



Invitation to the 23rd Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

Bonn, 24 May 2017

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to the 23rd Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC23), which will be held upon the kind invitation of the Government of France at the Parc naturel marin d'Iroise, Pointe des Renards (previously Radio Conquet), 29217 Le Conquet, France.

The meeting will take place **from 5-7 September 2017**.

Participation

Please **register** for the meeting **by 5 August 2017** through the meeting registration link on the AC23 page <http://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/AC23>. Each participant needs to be registered separately. We would like to urge all to register early, as otherwise it will be difficult for the host and Secretariat to complete the logistical arrangements for the meeting. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please note that Le Conquet is a popular holiday destination and thus hotel rooms are selling fast. Rooms have been blocked in a number of hotels for AC23 participants, however the deadlines for bookings in these hotels are as early as **30 June, 15 July** and for a small number on **31 July 2017**. We would therefore strongly encourage all participants to make their reservations as soon as possible. Please check the travel information on the AC23 page.

In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee all Parties to the Agreement are entitled to appoint one member of the Advisory Committee and such advisers as the Party may deem necessary. All non-Party Range States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations bordering on the waters concerned by the Agreement may send observers to the meeting.

As at previous meetings, other organizations and international bodies concerned with relevant issues are invited to participate in the 23rd ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting as observers. Any individual or body qualified in cetacean conservation and management must request admittance to the sessions of the Advisory Committee, with the exception of those approved observer organizations listed [here](#) in line with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee. Countries are requested to review this list of approved organizations and state any objections by 7 July 2017. **Requests for observer status** from other organizations or qualified individuals must reach the Secretariat 60 days before the Meeting, i.e. **by 7 July 2017**. A completed registration form or a written indication by email of your or your organization's intention to participate is sufficient. If your organization has not been represented before, please include some information on the relevance to the Agreement.

Parties will be requested to inform the Secretariat of any objections by 5 August 2017. Unless objections are received from more than one third of the Parties (i.e. four objections), the applicant will be admitted as a non-voting observer. The Secretariat will promptly notify all applicants of the final decision.

Documents

The Provisional Agenda for the Meeting will be made available shortly on the AC23 meeting webpage.

In line with the Rules of Procedure, please submit any **documents** intended for discussion at the meeting to the Secretariat **by 31 July 2017**, in order to allow for the timely circulation for the meeting.

We would also like to request your assistance in updating the list of Dates of Interest to be considered by AC23. Therefore, if you know of a meeting in 2017 or 2018 that should be included in the draft, please notify the Secretariat by 31 July 2017.

Travel and Accommodation

The meeting is foreseen to **start at 9:30 on 5 September and end at 18:30 on 7 September**. When making your travel arrangements, please ensure that you can be there until the list of decisions and action points has been adopted and the meeting closes. A more detailed timetable will be made available in due course.

Information on travel and accommodation options will be circulated shortly.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Aline Kühl-Stenzel and Ms. Bettina Reinartz at +49 228 815 2416 or ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in Le Conquet in September!

Yours sincerely,



Bradnee Chambers

Acting Executive Secretary