

REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS BUREAU



Monaco, 14-15 December 2017

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REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE ACCOBAMS BUREAU

OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1 The Eleventh Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau was held on 14th and 15th December 2017 in Monaco, at the Novotel Hotel.
- 2 It was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mrs Rahima BERKAT (Algeria), Mr. Volodymyr DOMASHLINETS (Ukraine) and Mr. Savvas MICHAELIDES (Cyprus).
- 3 The Chair of the Bureau, Ambassador Xavier STICKER (France), was unfortunately not able to attend the Bureau Meeting. As per the rules and procedures of the Bureau (Resolution 6.4), he was represented by his alternate Mr. Jean LOHEST from the French Embassy in Monaco. Mrs Klodiana MARIKA (Albania) was also not able to attend the meeting.
- 4 Mrs. Rahima BERKAT, Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau of ACCOBAMS acted as Chair of the 11th Meeting of the Bureau.
- 5 The Meeting was also attended by Mrs. Florence DESCROIX-COMNADUCCI (Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS), Mr. Simone PANIGADA (Chair of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS), two representatives of the Host Country (only for the agenda items 6.4 and 6.5) and staff members of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.
- 6 The full list of participants appears in [Annex 1](#) to this report.
- 7 The Chair of the Meeting welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting at 9.00 a.m., on Thursday 14th December 2017.
- 8 The Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and provided details about the logistic arrangements for the participants and the documentation of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 9 The Executive Secretary introduced the provisional Agenda (BU11/2017/**Doc01**), the Provisional Annotated Agenda (BU11/2017/**Doc02**), the List of documents (BU11/2017/**Inf01**Rev1) and the Provisional Timetable (BU11/2017/**Doc03**).
- 10 The Meeting reviewed and adopted the Agenda and the related timetable. The Agenda appears as [Annex 2](#) to this report.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

2.1 Report on activities

11 The Executive Secretary introduced the Document BU11/2017/**Doc04**, presenting information about the activities carried out by the Secretariat since the last Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS and about the progress made in promoting the Agreement and in strengthening collaboration with other relevant instruments.

a - Administrative matters

12 The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that as of November 2017, 23 States were Parties to the Agreement and that the 23 Parties to ACCOBAMS have nominated a Focal Point to liaise with the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.

b - Institutional Meetings

13 The Executive Secretary informed the participants that after the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS, marking the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Agreement, held in Monaco from 22nd to 25th November 2016, the 11st Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee was held from 7th to 9th February 2017 in Monaco.

c – Workshops and conferences

14 The Executive Secretary also informed the participants that two specific workshops and one conference were organized by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat since the last Meeting of the Parties:

- A **joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/CMS/ECS workshop** entitled “Best Practice Workshop: Fostering inter-regional cooperation in underwater noise monitoring and impact assessment in waters around Europe, within the context of the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive” was held on Saturday 29th April 2017 in Middelfart, Denmark.
- A workshop entitled “**Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas**”, was held on 30th April 2017 in Middelfart (Denmark), during the 31st ECS Conference. This workshop was part of the ongoing initiative aiming at spatially mapping direct threats to cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area.
- **The 4th Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries** (CSMC4) was held in Oran (Algeria) from 11th to 13th November 2017, in collaboration with the Algerian Authorities. The objective was to assess the knowledge gained on cetaceans in the South of the Mediterranean, to identify potential gaps and to stimulate the development of conservation actions in order to promote the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Agreement

d – Specific activities / projects

15 The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of the projects funded under the **Supplementary Conservation Fund**. Three projects selected through the 2016 ACCOBAMS call for proposals focusing on “cetacean population distribution and abundance” issues were finalized or being finalized. The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat also informed the Bureau members about the two projects selected through the 2012 ACCOBAMS Call for proposals that are not yet achieved because of delays in their implementation, stressing that close liaison is ensured with the organizations in charge of the projects, as well as with the Focal Points in the concerned countries, in order to ensure appropriate completion of both projects.

- 16 Information and communication:** the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat informed the Meeting about the main activities implemented to improve the communication in the ACCOBAMS area, in particular: a new web site of ACCOBAMS, both in English and French, a new website for NETCCOBAMS, the ACCOBAMS/ECS Student awards” and FINS.
- 17 Improve knowledge about state of cetaceans:** the Executive Secretary informed about the recruitment of an ASI project officer based in the Secretariat premises and of the ASI Scientific Coordinator. More information is provided under the agenda item 4.
- 18 Reduction of human pressures on cetaceans:** three topics have been introduced by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat:
- Interactions with fisheries: The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau members about the progress in the ACCOBAMS/GFCM project on mitigating the negative interactions between threatened marine species and fishing activities. She also informed the Bureau about three projects on similar topic, recently approved by the MAVA Foundation, in which the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat is involved.
 - Noise: the activities were in particular in relation with the EU funded QuietMed Project and the implementation of the ACCOBAMS certification for Marine Mammals Observers/PAM operators (BU11/2017/Inf03), especially the workshop training hold in Oran in November 2017
 - Captivity issue: In 2015/2016 the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat was approached by NGOs and Parties regarding the captivity issue both in dolphinarium and in natural environment (“dolphinarium-like”). In this context, the ACCOBAMS Legal Expert updated the report “Taking of cetaceans and dolphinarium: a legal analysis within the framework of ACCOBAMS” in order to include the “quasi dolphinarium” together with the re-introduction issues. This study concluded that Delphinium & quasi-delphinium are not compatible with ACCOBAMS.

Conclusion 1: The Bureau Members agreed on the publication of this study by the authors with a note specifying that the opinions expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the ACCOBAMS bodies.

- 19 Improve capacities of National Organisations and Experts:** The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that at the occasion of the “Monaco Ocean Week”, the ACCOBAMS and Pelagos Permanent Secretariats organized jointly a workshop on stranding “Echouages des cétacés” on 3rd April 2017 in Monaco. The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat also supported the participation of 3 Black Sea experts (2 from Georgia, and 1 from Bulgaria) to a workshop focused on necropsy and sampling of stranded cetaceans that was held in the University of Liege from 4th to 6th July 2017.
- 20 Enhance effective conservation of Cetacean Critical Habitats:** The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat gave information on the current threat based approach which will allow the identification of new relevant CCH in the ACCOBAMS area, and which, once aligned with areas of importance for cetaceans, will facilitate the implementation of sustainable conservation actions at the regional level.

Conclusion 2: Following the presentation of the report of the Secretariat and the discussion about the issues raised under this Agenda Item, Bureau members commended the work undertaken and congratulated the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for the relevance and quality of the working documents. The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat was encouraged to strengthen collaboration with other organizations in order to facilitate co-funding activities.

2.2 Follow up of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties

21 This item was further addressed under the Agenda item 3.2.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

3.1 Report on activities and issues arising from the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee

22 The Chair of the Scientific Committee presented the document BU11/2017/Doc 06 and informed the Bureau about the activities implemented by the Scientific Committee since the Sixth Meeting of the Parties. In this context he informed the Bureau that the Scientific Committee at its 1st meeting (Monaco, 7th to 9th February 2017) designated:

- A Chair – Simone PANIGADA
- A Vice-Chair – Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK
- Four Task Managers (selected according to ACCOBAMS work plan and conservation priorities).

Each Task Manager is supported by a group of colleagues and mainly operates by email. The nominated Task Managers for the current triennium (2016-2018) are:

- **Interaction with fisheries:** Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK, with a focus on bycatch
Vice-Task Manager: Joan GONZALVO, with a focus on depredation
- **Species Conservation Management Plans:** Greg DONOVAN
Vice-Task Manager: Vasileios PETROPOULOS
- **Functional Stranding Networks and Responses to Emergency Situations:** Aviad SCHENIN
Vice-Task Manager: Vincent RIDOUX
- **Protected Areas for Cetaceans:** Léa DAVID
Vice-Task Manager: Simone PANIGADA.

23 He also presented the conclusions and follow-up of the Eleventh Meeting of the Committee and the meetings attended by the Chair of the scientific committee or by other members.

3.2 Follow up of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties

24 The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, together with the Chair of the Scientific Committee reported on the activities developed since the last Meeting of the Parties. The document BU11/2017/Doc05 (Follow up of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties) was based on the proposal to prioritize the implementation of the activities included in the Work Programme. For each activity that were planned to be initiated in 2017, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the Chair of the Scientific Committee have indicated the status implementation and some comments.

Conclusion 3: The Bureau took note of the arrangements made for the Scientific Committee structure and commended the efforts by the Scientific Committee and the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat regarding the follow-up of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties

AGENDA ITEM 4: ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

4.1 ASI state of progress

- 25** After presenting a teaser about the project, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau about the status of the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative” project. Reminding the objectives of the project and the strategy followed by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, she highlighted that the project will strongly contribute to the implementation of environmental policies, in particular the MSFD of the European Union and the Ecosystem Approach implemented by the Barcelona and the Bucharest Conventions.
- 26** Presenting the budget of the project, she pointed out that the survey is being first realized in the Mediterranean area during the 2018 summer as the donors priority are concentrated on the Mediterranean, while the Secretariat keep continuing efforts to identify sources of funding for implementing the survey in the Black Sea.
- 27** The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat presented the results of the regional ASI Contact Group workshop organized on 3 to 5 October 2017 (report presented under document ACCOBAMS-BU11/2017/**Inf08**). Gathering participants from nearly all the Mediterranean countries, this workshop allowed to complete and agree on the scientific, technical, administrative and logistical approach of the synoptic survey that will take place throughout the Mediterranean. It highlighted that ongoing activities are related to the permit requests for the procedures for field survey operation and to the organization of the 2018 summer survey, as well as to post-survey issues such as data management, data analysis and communication.

4.2 Scientific aspects of the 2018 summer survey

- 28** The Chair of the Scientific Committee presented the ASI scientific methodologies and provided details on the line transect approach that will be used to estimate cetacean density and abundance. The presentation covered some preliminary explanations on density and abundance estimates, with details on survey design, study area stratification and different variables affecting the detection functions. He also presented some previous results from the Mediterranean Sea, underlining the need to consider all the assumptions very carefully, especially the need to detect all the animals on the track-line.
- 29** The Chair of the Scientific Committee pointed out the lack of funds to ensure the implementation of the project in the Black Sea and for covering some areas of the Mediterranean with two platforms (aerial and acoustic) in order to provide more precise picture of the situation.

Conclusion 4: The Bureau noted with satisfaction the effective implementation of the ASI project and warmly thanked the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the project team for their efforts in the view of the 2018 Mediterranean survey. The Bureau encouraged the efforts to continue the mobilization of additional funds for the

implementation of the project in the Black Sea. It recommended to distribute the teaser to all Focal Points for dissemination and for increasing the visibility of the project at national scale.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BUDGETARY MATTERS

5.1 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2016

30 The Executive Secretary introduced document BU11/2017/**Doc07** on incomes and expenditures for 2016 as per 31 December 2016.

Conclusion 5: Following the presentation of the report on incomes and expenditures for 2016, Bureau Members congratulated the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for the presentation and the management of the Contributions.

Conclusion 6: Bureau members highlighted and commended the important support of the Principality of Monaco, through its voluntary contribution, the contribution through the Headquarter Agreements and its significant voluntary contribution for the organization of MOP6 in 2016.

5.2 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2017

31 The Executive Secretary presented document BU11/2017/**Doc08** on incomes and expenditures for 2017 as per 31 October 2017.

32 Bureau members requested information regarding the Italian voluntary contribution, as promised by the Italian Focal Point during the last Meeting of the Parties in November 2016. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the said contribution has not been received yet.

Conclusion 7: Bureau members encouraged the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to approach the Italian Focal Point to get information regarding the voluntary contribution and to inform the Bureau Members accordingly.

5.3 Ordinary contribution of Turkey

33 The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau about the ratification process of the Agreement by Turkey. They were informed that accession to the Agreement was approved by virtue of the Decree No. 2017/10370 issued by the Government of the Republic of Turkey on 29 May 2017. The ratification instruments are expected to be provided very soon to the Depository. In this context and taking into account provisions of the Resolution 6.6, the calculated amount of the annual ordinary contribution of Turkey would be of 18 307€ for the 2017-2019 triennium.

5.4 Provisional list of activities for 2018

34 The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat presented the document BU11/2017/**Doc09** regarding the list of activities proposed for 2018 in accordance with the work programme adopted by the Parties, and taking into

consideration priority implementation levels and relevant budgetary implications. In this context it also referred to documents BU11/2017/**Inf09** (Terms of Reference for ACCOBAMS workshops during ECS in 2018) and BU11/2017/**Inf10** (ACCOBAMS Partner Award).

35 Some specific activities were discussed:

- The fourth session of the ACCOBAMS Regional workshops will be held in spring 2018.
- In order to further develop cooperation with the ongoing regional initiatives on marine debris, including ghost nets, and to assess the impact of plastic materials on cetaceans, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat plans to organize, during the ECS 2018, a joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBAMS/ECS/IWC workshop on marine debris and cetacean stranding. This workshop will aim at (i) proposing standards on data collection, including data to be collected during cetacean strandings, (ii) collecting information on ongoing initiatives, and (iii) proposing relevant concrete mitigation measures.
- Proposal to establish a Partner Award for Public Awareness on Cetaceans Conservation which would be a recognition for an outstanding achievement in the field of cetacean conservation, with particular emphasis on contributions to environmental education and/or public awareness.
- In accordance with the priorities established by the Parties at MOP6, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat plans to organize, together with the ACCOBAMS Partner Workshop, a training workshop for ACCOBAMS experts in 2018, aiming at training them on online databases relevant to ACCOBAMS which may seem complicated. The main objective will be to try to standardize the methods / tools used to share the data collected on cetaceans in order to optimize the efforts undertaken by all stakeholders involved in cetacean conservation and to improve the status of cetacean.
- A proposal to co-organize a workshop during the 2018 ECS related to Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Threats in the Mediterranean Sea, made by the IUCN Task Force to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.

Conclusion 8: The Bureau approved the list of activities proposed by the Secretariat for 2018 and highlighted once again the importance of voluntary contributions for the implementation of the working programme. Bureau members instructed the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to contact all Focal Points for a call of voluntary contributions for 2018/2019 activities.

Conclusion 9: Bureau members requested the Secretariat to encourage Parties to organize through their respective ACCOBAMS Focal Points a half-day national meeting, to collect all the relevant data in preparation of the Regional Workshops.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

6.1 ACCOBAMS Strategy: mid-term evaluation

36 Introducing document ACCOBAMS-BU11/2017/**Doc10** (Draft terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of the ACCOBAMS strategy for the period 2014/2025), the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat recalled that in its Chapter 9 the Strategy (Annex 1 of the Resolution 5.1), stipulated the implementation progress will include regular monitoring of operational work programmes and resolutions implementation. The overall effectiveness will be evaluated after 5 years of Strategy implementation. In this context the ACCOBAMS

Permanent Secretariat informed the Bureau Members that it prepared the proposed Terms of Reference with the view of launching a call for expertise in the beginning of 2018.

Conclusion 10: Bureau members approved the proposed ToRs and invited the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to launch the call for expertise early 2018. Conclusions and outcomes of the evaluation should be taken into consideration in order to propose amendments to the Strategy, when appropriate.

6.2 Format of National Reports

37 The Chair of the Meeting invited Mrs. Léa DAVID, from the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee to present, through a Skype call, the document BU11/2017/Doc11 regarding amended format of the National and Regional reports. This document was prepared taking into account Resolution 6.9 (Format for national implementation reports), requesting *“the Permanent Secretariat, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, to complement the current On-line Reporting format with relevant elements, based on the priorities of the ACCOBAMS Work Programme for 2017-2019 and to present this amended format to the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, for approval”*.

38 Mrs. Léa DAVID explained that the template proposed for the ACCOBAMS national report on line take into consideration priorities of the ACCOBAMS Work Programme as well as general issues raised by the Follow-up Committee. The Proposed template for the ACCOBAMS regional representative report was drafted by members of the Scientific Committee, taken into consideration the form already used in NETCCOBAMS for projects. The objective is to link the two reports by using NETCCOBAMS. When NETCCOBAMS members will add projects, all relevant information inserted will fill the relevant section of the relevant report.

Conclusion 11: The Bureau members welcomed the two amended formats and requested the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to go ahead with their implementation in the NETCCOBAMS website.

6.3 Fundraising Strategy

39 Referring to document ACCOBAMS-BU11/2017/Doc12, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat informed the Bureau Members about the development of the ACCOBAMS Fundraising Strategy as provided by Resolution 5.1 related to the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy. It emphasized that the preliminary draft fundraising strategy contained a list of actions that can be implemented for mobilizing funding to support the implementation of the 2014-2025 ACCOBAMS Strategy, taking into account the previous and current funding opportunities used by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat.

Conclusion 12: After discussion, the Bureau thank the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, welcomed this preliminary draft and invited the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to continue the development of the fundraising strategy, and initiate a process of a wide consultation with all relevant stakeholders

6.4 Functional Assessment of the Secretariat

40 Introducing this agenda item, the Executive Secretary recalled that, in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 5.6, she submitted to MOP6 a draft Resolution on Staff Regulations. During the discussions on the

draft Resolution, Parties decided that there was a need to assess the staffing needs of the Secretariat prior addressing the staff regulations issue. In this context, they adopted Resolution 6.3, with the following provisions:

- Mandates the Executive Secretary to entrust a specialized consultant to carry out by end of 2017 a functional assessment of the personnel needs of the Secretariat and associated costs;
- Asks the Executive Secretary, on the basis of the functional assessment, and in consultation with the Host Country and the Bureau, to develop a proposal on the structure of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS and a mechanism to implement the proposal to be submitted to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties;
- Entrusts the Bureau, in consultation with the Host Country, to address the question of the recruitment procedures for the Executive Secretary as a matter of priority.

41 As follow-up to Resolution 6.3, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat launched the evaluation process in collaboration with CMS, as proposed by its Executive Secretary at MOP6. In this context, an international expert, who conducted similar tasks with CMS, was appointed. Its mission included the analysis of the relevant documentation and an on-site visit, at the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat in Monaco from 15th to 19th May 2017.

42 The Executive Secretary presented the main elements and conclusions of the report of the Consultant contained in Document ACCOBAMS-BU11/2017/Inf11.

Conclusion 13: The Bureau members took note of the conclusions of the report and invited the Secretariat to develop, on the basis of these conclusions, and in consultation with the Host Country and the Bureau, a proposal on the structure of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS (including different options, where possible) and a mechanism to implement the proposal to be submitted to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties, as requested by Resolution 6.3. The budgetary implications of each proposed option should be considered.

6.5 Procedure for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary

43 The Chair of the Meeting recalled that the Parties, at their Sixth Ordinary Meeting held in Monaco, entrusted the Bureau, in consultation with the Host Country, to address the question of the recruitment procedures for the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority.

44 The representative of the Host Country, while stressing that there was no urgent need to issue a vacancy announcement for the post of Executive Secretary since her secondment to ACCOBAMS had been extended until December 2019, introduced the Document ACCOBAMS-BU11/2017/Doc13 presenting a preliminary working basis prepared by the Government of the Principality of Monaco in the response to the solicitation of the Chair of the Agreement Bureau.

45 The participants commended the support provided to ACCOBAMS by the Principality of Monaco, noted that this document was mainly based on the Appendix 2 "Recruitment procedure for the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS" of the draft Resolution "ACCOBAMS-MOP6/2016/Res6.2Rev1" prepared by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for the MOP6, acknowledged the transparency effort and suggested that the following elements be considered in the finalization of the Procedure for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary:

- The appointment of the Executive Secretary should be for a mandate of a fixed number of years (refer to Rules 6 of draft Resolution regarding the Staff Regulations prepared by the Permanent Secretariat for the MOP6);
- The regulation of the Principality of Monaco that will apply to the procedure of recruitment of the Executive Secretary should be explicitly included in the document;
- The document should consider the possibility of designating, in case of vacancy of the post of Executive Secretary, an Officer in Charge whose duty shall cover the period before the appointment of a new Executive Secretary;
- The qualifications for the post and the selection criteria should be approved by the Bureau on the basis of a proposal by the Secretariat;
- The evaluation of the applications for the post should be done by a committee whose members shall be designated by the Bureau. The Host Country shall be represented in the committee. The procedure for interviewing the candidates should take into account the costs implications and the entity bearing these costs;
- The final decision about the selected candidate for the post of Executive Secretary will be made by the Bureau who will formally nominate the Executive Secretary. The procedure should indicate who will sign the appointment document required by the relevant Monegasque authorities.

46 The Executive Secretary pointed out the potential impact of the relevant recommendations of the functional assessment of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, on the recruitment procedure.

Conclusion 14: Following the debate on this Agenda item, the Bureau asked that the proposed procedure be further elaborated taking into account in particular the views expressed during the meeting. A new version of the procedure document shall be proposed by the Principality of Monaco within three months.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

47 The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat presented the new requests for ACCOBAMS partnership as contained in document ACCOBAMS-BU11/2017/Doc14Rev1.

Conclusion 15: After discussions, the Bureau decided:

- to grant the status of ACCOBAMS Partners the Organizations/Institutes named here after and invited the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to officially inform them:
 - **Marine Mammals Research Institute** (Turkey);
 - **Centre National de recherché et de Développement de la Pêche et de l’Aquaculture** (Algeria);
 - **Association Ecologique Marine BARBAROUS** (Algeria);
 - **Association Protection des Cétacés et de l’Environnement Marin** (Algeria).
- to postpone its decision concerning the NGOs “**Vivamar Society for Marine Mammal Research and Sea Conservation**” (Croatia) and “**Syrian Society for Aquatic Environment Protection**” (Syria) pending the advice from the Focal Points of their respective countries.

Finally, the Bureau decided not to grant the status of ACCOBAMS Partner to the Environmental consultancy company “**Wildscope Environmental Services Ltd**” since, as a private entity, it does not correspond to the standards of ACCOBAMS Partner.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 48** The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat informed the Bureau Members on the next steps for identifying a venue for the next Meeting of Parties.
- 49** The Chair of the Meeting informed the Meeting that Algeria was exploring the possibility of hosting the Seventh Meeting of the Parties. An official letter should reach the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat very soon.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT BUREAU MEETING

- 50** The Bureau Members were invited to decide about the venue and tentative date of the next Meeting of the Bureau. It is planned that the Twelfth Meeting of the Bureau would take place in November / December 2018 in Monaco.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

- 51** The Chair of the Meeting thanked the Meeting participants and closed the Meeting on Friday 15th December 2017 at 11:45 am.

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2 - AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Progress report of the Secretariat**
 - 2.1 Report on activities
 - 2.2 Follow up of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties
- 3. Progress report on the activities of the Scientific Committee**
 - 3.1 Report on activities and issues arising from the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee
 - 3.2 Follow up of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties
- 4. ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative: implementation status**
 - 4.1 ASI state of progress
 - 4.2 Scientific aspects of the 2018 summer survey
- 5. Budgetary matters**
 - 5.1 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2016
 - 5.2 Report on incomes and expenditures for 2017
 - 5.3 Ordinary contribution of Turkey
 - 5.4 Provisional list of activities for 2018
- 6. Administrative issues**
 - 6.1 ACCOBAMS Strategy: mid-term evaluation
 - 6.2 Format of National Reports
 - 6.3 Fundraising Strategy
 - 6.4 Functional Assessment of the Secretariat
 - 6.5 Procedure for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary
- 7. ACCOBAMS Partners**
- 8. Any Other business**
- 9. Date and venue of the next Bureau Meeting**
- 10. Closure of the Meeting**