



Invitation to the 24th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

Bonn, 22 May 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the 24th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC24) will take place from 25-27 September 2018 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Government of Lithuania has generously offered to host the meeting at the National Visitors Centre of the State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment, Antakalnio St. 25, Vilnius.

Participation

The meeting will be open to Parties, non-Party Range States, Regional Economic Integration Organizations and other observers in line with the [Rules of Procedure](#) adopted at the 8th Meeting of the Parties.

Registration

Parties and [Approved Observer Organizations](#) are requested to register **by 25 August 2018** on the meeting website (www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/AC24). Other observers must register **by 27 July 2018** in line with Rule 2 of the [Rules of Procedure](#).

Provisional agenda and other documents

Please find the AC24 Provisional Agenda ([AC24/Doc.1.2.a](#)) attached. Further meeting documents and all information related to the meeting will be posted on the meeting website as soon as they become available.

Please note that the AC24 will have an Institutional Session on the last day of the meeting (27 September). Party representatives are expected to take administrative and financial decisions during this session and are herewith requested to prepare accordingly.

Submission of documents by Parties and observers

a) Meeting documents

In line with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, please submit any documents intended for discussion at the meeting to the Secretariat **by 21 August 2018**, in order to allow for the timely circulation for the meeting.

b) National reports

In accordance with [Resolution 8.1](#) Parties were requested on 15 March 2018 to submit their national report **by 29 May 2018** in the format provided ([AC24/Inf.2.0](#)). The issues

covered by this year's national report shape the agenda of the AC24 to a large extent. In order to prepare an analysis of national reports for the AC24, we would like to urge you to submit your report by the deadline. Reports sent in after the deadline cannot be taken into account.

c) Dates of Interest 2018/2019

In order to prepare an overview of the Dates of Interest covering 2018/2019 from October 2018 onwards, please review the draft Dates of Interest ([AC24/Doc.9.4](#)) and send us any additional relevant meeting dates and locations **by 6 August 2018**. If you have attended a meeting of relevance to ASCOBANS since AC23 in September 2017 (see [AC23/Doc.7.3](#)), please send a brief summary to the Secretariat immediately after the meeting (see [Action Point 9](#) from AC23) or at the latest **by 6 August 2018**.

Side events

Participants are welcome to organize side events during the lunch break on matters related to the conservation of small cetaceans in ASCOBANS waters. Please inform the Secretariat **by 6 August** if you intend to organize a side event.

Travel and Accommodation

The meeting is foreseen to **start at 9:30 on 25 September and end at 18:30 on 27 September**. When making your travel arrangements, please ensure that you can be there until the list of decisions and action points has been adopted and the meeting closes. Please consult the attached [Travel Information](#) for details, including hotels and a map.

Summary of deadlines

29 May	<i>Submission of national reports</i>
27 July	<i>Registration by other observers</i>
6 August	<i>Registration for side events / Dates of Interest</i>
21 August	<i>Submission of meeting documents</i>
25 August	<i>Registration by Parties, Non-Parties and Approved Observer Organizations</i>

The Secretariat looks forward to seeing your delegation in Vilnius in September.

Yours sincerely,



Bradnee Chambers
Executive Secretary

Attached:

1. Provisional Agenda ([AC24/Doc.1.2.a](#))
2. [Travel Information AC24](#)