

ASCOBANS NEWSFLASH APRIL 2014

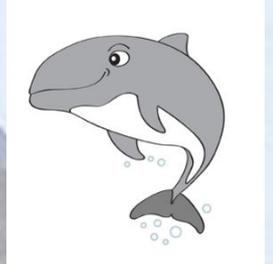
ASCOBANS KIDS WEBSITE AND PORPOISE NAMING COMPETITION



The Secretariat is proud to present the new children's website "[ASCOBANS Kids](http://kids.ascobans.org)" to the public. Developed in response to recommendations of the Advisory Committee and in collaboration with Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), this online resource is still a work in progress, but already contains a host of information tailored for children of various age groups.

The website's mascot, a cartoon harbour porpoise designed by UN Volunteer Larry Leuenberger of Variation Design, has no name yet!

The deadline for entries to our harbour porpoise naming competition has been extended until 12 May 2014. Anybody up to 14 years of age can participate in the naming competition. The ASCOBANS staff will choose the most interesting and creative name and the winner will receive a cute plush dolphin as a prize. More details can be found on <http://kids.ascobans.org/games-and-activities/harbour-porpoise-naming-competition/>.



CMS FAMILY CAPACITY-BUILDING RESOURCES

Two capacity-building tools designed for the benefit of the whole CMS Family have been presented to the public in recent months.

CMS Family Manual

The Manual was developed upon request from the Parties by the CMS Secretariat together with the CMS Standing Committee, the CMS Scientific Council and Secretariats of the daughter Agreements and their scientific advisory bodies. It is designed to invigorate the active participation of National Focal Points (called National Coordinators in ASCOBANS) in decision-making, sharing knowledge and wisely managing and executing their numerous tasks related to the Convention and its Instruments. The Manual is available in English, French and Spanish from [this website](#), and the online version is fitted with hyperlinks that cross-reference relevant passages on a topic, practical examples and useful tips and has checklists at the end of every chapter, making it a very user-friendly online tool.

E-community

The main objective of the CMS Family NFP e-community is to support NFPs in fulfilling the different aspects of their roles, especially in implementing CMS and its instruments. Therefore, the platform provides factual background knowledge about CMS, its bodies, instruments, procedures etc. and explain the roles of the NFPs. The platform aims to offer hands-on support tools to facilitate the work of NFPs, such as checklists, information on funding programmes or training events. The platform concept follows a "knowledge-on-demand" approach and responds to different levels of prior knowledge and user needs by segmenting the information into modules and by providing different access paths to the information.

Communication functionalities provided on the platform foster discussion and the exchange of experience among the NFPs. Additionally, knowledge transfer via the platform should be complemented by training events (online and face-to-face). Offering a sound mix of information, knowledge management, communication and networking, the aim is to create a community-of-practice where NFPs mutually support each other by collaboratively learning on the job. More information on the concept can be found on [this website](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- [1-3 July 2014: 18th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council, Bonn, Germany](#)
- [29 September-1 October 2014: 21st Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, Gothenburg, Sweden](#)
- [4-9 November 2014: 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, Quito, Ecuador](#)

For more information, please contact:
Ms Heidrun Frisch
UNEP/ASCOBANS Coordinator
+49 228 815 2418 / h.frisch@ascobans.org



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