



Building capacities of Bulgarian Black Sea municipalities on Cetaceans strandings



Country: Bulgaria

Beneficiary: Green Balkans NGO

Partner: Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria

Total budget of the project: 14 560 Euros

Budget provided through ACCOBAMS SCF: 12 700 Euros

Duration: 8 months

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project's main goal is to build capacities of the Bulgarian Black Sea municipalities for reaction in case of Cetacean strandings on their shores. It is an effort to solve a problem arising in recent years along Bulgarian coast related to increased number of stranded cetaceans and the public reaction to that problem.

The project aims to solve that issue thus contributing to implementation of ACCOBAMS Work programme 2011-2013, action CB 2 - Monitoring of cetacean stranding. This action is with high priority. Additionally it will support implementation of Actions 15 (Regional CSNs) and 16 (Strategies for Capacity building and raising awareness) of the Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans and will facilitate collection of data with better quality on strandings.

To achieve that a series of trainings are planned – one joint theoretical and number of special trainings on-site in cases of strandings. Theoretical training will include lectures on following topics: national and international legal framework for protection of Black Sea cetaceans; biology and anatomy of cetaceans; how to take biometric measurements of found dead stranded cetaceans and filling of MEDACES blank; discussion on how to improve interaction between different authorities and needed initiatives and permits.

On-site training will put emphasis on species identification, data to be recorded in MEDACES, safety precautions. Special toolkits will be prepared and handed to each municipality in the form of emergency tool box containing the most important tools for collection of field data: field forms; gloves; masks; containers for storage of teeth and parasites; cutter; pliers for extraction of teeth; measuring tape; scales; etc.

Protocol for action by municipalities in cases of stranded cetacean will be developed. Its main aim will be to create working mechanism to solve the problem with decaying carcasses on beaches during busy summer season and on the other hand to improve quality of collected data on strandings. All collected data will be submitted to international data bases MEDACES and OBIS SEAMAP.