



**Invitation to the
18th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee**

Bonn, 17 December 2010

Dear Madam/Sir,

The UNEP/CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat is pleased to announce that the 18th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee will be held **at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany**. The meeting will take place **from 4-6 May 2011**. The Provisional Agenda and timetable for the meeting will become available in due course.

In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure (see Annex 4 of the attached Report of the 17th Advisory Committee Meeting), all Parties to the Agreement are entitled to appoint one member of the Advisory Committee and such advisers as the Party may deem necessary. All non-Party Range States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations bordering on the waters concerned by the Agreement may send observers to the meeting.

As at previous meetings, other organizations and international bodies concerned with relevant issues are invited to participate in the 18th ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting as observers. Please note that the Rules of Procedure require that any body or individual qualified in cetacean conservation and management must first request admittance to the plenary sessions of the Advisory Committee (except for ACCOBAMS, HELCOM, IWC, ICES and OSPAR, for which such a request is not needed). Written **requests for observer status** from additional organizations or qualified individuals must reach the Secretariat by return email to ascobans@ascobans.org **by 4 March 2011**. If you or your organization has not been represented before, please include some information on its relevance to the Agreement with your registration form.

Parties will be requested to inform the Secretariat of any objections by 4 April 2011. Unless objections are received from more than one third of the Parties (i.e. four objections), the applicant will be admitted as a non-voting observer. The Secretariat will notify all applicants of the final decision promptly.

We would like to ask you to submit **documents** intended for discussion at the meeting to the Secretariat **by 31 March 2011**, in order to allow timely circulation for the meeting.

We would also like to request your assistance in updating the list of Dates of Interest to be considered by AC18. Therefore, if you know of a meeting in 2011 or early 2012 that should be included in the draft, please notify the Secretariat **by 31 March 2011**.

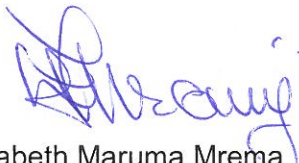
Please **register** for the meeting **by 18 March 2011**. Please note that we require a separate registration form for each participant and that contrary to prior practice building security now requires the submission of an electronic photo by each delegate. Please pass it to the Secretariat along with your registration form. Thank you for your understanding.

Please don't hesitate to contact Ms Heidrun Frisch and Ms Bettina Reinartz at +49 228 815 2416 or ascobans@ascobans.org if you have any questions.

Information for participants on travel and accommodation options will be circulated in due course.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bonn in May 2011!

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Acting Executive Secretary

Enclosure

- Registration Form