**GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR CETACEANS**

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*(Prepared by the Aquatic Working Group)*

DRAFT DECISIONS

**Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans**

***Directed to Parties***

13.AA Parties are requested to:

1. liaise with the Secretariat regarding the potential for the development of an Action Plan for the cetaceans in the Red Sea region;
2. provide voluntary contributions support the implementation of these Decisions.

***Directed to the Aquatic Mammals Working Group of the Scientific Council***

13.BB The Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

1. review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals not included in the Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans and undertake a revision of the POW leading up to COP14, including a review of the implementation of the POW to date, preparation of a gap analysis and identification of the priorities going forward;
2. based on this assessment of threats and regional priorities, prepare work programmes for these other aquatic mammal species for consideration by the Scientific Council at its 5th or 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee;
3. if applicable, provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region.

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

13.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

1. review the assessments of regional threats and resulting work programmes developed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 14th Meeting;
2. if applicable, review the draft Action Plan for the cetaceans in the Red Sea region and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th Meeting;
3. promote work in collaboration with the IWC to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions to support the implementation of the Action Plan and other conservation measures in the South Atlantic area.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:

1. consult Red Sea Range States to investigate the potential for the development of an Action Plan for the cetaceans in the Red Sea region;
2. organize a workshop of interested Parties, scientists and conservation organizations working in the Red Sea region to identify how to best take forward cetacean conservation there and, if so desired by Parties, to assist in the development of an Action Plan;
3. consult with suitable regional bodies including the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) to seek its support to take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea, as recommended by the abovementioned workshop;
4. liaise with the IWC Secretariat with a view to co-hosting a workshop on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning to review the existing data and research and identify opportunities to expand this work;
5. report on the outcomes of the workshop to the next meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.