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78th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Istanbul, Turkey, 3-4 September 2014

Agenda item 5

Report on Specific Issues

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I. Governance and Organizational Matters

i. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

1. The entry into force of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention legal instruments has made new progress during the last months with the ratification by Israel of the ICZM Protocol (2008) which has thus entered into force in a record time for international law processes. The overall situation is described in the following paragraphs.
2. The Barcelona Convention is very close to universal ratification. The amended Convention is pending ratification of only two countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon) while most of its legal instruments have entered into force. The Secretariat sent to these countries a reminder letter on 27 May 2014 in order to achieve the ratification of the amended Convention before COP 19 and will follow up in the coming months.
3. The Dumping Protocol is also a revised instrument pending adoption which requires only one additional acceptance of its 1995 amendments. Additional efforts need to be made with a view to having all MAP legal instruments in force for all Contracting Parties by COP 19. The Secretariat sent a reminder letter on 29 May 2014 to Contracting Parties concerned (Algeria, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya and Montenegro) calling for a ratification without delay of the amendments before COP 19.
4. Spain, Depository of the Barcelona Convention, informed the Secretariat that the Amendments of the Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean adopted by Decision IG. 20/5 by COP 17 in 2012 have entered into force as from March 2014.

Table 1: Summary of Status of Ratifications

20 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Convention, 1995;
15 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Dumping Protocol, 1995;
17 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the LBS Protocol, 1996;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Offshore Protocol, 1994;
18 Contracting Parties have ratified the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 1995;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Hazardous Waste Protocol, 1996;
13 Contracting Parties have ratified the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002;
10 Contracting Parties have ratified ICZM Protocol, 2008. (*) ¹

ii. Reporting on implementation of Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013)

5. The number of Parties reporting on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols has slightly decreased as compared to 2008-2009 reports, which were submitted by 16 Contracting Parties. A total of 14 Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) have submitted reports pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols for the 2010-2011 biennium.

¹ * Pending notification from Depository Country regarding ratifications of Croatia and Israel

6. The Compliance Committee held its Eighth Meeting in Athens on 21-22 October 2013. The agenda of the meeting was dedicated to the non-submission of reports. The Compliance Committee recalled that repeated failure to comply with this obligation is a potential situation of non-compliance and requested the Contracting Parties to submit their national report without delay. The meeting adopted the final amended text of its Rules of Procedure which have been adopted by Decision IG.21/1.
7. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2 of the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 18), related to the reporting format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and the new reporting format for the ICZM Protocol, the Contracting Parties were requested to submit to the Coordinating Unit reports, using the online form, on measures taken for the Biennium 2012-2013 by October 2014 at the latest. The Secretariat reminded the Contracting Parties of their obligations by letters of May and July 2014.

iii. Revision of the Reporting Format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

8. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2, the Secretariat launched in June 2014 a consultancy to elaborate a simplified and practical draft of the reporting format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The results of this consultancy will be presented for consideration to the Ninth session of the Compliance Committee scheduled in November 2014.
9. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2, the Secretariat has prepared the draft of the operational section of the reporting format of ICZM Protocol for consideration by the next MAP Focal Points Meeting. The Secretariat sent a letter on 5 June 2014 to the Contracting Parties which have ratified or signed ICZM Protocol asking them to submit on a voluntary basis a report on its implementation.

iv. Host Country Agreements with countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres;

10. In accordance with the provisions in Decision IG.20/3 and Decision IG.21/13, the countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are urged to finalize and sign a new Host Country Agreement (HCA) following a template agreed upon by the Parties after adapting it to the national context. The Secretariat is in contact with individual host countries in order to finalize the HCAs before COP 19. This matter will also be on the agenda of the upcoming Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) meeting on 28 August 2014.

Draft Recommendations:

- **The Bureau takes note of the progress achieved during this period on governance and legal priorities**
- **The Bureau reminds all Contracting Parties to officially submit their reports on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible in compliance with the obligations of Article 26 of the Convention and with a view to facilitate the work of the Compliance Committee**
- **The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties which have ratified or signed the ICZM Protocol to submit on a voluntary basis a report on its implementation**
- **The Bureau requests the Secretariat to continue following closely with the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to make particular efforts to**

ensure the entry into force of the revised Dumping Protocol by COP 19

- **The Bureau requests the Secretariat to continue close follow-up with concerned governments to finalize at earliest convenience, but not later than COP 19, the HCAs as per the Decision IG.21/13**

v. LBS Protocol National Action Plans update

11. The formulation, for the first time in 2004-2005, of National Actions Plans (NAPs) for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based sources marked a significant step by the Contracting Parties towards the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Barcelona Convention and the respective Strategic Action Programme to combat pollution from land-based sources (SAP-MED). The 2004 NAPs' endorsement by COP 14 in 2005 drew the attention of several major actors and donor agencies in setting their priority programmes for the Mediterranean. NAPs implementation was the main driver for establishing the Mediterranean Partnership Programme (MEHSIP), the UfM/former EuroMed H2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020, and the GEF UNEP/MAP MedPartnership Project.
12. COP 18, and as a follow-up to Decision IG 18/10 adopted by COP 16 in Almeria, Spain in 2008, requested the Contracting Parties to initiate the process of updating their NAPs and report to COP 19. The main objective of the NAPs' update shall be to achieve good environmental status (GES) for Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) ecological objectives 5, 9 and 10 (pollution and litter) through the implementation of the LBS Protocol and its Regional Plans adopted in the framework of Article 15.
13. In order to ensure, to the extent possible, coherence and harmonization, and in view of supporting the sound identification of priorities and realistic selection of national programmes of measures, and where appropriate national targets, the MED POL Focal Points gathered in March 2014 in Athens to update the 2004 NAP Guidelines.
14. The agreed updated Guidelines fully take into account all recent developments, and in particular the adoption of GES and respective targets for ECAP ecological objectives 5, 9 and 10 (pollution and marine litter) as well as the 10 regional plans adopted in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol. In addition, the updated Guidelines recommend a participatory process for NAPs update, inclusive of other policy formulation processes at national level addressing pollution prevention and control such as NIPs (Stockholm Convention), SCP Action Plans, ICZM national plans, as well as strong synergy with H2020 initiative and with EU MSFD programmes of measures where appropriate.
15. The updated NAPs are expected to be endorsed by COP 19. They constitute a powerful national marine pollution control and prevention policy tool that will promote strategic planning for sustainable development on national and regional scales. The recent UfM Ministerial Conference in May 2014 in its Athens Declaration welcomed the significant achievements in moving forward investments in critical infrastructures, in building human capital, and in mainstreaming environment into other policies, and stressed the strategic focus provided by UNEP/MAP hotspots list and NAPs. The Ministers undertook to take firm steps to ensure the full implementation and enforcement of policies supporting the H2020 Initiative goals, in line with the EcAp and the priorities included in the NAPs, and, when required, with the support of capacity building.

16. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the NAP update process is given highest priority at the national and regional levels as well as the necessary political and institutional support, including adequate resources with the view to deliver a quality NAP in a timely and participatory manner.

Draft Recommendations

- **The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties to make their utmost efforts to update their NAPs as per agreed Guidelines in a timely and participatory manner with the objective to enable COP 19 to endorse the updated NAPs and urge their efficient implementation in partnership with UfM, H2020 Initiative and other major actors**
- **The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties to use the NAP update process as a first opportunity within the UNEP/MAP system to develop ECAP-based pollution prevention and control programmes of measures; and to streamline it within on-going policy process development and/or implementation at MAP and other frameworks (EU MSFD, H2020)**
- **The Bureau requests the Secretariat to actively participate in the H2020 initiative process and governance with the view to support the NAP update process and related capacity building activities**

- vi. Proposal on evaluation method on measures to enhance the functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components

17. The new Terms of Reference of the Bureau (Decision IG.12/13, Annex I), as adopted during COP 18, state in Article IX, paragraph 5, that the Secretariat shall work together with the Bureau on measures to enhance the functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components, taking into account, inter alia, cost benefit analyses, performance and success indicators; and, to this aim, an evaluation report shall be submitted to Meetings of the Contracting Parties to facilitate future planning of the Barcelona System.
18. The Secretariat proposes to submit to every third meeting of the Bureau in the biennium a Progress Report on the achievement of Programme of Work (PoW) Expected Results as the basis of performance evaluation for the MAP Components and the Coordinating Unit. Each expected result should also state the percent delivery rate of corresponding budget amount. The estimated external funding to be materialized should be compared with the realized external funding as additional success criteria. The Evaluation Report resulting from above-mentioned methodology would be prepared for the consideration of the third Bureau meeting of each Biennium, endorsed by MAP Focal Points and submitted to the COP.

Draft Recommendation:

- **The Bureau is expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the above proposal, including, in particular, on the way a cost-benefit analysis can be achieved.**

II. Development of the 2016-2021 Mid-term Strategy: Update

19. Due to delays in recruitment of the external evaluators, the planned roadmap for the development of the 2016-2021 Mid-term Strategy needed to be reviewed. The two consultants started working in mid-July 2014. The process of external evaluation and development of the Mid-term Strategy is revised and elaborated below for the consideration of the Bureau:

External Evaluation (August 2014 – January 2015)

- One of the components of strategic programming process will be the External Evaluation of the preceding Strategic Plan. The evaluation process will be participatory and the draft evaluation report will be shared with MAP's constituency and be accompanied with an analysis on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Barcelona Convention/MAP system. The analysis will rely on the responses to a questionnaire which will be developed by the evaluators and shared with MAP and Components Focal Points as well as MAP Partners. It will guide the second phase focused in identifying the issues to be considered in designing the thematic framework of the Mid-term Strategy.

Consultation and structuring the Strategy (September 2014 – March 2015)

- A parallel process will convene while the External Evaluation is taking place. ECP will support the Coordinating Unit in preparing an issues paper. The issues paper will also benefit from the guidance of the Bureau members through online consultations (email correspondences and a teleconference, if need be). The paper will be based on the SWOT analysis of the system, the initial findings by the evaluators of the existing Mid-term Strategy (which will be discussed during the ECP Meeting, taking into account the outcome of the desktop study of the external evaluators), a scan of major programmes, projects and processes contributing to the implementation of the Mid-term Strategy (external actors) and main gaps in implementing the Convention and its Protocols at national level also identifying technical assistance needs. In addition, new issues and remaining challenges to be addressed by the new Mid-term Strategy will be identified.
- The issues paper will be subject to a comprehensive consultation process facilitated by a virtual consultation platform, with the MAP and Components' Focal Points, the MCSD members, MAP Partners, regional stakeholders, and, where appropriate, global stakeholders, with full involvement and guidance of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties.
- The process will be aligned with the parallel courses of action of revision of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy (MSSD), preparation of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, preparation of regional framework for climate change adaptation for the Mediterranean and the measures for EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean.
- Based on the results from the consultations and drawing on the assistance from MAP Components, the Secretariat will prepare a strategic framework for the Mid-term Strategy which clarifies the structure and content of the future Mid-Term Strategy, to be reviewed by the Second Meeting of the Bureau and submitted for consideration and endorsement by a first meeting of MAP Focal Points in late March 2015. The guidance of MAP Focal Points will be the main reference to develop a full-fledged

draft Mid-term Strategy. The Strategy will include major global and regional trends, lessons learned and comparative advantages; a vision; the main strategic directions/themes; the means of implementation including partnerships, institutional mechanisms and resources; the monitoring and evaluation cycle; and, a results matrix including objectives, expected outcomes and corresponding strategic targets to achieve.

Drafting and finalization of the Strategy (April – September 2015)

- The Secretariat with the support of MAP Components will prepare a Draft Mid-term Strategy for consultation with the Third Bureau of the Biennium (June 2015).
 - The Biennium Programme of Work will be aligned with the Mid-term Strategy. Its preparation will start immediately after endorsement by MAP Focal Points of the strategic framework. The Coordinating Unit will lead the process with the support of MAP Components, and will be responsible for timely compilation and consolidation of the feedback received from the Components' Focal Points. Based on the strategic themes, overall objective, outcomes and strategic targets in the Mid-term Strategy, the Biennium Programme of Work will develop results and specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based (SMART) indicators that allow to monitor progress in activities; links with the Convention, Protocols, adopted Strategies and decisions of the Contracting Parties; links to other actions; indication of resources; and, assumptions and risks.
 - More advanced versions of the Mid-term Strategy and the Biennium Programme of Work will be submitted to the Bureau guidance through online consultations and the final draft versions to MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2015 for its endorsement, before submitting it to COP 19 for adoption.
20. The calendar of above-mentioned processes of External Evaluation and the development process of the Mid-term Strategy is available in Annex I to this document.
21. The above proposal is submitted to the Bureau for review, in response to the mandate given to the Secretariat in Decision IG.21/13. However, the Secretariat wishes to express concern for the limited resources of time and finances available to support interrelated complex strategic processes with the very tight schedule as defined above, and would request the Bureau's advice and guidance on this proposal.

Draft Recommendation:

- **The Bureau is expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat as regards to the Strategy development process as described above.**

III. Environment Friendly Cities Award

22. With the Istanbul Declaration, which was adopted at COP 18, the Contracting Parties recognized the importance of coastal cities and communities as key actors for the implementation of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and relevant Strategies and Action Plans and resolved to engage with them.

23. The Contracting Parties also committed to promote an integrated approach for environment friendly coastal cities and coastal urban settlements, including through working with local authorities in finding solutions that improve the sustainable management of waste (including through the application of the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle and recover) and waste water treatment.
24. In order to promote the importance of coastal cities and communities and encourage their efforts in addressing pressures to the marine and coastal environment associated with urban development, the Contracting Parties decided to establish the "Environment Friendly City Award" to be conferred to coastal cities by setting out nomination and selection principles and criteria for such award till COP 19.
25. 'Habitat III' the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development will be organized in 2016, with the aim to generate a 'New Urban Agenda' for the 21st Century which will focus on policies and strategies that can create more sustainable and equitable urban spaces. This adds additional importance to the Award, which will contribute to this initiative.
26. In accordance with the Istanbul Declaration and Habitat III, it is crucial that the "Environment Friendly City Award" process has strict interaction with partners who present strong credentials in the field. The Secretariat proposes to enlist the contributions of a consultant to design the criteria, evaluation methodology and possible partners to cooperate with. As there is no allocated budget in the 2014-2015 PoW, the Secretariat would request Bureau advice and guidance on this process.
27. The Secretariat has identified the following initiatives at the global and Mediterranean scales with similar objectives in order to avoid duplications:
 - Ecotowns on the Mediterranean Sea – In 2012, the Committee for Energy, Environment and Water of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean agreed to launch the Ecotown project and implement it along the Mediterranean coastline. The Ecotown project aims to create a network of municipalities, small villages and towns, which present good examples of what can be done against environmental pollution. Its target region is the small towns and villages located on Mediterranean Sea, this includes the following coastal countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.
 - EcoCities Network (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability) - EcoCities, also referred to as green or sustainable cities, are ICLEI Member cities that pursue a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development. By joining the network, city stakeholders can share information, resources, and best practices and accelerate actions.
 - UN HABITAT - Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment - Dubai International Award aims to promote best practices in the world to improve the living environment and defined as successful initiatives which:
 - Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people's quality of life;
 - Are the result of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society;
 - Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bureau is expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat as regards to the way forward in developing the criteria, selection process, possible cooperation and a timetable |
|--|

IV. Applications for status as MAP Partners

28. On the basis of article 20b of the Barcelona Convention and article 8 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, UNEP/MAP's general policy has been to encourage the relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the Mediterranean region to cooperate with UNEP/MAP.
29. The main objective of this collaboration is to make progress on the general objectives of the MAP and to promote the policies, strategies and programmes established pursuant to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. Furthermore, this collaboration is intended to ensure, on the part of the NGOs, information and advice of experts and cooperation and technical assistance and to allow organizations representing important sectors of public opinion in the Mediterranean to express the views of their members.
30. On the basis of the detailed examination of the forms for renewal of accreditation submitted, COP 18 endorsed, by Decision IG.21/ 14, the renewal of accreditation of 29 NGOs. The Contracting Parties also approved 4 new accreditations for NGOs working in the field of protection of the environment in coastal areas of the Mediterranean.
31. The Coordinating Unit received two requests for renewal of accreditation to remain as MAP Partners from The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) and Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA). Both organizations are active MAP Partners, attending the meetings and providing substantive contributions to technical processes such as Ecosystem Approach implementation in the Mediterranean.
32. The Secretariat has carried out a detailed assessment of their requests, and confirms their eligibility to extend their status as MAP Partners. The assessment is based on the list of criteria for accreditation, as defined in Annex II to Decision IG.19/6:
 - having legal personality;
 - pursuing objectives and having the necessary skills in connection with the fields of activities of the MAP;
 - having existed for at least four years;
 - operational and financial reports for the last two years;
 - democratic functioning;
 - having a registered office or a regional office in a Mediterranean country;
 - having general or specialized competence in the activities of the MAP, of the Barcelona Convention and of its Protocols; and,
 - the contributions which the NGO can make to the MAP.

Draft Recommendation:

- **The Bureau takes note of the requests of MEDASSET and TURMEPA to be added to the list of UNEP/MAP Partners endorsed by Decision IG.21/14, and ask the Secretariat to include them in the list of MAP Partners that will be submitted to COP 19 for adoption**

V. Cooperation Agreements

33. Following the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted during COP 18 in Istanbul in December 2013, initial discussions were held between UNEP/MAP and ACCOBAMS.
34. The results of these discussions are reflected in the Draft Memorandum of Understanding that is annexed to this document (Annex I). The Parties have agreed to the following preliminary and overarching areas of cooperation for this MoU, which form part of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention mandate and programme of work and have been approved by Ordinary Meetings of Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The areas of cooperation items listed below are also priorities or ongoing activities of ACCOBAMS, in accordance with its mandate. All could be strengthened through the cooperation of the Parties.
 - a. Collection and assessment of information relating to the conservation of cetaceans;
 - b. Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance for cetaceans, in particular transboundary areas and areas beyond the national jurisdiction of coastal States;
 - c. Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems through the assessment, monitoring and mitigation of adverse human-cetacean interactions, such fisheries, ship strikes, offshore noise-producing activities and marine litter;
 - d. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation;
 - e. Development of capacity building activities (e.g. training programmes, dissemination of relevant information, building awareness, etc.).
35. Additionally, specific activities will be identified and carried out on the basis of separate legal instruments established between ACCOBAMS and UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention. In particular, a list of activities will be identified every three years as part of working programme between ACCOBAMS and SPA/RAC.
36. The Secretariat has also started cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) regarding Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs). Advanced discussions on the formal cooperation agreement are expected in the fall.
37. The Secretariat exchanged official letters in June 2014 with the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, with the aim of establishing an official cooperation on common issues of concern. Advanced discussions on the formal cooperation agreement are expected in Autumn 2014.
38. As per Decision IG.21/14, regarding collaboration with neighboring seas, the Secretariat has held discussions with OSPAR and HELCOM for closer cooperation, especially on the application of the Ecosystem Approach through exchange of information, best practices, and attendance at each other's relevant meetings. The possibility of organizing a joint meeting of OSPAR-Barcelona Convention on marine litter, with a focus on monitoring is being explored.

Draft Recommendations:

- **The Bureau expresses support to the draft MoU with the ACCOBAMS, with a view to proceed with completing consultations with and clearance by UNEP Headquarters. The MoU could then be signed during COP 19**
- **The Bureau notes progress on the cooperation agreements between the Secretariat and CBD Secretariat, as well as with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and provides guidance and comments on possible content**
- **The Bureau asks the Secretariat to continue working on possible cooperation with OSPAR and HELCOM including on marine litter issues**

VI. Information and Communications Activities – 40th Anniversary of Mediterranean Action Plan

39. The year 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the MAP. The Secretariat recommends that this will be marked throughout the year and last till COP 19' in order to enhance MAP's visibility, build new partnerships and mobilize resources.

40. In preparation for the 40th anniversary, the following activities will be undertaken:

- A specific logo and tagline will be created for the 40th Anniversary of MAP and will be reflected in all visual items. The main topics suggested for the tagline revolve around sustainability and action for the Mediterranean. The year of celebration may also include the launching of the new revamped website of UNEP/MAP.
- Parties support will be mobilized especially for the opening and closing events. In addition, all parties and partners will be encouraged to take part to the observance of the anniversary by organizing events at their national level. The Coordinating Unit is considering to be present as much as possible in regional and international relevant meetings and events such as Expo Milan 2015 in June 2015.

41. UNEP Headquarters have expressed willingness to support the celebration in terms of communication and information. The Presidency, parties and partners will also play important roles. The celebration will require financial resources, and the possibility of approaching the private sector to support some events will be explored.

The Bureau is expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat on specific ideas and resources for the celebration of 40th Anniversary of MAP

Draft recommendations:

- **The Bureau expresses its support and share the views that the 40th anniversary of MAP is an opportunity to enhance the visibility of MAP, build new partnerships and mobilize resources**
- **The Bureau encourages parties and partners to host national events, as appropriate, and provide full support to the observance of this important anniversary**

Annex I

Schedule for the External Evaluation

Annex I

Schedule for the External Evaluation

	Deliverable/Activity	2014					2015
		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	January
Inception	Inception – Evaluation Framework						
	Desk review						
	Questionnaire to Parties and MAP Partners						
	Draft inception report						
	Inception Meeting to gather comments in an ECP Meeting with presence of RAC directors						
	Final Inception report						
Implementation	Implement data collection tools, conduct analysis and distill findings and recommendations						
	Consultants visit two or three countries (one EU, one non-EU and a beneficiary of technical assistance) where concrete activities exist and assess the reflection of the Programme at national level						
Synthesis and Reporting	Develop a briefing note on the progress of the evaluation process to the UNEP EO, and after approval by UNEP EO, to UNEP-MAP Secretariat, to be submitted to the Bureau by early November 2014						
	Submission of first draft report to EO by end-November 2014						
	Quality assurance on first draft report by EO by mid-December 2014						
	Comments on the draft by the Bureau and stakeholders that have been consulted in the process of preparing the evaluation by first week of January 2014						
	Submission of Final Draft by Consultants to UNEP EO and release to UNEP/MAP, by 30 January 2015						

Schedule for the Mid-term Strategy Development

	Deliverable/Activity	2014				2015												
		S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Consultation and structuring the Strategy	The extended Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) meeting																	
	ECP and the Coordinating Unit prepares an issues paper with the guidance of the Bureau members through online consultations (email correspondences and a teleconference, if need be).																	
	Comprehensive consultation process (virtual consultation platform)																	
	Coordinating Unit prepares a Strategic Framework for the Mid-term Strategy																	
	Second Meeting of the Bureau providing guidance to Strategic Framework (January 2015)																	
	Strategic Framework for the Mid-term Strategy finalized for MAP Focal Points endorsement																	
	First Meeting of MAP Focal Points in late March 2015.																	
Drafting and finalization of the Strategy	The Secretariat with the support of MAP Components prepares a Draft Mid-term Strategy																	
	Third Bureau of the Biennium (June 2015).																	
	Online consultations on advanced draft Mid-term Strategy and the Biennium Programme of Work with the Bureau																	
	Final draft version submitted to MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2015 for its endorsement																	
	Second Meeting of MAP Focal Points in September 2015.																	
	Final version of Mid-term Strategy and the Biennium Programme of Work submitted to COP 19 for adoption																	
	COP 19																	

Annex II

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNEP/MAP AND ACCOBAMS**

Annex II**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN****THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)****AND****THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS
ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS)****Hereafter collectively referred to as “the Parties” or individually as “Party”**

WHEREAS the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNEP) is the leading organization within the United Nations system in the field of environment and has as a major area of focus of its global mandate, the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including biological diversity, worldwide;

WHEREAS the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as UNEP/MAP) is administered by UNEP and has the mandate as per the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean adopted in 1976 and revised in 1995, to assist the Mediterranean countries, with its main objectives through its seven protocols respectively to assess and control marine pollution; to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources; to address common challenges related to the prevention and reduction of pollution from land-based sources, ships, dumping, off-shore installations and the movement of hazardous substances; to ensure the protection of biodiversity; and, the integrated management of coastal zones;

WHEREAS UNEP/MAP has also the mandate to assist in the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) which was adopted in 1975 and became MAP II after its revision in 1995; and which is the instrument for planning sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

WHEREAS in this context, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had adopted Regional Strategies, Actions Plans and Programmes as well as put in place regional structures including a consolidated system of focal points, the Secretariat and six Regional Activity Centers², which have a mandate for carrying out activities aimed at facilitating implementation of the seven Protocols of the Barcelona Convention, the decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; and to facilitate implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP II) and its strategies;

² Six MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are based in Mediterranean countries, each offering its own environmental and developmental expertise for the benefit of the Mediterranean community in the implementation of MAP activities. These six RACs are the following: 1. Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)-Malta, 2. Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)-France, 3. Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)-Croatia, 4. Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)-Tunisia, 5. Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC) – Spain and, 6. INFO/RAC-Italy.

WHEREAS the Istanbul Declaration adopted at the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Istanbul 9th December 2013) requesting UNEP/MAP to extend cooperation with ACCOBAMS with whom synergy is needed for reaching the objectives of the Barcelona Convention/ MAP;

WHEREAS the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), hereinafter referred to as "ACCOBAMS", which was established as a result of a consultation process involving the Secretariat of the 1979 Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats ("Bern Convention), the 1992 Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution ("Bucharest Convention") and its Protocols and the 1995 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols, which led to the adoption of the 1996 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area, ACCOBAMS has the mandate to reduce threats to cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and improve knowledge of these animals as well as to provide a cooperative tool for the conservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;

WHEREAS Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP and ACCOBAMS share common objectives with regard to the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and marine living resources, including biological diversity, and wish to collaborate to further these common goals and objectives within their respective mandates and governing rules and regulations;

WHEREAS the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention) (Istanbul, 3-6 December 2013) welcomed the steps taken by Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP for the initial discussions regarding a cooperation agreement with ACCOBAMS, and requested Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP to finalize the agreement;

WHEREAS several Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP centers, such as the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), address issues of importance for ACCOBAMS;

WHEREAS Resolution 1.4 approved at the First Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS entrusted the RAC/SPA of Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP with the duties of the ACCOBAMS Coordination Unit for the Mediterranean region;

WHEREAS an Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea was adopted in 1991 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their Seventh Ordinary Meeting and for which RAC/SPA provides technical follow-up for its implementation;

WHEREAS the Parties intend to conclude this Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as "MoU") with the aim at enhancing impact and increasing synergies and developing their cooperation and effectiveness to achieve their shared common goals and objectives in the field of the protection of marine coastal environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

NOW, THEREFORE, UNEP/MAP AND ACCOBAMS HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 Interpretation

1. References to this MoU shall be construed as including any Annexes, as varied or amended in accordance with the terms of this MoU. Any Annexes shall be subject to the provisions of this MoU, and in case of any inconsistency between an Annex and this MoU, the latter shall prevail.
2. Implementation of any subsequent activities, projects and programmes pursuant to this MoU, including those involving the transfer of funds between the Parties, shall necessitate the execution of appropriate legal instruments between the Parties. The terms of such legal instruments shall be subject to the provisions of this MoU.
3. This MoU represents the complete understanding between the Parties and supersedes all prior MoUs, communications and representations, whether oral or written, concerning the subject matter of this MoU.
4. Any Party's failure to request implementation of a provision of this MoU shall not constitute a waiver of that or any other provision of this MoU.

Article 2 Duration

1. This MoU shall be effective upon the last date of the authorized representatives and remain in force three years from this date. Such term might be extended by written agreement among the Parties, subject to such evaluations the Parties deem appropriate and by mutual agreement among the Parties, unless terminated in accordance with Article 15 below.
2. This MoU is signed in two (2) original copies in English and French equally authentic.

Article 3 Purpose

1. The purpose of this MoU is to provide a more specific framework of cooperation and understanding, and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems in their fields of competence, in line with their respective mandates. This MoU seeks to further harmonize the activities of the Parties, optimize the use of resources and avoid duplication, while ensuring the complementarity in the actions taken, in order to increase the value added of the final outcome.
2. The objectives of this MoU shall be achieved through:
 - a. Regular dialogue and meetings between UNEP/MAP and ACCOBAMS;
 - b. Execution of a separate legal instrument between the Parties to define and implement any subsequent activities, projects and programmes pursuant to Article 1.2., and in particular through a triannual workplan with RAC/SPA

Article 4 Areas of Cooperation

1. Areas of Cooperation are agreed jointly through the cooperation mechanism in the MoU. Policies and priorities under this MoU may also be jointly reviewed every three (3) years by the Parties pursuant to Article 5 to allow the Parties to respond to newly emerging issues in the realm of environment and sustainable development.
2. The Parties have agreed to the following preliminary and overarching areas of cooperation for this MoU, which form part of Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP's mandate and programme of work and have been approved by Ordinary Meetings of Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention. The areas of cooperation items listed below are also priorities or ongoing activities of ACCOBAMS, in accordance with its mandate. All could be strengthened through the cooperation of the Parties.
 - a. Collection and assessment of information relating to the conservation of cetaceans;
 - b. Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance for cetaceans, in particular transboundary areas and areas beyond the national jurisdiction of coastal States;
 - c. Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems through the assessment, monitoring and mitigation of adverse human-cetacean interactions, such fisheries, ship strikes, offshore noise-producing activities and marine litter;
 - d. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation;
 - e. Development of capacity building activities (e.g. training programmes, dissemination of relevant information, building awareness, etc.).
3. The above list is not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other forms of cooperation between the Parties on other issues of common interest. The details about the activities to be developed under the areas of cooperation indicated above are included in, but not limited to, the Annex to this MoU.
4. Specific activities will be identified and carried out on the basis of separate legal instruments established between ACCOBAMS and Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP. In particular, a list of activities will be identified every three years following the ACCOBAMS working programme between ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA in its quality of ACCOBAMS sub-regional Coordination unit in the Mediterranean.
5. The areas of cooperation are relevant within the context of the mandates of the Parties. As appropriate, they will be revised to be in line with those decisions of the governing bodies of the Parties that might have a bearing on their respective mandates.
6. ACCOBAMS and Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP shall work together, to the extent possible, within the remit of their respective mandates, for the implementation of the activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU.
7. This MoU seeks to consolidate and intensify cooperation between the Parties and to strengthen regional synergy. In this context, ACCOBAMS and Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP will inform each other of their respective capacity development and capacity development related initiatives so as to strengthen cooperation through a permanent platform, such as websites of the Parties.

Article 5 Organization of the Cooperation

1. The Parties shall hold bilateral meetings on matters of common interest as need be, in accordance with an agenda agreed to in advance by the Parties, for the purpose of developing and monitoring collaborative projects. Relevant international organizations and relevant initiatives/projects may be invited by both Parties to join such consultations that will take place at least once per year, through face-to-face meetings or remote conferences. The following two items should be examined at least once per year in occasion of consultations:
 - a. discuss technical and operational issues related to furthering the objectives of this MoU; and,
 - b. review progress of work undertaken by ACCOBAMS pursuant to the triannual workplan between ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA, as well as a separate legal instrument in the priority areas of cooperation mentioned in Article 4 above.
2. In implementing activities, projects and programmes in the agreed priority areas, the Parties shall execute a separate legal instrument appropriate for the implementation of such initiatives in accordance with Article 1.2 above. In identifying the areas of cooperation under this MoU, due regard shall be given to ACCOBAMS' geographic coverage; capacity for implementation and experience in the related field.
3. Where ACCOBAMS is organizing a meeting with external participation at which policy matters related to the aims of this MoU shall be discussed, ACCOBAMS shall, as appropriate, either invite Barcelona Convention – UNEP/MAP to participate in the meeting or update Barcelona Convention – UNEP/MAP on relevant policy matters discussed at the meeting.
4. ACCOBAMS and -UNEP/MAP will inform their relevant governing bodies on the progress made in implementing this MoU by including this issue in the agenda of each Ordinary Meeting of their respective governing bodies (Meeting of the Parties for ACCOBAMS and Contracting Parties Meeting for Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP).
5. The Parties will undertake, within their global knowledge network and to the extent possible, to facilitate mutual access to relevant information and body of work as well as dissemination between them. The Parties will consider the possibility of joint missions and the hosting of joint training activities and information sessions. The Parties shall identify an overall focal point responsible for the implementation and the monitoring of the activities and communicate it to one another.
6. Where the Parties convene a meeting at which policy matters related to this MoU will be discussed, the Parties will, as appropriate, invite each other as observers.

Article 6 Status of the Parties and their Personnel

1. The Parties acknowledge and agree that ACCOBAMS is an entity separate and distinct from the United Nations, including UNEP. The employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of [Partner], including the personnel engaged by [Partner] for carrying out any of the project activities pursuant to this MoU, shall not be considered in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of the United Nations, including UNEP,

nor shall any employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of UNEP be considered, in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever, as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of ACCOBAMS. Neither Party shall be entitled to act or make legally binding declarations on behalf of the other Party. Nothing in this MoU shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

Article 7 Fundraising

1. To the extent permitted by the Parties' respective regulations, rules and policies, and subject to sub-article 2, the Parties may engage in fundraising from the public and private sectors to support the activities, projects and programmes to be developed or carried out pursuant to this MoU.
2. Neither Party shall engage in fundraising with third parties in the name of or on behalf of the other, without the prior express written approval of the other Party in each case.
3. Nothing under this MoU imposes financial obligations upon either Party. If the Parties mutually agree to allocate specific funds to facilitate an activity undertaken pursuant to this MoU, such an agreement will be reflected in writing and signed by both Parties. In particular, for the implementation of joint activities within the framework of this MoU that might involve payment of funds, a specific separate legal instrument will be entered into, as appropriate, taking into account those relevant administrative and financial rules and procedures applicable to the Parties.

Article 8 Intellectual Property Rights

1. Nothing in the MoU shall be construed as granting or implying rights to or interest in, intellectual property of the Parties, except as otherwise provided in Article 8.2.
2. In the event that the Parties foresee that intellectual property that can be protected shall be created in relation to a particular activity, project or programme to be carried out under this MoU, the Parties shall negotiate and agree on terms of its ownership and use in the relevant legal instrument concluded as per Article 1.2.

Article 9 Use of Name and Emblem

1. Neither Party shall use the name, emblem or trademarks of the other Party, its subsidiaries and/or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or for public dissemination without the prior expressly written approval of the other Party in each case. In no event shall authorization of the UN, UNEP and/or UNEP/MAP name or emblem be granted for commercial purposes or for use in any manner that suggests an endorsement by -UNEP/MAP of ACCOBAMS products, business practices or services.
2. ACCOBAMS acknowledges that it is familiar with the independent, international and impartial status of the UN, UNEP and/or -UNEP/MAP, and recognizes that their names and emblems may not be associated with any political or sectarian cause or otherwise used in a manner inconsistent with the status of the UN, UNEP and/or UNEP/MAP

3. The Parties agree to recognize and acknowledge this partnership, as appropriate. To this end, the Parties shall consult with each other concerning the manner and form of such recognition and acknowledgement.

Article 10 United Nations Privileges and Immunities

1. Nothing in or relating to this MoU shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

Article 11 Confidentiality

1. The handling of information shall be subject to each Party's corporate confidentiality policies.
2. Before disclosing internal documents, or documents that by virtue of their content or the circumstances of their creation or communication must be deemed confidential, of the other Party to third parties, each Party shall obtain the express, written consent of the other Party. However, a Party's disclosure of another Party's internal and/or confidential documents to an entity the disclosing Party controls or with which it is under common control, or to an entity with which it has a confidentiality agreement, shall not be considered a disclosure to a third party, and shall not require prior authorization.
3. For UNEP, a principal or subsidiary organ of the United Nations established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations shall be deemed to be a legal entity under common control.

Article 12 Responsibility

1. Each Party will be responsible for dealing with any claims or demands arising out of its actions or omissions, and those of its respective personnel, in relation to this MoU.
2. ACCOBAMS shall indemnify, hold and save harmless and defend at its own expense, the UN, UNEP and/or Barcelona Convention-UNEP/MAP, their officials, personnel and representatives, from and against all suits, claims, demands and liability of any nature or kind which may arise in relation to this MoU due to any actions or omissions attributable to ACCOBAMS.

Article 13 Dispute Settlement

1. The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this MoU. Where the Parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then prevailing, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the Parties.
2. Any dispute, controversy or claim between the Parties arising out of this MoU which is not settled amicably in accordance with the foregoing sub-article may be referred by either Party to arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then in force. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The Parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of

any such controversy, claim or dispute.

Article 14 Notification and Amendments

1. Each Party shall promptly notify the other in writing within 3 months of any anticipated or actual material changes that will affect the execution of this MoU.
2. Upon receipt of such notification, the Parties shall consult each other with a view of reaching an agreement on any actual or proposed change(s) suggested in accordance with Article 14 (1).
3. The Parties may amend this MoU by mutual written agreement, which shall be appended to this MoU and become an integral part of it.

Article 15 Termination

1. Either Party may terminate this MoU by giving three (3) months' prior written notice to the other Party.
2. Upon termination of this MoU, the rights and obligations of the Parties defined under any other legal instrument executed pursuant to this MoU shall cease to be effective, except as otherwise provided in this MoU.
3. Any termination of the MoU shall be without prejudice to (a) the orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity and (b) any other rights and obligations of the Parties accrued prior to the date of termination under this MoU or any other provision of a specific legal instrument executed pursuant this MoU.
4. The obligations under Articles 8-13 do not lapse upon expiry, termination of or withdrawal from this MoU.

Article 16 Additional Parties

1. Another entity seeking to become a Party to this MoU must notify the other Parties in writing of its wish, providing its reasons and intended contributions. Following consultation, should all the Parties agree in writing to the requesting entity's accession to the MoU, UNEP [or responsible Partner], acting on behalf of the other Parties, shall effectuate the accession as a Party to the MoU by exchanging letters with the requesting entity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

For -UNEP/MAP

For ACCOBAMS

Name:

Name:

Date:

Date:

Appendix 1

ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE AREAS OF COOPERATION OF THIS MoU

1. **Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems through the assessment, monitoring and mitigation of adverse human-cetacean interactions, such fisheries, ship strikes, offshore noise-producing activities and marine litter**
 - Contribute to the formulation of a regional strategy based on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources ;
 - Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources, including aspects relating to the impacts of fisheries, marine litter and offshore activities on marine environment taking into account socio economic aspects;
 - Collaborate in developing key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development especially in relation to maritime traffic, offshore noise-producing activities and fisheries;
 - Collaborating in the elaboration, including external fundraising, of joint projects for the implementation of activities of common interest in relation to this MoU;
 - Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including the negative effects of pollution of the marine environment and ecosystems on marine living resources, in particular noise pollution and derelict fishing gears;
 - Consider initiatives to develop the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account activities for the preservation of marine habitats and possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. s, etc.);
 - Exchange views regarding the governance of the Mediterranean, with particular regard to those areas located beyond national jurisdiction and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance.

2. **Development of capacity building activities (e.g. training programmes, dissemination of relevant information, building awareness, etc.).**
 - Collaborate with relevant MAP components on initiatives that raise awareness and promote the mitigation of adverse human-cetacean interactions, such fisheries, ship strikes, offshore noise-producing activities and marine litter.

3. Sustain the activities as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the contiguous Atlantic area and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention – UNEP/MAP (RAC/SPA)

- Continue organizing biennial conferences for the Southern Mediterranean countries. The third Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South and East Mediterranean Countries should be held in October 2014 in Lebanon (tentative).
- Assist in the revision of the RAC/SPA Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and in defining a work program and a relevant schedule.
- Continue implementing the cetacean conservation modules in the existing postgraduate programs. This teaching module, already in place in 8 French speaking Universities, will start to be implemented in English speaking universities of the ACCOBAMS area in 2014.
- Co-organize, in December 2014, a workshop to evaluate effectiveness of marine protected areas containing critical habitats for cetaceans. This workshop would be the continuity of the collaboration between ACCOBAMS and RAC / SPA on the development of the manual regarding cetacean conservation for MPAs managers. This workshop will aim at:
 - Updating regularly a list of areas containing critical habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region (including high Sea)
 - Evaluating effectiveness of protected areas containing critical habitats for cetaceans using existing initiatives
- Participate in the steering committee for the development and for the fundraising to implement the program “ACCOBAMS Survey initiative” aiming at evaluating the abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area.
- Contribute to the implementation of the project on the mitigation of the impacts of fishing activities on cetaceans and other threatened marine species.
- Collaborate on the preparation of the species conservation plans that are considered as necessary by the Scientific Committee.
- Support the implementation (Algeria and Morocco) / if needed, the revision (Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) of the National Action Plans for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean.
- Collaborate for the setting up of an ACCOBAMS cetacean day and for promoting annual celebration in the Mediterranean Countries.
- Support the creation and the distribution of relevant communication tools.
- Continue attending the relevant meetings of both Organizations and, if needed, providing progress reports on these occasions.