

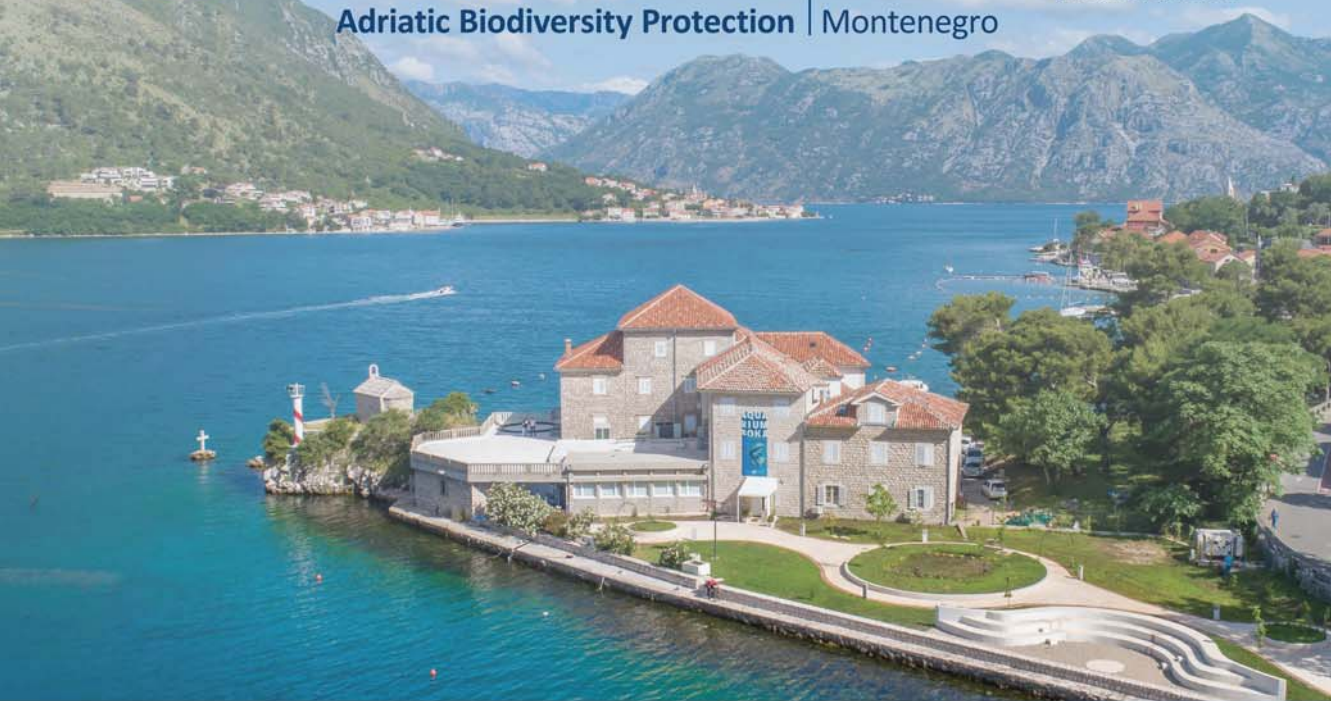


Adriatic Biodiversity
Conservation Center
AQUARIUM BOKA



Centar za zaštitu
biodiverziteta Jadrana
AKVARIJUM BOKA

AdriBioPro2022 | 13-17 June
International Conference: Kotor
Adriatic Biodiversity Protection | Montenegro



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Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro

EXChAngE

Book of Abstracts



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ISBN 978-9940-9613-3-6
COBISS.CG ID 22513668
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.6635581

International Conference
Adriatic Biodiversity Protection
AdriBioPro2022
13-17 June 2022, Kotor, Montenegro

Book of Abstracts

Institute of Marine Biology
University of Montenegro
Kotor, Montenegro
2022

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THE CONFERENCE

The second International Conference: Adriatic Biodiversity Protection – AdriBioPro2022 is focused on how state-of-the-art research on Adriatic biodiversity protection, conservation of coastal and marine areas and sustainable use of marine resources can contribute to policy- and decision-making. Special attention is put on valorization of Adriatic biodiversity, both marine and freshwater, as tourism offer. Organized to include plenary and breakout sessions covering both disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, Conference results will be used in shaping future marine science priorities and policy in Montenegro and other Adriatic countries. The Conference follows format of the first international conference held in 2019, Adriatic Biodiversity Protection – AdriBioPro2019, which provided updated scientific, decision-making and policy-relevant information across a broad array of different Adriatic issues, marine biology, and related scientific disciplines.

Background

The Institute of Marine Biology of the University of Montenegro is implementing project Explore Cross-border Aquatic Biodiversity – [EXChAngE](#). Project is developing a new tourism product – Blue Pass, which will enable visits of new thematic routes with improved infrastructure: Dubrovnik and Aquarium (Croatia), Kotor and Aquarium Boka (Montenegro), Hutovo Blato Aqua Path, and Mostar Old Bridge and River Neretva (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and attracts more tourists in the area. The second international conference “Adriatic Biodiversity Protection – AdriBioPro2022” is final project event.

Recent research results indicate the cumulative impacts of human activities in the Mediterranean, ranking it as a hotspot of marine biodiversity, and one of the most heavily impacted marine region worldwide. One of the most intensely used and severely degraded regions of the Mediterranean is the Adriatic Sea. It implies a necessity of developing appropriate and effective policy-responses including adaptation actions, enhancement of resilience and implementation of mitigation activities. The Conference will address alterations of Mediterranean ecosystems, with focus on the Adriatic Sea and its biodiversity and analyse widespread conflict among marine users. By presenting the latest science, the Conference will facilitate, synthesize, and summarize the science-policy dialogue.

Topics Addressed

1. Marine biodiversity and conservation
2. Freshwater biodiversity and conservation
3. Cross-border aquatic biodiversity (EXChAngE event)
4. Aquatic alien and invasive species
5. Marine and freshwater pollution
6. Sustainable use of marine resources

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Water Management in the Western Balkans

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Abstract

This work aims to review the state of water management practice in Western Balkan Countries (WBCs) and the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC - WFD), to point out weaknesses and to suggest progress actions. The Balkans is an area surrounded by the Adriatic, Ionian and Black seas. The Western Balkans include countries with the perspective to accede to the EU. A major share of relevant EU legislation has been transposed to national regulations in WBCs. Descriptions of the typology and water bodies have been completed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, while in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia the process has been initiated. Water monitoring programs in WBCs, which refer to surface and groundwater, are at different levels of development. A low share of surface water bodies is covered by monitoring results that are less than 8%. Monitoring of biological quality elements (BQE) was undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, N. Macedonia and Serbia, but not all BQEs are covered. A rough estimate indicates that 54.49% of waterbodies failed to achieve good ecological status and measures need to be undertaken. Transitional and coastal waters are relevant for Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Montenegro; WFD compliant monitoring has started only in Montenegro. It is important to increase the institutional capacity in WBCs, improve regional cooperation with the support of Member States, work on the identification of river basin-specific pollutants, support the use of advanced methods (molecular taxonomy and eDNA) and involve research in the advancement of status assessment.

Keywords: Water Framework Directive, water monitoring, status assessment, regional cooperation, methodology