

RESOLUTION 6.11

A STRATEGICAL ALLIANCE CONCERNING MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS OF ACCOBAMS, GFCM, UNEP/MAP THROUGH SPA/RAC AND IUCN-MED IN COLLABORATION WITH MEDPAN

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

Recalling Article IV paragraph 2 of the Agreement which in particular charges the Secretariat:

- to liaise with and facilitate co-operation between Parties and non-Party Range States, and international and national bodies the activities of which are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation of cetaceans in the Agreement Area,
- to assist the Parties in the implementation of this Agreement, ensuring coherence between the sub regions and with measures adopted pursuant to other international instruments in force,

Recalling also Article V, which creates co-ordination sub-regional Units and Resolution 1.4 establishing the sub-regional co-ordination Units for the Mediterranean and Atlantic adjacent Area in the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean,

Recalling the Conservation Plan, annexed to the Agreement, which refers, in its point 3, to the sharing of responsibilities between ACCOBAMS and the Barcelona Convention in regard to the habitats protection,

Recalling Resolution 4.15 concerning protected areas, which, inter alia, charges the Permanent Secretariat to liaise with any other similar organisations in the ACCOBAMS region in order to facilitate networking and synergies between them in particular at the scientific level,

Recalling Resolution 3.22, which establishes the criteria for the selection and the format for the proposal of specially protected areas for cetaceans,

Recalling Resolution 4.20 reinforcing the status of ACCOBAMS Partners,

Recalling Resolutions pertinent to cooperation with several Mediterranean entities and in particular:

- Resolution 2.22 establishing the link with the IUCN and Resolution 5.3 enhancing the active participation of IUCN in the Scientific Committee,
- Resolution 3.8 establishing links with the GFCM,
- Resolution 3.22 underlining the importance of MedPAN (the network of marines protected areas in the Mediterranean) in the formation of protected areas managers,

Recalling related decisions, in particular Resolution 11.2 of the the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) on the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023,

Recalling also the pertinent activities adopted in the ACCOBAMS strategy (period 2014-2025) in Resolution 5.1 and the various programmes of work,

Underlining that ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has already signed memorandum of cooperation witch each of the above-cited organisations,

1. *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, (ACCOBAMS-MOP6/2016/Inf17);

2. *Congratulates* the RAC/SPA, in the framework of the Ecosystem approach of the Barcelona Convention (EcAP process), to have initiated this strategical approach within the consultation held in the Joint RAC/SPA, GFCM and ACCOBAMS Meeting on protection of marine areas in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (Gammarth, Tunisia, 9-12 June 2015);
3. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat to participate actively to this strategical alliance in cooperation with the Scientific Committee and to inform the Bureau of any difficulty encountered.