



Action Plan for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia



(Annex II to the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia)

GOAL

TO CONSERVE SMALL CETACEANS AND THEIR HABITATS IN THE AFRICAN EASTERN ATLANTIC BASIN AND MACARONESIA BY REDUCING THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON CETACEANS

Introduction

Small cetaceans are defined as all species of toothed whales (*Odontoceti*), with the exception of the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*). They are an important component of the marine biological diversity of the western African and Macaronesian region. Over one third of the world's known species of small cetaceans are found in this region.

The conservation situation of small cetaceans in western Africa is not well known, in contrast to other regions of the world. Scientists have gathered more knowledge about the distribution, ecology and status of cetaceans in such hostile marine environments as the polar seas than about cetaceans in African coastal waters (excluding South Africa and parts of Macaronesia). At the same time, the coastal environment in western Africa and Macaronesia is undergoing rapid changes, with expanding human populations and overexploitation of resources, giving rise to multiple threats to the long-term survival of vulnerable marine life forms, including marine mammals.¹

Small cetaceans around the world have suffered major declines from direct and indirect killing. Dolphins and porpoises may have only one calf every few years, and in some species, a number of adults are non-breeding members of the herd. Unrestricted hunting has the potential to endanger many species, and international controls are needed.²

Small cetaceans are migratory mammals, represent a global natural heritage and are valued as a significant component of the world's biodiversity. Some indigenous people of the African countries of the range even hold them sacred. Therefore, the conservation of these species is a shared responsibility, and knowledge about small cetaceans must be improved. It is incumbent on us to maintain the diversity, range and healthy numbers of these small cetaceans and prevent their decline to endangered status or extinction. This imperative comes, at least in part, from the recognition that these animals play a role in the ecosystem within which they exist, and that this function must be maintained. Intact, healthy ecosystems benefit us all.

This Action Plan seeks to balance the interests of local communities and fishermen and the socio-economic development of the region, with the need to reduce or eliminate threats to cetaceans and their habitats in order to ensure their conservation.

¹ WAF CET-2 Report, 2003. Conservation of cetaceans in The Gambia and Senegal, 1999-2001, and the Status of the Atlantic humpback dolphin in West Africa

² Animal Welfare Institute, available at http://www.endangeredspecieshandbook.org/trade_dolphin.php

Species distribution

The distribution of small cetaceans in the western African region is not well known, but over 30 different species are found, including the endemic Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) and largely isolated populations of long-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus capensis*) and harbour porpoises.^{3 4}

The coastline included covers the African eastern Atlantic, from Morocco in the north to South Africa (hereinafter referred to as western Africa), including Macaronesia. It features a wide variety of habitats, from rocky cliffs, broad sandy beaches and extensive seagrass beds in the north to dense mangrove forests, large deltas and estuaries farther south. Among some of its most striking features are the unique coral reefs of Cape Verde and the powerful coastal upwellings of cold water that characterise the Canary and Benguela Current systems and which support some of the most diverse and economically important fishing zones in the world.⁵

Owing to insufficiency of information and research on small cetaceans in the western African region (although to a much lesser degree in the northern part of Macaronesia), no list of the species in the country coastline where it occurs is yet available.

Species status

Only 11 of the over 30 species of small cetaceans in western Africa and Macaronesia are listed in CMS Appendix II (November 2005)⁶. Good information is available only on the general biology of the following six species: the harbour porpoise, the striped dolphin, the short-beaked common dolphin, the long- and short-finned pilot whales and the killer whale.

In the appendices of CITES (May 2007), only the Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) is listed in Appendix I⁷, all other species are listed in Appendix II.

In the 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 10 species found in the region are categorised as Data Deficient, and the natural history of not a single western African population of small cetacean is known in any detail.

Traditional knowledge and customs

Small cetaceans are important in the cultures, legends, traditions and heritage of many people living in western Africa and Macaronesia. In some traditions, they are viewed as incarnations of humans. According to the mythology of the Ewe people (in Ghana, Benin and Togo), embodied life begins in the ocean. The evolution of intelligence, the expansion of consciousness and the development of finer bodies through the species reached its peak in

³ CMS ScC10, 2001. Annex I (“List of small cetacean species encountered in West African waters”) to the Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans and Manatees of Tropical West Africa counts 24 small cetacean species.

⁴ Species identified for the region are: *Kogia breviceps*, *Kogia sima*, *Ziphius cavirostris*, *Cephalorhynchus heavisidii*, *Sousa teuszii*, *Tursiops truncatus*, *Steno bredanensis*, *Stenella attenuata*, *S. longirostris*, *S. coeruleoalba*, *S. frontalis*, *S. clymene*, *Delphinus delphis*, *D. capensis*, *Lagenodelphis hosei*, *Grampus griseus*, *Peponocephala electra*, *Feresa attenuate*, *Pseudorca crassidens*, *Orcinus orca*, *Globicephala macrorhynchus*, *G. melas*, *Phocoena phocoena*, *Mesoplodon densirostris*, *M. bidens*, *M. europaeus*; and possibly *Mesoplodon spp.* (Culik, B.M. 2004. Review of Small Cetaceans. Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats. Marine Mammal Action Plan/Regional Seas Reports and Studies no. 177; MacLeod, C. D. et al. 2006. Known and inferred distributions of beaked whale species (Cetacea: Ziphiidae). J. Cetacean Res. Manage. 7:271-286). – please add, including references: *Mesoplodon mirus*, *M. layardii*, *M. grayi*, *Lissodelphis peronii*, *Hyperoodon ampullatus*, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*

⁵ WWF – Conservation of Dolphins, available at http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/where/senegal/index.cfm?uProjectID=9F0781

⁶ CMS Appendix II lists migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status or would benefit significantly from international co-operation organised by tailored agreements

⁷ CITES Appendix I list species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants, which are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research. In these exceptional cases, trade may take place provided it is authorised.

the dolphin. Out of the dolphin comes the human being. Therefore, it is taboo for Ewe people to consume dolphin meat.⁸

Some cultures in Ghana associate the whale with some level of divinity. The people occasionally hold ceremonies for beached whales.⁹

In Mauritania, Imraguen tribesmen still maintain their age-old life styles, which are based almost exclusively on harvesting the migratory fish populations from traditional sailing boats. The fishing techniques include a unique symbiotic collaboration with wild dolphins to catch schools of grey mullet.¹⁰

Income-generating opportunities through tourism

There is no up-to-date, area-wide, comprehensive review of the status of tourism activities based on small cetaceans in the western African region does, again with the exception of northern Macaronesia. Studies in several African countries show that the industry has experienced strong annual growth within the last few years. According to the IFAW whale watching report (2001), the continental region with the fastest growing whale watching is Africa, with an average 53.0% annual increase between 1994 and 1998. Whale and dolphin watching is becoming an increasingly important component of tourism in Africa, with an estimated total economic value of almost US\$ 135 billion in 1998.¹¹

Threats

Small cetaceans in the western African region face a number of threats.

By-catch: Only a few catches of small cetaceans have been reported in the literature, but it is assumed that the true extent of fisheries-related mortality in all Range States is substantial. Hardly any fisheries in western Africa are known to have been surveyed for small cetacean by-catch. (Possibly, the findings of fishery observers are simply not being published or otherwise made public).

Limited monitoring of cetaceans landed by artisanal fisheries started in Ghana in about 1998. These fisheries, in which mostly large-mesh drift gillnets are used but also small-scale purse-seines, target several species of tuna and shark and many other species, including small cetaceans. Photographic evidence demonstrates that Clymene dolphins are taken frequently in these fisheries, especially in drift gillnets but possibly also in purse-seines.¹²

The specimens recovered and well-documented steep increases in artisanal fishing indicate that incidental mortality may be the most important threat to some populations of small cetaceans. It is also one of the hardest threats to address, especially in view of the widespread poverty in coastal communities.¹³

⁸ CMS/ScC14/Doc.5 Van Waerebeek, 2007. Conservation Status of the Clymene Dolphin in West Africa; see also Dr. Datey Kumodzei, 2006. Finding a Knowledge Foundation for Africa, in: Inter-generational Forum on Endogenous Governance in West Africa, Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security, Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD

⁹ Sacred Whales and Dolphins, available at <http://www.ancientspiral.com/dolphin1.htm> (07/09/2007)

¹⁰ Mauritanian World Heritage Site Banc d'Arguin: The Imraguen guards of culture and nature, available at: http://www.afrol.com/Countries/Mauritania/backgr_Imraguen.htm (07/09/2007)

¹¹ E. Hoyt, 2001. Whale Watching 2001: Worldwide tourism numbers, expenditures, and expanding socioeconomic benefits. International Fund for Animal Welfare, Yarmouth Port, MA, USA, available at http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw/dfiles/file_106.pdf

¹² CMS/ScC14/Doc.5 Van Waerebeek, 2007. Conservation Status of the Clymene Dolphin in West Africa.

Ofori-Danson, P.K., Van Waerebeek, K. and Debrah, S. 2003. A survey for the conservation of dolphins in Ghanaian coastal waters. *Journal of the Ghana Science Association* 5(2): 45-54.

¹³ CMS/ScC14/Doc.6 Van Waerebeek, 2007. Conservation Status of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin. A Compromised Future?

Direct take: Specific accounts of directed takes are rare, but they are believed to occur with some regularity. People in the fishing communities of Joal, Fadiouth, M'Bour and some others along Senegal's Petite Côte, for example, have long been known to harpoon dolphins; this practice continued until at least 1996.¹⁴ Verbal information gathered in 1968 indicated that harpooning of dolphins was relatively frequent on board fishing boats working in the waters of Senegal, Mauritania and Rio de Oro.¹⁵ More recent surveys in Ghana indicated that unregulated directed catches were on the increase (Ofori-Danson *et al.* 2003). Poverty is often the root cause of targeted hunting. Pressure from rapid human population growth and declining fish catches have turned dolphin and sea turtle meat into 'marine bushmeat' (Clapham and Van Waerebeek 2007), as an alternative.¹⁶

Global environmental change: Climate change is potentially a severe threat to small cetaceans and their habitats in the region due to potential disruption of ocean circulation or changes in the amount and distribution of prey due to such changes as in salinity, temperature and acidity. Current climate change models include a wide range of scenarios.

Another aspect of global environmental change is the establishment of invasive alien species. Presently, little is known about the potential threat to cetaceans in open ocean systems such as the African Eastern Atlantic Basin and Macaronesia. In order to assess current and future effects, research should be undertaken and monitoring designed and conducted to detect any potentially detrimental changes at an early stage.

Tourism and other human interaction: Whale and dolphin watching is an economic opportunity of growing importance for many countries and territories in western Africa and Macaronesia. If managed according to responsible wildlife viewing practices, it should not pose a threat to populations of small cetaceans. If not managed properly, however, this form of tourism could compromise the fitness of individual animals and seriously affect specific localised populations that depend, for example, on sheltered, undisturbed resting locations or on spatially or temporally constrained prey concentrations. Recent studies show that in some circumstances whale and dolphin watching can affect the individuals and populations being watched.

Habitat degradation and trophic interactions with fisheries: All possible forms of coastal development known to occur in western Africa and Macaronesia, with the accompanying disturbance and degradation, could directly or indirectly affect small cetaceans. These include over-exploitation and destruction of mangroves, construction (harbours, residences, refineries, shipyards), aquaculture, oil and gas exploration and extraction, accidental spills of oil and other toxic substances, and increased shipping, tourism and effluents (domestic, agricultural, industrial).¹⁷ Over-fishing of stocks and inadequate management and enforcement, often due to or exacerbated by economic difficulties, are serious, widespread problems in most countries of the African Eastern Atlantic Basin and Macaronesia. For instance, trawl surveys conducted in the Gulf of Guinea since 1977 and other regional stock assessments indicate that the fish biomass in near-shore and offshore waters has declined by at least 50%.¹⁸ Such dramatically reduced prey availability could have significant negative consequences on the average health of a population and its recruitment potential. Further, destruction of the sea-floor habitat and damage to bottom communities could have significant effects on certain prey species of small cetaceans.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ CMS/ScC14/Doc.7 Van Waerebeek, 2007. Conservation Status of the Northwest African Population of the Harbour Porpoise

¹⁶ Clapham, P. and Van Waerebeek, K. 2007. Bushmeat, the sum of the parts. *Molecular Ecology* 16: 2607-2609.

¹⁷ CMS/ScC14/Doc.6 Van Waerebeek, 2007. Conservation Status of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin. A Compromised Future?

¹⁸ CMS/ScC14/Doc.5 Van Waerebeek, 2007. Conservation Status of the Clymene Dolphin in West Africa

Pollution: Little research has been conducted on contamination of small cetaceans in the western African region and Macaronesia with toxic chemicals or heavy metals; therefore, no specific information is available on such threats. Wildlife in coastal areas of many western African countries must nevertheless be considered threatened by pollution from industrial development. Mining activities can result in the transfer of dust or wastewater laden with a variety of trace elements, including heavy metals, which find their way into the marine food web. Small cetaceans, which are upper trophic level predators, will inevitably accumulate contaminants. The effects of these anthropogenic chemicals on the health of small cetaceans are still little understood.¹⁹

Ship strikes, acoustic and seismic disturbance, disease: The effect on populations of small cetaceans in the region of ship strikes and acoustic or seismic disturbance is largely unknown, although this has been considered a small threat. Ship strikes are, however, a concern in areas where there are fast vessels, dense traffic and high concentrations of small cetaceans. The epidemiology of infectious diseases and possible mass mortality, caused for instance by morbillivirus epizootics, have not been evaluated in western Africa and parts of Macaronesia.

Coordination with activities under the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

The MoU and Action Plan for Marine Turtles (MTAP) of western Africa are similar in geographic scope to the Small Cetaceans Action Plan (SCAP). Moreover, sea turtles and small cetaceans within the same habitats share many of the same conservation threats resulting from the same human activities (for example, by-catch in the same fisheries). Where practical, coordinating efforts and activities under the SCAP with similar efforts under the MTAP may improve the efficiency with which resources are used for research, education, policy-making or other conservation activities, to the benefit of taxa in the combined scope of the two MoUs.

Coordination with the Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention)

There are opportunities for synergy with the Abidjan Convention, which covers most of the coastal states included in the Small Cetaceans Action Plan. The Convention addresses threats to the marine and coastal environment that also have a direct or indirect bearing on the habitats of small cetaceans. The cooperative mechanisms under the Abidjan Convention provide a useful framework with which the activities under the SCAP should be linked, where practical. Coordination and collaboration between these two initiatives could improve resource efficiency and result in more effective implementation of conservation activities affecting the species and habitats covered by both instruments.

Note: In the following tables, western Africa is understood to refer to the entire area covered under this Action Plan, i.e. the countries of the Atlantic Coast of Africa from Morocco to South Africa and the islands of Macaronesia.

¹⁹ CMS/ScC14/Doc.7 Van Waerebeek, 2007. Conservation Status of the Northwest African Population of the Harbour Porpoise

Themes and Objectives

Theme	Objectives
1. National, Regional and International Collaboration and Cooperation	1.1: Promote and enhance national, regional and international coordination and collaboration for the conservation of small cetaceans in western Africa.
2. Legislation and Policy	2.1: Promote country-level legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support effective implementation of the SCAP and to supply mechanisms for enforcing the regulations. 2.2: Ensure good governance and involvement of local communities and civil society.
3. Ecosystem and Habitat Protection	3.1: Minimise the ecological impact of fisheries on small cetaceans by using the ecosystem approach to fisheries. 3.2: Identify key critical habitats, hotspots and migratory pathways that are candidates for improved conservation. 3.3: Support the designation and management of national and transboundary marine protected areas.
4. Threat Reduction	By-catch Reduction 4.1: To develop, test and disseminate effective mitigation techniques and gear that reduce by-catch to sustainable levels. 4.2: Where it is legal, limit any direct take to sustainable levels. 4.3: Promote reduction and ultimate elimination of chemical pollution or debris that affect small cetaceans. 4.4: Promote reduction and elimination of acoustic pollution. 4.5: Identify and mitigate any significant impact of tourism on small cetaceans. 4.6: Ensure all littoral developments and activities take into account effects on small cetacean populations and the environment. 4.7: Identify and mitigate other potential threats to small cetaceans, including ship strikes, entanglement in lost fishing gear and diseases. 4.8: Development and implementation of emergency measures for small cetaceans in exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions.
5. Research and Monitoring	5.1: Compile overview of existing knowledge, national species lists, specimen collections, research centres and protected areas.

	<p>5.2: Facilitate coordinated data collection to improve knowledge of abundance, distribution, migration routes, feeding and breeding areas and conservation status of small cetaceans.</p> <p>5.3: Improve understanding of the causes, scope and impacts of by-catch.</p> <p>5.4: Improve information received on stranding events in the western African Region.</p> <p>5.5: Identify significance of and priorities for toxicological and pathological research.</p> <p>5.6: Improve understanding of the effects of global environmental change on small cetaceans.</p> <p>5.7: Improve understanding of un-quantified but potential threats to small cetaceans, including ship strikes, entanglement in lost fishing gear, acoustic or seismic disturbance or disease.</p>
6. Capacity Building	6.1: Increase in-country expertise and capacity.
7. Education and Awareness	<p>7.1: Develop communication strategies, education programmes and protocols for key issues within the Small Cetacean Action Plan.</p> <p>7.2: Increase awareness, sensitivity and understanding of small cetaceans in the western African region.</p> <p>7.3: Promote awareness of the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of small cetaceans.</p>
8. Tourism Based on Small Cetaceans	8.1: Ensure best practice management and maximise educational and economic values of tourism based on small cetaceans in the western African region.

Themes and Priority Actions

Theme 1 – National, Regional and International Collaboration and Cooperation		
Objective 1.1: <i>Promote and enhance national, regional and international coordination and collaboration for the conservation of small cetaceans in western Africa.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Encourage and support western African countries to remove internal cross-sectoral barriers to effectively implement the Small Cetaceans Action Plan (SCAP) at local and national level, fully engaging all sectors of government with responsibility for the environment, fisheries, development and extraction industries.	States	High
Facilitate western African countries' involvement and participation in relevant international meetings and initiatives for the conservation of small cetaceans.	States / UNEP	High
Organise a community of western African scientists, government officials, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties for the exchange of news and other information in the public domain on topics related to small cetaceans in the western African region.	States / NGOs	High
Promote cooperation and highlight achievements and experience gained in small cetacean conservation at regional and international conferences and fora.	States / NGOs	Medium
Ensure that small cetacean conservation needs are integrated into the AMCEN Environment Ministers regional framework.	AMCEN	Medium
Ensure that international bilateral or multilateral fishing access agreements incorporate all relevant aspects of small cetacean conservation and ensure the sustainability of critical fishery resources for western African countries.	States / RFMOs	Very High
Develop links with relevant regional organisations and processes (such as RFMOs, regional MEAs).	States / CMS	High
Develop links with relevant private sector organisations to reduce threats to small cetaceans caused by their activities.	States	High
Develop links with relevant non-governmental organisations.	States / NGOs	Medium
Create a regional network of experts and nominate national focal points for implementation of the SCAP.	States	Medium
Develop links and coordination with activities under the CMS MoU and Action Plan for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa.	States / CMS	High
Improve integration of small cetacean conservation into national, regional and international initiatives, including national - NBSAP, NSDS; regional - RFMOs, NBSAP Working Group.	States	High
Promote the streamlining of conservation efforts through the international framework of the CMS.	CMS / States	Medium

Decide on a coordination mechanism for the SCAP, in collaboration with and supported by CMS and other relevant international institutions and organisations, to ensure its progress and implementation.	States / CMS	Very High
Identify funding sources and establish a mechanism for financial and other contributions from within and outside the region for implementation of this Action Plan.	States / CMS / NGOs	Very High
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Number of national, regional and international organisations, processes and frameworks incorporating the needs of western African small cetaceans.</p> <p>Number of national, regional and international partnerships created to support implementation of SCAP.</p> <p>Number of international fisheries access agreements and regulations for extraction industries specifically taking small cetacean conservation needs into account.</p> <p>Progress in development of and support to a regional CMS agreement.</p>		

Theme 2 – Legislation and Policy		
Objective 2.1: Promote country-level legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support effective implementation of the SCAP and to supply mechanisms for enforcing the regulations.		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Undertake review of existing legislation and policy and disseminate the final report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative inconsistencies and gaps within the Range States; • Country capacity to implement the Action Plan, the regional CMS Cetacean agreement and the CMS; • Country capacity to implement other relevant MEAs, such as CITES and CBD; • Habitat and species protection measures; • Declaration of marine protected areas; • Regulation of distant water and local fleets, including observer programme coverage to document effects of commercial fishing on small cetaceans. 	States	High
Cooperate with fishery authorities to draw up further policies, regulations and legislation for the effective conservation and management of small cetaceans, including measures to mitigate threats such as by-catch and ensure habitat protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate possession, size and use of driftnets; • Prevent fishing gear from being discarded or left adrift at sea or in continental waters; • Require the immediate release of small cetaceans caught alive in commercial fisheries in conditions that assure their survival; 	States / Experts	High

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and maintain statistics for all ports on the landing, local trade and consumption of by-caught or stranded small cetaceans; • Require boat- and port-based fisheries observer schemes to actively seek data on by-caught small cetaceans; • Integrate fishermen in the monitoring system and require them to report cetacean by-catch; • Institute stricter standards for discharges at sea and in continental waters. <p>Include cetaceans in any impact assessment of coastal development plans. Several species use nearshore habitats, and for one (the endangered <i>Sousa teuszii</i>) these are the only habitat.</p> <p>Identify and respond to the legal and policy capacity needs of countries and territories.</p> <p>Harmonise and synergise with the Marine Turtle MoU.</p> <p>Assess the suitability of processes and outcomes used for national capacity self-assessments and other related biodiversity mechanisms (e.g. NBSAPs) to address legal and policy capacity needs for small cetacean conservation.</p>	<p>States / Experts</p> <p>States</p> <p>CMS</p> <p>States / Experts</p>	<p>Very High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Review of regional legislation and management completed and widely disseminated.</p> <p>Harmonisation of country and territory policy and legal instruments.</p> <p>Capacity strengthened to draft, manage and enforce country and territory legislation and policy.</p> <p>Number of NBSAPs or equivalent strategies integrating SCAP actions.</p>		
<p>Objective 2.2: Ensure good governance and involvement of local communities and civil society.</p>		
<p>Actions:</p> <p>Make community involvement in conservation measures and their welfare a priority.</p> <p>Develop livelihood initiatives for vulnerable coastal communities that are compatible with cetacean conservation.</p> <p>Ensure transparent decision-making with accountability and community participation.</p> <p>Allow both national and international NGOs to support implementation of the SCAP.</p>	<p>Lead</p> <p>States / Communities</p> <p>States</p> <p>States</p> <p>NGOs</p>	<p>Priority</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p>
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Good governance at the national and regional level.</p>		

Theme 3 – Ecosystem and Habitat Protection		
Objective 3.1: <i>Minimise the ecological impact of fisheries on small cetaceans by using the ecosystem approach to fisheries.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Convene a workshop on potential intergovernmental approaches to reducing effects of fisheries on small-cetacean populations of the African Eastern Atlantic Basin.	CMS / States	Very High
Promote responsible fishing practices, also taking into account food chain impacts and other fisheries interactions, and enforce existing regulations for sustainable ecosystem management.	States / Local authorities / RFMOs	Very High
Provide alternative livelihoods for fishing communities.	States / Local authorities / NGOs	Very High
Targets/Indicators:		
Workshop conducted and report available.		
Liaison with regional fishery bodies and NGOs.		
Objective 3.2: <i>Identify key critical habitats, hotspots and migratory pathways that are candidates for improved conservation.</i>		
Objective 3.3: <i>Support the designation and management of national and transboundary marine protected areas.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Establish a working group on ecosystem and habitat protection that will identify critical habitats, hotspots and migratory pathways and environmental links (spatial and temporal).	Environment Agencies	Medium
Support the establishment of MPAs/MMAs covering important small cetacean habitats, where possible within the framework of appropriate national or international legal instruments. Priority should be given to support existing initiatives.	Environment Agencies	High
Support these MPAs in developing and implementing management plans and strategies.	Environment Agencies	High
Establish and manage networks of specially protected areas corresponding to the areas that serve as habitats and/or which provide important food resources for small cetaceans.	States / CMS	High
Facilitate the conservation and restoration of critical ecosystem components such as mangroves and estuaries.	Environment Agencies	Very High

Targets/Indicators:

Range States designate national and transboundary small cetacean MPAs.

Management strategies and plans developed, finalised and implemented for existing MPAs.

Working group identifies potential areas for designation and management as specially protected areas.

Theme 4 – Threat Reduction**Objective: By-catch Reduction**

4.1: To develop, test and disseminate effective mitigation techniques and gear that reduce by-catch to sustainable levels.

Actions:	Lead	Priority
Design and implement adequate observer programmes to assess small-cetacean bycatch in relevant fisheries.	Fisheries authorities / Research institutions ²⁰	Very high
Establish by-catch quotas.	Fisheries authorities / Research institutions	Medium
Collaborate with RFMOs and share information on interactions between fisheries and marine mammals, as well as tactics for mitigation.	States	High
Request distant-water fishing nations to ensure sustainable and responsible fishing practices within the waters under the jurisdiction of the Range States and to maintain the health of the ocean and Range States' economies.	States	Very High
Require from commercial fisheries proof of a credible strategy to minimise adverse effects of fishing operations and its stringent implementation.	States	High
Foster partnerships between industry, research institutions, governments and coastal communities to develop and test mitigation techniques and gear to reduce by-catch and unsustainable takes.	States	Medium
Implement available by-catch reduction measures, such as alternative fishing gear and methods, and make use of excluder devices.	Fisheries Authorities	High

Targets/Indicators:

Reports of by-catch become available for technical evaluation.

Acceptance and use of successful by-catch mitigation techniques in the region.

²⁰ "Research institutions" as defined in this Action Plan include universities and other academic institutions.

<p>System of collecting data on by-catch and depredation from fishing operations developed and used.</p> <p>Reduction of by-catch of small cetaceans to sustainable levels.</p>		
<p>Objective 4.2: <i>Where it is legal, limit any direct take to sustainable levels.</i></p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Discourage targeted hunting of small cetaceans, and promote alternatives.	States / NGOs	Very High
Ensure that legal direct take of small cetaceans does not affect the viability of local populations. Enforce existing laws prohibiting or restricting direct take of small cetaceans.	States	Very High
Ensure that any live capture activities in the region do not affect the viability of local populations and comply with international regulations and agreements.	States / CITES / CMS	Very High
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Sustainable principles applied to any direct take, and international regulations and agreements applied to capture activities.</p>		
<p>Objective 4.3: <i>Promote reduction and ultimate elimination of chemical pollution or debris that affect small cetaceans.</i></p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Undertake awareness campaigns and encourage improved waste management and reduction measures at community and national levels, including inland activities, to reduce non-biodegradable waste in the marine environment.	States / NGOs	Medium
Develop and promote the use of guidelines for eliminating the discard of waste for fishing operations.	Fisheries Authorities	Medium
Minimise chemical pollution of the marine environment. Promote best practice in accordance with global standards in relevant industries.	States / Abidjan Convention	High
Collect information on the potential impact of non-biodegradable waste and fishing gear on small cetaceans, including from stranding networks.	Research Institutions / NGOs	Medium
Prepare overview of particularly sensitive areas and map ocean areas according to pollution levels to identify hotspots.	Environment Agencies / Research Institutions	Medium
Ensure appropriate management of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs).	States	High

<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Effects of plastics, other debris and chemical pollution on small cetaceans in the western African Region documented and communicated to relevant bodies and conventions.</p> <p>Guidelines developed for proper waste management at all levels, including fishing boats.</p> <p>Map of pollution levels in the region produced, particularly sensitive areas identified.</p>		
<p>Objective 4.4: <i>Promote reduction and elimination of acoustic pollution.</i></p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Minimise acoustic pollution of the marine environment.	States / IMO	High
Develop and promote the use of guidelines for ship-based operations, extraction industries, military and recreational activities in order to reducing the noise levels in the marine environment.	States / IMO	High
Collect information on the potential impact of noise on small cetaceans.	Research Institutions	High
Prepare overview of particularly sensitive areas and map ocean areas according to acoustic pollution levels to identify hotspots.	Research Institutions	Medium
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Effects of acoustic pollution on small cetaceans in the western African region documented and communicated to relevant bodies and conventions.</p> <p>Guidelines for noise reduction developed and communicated widely.</p> <p>Map of acoustic pollution levels in the region produced, particularly sensitive areas identified.</p>		
<p>Objective 4.5: <i>Identify and mitigate any significant impact of tourism on small cetaceans.</i></p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Assess actual and potential impacts of tourism activities on the animals in e.g.	States / Research Institutions / Companies / NGOs	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whale and dolphin watching; • 'Swim-with' programmes; • Nautical sports; • Vessel interactions. 		
In collaboration with the World Tourism Organisation, design management and mitigation strategies to reduce identified effects. Prevent negative effects of new developments.	WTO / States / NGOs	Medium
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Significant adverse effect of tourism on small cetaceans identified, threat mitigated, lessons learnt promoted and widely shared in the region.</p>		

Monitoring programme for effects of small cetacean watching set up.		
Objective 4.6: <i>Ensure all littoral developments and activities take into account effects on small cetacean populations and the environment.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Consider effects on small cetaceans in national legislative and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes.	States	Medium
Identify particular localised areas and populations and set up appropriate monitoring and mitigation of any significant impacts.	States / Research Institutions / NGOs	Very High
Provide information on potential effects of coastal and offshore development on small cetaceans to decision-makers and the public.	Research Institutions / NGOs	High
Ensure best practice according to global standards in coastal and offshore activities, including those related to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oil and gas exploration and exploitation • other extraction industries to minimise disturbance of small cetaceans.	States / Stakeholders / NGOs	High
Targets/Indicators:		
Consideration of the specific effects on small cetaceans incorporated into national legislation and other processes such as EIAs. Information on potential effects made available.		
Monitoring of identified localised populations initiated.		
Objective 4.7: <i>Identify and mitigate other potential threats to small cetaceans, including ship strikes, entanglement in lost fishing gear and diseases.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Identify potential for significant or localised effects on small cetaceans.	States / Research Institutions	High
Develop management and mitigation strategies to reduce identified effect. Put appropriate legislation in place.	States / NGOs	Medium
Recover and eliminate lost or discarded fishing gear and other marine debris.	States / Stakeholders	High
Targets/Indicators:		
Consideration of the specific impacts on small cetaceans incorporated into national legislation and other processes such as EIAs. Information on potential effects made available.		

<p>Monitoring of identified localised populations initiated.</p> <p>Lost fishing gear located and recovered.</p> <p>Marine debris regularly collected and disposed of.</p> <p>Regulations to minimise the risk of ship strikes in place and enforced.</p> <p>Other possible threats investigated.</p>		
<p>Objective 4.8: <i>Development and implementation of emergency measures for small cetaceans in exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions.</i></p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Prepare, in collaboration with competent bodies, emergency plans to be implemented in case of threats to small cetaceans in western Africa, such as major pollution events, important mortality from by-catch, mass strandings or epizootics.	States / NGOs	High
Evaluate the capacity necessary for rescue or euthanasia operations for wounded or sick aquatic mammals and prepare a code of conduct governing the function of centres or laboratories involved in this work.	States	Medium
Establish trained rescue teams within the framework of existing institutions.	States	High
Collaborate closely with neighbouring countries in the event of an emergency requiring the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more cetacean populations.	States / CMS	High
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Emergency plans prepared and mechanism for cooperation between neighbouring countries established.</p> <p>Capacity for rescue or euthanasia operations established, code of conduct prepared.</p>		

<p>Theme 5 – Research and Monitoring</p> <p>This Action Plan promotes only non-lethal research techniques!</p>		
<p>Objective 5.1: <i>Compile overview of existing knowledge, national species lists, specimen collections, research centres and protected areas.</i></p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Catalogue of specimens held in study collections and museums.	Research institutions	Medium
Create and maintain a directory of agencies, research groups and scientists working on cetaceans.	States / NGOs	Medium
Review protected areas that include habitat for small cetaceans.	Research Institutions	Medium

Review existing scientific literature, updated and validated at international conferences and workshops.	Scientists	Medium
Targets/Indicators: Relevant overviews compiled and maintained.		
Objective 5.2: Facilitate coordinated data collection to improve knowledge of abundance, distribution, migration routes, feeding and breeding areas and conservation status of small cetaceans.		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Identify priority topics and areas.	Experts / States	High
Standardise data collection methods and records and produce manuals on available techniques.	Research institutions / NGOs	High
Identify repositories of cetacean data relevant to the region and their description. Facilitate the establishment of national databases and accessible (website) metadata.	States / NGOs	Medium
Establish a web-accessible regional sighting database, including a catalogue of reference photos.	Research institutions / NGOs	Low
Make full use of opportunistic data collection and platforms of opportunity (e.g. strandings, by-catch, fisheries patrols and observers, aerial surveillance of IUU vessels, ferries, naval and merchant shipping, other marine research programmes).	States	High
Carry out non-lethal research on small cetacean species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop or facilitate a dedicated research programme on dead, stranded, wounded or sick animals to determine the causes and population dynamics of cetaceans (especially mortality and morbidity); Conduct dedicated surveys and genetic studies to estimate the abundance and trends of small cetacean species; Determine the distribution, migration routes and breeding and feeding areas of the species in order to define areas where human activities might have to be regulated; Increased use of remote sensing devices, especially acoustic. 	States / Research Institutions	Very High
Improve species inventories for all western African countries, with priority for those recognised as data deficient.	Research Institutions	Very High
Make available information on local fisheries, including effort, landings and gear type, as collected by national port-based and boat-based fisheries observer schemes, or implement such schemes where they do not exist.	Fisheries Authorities	High

<p>Ensure cooperation between Range States and non-bureaucratic granting of research permits as well as permission for research vessels to move between territorial waters of neighbouring countries to monitor shared populations of small cetaceans.</p>	<p>States</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Provide adequate species identification and related information resources (species guides) for all western African countries, e.g. IFAW and SPC identification kit for observer programme.</p>	<p>NGOs / Research institutions</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Standardised data collection form.</p> <p>Mechanism for reporting and recording of opportunistic data.</p> <p>List of priority topics and areas for research agreed.</p> <p>Species guides developed or adapted and disseminated.</p> <p>Regular contact, e.g. by means of an email discussion group, among scientists and agencies involved in small cetacean conservation and other relevant issues.</p> <p>Non-lethal research on abundance etc. carried out concerning small cetacean species targeted in subsistence hunting and live capture.</p> <p>Relevant cetacean datasets identified, national databases established and metadata accessible.</p> <p>Online regional sighting database established and operational.</p> <p>Knowledge of distribution and species inventories for Range States improved in quality and by addition of further species.</p> <p>Number of cruises to estimate abundance of small cetacean species completed.</p> <p>Species information and ID kit assembled and distributed.</p> <p>Incorporation of small cetacean expertise to conduct sightings and research activities in cruises dedicated to other purposes (e.g. rapid ecological assessments).</p> <p>Increased reporting level for small cetaceans from opportunistic sightings.</p> <p>At least one remote sensing device deployed in the region for at least six months.</p>		
<p>Objective 5.3: <i>Improve understanding of the causes, scope and impacts of by-catch.</i></p>		
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Lead</p>	<p>Priority</p>
<p>Collect and analyse information gathered through both port-based and ship-based fisheries observer programmes, recording and reporting all by-catch of small cetaceans.</p>	<p>States / Fisheries Authorities</p>	<p>Very High</p>
<p>Ensure that independent scientists have access to all available information and are given permission to carry out parallel research to estimate nature and scale of by-catch.</p>	<p>States</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Design a common approach for data collection, storage, processing and distribution.</p>	<p>States / Research Institutions</p>	<p>High</p>

Identify fisheries, gear types and areas with particularly high by-catch levels.	States / Fisheries Authorities	High
Examine information on IUU fisheries to better understand potential impacts of IUU vessel by-catch on marine mammals.	States	High
Initiate analyses to assess population impacts of by-catch, using approaches used in other CMS agreements.	Research Institutions	High
Undertake routine monitoring to collect and disseminate information on the scale of by-catch from fishing operations, to better assess level of priority and possible mitigation measures.	States / NGOs	High
Coordinate efforts under this objective with related efforts conducted under the activities of the MoU and Action Plan for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa and with efforts to study by-catch of other taxa.	States / CMS	High
Targets/Indicators:		
Consistent and regular information on by-catch received from fisheries observers. Information stored, processed and made available for managers and researchers. Activities with high impacts identified.		
Objective 5.4: <i>Improve information received on stranding events in the western African region.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Develop a web-accessible national or regional database on stranding, by-catch and collisions with ships with verification for species identification.	CMS / States	Medium
Collect community records and knowledge on small cetaceans and incorporate into the regional stranding database.	Research Institutions	Medium
Produce a regional stranding booklet or manual with species identification, forms and instructions in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.	NGOs	Medium
Identify appropriate pathological laboratories for processing and storage of tissue samples for genetic work, establish post mortem and ID benchmark and encourage cooperation.	States	High
Provide basic stranding kits (for genetic samples) to Range States.	Research Institutions / NGOs	High
Request that necropsies of stranded small cetaceans include examination for plastic ingestion, accumulation of toxins and viral infections.	States / Research Institutions	Medium

Assist in funding for experts to attend national workshops in regions.	States / NGOs / CMS	Very High
Targets/Indicators: Stranding database and network established and operational. Stranding manual produced in common and local languages and distributed. Tissue archive and protocols for deposition and access established. Kits for genetic sampling distributed and used. Improved information available on stranding events in all western African countries.		
Objective 5.5: Identify significance of and priorities for toxicological and pathological research.		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Investigate need and opportunities for toxicological and pathological research.	States / Research Institutions	High
Identify suitable laboratories for toxicological pathological analysis and facilitate exchange of information.	States / Research Institutions	High
Put expertise and results of research at disposal of the region.	States	High
Targets/Indicators: Regional expertise in and laboratories for toxicological and pathological analysis identified. Areas in the region where toxicological and pathological analysis would be a high priority identified.		
Objective 5.6: Improve understanding of the effects of global environmental change on small cetaceans.		
Actions	Lead	Priority
Facilitate the collation and dissemination of current knowledge on the effects of climate change on small cetaceans and their habitats.	States / NGOs	Medium
Carry out and support standardised, long-term research and monitoring in order to detect any changes in effects of climate change on the marine environment.	Research Institutions / NGOs	Medium
Incorporate climate change considerations into conservation plans, assessments and strategies, and implement, where appropriate, adaptation strategies aiming to increase the resilience of marine ecosystems and species to climate change.	States	High

Facilitate the collation and dissemination of current knowledge on the impacts of invasive alien species (IAS) on small cetaceans and their habitats.	States / NGOs	Medium
Carry out and support research and monitoring to detect any changes in effects of IAS on small cetaceans.	States / Research Institutions	Medium
Targets/Indicators:		
Document or presentation on the effects of climate change on small cetaceans provided to Range States.		
Document or presentation on the effects of IAS on small cetaceans provided to Range States.		
Objective 5.7: Improve understanding of un-quantified but potential threats to small cetaceans, including ship strikes, entanglement in lost fishing gear, acoustic or seismic disturbance or disease.		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Encourage anecdotal and opportunistic recording and documentation of ship strikes, entanglement and disease.	States / NGOs	Very High
Identify significant sources of acoustic pollution that could affect small cetaceans in the region.	States / Research Institutions	High
Investigate scale and effects of competition between fisheries and small cetaceans.	States / Research Institutions	High
Targets/Indicators:		
System in place and operational to collect anecdotal opportunistic data and to be able to respond if one becomes a significant threat at local, national or regional level.		

Theme 6 – Capacity Building		
Objective 6.1: Increase in-country expertise and capacity.		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Identify training needs and support proposal writing to implement the SCAP at the country and regional level, using existing processes such as national capacity self-assessments (NCSA).	States / NGOs	High
Develop training packages on common priorities (e.g. stranding, data recording, legislation, communication) based on regional priorities, and convene workshops based on identified needs.	States / NGOs	High
Support internship training on small cetacean research and management in existing research centres.	NGOs / IGOs	Very High

Build in-country capacity to prepare relevant regulation, legislation and policy.	States / NGOs	High
Conduct local and/or regional training workshops on necropsy including collection and storage of tissues, skeletal remains and analysis.	States / NGOs	High
Conduct training and verification of small cetacean sightings and reporting, and develop database. Enhance capacity for monitoring and evaluation.	States / NGOs	High
Support the acquisition of basic scientific knowledge to include study design, software, data analysis, report writing, public speaking.	States / NGOs	Medium
Conduct specialist regional workshops in abundance estimation techniques (sighting surveys), followed by field training cruise.	States / Research Institutions	High
Develop surveillance and enforcement capacity for implementation of national protection measures including wildlife watching tourism operations.	States / NGOs	Very High
Conduct training and certification programmes for wildlife watching operators and guides, which should be required to attain a whale and dolphin watching permit or license where applicable.	States / NGOs	High
Targets/Indicators:		
Training needs identified and addressed.		
Training packages prepared and made available.		
Number of training workshops held, number of participants.		
Number of successfully completed internships in research centres.		
Increased technical capacity to obtain information and assist in the conservation of small cetaceans in the region.		
Improved capacity to develop and implement policies and legislation.		
Tour operator training and certification programmes are implemented in western African countries.		

Theme 7 – Education and Awareness		
Objective 7.1: <i>Develop communication strategies, education programmes and protocols for key issues within the Small Cetacean Action Plan.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Identify key issues for each Range State and support development of appropriate education strategies and programmes (e.g. known threats, species ID and status).	States / NGOs	High

Develop appropriate educational and awareness tools for different target audiences, ranging from children to decision-makers, at a regional and national level, including producing a template to facilitate production in local dialects.	States / NGOs	High
Transfer capacity to government agencies and community trainers to facilitate stewardship and to develop and deliver outreach programmes.	States / NGOs	High
Make scientific papers available in e-format, without cost, from one or more information centres or electronic libraries	Research Institutions / NGOs	High
Targets/Indicators:		
Community and school education programmes implemented.		
Regionally relevant fact sheets in commonly used languages to inform governments and industry on key issues are produced (e.g. fisheries interactions, cultural practices, regulations, biology and natural history). Made available online and as printed material.		
Training programmes carried out in-country for key government agencies and identified local community stewards.		
Awareness raising events organised, e.g. an annual international cetacean day.		
Objective 7.2: Increase awareness, sensitivity and understanding of small cetaceans in the western African region.		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Use existing community networks and venues to deliver public presentations.	States / Communities / NGOs	High
Ensure community participation and support in all conservation projects and other relevant activities.	States / Communities / NGOs	Very High
Provide materials and information to local and national media (TV and radio stations, plays) to inform public.	NGOs	High
Disseminate educational materials targeted at recreational or private boaters to minimise the number of collisions.	NGOs	High
Integrate the concept of conservation programmes into school curricula.	States	Very High
Make targeted efforts to seek funding and in-kind support for educational and awareness-raising activities and material from private companies and foundations.	States / NGOs / CMS	High
Targets/Indicators:		
Sponsors to support educational activities and production of information material found.		
Education programmes implemented and presentations given in schools, education centres, village halls, museums and during annual festivities.		

<p>Small cetaceans profiled through documentaries, interviews and regular spots in local media. Public sensitised to the needs of small cetaceans. ID guides, fact sheets and guidelines brochures distributed to boaters, marinas, yacht clubs, through government agencies and NGOs.</p>		
<p>Objective 7.3: Promote awareness of the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of small cetaceans.</p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Integrate traditional knowledge, tales, customs and practices into education and awareness-raising activities.	Local Authorities / NGOs	High
Encourage the use of informal or traditional methods of education in villages, e.g. using elders as resource people.	Local Authorities / NGOs	High
Document and incorporate traditional knowledge and other customary practices and values where relevant.	Local Authorities / NGOs	High
Ensure that appropriate cultural knowledge, practices and values underpin management measures.	Local Authorities / NGOs	High
<p>Targets/Indicators:</p> <p>Informal or traditional methods of education used at community level.</p> <p>Traditional knowledge and other customary practices and values documented and incorporated where relevant.</p> <p>Relevant small cetacean traditional knowledge and cultural values used and acknowledged in scientific survey design and execution and formulation of national management policies.</p>		

<p>Theme 8 – Tourism Based on Small Cetaceans</p> <p>To ensure that tourism based on small cetaceans is sustainable and conducted responsibly throughout the western African region.</p>		
<p>Objective 8.1: Ensure best practice management and maximise educational and economic values of tourism based on small cetaceans in the western African region.</p>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Evaluate biological and infrastructure potential for commercial whale and dolphin watching through feasibility studies and establish or facilitate contacts with possible investors.	States / Stakeholders / Experts / NGOs	High
Develop a mechanism to document industry growth (building on western African tourism organisations/IFAW etc. work).	Private Sector / States / NGOs	Medium

Foster communication between key in-country stakeholders, in particular industry and government, to promote understanding and assist in management of the industry.	Stakeholders / NGOs	High
Monitor, document and support western African countries with whale and dolphin watching activities in addressing licensing, regulation and management issues.	Experts / NGOs	High
Ensure socio-economic benefits of whale and dolphin watching reach local communities.	States / Stakeholders	Very High
Develop region-wide whale and dolphin watching guidelines or a code of conduct. Adapt to local circumstances where needed.	States	High
Hold regional whale and dolphin watching workshops to promote best practice management and endorse regional guidelines. Promote low-impact activities, such as land-based cetacean watching.	States / NGOs	Medium
Support collaborative and best practice management of whale and dolphin watching activities involving all stakeholders.	Stakeholders / NGOs	Medium
Develop education kit for on-board operations at regional level.	NGOs	Medium
Develop programmes for small cetacean watching operators to collect useful data.	Research Institutions	High

Targets/Indicators:

Feasibility studies conducted in relevant Range States.

Reporting system available to gather information on growth of the industry.

Regional whale and dolphin watching report updated and disseminated to relevant management bodies, industry, media and community.

Industry, Government and key stakeholders (NGOs, researchers, community groups) meet in-country as required to discuss issues and actions.

Regional guidelines developed, accepted, published and utilised by Range States and industry.

Stakeholders consulted in the development of management measures.

Licensing schemes implemented in Range States where small cetacean-based tourism exists.

Management agencies have on-water presence to monitor and enforce in-country licensing and permitting conditions.

Tour boats in the region operate according to responsible wildlife viewing practices.

Data sheet developed, disseminated to operators and reported annually in line with the coordination mechanism agreed for this Action Plan.

Educational kits developed and disseminated in Range States.

Community outreach programme conducted in-country targeted at local media, villages and community groups.

All actions shall be updated and amended regularly by consensus to reflect progress, new situations and newly initiated activities, and to meet evolving conservation needs.

Acronyms

AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment	IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	MEA	multilateral environmental agreements
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	MMA	marine managed area
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	MPA	marine protected area
EIA	environmental impact assessment	NBSAPs	national biodiversity strategies and action plans
IAS	invasive alien species	NCSA	national capacity self-assessment
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare	NSDS	national sustainable development strategy
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation	RFMO	regional fisheries management organisations
IMO	International Maritime Organisation	SCAP	Small Cetaceans Action Plan
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	WTO	World Tourism Organisation