

Agenda Item 18

Prioritisation of Activities Requiring Funding

Document 18

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 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 € 100,481 (incl. € 11,560 in UN Programme Support Costs, PSC). It should be noted that these are rough estimates, 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	
Thanks to the decision of AC27 to prioritise this initiative as #1, coupled with voluntary contributions in 2022-2023, the coordination of the three harbour porpoise action plans was able to go ahead for year 2023.	
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). Currently the action plans are coordinated through two contracts: 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.	
Mandate: Resolution 7.1, Resolution 6.1, TOR (AC23 Report, Annex 7)	
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)
Coordination of the Species Action Plan (SAP) for North-East Atlantic Common Dolphin	
The ASCOBANS Species Action Plan (SAP) for North-East Atlantic Common Dolphin was adopted intersessionally in 2019 and is now covered under Resolution 8.4 (Rev.MOP9) (2020). The SAP coordination was considered in the list of ‘activities requiring funding’ at AC26 (2021). The current contract is funded through ASCOBANS ‘Conservation Projects’ budget line, and is scheduled to end in March 2024.	
Funding is needed to continue to support implementation of the SAP, with emphasis on the activities outlined in section 1.5 of the action plan.	
Mandate: Resolution 8.4 (Rev.MOP9)	
Coordinator for the Common Dolphin SAP for one year	12,500
13% UN PSC	1,625
Funding Required	14,125

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 Work Plan 2021-2024 (Activity 26) states that the periodic review of the Plan should be carried out in the current quadrennium.</p> <p>The Jastarnia Group acts as a Steering Group for the Conservation Plan. Its 19th meeting (March 2023) requested the Advisory Committee to make funding available for a consultant to do the revision of the Conservation Plan, so that the document would be ready by MOP10 in 2024.</p> <p>Mandate: Resolution 7.1, Resolution 9.1 (WPA26), 19th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group (JG19/AP26)</p>	
Consultant to undertake the review of the Conservation Plan	10,000
13% UN PSC	1,300
Funding Required	11,300

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Development of a Strandings Database	
<p>AC27 supported the initiative to scope the development of a European strandings database, and prioritised it as #2. Work undertaken since AC27 and proposed next steps are presented under agenda item 8.1. If the Advisory Committee agrees to go forward with the project, funding is needed to build and test the database. (See proposal in AC28/Doc.8.1)</p> <p>Mandate: 27th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC27/AP7), Conservation and Management Plan (measure 3), Resolution 8.10 (Rev.MOP9), Resolution 7.4</p>	
Development of a minimum viable product (ICES)	23,421
Work to drive the process (Andrew Brownlow)	7,000
13% UN PSC	3,955
Funding Required	34,376

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Workshop with NATO and navies	
<p>AC27 prioritised this initiative as #3 in 2022, and requested the Secretariat coordinate with ACCOBAMS. However, ACCOBAMS suggested the workshop to take place in 2024 instead. Therefore, funds are sought again, now increased to include report writing.</p> <p>The workshop would 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: 27th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC27/AP24); 26th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC26/AP3)</p>	
Towards any costs of the workshop, as appropriate	11,000
13% UN PSC	1,430
Funding Required	12,430