

**Agenda Item 6: Implementation of the
 ASCOBANS Triennial Workplan 2007-2009**

**ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan for 2007-2009.
Progress made, further action required, linkages to the
ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan, and
suggestions for effective implementation of the Agreement**

Submitted by: Secretariat



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

ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan for 2007 – 2009

Progress made, further action required, linkages to the ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan, and suggestions for effective implementation of the Agreement

1. This document, prepared by the CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat, contains an overview of action points for the next triennium of activity of ASCOBANS, covering the work of the Secretariat, parties and Advisory Committee. It also indicates progress already achieved in its implementation and further action required for all the actors involved. In an effort to link it with the ASCOBANS “Conservation and Management Plan” annexed to the Agreement text, the Secretariat has identified the areas covered by each action point (see right-hand column “Linkages ...”). The ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan covers the areas below. The Plan is also annexed to this document.
 - a) Habitat conservation and management
 - b) Surveys and research
 - c) Use of by-catches and stranding
 - d) Legislation
 - e) Information and education.
2. It should be noted that the 30 items in the current work Plan for 2007 include eight action points (26.6%) related to Information and Education, seven related to Surveys and Research (23.3%), and just three (10%) addressing Habitat Conservation and Management, namely items 14, 16 and 17. **An asterisk (*) indicates the need for additional funds to undertake the activity.**
3. AC14 is invited to
 - a) review the document, contribute to it and make the relevant recommendations for its further implementation,
 - b) encourage Parties to make available, through additional Government contributions, resources to undertake existing or new un(der)funded activities, giving particular attention to conservation and management.

The Secretariat will regularly update the document and share it with Parties and interested organizations.

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
Entire ASCOBANS Area					
1. Review, on an annual basis, and as far as possible in conjunction with EU, ICES and IWC, new information on bycatch and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action. This should include information provided by Parties and Range States on the implementation, efficacy and impacts of measures introduced to reduce bycatch, and on effort in relevant fisheries	Advisory Committee	Annually	Report expected by end of March. Secretariat to compile information and submit to AC14.	AC14 to review. Secretariat to send regular reminders for yearly submissions.	2c. Surveys and research. 3. Use of bycatches and stranding.
2. Provide a clear format for the information to be provided by Parties and Range States on static gillnet and tangle net effort	Advisory Committee	AC15	None	<u>Suggestion:</u> establishment of a WG at AC14	2c. Surveys and research. 3. Use of bycatches and stranding
3. Continue to review, on an annual basis, new information on pollution (including the IWC programme POLLUTION 2000+) and its effects on small cetaceans which occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	Advisory Committee	Annually	WG to present results at AC14	AC to review on regular basis	2c. Surveys and research
4. Continue to review the extent of negative effects upon small cetaceans of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance on small cetaceans and to review relevant technological developments with a view to providing recommendations to Parties, by the 6 th Meeting of the Parties, on possible ways to mitigate those negative effects	Advisory Committee	By MOP6 (recommendations)	Parties to submit progress report. Windfarm workshop organised. Report on developments in high-speed ferry traffic expected.	Suggestion: AC14 to recommend submission of annual report on all forms of disturbances not limited to high speed ferries and mitigation measures implemented AC14 to develop format for reports	2c. Surveys and research

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
5. Organise a one day workshop to establish criteria and guidelines for the identification of sites of importance for small cetaceans	Secretariat	Spring 2007	Workshop scheduled for April 22nd in collaboration with ECS and ACCOBAMS	Outcome to be sent to AC 15th for further action and official submission to MOP6	2b. Surveys and research
6. Organise a three-day workshop on population structure of the harbour porpoise in the ASCOBANS area, including one-day dedicated to the Baltic Sea harbour porpoises	Secretariat	26-28 February 2007 (now probably September 2007)	Date for workshop to be agreed (tentatively Sept 07)	Results to be forwarded to AC15 and MOP6	2a. Surveys and research
7. Review new information on cetacean population size, distribution, structure, and causes of mortality in the ASCOBANS area and based on implications for conservation to make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	Advisory Committee	Annually	AC14 to agree on procedure and format for reporting of information.		2a. Surveys and research
8. Continue to step up activities to raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	ASCOBANS as main partner in YoD (see AC14/Doc. ?)	AC14 to advise on ASCOBANS Award. Develop Secretariat Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan for ASCOBANS area.	5. Information and education
9. Continue to translate ASCOBANS information material and to undertake promotional activities in both Party and non-party Range States*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	None	Parties to provide funds. Also to assist in kind and with translation	5. Information and education

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
10. Continue to develop the ASCOBANS web site, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences and including educational material*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	ASCOBANS web site linked to new features of YoD		5. Information and education
11. Clearly define the role of the Secretariat in working together with the EU, CMS, OSPAR, HELCOM and ACCOBAMS in order to synchronize joint actions in educational and promotional activities, and create synergy to provide added value while avoiding duplication of effort	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	None	Propose role in CEPA plan to AC15	5. Information and education
12. Take appropriate advice, produce targeted information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the region, and in particular in consultation with appropriate fishermen's organisations, RACs and others develop material to distribute to fishermen, especially with respect to bycatch issues	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	None	Collect information and develop leaflet (in cooperation with ?)	5. Information and education
Baltic Sea Sub-Region					
13. Continue to produce information material in the languages of the Baltic Sea region	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	None	AC14 to advise on priorities	5. Information and education
14. Review the implementation of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) (Document MoP4/Doc.23) and continue efforts to further its implementation	Advisory Committee, Jastarnia Group	Annually	Meeting of Jastarnia Group in Denmark on 19-21 February 2007	AC14 to consider report of the meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
15. Liaise with Parties and others to find funding for the continuation, beyond the year 2007, of the web-based, international database on opportunistic sightings, strandings and bycatch*	Secretariat	2007	General fundraising efforts ongoing. Secretariat to send reminder on fundraising for point 15.		N/A Fundraising

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
North Sea Sub-Region					
16. Develop a conservation plan for the North Sea Harbour Porpoise*	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat	By AC14	Document "Towards a Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea" adopted by MOP5	AC Chair and Vice-chair to lead on development of conservation plan	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
17. Review, once it is in place, the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea and continue efforts to further its implementation	Advisory Committee	Annually	None	Agree on regular mechanism for review of implementation	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
North Atlantic Sub-Region (Extension Area)					
18. Continue to consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, which includes areas beyond national jurisdiction	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	AC15 to consider		N/A
Institutional Issues					
19. Make Resolution 2b of MOP5 (Operating Procedures of the Agreement 2007-2009) operational for ASCOBANS	Advisory Committee		AC to consider its organisation of work in order to meet MOP5 resolution		N/A
20. Continue to invite the intergovernmental bodies such as IWC, ICES, CMS, HELCOM, NAMMCO, OSPAR, ACCOBAMS and the European Commission and relevant international organizations such as ECS, to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Ongoing		N/A

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
21. Explore the possibilities of further developing positive relationships with other stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Regional Advisory Councils	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	AC14 to identify stakeholders with which to further develop relations and consider inviting them to AC15		N/A
22. Improve co-operation, exchange of information as well as expertise between the Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS and the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council of CMS	Advisory Committee	Throughout the triennium	Ongoing. AC Chair attended 14 th Mtg of Scientific Council. AC14 to advise on invitation to next meeting of CMS ScC and StC Chairs. AC14 to consider means of collaboration with CMS ScC		N/A
23. Continue to review at each meeting a list of international meetings, compiled by the Secretariat, at which the aims of ASCOBANS might most usefully be promoted, and recommend which meetings should be attended, by whom and with what objective and to review the outcomes of meetings attended	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Annually	Secretariat to table draft report at AC14	AC14 to provide input and comments	N/A
24. Review, before MOP6, the formal structures and processes of the Agreement to determine whether other mechanisms would be more effective in achieving the conservation objectives of ASCOBANS*	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	By MOP6	None	AC14 to discuss terms of reference and process	4. Legislation
25. Explore ways in which ASCOBANS can better liaise and work with the EC on issues of mutual interest*	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	None	AC14 to advise	N/A
26. Promote the Agreement and its aims in Parties, Range States and with other relevant players	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bilaterals with governments - presentations in relevant meetings - initiatives 	Continuation of ongoing activities and CEPA	5. Information and education
27. Promote accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bilaterals - letters 	5. Information and education

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/ TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKAGES TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
28. Consider, in 2009, the possible amendment of the ASCOBANS Agreement to include all cetacean species	Advisory Committee	By AC16	None	AC15 to consider	N/A
29. Support Parties, Range States and Agreement bodies in implementing the above Work Plan, in so far as primary responsibility does not lie with the Secretariat	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Ongoing	Secretariat to produce regular updates of plan	N/A
Other actions from AC13					
30. Two workshops to assist in the development of the bottlenose dolphin project		End of 2006 and end of 2007	First workshop completed	Second workshop to take place	

Conservation and Management Plan

The following conservation, research, and management measures shall be applied, in conjunction with other competent international bodies, to the populations defined in Article 1.1:

1. Habitat conservation and management

Work towards (a) the prevention of the release of substances which are a potential threat to the health of the animals, (b) the development, in the light of available data indicating unacceptable interaction, of modifications of fishing gear and fishing practices in order to reduce by-catches and to prevent fishing gear from getting adrift or being discarded at sea, (c) the effective regulation, to reduce the impact on the animals, of activities which seriously affect their food resources, and (d) the prevention of other significant disturbance, especially of an acoustic nature.

2. Surveys and research

Investigations, to be coordinated and shared in an efficient manner between the Parties and competent international organizations, shall be conducted in order to (a) assess the status and seasonal movements of the populations and stocks concerned, (b) locate areas of special importance to their survival, and (c) identify present and potential threats to the different species.

Studies under (a) should particularly include improvement of existing and development of new methods to establish stock identity and to estimate abundance, trends, population structure and dynamics, and migrations. Studies under (b) should focus on locating areas of special importance to breeding and feeding. Studies under (c) should include research on habitat requirements, feeding ecology, trophic relationships, dispersal, and sensory biology with special regard to effects of pollution, disturbance and interactions with fisheries, including work on methods to reduce such interactions. The studies should exclude the killing of animals and include the release in good health of animals captured for research.

3. Use of by-catches and strandings

Each Party shall endeavour to establish an efficient system for reporting and retrieving by-catches and stranded specimens and to carry out, in the framework of the studies mentioned above, full autopsies in order to collect tissues for further studies and to reveal possible causes of death and to document food composition. The information collected shall be made available in an international database.

4. Legislation

Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the Parties shall endeavour to establish (a) the prohibition under national law, of the intentional taking and killing of small cetaceans where such regulations are not already in force, and (b) the obligation to release immediately any animals caught alive and in good health. Measures to enforce these regulations shall be worked out at the national level.

5. Information and education

Information shall be provided to the general public in order to ensure support for the aims of the agreement in general and to facilitate the reporting of sightings and strandings in particular; and to fishermen in order to facilitate and promote the reporting of by-catches and the delivery of dead specimens to the extent required for research under the agreement.