



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)*



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## **Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS**

*Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 5 - 8 November 2019*

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# **DRAFT RESOLUTION 7.5 ACCOBAMS FUNDING STRATEGY**

*Delegates are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.  
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.*

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 7.5****ACCOBAMS FUNDING STRATEGY**

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Resolution 5.1 adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (Tangier, Morocco, 5-8 November 2013) on the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy, in particular its specific objective to “Ensure adequate funding, in particular for conservation activities”,

*Concerned* that the lack of sufficient financial resources is one of the main obstacles to achieve ACCOBAMS goals and objectives, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*Recognizing* the successful efforts of the Permanent Secretariat to secure funding and mobilize additional resources for the adequate fulfilment of the ACCOBAMS Strategy and related Programs of Work and *acknowledging* with appreciation the financial supports provided by Parties, partners and other donors,

*Stressing* that the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy requires effective involvement and coordination of all ACCOBAMS bodies,

*Recognizing* that resource mobilization requires also well-structured and continuous work on communication issues in order to raise interest on the work and role of ACCOBAMS and to ensure awareness on the impacts of the activities implemented by ACCOBAMS,

1. *Adopts* the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy, contained in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat to report progress on this Funding Strategy to the Meeting of the Parties;
3. *Calls upon* Parties to support the implementation of the Funding Strategy, in order to ensure adequate financial resources for the implementation of conservation actions as per the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy and related 3-years Programs of Work;
4. *Invites* Parties to inform the Meeting of the Parties about potential allocation of voluntary contributions for the next triennium period, in order to facilitate the planning and prioritization of conservation actions;
5. *Strongly encourages* Parties to continue providing supports through voluntary contributions, in particular to the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund, considering its significant role in supporting cetacean's conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
6. *Encourages* Parties to provide in-kind contributions through, for example, the secondment of staff, to support activities of the ACCOBAMS Program of Work.

## ANNEX ACCOBAMS FUNDING STRATEGY

### Rationale

The lack of sufficient financial resources has been identified as one of the main obstacles to achieving global objectives related to environment protection and biodiversity conservation. To overtake this issue, several intergovernmental organizations addressing environmental issues, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), have elaborated resource mobilization strategies for strengthening their implementation and their action.

In 2013, the Parties to ACCOBAMS adopted the “ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2014-2025)”<sup>1</sup> as an instrument for strengthening the effectiveness of ACCOBAMS and the Resolutions adopted within this framework. It provided a 10-years strategic framework and a roadmap to support the implementation of the Agreement.

This Strategy provides an Action Plan in order to reach the ACCOBAMS vision which is that *“cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS area will be in a favourable conservation status, expressed as healthy populations and habitats with minimized adverse human impacts, with ACCOBAMS having a role of key regional player also in promoting active regional cooperation.”*

A specific objective of the ACCOBAMS Strategy is to “Ensure adequate funding, in particular for conservation activities” (Specific Objective A.3). This specific objective includes 4 activities related to new funding possibilities:

- Appoint one projects preparation/implementation assistance and fundraising officer in the Secretariat (A.3.1.1)
- Analyze available funding possibilities in the region (EU funds, private funds, etc....) and develop a funding strategy (A.3.1.2)
- Regularly inform Parties about project call of proposals and other funding possibilities (A.3.1.3)
- Encourage development of multilateral/ transboundary projects (A.3.1.4).

In addition, the activities identified in the 2014-2025 Strategy Action Plan cannot be covered solely by the ACCOBAMS budget. Efforts to mobilize external funding are required. Possible sources of funding are identified within the Strategy for each activity: Agreement Funds, national co-funding/in kind or External Funds.

The ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy has been elaborated to support the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Strategy by setting up a general framework for resources mobilization. Based on an overview of the ACCOBAMS funding (part 1 of this document), the funding strategy is aimed at identifying ways of strengthening and optimizing resource mobilization for supporting ACCOBAMS implementation (part 2).

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 5.1

## 1. ACCOBAMS FUNDING

### 1.1. The Agreement budget

ACCOBAMS is a Multilateral Environmental Agreement. Its functioning is based on a budget adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at each of its ordinary sessions for the next financial period (Art. III, para. 8 (e), of the Agreement). The Meeting of the Parties decides also upon any matters relating to the financial arrangements for the Agreement (Art. III, para. 8 (e), and Article IX of the Agreement). The Permanent Secretariat is in charge of the administration of the budget of the Agreement (Art. IV, para. 2 of the Agreement).

In accordance with the terms of reference for administration of the Agreement Budget included in the Resolution on Financial matters<sup>2</sup>, *“the financial resources of the budget shall be derived from:*

*(a) Contributions from the Parties (...), 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 Organizations and other sources.”*

#### **a) Ordinary contributions to the Agreement Trust Fund**

The Trust Fund depends on the contributions of the countries Parties to the Agreement. The annual amount of each Party's contribution is established, for each triennium, by the Resolution on Financial Matters adopted at each Meeting of the Parties.

To facilitate the administration of the budget, the Parties are requested to pay their contributions as promptly as possible, but in case no later than at the end of March of the corresponding year. The Parties, in particular those that pay the minimum contribution, are also requested to consider paying for the entire triennium in one installment at the beginning of the period.

With 23 Parties between 2011 and 2017, the average of ordinary contributions received was around 250,000 Euros per year (including arrears from previous years received).

#### **b) Voluntary contributions, including co-funding**

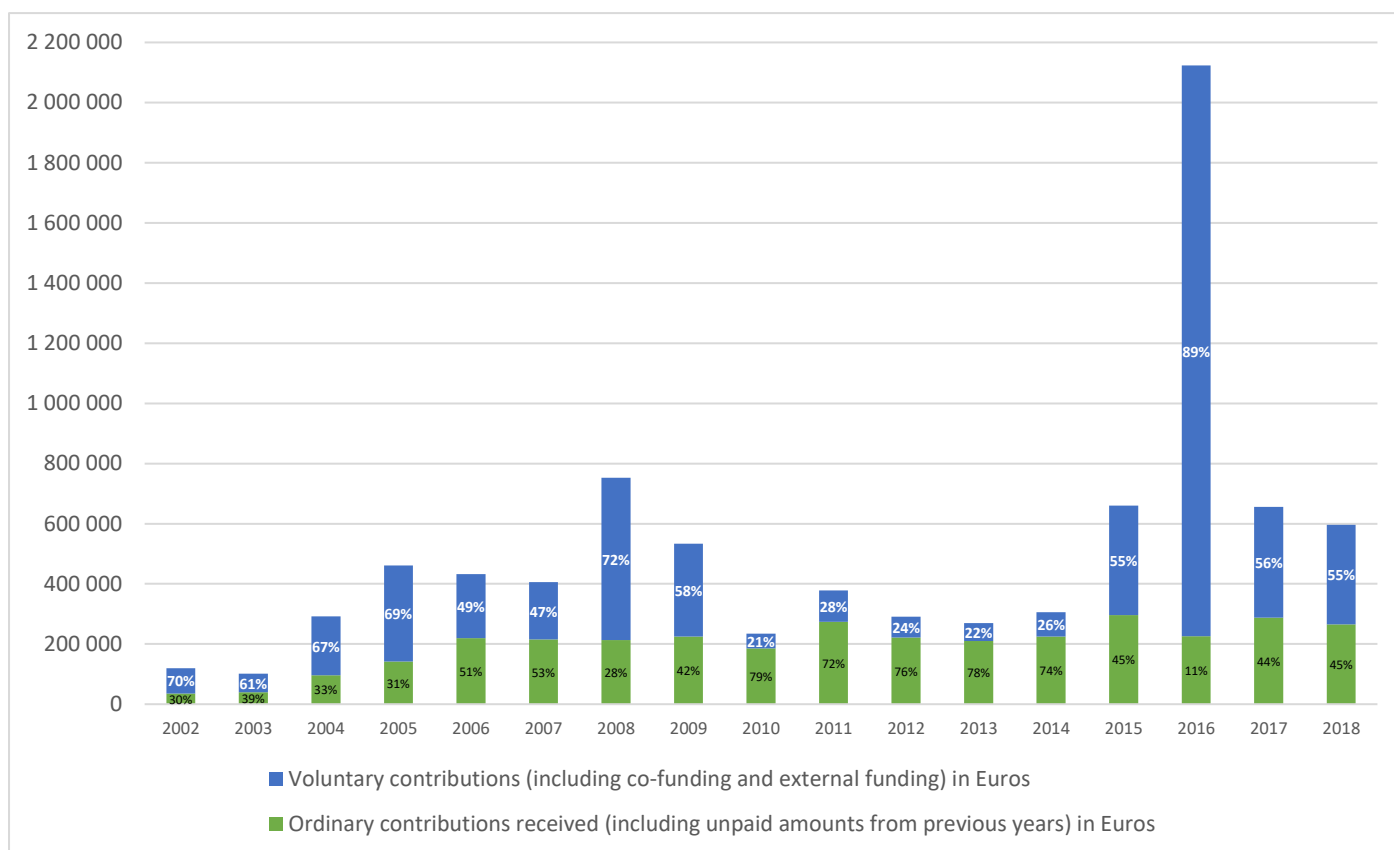
Voluntary contributions to ACCOBAMS include the voluntary contributions from Parties and external funding provided by partner organizations for joint activities (co-funding) or by donors for the implementation of *ad-hoc* projects. ACCOBAMS has also received, in the past, voluntary contributions from non-Party Range States or from private companies.

Between 2002 and 2018, the cash budget of the Agreement averages 500,000 Euros per year coming from 39% of ordinary contributions and 61% of voluntary contributions.

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<sup>2</sup> Annex 3 of Resolution 6.6 – Financial matters for the triennium 2017-2019

### Evolution of ordinary and voluntary contributions of the ACCOBAMS cash budget between 2002 and 2018



It should be emphasized that the administrative functioning of the Agreement is strongly supported by the Principality of Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country. This contribution is estimated at around 180 000 Euros per year since 2014 (this support was not assessed before 2014).

From the 2020-2022 triennium, voluntary contributions and external funding (including co-funding from other organizations) will be presented separately in the budget tables so that voluntary contributions be specific to countries.

#### **c) ACCOBAMS budget structure/organization**

The ACCOBAMS ordinary budget (i.e. adopted at each Meeting of the Parties) is organized in three categories: i) administration and general management, ii) institutional meetings and iii) support to conservation actions.

The budget allocated to the first two categories is aimed at supporting the institutional functions of the Agreement, in particular the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat and the meetings of the different ACCOBAMS bodies.

The budget allocated to support conservation actions allows to cover activities that contribute to the implementation of the Agreement or that support the Parties in implementing ACCOBAMS provisions. These activities include the organization of expert workshops or trainings, the elaboration of technical documents (such as guidelines) or the implementation of pilot studies. This is one of the ACCOBAMS specificities and added value compared to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements who do not have budget allocated to support conservation actions.

However, even if this budget from ordinary contributions allows the implementation of some activities, it is not sufficient for expensive or large-scale conservation activities, in particular for field work, or for the development of a comprehensive capacity building program.

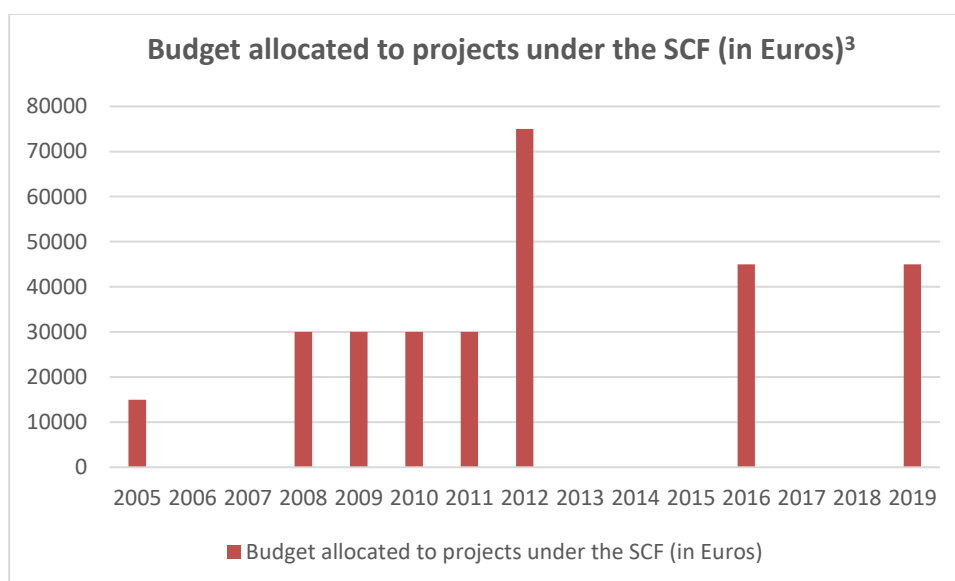
Except for the voluntary contributions made by some Parties to support the organization of institutional meetings, such as the Meetings of the Parties, voluntary contributions from Parties are mainly intended to support conservation actions. *Ad-hoc* projects supported by donors are also intended to support conservation actions.

**As the administrative and institutional functioning of the Agreement is ensured through the ordinary contributions and the contribution of the Principality of Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement, ambitious conservation actions rely therefore largely on the mobilization of additional funding (voluntary contributions and external funding).**

Between 2015 and 2018, 46% of the total cash budget of the Agreement was provided through external funding, specifically 44% was provided by the MAVA Foundation. The peak in the voluntary contributions in 2016 corresponds to the 1.5 Million Euros provided by the MAVA Foundation to support the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. Considering the closure of the MAVA Foundation in 2022, it is necessary to ensure diversification of the external sources of funding.

In addition to the Trust Fund, ACCOBAMS also has the Supplementary Conservation Funds (SCF) established in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the Agreement *“in order to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation of cetaceans”*. Funds for the SCF are provided by voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other sources.

The SCF became operational in 2004 at the Second Meeting of the Parties and since 2005, 20 projects with budget less than 15.000 euros have been funded under the SCF.



Since 2011, projects to be funded under the SCF are selected through calls for proposals launched by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Parties. The procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals has been adopted in 2013 through Resolution 5.5.

**The SCF has a significant role in supporting ACCOBAMS conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It allows to support applied conservation projects, including field work, to**

<sup>3</sup> The amounts presented in this graph correspond to the total budget committed for the projects the year of the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding with the project beneficiaries. The figures shown in this graph do not correspond to the amounts reported in the Reports on Income and Expenditures for the Supplementary Conservation Funds prepared by the Permanent Secretariat which correspond to the payments occurred in a year.

**support capacity building and exchange of best practices on cetaceans monitoring and conservation. These projects contribute in particular to provide seed money to organizations with limited access to other funding sources.**

## **1.2. In-kind contributions from Parties, Partners and other stakeholders to ACCOBAMS implementation**

ACCOBAMS, as a regional cooperation organization, represents a community of stakeholders working towards a common goal. It is functioning is based on the mobilization of stakeholders - such as countries representatives, scientists, experts, professionals... - and the animation of networks of stakeholders.

In addition to the ACCOBAMS Parties represented by their National Focal Points, other stakeholders, such as experts and scientists, MPA managers..., as well as organizations, such as national research institutes, NGOs, Foundations... that could be referred to as "ACCOBAMS community", develop and implement actions / projects aimed at the conservation of cetaceans or that contribute to cetacean conservation.

Some of these stakeholders are involved in ACCOBAMS, within the framework of the Scientific Committee or as Partners of ACCOBAMS, but this is not systematic.

If we consider the ACCOBAMS community in its broadest acceptance, a vast set of activities and projects is implemented in the whole Agreement area. Although these actions are not carried out within the institutional framework of the Agreement and financed through the Agreement's budget, they contribute to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

Taking into consideration the diversity of activities and projects covered, it is difficult to assess the total funding mobilized by the ACCOBAMS community. However, after a quick review of the available information (from the reports of the Parties, the Scientific Committee, the Partners and of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units), it appears that these actions and projects are financed through:

- public funds of States,
- own funds of the organizations that implement them or
- external funding mobilized in the framework of specific projects<sup>4</sup>.

All these activities can be considered as in-kind contribution to the Agreement implementation.

In addition, involvement and participation of experts and other stakeholders in ACCOBAMS activities (contribution and time dedicated to ACCOBAMS activities, such as participation in expert workshops, participation in ACCOBAMS bodies meetings...) is done on a voluntary basis and represents contribution in-kind to the implementation of ACCOBAMS. For example, for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative project, the involvement of national experts and scientists was considered as national in-kind contributions to the project.

**The ACCOBAMS community participates in the mobilization of funding for conservation actions that contribute to the implementation of ACCOBAMS, beyond the ACCOBAMS institutional framework *sensu stricto*. Taking into account contributions in kind, the contribution of the Parties to the implementation of ACCOBAMS goes far beyond ordinary contributions.**

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<sup>4</sup> The European funding aimed at supporting the implementation of European policies - environmental policy or neighborhood policy – are part of this last category. For example, the LIFE instrument of the European Union has supported a dozen projects contributing to the conservation of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS geographical area since it was set up in 1992.

## **2. FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION**

### **2.1 Objective of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy**

The objective of the funding strategy is to support the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Strategy and of the subsequent 3-years Programs of Work adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

It is intended for all stakeholders who contribute, directly or indirectly, to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

### **2.2 Duration**

The ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy has been developed taking into consideration the ACCOBAMS Strategy timeframe and shall be revised when updating the ACCOBAMS Strategy.

### **2.3 Key actions**

The actions identified below are not listed in order of priority and some of them are interlinked.

#### ***a) Monitor external funding opportunities***

The overview of available funding possibilities in the region presented to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (Monaco, 22-25 November 2016)<sup>5</sup> lists the donors (both public and private) that may be of interest to the ACCOBAMS community to develop projects and activities that would contribute to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

The ACCOBAMS Strategy also provides that Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners regularly inform Parties about call of proposals and other funding opportunities, through emailing list (Activity A.3.1.3). In addition to email, the NETCCOBAMS platform can be used to disseminate this information.

Monitoring funding opportunities allows to be informed and to disseminate information on the funding opportunities in order to support the development of project proposals.

#### ***b) Encourage development of multilateral/transboundary projects***

The ACCOBAMS Strategy provides that Secretariat, Parties, Partners, Scientific Committee encourage development of multilateral/transboundary projects so that project proposals be developed with the support of ACCOBAMS bodies (Activity A.3.1.4).

Coordination, collaboration, exchange of information, standardization and synchronization of monitoring programs and scientific protocols are key elements to be sought in the development of multilateral/transboundary projects and donors pay particular attention to these questions when evaluating project proposals.

Advising project leaders in the development of their projects, facilitating liaison between partners, catalyzing efforts are actions that can contribute to successful fundraising.

For cetacean conservation projects developed outside the ACCOBAMS framework, a link could be established with ACCOBAMS to ensure that the results of these projects are duly taken into consideration by ACCOBAMS. This could be done for example by participating in the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee meetings during which relevant projects and results could be presented (if relevant as regards the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee priorities) or by inviting ACCOBAMS as a partner of the project or as member of the project advisory body (Steering Committee, Advisory

<sup>5</sup> Information document ACCOBAMS-MOP6/2016/Inf10 "Overview of available funding possibilities in the region"



Board...). This would contribute to increase the leverage effect of the projects and contribute to avoid duplication of efforts with ACCOBAMS activities.

In the case of cetacean conservation projects developed outside the scope of ACCOBAMS, project coordinators are encouraged to establish a link with ACCOBAMS to ensure the results of their project be taken into consideration by ACCOBAMS, in particular recommendations, lessons learned and best practices.

**c) *Build capacities in project development/management***

Some stakeholders in the ACCOBAMS community, especially researchers and civil society organizations (NGOs) from developing countries, do not always have the necessary experience to develop solid project proposals in the context of international fundraising.

Organizing training activities (such as workshops) on project formulation, design and management can contribute to increase the capacities of the ACCOBAMS community in fundraisings, in particular for experts and organizations from developing countries.

If budget allows, a training workshop on project development and fundraising could be organized during the 2020-2022 triennium.

It should be underlined that projects funded under the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund can provide a first experience in project development/management to project coordinators and help them to develop their skills in this field.

**d) *Strengthen the mobilization of voluntary contributions from ACCOBAMS Parties, including for the Supplementary Conservation Funds***

The lack of visibility on activities that can be funded through voluntary contributions is a challenge for ensuring efficient elaboration and planning of the 3-years Program of Work.

Consulting and liaising with Parties, as it was done for example throughs the Call for Voluntary Contribution issued by the Permanent Secretariat for the 2014-2016 and 2017-2019 trienniums, is necessary for mobilizing voluntary contributions for the realization of certain actions.

The new format for the Program of Work and Budget of the triennium will allow the Parties to identify the actions that could be funded through voluntary contributions during the Meeting of Parties.

Parties are invited to inform the Meeting of the Parties about potential allocation of voluntary contributions in order to facilitate the planning of the activities on the 3-years triennium period.

The ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund, which relies on voluntary contributions from ACCOBAMS Parties, is a significant tool for ACCOBAMS to support conservation initiatives. It allows to fund applied conservation projects, to support capacity building and exchange of best practices on cetaceans monitoring and conservation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Parties are strongly encouraged to continue providing supports through voluntary contributions to the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Funds considering its significant role in supporting cetaceans conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

**e) Develop or strengthen relationships with donors**

Mobilizing external resources involves developing a network of donors interested in supporting actions that contribute to the ACCOBAMS objectives. To ensure efficient consultation of donors, increasing visibility on ACCOBAMS goals and activities is necessary to demonstrate ACCOBAMS reliability and added value in implementing projects and initiatives.

Going to meet donors, organizing meetings or round tables of donors contribute to raise interest and attention on ACCOBAMS and are opportunities to present project ideas.

**f) Animate and mobilize the ACCOBAMS community**

As mentioned above, the cooperation dimension is essential in cetacean conservation and developing synergies between stakeholders contribute to increase the impact of conservation actions undertaken.

The ACCOBAMS Partners network is a structuring support for the ACCOBAMS community. The animation of this network, including the "recruitment" of new partners, can contribute to the development of new collaboration and of joint projects and initiatives. The ACCOBAMS Partner status is granted according to specific rules and criteria established by Resolution 4.20 adopted by ACCOBAMS Parties.

In each country, a review of the organizations which contribute to ACCOBAMS goals and objectives can be done and information on the ACCOBAMS Partner status can be disseminated to organizations that are not Partners in order to invite them to apply for this status.

Also, the NETCCOBAMS platform should be an excellent media to share information and to animate the community in a perspective of developing new collaborations and efforts for resource mobilization. All interested stakeholders (experts, organizations...) can create an account on NETCCOBAMS to share and receive information.

The use of NETCCOBAMS platform should be strengthened and systematized for ensuring appropriate dissemination of information within the ACCOBAMS community.

**g) Strengthen communication and outreach on ACCOBAMS**

Successful fundraising relies on effective and relevant communication. Disseminating information on cetacean conservation issues, highlighting the actions carried out by ACCOBAMS and communicating on their impacts contribute to enhance the image of ACCOBAMS, to raise interest on cetacean conservation and to attract new funds and support.

Updating the ACCOBAMS webpage regularly, publishing news on social media and creating outreach material are decisive to increase visibility on ACCOBAMS. Participating in national/regional/international fora, meetings and conferences relevant to ACCOBAMS objectives, organizing side events on specific activities also contribute to present ACCOBAMS activities and to strengthen ACCOBAMS's reputation.

The development of an ACCOBAMS Information/Communication Strategy is a key step for strengthening ACCOBAMS visibility and reputation, being mindful of the virtuous cycle between communication/outreach and fundraising.

**h) Collaboration, key success factor in fundraising**

In a context of growth in maritime activities (fisheries, maritime transport, industries, tourism, oil and gas exploitation ...), and therefore of pressures on cetaceans, the ACCOBAMS mission can only be fully realized within the framework of collaboration with relevant international/regional organizations, such as the Regional Seas Conventions – the Barcelona Convention and the Bucharest Convention - aim to protect the marine environment, GFCM-FAO when addressing interactions with fisheries, IMO for maritime traffic issues...

In addition, several activities supported by ACCOBAMS contribute directly to the implementation of regional environmental policies, such as the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Ecosystem Approach promoted by the Regional Sea Conventions.

Defining ACCOBAMS priorities and activities taking into consideration other relevant frameworks, strengthening collaborations and ensuring synergies with relevant organizations are fundamental to avoid duplication of efforts and to contribute to increase visibility on ACCOBAMS activities. This also contributes to reinforce the sustainability of the actions undertaken under ACCOBAMS auspices and to "reassure" potential funders on the non-duplication of funding.

***i) Develop partnerships with the private sector***

Engagement with the private sector should be seen as a long-term effort that, if properly structured, can attract new support to ACCOBAMS efforts.

When addressing interactions between cetaceans and specific human activities, the sectoral economic actors, such as the oil and gas exploration and production companies, the fisheries sector, the maritime traffic companies, ... can be mobilized for considering contributions and support to ACCOBAMS activities. This action could be led at different levels, local, national and regional.

Engagement with the private sector can be done through its involvement and participation in relevant ACCOBAMS Working Groups, but organizing bilateral meetings or roundtables with relevant actors can also contribute to raise their awareness on cetacean conservation issues and to support ACCOBAMS activities. The development of specific initiatives, such as the Migratory Species Champion Programme developed under the CMS Family, could also contribute to involve the private sector in cetacean conservation efforts.

***j) Engage in crowdfunding***

Crowdfunding is a financing method that involves funding a project with relatively modest contributions from a large group of individuals, rather than seeking substantial sums from a small number of investors. The funding campaign and transactions are typically conducted online through dedicated crowdfunding sites, often in conjunction with social networking sites. Depending on the project, campaign contributors may be essentially making donations, investing for a potential future return on investment, or prepaying for a product or service<sup>6</sup>.

Crowdfunding can be developed by any organization willing to do so. However, successful crowdfunding requires significant visibility and reputation, in particular on social media, and can be considered for supporting concrete conservation activities only.

***k) Explore innovative financing mechanisms***

The issue of innovative financing mechanisms emerged in the 2000s with the establishment of the High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development under the UN General Assembly, taking into consideration the limits of traditional development assistance to fulfill the commitment of the United Nations Millennium Declaration to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty. A number of innovative financing initiatives have been launched since then, most of them to contribute to fund new global programs on health or climate change mitigation/adaptation. As an example, UNEP/MAP, as part of its Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted in 2017 at COP20<sup>7</sup>, introduced a reflection on the opportunity to establish an environmental tax for cruise ships.

<sup>6</sup> <http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/crowdfunding>

<sup>7</sup> Decision IG.23/5

### **3. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD**

To achieve ACCOBAMS goal and mission as stated in the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy, ambitious conservation actions are necessary.

ACCOBAMS administrative and institutional functioning relies on annual ordinary contributions paid by the Parties and on the Principality of Monaco under the Headquarters Agreement. However, additional funds are necessary for supporting conservation actions, from voluntary contributions offered by Parties or from external sources (including co-funding from other organizations).

The actions identified in this Funding Strategy are way forward to strengthen resource mobilization. Some of them can be implemented by ACCOBAMS bodies on a daily basis and do not require specific means, some others require allocating specific budget.

Some of the main recommendations of this Funding Strategy are specifically targeted to ACCOBAMS bodies. Others are intended for all stakeholders who contribute, directly or indirectly, to the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

The recommendations of the ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy as listed below could be considered as a toolbox for supporting ACCOBAMS funding and implementation:

1. Monitoring funding opportunities allows to be informed and to disseminate information on the funding opportunities in order to support the development of project proposals.
2. Advising project leaders in the development of their projects, facilitating liaison between partners, catalyzing efforts are actions that can contribute to successful fundraising.
3. In the case of cetacean conservation projects developed outside the scope of ACCOBAMS, project coordinators are encouraged to establish a link with ACCOBAMS to ensure the results of their project be taken into consideration by ACCOBAMS, in particular recommendations, lessons learned and best practices.
4. Organizing training activities (such as workshops) on project formulation, design and management can contribute to increase the capacities of the ACCOBAMS community in fundraisings, in particular for experts and organizations from developing countries.
5. Parties are invited to inform the Meeting of the Parties about potential allocation of voluntary contributions in order to facilitate the planning of the activities on the 3-years triennium period.
6. Parties are strongly encouraged to continue providing supports through voluntary contributions to the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Funds considering its significant role in supporting cetaceans conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
7. Going to meet donors, organizing meetings or round tables of donors contribute to raise interest and attention on ACCOBAMS and are opportunities to present project ideas.
8. In each country, a review of the organizations which contribute to ACCOBAMS goals and objectives can be done and information on the ACCOBAMS Partner status can be disseminated to the organizations that are not Partners in order to invite them to apply for this status.
9. The use of NETCCOBAMS platform should be strengthened and systematized for ensuring appropriate dissemination of information within the ACCOBAMS community.

10. The development of an ACCOBAMS Information/Communication Strategy is a key step for strengthening ACCOBAMS visibility and reputation, being mindful of the virtuous cycle between communication/outreach and fundraising.
11. Defining ACCOBAMS priorities and activities taking into consideration other relevant frameworks, strengthening collaborations and ensuring synergies with relevant organizations are fundamental to avoid duplication of efforts and to contribute to increase visibility on ACCOBAMS activities. This also contributes to reinforce the sustainability of the actions undertaken under ACCOBAMS auspices and to "reassure" potential funders on the non-duplication of funding.