

RESOLUTION 4.20**STRENGTHENING THE STATUS OF ACCOBAMS PARTNERS**

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

Recognizing the significant role played by many Organisations and Institutions in the conservation of cetaceans in the Agreement area,

Desirous of strengthening the involvement of qualified Organisations and Institutions in implementation of ACCOBAMS and of encouraging them to undertake further action to achieve the Agreement's objectives,

Taking note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the activities of ACCOBAMS Partners in the past triennium,

1. *Decides:*

- that Organisations and Institutions interested in formal recognition as Partners to the ACCOBAMS should present an application to the Agreement Secretariat for its inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting of the Bureau for decision;
- that this status will facilitate their involvement in the implementation of the international priorities adopted by the Contracting Parties and financed by the budget of the Agreement or by the supplementary conservation fund, and that ACCOBAMS Partners will receive information about the Scientific Committee in priority;
- to urge the Agreement Secretariat to provide the Organisations and Institutions which are "Partners" a logo with the label "ACCOBAMS Partner", which they will be authorised to use for all relevant activities of the Agreement;
- that the status "ACCOBAMS Partner" vis-à-vis the Agreement may be reviewed by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the basis of a report submitted by the Bureau;

2. *Adopts* the rules and criteria for the status of ACCOBAMS Partner, as annexed to the present Resolution;

3. *Decides* that the application form reproduced in the Appendix to the Annex to this Resolution shall be submitted also by the Organisations and Institutions that have already been granted the ACCOMBAMS Partners status;

4. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolutions 1.13 and 3.5.

ANNEX

Rules and criteria for the status of ACCOBAMS Partner

Criteria for applying to the status of ACCOBAMS Partner

Recognizing that Organisations and Institutions technically qualified for the conservation of cetaceans that are formally recognized as ACCOBAMS Partners by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be expected to contribute on a regular basis and to the best of their ability to the further development of policies, technical and scientific tools of the Agreement and to their application, the status of Partner shall be conferred on Organisations and Institutions that have:

- (a) statutory objectives that are in full agreement with the spirit and objectives of ACCOBAMS;
- (b) a statement of purpose that explicitly, or by clear implication, includes conservation of cetaceans and of their habitat, human-cetacean interactions or other activities relevant to the Agreement;
- (c) experience in providing support to implementing practical research, collection and analysis of information or other educational and training activities that contribute to cetacean conservation;
- (d) demonstrated experience in implementing partnership ventures, such as for training and education, technical and scientific expertise, policy development or evaluation and assessment, particularly when such ventures would bring new and additional benefits to the functioning of the ACCOBAMS partnership;
- (e) demonstrated willingness and ability to cooperate with national and international governmental and non-governmental bodies;
- (f) stated their readiness to contribute actively on a regular basis to further development of policies and tools of the Agreement and their application, particularly by assisting Parties to meet their obligations under the Agreement;
- (g) as a preferential qualification, have already communicated with the Secretariat and cooperated with ACCOBAMS in the achievement of its objectives; and
- (h) submitted an application in writing to the Executive Secretary with a commitment to comply with the present rules, as in the form reproduced in the Appendix.

The application form reproduced in the Appendix shall be submitted also by the Organisations and institutions that have already been granted the ACCOBAMS Partners status in the past.

Rules and commitments of ACCOBAMS Partners

1. Partners shall present at the beginning of their mandate a programme of collaboration with the Secretariat during the triennium. The programme shall be relevant to their contribution to the Agreement in terms of activities carried out in the frame of the Partnership, related to the conservation plan and/or support to the Secretariat.
2. Partners shall commit themselves to make proper use of the ACCOBAMS Partners logo in compliance with the mission and the principles of the Agreement and its conservation plan. Any use of the ACCOBAMS Partner logo shall be previously communicated to the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary and authorized in written by him/her.
3. At each Meeting of the Parties, the ACCOBAMS Partners shall report on implementation of their collaborative programme with ACCOBAMS and on use of the ACCOBAMS Partner logo. To this end, their reports shall reach the Secretariat at least 2 months before the Bureau meeting held to prepare the Meeting of the Parties.

4. The Bureau may decide to withdraw the status of Partner if no activities are reported, if they are considered not to be relevant and if they are contrary to achievement of ACCOBAMS goals or to the present rules and commitments. Withdrawal of the status of Partner does not prejudice any legal action for improper use of the logo.
5. Partners shall be invited to participate in an observer capacity and as advisors in all activities of the Agreement, except when otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.
6. ACCOBAMS Partners shall communicate regularly with the Secretariat concerning activities related to ACCOBAMS objectives. They are also encouraged to share information, including their publications, with their National Focal Points. Partners that own original data on cetaceans in the Agreement area are particularly encouraged to share such data, as appropriate, through the MEDACES stranding database and through the OBIS SEAMAP database.
7. Partners may also be invited, if required, to contribute to evaluation of project proposals, project implementation and evaluation of project results and to participate in the development of policy and technical and/or scientific instruments for application of the Agreement.
8. Any application form shall be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the relevant National Focal Point(s), if any, for their opinion. The opinion shall be submitted to the Bureau to facilitate a decision.

APPENDIX I

Application for the Status of ACCOBAMS' Partner

To the ACCOBAMS Secretariat
 Les Terrasses de Fontvieille, Jardin de l'UNESCO
 MC-98000 Monaco

The _____ (name of the Organisation / Institution) represented by _____ in quality of _____ with the aim to apply for the ACCOBAMS Partner Status and in Accordance with Annex to Resolution 4.20, declares the following characteristics apply to the Organisation/Institution:

	YES	NO
1. Having a statement of purpose that explicitly, or by clear implication, includes conservation of cetaceans and of their habitat, man-cetacean interactions or other activities relevant and in full agreement with the spirit of ACCOBAMS;		
2. Having experience in providing support to and/or implementing practical research, collection and analysis of information or other educational and training activities that contribute to cetacean conservation;		
3. Having demonstrated experience in implementing partnership ventures, such as for training and education, technical and scientific expertise, policy development or evaluation and assessment, particularly when such ventures would bring new and additional benefits to the functioning of the ACCOBAMS partnership;		
4. Demonstration of willingness and ability to cooperate with national and international governmental and nongovernmental bodies including Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations;		
5. Having stated their readiness to contribute actively on a regular basis to further development of policies and tools of the Agreement and their application, particularly by assisting Contracting Parties to meet their obligations under the Agreement;		
6. Having already communicated with the Secretariat and cooperated with ACCOBAMS in the achievement of its objectives;		

The _____ (name of the Organisation / Institution) provides as well:

- a. a copy of its Statute (original and a certified translation into English)
- b. Curriculum Vitae
- c. the following information:

Address, telephone, email and website	
Statute and mission	
Collaboration with other Organisations	
Main reason to request Partnership	<p>Expected benefits to ACCOBAMS</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Expected benefits to the Organisation / Institution</p>

Please list below ideas for planned or proposed activities relevant for the achievement of ACCOBAMS goals and to be carried under the logo of ACCOBAMS Partnership

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

On behalf of the Organisation / Institution, I commit to comply with the rules specified in the Annex to Resolution 4.20.

Date and place

Signature