



Cetacea Foundation

Proposal for the first marine project to be supported through the TCA programme

Part of the contributions collected from operators involved in the marine sector will support the Marine Turtle Recovery, Care and Rehabilitation Centre in Riccione, managed by the Cetacea Foundation.

The aim is to link TCA membership to a concrete, recognizable project that can be easily communicated to guests, in a credible manner consistent with the conservation mission of the programme.



1988

foundation active in the protection of the marine ecosystem

1994

start year of the marine turtle recovery centre

1000+

marine turtles cared for and returned to the sea

Why Cetacea Foundation

The Cetacea Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1988 to protect the marine ecosystem, particularly in the Adriatic, through outreach, education, and conservation.

It operates a Marine Turtle Recovery, Care and Rehabilitation Centre in Riccione, which is a reference point for Emilia-Romagna and Marche, and one of the most active in the Adriatic.

The centre combines care for injured or distressed animals, data collection, public awareness, and activities with schools and researchers.

Why it is a suitable project for the TCA

- makes the marine sector immediately concrete and understandable for operators
- connects membership to a real, visitable, and recognizable centre
- generates a simple narrative: support for rescue, care, rehabilitation, and release

Key message for the network

Part of the contributions collected from the TCA marine sector can support a centre that rescues, cares for, and returns injured or distressed marine turtles to the sea, also contributing to education and knowledge of the Adriatic Sea.

Proposal note

This brochure presents the Cetacea Foundation as the first marine project proposed for the TCA programme.



What the raised funds support

The raised funds generally support the recovery centre, with particular emphasis on activities dedicated to marine turtles: not a single symbolic gesture, but the operation of an active conservation facility.

Rescue and first response

- taking in recovered animals
- coordination with fishermen, citizens, and authorities

Care and rehabilitation

- veterinary activities, monitoring, and recovery
- daily management of tanks and assistance

Release and data collection

- return to the sea of recoverable specimens
- useful observations on the health of the sea

Education and awareness

- activities with schools, visitors, and marine communities
- prevention of accidental captures and best practices

The section dedicated to turtles

In the Adriatic, the Cetacea Foundation primarily works on the *Caretta caretta*, a resident species, but also on other occasional sightings of marine turtles.

- main threats: accidental captures, waste, maritime traffic, pollution, climate change
- turtles are a useful biological indicator for assessing the health of the sea
- the work of the centre combines recovery, care, release, monitoring, and education

