



Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

July 15, 2013

Mr. Cyril Gomez, Directeur
Direction de l'Environnement
3 avenue de Fontvieille, 98000 Monaco
E-mail: environnement@gouv.mc
cc. Marie-Christine Grillo Compulsione, Executive Secretary
E-mail: mcgrillo@accobams.net

Dear Mr. Gomez

We write to you in your capacity as current Chair of the ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area) Bureau. The Society for Conservation Biology Marine Section Policy Committee has recently become aware that Slovenia's almost exclusive source of information regarding marine mammals, the non-Governmental organisation Morigenos, receives no funding from the Slovenian government and is at risk of closure due to financial trouble. Morigenos is the only Slovenian organization with the status of a partner organization to ACCOBAMS and produces information on the occurrence, distribution, health, status and ecology of cetaceans in Slovenian waters, as well as the wider Mediterranean Sea. Their closure would effectively end the supply of information from Slovenian waters into ACCOBAMS and prevent Slovenia from meeting their responsibilities under the ACCOBAMS agreement. Specifically, we refer to the mandates for Parties to conduct research and monitoring, as well as capacity building, collection and dissemination of information, training and education. However, we further believe such information is also crucial to meeting the wider requirement for Parties to take co-ordinated measures to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for cetaceans. While we acknowledge the current economic situation, we believe that this outcome threatens the implementation and promotion of the Agreement in Slovenia and should be avoided. We thus write to ask that the Bureau work with the Permanent Secretariat, in line with the goals and functions ascribed to these two bodies, to prevent this eventuality.

Please feel free to contact the Society if we can be of any further assistance with this matter, or any others pertaining to the conservation of living natural resources.

Best regards,
E. Christian Parsons
President, Marine Section
Society for Conservation Biology