

Agenda Item 6.2

Project Funding through ASCOBANS

Prioritization of Project Proposals and Other  
Activities

Document 6.2.b

**Activities Requiring Funding**

**Action Requested**

- Review list of activities
- Consider possibility of financial support
- Provide guidance to Secretariat as to overall priority of the different activities

Submitted by

Secretariat



**NOTE:  
DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS  
TO THE MEETING**



### Activities Requiring Funding

1. Many activities identified or endorsed by Parties require funding for their completion. The table below indicates the urgent need for additional voluntary contributions in order to be able to progress the implementation of the Agreement's work programme.
2. The last project in the list below (Development of Bycatch Limits for MSFD Marine Mammal Indicators) was submitted by the United Kingdom. It responds to an urgent need related to one of the priority work areas of ASCOBANS, bycatch, and as a submission by a Party should be considered outside of the constraints of the call for external project proposals.
3. The total needs for unfunded activities of the ASCOBANS Work Plan that would be feasible to implement in the coming months if funding were available are approximately €79,500 (plus €10,335 PSC) for activities to be directly managed by the Secretariat, with the support of consultants where necessary, and approximately €43,000 (plus €5,590 PSC) for external activities addressing requests from the Agreement or agreed priorities.

### ASCOBANS WORK PROGRAMME

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>Live-Stranding Response Guide for the Public</b>	
<p>One of the ways in which the public can contribute to the conservation of small cetaceans is by administering first aid to a live-stranded animal and by alerting the authorities. This is also the recommendation given in the ASCOBANS exhibition. The aim of this project is to develop a one-sheet hand-out containing simple guidelines instructing laypersons how to react correctly. These would also include information on whom to contact in case of a stranding in each country. The same information would also be made available on dedicated pages on the ASCOBANS website. Draft content (on which experts will be consulted) has already been prepared by an intern of the Secretariat. As soon as the content is final, the hand-out will need to be translated, put in an appealing design and printed.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul>	
Design of hand-out sheet	500
Translation	4,500
Printing	2,500
Project coordination (consultant)	5,000
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>12,500</b>
13% UNEP PSC	1,625
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>14,125</b>

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>Creativity Competition “The Last 300”</b>	
<p>On the occasion of the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise, ASCOBANS has partnered with NGOs Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), NABU and OceanCare to run a creativity competition in Germany. Creative minds have opportunity to explore through their art and design work the importance they personally give to having these unique animals in the Baltic Sea.</p> <p>For the competition, a website has been created (<a href="http://www.schweinswal.eu">www.schweinswal.eu</a>) by the company administering the ASCOBANS website as part of this service. However, further features are needed, such as a voting system for the evaluation of the entries to the competition, which will require additional funding.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul>	
Administration of website and installation of additional features needed	5,000
13% UNEP PSC	650
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>5,650</b>

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>Development of Children’s Pages on ASCOBANS Website</b>	
<p>The Advisory Committee, most recently at AC19, endorsed a proposal to develop a website section for children, making use of existing material (e.g. from the Year of the Dolphin campaign) and introducing interactive features. Most content has been developed by two interns in collaboration with Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), but funding is needed for the web-design and administration, as well as the development of interactive features. Translations would be foreseen only in a later stage of the project.</p> <p>Germany has already agreed to cover part of the related costs through its voluntary contribution, provided that AC20 does not identify any more pressing activity urgently requiring funding. Additional funding needs are outlined below.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul>	
Web-design and development of interactive learning tools	5,000
Project coordination (consultant)	5,000
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>
13% UNEP PSC	1,300
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>11,300</b>

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>Development of Fisheries Pages on ASCOBANS Website</b>	
<p>AC17 endorsed a proposal to develop a section of the ASCOBANS website into a hub for information on bycatch-related issues in the ASCOBANS area. In addition, the Jastarnia Group had identified specific topics for which information should be gathered and made widely available. These are listed separately below. The website will be linked to the appropriate national pages and should be multi-lingual in order to reach the target audience foreseen.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul>	
Synopsis of Bycatch-related Regulations of Relevance to Individual Fishermen (Mandate JG7)	2,500
Synopsis of Studies on New Methods of Monitoring and Mitigating Bycatch (Mandate JG7)	2,500
Web adaptation of new and existing material, including compilation of links to national information	2,500
Translation of summary information into all languages of the Agreement Area	4,500
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>12,000</b>
13% UNEP PSC	1,560
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>13,560</b>

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>Baltic Sea Coordinator</b>	
<p>In line with the arrangement for the North Sea Plan, AC18 (2011) endorsed terms of reference for a Baltic Sea Coordinator. Reporting to the Jastarnia Group, the ASCOBANS Baltic Sea Coordinator would promote and explain the Jastarnia Plan to relevant stakeholders; provide advice on appropriate funding mechanisms and support fundraising efforts; and document and collate in cooperation with the ASCOBANS National Coordinators existing international and national regulations and guidelines that are relevant to the conservation and management of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea, and to provide this collation to all stakeholders. After an initial one month phase of full time work, the work would then average 2.5 days per week.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AC18</b></li> </ul>	
Consultant (1 year)	40,000
13% UNEP PSC	5,200
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>45,200</b>

## PROJECT SUPPORT

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>Web-Accessed Database for Marine Mammal Stranding and Necropsy Data</b>	
<p>AC19/Doc.6-05 contains the project report of the Zoological Society of London, which undertook a feasibility study for a web-accessed database for marine mammal strandings and necropsy data. Interest by stranding networks across the ASCOBANS region was high. In Resolution 7.4, Parties call for the establishment and long-term support of such a database. As a first step, a technical, fully costed proposal for the database needs to be developed.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution No. 4 (Chemical Pollution)</b></li> </ul>	
Development of a technical, fully costed proposal	10,000
13% UNEP PSC	1,300
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>11,300</b>

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>RUMBAH: Russian Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise</b>	
<p>AC19 had discussed the idea to co-fund a “Kaliningrad CPOD project” submitted by Baltic Fund for Nature, which would serve as an add-on to the EU LIFE+ SAMBAH project. It was decided that the project would receive €12,000 provided that 1) deployment would start by 1 September 2012, 2) it would receive sufficient co-funding, and 3) the use of SAMBAH resources in support of the project was in line with EU LIFE+ regulations. If these conditions were not met, project 6 “Enhanced detection of harbour porpoises” would be funded instead. Regrettably, while the required co-funding was obtained, permission to deploy a sufficient number of CPODs was only granted for January 2013. ASCOBANS was therefore unable to support this project and in line with the AC’s instructions funds were allocated to the next project on the priority list. The Swedish Institute is funding the majority of the project, but some co-funding is still sought.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AC19</b></li> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution No. 1 (Harbour Porpoise Conservation)</b></li> </ul>	
Consumables for field work (batteries, memory cards for detectors, etc)	3,000
Salary costs for project personnel and project coordinator in Russia	6,500
Administration costs and bank charges at Russian partners	1,500
Field travel	1,000
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>12,000</b>
13% UNEP PSC	1,560
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>13,560</b>

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
<b>Development of Bycatch Limits for MSFD Marine Mammal Indicators</b>	
<p>Bycatch, the incidental capture of non-target species, is considered globally to be the greatest human impact on cetaceans. As such, indicators and targets for cetacean and seal bycatch have been submitted to the European Commission by many Member States as part of the implementation of the EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC). The indicators and targets proposed were largely based on internationally agreed obligations such as those of OSPAR, ASCOBANS and, most recently, the European Commission through Fisheries Regulation 812/2004 concerning cetacean bycatch. Additionally, under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Member States are required to establish a system to monitor the incidental capture and killing of the animal species listed in Annex IV (which includes all cetaceans) and, where necessary, implement conservation measures to ensure that incidental capture and killing does not have a significant negative impact on the species concerned.</p>	
<p>The indicator for cetaceans currently proposed by the OSPAR's Inter-sessional Correspondence Group on the Co-ordination of Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring (ICG-COBAM) expert group for Marine Mammals and Reptiles for development under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is "mortality rate due to bycatch". The parameter or metric to be measured is 'numbers of individuals being bycaught in relation to population estimate set for each population range or Management Unit (MU)' with the target of "The annual bycatch rate of [marine mammal species] is reduced to below levels that are expected to allow conservation objectives to be met". The ICG-COBAM expert group recognize that this may require different approaches for different species. They note that there is an explicit need to move away from use a simple fraction of the best population estimate type approach which is based on incorrect assumptions (i.e. that the species have independent population dynamics). There is a very real danger that if this simplistic percentage approach continues to be used and is adopted to determine MSFD bycatch limits, the conservation status of some species could be negatively impacted in the long term.</p>	
<p>This project builds on the work undertaken by the Sea Mammal Research Unit during the SCANS-II and CODA projects to develop management frameworks for determining the bycatch limits for harbour porpoise and common dolphin. It will aim to define robust bycatch limits and conservation objectives with which to assess and manage the impact on marine mammals of mortality caused by commercial fisheries. The results will help enable Member States to assess whether or not Good Environmental Status has been achieved under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as meeting other international obligations such as those of ASCOBANS. The outputs of this work can also be used to refine and update the ASCOBANS resolution on bycatch.</p>	
(Part 1 has been awarded to Prof Phil Hammond and Dr Mike Lonergan (SMRU))	
<p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul>	
Salary costs	65,000
UK Contribution	-44,000
<b>Requested from ASCOBANS</b>	<b>21,000</b>
13% UNEP PSC	2,730
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>23,730</b>