

Thematic Work Area: **Aquatic species conservation issues (Working Group 3)**

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Secretariat Focal Points: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma

Mandate		Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding	Report to
<i>Resolution / Decision number</i>	<i>Text of Resolution / Decision</i> (The Scientific Council shall/should)	<i>Further short description of activity (if necessary)</i>	<i>List of outputs</i>	<i>Timeframe (year and/or meeting) (as per Res / Dec, if provided)</i>	<i>Names of people involved</i>	<i>Core, High, Medium, Low</i>	<i>Amounts already raised & required €</i>	<i>ScC, StC, COP (including session number)</i>
Review of Resolutions								
Dec.12.11 a	Review: i. UNEP/CMS/Resolution 7.18 (Rev.COP12) on the <i>Agreement for Dugong (Dugong dugon) Conservation</i> , ii. UNEP/CMS/Resolution 8.16 (Rev.COP12) on <i>Migratory Sharks</i> , and iii. UNEP/CMS/Resolution 6.3 (Rev.COP12) on <i>Southern Hemisphere Albatross Conservation</i> to determine whether they should be revised in light of new scientific information and other developments and propose amendments, if warranted	Secretariat, in collaboration with Appointed Councillors and relevant instruments, to prepare proposal for consideration by ScC-SC4	Draft revised resolutions and/or decisions, or recommendation to repeal resolutions in full.	StC49	i. G Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG ii. Zeb Hogan iii. Barry Baker Rob Clay Stephen Garnett (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Donna Kwan)	Medium	No funding needed	StC49 ScC-SC4 COP13
Dec.12.11 b	Submit proposed amendments or a new resolution, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 49 th meeting.		Drafts/amendments	StC49	As above	Medium	No funding needed	StC49 ScC-SC4 COP13

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Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans								
Res.10.15 (Rev.COP12) Para.7	Subject to the availability of resources, address the actions foreseen in the Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the technical information and advice on the range of issues articulated in the Annex to the Resolution as progressed by the Aquatic Mammals WG for example on underwater noise, cetacean bycatch and entanglement, habitat and feeding ground degradation, climate change, ship strikes, pollution and aquatic wild meat, taking into account where these issues have developed independent work streams, including on cetacean species listed after COP10 As appropriate, approve the information to be shared with the regional and international bodies listed in the resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation and collaboration with FAO/COFI on bycatch Cooperation and collaboration with CITES Cooperation and collaboration with UNICPOLOS Cooperation and collaboration with IWC Enhanced cooperation and collaboration with Parties and key partners in regions to address priority threats to cetaceans 	2017-2024	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13 ScC-SC6 COP14
Res.10.15 (Rev.COP12) Para.9	Continue and increase efforts to collaborate with other relevant international fora, with a view to avoiding duplication, increasing synergies and raising the profile of CMS and CMS cetacean-related agreements in these fora;	As appropriate, approve the information to be shared with the regional and international bodies articulated in the resolution, as well as CBD specifically concerning EBSA work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above Cooperation and collaboration with CBD 	2017-2024	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13 ScC-SC6 COP14

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Res.10.15 (Rev.COP12) Para.10	Maintain and, where appropriate, seek to enhance cooperation and collaboration with the International Whaling Commission and its Scientific and Conservation Committees;	Provide technical briefings on issues of mutual interest, e.g. IMMAs, live captures, in-water interactions, whale watching, underwater noise, and relevant Concerted Actions to the Secretariat for transmission to IWC	Close cooperation and collaboration with IWC maintained and further enhanced	2017-2024	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG AWMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13 ScC-SC6 COP14
Dec.12.16	Subject to the availability of resources, review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals not included in the Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans and prepare for the CMS Conference of the Parties at its 13 th meeting a robust assessment of threats and regional priorities as well as similar work programmes for these other aquatic mammal species.	AMWG to do scoping exercise to assess need Consultancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment Review of threats to CMS-listed aquatic mammals except cetaceans, per region Draft work programmes 	ScC-SC4	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium (in CMS POW)	40,000	ScC-SC4 COP13
Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes								
Res.11.22 (Rev.COP12) Para.4	Seek to enhance cooperation and collaboration with CITES and the IWC on small cetacean species targeted by live captures from the wild;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with ACCOBAMS SC on this issue Gather relevant information on recent and ongoing captures Submission of information to relevant CITES and IWC meetings Dialogue with Secretariats 	Report to ScC-SC4	ongoing	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Marine Turtles								
Dec.12.17 a	Review relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles, such as climate change and sky glow, to develop new recommendations for the conservation of all species of marine turtles included in Appendix I or II of the Convention, for presentation at the 13 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;	Workshop with experts for situation in the three ocean basins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of current threats Draft Resolution Draft Decisions 	ScC-SC4	Colin Limpus IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High (in CMS POW)	25,000	ScC-SC4 COP13

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Dec.12.17 b	Develop a draft Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle to be presented at the 13 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to address the trade, use and other threats to their conservation in South-East Asia, and the adjacent western Pacific. This Single Species Action Plan should be developed in collaboration with the Indian Ocean South-East Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding and with relevant non-governmental organizations, taking into account the outcome of CITES Decision 17.222, which mandates an assessment on marine turtle trade, that assessment scheduled for completion in time for discussion at the 70 th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in October 2018.	Workshop to develop SSAP, if considered necessary after CITES report comes out (expected to focus on Indo-Pacific region)	Draft SSAP for Hawksbill Turtles	ScC-SC4, or ScC-SC5	Colin Limpus IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High (in CMS POW)	25,000	ScC-SC4 COP13
Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)								
Dec.12.40 a	Collaborate with the IUCN Joint Species Survival Commission/World Commission on Protected Areas (SSC/WCPA) Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force to include data on CMS-listed pinnipeds, sirenians, otters, polar bears and cetaceans in the identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs);	No further activity required	IMMAs fully relevant to CMS-listed species	Ongoing	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Dec.12.40 b	Upon receiving information from the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force about newly identified IMMAs, review their relevance for CMS-listed species, consider any contributions received from Parties, and provide advice concerning conservation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to circulate Task Force report received by 30 June 2019 to Parties • ScC to consider Party responses • ScC to provide advice on conservation measures 	Conservation measures recommended for IMMAs relevant for CMS-listed species (Draft Resolution / Decisions)	Ongoing	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species								
Res.12.14 Para. 23	Supported by the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, continue monitoring new available information on the effects of underwater noise on marine species, as well as the effective assessment and management of this threat, and to make recommendations to Parties as appropriate;	Support, as appropriate, regional capacity-building workshops promoting the CMS Family Guidelines, as well as related training organized by daughter agreements, e.g. ACCOBAMS	Workshop reports and recommendations	ongoing	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra JNWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	High	10,000	

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Dec.12.43 a	Assess the need for, and if required develop, subject to the availability of resources, voluntary guidelines on activities of concern;	JNWG to advise on the need for development of noise mitigation guidelines	Recommendation on way forward / Draft Decisions	ScC-SC4	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra JNWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Dec.12.43 b	Assess the need for updating the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities	Not required at this stage				Low		
Aquatic Wild Meat								
Res.12.15 Para.1	Establish a thematic Working Group dealing with aquatic wild meat, to provide expert advice to the CMS Parties, to collaborate with relevant organizations such as the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and to coordinate science and policy participation with the relevant Memoranda of Understanding concluded under CMS, and consulting with the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) as relevant;	Completed, no further action required	Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group established	ScC-SC3	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	Medium (in CMS POW)	No funding needed	ScC-SC3
Dec.12.45 a	Invite participation of Councillors and external experts, including from across the CMS Family, into the thematic Working Group dealing with aquatic wild meat, to ensure that all affected CMS-listed species are considered;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to invite Councillors and nominated external experts • Prepare Workspace discussion area 	Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group established	ScC-SC3	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	Medium (in CMS POW)	No funding needed	ScC-SC3
Dec.12.45 b	Report on the activities of the Working Group to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group to report to each meeting of the Scientific Council, as articulated in Dec.12.46 • Council to report to COP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to COP • If required Draft Decisions / Draft revised Resolution 	COP13	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra AWMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	Medium	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13

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Recreational In-Water Interactions with Aquatic Mammals [and other aquatic species]								
Dec.12.51 a	Consider combining work streams related to recreational in-water interactions and boat-based wildlife watching in the coming intersessional period, ensuring all CMS-listed species that are the target of swim- or dive-with activities are covered by any guidelines to be developed;	Decide to combine work streams, focusing on marine areas and, for aquatic mammals, river systems (see also Dec.12.79 a)	Guidance from ScC, if needed Draft Decisions	ScC-SC4	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara Zeb Hogan Colin Limpus AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Low	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Dec.12.51 b	Review, subject to availability of resources, existing guidelines, good practice and underpinning scientific evidence of the issues of concern, and based on this review develop guidelines on recreational in-water interactions with CMS-listed species;	Conduct a review Develop appropriate guidelines (Consultancy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report • Draft Guidelines • Draft Resolution • Draft Decisions 	ScC-SC4	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara Zeb Hogan Colin Limpus AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium (in CMS POW)	15,000 (provided by Monaco)	ScC-SC4 COP13
Dec.12.51 c	Consult the International Whaling Commission (IWC) during the preparation of the guidelines and other documents;	Ongoing consultations	Opportunity for input given	ScC-SC4	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Dec.12.51 d	Report to the Standing Committee at its 48 th and 49 th meetings on the progress in implementing this Decision;		Report	StC48 StC49	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara Zeb Hogan Colin Limpus AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	No funding needed	StC48 StC49

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Dec.12.51 e	Present the guidelines and recommended code of conduct for operators concerning recreational in-water interaction to the 13 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for formal consideration;	Review draft guidelines and code of conduct Make recommendation to COP13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Guidelines Draft Resolution Draft Decisions 	COP13	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara Zeb Hogan Colin Limpus AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	No funding needed	COP13
Dec.12.51 f	Consider, in the light of CMS Technical Series No. 33 Cetaceans of the Red Sea, launched at the 12 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, how best to take forward the conservation of cetaceans in the Red Sea region, taking into account all relevant threats, and report back on this to the 13 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	Collect available information on all relevant threats, synthesize it and make recommendations	Report Draft guidance to COP	ScC-SC4	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region								
Res.12.17 Para.5	Work with the Scientific and Conservation Committees of the IWC to increase understanding of cetaceans' contribution to the functioning of marine ecosystems, including by co-hosting a workshop to review the existing data and research and identify opportunities to expand this work;	Await further advice from Brazil regarding funding and progression of the workshop		2019-2027	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	Medium (in CMS POW)	Brazil seeking funds	ScC-SC4 COP13
Res.12.17 Para.6	Promote work to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions to support the implementation of the Action Plan and other conservation measures in the South Atlantic area.	Scientific Councillors attending IWC to discuss as appropriate		2019-2027	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	High	No funding needed	COP13 COP14 COP15

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Concerted Actions								
CA 12.1-7	Keep under review Concerted Actions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · European Eel · Sperm Whales of the Eastern Tropical Pacific · Atlantic Humpback Dolphin · Humpback Whales of the Arabian Sea · Angelshark · Mobulid Rays · Whale Shark 	Keep progress under review	Guidance given as required	ongoing	Zeb Hogan Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (Sec FPs: Melanie Virtue; Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma; Lyle Glowka)	High	No funding needed	ScC-SC4 COP13
Res.12.28 Para.6	Assist Parties to take Concerted Actions to implement the provisions of the Convention, where possible through existing instruments of bilateral or multilateral cooperation	AMWG to provide advice to the Secretariat and Government of Norway to feed into the range state discussion on the ToR for the larger conference on Polar Bear, and Norway's initiative	Advice on the ToR for the conference	ScC-SC4	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	High	33,000 (provided by Norway)	ScC-SC4 COP13