

Agenda Item 5.8

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial  
Work Plan (2007-2009)

Review of the Implementation of the  
ASCOBANS Triennial Work Plan (2007-  
2009)

Document 24 rev.1

**ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan  
2007-2009 – Progress**

**Action Requested**

- Review the document
- Make recommendations for further implementation
- Assign funding priorities for un(der)funded activities

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

### **Secretariat's Note**

This revised document contains the changes introduced by a working group during the 16<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting. It had been circulated to the meeting participants in hardcopy with all changes indicated.

## **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 current triennium of activity of ASCOBANS, covering the work of the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and Parties, as outlined by the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties. It also indicates progress already achieved in the implementation of the individual activities and further action required for all the actors involved, providing an update with respect to Annex 6 to the report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee. Linkages with the ASCOBANS "Conservation and Management Plan" annexed to the Agreement text have been identified for each action point. The ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan covers the following areas:

- 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.

3. Parties are encouraged to make available, through additional Government contributions, resources to undertake existing or new un(der)funded activities, giving particular attention to conservation and management. An asterisk (\*) indicates the need for additional funds to undertake the activity.

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN (AS OUTLINED BY MOP5)	ACTION BY	INTERVAL / TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKS TO CMP  (Conservation and Management Plan)
<b>Entire ASCOBANS Area</b>					
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	Secretariat sent timely reminders on reporting to Parties and non-Party states before AC meetings. Secretariat compiled information received and submitted to meetings. Drafting Groups at AC14 (AC14/Doc.25 + 26). Secretariat in contact with EC about harmonised by-catch reporting.	Review of bycatch of migratory species in fisheries to be prepared by the CMS Scientific Council. Review advice regularly given by ICES and identify whether there are gaps as well as further needs for advice. Review annually IWC Small Cetacean Report.	2c. Surveys and research. 3. Use of by-catches 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	By MoP6	Document prepared by AC14 (AC15/Doc.17) as basis for further discussion. High risk fisheries addressed in a draft revised format for annual national reports prepared by the Secretariat with outside technical advice for consideration by AC16 (AC16/Doc.25).	Agree on reporting needs and discuss format with EU (ICES, OSPAR and HELCOM). Intersessional Correspondence Group (chair Oceana) to identify gaps and needs for further guidance.	2c. Surveys and research. 3. Use of by-catches and stranding

ACTIVITY TRIENNium WORK PLAN (AS OUTLINED BY MOP5)	ACTION BY	INTERVAL / TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKS TO CMP
<p>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</p>	<p>Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Working Group presented report to AC 14 (Annex 9 of Report) and AC15 (Annex 8 of Report) and AC16 (Annex x of Report). Funding for project on effects of contaminants on reproduction provided.</p>		<p>2c. Surveys and research</p>
<p>4. Continue to review the extent of negative effects 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<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties, on possible ways to mitigate those negative effects</p>	<p>Advisory Committee, Secretariat</p>	<p>By MOP6</p>	<p>Joint ASCOBANS/ECS Wind Farm Workshop held in April 2007. Proceedings available. Secretariat invited NATO to AC meetings. AC15 established Noise Working Group (ToR in Annex 7 of AC15 Report). Secretariat member of IMO Noise Correspondence Group. Funding for analysis of risk of ship strikes provided</p>	<p>Noise Working Group finalise report intersessionally, make recommendations.</p>	<p>2c. Surveys and research</p>
<p>5. Organise a one day workshop to establish criteria and guidelines for the identification of sites of importance for small cetaceans</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Spring 2007</p>	<p>Joint ASCOBANS/ECS/ACCOBAMS Workshop held in April 2007. Proceedings available.</p>	<p>Outcome to be submitted to MOP6.</p>	<p>2b. Surveys and research</p>

ACTIVITY TRIENNium WORK PLAN (AS OUTLINED BY MOP5)	ACTION BY	INTERVAL / TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKS TO CMP
6. Organise a three-day workshop on population structure of [small cetaceans and] the harbour porpoise in the ASCOBANS area, including one day dedicated to the Baltic Sea harbour porpoises	Secretariat	October 2007	Workshops held in Bonn (8-10 Oct. 2007). Report presented as AC16/Doc.29.	Outcome to be submitted to MOP6. Consider publication in hard copy (depends on cost). Forward to ICES for their information (request to examine bycatch per population).	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	Chair prepared draft reporting format for AC15 (AC15/Doc.23). Secretariat collated all reporting formats in a draft revised format for annual national reports and suggested improvement with outside technical advice (AC16/Doc.25).	Parties to submit progress report as part of their Annual Reports. Reporting format to be reconsidered intersessionally.	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 Year of the Dolphin (YoD). Draft Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan for ASCOBANS developed (AC16/23). See also AC14/Doc.8, AC15/Doc.26 and AC16/Doc.22.	CEPA plan to be finalised intersessionally (group chaired by Mark Simmonds (WDCS) for provision to MoP6.	5. Information and education

ACTIVITY TRIENNium WORK PLAN (AS OUTLINED BY MOP5)	ACTION BY	INTERVAL / TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKS TO CMP
<p>9. Continue to translate ASCOBANS information material and to undertake promotional activities in both Party and non-party Range States *</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Throughout the triennium</p>	<p>8 language versions of the revised ASCOBANS leaflet finalised. New exhibition produced. See also AC14/Doc.8, AC15/Doc.26 and AC16/Doc.22.</p>	<p>Remaining language versions of leaflet to be cleared with country contacts and produced. Parties to provide funding for printing of larger print-runs. German language version of the exhibition to be produced.</p>	<p>5. Information and education</p>
<p>10. Continue to develop the ASCOBANS web site, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences and including educational material *</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Throughout the triennium</p>	<p>Regular updates and additions made. Modernisation ongoing. Information on biology and ecology of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS Area to be uploaded shortly. See also AC14/Doc.8, AC15/Doc.26 and AC16/Doc.22.</p>	<p>Re-design of existing webpage to be uploaded when technical problems solved with UNV – ongoing.</p>	<p>5. Information and education</p>
<p>11. Clearly define the role of the Secretariat in working together with the EU, CMS, OSPAR, HELCOM and ACCOBAMS in order to synchronise joint actions in educational and promotional activities, and create synergy to provide added value while avoiding duplication of effort</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Throughout the triennium</p>	<p>Initial consultations with HELCOM and EC undertaken. Role proposed in Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan (AC16/Doc.23).</p>	<p>Continue and intensify liaison with all organizations. Implement CEPA Plan (after adoption by MoP).</p>	<p>5. Information and education</p>

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN (AS OUTLINED BY MOP5)	ACTION BY	INTERVAL / TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKS TO CMP
12. Take appropriate advice, produce targeted information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the region, and in particular in consultation with appropriate [international] fishermen's organisations, RACs and others, develop material to distribute to fishermen, especially with respect to bycatch issues	Secretariat Parties to contact national organisations	Throughout the triennium	Secretariat gathered available material. Germany agreed to use 2009 voluntary contribution for further follow-up and production of material for fishermen. EC DG Mare expressed interest in co-production/funding of leaflet.	Hire consultant to continue collection of available material, identify further needs and develop leaflets in collaboration with fishermen's organisations, RACs and others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform fishermen of issue</li> <li>• Methods to reduce bycatch</li> <li>• Encourage reporting</li> </ul>	5. Information and education
<b>Baltic Sea Sub-Region</b>					
13. Continue to produce information material in the languages of the Baltic Sea region *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	CCB Baltic Harbour Porpoise brochure available in German (other languages without Secretariat involvement). Revised ASCOBANS leaflet under production.	Remaining language versions of leaflet to be cleared with country contacts and produced. Parties to provide funding for printing. New exhibition containing panels on IDBHP and harbour porpoise to be produced in German (see 9).	5. Information and education

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN (AS OUTLINED BY MOP5)	ACTION BY	INTERVAL / TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKS TO CMP
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	3 <sup>rd</sup> (Denmark, 2007), 4 <sup>th</sup> (Sweden, 2008) and 5 <sup>th</sup> (Finland, 2009) Meeting of Jastarnia Group held. Revision of Jastarnia Plan undertaken and considered at AC16.	Draft resolution prepared for MoP6. Implementation review deferred to next triennium.	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		General fundraising efforts ongoing. Contact with HELCOM established to determine possible cooperation and long-term solution.	Secretariat to continue liaising with HELCOM.	N/A Fundraising
<b>North Sea Sub-Region</b>					
16. Develop a conservation plan for the North Sea Harbour Porpoise *	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat	By AC16	Final Draft [adopted] at AC16.	AC16 to endorse the Plan and forward to MOP6 for adoption. Draft resolution prepared for MoP6.	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	USD 10,000 from UNEP available for implementation in 2009.	Deferred to next triennium.	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
<b>North Atlantic Sub-Region (Extension Area)</b>					

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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	Extension came into force on 3 February 2008. No consideration made by AC16.	Deferred to next triennium.	N/A
<b>Institutional Issues</b>					
19. Make Resolution 2b of MOP5 (Operating Procedures of the Agreement 2007-2009) operational for ASCOBANS	Advisory Committee		AC divided in technical and scientific part. AC14 established Administration and Finance Session chaired by P. Tak. Arrangement continued at AC15 and AC16. Draft Resolution prepared by Secretariat.	AC16 to review the formal structures and processes of the Agreement to determine whether other mechanisms would be more effective. Draft Resolution to be forwarded to MOP6, if desired.	N/A
20. Continue to invite the inter-governmental 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	Secretariat has sent invitations and reminders to all organisations.	Continue efforts to establish or renew working relationship. Consider representation of ASCOBANS at their meetings. Parties to support ASCOBANS' interests through their representatives.	N/A

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN (AS OUTLINED BY MOP5)	ACTION BY	INTERVAL / TIME LINE	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	LINKS TO CMP
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	Secretariat has sent invitations and reminders to all relevant RACs. Contact with Baltic Sea RAC established.	Mark Tasker to prepare paper on ASCOBANS/RAC interaction.	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	AC Chair and CMS StC Chair joined in strategy meeting convened by Host Country in November 2007. CMS ScC and StC Chairs invited to AC meetings.	Secretariat to continue inviting CMS ScC and StC Chairs to AC meetings with a view to extending collaboration. Consider representation of ASCOBANS AC at CMS meetings.	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	Reports of representation compiled by Secretariat (AC15/Doc.36 and AC16/27). AC15 decided on representation as indicated in AC15 Report Annex 9.	AC16 to decide on representation at upcoming meetings and to instruct representatives to report back to the next AC in writing.	N/A

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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 CMS COP9 and ASCOBANS MOP6	Provisional Secretariat arrangement was independently evaluated in 2008 with financial support from NL. AC Working Group guided process. Final Report available (AC16/Doc.15). Draft Resolution on establishment of a standing committee prepared by Secretariat (AC16/Doc.11).	Ac16 to consider options for future Secretariat arrangements and make recommendations to MOP6. AC16 to review the formal structures and processes of the Agreement to determine whether other mechanisms would be more effective. Draft StC Resolution to be forwarded to MOP6, if desired.	N/A
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	Acting Executive Secretary undertook missions to Brussels. Secretariat in contact with EC about harmonised by-catch reporting. European Commission invited to AC meetings (attended AC16).	Secretariat to maintain contact with the Commission and collaborate where possible. Explore options of holding future AC meeting in Brussels and invite EC for specific Agenda Items of interest to their work. Parties to support ASCOBANS' interests through their representatives. AC16 to discuss further.	N/A
26. Promote the Agreement and its aims in Parties, Range States and with other relevant players	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Bilaterals with governments. Presentations in relevant meetings.	Continuation of ongoing activities.	5. Information and education

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27. Promote accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Secretariat, Parties	Throughout the triennium	Ongoing. Mission to Ireland undertaken.	Bilaterals where possible. Send recruitment letters to non-Party Range States.	5. Information and education
28. Consider, in 2009, the possible amendment of the ASCOBANS Agreement to include all cetacean species	Advisory Committee	By AC16	AC16/Doc.36 (ECS) + AC16/Doc.37 (WDCS). Upon request of the Secretariat, ACCOBAMS provided expert opinion (AC16/Doc.38).	AC16 to provide advice on scientific, technical, political, institutional and legal aspects to MOP6.	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	Secretariat produced regular updates of this plan that were reviewed by AC16.		N/A
<b>Other actions from AC13</b>					
30. Two workshops to assist in the development of the bottlenose dolphin project [and follow-up] *	UK lead	End of 2006 and 2008	First workshop completed. LoA amended to take into account current situation.	Research proposal to be finalised and submitted to EC in 2009.	