

30th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Bonn, Germany, 1-3 September 2026
Agenda Item 17.4

ACTIVITIES REQUIRING FUNDING

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. In Resolution 10.2 *ASCOBANS Work Plan 2025-2028*, Activity 57 instructs the Secretariat to “prepare for each meeting of the Advisory Committee, and for MOP, an overview of activities requiring funding”. Many activities identified or endorsed by Parties require funding for their completion. The tables in Annex 1 indicate the need for additional voluntary contributions in order to be able to progress the implementation for the Agreement’s work programme.
2. Unfunded activities of the Work Plan or addressing requests of the Advisory Committee and its working groups, that would be feasible to implement in the coming months if funding were available, would require approximately € 115,260 (including UN Programme Support Costs, PSC). These are rough estimates, and Parties are welcome to pledge other sums.

Action requested:

3. The Advisory Committee is requested to:
 - a) provide advice regarding the overall priority of the initiatives in Annex 1;
 - b) consider funding activities included in Annex 1; and
 - c) to guide the Secretariat in its fundraising activities and in case funding becomes available from the core budget through unspent funds.

Annex 1

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Long-term Coordination of the Harbour Porpoise Action Plans	
Thanks to the decision of the Parties to prioritise this initiative, coupled with voluntary contribution in 2025, the coordination of the three harbour porpoise action plans was able to go ahead. Currently the action plans are coordinated by two contractors, as indicated below. The main activities covered are: 1) technical coordination of the implementation of the ASCOBANS harbour porpoise action plans, 2) review of latest available information on harbour porpoises, 3) technical support at relevant working groups and forums. Mandate: Resolution 10.3, Resolution 8.3, Resolution 7.1, Resolution 6.1, TOR (AC23 Report, Annex 7)	
Coordinator for the Jastarnia & Western Baltic Conservation Plan for one year	12,500
Coordinator for the North Sea Plan for one year	12,500
13% UN PSC	3,250
Funding Required	€ 28,250

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
23rd Meeting of the Jastarnia Group and 15th Meeting of the North Sea Group	
In its annual meetings, the two Steering Groups of the respective harbour porpoise action plans will review progress under the action plans, learn about complementary initiatives, and aim to move implementation forward. In 2026, the meetings were planned to take place in person and therefore back-to-back, for cost-efficiency. The four-day event would include a joint session of the Jastarnia and North Sea Groups. However, these plans had to be moved to 2027. Mandate: Resolution 10.2/Rev.1 (WPA1-3), Resolution 10.3, Resolution 8.3, Resolution 7.1, Resolution 6.1	
Expert travel	2,500
Catering and security (if held at the Secretariat premises)	4,000
Report writer	4,500
13% UN PSC	1,430
Funding Required	€ 12,430

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Guidelines for mitigation of explosions and environmentally sound removal of UXO	
The current Work Plan of the Joint Noise Working Group (JN WG) of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS includes a specific mandate from ASCOBANS AC to develop guidelines for mitigation of explosions and environmentally sound removal of UXO from the sea. The work should include a review of what guidance is already available. This requires additional funding to complete, as the JN WG works on a voluntary basis. AC29 noted that the existing guidelines from the UK and forthcoming guidelines from Germany should be considered in the process. Mandate: AC29/D40; Resolution 10.2/Rev.1 (WPA14, WPA20)	
Consultant fee	10,000
13% UN PSC	1,300
Funding Required	€ 11,300

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Workshop with Navies on underwater noise and cetaceans	
As a continuation from the Joint ACCOBAMS-ASCOBANS Workshop with Navies on Underwater Noise and Cetaceans, this workshop would review the progress on implementing recommendations (see workshop report, p.13) and discuss additional topics to be agreed by ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS – for example, AC29 requested that the workshop address Work Plan Activity 15: “Assess whether national navies’ mitigation protocols for use of military sonar are effective.” Mandate: AC29; Resolution 10.2/Rev.1 (WPA15, WPA62)	
Towards any costs of the workshop, as appropriate	10,000
13% UN PSC	1,300
Funding Required	€ 11,300

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Workshop to review conservation units and their delineation for small cetaceans	
The ASCOBANS-HELCOM workshop (2007) defined a cetacean management unit as “a group of individuals for which there are different lines of complementary evidence (e.g. morphometrics, life history parameters, photo-ID, in addition to genetics) suggesting reduced exchange (migration / dispersal) rates over an extended period (low tens of years)”. While it was noted that ideally a quantitative target should be set for management units (e.g. maximum of ten percent migration per generation), for most species we do not have that level of information, nor has the theoretical framework for integration of different evidence bases been fully developed. Such a framework, which would address the power and level of sampling required to detect appropriate units to conserve, could be developed within ASCOBANS. Potentially to be jointly organised with another IGO. Mandate: Resolution 10.2/Rev.1 (WPA11)	
Expert travel	15,000
Catering	3,000
13% UN PSC	2,340
Funding Required	€ 20,340

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
Workshop on Bycatch Evidence Evaluation Protocols (BEEP)	
Following on from the ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS best practice guidelines on cetacean postmortems, a workshop focusing on current ‘<i>bycatch evidence evaluation protocols</i>’ employed by Parties and Range States would enable a fuller review of how bycatch is evaluated in stranded animals both in the field and upon necropsy. Potentially to be organised jointly with another IGO / initiative, or as part of the ECS conference 2027. Mandate: Resolution 10.2/Rev.1 (WPA37, WPA53)	
Expert travel	15,000
Catering	3,000
13% UN PSC	2,340
Funding Required	€ 20,340

Initiative	Estimated costs (EUR)
First Meeting of the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS	
Since its establishment in 2014, the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS has operated via email correspondence and online calls. At CMS COP15 (March 2026), Parties requested the Secretariat to “convene an in-person workshop to assist the JN WG with advancing priority activities of the Work Plan”. This 3-day workshop would be co-organized with CMS and ACCOBAMS. Mandate: CMS Decision 15.47; Resolution 10.2/Rev.1 (WPA13)	
Expert travel, catering, report writer (partial costs)	10,000
13% UN PSC	1,300
Funding Required	€ 11,300