United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan
Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas

UNEP

MAP

R A C / S P A

ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

" Adopted in 1991 "

Photo by S. Panigada

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made in

OBJECTIVES

- Protection and conservation of cetacean habitats including feeding, breeding and calving grounds, without however, being restricted to these aspects.
- Protection, conservation and the recovery of cetacean populations in the Mediterranean Sea Area.

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Photo by A. Bouajina

PRIORITIES

- Prohibition of deliberate taking;
- Prevention and elimination of pollution;
- Elimination of incidental catches in fishing gear;
- Prevention of over-exploitation of fishery resources;
- Protection of feeding, breeding and calving grounds;
- Monitoring, research and data collection and dissemination with regard to biology, behaviour, range and habitats of cetaceans;
- Educational activities aimed at the large public and fishermen.

ACTIONS TO ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES

- Support national and regional activities for collecting and evaluating data relating to the conservation status of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea Area;

- Prepare recommendations for the Contracting Parties aimed at the protection and Conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea: Establishment of Guidelines on cetaceans stranding and whale watching activities in collaboration with ACCOBAMS;

- Set up of the Mediterranean Database on Cetacean Strandings *http://medaces.uv.es:* with the support of the spanish gouvernement;

- Coordinate activities with ACCOBAMS as its Sub-Regional Coordination Unit for the Mediterranean and the Contiguous Atlantic areas since it came into force on 2001, through the elaboration of biennium common workplan;

- Assist and/or organise expert meetings on specific topics regarding cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea Area to disseminate and exchange information;

- Contribute to the identification, selection and establishment of marine protected areas for cetaceans.

Photo by ACCOBAMS