



# Annual activity report 2018



## Ensuring sustainable small-scale fisheries remains a challenge

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) with an emphasis on implementing the Guidelines for sustainable SSF in the context of the wider Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were the undisputed focus of *Mundus maris* throughout 2018. Among the highlights were youth activities for World Oceans Day, 8 June, a series of conference participations where we presented work centered on small-scale fisheries and the need to edge forward from talk to action and the challenge of connecting the global goals and trends to experiences on the ground. This went hand in hand with a range of activities in several countries to raise citizens' awareness about the ocean (ocean literacy), alert them to the threats of overfishing, plastic pollution and climate change and discuss what we can collectively do to protect the ocean and ourselves by promoting well-being and resilience.

The culmination of these efforts was the active participation in the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October and the launch of the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Senegal in November flanked also by work with a large grouping of women in the postharvest sector supporting their struggle for a better future as well as sponsoring an addition to the documentary on the regional fishery in Casamance, southern Senegal following the disruptive establishment of Chinese fish meal factories.

The new approach for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals marks a new style of global governance through setting time-bound targets. Performance can be monitored with a large set of indicators matching these composite targets bundled in 17 inter-dependent goals. This creates ample room for action, but also the urgent need for national and local adaptation that requires civil society, companies and all levels of government to commit. Research, the sciences and education have a particular responsibility to make sure validated information and knowledge reach into every corner of our societies to support good decision making and action where it's most urgently needed. Check out e.g. [the research](#) on the perceptions of 10,000 citizens across Europe about marine climate change. We need different ways of knowing that blend to innovate, mitigate and find place-specific and culture-adapted solutions.

We are grateful to all those people who have supported the increased level of activities in 2018 with their donations, their time and expertise. A big THANK YOU to all members, volunteers and supporters for their commitment. We are proud about what we have achieved together.

This annual report lets you revisit at least the major highlights of the year. You'll find more information, ideas and reviews by visiting the website at [www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org) in five languages (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish). We provide additional resources in the social media and hope they encourage more and more people to become active and cooperate.

Ocean protection, climate protection, biodiversity protection, education and responsible decision-making and stewardship of the very living conditions for humans and all life on the planet – this needs unprecedented levels of cooperation and efforts.

Enjoy the read.

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

## 2018 Budget

Total income from donations and membership fees, including carry-over was **24,464.32 €**. The investments / expenditures by broad category were as follows:

Total ACAD	7,893.61 €
Total YOUTH	5,158.73 €
Total TRAD / MOD	1,618.00 €
Total INFO / EDU / COMMS	1.864,15 €
Total STOB / OPER	2.206,16 €
Total financial investment	24.464,32 €

ACAD = academic work

YOUTH = youth work

TRAD / MOD = between traditional and modernity

INFO / EDU / COMMS = information, education & communication

STOB / OPER = statutory obligations & operational costs

# 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 underlined text and click to link to the related webpage.

## Section 1 – Information, Education, Communication

Our information, educational and communication activities throughout the year were quite varied starting out in the Philippines in January with a talk about multi-layered fisheries governance helping to frame and address frequently encountered in relation to (a) resource availability, (b) economics and related social impacts arising from interactions among users of the same resources, (c) mutual incompatibility of different harvesting technologies (e.g. industrial vs. small-scale), and (d) allocation issues, namely competition for access to resources, which are unevenly distributed in space and time. The most robust solutions often blend formal and informal approaches and focus on building social consensus and legitimacy to make rules enforceable.

### **The role of marine ecosystems in the lives of fishing communities**

**In collaboration with ULB-Coopération**, Aliou Sall of Mundus maris offered a free course in Brussels, 15 March 2018, to the Master students of Prof Nathalie Gypens striving to understand multiple roles of aquatic and agricultural ecosystems and how they can be managed for sustainable use. The emphasis was on the dependence of small-scale fishers on ecosystem services for their livelihoods and the multiple challenges they face.



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### **Marine Stewardship Council does not convince at Brussels Seafood Fair**

Announced with some fanfare and pride about the on-going expansion in the numbers and scope of certified fisheries, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) had invited to a podium discussion at the overbulging Brussels Seafood Fair, 24 to 26 April 2018. MSC has been created 20 years by WWF and food giant Unilever as an independent body intended to build a bridge between the industry and the nature conservation communities. But hopes turned sour when independent research showed that >30% of North Atlantic stocks investigated obtained the label without complying with the rules. That's not good enough to merit consumer trust.



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### **Sustainable Seafood Workshops, Brussels, 19/20 October**

**The Good Food Weekend** is a must in the Brussels annual event agenda. As part of the official programme, Mundus maris offered workshops with fish tastings on Friday, 19 and Saturday, 20 October 2018 in English and French respectively to help participants navigate the waters towards delicious and also sustainable fish and seafood. Our workshops were supported by wholesaler Pintafish and Bia

Mara, the sustainable fish 'n chips restaurant. Participants learnt about the results of market research in Brussels fish shops, supermarkets, wholesalers, information from the Belgian consumer protection agency and the European Commission about the Europe-wide labelling scheme intended to give consumers more choice elements.



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### **Mundus maris attracts interest at the University of Calabar**

Participation of students from Calabar University, Nigeria, in the Mundus maris Awards to celebrate World Oceans Day this year triggered a spike of interest also among researchers and faculty at the university. That offered a welcome opportunity to our Vice President, Prof. Stella Williams, and her colleague in Calabar, Prof. Francis E. Asuquo, to explore what to do together about promoting ocean literacy and engagement for conservation and sustainable use. That resulted in a one-day Seminar on Ocean Conservation and Sustainability with some 230 participants.



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### **A wonderful domino effect is on the move in Argentina**

Early September, the University Belgrano, partner of Mundus maris, organised a set of activities within the framework of the Argentinean National Week of Science and Technology. One of these activities consisted of a role play where four stakeholders had a conflict over pollution of plastic waste as used in all restaurants from a fast food chain. The role play was interpreted by each of two groups of around 45 high school students, who discussed the social and economical aspects of a possible reduction of plastic contamination. A great learning opportunity.

### **Kiel Science Factory – an example to follow for ocean literacy**

The Kiel Science Factory (Kieler Forschungswerkstatt) is the Mecca of teachers and students who want to get fit primarily to understand and protect the ocean and generally live in a sustainable way. Mundus maris visited in October to share the information: Led by the incredibly committed director, Dr. Katrin Knickmeier, the workshop team has an impressive list of offers "in stock" and is a source of countless innovative teaching and learning opportunities around marine research for all. Check it out.



Dance event to celebrate water and a healthy planet  
Copyright: Martha Poppe

## Section 2 – Youth

### Congratulations to the winners of Mundus maris Awards 2018

More than seventy individuals and groups of young people sent in their works in response to the invitation to tell a story in words or moving pictures about this year's motto of World Ocean Day "For a Plastic-Free Ocean". They came from six countries: Belgium, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal. An international jury looked carefully at their submissions and chose the winners across the six categories of the contest. [Find out who they are.](#)

### Mundus maris celebrates World Ocean Day on three continents



Winners student contest for World Ocean Day, Buenos Aires  
Copyright: Paula de los Hoyos

Mundus maris and its friends and allies teamed up again this year to celebrate World Ocean Day, 8 June, together around the globe under the UN motto focused on protecting the ocean – and ourselves - from hideous plastic pollution. Celebrations entailed a quite diverse programme of activities, starting with the youth contest for Mundus maris Awards. Preparatory and awareness raising activities took place in several countries. Celebrations reached their culmination with special events on three continents: taking off in Brussels, Belgium, and followed by other events in Argentina,

Cameroon, Nigeria and Senegal. [Check out what happened there.](#)



After the beach clean-up in Kribi, Cameroon  
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Mundus maris info booth, Brussels, Belgium  
Copyright: Mundus maris/Cornelia E. Nauen

### Mundus maris theatre troupe has a fulminant start

A group of girls of the Kawabata Yasunari School in Hann, Senegal, who spontaneously decided to [form the Mundus maris theatre troupe](#) around a sketch on plastic pollution and civic responsibility for a healthy Bay, are trained by teacher Bina Diop. Bina is also a passionate theatre director and artist breathing fresh life into traditional art forms. The girls performed a firework of successful sketches in the first few weeks of forming the troupe in June.

## Section 3 – Academic work

### Small-Scale Fisheries in the South, 25-26 June, Brest

Opening with two-day workshop in June, Denis Bailly, coordinator of the Ocean University Initiative in Brest, France, recalled the multi-perspective approach enacted almost 30 years ago in Montpellier that established small-scale fisheries as a valid research field for a wide range of disciplines. He stated that capacity building and new collaborations must be among the watch words. Cornelia E Nauen of Mundus maris [presented the concept of the small-scale fisheries academy](#) to be launched later in the year which attracted considerable interest.



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### IIFET 2018 in Seattle was a great experience



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Three Mundus maris members participated at

the [IIFET conference in Seattle, USA](#), 16 to 20 July: Prof. Stella Williams, Dr. Kafayat Fakoye and Tomi Solanke. Besides presenting their research papers, they had an African meeting very early on Wednesday, 18 July. There we were able to connect with internationally renowned scientists, such as Prof Rashid Sumaila, Prof Paul Onyango, Dr Yemisi Oloruntuyi and a host of others. We agreed on a number of actions such as putting together a compilation of African IIFET members and encouragement to start an official affiliation to improve our participation in future conferences.



Tomi Solanke with her travel award

### Rethinking Development, Gothenburg, 22-23 Aug. 2018

What kind of development do we want for today's world? That was the central question addressed by almost 400 participants from some 35 countries during [the biannual Swedish Development Research Conference](#) (DevRes) organised 22 and 23 August in Gothenburg. Mundus maris contributed to a special session under the aegis of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes focusing on how to ensure that perspectives of people on the ground - anywhere - get heard and that joint learning can take place.



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### **3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 22-26 October**

This was biggest of a series of world congresses on small-scale fisheries with more than 350 participants from 55 countries. Ratana Chuenpagdee, Project Director of the global research network “Too Big To Ignore” and her staff and local organisers pulled off a highly inspiring and productive conference. Mundus maris made its contribution through the active participation of Aliou Sall, our Vice-President from Senegal. Svein Jentoft, co-editor of a compilation of research on small-scale fisheries to which we also contributed, was honoured for his outstanding academic contributions to the field.



Svein Jentoft and Aliou Sall  
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### **Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Senegal launched in Dakar**

With active support of different professional associations organising people along all aspects of the value chain in the sector, academic partners and encouraged by other civil society organisations, the organising committee invited a wide array of sector stakeholders to the inaugural session of the small-scale fisheries academy. On 14 November 2018, the launch event was gracefully hosted by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) in their regional West Africa office on the campus of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. 62 men and women from all across Senegal joined the day-long deliberations and identified priorities for curriculum development of the academy.



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## Section 4 – Between Tradition and Modernity

**Prize-winning documentary «Poisson d'or, Poisson africain» by Thomas Grand and Moussa Diop, co-sponsored by Mundus maris**



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The pre-launch film screening for the interested public in Brussels took place on 14 March. To start with, the film shows that Kafountine in Casamance, southern Senegal, has become perhaps the last safe haven for migratory movements of people following the fish at sub-regional scale. They are forced to abandon the north of Senegal (Joal, St Louis, Bargny ...), largely because of the establishment of fish



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meal plants and exporting factories in that part of the country. Shortly after the first successful festival participation the worst fears of the men and women filmed along the value chain come

true – Chinese fish meal factories push artisanal operators aside ... In the ensuing civil protests in July 2018, demands for proper management, support for artisanal operators and denial of licences for fish meal plants are voiced. So we sent the film crew back to Kafountine. That added eight sad minutes to [the documentary](#).



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## More 2018 Highlights in brief

**The University of Belgrano approves a research project on the Lower Paraná Delta**  
[Click here](#)

**Mundus maris Nigeria wins grant for training in Digital Story Telling**  
[Click here](#)

**Governance of the High Seas – workshop, May 2018, to support starting UN negotiations**  
[Click here](#)

**Mundus maris at the EDD 2018, 5-6 June, Brussels**  
[Click here](#)

**FAO Regional Consultation in Dakar on the SSF Guidelines, July in Dakar**  
[Click here](#)

**Measure for Measure - FishBase Symposium, 4 Sept. 2018 in Kiel**  
[Click here](#)

**Young Marine Researchers' conference sets new record, Germany**  
[Click here](#)

**Bruxelles Environnement Invited to a Circular Economy Day, 24 Oct.**  
[Click here](#)

**Sport fishing presented at the 28th Ecology Meeting in Argentina**  
[Click here](#)

**Perspectives on the Earth System Governance Conference, 5-8 Nov. 2018, Utrecht**  
[Click here](#)

You can also follow our work by [subscribing](#) to our monthly newsletter.

Contact us at [info@mundusmaris.org](mailto:info@mundusmaris.org) for collaboration or any question on our programme.

The general assembly in March 2018 elected a new board for the next two years. The repartition of responsibilities is as follows:

- Cornelia E Nauen, President
- Stella Williams, Vice-President
- Aliou Sall, Vice-President
- Victor Hugo Herrera Vargas, Treasurer
- Maria del Carmen Patricia Morales, Member

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