



**Mundus  
maris**  
*Sciences and Arts  
for Sustainability*

# Annual activity report 2016



Dear friends,

We look back to a year of mixed results: Collectively, we achieved encouraging success on many causes embraced by civil society, such as edging towards protecting the Arctic, expansion of marine protected areas, reducing overfishing in some areas, raising the profile of vital small-scale fisheries.

But we also faced significant obstacles against reducing the climate burden of the shipping industry, stopping off-shore exploration and exploitation of fossil fuels and implementing existing regulations under the European Common Fisheries Policy, CITES and others. We call on all responsible persons, let's walk the talk! Our own activities focused again on action at local levels to benefit people and the sea "on the ground" and connecting this to global campaigns.

Together with our partners we celebrated World Oceans Day, 8 June, in six countries with seven creative events and honoured the ocean and the youth participating in the *Mundus maris Awards contest*. Around the globe, an ever growing number of people engaged in such events and activities. More than a thousand events were officially registered. Celebrities and more mainstream media have responded to the demand for connecting more people to the ocean and protecting it. That is encouraging.

In 2016, we were again part of the movements for change towards living sustainably with the ocean and thus our planet. Our website ([www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org)) and the social media let you engage with our major activities and feel part of the growing and diversifying movement for ocean protection and sustainable use.

This year, we have invested more in interactive public conversations, publications, conferences and practical beach clean-ups than in the previous year and thus reached out to more people through direct contact. This is invaluable for learning from one another and changing at least some of our daily routines for the better: for less waste, for more careful use of energy and all other resources, for production and consumption practices that have the lowest possible impact on the ocean and other environments and for respectful relation to the ocean and one another.

Our general assembly elected the **new board** for a term of two years – developing our reach and fund raising to respond to demand will be high on the agenda.  
Enjoy the read

**Cornelia E. Nauen and the entire *Mundus maris* team**

## 2016 Budget

Total ACAD	1.190,48 €
Total YOUTH / EDUC	6.571,81 €
Total COMM / TRAD	2.014,78 €
Total STOB	177,51 €
Total Investments	9.954,58 €

ACAD = academic work  
 YOUTH = youth work  
 TRAD = traditional culture  
 COMM/EDUC = awareness education  
 STOB = statutory obligations

We did more with less budget thanks to the ability to mobilise "social capital", reaching out to others, using our competencies judiciously and getting some activities sponsored without going through our books.

# Highlights from different places and activities unfolding throughout the year

NB: To expand the information of the annual report,  
move the cursor over the bold black text and click to link to the related webpage.

## Section 1 – Academic work for the promotion of sustainable living with the ocean

Our academic production focused very much on small-scale fisheries that play crucial roles in local food security and employment to name but the most obvious. Thanks to the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) at FAO's Committee of Fisheries in 2014, SSF should receive much more attention in national policies so far almost exclusively directed at industrial fisheries.

Field work with semi-structured questionnaires and focus groups led by Aliou Sall in Senegal the previous year explored the views of hundreds of fishers and some traders. Based on these raw data, different types of analysis allowed to develop a series of presentations at international conferences and publications.



Fish landing in Guet Ndar, northern Senegal (Photo P. Bottoni)

### IIFET Conference, Aberdeen, Scotland, 11 to 14 June 2016

Early results were presented at the bi-annual conference of the International Institute for Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET) in Aberdeen by Cornelia E Nauen. The title of the talk co-authored with Aliou Sall was "Reforms in Small Scale Fishing in Senegal by crisis or new forms of dialogue?"

Cornelia stood in for Prof Stella Williams, Vice-President of *Mundus maris*, who could not attend the ceremony in which IIFET bestowed her with the Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding professional achievements in research and teaching of fisheries economics and the promotion of women and youths, particularly in Africa. Read on [here](#).



Ceremony to bestow the Distinguished Service Award onto Stella Williams

### Book Chapter for massive compilation on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Aliou Sall and Cornelia E Nauen were also the co-authors of a chapter contributed to the compilation of experiences supporting the early implementation of the SSF Guidelines put together with the lead of the global project "**Too Big To Ignore**". This global network of researchers aims to support correcting the almost ubiquitous policy bias in favour industrial fishing. Altogether 97 authors contributed chapters to the book, which counted more than 800 pages in the end and showcases the great variety within and between countries, but also many commonalities shared by different small-scale fisheries. The *Mundus maris* contribution focuses on Chapter 11 of the Guidelines and sketches out how research could involve fishers and enhance its relevance to problem solving on the ground. The book went to press end 2016.

### Another Book Chapter in the Series Warnsignale Klima – Biodiversität (in German)

The book focuses on the many facets of biodiversity. The chapter contributed by *Mundus maris* explains key features of FishBase – on all fish species known to science – and SeaLifeBase – all non-fish organisms in the ocean. Complimentary copies of the entire book for school teachers and libraries in secondary schools are available from [info@mundusmaris.org](mailto:info@mundusmaris.org).

### Consilience between marine biodiversity and fisheries, Vilm, Germany, 24-29 July 2016



The seminar was organised by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the German International Cooperation Society (GIZ) and the German Development Bank (KfW) in order to explore differences and convergences between marine biodiversity and fisheries. The participants were GIZ staff from fisheries and marine conservation projects in different parts of the world, technical KfW staff and some consultants. Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* was invited as the opening speaker and one of the resource persons at the Nature Conservation Academy on the Isle of Vilm. The **seminar** gave many useful impulses on how to improve applied work, but also showed the difficulties of translating knowledge into changing the practices.

### FishBase Symposium, Paris, France, 9 September 2016

The annual FishBase Symposium, this time at the Natural History Museum in Paris, was another highlight in the annual calendar. Here Cornelia presented “Using FishBase for responding to training demands of fisherfolk in Senegal”. Rainer Froese, long-term FishBase Coordinator, presented a new method for estimating the resilience of fish populations to pressure, while Daniel Pauly, world renowned fisheries scientist, presented the Global Atlas of Marine Fisheries Catches based on 10 years independent research by hundreds of scientists around the world collaborating with the Sea Around Us Project he heads. Fourteenth in a row, **the event** was again a kaleidoscope of science advances in key areas of biology, including palaeontology work, which underpin much of the more applied work on management and conservation options.

### YOUMARES 7.0, Hamburg, Germany, 9 - 11 September 2016

They did it again! **YOUMARES 7** was yet another successful networking conference for young marine researchers. The organising team managed to draw in lots of volunteering and to create its creative brand atmosphere. *Mundus maris* organised a well-attended panel discussion about how to achieve low impact fisheries. The panel featured Rainer Froese of GEOMAR and Björn Stockhausen of Seas At Risk and triggered very lively debates that would have continued had the conference not had to close at a certain time.



Panelists at the plenary on low impact fisheries

## Section 2 – Youth work and Education

### Women, Water, World, Louvain, 18 March 2016

Dr. Patricia Morales of *Mundus maris* had invited students and staff of the Faculty of Arts on March 18 to a panel discussion in the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) to jointly discuss the implementation of the sustainability goals of the **Agenda 2030**, particularly goal 5 on women. In the friendly atmosphere of a subsequent reception participants continued exchanging about avenues to reduce poverty risks that affect women overproportionately.

### *Mundus maris* Awards contest for young people to celebrate World Oceans Day 2016

Early in the year we launched an invitation to young people around the globe to celebrate World Oceans Day together by participating in the *Mundus maris* Awards contest under this year's UN motto "Healthy Ocean, Healthy Planet". We invited participants to submit their work in one of two challenges:

- Why is a healthy ocean needed for a healthy planet?
- How can we care for the health of the ocean?



World Oceans Day Celebrations in Akure, Nigeria

As in previous years, the international jury selected the winners in three age groups, up to

12 years, from 13 to 18 years and from 19 to 24 years. You can see the results from among the 59 participants from eight countries (Argentina, Cameroon, Gambia, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal) **here**. Congratulations!

### Celebrating World Oceans Day 2016 with special events in different places



World Oceans Day Celebrations in Hann, Senegal

The culmination of a lot of preparatory and outreach work for World Oceans Day were special events organised by *Mundus maris* and our partners in Brussels (Belgium), Douala (Cameroon), Mombasa (Kenya), Akure and Victoria Island (Nigeria) and Hann (Senegal). Thanks to the events, large numbers of people could get first-hand information about the ocean, participate in sports- and cultural programmes, beach clean-ups and more. Each event centred



World Oceans Day Celebrations in Brussels, Belgium

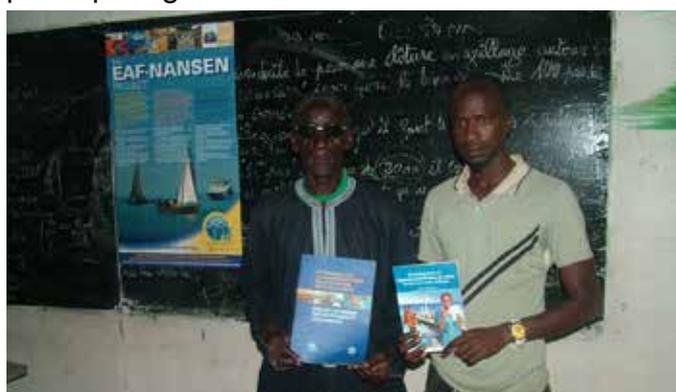
on the specific local context, but also drew attention to the wider, even global threats to the ocean and what we can do together about them. In each event, the winners of the *Mundus maris* Awards were announced and honorary diplomas handed to participants and their teachers. The pictures and texts on **the website** give a flavour of each event.

### Continued efforts for teaching the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)

All is well what ends well. This can certainly be said of the enduring efforts to produce teaching aids about the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), which *Mundus maris* helped to develop together with teachers and school inspectors in Senegal and Gambia. This was part of pilot activities of the FAO's Nansen Project led by Dr. Kwame Koranteng.

A batch of the French versions of the teacher's guide and pupil's workbooks have been delivered through the FAO office in Dakar in March for distribution to promote the use of the approach in ordinary education and beyond. *Mundus maris* has accepted to help with the dissemination. That was enthusiastically welcomed by schools and even leaders in fishing communities. The remaining problem is the limited number of hard copies available. **Find out more** about the local reactions.

The English version was also directly delivered by the FAO office in The Gambia to the participating schools. Well done!



### A public conference against school drop outs, Hann, Senegal, 26 September 2016

In the fishing village of Hann at the doorsteps of Dakar, *Mundus maris* has accompanied many parents in their efforts to obtain birth certificates for children under threat of being excluded from the school system for lack of complete papers. This initiative started in 2014 and gained momentum in 2015 with support from Schuman Trophy. Work on this thorny issue has continued since and regularised the legal status of more than 250 children and youths.

In order to take stock of the initiative so far, we organised a public conference on 20 September 2016 in one of the annexes of the municipality of Hann - Bel Air. We needed to take stock and reflect with those concerned about the ways and means necessary for a durable solution of this scourge. **Read on** about the results and next steps.



## Section 3. Traditional culture, links to the arts and the people of the sea and awareness raising

### 9th Green Me Film Festival for Sustainability, Berlin, 29 to 31 January 2016

This year's Green Me Film Festival for Sustainability in Berlin's CineMaxX had the Ocean, Life and Water as its central themes. Films for every taste and age group were screened and attracted the crowds. *Mundus maris* was invited to speak at a panel session organised by the German Marine Foundation (Deutsche Meeresstiftung) in the conference stream of the festival under the motto "The ocean needs a voice". Other panelists included Prof. Hartmut Grassl, long-standing director of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, and Gesine Meissner, MEP since 2009 and president of the parliament's Intergroup Seas, Rivers and Coastal Areas. Frank Schweikert moderated. In the margin, an **interview** with Programme Director Delphi Breger allowed for additional insights. **Click here** for more.



Panel on "Give the Ocean a Voice!"

### Green Me goes to Victoria Island, Nigeria, 1 to 3 April 2016

This was an exciting opportunity for the *Mundus maris* Club at the Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology (FCFMT) – to help reaching out to the wider College community and the whole of Victoria Island environs, Lagos. Starting with a rally to draw attention to

the Green Me Global Film Festival celebrating its maiden performance in Nigeria, the group enjoyed the festival itself, both by viewing some of the world-class films and informing visitors about ocean issues. The gala was the highlight at the end with the Awards Ceremony for the winning films. Great emotions around the sustainability challenges "**Ocean, Life, Water**"!



Green Me Film Festival Victoria Island Nigeria

### Pêcheurs du Monde Film Festival, Lorient, France, 14 to 20 March 2016

For this 8th edition, the power of the images casts light on the people of the sea, forgotten by the grand conferences. Fishermen of the Seychelles (Fishermen of Paradise), from Quebec (Les pêches maritimes du Québec), from Chile (Salmonopoly), from Brittany (Océan électro), workers of the Bronx (BX46), Indian saltworkers (My Name is Salt), women fish vendors in Dakar (Guinaw Rails), women divers in Timor-Leste (Wawata Topu: les sirènes du Timor-Leste), shellfish gleaners (Les semeurs de palourdes) ... speak about their lives, their fears, their hopes. Aliou Sall of *Mundus maris* was invited by the organisers and able to participate in several public screenings and debates. Discover more **here**.

## **Fresh Fish – Bad Label? Marine Stewardship Council needs to clean up its act**

Upon invitation *Mundus maris* participated in the Festival for the Future to celebrate 30 years of existence of the German Environment Ministry in Berlin, 10 and 11 September 2016 together with the Who is Who in politics, the economy and associations addressing environmental issues. The focus of our workshop was the urgent need to get the MSC to apply its own sustainability standards. Independent research had just shown that a high percentage of certified fisheries did not meet the criteria. *Mundus maris* **appealed** to stop abusing consumer confidence with such bad practices.

## **Keeping in touch with new developments and sharing insights**

Among the reviews of events or major new studies of special interest, we only signal the following selection from our website:

**Blue Society** - what does that mean? - Meeting in the European Parliament

## **Production gains of five million tons for prudently managed fisheries in Europe**



Dr Rainer Froese presenting the path-breaking study on possible production gains at a press conference in Brussels

## **Resources from the Sea, Ocean Sciences Colloquium Bremen, 23 November 2016**

More information about our activities throughout the year and additional resources are readily available on our website in five languages (DE, EN, ES, FR, IT) and the social media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn.

You can also follow our work by **subscribing** to our monthly newsletter.

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