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“Contributions to the National Action Plan for cetaceans conservation in Albania”

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ShMGjUSh



APAWA

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Tiranë, 2007



Prepared by:
Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania (APAWA)



World Bank



Ministria e Shëndetit, Pyjeve
dhe Ambientit të Ujërave



PLAN VEPRIMI PËR MBROJTJEN E CETACEVE NË UJRAT SHQIPTARE



THE ACTION PLAN FOR CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS IN ALBANIAN WATERS



Ministry of Environment, Forests
and Water Administration

World Bank

Përgatitur nga:

Shoqata për Mbrojtjen e Gjallesave Ujore të Shqipërisë (SHMGJUSH)



Tiranë, 2007



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Content of the Action Plan

- Introduction

- Framework of the project for preparation of the Action Plan.
- The need for an Action Plan for conservation of cetaceans in the Albanian waters.

- General description of the current situation of cetaceans in Mediterranean and Albanian waters

- Cetacean species occurring in the Mediterranean and Adriatic.
- Cetacean species occurring in Albanian waters.
- General information on the global, regional and national status of cetacean species occurring in Albanian waters.
- Threats to cetaceans in the Mediterranean.
- Threats to cetaceans in Albanian waters.
- Conservation measures at the regional level.



- Legal and institutional framework related to the conservation of cetaceans in Albania

- Legal framework
- Institutional framework
- Scientific - Research Institutions
- Organizations and donors

- ACTION PLAN

- Aim of the Action Plan, goals and objectives.
- Description of the activities, expected results, indicators and participants

- Budget estimates
- Bibliography

Aim of the Action Plan

The main aim of the AP is to promote the favourable conservation status of cetaceans in Albania. To achieve this objective, the AP envisages a series of actions aimed at:

- Improving the knowledge about the biology and ecology of cetaceans in Albania;
- Reducing negative interactions between cetaceans and human activities;
- Ensuring efficient protection for the cetaceans and their habitats;
- Strengthening the national capacities in relation to the conservation of cetaceans.



Goal 1: Improving the knowledge about cetaceans in Albania

Objective 1.1: Improve available information about the occurrence and distribution of cetacean species in the Albanian waters.

Objective 1.2: Assess the abundance of cetacean populations in the Albanian waters.

Main activities:

1A Inception workshop.

1B Inventory of existing data on cetaceans occurring in Albania.

1C Monitoring of cetacean stranding.

1D Training on cetacean surveying techniques.

1E Surveying the Albanian waters for cetacean population estimate.



Goal 2: Reduce interactions between cetaceans and human activities

Objective 2.1: Assess the extent of interactions between cetaceans and human activities.

Objective 2.2: Mitigate the impacts of the interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities.

Main activities:

2A Evaluation of interaction between cetaceans and human activities.

2B Introduce cetacean by-catch mitigation measures.



Goal 3: Ensure protection for cetaceans and their habitats

Objective 3.1: Improve the legal framework governing the conservation of cetaceans in Albania.

Objective 3.2: Protect the sites of importance for cetaceans.

Main activities:

- 3A Review of the existing legislation/regulations.
- 3B Assessment of the cetacean conservation status.
- 3C Protection of cetacean habitats in Albania.
- 3D Education and public awareness.

Activity: 1B Inventory of existing data on cetaceans occurring in Albania

Goal 1: Improving the knowledge about cetaceans in Albania

Objective 1.1: Improve available information about the occurrence and distribution of cetacean species in the Albanian waters.

- **To gather and disseminate the available information and data concerning cetaceans in Albania**
- **To update and register the information concerning cetaceans occurrence and distribution in Albania.**

Activity 1C: Monitoring of cetacean stranding

Goal 1: Improving the knowledge about cetaceans in Albania

Objective 1.1: Improve available information about the occurrence and distribution of cetacean species in the Albanian waters.

Establish a national network for the monitoring of cetacean stranding along the Albanian coast



Focal points in most important coastal areas (Velipoje, Shengjin, Ishem, Patok, Durres, Karavasta, Vlore, Himare, Sarande)

Focal points in main harbour areas for cetacean sea watching (Shengjin, Durres, Karavasta, Vlore, Sarande)

Strandings during NETCET period- *Tursiops truncatus*: 4
dead records, 1 stranded alive and released in
June 2015- *Stenella coeruleoalba*: 2 dead records



Divjake, May 2015



Activity 1E: Surveying the Albanian waters for cetacean
population estimate

Goal 1: Improving the knowledge about cetaceans in Albania

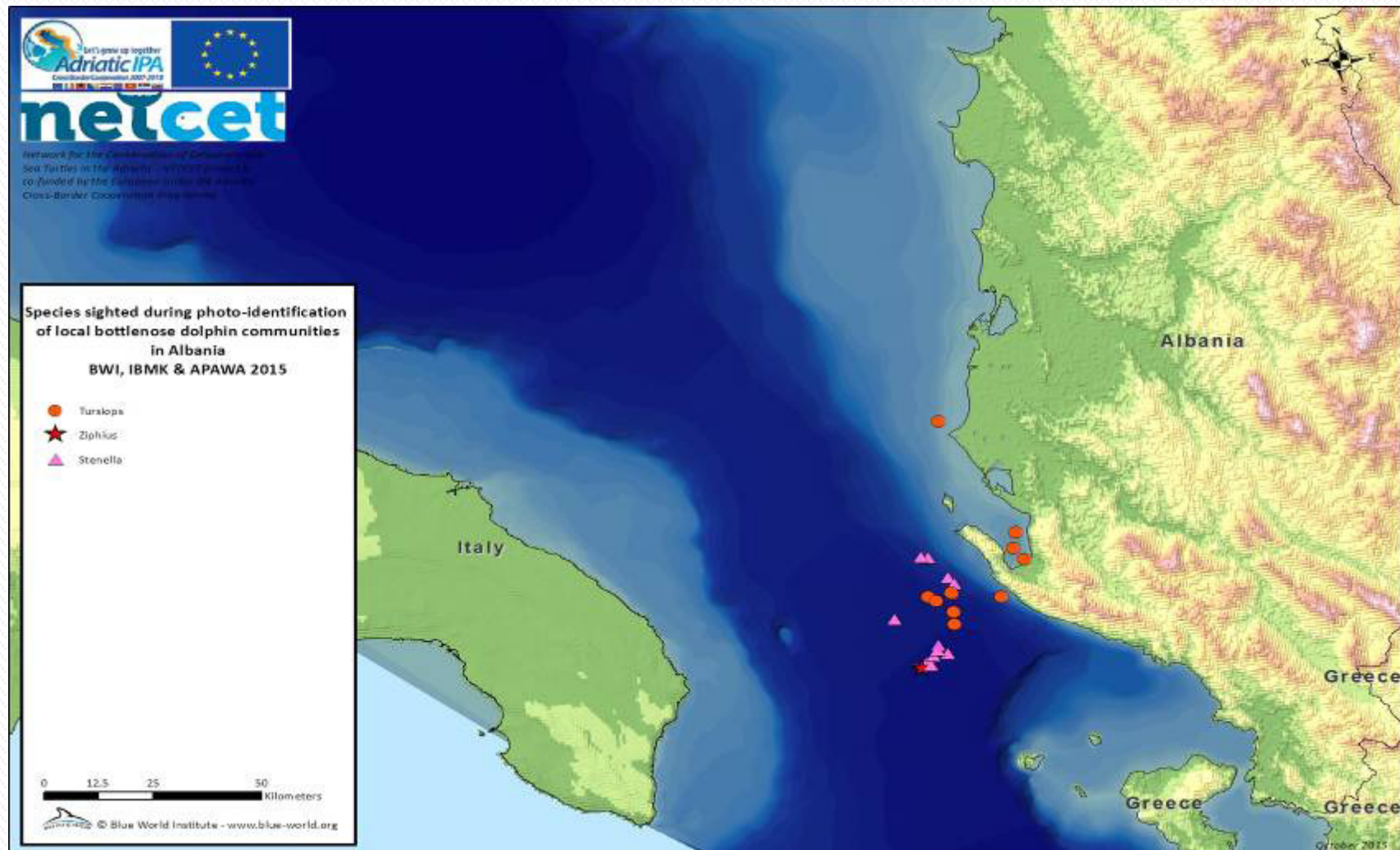
Objective 1.2: Assess the abundance of cetacean populations
in the Albanian waters.

Surveying campaigns to assess the cetacean populations

One week field survey of Cetaceans in Vlora area (October, 2013)

**Aerial survey on the Adriatic Sea
(Albanian aerial space included, August – September 2013)
(Blue World Institute, ISPRA, APAWA)**

One month Photo ID boat surveys of Cetaceans in Vlora area, May - June, 2015 (Blue World Institute, IBM-Kotor, APAWA)





During the survey in October 2013 in Vlora Bay



Tursiops truncatus (October 2013)



Stenella coeruleoalba (June 2015)

Activity 2A: Evaluation of interaction between cetaceans and Human activities

Goal 2: Reduce interactions between cetaceans and human activities

Objective 2.1: Assess the extent of interactions between cetaceans and human activities.

~~Identify and evaluate the main sources of interaction between cetaceans and human activities~~



Raising awareness activities with local fishermen in main harbour areas
(NETCET leaflets distributed in Shengjin, Durres, Vlore)



Activity 3C: Protection of cetacean habitats in Albania

Goal 3: Ensure protection for cetaceans and their habitats

Objective 3.2: Protect the sites of importance for cetaceans.

Identify sites of particular importance for cetaceans in Albanian waters

For the 8 proposed MPAs for Albania, it has been highlighted their importance for cetacean species, especially as a migration corridor to and from the Adriatic Sea

Activity 3D: Education and public awareness

- **Goal 3:** Ensure protection for cetaceans and their habitats
- **Objective 3.1:** Improve the legal framework governing the conservation of cetaceans in Albania.
- **Objective 3.2:** Protect the sites of importance for cetaceans.

Raising awareness on all sea users communities, especially fishermen, on cetacean conservation

Activities on main coastal areas as Velipoj, Shengjin, Ishem, Patok, Durres, Divjake, Vlore (NETCET leaflets distributed)

**Education activities with the school children
in 7 different schools of 5 districts; 42 lessons in total
(held in Shkoder, Durrës, Tirane, Vlore and Korce, in May 2015)**



Photos from the lessons at “Dhora Leka” School, Tirane



Photos from the lessons at “Mustafa Lleshi” School, Tirana



Photos from the lessons at “Vincens Prendushi” School, Durrës



Photos from the lessons at "Ismail Qemali" School, Vlora



Photos from the lessons at Velipoja School, Shkoder

Literature relevant to cetaceans of Albania

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THANK YOU!