



Our objectives

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The Adriatic sea hosts several species of cetaceans and sea turtles and is considered a key foraging and development area for young sea turtles. Unfortunately cetaceans and sea turtles are vulnerable to interactions with human activities especially related to fisheries and coastal tourism (e.g. impacts with recreational boats).

The main objective of the NETCET project is to develop common strategies for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Adriatic through a **pan-Adriatic cooperation**. Cetaceans and sea turtles are a shared endangered natural heritage which cannot be managed by a single state in isolation. Due to the migratory nature of these species and the joint responsibility of Adriatic states, collaboration is essential to planning effective **long-term conservation strategies**.

Marine biodiversity conservation **problems** and more specifically **cetaceans and sea turtles conservation** issues are common to all countries across the Adriatic but experience across regions in this field varies and there is thus much to be gained by **bringing together best practice and experience** with the aim of defining a common conservation framework and tools/measures for the conservation of endangered marine species, making these tools readily available to other regions towards the end of the project. For these reasons the NETCET project, coordinated by the City of Venice, is managed by 13 partners situated in several Countries of the Adriatic Basin: **Italy, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro and Slovenia**.

The NETCET project runs from October 2012 to September 2015.

The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme

The NETCET project is financed by the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme and more specifically within the Priority 2 "Natural and Cultural Resources and Risk Prevention". The general aim of this Cross-border Cooperation Programme is strengthening sustainable development capabilities of the Adriatic region through a concerted strategy of action among the partners of the eligible territories.

Programme web site: www.adriaticpacbc.org



What we want to achieve

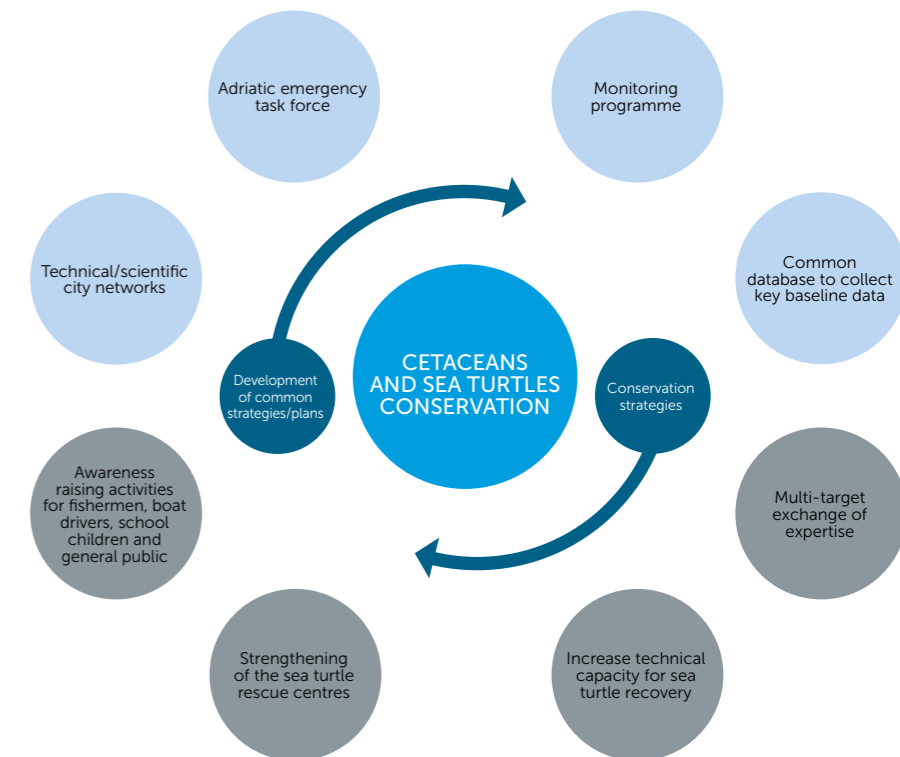
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 > **City network** to enhance Adriatic cities role in the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles. A **Technical/Scientific network** for the exchange of expertise,
- 
 > a common data collection framework based on a shared list of minimum mandatory data to be collected from all groups working along the Adriatic in a **unique common database** linked with main national and international existing databases on **cetaceans and sea turtles**,
- 
 > specific **training courses and workshops** for the exchange of expertise among partners and organisations (e.g. common clinical examination procedures and setting up of a rescue centre),
- 
 > **creation/improvement of sea turtles rescue centres** in strategic locations. The rescue centres will also be permanent points of expertise for citizens and authorities and have proven to be powerful education tools,
- 
 > proposal for the development of an **Adriatic emergency task force** in order to respond to mass stranding and environmental emergencies,
- 
 > a **coordinated monitoring programme** to increase availability of data and improve knowledge relevant for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles (e.g. 25 sea turtles will be equipped with GPS),
- 
 > a set of awareness raising **activities targeting fishermen, boat drivers, school children and the general public** to increase the awareness of the presence and the conservation needs of cetaceans and sea turtles (e.g. WWF Italy will design an educational kit for elementary school children),
- 
 > two distinct **common strategies for cetaceans and sea turtles** which foresee actions addressing the main threats challenging Adriatic populations (e.g. presentation of new National Action Plans for cetaceans and sea turtles, during the Final Conference).



Our work method

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Expected results

- › Shared **standardized scientific knowledge and effective collaboration** between the organisations involved in cetaceans and sea turtles conservation in the Adriatic,
- › **greater institutional capacity for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles** in partner states,
- › **improved knowledge** of Adriatic cetaceans and sea turtles populations, hot-spots and major threats,
- › **increased technical capacity for sea turtle recovery in the Adriatic** and effective treatment of stranded/injured sea turtles in high level structures and increased information available for citizens through the centres,
- › **increased coastal communities' awareness of the presence and conservation needs of these species** and widespread adoption by fishermen of correct handling procedures,
- › improved conservation and management of cetaceans and sea turtles conservation and their habitats in the Adriatic through **effective regional cooperation**,
- › **a sense of ownership** towards and pride in the natural heritage in the Adriatic.

Partners

- › City of Venice (IT) - coordinator
- › University of Padua, Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science (IT)
- › City of Pescara (IT)
- › Cetacea Foundation (IT)
- › Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (IT)
- › State Institute for Nature Protection (HR)
- › Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (HR)
- › Herpetofauna Albanian Society (HAS) (AL)
- › Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania (AL)
- › Institute for Marine Biology (ME)
- › University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre (SI)
- › WWF Italy (IT)
- › Marine Educational Centre Pula (HR)

Associates

- › Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (SI)
- › Veneto Region – Forestry and Parks Department (IT)
- › Emilia Romagna Region – General Direction for Environment and for Soil and Coast Protection (IT)
- › Marche Region – Animal Protection, Regional Ecological Network and Biodiversity (IT)

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NETCET project

Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic

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 WEBSITE WWW.NETCET.EU