

Develop a strong scientific and managing network for the Bottlenose Dolphin conservation in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea

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1. GIS3M, www.gis3m.org
2. Agence des Aires Marines Protégées www.aires-marines.fr
3. Pelagos Sanctuary, www.sanctuaire-pelagos.org
4. MEDPAN, www.medpan.org
5. Acquario di Genova, www.acquariodigenova.it
6. ACCOBAMS, www.accobams.org

Context

The Mediterranean bottlenose dolphin's (*Tursiops truncatus*) sub-population is listed by IUCN and the IUCN-ACCOBAMS Red List assessment as "vulnerable". As a shelf limited species, it is particularly threatened by the intensification of human activities. It is one of the only two cetacean species which is listed on the Annex II of the European Habitats Directive and for which Special Conservation Areas have to be implemented.

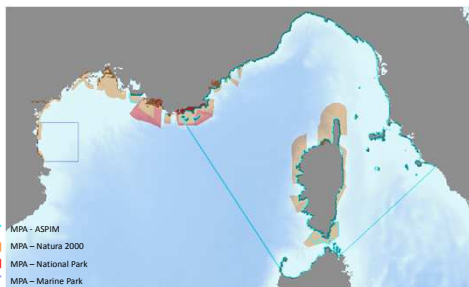
In the Mediterranean Sea, many Marine Protected Areas exist along the coast, but only few of them include conservation measures for this species. The knowledge on the Mediterranean sub-population remains insufficient to adequately protect this species.

The GDEGeM project

Bottlenose Dolphin Study and Management in the Mediterranean Sea

- A collaborative and multi-disciplinary project
- Launched and coordinated by GIS3M (Group of Scientific Interest for Mediterranean Marine Mammals)
- 3 years project : February 2013-September 2015

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French Mediterranean MPAs

Main objective

Improving the conservation of this sub-population in the northwestern Mediterranean Sea

Specific objectives

- Improve the **knowledge** on the population
- Provide **technical support to MPA's** managers for monitoring the species and implementing conservation measures;
- Strengthen the MPA's network to provide a **global regional management tool**.

Main activities and expected results

Objective 1	Population knowledge improvement
Result 1.1:	Identification of frequentation areas and movements of bottlenose dolphins
Activity 1.1.1:	photo-identification campaign (4 trip a year during 2 years in 9 areas along French Mediterranean coast)
Activity 1.1.2:	Global data analysis thanks to the use of a unique database INTERCET
Result 1.2:	Population structure knowledge improvement
Activity 1.2.1:	genetic analysis
Objective 2:	Help in conservation measures setting-up and monitoring in MPA's
Result 2.1:	Monitoring methods for MPA's proposal
Activity 2.1.1:	Test of PAM for bottlenose dolphins monitoring in Mediterranean MPA's
Activity 2.1.2:	standardized protocols proposal
Result 2.2:	Improvement of communication and data exchange with scientists
Activity 2.2.1:	Trainings for MPA's staff organization
Activity 2.2.2:	International workshop on bottlenose dolphin study and conservation organization
	Facilitate bottlenose dolphins conservation at the Mediterranean population scale
Result 3.1:	Data exchange through different countries
Activity 3.1.1:	Develop and reinforce collaborations
Activity 3.1.2:	Promote data exchange through a unique database
Result 3.2:	Create an efficient network for bottlenose dolphin conservation in north western Mediterranean Sea
Activity 3.2.1:	Reinforce communication and collaboration in the MPA's network
Activity 3.2.1:	Creation of a web space and forum dedicated to bottlenose dolphins for communication and exchanges

Partners



Perspectives

The **collaborative** approach, consolidating links between scientists from France and Italy, within the network of MPAs and between the scientific community and the managers, aims to set up a **strong and sustainable network** for the bottlenose's conservation in the Mediterranean Sea.

All the actions implemented in this project will be **expandable** to the entire Mediterranean basin according to the ACCOBAMS Mediterranean bottlenose dolphin's conservation plan.

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