

Agenda Item 14

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial Work Plan (2007-2009)

Document 11

**ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan
2007-2009**

Action Requested

- review the document
- make recommendations for further implementation
- assign funding priorities for un(der)funded activities

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan for 2007 - 2009

Progress made, further action required, linkages to the ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan and suggestions for effective implementation of the Agreement

1. This document, prepared by the CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat, contains an overview of action points for the current triennium of activity of ASCOBANS, covering the work of the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and Parties, as outlined by the 5th Meeting of the Parties. It also indicates progress already achieved in its implementation and further action required for all the actors involved. Linkages with the ASCOBANS "Conservation and Management Plan" annexed to the Agreement text have been identified for each action point. The ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan, annexed to this document, covers the following areas:
 - a) Habitat conservation and management
 - b) Surveys and research
 - c) Use of by-catches and stranding
 - d) Legislation
 - e) Information and education.
2. It should be noted that the 30 items in the current work Plan for 2007 include eight action points (26.6%) related to Information and Education, seven related to Surveys and Research (23.3%), and just three (10%) addressing Habitat Conservation and Management, namely items 14, 16 and 17.
An asterisk (*) indicates the need for additional funds to undertake the activity.
3. Parties are encouraged to make available, through additional Government contributions, resources to undertake existing or new un(der)funded activities, giving particular attention to conservation and management.

This document is an update of Annex 6 to the Report of the 14th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee.

ACTIVITY TRIENNium WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
Entire ASCOBANS Area					
1. Review, on an annual basis, and as far as possible in conjunction with EU, ICES and IWC, new information on bycatch and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action. This should include information provided by Parties and Range States on the implementation, efficacy and impacts of measures introduced to reduce bycatch, and on effort in relevant fisheries	Advisory Committee	Annually	Secretariat sent reminders on reporting to AC15 to Parties and non-Party states repeatedly since November 2007. Secretariat compiled information received and submitted to AC15. Drafting Groups at AC14 (AC14Doc.25 + 26).	Secretariat to send timely reminders for yearly submissions, compile report to AC16. Review of bycatch of migratory species in fisheries to be prepared by the CMS Scientific Council. Mark Tasker to lead discussion on coordinating bycatch data and effort assessments through ICES.	2c. Surveys and research. 3. Use of bycatches and stranding.
2. Provide a clear format for the information to be provided by Parties and Range States on static gillnet and tangle net effort	Advisory Committee	AC15	Document prepared by AC14 (AC15/Doc.17) as basis for further discussion.	AC15 to agree on final format.	2c. Surveys and research. 3. Use of bycatches and stranding
3. Continue to review, on an annual basis, new information on pollution (including the IWC programme POLLUTION 2000+) and its effects on small cetaceans which occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	Advisory Committee	Annually	Working Group presented report to AC14 (Annex 8 to AC14 Report).	AC to review at each meeting.	2c. Surveys and research

ACTIVITY TRIENNIAL WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
4. Continue to review the extent of negative effects of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance on small cetaceans and to review relevant technological developments with a view to providing recommendations to Parties, by the 6 th Meeting of the Parties, on possible ways to mitigate those negative effects	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	By MOP6 (recommendations)	Proceedings of joint ASCOBANS/ECS Wind Farm Workshop held in April 2007 available. Secretariat invited NATO to AC15.	Parties to submit progress report. AC15 to develop format for reports, including all forms of disturbance and mitigation measures. Report on developments in high-speed ferry traffic*.	2c. Surveys and research
5. Organise a one day workshop to establish criteria and guidelines for the identification of sites of importance for small cetaceans	Secretariat	Spring 2007	Proceedings of joint ASCOBANS/ECS/ ACCOBAMS Workshop held in April 2007 available (AC15/Doc.31).	Outcome to be considered by AC15 for official submission to MOP6.	2b. Surveys and research
6. Organise a three-day workshop on population structure of [small cetaceans and] the harbour porpoise in the ASCOBANS area, including one day dedicated to the Baltic Sea harbour porpoises	Secretariat	October 2007	Workshops held in Bonn (8-10 Oct. 2007).	AC15 to consider results and consider submission to MOP6.	2a. Surveys and research
7. Review new information on cetacean population size, distribution, structure, and causes of mortality in the ASCOBANS area and based on implications for conservation to make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	Advisory Committee	Annually	Draft reporting format prepared for AC15 (AC15/Doc.23).	AC15 to agree on procedure and format for reporting of information.	2a. Surveys and research

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
8. Continue to step up activities to raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	ASCOBANS as main partner in Year of the Dolphin (YoD). See outreach report (AC15/Doc.26).	Develop [Secretariat] Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan for ASCOBANS area.	5. Information and education
9. Continue to translate ASCOBANS information material and to undertake promotional activities in both Party and non-party Range States*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	ASCOBANS leaflet available as PDF in Russian. Translations of updated versions of leaflets finalised/ contracted for all languages. Dolphin Manual as PDF available in Portuguese. CCB Baltic Harbour Porpoise brochure available in German.	Parties to agree to revised format for leaflet and provide guidance on Atlantic/North Sea example to be used. Parties to provide funding for printing.	5. Information and education
10. Continue to develop the ASCOBANS web site, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences and including educational material*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	ASCOBANS website linked to new features of YoD. Regular additions to News section made. Updates of other sections as required. Document base increased (notably all AC documents since AC6) Contract for re-design of existing webpage signed.	AC15 to provide guidance on additional features to be included in website.	5. Information and education

ACTIVITY TRIENNium WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
11. Clearly define the role of the Secretariat in working together with the EU, CMS, OSPAR, HELCOM and ACCOBAMS in order to synchronize joint actions in educational and promotional activities, and create synergy to provide added value while avoiding duplication of effort	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Initial consultations with HELCOM and EC undertaken.	Propose role in Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan to AC16. Continue and intensify liaison with all organisations.	5. Information and education
12. Take appropriate advice, produce targeted information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the region, and in particular in consultation with appropriate [international] fishermen's organisations, RACs and others, develop material to distribute to fishermen, especially with respect to bycatch issues	Secretariat Parties to contact national organisations	Throughout the triennium	Secretariat wrote to contacts in Parties and Range States to gather available material. Suggested to EC DG Fisheries to co-fund leaflet.	Continue collection of available material, identify further needs and develop leaflet as appropriate.	5. Information and education
Baltic Sea Sub-Region					
13. Continue to produce information material in the languages of the Baltic Sea region *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	ASCOBANS leaflet available as PDF in Russian. Translations of updated Baltic version of leaflet finalised for all languages (Polish pending final check). CCB Baltic Harbour Porpoise brochure available in German (and Swedish – without Secretariat involvement).	AC15 to advise on priorities.	5. Information and education

ACTIVITY TRIENNium WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
14. Review the implementation of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) (Document MoP4/Doc.23) and continue efforts to further its implementation	Advisory Committee, Jastarnia Group	Annually	4th Meeting of Jastarnia Group 25-27 February 2008 in Sweden. Review of Jastarnia Plan undertaken by JG4	Draft revised Jastarnia Plan to be considered by AC15. Progress report to be prepared in time for JG5 and AC16.	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
15. Liaise with Parties and others to find funding for the continuation, beyond the year 2007, of the web-based, international database on opportunistic sightings, strandings and bycatch*	Secretariat	2007	General fundraising efforts ongoing. BfN offered assistance for map production.	Secretariat to send reminder on fundraising for point 15 (AC14 Report, Annex 12).	N/A Fundraising
North Sea Sub-Region					
16. Develop a conservation plan for the North Sea Harbour Porpoise*	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat	By AC15	New draft prepared by Working Group for AC15 (AC15/Doc.14).	AC15 to provide final input and adopt the document.	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
17. Review, once it is in place, the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea and continue efforts to further its implementation	Advisory Committee	Annually	None	Agree on regular mechanism for review of implementation	1. Habitat Conservation and Management

ACTIVITY TRIENNium WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
North Atlantic Sub-Region (Extension Area)					
18. Continue to consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, which includes areas beyond national jurisdiction	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Extension came into force on 3 February 2008.	AC15 to consider work implications of the extension and provide guidance on priorities to Secretariat. Undertake a review of issues, activities and conventions relevant in the extended area to determine ASCOBANS' role in relation to them and possible synergies.*	N/A
Institutional Issues					
19. Make Resolution 2b of MOP5 (Operating Procedures of the Agreement 2007-2009) operational for ASCOBANS	Advisory Committee		AC divided in technical and scientific part. AC14 established Administration and Finance Working Group chaired by P. Tak.	AC to further consider organisation of work in order to meet MOP5 resolution	N/A
20. Continue to invite the intergovernmental bodies such as IWC, ICES, CMS, HELCOM, NAMMCO, OSPAR, ACCOBAMS and the European Commission and relevant international organizations such as ECS, to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Secretariat has sent invitations and reminders to all organisations.	Continue efforts to establish or renew working relationship and invite for AC16. Consider representation of ASCOBANS at their meetings.	N/A

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
21. Explore the possibilities of further developing positive relationships with other stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Regional Advisory Councils	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Secretariat has sent invitations and reminders to all relevant RACs.	Mark Tasker to prepare paper on ASCOBANS/RAC interaction.	N/A
22. Improve co-operation, exchange of information as well as expertise between the Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS and the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council of CMS	Advisory Committee	Throughout the triennium	AC Chair and CMS StC Chair joined in strategy meeting convened by Host Country in November 2007. CMS ScC and StC Chairs invited to AC meeting.	Continue inviting CMS ScC and StC Chairs to AC meetings with a view to extending collaboration.	N/A
23. Continue to review at each meeting a list of international meetings, compiled by the Secretariat, at which the aims of ASCOBANS might most usefully be promoted, and recommend which meetings should be attended, by whom and with what objective and to review the outcomes of meetings attended	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Annually	Secretariat tabled draft list (AC15/Doc.27) of Dates of Interest. Reports of representation as agreed at AC14 available as AC15/Doc.36.	AC to amend list and agree on representation.	N/A
24. Review, before MOP6, the formal structures and processes of the Agreement to determine whether other mechanisms would be more effective in achieving the conservation objectives of ASCOBANS*	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	By CMS COP9/ MOP6	Draft Terms of Reference prepared by NL, available as AC15/Doc.10.	AC15 to recommend preferred evaluation process to UNEP. ASCOBANS to go through an independent evaluation in mid-2008, NL to support with € 30,000 donation.	N/A

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25. Explore ways in which ASCOBANS can better liaise and work with the EC on issues of mutual interest*	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Acting Executive Secretary undertook mission to Brussels, discussion points <i>inter alia</i> based on AC14 advice. SAMBAH project promoted in Brussels. Possibilities for joint production of Fisherman's Leaflet (see 12.) discussed.	Maintain contact with Brussels, collaborate with DG Fish on Fisherman's Leaflet. Parties to support ASCOBANS' interests through their Commissioners.	N/A
26. Promote the Agreement and its aims in Parties, Range States and with other relevant players	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Bilaterals with governments. Presentations in relevant meetings.	Continuation of ongoing activities and drafting CEPA.	5. Information and education
27. Promote accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Secretariat, Parties	Throughout the triennium	Ongoing. Letters sent to Estonia and Ireland.	Bilaterals where possible. Send recruitment letters to remaining Range States.	5. Information and education
28. Consider, in 2009, the possible amendment of the ASCOBANS Agreement to include all cetacean species	Advisory Committee	By AC15	Upon request of the Secretariat, ACCOBAMS provided expert opinion (AC15/Doc.29).	AC15 to decide how to take this issue forward.	N/A
29. Support Parties, Range States and Agreement bodies in implementing the above Work Plan, in so far as primary responsibility does not lie with the Secretariat	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Ongoing	Secretariat to produce regular updates of plan.	N/A

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CMP (ANNEXED)
Other actions from AC13					
30. Two workshops to assist in the development of the bottlenose dolphin project [and follow-up] *	UK lead	End of 2006 and 2008	First workshop completed.	Second workshop to take place.	

Annex to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (New York, 1992)

Conservation and Management Plan

The following conservation, research, and management measures shall be applied, in conjunction with other competent international bodies, to the populations defined in Article 1.1:

1. Habitat conservation and management

Work towards (a) the prevention of the release of substances which are a potential threat to the health of the animals, (b) the development, in the light of available data indicating unacceptable interaction, of modifications of fishing gear and fishing practices in order to reduce by-catches and to prevent fishing gear from getting adrift or being discarded at sea, (c) the effective regulation, to reduce the impact on the animals, of activities which seriously affect their food resources, and (d) the prevention of other significant disturbance, especially of an acoustic nature.

2. Surveys and research

Investigations, to be coordinated and shared in an efficient manner between the Parties and competent international organizations, shall be conducted in order to (a) assess the status and seasonal movements of the populations and stocks concerned, (b) locate areas of special importance to their survival, and (c) identify present and potential threats to the different species.

Studies under (a) should particularly include improvement of existing and development of new methods to establish stock identity and to estimate abundance, trends, population structure and dynamics, and migrations. Studies under (b) should focus on locating areas of special importance to breeding and feeding. Studies under (c) should include research on habitat requirements, feeding ecology, trophic relationships, dispersal, and sensory biology with special regard to effects of pollution, disturbance and interactions with fisheries, including work on methods to reduce such interactions. The studies should exclude the killing of animals and include the release in good health of animals captured for research.

3. Use of by-catches and strandings

Each Party shall endeavour to establish an efficient system for reporting and retrieving by-catches and stranded specimens and to carry out, in the framework of the studies mentioned above, full autopsies in order to collect tissues for further studies and to reveal possible causes of death and to document food composition. The information collected shall be made available in an international database.

4. Legislation

Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the Parties shall endeavour to establish (a) the prohibition under national law, of the intentional taking and killing of small cetaceans where such regulations are not already in force, and (b) the obligation to release immediately any animals caught alive and in good health. Measures to enforce these regulations shall be worked out at the national level.

5. Information and education

Information shall be provided to the general public in order to ensure support for the aims of the agreement in general and to facilitate the reporting of sightings and strandings in particular; and to fishermen in order to facilitate and promote the reporting of by-catches and the delivery of dead specimens to the extent required for research under the agreement.