

Agenda Item 8.2

Funding of Projects and Activities

Prioritization of Activities Requiring
Funding

Document 8.2

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. Unfunded activities of the ASCOBANS Work Plan, 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 €131,360 (incl. € 15,112 PSC).

ASCOBANS WORK PROGRAMME

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
Revision of Format for Annual National Reports	
<p>AC22/Doc.15.2 shows the results of an intersessional process agreed by Parties in order to improve the format for ASCOBANS Annual National Reports. The outline of the new reporting format, once agreed by the Advisory Committee, will need to be transformed into an effective survey form. To ensure that questions and answer options both minimise the workload for Parties and allow meaningful analysis of the submitted information, a professional survey designer needs to be engaged (see also AC21/AP48: Parties are urged to make financial pledges before the 22nd Advisory Committee to enable a professional survey designer to be recruited to produce the new reporting format).</p> <p>This activity is very urgent if a new, more effective format is to be proposed to MOP8 in 2016.</p> <p>Mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP7 Resolution 2 (Work Plan) • AC21 Action Point 48 	
Consultant to develop professional, analytical online reporting form	10,000
13% UNEP PSC	1,300
Funding Required	11,300

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
Revision of Harbour Porpoise Action Plans	
<p>Three harbour porpoise action plans have been adopted by ASCOBANS Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises was first elaborated in 2002. In 2009, a revised and updated version was adopted by MOP6. • The Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea was also adopted in 2009 (MOP6). • In 2012, the Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat (WBBK) was adopted by MOP7. <p>All three plans foresee regular reviews and revisions. For the Jastarnia Plan, this was due in 2012, three years after its adoption; for the WBBK Plan in 2015, at the AC Meeting before the next Meeting of Parties after the adoption of the Plan. Accordingly, JG11 agreed that “in view of the SAMBAH results and the requirement for regular reviews and updates of both the Jastarnia Plan and the Gap Area Plan, an urgent revision of both plans is needed with the aim of presenting drafts for adoption by MOP8 in 2016. Parties are urged to provide the necessary funding.” (JG11/AP21)</p> <p>The North Sea Plan speaks of periodic reviews being essential in order to “adjust the actions to the diverse changes that can occur, either in response to the results of the monitoring of the conservation plan actions themselves or to changing external factors.”</p> <p>The Secretariat would suggest to use one consultant/group to review and revise all three 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP6 Resolution 1 (Adoption and Implementation of the Jastarnia and North Sea Plans) • MOP7 Resolution 1 (Conservation of Harbour Porpoises and Adoption of a Conservation Plan for the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and Kattegat) 	
Consultant to review and revise all three plans	24,000
13% UNEP PSC	3,120
Funding Required	27,120

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
Coordination of Harbour Porpoise Action Plans	
<p>Thanks to voluntary contributions from 2011 to 2014 the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea and the work of the North Sea Group were supported by a part-time coordinator. In 2011, the AC endorsed similar terms of reference also for a Baltic Sea Coordinator.</p> <p>AC21/AP58 instructed the Secretariat to approach all Parties to ascertain their willingness to contribute towards the costs of contracting coordinators for the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom responded favourably by providing funds for a North Sea Coordinator, but these contributions were not sufficient for concluding a contract similar to the one in place until 2014. The 5th Meeting of the North Sea Group will therefore be given opportunity to comment on a proposal for tasks to be covered.</p> <p>Responses from Baltic Sea countries were unanimous in suggesting that the number of days to be worked per week by a Baltic Sea Coordinator should be lowered to correspond to the arrangement that had been in place for the North Sea, i.e. approx. 1 work day per week, with up to one third of the funds allowable to be used for necessary and approved travel instead of time).</p> <p>The 11th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group (2015) agreed the following, with high priority: "In light of the positive experience with the North Sea Coordinator, the Jastarnia Group recommends that the Advisory Committee ensure that the appointment of a Baltic Sea Coordinator, or a joint coordinator for both regions, possibly attached to the Secretariat, is considered by the next MOP" (JG11/AP18).</p> <p>The estimates below are based on previous costs and offers received for North Sea Coordination. If more resources can be made available, the activity level could be increased accordingly.</p> <p><i>An alternative approach could be to use available funding not for continuous coordination, for which a sustainable funding mechanism would have to be found (see also AC21/AP60: Parties will consider ways of ensuring longer-term funding for the coordinator consultancies.), but instead to have the Jastarnia and North Sea Groups identify specific tasks for which they require assistance, and then advertise short-term contracts to address these in order of priority and urgency as funding becomes available.</i></p> <p>Mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP6 Resolution No. 1 (Adoption and Implementation of the Jastarnia and North Sea Plans) • AC18 	
Consultant North Sea (1 year)	22,124
Consultant Baltic Sea (1 year)	22,124
Estimated Total	44,248
13% UNEP PSC	5,752
Funding Required	50,000

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
Further Development of Children's Pages on ASCOBANS Website	
<p>Following endorsement by AC19, the Secretariat with the help of interns, a consultant and in in collaboration with Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) and supported with funds from the voluntary contribution of Germany for 2013 had developed and launched a children's website, www.kids.ascobans.org.</p> <p>While basic content is online, further enhancements are necessary, including interactive features and games, in order to make the website as attractive as possible to the target audience. In addition, in line with the Agreement's mandate translations are necessary in order to reach children throughout the Agreement Area.</p> <p>Mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan) 	
Development of interactive features	5,000
Translation (per language)	5,000
Estimated Total	10,000
13% UNEP PSC	1,300
Funding Required	11,300

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
(Re-)Prints of Outreach and Information Material	
<p>Regular revision and/or reprinting of ASCOBANS outreach and information material (see AC22/Doc.7.1) is necessary in order to be able to inform the public and stakeholders about our work and our mandate. Also, in view of the upcoming MOP8, some additional material might have to be produced.</p> <p>Material will be (re-)produced depending on availability of funds. Therefore, the figures given below are only a rough indication.</p> <p>Mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan) 	
Minor revisions and reprinting	3,500
13% UNEP PSC	455
Funding Required	3,955

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
Live-Stranding Response Guide for the Public	
<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>Mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan) 	
Design of hand-out sheet	500
Translation	4,500
Printing	2,500
Project coordination (consultant)	5,000
Estimated Total	12,500
13% UNEP PSC	1,625
Funding Required	14,125

Initiative	Estimated costs (€)
Development of Fisheries Pages on ASCOBANS Website	
<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>Mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP7 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan) 	
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
Estimated Total	12,000
13% UNEP PSC	1,560
Funding Required	13,560