



**Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans
of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas**
Joint Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



Invitation to the 17th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

Bonn, 14 February 2010

Dear Madam/Sir,

The UNEP/CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat is pleased to announce that the 17th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee will be held at the 'Eden Project' in Cornwall, United Kingdom. The meeting will take place on three full days from 21-23 April 2010. The provisional agenda for the meeting will be circulated shortly.

In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure (attached), all Parties to the Agreement are entitled to appoint one member of the Advisory Committee and such advisers as the Party may deem necessary.

All non-Party Range States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations bordering on the waters concerned by the Agreement may send observers to the meeting.

As at previous meetings, other organizations and international bodies concerned with relevant issues are invited to participate in the 17th ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting as observers. Please note that the Rules of Procedure require that any body or individual qualified in cetacean conservation and management must first request admittance to the plenary sessions of the Advisory Committee (except for HELCOM, IWC, ICES and OSPAR, for which such a request is not needed). This can be done by return email to ascobans@ascobans.org or by sending a completed registration form.

Written applications for observer status should reach the Secretariat by 20 February 2010 and will be circulated to Parties without delay. Parties are requested to inform the Secretariat of their decisions regarding such applications by 22 March 2010. Unless objections are received from more than one third of the Parties (i.e. four objections), the applicant will be admitted as a non-voting observer. The Secretariat will notify all applicants of the final decision promptly.

We would also like to use this opportunity to remind you that Annual National Reports for 2009 are due on 31 March 2010. Please use the new report form adopted at MOP6 in September 2009, which is attached to this invitation.

We would like to ask you to submit papers intended for discussion at the meeting to the Secretariat by 19 March 2010, if at all possible, in order to allow timely circulation for the meeting.

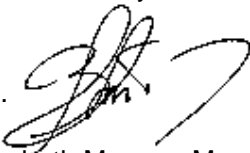
If you were mandated by AC16 to attend any meetings on behalf of ASCOBANS (see list attached), please submit a brief report to the Secretariat by 19 March 2009. We will produce a compilation of these reports for the information of the Advisory Committee. Also, if you know of a meeting in 2010/early 2011 that should be included in the draft Dates of Interest list to be considered by AC17, please notify the Secretariat also by this date.

Please be kind enough to indicate your intention to participate by returning the enclosed registration form to the Secretariat by 20 February 2010. Please don't hesitate to contact the Secretariat at ascobans@ascobans.org if you have any questions.

Information for participants on travel and accommodation options will be made available shortly.

We look forward to seeing you in Cornwall.

Yours sincerely,

p.p. 

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Acting Executive Secretary

Enclosures

- Draft Rules of Procedure
- Annual National Report Format
- Registration Form