

Agenda Item 9

ASCOBANS Work Plan: Overview of
Implementation

Document 9

ASCOBANS Work Plan 2021-2024: Overview
of Implementation

Action Requested

- Take Note
- Comment

Submitted by

Secretariat



Note: Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their own document copies to the meeting, if needed.

ASCOBANS WORK PLAN 2021-2024: OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

This document presents an overview of the progress made in 2023 on implementation of the ASCOBANS Work Plan 2021-2024 adopted at the 9th Meeting of the Parties (2020). Colour codes for the status are:

Done
Partly done or an ongoing activity
No progress
Requires action by AC28
Scheduled or to be undertaken at a later date

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
Habitat Conservation and Management					
Fisheries-related Threats					
1. Review new information on bycatch and associated strandings, bycatch mitigation and monitoring measures, including remote electronic monitoring and any further new techniques as well as local initiatives, and fisheries effort. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	9.2 Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise 8.3 Jastarnia Plan 8.4 (Rev.MOP9) Common Dolphins 8.5 (Rev.MOP9) Bycatch 8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27. JBWG1 (Feb 2021) partly addressed this; recommendations available. Report on bycatch monitoring methods published Sept 2021.	
2. Identify future pilot studies for bycatch mitigation, taking into account the outputs of the review of mitigation measures in fisheries with high bycatch within the ASCOBANS Agreement Area, and in close liaison with other initiatives (e.g. IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative).	8.5 (Rev.MOP9) Bycatch	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	As soon as possible	Review of mitigation measures published in December 2021.	
3. First meeting of the Joint Bycatch Working Group to be organized as soon as possible and in partnership with ACCOBAMS and the agreed host country, addressing issues in line with its Terms of Reference.		Secretariat and the Joint Bycatch Working Group	2021	Meeting held in Feb 2021 (online).	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
<p>4. Review whether the following remain appropriate, bearing in mind the overall objective of the Agreement to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans, as well as relevant regulations and work carried out under those, and to make recommendations to Parties as appropriate:</p> <p>(a) the current maximum annual anthropogenic removal rate of 1.7 per cent of the best available estimate of abundance for harbour porpoise;</p> <p>(b) the current intermediate precautionary aim of reducing bycatch to less than 1 per cent of the best available estimate of abundance;</p> <p>(c) the objective of restoring and/or maintaining management units or populations to 80 per cent or more of their carrying capacity;</p> <p>(d) the assessment/management units that have been proposed for regularly occurring species.</p>	<p>8.5 Bycatch (Rev.MOP9) 5.7 Research 5.5 Incidental Take 3.3 Incidental Take</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Workshop to recommend small cetacean conservation objectives in relation to anthropogenic removals held in April (Part 1) and May (Part 2) 2023 (see also AC26/AP50).</p>	<p>Doc.8.2</p>
<p>5. Make recommendations on appropriate triggers indicating when an environmental limit (the sum of all interactions within the environment that impact animals) is at risk of being reached or exceeded.</p>	<p>8.5 Bycatch (Rev.MOP9)</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>As above.</p>	
<p>6. Review new information on resource depletion and its impacts on small cetacean populations. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.</p>	<p>9.4 Food Availability and Resource Depletion 8.9 Cumulative Impacts</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.</p>	
<p>Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)</p>					
<p>7. Review new information on underwater noise, its impacts on small cetaceans and their prey species, mitigation measures, technological developments, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.</p>	<p>8.6 Ocean Energy 8.8 Munitions 8.9 Cumulative Impacts 8.11 (Rev.MOP9) Noise EIA Guidelines</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Covered by 2020 National Report and AC26.</p>	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
	6.2 Offshore Construction 5.4 Adverse Effects				
8. Assess whether national navies' mitigation protocols for use of military sonar are effective. This requires Parties to request the mitigation protocols from the navies.	8.8 Munitions 8.9 Cumulative Impacts 8.11 (Rev.MOP9) Noise EIA Guidelines 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Group) / Parties	2021	Request sent to Parties in 2021; no protocols received to date. To be covered in the planned workshop (AC26/AP3).	
9. Review new information on ocean energy , its impacts on small cetaceans, mitigation measures, technological developments, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.6 Ocean Energy 8.9 Cumulative Impacts 6.2 Offshore Construction 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2021	Covered by 2020 National Report and AC26.	
10. Review new information on the cetacean watching industry , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
11. Review new information on recreational sea use , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
12. Review new information on other sources of disturbance , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)					

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
13. Review new information on underwater munitions and, their impacts on small cetaceans and cetacean habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.8 Munitions 8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2021	Covered by 2020 National Report and AC26.	
14. Review new information on marine debris (ingestion and entanglement), including microplastics, and its impacts on small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	9.3 Marine Debris 8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.	Inf.8.5
15. Review new information on other forms of pollution and hazardous substances, and their impacts on small cetaceans and cetacean habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.7 PCBs 8.9 Cumulative Impacts 7.4 Chemical Pollution 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
16. Review new information on ship strikes and their impacts on small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
17. Review new information on climate change and ocean acidification, and the impacts these have on small cetaceans, as for example distribution, habitat, and prey. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
18. Review new information on physical habitat change , e.g. from construction, and its impacts on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
19. Review new information on any other issues , including emerging issues posing a potential threat, and the impact they have on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	This is done annually, based on issues noted in National Reports and as raised at meetings.	NR.1-10 Inf.2

Management of Cumulative Impacts

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
20. Review best practice approaches to management of cumulative impacts on small cetaceans and their habitats, such as marine spatial planning. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2021	MSP was covered by 2020 National Report and AC26.	Doc.8.3
21. Contribute to the development or updating of risk maps showing the spatial and temporal (by season) distribution of activities that have an impact on cetaceans, including information provided in National Reports (in the context of marine spatial planning), taking into account the work done by other organizations (funding may be required).	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting	AC	2024	Advice needed on how to proceed with this activity. Funding potentially needed.	
Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas					
22. Review best practice approaches to management of marine protected areas for small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2023	MPA management workshop organised in 2021 & 2022. Covered by 2022 National Report and AC28.	NR.1-10 Inf.2
23. Contribute to the development or updating of the map of MPAs where cetaceans form part of the selection criteria, for the entire ASCOBANS Area, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations (funding may be required).	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting	AC	2024	Advice needed on how to proceed with this activity. Funding potentially needed.	
Species Action Plans and Regional Initiatives					
24. 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.	8.3 Jastarnia Plan 7.1 Porpoise Conservation 6.1 Jastarnia and North Sea Plans	Jastarnia Group	At each annual meeting	Done at JG19 (March 2023), JG18 (March 2022), JG17 (May 2021).	Doc.3.1 Inf.3.1a Inf.3.1b Inf.8.6
25. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan (following national consultations and any national conservation plans) and promote the implementation of the Plan.	7.1 Porpoise Conservation 6.1 Jastarnia and North Sea Plans	North Sea Group	At each annual meeting	Done at NSG11 (Feb 2023), NSG10 (Jan 2022), NSG9 (Jan 2021).	Doc.3.3 Doc.18 Inf.3.3 Inf.8.6

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
26. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the Western Baltic, the Belt Seas and the Kattegat, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan.	7.1 Porpoise Conservation	Jastarnia Group	At each annual meeting	Done at JG19 (March 2023), JG18 (March 2022), JG17 (May 2021).	Inf.3.2 Doc.18 Inf.8.6
27. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Species Action Plan for the North-East Atlantic Common Dolphin, promote its ongoing implementation, establish further priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan.	8.4 (Rev.MOP9) Common Dolphins	Common Dolphin Group	At each meeting	Done at CDG3 (Nov 2022), CDG2 (Dec 2021).	Doc.18 Inf.3.4
28. Review progress and actions in the “Extension Area”, maintain or establish collaboration, as appropriate.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting 7.3 Actions in Extension Area 5.3 Extension of Area	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	At each AC meeting	Suggested to be covered at MOP10.	
Surveys and Research					
Biological Information					
29. Review new information on population size, distribution, structure, life-history parameters and causes of any changes in the ASCOBANS Area of populations of small cetaceans. Make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.	
Monitoring and Survey Schemes					
30. Review new information on monitoring programmes relevant for small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.	
31. Review new information on dedicated surveys and other research relevant for small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting 5.7 Research 4.7 Populations	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
	3.5 Population Studies				
32. Contribute to preparing for and supporting SAMBAH-II, scheduled to start in 2021, including securing funding accordingly.	5.7 Research 4.7 Populations 3.5 Population Studies	AC / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period	SAMBAH-II LIFE application was submitted in Feb 2021 but was unsuccessful. Update will be given at AC28.	Agenda item 2.11
33. Contribute to preparing for a SCANS-IV (MMANA Project or equivalent) survey taking into account scientific and geographical coherence for the good assessment of small cetacean populations (in particular common dolphin and harbour porpoise) and securing funding accordingly. The actual boat and aerial survey should be no later than 2022, noting that the next MSFD assessment is due in 2024.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting 5.7 Research 4.7 Populations 3.5 Population Studies	AC / Parties	2021	SCANS-IV surveys started in summer 2022. Update will be given at AC28.	Agenda item 2.11
34. Contribute to the development or updating of maps of survey effort, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations where appropriate (funding may be required).	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting	AC	2024	Advice needed on how to proceed with this activity. Funding potentially needed.	
Project Funding					
35. Issue call for project proposals when instructed to do so by the Advisory Committee, and conduct consultation on prioritization to the next meeting.		Secretariat	When instructed	Call issued in March 2021; proposals were considered by AC26.	
36. Prepare for each meeting of the Advisory Committee an overview of approved activities requiring funding.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Done.	Doc.18
Use of Bycatches and Strandings					
Stranding Networks and Strandings					
37. Review new information on the establishment and functionality of stranding networks, especially with a view to facilitating liaison and skill-sharing. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.10 (Rev.MOP9) Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
38. Engage actively in the ongoing work on best practice guidelines for stranding events in the frameworks of the International Whaling Commission and ACCOBAMS.	8.10 (Rev.MOP9) Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups) / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Sec participated in IWC Strandings Initiative SG meeting in 2021.	
39. Facilitate development of guidelines for responses to individuals or groups of live small cetaceans at risk in dangerous circumstances.	8.10 (Rev.MOP9) Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	Throughout the intersessional period	Advice needed on how to proceed with this activity. Funding potentially needed.	
40. Review new information provided through the national reports. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting 8.10 (Rev.MOP9) Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.	
41. Promote the use of joint ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS best practice on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling, and standardize reporting procedures of Post-Mortem Examinations statistics.	8.10 (Rev.MOP9) Stranding Response	AC / Secretariat / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period	Reporting procedures discussed with IWC, ACCOBAMS, HELCOM. Workshop on scoping the development of a strandings database held in April 2023.	Doc.8.1
42. Continue monitoring new information on the causes of strandings and mortality of cetaceans, as well as best practice guidance on stranding responses and necropsies, and to make recommendations to Parties as appropriate.	8.10 (Rev.MOP9) Stranding Response 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2022	Covered by 2021 National Report and AC27.	
43. Contribute to the development or updating of a map showing location and numbers of strandings (both dead and alive), including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations where appropriate.	8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting	AC	2024	Advice needed on how to proceed. Could be covered by the planned strandings database. Funding needed.	Doc.8.1
Information and Education					
Information, Outreach and Education					

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
44. Develop the ASCOBANS website and other information material as needed, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences in the languages of the Agreement Area.	5.8 Education and Promotion	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing. Digital material produced for 30 th anniversary and IDBHP (2022).	Doc.7.1
45. Support annual celebration of the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise on the 3 rd Sunday in May.	8.3 Jastarnia Plan	Parties / Partners / Secretariat	Every year	Ongoing.	Doc.7.1
46. Facilitate presentation of the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award at MOP10.		Secretariat / AC	2023	Jury to be formed at AC28.	Doc.7.2
47. Take advantage of attendance at other fora to give presentations or make information available on topics related to ASCOBANS.		Secretariat / Parties / Partners	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing. IMMA workshop 2023, ECS 2023, ETF webinar 2022, CMS StC53, IWC CC, for example.	Inf.6.1 Doc.7.1
48. Report on communication and outreach matters to the Advisory Committee.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Reported to AC28, AC27, AC26.	Doc.7.1
Stakeholder Involvement					
49. Work towards strengthening or establishing positive relationships with stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and European Fisheries Advisory Councils.		AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing. BALTFISH Presidency (Latvia) attended JG18 (2022). NEAFC attended JBWG1 (2021).	Inf.6.1
Institutional Issues					
Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops					
50. Undertake a work prioritization exercise, involving ranking the different activities of the Work Plan how the Advisory Committee sees fit.		AC	2021	Suggested to be done for the next Work Plan 2025-2028 (for MOP10 in 2024).	
51. Establish an intersessional working group to identify the barriers to understanding and improving conservation status of data deficient taxa. This will include identifying which species and populations are of particular concern and how their status might be best remedied.		AC	2021	Small group established after MOP9. Update expected to AC28.	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
52. Ensure Advisory Committee Meetings are organized as scheduled, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings.		Secretariat	For each AC Meeting	Done for AC28, AC27, AC26.	
53. Arrange for a special session dealing with a species selected by the previous meeting at each meeting of the Advisory Committee, covering issues such as population status and structure, distribution, abundance, life history, threats and pressures, the conservation status and recommendations for research and conservation actions.		AC / Secretariat	For each AC Meeting	Risso's dolphin covered at AC28. No species requested for AC27. Bottlenose Dolphin covered at AC26.	
54. Organize meetings of regional working groups (Jastarnia Group, North Sea Group, Common Dolphin Group) at intervals defined in each group's TOR.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Done. See WPAs 24-27.	
55. Organize workshops including at the annual conferences of the ECS on topics of priority interest to ASCOBANS, funding permitting.		Secretariat	As instructed	Three workshops organised at ECS in 2023.	Doc.7.1
56. Support intersessional correspondence working groups as needed.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing.	Doc.19
57. Seek to secure a host for MOP10 at least a year in advance of the meeting; otherwise arrange for it to be held in Bonn.		Secretariat	2023	Prospective host identified.	
Budgetary and Administrative Matters					
58. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to the Advisory Committee.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Reported to AC28, AC27, AC26.	Doc.17.1 Doc.17.2 Doc.17.3
59. Prepare draft budget options and resolutions on budgetary and administrative issues for consideration at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee prior to MOP10.		Secretariat / AC	2023		
60. Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions for projects prioritized by the AC or outreach initiatives.		Secretariat	Throughout the	Ongoing.	Doc.18

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
			intersessional period	Ongoing.	
61. Develop funding arrangements for projects prioritized by the Advisory Committee and Meeting of Parties.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period		
Cooperation with Other Organizations					
62. Identify priorities and complementarity and improve cooperation between ASCOBANS and institutions of the European Union.		AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing.	
63. Ensure close collaboration with the Secretariats and scientific advisory bodies of the CMS Family on all issues of mutual interest.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing.	
64. Seek to cooperate closely with ECS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC, NAMMCO, OSPAR, UNCLOS, UNEP and other relevant organizations by determining possible win-wins, including those activities that require mapping (21, 23, 34, 43).	9.3 Marine Debris 8.6 Ocean Energy 8.7 PCBs 8.8 Munitions 8.10 (Rev.MOP9) Stranding Response 5.8 Education and Promotion	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Reports submitted to UN DOALOS (2022, 2021); IWC (SC69A in 2023, 68 th Meeting of the Commission in 2022, SC68D in 2022); ACCOBAMS MOP8 (2022); CMS (StC53 in 2022, StC52 in 2021). Ongoing cooperation and discussions with several entities.	Inf.6.1
65. Seek to collaborate with the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC), the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) established by the European Union, the Regional Coordination Groups, the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, and other relevant organizations addressing bycatch.	8.5 (Rev.MOP9) Bycatch	AC	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing.	
66. Convey information on the effects of PCBs on small cetaceans to UNEP, the Stockholm Convention, the CLRTAP	8.7 PCBs	Secretariat / AC	Throughout the		

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
Protocol on POPs, HELCOM and OSPAR for further consideration and possible action, and seek to engage with these processes as far as feasible.			intersessional period		
67. Seek to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.		AC / Partners / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing.	
68. Consider the relationship of ASCOBANS to other organizations (e.g. OSPAR, HELCOM, IWC, EU Commission, European Topic Centre for Nature Conservation), in order to identify potential duplication or gaps in efforts. Any observations to be communicated to MOP10 in the form of a draft resolution.		AC	Throughout the intersessional period	AC28 to form a drafting group.	
69. Compile a list of Dates of Interest and report back on issues relevant to ASCOBANS to each meeting of the Advisory Committee. This requires participants at meetings identified in the list to confirm their attendance by email to the Secretariat after the meeting.		Secretariat / Parties / Partners	At each AC Meeting	Done.	Doc.6.2 Inf.6.1
70. Insofar as budgetary provisions and guidance by the Advisory Committee allow for it, ensure proper representation at meetings of other relevant organizations.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	IWC68; ACCOBAMS MOP8, SC14, SC13; ECS 2023.	
National Reports					
71. Identify and, where possible, address any issues that Parties might encounter regarding the compilation of the National Report.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Technical issues addressed.	Inf.16
72. Make full use of the information submitted in order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties.		AC	Annually		NR.1-10
73. Tailor the agenda for each of the meetings of the Advisory Committee to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports.		AC	Annually	Done for AC28, AC27, AC26.	Doc.1.2a Doc.1.2b

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
Other Matters					
74. Consider output of the informal working group on large cetaceans in the Agreement Area, which summarizes information on the species and addresses aspects of their conservation.		AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	As appropriate during the intersessional period	Suggested to be covered at MOP10, with WPA 28.	
75. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement.		Secretariat / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period	Ongoing.	Inf.15
76. 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	At MOP10		
77. 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 intersessional period	Ongoing.	
78. Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received sufficiently in advance of that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Compilation posted for AC28.	Inf.2