

DMAD - DENİZ MEMELİLERİ ARAŞTIRMA DERNEĞİ

# DMAD'S ONGOING PROJECTS



OUR WORK IN  
TURKEY,  
MONTENEGRO  
AND ALBANIA

## Who is DMAD?

DMAD – Marine Mammals Research Association or Deniz Memelileri Araştırma Derneği in Turkish are a non-profit, non- government organisation and we were established to work in areas of the Mediterranean where little or no research has been undertaken before.

In a time where our seas and their creatures are facing their biggest threats ever, lack of information is one of the biggest barriers in the way of effective conservation. Our work helps remove these barriers and gets local people involved to help protect our waters.



We present our findings to governments and other bodies to allow policy makers to make the best decisions for humans and animals alike. DMAD have taught more than 200 students and interns from six different continents in just four years, helping to develop capacities and increase the effectiveness of conservation all over the world.



## Where do we WORK?

Our main bases for our research and public outreach are in the understudied waters surrounding Turkey, Montenegro and Albania, although DMAD has contributed to conservation in many, many more countries.



## Dolphins of the **ISTANBUL STRAIT**

Our work under WWF - Turkey involves us covering the entire Strait of Istanbul, an area of exceptionally high marine traffic to collect photographs to update a photo identification catalogue collected over ten years.

These photographs are matched to the existing catalogue in order to see if it is the same dolphins and porpoises that are using the Strait and if they stick to one area of the Strait or move between areas. We also collect behavioural data to see if the dolphins behaviour is affected by the high marine presence.



## **COMMON DOLPHINS IN COMMON SEAS**

### Our work in the Aegean

Another of our projects under WWF - Turkey focuses on common dolphins in the area of the Aegean Sea surrounding the Dilek peninsula. There has been extensive survey work in the Greek waters surrounding Samos but little work in Turkish waters. Our work here utilises industry-standard hydrophones (underwater microphones) in order to record the whistles



and clicks of the dolphins. These will be matched with behaviours recorded at the surface in order to better understand the communication of these animals. Once we have established a comprehensive sound bank then we will be able to use this to identify delphinid species even when sea conditions mean we are unable to identify them from the surface.



## DOLPHINS IN THE BAY

Working in the Bay of Antalya



During our research in Antalya in 2015 and 2016, we regularly came across bottlenose dolphins and Cuvier's beaked whales in the bay of Antalya. However, there have been worryingly low recordings of both these animals in the last few years so the project was resurrected in January 2020 to ascertain whether there really had been a drop in the abundance of these species.

Dolphins in the Bay utilises theodolites (specialist engineering equipment) from high vantage points amid the cliffs of Antalya in order to accurately map the positions of both cetaceans and the marine vessels that may be having an impact on them.



# GIANT GUARDIANS OF THE DEEP SEAS II:

## From Small Cetaceans to the Great Whales of the East

Designed around the need to fill the vast data gaps in the Eastern Mediterranean and decrease the disparity between research levels in the Eastern and Western basins, Giant Guardians of the Deep Seas is a research expedition unlike any other in the region. Bringing together field researchers, academics and professional passive acoustic monitoring experts from around the world, the expedition spans a huge area (~22,000 sqkm) between Marmaris and Anamur in the Levantine Sea.



With a strong emphasis on developing local research capacities in Turkey, this project collects data on cetaceans from the small delphinids including common, striped and bottlenose dolphins right the way to Cuvier's beaked whales and sperm whales. DMAD runs expedition in every season and uses hydrophones and visual monitoring to map out the most important areas for marine mammals, establish the biggest threats to marine mammals and their relative magnitudes. Alongside this, DMAD organises workshops in photo identification and GIS to help young researchers reach their maximum potential and public outreach events to increase awareness of the marine environment and actively get people involved with conservation.



# MONTENEGRO DOLPHIN RESEARCH

Where research meets outreach for a holistic conservation approach.

Since its inception in September 2016, the DMAD team working in Montenegro have completed over 500 land surveys and over 100 boat surveys. The project has collected much needed baseline knowledge on the distribution patterns and encounter rates of the bottlenose and striped dolphins. The research also targets photo identification in order to define the residency patterns in Montenegro.

An important part of the project is the education of interns. By the end of 2019 DMAD had trained more than 100 interns from more than 27 different countries. All of whom took important knowledge back to their home countries to increase the effectiveness of conservation worldwide.



Research on its own is never enough to facilitate effective conservation and so DMAD organises public outreach events including school visits, beach cleans and community days to raise awareness of the threats that dolphins are facing in Montenegrin waters and show that small changes from individuals can make a big difference!

# SOUTHERN ADRIATIC NETWORK OF CETACEAN, ELASMOBRANCH AND TURTLE STRANDING – SANCET

## Our Strandings Network and Citizen Science Project

DMAD's stranding network is the first network in the Southern Adriatic Region of the Mediterranean to collect, co-ordinate, and collaborate stranding data for the scientific efforts of all parties involved. Elasmobranch, Cetacean and Turtle stranding data will be organised into a database which is spatially referenced for public access, so citizens interested in the project are able to see when and where stranding of certain species occur. The database that the network will proceed to work off, will provide a valuable source of information relating to various stranded species and the results of their deaths. For more information visit [www.SANCET.org](http://www.SANCET.org).



## Beginning to understand the unknown

## ALBANIA DOLPHIN RESEARCH

All cetaceans that inhabit the Adriatic Sea are classified as either data deficient or at risk. In addition to this, many of the anthropogenic threats that endanger their very survival are caused by marine traffic and yet the coasts of Albania have seen hardly any cetacean surveys. Albanian Dolphin Research is DMAD's newest project in the Adriatic and is a collaboration between DMAD and the Agricultural University of Tirana. The research project is the first survey effort of its kind in Albania, combining dedicated survey efforts with the citizen science and capacity building activities.

