



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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13th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 28.1

**CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE
ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN (*Sousa teuszii*)***

Proposed Activities for 2020-2023

Updating [UNEP/CMS/CONCERTED ACTION 12.3](#)

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<p>Activities and expected outcomes</p>	<p>Proposed Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 SC would be tasked with the practical preparation of the meeting, including seeking funding, venue and date selection, definition of agenda, invitation of participants, as well as all other practical and logistical aspects. 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. A key proposal would recommend evaluating the creation, optimisation or otherwise strengthening the effectiveness of new or existing border-crossing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). With the purpose to monitor and help steer progress and thus avoid stalling of momentum, the possible creation of an <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force (TF) of Range State stakeholders, supported by expert advice, would be recommended. <p>The timing, venue, duration of the meeting, as well as other parameters would be decided in consultation with the Range States and the CMS Secretariat, as coordinated by the Steering Committee. Before, three highly successful intergovernmental meetings treating African cetaceans were celebrated, respectively in Conakry (2000), Adeje-Tenerife (2007) and Lomé (2008); and the proposed meeting will build on these.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 4. Examples of potential agenda items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Introduction; (2) Overview of the distribution and natural history of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin; (3) Overview of the known conservation challenges; (4) Discussion of feasible conservation measures, especially ways to reduce mortality in fisheries; (5) Discussion of the feasibility to introduce new border-straddling MPAs, and improve efficiency of existing ones; (6) Formulation of a new Action Plan; (7) Formation of an <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force to help ensure progress is made. <p>Expected outcomes</p> <p><i>Immediate (after Meeting):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide agreement on a renewed Plan of Action to mitigate the several pressing conservation problems of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin. - An active regional <i>ad hoc</i> Task Force. It is composed of a small group of Range State focal points and regional marine biologists, advised where needed by international experts and/or NGOs, to mutually support, co-ordinate and implement conservation and management activities. <p><i>Mid-term:</i></p> <p>If considered relevant by the Range States focal points: Improved conservation through enhanced attention to border-straddling Marine Protected Areas</p> <p>Formation of new border-straddling (binational) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are recommended, similar to existing ones, such as for instance the Saloum-Niumi complex, which ecologically unites Senegal's Saloum Delta National Park with the Gambia's Niumi National Park. These are predicted to result in measurable conservation effects by limiting boat traffic and fishing effort, avoiding net entanglements and mitigating habitat destruction. Some MPAs, such as the Tristao</p>
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	<p>Islands in Guinea, require an access permit for non-residents, providing a level of protection from disturbance. As small MPA networks (White <i>et al.</i>, 2005), bi-national involvement has obvious benefits, allowing for a larger total protected area with increased ecological effectiveness, the potential for coordinated planning where social and environmental dimensions may become intertwined. Specific bi-national proposals of MPAs could emerge from this meeting.</p> <p>The necessary engagement by national, regional and intergovernmental partners, as well as local communities, will require wide consultation within a multidisciplinary forum.</p> <p><i>Long-term:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrably improved conservation status of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin throughout its distribution range. - Increased research and bycatch monitoring efforts.
Timeframe	<p>The Range State Meeting would be recommended to occur in early 2021. The Steering Committee would be charged to define all specifics in consultation with the Range States and the CMS Secretariat before the end of 2020. A proposed five-year AP would be suggested to cover the period 2021-2025, however funding for its implementation would be sought independently from the Meeting.</p>