



Adriatic Biodiversity
Conservation Center
AQUARIUM BOKA



Centar za zaštitu
biodiverziteta Jadrana
AKVARIJUM BOKA



AdriBioPro2022 | 13-15 June

International Conference: Kotor

Adriatic Biodiversity Protection | Montenegro

Opening Remarks of Dr Aleksandar Joksimović, Director of the Institute of Marine Biology of The University of Montenegro at the International Conference on the Adriatic Biodiversity Protection - AdriBioPro2022

(As prepared for delivery)

Kotor, 14 June 2022

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you to the second *International Conference on the Adriatic Biodiversity Protection - AdriBioPro2022*. We are happy in providing a platform to discuss 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. Our special efforts were invested in highlighting the valorisation of Adriatic biodiversity, both marine and freshwater, as tourism offer.

A glance through the list of presentations planned for the two main Conference days reveals the amazing diversity of applications. We are proud that more than three hundreds (300) participants from fifteen (15) countries will have eighty four (84) presentations within six Conference topics: Marine biodiversity and conservation, Freshwater biodiversity and conservation, Cross-border aquatic biodiversity, Aquatic alien and invasive species, Marine and freshwater pollution, and Sustainable use of marine resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to all partners which made this conference possible. I am thanking to the European commission which provided grant for the implementation of the 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 in Croatia, Kotor and Aquarium Boka in Montenegro, Hutovo Blato Aqua Path, and Mostar Aqua Path in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and attracts more tourists in the area. This conference is organized as final project event.

I am thanking to all other institutions and organizations which supported this Conference:

- Center for Culture “Nikola Đurković” provided Conference venue,
- Tourist Organization Kotor is supporting and organizing conference workshop Touristic presentation in English
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is supporting and organizing conference panel discussion International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Several international projects which the Institute is implementing at the moment are supporting conference branding, materials, side events and special events: Interreg projects Blue Growth, FOOD4HEALTH, TUNE UP, ARIEL PLUS, Erasmus project Risk Man, and International Atomic Energy Agency project RER7015.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sure you will have fruitful and rewarding exchanges in the next days. I wish you every success with this important conference and I look forward to learning about the outcome.

Thank you.

