



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)*



---

## **Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS**

*Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 5 - 8 November 2019*

29/10/2019

English

Original: English

ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc 17Rev1

---


# **SYNTHESIS OF ACCOBAMS PARTNERS REPORTS**

*Delegates are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.  
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.*

**SYNTHESIS OF ACCOBAMS PARTNERS REPORTS****Note of the Secretariat:**

Pursuant with the "Rules and criteria for the status of ACCOBAMS Partner" adopted with Resolution 4.20: *"At each Meeting of the Parties, the ACCOBAMS Partners shall report on implementation of their collaborative programme with ACCOBAMS and on use of the ACCOBAMS Partner logo. To this end, their reports shall reach the Secretariat at least 2 months before the Bureau meeting held to prepare the Meeting of the Parties."* In this context, ACCOBAMS Partners have been invited by the Permanent Secretariat to complete the ACCOBAMS Partner Report template with the view of presenting the reports to the MOP7 (document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf36).

This document is a synthesis of the relevant activities undertaken by ACCOBAMS Partners within the framework of the 2017-2019 ACCOBAMS Work Programme directly related to capacity building, public awareness and research activities. It has been prepared based on the information provided by the ACCOBAMS Partners in the document ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf36.

 It is important to stress that from a total of 54 ACCOBAMS Partners, 19 reports were received.

1. Overview of [capacity building activities](#) developed by ACCOBAMS Partners
2. Overview of [public awareness activities](#) developed by ACCOBAMS Partners
3. Overview of [research activities](#) developed by ACCOBAMS Partners

## 1. OVERVIEW OF CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED BY ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

ENTITY	Capacity Building Activities
 <b>ALNITAK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity development of fishers in the SW Mediterranean for the adoption of technological measures to mitigate bycatch and depredation interactions with cetaceans, sea turtles and elasmobranchs in longlining, anchored FAD mahi mahi fishery and trammel nets.</li> <li>- Capacity development of the nautical sports sector for participating in the mapping and retrieving of marine litter and ghost fishing artefacts.</li> </ul>
<b>ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITUTE OF MARINE CONSERVATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 field courses on research boats and bases attended by marine science students, as part of their university curriculum. These courses provided among other, training on data collection methods and analysis for cetaceans.</li> <li>- SEcAp Training Monitoring techniques of the common indicators related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species in Samos Island.</li> <li>- Hosting year-round of more than 2100 students (BSc, MSc, PhD) and interns from 57 different countries for training on data collection methods and analysis for cetaceans.</li> <li>- Archipelagos received the EcAp MED II RAC/SPA_2017 to conduct surveys for the implementation of the integrated monitoring and assessment programme of the RAC/SPA.</li> <li>- Cooperation for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI).</li> <li>- Participation to numerous scientific conferences, workshops, symposia, congresses about marine mammals, sea turtles, marine conservation, fisheries and anthropogenic impacts presenting many scientific contributions.</li> </ul>
<b>CIMA Research Foundation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CETASMUS program, a training experience of 3-6 months on methodologies for cetacean monitoring offered by CIMA.</li> <li>- Training of experts from FABRAS Foundation during 4 weeks on methodologies for cetacean monitoring.</li> <li>- Training of experts on methodologies for cetacean monitoring. This training is divided into theoretical modules, collect of data at sea and modules of post-processing of data collected at sea.</li> <li>- Courses <i>“Improve the commitment to responsible whale-watching operators according to High Quality Whale-watching certification”</i> in the framework of the EcoSTRIM project and specifically in collaboration with ACCOBAMS.</li> <li>- Courses <i>“Joint workshop on Estimating Cetaceans Abundance”</i> organized by ACCOBAMS in collaboration with RAC/SPA.</li> <li>- Courses <i>“Training on photo-identification and databases”</i> organized by ACCOBAMS in collaboration with SPA/RAC, IUCN Med, MedPAN.</li> <li>- Courses <i>“Training on the use of Seawetra for the Adriatic Sea monitoring”</i> in the framework of the CapRadNet project (2016-2018) co-financed by the IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Program aimed to capitalize the results achieved with the previous ADRIARadNet.</li> </ul>
<b>EcoOcéan INSTITUT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teach students about the presence, the identification, the ecology, the threats and the status of conservation of cetaceans (French university, French maritime school).</li> <li>- Train personal from Marine Protected Areas to collect data.</li> <li>- Train 15 eco-guides going aboard sailing vessel from 4 organisms and framing eco-volunteers in their participation to collect data on cetaceans in the wild.</li> <li>- Train of students, researchers and professors to the techniques of study of cetaceans in the wild in the English speaking countries of ACCOBAMS (Turkey).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Train the cetacean's experts of the Mediterranean and Black Sea on photo-identification data storage and preparation for analysis, and the basics for Geographic Information System.</li> <li>- Train the leaders and observers for aerial data collection for the CeNoBs survey – Romania.</li> <li>- Train the first Marine Mammal Observers and Passive Acoustic Operator (MMO/PAM), Sept 2018 – Romania.</li> </ul>
<b>GREEN BALKANS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 expert attended cetacean necropsy workshop in Liege University in July 2017.</li> <li>- 1 expert attended ASI aerial survey training in Cuers in May 2018.</li> <li>- 2 experts of GB attended the HQ MMO and PAM operators training in Constanta, Romania in September 2018 organized by ACCOBAMS Secretariat and Mare Nostrum NGO.</li> <li>- 1 expert attended ACCOBAMS GIS and photo-ID training in Byblos, Lebanon in October 2018.</li> <li>- 1 expert attended ACCOBAMS Training module in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2019.</li> <li>- 2 experts attended CeNoBS aerial survey training in Tulcea, Romania in June 2019.</li> <li>- Lectures and practical training on coast-based methods for cetacean surveys to students from Plovdiv University. Lectures on cetaceans were read at students in Plovdiv University based on ACCOBAMS Training module.</li> </ul>
<b>GROUPEMENT D'INTERET SCIENTIFIQUE POUR LES MAMMIFERES MARINS ET LEUR ENVIRONNEMENT (GIS3M)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribution to the training for the "High Quality Whale-Watching®" Certificate.</li> <li>- "TURSMED" programme: "management of the Bottlenose dolphin within the network of marine protected areas in the French Mediterranean".</li> <li>- On-board training for marine protected area agents on monitoring and photo-identification of cetaceans in Corsica.</li> </ul>
<b>ISRAEL MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH &amp; ASSISTANT CENTER (IMMRAC)</b>	N/A
<b>MARE NOSTRUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partnerships established with numerous scientific entities to develop a scientific framework to identify the natural causes of death among cetaceans.</li> <li>- Workshop training on cetacean distribution and abundance conducted under the international project "Increase the regional capacity for developing cetacean distribution and abundance studies".</li> <li>- First international training for Marine Mammals Observers and passive-acoustic operators (ACCOBAMS High Qualified MMO/PAM) organized.</li> <li>- Under the CeNoBS project and to fulfill the ASI, the international training was organized "Aerial Survey techniques for data collection on biodiversity and anthropogenic activities".</li> <li>- Under the project "Assessing the vulnerability of the Black Sea marine ecosystem to human pressures" (ANEMONE), a workshop will be organized which will involve all the main actors from the Romanian coast and also representatives from Ministry of Environment.</li> </ul>
<b>MARECAMP ONLUS ASSOCIATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expansion of the circle of volunteers and partner organizations to initiate collaborations aimed at completing and improving the knowledge and skills of each.</li> <li>- Strengthening of the network of collaborations with universities, schools, and experts in the field of marine biology and conservation.</li> <li>- A specific team of marine biologists trained for research, eco-tourism and dissemination activities.</li> <li>- Participation to the pitch session of the Enisie project aimed at enabling network based in innovation through services and institutional engagement.</li> <li>- Promotion of projects with administrations at regional and international level.</li> </ul>

<p><b>MARINE MAMMALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DMAD)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Montenegro: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of more than a hundred volunteers/interns (both Montenegrin and international) in survey planning and environmental data collection, land (theodolite) and boat-based survey techniques, data analysis techniques (including training on geographical information systems (GIS), statistics and photo identification).</li> <li>• Hosted lectures for university students at the Univerzitet Crne Gore (University of Montenegro).</li> <li>• International conference “From Mountains to Deep Seas”.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Albania: Trained two students undertaking their master’s degree and one member of the public in land and boat survey techniques on a one-week training course in Montenegro and trained a third student on land surveys in the field.</li> <li>- Turkey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded places for over twenty university students and early career researchers to join research expeditions on the “Giant Guardians of Deep Seas” and “Small Cetaceans of Antalya Bay”.</li> <li>• Hosted several workshops on basics of cetacean surveys, species identification, photo-identification, ArcGIS mapping and basics on habitat modelling.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>MENKAB, IL RESPIRO DEL MARE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness raising on the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems protection with the creation and dissemination of multimedia and information material.</li> <li>- Activities have been addressed to the public, from adults to children, increasing their awareness on anthropic impacts that are threatening marine ecosystems.</li> <li>- Research activities on sperm whale of Mediterranean Sea has been able to link 12 different groups from eastern Mediterranean to Azores in Atlantic.</li> <li>- International cooperation for research and training.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MARINE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT « GRIGORE ANTIPA »</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NIMRD “Grigore Antipa” as member of the Cetacean Black Sea Medicine Network aims to create a collaborative framework of the Black Sea cetacean diseases studies.</li> <li>- In this respect the NIMRD, in collaboration with NGO Mare Nostrum try to develop a specialized laboratory for dissection, collections of samples and analysis from stranded marine mammals. For cetacean necropsy, analysing the samples, studies and research it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OCEAN CARE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of a 2-day workshop (November 2017, Split, Croatia) to discuss impacts of underwater noise on marine wildlife in south-eastern Mediterranean waters. 16 recommendations were developed and agreed. The information did also provide significant input towards the EIA-process within Montenegro.</li> <li>- Participating in the 19<sup>th</sup> UNICPOLOS meeting on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise as a panelist and officiating two side events: "The Role of Environmental Impact Assessment in Managing the Impacts of Noise on Marine Food Web and Higher Trophic Levels" and “Managing Ocean Noise Pollution through the new BBNJ Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea”.</li> <li>- FAO/GFCM Fish-Forum (December 2018), joint workshop OceanCare - UNEP/MAP “Prevention and reduction of marine litter from fisheries and aquaculture and related impacts on marine ecosystems”. Recommendations issued for Policy, Science, Management and Awareness Raising.</li> <li>- Organisation of a joint workshop OceanCare - FAO/GFCM (February 2019) on “Anthropogenic Underwater Noise and impacts on fish, invertebrates and fish resources”.</li> <li>- Assistance in the finalisation of the development of the certification programme for highly qualified marine mammal observers (MMOs) by ACCOBAMS.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribution to the quietMED project for the implementation of the second cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in the Mediterranean Sea.</li> <li>- Contribution to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Marine Mammal Protected Areas, April 2019, with presentations addressing concerns about impacts of anthropogenic noise activities in the Mediterranean Sea and beaked whale conservation efforts.</li> </ul>
<b>OCEANOMARE DELPHIS ONLUS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with the NGO "The Conservation Project International" to support a new generation of conservationists and future leaders, encompassing both the field research and more practical elements of conservation.</li> <li>- Collaboration with the University of Plymouth MSc Marine Conservation 2019-2020 to take student interns to mentor them in skills related to research and communication projects.</li> <li>- In the ACCOBAMS network (MMO/PAM WG) we worked to develop the MMO/PAM course and became a training organization.</li> <li>- Through two different collaborations (ExpeditionMed and GreenPeace Italy) we expanded our knowledge on microplastic, trained the experts of the other organisations on cetaceans' data collection and recognition in the wild.</li> <li>- yearly one-month team building on our research vessel, to train the new members of the team and test new equipment.</li> </ul>
<b>PELAGOS CETACEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b>	N/A
<b>SOUFFLEURS D'ECUME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collision Programme : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy work to support maritime traffic professionals in raising awareness of the problem of collisions and measures to limit risks;</li> <li>• Redesign of the "Commercial shipping and cetaceans" training plan (2017-2018) for professionals and future professionals in the Merchant Navy;</li> <li>• Training of officers in cetacean recognition;</li> <li>• Annual seminars "Commercial navigation and cetaceans" for 3rd year students of the ENSM of Marseille;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Whale watching programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual animation of the "High Quality Whale-Watching®" Certificate;</li> <li>• Collaboration with ACCOBAMS for the development of responsible whale-watching and Pescatourism in Tunisia and Morocco (2017-2018);</li> <li>• Assistance to the Agoa Sanctuary and the Martinique Sea Authority in the development of the charter and the implementation of tools associated with applications for authorisations for nautical events, Souffleurs d'Ecume also coordinated the training of whale-watching operators under this Order (2017-2018);</li> <li>• Sharing of experience and support for the Mayotte Marine Natural Park, with the approval of ACCOBAMS, for the experimentation of the HQWW® Certificate in Mayotte (2018);</li> <li>• Transmission of skills to managers in the Occitania region for the local relay of the animation of the "High Quality Whale-Watching®" label (2018);</li> <li>• Submission of an article for a scientific review: "Toward a sustainable cetacean-based tourism in French territories: a review on management and recommendations" (2019);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>SYRIAN SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE (SSCW)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSCW in cooperation with Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform held a consultation meeting at the coastal areas with relevant stakeholders to update the process of reporting data for areas of importance to birds including all other types and components of biodiversity and all established Protected Areas.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSCW member has participated in the dedicated ASI/EcAp MEDII - Cetacean Monitoring workshop held in Lebanon in June 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active field contribution to the study and protection of cetaceans in the north-western Mediterranean (since 1997 - Dr Beaubrun, Dr David, Dr Di Mèglio, Dr Brotons).</li> <li>- Participation in the creation of the marine sanctuary between the coasts of Spain and the Balearics (2018 - Dr Brotons).</li> <li>- Monitoring at sea of the Pelagos marine sanctuary and reporting of violations (since 2002).</li> <li>- More than 115 days of work at sea to study cetaceans and the spread of microplastics off the French Riviera and the Balearics (for Dr David, Dr Di Mèglio, Dr Brotons and Dr Hagmann)</li> <li>- Organization of 17 scientific expeditions at sea off the Côte d'Azur and the Balearic Islands</li> <li>- 88 eco-volunteers on board SCS scientific expeditions (Côte d'Azur + Balearics)</li> <li>- Development and implementation of an eco-label for the regulation of whale-watching in Goa (2019)</li> </ul>
<b>TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building and education activities including lectures and direct involvement in fieldwork and data analysis have benefited a large number of students, researchers and project participants from around the world participating in our research activities in Italy and Greece.</li> <li>- In the context of the project Dolphins Without Borders DWB with the aim of strengthening the links among Pelagos, MPAs and National Parks existing within the Sanctuary boundaries, three training sessions were organized in order to facilitate participation not only of MPAs personnel but also of most relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sociedad Española de Cetáceos. SEC. Congress and workshops. Valencia, October 2017.</li> <li>- Reports of Cetacean Abundance, Distribution and Main Research reported to Local Government.</li> <li>- Students training: Courses to all levels of education from High School to foreign students at University.</li> </ul>

## 2. OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED BY ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

ENTITY	Public Awareness Activities
<p>→ <b>ALNITAK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the collaboration of OCEANCARE, the research vessel Toftevaag conducted its 30<sup>th</sup> season of research expeditions incorporating its volunteering / citizen science programme to conduct among various things the visual and acoustic survey and the point sampling of marine litter and human activities.</li> <li>- In collaboration with Asociación ONDINE's (now SAVE THE MED Foundation) "Dos Manos" school programme (A programme that in 2019 involved 3188 students of 34 schools), organization of the second edition of the "Changemakers" contest in which over 100 teenagers from 15 schools participated.</li> <li>- The Toftevaag hosted its itinerant "TODOS POR LA MAR" exhibition on marine litter, in ports and anchorages of the Balearic Islands.</li> <li>- In 2019, with the collaboration of LIBERA (Marine litter project), work with diverse media to raise awareness on marine litter.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITUTE OF MARINE CONSERVATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular year-round activities addressed to the local communities of the 21 Greek islands. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures and interactive educational activities about anthropogenic impacts on marine fauna and ecosystems.</li> <li>• Open days of the Archipelagos bases and boats for the visit of student groups and other members of the local communities to engage them in Archipelagos conservation goals.</li> <li>• Coastal and floating marine litter monitoring programmes.</li> <li>• Beach and boat-based clean-ups of marine debris.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Social Media campaigns targeting a global audience regarding the local issue of anthropogenic threats on the resident and migratory marine mammals.</li> <li>- Distribution of media awareness and education materials to locals and tourists about stranding, bycatch and entanglement of marine fauna, monk seal breeding season and other codes of conduct to protect marine fauna from anthropic disturbance.</li> <li>- Production of documentaries about Archipelagos research by Green National TV ERT, Vice TV (Greek), Energy Observer (France), ITV (UK), ARTE (French/German).</li> <li>- Promotion of the « Eco-Navigation » initiative, a citizen-science platform to gather data about marine fauna sightings and dangerous events.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CIMA Research Foundation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Swim the Island 2019</b> event: CIMA participated with the conference "<i>Cetacei a rischio: eco-gesti da adottare</i>".</li> <li>- <b>Mare Inquieto</b> event: CIMA participated with the conferences "<i>Un mare da scoprire: il Santuario dei Cetacei</i>", "<i>Cetacei a rischio: eco-gesti da adottare</i>", and the temporary exhibition "<i>Pinne in pillole</i>".</li> <li>- <b>Festival del Mare</b>: CIMA participated with two events. The laboratory "<i>Balene a rischio</i>". The photographic exhibition with multimedia technology "<i>Pinne in pillole: i cetacei si raccontano</i>".</li> <li>- <b>Festa degli Amici Cucciolotti. Incontriamo i Plastic Busters</b>: the events "<i>Catamarano Salvadelfini</i>" and "<i>Acchiappa Plastica</i>" were the occasion to visit the research vessel and to discuss with researchers working on cetaceans.</li> <li>- <b>Giornata nazionale del Mare e della cultura marinaresca</b> : the laboratories "<i>Balena di Plastica</i>" and "<i>Cimitero degli Albatros</i>" were the occasion to raise awareness on the effects of waste on marine organisms.</li> <li>- In the framework of the <b>Partnership Charter for the Pelagos Sanctuary</b>, participation to over 10 conferences organized by municipalities to promote the existence of the Sanctuary and the presence of cetaceans in the Sanctuary.</li> <li>- In the framework of CIMA's <b>Education Program</b>, intervention in 6 classes of primary schools and kindergarten of the Province of Savona to introduce marine</li> </ul>



	<p>environmental issues and present the cetacean populations of the Pelagos Sanctuary. CIMA host also students of secondary schools in the framework of the program <b>Alternanza scuola lavoro</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Cetaceans Show Off at the Monaco Ocean Week 2018</b>: photographic exhibition, at the Galerie des pêcheurs (Monaco) on the project “Noise impact estimated from marine traffic on sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) and Cuvier’s beaked whale (<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>)”.</li> <li>- <b>Mare di Plastica</b>, project to present biodiversity and richness of the sea affected by the ever-increasing problems related to plastic pollution.</li> <li>- A service of the TV show for kids <b>Tg dei ragazzi</b> was realized aboard CIMA's catamaran on the research conducted on cetacean populations in the Pelagos Sanctuary.</li> </ul>
EcoOcéan INSTITUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual program “<b>Nouvel Horizon</b>” has been created to help children having cancer and to offer them a new horizon, beyond the disease for two weeks at sea.</li> <li>- Teenager public: conference and activities to sensitize teenagers to marine biodiversity and its protection.</li> <li>- Creation of an educational game “<b>CETAMER</b>” on the different large habitat at sea, the cetaceans living in them and the threats.</li> <li>- Participation in several radio, TV programs, from local ones to international. Articles in local newspaper covers one or two of our activities. Actions appear in one tv documentary and two web documentaries.</li> <li>- Realization of public conferences during 2 public events.</li> </ul>
GREEN BALKANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Within LIFE17 GIE/BG/000371 ‘Natura 2000 in Bulgaria – New Horizons’ following events related to cetaceans have been organized in 2018-9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on cetaceans to students from Esetra club of Plovdiv University's Ecology department of Biology Faculty</li> <li>• Black Sea Action Day with Prosveta Community centre at Pomorie in October 2018</li> <li>• Dolphin afternoon at First progressive school – private primary school in Sofia in January 2019</li> <li>• Eco-happening celebrating Earth Day at Ivan Vazov library in Plovdiv in April 2019</li> <li>• Young Blue Earth Festival organized by Natural History Museum in Plovdiv in April 2019</li> <li>• European Maritime Day 2019 with Trakiya – Plovdiv 2008 Community centre</li> <li>• Natura 2000 Day in May 2019 with kids at Aleko Konstantinov primary school in Plovdiv</li> <li>• Presentation at Endless story private kindergarten in Sofia in May 2019</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
GROUPEMENT D’INTERET SCIENTIFIQUE POUR LES MAMMIFERES MARINS ET LEUR ENVIRONNEMENT (GIS3M)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stand animation during 7 public events</li> <li>- Facilitation of 7 conferences for the general public on cetaceans in the Mediterranean, the impacts of human activities and the challenges of sustainable co-existence</li> <li>- Intervention in 3 classes of kindergarten and primary school</li> <li>- Organisation of 2 "Human &amp; Cetacean Encounters" events bringing together all stakeholders concerned with the preservation of cetaceans around conferences-debates, workshops, activities, exhibitions.</li> </ul>
ISRAEL MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH & ASSISTANT CENTER (IMMRAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alerting the Media to the presence of cetaceans in local waters and to anthropogenic stresses affecting them is ongoing. The weather forecast that concludes the main evening news edition of several channels opens up with video clips of dolphin groups sighted that day &amp; provided by IMMRAC.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sighting updates and other news are also uploaded into IMMRAC's Facebook, currently with 5.300 followers and increasing by 2% per week. There were days when the Facebook page was visited by 140.000 surfers. Other electronic channels (google plus, Instagram, tweeter) have 1,000 more followers.</li> <li>- IMMRAC's new educational 'Dolphin &amp; Sea Center' opened to the public on October 2017, since then hosting 15,000 visitors.</li> <li>- IMMRAC's educational program 'feeling the sea' is implemented in 25 kindergartens in the city and in 50 more in nearby settlements.</li> <li>- The second &amp; fifth grades of all 40 schools in Ashdod participate in various activities at the Center, as do special audiences such as physically and mentally handicapped.</li> </ul>
<b>MARE NOSTRUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sessions to inform people regarding the problems in the Black Sea. Over half a million of people were informed via different channels such as local and national mass-media, face to face informing sessions, flyers, training sessions and conferences.</li> <li>- Public events conducted during the year: Earth hour, Green Week, ACCOBAMS Cetacean Day, Dolphin Day, Black Sea Day, which are the main ones and in which cetacean's awareness topics are included.</li> <li>- 2018: workshop for the Dolphin Day event with authorities concerning cetacean conservation and legal framework.</li> <li>- 2019: round table with the administration and governance, main actors involved were invited, from administration, city and regional and fishing sector (fishing agency, fishing federation and food processors) and an event on the peninsular area of Constanta dedicated for general public as a treasure hunt.</li> <li>- 2019: The Ministry of Environment started a process for improving the conservation plan.</li> <li>- Each year enrollment session for new observers in the National Stranding Monitoring session (training for 600-1500 students and teachers) which monitor the Romanian seashores for the following months till July when school ends.</li> </ul>
<b>MARECAMP ONLUS ASSOCIATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities in secondary schools with the "Going to the sea", "We live the sea", "The sea we want clean, biodiverse and protected" projects.</li> <li>- Promotion and launching of an online form permitting everyone to communicate sightings of cetaceans and sea turtles.</li> <li>- Publicizing on how to conduct a sustainable lifestyle, how to respect the code of good conduct for observing dolphins, what to do in case of strandings, as well as all our activities via meetings, press releases, social networks, regional and national tv.</li> <li>- Organisation of participative and citizen-science events as the European Maritime Day In My Country and the ACCOBAMS Cetaceans Day.</li> </ul>
<b>MARINE MAMMALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DMAD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Montenegro: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting and collaboration with other NGOs for community beach cleans, arts and crafts activities (using recycled materials) and games for children.</li> <li>• Interventions in schools to teach children about marine mammals in Montenegrin waters.</li> <li>• Similarly, community open days hosted at in offices to teach other members of the community the same thing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Turkey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a respectful relationship with the fishing communities of the Levantine coast and the Aegean Sea, and frequently receive sighting information with supplementary information, such as photos, videos and coordinates of sightings.</li> <li>• Some of the fishermen in Antalya, continue to collect data on forms left at fishing cooperatives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of school events together with municipalities to increase the knowledge of marine ecosystems for primary and high school students.</li> <li>• Close work with disadvantaged children and organization of dolphin watching tours for them to enhance their difficult life.</li> <li>• Organisation (with WWF-Turkey) of a day out on a dolphin watching tour to inform 30 teachers, from Hatay to Istanbul.</li> </ul>
<b>MENKAB, IL RESPIRO DEL MARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sealab Project: exhibitions dedicated to the sea with conferences for students, tourists and citizens and educational workshops in schools.</li> <li>- Whale experience project: surveys in open sea areas, looking for cetaceans, turtles and observe planktonic bloom, with lectures on board on how to identify and sight a cetacean.</li> <li>- Coastal surveys: educational activities with schools using remote operating vehicle (ROV) to observe <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> seagrass and learn the importance and the role of this plant in the marine ecosystems.</li> <li>- Photographic exhibitions: to raise awareness about marine life (from invertebrates to cetaceans) of Ligurian Sea, with students from different schools and with citizens.</li> </ul>
<b>NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MARINE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT « GRIGORE ANTIPA »</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization of events to celebrate the Dolphin Day (at the initiative of NGO Mare Nostrum).</li> <li>- Public event includes info to support the cause of cetaceans from the Black Sea (Earth Hour, Green Week, Dolphin Week, Black Sea Day etc.)</li> <li>- Dolphin Week is the national emblematic event for awareness backed up by beach awareness campaigns all summer, social media post (Black Sea Dolphins Facebook page and <a href="http://www.delfini.ro">www.delfini.ro</a>) and development of informative materials (informative board for beaches, videos, leaflets etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>OCEAN CARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launching of "Silent Oceans" campaign to call for the protection of marine animals from ocean noise pollution, empowering civil society to respond to noise intensive activities and plans for such activities.</li> <li>- Launching of I-CARE campaign aimed at empowering the public to reduce plastic consumption and waste and asks the public to pledge to reduce their disposable plastic consumption.</li> <li>- OceanCare's edutainment videos on noise and plastic are shown at various exhibitions, used at workshops and in schools and are available in nine languages across the Mediterranean region.</li> <li>- Several beach cleaning activities undertaken in Spain and Italy as well as educational outreach projects with schools in Mallorca and Sicily.</li> <li>- School programs hold and supported in Spain and Italy.</li> <li>- Sailing event "Rose of Charity": OceanCare is official Partner of the event which takes place in the waters of Greece for one week. One focus is the protection of marine mammals in Greek waters.</li> </ul>
<b>OCEANOMARE DELPHIS ONLUS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practical training and frontal lessons to the students of the Nautical Institute of Forio d'Ischia.</li> <li>- Ischia. Lessons at schools in the "Oceanomare Delphis Cetacean Section" of the Museum Villa Arbusto.</li> <li>- Participation in the international workshop of Urban Sketchers in Ischia during which an installation of 13 meters to reproduce our sperm whale "Brunone" in life size was realized.</li> <li>- Ischia. Presentation on the impact of fishing on cetaceans in the Mediterranean with a focus on the Gulf of Naples.</li> <li>- Naples, Ocean Film Festival. Presentation on cetaceans and Info Point.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European Whale Day, conference and labs on cetaceans.</li> <li>- Perugia, Conservation status of Mediterranean cetaceans, conference in collaboration with Amici di Riccardo and Orsa Minore NGOs.</li> <li>- Rome, Lega Navale, National Day of the Sea. Conference on cetaceans.</li> <li>- Porto Cervo, Costa Smeralda Award. Presentation on cetaceans.</li> <li>- Fiumicino (Rome), Coast Guard. Training day on cetaceans and techniques of sighting at sea.</li> <li>- Drafting and dissemination of the "Voluntary Code of Ethics: rules of good conduct at sea for the observation of cetaceans" based on the ACCOBAMS guidelines. In collaboration with the Environmental Observatory, the Environment Commission of the X Town Hall and the Coast Guard of Rome.</li> <li>- In collaboration with Lega Navale and Yacht Vela Club, presentations on cetaceans and training day on the sighting techniques at the following races: Vesuvio Race, 100 miglia del medio Tirreno, RomaxTutti, RivaxTutti, Velalonga, 100 vele.</li> <li>- Managing of our social media account (FB, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube).</li> </ul>
<p><b>PELAGOS CETACEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public awareness activities with press articles and interviews at international media and presentations in Greece on the subject of marine debris and macroplastic ingested by cetacean species, following our research results presented in the publication: Alexiadou P., Foskolos I., Frantzis A. 2019. Ingestion of macroplastics by odontocetes of the Greek Seas, Eastern Mediterranean: Often deadly! Marine Pollution Bulletin 146: 67–75.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOUFFLEURS D'ECUME</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Between 2017 and 2019 actions in the field to raise awareness among the general public: 31 days of stands and/or events, 7 conferences: more than 2,500 people of all ages alerted.</li> <li>- During these events, the content of the speech is mainly based on the expertise of Souffleurs d'Ecume, namely: collisions between cetaceans and merchant ships (presentation of the REPCET measure), and whale-watching (presentation of the High Quality Whale-Watching® Certificate).</li> <li>- Creation of an educational game: "Odycet: discover the world of cetaceans".</li> <li>- Significant presence on social networks and on the Internet to raise awareness among Internet users (management of the REPCET® website and the High Quality Whale-Watching® Certificate, Newsletter, Facebook page animation, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SYRIAN SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE (SSCW)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting held by the higher Institute for Marine Research dedicated to discussing the current status of Marine Turtles and their conservation needs in the coastal areas in some beaches.</li> <li>- Event for the World Migratory Bird Day which was under the theme of Combating Plastic Pollution.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training and coaching of 2 new SCS Naturalist Guides. Organisation of 20 public conferences in French-speaking Switzerland on the marine world (free admission).</li> <li>- Creation in Lausanne of a media library specialized in marine life (2017 - CDU classification). Creation of a free SCS App for the identification of cetaceans at sea (2018 - AppStore).</li> <li>- Implementation of 4 courses in cetology and marine biology.</li> <li>- 8 information and awareness stands for the general public on the fragility of the oceans.</li> <li>- More than 20 interventions in the Swiss media (magazines, radio, television)</li> </ul>

<p><b>TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public awareness achieved through the institute’s presence on media as well as through the involvement, of thousands of project participants in its citizen science programmes: Cetacean Sanctuary Research (CSR) and Ionian Dolphin Project (IDP). Tethys manages a website as well as a Facebook page to disseminate relevant information.</li> <li>- the IDP website is updated with basic information about the project activities, with the aim of increasing interest about the conservation of cetaceans of the Ionian Sea, by encouraging people to report their sightings of cetaceans, through a user-friendly on-line form. Significant information on the Mediterranean monk seal has also been added.</li> <li>- In 2018 and 2019 the CSR organized the half-marathon "Run for the whales" with over 1000 participants.</li> <li>- In 2018 Tethys started the campaign “Cetacei, FAI attenzione!”, by facilitating information on Mediterranean cetaceans among pleasure boaters and fishermen (2000 posters and 30.000 flyers were distributed in all the Italian ports and marinas).</li> <li>- DWB has also its own website (<a href="https://www.dolphinswithoutborders.net">https://www.dolphinswithoutborders.net</a>) on-line in Italian and in French.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SIN AZUL NO HAY VERDE: Mediterráneo, Fauna y Medio Ambiente. Temporary Exhibition. Museo de Ciencias Naturales. Valencia.</li> <li>- EXPOCIENCIA: open day of the Parc Científic de la Universitat de Valencia to spread science among citizens and to report the daily work of scientists and entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the open day is a good occasion to introduce research projects UV is involved in, as MEDSEALITTER.</li> <li>- Workshops and talks in primary and secondary schools</li> </ul>

### 3. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED BY ACCOBAMS PARTNERS

ENTITY	Research Activities
<p>→ <b>ALNITAK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Monitoring of top pelagics in the SW Mediterranean” – The visual and acoustic line transect survey, together with point samplings of human activities conducted in the 2019 survey of Toftevaag have ensured the continuity of Alnitak’s 30-years monitoring programme.</li> <li>- “MEDTOP – Animal Oceanographers: 2019 has been the 6th season of this project that uses satellite telemetry of sea turtles, bluefin tuna and giant devil rays to integrate biological data in modelling of oceanographic data. The end result of this project is the development of technological measures to mitigate risks of bycatch, vessel strikes, noise pollution and entanglement in ghost fishing.</li> <li>- Developing Electronic Monitoring Systems for marine conservation – In 2019, launching of a new EMS buoy for the monitoring of MPA’s and Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), the “OASIS II”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITUTE OF MARINE CONSERVATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 115 boat-based surveys were conducted on the 6 research vessels of Archipelagos Institute with the main aim to monitor the cetacean presence, abundance and distribution.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CIMA Research Foundation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SICOMARplus is an EU INTERREG FR-IT funded project to improve the navigation safety in the Franco- Italian cross-border maritime space, which has been strongly threatened in recent years by the increase in freight traffic.</li> <li>- EcoSTRIM is an EU INTERREG FR-IT funded project to promote Italy and France cross-border cooperation activities for the construction of a territorial strategy for the development and advancement of sustainable tourism and sporting activities dedicated to the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>- GIAS is an EU INTERREG FR-IT funded project which aims to improve navigation safety in the cross-border area by tracking the drift whale carcasses.</li> <li>- Plastic Buster is an EU INTERREG Med funded project aiming to maintain biodiversity and preserve natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal marine protected areas by consolidating Mediterranean efforts against marine litter.</li> <li>- Project “Assessing resilience of beaked whale populations to human impacts: acoustical study” funded by Office of Naval Research of the Department of the Navy of the United States of America.</li> <li>- Mareinfo – MARCET is an EU INTERREG funded project: collecting biopsies from free-ranging toothed whales and deploying sat-tags on short-finned pilot whales and sperm whales in offshore waters of Madeira.</li> <li>- Project “Assessing resilience of beaked whale populations to human impacts: populations' structure and genetic diversity in impacted and semi-pristine areas” funded by Office of Naval Research of the Department of the Navy of the United States of America.</li> <li>- FLT Mediterranean Network Project coordinated by ISPRA dedicated to monitor cetacean presence during ferry trips in collaboration with Corsica Sardinia Ferries.</li> <li>- whale-watching project dedicated to collaborate with whale-watching companies. During the triennial, CIMA conducted two studies: 1-measure expectation and satisfaction of whale tour; 2-assess whale-watching areas of impact.</li> <li>- Ziphius project aiming to describe the preferred habitat of the Cuvier’s beaked whale and to estimate the subpopulation parameters in the Pelagos Sanctuary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EcoOcéan INSTITUT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ship strike</b>, spatio-temporal distribution, movements of cetaceans, quantification of the Near Miss Event and identification of high-risk areas for Sperm whale and</li> </ul>

	<p>Fin whale (data collected from ferries with the Fix Line Transect Mediterranean network - <b>FLTMedMon</b>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of <b>indicators</b> for cetaceans for the Marine Protected Areas, here the Marine Natural Park of the Gulf of Lion.</li> <li>- Scenarios for sustainable co-existence of human and dolphins on the French Mediterranean coast (<b>Interact</b>).</li> <li>- Partner of the European funded program “<b>Medsealitter</b>” designed to build protocols to quantify the marine litter at sea and its impact on bio fauna, including cetaceans.</li> <li>- State of the art and impact assessment studies for noise activities</li> </ul>
<b>GREEN BALKANS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization of vessel surveys using distance sampling line transect method in Bulgarian territorial waters in the Black Sea with coverage of 7%.</li> <li>- Regular data on strandings is being collected – data for 2017 and 2018 was submitted to MEDACES.</li> <li>- Pilot project on bycatch monitoring and mitigation was started. 200 pingers were purchased and installed on turbot bottom set gillnet on basis of agreements with 3 different fishermen.</li> <li>- Aerial survey of the Black Sea was made within CeNoBS project that involves 10 partners from the region and ACCOBAMS Secretariat.</li> </ul>
<b>GROUPEMENT D’INTERET SCIENTIFIQUE POUR LES MAMMIFERES MARINS ET LEUR ENVIRONNEMENT (GIS3M)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- INTERACT “Scenarios for a sustainable coexistence between humans and dolphins on the French Mediterranean coast” with the objective of understanding and characterizing the coexistence between humans and bottlenose dolphins along the coastline of the Gulf of Lion and Provence</li> <li>- « Biological and toxicological contamination of cetaceans in the Pelagos Sanctuary: assessment, origin, monitoring and mitigation” with the objective of contributing to assess and mitigate the impact of biological and chemical pollution on cetaceans in the Pelagos Sanctuary.</li> <li>- Dolphin Without Borders with the objective of promoting the Bottlenose dolphin in the Pelagos Sanctuary.</li> <li>- « Evaluation de l’impact des activités de whale-watching sur les populations de cétacés en Méditerranée française et de la mise en œuvre du label High Quality Whale-Watching® Objectifs : Evaluer l’impact des activités de whale-watching sur les populations de cétacés en Méditerranée française et de la mise en œuvre du label High Quality Whale-Watching®</li> <li>- “Evaluation of the impact of whale-watching activities on cetacean populations in the French Mediterranean and implementation of the High Quality Whale-Watching® label” with the objective of evaluating the impact of whale-watching activities on cetacean populations in the French Mediterranean and the implementation of the High Quality Whale-Watching® Certificate.</li> <li>- "Study of cetacean populations in south-eastern Corsica" with the objective of assessing the cetacean population in the area.</li> <li>- Thèse de recherche au CEFÉ/CNRS de Montpellier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016-2020 « Stratégie de conservation du grand dauphin en Méditerranée française »</li> <li>• 2017-2020 « Gestion adaptative du Grand dauphin au sein du réseau d’aires marines protégées de Méditerranée française »</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ISRAEL MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH &amp; ASSISTANT CENTER (IMMRAC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribution and resource partitioning of common bottlenose dolphin and common dolphin along the southern Israeli Mediterranean coast.</li> <li>- Sex differentiation in common bottlenose and common dolphins through craniometry.</li> </ul>
<b>MARE NOSTRUM</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination of the Stranding Monitoring Network which involves students, teachers, other parties such economic agents from the entire Black Sea coast, institutes and the Basinal Administration.</li> <li>- Under Anemone project, in 2019-2020, there are scheduled 3 surveys on the territorial waters, two of them were done in spring and summer 2019 and the third one it will be done in the spring of 2020.</li> <li>- Under the programme “Monitoring and conservation of the Black Sea cetaceans”: sea expedition to establish the distribution and abundance of cetaceans; survey on a beam trawler boat to gather information about the main species caught in beam trawlers.</li> <li>- CeNoBS project: half of the Black Sea surveyed with small plane to gather information about the abundance, distribution and relations between the cetacean species and also data collection on anthropogenic activities in Ukraine’s, Romanian’s, Bulgaria’s, Turkey’s and Georgia’s exclusive economic zones.</li> </ul>
<b>MARECAMP ONLUS ASSOCIATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cetaceans’ population dynamics studies in the Gulf of Catania.</li> <li>- Surveys dedicated also to collect data on human threats like marine traffic and marine litter that are very strong in our study area.</li> <li>- Support of internships and university thesis about the distribution of cetaceans in Sicily, Photo-ID applied on bottlenose dolphin, interaction cetaceans-fisheries.</li> <li>- Ongoing project "Interaction between cetaceans and small-scale fisheries in Sicily" supported by the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) platform: aim of deepening the investigations about this phenomenon in eastern Sicily and sensitizing administrations on the problem in order to favor the development of new mitigation strategies.</li> <li>- Sharing of data for the annual reports of the International Whaling Commission.</li> </ul>
<b>MARINE MAMMALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DMAD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Montenegro: 383 land-based surveys (using theodolites) and 83 boat based surveys covering the coastal waters and partial offshore waters of Montenegro have been conducted.</li> <li>- Albania: 30 land-based surveys (using theodolites) and one boat survey have been conducted.</li> <li>- Turkey: survey efforts in the Aegean and Levantine Sea. Recently joined a survey under MAPCON “Mediterranean Apex Predators Conservation Network” in Gökçeada (Imroz), north Aegean Sea and “Cetaceans of the Dilek Peninsula” in the central Aegean Sea under WWF-Turkey.</li> </ul>
<b>MENKAB, IL RESPIRO DEL MARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 40 research surveys have been done in the three years. In each survey cetaceans have been spotted through visual and acoustic detection.</li> <li>- New project on population genetics of Mediterranean sperm whale is ongoing and really important results are going to be published and shared with scientific community.</li> <li>- Next goal is a project on the importance of sharing photo-ID catalogues of sperm whales with different teams of Mediterranean Sea, in order to address to many questions that are still open on this endangered species. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the WMMC 2019, Menkab team will present two posters on sperm whale: Population dynamics and structure of sperm whales (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) in the Mediterranean Sea.</li> <li>2. Evidence of sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) lactation in Ligurian sea: a breeding area in the North of Mediterranean Sea</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MARINE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT « GRIGORE ANTIPA »</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ANEMONE - <i>Assessing the vulnerability of the Black Sea marine ecosystem to human pressures (2018-2020)</i>, coordinated by NIMRD, is a cross border</li> </ul>



	<p>cooperation project to support data collection dedicated to marine litter and cetaceans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under Large Infrastructure Operational Programme was developed the project : <i>Completion the level of of biodiversity knowledge by implementing the monitoring system of the state of conservation of species and habitats of community interest in Romania and reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive 92/43 / EEC (2019-2022)</i> coordinated by Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>- CeNoBS project - <i>Support MSFD implementation in the Black Sea through establishing a regional monitoring system of cetacean (D1) and noise monitoring (D11) for achieving GES (2019 – 2020)</i>, (CE – DG Env: contract nr. 10661 / 2018 / 794677/SUB/ENV.C2), NIMRD being partner in the implementation of noise monitoring.</li> <li>- The current characterization of the state of fish and mammals' populations on the Romanian continental shelf in relation to the environmental factors and the anthropogenic activities influence, funded through the National Program NUCLEU (2016-2017), coordinated by NIMRD.</li> </ul>
<b>OCEAN CARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OceanCare invests €350,000 annually in research and conservation programs in the Mediterranean Sea.</li> <li>- Research, education and conservation projects on sperm whale social behaviour as well as spatial and temporal distribution in the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Hellenic Trench, the southern Menorca and southern France.</li> <li>- Multinational interdisciplinary "SAvE Whales" project (System for the Avoidance of ship-strikes with Endangered Whales) combines expertise from the fields of marine biology, underwater acoustics, applied mathematics, computer networking, informatics and real-time marine traffic data, with the objective to save endangered whales from being struck by (large) ships.</li> <li>- Conservation project on Cuvier's beaked whales, a species highly sensitive to anthropogenic noise pollution in Greece.</li> <li>- Research and conservation projects on common dolphins, focused on habitat use by the species, population size and development, and the impact of anthropogenic activities on the species.</li> <li>- Study on the ecology, population size and development of striped dolphins in the semi-enclosed Gulf of Corinth.</li> <li>- Project on bottlenose dolphins within the semi-closed Gulf of Amvrakikos, including fisheries monitoring, education of fishers and the local public.</li> <li>- Plastic debris sampling program in different areas in the Mediterranean Sea to assess the local extent of the plastic pollution at the water surface.</li> <li>- Small microplastic sampling to understand the contamination levels of microplastic in commercially used fish, crustaceans and squid.</li> </ul>
<b>OCEANOMARE DELPHIS ONLUS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular developing and reporting of our ongoing monitoring projects: Dolphins of the Tiber Estuary (since 2011) and Ischia Dolphin Project (since 1991).</li> <li>- In collaboration with CIBRA: the ante operam phase of the Northern Petroleum Marine Mammal Monitoring and Mitigation Plan in the waters off Brindisi was carried out and the final report was presented to the MATTM; a Marine Mammal Monitoring Plan for the ante and post operam monitoring phases related to the 3D seismic exploration in the Adriatic Montenegrin Coast was developed; the ante operam phase related to cetacean monitoring in the waters off Bar (Montenegro) was performed and the post operam is ongoing.</li> <li>- 31<sup>st</sup> Annual European Cetacean Society Conference, Participation in the workshop "Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas" with a focus on threats to cetaceans in the Pontine and Campanian Archipelagos.</li> <li>- 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Acoustic Communication by Animals, Nebraska, U.S.A. Presentation on "Acoustic Repertoire of Sperm Whale (Physeter</li> </ul>

	<p>macrocephalus) Bachelor Groups in the Waters Surrounding Ischia island, Italy (Tyrrhenian Sea)".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publications of the scientific article "The challenge of habitat modelling for threatened low density species using heterogeneous data: The case of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean". <i>Ecological Indicators</i> 85 (2018) 128–136</li> <li>- Publications of the scientific article "Italy introduces pre and post operation monitoring phases for offshore seismic exploration activities". <i>Marine Pollution Bulletin</i> (2017)</li> <li>- Naples. Museum of Physics. M'ammalia. The week of mammals. Presentation "Ischia Dolphin Project: cetaceans of the Gulf of Naples.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PELAGOS CETACEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frantzis A., Leaper R., Alexiadou P., Prospathopoulos A., Lekkas D. <b>2019</b>. Shipping routes through core habitat of endangered sperm whales along the Hellenic Trench, Greece: can we reduce collision. risks? <i>PLoS ONE</i> 14(2): e0212016:1-21.</li> <li>- Alexiadou P., Foskolos I., Frantzis A. <b>2019</b>. Ingestion of macroplastics by odontocetes of the Greek Seas, Eastern Mediterranean: Often deadly! <i>Marine Pollution Bulletin</i> 146: 67–75.</li> <li>- Diogou, N., Klinck, H., Frantzis, A., Nystuen, J., Papathanassiou, E., Katsanevakis, S. <b>2019</b>. Year-round acoustic presence of sperm whales (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) and baseline ambient ocean sound levels in the Greek Seas. <i>Mediterranean Marine Science</i> 20(1): 208-221.</li> <li>- Bernaldo de Quiros Y., Fernandez A., Baird R. W., Brownell Jr R. L., Aguilar de Soto N., Allen D., Arbelo M., Arregui M., Costidis A., Fahlman A., Frantzis A., Gulland F. M. D., Iñíguez M., Johnson M., Komnenou A., Koopman H., Pabst D. A., Roe W. D., Sierra E., Tejedor M. and Schorr G. <b>2019</b>. Advances in research on the impacts of anti-submarine sonar on beaked whales. <i>Proc. R. Soc. B</i> 286: 20182533.</li> <li>- Antoniou A., Frantzis A., Alexiadou P., Paschou N., Poulakakis N. <b>2018</b>. Witnessing the rise or fall of a species: introgressive hybridization of <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> and <i>Delphinus delphis</i> in Greece. <i>Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution</i> 129: 325–337.</li> <li>- Skarsoulis E.K., Piperakis G., Kalogerakis M., Orfanakis E., Papadakis P., Dosso S.E., Frantzis A. <b>2018</b>. Underwater Acoustic Pulsed Source Localization with a Pair of Hydrophones. <i>Remote Sensing</i> 10(6):883, pp. 29.</li> <li>- Cañadas , Aguilar de Soto N., Aissi M., Arcangeli A., Azzolin M, B-Nagy A., Bearzi G., Campana I., Chicote C., Cotte C., Crosti R., David L., Di Natale A., Fortuna C., Frantzis A., Garcia P., Gazo M., Gutierrez-Xarxa R., Holcer D., Laran S., Lauriano G., Lewis T., Moulins A., Mussi B., Notarbartolo di Sciarra G., Panigada S., Pastor X., Politi E., Pulcini M., Raga J.A., Rendell L., Rosso M., Tepsich P., Tomas J., Tringali M., Roger Th. <b>2017</b>. The challenge of habitat modelling for threatened low density species using heterogeneous data: the case of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean. <i>Ecological Indicators</i> 85: 128–36.</li> <li>- Sini M., Katsanevakis S., Koukouroufli N., Gerovasileiou V., Dailianis T., Buhl-Mortensen .L, Damalas D., Dendrinos P., Dimas X., Frantzis A., Gerakaris V., Giakoumi S., Gonzalez-Mirelis G., Hasiotis T., Issaris Y., Kavadas S.G., Koutsogiannopoulos D.D., Koutsoubas D., Manoutsoglou E., Markantonatou V., Mazaris A.D., Poursanidis D., Papatheodorou G., Salomidi M., Topouzelis K., Trygonis V., Vassilopoulou V., Zotou M. <b>2017</b>. Assembling Ecological Pieces to Reconstruct the Conservation Puzzle of the Aegean Sea. <i>Front. Mar. Sci</i> 4:347.</li> <li>- Foskolos, I., Tourgeli Provata, M., Frantzis, A. <b>2017</b>. First record of <i>Conchoderma auritum</i> (cirripedia: lepadidae) on <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> (Cetacea: ziphiidae) in Greece. <i>Annales Ser. hist. nat.</i> 27(1): 29–34.</li> <li>- Milani, C., Vella, A., Vidoris, P., Christidis, A., Koutrakis, E., Frantzis, A., Miliou, A., Kallianiotis, A. <b>2017</b>. Cetacean stranding and diet analyses in the North Aegean Sea (Greece). <i>Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom</i> : 1–18. doi:10.1017/S0025315417000339</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Giannoulaki, M., Markoglou, E., Valavanis, V.D., Alexiadou P., Cucknell, A.C., Frantzis, A. <b>2017</b>. Linking small pelagic fish and cetacean distribution to model suitable habitat for coastal dolphin species, <i>Delphinus delphis</i> and <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>, in the Greek Seas (Eastern Mediterranean). <i>Aquatic Conserv. Mar. Freshw. Ecosyst.</i> 27: 436–451.</li> <li>- Podestà, M., Azzellino, A., Cañadas, A., Frantzis, A., Moulins, A., Rosso, M., Tepsich, P., Lanfredi, C., <b>2016</b>. Cuvier’s beaked whale (<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>) presence and threats in the Mediterranean Sea. In: Notarbartolo di Sciara, G., Podestà, M., Curry, B.E. (Eds.), <i>Mediterranean Marine Mammals Ecology and Conservation. Adv. Mar. Biol.</i> 75, Elsevier, pp. 103–140.</li> <li>- Cucknell A-C., Frantzis A., Boisseau O., Romagosa M., Ryan C., Tonay A.M., Alexiadou P., Öztürk A.A., Moscrop A. <b>2016</b>. Harbour porpoises in the Aegean Sea, Eastern Mediterranean: the species’ presence is confirmed. <i>Marine Biodiversity Records</i> 9:72, 13 p.</li> <li>- A taste for squid: the diet of sperm whales stranded in Greece, Eastern Mediterranean. Foskolos, I., Koutouzi, N., Polychronidis, L., Alexiadou, P., Frantzis, A. (submitted)</li> </ul>
<b>SOUFFLEURS D’ECUME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study of the movements of large cetaceans in the Pelagos Sanctuary in order to specify the dynamic parameters of risk areas in REPCET" (2017).</li> <li>- INTERACT: Scenarios for a sustainable coexistence between humans and dolphins on the French Mediterranean coast</li> <li>- Evaluation of the impact of whale-watching activities on cetacean populations in the French Mediterranean and the implementation of the High Quality Whale-Watching® Certificate</li> <li>- Proposal to develop and evaluate mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of ship strikes to fin and sperm whales in the Pelagos Sanctuary</li> </ul>
<b>SYRIAN SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE (SSCW)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSCW members part of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in the coastal area with a multi-stakeholder team to update data about this within the Syrian waters.</li> <li>- Supervision of few postgraduate research projects for Syrian Students about Marine Biodiversity and about fisheries and their status in the country.</li> <li>- Participation to the Fourth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries that was held in Oran (Algeria) from 11 to 13 November 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As SCS is a <b>logistics platform in the Mediterranean</b> for its scientific partners (Dr David, Dr Di Meglio, Dr Brotons and Dr Haggmann), mandated to collect their data on marine mammals and the distribution of micro-plastics, it does not itself undertake research work directly on its behalf.</li> </ul>
<b>TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CSR, long-term project, on the ecology of the cetacean species living in the Pelagos Sanctuary focuses on fin whales, sperm whales, striped dolphins, pilot whales, Cuvier’s beaked whales as well as Risso’s dolphins and common bottlenose dolphins and the rare short-beaked common dolphins. It has led to one of the longest time series and largest data sets on marine mammals in the Mediterranean.</li> <li>- IDP research activities in western Greece focus on a population of endangered short-beaked common dolphins living in the Inner Ionian Archipelago and an increasingly fragile population of common bottlenose dolphins in the semi-enclosed waters of the Gulf of Ambracia.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The one-year project, “Dolphins Without Borders”, began in May 2018 and ended in April 2019, focused in supporting the conservation of common bottlenose dolphins within the Italian waters of the Pelagos Sanctuary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aerial Surveys over the central Spanish Mediterranean waters in 2017-2018 in order to know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cetacean and turtle distribution and abundance in the study area</li> <li>• Changes in distribution and abundance of these species in the last 10 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Strandings: the University of Valencia coordinates the stranding network in Valencian Community. The objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strandings Register information of the stranded species, numbers and trends</li> <li>• Collect and conserve biological samples: tissues, teeth, parasites, and stomach content</li> <li>• Analyse parasitological content, develop genetic studies and studies of feeding habits</li> <li>• Studies of health status of cetaceans from western Mediterranean: CeMV on Mediterranean dolphin populations</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Parasites: The University of Valencia collects micro and macro-parasites from stranded cetaceans aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gathering data of infections caused by parasites</li> <li>• Increasing knowledge of parasite biodiversity</li> <li>• Analysing temporal trends in parasites and commensals to monitor ecosystem changes</li> <li>• Unveiling ecological and evolutionary interactions between hosts and parasites</li> <li>• Assessing the impact of die-offs caused by</li> <li>• Using parasites as biological tags of host’s population structure, distribution, behaviour and disease</li> </ul> </li> </ul>