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MIGRATORY
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Agenda Item 25.4.2

CETACEAN ACTION PLANS

(Prepared by the Secretariat and the ScC Aquatic Mammals Working Group)

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Decisions 14.76–14.78 *Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region*, Decisions 14.79–14.80 *Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales*, and Decisions 14.81–14.86 *Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)*. It contains a proposal for endorsement of a Conservation Management Plan for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and draft Decisions.

The attached draft Decisions would support the achievement of Targets 1.1–1.3, 3.1, 5.1, 5.5 and 6.1 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032.

CETACEAN ACTION PLANS

Background

1. This document integrates all COP14 mandates relating to action plans for cetaceans.
2. It contains the following sections, each reporting back on any relevant COP14 Decisions:
 - A. Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region
 - B. Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales
 - C. Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin
 - D. Conservation Management Plan for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale
- A. Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region
3. In response to the concerns regarding the conservation status of cetaceans in the Red Sea raised in [CMS Technical Series No. 33 Cetaceans of the Red Sea](#), COP14 adopted the following Decisions:

Decision 14.76 Directed to the Parties

Parties are requested to work with the Secretariat on the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region, and support the organization of a regional workshop.

Decision 14.77 Directed to the Scientific Council

The Scientific Council, with support from the Aquatic Mammal Working Group, is requested to:

- a) *provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region; and*
- b) *review the final draft Action Plan at the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before COP15 and make recommendations to Parties.*

Decision 14.78 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) *organize a workshop of interested Parties, scientists and conservation organizations working in the Red Sea region to identify how best to take forward cetacean conservation there and assist in the development of an Action Plan;*
- b) *consult with relevant regional and technical bodies such as the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cetacean Specialist Group to seek their support to take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea, as recommended by the above-mentioned workshop; and*
- c) *present the draft Action Plan to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for review before COP15.*

Implementation of Decisions related to the Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region

4. Neither the workshop nor the development of a draft Action Plan were realized due to the short intersessional period and lack of available funding. Therefore, renewed Decisions are proposed for adoption in Annex 4. To take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea, a Party in the region is required to take the lead.

B. Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales

5. The *Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales* was adopted via [Resolution 12.17 Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region](#). The Action Plan aims to protect whales during vulnerable phases of their life cycle and preserve important habitats. It endeavours to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for all whales and their habitats in the region.
6. COP14 adopted the following Decisions on this issue:

Decision 14.79 Directed to the Parties

Parties are requested to report through their National Reports on progress in implementing the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting.

Decision 14.80 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) *organize a regional workshop to improve capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region); and*
- b) *continue to collaborate with the IWC on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales.*

Implementation of Decisions related to the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales

7. The Secretariat lacked the resources to convene a workshop for all the Range States, as outlined in Decision 14.80 (a), given that it would involve three countries in South America and six in Africa, speaking four languages. Instead, the Secretariat reached out to Range States in July 2025, disseminating a simple reporting template and calling for Parties to report on the implementation of the Action Plan, as requested in Decision 14.79. No responses were received by the set deadline.
8. The COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals was able to organize an online meeting of the South American Range States – Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay – on 5 August 2025. The meeting was conducted in Spanish and Portuguese, without interpretation. The sub-regional group completed their national reports. The COP-appointed Councillor prepared a summary and analysis of the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP), which is contained in Annex 1. The full analysis is available as [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.4.2a](#).
9. The Secretariat has liaised closely with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) on the protection and conservation of South Atlantic whales and related matters. A proposal for the establishment of a whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic was first discussed at the IWC in 1998, and first evaluated in 2001. It has since been discussed by the IWC several times, most recently in [2024](#), but has yet to be adopted.

C. Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)

10. COP14 adopted [Resolution 14.10](#) *Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)* as the culmination of a series of Concerted Actions on this critically endangered species. COP14 also adopted the following Decisions on this issue:

Decision 14.81 Directed to the Parties

Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to:

- a) *undertake those actions of the SSAP specified for immediate implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing activities, and start implementation of those actions of the SSAP specified to be addressed within five years;*
- b) *set up the necessary structures to ensure active collaboration among stakeholders within each Range State to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, for example through the formation of national working groups;*
- c) *actively engage with stakeholders in neighbouring *Sousa teuszii* Range States to facilitate knowledge-sharing and effective collaboration, especially where cross-border populations are suspected to occur;*
- d) *provide a brief report on their implementation of the SSAP in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) using a template provided by the Secretariat; and*
- e) *encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP for their use.*

Decision 14.82 Directed to the Parties

Non-Range Parties are requested to provide technical and capacity-building support to Range States for the implementation of activities outlined in the Action Plan.

Decision 14.83 Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support implementation of the SSAP, including through provision of technical support and expertise.

Decision 14.84 Directed to the Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group

The Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested to:

- a) *support the Secretariat in the development of a simple reporting template designed to gather information on the implementation of SSAP;*
- b) *review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP and prepare a brief summary and analysis; and*
- c) *make recommendations on the further implementation of the SSAP to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15.*

Decision 14.85 Directed to the Scientific Council

The Scientific Council is requested to:

- a) *consider the information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP, as well as the summary and analysis and the resulting recommendations of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group; and*
- b) *provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP15.*

Decision 14.86 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP;
- b) develop a simple reporting form in collaboration with the Aquatic Mammals Working Group enabling assessment of progress in the implementation of the SSAP, and disseminate this to Parties that are Range States to the species to enable reporting sufficiently in advance of the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15; and
- c) convene a meeting of Range States, as soon as possible after COP14 and subject to the availability of external resources, regarding implementation of priority actions and to facilitate coordination across the region.

Implementation of Decisions related to the Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin

11. The Secretariat sent out [Notification 2025/005](#) on 4 February 2025, disseminating a simple reporting template developed in accordance with Decision 14.86 (b) and calling for Parties to report on the implementation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin SSAP, as requested in Decision 14.81 (d).
12. The Secretariat prepared a summary and analysis of the implementation of the SSAP, which was reviewed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, as contained in Annex 2. The full analysis is available as [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.4.2b](#).
13. With respect to Decision 14.86 (c), the Secretariat has not yet been able to organize a meeting of Range States to discuss implementation of priority actions and facilitate coordination across the region, owing to a lack of resources.

D. Conservation Management Plan for Arabian Sea Humpback Whales

14. A series of Concerted Actions¹ for the endangered humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) of the Arabian Sea have been adopted since COP12, with the aim of culminating in the development and implementation of a regional Conservation Management Plan (CMP), led by government stakeholders and jointly implemented under CMS and the IWC.
15. A draft joint IWC/CMS CMP was discussed in a [workshop](#) that brought together marine mammal researchers, government representatives, civil society organizations, and the maritime and shipping industry, held in Oman from 27 to 29 May 2025. Priorities for the CMP were established, with discussions on threat mitigation, international legal instruments and regional initiatives, legal frameworks, and options for coordinated governance. Immediate priorities included enhanced marine mammal monitoring and outreach to engage wider regional input in the coming months.
16. Following the workshop, the CMS Secretariat and the Arabian Sea Whale Network Focal Points shared a revised draft CMP for comment with the government of Oman and all CMS Party Range States. The revised draft CMP can be found in Annex 3.
17. The joint IWC/CMS CMP will require adoption by both governing bodies. After consideration by COP15, the draft CMP will be submitted to the IWC Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee for final review, and thereafter to the IWC Commission meeting for adoption in November 2026. Accordingly, the draft CMP in

¹ The latest Concerted Action is CA 12.4 (Rev.COP14) [Humpback Whales \(*Megaptera novaeangliae*\) of the Arabian Sea](#)

Annex 3 to this document is presented for provisional endorsement by CMS COP15, with the understanding that changes may be made to the document following the IWC review. Parties that are also IWC members are encouraged to engage in this process. The Secretariat recommends that COP15 authorizes the Standing Committee to adopt the CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, once finalized, in the intersessional period between the 15th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat is monitoring the development and finalization process for this Action Plan.

Discussion and analysis

18. Cetaceans play a crucial role in ecosystem functioning, yet continue to face numerous pressures and threats. Regionally, conservation status and pressures vary across different species and populations, highlighting the need for tailored approaches that incorporate both international and local stakeholders. As a result of this variety, CMS maintains several different work streams relating to the conservation of cetaceans.
19. Regional and species-specific action plans are important multi-pronged instruments that simultaneously address knowledge, resource, capacity and legal gaps to improve the conservation status of cetaceans. Action plans engage Range States at the regional level, helping to build capacity and increase awareness through collaboration and community engagement, with specific and local actions to protect populations and habitats of CMS-listed cetaceans.
20. Capacity-building remains of key importance in this context, along with knowledge and resource sharing among Range States of a species or population, and by other governments and experts able to support these conservation efforts.

Recommended actions

21. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) note the summary and analysis of the Implementation Reports for the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - b) note the summary and analysis of the Implementation Reports for the Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin contained in Annex 2 of this document;
 - c) endorse the Conservation Management Plan for Arabian Sea Humpback Whales contained in Annex 3 of this document;
 - d) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 4 of this document; and
 - e) delete Decisions 14.76–14.78, 14.79–14.80 and 14.81–14.86.

ANNEX 1

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS FOR THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC WHALES

(The full report can be found in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.4.2a](#))

Introduction

1. The Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales was adopted by CMS Parties in 2017 ([CMS Resolution 12.17](#)).
2. The Secretariat lacked the resources to convene a workshop for all the Range States, as outlined in Decision 14.80 (a), given that it would involve three countries in South America and six in Africa, speaking four languages. Instead, the Secretariat reached out to Range States in July 2025, disseminating a simple reporting template and calling for Parties to report on the implementation of the Action Plan, as requested in Decision 14.79. No responses were received by the set deadline.
3. The COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals was able to organize an online meeting of the South American Range States – Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay – on 5 August 2025. The meeting was conducted in Spanish and Portuguese, without interpretation. The sub-regional group completed their national reports. The COP-appointed Councillor prepared a summary and analysis of the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP).
4. This document provides a summary of reports on the implementation of the Action Plan in the South American sub-region. Reports are based on a template that was developed by the Secretariat for that purpose. The format requests information on each of the actions that are included in the Action Plan: activities undertaken, obstacles to implementation, and progress toward implementation. The reports gathered from Range States can be used to inform recommendations for further implementation of the Action Plan.

Key Findings

5. All three Range States reported completing Action 4, *Zero deliberate whale catches in the South Atlantic area*.
6. Every other action was reported as 'work in progress', except for *Increasing awareness about the action plan* (Action 9), for which Brazil indicated no action.
7. The fact that the majority of actions were reported as work in progress indicates that initial steps towards the implementation of the Action Plan have been taken, but the lack of response from the other Range States demonstrates a need for stronger engagement and targeted support to ensure full implementation.
8. Though a limited in number, the high quality of the reports received demonstrates meaningful efforts at implementation, which offers a promising base to continue the implementation of the Action Plan, and safeguard whales in the South Atlantic.

9. The reporting showed a need to increase awareness of the Action Plan by developing and implementing targeted outreach and communication strategies to ensure broader understanding and engagement among all Range States as well as various governmental and external stakeholders.

Table 1: Overview of the progress reported on implementation of of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of the South Atlantic Whales (green = completed; yellow = work in progress; red = no action taken).

Action	Range State		
	Argentina	Brazil	Uruguay
	Progress		
A1: Define and refine whale stock identity	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A2: Determine habitat use patterns and critical areas	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A3: Produce abundance estimates and trends	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A4: Zero deliberate whale catches in the South Atlantic area	Green	Green	Green
A5: Reduce mortality due to entanglements in fishing gear	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A6: Reduce whale-vessel collision rates in breeding grounds	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A7: Coordinate research on whales in the South Atlantic Ocean	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A8: Promote data sharing	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A9: Increase awareness about the Action Plan	Yellow	Red	Yellow
A10: Maintain and improve the quality of existing whale watching activities	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
A11: Contribute to education of the general public about whales and their ecosystems in the South Atlantic area	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

No action
 Work in Progress
 Completed

ANNEX 2

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS FOR THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN

(The full report can be found in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.4.2b](#))

Introduction

The Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) was adopted by CMS Parties in 2024 through [Resolution 14.10](#).

This document provides an overview of the key findings and recommendations from the analysis of the implementation reports received. The full summary and analysis can be accessed as UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.4.2b. The reports are based on a template developed by the Secretariat, as instructed in Decision 14.86. The format requests information on each of the activities included in the SSAP: activities undertaken, any obstacles to implementation, and assessments of the status of implementation. The reports from Range States are then used to inform recommendations for further implementation of the Action Plan.

Of the 21 Range States,² 6 responded to [CMS Notification 2025/005](#) and follow-up emails, which requested Range States to report on the implementation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin SSAP. The findings below apply only to these countries.

Key Findings

Progress in addressing threats

1. Notable progress was reported in identifying bycatch hotspots and engaging relevant stakeholders. Most countries made efforts to improve understanding of fisheries interactions and dolphin bycatch risks.
2. Community focal points were identified and trained in several countries, enabling local monitoring and facilitating knowledge-sharing.
3. Multiple countries reported training government officers, community members and fishers in species identification and bycatch mitigation.
4. Local fishing communities have been engaged in several countries through workshops and participatory efforts, particularly in identifying threats.
5. Efforts were made to sensitize key sectors (e.g. oil and gas, port authorities) to the conservation needs of and regulatory frameworks for Atlantic humpback dolphin.
6. Several states have begun mapping and engaging key stakeholders across sectors, with NGOs playing a pivotal role in facilitating on-the-ground actions and coordination.
7. Some legal progress was noted, including steps towards developing designated protected areas and considering Atlantic humpback dolphin in environmental impact assessments.

² List of Range States (countries who reported in bold): Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, **Equatorial Guinea**, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, **Liberia**, **Mauritania**, **Nigeria**, **Republic of Congo**, Senegal, Sierra-Leone, **Togo**.

Remaining gaps

8. There has been less of a focus on prey depletion and climate change. However, based on the risk matrix contained in the SSAP, these are currently considered lower-priority threats compared to bycatch.
9. Key information on the species is still missing, including abundance estimates, population trends and reproductive data.
10. A major barrier across all Range States to effective implementation of the SSAP remains the lack of adequate funding and enforcement mechanisms.

Recommendations

To strengthen and expand the current momentum in implementing the Action Plan, the following actions are recommended (these recommendations derive from the challenges identified by Range States in their reports, along with any lessons learned or highlighted successes):

1. Scale up actions, many of which are still at an early stage, through targeted investment and continued effort.
2. Continue to map bycatch hotspots, including by using local ecological knowledge and boat surveys, then prioritize conservation interventions accordingly.
3. Use low-resource strategies such as empowering trained community focal points, who can serve as knowledge multipliers and local champions in coastal areas.
4. Continue to train government officials, fisheries officers and enforcement personnel in cetacean conservation, data collection and policy frameworks.
5. Promote community-driven solutions, especially where legal reform is slow or unenforceable.
6. Foster cross-border initiatives and shared learning among Range States, considering the transboundary nature of the species' habitat.
7. Recognize the diversity of coastal communities and ensure measures are tailored to local cultural, economic and ecological contexts.

Table 1: Overview of the progress report for each action on the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) (red = no action; yellow = work in progress; green = complete).

	Range States					
	Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo
Action	Progress					
1.1.1.1	N/A					
1.1.1.2						
1.1.1.3						
1.1.1.4						
1.1.2.1						
1.1.2.2						
1.2.1.1						
1.2.2.2						
1.3.1.1						
1.3.1.2						
1.3.1.3						
1.3.3.4						
1.3.3.5						
2.1.1.1						
2.1.2.1						
2.1.2.2						
2.2.1.1						
2.2.1.2						
2.2.2.1						
2.2.2.2						
3.1.1.1						
3.1.1.2						
3.1.1.3						
3.1.1.4						
3.2.1.1						
3.3.1.1						
3.3.1.2						
3.3.2.1						
3.3.2.2						
4.1.1.1						
4.1.1.2						
4.1.1.3						
4.1.1.4						
4.2.1.1						
4.2.1.2						
4.2.2.1						
4.3.1.1						
4.3.1.2						
4.3.2.1						
4.3.2.2						
4.3.2.3						
4.3.2.4						

	Range States					
	Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo
Action	Progress					
4.4.1.1						
4.4.1.2						
4.4.1.3						
4.4.1.4						
4.4.2.1						
4.4.2.2						
4.4.2.3						
4.4.2.4						
4.4.3.1						
4.4.3.2						
4.4.4.1						
5.1.1.1						
5.1.1.2						
5.1.1.3						
5.1.1.4						
5.1.2.1						
5.1.2.2						
5.1.3.1						
5.1.3.2						
5.1.3.3						
5.2.1.1						
5.2.2.1						
5.2.2.2						
5.2.3.1						
5.2.3.2						
5.2.3.3						
5.2.4.1						
6.1.1.1						
6.1.1.2						
6.1.1.3						
6.1.2.1						
6.2.1.1						
7.1.1.1						
7.1.1.2						
7.2.1.1	N/A	N/A				



No Action



Work in Progress



Complete

ANNEX 3

**DRAFT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ARABIAN SEA HUMPBACK
WHALE**

Due to its length, the draft Conservation Management Plan for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale is presented as a separate file [here](#).

DRAFT DECISIONS

ACTION PLAN FOR CETACEANS IN THE RED SEA REGION

Directed to Parties

15.AA Parties, with support of the Secretariat, are requested to develop an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region and organize a regional workshop.

Directed to the Scientific Council

15.BB The Scientific Council, with support from the Aquatic Mammal Working Group, is requested to provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region.

Directed to the Secretariat

15.CC The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources and at the request of Range States:

- a) organize a workshop of interested Parties, scientists and conservation organizations working in the Red Sea region to identify how best to take forward cetacean conservation there and assist in the development of an Action Plan;
- b) consult with relevant regional and technical bodies such as the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cetacean Specialist Group to seek their support to take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea, and
- c) present the draft Action Plan to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for review before COP16.

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC WHALES

Directed to Parties

- 15.DD Parties are requested to report on progress in implementing the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 *Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region*), including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 15.EE The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:
- a) support Parties in organizing a regional workshop to improve capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 *Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region*); and
 - b) continue to collaborate with the IWC on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales.

SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN (*SOUSA TEUSZII*)

Directed to Parties

- 15.FF Parties that are Range States to the Atlantic humpback dolphin are requested to:
- a) undertake those actions of the SSAP specified for immediate implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing activities, and start implementation of those actions of the SSAP specified to be addressed within five years;
 - b) set up the necessary structures to ensure active collaboration among stakeholders within each Range State to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, for example through the formation of national working groups;
 - c) actively engage with stakeholders in neighbouring *Sousa teuszii* Range States to facilitate knowledge-sharing and effective collaboration, especially where cross-border populations are suspected to occur;
 - d) provide a brief report on their implementation of the SSAP in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before COP16 using a template provided by the Secretariat; and
 - e) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP for their use.

Directed to Parties

15.GG Parties that are not Range States to the Atlantic humpback dolphin are requested to provide technical and capacity-building support to Range States for the implementation of activities outlined in the Action Plan.

Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

15.HH Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support implementation of the SSAP, including through provision of technical support and expertise.

Directed to the Scientific Council

15.II The Scientific Council, where applicable with support from the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, is requested to:

- a) review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP and prepare a brief summary and analysis; and
- b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP16.

Directed to the Secretariat

15.JJ The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to the availability of resources, convene a meeting of Range States regarding implementation of priority actions and to facilitate coordination across the region;
- b) request national implementation reports from Range States and support the Scientific Council and its Aquatic Mammals Working Group in reviewing and analyzing these responses to assess progress in the implementation of the SSAP.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ARABIAN SEA HUMPBACK WHALE

Directed to the Parties

- 15.KK Parties that are IWC members are requested to engage in the IWC process for establishing the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, and support its finalization.
- 15.LL Parties are requested to:
- a) report on progress in implementing the CMP, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting; and
 - b) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the CMP for their use.

Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

- 15.MM Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 15.NN The Standing Committee is requested to adopt the CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, once finalized, in the intersessional period between the 15th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 15.OO The Secretariat shall continue to collaborate with the IWC and other relevant partners, such as the Arabian Sea Whale Network, for the implementation of the CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale.