

RESOLUTION 6.23
CAPACITY-BUILDING

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

Conscious that the current heterogeneity of management and research capacity in the ACCOBAMS Area must be addressed through capacity-building and public-awareness,

Recalling Resolution 1.10 on “Cooperation between national networks of cetacean strandings and the creation of a data base”, Resolution 4.16 on “Guidelines for a coordinated cetacean stranding response” and Resolution 5.2 on “the work programme 2014-2016”,

Taking into consideration Recommendation 10.9 of the Scientific Committee,

Recalling the value and role of stranding networks in providing valuable data for cetacean conservation,

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

1. *Asks* the Permanent Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assist Parties to undertake capacity-building efforts in countries where stranding networks are either not efficiently operating or absent, in particular the training of personnel on how to deal with stranding events, including rehabilitation and euthanasia, and how to run a necropsy, involving local authorities in the network and intervention teams;
2. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to contribute to the preparation of a capacity-building programme for the triennium 2017-2019 with the Permanent Secretariat and to include a follow-up on the research activities in each sub-region, as part of the efforts to ensure the continuity of the programme and the achievement of its long-term goals;
3. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to identify and prioritize needs (e.g. photo-identification, abundance surveys, assessment of interaction with fisheries and other anthropogenic impacts) in sub-regions of the ACCOBAMS area to increase the monitoring and research output quality, in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and the Black Sea Commission, using standardized protocols and approaches;
4. *Asks* Parties to emphasize the use of photo-identification as a standard technique in the ACCOBAMS area, using common platforms to compare data from neighbouring regions, and to provide a wider view of bottlenose dolphin distribution;
5. *Asks* the Permanent Secretariat to assist relevant organizations, from Parties with the lowest capacities, in applying to potential donors for necessary research equipment;
6. *Encourages* the Parties, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat and with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and the Black Sea Commission to:
 - promote the ACCOBAMS module on cetology (Master Programme in French and English) for use in relevant educational programs in the ACCOBAMS Area, and
 - organize public awareness campaigns regarding cetacean research and conservation, targeting different stakeholders as an initial step prior to facilitating effective capacity-building programmes.