



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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WESTERN AFRICAN TALKS ON CETACEANS AND THEIR HABITATS

Adeje, Tenerife, Spain, 16-20 October 2007

Report on “THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SMALL CETACEANS OF THE COAST OF AFRICA”

Conakry, 8-12 May 2000

**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)**

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

**REPORT ON "THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SMALL
CETACEANS OF THE COAST OF AFRICA"**

Conakry, 8-12 May 2000

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Conakry, September 2000

[translation by W. F. Perrin, February 2001]

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ACRONYMS

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| CMS | : | Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals |
| CERO | : | Centre de Recherche Océanographique de Nouadhibour (Mauritania) |
| CRO | : | Centre de Recherche Océanographique d'Abidjan (Ivory Coast) |
| CERESCOR | : | Centre de Recherche Océanographique de Roghané Conakry (Guinea) |
| CNSHB | : | Centre National des Sciences Halieutique de Boussoura/Conakry (Guinea) |
| CRODT | : | Centre de Recherche Océanographique de Dakar-Thiaroye (Senegal) |
| DNE | : | Direction Nationale de l'Environnement - Conakry (Guinea) |
| IFAN | : | Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire - Dakar (Senegal) |
| INRAB | : | Institut National de Recherche Appliquée du Benin |
| GEF | : | Global Environmental Fund |
| NGO | : | Non-governmental organization |

I. INTRODUCTION

Guinea has become involved in stimulation of the countries of the region of Africa to develop a common program to resolve the problems of conservation of small cetaceans. This involvement is in line with Guinea's policy of sustainable development based on rational management of natural resources and effective protection of the environment.

This first step of this engagement is the organization of the present workshop in Guinea, 8-12 May 2000. The goal is to educate local researchers within the states of the region of distribution of small cetaceans with a view to allowing strengthening of basic conditions for development of a plan of action as a project that would contribute to the promotion and development of local expertise in the biology of cetaceans. The fundamental object is to mitigate the vulnerability of these species by progressively reducing the pressures and threats that they face.

The project "conservation and management of small cetaceans of Africa" was approved by the 8th meeting of the Scientific Council of CMS, held in Wageningen (Netherlands) in June 1998.

The sum of information on cetacean distribution, abundance and interactions with fisheries is a necessary preliminary before consideration of a future coherent program.

This regional workshop, the first of its type in Guinea, has among other objectives to develop a series of recommendations to allow the states of the region who are part of the CMS to develop an action plan that integrates to the maximum the fishing community as well as the local communities, that moderates the threats to slowly reproducing marine species and the destruction of their habitat, assuring their conservation and renewal with a view to equilibrium between their environment and development of the states.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

A Opening ceremony

Mr. Abdel Kader Bangoura, CMS focal point, before introducing Mr. Abdoulaye Chérif Sylla, Chief of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Agriculture, representing the Minister, emphasized the importance of the Convention for Guinea and also for all the African states, because of their inestimable riches of wild fauna that moves from border to border in their migratory passages. He commended the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Guinea to sensitize the non-CMS-Party states of Africa to join the present members for a good representation of the region.

Mr. Abdoulaye Chérif Sylla, in the name of the Government of the Republic of Guinea, underscored the commitment of Guinea to promote further sustainable development based on conservation and effective management of cetaceans in Africa.

Moreover, he addressed his thanks to the organizers of the present workshop, particularly UNEP and the Secretariat of CMS for their financial and technical assistance, particularly in the persons of the designated international experts.

Finally, he stated that he wished to see this workshop result in recommendations capable of aiding the decision-makers of the states in the region to involve themselves concretely in taking into account the needs for conservation and sustainable management of small cetaceans of Africa, in a coherent program attainable in the short, medium and long terms.

B Participation in the Workshop

The workshop brought together seven states in the area of distribution of small cetaceans in [West] Africa: (Benin, Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Senegal and Togo), the ministerial departments in charge of implementing CMS (Ministry of Mines, Geology and the Environment (focal point); Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Ministry of Agriculture and Husbandry), international experts designated by the CMS Secretariat, two national NGOs, and a whaling delegation from Japan as observers. The detailed list of participants is annexed to this document.

C Election of Workshop officers

The participants unanimously accepted the following officers:

First day

Chair: Dr. Bangaly Kaba, Ph.D. in Biological Sciences, oceanographic biologist and specialist in ichthyology - CERESCOR

Rapporteur: Dr. Idressa Lamine Bamy, Chief of Division, CNSHB

This day was essentially devoted to presentations by Drs. William F. Perrin, Koen Van Waerebeek and Eric Archer on the following subjects: the biology of marine mammals; marine mammals of West Africa; conservation of marine mammals; techniques of investigation of marine mammals; methods for

monitoring fisheries; collection, preparation and conservation of specimens; ecotourism, and the West African manatee. Rich and varied discussions ensued on these presentations and on the topics of conservation and management of African cetaceans.

Second day

Chair: Dr. Idrissa Lamine Bamy

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean Jacques Rigoulot (Senegal)

The second day was given over to continuation of the presentations by the experts on the item “formation of specialists on marine mammals”, as well as biologists and researchers in the subject. Dr. William F. Perrin and Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek distributed model data-collection forms and other basic forms to the participants.

The exchange of experiences in such a workshop strengthens the capacities of the participants. Each delegate presented a verbal communication. To these were added the contributions of the local participants. As points of view were exchanged among the experts and participants the good scientific level of the workshop became increasingly apparent.

Third day

This day was entirely devoted to the excursion, with 26 participants. The vehicles left the Hotel Camayenne at 08:30 for the mole ‘Petit Bateau’, where two vessels were boarded to take us to the Isles of Loos. At the mole, we found osteological remains of a juvenile baleen whale, which were shown to us by a young fisherman. The skull and several other bones had been removed, and the experts were unable to identify the whale to species.

We left later at 10:00, with a slight delay caused by the journalists. Because of untimely engine trouble which complicated matters, and while this was ultimately solved we were not able to observe dolphins as planned, although we traversed waters usually inhabited by them (Île Blanche, Île aux Tortues, Île Capri). We arrived a little later at Île Soro, where we disembarked for lunch; this gave the participants an opportunity to visit the village there.

We returned to Conakry at 15:55, passing on the way the old Fotoba Penitentiary from the times of the first republic. It must be emphasized that although the goal of the excursion was not met, it nevertheless allowed a tour of the islands and a marine outing. The osteological specimen was purchased after the workshop and placed in the laboratory of CNSHB.

In the evening, the workshop participants were taken to a dinner hosted by the Government at the Novotel “Independence”. There the opportunity was offered anew to increase informal contacts and exchange views on the conservation of cetaceans in general.

Fourth day

This day was devoted to the organization and conduct of the workshop's thematic tasks. The forming of groups gave the opportunity to exchange experiences and to share strong views on each theme. The experts provided support to fill in scientific gaps. The final result was to propose measures and make

recommendations by group, in accord with the working themes in the context of conservation and management of cetaceans.

Principal moderator: M. Abdel Kader Bangoura - CMS focal point

Scientific support: Dr. William F. Perrin, Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek, Dr. Eric Archer

Fifth day

Workshop plenary session

Chair: Mr. Adéké F. Benoit, delegate of Benin

Rapporteur: Mr. Akoi Kouadio, delegate of Ivory Coast

Discussion leaders: Dr. William F. Perrin, Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek, Dr. Eric Archer and Mr. Abdel Kader Bangoura.

D Organization of the tasks of the workshop

The workshop aims to:

- identify the policies, measures and activities that will allow overcoming the problems associated with the conservation and management of the cetaceans of Africa (threats, strandings, killings, interaction with fisheries, mortality.....);
- pursue and strengthen information, education and communication between the states of the region on the importance of conservation and management of small cetaceans of Africa;
- encourage the exchange of information and experiences among the states engaged in the improvement of conservation and management of cetaceans, in order to allow good coordination of activities in a regional network;
- encourage the collection of information that will aid in this, with the goal of elaborating and implementing a regional action plan for the conservation and management of cetaceans of Africa.

This is the place to report that the final goal of the workshop is, in the near future, to minimize the vulnerability of African small cetaceans in their migrations and to protect them through efficient legal instruments and efficient and dynamic structures. It is also the place to state that the workshop did not treat only questions of small cetaceans, but the assemblage of cetaceans, manatee and sharks in a general manner.

The tasks of the workshop were conducted according to an approach based on reports and debates of the participants and experts and on the results of the plenary session. The participants were divided into four thematic groups according to their relevance to the themes chosen.

Group I

Theme: Local participation, information, education, communication (IEC)

Chair: Akoi Kouadio (Ivory Coast)

Members: Aboubacar Youla, Alsény Conakry Camara, Fodé Lunceny Camara, Momo Touré, Ibrahima Diallo (Guinea).

Fundamental problems

Given the destructive exploitation of marine mammals in general and the threats facing small cetaceans in Africa in particular, the lack of provision of information, education and communication to the public currently constitutes a serious problem for the conservation and sustainable management of these species in the region. In addition, there are social, economic and institutional problems, namely:

- certain inadequate sustenance habits, based on attitudes and practices above all economical, which threaten the small cetaceans of the African region;
- the absence [sic] of unregulated tourism, which leads to destructive behavior toward the species;
- the non-participation of fisheries people, students and local populations in programs of information, education and communication;
- the hindering of NGOs and local communities, above all coastal, to participate in the conservation and management of cetaceans, which renders the public indifferent to conservation activities.

Goal

- Create programs of information, education and communication on matters of conservation and management of cetaceans in order to sensitize the stakeholders, the public and the decision makers to the importance of this subject for harmonious development;
- Encourage and promote the participation of coastal communities in programs of conservation and management of cetaceans.

Priority areas calling for immediate measures

Bring about active participation by the fishing community in conception, development and implementation of programs of conservation and management of small cetaceans. To make this happen, it will be important to:

- develop and promote the participation by fishermen, NGOs, local populations and students in awareness programs;
- develop and promote ecotourism;
- promote provision of basic equipment and implement necessary infrastructure (vessels, guides, field equipment, conservation centers.....);
- identify the problems, the players, the researchers and the channels of communication;
- identify and define the approaches of participation in information, education and communication programs;
- provide financial assistance to bring about collection of information for the conservation and management of marine mammals;

- collect detailed information on local fisheries in the principal local fishery ports;
- increase awareness among decision-makers and biological researchers of cetaceans at all levels, with the goal of developing a national strategy of information, education and communication;
- disseminate information on cetaceans via the mass media;
- create awareness-building teams on conservation and management of cetaceans, which at a formal level will be charged also with the identification of laboratories, projects, departments, channels of communication and centers for the collection and exchange of information.

Group II

Theme: Reduction of the threats posed to cetaceans by interactions with fisheries; strategies of conservation

Chair: Okoumassou Kotchikpa (Togo)

Rapporteur: M. Camara Alsény (Guinée)

Members: Amadou Yansané
 Issaga Bah
 Kolié Céce Urbain

Fundamental problems

The unrestrained pursuit of satisfaction of basic life needs threatens rare species and especially those which benefit from complete protection. No African state escapes this problem. The current modes of exploitation have caused the squandering of small cetaceans and continue to do so.

As established by the seven nations represented at the workshop, cetaceans are threatened generally, and all agreed that the types of threat are:

- artisanal and industrial capture;
- localized pollution;
- destruction of habitat;
- interactions with fisheries;
- accidental and even organized take.

The listed causes of these types of threats are:

- traditional local consumption;
- unregulated and often illegal commerce;
- traditional cultural practices (in the case of Senegal);
- absence of political will in the countries.

Goal

Conserve and manage the cetacean species threatened by extinction and preserve the biological diversity which forms an essential part of the natural heritage and of future economic development.

Priority areas calling for immediate measures

- Strengthen regional cooperation to reduce threats and develop and implement strategies for the conservation and management of small cetaceans;
- conduct investigations of the distribution and behavior of populations of cetaceans, their habitat, habitat destruction, migration, and direct and indirect threats;
- identify interactions with fisheries, mortality and stranding of cetaceans;
- update and harmonize regulatory texts and laws at the national level for measures to reduce the threat;
- strengthen human and institutional resources.

Concerning strategies for reduction of threat, the majority of states in the region do have solid legal measures. However, the strategic application of these is variable from state to state and admittedly difficult and slow to be implemented due to lack of political will and, above all, lack of means (material, financial and technical).

The states are in agreement to take all the steps needed to estimate the threats to reduce and remedy the greatest gaps.

Group III

Theme: Biological studies and collection, treatment and dissemination of data

Chair: Bangaly Kaba (Guinea)

Rapporteur: Idrissa Bamy (Guinea)

Members: Namory Keita, Djibi Thiam (Guinea), Santiago Francisco Engonga Osono (Equatorial Guinea), Eric Archer (USA)

Fundamental problems

About 29 species have been identified as occurring in the nations in the region represented by the workshop. Few states have research institutions carrying out research on cetaceans. However, some countries such as Senegal and the Gambia have available credible data thanks to the joint project on cetaceans initiated under the auspices of CMS.

Recently, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Togo have become strongly interested in research on cetaceans, out of concern for the conservation and management of cetaceans in Africa.

The distribution of several species of whales and dolphins in their usual area on the Atlantic coast of Africa has revealed interesting discoveries, unfortunately without much exhaustive data.

Resolving the shortcomings linked to biological studies and to the collection, treatment and dissemination of data through the continued education of field specialists; putting in place at the national level networks of collection and treatment of data; creating a regional network for analysis and dissemination of data; and promoting research in centers and laboratories, are the sure means to take up the challenge related to the scientific aspects aiming the conservation and management of cetaceans.

List of species of cetaceans and their distribution:

| SPECIES | | COUNTRY | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|--------|--------|-------------|-------------------|-------|------|
| N° | Species | Senegal | Guinea | Gambia | Ivory Coast | Equatorial Guinea | Benin | Togo |
| 1 | Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 2 | Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | | | + | | | | |
| 3 | Atlantic spotted dolphin <i>Stenella frontalis</i> | + | + | ? | + | + | ? | ? |
| 4 | Pantropical spotted dolphin <i>Stenella attenuata</i> | + | | | + | + | | |
| 5 | Spinner dolphin <i>Stenella longirostris</i> | + | + | | + | | | |
| 6 | Striped dolphin <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 7 | Clymene dolphin <i>Stenella clymene</i> | + | | + | | | | |
| 8 | Common dolphins <i>Delphinus spp</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 9 | Blue whale <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> | + | | | | | | + |
| 10 | Fin whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 11 | Sei whale <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 12 | Bryde's whale <i>Balaenoptera edeni</i> | + | ? | ? | ? | + | ? | + |
| 13 | Minke whale <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> | + | | ? | | | | |
| 14 | Humpback whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 15 | Sperm whale <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 16 | Pygmy sperm whale <i>Kogia breviceps</i> | + | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| 17 | Harbor porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 18 | Killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i> | + | | | + | + | | |
| 19 | Long-finned pilot whale <i>Globicephala melas</i> | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Short-finned pilot whale <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> | + | | + | + | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | Atlantic humpbacked dolphin <i>Sousa teuszii</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 22 | Rough-toothed dolphin <i>Steno bredanensis</i> | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| 23 | False killer whale <i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> | + | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| 24 | Fraser's dolphin <i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 25 | Pgymy killer whale <i>Feresa attenuata</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 26 | Melon-headed whale <i>Peponocephala electra</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 27 | Cuvier's beaked whale <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> | + | | | | | | |
| 28 | Blainville's beaked whale <i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i> | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Gervais' beaked whale <i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i> | | | | | | | |
| | West African manatee ¹ <i>Trichechus senegalensis</i> | + | | | | | | |

¹Ed. note: the distribution of the manatee was not reviewed in Group III; it occurs in all the countries listed.

Legend: + Occurrence recorded
? Probably occurs

Institutions with collections of data in certain states of West and Central Africa

| | STATE | RESEARCH CENTERS | MUSEUMS | LABORATORIES |
|---|----------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | SENEGAL COREWAM | Centre de recherche | IFAN | |
| 2 | GUINEA | CERESCOR, CNSHB | | |
| 3 | GUINEA EQUATORIAL | CIRS, University | Geological Museum BATA | Min. Agriculture University |
| 4 | IVORY COAST | CERO MARINE MANAGRA D. Pêche | | |
| 5 | TOGO | Service Pêche, MAEP D.F et chasse Ministère de l'Environnement | | |
| 6 | GAMBIA | Department of parks and Wildlife Management | | |
| 7 | BENIN | Direction Pêche, INRAB University | | |

Recommendations were made resulting from the working group, pertaining *inter alia* to:

Collections

- Socio-economic investigations
- biological investigations
- species identification
- collection of skeletons and placement in museums or appropriate centers

Observation forms

- manage information through the following channels:
 - *mass media, workshops, symposia, meetings;
 - *publications (magazines and scientific journals);
- exchange of information between elements of the field (projects, investigators, technical departments) and the centers of specialized research;
- establish observation forms and notebooks;
- formation of indigenous, community and local biologists.

The group also emphasized facilitation and promotion of traditional and scientific research, collaboration among institutes through joint efforts, strengthening of human capacities and the institutional base, financing of studies and research, and the awarding of grants to universities.

The very substantial contribution of the experts to the work of the group was an obvious success in conjunction with the interventions and fruitful discussion of the participants.

Group IV

Theme: National policies, implementation, roles of the state, strengthening capacities, institutional and legal frameworks, financing, and cooperation.

Chair: Lt. Col. Jacques Benard Rigoulot (Senegal)

Participants: Adeke T. Benoit (Benin), Christine Sagno, Tidiane Bangoura, Bakary Kéita, Oumar Raflou Diallo, Mamadou Dia (Guinea)

Fundamental problems

In most of the states in the area of consideration, all the national policies to varying degree have both weak and strong points, gaps and unclear elements. Their degree of application remains to be defined.

The importance of the conservation and management of the cetaceans of Africa is such that the states should play their role in of alleviating the unclear aspects of the implementation of national policies.

It was agreed by the national participants that problems of structure and governmental institutions charged with implementation of laws are the root cause of non-management of cetaceans, even taking into account the fact that knowledge of the cetaceans is limited.

The challenge to meet is to develop strategies of management based on scientific knowledge in biology and ethology of the small cetaceans and in socio-economics, uses and culture.

Goal

At the state level in the region, the competent authorities should conceive/elaborate and put in place and/or revise according to the needs of conservation and management of small cetaceans national policies in terms of strategy, institutional and legal frameworks, and strengthening of human capacity and cooperation.

Priority issues calling for immediate measures

1 National policies

- Elaborate and put into application regulatory texts based on research, scientific knowledge and traditional values:

1.1 Encourage the adherence of states in the region which are not parties to conventions, treaties and agreements on the conservation and management of marine resources, notably small cetaceans.

1.2 Elaborate and put into action policies and strategies of action for conservation and management of cetaceans.

2 Role of the states:

- accept sharing of responsibility with volunteering entities in the field, such as the NGOs;
- assure provision of information, education and communication to local populations, decision makers, and the fishing community;
- request adherence and engagement of political authorities to implement the recommendations of the workshop;
- supply the technical and financial means toward realizing priority research actions such as those defined in the present document;
- develop the will for "south-south" and "north-south" cooperation.

3 Strengthening capacities by:

- the training of instructors, researchers and biologists working on cetaceans;
- the organization of workshops;
- the technical support (materials for communications, for the build-up of databanks, of observation data, of monitoring capacity...) and financial support to carry out studies and other logistics.

4 Institutional and legal frameworks:

- Define the role of each player and institution implicated in the conservation and management of cetaceans;
- create a structure of national coordination of research activities on cetaceans;
- create a regional network of coordination;

- revise and/or introduce national legislation relative to cetaceans and regulate their conservation and management;
- harmonize the national legislation of the states in the region in line with the needs of conservation and management of small cetaceans.

5 Cooperation

- Develop linkage between the centers, laboratories and research institutes engaged in work on cetaceans, at regional, national and international levels.

E Operational activities

As a result of the working groups, the workshop retained the following program of operational activities:

In the short term

The short-term actions are defined as occurring between the first and second years after the workshop. All the nations in the region, according to their abilities, are invited to take part in these activities with the support of partners.

- Providing materials for communication, observation, investigation and documentation;
- carrying out the observation of dolphins, and surveillance and regulation of fisheries;
- inventory of cetacean species;
- collection, treatment and compilation of data by state and electronic correspondence in the spirit of the Conakry workshop on the conservation and management of cetaceans;
- putting into place national centers of collection, treatment and capitalization of data;
- creation of a regional network for analysis and dissemination of data;
- dissemination of data by the regional network to the CMS with copies sent to the scientific councilors named by the COP and to Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek.

In the medium term (2003-2007)

- National investigations of the conservation state of cetaceans;
- preparation and adoption of an action plan as specified in this regional agreement on the conservation and management of cetaceans.

At this level, the group asks the Secretariat of CMS to involve Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek in the framing of the preparation of the action plan, because of his ability in French and his knowledge of the region.

In the long term (2003-2013)

- Implement the action plan.

F Conclusions and recommendations

The first international workshop on the "Conservation and management of small cetaceans of Africa", which brought together representatives of seven of the 14 states from the area of consideration named in the Letter of Agreement (in English "LoA/MIS": 1200/98 - 04-222), namely Benin, Ivory Coast, the Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal, Togo and Guinea, has proposed actions which to be implemented exhorts each state of the region to ensure:

- a) The participation of local communities, decision-makers, students at centers of research, and the fishing community in information, education and communication, as well as NGOs relating to conservation and management of small cetaceans of Africa and cetaceans in general;
- b) the training of local biologists on techniques and interpretation of field data concerning cetaceans;
- c) the establishment of an official network of working centers in each state of the region to develop *inter alia* exchange of scientific visitors, the carrying out of joint actions, in field research and local strategies in the framework of research synergies at the local and regional level in the conservation of cetaceans.
- d) the implementation of conservation measures in each state of the region and/or enforcement of those existing;
- e) the application or strengthening of biological studies and the collection, treatment and dissemination of basic data on distribution and abundance of cetaceans and the threats to them.
- f) implementation of structures and reliable policies relating to the conservation and management of cetaceans.

Of that which precedes, the necessity of the Range States of African small cetaceans to do the following must be recognized:

- to acquire an operational regional structure to collect, treat and disseminate data on the cetaceans of Africa;
- to assist the network in mobilization of the financial resources necessary for the conservation measures, from CMS/UNEP and the organizations that aid in the conservation of cetaceans;
- to research and establish synergies between the regional network and the organizations taking part in the conservation and management of marine mammals, notably GEMS/UNEP, IUCN

Attaining this will require concerted effort at the level of Range States with participation of public and private entities, international institutions, universities, laboratories, research centers, as well as NGOs, local communities and individuals with personal resources.

Under this heading, a particular emphasis was placed on the need to integrate concern about conservation and sustainable management of cetaceans into the process of national planning of development action.

It is important in this regard that the Range States take measures and make decisions favoring sustainable development, excluding non-sustainable use of cetaceans, and take into account from the beginning the concerns about conservation and management in the formulation of plans, programs and development projects by:

- putting into place a formal working network for the collection and treatment of data;
- development and promotion of studies on cetaceans in research centers, and/or creation of those infrastructures and supply them with of appropriate equipment and materials;;

- strengthening of human and institutional capacities and legislation on matters of conservation and sustainable management of small cetaceans;
- development and strengthening of cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels;
- sharing of responsibilities among the NGOs, local associations, and communities, by creating a synergy of action between these and public institutions.

In regarding the results of the workshop, it appears necessary to begin the design of an action plan to develop research on the conservation and management of small cetaceans of Africa. The first draft of this plan will be submitted to the scientific councilor of CMS in charge of questions of marine mammals with the scientific advice and assistance of Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek, before the CMS Secretariat officially takes charge of it for regional coordination.

- putting in place a program of continuing education and specialization for biologists and researchers on cetaceans;
- institutionalization of the regional network on cetaceans and responsibility of Guinea to coordinate this organization;
- strengthening the network with equipment and supplies to facilitate the treatment and exchange of data with the CMS on one hand and with institutions on the other;
- assistance by CMS and GEF if possible and by the international community with realization of short, medium and long-term activities recommended by the workshop;
- adherence to CMS and the Abidjan Convention by African non-party states.

Although sharks were not at the center of our discussions, the workshop would strongly recommend a regional program of research on the severely threatened whale shark. This recommendation arose because of shocking slaughter of this species known to exist along the entire West African coast.

The same recommendation is made for the West African manatee to ensure conservation and management of the species. Because the question was raised at the COP in Cape Town, South Africa, the workshop proposes that a study be designed on the conservation and management of the species in West Africa. The project could be submitted by the regional coordinator at the next meeting of the CMS Scientific Council and be carried out in the countries of the sub region where the manatee is seriously threatened.

In order to begin this process in the near future, Guinea was designated by the workshop to coordinate the network. This designation expresses the manifest will of the participants to launch operational activities and development of an action plan this year or at the latest in early 2001, with the scientific assistance of Drs. Perrin and Koen Van Waerebeek.

In this regard, the workshop makes an appeal to the Secretariat of CMS/UNEP, GEF and to the international community for financial and technical assistance to help carry out the recommendations of the workshop.

The Workshop

G LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (from French version)

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