

Accord Pelagos
relatif à la création en Méditerranée
d'un Sanctuaire pour les mammifères marins

15^{ème} Comité scientifique et technique
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UPDATE AND HARMONISATION PROCESS OF THE PELAGOS PARTNERSHIP CHARTER

Update and Harmonization Process of the Pelagos Partnership Charter

This document briefly describes the different steps in the process of harmonizing and updating the Pelagos Partnership Charter, recalling the main elements that originated the process and specifying the state of the art of the process to date, as well as the next steps planned.

Process of harmonizing and updating the Pelagos Partnership Charter

The whole process went through the following steps:

1. **ADOPTION**: the Pelagos Partnership Charter was adopted during the 4th Meeting of the Parties in October 2009 and the first accessions began in 2010.
2. **REVIEW MANDATE**: the 8th Meeting of the Parties (December 2021), through Resolution 8.11, instructed the Permanent Secretariat, through the Pelagos Working Group on Governance, to harmonize the procedure for accession, validity, and evaluation of activities under the Pelagos Partnership Charter.
3. **ANALYSIS**: as of March 2023, the Permanent Secretariat, with the support of an external consultant, has been analyzing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Charter over its approximately 12 years of implementation, indicating critical issues:
 - a) very differentiated degrees of performances
 - b) difficulty in measuring actual results
 - c) differences among countries in the renewal procedure, etc.)

and possible solutions:

- a) minimum targets to be achieved
 - b) clearer definition of eligible activities
 - c) more formalized renewal procedure
4. **FIRST DRAFT**: based on this analysis, the Permanent Secretariat submitted a draft version of the Charter to the Pelagos Working Group on Governance, which amended the document defining the major new changes of the Charter:
 - i. for the signatory municipalities: minimum common commitment in communication, specific procedures for whale watching and in case of cetacean stranding, specific recall of the existence of Pelagos Sanctuary within land-use planning/authorizing.
 - ii. for Pelagos: more support through providing communication and technical tools, special efforts to networking tools and events, involvement of signatory Municipalities in projects and Pelagos governance, extension of Charter duration and revision of renewal procedure.

the Working Group also defined the next steps, as: the launch of an online survey – addressed to the signatory Municipalities – about the new proposed changes, and discussion of the survey results during the 2nd International Meeting of the signatory Municipalities of the Pelagos Partnership Charter – Sassari, 22 June 2023.

5. **ONLINE CONSULTATION**: the Permanent Secretariat launched an online consultation (from 24 May to 14 June 2023) addressed to the Charter's member Municipalities to ascertain the level of consensus on the proposed changes/additions and to receive further ideas and proposals; a wide consensus was received from the Charter's member Municipalities about proposed

changes, accompanied by the request of receiving more support, training, coordination and advocacy from the Pelagos Agreement.

6. **II MEETING OF SIGNATORY MUNICIPALITIES**: the issues of consultations were presented at the 2nd International Meeting of the signatory Municipalities of the Pelagos Partnership Charter (Sassari, 22 June 2023) and then integrated with those proposed during the event, by the attending Municipalities, who:
 - a) agreed on the main results of the carried-out evaluation on the first 12 years of Charter implementation.
 - b) shared the need of a fostered communication strategy from both parties (signatory Municipalities and Pelagos Agreement) and of a more detailed Charter's contents.
 - c) asked for a reinforced coordination and networking both at national and cross border level (including the repetition of such a meeting among the signatory Municipalities).
 - d) highly appreciated the support given by existing Protected Areas, to be further capitalized.

7. **NEXT STEPS**: based on the results emerged from the meeting in Sassari, the Permanent Secretariat drew up a final draft of the new version of the Charter - including a set of Rules and an evaluation grid - and forwarded it to the Pelagos Working Group on Governance, before submitting it to the Technical and Scientific Committee at its scheduled meeting on 11-12 September 2023.

8. **FINAL PRESENTATION**: the evaluation at the meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee is the last step before the presentation of the new version of the Pelagos Partnership Charter, including the Rules and Evaluation Grid, at the 9th Meeting of the Parties scheduled for November 2023.