

# International Whaling Commission

## Conservation Management Plans

### WORK PLAN 2014-2020

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## INTRODUCTION

- Over-exploitation has severely reduced many populations of the world's great whales, some to near extinction. Although the cessation of large-scale industrial whaling has resulted in a number of populations starting a slow recovery, some remain severely depleted.
- Current and future threats to cetaceans will not be limited to whaling activities. Threats have already emerged relating to global problems such as climate change, marine debris and pollution, habitat destruction, ship strikes and unregulated wildlife tourism. Meeting these future global challenges will require tailored and flexible approaches, with threats likely to be multiple, complex and differing between regions and populations
- The International Whaling Commission (IWC) promotes a wide range of initiatives aimed at improving the conservation status of cetacean populations. Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are an important conservation initiative of the IWC that aim to recover critically endangered whale populations and other cetaceans. Introduced at the 2008 Commission meeting (IWC60), CMPs provide a practical management tool for improving conservation outcomes for the most at risk cetacean populations, and in some cases are the only management tool introduced to the IWC that address all threats facing cetaceans.
- Three CMPs have been endorsed by the IWC to date and are currently being implemented. These include the western North Pacific population of gray whales and two populations of southern right whales along the eastern and western coasts of South America.
- Further Plans are in preparation and the Commission has agreed guidelines, templates and funding principles to assist with the development of CMPs, as well as established a Standing Working Group on CMPs (SWG-CMP).

### ***International framework***

- CMPs are consistent with both the purpose and provisions of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), specifically the desire to provide for the “proper and effective conservation and development of whale stocks”.
- Article V(1) of the ICRW provides that the Commission may adopt measures with respect to the conservation of whale resources.
- Within the IWC, work on CMPs is directed by the SWG-CMP. This work forms part of the wider, on-going programme of the IWC Conservation Committee.
- The SWG-CMP includes membership from the IWC Scientific Committee to facilitate closer links between the two committees on this issue and ensure that policy/management advice is underpinned by the best available science.

### ***Why CMPs are a priority for the IWC***

- Cetaceans are a diverse group, and their conservation management requires an equally diverse strategy. Some species are highly migratory, depending on multiple marine ecosystems, while others have a limited geographic range.

- The historical approach of the IWC toward conservation has been to address the primary historical threats to cetaceans - over-exploitation - through regulation of the whaling industry: establishment of catch quotas, seasonal whaling schedules, technology restrictions, no-take zones and stock specific whaling status.
- However, future threats to cetaceans will not be limited to whaling activities. Threats have already emerged relating to global problems such as climate change, marine debris and pollution, habitat destruction, ship strikes and unregulated wildlife tourism. Meeting these future global challenges will require tailored and flexible approaches, with threats likely to be multiple, complex and differing between regions and populations. CMPs are a unique management tool introduced in to the IWC with the capacity to address the range of threats facing cetaceans.

### ***What is a CMP?***

- ***Conservation strategies*** - CMPs are conservation strategies based on the best available science and management expertise, focussing on practical management of human activities that impact cetaceans. CMPs are management tools that require clear objectives and should be applied when there is a reasonable expectation that they deliver real conservation gains to cetacean populations. Practical objectives that result in measureable gains are essential. CMPs should be considered living documents, subject to regular review and revised as necessary, consistent with the principle of adaptive management.
- ***Collaborative agreements*** - CMPs are non-binding documents, designed to address in a coordinated and collaborative way, transboundary gaps in existing conservation measures at a regional level. They are designed to complement but not replace existing international and domestic measures.
- ***Targeted recovery*** - CMPs can address specific cetacean populations, habitats or threats.
- ***Partnerships*** - CMPs are multilateral in scope. They are developed and implemented by more than one range state, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The active involvement of key stakeholders is essential to a successful CMP. CMPs guide partnerships between the IWC and relevant stakeholders including range state governments, non-government organisations (NGOs) and inter-governmental organisations (IGOs). It is highly recommended that CMP implementation be coordinated through a Steering Committee that consists of suitably qualified candidates and experienced members representing key stakeholder partners to the CMP.
- ***Science and Management*** - The effective conservation of cetaceans requires scientific and management input. An important aspect of CMPs is effective collaboration between the IWC's Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee.

- The Scientific Committee collects and distributes scientific data and assists in the determination of priority species listing, threats to cetaceans and key cetacean habitats. Members of the Scientific Committee are represented on the SWG-CMPs, ensuring the best scientific information is available. Plans should be informed by rigorous science, while at the same time adhering to the principles of the precautionary approach.
- The Conservation Committee provides management and policy advice and reports to the IWC on CMP progress based on advice received from the SWG-CMP and CMP proponents.
- ***Flexible and adaptable*** - CMPs are living documents that are reviewed periodically based on monitoring of the populations concerned, assessment against measurable targets, and compliance with and enforcement of agreed measures, consistent with the principles of adaptive management.

### ***Development of CMPs under the IWC***

- A proposal to develop a CMP is endorsed by the Commission when the underlying science demonstrates that urgent conservation action is needed and that coordinated action is likely to lead to real conservation gains.
- The development of a CMP is a three stage process:
  - Nomination
  - Development
  - Implementation and review
- A CMP nomination can be submitted to the Commission by a Contracting Government or an established body of the Commission, such as the Conservation Committee or Scientific Committee. The SWG-CMP can play an important coordinating and supporting role during the nomination process.
- Nominations are reviewed by the Scientific and Conservation committees prior to being submitted to the Commission for consideration of endorsement.
- The Commission has agreed guidelines, templates and funding principles to assist with the development of CMPs available here: <https://iwc.int/conservation-management-plans-guiding-documents>.
- The implementation of endorsed CMPs is at the discretion of participating range states and relevant stakeholders, and supported by a CMP coordinator, Steering Committee and implementation strategy.
- The IWC's SWG-CMP is responsible for providing advice on the nomination, development and implementation of CMPs endorsed by the Commission; coordinating advice from the Scientific Committee and other parties; and conveying recommendations to the Conservation Committee. The SWG-CMP is also required to evaluate the progress and implementation of CMPs through reports to the IWC (through the Conservation Committee). The terms of reference for the SWG-CMP can be found [here](#).
- A process map outlining the steps involved in developing a CMP is available [here](#).

## ***Funding for CMPs***

- Funding for CMPs is drawn from a range of sources. Proponents of a CMP, including signatory range states, have been the primary sources of funding for the development and implementation of a CMP.
- There is a need for dedicated Commission funds for the progression of CMP related work. The Commission currently has two streams of funding that may be available to assist with the development and implementation of CMPs: voluntary contributions received from Contracting Governments for conservation purposes; and the Scientific Committee Research Fund. The Working Group on Conservation Financing should add the examination of possible funding sources into its work programme.
- Voluntary contributions from Contracting Governments totalling almost GBP250,000 were used to establish an IWC CMP fund in 2009. CMP proponents are able to seek Commission agreement to use these funds to assist with the development and implementation of CMPs.
- Consideration by the Commission on whether to support a CMP, and to what degree, is informed by the capacity of participating range states to pay; conservation priority; the cost effectiveness of agreed actions; and funding availability.
- Information on CMP funding principles and processes are outlined in the CMP Guidelines available here: <https://iwc.int/conservation-management-plans-guiding-documents>.

<b>CMP WORK PLAN 2014-2020</b>
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### ***Scope and Structure***

- This Work Plan sets out the objectives and actions designed to facilitate the development and implementation of CMPs in a manner that is consistent with international best practice.
- This Work Plan is intended to be a living document, subject to active review and readjustment in line with the principles of adaptive management.

### ***Vision***

***To assist the Commission in its conservation mandate by providing a strategy to guide the development and implementation of current and future CMPs to improve conservation outcomes for the most at risk cetacean populations.***

### ***Objectives***

- The aim of this Work Plan is to provide a framework to guide the development and implementation of current and future CMPs.

- A significant focus of this Work Plan is to ensure current and future CMPs are regularly reviewed and evaluated to increase their efficacy and ensure plans are adapted to reflect changing circumstances.
- This Work Plan is intended to provide direction to the efforts of the IWC, the Conservation Committee, the Scientific Committee and the SWG-CMP. Its adoption does not change the responsibilities of Contracting Governments.
- Involvement in the actions of the Work Plan is on a voluntary basis and is intended to complement other national or international legislation, frameworks or plans that support the conservation of cetaceans.

### ***Priorities 2014-2020***

#### **1. Existing CMPs**

- Three CMPs are currently being implemented: for the western North Pacific gray whale, the southwest Atlantic southern right whale and the southeast Pacific southern right whale. A brief description of these plans is outlined below.

#### ***Western North Pacific Gray Whale CMP***

- The western gray whale population is considered critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), numbering only about 130 animals in 2008. Although there is evidence to suggest the population is slowly recovering, it remains on the edge of survival. The IWC Scientific Committee expressed great concern about this population and highlighted the urgent need to reduce anthropogenic mortality to zero.
- The *Western North Pacific Gray Whale CMP* was endorsed by the Commission in 2010 and is being implemented by the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel, working with key stakeholders, range state governments, civil society, industry, the IUCN and the IWC.
- The overall goal of the Plan is to reduce mortality related to anthropogenic activities to zero and maximise the population's chances for recovery, based on the best scientific knowledge.
- Progress to date includes information on migratory trends obtained from satellite tagging and photo identification studies. The information highlighted the need to ensure long-term monitoring to further establish the populations movements and interactions.
- **Priorities 2014-20:**
  - Development of a web-based exchange of scientific information
  - Development of range state specific strategies to increase public awareness and build capacity of states to respond to sightings of whale populations
  - Development of GIS database on the locations of set nets, gill nets and pot/trap gear within the western gray whale range
  - Ensuring long-term monitoring of population abundance and trends through photo-identifications and biopsy sampling

- Reduce entanglement mortality through stakeholder training in whale release methods and notification systems
- The CMP is reviewed annually.
- The [Western North Pacific Gray Whale CMP](#) is available on the IWC website.

### ***Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP***

- Although southern right whales are classified as Least Concern by the IUCN, the species was severely depleted by the whaling industry and illegal hunting in the 1950s -and 1970s, which has delayed the population's recovery. Some south Atlantic southern right whale populations are increasing at around 7 per cent annually. However, the survival and recovery of the southwest Atlantic southern right whale, which was estimated at around 4,000 individuals in 2010, requires prompt and effective conservation action.
- One of the key concerns facing this population is the recent and widespread die-off events of infant southern right whales. An IWC Southern Right Whale workshop held in 2011 highlighted that 91 per cent of southern right whale deaths since 1971 have been first year whale calves. The Workshop noted that identifying the causes of this unusual mortality is key to being able to understand possible long-term effects on the population and to developing effective mitigation and conservation measures.
- The *Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP* was endorsed by the Commission in 2012. The overall objective of the CMP is to protect the habitat of this population, minimising anthropogenic threats to maximise population levels. The plan provides a platform and framework for range states to work collaboratively and cooperatively to monitor population recovery and to address actual and potential threats to the population.
- CMP progress to date includes the appointment of a Coordinator and Steering Committee, research into the population's geographic interaction and capacity building of range states to respond to whale strandings.
- **Priorities 2014-20:**
  - Development of a strategy specific to each range state to increase public awareness of the conservation status of and potential threats to southern right whales and build capacity in range states to respond to entangled or stranded whales
  - Determination of movements, migration routes and location of feeding ground(s) through satellite telemetry
  - Ensuring long-term monitoring of abundance, trends and biological parameters through photo-identification and biopsy sampling
  - Development of a regional entanglement response strategy
  - Establishment of an expert advisory panel to review environmental impact assessments associated with human activities that may affect southern right whales in the region
- The CMP is reviewed annually with comprehensive evaluation every 3-5 years.

- The [Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP](#) can be found on the IWC website.

### ***Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP***

- The eastern south Pacific population of southern right whales is classified as critically endangered by the IUCN and is estimated to number less than 50 mature individuals. The population has not shown the repopulation rates observed in other right whale populations in the southwest Atlantic.
- The *Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP* was endorsed by the Commission in 2012. The Plan aims to guide and encourage the recovery of the population to levels that will allow the species to withstand both environmental and anthropogenic impacts and ensure its long term survival.
- Progress to date of this CMP include the appointment of a Coordinator and Steering Committee, establishment of national working groups, the regulation of the whale watching industry to land-based activities only and strategies to build the capacity of range states to respond to sightings of the population.
- **Priorities 2014-20:**
  - Development of a web-based exchange of scientific information
  - Creation of capacities in coastal communities on species identification and sightings reporting, including the documentation of sightings
  - Ensuring long-term monitoring of distribution, abundance and trends of southern right whales including the identification of breeding grounds
  - Ensuring long-term monitoring of potential threats and effectiveness of mitigation measures
  - Development and implementation of a contingency plan to afford maximum protection to whales when a sighting is recorded
  - Inclusion of conservation considerations and mitigation measures in the Environmental Impact Evaluation and Permitting System for Large-Scale Coastal/Marine Projects
- The [Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP](#) can be found on the IWC website.

## **2. Future CMPs**

- In accordance with an increasing focus on conservation initiatives under the IWC, and as existing plans begin to demonstrate real conservation outcomes for targeted whale populations, conservation management plans are likely to become an important tool for the Commission.
- Development of future CMPs will be dependent upon collaboration and cooperation between the IWC Scientific and Conservation committees. The IWC, as the global premier cetacean institution, houses extensive expertise in both cetacean research and



management. Capitalising on this knowledge base will be crucial to the development of future CMPs - particularly in designating priority species, monitoring population levels and developing effective mitigation measures.

- Engagement with key stakeholders will also be important in the development of future CMPs. The IUCN has already proved to be a valuable partner in the designation of priority species, particularly their cetacean species [red list reporting](#).
- As outlined in the introduction to this Work Plan, CMPs can address specific cetacean populations, threats or habitats. These will be the basis for future plans.

### ***Priority Species***

#### *Arabian Sea humpback whales*

- This population was first suggested as a possible candidate for the development of a CMP in 2010. The population is listed as endangered by the IUCN and is believed to comprise only 82 individuals (based on an assessment conducted in 2008).
- Observations of severe entanglement scarring, coastal infrastructure developments, offshore hydrocarbon exploration, the potential for unregulated whale-watching and the planned commencement of new shipping routes and increased shipping traffic through known habitats are a real cause for concern.
- The IWC's Scientific Committee has noted that humpback whales in the Arabian Sea constitute a small and isolated population that is vulnerable to human activities, and that sufficient data exists to commence a process aimed at developing a CMP. To facilitate this process, an intersessional Working Group was formed in 2011.
- Consistent with advice from the Scientific Committee, research on this population has continued, along with efforts amongst scientists and NGOs to establish a regional initiative to coordinate conservation efforts for the population.

### ***Priority threats***

#### *Marine debris*

- The 2013 IWC marine debris workshops recognised the potential significant impacts that marine debris can have on cetaceans through macrodebris entanglement and ingestion, and through chemical exposures or ingestion of microplastics.
- In considering the report of the marine debris scientific workshop, the Scientific Committee recommended the Commission take prompt action to help better understand and address the growing problem of marine debris, including incorporating consideration of marine debris into CMPs, where appropriate and considering making marine debris the focus of a plan in its own right.

- A second IWC workshop on management action to address the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans will be held in August 2014. This workshop will aim to populate a draft threat-based CMP targeting marine debris and its impacts on priority whale populations.
- The IWC's second Workshop on Mitigation and Management of the Threats posed by Marine Debris to Cetaceans was held in Honolulu from 5-7 August in 2014. Marine debris is a real threat to cetaceans but is a major environmental issue in its own right with important international and national initiatives already underway. The workshop recommended that the IWC's contribution to existing initiatives will be to ensure cetacean-related issues are adequately represented and to contribute IWC scientific and other expertise to collaborative efforts. The workshop agreed that components of a marine debris CMP should include consideration of the development of best management practices for preventing cetacean entanglement in marine debris and the possibility of working with relevant stakeholders on one or more pilot projects to address ghost gear in specific areas. The Workshop also agreed that extensive consultation with relevant intergovernmental organisations should be undertaken by the Working Group, prior to developing a CMP, to consider how this fits best with existing initiatives. The Workshop recommended that the Working Group could consider establishing a marine debris sub-group to progress this work. The Workshop report and recommendations were submitted to the 65th IWC meeting in September 2014.

#### *Noise*

- Anthropogenic Noise, Hearing and vocalisation are extremely important to cetaceans, especially for communication and foraging, although the degree of importance and acoustic ability vary amongst species. Increased human-created or 'anthropogenic' noise, either in acute form (such as seismic surveys or military sonar) or chronically in terms of a general increase in noise in the marine environment (such as from shipping and industrial activities) is an important factor to consider when examining potential threats to cetacean populations. The Scientific Committee has identified a need for coordinated research to address the questions posed by the effects of increasing ocean noise.
- In April 2014 a [two-day expert workshop](#) was held to investigate sound field mapping of chronic and lower intensity noise sources. This technical workshop was jointly sponsored by the IWC, the International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Dutch Ministries of Infrastructure and the Environment, and Defence.
- The aim of the workshop was to evaluate regional and ocean-basin scale underwater sound field mapping and modelling techniques and to increase their accessibility to a wider range of stakeholders. Investigation into anthropogenic noise will inform and assist researchers, governments and industry decision-makers seeking to characterise, monitor and manage the potential impact of chronic or cumulative noise.

#### *Chemical Pollution*

- The Scientific Committee has been examining the issue of chemical pollutants impacts upon cetaceans since the early 1980s. This is a complex issue given the huge number of synthetic chemicals introduced into the environment, the difficulty in establishing whether they have an effect, and quantifying any effects detected. However, as agreed at a specialist workshop in 1995, there were sufficient indications from other taxa of potential

damaging effects on health (such as a susceptibility to disease and poorer reproductive success) to warrant concern for cetaceans.

- A major IWC research programme, 'Pollution 2000+', was initiated to investigate pollutant cause-effect relationships in cetaceans. Pollution 2000+ completed its [first phase](#) in 2007 and work has progressed on its [second phase](#) in late 2013. Continued research on the impact of pollutants upon cetaceans will remain a priority concern when addressing threats to cetacean populations, and subsequent mitigation measures, for future CMPs.

### ***Priority habitats***

- Although there is currently no consideration being given to developing a CMP to address a critical cetacean habitat, this may be the subject of a CMP in the future.

### ***Regional Inventories***

- The Commission agreed in 2011 to undertaking inventories of cetacean conservation measures, such as recovery plans and management plans, currently in place or underway by jurisdiction on a regional basis. This is to enable the identification of management gaps, and opportunities for addressing these gaps, through a collaborative, regional approach.
- In 2012, the first regional inventory, [Cetacean Conservation Measures in the Pacific Islands Region, with a focus on Oceania Humpback Whales](#), was endorsed by the Commission. The inventory provides a preliminary register of cetacean conservation measures in place in the Pacific Islands region. The IWC is continuing to work with the Pacific Islands region to update the inventory to include new management measures that have been agreed since its completion, as well as species-specific conservation measures across the region and a list of stakeholders with an interest in cetacean conservation.
- With the imminent completion of the Pacific inventory, the SWG-CMP has agreed to consider other regional candidates where inventories could be compiled, using the Pacific inventory as a model.
- The Indian and Arctic oceans were considered good candidates for the development of regional inventories. Agreement to the proposed inventories and a timeline for their development will be sought at the Commission's next meeting in 2014.
- Cooperation with regional bodies and organisations, such as Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), will form an essential component in the development of future regional inventories. Stakeholders provide valuable input to the development of regional inventories, including information relating to cetacean conservation measures, the identification of mitigation gaps, and potential partnerships for developments of future CMPs.

### ***Further research 2014-20***

- The Scientific Committee has outlined a list of potential candidates for future CMP's that require further research including:

#### *Blue whales in the northern Indian Ocean*

- There are currently no population estimates for this population, but there have been a number of reported ship strikes of this population off Sri Lanka. This detrimental interaction highlights the necessity for long-term monitoring of this population in Sri Lanka and surrounding waters to ascertain whether this population would benefit from a CMP.
- At IWC64 in 2012, the Scientific Committee noted new quantitative information on ship strikes in Sri Lanka and raised concern about the issue. The IWC Secretariat wrote to the Sri Lankan government in June 2013 offering Scientific Committee assistance to address the issue of ship strikes off the southern coast of Sri Lanka as one of the busiest shipping routes in the world that overlaps with an area of high whale sightings, including blue whales.

#### *Fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea*

- This population is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN and is known to be subject to high levels of ship strikes. The IWC and ACCOBAMS have a joint work plan to address ship strikes in the Mediterranean. Further evaluation is required as to whether a CMP would assist the current work of the IWC, ACCOBAMS and range states.

#### *Sperm whales in the Mediterranean Sea*

- This population is listed as Endangered by the IUCN and is at risk from driftnet entanglement and ship strikes. As with the fin whales in the Mediterranean, further evaluation is required to determine whether this population would benefit from the development of a CMP would assist the current work of the IWC, ACCOBAMS and range states.

#### *North Pacific right whales*

- This population is listed as endangered by the IUCN. The Scientific Committee has noted concern over the small size of this population, and the need for more research to understand its distribution, assess threats and identify actions that could be taken to reduce these. Range states for this population are the same as for the current CMP on western Pacific gray whales and there may be options for integrating north Pacific right whales with this Plan.

#### *Common minke whales in the coastal waters of China, Japan (especially the west coast) and the Republic of Korea*

- Due to the uncertainties in stock structure and high levels of incidental bycatch of this population, consideration was given by the Scientific Committee as to whether this population would benefit from the development of a CMP. However, it was considered premature to put this proposal forward at the time due to these uncertainties and the poor survey coverage in some areas.

### *Small cetaceans*

- Despite the differing views within the Commission concerning the IWC's legal competence over small cetaceans, the IWC does recognise the need for further international cooperation to conserve and rebuild depleted stocks of small cetaceans.
- The IWC has encouraged countries to seek scientific advice on small cetaceans from the IWC and also invited IWC member nations to provide technical or financial assistance to countries with threatened small cetaceans stocks. The IWC has also established a voluntary fund to encourage research projects focussed on small cetacean conservation with an emphasis on capacity building within developing countries.
- A Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea has been adopted by the parties of ASCOBANS. This plan, acknowledging the threats to this population from bycatch and live strandings, agreed to a series of priority actions to aid in the conservation status of this population. Actions include research to fill in existing information gaps, collection of incidental bycatch data and the establishment of bycatch observation plans and management procedures.

#### **4. Strengthening CMP guidelines, governance and communication**

- Continuous improvement of the CMP guidelines, templates, funding principles and overall development process will be a priority during 2014-20 to ensure they reflect best practice, are efficient and user-friendly and offer the best support to potential CMP proponents.
- Provision of further guidance to prospective CMP proponents to assist with the development and implementation of CMPs. This includes guidance on the development of risk assessments, the development of strategies to assist with CMP implementation, monitoring and review processes, and the development of guidelines and templates for reporting CMP implementation progress to the IWC.
- Improving IWC governance to support the development and implementation of current and future CMPs will be another priority going forward. There is scope to streamline IWC governance processes and operating procedures to ensure the IWC is able to provide the best science, conservation management, approval processes and monitoring to support CMPs consistent with international best practice. Improved coordination between the Scientific Committee, Conservation Committee, SWG-CMP, and Commission will be priority.
- A review of the SWG-CMP Terms of Reference is recommended within the 2014-20 timeframe to ensure the working group is effectively operating in light of research and implementation developments.
- Reporting and communicating achievements with CMPs will be a priority for 2014-20 to help promote CMPs as effective frameworks to improve the conservation status of at risk cetacean populations.

## **5. Strengthening funding for CMPs**

- A priority for 2014-20 will be to focus on how funding for CMPs can be sustained into the future and reduce the burden of costs relating to the nomination and development of plans being borne predominantly by range states.
  - The Working Group on Conservation Financing should investigate funding option utilising Commission funds.
  - Other option include encouraging more voluntary contributions from stakeholders and range states, as well as investigating funding from external sources, such as the Global Environment Facility, World Bank, development banks, other multilateral environmental organisations, business and the private sector with an interest in cetacean conservation.
- There will be increasing pressure to use funds from the Commission's CMP fund to assist range states establish coordinators and steering committees to facilitate the implementation of the plans.
- Facilitating external representations to the SWG-CMP and the IWC will also promote good governance for CMPs. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and SPREP hold observer status in the working group and the IUCN works closely in data collection and distribution. Incorporating relevant stakeholders and interested parties in the governance framework of CMPs is important in utilising the best knowledge basis.