

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 4-01

**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 18th 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 <u>reduce</u> bycatch, and on effort in relevant fisheries	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Annually	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Global CMS study on effects of bycatch in gillnets on migratory species and mitigation measures under way; final report due in September 2011 CMS ScC16/Inf.11 contains information submitted by Parties and organizations Bycatch Working Group established at AC17 (ToR see Annex 9 of AC17 Report)	Working Group to report to AC18
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		Pollution Review 2010 Annex 12 of AC17 Report Joint ECS/ ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS Workshop on Pollution and Marine Mammals held on 20 March 2011	Pollution Review 2011 will be presented to AC18

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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>Meeting between the chairs of the ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS noise working groups and the Secretariat in March 2011; possible joint actions of the working groups agreed CMS ScC16/Inf.12 contains information on national noise guidelines Intersessional Noise Working Group established at AC17 Map showing areas of high risk of ship strikes prepared by Peter Evans (AC18/Doc.6-04)</p>	<p>Noise Working Group to report on progress to AC18 AC18 to endorse joint activities of ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS noise working groups</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>		<p>Secretariat wrote to the authorities of the Faeroe Islands regarding the whale hunt in early April 2011; no response yet Tabular summary of the results of various trend analyses in strandings, sightings and bycatch prepared by Peter Evans (AC18/Doc.6-05)</p>	<p>AC to investigate actual and potential effects of climate change distribution shifts</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	7 th Jastarnia Group meeting held in February 2011 (AC18/Doc.4-02) SAMBAH (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise) project (2010-2014) 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			Jastarnia Group to identify measures geared to the situation of harbour porpoises in the area west of the Darss-Limhamn Ridge by AC19 Commission external review?

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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 7 th Jastarnia Group meeting considered matter further (AC18/Doc.4-02)	Jastarnia Group to identify measures geared to the situation of harbour porpoises in the area west of the Darss-Limhamn Ridge by AC19
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	Interim Coordinators contracted in October 2009. Final report contained in AC18/Doc.4-06 North Sea Group established at AC17 (ToR in Annex 8 of AC17 Report); progress report contained in AC18/Doc.4-05 North Sea Plan Coordinator consultancy advertised in March 2011; deadline for applications 15 April	Coordinators and North Sea Group to report to AC18 Secretariat to consult North Sea Group in selection of consultant

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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		Intersessional Working Group established at AC17	WG to report to AC18
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	Update to be given to AC18
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 for AC18	

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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		Parties to consider hosting Secretariat to make first official call for hosts by mid-2011
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	7 th Jastarnia Group meeting held in February 2011	
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	Joint ECS/ ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS Workshop on Pollution and Marine Mammals held on 20 March 2011 (AC18/Doc.5-01)	AC18 to consider topic for 2012; possibility to join in workshop on the implementation of the cetacean component of the Habitats Directive in EU Member States

* Activities marked with an asterisk may require additional funding

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<p>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</p>	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Throughout the triennium	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Intersessional Steering Group established Bycatch Workshop held on 20 March 2010 Bycatch Working Group established at AC17 (ToR see Annex 9 of AC17 Report) Chair of Bycatch Working Group attended North Sea RAC Meeting in October 2010 (see AC18/Doc.7-01)	ASCOBANS representatives to be sent to RACs and similar fisheries meetings; Parties to provide funding Working Group to report to AC18
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	AC18/Doc.13-01 AC18/Doc.13-02	Continue mid-year report to Parties Discontinue budget outlines of the running year

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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	Facilitated co-funding of pinger project (Annex 2 to AC17/6-02 rev.1) through Friends of CMS	Parties to make voluntary contributions, e.g. for the continuation of the North Sea Coordinator consultancy after mid-2012
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	Funding agreements for 6 projects concluded since AC17 (see AC18/Doc.6-01)	

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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	CEPA Plan adopted (Annex 11 of AC17 Report)	Parties to develop national material for outreach to fishermen Secretariat to use material from draft fisheries leaflet for further development of website AC17/Doc.4-03)
24. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2	AC18/Doc.4-09	
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	CEPA Plan adopted (Annex 11 of AC17 Report) Financial provision for planning of publication and/or events marking the 20 th anniversary of ASCOBANS in 2012 made through German voluntary contribution 2011	Parties to give guidance on desired commemoration of the 20 th anniversary Parties to support related activities with voluntary contributions

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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 available in all languages of the Agreement Area; reprints in selected languages underway German language exhibition produced in 2 sets New website contains basic information in all languages of the Agreement Area	Development/ finalization of further language versions of the exhibition
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 website online at www.ascobans.info to gather comments from Parties and partners; includes extended and new sections Plans for further enhancement outlined in AC18/Doc.4-09	Incorporate comments and finalize new website; relocate to www.ascobans.org Develop section with information for fishermen
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 produced in all project languages funded through German voluntary contribution 2010	

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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	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	Mission of Acting Executive Secretary to Brussels in mid-May 2011
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 The Parties' position regarding the proposed extension of the ACCOBAMS Area presented at ACCOBAMS MOP4 Secretariat represented at ACCOBAMS SC7 (see AC18/Doc.7-01) Secretariat represented at Meetings of the ISWGoFS	Examine the feasibility of a joint CMS Family workshop on a subject of common interest such as bycatch

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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	Project concluded; system online (final report contained in AC17/Doc.6-01 rev.1)	Parties to ensure relevant data is reported to HELCOM
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 AC18	
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 Chair of Bycatch Working Group attended North Sea RAC Meeting in October 2010 (see AC18/Doc.7-01)	ASCOBANS representatives to be sent to RACs and similar fisheries meetings; Parties to provide funding

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36. Compile for each meeting of the Advisory Committee a list of Dates of Interest	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.1, 4.2	AC18/Doc.7-02	Representatives to report back to AC19
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	Reports of representatives of ASCOBANS at meetings contained in AC18/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 Secretariat represented at MOP4 and SC7 of ACCOBAMS; areas for joint work identified	AC18 to endorse proposals for cooperation with ACCOBAMS
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	Mission of Acting Executive Secretary to Brussels in mid-May 2011

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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	