



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 31.2.6

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONCERTED ACTION FOR  
HUMPBACK WHALES (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) OF THE ARABIAN SEA**

Summary:

The Arabian Sea Whale Network (ASWN) has submitted the attached report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the humpback whales of the Arabian sea (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 12.4 (Rev.COP14).

\*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 HUMPBACK WHALES (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) OF THE ARABIAN SEA

UNEP/CMS/ CONCERTED ACTION 12.4 (Rev.COP14)

### CONCERTED ACTION

Title: Concerted Action for the humpback whales of the Arabian Sea (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

Document number: Concerted Action 12.4 (Rev.COP14)

### 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
- The Arabian Sea Whale Network (ASWN - see <https://arabianseawhalenetwork.org/>)

Since implementation of the Concerted Action was predominantly facilitated by the ASWN, this report was prepared by the ASWN Coordinator.

### TARGET SPECIES/POPULATION

Class: Mammalia  
Order: Cetartiodactyla Infra-Order: Cetacea  
Family: Balaenopteridae  
Genus: Megaptera  
Species: *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Listed in CMS Appendix I and II

### PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

The Concerted Action foresaw several activities within three main areas:

- (1) addressing knowledge gaps;
- (2) information and awareness raising; and
- (3) capacity building and the development and implementation of mitigation strategies.

Despite funding difficulties, these activities all progressed in the period between COP 14 in February 2024, and 2025. Efforts were driven mainly by range country organisations that conducted research and conservation activities. The Arabian Sea Whale Network (ASWN) provided an umbrella framework for the exchange of experience and expertise and for coordinating work towards a regional conservation management plan (CMP).

Funding was obtained to provide support for an ASWN Coordinator and a Communications focal point between June 2023 and July 2025. They were able to (1) maintain the ASWN website and social media communications and (2) host a number of online virtual meetings. Activities and progress are summarized in the report provided to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in April 2024 ([SC/69B/CMP/05Rev1](#)) and the [ASWN newsletter](#) published in August 2025.

## CHANGES TO THE CONCERTED ACTION (IF ANY)

In 2025, emphasis was placed on a series of stakeholder engagements and the drafting of a regional CMP to be implemented under the joint auspices of the CMS and the International Whaling Commission (IWC). A CMP (broadly similar to a CMS Single Species Action Plan) was foreseen as the end-goal of the Concerted Action, as it would provide a government-endorsed framework for cross-boundary collaboration between the broad range of stakeholders required for the effective conservation of this Endangered population. In [May 2025, a workshop](#) was held in Oman which brought together government, industry, and civil society stakeholders from Oman and India, the only two ASHW range states that are also IWC member countries, to discuss in detail the framework of the CMP, the threats facing ASHW across the range and the priority actions to address them. In the months following the workshop, CMS focal points in ASHW range states that are CMS parties, as well as all ASWN members and members of the IWC Scientific and Conservation Committees, reviewed and revised the draft CMP that has been submitted to the CMS COP as [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.4.2/Annex 3](#).

This CMP follows the IWC template and foresees the continuation and expansion of research and monitoring, threat mitigation, awareness-raising and capacity building by range state actors, guided by a Coordinator and a Steering Committee. Reporting will take place through both the CMS and the IWC mechanisms in line with their scientific and member meetings.

### 1. REFERENCES (if any)

Document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.4.2/Annex 3](#) Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale

### 2. ACTION

This Concerted Action can be considered completed if and when the CMP is endorsed by the CMS and the IWC. Following such endorsement, the Concerted Action should thus be closed, and efforts would then focus on implementation of the adopted CMP.