



Marine Biodiversity  
Conservation Center  
**AQUARIUM BOKA**

**AdriBioPro2019** | 7-10 April  
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# Book of Abstracts



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### Presentation title

#### **Center for Adriatic Biodiversity Conservation**

### Abstract

The Center for Adriatic Biodiversity Conservation is designed within the project “Marine Biodiversity Conservation Center “Boka Aquarium” – MonteAqua”, which is implementing by the Institute of Marine Biology of the University of Montenegro in cooperation with the Center for Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Inland Waters, Institute of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Science, University of Kragujevac, under the grant provided by The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade. Setting up the Center is main MonteAqua project activity, planned for the period from December 2017 to June 2020.

The Center is designed with two main units: Aquarium Boka and Rescue Center. The Aquarium Boka is designed as first Montenegrin public aquarium and conservation advocacy center. Its role will be to promote implementation of marine protected areas in Montenegro and all means of marine biodiversity protection. Particular role will be in promotion of sustainable seafood choices. It is expected that Aquarium Boka will become main player in conservation and restoration of key threatened marine wildlife species in Montenegrin Adriatic, and beyond. The Rescue center is designed with four main roles: (1) Animal welfare: short-term shelter, care and rehabilitation center with the goal of finding a more suitable placement of threatened species for longer-term stay elsewhere; (2) Law enforcement: receiving confiscated animals, providing expert testimony, helping the police, customs, and wildlife authorities pursue the prosecution of traffickers and animal abusers; (3) Raising awareness; and (4) Nature conservation and biodiversity.

Setting up the Center is enabled by several major inputs, secured by MonteAqua project funds: (1) Adaptation of ground floor of Institute for Marine Biology (reconstruction and restoring the Aquarium), (2) Installing set of aquaria, and (3) Setting up Rescue Centre for Water Wild Flora and Fauna.

Expected outcome is increased capacity in the field of environment, which will create projected impact: Enhanced Montenegrin EU integration process in Chapter 27: Environment.

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