

## **Project Update: September 2022**

From March to September 2022, due to the better weather conditions, we were more focused on collecting scientific data on dolphins. In total, 79 surveys were carried out in the Montenegrin territorial waters, of which 67 land and 12 boat surveys, whereas the bottlenose dolphins were sighted for 25 days. Apart from the collecting scientific data, in April 2022 we held a presentation entitled "The importance of long – term monitoring of cetaceans in the data deficient regions of the Mediterranean Sea" at the 33rd Conference of the European Cetacean Society, during which it was underlined the importance of the continuation of data collection in these regions. In April 2022, we were also invited by RTCG, a local TV from Podgorica, to speak about dolphin research in Montenegro, where The Rufford Foundation was mentioned as a big supporter of this research.

In May 2022, we organised a meeting with Environmental Agency and spoke about the importance of this research and possible collaboration in the future, what would support and ensure a continuation of this research. During May 2022, we also organised a presentation in the FC Knightbridge School in Tivat and were invited by TV7, another local TV from Podgorica, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the World Dolphin Day, to acquaint the Montenegrin public a little bit more about dolphin species that inhabit Adriatic Sea and the threats they are facing.

Additionally, we attended a second international Conference for Adriatic Biodiversity Protection, organised in Kotor between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June, where Dr. Aylin Akkaya presented "Long – term monitoring of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) reveals the temporal variation on encounters while identifies important habitats in Montenegro". After receiving a sad news about the stranded dolphin on the beach in Ulcinj on the end of August 2022, MSc Natasa Nikpaljevic was invited on TV Vijesti to speak about the possible causes of dolphin stranding, threats they are facing but also, how the people should behave when the dolphins are nearby in order to reduce our impact of these very important marine species.























