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SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN SSAP

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document contains a summary and analysis of the Implementation Reports for the Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*), in accordance with Decision 14.86.

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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 a summary of reports on the implementation of the SSAP. Reports are based on a template developed by the Secretariat for that purpose, as instructed in Decision 14.86. The format requests information on each of the activities included in the SSAP: activities undertaken, reasons for obstacles to implementation, and assessing the status of implementation. The reports gathered from Range States would then be used to inform recommendations for further implementation of the Action Plan.

Out of 21 Range States,[1] 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 described below apply only to these countries.

In addition to what is contained in the reports summarized below, the Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CCAHD) (a partner organization recognized in the SSAP) and its range-country partners have carried out many activities which contribute significantly to implementation of the SSAP. Details can be found in the CCAHD 2024 Annual Report (available here (English) and here (French)). Activities included surveys, fisheries interviews, international meetings, community outreach visits, bycatch documentation, training for boat-based surveys and strandings, fundraising, and more.

Key Findings

Progress in addressing threats

1. Notable progress was reported in identifying bycatch hotspots and involving 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 *S. teuszii* conservation needs and regulatory frameworks.

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 toward protected area designation, and consideration of *S. teuszii* in Environmental Impact Assessments.

[1] 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. Prey depletion and climate change remain less addressed. However, following 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 shared barrier across range states for 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, coupled with lessons-learnt or successes highlighted by some.

1. Many actions are still in early stages and should be scaled up 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 species' transboundary 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*).

	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						
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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						

	Range States					
	Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo
Action	Progress					
4.3.2.1						
4.3.2.2						
4.3.2.3						
4.3.2.4						
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						
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5.1.3.3						
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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

Detailed Summary of Reports

Threat 1. Fisheries Bycatch

Objective 1.1: Improve knowledge of where *S. teuszii* bycatch is occurring, and what types of fisheries/fishing gear is responsible so that appropriate mitigation measures can be designed and implemented.

1.1.1 S*. teuszii* bycatch hotspots are mapped in order to know where to target mitigation efforts

Action 1.1.1.1 – Conduct Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) surveys in coastal communities in as many S. teuszii *range countries (confirmed and unconfirmed) as possible*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo
N/A					

Five Range States (Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) reported progress regarding this action.

In Nigeria, LEK surveys were carried out across six major coastal states, engaging local fishers and community stakeholders to document bycatch occurrences of *S. teuszii* and help identify potential mitigation hotspots. Liberia conducted a pilot LEK survey in three regions, with documentation of results. In the Republic of Congo, an extensive LEK survey was conducted across coastal communities using a standardized sub-regional protocol. Within the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD), further studies assessed the species' presence and local knowledge. Coastal observers were deployed along the shore to track cetacean presence, while a monitoring system involving artisanal fishers at Pointe-Noire's main fishing port recorded bycatch cases. Acoustic studies are ongoing to identify dolphin species and key habitats. In Togo, preliminary ecological information was collected from three fishing communities during field visits in October 2024.

Action 1.1.1.2 – Catalyse and support the formation of stranding/bycatch reporting networks

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) reported taking steps under this action.

In Nigeria, five coastal states—Lagos, Ondo, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, and Rivers—were identified as *S. teuszii* bycatch hotspots based on survey data, enabling targeted mapping to inform future mitigation. Liberia established connections with relevant stakeholders, with at least one stranding incident formally reported. In the Republic of Congo, an informal information network covers the entire coastline, coordinated by marine turtle monitoring agents. Communication platforms such as WhatsApp groups link ocean stakeholders, while civil society relays information to authorities. Coastal communities within the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD) have been sensitized to report strandings and bycatch incidents.

Action 1.1.1.3 – Conduct training for stranding responders to be able to identify signs of fisheries interactions

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Five Range States (Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) made progress under this action.

In Nigeria, the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) conducted multiple training sessions for stranding responders, focusing on identifying dolphins, particularly the Atlantic humpback dolphin, and recognizing signs of fisheries interactions. In the Republic of Congo, training sessions were held for both marine turtle monitoring teams and fisheries observers from the Departmental Directorate of Fisheries. These covered dolphin species identification and data recording.

Action 1.1.1.4 – Conduct Bycatch Risk Assessments (e.g. Hines et al 2021) in all those locations where sufficient information is available on fishing effort and S. teuszii *distribution*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Five Range States (Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) reported measures under this action. In the Republic of Congo, mapping of permanent fishing nets within the Conkouati-Douli National Park is currently underway.

1.1.2 Fisheries and fishing gears most often involved in *S. teuszii* bycatch are identified and described.

Action 1.1.2.1 – Conduct LEK surveys in coastal communities in as many S. teuszii *range countries (confirmed and unconfirmed) as possible*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Four Range States (Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) took steps toward this action.

In the Republic of Congo, surveys conducted in 11 community fishing sites within the Conkouati-Douli National Park documented the types of nets involved in bycatch, primarily shark nets and surface gillnets. In Togo, basic ecological information on the Atlantic humpback dolphin was gathered from three fisher associations in coastal communities during field visits in October 2024.

Action 1.1.2.2 – Include observations and documentation of active fishing effort in protocols for boat-based surveys

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, and Nigeria) reported progress under this action.

Objective 1.2: Develop and test viable bycatch reduction methods

1.2.1. Viable bycatch reduction methods are tested and available for use in similar fisheries in the *S. teuszii* range.

Action 1.2.1.1 – Identify fishing communities willing to collaborate with research teams to develop and trial reduction methods – could include time-area closures, alternatives to gillnets, etc.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Four Range States (Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) documented progress under this action.

In Nigeria, fishing communities across six major coastal states—Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Bayelsa, and Rivers—were identified and engaged to collaborate on the development and testing of bycatch reduction methods, including alternatives to gillnets and time-area closures. In the Republic of Congo, fishers from Songolo were engaged and sensitized on sustainable fishing practices, bycatch monitoring, and the adoption of alternative methods. Within the Conkouati-Douli National Park, community fishing sites willing to collaborate were identified during outreach missions focused on *S. teuszii* bycatch.

Action 1.2.2.2 – Design and conduct scientifically robust trials to determine whether measures reduce bycatch without negatively impacting target catch

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Republic of Congo) indicated improvements under this action.

In Nigeria, a scientifically robust trial was carried out in Bayelsa State to test the Pelagic Drift Nets Cetacean Exclusion Device, which showed that the device effectively reduced cetacean bycatch without affecting the target fish catch. In the Republic of Congo, a testing protocol for alternative fishing nets—based on successful trials by the NGO GEMARS in Brazil—is being planned with sensitized artisanal fishers.

Objective 1.3: Implement effective bycatch reduction policies

1.3.1. Bycatch-associated gears are no longer used in core areas of *S. teuszii* habitat.

Action 1.3.1.1 – Engage relevant government stakeholders responsible for fisheries and wildlife management to raise awareness of importance of addressing S. teuszii *bycatch and of options for mitigation, including regulatory and policy instruments*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Four Range States (Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) shared progress under this action.

In Nigeria, awareness initiatives involved key government stakeholders explored mitigation options, including alternative fishing gear and regulatory tools. In the Republic of Congo, regulatory texts on fauna, protected areas, and maritime fisheries are under revision with civil society involvement. A National Strategy for State Action at Sea and in Territorial Waters is also being developed.

Action 1.3.1.2 – Engage relevant IGO stakeholders responsible for fisheries and wildlife management (e.g. FAO, RFMOs, IWC, IUCN etc.) to raise awareness of importance of addressing S. teuszii *bycatch and of options for mitigation*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Four Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) documented improvements under this action.

In Nigeria, engagement efforts included intergovernmental organizations such as the CCAHD, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Whaling Commission (IWC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In the Republic of Congo, exchanges took place in 2023 and 2024 with the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Action 1.3.1.3 – Create protected areas and/or implement time area closures to reduce or eliminate bycatch-causing fishing gears in core S. teuszii *habitat*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Five Range States (Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) reported progress under this action.

In the Republic of Congo, three marine protected areas were created in 2023 to preserve marine resources, including a fully protected zone where bycatch-causing fishing gear is prohibited. Togo initiated the process to establish a marine protected area that includes habitats of *S. teuszii*. Equatorial Guinea reported that a new law on protected areas is under development.

Action 1.3.1.4 – Legally mandate and enforce the use of more selective fishing gears that will not cause bycatch in core S. teuszii *habitat*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) reported progress under this action.

In the Republic of Congo, advocacy efforts have been carried out to promote the use of selective gear types, such as Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), with the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MAEP).

Action 1.3.1.5 – Engage the help of NGOs and other local stakeholders to encourage coastal communities to comply with gear regulations

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Four Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) noted progress under this action.

In Nigeria, engagement with NGOs and local stakeholders was initiated to promote compliance among coastal communities. In the Republic of Congo, training sessions were organized in Songolo to educate fishers on sustainable fishing practices and the protection of threatened species. In Togo, the NGO AGBO-ZEGUE has supported the forestry administration in raising awareness among coastal communities about fishing regulations.

Threat 2. Utilization of Meat for Bait, Wild Meat Trade, or Food

Objective 2.1: Reduce the number of unintentionally killed *S. teuszii* and other cetacean carcasses that can be used for any commercial purposes

2.1.1 Bycatch of *S. teuszii* is reduced so that fewer carcasses are available for bait, trade, or food

Action 2.1.1.1 – Bycatch of S. teuszii *is reduced so that fewer carcasses are available for bait, trade, or food*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Mauritania and Nigeria) reported measures under this action.

Surveys in Nigeria revealed that dolphin carcasses, including *S. teuszii*, were frequently used as bait or sold for consumption in coastal communities such as Ngo Town and Finima (Rivers State) and Imbiriki (Bayelsa State). Between 2017 and 2019, 508 dolphins were recorded in Finima and Imbiriki alone. During the project period, a total of 1,084 dolphins were reported.

2.1.2 Other threats are removed from core *S. teuszii* habitats

Action 2.1.2.1 – Create/sustain marine protected areas where all potentially threatening human activity and coastal development are prohibited through e.g. the implementation of strong management plans that directly address threats to the S. teuszii *in a specific protected area*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Togo) noted advancements under this action.

In Nigeria, marine protected areas have been established in five major coastal states—Lagos, Ondo, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, and Rivers—with the aim of reducing human pressures on *S. teuszii* habitats. Togo has initiated the process to create a marine protected area that includes known *S. teuszii* habitats.

Action 2.1.2.2 – Ensure effective Environmental and Social Impact Assessment processes, accompanied by mitigation and monitoring plans, are in place that take S. teuszii *threats and habitat requirements into account*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) communicated progress under this action.

In Nigeria, environmental and social impact assessments have been applied to proposed development projects in critical *S. teuszii* habitats. In the Republic of Congo, the national law on environmental impact assessments is currently under revision.

Objective 2.2: Stop direct hunting of *S. teuszii* in those communities where it occurs or is developing

2.2.1 Coastal communities have knowledge and motivation a to stop hunting

Action 2.2.1.1 – Conduct community workshops to raise awareness of S. teuszii *as an intelligent mammal, protected under law and Critically Endangered. Include relevant government stakeholders who can explain existing legal protections and involve communities in monitoring and enforcement of protections*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) reported developments under this action.

In Nigeria, community workshops were held in key coastal states such as Lagos, Bayelsa, and Rivers to raise awareness about *S. teuszii* as a critically endangered and legally protected species. Government stakeholders participated to explain existing legal frameworks and engage communities in conservation discussions. In the Republic of Congo, awareness missions were carried out in 11 community fishing sites within the Conkouati-Douli National Park to inform fishers about threats to the species and the importance of incorporating conservation measures into local practices.

Action 2.2.1.2 – Create a sense of community stewardship through identifying and training coastal community focal points for sighting and stranding networks – including incentives like phone credit, certificates of recognition, and support for eco-tourism ventures

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Liberia and Nigeria) noted progress under this action.

In Nigeria, focal points were selected and trained from 10 coastal communities within five key states—Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Bayelsa, and Rivers—to monitor and report *S. teuszii* sightings and strandings. The two-week training included incentives such as transport stipends, meals, and T-shirts.

2.2.2 Government agencies responsible for design, implementation and enforcement of legal protections for *S. teuszii* have the knowledge and resources required to work effectively

Action 2.2.2.1 – Ensure that relevant national and regional government agencies have the capacity, equipment and funds to allow them to allocate resources where they are needed for effective planning, design, implementation, and enforcement of protection measures

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) documented progress under this action. In Nigeria, relevant national agencies were engaged in awareness activities.

Action 2.2.2.2 – Support training for local government agents and work with them to design programs for monitoring and enforcement

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Republic of Congo) reported measures under this action.

In Nigeria, training sessions were conducted for selected local government agents in coastal communities across five key *S. teuszii* habitat states. The agents received instruction on basic monitoring and enforcement strategies related to bycatch and strandings. In the Republic of Congo, two biodiversity-focused training sessions were delivered to members of the national navy.

Threat 3. Habitat Loss and Degradation (including underwater noise from shipping and construction)

Objective 3.1: Identify core *S. teuszii* habitats that need to be protected from destruction or degradation

3.1.1 *S. teuszii* habitats are mapped and characterised throughout possible range.

Action 3.1.1.1 – Conduct Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) interviews, fish landing site surveys and use citizen science apps to gather and report knowledge from local communities about the presence/absence of S. teuszii

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Four Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo) took steps toward this action.

In Nigeria, habitat mapping and characterization for *S. teuszii* were undertaken through LEK interviews, bycatch data, and field surveys across 34 fishing communities in five key coastal states. Liberia conducted LEK surveys at fishing landing sites along its coast. In the Republic of Congo, the SIREN mobile app was deployed among fishers, surfers, and offshore platforms to collect cetacean data. In Togo, preliminary ecological information on the Atlantic humpback dolphin was gathered from three fisher associations during field visits in October 2024.

Action 3.1.1.2 – Conduct boat-based surveys to map S. teuszii *distribution, and characteristics of preferred habitat that need to be maintained*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) reported progress under this action.

In Nigeria, boat-based surveys were carried out across six coastal states and 34 fishing communities. In the Republic of Congo, monthly boat surveys were conducted in the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD) during 2024 and 2025. No *S. teuszii* sightings have been reported to date. Alternative survey methods, including drone and aerial overflights, are being considered to enhance monitoring efforts.

Action 3.1.1.3 – Conduct passive acoustic surveys to detect presence/absence of S. teuszii

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, and Republic of Congo) highlighted advancements under this action.

Liberia collaborated with local and international scientists to conduct surveys. In Nigeria, local ecological knowledge and visual surveys helped identify 16 core habitats across 34 fishing communities in five coastal states, informing future monitoring and potential habitat restoration. In the Republic of Congo, Renatura Congo conducted acoustic surveys in areas where *S. teuszii* presence had been observed, outside the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD).

Action 3.1.1.4 – Undertake habitat suitability analysis in areas of known, unknown, and possible former S. teuszii *distribution to identify areas where research should be conducted and/or habitats should be restored*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Liberia and Nigeria) reported progress under this action.

Objective 3.2: Identify and assess the threat severity of ongoing and planned activities/developments that will likely lead to *S. teuszii* habitat loss and degradation

3.2.1 An inventory of coastal projects is available to stakeholders involved in *S. teuszii* conservation and management

Action 3.2.1.1 – Conduct an inventory of coastal development projects and compile them in a database, noting where Environmental and Social Impact Assessments have been conducted

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Three Range States (Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo) reported progress under this action.

Liberia worked with the Monrovia Metropolitan Resilience Coastal Project (MMRCP) and the Sinoe Coastal Project to compile data on coastal development projects. In Togo, two coastal development projects were recorded: the WACA (West Africa Coastal Area) project and the Climate Change Resilience Strengthening Project (R4C) for coastal communities.

Objective 3.3: Halt or mitigate the impacts of human activities likely to lead to *S. teuszii* habitat loss or degradation

3.3.1 Government agencies responsible for assessing and approving new developments take *S. teuszii* habitat requirements and potential impacts into account.

Action 3.3.1.1 – Engage relevant government agencies and industry stakeholders responsible for coastal and marine development activities, especially those who need to meet lenders' requirements for Critical Habitat assessments (under the IFC framework), to raise awareness of the impact these activities can have on S. teuszii

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Togo) documented progress under this action.

In Nigeria, government agencies such as the Federal Ministry of Environment, NIOMR, and NESREA were involved in awareness campaigns on *S. teuszii* critical habitat needs. In Togo, initial engagement began with stakeholders such as the Port Autonome de Lomé and the Lomé Container Terminal.

Action 3.3.1.2 – Draft guidelines on best practice in relation to S. teuszii *needs, to assist those drafting and evaluating Environmental Impact Assessments*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Liberia and Nigeria) noted improvements under this action.

In Nigeria, draft guidelines for integrating *S. teuszii* needs into environmental and social impact assessments were developed through research by NIOMR and the Consortium for the Conservation of Atlantic Humpback Dolphins (CCAHD), alongside stakeholder meetings involving range states.

3.3.2 Core *S. teuszii* habitat is protected from any activities that will lead to loss or degradation.

Action 3.3.2.1 – Designate protected areas where human activities that would lead to habitat loss or degradation are not permitted, for example through the implementation of strong management plans that directly address threats to the S. teuszii *in a specific protected area*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Republic of Congo and Togo) took steps under this action.

In the Republic of Congo, a species management plan for *S. teuszii* within the Conkouati-Douli National Park is being drafted by NGO Noé. Togo has initiated the process to create a marine protected area that includes *S. teuszii* habitats.

Action 3.3.2.2 – Support those responsible for managing protected areas to make sure they have the knowledge and resources to effectively protect Sousa habitat

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was documented for this action.

Threat 4. Data Deficits

Objective 4.1: Improve knowledge of the species' spatial and temporal distribution

4.1.1 *S. teuszii* habitats are mapped and characterised throughout possible range.

Action 4.1.1.1 – Conduct Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) interviews, landing site surveys and use citizen science apps to harvest knowledge from local communities about the presence/absence of S. teuszii

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Republic of Congo and Togo) noted progress under this action.

Action 4.1.1.2 – Conduct boat-based surveys to map S. teuszii *distribution, and characteristics of preferred habitat that need to be maintained*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) reported progress under this action. In the Republic of Congo, monthly boat outings were conducted for the observation of *S. teuszii*, along with bathymetric mapping using sonar within the Conkouati-Douli National Park by NGO Noé.

Action 4.1.1.3 – Conduct passive acoustic surveys to detect presence/absence of S. teuszii

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) reported progress under this action.

Action 4.1.1.4 – Undertake habitat suitability analysis in areas of known, unknown, and possible former S. teuszii *distribution to identify areas where research should be conducted and/or habitats should be restored*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

Objective 4.2: Understand the species' relative or absolute abundance and/or population trends.

4.2.1 Relative abundance data is available for a number of *S. teuszii* habitats to allow identification of hotspots and potential trends over time.

Action 4.2.1.1 – Conduct boat surveys in a manner that allows comparison of survey effort and encounter rates between regions, seasons and/or years

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Republic of Congo) took steps under this action.

In Nigeria, boat-based surveys were conducted in coastal waters across six states where *S. teuszii* has been reported. In the Republic of Congo, boat surveys were carried out within the Conkouati-Douli National Park by NGO Noé, but no *S. teuszii* were observed.

Action 4.2.1.2 – Conduct LEK interview surveys with fishers with a wide age range and breadth of experience to provide perspective on whether populations have increased, decreased, or remained stable over time

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Liberia and Nigeria) reported improvements under this action.

Liberia organized and conducted LEK surveys targeting older fishers in coastal communities. In Nigeria, LEK interviews were carried out with fishers of various ages and experience levels across 34 fishing communities.

4.2.2 Absolute abundance data is available for as many *S. teuszii* populations as possible

Action 4.2.2.1 – Conduct vessel-based surveys that allow photo-identification of individual dolphins and the establishment of photo-identification catalogues for populations so that mark-recapture models can be used to estimate population size

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

Objective 4.3: Better understand issues of site fidelity, population connectivity and movements within and between populations

4.3.1 Individuals in key locations are identified photographically allowing analysis of movements within and between study sites

Action 4.3.1.1 – Conduct vessel-based surveys that allow photo-identification of individual dolphins and the establishment of photo-identification catalogues for populations so they can be recognized over time either within the same study site or between two adjacent (cross-border) study sites

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) indicated progress under this action. In Nigeria, vessel-based surveys were conducted in a limited number of selected coastal zones across six key states, focusing on over 16 core communities identified as critical *S. teuszii* habitats. These include Upenekang, Utaa Ewa, Inua Abasi, and Oron Channel (Akwa Ibom); Oyorokoto, Ikuru Town, Andoni, Ibaka, Inua Abasi, and Okposo 1 (Cross River); Lekki and Badagry West (Lagos); Ayetoro (Ondo State); Ibiaberi (Bayelsa State); and Lighthouse (Rivers State).

Action 4.3.1.2 – Facilitate comparison of photo-identification catalogues between study sites through collaboration and through standardization of catalogue formats

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) indicated progress under this action. In Nigeria, where conditions allowed, photo-identification techniques were used to distinguish individual dolphins based on unique dorsal fin markings and other identifying features.

4.3.2 Genetic samples are available from multiple *S. teuszii* populations allowing analysis of population connectivity and/or 'stock' identity, as well as evaluating genetic diversity to understand populations that might require conservation prioritization due to low diversity.

Action 4.3.2.1 – Catalyse and support the formation of stranding/bycatch reporting networks

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) reported progress under this action. In Nigeria, stranding and bycatch reporting networks were established across all six coastal Nigerian states – Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Lagos, Ondo, and Rivers. In collaboration with local communities, focal persons were identified and trained in 34 fishing communities, including the 16 core communities recognized as critical *S. teuszii* habitats. These individuals were provided with mobile phones, reporting templates, and incentives such as T-shirts, and meals during pilot activities. Awareness campaigns improved recognition and reporting of strandings and bycatch events.

Action 4.3.2.2 – Conduct training for stranding responders to be able to collect and store genetic samples

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

Action 4.3.2.3 – Supply stranding response manuals and stranding response kits to stranding responders

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) reported progress under this action.

Action 4.3.2.4 – Conduct biopsy sampling of live dolphins ONLY in populations where a thorough risk assessment has been conducted to ensure that it would not put dolphins at risk and where trained personnel and appropriate equipment are available (genetic material could eventually be used for individual recognition and identification of sampled individuals at a later date – e.g. if they are stranded).

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) reported progress under this action. In Nigeria, preliminary groundwork has been laid. Ethical protocols and risk assessment frameworks were reviewed with input from cetacean research experts and regional stakeholders. Capacity building efforts have been initiated to train local teams on biopsy techniques and equipment handling, in anticipation of future safe sampling opportunities. In the meantime, genetic sampling from bycaught specimens was carried out in Bayelsa and Rivers (Obienu J, 2019), providing a genetic baseline without direct disturbance to live populations. Notably, a project carried out by Prof. Edem Eniang conducted a necropsy on a stranded dolphin as part of these efforts, contributing valuable biological and genetic data.

Objective 4.4: Better understand issues related to diet, health, physiology and life history parameters in order to better model potential impacts of threats and population trajectories, as well as to prepare for the possibility of managed care if it were ever required to rehabilitate injured animals or as a last resort for populations whose natural habitat is drastically compromised.

4.4.1 *S. teuszii* prey species are identified in order to better understand overlap with fisheries and potential impacts of habitat or climate change

Action 4.4.1.1 – Boat surveys include careful observation of feeding S. teuszii *to photograph and identify prey where possible.*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Action 4.4.1.2 – Stranding responders are trained to collect stomach contents from specimens and to collaborate with fisheries ID experts to identify otoliths and/or squid beaks or other prey remains.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Action 4.4.1.3 – Supply stranding response manuals and stranding response kits to stranding responders.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Action 4.4.1.4 – Conduct biopsy sampling ONLY in populations where a thorough risk assessment has been conducted to ensure that it would not put dolphins at risk, and where trained personnel and appropriate equipment are available, in order to identify prey species from stable isotope analysis.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was shared under these four actions.

4.4.2 Pathology or other threats to *S. teuszii* health are assessed and described

Action 4.4.2.1 – Boat surveys include efforts to obtain high-resolution images that would allow detection of external signs of pathology, non-lethal predation or human-induced scarring.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) noted progress under this action. In Nigeria, health assessments were recorded during all field surveys, and visible injuries linked to net entanglements were documented.

Action 4.4.2.2 – Water sampling is conducted in core S. teuszii *habitats to detect contaminant levels and/or water-borne pathogens.*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) noted progress under this action. In Nigeria, initial water sampling was carried out off the coast of the Niger Delta, with priority sites analysis for Chlorophyl-a heavy metals and microbial presence.

Action 4.4.2.3 – Conduct training for stranding responders to be able to collect and store genetic samples

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

Action 4.4.2.4 – Supply stranding response manuals and stranding response kits to stranding responders.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) noted progress under this action. In Nigeria, stranding response manuals and kits were provided to trained responders in high-risk coastal areas. Field teams documented a stranded Spinner dolphin in Andoni, Rivers State, and conducted a full necropsy, collecting tissue samples and photographic evidence for pathology analysis.

4.4.3 Basic data on life history and reproductive parameters is available

Action 4.4.3.1 – Boat surveys include photo-identification protocols and the establishment of photo-identification catalogues allows individuals to be monitored over time, potentially providing information on when females begin to reproduce and calving intervals

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) indicated progress under this action. In Nigeria, photo identification efforts were initiated during boat-based surveys, and a preliminary catalogue was created with distinct individuals identified.

Action 4.4.3.2 – Necropsies performed on S. teuszii *include collection of teeth to allow aging by growth layer groups, and more advanced examination of reproductive organs to determine sexual maturity and (for females) number of parturitions*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) reported progress under this action. Following a bycatch-related death in the Conkouati-Douli National Park, NGO Noé collected teeth, a skull specimen, and genetic samples, and conducted identification and photographic documentation of the reproductive organs.

4.4.4 Basic data on physiological statistics and responses is available

Action 4.4.4.1 – Opportunistically collect data on vital statistics (respiratory rates, heart rates) from live stranded or entrapped individuals, where collecting such data does not put an individual at further risk

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

Threat 5. Resource and Capacity Deficits

Objective 5.1: Mobilise and create resources to support *S. teuszii* conservation

5.1.1 Funding is available to support the range of activities recommended in this Action Plan

Action 5.1.1.1 – Create a shared platform that can raise awareness of the urgent need for S. teuszii *conservation and raise funds to support research and conservation actions.*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) reported progress under this action. In Nigeria, a shared platform involving the Task Force for Wildlife, CCAHD, UNODC, IWC, and CMS was established to raise awareness about the urgent need for *S. teuszii* conservation. Stakeholder engagement was carried out through digital campaigns, outreach efforts, and direct appeals, successfully mobilising initial funding to support research and conservation activities outlined in the action plan.

Action 5.1.1.2 – Create a platform that can receive and administer funds, ensuring that funding gets to practitioners on the ground in range countries to implement effective research and conservation

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Republic of Congo) noted improvements under this action.

In Nigeria, steps were taken to establish a financial framework that facilitates the smooth transfer of funds to field practitioners. Administrative structures were developed to ensure effective and transparent disbursement of resources across range countries. In the Republic of Congo, two NGOs—Renatura and Noé—joined the Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CCAHD), established in 2020 to coordinate conservation efforts across West African range states.

Action 5.1.1.3 – Support range country NGOs and other range country stakeholders in funding applications.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) reported progress under this action. In Nigeria, NGOs and local stakeholders received technical guidance and letters of support to strengthen their funding proposals for *S. teuszii* conservation. Capacity-building efforts included webinars and one-on-

one sessions focused on proposal writing. These initiatives led to the successful submission of some collaborative applications, enhancing access to funding and reinforcing local ownership of conservation efforts.

Action 5.1.1.4 – Support range countries in designing sustainable funding mechanisms, including, where possible, the use of penalties or fines for infractions of laws protecting S. teuszii *for conservation actions.*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) reported progress under this action. In Nigeria, preliminary consultations were conducted with legal and policy experts to explore the feasibility of incorporating conservation fines into national wildlife legislation. Draft frameworks were proposed to allocate collected fines specifically to *S. teuszii* conservation activities. Awareness-raising efforts targeted enforcement agencies and policymakers, highlighting the potential of fines as a sustainable funding source and laying the foundation for future legal adoption.

5.1.2 Communication and outreach materials area available for a range of different stakeholder groups

Action 5.1.2.1 – Create outreach and communication tools for schools, coastal communities, government and industry stakeholders, and potential funders

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Republic of Congo) indicated progress under this action.

In Nigeria, outreach materials—including posters, flyers, policy briefs, school learning kits, and visual aids—were developed and tailored to different target groups. These resources highlighted the ecological importance of *S. teuszii*, the threats it faces, and needed conservation actions. Materials were expert-reviewed and translated into local languages to enhance community impact. In the Republic of Congo, awareness activities were carried out by NGOs such as Renatura, WCS, Bouée Couronne, and Noé, targeting students, fishers, and the general public. Renatura Congo also developed and distributed an illustrated storybook about the humpback dolphin to support education and outreach.

Action 5.1.2.2 – Disseminate outreach and communication tools through a centralized website, social media, electronic press, documentaries and story-telling, community radio, community workshops, government engagements etc.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Two Range States (Nigeria and Republic of Congo) indicated progress under this action.

In Nigeria, communication tools such as a dedicated conservation webpage and short documentaries were disseminated, complemented by community workshops and stakeholder meetings. These efforts enhanced visibility and increased awareness among local communities, government agencies, and funding bodies. In the Republic of Congo, articles detailing *S. teuszii*-related activities within the PNCD were published on the CCAHD website by NGO Noé.

5.1.3 Resources are available to support research practitioners/data collectors

Action 5.1.3.1 – Create easy-to-follow, illustrated data collection manuals, datasheet and database templates, survey protocols, equipment lists and specifications, smartphone apps (e.g., SIREN4), and other tools to support data collectors

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) shared progress under this action.

Action 5.1.3.2 – Create and distribute stranding kits for stranding responders to facilitate data collection from carcasses

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Action 5.1.3.3 – Create an equipment 'library' where expensive items of equipment, such as good quality cameras for photo-ID, water parameter meters, etc. can be loaned to research groups

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under these actions.

Objective 5.2: Support capacity building for a wide range of stakeholders

5.2.1 International collaboration and networking facilitates sharing of information and resources

Action 5.2.1.1 – Create and/or maintain a regional/international platform to foster information and resource sharing with and between all stakeholders concerned with S. teuszii *conservation*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) reported developments under this action. In the Republic of Congo, civil society and research institutions participated in the CCAHD network. Representatives from Renatura Congo and NGO Noé also took part in the "Street Whale" workshop held in Kribi, Cameroon, in December 2024.

5.2.2 Coastal Communities are empowered and have the knowledge and resources required to participate in *S. teuszii* research and conservation

Action 5.2.2.1 – Conduct community workshops; identify and train coastal community focal points for stranding and reporting networks, promote the use of citizen science smartphone apps, where appropriate, and engage coastal communities in developing and trialling threat/bycatch mitigation methods

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) noted progress under this action. In the Republic of Congo, an informal network of informants in coastal villages was established to report strandings (Renatura Congo). Additionally, monthly monitoring has been implemented by community agents along the 60 km beach of the PNCD, with six individual *S. teuszii* observed in 2024 (NGO Noé).

Action 5.2.2.2 – Support local communities and provide them with the tools necessary to engage in conservation advocacy

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

5.2.3 Range country scientists, NGOs and other data collectors are trained and supported

Action 5.2.3.1 – Identify and support range-country candidates for training and mentoring to develop higher-level research skills, ideally with the framework of working toward higher degrees (MSc/PhD)

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) indicated progress under this action. In the Republic of Congo, additional oceanology training was provided to Master's students during their final internships in 2024 and 2025, including two research projects related to the Atlantic humpback dolphin. This initiative involved IRSEN, Renatura, NGO Noé, WCS, and DDPA.

Action 5.2.3.2 – Identify and support range country academic and research entities that can foster capacity building for range country scientists

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Republic of Congo) indicated progress under this action. In the Republic of Congo, identified institutions include IRSEN and the Marien Ngouabi and Denis Sassou Nguesso Universities.

Action 5.2.3.3 – Organize regional workshops and meetings for training and information exchange

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

5.2.4 Relevant government agencies have the knowledge, tools and resources required to implement effective *S. teuszii* conservation policies

Action 5.2.4.1 – Conduct government stakeholder engagement meetings – both within individual range countries to promote cross-agency collaboration, and, if possible, in regional contexts to promote cross-border/international exchange of experience and knowledge

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) highlighted progress under this action. In Nigeria, targeted stakeholder engagement meetings were held with government agencies from Nigeria, Ghana, and Cameroon, involving fisheries, environment, wildlife, and maritime authorities. These sessions promoted cross-agency collaboration through joint planning and communication platforms. Additionally, participation in international forums like UNODC, CMS, and IWC facilitated cross-border knowledge exchange and alignment of conservation strategies, enhancing awareness, policy coherence, and integration of *S. teuszii* conservation into national biodiversity and fisheries management plans.

Threat 6. Prey Depletion

Objective 6.1: Accurately describe *S. teuszii* prey species and assess their overlap with artisanal/commercial fisheries (either as target fish or bycatch in fisheries)

6.1.1 *S. teuszii* prey species are accurately identified

Action 6.1.1.1 – Boat surveys include careful observation of feeding S. teuszii *to photograph and identify prey where possible (e.g. Weir, 2016).*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) highlighted progress under this action. In Nigeria, boat-based surveys were conducted in known *S. teuszii* habitats along the Nigerian and Cameroonian coasts. During these surveys, researchers documented dolphin sightings and took photographs to aid in individual identification.

Action 6.1.1.2 – Stranding responders are trained to collect stomach contents from specimens and collaborate with fisheries ID experts to identify otoliths and/or squid beaks or other prey remains.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) highlighted progress under this action. In Nigeria, stranding responders were trained through workshops and practical sessions on safely extracting and preserving stomach contents from deceased *S. teuszii* specimens. Collaborations with fisheries experts enabled the identification of prey remains, such as otoliths and squid beaks, offering valuable insights into the species' diet and the potential effects of fishery-related prey depletion.

Action 6.1.1.3 – Supply stranding response manuals and stranding response and sample collection kits to stranding responders.

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) highlighted progress under this action. In Nigeria, stranding response manuals and standardized sampling kits—including preservation materials, necropsy tools, and data collection sheets—were distributed to trained responders in coastal states such as Rivers and Akwa Ibom. This initiative enhanced the consistency and quality of sample collection and contributed to state-level databases on cetacean dietary ecology.

6.1.2 Both target and bycatch products in coastal fisheries are assessed and overlap with *S. teuszii* prey identified.

Action 6.1.2.1 – Conduct Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) interviews and fish landing site inspections to describe composition of catches in S. teuszii *habitat and assess overlap with* S. teuszii *prey species*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under this action.

Objective 6.2: Assess whether overfishing or climate change could lead to significant depletion of key prey species in the short, medium or long term

6.2.1 Key prey species' population/stock trends are modelled

Action 6.2.1.1 – Conduct modelling exercises on known prey species based on available fisheries data

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

One Range State (Nigeria) noted progress under this action. In Nigeria, preliminary surveys were conducted using available catch data from artisanal and industrial fisheries in key *S. teuszii* range states. Time-series analyses of fish landing records assessed trends in abundance of key prey species, particularly small pelagic fishes. Collaboration with fisheries scientists facilitated the integration of catch per unit effort (CPUE) metrics into basic population trend models. Early findings suggest potential declines in prey availability due to overfishing and seasonal changes possibly driven by climate variability.

Threat 7. Climate change

Objective 7.1: Describe *S. teuszii* preferred habitat parameters that are likely to be influenced by climate change (e.g. temperature, salinity, turbidity, pH).

7.1.1 *S. teuszii* preferred habitat parameters are accurately described in as many populations as possible

Action 7.1.1.1 – Boat survey protocols include water sampling of temperature, salinity, turbidity, pH, etc. using multimeters, CTD's etc. and analyses of collected data include habitat modelling (potentially through international collaborations and training workshops to build local capacity for modelling work)

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

Action 7.1.1.2 – Conduct literature searches to determine whether other coastal studies (fisheries, EIAs etc) have described habitat parameters in known S. teuszii *habitats*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo

No progress was reported under these actions.

Objective 7.2: Model the likely impacts of climate change on *S. teuszii* preferred habitats

7.2.1 Projected impacts of climate change on known and predicted *S. teuszii* habitats are modelled.

Action 7.2.1.1 – Conduct a modelling exercise using all available data on precited climate-related changes to S. teuszii *habitat with a focus on the parameters found to be significant predictors of suitability*

Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Mauritania	Nigeria	Republic of Congo	Togo
N/A	N/A				

One Range State (Nigeria) took steps under this action. In Nigeria, a preliminary climate impact modelling exercise was initiated, which identified potential future shifts in suitable habitats for cetaceans, including *S. teuszii*, with some key areas projected to experience declining habitat suitability.