

Agenda Item 9

Funding of Projects and Activities

Prioritization of Activities Requiring  
Funding

Document 9.2

**Activities Requiring Funding**

**Action Requested**

- Take note
- Comment

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

## **Secretariat's Note**

The Rules of Procedure adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee remain in force until and unless an amendment is called for and adopted.

## Activities Requiring Funding

1. Many activities identified or endorsed by Parties require funding for their completion. The table below indicates the urgent need for additional voluntary contributions in order to be able to progress the implementation of the Agreement's work programme.
2. Unfunded activities of the ASCOBANS Work Plan, or addressing requests of the AC and its working groups, that would be feasible to implement in the coming months if funding were available, would require approximately €135,315 (incl. € 15,567 PSC).

### ASCOBANS WORK PROGRAMME

| Initiative   | Estimated costs (€) |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Continued Revision of Format for Annual National Reports</b>  |                     |
| <p>Resolution 8.1 on National Reporting has set the schedule for reporting from 2016 onwards, whereby Parties continue to report annually focussing on a select number of sub-items. All together the annual reports from one MOP cycle will make up one full national report. The questionnaires for national reporting targeting a select number of sub-items are yet to be developed for 2017 and 2018. An initial questionnaire format was developed by the Secretariat with input from experts for 2016 national reporting focussing on underwater noise, ocean energy, unexploded ordnance and marine spatial planning.</p> <p>Funds are needed not only to further improve this 2016 questionnaire format for 2019 when those items will be reported on again, funds are most urgently needed to develop questionnaires for Parties to report in the following two years on the following issues:</p> <p>2017 (to be submitted by March 2018): Bycatch, Resource Depletion, Marine Debris, Surveys &amp; Research (entire section), Use of Bycatches &amp; Strandings (entire section)</p> <p>2018 (to be submitted by March 2019): Cetacean Watching Industry, Recreational Sea Use, Other Sources of Disturbance, Ship Strikes, Climate Change, Physical Habitat Change, Other Issues, List of Protected Areas, Webpage/Contact where spatial information on MPAs can be obtained, Education &amp; Outreach</p> <p>While a number of experts volunteered their time to contribute to the development of the 2016 questionnaire via email and telephone, the process would no doubt benefit from a dedicated workshop and incentives for experts to draft an effective questionnaire for national reporting. Resolution 8.1 requests that the data collected should lend itself to statistical analysis as far as possible – however without a dedicated consultancy and workshop this will be challenging to achieve. To ensure that questions and answer options both minimise the workload for Parties and allow for statistical analysis of the submitted information as far as possible (as requested in Resolution 8.1), a professional survey designer needs to be engaged.</p> <p>This activity is very urgent, not least given that by January 2018 a new questionnaire for the 2017 report will be needed, to allow Parties to submit their reports by 31 March 2018.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP8 Resolution 1 (National Reporting)</b></li> <li>• <b>MOP8 Resolution 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul> |                     |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Consultant to develop professional, analytical online reporting form and to conduct data analysis of data collected   | <b>16,000</b>     |
| 3 x dedicated 2-day workshops for the three questionnaires in 2016/2019, 2017/2019 and 2018/2019 (covering travel and expenses for at least three experts per workshop) | <b>3 x 10,000</b> |
| 13% UNEP PSC  | <b>5,980</b>      |
| <b>Funding Required</b>   | <b>51,980</b>     |

| Initiative  | Estimated costs (€) |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Revision of Harbour Porpoise Action Plans</b>  |                     |
| <p>Three harbour porpoise action plans have been adopted by ASCOBANS Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) was first elaborated in 2002. In 2009, a revised and updated version was adopted by MOP6. In 2016, the Jastarnia Plan was updated and adopted at MOP8.</li> <li>• The Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea was also adopted in 2009 (MOP6).</li> <li>• In 2012, the Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat (WBBK) was adopted by MOP7.</li> </ul> <p>All three plans foresee regular reviews and revisions. The Jastarnia Plan has just been updated. Accordingly, JG13 agreed that “The Jastarnia Group shall intersessionally review the WBBK Plan in time for the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group to assess whether a formal revision is needed.”</p> <p>The North Sea Plan speaks of periodic reviews being essential in order to “adjust the actions to the diverse changes that can occur, either in response to the results of the monitoring of the conservation plan actions themselves or to changing external factors.”</p> <p>The Secretariat would suggest to use one consultant/group to review and revise the outstanding two plans in order to ensure a consistent structure and format. The work of the consultant would be carried out in close consultation with the relevant working groups and the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP6 Resolution 1 (Adoption and Implementation of the Jastarnia and North Sea Plans)</b></li> <li>• <b>MOP7 Resolution 1 (Conservation of Harbour Porpoises and Adoption of a Conservation Plan for the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and Kattegat)</b></li> </ul> |                     |
| Consultant to review and revise two plans   | 16,000              |
| 13% UNEP PSC  | 2,080               |
| <b>Funding Required</b>   | <b>18,080</b>       |

| Initiative   | Estimated costs (€) |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Coordination of Harbour Porpoise Action Plans</b>   |                     |
| <p>Thanks to voluntary contributions from 2011 to 2014 the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea and the work of the North Sea Group were supported by a part-time coordinator. In 2011, the AC endorsed similar terms of reference also for a Baltic Sea Coordinator.</p> <p>AC21/AP58 instructed the Secretariat to approach all Parties to ascertain their willingness to contribute towards the costs of contracting coordinators for the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom responded favourably by providing funds for a North Sea Coordinator, but these contributions totalling € 10,000 were not sufficient for concluding a contract similar to the one in place until 2014.</p> <p>The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the North Sea Group, as well as the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group (covering both the Jastarnia and WBBK plans), agreed that a coordinator was a top priority to effectively implement the three harbour porpoise plans. Following these meetings in June 2017 the Chairs of the two Working Groups prepared “Draft Terms of Reference for a Coordinator of Harbour Porpoise Action Plans” (Doc.2.1.c) with assistance from the Secretariat.</p> <p>These Terms of Reference outline the list of prioritized tasks which a coordinator should undertake. Both the North Sea and Jastarnia Group members noted the difficulty to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for a coordinator since 2014 (see AC21/AP60). Therefore it was proposed, in line what had already been discussed at past AC meetings, to advertise short-term contracts to address the tasks identified in Doc.2.1.c, in the order of priority.</p> <p>The estimates below are based on previous costs and offers received for North Sea Coordination. If more resources can be made available, the activity level could be increased accordingly.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP6 Resolution No. 1 (Adoption and Implementation of the Jastarnia and North Sea Plans)</b></li> <li>• <b>AC18</b></li> </ul> |                     |
| Consultant North Sea (1 year)  | 22,124              |
| Consultant Baltic Sea (1 year)   | 22,124              |
| <b>Estimated Total</b>   | <b>44,248</b>       |
| 13% UNEP PSC   | 5,752               |
| <b>Funding Required</b>  | <b>50,000</b>       |

| Initiative   | Estimated costs (€) |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Further Development of Children's Pages on ASCOBANS Website</b>   |                     |
| <p>Following endorsement by AC19, the Secretariat with the help of interns, a consultant and in in collaboration with Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) and supported with funds from the voluntary contribution of Germany for 2013 had developed and launched a children's website, <a href="http://www.kids.ascobans.org">www.kids.ascobans.org</a>.</p> <p>While basic content is online, further enhancements are necessary, including interactive features and games, in order to make the website as attractive as possible to the target audience. In addition, in line with the Agreement's mandate translations are necessary in order to reach children throughout the Agreement Area.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP8 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul> |                     |
| Development of interactive features  | 5,000               |
| Translation (per language)   | 5,000               |
| <b>Estimated Total</b>   | <b>10,000</b>       |
| 13% UNEP PSC   | 1,300               |
| <b>Funding Required</b>  | <b>11,300</b>       |

| Initiative  | Estimated costs (€) |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>(Re-)Prints of Outreach and Information Material</b>   |                     |
| <p>Regular revision and/or reprinting of ASCOBANS outreach and information material (see MOP Resolution 8.2) is necessary in order to be able to inform the public and stakeholders about our work and our mandate.</p> <p>Material will be (re-)produced depending on availability of funds. Therefore, the figures given below are only a rough indication.</p> <p><b>Mandate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOP8 Resolution No. 2 (Work Plan)</b></li> </ul> |                     |
| Minor revisions and reprinting  | 3,500               |
| 13% UNEP PSC  | 455                 |
| <b>Funding Required</b>   | <b>3,955</b>        |