

RESOLUTION 6.5
WORK PROGRAMME 2017-2019

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,

Taking into account the ACCOBAMS Strategy (2014-2025), as adopted under Resolution 5.1,

Recognizing the need to set priorities,

Acknowledging the relevant work being carried out in other Organizations, in particular within the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the instruments adopted within its framework, 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 system of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

Recalling CMS Resolution 11.2 “Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023”, which urges the CMS Family of instruments to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments, to take actions to raise awareness of the Plan, and invites the decision making bodies of CMS instruments to consider adoption of the Strategic Plan,

Stressing the need to increase collaboration with other relevant International Organizations in the spirit of the ecosystem approach,

Aware that scientific research in 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,

Taking into consideration the results of regional workshops organised in 2015 within ACCOBAMS, where the needs and priorities of Parties for the implementation of the Agreement have been identified,

Thanking the Scientific Committee for its involvement, its work and its wise 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,

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

Recalling Resolutions 1.7 and 5.5, establishing and implementing a Supplementary Conservation Fund,

1. *Notes* that identification of knowledge gaps, both thematic and geographical, is of particular importance for the Agreement;
2. *Adopts* the Work Programme for 2017-2019, as in [Annex 1](#) to the present Resolution, without prejudice to the pursuance of existing conservation actions, and considers as a priority the implementation of the key conservation issues listed in [Annex 2](#) to the present Resolution;
3. *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 Seventh Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Urges* Parties to fully commit themselves in the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops which should be organized in 2018, by having a representative attending the relevant Workshop;
5. *Recommends* Parties, in order to prepare these workshops, to organize through ACCOBAMS Focal Points a half-day national meeting, to collect all the relevant data prior the Regional Workshops;
6. *Asks* Parties to share with the Permanent Secretariat all national relevant GIS information in order to update maps in NETCCOBAMS;
7. *Urges* Parties and specialized international Organizations to develop international cooperative projects for implementation of the Work Programme and to keep the Permanent Secretariat fully informed of progress;
8. *Further urges* Parties and *encourages* 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;
9. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee, the Permanent Secretariat and Bureau, the Sub-Regional Coordinating Units, ACCOBAMS Partners and international and national non-governmental organizations to promote the actions necessary to facilitate implementation of the Work Programme, bearing in mind the Resolutions adopted by the Meetings of the Parties;
10. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee to further promote cooperation with scientific Institutions of the ACCOBAMS area;
11. *Instructs* the Permanent Secretariat to:
 - disseminate the Work Programme for priority actions for 2017-2019, to collaborate closely in its implementation with the Secretariats of other relevant Conventions, international Organizations and ACCOBAMS Partners and to seek appropriate donors;

- inform in time the National Focal Points of workshops and work programmes, as well as of the establishment of working groups within the ACCOBAMS framework;
12. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat to strengthen co-operation and develop activities with other relevant bodies, in particular within the CMS Family, the Barcelona Convention system, the IWC, the Bern Convention, the Bucharest Convention, European Commission, CBD, CITES, GFCM, OSPAR, ICES, IUCN, MedPAN and Pelagos Agreement;
 13. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat to participate in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 to ensure that relevant tools developed by ACCOBAMS are reflected and possible areas of cooperation identified;
 14. *Allows* Parties to submit, as appropriate, to the Permanent Secretariat, by the end of 2016, for transmission to Focal Points and to the Scientific Committee, a list of their proposed priorities for the actions included in the work programme;;
 15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, after consulting the Scientific Committee and on the basis of [Annex 2](#) to this Resolution, the outcomes of the ACCOBAMS Regional Workshops and the Parties' lists of proposed priorities, to submit to the Bureau a proposal to prioritize the implementation of the activities included in the Work Programme, taking into consideration the availability of financial resources, to facilitate its effective and timely implementation;
 16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop for the triennium 2020-2022 the current format for the Work Programme by including, for each action: level of priority, timeline, estimated costs, secured funds, prospected funds for cost coverage; and also *requests* the Executive Secretary to indicate the ongoing actions as well as to assess the overall financial sustainability of the Work Programme.

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WORK PROGRAMME 2017 – 2019

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Actions underlined in green have been identified with a high priority during the ACCOBAMS Regional workshops (April 2015, Menton, France)

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)

MA 1	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION				
MA 1 a	Establish regular communication				
Relevant Resolutions: -					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding ¹
1- Maintain regular communication to inform about ongoing activities, cooperation possibilities, funding possibilities, project call of proposals and other relevant information	Secretariat Parties	Scientific Committee, Partners SRCUs ² Other experts ³	Active e-mailing list (regular exchange of information) New and updated information filled into NETCCOBAMS	ET ⁴	AF
2- Maintain and regularly update NETCCOBAMS , including information about cetacean conservation scientists and experts operating in the region	Secretariat Parties	Scientific Committee, Partners Other experts	Link with the BSIS (Black Sea information system) prototype		
3- Continue organising Regional Workshops with the representatives of Parties and representatives of the Scientific Committee	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee	Regional Workshops organised in 2018	2018	AF, NC
4- Continue organising Biennial Conferences for the Southern Mediterranean countries	Secretariat	Mediterranean SRCU	Biennial conferences organised in 2017	2017	AF, NC, EF
5- Regularly update ACCOBAMS web-site , and newsletter FINS. Link with the Black Sea bulletin	Secretariat	Scientific Committee, SRCUs, Focal Points	New and accurate information available on the web-site FINS regularly published	ET	AF

¹ AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund and Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC =national co-funding/in kind through logistic , etc.... ; EF= External Funds

² SRCUs = Sub-regional Coordination Units

³ Other experts are experts not included in the Scientific Committee and not included as ACCOBAMS Partners

⁴ ET = Entire Triennium

MA 2	INVOLVEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS				
MA 2 a	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations				
Relevant Resolutions: 2.2/ 2.30 / 3.8 / 4.8/4.17/ 4.20 / 6.11/ 6.12					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Strengthen existing partnerships : CIESM, IUCN, GFCM, IMO, CMS and relevant CMS agreements such as ASCOBANS, the Barcelona Convention, RAC/SPA, the Black Sea Commission, IWC, EU Biodiversity Strategy, marine strategies in the ACCOBAMS area (MSFD ⁵), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, Pelagos Agreement, international, regional and local NGOs	Secretariat	Relevant Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners SRCUs Other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint activities/ projects with relevant organizations • Joint working groups on particular issues • Regular meetings of relevant Secretariats • Cetacean conservation activities included in all relevant regional strategic documents, such as in the Black Sea status environment report • Regular communication/meetings with representatives of the relevant NGOs • participation in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 	ET	AF, EF
2- Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage accession of all riparian states to the Agreement • Develop activities with non-Parties 	Secretariat	Relevant Parties and non-Parties, SRCUs, Partners Other experts	All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS	ET	AF, NC, EF
3- Establish collaboration with the EC jointly with ASCOBANS and as feasible with assistance from CMS.	Secretariat	Relevant Parties, Partners,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the relevant fora and Meetings 	ET	AF, EF

⁵ EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

		Other relevant organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD) 		
4- Establish / strengthen collaboration with NATO – NURC, OGP, ICES, OSPAR	Secretariat	Relevant Parties, Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the relevant fora and Meetings • Joint activities 	ET	AF, EF
5- Establish connections with other relevant organizations (EBA, WTO...)		Other relevant organizations, Other experts			
6- Organise a Workshop of Partners	Secretariat	Partners	Reinforcement of synergy between Partners and harmonisation of activities	2017 (SC11)	AF, NC, EF

MA 3	ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES				
MA 3 a	New funding possibilities				
Relevant Resolutions: 1.7/ 3.6/ 5.16/5.5					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Develop a funding strategy	Secretariat	Parties, Partners, SRCUs, CMS	Funding strategy in particular for joint projects	ET	AF
2 –Launch calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund (SCF)	Secretariat	Parties Scientific Committee	Conservation activities implemented through projects funded under the SCF	ET	AF, EF
3- Support development or develop multilateral/transboundary projects	Secretariat	Parties Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, SRCUs Partners Other experts	Project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies	ET	-

MA 4	IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS				
MA 4 a	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress				
Relevant Resolutions: 5.4 / 6.8					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Evaluate the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy (including evaluation of the work programme and level of resolutions implementation by Parties as a basis for new triennial work programme planning)	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee SRCUs Follow-up Committee Partners	Mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS Strategy (including evaluation of work programme and evaluation of the implementation of ACCOBAMS by Parties)	2019	AF
2- Propose remedy actions in cases of non-compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Follow-up Committee	Parties, Secretariat, Scientific Committee	Proposal of remedy actions	ET	AF, NC

MA 5	ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA				
MA 5 a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas				
Relevant Resolutions: A/4.1 / 6.10					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Encourage ratification by Parties of the existing Amendment for geographical extension to the Atlantic	Secretariat	Depositary SRCUs Parties	Amendment has entered into force	ET	AF, NC

CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)

CA 1		IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS			
CA 1 a		Cetacean population estimates and distribution			
Relevant Resolutions: 5.9/ 6.13					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Undertake a comprehensive survey of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Black Sea (based on 2013 survey and conclusions in the final report to EC DG MARE, 2014) using the most appropriate methodology	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners, SRCUs Project Steering Committee, Other experts	Distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the different parts of the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea based on results of the survey	ET	AF, NC, EF

CA 1		IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS			
CA 1 b		Population Structure			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.10/ 2.11/ 3.9/ 4.18/ 6.14					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Identify isolated populations and improve description of population of several species	Scientific Committee Working Group on Population structure	Partners IWC, CMS, ASCOBANS, OSPAR, other experts	Characterisation of Mediterranean, Atlantic and or Black Sea sub populations Identification of isolated populations	ET	AF, EF

2- Investigate and implement modes for better collaboration between tissue banks and Countries to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis.	Parties	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners, SRCUs,	Exchanges of samples facilitated for joint analysis	ET	NC, EF
3-In order to facilitate the exchange of samples, a list of tissue banks registered with the CITES Secretariat should be made available		CITES, Other experts			

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS				
CA 1 c	Monitoring cetaceans status				
Relevant Resolutions: 2.22/ 3.19 / 6.15					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Monitor mortality trends and cases of animals injured through human activities (e.g. ship strikes, bycatch, pollution, epidemic), using existing tools (such as MEDACES, IWC database on ship strikes,...)	Scientific Committee	Parties, SRCUs, Secretariat, Partners, IWC Other experts	Mortality trend reports	2018 (SC12)	AF, NC, EF
2- Assess IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly, and more specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information to assess the Data Deficient species • Evaluate species within the region not previously assessed (e.g. the rough-toothed dolphin) • Consider killer whales in the Agreement area 	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners IUCN, Other experts	Assessment of IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites	2019 (after the ASI)	AF, EF
3- Prepare Red Books of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and communicate with European Union. Coordinate with the Black Sea Red Data Book	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners SRCUs IUCN, Other experts	Preparation of Red Books of cetaceans	2018 (SC12)	AF, EF

CA 2		REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 a		Interaction with fisheries			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.13/ 2.21/ 2.25/ 3.13/ 4.9 / 6.16					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Assess cetaceans bycatch and depredation impacts and propose mitigation measures through pilot actions in the framework of the joint ACCOBAMS/GFCM project	Secretariat GFCM	Parties, SRCUs, Scientific Committee EC, Other experts	Gaining data on cetacean bycatch and depredation impacts in pilot areas in the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent Atlantic waters and on mitigation measures Contribution to GFCM DCRF	ET	AF, NC, EF
2- Assess the bycatch levels in the Agreement area , in connection with GFCM and EU regulations	Secretariat Parties	Partners, SRCUs, Scientific Committee, GFCM, EC, other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaining data on bycatch levels Contribution to GFCM DCRF Contribution to the implementation of the EU Policies 	ET	AF, NC, EF
3- Investigate the establishment of connection with the EU bycatch reporting system	Secretariat	Parties, SRCUs, Scientific Committee GFCM, EC, ICES, other experts	Contribution to the implementation of EU Policies	2017 /2018	AF, NC, EF
4- Investigate funding opportunities to address impacts of interaction between fisheries and cetaceans in the Black Sea through the identification of mitigation measures and the preparation of a draft Strategy for reducing cetacean bycatch	Secretariat	Parties SRCU Scientific Committee GFCM, EC, IWC, other experts	Improving knowledge on interaction of fisheries on cetaceans in the Black Sea (Coordinate with strategic action plan implementation report -SAPIR) Contribution to GFCM DCRF	ET	AF, NC, EF
5 - Develop a joint working group with ASCOBANS on bycatch, and explore opportunities for linking this to the Bycatch Initiative established under the IWC.	Secretariat	Scientific Committee, ASCOBANS, IWC	joint working group with ASCOBANS on bycatch	2017	-

CA 2		REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 b		Anthropogenic noise			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.16 / 3.10/ 4.17/ 5.15 / 6.17/ 6.18					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Pursue the identification of anthropogenic noise /cetaceans interactions hot spots in the ACCOBAMS area	Secretariat Parties JNWG	Scientific Committee, Partners RAC/ SPA Other experts	Overview of noise hot spots (Phase II III)	2017 /2018	AF, EF
2- Monitor all activities in the region including impulsive noise component through the development of an ACCOBAMS Common database	Parties	Secretariat RAC/ SPA Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview(s) of approved activities including impulsive noise component • National Noise databases • ACCOBAMS Common database 	ET	AF, NC, EF
3- Develop a regional project to implement a monitoring of underwater noise, particularly in critical habitats and in interactions hot spots	Secretariat, JNWG,	Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners RAC/ SPA Other experts	Regional Project	2016	AF, NC, EF
4- Develop and update more detailed guidelines to mitigate impacts of anthropogenic noise (using the existing guidelines Res 4.17) and update the guide for Parties to use mitigation measures	JNWG	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Other experts	Updated guide to use mitigation measures	2019	AF
5- Assess the feasibility to develop best practice guidelines for an EIA review process	Scientific Committee, Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States JNWG, Partners Other experts	Assessment of feasibility to develop best practice guidelines for an EIA review process	2019	AF, EF
6- Develop cooperation on noise issue with other international Organizations such as CMS Family, EC, OSPAR, ICES, the Barcelona Convention, Black	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States	Joint activities Meetings Workshop	ET	AF, EF

Sea Commission, CBD, IWC, NATO and with relevant international NGOs		Scientific Committee, JNWG, Partners Other experts			
7- Develop certificate or deliver certification in existing MMO training centres and encourage Focal Points to make mandatory the use of MMO in their countries (under the MSFD “measure” programme for EU countries for example / EcAP process)	Secretariat, Parties WG MMO	Scientific Committee, Partners Other experts	MMO certification	ET	AF, NC, EF
8- Support the finalization of the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities, encourage their adoption at CMS COP12	Parties	Scientific Committee	Implementation of CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities,	2017	NC
9- implement the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities				ET	NC

CA 2		REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 c		Ship strikes			
Relevant Resolutions: 5.11 / 6.19					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Continue to monitor high risk areas for ship strikes in the Mediterranean Sea	Scientific Committee and its relevant working group	Parties, Non-Party Range States SRCUs, Secretariat, Partners IMO, IWC, other experts	Overview of high risk areas for ship strikes	2017 (SC11)	AF, EF
2-Suggest and facilitate implementation of IMO or national mitigation measures (PSSA, TSS, ATBA) in selected areas			New shape files in NETCCOBAMS IMO or national measures in place	ET	AF, NC, EF

3- Promote use of mitigation measures to shipping companies in the region (speed restrictions, avoidance area) in particular in Cetacean Critical Habitats	Secretariat, Scientific Committee	Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners	Ships/boats in areas inhabiting large whales using the REPCET or other systems	ET	AF, EF
4- Encourage the use of tools such as REPCET in the Pelagos Agreement as a pilot area to facilitate statistical testing of the system		Pelagos Agreement, IWC	REPCET statistically tested	2017 (SC11)	AF, EF
5-Evaluate the relevance and the feasibility of a “whale-safe from ship strikes” certificate for shipping Companies	Secretariat, Scientific Committee	Partners IWC Other experts	Decision on relevance of a “whale-safe from ship strikes” certificate for shipping Companies	2018	AF
6- Facilitate and encourage reporting to and feedback from IWC database on ship strikes injuries and mortalities	Scientific Committee its relevant working group	Parties Non-Party Range States Partners IWC, Other experts	Protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities	2017	AF, EF

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)				
CA 2 d	Cetacean watching				
Relevant Resolutions: 3.23/ 4.7/ 5.10 / 6.20					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Promote the use of the “High quality whale watching” certificate , including organisation of training for operators	Secretariat Parties	Partners Pelagos Agreement Relevant stakeholders (tourism sector)	Awareness campaign to adopt and establish HQWW® certificate Member States with intensive cetacean watching activities use the certificate	ET	AF, NC, EF
2 - Provide a definition on the different types of whale watching operators (commercial, research, others)	Working Group Scientific Committee	Secretariat, IWC	Definition on the different types of whale watching operators	2017 (SC11)	AF

<p>3- Test (i) the Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, (ii) the common procedure on the data collection in some pilot areas representing a variety of operation types (e.g. the Pelagos Agreement area, Gibraltar Strait, and south Portugal).</p>	<p>Working Group Scientific Committee</p>	<p>Secretariat, IWC</p>	<p>Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, updated</p> <p>Common procedure on the data collection updated</p>	<p>ET</p>	<p>AF</p>
<p>4- Use (i) the Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, (ii) the common procedure on the data collection</p>	<p>Parties</p>	<p>Working Group Scientific Committee</p>	<p>Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, used by Parties</p> <p>Common procedure on the data collection used by Parties</p>		
<p>5- Compile the information collected from whale watching companies through the data collection forms annexed to the Resolution [6.20]</p>	<p>Secretariat WW Working Group</p>	<p>Parties Partners</p>	<p>Specific entry created in NETCCOBAMS to compile the information collected from whale watching companies</p>	<p>ET</p>	<p>AF</p>
<p>6- Revise, if necessary, (i) the Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, (ii) the common procedure on the data collection and report on this issue to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties</p>	<p>Working Group Scientific Committee</p>	<p>Secretariat, IWC</p>	<p>Guidelines for monitoring programmes aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts on individual cetaceans and on populations, revised</p> <p>Common procedure on the data collection revised</p>	<p>ET</p>	<p>AF</p>
<p>7- Strengthen collaboration with relevant organisations addressing cetacean watching initiatives, in particular the IWC 'Online Handbook' for whale watching (under development)</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Working Group Scientific Committee IWC</p>	<p>Collaboration strengthened with relevant organisations</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>AF, EF</p>

CA 2		REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 e		Marine debris			
Relevant Resolutions: 4.8					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Assess the impact of ghost nets on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area in collaboration with MedPOL and GFCM , with emphasis on the development of the removal methods	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners GFCM, MedPOL, other experts,	Assessment of ghost nets impacts on cetaceans	2017 - 2018	AF, EF
2- Assess the impact of plastic bags , microplastic and other plastic materials ingestion on cetaceans in cooperation with existing initiatives, such as IWC : bibliographic synthesis and Scientific Committee recommendation	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners IWC, MedPOL, other experts,	Assessment of plastic materials impacts on cetaceans by providing bibliographic synthesis	2017 (SC11)	AF, EF
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on secondary effects more than ingestion • Suggested mitigation measures 	2018 (SC12)	AF, EF
3- Encourage cooperation with ongoing regional initiatives on marine litter.	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners SRCUs	Joint programmes at the Agreement level Synergies with EU MSFD	ET	AF, EF

CA 2		REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 f		Climate change			
Relevant Resolutions: 4.14					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Identify indicator species, in cooperation with existing initiatives, such as EU, CMS Family, Barcelona Convention/EcAp, BSC, IWC, IUCN, GFCM, and propose a monitoring system for these species	Scientific Committee	Partners SRCUs Other experts	Proposed monitoring system for indicator species	2017 (SC11)	AF, EF
2- Liaise with the relevant CMS Working Group to participate to its future activities	Scientific Committee	Secretariat	Joint activities	ET	AF, EF

CA 2		REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 g		Species conservation plans			
Relevant Resolutions: 1.8/ 1.12/ 3.7/ 3.11/ 4.6/ 4.13/5.12/ 5.13/ 5.14 / 6.21					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Revise regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans (prepared in 2014) , in cooperation with relevant stakeholders	Scientific Committee	Parties, Non-Party Range States Black Sea SRCU, Secretariat Other experts	Revised and adopted regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans and implementation at the national level in BS Parties	2017 (SC11)	AF, EF
2- Complete the Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin	Scientific Committee,	Parties,	Scientists in charge of relevant Conservation Plans identified	ET	AF, EF

<p>3- Prepare the Conservation Plan for Fin whale, including investigation of the existing data to determine the efficacy of undertaking a spatial modelling exercise for fin whales in the Mediterranean for comparison with information on shipping traffic</p>	<p>Secretariat, SRCUs</p>	<p>Non-Party Range States Partners, IWC Other experts</p>	<p>Finalized Conservation Plan for Bottlenose dolphin</p> <p>Drafts of Conservation Management Plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fin whale ○ Cuvier's beaked whales ○ Killer whales ○ Long finned pilot whales <p>List of other species of interest</p>		
<p>4- Consider the preparation of regional conservation plans based on the IWC conservation and management plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cuvier's beaked whales, ● Killer whales ● Long finned pilot whales <p>And Identify other species of interest</p>					
<p>5- Consider update existing conservation plans (e.g. short-beaked common dolphins)</p>	<p>Scientific Committee, Secretariat</p>	<p>Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs IWC Other experts</p>	<p>Existing conservation plans updated and implemented</p>	<p>ET</p>	<p>AF</p>
<p>6- Implement existing conservation plans (e.g. short-beaked common dolphins)</p>					
<p>7- Develop or revise National Action Plans</p>	<p>Parties</p>	<p>SRCU, Scientific Committee, other experts</p>	<p>National Action Plans in most of the ACCOBAMS Parties developed/ revised and mostly implemented</p>	<p>ET</p>	<p>AF, NC</p>
<p>8- Implement National Action Plans</p>					

CA 2		REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 h		Captivity related issues			
Relevant Resolutions: 5.14					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Update regularly the inventory of specimens of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity	Black Sea SRCU	Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Secretariat Other experts	Updated inventory of BS bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity	2017 (SC11)	AF
2- Encourage the implementation of the CITES decisions based on the draft Resolution prepared by ACCOBAMS on the identification of origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity	Parties	Secretariat, Scientific Committee CITES	Identification of origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity	ET	AF, EF
3- Make Parties aware of new captivity issues: disseminate the document "Taking of cetaceans and dolphinaria: a legal analysis within the framework of ACCOBAMS" updated with the "quasi dolphinaria" together with the re-introduction issues	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, SRCUs Partners Other experts	Relevant ACCOBAMS document on captivity and "semi-captivity" largely disseminated	ET	-

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)				
CA 2 i	Chemical & biological pollution				
Relevant Resolutions: -					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans (Focus on emerging contaminants, comparison between pristine areas and polluted ones)	Scientific Committee	SRCUs IWC and Pollution 2020 project Other experts	Assessment of impacts of pollution on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area Updated bibliography of chemical pollution in cetaceans Identify target areas and species for <i>ad hoc</i> projects	2018 (SC12)	AF, EF
2- Review of existing work (literature review) and identify knowledge gaps					
3- Suggest ad hoc research projects for targeted areas and species					
4- Study the possibility/consequences of enhanced transfer of pollutants via ingested microplastics					
5- Encourage international or regional cooperation, such as UNEP/MAP, BSC, IWC, in sampling and analyses of chemical pollution					

CA 3	ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS				
CA 3 a	Public awareness				
Relevant Resolutions: 2.21, 2.23, 4.9, 6.23					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1-Continue and facilitate ACCOBAMS cetaceans day and promote annual celebration, linked with existing dates for nature conservation	Parties Partners	SRCUs, Secretariat	ACCOBAMS cetaceans day regularly celebrated in the area	ET	AF, NC
2- Create and disseminate communication tools targeted to future generations	Secretariat Scientific Committee	SRCUs, Partners, Parties, Non-Party Range States Other relevant organisations	Communication tools distributed to relevant subjects	ET	AF, NC, EF
3-Promote ACCOBAMS activities using the social networks (such as Facebook, Twitter,..)					
4- Organise public awareness related survey (Opinion of public)	Parties	SRCUs, Secretariat, Partners	Survey format and instructions Survey report	ET	AF, NC
5- Promote cetacean conservation actions during different events at international and national levels (such as Black Sea day celebration, ECS/ACCOBAMS student award ...)	Secretariat	Partners, SRCUs, Parties, Other relevant organisations	Side events, exhibitions, website, public lectures, awareness material	ET	AF, NC, EF
6- Establish a Partner Award for public awareness on Cetaceans Conservation	Secretariat	Partners	Project proposals selected among ACCOBAMS Partners for implementation with support from ACCOBAMS	2018	AF, EF
7- Evaluate the relevance of 'Citizen Science' input of cetacean sightings into a newly established, expert-supervised, database, before transferring to ObisSeamap	Scientific Committee	Partners, Other experts	Decision on the relevance of 'Citizen Science' input of cetacean sightings into a newly established, expert-supervised, database, before transferring to ObisSeamap	2018	AF

8 - Implement specific national activities on public awareness	Parties	Secretariat, SRCUs Partners Non Parties	National specific public awareness activities implemented	ET	NC
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CA 4		IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 a		Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation			
Relevant Resolutions: 1.10/ 3.25/ 4.16 / 6.22 / 6.23					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Undertake trainings on necropsies , live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS area	Secretariat	Parties SRCUs Partners Pelagos Agreement	Participants from all Parties trained	ET	AF, NC
2-Maintain/ Establish (sub)regional mailing lists of participants in the stranding networks to facilitate exchange of information, particularly in the South Mediterranean region	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and synthesis of subregional mailing lists • Regularly exchanged information on stranding events in particular on the occasion of Biennial Conference 	ET	AF, NC
3- Develop a common operational stranding protocol, in collaboration with IWC, ECS and ASCOBANS	Scientific Committee Parties	Partners ASCOBANS, IWC, ECS Other experts	Common operational protocol implemented	2017	AF, EF
4- Encourage data / tissue exchanges through collaboration with relevant databases and tissue banks	Secretariat, Scientific Committee Parties	Partners, SRCUs CITES IWC, Other experts	Data / tissue exchanges facilitated for Basin wide analysis (list of tissue banks registered with the CITES Secretariat should be made available)		AF, NC, EF

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS				
CA 4 b	Capacity to use cetaceans photo identification methods				
Relevant Resolutions: 2.28/ 5.9 / 6.13/ 6.23					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Undertake trainings on the use of photo-id (and theodolites)	Secretariat Parties	Scientific Committee, Partners SRCUs MedPAN, others experts	Trained experts from all Parties with identified needs Selected trainers from Partners	ET	AF, EF
2- Promote the use of, catalogue or web-based database of photo-IDs, such as INTERCET or analogue systems both in Mediterranean and Black Seas	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners Others experts	Disseminate the use of INTERCET or other analogue systems	ET	AF, EF
3- Provide photo-id equipment to the relevant organisations from Parties with least capacities (based on the scale of middle and low incomes, from the World Bank in [February 2015])	Secretariat Parties	SRCUs SC Partners Others experts	Provided relevant Parties with photo-id equipment (camera, lenses), upon funding availability (approach Companies for sponsorship)	ET	NC, EF

CA 4		IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 c		Capacity building for other cetacean conservation issues			
Relevant Resolutions: 6.23					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Identify protected areas managers from the areas within cetacean critical habitat and facilitate exchanges to suggest good management practices between neighbouring area (organising visits for example)	Secretariat,	Parties SRCUs MedPAN,	staff from protected areas within cetaceans critical habitats have participated in the exchange programmes (e.g. study tours and other types of visits)	ET	AF, NC
2- Train staff of Marine Protected Area to be updated on cetacean conservation issues	Secretariat	Parties	Staff from Marine Protected Areas trained by Parties in cetacean conservation	ET	AF, NC
3- Promote and facilitate exchange of expertise, such as participation of experts with less knowledge in the specific projects implemented by experienced researchers, etc...	Secretariat and Parties Partners	SRCUs Scientific Committee Others experts	Experts trained through participation in the specific projects	ET	AF, NC
4- Encourage exchanges between universities and laboratories for training on genetic and molecular biology, in Southern Mediterranean countries and Black Sea	Secretariat Parties	SRCUs Scientific Committee Others experts	Experts trained on genetic and molecular biology through exchanges between universities and laboratories	ET	AF, NC, EF
5- Organize training sessions for national experts to fill databases (NETCCOBAMS, OBIS-Seamap, Medaces, Intercet,...)	Secretariat	Parties Non-Party Range States SRCUs Scientific Committee Partners Others experts	Experts trained on relevant databases	ET	AF, NC, EF

CA 4		IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 d		Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes			
Relevant Resolutions: 6.23					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Introduce cetacean conservation modules in all ACCOBAMS Countries	Secretariat	Parties, Non-Party Range States SRCUs, Partners Universities	Post-graduate programmes with included cetacean conservation modules	ET	AF, NC, EF
2- Translate existing cetacean conservation modules in other languages (such as Arabic, Russian, ...)	Parties	Secretariat, SRCUs, Partners Universities	Cetacean conservation modules available in different languages of the Agreement	ET	AF, NC
3- Encourage Parties that have already introduced the module, to disseminate the module to others universities	Parties	SRCUs, Partners, Secretariat Universities	Dissemination of cetacean conservation modules in universities	ET	AF, NC

CA 5		ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS			
CA 5 a		Protected areas for cetaceans			
Relevant Resolutions: 3.22/ 4.15 / 6.24					
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing	Possible Source of funding
1- Update regularly a list of areas containing habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region	Parties, Scientific Committee	SRCUs, Secretariat, Partners, Other experts	Lists of areas containing cetaceans habitats available on NETCCOBAMS Updated lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas)	ET	AF, EF
2- Revise the existing Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCHs) , taking into account (i) the candidates IMMAs proposed and the Areas of Interest identified during the first workshop on the Identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the Mediterranean Sea , and (ii) the threat-based management approach	Scientific Committee (Task Managers, Regional representatives and coordinators of conservation plans)	SRCUs, Secretariat, Partners, Parties, Non-Party Range States Other experts	Identification of areas with the same threats for cetaceans (bycatch areas, harassment areas...) IMMAs in the ACCOBAMS area identified Establishment of links with the BSC CBD activities centre		
3- Disseminate tools for adequate management of areas within CCH, including evaluation of management effectiveness and using examples of best practice	Secretariat	Scientific Committee, Parties Non-Party Range States MedPAN, other experts	Adequate management of areas within CCH implemented, based on the ACCOBAMS document "Place-based conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area: a handbook on management effectiveness"	ET	AF
4- Evaluate effectiveness of management of protected areas within CCH using existing initiatives (such as MedPAN endeavours in that context).	Scientific Committee, Secretariat Parties	SRCUs, MedPAN, Pelagos Agreement, other experts	Evaluation of effectiveness of protected areas for cetaceans, foremostly their contribution to achievement/maintenance of favourable conservation status	2018 (SC12)	AF, EF

<p>5-Promote the use of Passive Acoustic Monitoring in MPAs and in control sites as a management effectiveness monitoring tool</p>	<p>Scientific Committee, Secretariat</p>	<p>Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners SRCUs MedPAN, Pelagos Agreement</p>	<p>Use of PAM in MPAs and in control sites</p>	<p>ET</p>	<p>AF, NC</p>
<p>6- Revise and update the tools for adequate management of areas within CCH, after the evaluation of management effectiveness has been implemented</p>	<p>Scientific Committee, Secretariat</p>	<p>Parties, Partners SRCUs MedPAN, Pelagos Agreement</p>	<p>ACCOBAMS Document “Place-based conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area: a handbook on management effectiveness” updated</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>AF</p>
<p>7-Participate actively in a strategical alliance on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN</p>	<p>Secretariat, RAC/SPA, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN</p>	<p>Parties Non-Party Range States other experts</p>	<p>Joint Cooperation Strategy document</p>	<p>ET</p>	<p>AF, EF</p>

ANNEX 2
TRIENNIUM 2017-2019 - KEY CONSERVATION ISSUES AND RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS

CA 1 - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS

CA 1 a - Cetacean population estimates and distribution: ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative –Resolution 6.13

CA 2 - REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)

CA 2 a- Interaction with fisheries - Resolution 6.16

CA 2 b - Anthropogenic noise- Resolution 6.17 & 6.18 (MMO)

CA 2 c - Ship strikes - Resolution 6.19

CA 2 d - Cetacean watching - Resolution 6.21

CA 2 e - Marine debris

CA 2 g - Species conservation plans - Resolution 6.15 & Resolution 6.21

CA 2 i - Chemical & biological pollution

CA 4 - IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS - Resolution 6.22 & Resolution 6.23

CA 5 - ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS - Resolution 6.24