



Convention on Migratory Species

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

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PROPOSED PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING MEDIUM TERM IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR THE WHALE AND DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The substantive provisions of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU are found in paragraph 1 (take steps to conserve cetaceans and fully protect those listed in CMS Appendix I), paragraph 2 (consider identifying or acceding to biodiversity-related instruments such as CMS), paragraph 3 (review or update legislation on cetaceans), paragraph 4 (implement the Action Plan subject to the availability of resources) and paragraph 5 (facilitate exchange of scientific, technical and legal information to coordinate conservation measures; co-operate with other states, inter-governmental and nongovernmental organisations).
2. The Whale and Dolphin Action Plan (WDAP) (2008-2012) is structured similarly, against the following main themes and objectives:
 - a. National, Regional and International Collaboration and Cooperation
 - i. Promote and enhance national, regional and international coordination, collaboration and partnership for whale and dolphin conservation in the Pacific Islands region
 - b. Threat reduction
 - i. To develop, test and disseminate effective mitigation techniques that reduce depredation and incidental by-catch, and to document the impact of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing on whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region
 - c. Limit direct take to sustain populations
 - i. Improve our understanding on impacts of climate change on whales and dolphins
 - ii. Minimize impacts of pollution on whales and dolphins
 - iii. Support the development of sustainable eco-tourism practices in the region
 - iv. Ensure coastal developments take account of potential impacts on whale and dolphin populations
 - v. Improve information on ship strikes, acoustics, disease
 - d. Ecosystem/Habitat Protection
 - i. Support the designation and management of national whale/marine sanctuaries in the EEZs of SPREP members
 - ii. Identify key critical habitat, hotspots, and migratory pathways that are candidates for improved conservation.
 - e. Capacity Building
 - i. Increase in-country expertise, field capacity and regional cooperation
 - f. Education and Awareness
 - i. Develop communication strategies, training programs and protocols for key issues within the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan
 - ii. Increase awareness and understanding of whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region
 - iii. Promote awareness regarding the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of whales and dolphins

- g. Cultural significance and value
 - i. To document the range of cultural practices, values and knowledge associated with whales and dolphins and encourage a more cohesive approach in policies and legislation
 - ii. Preserve and protect the traditional knowledge and values associated with whales & dolphins
 - iii. Ensure appropriate cultural knowledge, practices, and values inform and underpin management measures
- h. Legislation and Policy
 - i. Develop country level legal, policy and institutional framework to support the effective implementation of the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan
- i. Research and monitoring
 - i. Improve information received on stranding events in the Pacific Islands Region
 - ii. Identify key species and areas for baseline surveys
 - iii. Identify significance of and priority for toxicological research
- j. Whale and Dolphin-based Tourism
 - i. Foster sharing of lessons learnt and undertake regular assessment of the industry
 - ii. Ensure the best practice management of the whale and dolphin watching industry in the Pacific Islands Region
 - iii. Maximize educational and economic values of whale and dolphin watching

3. Under each objective, the SPREP membership have identified and agreed actions that have been prioritized.

4. It is growing practice for CMS agreements to develop medium term implementation priorities against agreed action plans. As with the Action Plan, the medium term implementation priorities would not be intended to be prescriptive or mutually exclusive.

5. It seems appropriate that the Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU should be given the opportunity to set such priorities, drawing from the Action Plan, and based on the information submitted in the national reports, as well as the information provided by Collaborating Organisations.

6. Drawing on the information provided in Annex A, Signatories are invited to consider entering into an email correspondence process to establish medium term implementation priorities by initially:

- a. reviewing the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan activity priorities and ascertaining which are of specific priority for Pacific Cetacean MoU Signatories
- b. identifying any new activities that are of particular relevance to Pacific Cetacean MoU Signatories; and
- c. indicating timescales for implementation of each activity as **(A)** – immediate-term (1-3 years), **(B)** – medium-term (3-5 years), **(C)** – long-term (up to 10 years).

7. This information would be collated and summarized by the Secretariat, with the possible support of the Open-ended Technical Advisory Group (agenda item 9.2) and redistributed to Signatories and Collaborating Organisations for additional input and the identification of Lead Countries, Territories or Collaborating Organisations that are prepared to facilitate progress of activities.

8. With this information again collected and collated, the Secretariat would circulate a draft document for eventual agreement by correspondence.

9. This document on medium term implementation priorities would form a basis of future Secretariat progress reports to the MoU Signatories.

10. It is understood that funding will be needed to support such prioritized activities and that multilateral, bilateral and other sources of funding will need to be sought.

Action requested:

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Adopt the Secretariat proposal for an email correspondence process to establish medium term implementation priorities.

Annex A: Identifying Medium Term Whale and Dolphin Action Plan Implementation Priorities

The following table is drawn directly from the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan (2008-2012). The objectives, priority and partners columns reflect the information provided in the WDAP. The WDAP indicators are provided for reference in the progress made/comment column.

Signatories are invited to establish medium term implementation priorities by initially:

- a. reviewing the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan activity priorities and ascertaining which are of specific priority for Pacific Cetacean MoU Signatories
- b. identifying any new activities that are of particular relevance to Pacific Cetacean MoU Signatories; and
- c. indicating timescales for implementation of each activity as **(A)** – immediate-term (1-3 years), **(B)** – medium-term (3-5 years), **(C)** – long-term (up to 10 years).

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
1. Promote and enhance national, regional and international coordination, collaboration and partnership for whale and dolphin conservation in the Pacific Islands region.						WDAP Indicators: 1. Number of national, regional and international organizations, processes and frameworks incorporating PIR whale and dolphin conservation needs. 2. Number of national, regional and international partnerships created to support WDAP implementation.
1.1. Promote understanding by facilitating effective information sharing mechanisms to assist in addressing cross-sectoral issues and migratory species conservation. [WDAP 1.1]			High		SPREP	
1.2. Encourage and support PICTs to remove internal cross-sectoral barriers to effectively implement the WDAP at the local, island, government level. [WDAP 1.2]			High		Members	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
1.3. Facilitate PICTs involvement and participation in relevant international meetings and initiatives for whales and dolphins conservation. [WDAP 1.3]			High		SPREP/ Partners	
1.4. Promote cooperation and highlight achievements and lessons learnt in whale and dolphin conservation at regional and international conferences and fora. [WDAP 1.4]			High		SPREP	
1.5. Ensure whales and dolphins conservation needs are integrated into the development and implementation of the SPREP Environment Ministers Regional MPA framework. [WDAP 1.5]			High		SPREP	
1.6. Develop linkages with relevant regional organizations and processes (such as RFMOs), eg. MoUs information exchange and cross-sectoral integration. [WDAP 1.6]			Medium		SPREP/ Members	
1.7. Develop linkages with relevant private sector organizations to reduce threats to whales and dolphins such as by-catch, depredation and marine debris (such as fishing and tourism industries, NGOs). [WDAP 1.7]			High		Members/ SPREP/ Partners	
1.8. Effect improved integration of whale and dolphin conservation into national, regional and international initiatives including: national - NBSAP, NSDS; regional - Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy, Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, CROP Marine Sector Working Group, RFMOs, NBSAP Working Group). [WDAP 1.8]			High		Members/ SPREP/ Partners	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
2. Address fisheries interaction, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing, testing and disseminating effective mitigation techniques that reduce depredation and incidental by-catch; • documenting the impact of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing on whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region. 						[WDAP Indicators: Properly tested mitigation technique. Acceptance and use of a successful technique by long-line fisheries in the region. System of collecting data from fishing operations on by-catch and depredation developed and used.]
2.1. Collaborate with RFMOs and share information on fisheries, marine mammals interactions and successful and unsuccessful tactics for mitigation. [WDAP 2.1]			High		Members, SPREP, RFMO, WCPFC, SPC, FFA, FAO, CBD, DWFNs, Partners	
2.2. Encourage distant water fishing nations to support PIR in ensuring sustainable and responsible fishing practices and to maintain the health of the ocean and PIR economies. [WDAP 2.2]			Medium		Members, RFMO, WCPFC, SPC, FFA, FAO, DWFNs, SPREP, Partners	
2.3. Foster industry/research institutions/governments partnerships to develop and test mitigation techniques to reduce by-catch and depredation. [WDAP 2.3]			High		Members, DWFNs, RFMOs	
2.4. Examine information on IUU to better understand potential impacts on marine mammals including by-catch and depredation. [WDAP 2.4]			High		SPREP, SPC, FFA, FAO, Research Institutions, Partners	
2.5. Collect and disseminate information on the scale of depredation and by-catch from fishing operations, to better assess level of priority and possible mitigation actions. [WDAP 2.5]			High		FFA, SPC, RFMO, SPREP, Members	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
2.6. Support outreach and education programmes that provide understanding of the scientific principles of the low level of competition between whales/dolphins and fisheries in this region. [WDAP 2.6]			Low/High (Low but regional concern on this issue is High)		Partners	
3. Limit direct take to sustain populations						Indicators: Non-lethal Research on abundance etc carried out concerning whale and dolphin species targeted in whaling, hunt and live capture. Sustainable principles applied to any direct take and international regulations/agreements applied to capture activities.
3.1. Support non-lethal research on abundance, structure, trends, and assessments of impacts – particularly on humpback, minke and fin whales. [WDAP 2.7]			High		SPREP/Partners/ Members	
3.2. Support research on abundance, structure, distribution, trends, and assessments of harvest impacts on the whale and dolphin species targeted. [WDAP 2.8]			High		SPREP/Partners/ Members Members Members	
3.3. Ensure the direct take of whales and dolphins does not affect viability of local populations. [WDAP 2.9]			High			
3.4. Ensure any live capture activities in the region comply with international regulations and agreements. [WDAP 2.10]			High			

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
4. Improve our understanding of climate change impacts on whales and dolphins						[WDAP Indicators: Document/presentation on climate change impacts to whales and dolphins provided to SPREP members by 2009.]
4.1. Facilitate the collation and dissemination of current knowledge on the impacts of climate change on marine mammals and their habitats. [WDAP 2.11]			High		SPREP, scientific institutions, CBD Sec and UNFCCC Sec, partners	
5. Minimize impacts of pollution on whales and dolphins						[WDAP Indicators: Better information on the impacts of plastics and other debris to whales and dolphins. Guidelines developed for proper waste management at all levels including from fishing boats.]
5.1. Encourage improved waste management at community and national levels to reduce plastics and other debris in the marine environment. [WDAP 2.12]			Medium Medium High High		Members SPREP/SPC Members/ partners Members	
5.2. Develop and promote the use guidelines for fishing operations related to discarding of waste. [WDAP 2.13]						
5.3. Collect information on the potential impact of plastics and fishing gear on whales and dolphins, including from stranding networks. [WDAP 2.14]						
5.4. Where possible, request that necropsies include examination for plastic ingestion. [WDAP 2.15]						

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
6. Identify and mitigate any significant impact from marine whale and dolphin based tourism						[WDAP Indicators: Significant adverse effect from whale and dolphin watching tourism identified and threat mitigated and lessons learnt promoted and widely shared in the region. Studies on impacts of whale/dolphin watching completed in New Caledonia, Tonga. Studies undertaken in Guam, French Polynesia, Hawaii.]
6.1. Identify potential for significant impact/localised effects from tourism activities on whales and dolphins. [WDAP2.16]			Medium		Partners/ SPREP/ Members	
6.2. Develop management and mitigation strategies to reduce identified impact. [WDAP2.17]						
6.3. Assess any potential impacts of whale and dolphin watching activities on the animals e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spinner dolphin watching • Swim-with programs • Vessel interactions. [WDAP 2.18]			High		Partners	
7. Ensure coastal development takes account of impacts on whale and dolphin populations						[WDAP Indicators: Consideration of impacts on whales and dolphin incorporated in national legislation and other processes such as EIA and potential impact information made available. Monitoring of identified localized populations initiated.]
7.1. Encourage consultation/consideration of impacts on whales and dolphins in national legislative and EIA processes. [WDAP 2.18]			High		Members	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
7.2. Identify particular localized areas and populations – and then develop appropriate monitoring and mitigation of any significant impacts. [WDAP 2.19]			Medium		Members/ Partners	
7.3. Provide information on potential impacts of coastal development to whales and dolphins to decision makers and public. [WDAP 2.20]			Medium		Members	
8. Improve understanding of unknown but potential threats to whales and dolphins, including ship strikes, entanglement, acoustics, disease						[WDAP Indicators: System in place and operational to collect anecdotal opportunistic data and to be able to respond if one of these becomes a significant threat at local, national or regional level.]
8.1. Encourage anecdotal and opportunistic recording and documentation for ship strikes, entanglement and disease. [WDAP 2.21]			Low but Unknown		Members	
8.2. Identify any significant source of acoustic noise pollution that could affect whales and dolphins in the region. [WDAP 2.22]			Low		Members	
9. Support the designation and management of national whale/marine sanctuaries in the EEZs of SPREP members						[WDAP Indicators: Additional SPREP Member designate national EEZ whale sanctuaries. Management strategies/plans developed, finalized and implemented for existing sanctuaries.]
9.1. Support the declaration of EEZ wide whale sanctuaries by SPREP members and support these sanctuaries to develop and implement management plans and strategies. [WDAP 3.1]			High		SPREP/ Partners	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
10. Identify key critical habitat, hotspots, and migratory pathways that are candidates for improved conservation.						[WDAP Indicators: Working group identifies potential areas for marine protected area designation and management.]
10.1. Establish a working group on ecosystem/habitat protection that will identify critical habitats, hotspots and migratory pathways and environmental linkages (spatial and temporal). [WDAP 3.2]			Medium		SPREP/ Partners/ Members	
10.2. Evaluate and support marine protected areas and networks where they are a suitable method and benefit to the protection of whales and dolphins and their habitats in the identified areas. [WDAP 3.3]			High		SPREP/ Partners	
10.3. Integrate, where relevant and appropriate, whale and dolphin conservation into the development of MPAs/MMAs in the region.			High		Members	
11. Increase in-country expertise and capacity						[WDAP Indicators: Training needs identified and addressed. Training packages prepared and made available. Increased technical capacity to obtain information and assist in the conservation of whales and dolphins in the region. Improved capacity to develop and implement policies and legislation. Whale/dolphin operator training and certification programs are implemented in SPREP nations.]

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
11.1. Identify training needs and support proposal writing to implement WDAP at the country and regional level, using existing processes such as NCSA. [WDAP 4.1]						
11.2. Develop training packages on common priorities (e.g. stranding, data recording, legislation, communication etc) based on regional priorities and convene workshops based on identified needs. [WDAP 4.2]						
11.3. Support internship training on whales and dolphins in existing research centers. [WDAP 4.3]						
11.4. Build in-country capacity to prepare relevant regulation, legislation and policy. [WDAP 4.4]						
11.5. Conduct local and/or regional training workshops on necropsy including collection and storage of tissues, skeletal remains and analysis. [WDAP 4.5]						
11.6. Conduct training and verification of whale and dolphin sightings and reporting, and develop database complementary to that under Marine Turtle Action Plan. [WDAP 4.6]						
11.7. Conduct at least one specialist regional workshop in abundance estimation techniques (sighting surveys) followed by field training cruise. [WDAP 4.7]						
11.8. Develop surveillance and enforcement capacity for implementation of national protection measures including whale and dolphin watching tourism operations.[WDAP 4.8]						

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
11.9. Conduct industry training and certification programs for whale/dolphin watching operators and guides, which should be required to attain a whale & dolphin watching permit/ license where applicable. [WDAP 4.9]						
12. Develop communication strategies, training programs and protocols for key issues within the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan						[WDAP Indicators: Community and school education programs implemented. Regionally relevant facts sheets to inform governments and industry on key issues are produced (e.g. fisheries interactions, cultural practices, regulations, biology & natural history). Training programs carried out in-country for key government agencies and identified local community stewards.]
12.1. Identify key issues for each Member and support development of appropriate education strategies and programs (e.g. known threats, species ID and status). [WDAP 5.1]						
12.2. Develop appropriate educational and awareness tools for different target audiences at a regional and national level including producing a template to facilitate production in local dialect. [WDAP 5.2]						
12.3. Up-skilling of government agencies and community trainers to facilitate stewardship, and to develop and deliver outreach programs. [WDAP 5.3]						

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
13. Increase awareness and understanding of whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region						[WDAP Indicators: Presentations on whales & dolphins are carried out in schools, village halls, and during annual festivities. Whales & dolphins are profiled through documentaries, interviews and regular spots in local media. ID guides, fact sheets and guidelines brochures are distributed to boaters, marinas, yacht clubs, through government agencies and NGO's.]
13.1. Utilize existing community networks and venues to deliver public presentations. [WDAP 5.4]						
13.2. Provide materials and information to community media (TV and radio stations) in-country to inform public. [WDAP 5.5]						
13.3. Disseminate educational materials targeted at recreational/ private boaters to ensure minimum impact. [WDAP 5.6]						
14. Promote awareness regarding the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of whales and dolphins						[WDAP Indicators: Education programs implemented in schools, education centres and museums. Informal/traditional methods of education are employed at community level.]
14.1. Integrate traditional knowledge, stories and customs into education and awareness developed. [WDAP 5.7]						
14.2. Encourage the use of informal/traditional methods of education within villages, e.g. utilizing elders as resource people. [WDAP 5.8]						

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
15. To document the range of cultural practices, values and knowledge associated with whales and dolphins and encourage a more cohesive approach in policies and legislation.						[WDAP Indicators: TK and other customary practices and values documented and incorporated where relevant. Review on gaps carried out and report published and disseminated. Artifacts and narratives (oral histories) documented and conserved in local museums.]
15.1. Undertake a review of customary practice and knowledge related to the conservation and management of whales and dolphins. [WDAP 6.1]						
15.2. Promote the adoption and integration of customary practices related to the conservation and management of whales and dolphins, where appropriate. [WDAP 6.2]						
15.3. Review and identify gaps and conflicts in relevant policies and legislation that supports/limits the protection and promotion of TRM, TK, IPR, ABS, and CMT. [WDAP 6.3]						
15.4. Encourage the need to address gaps and conflicts found in the review where required, in consultation with local communities and relevant stakeholders. [WDAP 6.4]						
15.5. Support and promote the introduction of appropriate formal protection of IPR, TK and ABS at a national, regional and international level. [WDAP 6.5]						
15.6. Support the documentation of traditional knowledge, practices, heritage and values, using existing networks. [WDAP 6.6]						

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
16. Preserve and protect the traditional knowledge and values associated with whales and dolphins						[WDAP Indicators: Each country has identified appropriate authority to house and promote cultural information. On going promoting and support for TK, ABS in national, regional and international fora etc.]
16.1. Identify and empower appropriate in country authorities to hold, maintain and promote traditional knowledge. [WDAP 6.7]						
16.2. Establish documentation protocols and agreed partnerships with cultural groups/chiefly bodies and individual knowledge holders regarding appropriate use and dissemination of information. [WDAP 6.8]						
17. Ensure appropriate cultural knowledge, practices, and values inform and underpin management measures						[WDAP Indicators: Case studies supported on sustainability of cultural practices in country's interested supporting sustainability assessments. Relevant whale and dolphin TK and cultural values are utilized and acknowledged in scientific survey design and execution and formulation of national management policies.]
17.1. Assess the sustainability of cultural practices involving whales and dolphins that may represent a threat to whales and dolphins (e.g. Fijian tabua, Solomon Islands dolphin drive). [WDAP 6.9]			High		Members/ SPREP	
17.2. Ensure biological survey designs respect and draw upon Traditional Knowledge. [WDAP 6.10]			High		Members	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
17.3. Ensure national and local policies and management respect and draw upon Traditional Knowledge. [WDAP 6.11]			High		Members	
18. Develop country-level legal, policy and an institutional framework to support the effective implementation of the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan						[WDAP Indicators: Regional legislative/management review completed and widely disseminated. Harmonization of in-country/territory policy and legal instruments. Capacity strengthened to draft, manage and enforce legislation and policy in-country/territory. Number of NBSAPs or equivalent strategies integrating WDAP actions.]
18.1. Complete legislative and policy review and disseminate the final report. Review to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying legislative inconsistencies and gaps within PICTs; • Extending to cover US, UK, Pitcairn, France, Australia and NZ; • Assessment of country capacity to implement the WDAP, CMS Cetacean MoU, CITES and CBD where relevant; • Country capacity to implement CITES/CBD; • Habitat and species protection measures; • Sanctuary declaration; • Regulation of distant water and local fleets, including observer programme coverage to document commercial fishing impact on whales and dolphin. [WDAP 7.1]			High		IFAW/SPREP	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
18.2. Further develop policies, regulations and legislation for the effective conservation management of whales and dolphins, including measures to mitigate threat and ensure habitat protection. [WDAP 7.2]			High		Members/ SPREP/Partners	
18.3. Identify and respond to country/territory legal and policy capacity needs. [WDAP 7.3]			Medium		Members/ SPREP/ Partners	
18.4. Assess processes and outcomes used for NCSA and other related biodiversity mechanisms, to address legal and policy capacity needs for whale and dolphin conservation. [WDAP 7.4]			Medium		Members	
19. Improve information received on stranding events in the Pacific Islands Region.						[WDAP Indicators: Stranding Database and network established and operational. Stranding manual produced in three languages and distributed. Tissue archive and protocols for deposition and access established. Kits for genetic sampling distributed and used. Improved information on strandings events in all PICTs.]
19.1. Develop a web-accessible regional stranding database, with verification process for species identification. [WDAP 8.1]			High		SPREP/ Te Papa/ Members	
19.2. Collect community records and knowledge on whales and dolphins and incorporate into the regional stranding database. [WDAP 8.2]			High		Members	
19.3. Produce a regional booklet/stranding manual with species identification, forms and instructions in English, Pidgin and French. [WDAP 8.3]			High		SPREP	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
19.4. Encourage an MoU between the University of Auckland and SPREP for processing and storage of tissue samples for genetic work. [WDAP 8.4]			High		SPREP/ CMS	
19.5. Provide basic stranding kits (for genetic samples) to Members. [WDAP 8.5]			High		Auckland Uni/Donors	
19.6. Assist in funding for experts to attend national workshops in regions. [WDAP 8.6]			Medium		SPREP	
20. Identify key species and areas for baseline surveys						<p>[WDAP Indicators: Online regional sighting database established and operational. Species inventories for all data deficient SPREP members improved. Species inventories for at least 3 SPREP members improved by addition of further species. Cruises to estimate abundance of whales and dolphins species completed in at least 2 SPREP Members. Species information and id kit assembled and distributed. Incorporation of whale and dolphin expertise to conduct sightings and research activities in cruises dedicated to other purposes (e.g. Rapid Ecological Assessments). Increased reporting level for whales and dolphins sighted from fisheries enforcement patrols, fisheries observers, ferries, other commercial vessels and aerial surveillance flights conducted to combat IUU fishing. At least one remote sensing device deployed in the region for at least six months.]</p>

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
20.1. Establish web-accessible sighting database. [WDAP 8.7]			Medium		SPREP	
20.2. Improve species inventories for all PICTs, prioritizing those recognised as data deficient. [WDAP 8.8]			High		Members/ Partners/ SPREP	
20.3. Conduct dedicated surveys to estimate abundance and trends of whales and dolphins species. [WDAP 8.9]			High		SPWRC/ Partners/ Members	
20.4. Provide adequate species identification and related information resources for all PICTs e.g. IFAW and SPC identification kit for observer programme. [WDAP 8.10]			Medium		SPREP/ SPC/ IFAW/ Partens	
20.5. Increase use of platforms of opportunity (e.g. fisheries patrols and observers, aerial surveillance, naval and merchant shipping, other marine research programmes) for whale and dolphin sightings. [WDAP 8.11]			Medium		All	
20.6. Increased use of remote sensing devices, especially acoustic. [WDAP 8.12]			Low		SPWRC/ NOAA/Partners	
21. Identify significance of and priorities for toxicological research						[WDAP Indicators: Regional expertise in, and laboratories for toxicological analysis identified. Areas in the region where toxicological analysis would be a high priority identified.]
21.1. Investigate need and opportunities for toxicological research. [WDAP 8.13]			Low		SPREP	
21.2. Identify suitable laboratories for toxicological analysis. [WDAP 8.14]			Low		SPREP	
21.3. Identify funding sources. [WDAP 8.15]			Low		SPREP/ Partners	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
<p>22. Ensure that the development of whale and dolphin based tourism is sustainable and conducted responsibly throughout the Pacific Islands Region</p> <p>23. Objective (i): Foster sharing of lessons learnt and undertake regular assessment of the industry</p>						<p>[WDAP Indicators: Reporting system developed to gather information on growth of the industry. Regional whale watching report updated and disseminated to relevant management bodies, industry, media and community. Industry, Government and key stakeholders (NGO's, researchers, community groups) meet in-country as required to discuss issues and actions. Key resources and technical support (reports, examples, templates) is available from SPREP.]</p>
<p>23.1. Develop a framework to maintain effort to document industry growth (building on SPTO/SPREP/IFAW/SPWRC work). [WDAP 9.1]</p>			High		Partners/SPREP	
<p>23.2. Promote understanding of the industry, the lessons learnt and their implications. [WDAP 9.2]</p>			High/ Medium		Partners/SPREP	
<p>23.3. Foster communication between key in-country stakeholders, in particular industry and government, to promote understanding and assist in the management of the industry. [WDAP 9.3]</p>			High/ Medium		Members	
<p>23.4. Monitor, document and support PICTs where whale watching activities occur as models in addressing licensing, regulation and management issues, ensuring that industry development draws on lessons learned. [WDAP 9.4]</p>			High		SPREP/ Partners	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
24. Ensure the best practice management of whale and dolphin based tourism in the Pacific Islands Region						[WDAP Indicators: Workshop held, well attended by SPREP members and industry. Regional guidelines developed, accepted, published and utilized by SPREP members and industry. Stakeholders are consulted in the development of management measures. Licensing schemes are implemented in SPREP nations where whale and dolphin based watching tourism occurs. Management agencies have on-water presence to monitor and enforce in-country licensing and permitting conditions. Whale and dolphin tourism in the region operating according to responsible wildlife viewing practices]
24.1. Develop region-wide whale and dolphin watching guidelines. [WDAP 9.5]			High		IFAW/ SPREP/Partners	
24.2. Hold regional whale and dolphin watching workshop to promote best practice management and endorse regional guidelines. [WDAP 9.6]			High		Operation Cetaces/ IFAW/SPREP	
24.3. Support collaborative and best practice management of whale and dolphin watching activities involving all stakeholders. [WDAP 9.7]			High		Members	
24.4. Promote licensing/permitting of whale and dolphin watching tourism operations as a tool for management. [WDAP 9.8]			High		Members	

Objective	Medium term activity/measures to be taken	Timescale	Priority	Lead	Partners	Progress made/comments
25. Maximize educational and economic values of whale and dolphin based tourism watching						[WDAP Indicators: Data sheet developed and disseminated to operators and reported annually to SPWRC. Educational Kits developed and disseminated to SPREP nations. Community outreach program conducted in-country targeted at local media, villages, community groups. Feasibility studies conducted in relevant SPREP nations.]
25.1. Develop programs for whale and dolphin watching operators to collect useful data. [WDAP 9.9]			High		Members/ SPREP	
25.2. Support countries to develop an education kit for on-board operations. [WDAP 9.10]			High		SPREP/ Partners	
25.3. Promote socio-economic benefits of whale and dolphin watching to local communities. [WDAP 9.11]			High/ Medium		Members	
25.4. Assist countries to explore the potential for whale and dolphin watching through feasibility studies. [WDAP 9.12]			High/ Medium		Partners/ SPREP	