

WDCS Position Statement and Report to CMS CoP9

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1. WDCS, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, is an international non-governmental organization with cetacean protection activities spanning more than 25 countries around the world. WDCS expertise crosses the spectrum from conservation science and field research, to the development of habitat protection models and policy implementation.

I. Key issues during the CoP

2. WDCS has a number of briefings for this CMS 9th Conference of the Parties (CMS CoP9) and we would be pleased to provide these to delegates and discuss with you any of the proposals relating to cetaceans.

3. During CMS CoP9, we urge Parties to support the following proposals and discussions within the CMS CoP agenda.

4. **Strengthen the CMS Family**, by:

- 4.1 establishing a formalised linkage between CMS, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and the Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU, and any future cetacean related instruments by establishing a 'cetacean expert body' to help coordinate and institutionalize the connection between agreement scientific bodies and the CMS Scientific Council, to share technical resources such as species related scientific meetings and organizing agreement or initiative meetings in common.

5. **Build CMS's important role** in cetacean conservation, by:

- 5.1 **progressing agreements for cetacean species in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia** including the CMS Appendix listed Irrawaddy dolphin.
- 5.2 **progressing an agreement for South American populations of cetaceans** including the CMS Appendix listed Commerson's dolphin, Chilean dolphin, Burmeister's porpoise, tucuxi, boto and Franciscana.
- 5.3 requesting the Secretariat develop proposals for **increasing conservation activities for the remaining appendix listed cetacean species**, including beluga whale, narwhal, bowhead whale, Baird's beaked whale, north Atlantic right whale, north Pacific right whale, Dall's porpoise, eastern tropical Pacific populations of the short-beaked common dolphin, pantropical spotted dolphin and spinner dolphin.
- 5.4 **accepting the Revised Secretariat Programme to Implement CMS Resolution 8.22: Adverse Human Induced Impacts on Cetaceans** as detailed in *Conf 9.26: Migratory Marine Species*; and requesting that the Secretariat also include live captures as a threat to be assessed and considered within the Programme of Work for Cetaceans.

6. **Strengthen CMS's role with other MEAs**, by:

- 6.1 **increasing CMS's role in protected areas** and in particular securing budget for CMS sponsorship and participation in the upcoming International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas.
- 6.2 **increasing CMS's role in High Seas marine protected areas.**
- 6.3 **increasing CMS's role in addressing the impact of climate change** and supporting *Resolution 9.7: Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species* put forward on this issue.
- 6.4 **increasing CMS's role in addressing the impact of bycatch** and supporting *Resolution 9.18: Bycatch* put forward on this issue.
- 6.5 **increasing CMS's role in the CITES Non-Detriment Findings** process and in the first instance providing additional documentation appended to the submission of the CMS Scientific Council review and recommendations to the CITES Animals Committee in April 2009, including:
 - a. a list of all species and populations currently listed on the CMS Appendices and/or included

- in CMS agreements;
 - b. an invitation to the CITES Secretariat to notify the Parties of the opportunity to consult with CMS on Non-Detriment Findings relating to these species; and
 - c. CMS Secretariat attendance at the 2009 Animals Committee meeting to discuss the opportunities for CITES Parties to consult with CMS and report on the CMS Scientific Council review
7. **Building important welfare science**, by:
- 7.1 requesting that the CMS Scientific Council conduct a **review on social complexity and culture in migratory species** as indicated in Conf 9.26: Migratory Marine Species and further requesting that the Council:
- a. establishes a specialist working group to oversee the review and continue provision of advice to the CMS CoP in the coming decade;
 - b. develops a draft definition of culture in non-human societies for consideration by CMS CoP10; and
 - c. develops draft advice on how the removal of individuals from a population where cultural transmission plays an important biological role may be integrated into the longer-term conservation activities of CMS
8. **Listing cetacean species and populations** on the CMS Appendices, by:
- 8.1 **adopting the 6 new cetacean listing proposals** on the CMS Appendices, including:
- a. Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* (Appendix I);
 - b. Irrawaddy dolphin, *Orcaella brevirostris* (Appendix I);
 - c. Atlantic humpback dolphin, *Sousa teuszii* (Appendix I);
 - d. Harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena* (North West African population) (Appendix II);
 - e. Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus* (Mediterranean population) (Appendix II);
 - f. Clymene dolphin, *Stenella clymene* (West African (eastern tropical Atlantic)) population (Appendix II); and
- 8.2 **adopting the change of listing of Bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*** from 'western Mediterranean population' to 'Mediterranean population' (Appendix II)
9. **Securing budget**, by:
- 9.1 ensuring **substantive resources for marine work is provided within the core CMS budget** and in particular that core financial commitment is provided:
- a. for the Scientific Council **Small Grants Programme**;
 - b. for the **Pacific Cetaceans MoU**;
 - c. for the **Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU**; and
 - d. to develop **cetacean agreements in the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia and South America**.
10. **Developing the Future Shape of CMS**, by:
- 10.1 adopting the important considerations contained within *Resolution 9.13: Intersessional Process Regarding the Future Shape of CMS*. We believe that as a Partner organisation to CMS we have demonstrated commitment and willingness to endure both scrutiny and to maintain accountability. We have a strong investment in the future strategies and structure of CMS and the CMS family and wish to be considered for NGO Partner representation on the proposed ad-hoc working group.

II. Financing CMS

11. WDCS believes that CMS is the only international implementing treaty that provides a flexible platform to develop measures that can be tailored to particular conservation needs, and has the mechanisms to implement on-ground conservation activities, attributes that offer a great potential for multiple threat mitigation and the protection of endangered species. The growth of Parties to CMS in the past triennium indicated that Governments agree with this position.

12. It cannot be overstated how important it is that the work of this convention is supported and encouraged to grow.

13. The CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011, and the Scientific Council's associated Implementation Plan demonstrate the breadth of work that is to make a significant contribution to the conservation of migratory species and biodiversity in the aquatic and terrestrial environments. No other convention has this mandate or capacity.

14. Once again, we urge delegates at CMS CoP9 to give close attention to the issue of resources. We appreciate that the budget discussions are difficult but we wish to draw your attention, in particular, to three important

matters relating to a) the small projects programme, b) the capacity of the Scientific Council and c) the capacity of agreements.

15. We believe that the small grants programme is the lifeblood of the CMS, providing vital support and encouragement across the whole range of CMS activities. In the past, these projects have underpinned and contributed significantly to the development of most of the agreements and action plans that are now part of the CMS suite of tools. These projects have assisted developing countries, by helping to address and raise the profile of a range of threats to migratory species. Furthermore there is a considerable leveraging mechanism in these small grants and other project money made available by the Convention.

16. None of the work of CMS can be progressed without a strong programme of scientific support. The CMS Scientific Council underpins the work of the entire organisation and we feel that we should at this time be building its competency.

17. Finally, agreements are where the conservation work of CMS actually takes place. The Secretariat is to be commended for their strong performance in negotiating agreements over the past triennium and we note that more are coming online soon. WDCS is especially heartened with the growth of cetacean related agreements and we commend all the Signatories to the Pacific Cetacean MoU and the Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU for becoming part of this important network of CMS agreements. However, agreements must have resource to progress. As a Collaborating Organisation, WDCS has already committed substantive resource to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and will continue with our long-term commitments to all the cetacean-related agreements. But it is vital that these two new MoUs receive core budget funds from the CoP if they are to thrive and meet the ambitious but important conservation goals that have been set.

18. All Partners to CMS are stakeholders in the conservation agenda of CMS. As civil society, we contribute substantially to this convention, through voluntary and monetary contributions and strong programmes of work supporting and promoting and implementing on-ground conservation activities.

19. We appreciate the difficulties and constraints involved in budgeting for the many complex and interrelated aspects of the work of the CMS, but we urge you not to handicap the convention at this point in its evolution. Its position in the global conservation effort is vital, and it is imperative that we sufficiently support the CMS in order to drive an agenda that is of the greatest importance to us all.

III. Report on the WDCS/CMS Partnership and progress against the Joint Programme of Work

20. WDCS and CMS have been working closely together since 2002. A formal *Partnership Agreement* was signed between WDCS and CMS CoP8 in November 2005 and a three year *Joint Programme of Work* designed to directly support CMS's own *Strategic Plan* (as directed by the Governments that are Parties to CMS in 1999, 2002 and again in 2005) was agreed in January 2006.

21. The *Partnership Agreement* commits WDCS and CMS to working in Partnership towards the achievement of the 2010 target and cetacean conservation at the international level, including continuing to work with ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, the Pacific Cetaceans MoU, the Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU and future CMS cetacean related agreements and MoUs in their development, resourcing, on-ground implementation and promotion.

22. In the past three years WDCS has committed itself to fulfilling commitments made under the *Joint Programme of Work*, and in the process has contributed over €1 million worth of support to the work of CMS. We have provided a full report of the *Joint Programme of Work* in Annex A.

23. In addition to providing the Secretariat with regular technical and advisory support, specific highlights of the WDCS commitment include:

- 23.1 Investing in *Year of the Dolphin*, as a Founding Partner, providing two years of technical support, developing and distributing education resources and providing extensive media support and coverage
- 23.2 Continuing to underpin and support CMS cetacean related agreements – ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and the newly formed Western Africa Aquatic Mammals MoU – through financial and in-kind assistance, advisory and technical support and field research programmes
- 23.3 Funding and coordinating the majority of conservation research of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU as well as providing in-country technical support to Signatory Governments
- 23.4 Establishing an expert group – the Cetacean Liaison Group – to support the cetacean related work of the CMS Scientific Council and the Appointed Councillor for Marine Mammals, including contributing to species listing proposals and providing expert advice on regional agreement

- development and the Year of the Dolphin
- 23.5 Promoting the role of CMS during international meetings and workshops including:
- a. Climate Change and Migratory Species, CMS CoP, Kenya
 - b. Watching Wildlife, CBD CoP, Brazil
 - c. Pacific Regional Environment Programme, three regional meetings, Samoa
 - d. Special fundraising meeting “CMS on the Move to 2010: Priorities in Implementing the Programme of Work 2007-2008”, CMS, Germany
 - e. Migratory Species: Working Together towards a Vision for 2020, Smithsonian Institution, USA
 - f. CMS-CITES Synergies Event, CITES CoP, Netherlands
 - g. Providing professional staff capacity to the Secretariat directed to fulfilling work exclusively for the CMS Secretariat

IV. Report on the Year of the Dolphin

24. WDCS was honoured to be one of the Founding Partners to the Year of the Dolphin and was pleased to work closely with CMS, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and TUI throughout the campaign.
25. Many dolphin species are endangered or critically endangered and require urgent conservation measures, a situation highlighted acutely by the declared extinction of the Yangtze River dolphin in early 2007
26. The CMS document *Conf 9.21: Report on Year of the Dolphin and Future Species Campaigns* ably presents the shared outcomes of the two year campaign. In addition to the wealth of experience gained through working in close Partnership with CMS, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and TUI, the organisational highlights for WDCS in the past two years have included two contributions to the *Joint Programme of Work*:
- Selection of the Year of the Dolphin as an official activity of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development, a UNESCO-administered initiative covering the period 2005-2014 and 8,929 children completing their Dolphin Diploma on-line and through WDCS offices. As part of the Volvo Ocean Race educational activities in Alicante, a further 4,000 children have completed their Dolphin Diploma. 2,338 dolphin diploma packs and 2,241 *All about Dolphins* booklets have been downloaded.
 - Sustained press engagement throughout the first year and the launch of a major billboard poster advertisement campaign in Europe – ‘*They can’t wait for evolution*’

In addition these following independent dolphin-related activities where WDCS:

- Raised awareness about dolphin drive hunts, through an educational programme in Tokyo.
- Drew attention to the opportunity and then celebrated the decision of authorities to cease holding dolphins in captivity in New Zealand, following the death of the country’s last remaining captive dolphin.
- Drew attention to the dangers of Dolphin Assisted Therapy with a report and media coverage in the UK and Germany, including new findings highlighting impacts on the animals and the failings of the therapy.
- Drew attention to the opportunity and then celebrated the decision of authorities in the Dominican Republic not to import 12 bottlenose dolphins captured in drive hunts in Japan.
- Drew attention to the harmful expansion of swimming-with-dolphins programmes in countries bordering the Black and Mediterranean Seas, resulting in the condemnation of these programmes from governments in the region.
- Drew attention to the opportunity and then celebrated the decision of authorities not to progress with plans for a new captive facility holding river dolphins in Norway.
- Drew attention to the extent of suffering caused by entanglement in fishing nets, with vital new research and media coverage documenting injuries incurred to cetaceans and likely times to death.
- Provided training on the identification of whales and dolphins for the Fisheries Observer Programme of the Federated States of Micronesia to improve the accuracy of sightings and entanglement and records for the region.
- Drew attention to the alarming number of common dolphins entangled in fishing nets in New Zealand, and celebrated the decision of the Government to reassess the conservation status of this species.
- Enabled the first-ever monitoring and evaluation of the entanglement of whales and dolphins in fishing nets in the coastal waters of Ghana.
- Successfully campaigned to stop ship-to-ship oil transfers in important habitat for whales and dolphins in the Firth of Forth, Scotland.
- Published new research into vulnerable solitary dolphins living off the coast of the UK.
- Published guidance on reducing noise impacts through protected areas, as well as technical guidance for use on seismic ships.
- Conducted successful field surveys to better understand whale and dolphin habitat use to investigate potential impacts from military sonar use around the islands of Hawaii.

- Commenced the first Pacific Cetaceans MoU research projects and training programmes, including the first national workshop for scientists and decision-makers on whale and dolphin conservation in Papua New Guinea, which also helped to provide tools for research projects, educational awareness and community programmes.
- Established four research projects in Papua New Guinea, one in Vanuatu, three in Fiji, as well as projects in the planning stages for both the Federated States of Micronesia and the Solomon Islands, which will provide vital information for conservation.
- Raised awareness of whale and dolphin issues with decision-makers, scientists and businesses in Fiji, training researchers, gaining the establishment of a national sightings network, and aiding the development of a whale sanctuary action plan.
- Gained endorsement of a conservation plan for marine mammals by countries of the Caribbean under the SPAW Protocol, following a four year campaign.
- Supported the New Zealand Government to set-up protection for critically endangered Hector's and Maui's dolphins.
- Established the South American River Dolphin Protected Area Network (SARDPAN) initiative, a long-term plan to provide protected habitat for all four species of river dolphins found across the vast Amazon-Orinoco basins in six countries of South America.
- Contributed to efforts which secured a sanctuary for whales and dolphins covering all of Chilean waters.
- Contributed to whale and dolphin conservation in Bangladesh, including recommendations for government legislation and marine protected areas in support of the Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project.
- Obtained agreement from countries bordering the Black and Mediterranean Seas for work to begin on the designation of 17 marine protected areas for whales and dolphins.
- Helped gain the designation of the first marine protected area for whales and dolphins in Italian waters, around the island of Ischia - an area including prime habitat for sperm whales and endangered common dolphins.
- Developed a conservation plan for the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, and continued vital, ongoing research in the Port River.
- Found new orca migration routes and a transient orca hotspot in Far East Russia.
- Conducted the first ever seasonal research into whales and dolphins in the outer Moray Firth, Scotland, to help build our case for better protection for these animals against increasing threats.
- Raised concerns relating to the inconsistencies in application of humane slaughter standards between the treatment of hunted cetaceans and other species killed for commercial meat production and IWC Parties commitments under the World Organisation for Animal Health.
- Brought together the first on-line network of students, government departments, conservation organisations and community groups for the protection of whales and dolphins around India.
- Set-up projects to end the killing of Amazon River dolphins that scavenge from nets, including the first fish-filleting co-operative in Leticia, Brazil to help local fishermen make money from fish damaged by the dolphins. The scheme is currently training 20 women and aims to provide 40 families with financial security.
- Continued research into the population of Irrawaddy dolphins in Chilika Lagoon, India, which are under substantial pressure from local dolphin-watching and aquaculture operations, and engaged local children in conservation efforts through educational workshops.
- Funded 43 conservation and research projects across 27 countries.
- And, launched three new major campaigns:
 1. ***Protect Our Dolphins***, for the protection of the highly vulnerable bottlenose dolphins in the Moray Firth, Scotland, in particular from oil and gas development in the sanctuary designated for their protection. The campaign has already gained support from fifteen of the world's top marine and dolphin scientists and around 18,000 protest emails and letters from members of the public.
 2. ***Global Campaign for Marine Protected Areas*** (MPAs) with the five-year goal of establishing 12 large highly protected MPAs for whales and dolphins by 2012. Launched in late September 2008, the campaign immediately reached tens of thousands of people with our message through our partnership with Team Russia for the Volvo Ocean Race 2008-09, under the banner 'We Sail for the Whale'.
 3. ***River dolphin campaign***, for the protection of highly vulnerable Amazon River dolphins. WDCS has funded conservation and research projects in the Amazon for some 15 years and will now support an ambitious programme from award-winning conservationist Fernando Trujillo, working with local communities and governments and replicating his vital research and conservation work in Colombia across other countries.

V. Report on the Cetacean Liaison Group

27. Following the endorsement received during CoP8, the Cetacean Liaison Group met in September 2006 and has continued to work electronically since. An important point of agreement within the Cetacean Liaison Group

has been the need for greater integration of science and policy work within the CMS cetacean area, and for increased coordination of civil society attention to processes within CMS. In acknowledgement of this, the group's formal objective is to assist the development, and where possible implementation, of a forward strategy of key science and political work that needs to be undertaken in each triennium to progress the cetacean related priorities of CMS CoP decisions, to provide advice and recommendations to CMS on cetacean issues, and to support existing relevant CMS processes such as the taxonomic working group on marine mammals within the Scientific Council.

Cetacean related agreements

28. The Cetacean Liaison Group has noted that in addition to underpinning the development of new agreements, maintaining and strengthening existing agreements is very important and encourages the member States and Secretariats of the CMS agreements to more actively use the parent convention – CMS – both to ensure that the CMS family progress is reported and recognised for its global contribution and to enable the agreement Parties and Secretariats to engage more actively with issues of global concern such as CMS CoP resolutions, recommendations, species and populations Appendix listings and CMS relationships with other fora.

29. the Cetacean Liaison Group believes that in addition to ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and the Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU, it is important to focus on development of agreements of action plans in at least South Asia and Southeast Asia.

30. Noting the requirements of CMS Article V, the Cetacean Liaison Group has assisted WDCS to devise the following proposed guiding principles for the development of marine mammal agreements, with a goal of building a network of marine mammal (or specifically cetacean) related agreements around the world that are bound together under the parent treaty. These proposed guiding principles are of relevance to discussion that will take place surrounding *Conf.9.16 Operational Instruments of the Convention on Migratory Species, Conf.9.26: Migratory Marine Species* and discussions on future agreements:

- During the negotiation process regions should develop agreements according to the distribution of the predominant marine mammal species being considered.
 - a. Each new agreement should seek to create consistency and continuity by:
 - b. identifying with and operating as part of the CMS Family;
 - c. addressing the full range of threats to marine mammals and the need for critical habitat protection within the defined region;
 - d. conserving all marine mammals that are the subject of the agreement and fully protecting marine mammals listed in CMS Appendix I that occur within the defined region;
 - e. urging Parties to pass implementing legislation to ensure that the agreement will be applied in the domestic jurisdictions;
 - f. assuming functional competence to apply to high seas jurisdictions within the defined agreement area;
 - g. urging the ratification or accession to the biodiversity-related international instruments that complement the intent of the agreement and to enhance the legal protection for marine mammals;
 - h. recognising the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES);
 - i. harmonising and complementing the work of CMS and the other marine-mammal related CMS agreements as much as possible;
 - j. exchanging scientific, technical and legal information among CMS agreements to coordinate conservation measures across jurisdictions;
 - k. acknowledging and inviting the contribution of civil society and providing non-government scientific organisations and expert policy organisations with opportunities, subject to approval of the signatories of regional agreements, to sign and become an active part of the agreement implementation as 'collaborating organisations'; and most importantly
 - l. ensuring that commitments are respected and that actions deriving from Parties' Resolutions are implemented.
- Although some agreements may form as legally binding treaties, all agreements should cooperate through and use the parent treaty – CMS – for the listing of species and the passing of globally relevant resolutions and recommendations, while also noting the differing levels of non-Party and Party compliance with CMS itself. Where individual agreements may have less might, together the CMS Family is stronger and can become a potent force for global marine mammal conservation.

CMS Appendix I and II species and population lists

31. The Cetacean Liaison Group discussed the evolved perception of CMS Appendix II listed species as species and populations that are vulnerable. The Group acknowledged that it was important to foster an accurate interpretation of CMS Appendix II while also avoiding negative interpretation through the de-listing of species or populations for which agreements have already been concluded.

32. With reference to the text of the convention, Appendix II lists migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those which have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international co-operation that could be achieved by an international agreement. Despite this language, in some quarters the perception of Appendix II classification is that it is parallel to the IUCN Red List category of Vulnerable, a lower level of threat compared with Appendix I species which are considered Endangered.

33. It was thought that, while it is important to maintain to the Convention's definition, a differentiation among species listed on Appendix II could be helpful to consider. Such a differentiation could encourage a more detailed perception and interpretation of the CMS Appendix II listing as those species or populations whose conservation status would significantly benefit from international cooperation and that:

- had not yet been addressed through the development of an international agreement for their conservation, therefore providing an impetus for conservation action and agreement development within the CMS family; or
- had been addressed through the development of an international agreement for their conservation, therefore providing an impetus to monitor the progress of conservation efforts;

34. In support of this differentiation, the existing agreements' Secretariats could be urged to formally report on conservation progress associated with Appendix I and II species and populations, enabling CMS to more accurately track their global conservation progress.

35. The Cetacean Liaison Group committed to developing key Appendix listing proposals for the following species and populations, which were brought to the 14th Scientific Council for initial review and now to the 15th Scientific Council and CoP9 by final consideration:

- Atlantic humpback dolphin, *Sousa teuszii* – Appendix I
- Harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena*, (West African populations) – Appendix II
- Clymene dolphin, *Stenella clymene*, (West African populations) – Appendix II
- Irrawaddy dolphin, *Orcaella brevirostris* – Appendix I

Cetacean related project development

36. The Cetacean Liaison Group suggested the following projects that should be considered for implementation by supporting NGOs (including WDCS) and national institutions. WDCS will function in a coordinating role to facilitate uptake for each of the Group's priority regions:

Pacific Islands Region

37. Regional definition: spanning between the Tropic of Cancer and 60 degrees South latitude and between 130 degrees East longitude and 120 degrees West longitude.

- Review/assessment of the species involved in the Solomon Islands drive hunt and live-capture operations;
- Review/assessment of the impacts of dolphin tourism on the spinner dolphin in the region;
- As appropriate, inventory surveys in Countries and Territories that are Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU;
- Review/survey mitigation measures to address depredation by cetaceans on local long-line fisheries in the region; and
- The Cetacean Liaison Group also agreed to track the IWC assessment of island breeding populations of humpback whales affected by scientific whaling as this assessment relates to the to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and may consider a project related to these populations at a later date.

Tropical West Africa

38. Regional definition: spanning from Morocco south to Angola

- Review/assessment of impacts to Atlantic humpback dolphins;
- Review/assessment of the impacts of bycatch and directed takes and bycatch in Ghana;
- Review/assessment of the status of harbour porpoises in Senegal and Mauritania;
- Review/assessment of bycatch on north west African population of harbour porpoise; and
- Technical symposium/workshop to develop a small cetaceans action plan.

South Asia

39. Regional definition: spanning from Pakistan in the west around to Myanmar in the east and encompassing all northern islands in the Indian Ocean and inland to include river dolphins.

- Multi-species training workshop on bycatch assessment and mitigation, in conjunction with South East Asia;
- Technical symposium/workshop, encompassing both a marine and river dolphin focus, focussed on reviewing the status of cetaceans in South Asia, developing an action plan for their conservation and working towards a CMS agreement (understanding that this work will be followed by WDCS working

- towards an agreement that will cover all cetaceans); and
- Review/assessment of where bycatch is known to be creating new directed take markets.

Southeast Asia

40. Regional definition: spanning from Thailand east to the Philippines, north to southern China and south to encompass all of Indonesia and the northern coast of Australia.

- Multi-species bycatch training workshop, in conjunction with South Asia; and
- Part 2 of the Timor/Arafura Sea surveys.

41. In addition, the Cetacean Liaison Group also suggested the following WDCS projects for the other developing regions:

Temperate Southeast Pacific

42. Regional definition: Peru and Chile

- Review/assessment of regional bycatch and directed takes;
- Review/assessment of bycatch and directed takes for offshore use as bait;
- Review/assessment of habitat pressure and directed takes on coastal bottlenose dolphins; and
- Review/assessment of extent of sperm whale long-line depredation.

43. Tropical Southeast Pacific

- Assessment of current bycatch levels of short-beaked common dolphins, pantropical spotted dolphins and bottlenose dolphins in artisanal fisheries off Ecuador and the Pacific coast of Colombia.

Implementing resolution 8.22

44. The Cetacean Liaison Group continues its involvement in the development of the Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans as required by Resolution 8.22

Annex A: WDCS delivery against the WDCS/CMS Joint Work Programme

Triennium period January 2006 – December 2008

- The calculated contribution value of the following activities is €1,053,000.
- Please note: This contribution value does not include any WDCS staff or administration costs, except where staff have been formally seconded to the CMS Secretariat and are working under the direction of Secretariat Staff, or any campaign activities that have not been formally agreed as part of the *Joint Programme of Work*.

WDCS/CMS Joint Work Programme Objectives	Activity	WDCS progress report (December 2008)	Activity year	Lead
1. Work in partnership towards the achievement of the 2010 target and cetacean conservation at the international level				
1.1. communicate progress on Joint Work Programme activities to CMS Parties, international biodiversity agencies and NGOs	Develop distribution list for Joint Work Programme communication		2006	CMS
	Through NGO consultations report to CMS Parties civil society support for CMS including organisational time commitments, monetary and in-kind contributions		2008	CMS
	Produce report of Joint Work Programme Progress and 2012 targets	In progress. Will be completed in the next Joint Work Programme Will now be a triennium report and linked to the completion of the CMS Resolution 8.22 <i>Programme of Work for Cetaceans</i>	2008 2009	WDCS
	Produce and distribute mid-term report of Joint Work Programme Progress	Completed mid-term report of Progress against the Joint Work Programme in December 2006 and submitted to the CMS Secretariat.	2007	WDCS
		Rescheduled the update of Protecting Cetaceans to reflect CMS Resolution 8.22 <i>Programme of Work for Cetaceans</i>	2009	WDCS
	Update Conserving Cetaceans brochure with new section of Pacific MoU and Joint Work Programme	Reassessed after discussion with Secretariat. Did not seem necessary to reprint at this stage. Will revisit the development of a new multi-lingual brochure in 2009	2006 2009	WDCS CMS
1.2. input to CBD indicator project	Develop paper for ScC14 on cetaceans as indicator species	Rescheduled by the Cetacean Liaison Group who decided to delay this until the after CoP9. Will revisit in the next Joint Work Programme	2007 2009	WDCS
2. Maximize the potential of the Joint Work Programme				
2.1. keep each other well informed of needs, issues and opportunities that emerge as a result of their activities.	Half-yearly report #1 update via tele/video conference exchange noting obligations of Resolution 8.22 as appropriate	Completed verbal and ongoing information exchange	2006	WDCS CMS

	Half-yearly report #2 update via tele/video conference exchange	Completed verbal and ongoing information exchange Completed formal report of the CLG submitted to SC Completed mid-term report of Progress against the Joint Work Programme submitted to the CMS Secretariat.	2007	WDCS CMS
	Half-yearly report #3 update via tele/video conference exchange	Completed verbal and ongoing information exchange	2008	WDCS CMS
2.2. coordinate activities in research, training and public awareness.	Also Ref 3.1 Cetacean Liaison Group (CLG)			
	Profile the work of CMS through World Biodiversity Day	Completed WDCS supported press conference focused on education	2006	CMS WDCS
	Identify CMS Ambassador for Cetaceans	Not completed		CMS WDCS
	Develop Education Programme, including the Dolphin Diploma	Completed , Year of the Dolphin Diploma. 8,929 children have completed their diploma on-line and through WDCS offices. (There have been 2338 downloads of the dolphin diploma packs and 2241 downloads of the All about dolphins booklets) As part of the Volvo Ocean Race educational activities in Alicante, 4000 children completed their dolphin diploma. The Dolphin Diploma has been awarded with the title "Official project of the decade of education for sustainable development" for 2008 and 2009 by the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.	2007 2008	CMS WDCS
		Completed and funded a Dolphin Diploma project in Colombia	2007 2008	WDCS
		Completed development of dolphin manual in eight languages, published with CMS and TUI.	2007 2008	WDCS
		Completed WDCS Support for Dolphin Days.	2007 2008	WDCS
2.3. link respective Internet sites.	Update CMS CoP Report + Announcement of Partnership on WDCS 'WildOceans' sub-site	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2009	WDCS
		Completed Pacific Cetaceans website for CMS modeled on the IOSEA Turtle website	2008	WDCS
	Contribute www.ceatceanhabitat.org online database to CMS Information System	In progress Discussions have started with WCMC. Dataset will likely be contributed in December 2008/January 2009	2009	
2.4. seek opportunities to develop and support programmes and projects of mutual interest	Promote CMS and WDCS work during the 3 rd UNESCO Oceans, Coasts and Islands Conference	Completed and attended meeting. WDCS supported presentations on CMS	2006	CMS WDCS

3. Support the work of the CMS Scientific Council through the Cetacean Liaison Group (CLG)				
3.1. maintain the work of the Cetacean Liaison Group (CLG)	CLG #1 meeting to review known science and develop priority areas for project development, noting obligations of Resolution 8.22	Completed First meeting completed. Completed Report of the CLG submitted to SC	2006 2007	WDCS
	Develop CLG Progress Report and Project Proposals for consideration by ScC14 and IWC Scientific and Conservation Committee, noting obligations of Resolution 8.22	Completed and submitted 9 species listing pre-proposals to Scientific Council	2006	WDCS
	CLG #2 meeting to review project development	Rescheduled and will likely take place through teleconference or video conference in 2009 Completed related activity. CLG reviewed field projects and identified priority projects to be displayed on the CMS Year of the Dolphin website.	2009 2008	WDCS
	CLG identify list of experts for CBD indicators project (ScC 1.5.5 + 1.5.6)	Not completed and can be rescheduled to 2009 if still deemed important by the ScC	2006	WDCS
4. Reinforce CMS Secretariat commitment to the Partnership and the work of WDCS				
4.1. facilitate WDCS participation in meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the Scientific Council, the Standing Committee and other appropriate regional and technical meetings.	Invite WDCS to all relevant CMS meetings	Completed	2006 2007 2008	CMS
	Include WDCS in email exchanges of relevant electronic forums	Completed	2006 2007 2008	CMS
4.2. encourage relevant Agreements Secretariats to regularly share information of mutual interest with the WDCS	Organize discussions involving WDCS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and new cetacean agreements	Completed	2006 2007 2008	CMS
4.3. publicize the support given to the Convention by WDCS.	Contribute language capacity to update of joint Conserving Cetaceans brochure	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2009	CMS
	Facilitate participation of WDCS as an expert organisation in the Watching Wildlife report and during the CDB CoP Watching Wildlife Presentation	Completed	2006	CMS
	Facilitate participation of WDCS as a 'Partner Organisation' in the CMS Presentation at CBD CoP	Completed	2006	CMS
5. Reinforce WDCS commitment to the Partnership and the work of CMS				
5.1. provide science support to CMS and its Agreements	Also Ref 3.1 CLG			

	Provide briefing an research support to CMS on interactions with other MEAs as issue pertain to cetaceans	Completed	2006 2007 2008	WDCS
5.2. support and contribute to the development of Agreements	Distribute Conserving Cetaceans brochure with new section of Pacific MoU and Joint Work Programme to key agreement potential regions	Completed	2006	WDCS CMS
<i>ASCOBANS Development</i>	Engage in the development and evaluation of an alternative pinger with potential environmental and fishery advantages.	Not completed as the project is no longer proceeding	2008	WDCS
	Scientific report of field surveys on the populations of Harbour porpoises and Risso's dolphins Cardigan Bay, Wales	In progress Field work season undertaken annually. Data analysis and report writing in progress.	2006 2007 2008 2009	WDCS
		In progress contribution to the University of Aberdeen's bottlenose dolphin research in the Moray Firth. A series of peer-reviewed papers and reports are available at University of Aberdeen.	2006 2007 2008 2009	WDCS
		Completed annual preparation of pollution report for ASCOBANS	2006 2007	WDCS
	Cetacean surveys (focusing on harbour porpoises, Risso's and bottlenose dolphins) around the Isle of Man	Completed pilot study, however Not completed as the project is no longer proceeding	2007	WDCS
		Completed contribution to a review on the implications of expanding the remit of ASCOBANS to include all cetaceans and a larger geographical area.	2007	
<i>ACCOBAMS Development</i>	Contribute to ACCOBAMS Common dolphin work	In progress through support of the development of the Common Dolphin Conservation Action Plan and associated ongoing field work activities. Tethys Research Institute progress report available.	2006 2007 2008 2009	WDCS
	Assist with ACCOBAMS outreach to North African States	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2009	WDCS
		Completed through Partnership with ACCOBAMS to develop stranded cetacean rescue protocols for the region. WDCS part-funded and co-convened a workshop in Monaco.	2008	WDCS
	Evaluate anthropogenic threats faced by the population of Bottlenose dolphins in the Amvrakikos Gulf, Greece.	Completed through WDCS support for Tethys Research Institute ongoing field programme.	2008/03	WDCS
	Monitoring of orca in the Strait of Gibraltar, with emphasis on their interaction with the blue-fin tuna fisheries.	Completed pilot project	2007	WDCS

	Contribute to ACCOBAMS MPA work	Completed through WDCS Partnership with ACCOBAMS to run a workshop on MPAs at the last SC meeting.	2006 2007 2008	WDCS
		In progress following proposals by SC4 for new MPAs within Black Sea and Mediterranean , WDCS continues to support ACCOBAMS MPA and WW related work as requested by the Parties.	2008 2009	WDCS
	Contribute to ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines work	Completed development of the ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines through WDCS Partnership with ACCOBAMS to	2007	WDCS
		Completed a co-organized workshop on Geographic Restrictions and Noise in Lanzarote. The report of the workshop will be presented at the next MOP.	2008	WDCS
	Contribute to ACCOBAMS rescue guidelines work	Completed through assistance with the preparation of ACCOBAMS rescue guidelines and a rescue leaflet. These were presented at the MOP.	2007	WDCS
		Completed a WDCS convened and chaired ACCOBAMS workshop on cetacean rescue.	2007	WDCS
		Completed ongoing WDCS support for Tethys Research institute fin whale field programme.	2006 2007 2008	WDCS
		Completed bottlenose dolphin project in Croatia.	2008	WDCS
		In progress investigation into bycatch in the Black Sea, Ukraine.	2008 2009	WDCS
<i>Pacific Cetaceans MoU Development</i>	Review Pacific Islands Region legislative capacity pertaining to cetacean conservation and compliance	In progress , although commenced. The final report will not be finished until 2009	2008 2009	WDCS
	Review known cetacean species distribution and threat analysis in the Pacific Islands Region	Completed and submitted to the First Pacific Islands Agreement MoP Distributed the Report to Pacific range States	2006	WDCS
	Provide support to technical workshop considering <i>Pacific Cetaceans MoU</i> Action Plan	Completed through WDCS support provided during 2 separate outreach workshops, MoS and action plan development meeting, including travel and accommodation support for technical delegates	2006 2007 2008	WDCS
	Meet with regional officials to outline an appropriate national research programmes to underpin the development of the regional MoU and will engage in preliminary surveys in identified areas.	Completed workshop on capacity building in Fiji completed (2007/09)	2007	WDCS

	Provide support and coordination for regional research and capacity building to support the implementation of the <i>Pacific Cetaceans MoU</i>	In progress research survey project in Vanuatu	2007 2008 2009	WDCS
		Completed workshop on capacity building in Papua New Guinea completed including the initiation of four locally run and implemented cetacean conservation projects in Papua New Guinea that will be reported on in 2009	2008	WDCS
		Completed training of Federated States of Micronesia Fisheries Observers for cetacean species identification	2008	WDCS
		Completed technical support of Federated States of Micronesia government staff to implement to Pacific Cetaceans MoU during 2 week in-country visit by professional staff	2008	WDCS
		Completed provision of educational and technical resources to various Pacific Cetaceans MoU Signatories	2007 2008	WDCS
		In progress consultation with Solomon Islands government staff regarding implementation of in-country dolphin research surveys	2008 2009	WDCS
	Prepare activity report for presentation to the 17 th SPREP meeting	Completed	2006	WDCS
	Prepare activity report for presentation to the 18 th SPREP meeting	Completed	2007	WDCS
	Prepare activity report for presentation to the 19 th SPREP meeting	Not completed as WDCS was not able to attend the meeting	2008	WDCS
<i>Southeast Asia Development</i>	Support organization of a cetacean by catch workshop in collaboration with the South-East Asian Fisheries Development Council	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2010	WDCS
	Meet with regional officials to outline an appropriate research programme to underpin the development of Southeast Asia and Adjacent Waters regional Agreement	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2010	WDCS
	Provide support and coordination for regional research and capacity building to support the development of Southeast Asian cetaceans conservation under CMS	In progress Mahakam River in Indonesia	2008 2009	WDCS
<i>Indian Ocean/Bay of Bengal Development</i>	Organise regional workshop to draw together regional stakeholders to review the three year CMS/WDCS/WCS cetacean survey programme	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2009	WDCS

	Meet with regional officials to outline the workshop recommendations and agree on appropriate an forward plan and research programme to underpin the development of an appropriate regional conservation mechanism	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2010	WDCS
	Support the establishment of a protected area for the Gangetic River dolphin in the Sangu River, Bangladesh.	Completed project to assess the feasibility of establishing a sanctuary for river dolphins in the lower Sangu	2007	WDCS
	Support creation of a formal conservation Action Plan for the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar, India.	Completed	2008	WDCS
	Support establishment of a protected area for the Irrawaddy dolphin in the Aywerwady River, Myanmar.	Completed: Protected Area has been established for Irrawaddy dolphins in the Aywerwady River.	2006	WDCS
	Provide support and coordination for regional research and capacity building to support the cetacean conservation under CMS in the <i>Indian Ocean/Bay of Bengal</i> region	Completed preliminary survey and conservation of Irrawaddy dolphins and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins in Sembilang National Park, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia.	2007	WDCS
		Completed a project to estimate the abundance and movement patterns of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins using photo-identification in the Swatch-of-No-Ground, Bangladesh.	2007	WDCS
		In progress projects on the conservation of Irrawaddy dolphins in Chilka Lagoon, India.	2008 2009	WDCS
<i>Western Africa Aquatic Mammals MoU Development</i>	Assist with NGO communications in the West African Region	Completed and developed joint NGO position leading into the meeting to ensure continuing and support of CMS process	2007	WDCS
	Provide support to development of the <i>Western Africa Aquatic Mammals MoU</i> and Action Plan implementation	Completed through WDCS support provided during 2 negotiation meetings including travel and accommodation support for technical delegates		WDCS

	Provide support and coordination for regional research and capacity building to support the implementation of the <i>Western Africa Aquatic Mammals MoU</i>	In progress project initiated to investigate bycatch in Ghanaian fisheries	2008 2009	WDCS
<i>Other Regional Development</i>	Assist with NGO communications in the South American Region	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2009	WDCS
5.3. support the wider work of the Convention in relationship with the other biodiversity Conventions.	Also Ref 1.1			
	Complete review and recommendations of legal relationship between CMS, CITES including comparison of Appendices commitments	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2009	WDCS WWF
	Develop and distribute briefings about relationship between CMS and IWC, and in particular the IWC Conservation Committee	Completed	2006	WDCS
	Develop 'Species Conservation and Protection NGO' email list-serve to disseminate information about CMS contribution of species conservation and protection and CMS relationship to CITES, CBD and IWC	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme pending further discussions with the CMS Secretariat about Partnership coordination	2009	WDCS
6. Support the CMS Year of the Dolphin (2007/2008)				
6.1. support the promotion and operations of the 2007 and 2008 Year of the Dolphin	Events promotion	Completed variety of events and children's clubs organized and/or attended throughout the year in UK, Australia, Latin America and Germany to promote YoD, Diploma and distribute materials. Resources also provided for YoD supporters to realize events	2007 2008	WDCS
	Education materials	Completed text and concept provided for online Dolphin Diploma and relevant offline versions created & distributed from each WDCS country office. Related certificates, inflatables, activity ideas, PowerPoint presentations, stickers etc. produced. Production of text for All about Dolphins booklet and additional printing of English only version.	2007 2008	WDCS
	Website/information support (including regular newsletter)	Completed website and information support	2007 2008	WDCS
	Press/promotion	Completed through WDCS offices internationally, including a major billboard poster advertisement campaign.	2007	

7. Provide professional staff support to the Secretariat				
7.1. professional services	As per LoA between WDCS and CMS, contribution of staff support equivalent to 50% of staff time over 18 months. This line item includes all staff time dedicated under the LoA work programme	In progress Staff time commenced in July 2007 (total contribution calculated through to December 2008). <i>This support will be extended into the next Joint Work Programme</i>	2007 2008 2009	WDCS
7.2. Oceania regional development	Attendance at regional meetings as directed by the Executive Secretary	In progress support including travel and accommodation for 18 th SPREP meeting as well as the Australian Government in Canberra	2007 2008 2009	WDCS
7.3. resolution 8.22 development	Develop material in support of Resolution 8.22, including the draft programme of work if directed	In progress	2007 2008 2009	WDCS
7.4. fundraising support	Develop and promote major grant proposals for Pacific Cetaceans, West African Cetaceans and Bay of Bengal projects indicated as a high priority by the CMS SC.	In progress development of major grant proposal to raise funds for the Pacific Cetacean Agreement	2007 2008 2009	WDCS
7.5. partnership development	Develop and promote Partnership criteria and proposals for joint or consolidated report of activity to CMS CoP9	Rescheduled to the next Joint Work Programme	2009	WDCS
7.6. CoP support	Support the CMS Secretariat in the lead up to and during CMS CoP9	Completed	2007 2008	WDCS
7.7. other activities as requested by the Executive Secretary		Completed	2007 2008	WDCS