

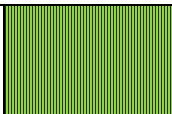

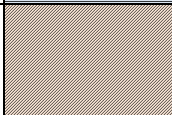
OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT
REGARDING THE REPORTING RECEIVED FROM MEXICO AND
PROGRESS MADE BY MEXICO WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF
ITS COMPLIANCE ACTION PLAN ON TOTOABA

The compliance action plan (CAP) of Mexico comprises seven strategic lines of action to be implemented:

- *Monitoring effective compliance with regard to authorized departure and landing sites, in accordance with the regulatory agreement*
- *Preventing the entry of vessels to the Zero Tolerance Area (Zo) and keeping it free of gillnets together with the Refuge Area for the Protection of the Vaquita (VRA)*
- *Strengthening intelligence actions to combat transnational organized crime involved in illegal trade of totoaba*
- *Implementing a programme for alternative fishing gear and the marking and fishing equipment programme for minor vessels*
- *Monitoring the vaquita population*
- *Raising awareness of illegal trade in totoaba and its consequences for conservation*
- *Operationalizing the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group.*

The present Annex contains the observations and conclusions of the Secretariat regarding reporting received from Mexico on progress with implementation of its CAP, to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78, Geneva, February 2025).

The Secretariat uses colour coding to reflect the achievement status of the targets and associated milestones in Mexico's CAP as assessed by the Secretariat. The table below explains the colour coding used. Those targets with associated milestones which the Secretariat considers have been achieved are coded in green (vertical lines), those not yet achieved but where activities have progressed are coded in light blue (horizontal lines), and those for which activities have not yet progressed to achieve them are coded in light orange (diagonal lines):

Targets with associated milestones that have been achieved.	
Targets with associated milestones not yet achieved but where activities have progressed.	
Targets with associated milestones for which activities have not yet progressed to achieve them.	

The recommendations of the Secretariat prepared for consideration by the Committee can be found in paragraph 35 of document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 on Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), prepared for the present meeting.

Line of action 1: Monitor effective compliance with regard to authorized departure and landing sites, in accordance with the regulatory agreement.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>1.1 Verify all vessels departing from and arriving in authorized sites to conduct fishing activities.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): An additional inspection and verification point to those already defined has been established in the boardwalk or <i>Malecón</i> of San Felipe.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that the additional inspection point has been established and that this activity is completed.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concluded that M1 was achieved within the timeline stated in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided, concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.1.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The monthly report of verified vessels and corresponding penalties in all the inspection points, including the additional point of the <i>Malecón de San Felipe</i>, has been produced.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77 stated that M2 has been achieved and included in the Annex to its report the July 2023 monthly report. Mexico reported that a total of 1,631 vessel inspections were conducted at authorized sites in the period from 18 April to 15 July 2023.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 it is noted that during the mission of the Secretariat to Mexico, the Party reported a total of 3551 vessel inspections at authorized sites in the period from April 2023 to February 2024.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that monthly reports continue to be generated, and that as of 30 September 2024, a total of 5,191 vessel inspections were conducted at authorized sites. It is further reported that 29 administrative processes were initiated for irregularities detected, resulting in fines amounting to \$425,437 Mexican pesos (approximately USD 20 000) in 2023 and \$1,068,936 (approximately USD 51 000) in 2024, as well as the seizure of assets associated with illegal activities, including 44 gillnets that total more than 11,200 meters in length.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concluded that M2 was achieved within the timeline stated in the CAP. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the continued preparation of these monthly reports and believes that they serve as a valuable monitoring tool. Mexico is encouraged to continue ensuring that inspection and verification of all vessels are done daily, and that appropriate action is taken when irregularities are detected.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that inspection and verification of all vessels departing from and arriving at authorized sites in accordance with target 1.1, as well as producing monthly reports in accordance with M2 of target 1.1, are regularly occurring activities that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
1.2 Determine the functionality of departure and landing sites in the UGC.	Milestone 1 (M1): A diagnosis of the departure and landing sites has been made.	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that the functionality analyses regarding departure and landing sites were completed. Mexico elaborated on activities conducted and presented the findings of the analyses. The same findings are presented in Mexico's report to the present meeting.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat welcomed that the process was implemented considering insights from the fishing sector, in addition to information from desk-based research and operational sources. The Secretariat noted that the functionality analyses delivered important results, based upon which the most active landing sites that must be maintained were identified, as well as some redundant sites not viable to further use. In addition, the need to establish additional sites was identified. The Secretariat concluded that M1 was achieved and welcomed the swift and full achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.2.</p>
	Milestone 2 (M2): The proposal for the modification of departure and landing sites has been made.	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico noted that the outcomes of the diagnosis conducted in accordance with M1 of target 1.2, will be jointly analysed with the fishing sector and local authorities from Baja California and Sonora. Mexico stated that the goal was to modify the 2020 Regulatory Agreement ("the Agreement") to establish authorized departure and landing sites in accordance with the diagnosis outcomes and findings.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that the diagnosis outcomes have been analysed by relevant authorities and fishing sector representatives during several meetings and work sessions that commenced in August 2023, with the most recent taking place on 22 August 2024.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 has not yet been achieved.</p> <p>The deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M2 of target 1.2 was 15 May 2023. Although progress has been made, it is imperative that amendment of "the Agreement" be finalized as a matter of priority and that full implementation of the amended Agreement commence.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
		<p>highlights that various concerns and challenges regarding the implementation of some aspects of “the Agreement” in its current form were raised during its mission to Mexico. These go beyond the matter of amending “the Agreement” to update it regarding authorized departure and landing sites. This is addressed in the recommendations from the mission as outlined in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1.</p> <p>The Secretariat in its report to SC77, concluded that M2 will only be fully achieved once “the Agreement” has been amended and the amended Agreement is being implemented.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico provide no information on the timeline envisaged to finalize the process of amending “the Agreement”. Considering that “the Agreement” is the primary instrument used to regulate the activities of fishers in the Upper Gulf of California (UGC) and determine the roles and mandates of authorities in charge of combating illegal fishing and totoaba trafficking, it is essential that the aspects identified as impractical and unenforceable be addressed as a matter of priority. The Secretariat notes that unless these aspects are addressed, including through consultations with stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and buy-in, and more suitable alternatives implemented, it is likely that implementation of “the Agreement” will not be achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat continues to conclude that that M2 will only be fully achieved once “the Agreement” has been amended and the amended Agreement is being implemented.</p>		
<p>1.3 Install a long-range video surveillance system in strategic sites.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The project to install a long-range video surveillance system in strategic sites has been prepared.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that based on the work of a commission that was formed, it was agreed to establish a Long-Range Video Surveillance System (SIVILA). It was further reported that three strategic points for surveillance were identified. Mexico also reported that a project proposal was developed and that the project funding request was submitted as per M2 below. Mexico states that M1 has been achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat in its reporting to SC77 concurred with Mexico, and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.3.</p>	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The necessary resources for the installation of a long-range video surveillance system in strategic sites have been secured.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77 stated that 29 million pesos have been requested from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, to implement the SIVILA project.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico confirms that the required funding to implement the SIVILA project was secured.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the achievement of this milestone.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 1.3.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): The long-range video surveillance system has been installed in strategic sites.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to the present meeting, confirms that the SIVILA system is now in place and operational. Mexico also reports that the system is being further upgraded through the installation of cameras that were already acquired and with an even further reach than the ones used at the time of the mission.</p> <p>The Secretariat also elaborate on this in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, noting that a live demonstration of the system was provided to the Secretariat during its mission to Mexico.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone within the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 1.3.</p>
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): The system is consolidated as a source of information and intelligence for competent authorities.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to the present meeting, states that the SIVILA system already provides information for operational and strategic purposes and that the upgraded system with greater range will further strengthen and enhance this information.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 the Secretariat highlights that it should be noted that the SIVILA system is not used in isolation but is complemented by several other systems that were demonstrated to the Secretariat during its mission. The Secretariat elaborates on this in the document, noting that the systems put in place by Mexico are increasingly sophisticated and highly likely to improve and further strengthen effectiveness of activities to prevent and detect illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone within the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M4 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that using the SIVILA and other complimentary systems as sources of information and intelligence for authorities in accordance with M4 of target 1.3 are regularly occurring activities that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
<p>1.4 Implement an awareness raising programme for the fishing sector to change its behaviour and deter illegal fishing, use of illegal nets and their manufacture, trade and transport; and change negative perceptions of the vaquita.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The comprehensive awareness-raising programme has been developed.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that CONAPESCA, IMIPAS (formerly known as INAPESCA), SEMAR, and PROFEPA developed a comprehensive awareness and sensitization programme aimed at the fishing sector, to implement M1. It was noted that the purpose of this programme was discouraging the use, production, commercialization and transportation of prohibited fishing gear. More detailed information on this work was also provided by Mexico in the Annex to its report to SC77. Mexico stated in its report that M1 has been achieved.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that this milestone has been achieved and welcomed its swift achievement in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.4.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The workshops have been held.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico noted that workshops took place in San Felipe, on 7 and 14 July 2023, and in Puerto Peñasco, on 21 July 2023. It was reported that 179 fishers and representatives from 197 cooperative societies participated in these workshops. Mexico reported that with the three workshops conducted, M2 has been achieved.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that three further workshops were held in June 2024 (in San Felipe, Golfo de Santa Clara and Puerto Peñasco), which were collectively attended by 62 fishers.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP. The Secretariat noted that implementation of the awareness-raising programme for the fishing sector to change behaviours and deter illegal activities is an ongoing activity.</p> <p>The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which confirms that further activities were conducted. The Secretariat again reiterate the importance that activities in this regard continue.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that awareness-raising activities and workshops for the fishing sector as envisaged by M2 of target 1.4 are regularly occurring activities that must continue.</p>	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Quarterly reports of results of the programme implementation are prepared.</p>	<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that the quarterly reports were prepared as required by M3, maintaining record of implementation of the programme developed in accordance with M1. The report from Mexico outlines information about discussions that were held as part of implementation of this programme, noting that together with various other inter-institutional efforts at rapprochement and dialogue, it has made it possible to establish and maintain channels for greater awareness regarding sustainable fishing practices and the regulatory frameworks in place, as well as to engage in discussions on possible amendments to current regulatory provisions to ensure that different needs are met and commitment is secured among the fisher community to comply with regulatory measures. Mexico notes that this also aligns with other work conducted in accordance with the CAP to promote the use of alternative fishing gear.</p> <p>The report from Mexico confirms that quarterly reports are being prepared in accordance with M3 as required. In the light of this the Secretariat concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>However, as discussed in more detail in the report of the Secretariat on its mission to Mexico available in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, from information gathered during the mission it was evident that more targeted strategies are needed to achieve the objective of changing the behaviour of the fishing sector.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that implementation of the awareness-raising programme for the fishing sector to change behaviours and deter illegal activities is an ongoing activity. Mexico is therefore encouraged to continue delivering activities through the awareness and sensitization programme developed in accordance with M1, as part of its implementation of strategic lines of action 4 and 6 of its CAP. In addition, Mexico is encouraged to closely analyse quarterly reports to monitor impacts of programme implementation and determine if any adjustments need to be made.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that awareness-raising activities and workshops for the fishing sector as envisaged by M2 of target 1.4, as well as the preparation of quarterly reports in accordance with M3 of target 1.4, are regularly occurring activities that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>1.5 Increase terrestrial inspection and surveillance activities</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A programme of extraordinary inspections of cooperatives, regulated artisanal and small-scale fishing camps, natural or legal persons, facilities and establishments dealing with fisheries products and their derivatives has been established.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico confirmed that, with the aim of increasing land inspection and surveillance activities, an Extraordinary Inspections Program was developed targeting cooperatives, fishing fields, individuals, legal entities, facilities, and establishments related to fish products and their derivatives. Mexico reported that the programme outlines a monthly schedule of joint actions among CONAPESCA, PROFEPA, and SEMAR, and noted in its report that M1 has been achieved.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that this milestone has been achieved and welcomed its swift achievement in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.5.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Extraordinary fishery and/or environmental inspections have been conducted.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that from 18 April to 31 July 2023, authorities carried out 47 extraordinary inspections. Detailed information on these inspections were provided in the Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that from 18 April 2023 to 30 September 2024, authorities carried out 220 extraordinary inspections (94 on environmental matters and 126 on fisheries). It is reported that for the period May to December 2023, a minimum of five extraordinary inspections per month was established. It is further reported that by the end of 2023 this target was exceeded, with 41 extraordinary inspections having been conducted on environmental matters and 69 on fisheries. The Party further reports that from January to September 2024 activities under the Extraordinary Inspections Program continued, and that in this period 53 extraordinary inspections were conducted on environmental matters and 57 in the field of fisheries. The Party reports that 27 extraordinary inspections in fisheries resulted in CONAPESCA retaining products as a precautionary measure, until verification of legality could be done. The report from Mexico also provides other information on inspections conducted, amongst others that in 2023 an inspection was conducted at the facilities of a Wildlife Management Unit (UMA) in Guaymas, Sonora, during which matters were detected that resulted in closure of the facilities and the opening of an administrative file. It is further reported that in 2024, a further inspection was conducted at facilities linked to the UMA visited in 2023, which led to the discovery of approximately 665 kg of totoaba specimens (meat, skin,</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that extraordinary fishery and/or environmental inspections in accordance with M2 of target 1.5 are regularly occurring activities that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
		<p>swim bladders, eyes, heart and liver). It is reported that the facility was not able to prove the legal origin of these specimens or to present a permit regarding its operations, and that PROFEPA therefore seized the specimens and a case was filed with the FGR.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M2 has been achieved, noting that extraordinary fishery and/or environmental inspections in accordance with M2 of target 1.5 are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, showing that these inspections continue and resulted in some successes.</p>		
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Random terrestrial fishery and/or environmental inspection and verification points have been established.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that a total of 223 random inspection points for land-based inspection and verification in fishing and environmental matters were established, 128 in San Felipe and 95 in the Gulf of Santa Clara. Detailed information on the activities conducted was provided in an Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that CONAPESCA established 738 random inspection and verification points in the period from April 2023 to September 2024. Of these 40.5% were in San Felipe and 59.5% in the Gulf of Santa Clara. In addition, PROFEPA manned 96 vehicle inspection points in 2023 and 40 in 2024. It is reported that no illegal specimens were detected at these vehicle inspection points.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M3 has been achieved, noting that establishing random terrestrial fishery and/or environmental inspection and verification points in accordance with M3 of target 1.5 are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, showing that these activities continue.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that establishing random terrestrial fishery and/or environmental inspection and verification points in accordance with M3 of target 1.5 are regularly occurring activities that must continue.</p>	

Line of Action 2. Prevent the entry of vessels to the Zero Tolerance Area (Zo) and keep it free of gillnets together with the Refuge Area for the Protection of the Vaquita (VRA).

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>2.1 Keep the boundaries of the Zo clearly indicated and inform the maritime and fishing community about them.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A programme of monthly maritime itineraries to monitor the position and operation of the buoys delimiting the Zo has been established.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that the Zo is delimited by 12 buoys and that buoys are monitored by SEMAR monthly according to the Maritime Patrol Program established.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico confirms that monthly buoy monitoring continues, noting that buoy numbers are dynamic due to damage by weather conditions and acts of vandalism and that PROFEPA works continuously to replace buoys as needed to ensure that the Zo is correctly delimited.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that a programme for the monthly monitoring of buoy positions and operation has been established and that M1 has been achieved, and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, showing that monthly activities continue in accordance with the Maritime Patrol Program.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.1.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The operation of malfunctioning or lost buoys has been re-established.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that by July 2023 only seven of the 12 buoys were operational. These were the four main buoys located at the vertices of the Zo and three auxiliary buoys. Mexico reported that regarding the five inoperative buoys, PROFEPA carried out the necessary procedures for them to be replaced, as well as to install temporary buoys while the main ones were being repaired.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 it is noted that during the mission of the Secretariat to Mexico, PROFEPA reported that all 12 buoys were in place, but that three of these were temporary auxiliary buoys. PROFEPA noted that there is room for improvement, especially in the context of the response time of the insurance company dealing with buoy replacement, which is often slow and can take from 6 to 12 months.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico notes that buoy numbers are dynamic due to damage by weather conditions and acts of vandalism and that PROFEPA works continuously to replace buoys when needed to ensure that the Zo is correctly delimited. It is further reported that agreement have been reached with the insurer for the construction of temporary buoys that are placed while any of the permanent buoys are repaired or being replaced. The report received</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that monthly monitoring of all buoys in accordance with the Maritime Patrol Program established, as well as the replacement of buoys when needed in accordance with M2 of target 2.1 are regularly occurring activities that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>from Mexico also contains additional information relevant to this matter.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that monthly monitoring of all buoys in accordance with the Maritime Patrol Program established as mentioned in M1 above is essential to ensure that buoys are always fully operational. Based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concludes that satisfactory action is being taken by Mexico regarding this activity in the CAP and that M2 have been implemented. This is however a regularly occurring activity and Mexico is encouraged to continue its efforts to ensure that buoys are replaced as soon as possible when needed and to continue to work with the insurance company concerned to explore ways in speeding up buoy replacement response time.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Navigational warnings are shared twice a year with the maritime community of the region.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77 confirmed that the first notice was distributed on 23 June 2023. An example of such a notice was also provided in the Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico confirms that notices were also distributed to the maritime and fishing community on 6 December 2023, 21 February 2024 and 9 August 2024.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M3 has been achieved, and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, showing that activities in accordance with M3 continues. The Secretariat notes that sensitization of the fisher community about the boundaries of the Zo and the consequences of not respecting these is essential and is a regularly occurring activity.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that sharing of navigational warnings in accordance with M3 of target 2.1 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>
<p>2.2 Keep monitoring the Zo continuously through the maritime radar system of the assigned ocean patrol.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): 24/7 radar monitoring in the Zo is ensured.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico highlighted that the Mexican Navy (SEMAR) maintains a permanent presence of an oceanic patrol vessel, which carries out various functions, including 24/7 monitoring of the area with its surface radar. Mexico further reported to SC77 that a total of 86 vessels were detected during the period from 15 April to 15 July 2023, representing a 38% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2022.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that its authorities continue to maintain permanent monitoring</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that 24/7 radar monitoring in the Zo is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>through surface radar to prevent and detect the presence of vessels. It is further reported that compared to the same period in 2022, 49% less vessels were detected in the Zo from April to December 2023 and 95% less in the VRA. It is further reported that this trend continued in 2024.</p> <p>The Secretariat elaborate in more detail on this matter in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, noting that other systems and measures deployed also contribute to monitoring and surveillance work.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that with SEMAR maintaining permanent presence of a patrol vessel that undertake 24/7 monitoring of the area by surface radar, M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat noted that 24/7 radar monitoring in the Zo is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, confirming that activities continue in accordance with M1, as well as that the positive decreasing trend in vessels detected continues.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Information on vessel detection has been used to activate the response protocol of SEMAR.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that upon detecting any suspected unauthorized activity, the information is relayed to the Naval Sector of San Felipe, Baja California. They then deploy an interceptor patrol or a defender-type vessel along with an inspection and verification team comprised of Coast Guard personnel, Federal Maritime Security (Port Captainty), a Federal Fisheries Inspector from SEMAR, and a Federal Fisheries Officer from CONAPESCA. It was reported that this team's primary function is deterrence and, in case of interception within the Zo, enforcement of relevant penalties for fisheries and navigation violations.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico reaffirms what it reported to SC77.</p> <p>The Secretariat also address this matter in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, noting that during the mission to Mexico information from various sources confirmed that SEMAR significantly scaled up its activities and that responses are swift when fishers are detected in or close to the Zo and VRA.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M2 has been achieved, noting the positive decreasing</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that implementation of the response protocol in accordance with M2 of target 2.2 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): A monthly record of detections has been drawn up to assess the relevance of activating the so-called <i>factores detonantes</i> or 'triggering factors' (i.e., situations that can lead to prohibitions or closures if certain limits are exceeded)</p>	<p>trend in vessels detected mentioned against M1. Implementation of the response protocol in accordance with M2 of target 2.2 is a regularly occurring activity that must be maintained to ensure that the positive trends observed continues.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that at the time of submission of the report three monthly records concerning vessel detections have been compiled, covering the period from 15 April to 15 July 2023. As noted at M1 above, it was reported that over this period a total of 86 vessels were detected within the Zo, which is 38% less than the previous year during the same period (139 vessels). Mexico further reported that based on daily records, resources were deployed in accordance with the Agreement that sets the indicators, trigger factors, and predetermined actions. The Annex to the report from Mexico provided detailed information on the number of vessels detected and associated resources deployed.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that at the time of submission of the report, 17 monthly records have been prepared. It is highlighted that the highest number of vessels detected in the Zo on a single day was 12, on 28 April 2023, and that subsequently all records are lower. It is further highlighted that the total number of vessels detected since implementation of the CAP commenced, up to September 2024, is 129 vessels. Mexico highlights that comparing the period from April to December 2022, with the same period in 2023, a 49% reduction was observed in the number of vessels detected within the Zo; while from January to September 2024, only four vessels were detected in the Zo (all of them in May 2024).</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat welcomed the detailed monthly records concerning vessel detections that are compiled, noting that these provide a valuable source of data for Mexico to draw upon in determining the need to activate the so-called <i>factores detonantes</i> or 'triggering factors'. In its report to SC77 the Secretariat also concurred with Mexico that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, confirming that activities continue in accordance with M3, as well as that the positive decreasing trend in vessels detected continues.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that preparation of monthly records in accordance with M3 of target 2.2 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>2.3 Continue to monitor the VRA through the terrestrial radar system.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): 24/7 radar monitoring in the VRA is ensured.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that SEMAR, through the Naval Sector of San Felipe in Baja California, in coordination with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS), maintains constant monitoring of the VRA using surface radars of the SEMAR vessel and the SSCS vessel "Seahorse".</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico states that in the period since implementation of the CAP commenced, up to 30 September 2024, a total of 206 vessels were detected in the VRA. Mexico notes that this represents a 95% decrease in the number of vessels detected from April to December 2023 (202 vessels), compared to the same period in 2022 (3,916 vessels).</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that in the light of the fulltime coordinated monitoring activities of SEMAR and SSCS in the VRA, M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat noted the positive decreasing trend in vessels detected reported to SC77. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which aligns with information shared and findings made during the mission of the Secretariat to Mexico as further elaborated upon in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1. The Secretariat welcomes the continued fulltime coordinated and collaborative monitoring activities in the VRA and the continued decline in vessels detected in the VRA. 24/7 radar monitoring in the VRA in accordance with M1 of target 2.3 is a regularly occurring activity that must be maintained to ensure that the positive trends observed continues.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that 24/7 radar monitoring of the VRA in accordance with M1 of target 2.3 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Information on vessel detection has been used to activate the response protocol of SEMAR.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77 stated that that analysis is conducted regarding the presence of vessels in the VRA, to consider the need for increasing inspection and surveillance patrols in the VRA. It was further reported that the response protocol of SEMAR in collaboration of other relevant authorities was activated accordingly.</p> <p>Mexico in its report to the present meeting confirms that analysis regarding the presence of vessels in the ZRV continues to be conducted to determine the need for increasing inspection and surveillance activities.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M2 has been achieved, noting the significant decline in vessels detected in the VRA which suggested that efforts</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that using information to activate the VRA response protocol of SEMAR in accordance with M2 of target 2.3 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3). A monthly record of detections has been drawn up to assess the intensification of patrols aimed at inspecting and penalizing any unauthorized activities.</p>	<p>were increasingly effective and delivering positive results. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, confirming that activities in accordance with M2 continue. Information on vessel detections should continue to be used to inform responses, to ensure that they remain effective and, if needed, are adapted in a timely manner to respond to and address any newly identified trends that may emerge.</p> <p>Mexico reported to SC77 that monthly records of vessel detections were maintained and as noted against M2 above, that analysis was conducted to consider the need for increasing inspection and surveillance patrols in the VRA. Mexico highlighted from April to July 2022, a total of 2,268 vessels were detected in the VRA, and that during the same period in 2023, only 137 vessels were detected, which is 94% less than in 2022.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico confirms that 17 monthly reports containing information on detections and verification activities have been prepared. It his stated that this enabled more strategic deployment of activities.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M3 has been achieved, noting the significant decreasing trend in vessels detected. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, confirming that activities in accordance with M3 continue. Maintaining monthly records of vessel detections is an ongoing activity and the Secretariat believes that analyses of the data collected in this manner will continue to provide the information required to inform decision making regarding the need for maintaining or increasing inspection and surveillance patrols in the VRA.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the preparation of monthly records in accordance with M3 of target 2.3 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>
<p>2.4. Intensify maritime, terrestrial and aerial patrols with manned and unmanned vehicles during authorized fishing seasons, ensuring permanent surveillance and law enforcement in the Zo and VRA.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A programme has been established to strengthen maritime, terrestrial and aerial patrols with manned and unmanned vehicles during authorized fishing seasons.</p>	<p>Mexico in its CAP notes that the seasons during which fishing occur are colloquially known as the “high fishing seasons”. These are the three periods each year when there are increased fishing activities, namely the Curvina Golfina fishing season (February to April), the start of the shrimp fishing season (September-October) and the totoaba migration period (November-December).</p> <p>In its report to SC77 Mexico indicated that during the seasons mentioned when fishing mostly occur, operational reinforcements are deployed as needed in accordance with an established reinforcement program.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that maintaining a programme in accordance with M1 of target 2.4, to strengthen maritime, terrestrial and aerial patrols with manned and unmanned vehicles during seasons when fishing mostly occur, is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that a programme was established in accordance with which inspection and surveillance actions within the jurisdiction of its Second (Ensenada, Baja California) and Fourth (Guaymas, Sonora) Naval Regions can be temporarily intensified. It is highlighted that within this framework, maritime, land and air patrols can be reinforced during the seasons when fishing mostly occur.</p> <p>In the light of reporting from Mexico confirming that a programme was established as anticipated by M1, the Secretariat concludes that this milestone has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that it is essential to ensure that operational reinforcements can be deployed when needed.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Maritime and terrestrial surveillance routes have been intensified during the gulf corvina fishing season, associated with illegal fishing of totoaba.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that during the Curvina Golfina fishing season, compared to 2022, maritime and land surveillance patrols were increased by 19% in 2023. It is further reported that personnel assigned to maritime and land patrols were increased by 50% in 2023, while the personnel dedicated to aerial patrols with manned and unmanned units remained unchanged. The report from Mexico included a table that provided information on the material resources deployed in 2023 during the Curvina Golfina fishing season, compared to those deployed in 2022.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that maritime surveillance patrols increased from 166 in 2022, to 211 in 2023 (27%), and 278 maritime from January to September 2024. Mexico also highlights that land surveillance patrols increased from 190 in 2022, to 386 in 2023 (103%), and 409 from January to September 2024. Mexico also notes that from September 2023 to April 2024, maritime and land surveillance patrols were intensified, and personnel and logistics increased, during the seasons when fishing mostly occur, and within the framework of Operation "Upper Gulf of California", additional vessels were also deployed.</p> <p>The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, confirming that activities in accordance with M2 continue. In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat reiterate the importance that measures are in place to facilitate the deployment of operational reinforcements as needed, during all seasons when fishing mostly occur.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that deployment of operational reinforcements as needed in accordance with M2 of target 2.4, during all seasons when fishing mostly occur, is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Aerial inspections using manned and unmanned vehicles have been intensified during the authorized gulf corvina fishing season.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that aerial surveillance patrols remained consistent with the activities carried out in 2022, considering that SEMAR's operations were increased in other areas.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico confirms that aerial surveillance patrols have been maintained at the same level, reinforcing efforts during seasons when fishing mostly occur.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, confirming that activities in accordance with M3 continue. The Secretariat again encourages Mexico to closely monitor trends during seasons when fishing mostly occur, and to ensure that resources are deployed as anticipated by M3 should circumstances require.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that intensified aerial inspections in accordance with M3 of target 2.4, using manned and unmanned vehicles when needed during seasons when fishing mostly occur, is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): Based on the 'Agreement on triggering factors', protocols have been applied to reduce or increase resources and staff according to the prevailing circumstances and the number of fishers detected in the Zo.</p>	<p>At SC77 it was reported that as demonstrated by reporting against M3 of Target 2.2 in the CAP, it was not necessary for Mexico to activate the triggering factors provided for in the relevant Agreement. Numbers of vessels detected remained at the lower levels specified in the Agreement, and activities were therefore maintained with at least 60% of available human and material resources allocated, as reported by Mexico.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that personnel assigned to sea and land surveillance patrols was increased by 50%, whilst personnel assigned to air surveillance patrols was maintained at the same level. Mexico further highlights that based on vessel detections reported in accordance with Target 2.2, it was not necessary to activate the Agreement on triggering factors.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M4 has been achieved. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting. As noted in its observations concerning Targets 2.2 and 2.3 of the CAP, the Secretariat welcomes the continued positive decreasing trends in vessels detected, both within the Zo and the VRA. Mexico is encouraged to continue monitoring trends during seasons when fishing mostly occur. Should circumstances arise that meets the triggering criteria established in the 'Agreement on</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M4 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that applying protocols in accordance with the 'Agreement on triggering factors' as set out in M4 of target 2.4, is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		triggering factors', the relevant protocols should be applied accordingly.	
2.5 Keep the Zo free of all types of nets and of the presence of vessels through the project of deploying concrete blocks.	Milestone 1 (M1): A programme for the removal and management of trapped nets has been implemented.	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that a "Program for Removal and Management of Trapped Nets in the Zero Tolerance Zone" were in pace and ongoing. It was reported that through this project 193 concrete blocks with hooks attached to them were placed to facilitate the Zo becoming a gillnet free area.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat notes that during its mission Mexican authorities and various other sources confirmed that the concrete blocks are delivering good results and is an effective deterrent for illegal fishing. It was further noted that the Zo has also been expanded and that additional blocks have been placed outside the original Zo boundaries in areas where vaquitas were observed.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico reaffirms this, noting that in addition to the 193 concrete blocks a further 216 blocks were placed in an area adjacent to the Zo and that there are currently 409 blocks in place, significantly contributing to discouraging and preventing the use of gillnets in the areas where the bocks are placed.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the positive results being achieved through the "Program for Removal and Management of Trapped Nets in the Zero Tolerance Zone", as well as the extension of the program to outside the original Zo boundaries in areas where vaquitas were observed. Based on available information and the positive results being observed, the Secretariat concludes that M1 has been achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.5.</p>
	Milestone 2 (M2): A monthly record of the number of nets removed has been drawn up.	<p>In Mexico's report to SC77, it was stated that monthly records regarding the number of nets removed have been drawn up in accordance with M2 and these were presented in the Annexes to Mexico's report. It was reported that from April to July 2023, a total of 14 nets with a length of 6,070 meters were removed.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico confirms that monthly records continue to be maintained and states that 25 abandoned nets with a length of 12,220 meters were removed from April 2023 to September 2024.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the preparation of monthly records in accordance with M2 of target 2.5 is an ongoing activity that must continue, also to ensure that the bocks remain operational.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which confirms that activities in accordance with M2 continues. The Secretariat reiterate the importance of preparation of monthly records and notes that this is an ongoing activity. Mexico is encouraged to fully draw upon these monthly records, thoroughly analysing them to assist in determining the effectiveness of activities and the need for adjustments. The 25 nets removed demonstrate the importance that all possible efforts to keep the Zo free of nets should continue.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): A monthly record has been drawn up of the number of vessels present to analyse the correlation between the deployment of blocks and the decrease of vessels in the Zo.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77 noted that as reported against Target 2.2 of the CAP, compared to the same period in 2022, there was a 38% decrease in vessels detected in the Zo during the period from 15 April to 15 July 2023.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico again confirms that a monthly recording and monitoring system is in place. Mexico also states that analysis of data collected shows that placement of the concrete blocks resulted in a considerable decrease of vessels in the Zo.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which confirms that activities in accordance with M3 continues. It is important to continue collecting data on the results achieved through the "Program for Removal and Management of Trapped Nets in the Zero Tolerance Zone", put in place in accordance with M1. Drawing up monthly records to analyse the correlation between deployment of the blocks and the decrease of vessels in the Zo will facilitate this. This activity will also assist to provide a broader set of data which could be helpful to inform future activities in accordance with the program.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that drawing up monthly records in accordance with M3 of target 2.5 to analyse the correlation between deployment of the blocks and the decrease of vessels in the Zo is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>
<p>2.6 Systematically apply procedures and penalties against any-body entering the Zo for any unauthorized activity.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): An information document has been completed and will be made available to fishers on the penalties incurred for operating illegally in the Zo.</p>	<p>At SC77 it was reported that an information document was developed as anticipated by M1. The document was also included in one of the Annexes to Mexico's report. It was reported that the document was disseminated among fishers providing them with information about the procedures and sanctions that will be applied to those who illegally operate in the Zo.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that with the information document developed, M1 has been</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2. 6.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>achieved. The Secretariat welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): At least three information sessions have been organized to inform fishers of the penalties incurred for operating illegally in the Zo.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77, that CONAPESCA in June 2023 conducted nine information sessions to inform fishers and the public about the penalties that will be imposed for unauthorized navigation or activities within the Zo. It was reported that a total of 185 fishers and representatives from cooperative societies participated in these information sessions. Mexico again reaffirms this information in its report to the present meeting.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M2 has been achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP. The Secretariat noted that the nine sessions organized and delivered significantly exceeded the minimum target of three set in the CAP. The Secretariat further noted that informing fishers and the public about the penalties that will be imposed for unauthorized activity within the Zo should be repeated from time to time to ensure continued awareness. The Secretariat believes that this could be further pursued as part of activities being delivered under line of action 6 in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 2.6, but notes that informing fishers and the public about the penalties that will be imposed for unauthorized activity within the Zo should be repeated from time to time. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to pursue this as part of its activities in accordance with line of action 6 in the CAP.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Administrative penalties have been imposed on all fishers detected operating illegally in the Zo.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that regarding the implementation of administrative sanctions, CONAPESCA reported that from April to July 2023 no infringement procedures related to fishing and aquaculture were processed against anyone who entered the Zo. The Secretariat noted in its report to SC77 that it is reported against Target 2.2 of the CAP, that a total of 86 vessels were detected in the Zo during the period from 15 April to 15 July 2023. The Secretariat highlighted that although implementation of administrative sanctions might not have been warranted in some of these cases, the Secretariat was of the view that it was unlikely that this would have been the case for all 86 of them. The Secretariat further noted that it could significantly undermine progress if authorities inform fishers and the public about the procedures and sanctions that will be applied to those who illegally operate in the Zo, and then do not strictly apply these procedures and sanctions accordingly. Mexico was therefore encouraged to closely scrutinize the reasons why administrative sanctions have not been implemented in any of the cases detected, to determine</p>	<p>In the light of Mexico's report to the present meeting, the Secretariat concludes that progress has been made towards achievement of M3 of target 2.6.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that it is essential for the activities reported upon to continue and too soon to determine that M3 has been achieved.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>the effectiveness of activities and if adjustments need to be made.</p> <p>As reported in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat during its mission requested information from CONAPESCA representatives on infringement procedures instituted against those who entered the Zo and VRA for unauthorized activity. The Secretariat was told that this information was not readily available. Although CONAPESCA representatives undertook to follow up on this and provide the information during the mission, no information was received. In a meeting with GIS representatives on the last day of the mission, the Secretariat again raised this matter and CONAPESCA committed to ensure to include data on these activities in future reports to the Secretariat.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that from January to September 2024, 19 administrative cases related to infractions detected in the Zo were finalized, which resulted in fines amounting to \$5,387,632 Mexican pesos (approximately USD 260,000) being imposed. It is reported that in addition, 17 gillnets with a length of 6,900 meters and other goods, such as small boats and outboard motors were confiscated. The report from Mexico includes a table providing detailed information on the administrative cases and associated confiscations and fines imposed. It is further highlighted that in addition to this, PROFEPA carried out five extraordinary inspections regarding vessels that were detected in the Zo in 2023. It is reported that this led to four administrative proceedings that resulted in fines being imposed amounting to \$401,709 Mexican pesos (approximately USD 19,000), as well as the confiscation of boats, outboard motors and fishing gear. The report from Mexico also includes a table providing detailed information on these cases and associated confiscations and fines imposed. In addition, it is reported that in 2024, two extraordinary inspections were carried out during marine surveillance patrols. In the one case the vessel and fishing gear were seized, and the administrative procedure is ongoing. In the other fishers were found in possession of two totoaba swim bladders, which resulted in their arrest and the seizure of their boat and fishing gear. The case was reported to the FGR for criminal investigation and is ongoing.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat noted that in the absence of strict implementation and zero tolerance, information</p>	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>shared in accordance with M2 of target 2.6 will only be a short-term deterrent. It was noted that if fishers realize that a zero-tolerance policy was not consistently applied, they would likely be tempted to challenge the system hoping that steps will not be taken. The Secretariat noted that this could create a situation similar to what was observed in previous years, with offenders operating in impunity.</p> <p>The Secretariat therefore welcome the information provided by Mexico in its report to the present meeting, which for the first time since implementation of the CAP started, suggest that stricter action is being taken regarding irregularities detected in and around the Zo and VRA. The Secretariat considers this a crucial step towards addressing activities related to illegal fishing and keeping the Zo and VRA gillnet free. Mexico is encouraged to build upon this positive progress.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 Mexico stated that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat reported to SC77 that it was not able to concur with Mexico and noted that the absence of administrative sanctions despite a large number of vessels being detected in the Zo gives reason for concern. However, in the light of Mexico's reporting to the present meeting, the Secretariat concludes that progress has been made towards the achievement of M3. It is however essential for activities to continue and too soon to determine that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat therefore recommends that Mexico continue implementation of activities to achieve M3 of target 2.6.</p>	
2.7 Destroy all the nets found in the Zo.	Milestone 1 (M1): Generate a monthly report.	Mexico reported to SC77 that CONAPESCA from April to June 2023, prepared three monthly reports on fishing nets found in the Zo, reporting a total of 14 incidents that led to the confiscation of 6,070 meters of abandoned nets. Detailed information on this was provided in the Annexes to Mexico's report. Mexico noted that the 14 incidents documented exclusively involved abandoned nets. In other words, there were no individuals that could be associated with these and therefore no sanctions could be imposed regarding the violation of fishing regulations. However, because the nets were found abandoned, they could immediately be legally confiscated by CONAPESCA and can be destroyed. Mexico further clarified that when nets are found and individuals are associated with them, due procedure and administrative process must be followed. Confiscation and destruction can	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the preparation of monthly reports in accordance with M1 of target 2.7 is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>only take place once the administrative process was duly finalized, and a penalty issued that orders the confiscation and destruction of the fishing gear concerned. In these cases, the nets are seized when the incident is detected and transported to a collection centre or held by a custodian, awaiting outcome of the administrative process. If the administrative process is finalized and a penalty issued as described, destruction is coordinated by SEMAR and CONAPESCA and carried out at the location where the fishing gear was deposited. Mexico reported that 4 nets with a combined length of 4,000 meters were destroyed in 2022.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico confirms that monthly reports continue to be generated as required by M1. The Party further highlights that 102 nets with a combined length of 22,971 meters were destroyed from April to December 2023 and that 29 nets with a combined length of 15,121 meters were destroyed from January to September 2024. Mexico also provides information on the procedures followed in its report, which aligns with what was described in its report to SC77.</p> <p>The Secretariat in its report to SC77, noted that the process described by Mexico regarding due administrative process, seizure and confiscation, is common practice in many countries. The Secretariat welcomed the immediate confiscation of abandoned nets for destruction. As outlined in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat during its mission to Mexico visited the facility where seized and confiscated nets are kept. The Secretariat also witnessed the destruction of confiscated nets first hand. These are kept at secure SEMAR facilities and, once the relevant administrative processes are duly finalized, the nets are thoroughly destroyed under appropriate supervision by placing them through an industrial size shredder.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that, with the monthly reports compiled, M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which confirms that activities in accordance with M1 continues.</p>	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
2.8 VRA free of ghost nets.	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The working programme for the detection, removal and destruction of ghost nets has been launched.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77, that SEMAR in coordination with other relevant agencies, developed a "Work Program for Detection, Removal, and Destruction of Ghost Nets in the Refuge Area for the Protection of the Vaquita". This work programme was included in one of the Annexes to the report from Mexico. The Party reported that the aim of the program was to identify ghost fishing nets and remove them, as well as to contribute to the protection of biodiversity, the preservation of marine ecosystems and landscapes, and combatting pollution from marine debris and plastics. Mexico stated in its report that the methodology employed in this program involved monitoring and maritime inspection patrols, along with statistical data analysis. It was noted that in accordance with the work programme methodology, SEMAR received recovered ghost nets for destruction. Mexico reaffirms this information in its report to the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat in its report to SC77, welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.8.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): A quarterly report of activities and results of the working programme has been prepared.</p>	<p>The work program established in accordance with M1 above determines that recovery efforts must be documented using an agreed standardized report format and this must be submitted to the Naval Sector of San Felipe to record and maintain statistical control.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, Mexico noted that reports compiled regarding activities conducted in the VRA to remove ghost nets were in the data collection and analysis stage and that preparation of the quarterly report was in progress. The Party indicated that preliminarily data up to 15 July 2023 showed that a total of 28 gillnets were recovered in the VRA.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico confirms that quarterly as well as regular reports have been prepared. Mexico reports that 15 gillnets with a combined length of 4,824 meters were seized in the VRA, in the period from April 2023 to September 2024. Mexico further highlights 29 gillnets with a combined length of 6,880 meters were also found in the gillnet exclusion area, and that these were confiscated and destroyed.</p> <p>Based on reporting from Mexico confirming that quarterly as well as regular reports are being prepared in accordance with</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that implementation of the "Work Program for Detection, Removal, and Destruction of Ghost Nets in the Refuge Area for the Protection of the Vaquita" launched in accordance with M1 of Target 2.8, as well as the preparation of quarterly reports on activities conducted and results achieved through implementation of this work program in accordance with M2 of Target 2.8, are ongoing activities that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>M2, the Secretariat concludes that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that the preparation of quarterly reports represents a regularly occurring activity that should continue. Mexico is encouraged to fully draw upon these reports to determine the effectiveness of activities, the need for adjustments and to ensure that resources are effectively deployed.</p>	
<p>2.9 Apply procedures and penalties against anybody entering the VRA for any unauthorized activity.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A quarterly report of activities and results of the working programme has been prepared.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that, regarding applying procedures and penalties against persons entering the VRA for any unauthorized activity, CONAPESCA reported that from April to July 2023 no administrative procedures were instituted. It was reported that therefore no quarterly report was prepared as anticipated by M1.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico confirms that quarterly reports are prepared by CONAPESCA as required by M1. The report of Mexico to the present meeting also includes a table providing detailed information on irregularities detected on the VRA, actions taken, and sanctions imposed.</p> <p>Based on reporting from Mexico confirming that quarterly reports are being prepared in accordance with M1, as well as the additional information provided in the report from Mexico, the Secretariat concludes that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that the preparation of quarterly reports represents a regularly occurring activity that should continue. Mexico is encouraged to fully draw upon these reports to determine the effectiveness of activities and in a timely manner identify any needs for adjustments to ensure that procedures as anticipated by target 2.9 are applied when any irregularities in the VRA are detected.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the preparation of quarterly reports in accordance with M1 of target 2.9 is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): At least three information sessions have been organized to inform fishers of the standard incremental penalties incurred for unauthorized or illegal operation in the VRA.</p>	<p>At SC77 it was highlighted that reporting from Mexico showed that activities delivered to achieve M2 of target 2.9 were combined with activities delivered to achieve M2 of Target 2.6. Both these were addressed during nine information sessions conducted by CONAPESCA in June 2023, as reported upon in the present document at M2 of target 2.6. The Secretariat noted that it considered combining the activities related to these two milestones as was done by Mexico presented a logical approach. It was noted that convening fishers on different occasions to address these matters separately would likely not have been well received and might even have been less effective. The Secretariat in its report to SC77 welcomed the swift achievement of M2 of target 2.9 in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 2.9, but notes that informing fishers about the standard incremental penalties that could be incurred for unauthorized or illegal operation in the VRA as anticipated by M2 of target 2.9 should be repeated from time to time. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to pursue this as part of its activities in accordance with line of action 6 in the CAP.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>The Secretariat notes that its observations at M2 of target 2.6 in the present document are also applicable to the present milestone. Informing fishers about the standard incremental penalties that could be incurred for unauthorized or illegal operation in the VRA should be repeated from time to time. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to pursue this as part of its activities in accordance with line of action 6 in the CAP.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Administrative penalties have been imposed on all fishers detected operating unauthorized in the VRA.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that, regarding applying procedures and penalties against persons entering the VRA for any unauthorized activity, CONAPESCA reported that from April to July 2023 no administrative procedures were instituted.</p> <p>The report of Mexico to the present meeting includes a table providing detailed information on irregularities detected in the VRA, actions taken, and sanctions imposed. It is reaffirmed that in 2023 no administrative procedures were instituted, but highlighted that in 2024, eight administrative procedures initiated by CONAPESCA for infractions in the VRA were finalized and that these resulted in fines amounting to \$2,483,255 Mexican pesos (approximately USD 121,000), as well as the confiscation of boats, outboard motors, fishing gear and other goods.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that as reported against M2 of target 2.8, preliminary data up to 15 July 2023 showed that a total of 28 gillnets were recovered in the VRA. The Secretariat highlighted that this showed that, although at lower levels than observed in previous years, unauthorized activities in the VRA continued. The Secretariat further highlighted that lack of action by relevant authorities therefore remained of concern, taking into consideration that despite constant surveillance and other activities, not a single person placing nets illegally in the VRA seemed to have been detected and addressed by mobilizing established procedures and pursuing appropriate penalties. Mexico was therefore encouraged to closely scrutinize data and reports to determine the reasons why no administrative sanctions were implemented, evaluate the effectiveness of activities undertaken by CONAPESCA and determine if adjustments needed to be made.</p> <p>The Secretariat therefore welcome the information provided by Mexico in its report to the present meeting, which for the first time since implementation of the CAP started suggests</p>	<p>In the light of Mexico's report to the present meeting, the Secretariat concludes that progress has been made towards achievement of M3 of target 2.9.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that it is essential that the activities reported upon continue and that it is too soon to determine that M3 has been achieved.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>that stricter action is being taken regarding irregularities detected in and around the Zo and VRA. The Secretariat notes that its observations in the present document at M3 of target 2.6, are also relevant for M3 of target 2.9.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 Mexico stated that M3 of target 2.9. were achieved. The Secretariat reported to SC77 that it was not able to concur with Mexico. In the light of Mexico's reporting to the present meeting, the Secretariat concludes that progress has been made and that activities towards achievement of M3 of target 2.9. progressed. It is however essential for these activities to continue and too soon to determine that M3 has been achieved. Mexico should continue to pursue activities to achieve M3.</p>	
<p>2.10 Establish a protocol for consistent interpretation and joint action aimed at the enforcement of laws, regulations and rules relating to fisheries, environmental issues, maritime and coast guard authorities.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The draft protocol has been prepared and circulated for its review by competent authorities.</p> <p>Milestone 2 (M2): The observations of relevant authorities have been compiled.</p>	<p>In September 2020 the "Agreement regulating gears, systems, methods, techniques and schedules for the performance of fishing activities with smaller and larger vessels in Mexican Marine Zones in the Northern Gulf of California and establishing landing sites, as well as the use of monitoring systems for such vessels" (Regulatory Agreement 2020) ("the Agreement") was published in the Official Gazette of Mexico. Inconsistent implementation of this Agreement gave reason for concern, and as a result target 2.10 was included in the CAP to establish a protocol that could facilitate consistent interpretation and implementation of the 2020 Regulatory Agreement.</p> <p>Mexico reported to SC77 that "Protocols of Action in the Upper Gulf of California to Combat the Illegal Fishing of Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) and thereby Conserve the Vaquita Marina Population (<i>Phocoena sinus</i>)" were developed. The final approved and adopted protocols were included in Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p> <p>Mexico reported to SC77 that a draft version of the protocols was reviewed by the legal departments of SEMAR, CONAPESCA and PROFEPA, and that inputs provided were incorporated accordingly in accordance with M2, after which the final version was sent to the Intergovernmental Group on Sustainability in the Upper Gulf of California (GIS) for adoption. The final approved and adopted protocols were included in</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the protocols developed in accordance with M1 of target 2.10 must be adapted as needed, based on any amendments to "the Agreement" as elaborated upon against M2 of target 1.2.</p> <p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 2.10.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>the relevant Annex to the report received from Mexico, showing that this milestone was achieved.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M2 has been achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): The final protocol has been adopted in the framework of the GIS and is ready to be implemented.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that the final version of the protocols was approved and adopted during the 2nd Ordinary Session of GIS held on 23 June 2023 in Mexicali, Baja California. The final approved and adopted protocols were included in an Annex to the report received from Mexico.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that, with the protocols developed and approved, M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat encouraged Mexico to regularly assess the effectiveness of the protocols and to adjust them if required, based on its findings.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 2.10.</p>
<p>2.11 Build the capacity of the staff of competent authorities operating in the UGC on the Protocol and monitor activities to ensure its effective implementation.</p>	<p>Milestone 1(M1): The protocol has been shared with all the competent staff.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that PROFEPA on 30 June 2023 shared with SEMAR and CONAPESCA, the final version of the approved and adopted "Protocols of Action in the Upper Gulf of California to Combat the Illegal Fishing of Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) and thereby Conserve the Vaquita Marina Population (<i>Phocoena sinus</i>)", for it to be disseminated to all relevant staff. Additional information provided in the Annexes to Mexico's report also indicated that the final version of the approved protocols was shared with the office of the Sub-Prosecutor for Natural Resources, and that the Head of this office at PROFEPA shared the protocols with inspectors participating in inspection and oversight activities in the Upper Gulf of California through circular PFPA/4/8C.17.5/1407-2023.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.11.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): At least 50% of the total number of officials operating in the UGC have received training.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that a training schedule was developed and that training sessions were being delivered accordingly. It was reported that the schedule makes provision for officials from SEMAR, CONAPESCA and PROFEPA responsible for inspection and oversight in terms of security, fishing, and environment, to participate in the trainings.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 2.11.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>As noted at M3 of target 2.11, Mexico reports that 100% of PROFEPA, CONAPESCA and SEMAR who work in the UGC have been trained.</p> <p>Based on reporting from Mexico and findings made by the Secretariat during its mission to Mexico as elaborated upon in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat concludes that M2 has been achieved.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 3(M3): 100% of the officials operating in the UGC have received training.</p>	<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico reports that 100% of PROFEPA, CONAPESCA and SEMAR who work in the UGC have been trained regarding the protocol and are implementing it.</p> <p>As reported in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, during the mission of the Secretariat it was clear that training on the protocols took place and that the different authorities are familiar with it. Feedback on the protocols was also positive, with authorities confirming that there is consistent understanding amongst them regarding activities to be conducted; it also was noted that the protocols assisted to improve coordination amongst them. During a meeting with CSO representatives they also affirmed that the protocols facilitated improved coordination among the different authorities and more consistent implementation of “the Agreement”.</p> <p>Based on reporting from Mexico and findings made by the Secretariat during its mission to Mexico, the Secretariat concludes that M3 has been achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 2.11.</p>
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): Ongoing training has been given to all recently hired officials, and officials recently deployed in the UGC have received refresher training to ensure that they work according to the Protocol.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico confirmed that training sessions are expected to be an ongoing exercise, primarily focused on newly appointed officials.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico informs about continued training workshops that were conducted, with the latest having taken place in March and August 2024.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the reporting from Mexico, confirming that training on the protocols continues as required. The Secretariat notes that this is essential in the light of the positive results achieved through implementation of the protocols. This is also of particular importance in the light of the envisaged amendments to “the Agreement” as elaborated upon against M2 of target 1.2. It is essential that all officials deployed in the UGC are fully trained regarding any</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided and findings made during its mission to Mexico, concludes that M4 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that training on the protocols for all officials deployed in the UGC as envisaged by M4 of target 2.11 is an ongoing activity that must continue. It is further noted that in the light of the envisaged amendments to “the Agreement” as elaborated upon against M2 of target 1.2, it is essential that all officials deployed in the UGC are fully trained regarding any amended version to ensure full implementation of all aspects in “the Agreement”.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 5 (M5): The training delivered has been assessed to identify any aspects that can be improved.</p>	<p>amended version of “the Agreement” and that the protocols are adapted as needed to ensure full implementation of all aspects in “the Agreement”. Further, it is essential that until any new and revised Agreement is in place, the current Agreement be fully implemented. Based on reporting from Mexico and findings made by the Secretariat during its mission to Mexico, the Secretariat concludes that M4 has been achieved. Training of officials deployed in the UGC is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that since training sessions in July 2023, inputs received from personnel trained were compiled to assess areas of improvement for the upcoming sessions.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that during the training workshop in March 2024, arranged in accordance with M4 of target 2.11, several measures to improve protocol implementation were identified. The report from Mexico includes a table providing detailed information on these.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the information provided by Mexico in its report to the present meeting, which demonstrates that activities as envisaged by M5 continues. Regularly assessing the protocols, the impact achieved through their implementation, and how the protocols and associated training can be further improved, is essential. This will ensure that the protocols and training programs remain fit for purpose and continue to inform the actions and decision-making of operational personnel. However, the observations made by the Secretariat against M4 of target 2.11 are also relevant to M5 of target 2.11. Considering the envisaged amendments to “the Agreement” as elaborated upon against M2 of target 1.2., the Secretariat considers that M5 of target 2.11 can only be fully achieved once “the Agreement” has been amended, training has been assessed and amended as needed and delivered to officials deployed in the UGC to ensure that they are fully trained regarding any amended version of “the Agreement” and implementing its provisions fully in accordance with agreed protocols.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that good progress has been made regarding the achievement of M5 of target 2.11.</p> <p>The Secretariat however notes that considering the envisaged amendments to “the Agreement” as elaborated upon against M2 of target 1.2., M5 of target 2.11 can only be fully achieved once “the Agreement” has been amended and training has been assessed and amended as needed and delivered accordingly.</p>
2.12 Put in operation a system to locate minor vessels.	Milestone 1 (M1): The project to install a system to locate smaller vessels has been developed.	Mexico reported to SC77, that SEMAR developed a proposal for the "Smaller Vessel Localization System" project. It was reported that the proposed system will enable identifying the geographical positions of smaller vessels engaged in fishing activities within the Gulf of California. The report from Mexico	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.12.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>outlined the anticipated outcomes from the implementation of the "Smaller Vessel Localization System". The Secretariat confirmed that detailed information on the project proposal, including the development timeline, scope and associated costs was provided by Mexico in an Annex to its report. This Annex contained confidential and sensitive information and was not made public to protect the integrity of Mexico's enforcement measures.</p> <p>The Secretariat in its report to SC77, welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The necessary resources for the installation of the system have been secured.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77, that the estimated project costs were 149 million pesos (approximately USD 9 million), and that a budget was requested from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that SEMAR developed the platform for the "Smaller Vessel Localization System", is in the process of acquiring the devices to be installed on small fishing vessels, and equipment needed to install the devices. SEMAR funds for this from its own budget. It is reported that in addition, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit in June 2024, made available \$54,796,149 Mexican pesos (approximately USD 2,6 million) to support the project.</p> <p>The Secretariat also address this matter in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, noting that during its mission to Mexico, the Secretariat was informed that the required funding was secured.</p> <p>Based on reporting from Mexico and findings made by the Secretariat during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that M2 has been achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 2.12.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): The operation of the tracking and location system has been integrated through the Command-and-Control Centre of SEMAR.</p>	<p>As highlighted in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat was during its mission to Mexico informed that good progress has been made regarding the "Smaller Vessel Localization System" project (AIS system). SEMAR highlighted during the mission that the AIS system will enable identifying the geographical positions of smaller vessels and assist with better targeting of vessels engaged in unauthorized activities. It was further stated that if fishers refuse installation, CONAPESCA can refuse to issue permits to them. SEMAR noted that installing the required devices in every boat entails</p>	<p>Although the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M3 was 30 May 2024, the Secretariat concludes that progress continues to be made towards achievement of M3 of target 2.12.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>a significant task involving hundreds of boats. SEMAR further noted that the company making the devices could only produce part of the large number requested and needs more time to manufacture additional devices.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that on 7 May and 6 June 2024, SEMAR, CONAPESCA, SEMARNAT and local authorities, held information sessions with representatives of the fishing sector of San Felipe, Baja California, to provide them with information about the project and facilitate collaboration regarding installation of the devices. It is further reported that in September 2024, development of software for the system was finalized and that the first 98 devices to be installed were received. It is noted that next steps include acquisition of installation kits and finalizing the lease agreement with the satellite service provider, after which installation of devices will commence.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the reporting from Mexico to the present meeting. The magnitude of this undertaking was evident from information provided during the mission of the Secretariat and although the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of Target 2.12 was 30 May 2024, the Secretariat concludes that progress continues to be made towards achievement of M3. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to fully achieve Target 2.12 as soon as possible.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): The system to track minor smaller vessels is consolidated as a source of information and intelligence for competent authorities.</p>	<p>The observations made by the Secretariat against M3 of target 2.12 are also relevant to M4 of target 2.11. The Secretariat notes that although the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M4 was 30 May 2024, the Secretariat concludes that progress continues to be made.</p>	<p>Although the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M4 was 30 May 2024, the Secretariat concludes that progress continues to be made towards achievement of M4 of target 2.12. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to fully achieve Target 2.12 as soon as possible.</p>

Line of action 3. Strengthen intelligence actions to combat transnational organized crime involved in illegal trade of totoaba.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>3.1 Submit complaints, opinions and/or expert reports in a timely manner to the Public Prosecutor's Office.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Complaints, opinions, and/or expert reports have been submitted in accordance with legal formalities and in a timely manner, resulting in proper action being taken by the judicial authority.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that PROFEPA files complaints with the Federal Public Ministry (MPF) and testify in court hearings as required. Mexico reported that in the period from 1 April to 30 June 2023, no environmental offenses related to the illegal trafficking of totoaba that required filing a complaint with the Federal Public Ministry (MPF) was detected in the Upper Gulf of California. It was further reported that on 27 June 2023, the Attorney General's Office requested PROFEPA to issue a reparation of damage assessment report in relation to the seizure of two totoaba swim bladders that were made in Baja California Sur, Mexico. It was noted that the assessment amounted to \$5,202,844 Mexican pesos (approximately USD 250,000) and was incorporated in the investigative file of the MPF. In addition, it was reported that PROFEPA officials testified in eight totoaba related court cases during this period. Mexico concluded in its report, that in the period from 1 April to 30 June 2023, PROFEPA filed 100% of the complaints it was required to submit.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that complaints have been filed with the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, that technical opinions have been provided and that authorities testified in court. Information in the report shows that from 30 June 2023 up to 12 June 2024, five complaints were filed. Further details on these and comprehensive additional information on other matters are also provided in the report.</p> <p>The Secretariat also elaborate on matters related to target 3.1 in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which demonstrates that activities in accordance with M1 continues.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat noted that submission of complaints, opinions, and/or expert reports in accordance with M1 of target 3.1 is a regularly occurring activity that should continue.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that submission of complaints, opinions, and/or expert reports in accordance with M1 of target 3.1 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The quarterly report will have been submitted.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that in the period from 1 April to 30 June 2023, complaints, reports, and/or expert opinions were submitted in a timely manner. The Secretariat confirmed that a quarterly report was compiled and submitted as required by M2 and was available in the Annexes of the report from Mexico to SC77.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that submission of quarterly reports in accordance with M2 of target 3.1 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights quarterly reports continues to be compiled, and that to date these reports have been prepared for the periods from April to June 2023, July to September 2023, October to December 2023, January to March 2024, April to June 2024 and July to September 2024. The report from Mexico includes a summary of information contained in these reports.</p> <p>The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which demonstrates that activities in accordance with M2 continues. In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that, with the quarterly report compiled and submitted, M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP, noting that submission of quarterly reports in accordance with M2 of target 3.1 is a regularly occurring activity that should continue.</p>	
<p>3.2 Train the authorities involved in cross-border movements so that they are able to identify <i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i> and its parts and derivatives.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A training programme and the necessary materials will have been developed.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that the training program envisaged by M1 was developed and that it covers the identification of totoaba swim bladders (fresh, dried), concealment methods and the protocol to follow in case of identification. It was further reported that in accordance with this program training will be provided to officials from PROFEPA involved in environmental verifications and inspections at ports, airports, and borders, as well as the National Customs Agency of Mexico. The Party also reported on a quick reference guide developed for identifying totoaba swim bladders and containing information on common concealment methods. It was also reported that a brochure for identification of totoaba swim bladders was developed, which include information about the penalties to be imposed for illegal exploitation, possession, transportation and commercialization of such swim bladders.</p> <p>Mexico again reaffirms the above and provides associated information in its report to the present meeting.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 3.2.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): 100% of PROFEPA authorities involved in cross-border movements will have been trained.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 on training conducted in December 2021, during which amongst other authorities, 23% of PROFEPA personnel involved in cross-border movements were trained. It was further reported that in June 2023, 60 PROFEPA inspectors working at ports, airports and land borders throughout the country were trained, along with 18 officials from the General Directorate of Environmental Verification and Inspection at Ports, Airports, and Borders, to reinforce their knowledge regarding the identification of totoaba swim bladders. Mexico reported that with this, 100% of PROFEPA personnel involved in cross-border movements are trained in the identification of totoaba swim bladders. Mexico also included information on additional training that took place, involving other authorities in its report and in the Annex to its report to SC77.</p> <p>Mexico again reaffirms the above in its report to the present meeting.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M2 has been achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP. The Secretariat further noted that due to staff rotation, training will likely need to be done on a regular basis, regarding new staff deployed.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that due to staff rotation, training should be a regularly occurring activity and that activities in accordance with M2 of target 3.2 should continue as needed.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): 100% of customs authorities involved in these movements will have been trained.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that training for approximately 450 officials from its National Guard and National Customs Agency, was at the time of submitting its report planned to take place from 11 August and until late October 2023.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that PROFEPA trained 100% of the personnel of its National Customs Agency and the National Guard involved in activities related to cross-border movements. The report from Mexico contains detailed information on different training events and the number of officers trained.</p> <p>The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting. The Secretariat also elaborate on matters related to target 3.2 in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1. Based on the reporting provided and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that due to staff rotation, training will likely need to be done on</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that due to staff rotation, training should be a regularly occurring activity and that activities in accordance with M3 of target 3.2 should continue as needed.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>3.3 Strengthen collaboration with INTERPOL regarding information on Totoaba-related crimes.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The quarterly report will have been submitted.</p>	<p>a regular basis, regarding new staff deployed.</p> <p>Mexico in its report to SC77, provided information regarding its engagement with INTERPOL. The Party noted that through its INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), five Red Notices, three Purple Notices and one Blue Notice were published. It was further reported that Mexico's INTERPOL NCB has issued seven Eco messages and two diffusion alerts during the period from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2023. Of the seven Eco messages reported, three were issued in the first quarter of 2023.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat noted that no INTERPOL Notices or Eco messages were published in 2024, and Mexico was encouraged to persist in its engagement at international level through its INTERPOL NCB, and to draw upon the support and tools available through INTERPOL when circumstances require.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico provides information on its engagement with INTERPOL to initiate specific operations targeting totoaba trafficking. This information is contained in the restricted version of Mexico's report and was not made public to protect the integrity of potential enforcement activities to be delivered.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes Mexico's continued engagement with INTERPOL and developments regarding the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group (TECG) subgroup on enforcement elaborated upon in both documents SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 and 33.12.2 prepared for the present meeting. It is still too soon to determine the impacts that will be achieved through the work reported upon.</p> <p>The Secretariat concludes that activities regarding M1 of target 3.3 have been progressed. These activities are of an ongoing nature and M1 has not yet been achieved. The use of important tools such as INTERPOL Notices and Eco messages to engage at international level is encouraged and fully in line with the outcomes of the online <i>Meeting of range, transit and consumer States of totoaba</i>. The Secretariat notes that engagement through and collaboration with INTERPOL remains a priority and encourage Mexico to continue building on the work conducted to date.</p>	<p>The Secretariat conclude that activities conducted and being pursued in accordance with M1 of target 3.3 as reported upon, demonstrate that continued progress is being made.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that engagement through and collaboration with INTERPOL remains a priority and must continue.</p>
<p>3.4. Obtain detailed information about</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A quarterly financial intelligence report</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico highlighted that, through its Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), a methodology was</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>unusual operations related to the illegal capture and trafficking of totoaba and its parts or derivatives.</p>	<p>will have been prepared to identify individuals related to totoaba fishing activities and the trafficking of swim bladders.</p>	<p>developed that allows for the monitoring of suspicious transactions associated with totoaba trafficking. It was further reported that a "totoaba" indicator was developed as part of a set of indicators for the prevention of money laundering, which was continuously monitored by the FIU to identify such transactions. Mexico reported that to prepare the quarterly financial intelligence report anticipated by M1, its FIU using the "totoaba" indicator analysed over 3.6 million reports of suspicious transactions received from 2004 up to 30 June 2023, to identify transactions possibly related to the illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba. It was further reported that because of this work, 53 suspicious transaction reports related to totoaba trafficking have been identified as of 30 June 2023. The Secretariat in its report to SC77 confirmed that further information on this was contained in an Annex that Mexico provided with its report to SC77, but that this Annex was not made public because it contains confidential and sensitive information.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico provides further reporting on this indicating that up to 30 September 2024, more than 3.8 million reports of suspicious transactions were analysed by its FIU. Relevant information is however redacted from the report available in Annex 8 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, because it is of a confidential and sensitive nature. The restricted report received from Mexico on 5 November 2024 as highlighted in document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, confirms that activities in accordance with M1 of target 3.4 continues and that further progress has been made.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the work that continues to be undertaken. In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 of target 3.4 has been achieved. The Secretariat further noted that the preparation of quarterly financial intelligence reports represents an ongoing activity.</p>	<p>The Secretariat further notes that the preparation of quarterly financial intelligence reports in accordance with M1 of target 3.4 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>
<p>3.5 Ensure that criminal proceedings are conducted in accordance with the law and result in favourable resolutions for the environmental sector.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Information about investigations initiated by the Federal Public Ministry and judicial processes related to totoaba and the vaquita marina, as well as their outcomes, will have been collected, systematized, and monitored.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that the Office of the Federal Attorney General (FGR) collected and systematized information regarding investigation files on totoaba trafficking, with the aim of ensuring that criminal proceedings associated with totoaba trafficking are conducted appropriately. It was reported that based on this systematization process, the first quarterly report as anticipated by M2 below was prepared.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved and welcomed the swift</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 3.5.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.	
	Milestone 2 (M2): A quarterly report on the investigation files and judicial cases at various procedural stages will have been prepared.	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77, highlighted that as anticipated in M2, a first quarterly report was prepared. It was reported that this report covered the period from 2018 to 30 June 2023 and contained information on cases opened and investigated, cases on trial and cases finalized. It was further reported that 88 case files were opened and investigated (two of which were filed in the second quarter of 2023). Of these, 32 cases were on trial and nine were conditionally suspended. Regarding the cases on trial, it was reported that eight convictions were secured through normal procedure and three through expedited procedure. It was further reported that 16 individuals were convicted and sentenced to penalties ranging from one to four years and four months of imprisonment. In addition, restitution of damage sentences was imposed, ranging from \$1,465,700 to \$3,277,977 Mexican pesos (approximately USD 84 000 to 188 000). Regarding the nine conditional suspensions, Mexico reported that these were granted to 12 accused individuals. The Secretariat in its report to SC77 noted that it was not clear from the reporting what the status of the remaining 47 cases not put in trial or conditionally suspended were, but that it assumed that at the time these remained under investigation. Mexico in its report to SC77 further highlighted that from 2019 to June 2023, a total of 1,360 totoaba swim bladders, 4 complete totoaba specimens and 65 products derived from totoaba were confiscated.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat notes that during a meeting with PROFEPA, the FGR and other relevant authorities on 15 March 2024, an oral update on complaints registered, cases submitted, criminal proceedings conducted and the status or outcomes of cases were provided to the Secretariat. The information provided included information on cases already reported upon by Mexico in its reports to the Standing Committee, as well as some additional information. The FGR reported that 89 cases were investigated in the period 2018 to 2024, of which 31 have been adjudicated. Four resulted in convictions with prison sentences imposed on 16 offenders. The Secretariat during the mission encouraged authorities to provide further updated information in Mexico's</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the preparation of quarterly reports in accordance with M2 of target 3.5 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>future reporting to demonstrate appropriate judicial follow-up.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that the FGR actively follow up on cases and compile associated reports. It is reported that from 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2014, a total of 100 cases have filed, of which 22 were withdrawn by the FGR and 78 investigated. Of the 78 cases investigated 30 went to trial resulting in the conviction and sentencing to prison of 17 individuals. It is further reported that these cases led to restitution of damage sentences amounting to more than 114.5 million Mexican pesos (approximately USD 5,500,000). Mexico further notes in its report that several cases remain under investigation.</p> <p>In its report to SC77 the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that, with the quarterly report prepared, M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat thank Mexico for the additional information provided in its report to the present meeting, which confirms that activities in accordance with M2 continues. The Secretariat notes that the preparation of quarterly reports on investigation files and judicial cases is a regularly occurring activity.</p>	
<p>3.6 Monitor compliance with agreements reached during the online Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba (Oct/21).</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Contact will have been made with the countries that are part of the group through the CITES Secretary-General.</p>	<p>Mexico included an activity in its CAP, to request the Secretary-General of CITES to contact the Parties that participated in the <i>online Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i> and seek information on their implementation of the measures and activities as contained in the agreed meeting outcomes document.</p> <p>Mexico in its report prepared for SC77 highlighted the activities undertaken by Mexico in this regard. The Annex to the report from Mexico provided detailed information about Mexico's formal reach out to Parties and organizations concerned through diplomatic channels. This included reach out to Canada, China (including Hong Kong SAR of China), Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and Viet Nam, as well as to INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.</p> <p>Regarding the request from Mexico to the Secretary-General of CITES about contacting the Parties that participated in the <i>online Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i>, the Secretariat noted that it issued Notification to the Parties No. 2023/069 of 16 June 2023. With this Notification the Secretariat invited reporting from Parties on their</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 3.6.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>implementation of the Decisions on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) adopted at CoP19, including Decision 18.292 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a), on the implementation of the measures and activities outlined in the online <i>Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i> agreed outcomes document. Reporting on responses to the Notification was provided in document SC77 Doc. 33.13.2 on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>).</p> <p>Mexico also included an activity in its CAP requesting the CITES Secretariat to submit a proposal to the Standing Committee that a second <i>Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i> be convened. This request from Mexico was also addressed in document SC77 Doc. 33.13.2.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the missions conducted to China, Mexico and the United States of America, as well as the activities conducted in accordance with SC77 Recommendation i) on Totoabas (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>), as reported upon in document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 prepared for the present meeting, further contributed to what was anticipated by M1 of target 3.6.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved.</p>	
3.7 Improve the exchange of information regarding organized crime groups involved in the illegal trafficking of totoaba, its parts and derivatives.	Milestone 1 (M1): The inter-institutional intelligence work related to organized crime groups linked to the illegal trafficking of totoaba, its parts and derivatives will have been coordinated.	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that, to enhance information exchange regarding organized crime groups involved in the trafficking of totoaba specimens, a working group comprising relevant national agencies was established on 26 June 2023. It was reported that SEMAR was to lead the inter-institutional work through the Naval Intelligence Unit. It was further noted that through this interagency efforts will be coordinated with the aim of identifying primary or high-value targets and secondary objectives; analyses will be conducted to facilitate mapping out different links related to the trafficking of totoaba; exchange of information with international agencies will be undertaken, and recommendations will be provided to Mexican authorities regarding extraordinary inspections to be undertaken at specific establishments, warehouses, cooperatives, and, in general, any facility where fishery products are stored and/or processed.</p> <p>Mexico in its report to the present meeting, highlights an operational visit during which its authorities met with authorities from the United States of America in San Felipe,</p>	<p>Based on reporting and findings made during its mission the Secretariat concludes that room for improvement regarding achievement of M1 of target 3.7 exists.</p> <p>The Secretariat encourages Mexico to fully achieve what is envisaged by target 3.7 as a matter of priority. Mexico might also wish to at the present meeting provide an oral update on the status of legislative reforms to expand the legal authority of SEMAR.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>Baja California, on 22 March 2024. The report outlines various matters on which information were exchanged during this visit.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that the objectives of the work that were to be led by SEMAR through the Naval Intelligence Unit was in line with the steps included by Mexico in its CAP for achievement of M1.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat highlights that it was reported during its mission in Mexico that legislative reforms were being pursued with the aim of expanding the powers of SEMAR and that should these legislative reforms materialize, SEMAR officers will be able to act and conduct extraordinary inspections based on intelligence gathered through its surveillance activities. It was noted that the legislative reform process was expected to be completed by September 2024. SEMAR briefed the Secretariat on the surveillance work it had undertaken and based on what was presented the Secretariat concluded that this work is exemplary and that the legislative reforms envisaged to expand the legal authority of SEMAR would greatly contribute to addressing the activities of those involved in illegal fishing and totoaba trafficking. This is also addressed in the recommendations from the mission outlined in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, in which the Secretariat states that SEMAR has a leading role in the fight against illegal fishing and totoaba trafficking and that the legislative reforms under consideration at the time to expand the mandate and powers of SEMAR were essential and should be pursued as matter of priority. The Secretariat strongly encourages Mexico to if not completed yet, pursue these legislative reforms as a matter of necessity and priority.</p> <p>Regarding the investigation and prosecution of cases and appropriate judicial follow-up as anticipated by target 3.5 in the CAP, the Secretariat notes that as pointed out in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, information received by the Secretariat during its mission indicated that there is much room for improvement in this area of compliance and that the judiciary could be more engaged in matters related to totoaba. Information suggests that some cases involving high-value targets managing and organizing the illegal trade in Mexico were not successfully concluded in court.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that the deadline</p>	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		set in the CAP for achievement of M1 of target 3.7. was 30 May 2023, but that although there is a delay in achievement of the milestone, the Secretariat welcomed the progress made and the mechanism established to collate information from different agencies and support intelligence driven interventions through analyses of data and sharing the results. Based on reporting to the present meeting the Secretariat concludes that room for improvement regarding achievement of M1 of target 3.7 exists. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to fully achieve target 3.7 as a matter of priority.	
	Milestone 2 (M2): Quarterly intelligence reports will have been integrated.	<p>Mexico states in its report to the present meeting that SEMAR deployed field agents in the states of Baja California and Sonora to collect and compile information on individuals and companies suspected to be involved in the illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba. Information on activities conducted in this regard is outlined in the report. It is noted that as part of this work, SEMAR in April 2024 seized a vessel and two totoaba swim bladders and arrested three individuals for totoaba specimen trafficking. It is reported that the case is currently under investigation.</p> <p>The report from Mexico does not provide information on any quarterly intelligence reports generated as anticipated by M2 and the activities reported upon seems to relate more to what is envisaged to be done in accordance with M1 of target 2.7. The Secretariat therefore concludes that M2 is not yet achieved. The Secretariat notes that its observations against M1 of target 3.7 also applies to M2 of target 3.7. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to fully achieve target 3.7 as a matter of priority.</p>	<p>based on reporting provided, the Secretariat concludes that M2 of target 3.7 is not yet achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat encourages Mexico to fully achieve target 3.7 as a matter of priority.</p>

Line of action 4. Implement a programme for alternative fishing gear and the marking and fishing equipment programme for minor vessels.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
4.1 Continuously update a programme of registration and licensing of active fishers in the Upper Gulf	Milestone 1 (M1): A census of licensed and active fishers in the Upper Gulf of California has been updated.	In its report to SC77, Mexico noted that the development of a Program for Registration and Accreditation of Fishermen Operating in the UGC was in progress. The report from Mexico to SC77 included a table that provided information on the activities that were at the time envisaged to be undertaken to implement the programme. This table showed that activities would involve a	Based on reporting and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that, although some progress has been made, room for improvement regarding achievement of M1 of target 4.1 exists.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
of California.		<p>combination of fieldwork and deskwork. Mexico noted in its report that achieving Target 4.1 was subject to the allocation and approval of financial resources and that approximately 12 million pesos (approximately USD 700 000) was expected to be required.</p> <p>In Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat highlights that information provided during its mission indicated that work to fully achieve target 4.1 was at the time of the mission not yet completed. This is one of the matters addressed in the recommendations from the mission on further steps to be taken by Mexico. As outlined in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, given the importance of this work Mexico should prioritize this matter and take urgent steps to ensure the activities for target 4.1 are fully achieved.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico reports that CONAPESCA developed a Terms of Reference for implementation of the Program for Registration and Accreditation of Fishermen Operating in the UGC and that the required budget to support implementation of the program is being evaluated. The report from Mexico includes a table that provides detailed information on the activities envisaged to be implemented. The report also highlights that programme implementation will focus on the states of Baja California and Sonora, noting that in these area's combined it would involve approximately 4,905 fishers and 1,635 vessels that currently have valid fishing permits. Additional information is also provided in the report.</p> <p>The deadline set in the CAP for achievement of target 4.1 was 31 October 2023. The reporting of Mexico to the present meeting shows that some progress has been made, but it still seems limited considering that the deadline for achievement of M1 passed more than a year ago. The Secretariat again reiterate the need for Mexico to prioritize this matter and take urgent steps to ensure that target 4.1 is fully achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat urges Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.1 as a matter of priority.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2(M2): The monthly report of licensed fishers has been prepared.</p>	<p>The information provided in the present document at milestone 1 of Target 4.1, is also relevant for M2.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 was 31 October 2023.</p>	<p>Based on reporting and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that activities to implement M2 of target 4.1 have not yet commenced and that this milestone was not yet achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat encourages Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.1 as a matter of priority.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
4.2 Issue all the permits for commercial fisheries with the alternative gear systems.	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The technical opinion of IMIPAS (formerly known as INAPESCA) on alternative gear systems has been obtained.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico noted that IMIPAS (formerly known as INAPESCA), since 2004 conducted various projects and studies in close coordination with fishing organizations in San Felipe and the Gulf of Santa Clara, as well as civil society organizations, to promote alternative fishing gear systems among fishers the UGC. It was reported that based on the results of these studies, alternative fishing gear systems have been developed. Mexico provided additional information in the Annex to its SC77 report, highlighting that permits are only issued for fishing with authorized alternative gear and that as part of the processing any fishing permit application, a technical assessment on the fishing gear used is obtained from IMIPAS.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico again reiterate what it previously reported and included a table in the report with relevant information.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that the CAP states that in accordance with M1, applications for fishing permits received by CONAPESCA will be submitted to IMIPAS for a technical opinion regarding fishing gear. The Secretariat based on information provided, as also further elaborated upon against M2 of target 4.2, concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 4.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): All timely applications meeting the requirements have led to the granting of a permit.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico noted that from 18 April to 15 July 2023 a total of 45 fishing permit applications were received by its authorities and that of these, at the time 23 were processed and finalized and permits for fishing with alternative gear accordingly granted. It was further reported to SC77, that regarding the remaining 22 applications, 19 were pending due to document requirements, two were pending awaiting technical opinion from IMIPAS (formerly known as INAPESCA), and one was finalized and not approved. Additional information on the permits issued was provided in the Annex to Mexico's report to SC77. It was stated in the Annex that from September 2020 up to 15 July 2023, a total of 579 fishing permits were granted, with 556 issued for smaller vessels and 23 for larger vessels.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that from April 2023 to September 2024, CONAPESCA received 233 fishing permit applications and regarding these issued 121 fishing permits, 100% of them for the exclusive use of alternative fishing systems and gear. It is further noted that 76 applications are pending due to ongoing review, documents required or technical opinions to be issued, while 36 applications were not successful and permits therefore not granted.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the timely processing of applications and issuing of permits for fishing with alternative fishing gear as anticipated by M2 of target 4.2 is an ongoing activity that must continue.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
		<p>Based on reporting provided, the Secretariat concludes that permits are being granted as required and that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that the timely processing of applications and issuing of permits for fishing with alternative fishing gear is an ongoing activity.</p>		
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): New permits have been granted as applicable.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that Article 45 of its General Law on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture establishes a maximum deadline of 60 business days to process fishing permit applications. Additional information regarding activities conducted in the context of M3 was also provided in the Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico reiterates what it reported to SC77, and states that from April 2023 to September 2024, applications were on average processed within 29 calendar days.</p> <p>Based on reporting provided, the Secretariat concludes that new permits are being granted as applicable and that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that the granting of new permits for fishing is a regularly occurring activity.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that granting of new permits for fishing as anticipated by M3 of target 4.2 is a regularly occurring activity that must continue.</p>	
<p>4.3 Provide training to 100% of organizations with alternative fishing systems authorized in the permits issued by CONAPESCA.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): 100% of permit holders have received training on authorized shrimp trawls and suripera nets.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that CONAPESCA was at the time planning to by 1 October 2023 conduct training sessions for permit holders using shrimp trawl nets and suripera nets, with the aim of training 100% of these alternative fishing gear permit holders as anticipated by M1.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that IMPAS (formerly known as INAPESCA) developed a training program for the use of alternative fishing gear in the UGC. The Party notes that this program aims to assist UGC communities with establishment of sustainable fisheries by implementing alternative fishing systems already developed and available. It is further noted that it is determined in the program that substitution of fishing gear must be accompanied by adequate training on the use of alternative gear and the provision of temporary support during the training period, including through on-board observers for on-site advice. It is further noted that most of all, success depends on the will and effort of the fishers, which has not always been favourable to the use of alternative gear. Mexico reports that IMIPAS and CONAPESCA collaborates to ensure that all fishers are subjected to the program. It is further noted that In July 2023, IMIPAS provided training on the use of alternative fishing gear to 111 fisher organization representatives and private permit holders, and in</p>	<p>Based on reporting and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that although some progress has been made, room for improvement regarding achievement of M1 of target 4.3 exists.</p> <p>The Secretariat urges Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.3 as a matter of priority.</p>	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>June 2024 IMPAS provided training to 60 fisher organization representatives and private permit holders. It is noted in the report that 100% of the organizations that have CONAPESCA permits for the use of alternative gear participated in both trainings. It is further reported that in August 2024, CONANP convened workshops that facilitated dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experiences with members of the fishing sector in the UGC, on the use of alternative fishing gear authorized for shrimp and marine scale fisheries.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the reporting from Mexico that demonstrates some progress has been made. However, based on the reporting provided and findings made during its mission to Mexico, the Secretariat is not able to conclude that M1 of target 4.3 has been achieved. The reporting provided suggest that activities delivered to train fishing permit holders as anticipated by M1 are still in their initial stages and that significant further training will be needed for fishers to fully transition and use alternative fishing gear, which is required for M1 to be achieved. The Secretariat further notes that its observations at M1 of target 4.5 are also relevant to M1 of target 4.3. Considering that the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M1 of target 4.3 was 1 October 2023, Mexico is urged to prioritize activities regarding this milestone and to take urgent steps to ensure that it is fully achieved.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): 100% of permit holders have received training on authorized nets for non-cartilaginous fish, traps and hook lines.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that CONAPESCA at the time planned to by 1 November 2023, conduct a second phase of training sessions for permit holders using scale fish trawl nets, traps and authorized hook lines, with the aim of training 100% of these alternative fishing gear permit holders as anticipated by M2.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that its reporting against M1 of target 4.3 also applies to M2 of target 4.3, and that its observations at M1 of target 4.5 are also relevant to M2 of target 4.3. The deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M2 was 1 November 2023. Mexico is urged to prioritize this milestone and to take urgent steps to ensure that it is fully achieved.</p>	<p>Based on reporting and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that although some progress has been made, room for improvement regarding achievement of M2 of target 4.3 exists.</p> <p>The Secretariat urges Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.3 as a matter of priority.</p>
<p>4.4. Implement the Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme for minor vessels, in accordance with the Regulatory Agreement.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme has been developed and publicized.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that work was underway to develop the Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Program for smaller vessels.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that CONAPESCA developed a Terms of Reference (ToR) for implementation of the Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Program for smaller vessels and that the required budget to support implementation of the program is being evaluated. It is</p>	<p>Based on reporting and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that progress is being made towards achieving M1 of target 4.4.</p> <p>The Secretariat urges Mexico to achieve all aspects of target 4.4 as a matter of priority.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
		<p>stated that the program provides for the marking of all gillnets or gillnets authorized for fishing outside the gillnet prohibition zone, mainly in the towns of Puerto Peñasco, Puerto Libertad, Puerto Lobos and El Desemboque de Caborca, in the State of Sonora. It is further reported that it is estimated that a total of 20,583 fishing gear will be marked. It is also reported that according to CONAPESCA data, as of 25 September 2023, the total number of fishing gear used in accordance with fishing permits authorizing fishing in the gillnet prohibition area was 20,359 and outside the prohibition area was 224. It is noted that through the program, 27,000 marking devices will be acquired, either consisting of plastic labels or radiofrequency microchips, noting that the latter is the preferred option since it represents an economical and sophisticated method for permanent and unalterable identification. It is further noted that the ToR anticipates daily and weekly monitoring reports that describe the number of marking devices installed by type of vessel.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M1 of Target 4.4 was 30 September 2023. The Secretariat further notes that although the deadline has passed, it concludes that progress is being made to achieve this milestone. The Secretariat also elaborate on this matter in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1. Mexico is urged to prioritize M1 of target 4.4 to ensure that it is fully achieved in the near future.</p>		
	Milestone 2 (M2): The Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme has been implemented in at least 50% of the registered vessels of the region.	M2 is not yet achieved. The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M2 was 30 April 2024.	M2 is not yet achieved. The Secretariat urges Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.4 as a matter of priority.	
	Milestone 3 (M3): The Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme has been implemented in 100% of the registered vessels of the region.	M3 is not yet achieved. The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M3 was 30 September 2024.	M3 is not yet achieved. The Secretariat urges Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.4 as a matter of priority.	
4.5 Implement the continuous improvement programme for the	Milestone 1 (M1): A diagnosis of necessary improvements has been made with the	Mexico reported to SC77 that work was underway to develop a Continuous Improvement Program for the Development of Alternative Fishing Systems for Catching Gulf Corvina. It was reported that an improvement diagnosis was being undertaken to incorporate the perspectives of fishers as appropriate. Mexico	Based on reporting and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that room for improvement regarding achievement of M1 of target 4.5 exists.	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
development of alternative fishing systems to catch gulf corvina.	suggestions of fishers.	<p>further reported the diagnosis that was being conducted would serve as input for the creation of the program as anticipated by M2 of Target 4.5.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico elaborates on work conducted since 2018 and notes that IMIPAS prepared a diagnosis of improvements incorporating suggestions received from fishers, based on experimental tests for the capture of olive ridley croaker.</p> <p>As highlighted in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, CSO representatives during the Secretariat's mission stated that CONAPESCA may issue permits for the use of alternative gear, but that many fishers are of the view that the alternative gear is ineffective and may be unlikely to use it. It is further highlighted that representatives from the fisher community during the mission strongly expressed their concerns regarding alternative fishing gear, especially highlighting that they were not consulted in the design of the alternatives. The Secretariat note in its report on the mission that it seems that fishers are of the view that without effective support and alternative gears that support their livelihoods, they have no option but to continue using gillnets. This matter is also addressed in the recommendations from the mission of the Secretariat to Mexico as outlined in Annex 4, in which the Secretariat conclude that the lack of dedicated work to support the development and use of alternative fishing gear is one of the most important factors that undermines the good work being done in accordance with the other lines of action in the CAP. Mexico during the mission informed the Secretariat that funds would be made available for these activities.</p> <p>The above observations of the Secretariat should also be taken into consideration in the context of M1 and M2 of target 4.3.</p> <p>The deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M1 of target 4.5 was 30 September 2023. Mexico is urged to take urgent steps to achieve this milestone.</p>	<p>The Secretariat urges Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.5 as a matter of priority.</p>
	Milestone 2 (M2): The continuous improvement programme for the development of selective fishing systems to catch gulf corvina has been prepared.	<p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico states IMIPAS (formerly known as INAPESCA) work with fishers to further improve fishing systems. It is further stated that considering gulf corvina fishing does not interact with the vaquita and that the conditions for which the restrictions on this fishery were included in "the Agreement" are no longer present, the Government of Mexico is working in collaboration with fishers to amend "the Agreement" so that restrictions on gulf corvina fishing will no longer be included. It is also reported that CONANP was at the time of reporting,</p>	<p>Based on reporting and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes further work is needed for M2 of target 4.5 to be achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat urges Mexico to fully achieve all aspects of target 4.5 as a matter of priority.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>based on the discussions at workshops on alternative fishing gear that were conducted in 2024 with groups of fishers, integrating results in the Program for the Development of Alternative Fishing Systems for Catching Gulf Corvina to further improve it.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that its observations at M1 of target 4.5 shows that much work still needs to be done regarding the development of alternative fishing systems and the use of alternative fishing gear. These observations must be read in the context of both M1 and M2 of target 4.5, as well as M1 and M2 of target 4.3. As noted in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the Secretariat concluded during its mission that the lack of dedicated work to support the development and use of alternative fishing gear is the single most important aspect that undermines the good work being done in accordance with the other lines of action in the CAP.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Secretariat concludes that further work is needed for M2 of target 4.5 to be achieved. The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M2 of target 4.5 was 29 February 2024. Mexico is urged to urgently progress work supporting the development of selective fishing systems and use of alternative fishing gear.</p>	

Line of action 5. Monitor the vaquita population.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
5.1 Estimate the population trend of the vaquita.	Milestone 1 (M1): The elements of the Community Conservation component of the Programme for the Protection and Restoration of Priority Species and Ecosystems (PROREST) have been published.	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that guidelines for the implementation of the PROREST programme were developed and published and that the required budget was allocated for implementation through the community conservation component. The report from Mexico included a URL link through which the published guidelines could be accessed.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that with the guidelines anticipated by M1 published, M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 5.1.</p>
	Milestone 2 (M2): The working plan has been drawn up.	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that, to continue the vaquita acoustic monitoring program carried out annually since 2011, a work plan was developed. It was reported that the work plan outlined the methodology for sampling, the sites where sampling would take</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>place, the periods, the execution deadlines, and other aspects. It was further reported that in accordance with the workplan, in 2023, sampling was scheduled to be conducted at the same 42 sites within the Zo where samples were collected in 2022, and that additional samples were scheduled to be attempted at new sites, with the goal of reaching a total of 55 sampling sites. The work plan was included as an Annex to the report from Mexico.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that, with the work plan anticipated by M2 prepared, M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone.</p>	<p>reporting on M2 of target 5.1.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3). 85 acoustic detectors have been acquired and delivered to replace those missing.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that 85 acoustic detectors were purchased in June 2023 and that their shipment was at the time of reporting in progress. It was reported that with the 85 newly bought acoustic detectors, those lost in previous years could be replaced and that there would be devices in reserve to use should future losses occur.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that the 85 acoustic detectors were received on 25 August 2023.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Secretariat concludes that M3 has been achieved and welcome achievement of this milestone within the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 5.1.</p>
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4). Fieldwork has been conducted (i.e., <i>Placement of acoustic detectors to compile data in at least 30 sites in the Zo during a minimum of four sampling periods at neap tide</i>).</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico reported that implementation of activities to achieve M4 were ongoing and that at the time of its reporting some placements and some recovery of anchors and acoustic detectors have been carried out in the Zo. It was reported that under the PROREST programme a beneficiary community group of fishers are participating in this work.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico states the acoustic detectors have been placed and that in 2023, it recorded 46,204 hours of monitoring at 43 sites, recording 208 acoustic detections at 25 of the sampling sites. Mexico further reports that from June to September 2024, detectors recorded 31,961 hours of monitoring at 32 sites in the Zo, with 178 acoustic detections at 22 sampling sites. It is stated in the report that acoustic monitoring activities were continuing at the time of reporting and was scheduled to conclude in November 2024. It is reported that from 23 August to 24 September 2024, acoustic monitoring was also carried out outside the Zo in the VRA, which resulted in 23,793 hours of monitoring and the recording of 19 acoustic encounters in the VRA.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M4 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M4 of target 5.1.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>Considering the above, the Secretariat concludes that M4 has been achieved.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 5 (M5). The findings on acoustic monitoring have been submitted to the GIS.</p>	<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that the results of the 2023 vaquita acoustic monitoring program was presented to GIS members on 12 August 2024. It is further noted that final analysis of the 2024 vaquita acoustic monitoring program results will be available in the first quarter of 2025.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Secretariat concludes that M5 has been achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M5 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M5 of target 5.1.</p>
<p>5.2 Undertake a research cruise for visual detection of vaquitas to determine their minimum number in the Zo.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The mission has been planned.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that planning was completed and that subsequently the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise took place from 10 to 26 May 2023.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M1 has been achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 5.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2(M2): The coordination and logistic actions for conducting the observation cruise have been implemented.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77 highlighted the different authorities, organizations and experts that participated in the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise that took place from 10 to 26 May 2023.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that the report from Mexico showed that M2 was achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 5.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): The observation cruise has been conducted.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report to SC77 highlighted that the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise took place from 10 to 26 May 2023 and that it had both acoustic and visual components. It was reported that over a period of 17 days, visual searches were conducted in the Zo and its surroundings. It was further reported 61 acoustic detections and 16 sightings were made.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that another Vaquita Observation Cruise was carried out from 5 to 26 May 2024.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that the report from Mexico showed that M3 was achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 5.2.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): The expert workshop has taken place.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that, to determine the minimum number of individuals sighted during the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise, an analysis of the cruise results was conducted using the Expert Elicitation method. It was reported that this analysis was facilitated by experts from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, with a 76% confidence level and that results showed that the minimum number of the vaquita population at the time was between 10 and 13 individuals, including 1 to 2 calves.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico provides information on the results of the 2024 Vaquita Observation Cruise. It is reported that nine sightings were made and that it was determined the minimum number of individuals sighted was six to eight, one of which was around one year old. Mexico notes that it is worth mentioning that, because vaquitas can move freely outside the Zo, the number of individuals observed is considered a minimum. It further notes that these minimum numbers do not differ substantially from those observed in previous years through the same exercise and using the same methodology.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that the report from Mexico showed that M4 was achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M4 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M4 of target 5.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 5 (M5): The report has been submitted to CONANP.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that the final report on the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise and its results was submitted to CONANP as anticipated by M5.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico in the context of M5, provide additional reporting on the 2024 Vaquita Observation Cruise.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that the report from Mexico showed that M5 was achieved and welcomed the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M5 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M5 of target 5.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 6 (M6): CONANP has submitted the report to the GIS.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that CONANP presented the results of the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise to the GIS at its Second Ordinary Session held in Mexicali, Baja California, on 23 June 2023. The final report on the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise was included as an Annex to the report of Mexico to SC77.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico in the context of M6, provide additional reporting on the 2024 Vaquita Observation Cruise.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M6 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M6 of target 5.2.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that M6 was achieved and commended Mexico for the swift achievement of all milestones set for target 5.2 in the CAP	

Line of Action 6. Raise awareness of illegal trade in totoaba and its consequences for conservation.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>6.1 Implement the Strategy for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and Reconstruction of the Social Fabric to promote a behavioural change in the population.</p> <p>Baseline (BL) and Indicator (I)</p> <p>BL1: Public spaces for community sharing are inappropriate for the community.</p> <p>I1: Number of actions performed in accordance with the work plan.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The Community Participation Committee has been set up.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77 Mexico highlighted that the Strategy for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Social Fabric Reconstruction is framed within three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery and appropriation of public spaces. • Community dialogues. • Promotion of life skills and protective factors in schools. <p>Mexico reported that on 5 April 2023, the Community Participation Committee consisting of community members aiming to oversee actions and ensure the proper distribution of responsibilities., was formed as anticipated by M1.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat welcomed the establishment of the Community Participation Committee and concurred with Mexico that M1 was achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 6.1 (BL.1 and I1).</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The work plan for the rehabilitation of a public space has been prepared.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that based on needs expressed by community members a work plan was developed which included 14 activities to be carried out during 2023. This workplan and additional information was included in an Annex to Mexico's report prepared for SC77.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat welcomed the swift achievement of M2, and the work plan developed in support of achievement of target 6.1.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 6.1 (BL.1 and I1).</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): The work plan has been implemented.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico stated that of the 14 activities contained in the work plan developed in accordance with M2 above, eight have been completed, two were in progress, and four at the time have not yet commenced. Further information regarding this was also provided in an Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that the 14</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided and findings made during its mission to Mexico, concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 6.1 (BL.1 and I1).</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
		<p>activities were carried out during 2023 and 2024 and included restoration of public park and improvement of infrastructure, as well as activities such as entrepreneurship days, bazaars and training of sports promoters, among others. Additional information can be found in the report of Mexico to the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat also elaborate on matters related to target 6.1 in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1.</p> <p>Based on reporting provided and findings made by the Secretariat during its mission to Mexico, the Secretariat concludes that M3 has been achieved.</p>		
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): Participatory information about the community's perception of the actions implemented has been collected.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico noted that the actions implemented will be evaluated in future to further inform and develop activities.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico states that according to the work plan, the actions implemented have been evaluated together with community representatives, applying a series of indicators. The report from Mexico includes a table in which information is provided about the evaluation conducted and associated findings.</p> <p>Based on reporting provided, the Secretariat concludes that M4 has been achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M4 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M4 of target 6.1 (BL.1 and I1).</p>	
<p>6.1 (Continue) Implement the Strategy for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and Reconstruction of the Social Fabric to promote a behavioural change in the population.</p> <p>Baseline (BL) and Indicator (I) BL2: There is weak community participation and the dialogue between the community and the</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Fishers in San Felipe have been approached to learn about their perspectives and opinions.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico highlighted that historically dialogue between community members and governmental authorities through formal channels, and community participation in related activities, were low and unsatisfactory. Mexico reported that in this regard, SEGOB implemented actions to facilitate another type of dialogue with fishers and key actors. It was reported that roundtable discussions were initiated to approach fishers in San Felipe and learn about their perspectives and opinions. It was also reported that on 16 March 2023 an introductory meeting was held with 22 fishers and that this resulted in a dialogue where priority issues were identified to be addressed at future roundtable discussions.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico states that SEGOB continued to coordinate activities to facilitate engagement and communication with fishers, and that further meetings were held in July and August 2023. It is reported that this enabled conversations through which information on the main concerns and requests of the fishers were collected.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat concurred with Mexico that</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2).</p>	

<p>authorities takes place mainly through formal channels.</p>		<p>M1 has been achieved and commended Mexico for the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the CAP. The Secretariat noted that although it was too soon to determine the effect and impact this approach would have, it seemed as if the results were positive.</p>		
<p>I2: Number of community meetings or conversations held-/number of community meetings or conversations planned.</p>	<p>Milestone (M2): Conversations have taken place with various sectors of the community of San Felipe.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that implementation of activities to achieve M2 were ongoing. It was reported that, on 11 and 12 July 2023, roundtable discussions were held with the fishing sector, fishing authorities and institutional actors involved. It was further reported that 35 individuals participated in these activities. Priority issues raised by the fishing sector during roundtable discussions included addressing matters related to illegal fishing, defining fishing gear between authorities and the fishing sector, respecting the zero-tolerance policy, updating or modifying "the Agreement", and participating in collaborative fisheries management with authorities.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting Mexico states that further meetings were held in 2023. It is reported that this facilitated establishing positive dialogue with fishers on matters that were of concern to them. Mexico elaborates in its report on the nature of discussions held and results achieved.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat noted that dialogue between community members and governmental authorities should be a regularly occurring activity and encouraged Mexico to also continue these activities beyond the timeframe set in the CAP.</p> <p>As highlighted in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, findings made by the Secretariat during its mission to Mexico showed that representatives from the fisher community continued to strongly express their negative perceptions regarding alternative fishing gear, especially complaining that they are not consulted in the design of the alternatives. CSO representatives also held the view that many fishers continue to see the vaquita in a negative light and as a threat to their livelihoods, noting that the cost of conservation falls on them and the benefits are for an international community that does not understand the needs of the local communities. The Secretariat concluded that further community engagement, incentives and education is needed to change the perspectives of fishers.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the activities conducted by Mexico to date, the positive dialogue established with fishers and the progress made. However, considering the findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that further work is</p>	<p>Based on findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that further work is needed for M2 of target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2) to be achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that dialogue between community members and governmental authorities is an activity of ongoing nature that must continue. In its implementation of activities regarding target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2), the Secretariat further urges Mexico to also consider activities as envisaged by M2 of target 2. 6 and M2 of target 2. 9, and to continue implementation both in San Felipe and elsewhere.</p>	

		<p>required for M2 of target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2) to be achieved, both among fishers in San Felipe and elsewhere. As stated against M2 of target 2. 6 and M2 of target 2. 9, activities as envisaged by these milestones in targets 2.6 and 2.9 should also be pursued as part of activities in accordance with line of action 6 in the CAP. The Secretariat again reiterate that dialogue between community members and governmental authorities is an activity that should be of ongoing nature and encourages Mexico to actively pursue this in the light of the continued need for community engagement and education to change the perspectives of fishers.</p>		
	<p>Milestones 3 (M3): The findings of the community meetings or conversations have been compiled and analysed to develop alternative proposals.</p>	<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that findings obtained through community engagement have been compiled and analysed as required by M3, based on which proposals were formulated to address the needs of the community. Mexico in its report highlights the conclusions reached.</p> <p>Based on reporting from Mexico and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that significant work has been done and that progress have been made with activities delivered towards achievement of M3 of target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2), but that work related to the milestone is in progress and it is not yet achieved. It is clear from reporting that dialogue on proposals formulated and conclusions reached continues. As noted in document CoP19 Doc. 29.2.1, the situation in the UGC is complex and multifactorial and as part of efforts to address totoaba trafficking and the threat posed to the vaquita there are many non-environmental aspects being taken into consideration, which includes social aspects affecting local communities. Although the deadline set in the CAP for achievement of M3 was 31 December 2023, the Secretariat concludes that progress continues to be made and that the delay is understandable given the complexity of the matter. Mexico is encouraged to continue actively pursuing full achievement of the aspects outlined in target 6.1 of the CAP.</p>	<p>Based on reporting provided and findings made during its mission, the Secretariat concludes that regarding achievement of M3 of target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2), significant work has been done and progress has been made.</p> <p>The Secretariat encourages Mexico to actively pursue full achievement of the aspects outlined in target 6.1 of the CAP.</p>	
<p>6.1 (Continue) Implement the Strategy for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and Reconstruction of the Social Fabric to promote a behavioural change in the population.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Lectures and workshops about environmental protection have been conducted with children and adolescents of the San Felipe community.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that lectures and workshops as envisaged by M1 commenced. It was reported that there was engagement with five primary and secondary level schools in the municipality of San Felipe, Baja California, where 12 talks were conducted on environmental awareness, mental health, life skills, and prevention of adolescent pregnancy. These talks were supported by CONANP, the Institute of Psychiatry of the State of Baja California and the State Group for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. It was reported that in total, 347 children and adolescents benefited from the workshops.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights further</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that lectures and workshops as envisaged by M1 of target 6.1 (BL.3 and I3) are of and ongoing nature and must continue.</p>	

<p>Baseline (BL) and Indicator (I)</p> <p>BL3: Children and adolescents have little information about protective factors.</p> <p>I3: Number of children and adolescents who have participated in the workshops held in elementary and middle schools</p>		<p>activities undertaken in collaboration with schools and that numerous talks and workshops were held on environmental protection and topics aimed at promoting well-being of children and adolescents in the community, in which more than 1,140 people participated. Mexico notes that M1 was achieved by the 30 September 2023 deadline set in the CAP.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcome the activities reported upon and concludes that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that lectures and workshops as envisaged by M1 are of an ongoing nature and encourage Mexico to continue these activities.</p>		
<p>6.2 Implement a comprehensive awareness raising strategy for local communities on illegal trade of totoaba and its serious consequences for the conservation of the vaquita.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A media strategy has been developed.</p>	<p>Mexico reported to SC77 that implementation of its media strategy was done as part of implementing a comprehensive awareness raising campaign for local communities regarding the illegal trade in totoaba and its consequences for conservation of the vaquita. The Party highlighted that the media strategy was designed to specifically raise awareness amongst and target local communities and the fishing sector. It was reported that the awareness raising campaign was officially launched on 10 July 2023, and that it included twelve infographics, with further materials also being developed. The report further highlighted that numerous governmental agencies were participating in the joint campaign.</p> <p>In its report to SC77, the Secretariat welcomed the media strategy developed and that were implemented as part of Mexico's comprehensive awareness raising campaign targeting local communities and the fishing sector. Based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concluded that M1 was achieved.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 6.2.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The communication campaigns of the Mexican Government's Comprehensive Awareness-raising Strategy have been launched.</p>	<p>In its report to SC77, Mexico highlighted that its comprehensive awareness raising campaign was launched on 10 July 2023. It was reported that as part of the campaign information was being disseminated about Mexico's CAP on totoaba and the activities that will be implemented in accordance with the CAP. It was further noted that the campaign raised awareness about the findings of the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise (survey), the characteristics of the vaquita and totoaba, their habitat and that they are endangered and endemic species in the UGC. The campaign further highlighted the risks posed to the vaquita by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba. Furthermore, the campaign addressed topics such as the regulatory framework in place, and it emphasized the need for international cooperation to</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on reporting provided concludes that M2 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that communication and awareness raising campaigns as envisaged by M2 of target 6.2 are of an ongoing nature and must continue.</p>	

	<p>address matters related to illegal supply and demand. Mexico reported that among the activities implemented to provide information to key stakeholders, it was worth highlighting that on 24 May 2023 an Information Meeting with the Fishing Sector of the UGC was held. It was further reported that on 23 June 2023 the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Interagency Group on Sustainability in the Upper Gulf of California (GIS) took place. It was reported that during this meeting the comprehensive awareness raising campaign and media strategy was presented and a guide on the content of Mexico's CAP was provided to fishers, academics and CSOs. An example of this guide was also included in the relevant Annex to Mexico's report prepared for SC77.</p> <p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico states that the media strategy included the dissemination of 12 infographics about the CAP, totoaba and the vaquita, on social networks. It is also reported that the communication campaign "Let's protect the vaquita. Their survival is our responsibility", aired from 24 October to 30 November 2023, and included radio and television advertisements, as well as advertising in printed media (such as the widely circulated national newspaper El Heraldo de México). It was further aired through complementary means such as loudspeakers and poster projection on screens at the Mexico City International Airport. It is further reported that SEMARNAT produced a documentary on "Alto Golfo: a collective dream of well-being and conservation", which showcases the inter-institutional efforts that have been carried out in recent years to protect the vaquita. The report from Mexico also includes additional information and images from the awareness raising campaign.</p> <p>Based on available information the Secretariat concludes that M2 of target 6.2 has been achieved. The Secretariat notes that for the reasons explained against M2 of target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2), it is essential that communication and awareness raising campaigns continue. Such activities are of an ongoing nature and should be further pursued.</p>		
<p>Milestone 3 (M3): An assessment of the impact and reach of the Comprehensive Awareness-raising Strategy has been conducted.</p>	<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico highlights that an assessment as anticipated by M3 was conducted. The report includes detailed information on the assessment results. It is reported that in addition, within the framework of the comprehensive awareness strategy, an event called the "Vaquita Fest", was held in both February and June 2024. Further information on this and other additional information are provided in the report.</p> <p>With the assessment anticipated by M3 conducted, the Secretariat conclude that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat welcomes the achievement of this milestone and encourage Mexico to draw</p>	<p>The Secretariat concludes that M3 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 6.2.</p>	

		upon the assessment results to inform any future activities.	
--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------	--

Line of action 7. Operationalize the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
7.1 China-US-Mexico Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group in operation.	Milestone 1 (M1): The existing discrepancies on the text of the terms of reference (ToR) for the creation of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group (TECG) have been solved.	<p>In its report to the present meeting, Mexico reports that the terms of reference for the TECG was agreed and that the group is now established and operational. It is reported that the first TECG meeting was held online on 7 March 2024 and that it was agreed by China, Mexico and the United States of America to create a smaller subgroup consisting of enforcement authorities only, to share enforcement information and undertake related activities. Further reporting on this is also provided in document 33.12.2 on <i>Report of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group</i>, submitted by Mexico as current Chair of the TECG, for discussion at the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the progress made and considers that activities to be conducted through the TECG subgroup on enforcement could significantly improve information and intelligence exchange between the three Parties, as well as facilitate joint action and activities to respond to and address totoaba specimen trafficking. It is still too soon to determine the impacts that will be achieved through the work of the TECG, but indications are positive. The Secretariat further elaborates on this matter in document 33.12.1 prepared for the present meeting.</p>	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided, concludes that M1 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 7.1.</p>	
	Milestone 2 (M2): The definition of signatories for each country has been clarified.	The Secretariat notes that its observations at M1 of Target 7.1 also applicable to the present milestone.	The Secretariat based on the reporting provided, concludes that M2 was achieved.	The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 7.1.
	Milestone 3 (M3): The mechanism for participating has been solved.	The Secretariat notes that its observations at M1 of Target 7.1 are also applicable to the present milestone.	The Secretariat based on the reporting provided, concludes that M3 was achieved.	The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 7.1.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	Milestone 4 (M4): There are sufficient legal conditions to start the operations of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group.	The Secretariat notes that its observations at M1 of Target 7.1 are also applicable to the present milestone.	<p>The Secretariat based on the reporting provided, concludes that M4 was achieved.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M4 of target 7.1.</p>