



## Terms of Reference – Consultant

# Review of Trend Analyses in the ASCOBANS Area

**Deadline for Application: 27 December 2009**

### 1. Project Description:

The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee recommended that a review of trend analyses of stranding and other data of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area be carried out. The aim is to provide AC members with an accessible, readable and succinct overview of trends in status, distribution and impacts of small cetaceans within the ASCOBANS Agreement Area. This should combine data sets of different stakeholders and countries.

### 2. Responsibilities:

The consultant is expected to carry out the following tasks:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> step

- Identify where the data of interest (e.g. stranding data, but also data on overall status and abundance, range changes, bycatch levels, mass mortality incidents, acoustic monitoring, fishing effort, sightings and species occurrence) exist and where analysis has already been conducted in Europe;
- Produce an overview of the sources and locations of the existing data;
- Identify major data gaps;
- Use the existing data sets that have already been analysed from different countries to make a synthesis to serve as a baseline review and summary for the Advisory Committee, containing appropriate references.

This first step should be completed and a detailed report submitted in time for consideration by the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (April 2010).

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> step

- Do an appraisal of trends based on the existing data;
- Review the different formats of data existing in the different countries;
- Investigate the feasibility of standardising the reporting format;
- Investigate the options for developing a series of common databases.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> step

- Advise on the best format for data submitted by Parties;
- Propose a future project which would include other data sources with maybe online real-time entry options.

The consultant will take into account information from publications, unpublished reports and personal communications with researchers, as appropriate.

The consultant will consult with and seek advice from ASCOBANS Parties and partners as appropriate, as well as the UNEP/ASCOBANS Secretariat. He/she will deliver detailed written reports to the Secretariat.

### **3. Qualifications:**

Applicants should demonstrate their relevant experience. In particular, the consultant is expected to have:

- An advanced university degree in a biological or conservation-related subject;
- Excellent knowledge of small cetacean status and distribution in the ASCOBANS region
- Comprehensive knowledge of scientific publications on European cetaceans;
- Contacts with researchers/research groups involved in running stranding and sighting schemes throughout the ASCOBANS Area;
- Sound statistical understanding;
- A clear overview of small cetacean conservation issues, particularly in the ASCOBANS Area;
- Good intercultural skills;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English.

Prior involvement in the conservation work under ASCOBANS is an asset.

### **4. Duration:**

The consultant will complete the all tasks related to the first step as outlined under section 2 above at least one month in advance of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (April 2010).

Steps 2 and 3 are foreseen to be finalised within six months after the meeting. The contract will expire on 31 October 2010.

### **5. Fee:**

Applicants are requested to make an offer specifying the total fee expected.

The fee will be paid in two instalments (50% upon delivery of a report on step 1 to the Advisory Committee; 50% upon completion of the whole assignment), depending on satisfactory completion of activities and presentation of an invoice to the UNEP/ASCOBANS Secretariat.

This tender is open for individuals, non-governmental organizations and companies alike.

**Please send your offer to [ascobans@ascobans.org](mailto:ascobans@ascobans.org).**