

ABOUT US

TARTANET is an international cooperation project funded by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), supported by the Italian Ministry of Health and coordinated by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia "A. Mirri" (IZSSI).

The project began last April (2025) and will last for three years.

The project involves the participation of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve) as partner and the involvement of the following research institutes as beneficiaries:

- Abdelmalek Essaadi University – Tetouan, MOROCCO
- Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH) MOROCCO
- Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM) – Salammbô, TUNISIA



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

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A Tool to monitor Antibiotic Resistance (AMR) genes in loggerhead sea Turtle (Caretta caretta) and create a NETWORK for biodiversity protection

Annual meeting agenda
May 11 2026

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia
"A. Mirri" - Palermo

Objectives of the TARTANET Annual Meeting

- **Share annual results:** present the main activities carried out, key achievements, and overall impact during the first year.
- **Strengthen the network:** encourage interaction among members, foster collaboration, and reinforce relationships between partners and stakeholders.
- **Define future strategies:** communicate the vision and objectives for the upcoming year, identifying priorities and new development opportunities.
- **Promote knowledge exchange:** create opportunities for discussion and mutual learning through workshops, presentations, and best practices.
- **Engage stakeholders:** enhance participation and alignment among all actors involved in the TARTANET network.



Moderator: Dr. Roberto Andrea Balbo

09:00 Participant's registration
09:45-10:00 Welcome and Opening remarks
Prof.ssa Francesca Di Gaudio
10:00 – 10:10 Opening session

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Institutional greetings from 10 am to 11 am
Dr. Ugo Della Marta
Dr. Giovanni Filippini
Dr. Giuseppa Savarino
Dr. Salvatore Dara
Dr. Sophie Muset
Dr. Rachid Bouguedour

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11:00 Overview of INSTM activities in Tunisia within the TARTA-NET Project and key data
Dr. Olfa Chaieb
11:00 – 11:15 Coffe break
11:15 – 11:30 Marine Turtles in Morocco: Current situation and Development of a Rehabilitation Unit
Dr. Imane Tai
11:30 – 11:45 25 years of experience with sea turtles in Morocco
Prof. Mustapha Aksissou
11:45 – 12:00 TARTANET presentation to stockholders
Dr. Giorgia Schirò
12:00 - 12:15 Presentation first year TARTANET activities
Dr. Paola Galluzzo
12:15 – 12:30 Study of sea turtle egg microbiome in Sicily
Dr. Carmen Losasso
12:30 – 13:30 Discussion and questions time with stockholder
All
13:30 Working Lunch

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14:30 – 16:00 Planning of activities and future strategies identifying priorities and new development opportunities
Dr. Giorgia Angeloni
16:00 – 16:30 Discussion and Conclusions
Prof. Francesca Di Gaudio
Dr. Roberto Andrea Balbo
Dr. Salvatore Dara

16:30 Visit of the C.Re.Ta.M facilities
Dr. Rosaria Disclafani

Discussion on:

- Improvements to centres (North Africa) – infrastructure gaps.
- Best practices for loggerhead sea turtle management – harmonisation of procedures.

Participants:

• IZSSI (Italy)
• IZSVE (Italy)
• Université Abdelmalek Essaadi (Morocco)
• INRH – Morocco
• INSTM – Monastir (Tunisia)

Prof. Francesca Di Gaudio (IZSSI Director General)
Dr. Roberto Andrea Balbo (IZSSI Sanitary Director)
Dr. Ugo Della Marta (WHO Delegate, CVO, Italian Ministry of Health)
Dr. Giovanni Filippini (Director General of Animal Health, Italian Ministry of Health)
Dr. Giuseppa Savarino (Regional Minister for Land and the Environment of Sicily)
Dr. Salvatore Dara (Director C.R.E.T.A.M. IZSSI (National Reference Centre for the Welfare, Monitoring and Diagnosis of Marine Turtle Diseases and Regional Rehabilitation Centre))
Dr. Olfa Chaieb (Coordinator of the INSTM Sea turtle rescue centre in Monastir)
Dr. Sophie Muset (WOAH Wildlife Health Programme Manager and EBO-SURSY Project Manager Preparedness & Resilience Department)
Dr. Rachid Bouguedour (WOAH Subregional Representative for North of Africa)
Dr. Paola Galluzzo (Researcher at National Reference Centre for the welfare, monitoring and diagnosis of sea turtle diseases (C.Re.Ta.M) - IZSSI)
Dr. Giorgia Schirò (Researcher at National Reference Centre for the welfare, monitoring and diagnosis of sea turtle diseases (C.Re.Ta.M) - IZSSI)
Dr. Rosaria Disclafani (Researcher at National Reference Centre for the welfare, monitoring and diagnosis of sea turtle diseases (C.Re.Ta.M) - IZSSI)
Dr. Imane Tai (INRH, Fisheries Ecology Laboratory, Casablanca, Morocco)
Prof. Mustapha Aksissou (Professor of Biology, Department of Biology)
Dr. Carmen Losasso (Laboratory of Microbial Ecology and Genomics, IZSVE)
Dr. Giorgia Angeloni (Head of Research and International Cooperation Office at IZSVE)

Other speakers during the day will include:

Dr. Wafae Benhardouze: Abdelmalek Essaadi University
Prof. Ahmed Afli: Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer I.N.S.T.M
Dr. Kamar Drif: Institut National de Recherche Halieutique INRH