

WDCS working towards the global protection of whales and dolphins

WDCS is an international non-governmental organization with resource and expertise in the area of cetacean (whale, dolphin and porpoise) protection. WDCS's varied activities currently span more than 25 different countries around the world, crossing the full spectrum from science and field research to habitat protection models, policy implementation and legal development covering a wide range of whale and dolphin conservation and protection issues.

WDCS is an official partner of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS). We are committed to working with CMS and its Agreements to develop a recognised 'migratory range approach' for cetacean conservation to:

- address the multiple, cumulative and synergistic impacts faced by these species;
- effectively protect habitat critical to their survival, including areas that are regularly used for feeding, breeding and raising young, as well as areas used for socialization and communication; and
- weave a fabric of broader conservation measures across many jurisdictions, coordinating local, regional and international efforts to maximize the marine conservation outcomes for all concerned.

WDCS retains a strong and ongoing commitment to ACCOBAMS, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitat in the Pacific Islands Region - and are committed to working towards the development of agreements in South Asia, South East Asia and West Africa.

WDCS congratulates ACCOBAMS on it's 10th Anniversary. ACCOBAMS is a shining example of a very well developed Agreement providing the framework for effective whale and dolphin conservation. However, to have a real impact to make the Mediterranean and Black Sea a better home for whales and dolphins, lots needs to be done.