

Effective conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Adriatic Sea:

lessons learnt and future plans

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Photo: www.thankyouocean.org



Photo: Herpetofauna Albanian Society, Albania

Species	IUCN status in the Mediterranean	Conservation status under the Habitats Directive for the Mediterranean biogeographical region
Short-beaked common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>)	Endangered (EN)	Unfavourable-Inadequate
Common bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	Vulnerable (VU)	Unkown
Striped dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)	Vulnerable (VU)	Unkown
Fin whale (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>)	Vulnerable (VU)	Unkown
Sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>)	Vulnerable (VU)	Unkown
Risso's dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>)	Data deficient (DD)	Unkown
Cuvier's beaked whale (<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>)	Data deficient (DD)	Unkown
Humpback whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>)	Least concern (LC) in Europe	Unkown
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	Least concern (LC)	Unfavourable - Bad
Green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	Not evaluated (NE)	Unfavourable- Bad
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	-	Unknown



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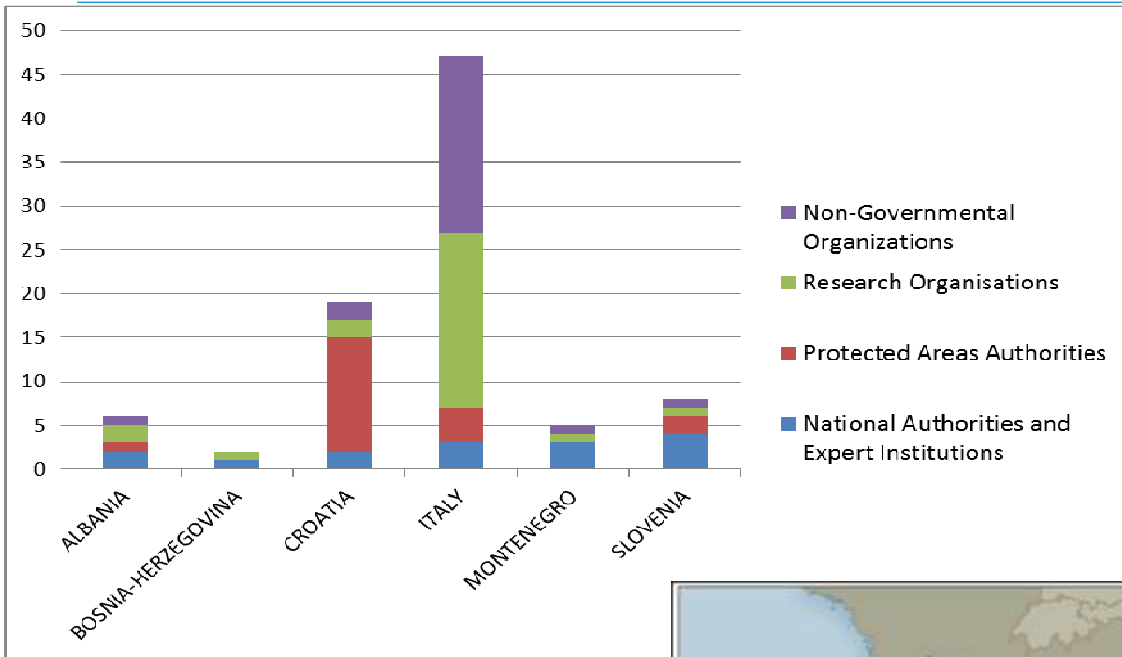
Sources: IUCN, EIONET



Threats	Human activities causing threats	Impact of threat	Significance of threats	Species affected
Bycatch	Fishery	Direct mortality	High ☹️	All cetacean and sea turtle species
Marine debris	Tourism Fishery	Direct mortality	Medium/High ☹️/☹️	All cetacean and sea turtle species
Chemical pollution	Agriculture Sewage (communal)	Direct and indirect mortality (habitat degradation)	Medium ☹️	All cetacean and sea turtle species
Anthropogenic noise	Oil and gas exploitation Shipping Military activities Constructions	Behavioural changes, direct and indirect mortality (habitat degradation)	Medium ☹️	All cetacean and sea turtle species
Anthropogenic noise	Tourism (seasonal)	Behavioural changes	Medium (cetaceans) ☹️ Low (sea turtles)	Common bottlenose dolphin All sea turtle species
Collisions with boats	Tourism (seasonal)	Direct mortality	Low (cetaceans) Medium (sea turtles)	Common bottlenose dolphin All sea turtle species
Depredation	Fishery	Behavioural changes, direct mortality	Low	Common bottlenose dolphin All sea turtle species
Biological pollution	Communal waste (sewage)	Direct mortality	Low	All cetacean species
Climate change	All activities with high fossil fuels	Indirect mortality	Unknown	All cetacean and sea turtle species

International conventions/agreements	Signatures and Ratifications					
	Italy	Slovenia	Croatia	BiH	Montenegro	Albania
MULTIPLE PURPOSE CONVENTIONS						
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1976)	09/07/2004	28/11/2002	08/10/1991	22/10/1994	19/12/2007	26/10/2001
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 1982)		16/06/1995	05/04/1995	12/01/1994	23/10/2006	23/06/2003
CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY						
Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, 1992)		29/12/1993	07/10/1996	26/08/2002	03/06/2006	05/04/1994
CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND OTHER MARINE MAMMALS						
International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Cetaceans (Washington, 1946)		20/09/2006	10/01/2007	/	/	/
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES; Washington, 1973)	31/12/1979	23/04/2000	12/06/2000	21/04/2009	03/06/2006	25/09/2003
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)	01/06/1982	01/01/2000	01/11/2000	01/03/2009	01/02/2010	01/05/1999
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS; Bonn, 1979)	01/11/1983	01/02/1999	01/10/2000	/	01/03/2009	01/09/2001
Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1994 and Monaco 1995) – A Barcelona Convention Protocol	17/06/1999	29/11/2002	12/05/2002	/	19/12/2007	26/10/2001
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS; Monaco, 1996)	01/09/2005	01/12/2006	01/06/2001	/	01/08/2009	01/10/2001
Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (Barcelona 2008) – A Barcelona Convention Protocol	21/01/2008	24/03/2011	28/02/2013	/	08/02/2012	24/03/2011





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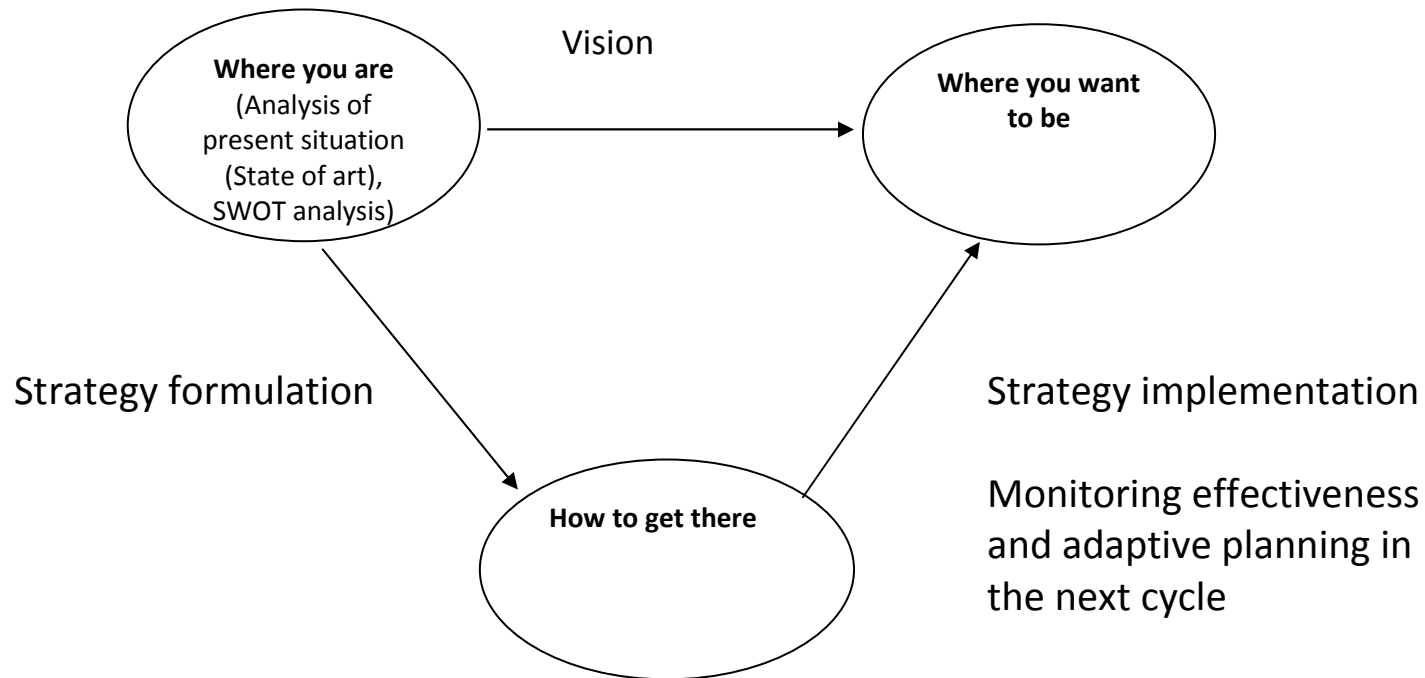
Strategies for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic Sea

Why plan for the future?

- helps in focusing efforts and limited resources towards concrete goals,
- improves communication between stakeholders,
- proactive, instead of reactive (prevention less costly than healing),
- advantage in gaining financial support from international donors,



Strategic planning

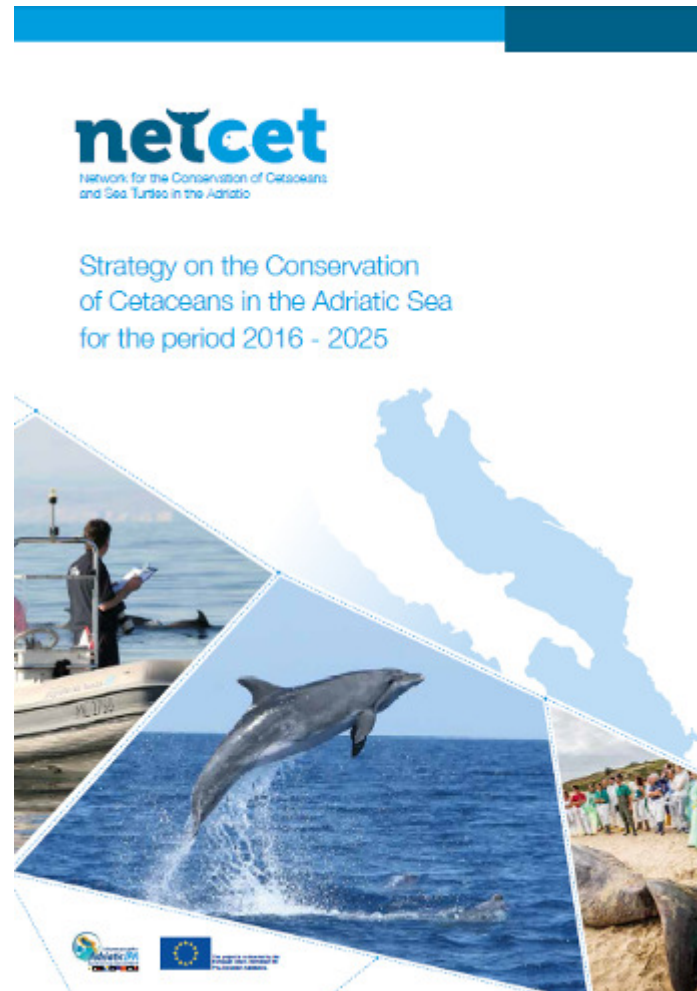


Development of Strategies

1. Quantitative analysis of present situation (WP 7.1., 7.2. and 7.3.: *Fortuna, C.M., Holcer, D., Mackelworth, P. (eds.) 2015. Conservation of Cetaceans in the Adriatic Sea*)
2. Qualitative analysis – SWOT (WP 7.3.)
3. Working group for Strategies Development
 - representatives of partners (= nature conservation)



Partner	Cetaceans	Sea Turtles
State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP), from 16 September Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature	Ana Štrbenac (coordinator), Jasna Jeremić, Katja Jelić, Ana Maričević	
Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)	Sasa Raicevich, Caterina Fortuna, Giulia Mo	
World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Italy		Paolo Casale
University of Padua (UPD)	Sandro Mazzariol, Bruno Cozzi	Lisa Popi, Antonio di Bello
Cetacea Foundation (CF)	Valeria Angelini	Sauro Pari
University of Primorska (UPR)	Tilen Genov	Bojan Lazar
Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (BWI)	Draško Holcer, Peter Mackelworth	
Marine educational centre Pula (MEC)		Karin Gobić
Institute for Marine biology (IMB)	Mirko Đurović, Zdravko Ikica	
Herpetofauna Albanian Society (HAS)		Vilma Piroli, Idriz Haxhiu
Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania (APAWA)	Sajmir Beqiraj	



<http://netcet.eu/dissemination/item/124-common-strategies-for-the-conservation-of-stct>



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Vision

“The Adriatic is a safe place for cetaceans/sea turtles and humans to coexist”

Objectives

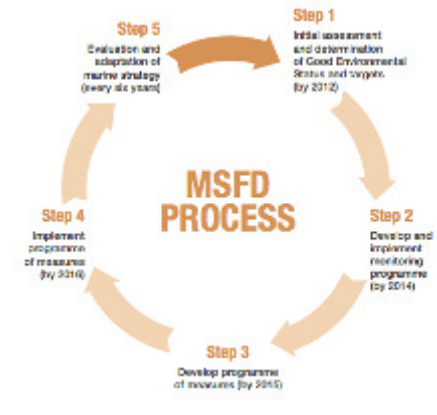
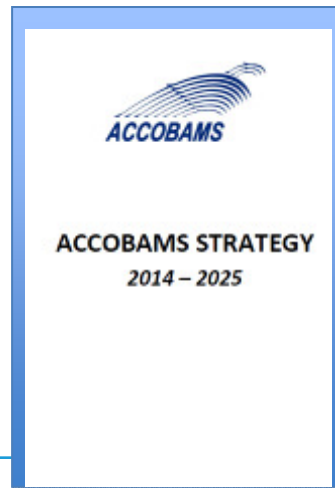
Cetaceans	Sea turtles
Improve knowledge	
Reduce impacts of threats, particularly interaction with fisheries	
Enhance cooperation between different stakeholders	
Establish a common conservation legislation framework in the Adriatic	
Ensure effective conservation of important habitats	Understand adequacy of targeted protection of areas for conservation of sea turtles in the Adriatic
Improve capacities for conservation issues	
Raise awareness	
Ensure adequate funding	



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- strong link to other relevant global and regional strategic plans and legislation framework and processes



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Action plans

- 57 actions for conservation of cetaceans and 41 for sea turtles

Implementation of the Strategies

- No institutions/organisations which has a mandate for development and implementation of the Strategies
- Important to make sure the elements of the Strategies are included in the future relevant regional strategies and similar planning document (f.e. Conservation plan for bottlenose dolphin in the Mediterranean – developed under ACCOBAMS etc.)
- Endorsement of the Cetaceans Strategy through ACCOBAMS – in the process. For Sea turtles Strategy - RAC/SPA?
- Strategies represent guidelines for development of the National Action Plans, prepared or revised under the NETCET project (more details - [Session 5](#))



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