

RESOLUTION 2.2
STRENGTHENING THE LINKS WITH UNEP AND CMS

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

Recalling that:

- The ACCOBAMS, adopted in Monaco in November 1996, was negotiated, in application of Article IV of UNEP/ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) under UNEP rules and procedures,
- Article III of the Agreement, stating that Meeting of the Contracting Parties are convened by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the UNEP/CMS Secretary,
- Article IV of the Agreement stating that, subject to the approval of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), an Agreement Secretariat shall be established within the Secretariat of the Convention,
- The Resolution 1.2 of the Contracting Parties, establishing the Secretariat, accepting the offer from the Principality of Monaco and providing the Agreement with a trust fund and rules to manage it as stated in Resolution 1.6 and its annexes,
- The special role conferred by the Agreement and the Meeting of the Parties to UNEP managed Secretariats in particular CMS and the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Considering that:

- The Secretariat of ACCOBAMS already collaborates extensively with the CMS Secretariat,
 - Although managed under national rules of the Host Country, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat serves the goals and purposes of an UNEP negotiated Agreement,
 - ACCOBAMS Meetings Rules of Procedures are generally consistent with UNEP Rules of Procedures and practices,
 - The tasks and the legal and financial obligations of the Secretariat are specified in Resolutions adopted by the Contracting Parties in accordance with the Government of Monaco,
1. *Recognizes* that a strengthening of the relations of the Secretariat with UNEP and CMS will facilitate the implementation of the Agreement, and the promotion of wider goals in the region including synergies with UNEP Conventions and in particular CMS and the Barcelona Convention;
 2. *Takes note* with satisfaction of the progress report of the Executive Secretary on its relations with UNEP and CMS;
 3. *Welcomes* the statement made by the Executive Secretary of CMS to strengthen links with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, with particular emphasis on (i) links between ACCOBAMS and other regional and global initiatives affecting cetaceans; (ii) co-operation on information management systems; (iii) joint conservation and publicity projects; (iv) joint fundraising; and (v) joint capacity building programmes;
 4. *Urges* the Secretariat, in close link with the Government of the Principality of Monaco and pertinent UNEP structures, to find the ways and the means to strengthen the link with UNEP and, as far as relevant, to establish a memorandum of understanding (or equivalent mechanism) to this end;
 5. *Charges* the Bureau to follow this process, decide upon the issue of this process and report at the next Meeting of the Parties.