

Agenda Items 4 and 5

Priorities in the Implementation of the
Triennium Work Plan (2010-2012)

Implementation of the Triennium Work Plan
(2010-2012) – Other Issues

Document 4-06 rev.1

**ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan
2010-2012 – Progress and Further
Actions**

Action Requested

- Take note of the report
- Comment
- Decide on further actions to be taken

Submitted by

Secretariat



NOTE:
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR
OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING

Secretariat's Note

1. This document contains an overview of action points for the current triennium of activity of ASCOBANS, covering the work of the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and Parties, as adopted by the 6th Meeting of the Parties. It also indicates what progress has already been made in the implementation of the individual activities.
2. Throughout the 17th Advisory Committee Meeting, guidance on further action required for each action will be requested. These will be included in a revised version of this document, to be annexed to the report of the meeting.
3. Parties are encouraged to enable the implementation of activities marked with an asterisk (*) through voluntary contributions, as the budgetary provisions of the Agreement do not allow their satisfactory implementation.

ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan 2010-2012 – Progress and Further Actions

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN 2010-2012	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY PAPER	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED
Conservation Issues					
1. Review annually and as far as possible in conjunction with EU, ICES and IWC, new information on bycatch and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action. This should include information provided by Parties and Range States on the implementation, efficacy and impacts of measures introduced to reduce bycatch, and on effort in relevant fisheries	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Annually	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Global study on effects of bycatch in gillnets on migratory species and mitigation measures, financed through CMS with voluntary contributions from the UK and Australia, to be advertised shortly CMS Secretariat made call for information to Parties and organizations, published as ScC16/Inf.11	
2. Continue to review annually new information on pollution and its effects on small cetaceans that occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	AC	Annually			

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<p>3. Continue to review the extent of negative effects of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance on small cetaceans and to review relevant technological developments and best practices with a view to developing guidelines which Parties may use to reduce disturbance by noise</p>	<p>AC (supported by Secretariat)</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper</p>	<p>Secretariat made contacts with CMS Scientific Council, OSPAR Biodiversity Committee and ACCOBAMS Secretariat to explore possibility of developing joint guidelines for noise mitigation. Reports contained in AC17/Doc.7-01 rev.1 CMS Secretariat made call for information on national guidelines to feed into the process. Initial responses published as ScC16/Inf.12</p>	
<p>4. Review new information, as far as possible in co-operation with EU, ICES and IWC, on cetacean population size, distribution, structure, and causes of any changes in the ASCOBANS area and based on implications for conservation to make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities</p>	<p>AC</p>	<p>Annually</p>			

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5. Continue to evaluate progress in the implementation of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan), establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	Jastarnia Group (supported by the Secretariat)	Annually	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	6 th Jastarnia Group meeting held in February 2010 SAMBAH (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise) project commenced in January 2010 (until 2014) with support from Baltic Sea Parties and EU	
6. Review the effectiveness of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises in 2011. Jastarnia Group to draft revision of plan if necessary for AC preceding the MoP7 *	Independent reviewer (e.g. R. Reeves) / Jastarnia Group	2011			
7. Incorporate the implications arising from the conclusions of the ASCOBANS/HELCOM Small Cetacean Population Structure Workshops in the development of the Jastarnia and North Sea harbour porpoise action plans and potentially other actions (to be elaborated by the Advisory Committee), taking particular note of the fact that the western Baltic, Inner Danish Waters and Kattegat areas are at present not covered by either plan	AC	AC17		6 th Jastarnia Group meeting made recommendation to AC contained in AC17/Doc.4-01, detailed explanation provided in AC17/Doc.5-07	

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8. Promote and coordinate the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea, gather information on its implementation and the results obtained, inform the public and evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan every three years to update it*	Coordinator/Steering Group (supported by the Secretariat)	Throughout the triennium	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Coordinators contracted in October 2009. Progress report contained in AC17/Doc.4-05	
9. Continue to consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, which includes areas beyond national jurisdiction	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Throughout the triennium			
10. Promote an informal Working Group of the Advisory Committee which shall summarise information on large cetaceans in the Agreement area and address aspects of their conservation (in accordance with the Terms of Reference proposed by MOP6 for this group)	AC	Throughout the triennium			
11. Review progress of bottlenose dolphin project (TURSIOPS SEAs) and guide as required	AC, led by UK			Progress report contained in AC17/Doc.6-04	

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ASCOBANS Meetings and Workshops					
12. Ensure the annual cycle of Advisory Committee Meetings, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2	All Secretariat documents available in time	
13. Seek to secure a host for the 7 th Meeting of Parties at least a year in advance of the meeting; otherwise arrange for it to be held in Bonn	Secretariat	2011	Article 4.2		
14. Organize meetings of regional working groups (Jastarnia Group, North Sea Group) at intervals defined in each group's ToR *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	6 th Jastarnia Group meeting held in February 2010	
15. If required by AC, organize a workshop, e.g. at an annual conference of the ECS, on a topic of priority interest to ASCOBANS *	Secretariat	During triennium	1. Habitat Conservation and Management		

* Activities marked with an asterisk may require additional funding

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16. In conjunction with the European Cetacean Society and North Sea Foundation, organize one or more meetings to develop a constructive dialogue with the fisheries sector in the ASCOBANS area, in order to aid the Parties to progress bycatch mitigation measures in an effective manner. The first meeting is proposed to take place at the Annual Conference of the ECS in Stralsund in March 2010. To initiate the process, an intersessional Steering Group under the Advisory Committee Chair shall be established between MOP6 and AC17	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Throughout the triennium	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Intersessional Steering Group established 1 st Bycatch Workshop held on 20 March 2010	
17. Propose priorities for the coming triennium (2013-2015)	AC	2012			
Budgetary and Administrative Issues					
18. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2	AC17/Doc.13-01 rev.1, 13-02 rev.1 and 13-03 rev.1	

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19. Present a draft budget for the next triennium for consideration at an Advisory Committee meeting at least six months prior to the next Meeting of Parties	Secretariat / AC	2012	Article 4.1, 4.2		
20. Prepare draft resolutions on budgetary and administrative issues for consideration at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee prior to MoP7	Secretariat / AC	2012	Article 4.1, 4.2		
21. Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions for projects prioritised by the AC or outreach initiatives	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Letter requesting voluntary contribution for additional staff support sent in July, followed by phone calls from Executive Secretary Facilitated co-funding of pinger project (Annex 2 to AC17/6-02 rev.1) through Friends of CMS	
22. Assist in developing funding arrangements for projects covering themes prioritised by the Advisory Committee (see task 15) and Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1		

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Communication, Education and Public Awareness					
23. Develop a co-ordinated outreach programme, focussing particularly on activities that can help achieve the aims of ASCOBANS*	Secretariat/AC	2010	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Draft Fisheries Leaflet prepared and related recommendations made in AC17/Doc.4-03	
24. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2	AC17/Doc.4-02 rev.1	
25. Develop and implement CEPA to raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area*	Secretariat / Parties and observers	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Revised draft CEPA Plan presented in AC17/Doc.4-04	
26. Continue to update and translate ASCOBANS information material into the languages of both Party and non-Party Range States*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Revised ASCOBANS leaflet now available in all languages of the Agreement Area German language exhibition produced	
27. Continue to develop the ASCOBANS website, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences and including educational material*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	New species pages drafted Extended section on threats drafted Revised website close to finalization	

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28. Collaborate with partner organizations to develop joint actions in educational and promotional activities, and create synergy to provide added value while avoiding duplication of effort	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Joint ASCOBANS/SAMBAH leaflet has been developed, translations are being prepared; to be printed with German voluntary contribution 2010	
29. Assess the need for targeted information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the region in consultation with Parties and appropriate other bodies, and develop material as necessary in close cooperation with these partners *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Draft Fisheries Leaflet prepared and related recommendations made in AC17/Doc.4-03	
Cooperation with other Organizations					
30. Identify priorities and improve co-operation between ASCOBANS and the European Union institutions	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2, Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	AC representation at the ongoing DG-ENV process to determine “good environmental status” as goal of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive	

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31. Ensure close collaboration with the Secretariats of CMS and other CMS Regional Agreements on all issues of mutual interest, and contribute to the process of defining the future shape of CMS	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Ongoing Letter to Parties sent in July with request for guidance on response to ACCOBAMS extension proposal Analysis of legal implications of potential ACCOBAMS extension requested from IUCN Environmental Law Centre	
32. Seek to cooperate with the HELCOM Secretariat in the creation and maintenance of a joint Baltic harbour porpoise database as part of HELCOM's online information system *	Jastarnia Group / Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Funding Agreement concluded in December 2009. Final project report contained in AC17/Doc.6-01 rev.1 Call for input made by HELCOM to ASCOBANS contacts (see AC17/Doc.7-03)	
33. Continue to invite intergovernmental bodies such as IWC, ICES, CMS, HELCOM, NAMMCO, OSPAR, ACCOBAMS, the European Commission and other relevant international organizations to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.1, 4.2	Invitations and reminders sent for AC17	

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34. Ensure that the chairs of the Advisory Committee receive invitations to meetings of CMS and other CMS Regional Agreements	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Contact details included in CMS database	
35. Explore the possibilities of further developing positive relationships with other stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Regional Advisory Councils	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Bycatch Workshop held on 20 March 2010	
36. Compile for each meeting of the Advisory Committee a list of Dates of Interest	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.1, 4.2	AC17/Doc.7-02 rev.1	
37. Insofar as budgetary provisions and guidance by the Advisory Committee allow for it, ensure proper representation at an appropriate level at meetings of other relevant organizations *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Participation of AC Chair in 4 meetings of the WG on Good Environmental Status (EU MSFD) (co-) financed Reports of representations since AC16 see AC17/Doc.7-01	
38. Continue and improve effective communication with non-governmental and international organizations, such as OSPAR, HELCOM, ICES, ACCOBAMS, CBD and IWC	Secretariat / AC	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Ongoing	

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Institutional Issues					
39. Promote the Agreement and its aims in Parties, Range States and with other relevant players *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Ongoing	
40. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Facilitated participation of ASCOBANS in 2010 Treaty Event of the UN Secretary General	
41. Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received by that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2	Compilation published as soon as possible after receipt of last report	
42. Present to the Meeting of Parties a summary of, <i>inter alia</i> , progress made and difficulties encountered since the last Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	2012	Article 4.3		
43. Support Parties, Range States and Agreement bodies in implementing this Work Plan, in so far as primary responsibility does not lie with the Secretariat	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Ongoing	