

RESOLUTION 8.14
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

Recalling Resolution 6.21 on Conservation Management Plans (CMPs), where Parties took note of the CMP template, regarding new CMPs in the ACCOBAMS Area,

Taking into consideration Recommendation 14.13 “Conservation Management Plans (CMPs)” from the 14th meeting of the Scientific Committee,

Recognizing that the Scientific Committee and the four CMPs points of contact have devoted significant efforts during the past triennium (2020-2022) to develop draft CMPs for Mediterranean fin whales, Risso’s dolphins, common dolphins and bottlenose dolphins,

Recognizing also that, despite delays due to Covid-19 pandemic, the draft CMPs have been completed during the ACCOBAMS workshop in Cap d’Ail, France, from 7 to 9 March 2022,

Taking into consideration the recent IUCN Red List assessments as presented in Resolution 8.12 on IUCN Red List,

1. *Takes note* of the draft CMPs as presented in document MOP8/2022/Inf29;
2. *Requests* the CMP points of contact to finalise the different CMPs through organising stakeholder workshops, in collaboration with the Secretariat and with the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, as an essential part of the process contributing to the effectiveness and successful implementation of CMPs;
3. *Encourages* Parties to work towards CMP key components, which should include:
 - support of national authorities,
 - involvement of stakeholders at an early stage of CMPs development,
 - recognition that CMPs complement existing measures without replacing them,
 - overview of present status of species,
 - clear and achievable objectives,
 - practical and prioritized mitigation actions,
 - regular monitoring and reporting,
 - clear governance structures to co-ordinate key stakeholders engagement;
4. *Recommends* the Scientific Committee to consider drafting a CMP for the following species/populations:
 - a. *Mediterranean sperm whales*
Mediterranean sperm whales are listed as ‘Endangered’ in the IUCN Red List. The Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission has recommended in 2020 and 2021 that these species be treated as a

‘priority population’ for the purpose of the CMP development process. In addition to ship strikes, anthropogenic noise and bycatch, Mediterranean sperm whales are particularly vulnerable to marine litter. Range States include Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, and Türkiye;

b. Mediterranean Cuvier’s beaked whales

Mediterranean Cuvier’s beaked whales are listed as ‘Vulnerable’ in the IUCN Red List. Threats to such species include anthropogenic noise, habitat degradation, chemical pollution, bycatch and ingestion of marine litter. Range States include Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, and Türkiye;

c. Black Sea cetaceans

Harbour porpoises and bottlenose dolphins of the Black Sea are listed as ‘Endangered’ in the IUCN Red List. Common dolphins of the Black Sea are listed as ‘Vulnerable’. The Black Sea Commission (Sub-Regional Coordination Unit) recommended in 2021 to develop the updated Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans, as separate conservation plans for each of the three species. Threats to such species include bycatch (particularly for the harbour porpoise), habitat degradation (including prey depletion), illegal takes of bottlenose dolphins from the wild, and consequences of bio-invasions by alien species. Range States include Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Türkiye, and Ukraine;

5. *Encourages* Range States to participate in the drafting process of relevant CMPs.