



WATCH

# MACARONESIA INITIATIVE DECLARATION



WEST AFRICAN TALKS ON CETACEANS AND THEIR HABITAT



Gobierno  
de Canarias



**Adeje, Canary Islands, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2007**



## MACARONESIA INITIATIVE DECLARATION

The participants in the MACARONESIA encounter, meeting in Adeje, Tenerife, on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2007, in the framework of the WATCH talks (*Western African Talks on Cetaceans and their Habitat*),

*Recognising* that the island territories made up of the archipelagos of the Azores (Portugal), Cape Verde (Cape Verde), the Canary Islands (Spain) and Madeira (Portugal) are home to a set of ecological specificities and common cultural roots that define the regional reality;

*Recognising* the bio-geographic singularity of Macaronesia, its characteristic oceanographic peculiarities, the existence of pristine areas and, in particular, its high cetacean diversity represented by 31 species of the whales and dolphins reported in the North Atlantic;

*Bearing in mind* that the current state of research has made it possible to identify ecological processes and habitats, together with common populations of dolphins and whales dependent on them, including areas that are situated beyond the jurisdiction of the States;

*Recognising* that there are global threats like those arising from climate change, or ones specific to the Macaronesia region like interaction with fishing, acoustic pollution, waste pollution, shipping traffic of people and goods and the impact of nautical and tourist activities, including whale watching,

*Convinced* of the need to provide incentives for society as a whole to participate in meeting the common challenges of managing the species and marine areas of Macaronesia both scientifically and technically, as well as legally;

*Aware* of the objective established in the Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg (South Africa) and the CBD for the

conservation of marine resources and, in particular, for creating a world-wide network of marine protected areas by 2012.

*Considering* that the Natura 2000 Network, whose methodology is applied also to Cape Verde, is in fact providing a means of co-operation between the archipelagos that make up Macaronesia, opening the door for the development of common measures to conserve marine bio-diversity.

*Recognising* the importance of a Specially Sensitive Marine Area (SSMA), together with other initiatives like the West Africa Network of Marine Protected Areas (WANMPA), the MaB Programme Biosphere Reserves declared by UNESCO and the ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS areas of reference.

*Considering* that the Convention for Migratory Species represents the most appropriate common framework for strengthening co-operation bonds for the conservation of cetaceans.

*Bearing in mind* the potential offered by the framework of the WATCH Memorandum (*Western African Talks on Cetaceans and their Habitat*),

**We invite the governments of Cape Verde, Spain and Portugal to consider establishing specific agreements in the bio-geographic region of Macaronesia, within the framework of the different international conventions and programmes that promote the conservation of cetaceans, highlighting, among others, the framework offered by article IV of the Bonn Convention.**

## **ANNEX: ELEMENTS FOR ACTION**

- To create a research network in the region of Macaronesia, including all the research groups and centres of the different archipelagos.
- To develop co-operation programmes and create forums for the exchange of scientific and technical information and mobility and life-long training programmes for researchers and support personnel.
- To create an up to the minute and common data base for the whole region of Macaronesia.
- To identify essential habitats and critical areas of special biological interest for these species, including areas beyond the jurisdiction of the States.
- To develop integral research programmes with an eco-systemic and adaptive approach for the different species identified in Macaronesia.
- To foster projects of research, development and innovation that encompass the creation of the necessary know-how to enhance the identification of threats and their mitigation, with a view contributing to the conservation of these species in the different areas of the Macaronesia Region.
- To favour an effective transfer of scientific and technological knowledge for the conservation of cetaceans in the Macaronesia Region.
- To identify common laboratories and facilities to provide support for cetacean research in the Macaronesia Region.
- To generate specific public policies and instruments for an appropriate management of knowledge related to cetaceans and their habitats in the different areas of the Macaronesia Region.
- To develop networks of marine protected areas and conservation plans for the species present in Macaronesia.
- To develop a programme of co-operation for monitoring the distribution of the target species and for assessing the management measures used.
- To foster the participation and the co-operation of public and private agencies in the conservation of these species through research.
- Programmes to enhance the dissemination of scientific knowledge in society and foster environmental education centred on the cetaceans of the Macaronesia Region.

- To foster the participation of all parties in the decision making processes pertaining to actions aimed at the conservation of cetaceans in the Macaronesia Region.

Chairman of the Session:  
*Antonio J. Fernández Rodríguez*

Repporteurs:  
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*Ana Tejedor Arceredillo*  
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Coordination:  
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*Loro Parque Fundación*

Declaration adopted by the participants to the WATCH - MACARONESIA meeting on October 19th, 2007, and presented to the Third Session of the WATCH (Western African Talks on Cetaceans and their Habitat) on October 20th, 2007.



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