



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 12.2 (Rev.COP13)
Original: English

CONCERTED ACTION FOR SPERM WHALES (*Physeter macrocephalus*) OF THE EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC¹

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th Meeting (Gandhinagar, February 2020)

The Concerted Action for Sperm Whales of the eastern tropical Pacific was first adopted at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([UNEP/CMS/COP12/Concerted Action 12.2](#)).

A report on implementation was submitted to the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) ([UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1.2](#)) together with a proposal for extension and revision ([UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1.2/Add.2](#)), which was approved by the Parties.

(i). Proponent:

Expert Working Group on Culture and Social Complexity, established by the Scientific Council

(ii). Target species, lower taxon or population, or group of taxa with needs in common:

Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Cetartiodactyla
Infra-Order:	Cetacea
Family:	Physeteridae
Genus:	Physeter
Species:	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>

Sperm Whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) are a highly migratory marine species, listed on Appendix I and II of CMS, which have been included on the CMS concerted action species list since 2002. They are listed globally as vulnerable on the IUCN Red-List², with the Mediterranean sub-population categorized as endangered³.

(iii). Geographical range:

This concerted action is focused specifically on four clans of Sperm Whales which have been identified in the eastern tropical Pacific (etP) (Rendell and Whitehead, 2003; Cantor *et al.* 2016). Decades of research has revealed a complex social structure within the etP Sperm Whales, where clans can be identified by their unique acoustic click patterns or codas, but also differ in their movement patterns, feeding success and other attributes (e.g. Whitehead & Rendell, 2004). The clans in this region are known as the Regular, Plus-one, Short and Four-plus clans.

¹ The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

² <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41755/0> (last assessed 2008)

³ <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/16370739/0> (last assessed 2012)

(iv). Activities and expected outcomes:

Activities:

- 1) Regional Workshop (perhaps virtually, to save costs) with the goal of establishing protocols and data sharing between research groups across the Range States
- 2) Collaborative analysis of previously collected observational, photographic and acoustic data
- 3) Gathering of additional observational, photographic and acoustic data.

Expected outcomes:

- Efficient use of previously collected data and additional research funds
- Improved understanding of vocal clan segregation
- More effective collaboration between research groups

(v). Timeframe:

- 1) and 2) to be completed by end of 2021
- 3) to be progressed from 2020 to end of 2022.