

Agenda Item 3

ASCOBANS Awards

Document 3-01

Terms of Reference for ASCOBANS Awards

Action Requested

- Take note of the Terms of Reference for the Outreach and Education Award
- Endorse the proposal to establish an ASCOBANS Lifetime Award
- Review and approve the Terms of Reference for the ASCOBANS Lifetime Award

Submitted by

Secretariat / Advisory Committee



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

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ASCOBANS AWARDS

1. The 11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS in 2004 approved the creation of a biennial award to be presented to an individual or institution in recognition of outstanding conservation-related PR or educational initiatives.
2. The first ASCOBANS Award went to Hel Marine Station, Poland, in 2005. A second one was awarded to Petra Deimer and her NGO Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäugetiere (Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals) in 2007. The 16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee in 2009 selected Peter Evans, Scientific Director of the Sea Watch Foundation, for the third ASCOBANS Award.
3. At the same meeting, the UK proposed the establishment of a second category of ASCOBANS Award – the Lifetime Award. The AC welcomed the proposal, and recommended to submit it to the 6th Meeting of the Parties for its consideration.

ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award

4. The Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS agreed Terms of Reference for the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award. They are reproduced here below for ease of reference.

A. Background

Promoting public awareness is an essential element of conservation work and an area in which ASCOBANS has an important role to play. Unless people are convinced that porpoises are present in their local waters, that these creatures are worth saving, and that the animals' existence is threatened, they are not likely to support recovery efforts.

While the ASCOBANS Secretariat engages in PR and educational activities of its own, successful awareness raising is dependent on the efforts of various actors at national and international levels. Among these are governmental and other public institutions, non-governmental organizations and scientific and educational institutions.

During the 11th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee it was agreed that a prize for the best cetacean conservation-related PR/educational initiative should be awarded biennially and for the first time in 2005.

B. Objectives

- Promoting and supporting educational initiatives and activities related to the aims of ASCOBANS
- Increasing public awareness to achieve a better understanding of the need to conserve Small Cetaceans and the means by which this aim can be achieved

C. Nomination of Candidates

These initiatives will be brought to the attention of the working group ("Jury") by Parties, NGOs or others and the team will be tasked with judging which has made the most valuable contribution to the aims of the Agreement. Nominations should reach the Secretariat no later than 31 December of the calendar year preceding the presentation of the award.

The nominees will be requested to produce a document to be presented to the working group supporting their initiatives.

D. Jury

A working group¹ consisting of -

- i. The Advisory Committee Chair (or his/her nominee)
- ii. The Executive Secretary (or his/her nominee)
- iii. An NGO with educational experience
- iv. Those Party delegates that wish to take part

will evaluate educational initiatives that relate to the aims of ASCOBANS.

The jury may decide not to present the award if it feels that no suitable candidates have been nominated.

E. Prize

The winner will be awarded a certificate and efforts will be made to find sponsorship for a small financial or other material prize. The prize will normally be awarded on the occasion of an AC Meeting or a MOP.

ASCOBANS Lifetime Award for Outstanding Contribution to Cetacean Conservation

5. Based on the United Kingdom's proposal at AC16, the following Terms of Reference are proposed for a new ASCOBANS Lifetime Award:

A. Background and Objectives

Achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans relies heavily on research, outreach and education. These areas often draw their greatest contributions from individuals, sometimes through unique and important contributions carried out over lifetimes. The ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award recognizes one type of important contribution, but there are others as well.

In order to recognise formally these important contributions and achievements, which also support the objectives of the agreement and its Parties, the 16th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee agreed that a prize for outstanding contribution to marine mammal conservation should be introduced.

This would be awarded occasionally to individuals who through their careers have made such a contribution and where this includes making a contribution to the work of ASCOBANS. The AC recommended this be awarded for the first time in 2009.

B. Nomination of Candidates

Candidates will be proposed for consideration by the Advisory Committee in writing no less than four weeks before a meeting. Nominations can be made by Parties, NGOs or others and should include details on the outstanding contribution towards achieving the conservation objectives of ASCOBANS the candidate made throughout his/her career.

It should be clear that this Award will not be given regularly and therefore no calls for nominations will be made by the Secretariat.

C. Jury

The Advisory Committee may choose to establish a working group to evaluate the nomination/s if no agreement can be reached in plenary. The AC may decide not to present the award if it feels that no suitable candidates have been nominated.

D. Prize

The winner will be awarded a certificate and efforts will be made to find sponsorship for a small financial or other material prize. The prize will normally be awarded on the occasion of a Meeting of Parties or other major event.

¹ The team will not include anyone with a direct interest in any of the projects to be evaluated