



**CONVENTION ON
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Agenda Item 32.2

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN (*Sousa teuszii*)***

Summary:

The Secretariat on behalf of the former COP-Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals has submitted the attached report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*), Concerted Action 12.3 (Rev.COP13).

*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

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN (*Sousa teuszii*)

UNEP/CMS/CONCERTED ACTION 12.3 (Rev.COP13)

1. CONCERTED ACTION

Title: Concerted Action for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)

Document number: [UNEP/CMS/CONCERTED ACTION 12.3 \(Rev.COP13\)](#)

2. REPORTING ORGANIZATION

Proponents for the Concerted Action were

- Dr. G. Notarbartolo di Sciara, former COP-Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals, in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat
- Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek (species expert and member of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group), Conservation and Research of West African Aquatic Mammals (COREWAM), Accra, Ghana and Dakar, Senegal
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), UK

Since implementation of the Concerted Action was facilitated by the Secretariat by means of a voluntary contribution of the Government of the Principality of Monaco under the Migratory Species Champion Programme, this report was prepared by the Secretariat.

3. TARGET SPECIES/POPULATION

Class: Mammalia
Order: Cetartiodactyla
Infra-Order: Cetacea
Family: Delphinidae
Genus: *Sousa*
Species: *Sousa teuszii*

Listed in CMS Appendix I and II

4. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

The Concerted Action foresaw:

1. *Formation of a Steering Committee (SC) among stakeholders (governmental, NGO, Secretariat) of the Range States of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin with a view to the organization of the proposed Meeting (see below).*

The Steering Committee was established in March 2021 following a nomination process and approval of the membership by National Focal Points of the Range States. It is comprised of 24 members, including the proponents of the Concerted Action, as far as available, scientists with a long-standing involvement with CMS with respect to this species or the [Western African Aquatic Mammals MOU](#) in general, as well as members of the relevant working group of the recently established Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CCAHD). Members are from Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, as well as from outside the species' range.

2. *Convene a Conservation Policy Meeting of Range States to define an Action Plan for renewed efforts to halt the decline of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin.*

In consultation with the Steering Committee, it was decided that a consultant/group of consultants should be hired to prepare a draft Action Plan and initially written consultations would be conducted. This was made possible through funds donated by the Government of the Principality of Monaco under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

Written consultations were initiated through CMS Notification 2022/15 sent in September 2022. Comments received were used for production of a second draft, which was sent to Range State Focal Points in December 2022. Following the deadline for comments in February 2023, the document was processed to be made available to ScC-SC6 and COP14 ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.2](#)).

3. *Discussion and formulation of a feasible Plan of Action (PoA) for the five-year period 2021-2025, including undertake a status evaluation of Atlantic Humpback Dolphin in each of the Range States.*

The Secretariat has been trying to identify a host and sponsor for the Range State Meeting foreseen for finalization of the Action Plan throughout the process. Regrettably, the funds for an in-person meeting could not be secured yet.

5. CHANGES TO THE CONCERTED ACTION (IF ANY)

As outlined above, a slightly different approach was chosen for the implementation of the activities foreseen, in consultation with the Steering Committee. This is mostly due to a more streamlined approach to the development of Species Action Plans now followed in the Aquatic Species Team, as well as significant changes to the attention given to the target species following the establishment of a civil society group, the Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CCAHD, <https://www.sousateuszii.org/>) dedicated to its conservation across its range.

6. REFERENCES (if any)

Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.2](#) Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)

7. ACTION

This Concerted Action is considered completed and should be closed. Efforts should now focus on implementation of the Single Species Action Plan presented to this Conference for adoption.