

Agenda Item 19

Prioritisation of Activities Requiring Funding

Document 19

Activities Requiring Funding

Action Requested

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

Submitted by

Secretariat



ACTIVITIES REQUIRING FUNDING

1. ASCOBANS Resolution 9.1 Annex 1 instructs the Secretariat to prepare “an overview of approved activities requiring funding” (Work Plan Activity 36). Many activities identified or endorsed by Parties require funding for their completion. The tables below indicate the need for additional voluntary contributions in order to be able to progress the implementation for the Agreement’s work programme.
2. Unfunded activities of the ASCOBANS Work Plan 2021-2024 ([Resolution 9.1](#)) or addressing requests of the AC and its working groups, that would be feasible to implement in the coming months if funding were available, would require approximately € 70,060 (incl. € 8,060 in UN Programme Support Costs, PSC). It should be noted that these are cost estimates for the initiatives, and Parties are welcome to pledge other sums.
3. The Advisory Committee is requested to provide advice regarding the overall priority of these initiatives, to guide the Secretariat in its fundraising activities, and in case funding becomes available from the core budget through unspent funds.

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Long-term Coordination of the Harbour Porpoise Action Plans	
<p>Thanks to the decision of AC26 to prioritise this initiative for funding from the ‘conservation projects’, coupled with a voluntary contribution in 2021, the coordination of the three harbour porpoise action plans was able to go ahead for year 2022.</p> <p>Document AC24/Doc.3.0 presented in its Table 1 a flexible example of how annual payments could be distributed and shared amongst Parties. The total coordination costs per annum were estimated at EUR 28,250 (including 13% UN Programme Support Costs). In 2019, the coordination of all three plans was under one contract, but the Secretariat deemed the function more effective with dividing it in two: The North Sea Plan coordination, and coordination of the Jastarnia & Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat Plans. This has been the arrangement since 2020.</p> <p>Mandate: Resolution 7.1, Resolution 6.1, Terms of Reference for a Coordinator of Harbour Porpoise Action Plans (AC23 Report, Annex 7)</p>	
Coordinator for the Jastarnia & WBBK Plans for one year	12,500
Coordinator for the North Sea Plan for one year	12,500
13% UN PSC	3,250
Funding Required	28,250

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Review of the ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat	
<p>ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat was adopted by MOP7 in 2012. It foresees a formal revision of the Plan “at least every five years”. Similarly, ASCOBANS Resolution 9.1 states that the periodic review of the North Sea Plan should be carried out in the current quadrennium (Work Plan 2021-2024, Activity 26).</p> <p>The Jastarnia Group acts as a Steering Group for the Conservation Plan. The 18th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group (March 2022) requested AC27 to make funding available for a consultant to do the revision of the Conservation Plan, so that an advance draft would be ready by AC28 in 2023.</p>	

<p>The Secretariat would suggest using one consultant/group to review and revise the outstanding two plans in order to ensure a consistent structure and format. The work of the consultant would be carried out in close consultation with the relevant working groups and the Secretariat.</p> <p>Mandate: Resolution 7.1, 18th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group (JG18/AP28), Resolution 9.1 (WPA26)</p>	
Consultant to undertake the review of the Conservation Plan	7,000
13% UN PSC	910
Funding Required	7,910

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Database for Marine Mammal Stranding and Necropsy Data	
<p>One of the Action Points from AC26 was for the Secretariat to organise a scoping project for the potential creation of a shared stranding and necropsy database. This is suggested to take the following structure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A brief initial online survey to scope the appetite amongst range state strandings networks for the creation of an online data repository for information on marine strandings. 2. A more detailed online survey seeking to understand current scientific, political, and administrative drivers for the creation of an online database of marine strandings, and a review of existing or planned databases containing marine strandings data. 3. A technical workshop to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify i) common and ii) diverging stakeholder requirements /specifications for any database, including issues of data ownership, access and the type and detail of data the database could collate. b. Identify anticipated constraints, limitations or concerns of taking either a unilateral or shared approach to development c. Identify likely technical considerations related to the build, operation maintenance and development of an online database d. Formulation of a design brief, including potential outline costs and timescales for the project <p>Funds are sought to support staff time/facilitator costs for the outlined scoping programme. The output document would be submitted at AC28, with the aim to seek further funding from Parties to take this forward.</p> <p>Mandate: 26th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC26/AP46)</p>	
Towards any costs of the meeting, as appropriate	7,000
13% UN PSC	910
Funding Required	7,910

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Workshop to review conservation units and their delineation for bottlenose dolphins	
<p>One of the Action Points from AC26 was for the Secretariat to organise a workshop, potentially in collaboration with other bodies such as OSPAR and ICES, to review conservation units and their delineation for bottlenose dolphins and some other small cetacean species within the ASCOBANS region, updating the ASCOBANS-HELCOM Population Structure workshop held in 2008. A drafting group has been formed to develop a more detailed TOR for the workshop.</p> <p>Mandate: 26th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC26/AP30)</p>	
Towards any costs of the workshop, as appropriate	7,000
13% UN PSC	910
Funding Required	7,910

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Workshop with NATO and navies	
<p>One of the Action Points from AC26 was for the Secretariat to organise a workshop (or workshops) with national navies and NATO, to consider the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navies' mitigation protocols for use of military sonar and management of other activities that can contribute to potentially harmful underwater noise, including the removal and/or detonation on Unexploded Ordnance; and • Solutions for acoustic monitoring and bycatch mitigation (deterrent devices) in synergy with national security activities. <p>Mandate: 26th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC26/AP3)</p>	
Towards any costs of the workshop, as appropriate	7,000
13% UN PSC	910
Funding Required	7,910

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Joint ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS Workshop on the Common Dolphin	
<p>The 25th Meeting of the Advisory Committee and the 1st Meeting of the Common Dolphin Group (2019) requested the Secretariat to organise a joint workshop at the European Cetacean Society conference in 2021. However, the conference was held in a virtual platform, as was the most recent one in April 2022. The next ECS conference will be held in April 2023 in Galicia, North-western Spain. The theme is 'Our Oceans, Our Future. Marine Mammal Behavioural Ecology & the Sustainable Use of Marine Resources'. If the workshop is organised, some costs may need to be covered (catering, travel, potential facilitation, etc.). With no funds allocated at AC26, this proposal is brought forward again for the consideration of the Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Mandate: 25th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC25/AP18), 1st Meeting of the Common Dolphin Group (CDG1/Rec7), Resolution 9.1 (WPA55)</p>	
Towards any costs of the workshop, as appropriate	4,000
13% UN PSC	520
Funding Required	4,520

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
'European Scientific Workshop'	
<p>It was suggested at the 17th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group (May 2021) that a European workshop (focusing on the Baltic and the North Sea) be organised on consolidating views from the scientific community on minimum standards, thresholds, cumulative impacts, and information needed for impact assessments of different threats to small cetaceans.</p> <p>The Jastarnia Group asked the Secretariat to bring this proposal to the attention of AC26, requesting the Advisory Group to consider that ASCOBANS support Denmark in organising, including logistics, of such a workshop in 2022 / 2023. With no funds allocated at AC26, this proposal is brought forward again for the consideration of the Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Mandate: 17th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group</p>	
Towards any costs of the workshop, as appropriate	5,000
13% UN PSC	650
Funding Required	5,650