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Transnational monitoring guidelines

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WP1
OUTPUT 1.1

Transnational monitoring guidelines

Work Package	WP 1 – Joint development of the transnational strategy for the monitoring sentinel species
Output 1.1	Transnational Monitoring Guidelines
Output description	This output consists of the guidelines on monitoring practices that will be developed in Activity 1.2 and on the needs and practices that will be gathered from the local round tables D.1.1.1 The guidelines have been adapted from the resulting feedback from the implementation of the pilot action to close the evaluation cycle. This output will be introduced to at least 50 public authorities (at different levels), and 100 private organizations involved in monitoring and conservation.
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This output is designed as **a collection of best practices that can be adapted and applied within your local contexts for the monitoring of the SAMESEA project's sentinel species: the common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and the Mediterranean Monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)**. Although the protocols primarily focus on these species, they are also applicable to a wider range of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Mediterranean Sea.

This document represents an updated version of the Transnational Monitoring Guidelines (Output 1.1) of the SAMESEA project. The revision builds on the experience gained by partners and local stakeholders during the widespread Pilot Action, testing the cooperation and monitoring model in the project's selected hotspot areas: Piran Bay (Slovenia), the island of Vrgada (Croatia), Boka Kotorska (Montenegro), Karaburun–Sazan Marine National Park (Albania).

The document is structured around an index of monitoring categories (i.e. free-ranging monitoring, stranding monitoring, nesting monitoring).

The protocols included in this output were either specifically developed for the project or adapted from existing guidelines.

EACH CATEGORY LINKS TO A DEDICATED FOLDER CONTAINING:

- Main document:
  Monitoring protocol
- Annex 1:
  Supporting document for data collection
- Annex 2:
  Printable data collection forms
- Annex 3:
  Excel files for data entry, serving as a database

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Innovative Aspects

A multi-tiered approach enables the monitoring protocols to be adapted and implemented at different levels of data collection and analysis

A key element of the monitoring framework is its multi-tiered approach, which enables the same monitoring protocols to be implemented at different levels, according to the availability of technical expertise, equipment and resources. This flexible structure facilitates adaptation to different local contexts while maintaining a common methodological framework.

The content of each folder can be updated when necessary without modifying the associated links

A key innovative element of this output lies in its dynamic and adaptable structure. This ensures continuity of access while allowing the protocols and supporting materials to evolve over time in response to new knowledge, methodological improvements, or field experience.

The monitoring protocols and related materials are uploaded to a platform intended to remain active and accessible over time

Furthermore, particular attention has been given to the long-term accessibility of the products. This approach enhances the sustainability of the project's results, ensuring that stakeholders and future initiatives can continue to benefit from the tools and methodologies developed within SAMESEA.

Monitoring **Protocols**

Click for quick access to files

FREE-RANGING MONITORING

- Monitoring at sea
- Land-based monitoring
- Cave and beach monitoring (Monk seal)
- Interaction with human activities
- Monitoring by fishermen
- Citizen science

SEA TURTLE NESTING MONITORING

- Sea turtle nesting monitoring

STRANDING MONITORING

Dead stranded specimen

- Cetaceans
- Monk seals
- Sea turtles

Live stranded specimen

- Cetaceans
- Monk seals
- Sea turtles

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