

## REPORT ON INCOMES AND EXPENDITURES RELEVANT TO THE TRUST FUND AND EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023-2025



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### GENERAL COMMENTS

The 2020-2022 budget was adopted by the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (Malta, 29 November – 2 December 2022) under Resolution 8.2.

The funds available for implementation of the Agreement consist of:

- 1) the Trust Fund, accrued through Parties' Ordinary Contributions,
- 2) External Funds, Voluntary Contributions granted by Parties, or co-funding through other entities for activities linked to priority conservation issues; and
- 3) the in-cash and in-kind contributions provided by Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement

This report presents an overview of incomes and expenditures in relation to the Trust Fund for 2023-2025, as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The income sources presented comprise the adopted budget for 2023-2025, which is based on Ordinary Contributions from Parties, and Voluntary Contributions kindly provided by Parties, as well as co-fundings provided by entities that jointly developed activities with ACCOBAMS in relation to conservation priorities.

A breakdown of expenditures is shown in table 3. *“Adopted budget - Ordinary Contributions - and expenditure as of 30 June 2025”*, alongside with the adopted budget for 2023-2025, and the budget accrued by remaining amounts from previous years.

Information on expenditures related to the Supplementary Conservation Fund is provided in document ACCOBAMS-MOP9/2025/Doc17.

The Secretariat is grateful for the support received from Governments, governmental and non-governmental Organisations and other Institutions towards the implementation of the Agreement. Special acknowledgments are due to the Principality of Monaco for their in cash and in-kind contributions and to the Italian and Spanish Governments for their Voluntary Contributions provided during the 2023-2025 triennium.

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<sup>1</sup> On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## I. ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST FUND

During the 3-years period 2023-2025, 24 countries were Parties to the Agreement.

Detailed information on each country's contributions per year are given in Tables 1.a, 1.b and 1.c.

The corresponding sum-up of Ordinary Contributions received and due in relation to the 3-years period is offered in Table 2.

**Table 1. Ordinary Contributions to the Trust Fund received and due for 2023-2025, as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (in Euros)**

Table 1. a. Ordinary Contributions related to 2023

Country	Balance due on 31/12/2022	2023 contributions	Due amounts in 2023*	Amounts received as of 31/12/2023	Balance due as of 31/12/2023
ALBANIA	2 304	2 304	4 608	0	4 608
ALGERIA	0	4 328	4 328	0	4 328
BULGARIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
CROATIA	0	2 661	2 661	2 661	0
CYPRUS	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
EGYPT	0	4 086	4 086	4 086	0
FRANCE	0	66 712	66 712	66 712	0
GEORGIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
GREECE***	50 648	12 662	63 310	63 310	0
ITALY	0	64 769	64 769	64 769	0
LEBANON	4 608	2 304	6 912	0	6 912
LIBYA	51 050	3 360	54 410	0	54 410
MALTA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MONTENEGRO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MOROCCO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MONACO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
PORTUGAL**	0	10 538	10 538	31 614	-21 076
ROMANIA***	4 947	4 947	9 894	9 894	0
SLOVENIA**	0	2 304	2 304	6 912	-4 608
SPAIN	0	56 732	56 732	56 732	0
SYRIA	17 862	2 304	20 166	0	20 166
TUNISIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
TÜRKIYE	0	27 370	27 370	27 370	0
UKRAINE	2 769	2 769	5 538	0	5 538
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134 188</b>	<b>288 582</b>	<b>422 770</b>	<b>352 492</b>	<b>70 278</b>

\*Including unpaid amounts from previous years.

\*\* Slovenia and Portugal have paid their 2023-2024-2025 Contributions in 2023.

\*\*\* Greece and Romania paid previous unpaid contributions in 2023.

Table 1. b. Ordinary Contributions related to 2024

Country	Balance due on 31/12/2023	2024 contributions	Due amounts in 2024*	Amounts received as of 31/12/2024	Balance due as of 31/12/2024
ALBANIA	4 608	2 304	6 912	0	6 912
ALGERIA	4 328	4 328	8 656	8 656	0
BULGARIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
CROATIA	0	2 661	2 661	2 661	0
CYPRUS	0	2 304	2 304	0	2 304
EGYPT	0	4 086	4 086	4 086	0
FRANCE	0	66 712	66 712	66 712	0
GEORGIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
GREECE	0	12 662	12 662	12 662	0
ITALY	0	64 769	64 769	64 769	0
LEBANON	6 912	2 304	9 216	0	9 216
LIBYA	54 410	3 360	57 770	0	57 770
MALTA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MONTENEGRO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MOROCCO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MONACO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
PORTUGAL**	-21 076	10 538	-10 538	0	-10 538
ROMANIA	0	4 947	4 947	4 947	0
SLOVENIA**	-4 608	2 304	-2 304	0	-2 304
SPAIN	0	56 732	56 732	56 732	0
SYRIA	20 166	2 304	22 470	0	22 470
TUNISIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
TÜRKIYE	0	27 370	27 370	27 370	0
UKRAINE	5 538	2 769	8 307	5 385,62	2 921
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70 278</b>	<b>288 582</b>	<b>358 860</b>	<b>270 109</b>	<b>88 752</b>

\*Including unpaid amounts from previous years.

\*\* Slovenia and Portugal have paid their 2023-2024-2025 Contributions in 2023.

Table 1. c. Ordinary Contributions related to 2025 (as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025)

Country	Balance due on 31/12/2024	2025 contributions	Due amounts in 2025*	Amounts received on 30/06/2025	Balance due on 30/06/2025
ALBANIA	6 912	2 304	9 216		9 216
ALGERIA	0	4 328	4 328	4 328	0
BULGARIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
CROATIA	0	2 661	2 661		2 661
CYPRUS	2 304	2 304	4 608		4 608
EGYPT	0	4 086	4 086		4 086
FRANCE	0	66 712	66 712		66 712
GEORGIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
GREECE	0	12 662	12 662	12 662	0
ITALY	0	64 769	64 769	64 769	0
LEBANON	9 216	2 304	11 520		11 520
LIBYA	57 770	3 360	61 130		61 130
MALTA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MONTENEGRO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
MOROCCO	0	2 304	2 304	2 288	16
MONACO	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
PORTUGAL**	-10 538	10 538	0		0
ROMANIA	0	4 947	4 947		4 947
SLOVENIA**	-2 304	2 304	0		0
SPAIN	0	56 732	56 732	56 732	0
SYRIA	22 470	2 304	24 774		24 774
TUNISIA	0	2 304	2 304	2 304	0
TÜRKIYE	0	27 370	27 370	27 370	0
UKRAINE	2 921	2 769	5 690	2 921	2 769
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88 752</b>	<b>288 582</b>	<b>377 334</b>	<b>184 894</b>	<b>192 439</b>

\*Including unpaid amounts from previous years.

\*\* Slovenia and Portugal have paid their 2023-2024-2025 Contributions in 2023.

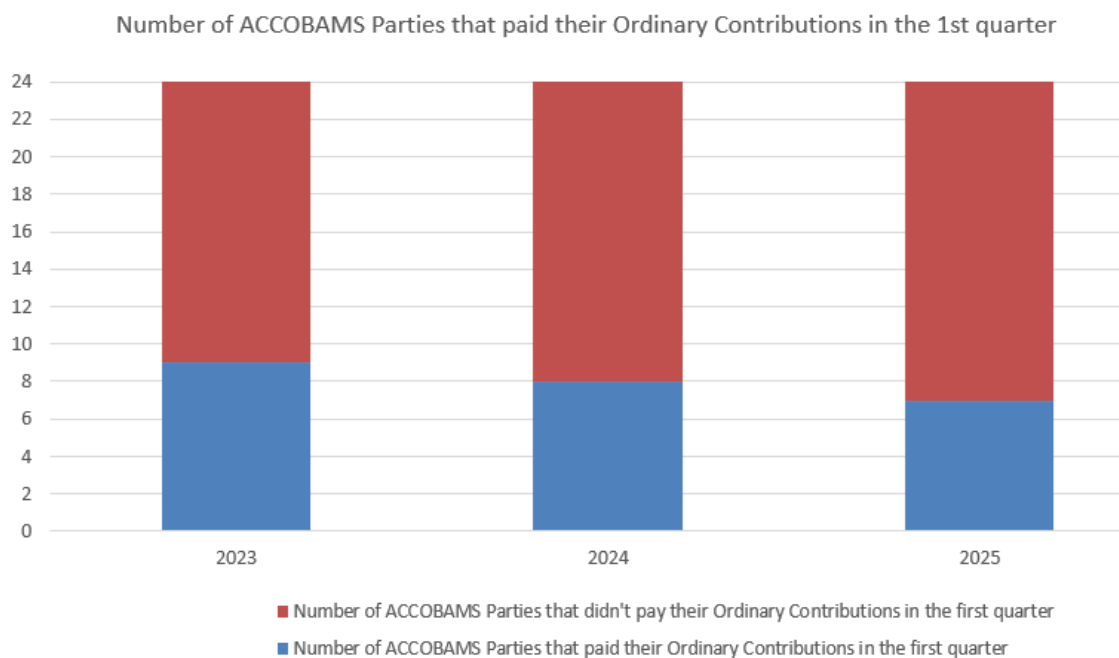
Table 2. Sum-up of Ordinary Contributions related to and received during 2023-2025 (in Euros)

Balance due on 31/12/2022	2023 contributions	Due amounts in 2023*	Amounts received in 2023	Balance due on 31.12.23*
134 188	288 582	422 770	352 492	70 278
Balance due on 31/12/2023	2024 contributions	Due amounts in 2024*	Amounts received in 2024	Balance due on 31.12.24*
70 278,	288 582	358 860	270 108	88 752
Balance due on 31/12/2024	2025 contributions	Due amounts in 2025*	Amounts received in 2025	Balance due on 30.06.25*
88 752	288 582	377 333	184 894	192 439

\*Including unpaid amounts from previous years.

According to ACCOBAMS Resolution 8.2. Ordinary Contributions should be paid during the first quarter of each year. However, many Ordinary Contributions were paid later, as payments done during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year varied as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2023: 9 Parties paid their Ordinary Contribution, i.e. 38% of ACCOBAMS Parties
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024: 8 Parties paid their Ordinary Contribution, i.e. 33% of ACCOBAMS Parties
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025: 7 Parties paid their Ordinary Contribution, i.e. 29% of ACCOBAMS Parties



## II. OVERVIEW OF INCOMES AND EXPENDITURES RELEVANT TO THE TRUST FUND FOR 2023-2025

The Trust Fund was used in accordance with the Budget adopted for 2023-2025 at MOP8. The total expenditure per budget line for the 3-years period, as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 is presented in table 3 below. [Annex 1](#) presents detailed information on budget lines.

Table 3. Adopted budget - Ordinary Contributions - and expenditure as of 30 June 2025

Budgetary lines Resolution 8.2, Budget 2023-2025		Adopted budget 2023-2025	Budget as revised as of 30 June 2025*	Expenditure as of 30 June 2025	Balance as of 30 June 2025
General Management and Administrative Support		A	B	C	D = B - C
<b>Administrative staff</b>					
1101	Executive Secretary Housing Allowance	36 000	36 000	30 000	6 000
1102	Programme & Project Officer 1**	150 000	104 798	104 798	0
1103	Programme & Project Officer 1	150 000	150 000	115 220	34 780
1104	Accounting and Programme Assistant (50%)	75 000	75 000	60 297	14 703
<b>Administrative assistance</b>					
1201	Translators	3 000	3 378	0	3 378
1202	Fund management Controller	6 000	8 249	3 756	4 493
1203	External assistance**	9 000	54 204	40 150	14 054
1300	Bank fees	1 500	2 846	1 645	1 200
1400	Hospitality	2 400	2 400	1 783	618
<b>Administrative support</b>					
1501	Coordination Units	9 600	14 816	11 595	3 221
1502	Secretariat staff travel	39 400	45 413	42 573	2 840
<i>Subtotal General Management and Administrative support</i>		481 900	497 103	411 816	85 287
<b>Institutional Meetings</b>					
2100	Meeting of the Parties	61 000	63 316	7 269	56 047
2200	Scientific Committee	49 000	71 032	64 944	6 088
2300	Bureau	25 000	26 683	25 773	910
2400	Meeting of National Representatives	15 000	18 598	17 436	1 162
2500	Follow-up Committee Meeting	5 000	7 476	4 815	2 661
<i>Subtotal Institutional Meetings</i>		155 000	187 105	120 237	66 868
<b>Support to Conservation Actions</b>					
52	Human-Cetacean interactions /Emergency situations	69 000	96 520	59 753	36 767
53	Habitats / Research and Monitoring	56 400	138 698	73 516	65 181
54	Public Awareness/ Disseminations of information	101 500	128 564	128 448	116
<i>Subtotal Support to Conservation Actions</i>		226 900	363 782	261 717	102 065
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>863 800</b>	<b>1 047 990</b>	<b>793 771</b>	<b>254 220</b>

\* Revised budget= adopted budget + Remaining from 2020- 2022+ specific reimbursements from voluntary contribution or co fundings

\*\* During BU17 (February 2025), the Bureau invited the Secretariat to transfer the available budget of the Budgetary Line "ACCOBAMS Project Officer (1102)" to the to the Budgetary Line "External assistance (1203)", in accordance with paragraph 15 of Annex 3 of the Resolution 8.2

### III. OVERVIEW OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED BY PARTIES

Table 4. a. Voluntary Contributions received during 2023-2025 as of 30 June 2025

Year	from (country)	Voluntary Contribution (euros)	Used to (activities developed)
2023	Monaco	50 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the organisation of the Sixth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries (CSMC6, 13-15 November 2023, Monastir, Tunisia), including a contest aimed at selecting the best informative posters in relation to the ACCOBAMS scientific scope of work (with co-funding from SPA/RAC and Malta).</li> <li>Promote cetacean conservation actions.</li> <li>Development of a new module (cartographic and statistical) "Visi Zone" on the NETCCOBAMS platform to monitor all boats equipped with an AIS system in the ZMPV.</li> </ul>
	Italy	30 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contribute to the reduction of ship strikes in high-risk areas – proposed action: Monitor/ assess high-risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) in the Mediterranean and adjacent Atlantic Area</li> <li>to support activities in the framework of EU-Life funded project SeaDetect “Marine automated DETECTION and anti-collision system with cetaceans “</li> </ul>
		4 061	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cover the expenses of participation to the Scientific Committee meetings of up to 6 regional representatives from eligible Countries</li> </ul>
	Spain	18 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support the functioning of MEDACES in 2023</li> </ul>
2024	Monaco	50 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the organisation of a joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS workshop with National Navies on 26-27 November 2024, in Toulon, France</li> <li>Support the development and the functioning of the NETCCOBAMS platform.</li> </ul>
	Italy	8 532	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to cover the expenses of participation to the 16<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee meeting of 6 regional representatives from eligible Countries</li> </ul>
	Spain	18 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support the functioning of MEDACES in 2024</li> </ul>

Table 4.b. Unspent Voluntary Contributions received in previous years and used during 2023-2025

Year	from (country)	Used in (year)	Used to (activities developed)
2011	France	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to renew the trademark HQWW® registration for Monaco and the European Union in May 2024. The renewal is valid for a period of ten years.</li> </ul>
2018	Italy	2023 & 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to partially support the participation of 5 experts from Morocco, Tunisia and Montenegro at the 16th marine mammal necropsy workshop (11 - 13 July 2023), organised by the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liege (Belgium).</li> <li>to prepare a second workshop to update on the activities implemented in Adriatic on Marine Litter as a follow-up to the first workshop organised in 2019, in particular concerning data collected on ingested marine litter and entanglement evidence, and to facilitate exchange of experiences between the participants.</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to partially support the Workshop on ingested marine litter monitoring &amp; entanglement evidences in the ACCOBAMS Area, 6-7 April 2024, Catania, Italy.</li> </ul>
2019	Italy	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to organise jointly ASCOBANS a workshop on Marine Debris - New and Emerging Aspects, on 15 April 2023 in O Grove, Galicia, Spain. The overarching aim of the workshop was to achieve a better understanding of the effects of marine debris on cetaceans, including the relationship between ingested marine litter and associated toxic chemicals, pathogens and pharmaceuticals for the collection of data in North-western Mediterranean Sea using Autonomous Underwater and Surface Vehicles;</li> <li>Contribute to the construction of a ACCOBAMS of a “Big Data” analytics tool.</li> </ul>
2020	Italy	2023 & 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to develop draft guidelines for best practices during the installation and management of semi-enclosed facilities for cetacean species in the ACCOBAMS area and to develop a draft template for a genetic passport for cetacean species that are kept in captivity, in the ACCOBAMS area, in collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities</li> <li>to update of the 2012 teaching module courses</li> <li>to translate in French ACCOBAMS Best Practices on cetacean population genetics</li> <li>to organise a webinar on the collection and analysis of data on cetacean population genetics on 8 November 2023</li> <li>finalise bibliographic review on the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans and Guidelines on best practices to assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans</li> <li>to support Articles for publication at Frontiers Special Issue on ASI</li> </ul>

#### IV. OVERVIEW OF CO-FUNDINGS

Table 5. Co-fundings received and used during 2023-2025, as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Year	from (organisation)/ project	Co-funding (euros)	Used to (activities developed)
2023	<b>UNEP/MAP</b>	16 808	assessment of underwater noise pollution in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the 2023 Quality Status Report of the Barcelona Convention
	<b>MAVA Foundation / MedBycatch project</b>	37 152	Phase 2 of the MedBycatch project (“Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa bycatch of vulnerable species and testing mitigation following the GFCM Methodology for data collection”)
	<b>MAVA Foundation/ Depredation project</b>	31 819	Phase 2 of the Depredation project (“Mitigating dolphin depredation in Mediterranean fisheries – Joining efforts to strengthen cetacean conservation and sustainable fisheries”)
	<b>HCMR /ABIOMED project</b>	14 712	This EU Funded ABIOMMED project started in July 2021 and will finish in December 2023. The Secretariat is coordinating the activity “ <i>Streamlining Descriptor’s D1 selected criteria regarding mammal’s species groups (small toothed cetaceans, deep diving</i>

			<i>toothed cetaceans and baleen whales) towards coordinated monitoring and assessment in the Mediterranean region”</i>
	<b>CIESM</b>	507	support of SC Members during the 15th Meeting the Scientific Committee
	<b>CTN Naval Group / QUIETSEAS project</b>	56 360	finalisation of the QUIETSEAS project
2024	<b>UNEP/MAP</b>	2 729	assessment of underwater noise pollution in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the 2023 Quality Status Report of the Barcelona Convention
	<b>FAO / GFCM / Morocco project</b>	101 270	in the framework of a project aiming at monitoring activities, and mitigation measures for the reduction of dolphin depredation in purse seiners in the Mediterranean side of Morocco led by INRH in Morocco
	<b>MareCamp/</b> FAO/GFCM project in Sicily	3 240	in the framework of a FAO/GFCM project for monitoring activities and mitigation measures for the reduction of dolphin depredation in small-scale
	<b>Çukurova University/</b> FAO/GFCM project in Türkiye	9 589	in the framework of a FAO/GFCM project for Reduction and mitigation of the catch of elasmobranchs, sea turtles, and any other vulnerable species (e.g. marine mammals), incidentally captured by trawlers along Turkish coast (GSA 24 –Northern Levant Sea)”
	<b>HCMR /ABIOMED project</b>	22 780	finalisation of the ABIOMED project
2025	<b>IUCN</b>	2 347	support of SC Members during the 16th Meeting the Scientific Committee
	<b>CIESM</b>	2 440	support of SC Members during the 16th Meeting the Scientific Committee
	<b>Çukurova University/</b> FAO/GFCM project in Türkiye	6 022	finalisation of a FAO/GFCM project for Reduction and mitigation of the catch of elasmobranchs, sea turtles, and any other vulnerable species (e.g. marine mammals), incidentally captured by trawlers along Turkish coast (GSA 24 –Northern Levant Sea)”

## VI. OTHER INCOMES

Remaining amounts from VAT refunding made on operations carried out in Monaco and in France (2023- 2025) amounted to 28 216€ (on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025).

## VII. SECURED FUND

Paragraph 20 of Annex 3 of Resolution 8.2 foresees that a secured fund equivalent to 30% of the administrative budget is created. the “secured fund” line amounts to 28 800 € as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**VIII. CASH FLOW (as of 30.06.25)**

Table 6. cash-flow

ACCOBAMS Trust Fund bank account	euros
Remaining from previous years + ordinary contributions + voluntary contributions + cofundings + other incomes*	474 426
Cash	130
<b>TOTAL (as of 30/06/2025)</b>	<b>474 556</b>

**IX. CONTRIBUTION FROM MONACO AS THE HOST COUNTRY TO ACCOBAMS**

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 ACCOBAMS Resolution 6.2 on the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country, the Principality of Monaco provides both in-cash and in-kind contributions to support the functioning of the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

The financial support perceived by Monaco in the framework of the Headquarters Agreement feeds in a different ACCOBAMS bank account and remains outside the scope of the Trust Fund, as it relates to the Headquarters Agreement with regard to the regular functioning of the Secretariat including staff costs.

The Headquarters Agreement budget for the triennium is convened between the Principality of Monaco and the Executive Secretary and is subjected to the verification of, and validation by, the Fund management Controller.

The in-cash contribution provided by the Principality of Monaco is aimed at enabling the general functioning of the Secretariat whose premises are located in the Principality, and at funding the salaries of both the Executive Secretary and the Assistant to the Executive Secretary.

The in-kind contribution provided by the Principality of Monaco is aimed at hosting the Secretariat in Monaco and at hosting two Programme & Project Officers working at the Secretariat.

For information purposes the support provided by the Host Country is shown in table 7 below.

Table 7. In-cash and in-kind contributions provided by Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement

		Year		
In-cash contribution	General costs related to the Secretariat functioning	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
		30 716 €	28 837 €	34 800 €
	Secretariat staff costs <sup>2</sup>	191 723 €	182 160 €	183 574 €
<b>Total in-cash contribution</b>		<b>213 600 €</b>	<b>216 600 €</b>	<b>218 374 €</b>
In-kind contribution	Cost of Secretariat's premises	3 118 €	12 647	12 757
	Cost of two apartments to accommodate two Programme & Project Officers working at the Secretariat	25 773 €	26 724 €	14 126 €
<b>Total in-kind contribution</b>		<b>28 891 €</b>	<b>39 371 €</b>	<b>26 883 €</b>
<b>Total contribution from the Host Country per year</b>		<b>242 491 €</b>	<b>255 971 €</b>	<b>245 257 €</b>
Renovation work at the Secretariat offices		12 034 €		
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE HOST COUNTRY</b>		<b>755 753 €</b>		

<sup>2</sup> Salaries and social charges of the Executive Secretary and the Assistant to the Executive Secretary

## Annex 1

### Explanatory note on Trust Fund Budgetary lines

#### 1. Administration and general management

##### **Budget Line 1101: Executive Secretary housing allowance**

The remuneration of the Executive Secretary is composed of the salary provided by the Host Country and a complementary allowance from the Trust Fund covered by this Budget Line.

##### **Budget Lines 1102 & 1103 & 1104: Programme & Project Officers and Accountant**

These budget lines were used to cover expenditure related to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat positions of Programme & Project Officers, notably salaries and social contributions.

During BU17 (February 2025), Bureau members invited the Secretariat to transfer the available budget of the Budgetary Line "ACCOBAMS Project Officer (1102)" - vacant in 2025 - to the Budgetary Line "External assistance (1203)", in accordance with paragraph 15 of Annex 3 of the Resolution 8.2

##### **Budget Line 1201: Translators**

The working languages of ACCOBAMS meetings are English and French. This budget will enable the translation of documents for the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties.

##### **Budget Line 1202: Fund management controller**

According to Resolution 8.2 adopted by the Parties, the budget is audited each year by a Fund management controller. This budget line covers the fees of the Fund management controller during the Triennium

##### **Budget Line 1203: External assistance**

During BU17 (February 2025), Bureau members invited the Secretariat to transfer the available budget of the Budgetary Line "ACCOBAMS Project Officer (1102)" - vacant in 2025 - to the Budgetary Line "External assistance (1203)", in accordance with paragraph 15 of Annex 3 of the Resolution 8.2.

During the 2023-2025 triennium, the amounts allocated to this budget line were mainly used for:

- services provided by legal advisors,
- the appointment of a consultant to work on the preparation of ASI-II and to ensure its timely planning for summer 2026,
- a consultant working on the development of the DOI system for the ACCOBAMS website.

##### **Budget Line 1300: Bank fees**

##### **Budget Line 1400 Hospitality**

##### **Budget Line 1501: Sub Regional Coordination unit**

This line is intended to assist the Sub Regional Coordination Units to develop activities related to ACCOBAMS objectives in the two sub-regions, and attendance at ACCOBAMS meetings.

The expenses related to the activities with the Sub Regional Coordination Units covered:

- the support of the organisation of the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual European Cetacean Society conference
- the participation of the representative of the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit (Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat) to the Fifteen Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.
- the support of the organisation of the 34th annual European Cetacean Society conference.
- the participation of Mediterranean and Black Sea experts at the 17th marine mammal necropsy workshop (July 2024), organised by the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liege (Belgium).
- the participation of the representative of the Mediterranean Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit (SPA/RAC) to the Sixteenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and to the Sixth Meeting of the Extended Bureau.

**Budget Line 1502: Secretariat staff travels**

During the Triennium 2023-2025, the Secretariat attended meetings and workshops to (1) liaise with other Organisations and strengthen collaborations to implement the work programme and (2) to establish and maintain close contacts with Parties and other Riparian countries to assist them in work programme implementation.

During these meetings, the Secretariat presented the activities and the Agreement, distributed information material, investigated potential for joint activities and co-funding possibilities, worked with the competent authorities on the various means necessary to enhance ACCOBAMS implementation at a national level.

The main presential meetings required the participation of the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and of the Chair of the Scientific Committee to some Meetings such as CMS COP and Scientific Council, Meetings of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, such as SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting, ECAP Coordination Group, MAP Focal points, annual European Cetacean Society conference, , Our Ocean Conference, 2nd Ocean Decade Conference.

**2. Institutional Meetings****Budget Line 210: Meeting of the Parties**

The budget adopted for this budget line was intended to support Parties in need of financial assistance and experts to attend the Ninth Meeting of the Parties (November 2025, Cyprus), to prepare working documents and to contribute to the organisation of MOP9.

**Budget Line 220: Scientific Committee**

Two Scientific Committee Meetings were held during this triennium:

- The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee was organised on 10-11 May 2023 in Tunisia.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee was organised on 2-5 December 2024 in Barcelona, Spain.

Moreover, the Chair and the vice Chair of the Scientific Committee attended relevant ACCOBAMS Meetings (BU).

**Budget Line 2300: Bureau**

The expenses of this budget line covered the organisation of 4 Meetings of the Bureau during the triennium 2023-2025:

- The 15<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting was organised in hybrid format, Monaco on 22-23 November 2023.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting was organised online on 18 June 2024, dedicated to the examination of progress of ASI-II project.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting was organised in hybrid format, Monaco on 13-14 February 2025.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting was organised in hybrid format, Nice, France on 23-24 April 2025.

**Budget Line 2400: Meeting of National Representatives (previously called Regional Workshops)**

The 6<sup>th</sup> 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 was organised in June 2024.

It was also used for the recruitment Committee to recruit the new Executive Secretary in October 2024.

**Budget Line 2500: Follow up Committee Meeting**

The expenses of this budget line covered the organisation of the Fourth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee, which was organised in hybrid format, Nice, France on 2-3 September 2025.

**3. Conservation actions****Budget Line 52: Human-cetacean interactions / Emergency situations**

The budget line was used to cover the following activities:

- organise a workshop of the ACCOBAMS-ASCOBANS Joint Bycatch Working Group (JBWG) at the ECS annual conference in O Grove, Spain, (17 April 2023) entitled "*Current bycatch issues in European waters*" and was open to all conference participants.

- support the 4 ACCOBAMS countries (Spain, France, Italy and Monaco) which have submitted a PSSA proposal to IMO (accepted in July 2023): organisation of workshop during the 2023 Monaco Ocean Week, awareness of stakeholders in the Monaco Yacht Club in October 2023, and during the Meeting of the Barcelona Convention, ACCOBAMS side event “Speed up to slow down” during the Monaco Ocean Week on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Coordination Meeting “The NW Mediterranean PSSA and its associated protective measures” has been held at the Italian Coast Guard Headquarters, Rome, on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- Participate in different meetings especially to present the work done on underwater noise jointly with UNEP/MAP (assessment of underwater noise pollution in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the 2023 Quality Status Report of the Barcelona Convention): EU - Technical Group on Underwater Noise (TG-Noise), SERENADE Conference, OOSC.
- promote of the implementation of the « High Quality Whale Watching ® » certificate for operators: support training sessions for operators, support celebratory event marking the 10th anniversary of the High-Quality Whale Watching (HQWW®) label with the creation of a specific video recap, organisation of a workshop “Enhancing Whale-Watching Practices for Cetacean Conservation: an ACCOBAMS Workshop” during the ECS annual conference in Ponta Delgada, Azores on 12-16 May 2025.

### **Budget Line 53: Habitat/ Research and monitoring**

The budget available under this budget line was mainly used to:

- Support, together with an Italian Voluntary Contribution, the participation of 5 experts from Morocco, Tunisia and Montenegro at the 16<sup>th</sup> marine mammal necropsy workshop (11 - 13 July 2023), organised by the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liege (Belgium).
- support the tele-necropsy systems initiative approved by the Parties during MOP8. It has started in Morocco early 2023 with 2 online workshops (3 and 11 April 2023) and a joint ACCOBAMS/ INRH training on standardisation of stranding intervention methods (Tanger 18 - 19 September 2023)
- Use NETCCOBAMS platform as sharing/consultation tool – especially for information regarding cetacean conservation and human activities.
- Support the organisation of 2 CCH workshops: an Hybrid workshop on redefinition of the CCH process (Monaco, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024) and a Workshop back-to-back with the 2024 ECS Conference on human activity data and mapping for the ACCOBAMS CCH process (Catania, Italy 8 April 2024);
- Support the organisation of a workshop “Advances in Marine Mammal Telemetry: Technologies, Analyses, Best Practices, and Future Perspectives” during the 36th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society held in Ponta Delgada, Azores on 12-16 May 2025.
- Present LTMP and other ACCOBAMS initiatives during OOSC and UNOC3 in Nice, France in June 2023.

### **Budget Line 54: Public awareness / Dissemination of information**

The budget line was used to:

- Implement the ACCOBAMS communication strategy.
- Create and disseminate communication material for public awareness and for dissemination of meetings where ACCOBAMS was represented.
- Support the organisation of a workshop titled “Cetacean Culture: Navigating Change in the ACCOBAMS Region and Beyond – Joint workshop with CMS during the 36th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society held in Ponta Delgada, Azores, on 12-16, May 2025.