also the Sub-Regional Coordination Units and the ACCOBAMS Partners for their continuous support to the implementation of the Agreement,

Aware that scientific research in the Agreement area remains essential to identify populations with the least favourable conservation status and to address the conservation priorities,

Conscious that the current heterogeneity of management and research capacity in the area covered by the Agreement must be addressed by capacity-building and public awareness,

Stressing the need to increase collaboration with those international organisations whose mandates encompass interrelated aspects in the same area of the Agreement, in the spirit of the ecosystem approach,

Recognising the need to set priorities,

Taking into consideration the results of the Meeting of National Representatives organised in June 2024, where the needs and priorities of Parties for the implementation of the Agreement have been identified,

Stressing the importance of the payment by all Parties of the contributions due to the budget of the Agreement,

Taking into account [Resolution 9.2 on “Long-term Pending Contributions”],

Recalling that Article IX, paragraph 3 of the Agreement, calls for voluntary contributions to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects related to conservation,

Recalling Resolutions 1.7 and 7.8, establishing and implementing a Supplementary Conservation Fund,

1. *Takes note of* the audited accounts for the period 2023-[2025] presented by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat;
2. *Adopts* the Budget for 2026-2028, as in [Annex 1](#) to the present Resolution;
3. *Confirms* that Parties shall contribute to the budget, in accordance with Article III, paragraph 8 (e), of the Agreement, at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Agrees* to apply, for the calculation of the minimum ordinary contributions, a percentage of the total budget, instead of a fixed amount;
5. *Agrees* to the scale and amounts of contributions of Parties to the Agreement, as listed in [Annex 2](#) to the present Resolution, and to the application of that scale to any new Parties pro rata of the remaining financial year;
6. *Requests* Parties, in particular those that pay the minimum contribution, to consider paying for the entire triennium in one instalment at the beginning of the period;
7. *Further requests* Parties to pay their contributions as promptly as possible, but, in any case, no later than at the end of March of the corresponding year and in compliance with national legislation;
8. *Asks* the Parties that have unpaid pledges to pay their pending contributions within a reasonable time, at the latest two to three months after the end of 2025, in order to close the budget for the 2023-2025 triennium as soon as possible;
9. [Requests the Secretariat to use the amount of 10 000 € from the expected remaining amounts, in order to replenish the secured funds mentioned in paragraph 19 of [Annex 3](#) to the present Resolution on the Terms of Reference for Administration of the Budget;]
10. *Requests* the Bureau to:
 - a. monitor the accrual of unspent funds on the ACCOBAMS budget with a view to providing the Secretariat with guidance to prevent the accumulation of unspent funds or, as appropriate, on their timely utilisation;
 - b. monitor the maintenance by the Secretariat of an adequate secured fund, and the application of paragraph 19 of [Annex 3](#) to the present Resolution on the Terms of Reference for Administration of the Budget;
11. *Invites* Parties, Range States and organisations to consider the feasibility of providing personnel for the ACCOBAMS Secretariat;

12. *Also invites* Parties and States that are not Parties to the Agreement, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other possible donors, to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
13. *Approves* the terms of reference for administration of the Agreement Budget for the period 2026-2028, as set out in [Annex 3](#) to the present Resolution, as well as the guidelines for the acceptance of financial contributions, as set out in [Annex 4](#) to the present Resolution, provided that no voluntary contribution shall entail any present or future financial liability for the Agreement Trust Fund without the prior consent of the Parties or the Bureau;
14. *Entrusts* the ACCOBAMS Secretariat with the task of exploring the availability of appropriate external funds to support the implementation of the Agreement;
15. *Agrees* to provide financial support for the participation to the ACCOBAMS Meetings of the Parties of delegates (one delegate by country) from countries with middle and low incomes, as classified by the World Bank [as of February 2025] and as listed in [Annex 5](#) to the present Resolution, excluding countries with arrears of more than three years of contribution to the Trust Fund, unless decided otherwise by the Meeting of the Parties based on [Resolution 9.2];
16. *Adopts* the Programme of Work for 2026 – 2028, as presented in [Annex 6](#) to the present Resolution;
17. *Urges* Parties to support projects and activities in line with the Work Programme by means of financial and in-kind contributions and to report thereon to the Tenth Meeting of the Parties;
18. *Urges* Parties to fully commit themselves in the ACCOBAMS Meeting of National Representatives, which should be organised in 2027, by having a representative attending the Meeting;
19. *Recommends* Parties, in order to prepare for the ACCOBAMS Meeting of National Representatives, to organise through ACCOBAMS Focal Points a half-day national meeting to collect all the relevant data prior the Meeting, if necessary;
20. *Urges* Parties and specialised international and national organisations to develop international cooperative projects for implementation of the Work Programme and to keep the ACCOBAMS Secretariat fully informed of progress;
21. *Further urges* Parties and *encourages* national and international organisations and other donors to provide financial assistance to Countries in need of capacity-building to support the implementation of the Agreement and of the Work Programme, directly or through the financial mechanisms of the Agreement, in particular through the Supplementary Conservation Fund;
22. *Asks* Parties, non-Parties, Partners, all relevant organisations and experts to share all relevant information regarding their activities on the NETCCOBAMS platform;
23. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, the Bureau, the Sub-Regional Coordinating Units, ACCOBAMS Partners and international and national non-governmental Organisations to promote the actions necessary to facilitate the implementation of the Work Programme, bearing in mind the Resolutions adopted by the Meetings of the Parties;

24. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee to further promote cooperation with scientific institutions of the ACCOBAMS Area;

25. *Requests* the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to strengthen co-operation and develop activities with other relevant bodies;

26. *Instructs* the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to:

- a. prepare a zero nominal growth scenario and a real nominal growth scenario to be included as reference scenarios in the draft Programme of Work and Budget for the triennium 2029-2031, to be submitted to MOP10;
- b. disseminate the Work Programme for priority actions for 2026-2028, collaborate closely in its implementation with the Secretariats of other relevant conventions, international organisations and ACCOBAMS Partners, and seek appropriate donors for its implementation;
- c. inform in time the National Focal Points of ACCOBAMS of workshops and meetings, as well as of the establishment of working groups, within the ACCOBAMS framework.

ANNEXES

[ANNEX 1](#) : Draft Budget 2026-2028

[ANNEX 2](#) : Annual Contributions of Parties to the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund 2026-2028

[ANNEX 3](#) : Terms of Reference for Administration of the Budget

[ANNEX 4](#) : Guidelines for Accepting Voluntary Financial Contributions

[ANNEX 5](#) : Eligibility for Funding to Attend Meetings of the ACCOBAMS Parties

[ANNEX 6](#) : Draft Programme of Work 2026-2028

ANNEX 1 - Budget 2026 -2028

During MOP8, Parties mandated the Secretariat to “prepare a **zero nominal growth scenario** and a **real nominal growth scenario** to be included as reference scenarios in the draft Programme of Work and Budget for the triennium 2026-2028, to be submitted to MOP9”.

The Secretariat proposed three budgetary scenarios: a **0% increase** (zero nominal growth), an intermediate scenario with a **3% increase** and a **9% increase** (real nominal growth).

Table 1- BUDGET OC - 2026 - 2028 based on a non-decrease amount for conservation actions (in €/euros)

				Approved budget - OC 2023- 2025	Proposed budget – OC	Secured from Remaining	Additional required funds	LB1101	LB1102	LB1103	LB1104	LB1201	LB1202	LB 1203	LB 1300	LB 1400	LB1501	LB1502	LB1600	LB2100	LB2200	LB2300	LB2400	LB2500	LB52	LB53	LB54	
			General Management and Administrative support																									
Institutional Meetings & General Management ¹ (Administrative staff, Administrative Assistance, Bank fees, Hospitality)				432 900	473 400 473 400 477 000			36 000 36 000 39 600	165 000	165 000	82 500	3 000	6 000	12 000	1 500	2 400												
MA1a	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations			214 000	211 400 216 600 221 000		70 000										3 000 3 000 3 000	40 400 40 600 41 000		61 000 66 000 66 000	52 000 52 000 56 000	25 000 25 000 25 000					30 000 30 000 30 000	
MA2a	Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources			0	0		45 000																					
MA3a	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress			20 000	47 000 47 000 47 000														40 000 40 000 44 000					5 000 5 000 5 000	2 000 2 000 2 000			
MA4a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas			0	0																							
triennium budget General Management and Administrative support				666 900	731 800 737 000 745 000		115 000	36 000 36 000 39 600	165 000	165 000	82 500	3 000	6 000	12 000	1 500	2 400		40 400 40 600 41 000	40 000 40 000 44 000	61 000 66 000 66 000	52 000 52 000 56 000	25 000 25 000 25 000	5 000 5 000 5 000	2 000 2 000 2 000			30 000 30 000 30 000	
					846 800 852 000 860 000																							
			Conservation actions																									
CA1a	Cetacean population estimates and distribution			36 400	0	35 000	2 005 000																					
CA1b	Population Structure			0	0	0	130 000																					
CA1c	Monitoring cetaceans status			0	22 000 27 000 32 000	5 000	155 000 150 000 145 000										2 000 2 000 2 000									20 000 25 000 30 000		
CA1d	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situations			26 000	25 000 30 000 32 500		149 000 144 000 141 500										5 000 5 000 5 000									20 000 25 000 27 500		
CA2a	Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture			18 000	20 000 25 000 30 000		880 000 875 000 870 000																		20 000 25 000 30 000			
CA2b	Anthropogenic underwater noise			26 000	25 000 30 000 32 500		301 000 296 000 293 500																		25 000 30 000 32 500			
CA2c	Vessel strikes			8 000	5 000 5 000 5 000	5 000	151 000 151 000 151 000																		5 000 5 000 5 000			
CA2d	Cetacean watching			0	0		210 000																					

¹ See table 1. below on the description of budget lines

CA2e	Marine litter	17 000	0	5 000	130 000																				
CA2f	Chemical & biological pollution	0	0	0	80 000																				
CA2g	Climate change	0	0	0	8 000																				
CA2i	Captivity related issues	0	0	6 000	29 000																				
CA3a	Area-based measures for cetacean conservation	0	10 000 10 000 10 000	15 000	105 000 105 000 105 000																		10 000 10 000 10 000		
CA4a	Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans	65 500	25 000 30 000 52 500	5 000	190 000 185 000 162 500																			25 000 30 000 52 500	
CA5A	Cetacean culture	-	0		3 000																				
triennium budget Conservation Actions		196 900	132 000 157 000 194 500	86 000	4 526 000 4 501 000 4 463 500																				
			6 076 000																						
TOTAL triennium budget			863 800 894 000 939 500	86 000 86 000 86 000	4 641 000 4 616 000 4 578 500	36 000 36 000 39 600	165 000 165 000 165 600	165 000 165 000 165 600	82 500	3 000	6 000	12 000	1 500	2 400	10 000 10 000 10 000	40 400 40 600 41 000	40 000 40 000 44 000	61 000 66 000 66 000	52 000 52 000 56 000	25 000 25 000 25 000	5 000 5 000 5 000	2 000 2 000 2 000	50 000 60 000 67 500	50 000 60 000 67 500	55 000 60 000 82 500
		6 217 400	6 922 800 6 923 000 6 936 000																						
Triennium budget by year & Budgetary Line (LB)						LB1101	LB1102	LB1103	LB1104	LB1201	LB1202	LB 1203	LB 1300	LB 1400	LB1501	LB1502	LB1600	LB2100	LB2200	LB2300	LB2400	LB2500	LB52*	LB53*	LB54*
		2026				12 000 12 000 13 200	65 000	65 000	27 500	1 000	2 000	4 000	500	800	3 000	15 000 15 000 15 000	20 000 20 000 22 000	-	22 000 22 000 24 000	7 000	-	-	20 000 25 000 27 500	20 000 25 000 27 500	20 000 20 000 30 000
		2027				12 000 12 000 13 200	65 000	65 000	27 500	1 000	2 000	4 000	500	800	3 000	14 000 14 000 14 000	20 000 20 000 22 000	3 000 3 000 63 000	30 000 30 000 32 000	7 000	5 000	2 000	20 000 25 000 27 500	20 000 25 000 27 500	20 000 20 000 30 000
		2028				12 000 12 000 13 200	65 000	65 000	27 500	1 000	2 000	4 000	500	800	4 000	10 400 10 600 10 000	-	58 000 63 000 63 000	-	11 000	-	-	10 000 10 000 12 500	10 000 10 000 12 500	15 000 20 000 22 500

Table 2 – BUDGET OC – 2026 – 2028 based on different scenario (in €/euros)

		2020-2022	2023 -2025	2023 -2025	2026 -2028	2026 -2028	2026 -2028
			Scenario 0% (from OC)	Scenario with non-decrease for conservation actions thanks to remaining amounts	Scenario 0% (from OC) Zero nominal growth scenario	Scenario 3% (from OC)	Scenario 9% (from OC) Real nominal growth scenario
Institutional Meetings, General Management and Administrative support							
General Management							
1100	Administrative staff						
1 101	Executive Secretary Housing Allowance	34 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	39 600
1 102	Programme & Project Officer 1	133 500	150 000	150 000	165 000	165 000	165 000
1 103	Programme & Project Officer 2	133 500	150 000	150 000	165 000	165 000	165 000
1 104	Accounting and Programme Assistant (50%)	60 000	75 000	75 000	82 500	82 500	82 500
1200	Administrative Assistance						
1 201	Translators	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000
1 202	Fund management controller	2 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000
1 203	External Assistance	5 300	9 000	9 000	12 000	12 000	12 000
1300	Bank fees	2 400	1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500
1400	Hospitality	1 500	2 400	2 400	2 400	2 400	2 400
Administrative support							
1 501	Coordination Units	21 600	9 600	9 600	10 000	10 000	10 000
1 502	Secretariat staff travels	50 000	39 400	39 400	40 400	40 600	41 000
ACCOBAMS Strategy							
1 600	Evaluation and ACCOBAMS Strategy	0	0	0	40 000	40 000	44 000
Institutional Meetings							
2100	Meeting of the Parties	61 000	61 000	61 000	61 000	66 000	66 000
2200	Scientific Committee	49 000	49 000	49 000	52 000	52 000	56 000 ²
2300	Bureau	32 000	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000
2400	Meeting of National Representatives	21 000	15 000	15 000	5 000	5 000	5 000
2500	Follow-up Committee Meeting	5 000	5 000	5 000	2 000	2 000	2 000
TOTAL Institutional Meetings & Management³		614 800	636 900	636 900	708 800	714 000	726 000

² The amount of 56 000€ is based on the actual costs incurred by the Scientific Committee (SC) during the test period from 2023 to 2025, as of 30 September 2025. During this period, although 12 experts from regions were members of the SC, not all were present at SC16 and SC17. Taking into account inflation and the scenario where all 12 experts attend two meetings, the total cost would have been 71 000€.

³ It is essential to emphasize the significant contributions provided by the Host Country, in accordance with Appendix 1 (Financial arrangements between the Government of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco and the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS) of Resolution 6.2 on the Amendment to the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country. These contributions include both substantial cash support (covering, among

		2020-2022	2023 -2025	2023 -2025	2026 -2028	2026 -2028	2026 -2028
			Scenario 0% (from OC)	Scenario with non-decrease for conservation actions thanks to remaining amounts	Scenario 0% (from OC) Zero nominal growth scenario	Scenario 3% (from OC)	Scenario 9% (from OC) Real nominal growth scenario
Support to Conservation actions							
52	Human-cetacean interactions / Emergency situations	51 000	69 000	77 000 (including 8 000€ from remaining amounts)	76 000 (including 26 000€ from remaining amounts)	86 000 (including 26 000€ from remaining amounts)	93 500 (including 26 000€ from remaining amounts)
53	Habitats / Research and monitoring	133 000	56 400	97 000 (including 40 600€ from remaining amounts)	75 000 (including 25 000€ from remaining amounts)	85 000 (including 25 000€ from remaining amounts)	92 500 (including 25 000€ from remaining amounts)
54	Information/ Communication/Public awareness	61 000	101 500	106 000 (including 4 500€ from remaining amounts)	60 000 (including 5 000€ from remaining amounts)	65 000 (including 5 000€ from remaining amounts)	87 500 (including 5 000€ from remaining amounts)
TOTAL Conservation		245 000	226 900	280 000	211 000 (including 56 000€ from remaining amounts)	236 000 (including 56 000€ from remaining amounts)	273 500 (including 56 000€ from remaining amounts)
TOTAL Budget for the triennium		859 800	863 800	916 900	919 800 (including 56 000€ from remaining amounts)	950 000 (including 56 000€ from remaining amounts)	999 500 (including 56 000€ from remaining amounts)
TOTAL Budget for the triennium (without remaining amounts from previous triennium)		859 800	863 800	916 900	863 800	894 000	943 500
Annual budget during the triennium (without remaining amounts from previous triennium)		286 600	287 933		287 933	298 000	314 500

other items, the salaries of the Executive Secretary and Assistant) and valuable in-kind support (such as the Permanent Secretariat premises in Monaco and two apartments). Based on the 2023/2025 triennium, the indicative amount for 3 years is around **760 000€**.

ANNEX 2 - Annual Contributions of Parties to the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund 2026-2028

	2020 - 2022	2023- 2025	UN scale 2023- 2025	UN scale 2026- 2028	ACCOBAMS key 2026 - 2028 (0,8% minimum contribution)	ACCOBAMS key 2026 - 2028 (1% minimum contribution)	2026-2028 (0% increase- 0,8% minimum contribution)	2026-2028 (0% increase- 1% bottom)	2026-2028 (3% increase - 0,8% minimum contribution)	2026-2028 (3% increase- 1% minimum contribution)	2026-2028 (9% increase - 0,8% minimum contribution)	2026-2028 (9% increase- 1% minimum contribution)
Albania	2 304	2 304	0,008	0,01	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Algeria	4 328	4 328	0,109	0,087	1,1	1,0	3 219	2 885	3 316	2 972	3 509	3 145
Bulgaria	2 304	2 304	0,056	0,071	0,9	1,0	2 627	2 885	2 706	2 972	2 863	3 145
Croatia	2 661	2 661	0,091	0,088	1,1	1,1	3 256	3 070	3 354	3 162	3 549	3 347
Cyprus	2 304	2 304	0,036	0,035	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Egypt	4 086	4 086	0,139	0,182	2,3	2,2	6 734	6 350	6 936	6 540	7 340	6 922
France	66 712	66 712	4,318	3,858	22,1	21,9	63 758	63 181	65 670	65 076	69 496	68 867
Georgia	2 304	2 304	0,008	0,009	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Greece	12 662	12 662	0,325	0,28	3,6	3,4	10 360	9 769	10 671	10 062	11 292	10 648
Italy	64 769	64 769	3,189	2,813	21,5	21,2	62 027	61 161	63 887	62 996	67 609	66 666
Lebanon	2 304	2 304	0,036	0,022	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Libya	3 360	3 360	0,018	0,04	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Malta	2 304	2 304	0,019	0,02	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Monaco	2 304	2 304	0,011	0,011	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Montenegro	2 304	2 304	0,004	0,004	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Morocco	2 304	2 304	0,055	0,059	0,8	1,0	2 394	2 885	2 465	2 972	2 609	3 145
Portugal	10 538	10 538	0,353	0,328	4,2	4,0	12 136	11 444	12 500	11 787	13 228	12 474
Romania	4 947	4 947	0,312	0,358	4,6	4,3	13 246	12 491	13 643	12 865	14 438	13 615
Slovenia	2 304	2 304	0,079	0,077	1,0	1,0	2 849	2 885	2 934	2 972	3 105	3 145
Spain	56 732	56 732	2,134	1,895	19,0	18,7	54 814	53 949	56 459	55 567	59 748	58 804
Syrian Arab Republic	2 304	2 304	0,009	0,006	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Tunisia	2 304	2 304	0,019	0,018	0,8	1,0	2 308	2 885	2 377	2 972	2 516	3 145
Türkiye	27 370	27 370	0,845	0,685	8,8	8,3	25 345	23 900	26 105	24 617	27 626	26 051
Ukraine	2 769	2 769	0,056	0,074	0,9	1,0	2 738	2 885	2 820	2 972	2 984	3 145
TOTAL	288 582	288 582			100,0	100,0	288 582	288 582	297 238	297 246	314 554	314 563

ANNEX 3 - Terms of Reference for Administration of the Budget

1. The terms of reference for administration of the budget of ACCOBAMS shall refer to the financial years beginning 1st January 2026 and ending 31st December 2028.
2. The budget shall be administered by the Executive Secretary according to these Terms of reference.
3. The financial resources of the budget shall originate from:
 - (a) contributions from the Parties according to Annex 2, as well as contributions from new Parties, and
 - (b) voluntary contributions from Parties, contributions from States not Party to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations and other sources.
4. All contributions to the budget shall be paid in Euros.
5. With regard to contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, until the end of the financial period) shall be determined pro rata on the basis of the contributions of other Parties according to the adopted scale of assessments and depending on the remaining annual financial exercise.
6. Contributions by all Parties throughout the triennium 2026-2028 are calculated on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessments applicable for [2025], with the modifications needed to adapt it to the ACCOBAMS Parties.
7. The contributions are due on 1st January 2026, 1st January 2027 and 1st January 2028, and shall be paid into the following account:

<i>Account holder</i>	<i>Swift code</i>	<i>IBAN code</i>
ACCOBAMS	CFMOMCMX	MC 02 1273 9000 7001 0702 3000 M76

8. For convenience of the Parties to the Agreement, the Executive Secretary shall notify them as soon as possible regarding their calculated contributions for each year of the financial period.
9. Voluntary contributions received into the budget and not immediately required for financing activities shall be invested at the discretion of the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, and any generated income shall be used to implement the Agreement.
10. The budget shall be audited by a fund management controller.
11. The budget estimates of income and expenditures for each calendar year of the financial period shall be prepared in Euros and submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.
12. The estimates for each calendar year covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objectives of expenditure, be specified according to budget lines, be consistent with the programmes of work to which they relate, and be accompanied by information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors.

13. The proposed budget, including all necessary information, shall be dispatched by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to all Parties at least 90 days before the date established for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.
14. The budget shall be adopted by consensus at the Meeting of the Parties.
15. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat can, if needed, transfer funds up to 20% from one budget line of the approved budget, to another budget line within the same budget section. If the needed transfer of funds within the same budget section is higher than 20% of the budget line from which the transfer is made, the Secretariat shall request the authorisation of the Bureau.
16. Should the ACCOBAMS Secretariat anticipate a shortfall in resources over the financial period, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat shall consult the Bureau about priorities for expenditure.
17. Commitments against the resources of the budget may only be made if they are covered by sufficient income.
18. No transfer of funds shall be authorised from the ordinary contributions of the Trust Fund to the Supplementary Conservation Fund.
19. A secured fund is created, equivalent to 30% of the administrative budget.
20. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat shall submit the annual accounts to the Bureau. These shall include details of actual expenditures and comparisons with the original provisions for each budget line.
21. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat shall provide the Bureau an estimate of proposed expenditures for the coming year, and simultaneously, or as soon as possible, the communication of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.
22. The ACCOBAMS Secretariat shall present the audited accounts for the financial exercises to the Meeting of the Parties.
23. The present terms of reference shall be implemented by the Executive Secretary.

ANNEX 4 - Guidelines for Accepting Voluntary Financial Contributions

1. General rules

No voluntary contribution, gift or donation for a specific purpose may be accepted if considered incompatible with the policies and aims of the Agreement, or the UNEP/CMS.

2. Approval of donors

2.1 Donors who are not governmental institutions of Parties or economic integration organisations or riparian States not Party to the Agreement, must be approved as such by the Bureau before their contributions are accepted by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

2.2 Sources known to have been involved in interests or activities which conflict with the aims of the Agreement or the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and any organisation or individual who has deliberately brought, or might bring, the Agreement into public disrepute, shall be excluded. The same shall apply where there is a risk that a source might try to influence the decisions of any organ of the Agreement where, in the opinion of the Scientific Committee, this source has, or has had in the past, an environmentally unfriendly attitude.

3. Acceptance of Voluntary contributions

3.1 Voluntary contributions shall only be accepted when the purpose is consistent with the policies and aims of the Agreement.

3.2 No voluntary contributions shall have an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the Agreement Trust Fund without the prior consent of the Parties or the Bureau.

3.3 If indirect costs occur, in relation to administrative support of the activity implemented through a voluntary contribution, including financial and information resources management, and not included in the project budget targeted by the voluntary contribution, then the Secretariat can retain a percentage up to 4% of the dedicated voluntary contribution, up to 50 000 €, and of 7% for the dedicated voluntary contribution of more than 50 000 €. The Secretariat is asked to report on the application of this provision to the Bureau and to the Meeting of Parties.

3.4 All monetary contributions shall be paid in freely convertible currency; exceptions may, however, be made for special projects if the currency in question can effectively be used.

3.5 Voluntary contributions in kind may be accepted, provided that they are used to cover activities approved by the Meeting of the Parties. These may include, *inter alia*, direct or indirect involvement in a joint project, free office accommodation, equipment, or the secondment of staff.

ANNEX 5 - Eligibility for Funding to Attend Meetings of the ACCOBAMS Parties

Based on the scale of middle and low incomes of the World Bank in [as of February 2025] the ACCOBAMS Secretariat is authorised to cover, upon budget availability, travel and accommodation fees of the representatives of the following Parties for the Meetings of the Parties of ACCOBAMS (one delegate/Party):

- Albania (pending on settlement of unpaid pledges)
- Algeria
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Lebanon (pending on settlement of unpaid pledges)
- Libya (pending on settlement of unpaid pledges)
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Syrian Arab Republic (pending on settlement of unpaid pledges)
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Ukraine

ANNEX 6 – Draft programme of work for 2023-2025

In **purple**: budget option with **no increase of the budget** from Ordinary contributions (OC) - In **blue**: budget option with **a 3% increase of the budget** from OC - In **green**: budget option with **a 9% increase of the budget** from OC

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)

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

Expected outcomes

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Ensure ACCOBAMS institutional functioning / governance / process Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries to encourage accession to the Agreement	Main	Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizing ACCOBAMS Institutional Meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meeting of the Parties- Scientific Committee Meetings- Bureau MeetingsInviting Observers, including riparian Countries Non-Parties, and relevant experts to ACCOBAMS MeetingsLiaising with the Depositary to encourage accession to the Agreement of riparian states	141 000 € 146 000 € 150 000 €	61 000 € 66 000 € 66 000 € LB 2100 52 000 € 52 000 € 56 000 € LB 2200 25 000 € 25 000 € 25 000 € LB 2300 3 000 € 3 000 € 3 000 € LB 1501				-
Establish/strengthen partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/national entities Establish synergies with the European Union policies (MSFD, HD), Barcelona Convention, Bucharest Convention and other relevant Agreements and Organisations strategies	Main	Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishing MoU with relevant IGOs, government bodies, scientific organizations, Universities, NGOs and relevant organizations.Participating in relevant Meetings, fora and WGContributing to the development of relevant regional policies documents / reportsEnsuring dialogue between regional Conventions to facilitate the reporting by Countries in the framework of other Conventions	40 400 € 40 600 € 41 000 €	40 400 € 40 600 € 41 000 € LB1502				
Enforce communication within the ACCOBAMS community and strengthen exchanges of information on national and regional projects / activities / initiatives	Medium	Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using NETCCOBAMS platform as sharing/consultation tool - Exchange of information on national reports and regional projects / activities / initiatives	90 000 €	30 000 € 30 000 € 30 000 € LB54				60 000€
Reinforce synergies with and between Partners	Medium	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Considering new applications for ACCOBAMS PartnershipOrganizing meetings of ACCOBAMS Partners in order to share expertise/ knowledge / informationReviewing the ACCOBAMS Partners status	10 000 €	0€				10 000 €
TOTAL MA1a - Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations				281 400 286 600 291 000	211 400 216 600 221 000				70 000 €

MA2	ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES
MA2a	Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources
Expected outcomes	

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Fund projects under the Supplementary Conservation Fund (SCF) related to cetacean conservation	Main	Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launching a new ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects related to cetacean conservation	45 000 € New call under SCF	0€				45 000 €
Diversify funding sources to develop projects /actions in line with ACCOBAMS priorities	Main		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launching call for voluntary contributionsExploring and examining international funding opportunities for cetacean conservation projects in the framework of partnership with donorsDeveloping proposal for a sponsorship programOrganising encounters with relevant potential donorsLeveraging existing partnerships and collaborations with all IGOs, NGOs, and international/ national entitiesSecuring national funds to be used as cofundings to support project proposals developed by national organisations	<i>Budget from other actions</i>	0€				
Strengthen national capacities in cetacean conservation project development and fundraising	Main		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sharing information on funding opportunities	-	0€				- €
TOTAL MA2a - Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources				45 000 €	0€	-	-	-	45 000 €

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	
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Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Revise the ACCOBAMS Strategy (2018-2025) and propose a new one after evaluating overall Agreement's effectiveness	Main	Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluating the overall Agreement's effectivenessPreparing an ACCOBAMS Strategy (2026-2037) in collaboration with all ACCOBAMS bodies	40 000 € 40 000 € 44 000 €	40 000 € 40 000 € 44 000 € (LB 1600)				-
Reinforce the involvement of National Focal Points	Main	Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific SRCUs, Committee Partners,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Disseminating the guide on the role of the ACCOBAMS National Focal PointProviding regular update on the implementation of Resolutions by PartiesOrganising the Meeting of National Representatives with sub-regional meetings to develop the 2026-2028 Programme of Work by identifying actions related to cetacean conservation, according to national priorities <i>(online)</i>	5 000 €	5 000 € 5 000 € 5 000 € (LB2400)				-
Propose remedy actions in cases of non-follow-up with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Main	Follow up Committee Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Convening a Follow up Committee meeting <i>(online)</i>Applying Follow up Procedures	2 000 €	2 000 € 2 000 € 2 000 € (LB 2500)				
TOTAL MA3a- Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress				47 000 €	47 000 € 47 000 € 47 000 €	-	-	-	-

MA4	ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA
MA4a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas

Expected outcomes	
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Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Promote the ratification of Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic	Main	Secretariat Depositary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaising with the Depositary to encourage relevant national authorities to ratify the Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic (Ref Res A/4.1)• Providing all Focal Points with explanatory note on the Amendment• Providing support to National Focal Points to solve problems regarding the ratification of the Amendment through the organisation of trilateral meetings between the National Focal Point, the Secretariat and an ACCOBAMS legal advisor	-	0€	-	-	-	-
TOTAL MA4a - Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas				-	0€	-	-	-	-

TOTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
			OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
	373 400 €	258 400 €	-	-	-	115 000 €
	378 600 €	263 600 €				115 000 €
	383 000 €	268 000 €				115 000 €
TOTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA) including General Management & Administrative Staff (473 400 € - 473 400 € - 477 000 €)	846 800 €	731 800 €				115 000 €
	852 000 €	737 000 €				115 000 €
	860 000 €	745 000 €				115 000 €

CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)									
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)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Promote the implementation of the Long-Term Monitoring Programme, taking into consideration monitoring and reporting obligations of countries (MSFD, Barcelona Convention, Bucharest Convention)	Main	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secure funds for implementing ASI2, including investigating the existence of possible funding at national / regional levelsContinue with the development and implementation of a simulation framework to examine the performance of different future survey strategies (synoptic, regional/national) - contractUndertake synoptic basin-wide surveys in the ACCOBAMS Area with a focus on abundance and trends in 2026/2027 (ASI-II) with the support of the ASI Steering Committee, the LTMP Contact Group (Res 8.10) and of the SC to review and update as necessary the field and analytical protocolsPromote synchronisation and standardisation of existing monitoring efforts to contribute to LTMP purpose (coordination meetings at the sub-regional level, Working Group on cetaceans monitoring...)Collaborate with relevant organisations, such as the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention System (EcAp/IMAP, QSR), the Bucharest Convention and the European Commission (MSFD)Utilise advanced statistical methods and machine learning techniques to integrate and analyse data from various sources, ensuring robust and accurate abundance estimates and distribution models.	3 335 000 € ⁴ (a detailed (budget of ASI-II is presented in document MOP9.Doc31)		30 000 € Remaining from different unspent Budgetary Lines 5 000 € LB53 (Developing protocols on standardized monitoring methods for multidisciplinary surveys/ Ferries)	500 000 € from OFB (France – MoU in dev on 20 August 2025) 600 000 € from Italy (in kind) 150 000 € from Principality of Monaco	45 000 € Remaining from ASI-I	2 005 000 €
Promote the use of ASI-I data by increasing the visibility of ASI-II (and future) datasets and related results and encourage further analyses	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat SRCUs Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implement a centralised data repository to facilitate data sharing and collaboration among different organisations and stakeholders.Use the NETCCOBAMS Activity on “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative” to handle the sharing of ASI DataPromote ASI-II data and results in relevant foraShare ASI-II data following received requests in accordance with ASI Terms of use and archiving/monitoring of the requestsCollect outputs of work and analysis conducted following ASI-I & II full dataset requests to be used by						

⁴ the real budget is 3 500 000 € but 165 000€ is in the administrative budget since one project officer will be dedicated to monitoring conservation actions including LTMP and ASI-II during the 2026-2028 period

			the SC to give best scientific advice						
Promote data collection at sub-regional and national levels (in coherence with ACCOBAMS survey methodologies)	Main	Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit ASI-II results to the IWC SC• Continue facilitating exchanges and coordination between Parties on sub-regional surveys• Continue organising training activities on monitoring methods/protocols and data analysis for smaller-scale surveys (at local, national and sub-regional levels)• Update handbooks on standardised monitoring methods (aerial surveys, boat-based surveys, acoustic surveys...)• Collaborating with relevant organisations, such as UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention System (EcAp/IMAP, QSR), the Bucharest Convention and the European Commission (MSFD)						
Promote data collection from multidisciplinary surveys (such as fisheries / acoustic surveys), innovative technologies (UAV, satellite) and of platforms of opportunity (ferries, whale watching vessels, navy vessels, etc..)	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review results from activities in pilot areas to collect data using multidisciplinary surveys (such as fisheries/acoustic surveys), innovative technologies (UAV, satellite) and platforms of opportunity (ferries, whale watching vessels, navy vessels, etc..) based on recommendations of previous studies• Review collaboration with existing regional fisheries surveys (MEDITS, MEDIAS) and relevant organisations such as GFCM and ICCAT• Review collaborations with relevant existing initiatives/projects/networks on platforms of opportunity• Organise meetings/workshops to discuss possible synergies and shared methodology and data analysis – ToR• Develop, update and standardise protocols for multidisciplinary surveys• Review & Update the "Guidelines for the Monitoring of the Range of Cetaceans, Abundance and Demographic Characteristics of Populations" in synergy with IMAP• Regularly review « Best Available Technologies » and assess potential contribution to LTMP						
TOTAL CA1a - Cetacean population estimates and distribution				3 335 000 €	0	35 000 €	1 250 000 €	45 000 €	2 005 000 €

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
	Exchange of samples is facilitated for joint analysis
	Data exchange is facilitated for basin wide analysis

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Improve photo ID data collection and dissemination: - Update and harmonise protocols on data collection for photo ID - Share photo ID data	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organise experts meeting for best practices guide on how to collect data for comparison – ToROrganise regional experts’ trainings on analysis on photo ID (including drone photo ID), including AI (Artificial Intelligence)– ToRFacilitate data sharing and the creation of large scale photo-id catalogues for in-depth analysis (see CMP actions)– ToR	10 000 € 35 000 € 20 000 €	0 €				65 000 €
Improve data collection on cetacean populations genetic in the ACCOBAMS Area Development of genetical identification of population structure (particularly for Mediterranean), including e.g., eDNA	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote the ACCOBAMS Best practices on data collection on cetacean populations geneticFacilitate analysis of existing tissue samples (including those from biopsies) to address questions on stock structure and genetic diversityHarmonise procedures for samples exchanges among CITES scientific and forensic institutions in the ACCOBAMS areaCollaborate with relevant organisations (CITES, ABS Nagoya Protocol...)Promote the use of new technics such as genomics and proteomics	0 30 000 € 5 000 € 15 000 €	0 €				50 000€
Other ecological markers	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organise a workshop on the incorporation of ecological markers in the definition of population structure (Ecological Management Units) for cetaceans in the framework of international scientific events or meetings, in collaboration with ICES, IWC – ToRPromote studies of age structure and population demography	10 000 € 5 000 €	0 €				15 000 €
TOTAL CA1b - Population Structure				130 000 €	0 €				130 000 €

CA 1 c	Monitoring cetaceans status								
Expected outcomes	Regional conservation plans (Med and BS) for cetacean are promoted at the national level								
	Relevant conservation management plans are developed and implemented								
	National Action Plans are developed and implemented in several Countries								
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Support in implementing Regional Conservation Plans for cetaceans (in Black Sea and in Mediterranean Sea)	Main	SRCUs Parties Non-Party Range States Secretariat Scientific Committee, Partners,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support the BSC in the revision of the Regional Conservation Plan for cetacean in Black Sea, taking into consideration the IWC/ACCOBAMS Conservation Management Plan frameworkSupport the SPA/RAC in the implementation, assessment and update of the Mediterranean Action Plan for Cetaceans adopted by Parties to the Barcelona Convention	2 000 €	2 000 € 2 000 € 2 000 € (LB 1501)				
Develop/ revise/ implement relevant Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species	Main	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organise Experts Workshops to develop Conservation Management Plans for sperm whales and Ziphius, taking into account all national conservation plans – ToR	20 000 €					
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organise stakeholders Workshops to finalise Conservation Management Plans for fin whales, Risso’s, bottlenose and common dolphins, taking into account all national conservation plans - ToR	80 000 €	20 000 € 25 000 € 30 000 € (LB53)		5 000 € VC France (LB 6350)		155 000 € 150 000€ 145 000€
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support the implementation of relevant actions of the approved Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species, emphasising coordination actions	80 000 €			10 000 € VC Monaco (LB 6900)		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider the development of killer whales CMP, taking into account the existing national conservation plans	10 000 €					
Facilitate the Development/ revision/ implementation of National Action Plans for cetaceans	High	Parties Non-Party Range States, Secretariat, SRCUs Scientific Committee, Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting the revision / development of National Action Plans for cetaceans in collaboration with SRCUs and national authorities, through participatory process involving all relevant organisations (NGOs, associations, national partners...)Establishment of national Working Groups or Councils in the framework of National Actions Plan	7 000 €	0€	5 000 € Remaining LB53	2 000 € VC Italy (LB 6600)		
TOTAL CA1c - Monitoring cetaceans status				199 000 €	22 000 € 27 000 € 32 000 €	5 000 €	17 000 €		155 000 € 150 000€ 145 000€

CA 1 d	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situations
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Expected outcomes	Official National Stranding networks are established and operating Information on stranding events is regularly exchanged among national networks
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Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Set up /Reinforce official national stranding networks (with all national institutions concerned and relevant international agreements)	Main	Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Disseminate studies on legal/institutional status of National stranding networks in order to assist experts in the establishment of official national stranding network when relevant – PartiesProvide assistance in the preparation of a legislative framework to settle the national coordination network- PartiesOrganise trainings on necropsies, response to live strandings and emergency situations, including mass strandings, in the ACCOBAMS Area, and on the use of relevant databases – ToR	40 000 €	5 000 € 5 000 € 5 000 € (LB 1501) 10 000 € 10 000 € 10 000 € (LB 53)				25 000 € 25 000 € 25 000 €

Encourage collaboration among national networks of Parties	Main	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Disseminate the procedures on Best Practices on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling resulted from the harmonisation process in ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANSUpdate the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the ACCOBAMS Emergency Task Force for Stranding events (AETFS) by considering other existing initiatives, prioritising support for capacity building requests and emergency responsesMaintain and Update List of existing stranding experts and stranding networks contact points/coordinatorsUpdate ACCOBAMS Documents related to strandings management and investigations (best practices, guidelines, and protocols) through regular meetings/workshops among experts.Promote Technologies for remote assistance during investigationsImplement Capacity Building through training modules targeting veterinarians and biologists involved in post-mortem investigations using new technologies (e.g., virtual/augmented reality, metaverse, 3D printing) and tele-necropsyCreate an Emergency Fund through voluntary contributions by Parties, international organisations, and public and private donors	5 000 €	10 000 € 15 000 € 17 500 € (LB53)				50 000 € 45 000 € 42 500 €							
			20 000 €													
			5 000 €													
			30 000 €													
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enter relevant national data into relevant regional databases, such as MEDACESSupport and finance of MEDACES	54 000 €						0€			54 000 €			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reinforce a network to exchange information on sampling though NETCCOBAMS Platform	20 000 €						0€			20 000 €			
			TOTAL CA1d - Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situations							174 000 €	25 000€ 30 000€ 32 500 €			149 000€ 144 000 € 141 500 €		

CA 2 a		Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture							
Expected outcomes		Impacts of cetaceans’ bycatch and depredation are assessed and reduced							
		Ecotourism activities (whale watching and pescatourism) are proposed as an alternative income source to fishermen impacted by depredation							
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Support countries in monitoring and mitigating depredation and bycatch situations	Main	Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee (JBWG), Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	• Maintain and support the work of the ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Joint Bycatch Working Group						
			• Organise workshops to share experience and results, including from past projects on interactions with fisheries – ToR	15 000 €					
			• Improve data collection on interactions with fisheries (implementation of on-board observers’ programs whenever it is possible and port questionnaires...) and testing mitigation measures	600 000 €					
			• Use of stranding data to assess bycatch mortality (using drifting models and/or necropsy findings)	20 000 €					
			• Collaborate with relevant entities, in particular with GFCM, EC (DG MARE and DG Environment), UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention System (EcAp/IMAP, QSR) and IWC BMI, ICCAT, ICES	10 000 €					
			• Support the network with EC, GFCM and BSC to address the critical issue of harbor porpoise bycatch in the Black Sea	10 000 €	20 000 € 25 000 € 30 000 € (LB 52)				780 000 € 775 000 € 770 000 €
			• Implement active awareness-raising programs among fishermen to encourage reporting of bycatch events, improving data collection and assessing the extent of this threat more precisely	50 000 €					
			• Conduct training programs for local and regional stakeholders on advanced monitoring techniques, data analysis, and the use of new technologies	50 000 €					
			• Promote the importance of cetacean conservation in relevant international fora and policy discussions						
			• Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies and make necessary adjustments	10 000 € 20 000 €					
			• Regularly review and update guidelines and protocols related to bycatch monitoring and mitigation measures, as well as to safe release of bycaught animals, to incorporate the best available advice and practices	15 000 €					
Provide support to Parties to promote the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to	High	Secretariat, Parties	• Support the development of sustainable ecotourism activities in pilot sites, taking into	100 000 €	0€				100 000 €

fishers (pescatourism and whale watching)		Scientific Committee, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	consideration ACCOBAMS Cetacean Watching Guidelines • Consider socio-economic aspects of alternative solutions						
TOTAL CA2a - Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture				900 000 €	20 000 € 25 000 € 30 000 €				880 000€ 875 000 € 870 000 €

CA 2 b	Anthropogenic underwater noise								
Expected outcomes	Main anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise are monitored in the ACCOBAMS Area								
	Use of mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise								
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Encourage the monitoring of anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Main	Scientific Committee including through the JNWG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	• Organise an in-person meeting of the CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS JNWG	20 000 €	20 000 € 25 000 € 27 500 € (LB 52)				256 000 € 251 000 € 248 500 €
• Raise awareness amongst countries by organising an awareness & consultation workshop at national level with different stakeholders, especially at ministerial level			20 000 €						
• Invite Port authorities to develop incentive programmes to encourage the monitoring of and reduction in underwater noise emissions, and to report regularly all activities generating noise to improve the mapping for Noise Hotspots Report			10 000 €						
• Organise trainings for national entities on noise monitoring, including analyses of PAM collected data in some identified priority areas – ToR			30 000 €						
• Keep managing the regional noise register			30 000 €						
• Keep feeding data on impulsive noise generating sources from the entire ACCOBAMS Area into the regional noise register managed by ACCOBAMS			10 000 €						
• Promote the use of NETCCOBAMS to gather data									
• Provide necessary data to update risk maps and generate maps for the Black Sea by considering relevant target species			60 000 €						
• Complete the Noise Hotspots Report II			8 000 €						
• Revise and updating the ACCOBAMS Guidelines on underwater noise taking into account outcomes from recent projects									
• Prepare a study on the effects of underwater noise generated by the projected increase of wind farms in the ACCOBAMS Area – ToR			15 000 €						
• Continue developing the concept of “quiet zones,” updating noise models in NETCCOBAMS, comparing noise modelling results with <i>in situ</i> recordings, monitoring anthropogenic noise activities, and developing new mitigation measures			50 000 €						
• Continue cooperation on underwater noise issue with other international Organisations, such as CMS, ASCOBANS, IWC, UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention System (EcAp/IMAP, QSR), IMO,			8 000 €						

			REMPEC and EU (MSFD) and collaboration with other regional projects on noise issues						
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support investigation of impacts of underwater noise on health status and prey	15 000 €					
Encourage the use of mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Main	Scientific Committee including through the JNWG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve enhanced training of regulators on the appropriate application of the CMS Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and ACCOBAMS Noise GuidelinesPromote the ACCOBAMS Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators’ certificateSupport the development and update of the ACCOBAMS HQMMO/PAM training toolsRevise and update the ACCOBAMS “Guide for Parties to use mitigation measures “Continue developing joint project/initiatives for simulating mitigation measures such as speed reduction and related benefits, as well as considering resultsDevelop cooperation on underwater noise issues with other International Organisations	20 000 €	5 000 € 5 000 € 5 000 € LB 52				15 000 € 15 000 € 15 000 €
Exchange of relevant information with competent authorities related to military activities / exercises	High	Scientific Committee including through the JNWG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regular information letter from the Secretariat to NATO and to national Navy forces to raise attention of impacts on noise on cetaceans and to propose mitigation measuresContinue organising regular joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS workshops with national Navy forces and NATO members – ToRSupport research backing demining activities in the Black Sea: development and implementation of the “Post-War Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans” with a focus on the removal of all types of underwater explosives, including mines, with the minimal impact on cetaceans and marine ecosystem.	30 000 €	0 €				30 000 €
TOTAL CA2b - Anthropogenic underwater noise				326 000 €	25 000 € 30 000 € 32 500 €				301 000 € 296 000€ 293 500 €

CA 2 c		Vessel strikes							
Expected outcomes		Reduction of ship strikes in high risk areas							
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Monitor / assess high-risk areas for vessel strikes (CCH) in the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent Atlantic Area	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a joint Ship Strikes Working Group with the Pelagos Agreement• Continue the entry of vessel strikes data in relevant databases, such as the IWC central database on vessel strikes• Identify high risk areas for vessel strikes by encouraging studies that improve understanding of temporal and spatial distribution of shipping and of cetaceans (IMMAs), and support interactive maps of areas with high risk of strikes for crews of relevant ships• Enhance efforts to quantify ship strike occurrences through necropsies and photo-identification studies• Promote the use of the IWC ship strikes database and of NETCCOBAMS• Support efforts to improve access to the temporal and spatial distribution of shipping, particularly vessels that do not transmit AIS information• Continue cooperation on ships strike issue with other International Organisations, such CMS, IHO, IWC, EMSA (EU) / REMPEC / IMO and Pelagos Agreement and contributing in any other relevant initiatives, projects and workshops in the ACCOBAMS Area	<div>3 000 €</div> <div>30 000 €</div> <div>10 000 €</div> <div>10 000 €</div> <div>8 000 €</div>	<div>5 000 €</div> <div>5 000 €</div> <div>5 000 €</div> <div>(LB 52)</div>	5 000 € (LB 52)			<div>51 000 €</div> <div>51 000 €</div> <div>51 000 €</div>
Promote the use of mitigation measures	High	Secretariat, Scientific Committee Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the results of existing efforts and encouragement of the development of new real time cetacean localisation projects, which are designed to be complementary tools in avoiding ship strikes; and review of the progress on the development of a whale-safe certificate• Strengthen cooperation between countries that share marine areas with high risk of collision for cetaceans in order to develop a joint and coherent management for these areas• Foster the development of incentive systems to shipping companies adopting suggested mitigation measures• Support national or regional projects in order to reduce the risk of collision• Evaluate the effectiveness of implemented or	<div>30 000 €</div> <div>10 000 €</div> <div>30 000 €</div> <div>20 000 €</div>	0 €			20 000 € ShiPrint	100 000 €

			proposed new mitigation measures (such as the APMs in the North-Western Mediterranean PSSA)	20 000 €					
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support development of standards and accelerate the process for nautical charts to be updated and reflect the areas crucial for the protection of marine life	10 000 €					
TOTAL CA2c - Vessel strikes				181 000 €	5 000€ 5 000€ 5 000€	5 000€		20 000€	151 000€ 151 000€ 151 000€

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)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Monitoring status of whale watching activities in the ACCOBAMS Area and their potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations	High	Scientific Committee through the WWWG, Parties, Secretariat Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implement a pilot study to define the whale watching “carrying capacity” in a targeted geographical area where commercial whale watching is intensively practicedConduct an analysis of existing national legislations related to cetacean watching to support the work of experts and coordinate with the Pelagos WGCollaborate with relevant organisations, such as CMS, IWC and Pelagos AgreementUpdate the list of WW operations	150 000 € 5 000 € 5 000 €	0 €	5 000 € (LB 52)			155 000 €
Promote the use of whale watching vessels as platforms of opportunity	Medium	Scientific Committee through the WWWG, Parties, Secretariat Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue testing and updating the IlogWhales App that incorporates the common procedure for data collection by whale watching operators, making sure that there is compatibility with other similar programmes running on collaborative platforms (eg.: OBSenMER)Organise photo-ID and data collection training for whale watching operators, with the final goal of sharing the collected data	50 000 €	0 €				50 000 €
Support the implementation of the HQWW certificate in the ACCOBAMS Area	High	Secretariat, Partners Parties Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote the implementation of the HQWW certificate by Parties and in areas -based management measures in collaboration with relevant projects/organisationsOrganise Trainings on HQWWRevise the regulations governing the use of the collective certification mark “High Quality Whale Watching®” (HQWW) with the objective of simplifying the implementation at the national level and facilitate replication in other geographical areas"Liaise with relevant tourism organisations	10 000 €	0 €	5 000 € (LB 52)			5 000 €
TOTAL CA2d - Cetacean watching				220 000 €	0	10 000 €			210 000 €

CA 2 e		Marine litter							
Expected outcomes		Improved monitoring of marine litter in relation with cetaceans.							
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Monitor the impacts of marine litter (ingested marine litter / microplastics / entanglements in ghost nets) on cetaceans	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support actions to implement the best practice guidelines for cetacean <i>post-mortem</i> investigation, including the assessment of ingested marine litter and entanglement in ghost netsPromote/support/liaise with projects and research activities to develop standardised methods to detect the occurrence and effects of marine litter, including micro-plastics, in cetacean speciesStandardise diagnostic methods to evaluate the presence of marine litter in marine mammals' gastrointestinal tracts, categorise and quantify identified marine litter, detect plastic additives and absorbed contaminants, and develop risk, impact, and mortality indexFacilitate regional collaboration between tissue banks to exchange tissue samples for joint analyses and retrospective studiesIdentify hot-spot areas for marine litter accumulation and identify threat to cetacean species occurring in those areasDevelop a proposal to use cetacean species as indicators of marine litter in the ACCOBAMS AreaCollaborate with relevant organisations (ASCOBANS, IWC, MEDPOL, IMO, FAO) including through joint activitiesPromote cetacean species as indicators for microplastics and macro-litter pollution at the ACCOBAMS scale and encourage their inclusion as indicator species within the IMAP candidate indicator 24 and MSFD descriptor 10Promote campaigns on the ban of single-use plastics	50 000 € 10 000 € 15 000 € 5 000 € 30 000 € 10 000 € 15 000 €	0 €	5 000 € (LB 52)			130 000 €
TOTAL CA2e – Marine litter				135 000 €	0 €	5 000€			130 000 €

CA 2 f		Chemical & biological pollution							
Expected outcomes		Improved monitoring of chemical & biological pollution on cetaceans.							
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Monitor the impact of chemical & biological pollution (such as pathogens, invasive species) on cetaceans	Medium	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an inventory of institutions or laboratories within the ACCOBAMS Area able to analyse samples for legacy and emerging pollutants• Establish a common database on diseases and chemical burdens	5 000 €	0 €				80 000 €
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess cumulative effects and multiple stressors, including chemicals, marine litter, climate change, and emerging pathogens, on cetaceans in ACCOBAMS Area – Ideally through a dedicated workshop – ToR• Disseminate the best practices to assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans with a focus on emerging contaminants	25 000 €					
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organise trainings on the best practices to assess the impact of chemical pollution – ToR	20 000 €					
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate with relevant organisations, initiatives and projects to better understand the toxicological effects of macro and micro-litter ingestion in cetaceans, considering chemical, ecotoxicological, and physical effects	10 000 €					
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define and develop new methods to evaluate exposure to plastics and plastic additives in free-ranging organisms, using approaches like -omics to reveal exposure to various stressors and identify new endpoints	10 000 €					
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop new diagnostic techniques to understand the effects of cumulative stressors on cetaceans, both through the examination of stranded animals and in vitro experiments using new technologies	10 000 €					
TOTAL CA2f - Chemical & biological pollution				80 000 €	0 €				80 000 €

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)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Contribute to regional initiatives on climate change	Medium	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Receive and consider the report from CMS workshopAssess the carbon footprint of bottom trawl fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea in terms of their contribution to climate change, including both direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions	8 000 €	0 €				8 000 €
Total CA2g - Climate change				8 000 €	0 €				8 000 €

CA 2 i	Captivity related issues
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Expected outcomes	All specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS Area are listed Advisory Committee on captivity issues and semi-enclosed facilities is operational
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Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Identify specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS Area	High	Scientific Committee Parties Non-Party Range States, Secretariat Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue the work of the ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilitiesContinue updating the overview of specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS Area in collaboration with international organisations (such as CITES)Reinforce collaboration with NFP/NGO/ACCOBAMS Partners/CITES authorities in each countryImplement the cetacean genetic passport process, including genetic and biological data for cetaceans in aquaria and dolphinariumDisseminate Guidelines for Best Practices during the Installation and Management of Semi-enclosed Facilities for Cetacean Species in the ACCOBAMS area, as well as the Procedural Steps for Requesting Advice from the ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on Semi-Enclosed Facilities when considering initiatives related to semi-enclosed facilities	15 000 € 20 000 €	0 €	6 000 € (LB 52)			29 000 €
TOTAL CA2i - Captivity related issues				35 000 €	0 €	6 000 €			29 000 €

CA 3 a		Area-based measures for cetacean conservation							
Expected outcomes		Cetacean Critical Habitats are updated IMMAs are updated and new ones are identified Implementation of relevant measures are initiated in some pilot Cetacean Critical Habitats							
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Regularly update Cetacean Co-occurrence & Human activities (CCH) and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), as appropriate, including by identifying priority areas for action to mitigate the known threats (bycatch...) / area-based management measures	Main	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strengthen links through meetings and workshops with Duke Marine Lab., MSP group or authorities, other relevant scientific groups working on SDM, human mapping and overlapping maps – ToROrganise workshops within the SC to review and revise existing maps of SDM modelling exercises or human pressure mapsOrganise workshop considering some trials in pilot areas of the overlapping process to identify CCHParticipate/collaborate to the upcoming IMMA workshopReinforce collaboration with the "Strategical Alliance among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN" and the Pelagos Agreement for spatial-based protection and management measuresLiaise with INFO/RAC and PAP/RAC, and their mapping platform KMAP and explore the facilities of the NETCCOBAMS network	100 000 €	5 000 € 5 000 € 5 000 € (LB 53)	15 000 € 15 000 € 15 000 € (LB 53)			80 000 € 80 000 € 80 000 €
Support implementation of relevant measures for adequate management in CCH	Main	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify and promote relevant management measures in pilot CCH, in collaboration with all stakeholders, including network of MPAs managersCollaborate with other Organisations, such as UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention System (EcAp/IMAP, QSR), SPA/RAC (AGEM), BSC, IMO, IWC, GFCM, IUCN and the Pelagos AgreementDefine threat based Ranking protocol of CCH	30 000 €	5 000 € 5 000 € 5 000 € (LB 53)				25 000 € 25 000 € 25 000 €
TOTAL CA3a - Area-based measures for cetacean conservation				130 000 €	10 000 € 10 000 € 10 000 €	15 000 € 15 000 € 15 000 €			105 000 € 105 000 € 105 000 €

CA 4 a		Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans							
Expected outcomes		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 accurately information General public and other relevant stakeholders are aware about cetaceans and need for their conservation through activities supported by or linked to ACCOBAMS							
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
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	Main	Secretariat Parties Scientific Committee Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parties & Sec: Implement the ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">upgrading communication productsimproving presence on social networksassessing the effectiveness of the Communication StrategyDevelopment of NETCCOBAMS Platform (<i>see MA1a</i>)Promote the use of ACCOBAMS certificates and all ACCOBAMS Best PracticesUpdate ACCOBAMS Guidelines and promote them - ToRLink conservation with human culture activities (UNESCO/Ocean decade) by initiating joint natural history exhibitions and offering expertise and knowledge eg identify heritage sitesPromote knowledge about importance of museum collectionsSC: Provide advice to the Secretariat on scientific aspects of the Communication strategy	100 000 €	15 000 € 20 000 € 32 500 € (LB 54)	5 000 € (LB 54)			80 000 € 75 000 € 62 500 €
Promote citizen sciences uses	Medium	Secretariat Parties Scientific Committee Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide and overview of initiatives and tools already in place/in order to mutualise efforts in particular at the level of young peopleOrganise a Workshop on how to collect data and data exchanges through citizen science - ToR	25 000 €	0 €				25 000 €
Introduce in a new Country / Disseminate the ACCOBAMS Teaching Module courses	Medium	Secretariat Parties Scientific Committee Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote updated ACCOBAMS teaching module in universities dealing with cetacean conservation - ToRTranslation of the Teaching Module to national languages of ACCOBAMS Parties	30 000 €	0 €				30 000 €
Promote and disseminate public awareness tools	High	Secretariat Parties Scientific Committee Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organise a Conference on cetacean conservation in South Mediterranean Countries - CSMC – ToRDisseminate public awareness tools in national languagesSupport publications by national experts in international journals	40 000 € 15 000 € 10 000 €	10 000 € 10 000 € 20 000 € (LB 54)				55 000 € 55 000 € 45 000 €
TOTAL CA4a - Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans				220 000 €	25 000€ 30 000€ 52 500€	5 000 €			190 000 € 185 000 € 162 500 €

CA 5 a	Cetacean culture
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Expected outcomes	The potential importance of social learning and culture for cetacean conservation in the ACCOBAMS region is considered
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Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action led by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
						OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
Promote Cetacean culture	Medium	Secretariat Parties Scientific Committee Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Receive and discuss the report of the ACCOBAMS working group on Culture and Social learning	3 000 €	0 €				3 000 €
TOTAL CA5a - Cetacean culture				3 000 €	0 €				3 000 €

TOTAL CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
			OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
	6 076 000 €	132 000 € 157 000 € 194 500€	86 000 € 86 000 € 86 000 €	1 267 000 €	65 000 €	4 526 000€ 4 501 000€ 4 463 500 €

TOTAL BUDGET (MA + CA)	Total Budget (€)	OC 2026-2028	Funds secured (€)			Required additional VC/EF (€)
			OC 2023-2025	VC	EF	
	6 922 800 € 6 923 000 € 6 936 000 €	863 800 € 894 000€ 939 500€	86 000 € 86 000 € 86 000 €	1 267 000 €	65 000 €	4 641 000 € 4 616 000 € 4 578 500 €