



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

# Annual activity report 2017



Dear friends,

We look back to another year of mixed results: The first Global Ocean Conference in New York in June was a public recognition of the importance of the ocean to a healthy planet and the urgency of real protection. This should mean stopping overfishing, biodiversity loss and pollution through much expanded marine protected areas, curbing IUU fishing, preventing further plastic pollution, reducing overfertilisation with ensuing dead zones. It also means curbing CO2 emissions. Thermal expansion already accounts for half of sea-level rise threatening many islands and low lying coastal zones. The ocean's uptake of CO2 slows warming of the atmosphere, but it also increases the ocean's acidity. Calcareous organisms, such as corals and bivalves thus get harder times.

Together with close to two thousand other non-state bodies *Mundus maris* made a pledge of practical support for meeting SDG 14 Life under Water in relation with other SDGs.

COP23 in Bonn was the opportunity to spell out the practicalities. There, we participated in the **civil society march** of 25,000 citizens to stop coal now to achieve the objectives set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Some freshly declared marine protected areas point in the right direction.

But at the Ministerial Meeting in Buenos Aires in December WTO failed again to agree on abolishing fisheries subsidies and even the minimalistic plea to stop subsidising known IUU vessels. The shipping industry continues to block a significant reduction of its 6% share of global CO2 emissions.

Throughout the year, we've been working hard to connect these global challenges to activities on the ground: Together with our partners we celebrated World Oceans Day, 8 June, in three continents with seven creative events. We did several associated beach clean-ups and encouraged individuals making pledges for the ocean. We congratulate the winners of *Mundus maris* Awards under this year's motto "Our Ocean, Our Future".

In 2017, we were again part of the movements for change towards living sustainably with the ocean and fellow travellers on our Blue Planet and working towards small-scale and low-impact fisheries as potential solution to the current resource over-use.

This annual activity report gives you a flavour of our major activities. You'll find more on our **website** and the social media. We are happy about the growing number of interactive public conversations, interviews, publications, conferences and local actions that allowed to reach out to more people - think that many small drops make up an ocean of commitments. Enjoy the read!

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

## 2016 Budget

Total income from donations and membership fees, including carry-over was **22,635.15 €**. The investments / expenditures by broad category were as follows:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Total ACAD               | 5.908,84 €  |
| Total YOUTH              | 4.421,08 €  |
| Total TRAD / COMM / EDUC | 2.310,41 €  |
| Total STOB / OPER / RENT | 1.864,15 €  |
| Total Investments        | 14.504,48 € |

ACAD = academic work  
 YOUTH = youth work  
 TRAD = traditional culture  
 COMM / EDUC = awareness, education  
 STOB = statutory obligations  
 OPER / RENT = operational expenses and rental

# 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

### Sustainability of low-impact small-scale fisheries jeopardised

Small-scale fisheries were one of the foci of our work in 2017. They mostly use low-impact and selective gear and provide the vast majority of jobs in capture and post-harvest activities. But between 80 and 90% of global fisheries subsidies of estimated US\$35 billion per year go to the industrial sector. US\$20 billion are classified as bad subsidies that enhance capacity. Despite rethoric at EU level, small-scale fishers in the EU countries receive usually a minute share of the national fishing quota, if any, distributed after pre-X-mas horsetrading by ministers. In West Africa, almost half the total catch is constituted of IUU fishing mostly by industrial vessels with foreign ownership, thus threatening the artisanal sector which provides food and jobs for hundreds of thousands if not millions of people along the coast and into the Sahel countries. Here is a selection of actions in support of small-scale fishers over the year.



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

### Proposal for a Small-scale Fisheries Academy

We put forward the proposal of developing a **Small-scale Fisheries Academy** as a welcoming space of learning and exchange of scientists, fishers, coastal dwellers, teachers, fisheries managers and anybody interested in sustainable small-scale fisheries. This is a response to the points picked up during field research by fishers and women processors to get better access to research and market information as well as wanting to contribute to better understanding of the changing conditions.



(Photo by Mundus maris Club Senegal)

### The internet of things – opportunities for disadvantaged communities

On April 11 and 12, the first International Conference on Innovation and Interdisciplinary Solutions for Disadvantaged Areas was held at the Pullman Hotel in Dakar. The meeting was attended by actors from very different cultural contexts and professional backgrounds. This diversity was the basis for the richness and originality of this uncommon event. *Mundus maris* moderated a panel and helped explore cross-fertilisation of **ideas and experiences**.

### At the EGU Conference in Vienna, Austria, 23-28 April

A **poster** presentation at the huge **EGU Conference in Vienna**, Austria, about the ramification of IUU fishing into international organised crime undermining the lives of small-scale fishing communities and depriving developing countries of vital income. The point is that such practices can simply not be addressed by “ordinary fisheries management”, but require stronger action against illicit practices such as fraudulent declarations, transshipment at sea and hitting back where it hurts, e.g. with denying market access where illicit gains are realised.



Mundus maris poster (Photo C. E. Nauen)

### MARE Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands, 5-7 July

At the MARE Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands, the book titled “The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation” was presented. It shares experience around the “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication” (**SSF Guidelines**) adopted in a landmark decision by the 2014 FAO Fisheries Committee. *Mundus maris* contributed a chapter on participatory forms of research that enables greater exchange between researchers and fishing communities. Together with FAO we **convened a session** at the Conference with focus on Senegal. A

keynote at the conference also highlighted the vulnerability of small-scale fishers and refugees to human trafficking and rights abuse in the industrial fisheries.



(Photo C. E. Nauen)

### EADI Nordic 2017 Conference in Bergen, Norway, 20-23 August

At the **EADI Nordic 2017 Conference** in Bergen, Norway, we also convened a session promoting the book and a broadening of the debate towards ethical responsibilities in the earth sciences.

### YOUMARES 8.0 in Kiel, Germany

As every year, **we participated** in and supported the annual networking conference of young marine researchers in Germany – YOUMARES - which drew a record beating number of international participants this year in Kiel. It is growing from year to year with very respectable scientific quality. Thumbs UP!



(Photo C. E. Nauen)

### PRCM Forum convenes in Conakry, Guinea

Some 250 representatives from North-West African countries and their partners from around the world met in Conakry, Guinea, from 23 to 27 October 2017 for the ninth Forum of the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the coastal and marine zones in West Africa (PRCM by its French acronym). The motto of this year's Forum was "Let's invest into coastal resilience for a prosperous future of the West African region". *Mundus maris* was among the invited with Vice President Dr. Aliou Sall speaking in one of the **thematic sessions**.



Aliou Sall exchanging with a Gambian fisher on the teaching aids about the ecosystem approach to fisheries

### Ad hoc study of small-scale fisheries conditions in Boulbinet port area in Conakry, Guinea

Bringing the changing living and working conditions of small-scale fishers to the attention of a wider public was the purpose of a quick ramble of the **Boulbinet community** in and around the port area of the Guinean capital Conakry and **interviews** with experienced local personalities in the small-scale fisheries, e.g. F. Soumah.



(Photo A. Sall)

### Small-scale fishers evicted from shorelines in Nigeria

Attempts to support the income earning capabilities of fishers and women active in the post harvest sector on the water front in Oke Ira Nla and Otodo Gbame, all in **Eti Osa Local Government Area of Lagos**, could not be completed as the communities were evicted by force shortly after the training began, supposedly to make space for up-market condos. The violently displaced people were initially offered compensation, which has, however, still not reached them. This is a sad illustration of another aspect of the challenges to small-scale fishers.



First precarious living conditions, then eviction (Photo T. Solanke)

## Section 2 – Youth work and Education

### Plastic clean-ups with youths in Cameroon and Nigeria

Our friends of Bénévoles Océan in Cameroon were overwhelmed by the sight of a river bed in Douala that was choked by plastic bottles forcing the river to change course and threatening to pollute the ocean. In a heroic effort on 4 June, they cleared a substantial amount. They are now working on a more sustainable solution to prevent discharge and recycle plastic for **useful applications**.



(Photo Bénévoles Océan)

On 25 August 2017, the *Mundus maris* Chapter Victoria Island, Lagos, in collaboration with the Rotaract Club in the Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technologies (FCFMT) mobilised numerous volunteers for a **big beach clean-up** around the jetty near the College. Well done! Let's hope the municipal waste management takes over more of its duty to keep the volunteers motivated to help.

### Celebrating World Oceans Day around the globe

Together with partners in several countries *Mundus maris* organised again a **youth contest** and specific celebratory events for World Oceans Day 2017 in Argentina, Belgium,



World Oceans Day in Akure, Nigeria (Photo Lydia Mosunmola)

Cameroon, Egypt, Nigeria and Senegal. It is great to see how the groups in each country find their own specific expression in celebrating World Oceans Day and reach out to different types of mostly young publics.



Buenos Aires, Argentina (photo M. Morales Yokobori)

In each event, the winners of *Mundus maris* Awards of best stories and videos in three age groups. Congratulations! We also thank the international jury who did a sterling job in a short period of time.



Brussels, Belgium (photo C. E. Nauen)

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

Several activities relating to documenting and sustaining traditional cultures of the people of the sea have already been mentioned in the first section with its focus on small-scale fishers. For many of the people we worked and did research with their work, their social organisation and culture are part of their identity, beyond the necessary economic viability and other aspects. We are happy that the documentary about traditional small-scale fisheries in Casamance by ZIDEOPROD in Senegal is making good progress. We were able to make a contribution to the production process and are now looking forward to its launch in 2018.

### *Mundus maris* at the Green Me International Film Festival in Berlin

The 10th anniversary in 2017 of the International Green Me Film Festivals had as motto “Climate, Joy, Air”. In Berlin, *Mundus maris* was among this year’s sponsors and convened a panel under the title “**Healthy Ocean, Healthy Planet**”. We also ran a stand during the three day period and invited pledges for the ocean. The fabulous programme would have deserved more visitors.



*Mundus maris* panelist speaking during the Green Me International Film Festival (Photo C. E. Nauen)

Meet the organisers of the Green Me Film Festival we **interviewed**.

### ... and at the documenta 14 in Kassel

The **exhibition** illustrated the planetary scope of contemporary art through the huge span of works on display in Athens and Kassel. Our snapshot focuses on four artists who embody the major concern of the show, namely that oppression’s ghastly face has brought untold suffering on people around the globe, but that strangers can meet, and that as humans we can cooperate and learn from one another across the continents and the seas.



El Hadji Sy from Senegal “The fishers”

### Investing into young people and their education has many facets

The *Mundus maris* Club in Senegal continued to support families in the fishing village of Hann to obtain birth certificates for kids with no official papers to prevent kids from dropping out of school. That was the follow-up of a public conference in September 2016 drawing some lessons from a higher powered project done with financial support of Schuman Trophy.

Our teacher friends in The Gambia who continued using and disseminating the teaching

kit jointly developed in 2012/13 as part of the pilot activities for **FAO's Fridtjof Nansen Project** on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries just sent us a nice picture of their most recent school excursion. We congratulate them for their tenacity!

### News in short

*Mundus maris* interviews the coordinator of a regional education project



Jean Louis Sanka (Photo A. Sall)

**Interview with Alassane Diallo** about the role of sport in ocean protection

*Mundus maris* reports about a conference on **organised crime in fisheries** at the EP



(Photo C. E. Nauen)

*Mundus maris* attended the **sustainable ocean governance conference** in Bremen



*Mundus maris* monitored the **Development Finance Forum on Oceans** of KfW

*Mundus maris* reports from the hearing in the European Parliament on how to improve fisheries management.



*Mundus maris* President was elected Chair of Board of **Q-quatics**, a new scientific non-profit supporting global information systems in the public domain

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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