

RESOLUTION 7.17**GLOBAL POST 2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK:
ACCOBAMS MOBILIZATION**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Recalling the 2050 Vision of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 “living in harmony with nature”.

Fully aware of the commitment expressed by the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) at the Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Secretariats of biodiversity-related Conventions: “2020 is just around the corner marking a crucial year for biodiversity with the expected adoption of a new Global Framework for biodiversity conservation for the following decade. UNEA4 call for innovative solution to environmental challenges and biodiversity loss is timely and we are committed to facilitating its reflection in our own processes, whenever the opportunity arises”,

Recalling the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), confirming that biodiversity is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, and *taking note* of its recommendations,

Recalling the Agreement objective to reach and maintain a favourable conservation status for all species of cetaceans and a protection of their habitats,

Recalling the commitment of each Party, under Resolution 5.8 on Rio+20 perspectives for ACCOBAMS, “to base its present and future actions for the implementation of the ACCOBAMS on the spirit and objectives of the document “The Future We Want”,

Recalling Resolution 6.11 on a Strategical Alliance concerning management and conservation measures for the Mediterranean environment, which “*Welcomes* the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity, among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN”,

Recalling Resolution 12.26 of CMS on Improving Ways of addressing Ecological Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species,

Recalling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, in particular SDG 14 relating to sustainable conservation and exploitation of oceans, seas and marine resources for the purpose of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the vulnerability of cetaceans to growing threats from anthropogenic sources in the ACCOBAMS area, combined to the impacts of climate change, warrants the implementation of specific conservation measures,

Aware that the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative”, an unprecedented evaluation, at the Mediterranean and Black Sea scales, of the abundance and distribution of megafauna, has produced a significant overall vision based on robust data,

Stressing, as underlined by Resolution [7.10], that these data represent an unparalleled conservation resource, and should be used in the most efficient way for conservation purposes,

Stressing also the need to fight against marine biodiversity erosion, in particular by achieving a good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea in relation with the work undertaken under the Barcelona and the Bucharest Conventions,

Relying in this regard on the full support and co-operation by all ACCOBAMS partners,

1. *Stresses* that ACCOBAMS Parties will:

- a. Cooperate towards intensifying the implementation of Aichi biodiversity targets, especially Targets 6 on fisheries and their adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems, Target 8 on pollution, Target 11 on conservation of coastal and marine areas through effective area-based conservation measures, and Target 12 on improved and sustained conservation status for threatened species;
- b. Actively participate in the process of developing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and promote the adoption of ambitious goals, particularly with respect to marine biodiversity issues such as fishing activities and pollution, as well as area-based measures of conservation and ecological connectivity at the national level that will need to be both qualitative and quantitative;
- c. Improve the implementation effectiveness of the Resolutions adopted under ACCOBAMS, in order to mitigate the impact of human activities on cetaceans, in collaboration with relevant regional and national Organizations and entities regulating those activities, and therefore contribute in tackling biodiversity erosion;
- d. Act in support of marine biodiversity conservation by using ACCOBAMS outputs and results, in particular by valorising the first ever overall assessment of the abundance and distribution of the megafauna and floating marine litter in the ACCOBAMS area provided by the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative”;
- e. Foster the conducting of periodic regional surveys of the Agreement area using the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative” methodology, at least every 6 years, to comply with their duties to monitor the marine environment under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and/or the Ecosystem Approach implemented by the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions;
- f. Implement effective cetacean conservation measures and to better integrate cetaceans into relevant sectoral policies in order to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status for cetaceans and protect their habitats, in particular by developing, revising and effectively implementing Conservation Management Plans and/or National Action Plan, including in particular the:
 - monitoring of accidental catch of cetaceans during fisheries activities, through a regionally harmonized approach, and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures,
 - monitoring of underwater noise, the use of the ACCOBAMS Regional Register for Impulsive Noise and the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Highly Qualified MMO/PAM certification for Marine Mammals Observers and passive acoustic operators, applying Best Available Techniques et Best Environment Practice to reduce, mitigate and avoid marine noise pollution, integrating the issue of anthropogenic noise

into the management plans of MPAs, and ensuring that Environmental Assessment takes full account of the effects of anthropogenic noise from activities on cetaceans,

- monitoring and prevention of risks of ship and cetaceans collisions,
 - implementation of a national stranding network using the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/IWC/ECS necropsies protocol,
 - implementation of good practices for whale-watching activities, in particular the ACCABAMS High Quality Whale Watching® certificate,
 - particular attention given to Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH), Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA), taking into account the information available through the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas process (EBSA),
 - declaration of effective area-based management tools for cetaceans such as, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs);
2. Ask the Permanent Secretariat to collaborate with other International Organizations, entities and networks dealing with marine biodiversity and related activities, to jointly present commitments at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2020.