

# THE BOOK OF THE MARINE WORLD

THE MUNDUS MARIS AWARDS: A COMPANION FOR WORLD OCEAN DAYS SINCE 2014



## LEGAL NOTICE

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Katrin Hofer



THE  
BOOK OF THE  
MARINE  
WORLD

Dedicated in fond memory to  
**Dr. Mechthild (Mecki) Kronen**  
former *Mundus maris* board  
member for inspiring the  
*Mundus maris* family with her  
unconditional love, respect  
and care for the marine world



THE MUNDUS MARIS AWARDS:  
A COMPANION FOR  
WORLD OCEAN DAYS  
SINCE 2014

It is our pleasure to offer here the Book of the Marine World as a tribute to all those who sent their voices and messages of care and love to the ocean from around world: A poem by a young man from the heart of Africa, a joint video of Asian youths with their Swedish peers, realistic drawings of animals from a rural school in Antarctica, picture tales of marine life from Germany and other original works. They all have contributed their meaning and messages to this multidisciplinary, intercultural and intergenerational initiative, which was born to accompany the celebrations of World Ocean Day, 8 June, from 2014 to 2020.

The response including drawings, essays, poems, stories and films from all over the world underlines the diversity which surprises year after year with its creativity.

Artistic expression and the texts can give us a message of the admiration and respect of the human family towards the ocean that goes to heart.

There are those who, from tradition and history, take us to an earlier world with an intimate human experience of nature. Others, in turn, choose the path of poetic language to awaken the passion, respect and also concern for marine life. Yet others strive to put scientific advances at the service of understanding and protecting the marine world. And so each contribution in its own way responds to the need for new narratives that convey a sense of where we belong, of the immense role of the ocean for our well-being, the climate, food and the many services it provides, now and in the future.



Earth exists since about 4.5 billion years. As modern humans, we arose merely in the last approximately 200,000 years. In the last century we have become the strongest planetary force shaping all corners of the Blue Planet we call home. We therefore need to commit across all boundaries towards responsible stewardship for the ocean, the biggest and most dominant of all ecosystems, for people and planet, making peace with nature.

The book also marks the 10th anniversary of Mundus maris and its diverse local and international activities. We thank all those who have already stood up together with us to protect and celebrate marine life, the ocean and international solidarity.

The book is organised in seven annual chapters, each dedicated to the motto the United Nations have announced for World Ocean Day that year and illustrated by a few of the submissions selected by an international jury. Chapter eight honours all participants by name and country as well as the generous jury members who served graciously.

During these years the elected members of the board, Mechthild Kronen, Marcelo Lino Morales Yokobori, Maria del Carmen Patricia Morales, Cornelia E. Nauen, Aliou Sall, and Stella Williams (in alphabetic order), have managed the Mundus maris Awards with love, creativity and dedication to World Ocean Day UN mottoes and all participants and supporters.

We hope readers will enjoy the book accompanied on their travel from cover to cover by a quote from Greta Thunberg at COP25 in Madrid 2019:

„There is hope – I've seen it – but it does not come from the governments or corporations, it comes from the people. The people who have been unaware are now starting to wake up, and once we become aware we change. We can change and people are ready for change.”



A logo for World Ocean Day 2014. The text "WORLD OCEAN DAY" is written in a stylized, hand-drawn font with a color gradient from blue to green. The year "2014" is written vertically to the right of "DAY". The logo is set against a light green, banner-like background with a white border.

WORLD  
OCEAN  
DAY 2014

Together let's ensure the ocean can sustain us into the future. World Ocean Day is the occasion to celebrate the beauty and awesomeness of the ocean and to engage with others around the world in protecting the sea more effectively from multiple threats.

The initiative has two objectives:

(a) learn more about the ocean to help protect it from over-fishing, climate change with acidification and pollution, particularly ubiquitous plastic; and

(b) to the extent possible, practice international cooperation among young people in different countries and cultures.

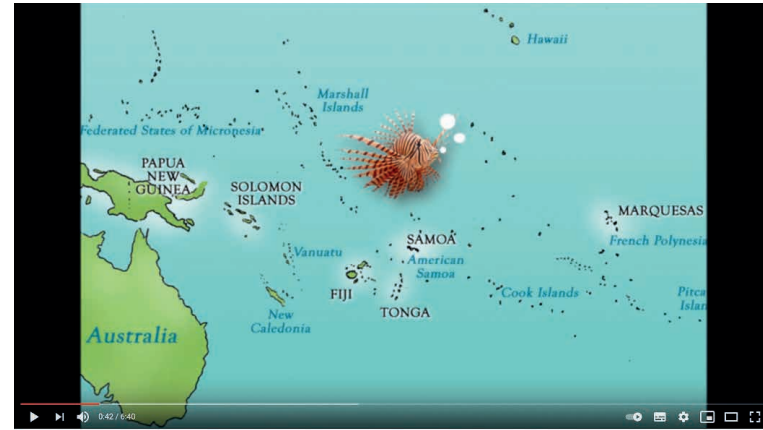
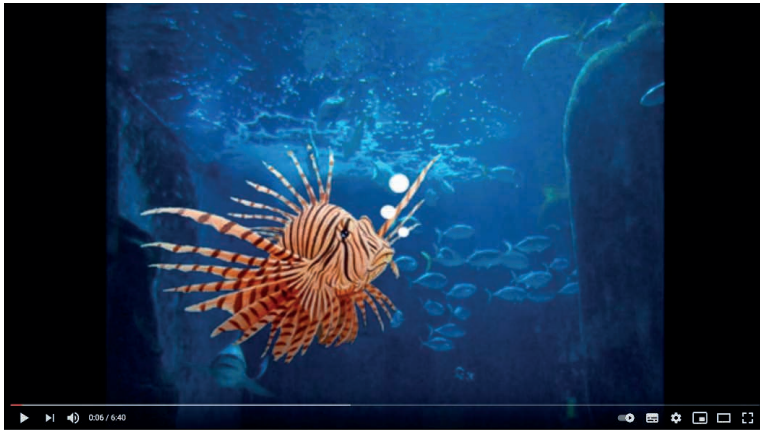
The challenge for Mundus maris Awards 2014 was to submit a video or Pecha Kucha story, preferably with a short illustrated essay about the learning within and/or between groups and their experience during production.

FOCUS<sup>ON</sup>  
OCEAN  
SUSTAINABILITY





# PECHA KUCHA – SCHWEDEN / ASEAN+3

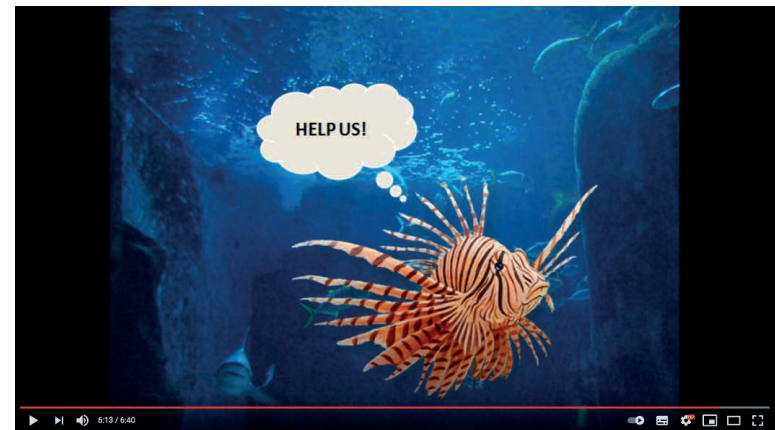
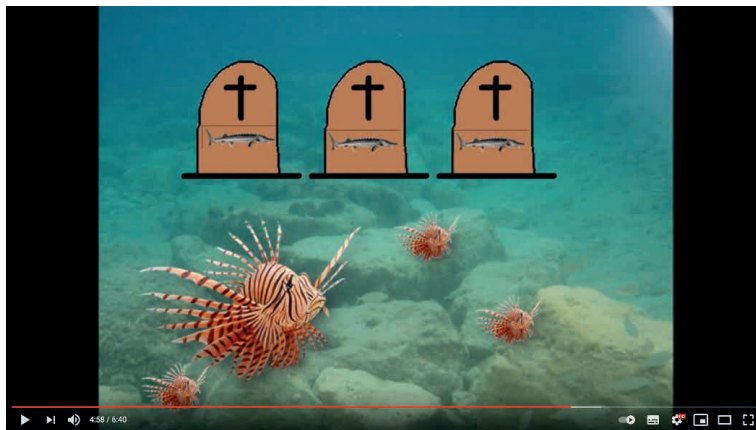
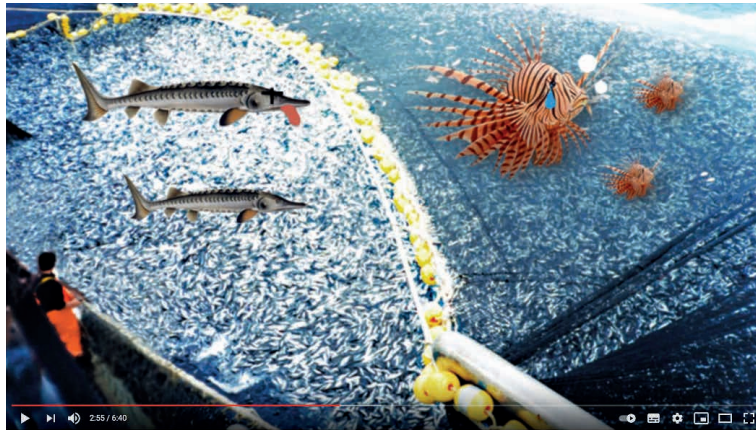


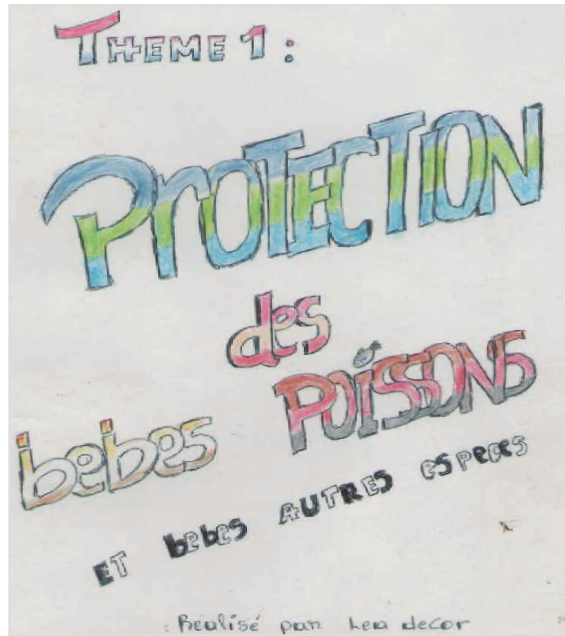
Johanna Norin of Nacka Gymnasium, Sweden, coordinated the collaboration with 5th ASEAN+3 Student Camp for the Gifted in Science.



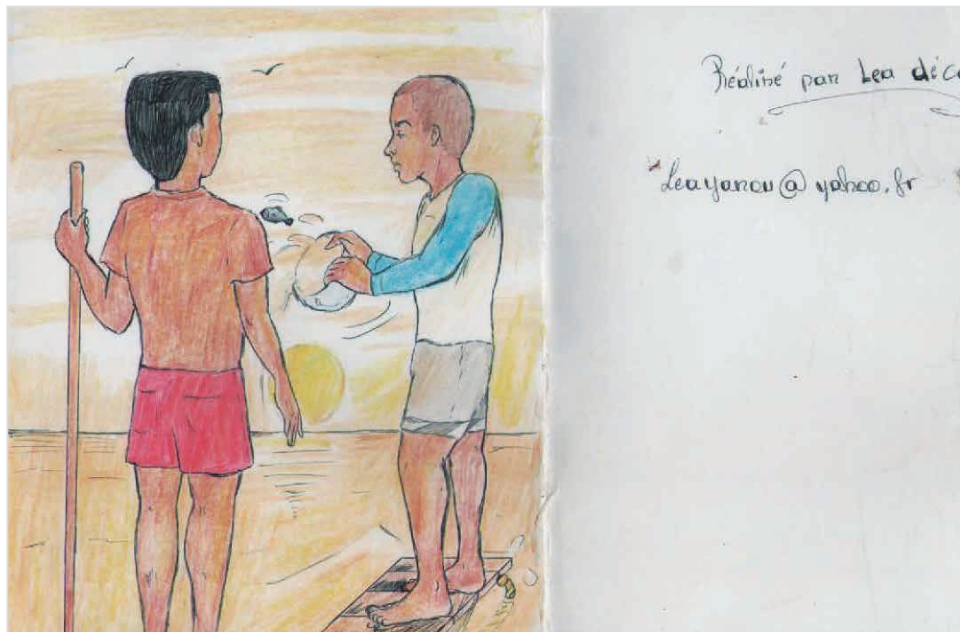
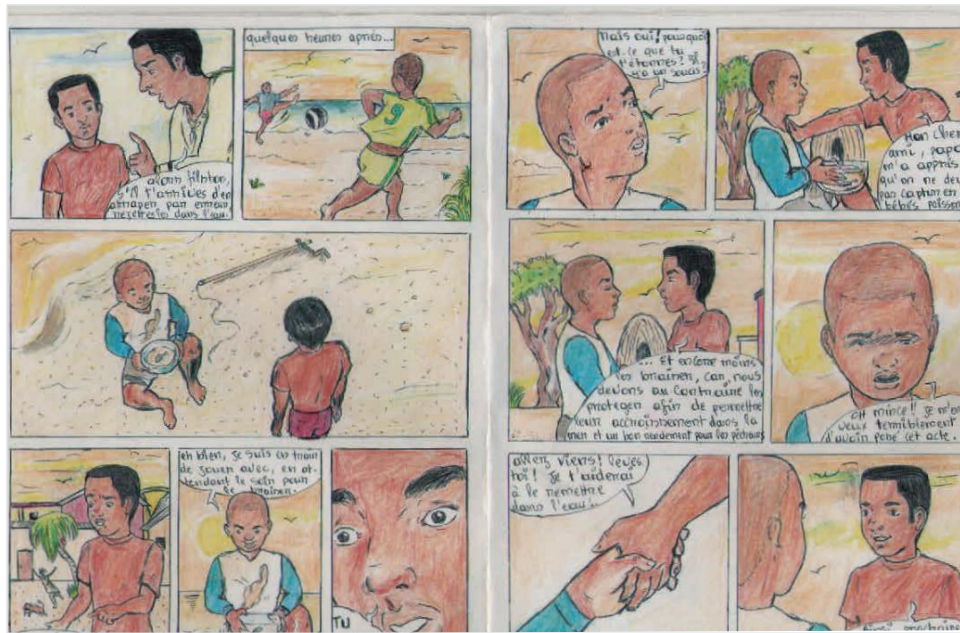


The students involved were:  
Johanna Norin, Sweden  
Jing Hao Pang, Singapore  
Mai Dieu Quynh, Vietnam  
Zi Man Wu, China  
Jeong In Choi, Rep. of Korea  
Yoon Je Suh, Rep. of Korea  
Ahmad Afiq, Malaysia  
Klara Eklund, Sweden  
Cap Marching, Thailand  
DK Erfa Afiffah Pg Fazian,  
Brunei Darussalam









Léa Ornela Yanou Njaba,  
Cameroun

Wow! Fishing was good!!! At this pace, I will buy everything.  
Great, make your choice.

Eh, but I can not at all buy these small fish.

And why not? - Bah, look, they are still babies.

So, what do you propose me to do?

I suggest you throw them back into the water as quickly as possible. - That's good for the other small specimens as well. Put them back into the water. And I'll buy the rest.

Papa, why can't we buy the other fish?

Because they have not reached maturity and if they are heavily fished they will disappear.

So, my son, should you by chance catch small ones, put them back into the water.

A few hours later.

Eh hmm, I am playing with it while waiting to fry it this evening.

You are eating that babyfish?

Yes, of course. Why are you surprised? Is there something wrong?

Dear friend, my dad taught me that one should not catch baby fish...

and even less fry them. Instead we should make sure they can grow in the sea and provide a good catch for the fishers.

Dear me. I'm awfully sorry for this mistake.

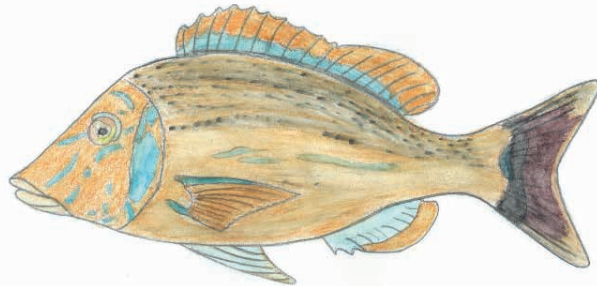
Come on. Get up. I'll help you put the baby back into the water.

So, next time... we know what to do from the start.



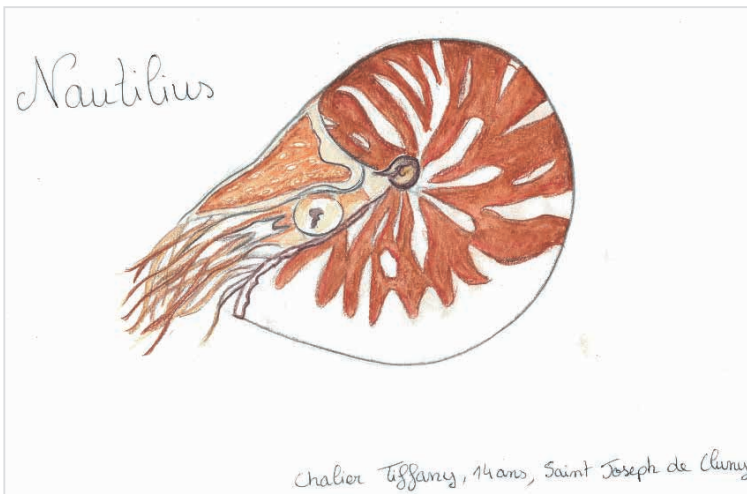
## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COLLÈGE SAINT JOSEPH DE CLUNY IN NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA

Grimigni, Deborah, 13 ans  
Collège St Joseph de Cluny, Anse Vahn  
Nouvelle-Calédonie



Spangled emperor  
Bec de canne

Deborah Grimigni (13 ys)



Tiffany Charlier (14 ys)



Constance Boudet (14 ys)



## WORLD OCEAN DAY CELEBRATIONS IN 2014 WITH PARTNERS AROUND HANN BAY, SENEGAL



The Friends of Hann Bay and 22 other associations supported by Mundus maris organised a month of celebrations around World Ocean Day. The soccer and traditional wrestling contests complete with a clean up of the beach and three of the quarters of town stretched out along the bay culminated on June 8, 2014 with the finals and a prize winning ceremony for the football tournament, the wrestling gala and rewards for the group which had best embellished its district.



The logo for World Ocean Day 2015 is located in the top left corner. It features the words "WORLD OCEAN DAY" in a stylized, hand-drawn font, with "2015" written vertically to the right. The text is in shades of blue and green, set against a light blue background that resembles a wave or a banner.

# WORLD OCEAN DAY 2015

The Ocean and its amazing creatures have inspired cultures and traditions across the world. Legends, myths, stories, works of art testify throughout the history the admiration and the respect humans pay to the marine world, today helped by modern science.

The Ocean has a value in itself. Humanity could not survive without a healthy Ocean. Our Planet Earth itself would not be the same without it. Plant life in the Ocean produces every second breath we take. It has absorbed already much of the CO<sub>2</sub> human activities have released into the atmosphere. Otherwise climate change would be even more advanced. But the ongoing assault on its integrity provokes its waters to become warmer and acidified.

Moreover, excessive and destructive fishing have impoverished many marine ecosystems. After years of industrial overfishing, the abundance of many big marine species is only a very small fraction of what it used to be. Various forms of pollution, including ubiquitous plastic, pose additional threats to marine life.

We believe that together, with the concern and determination of the citizens of the world, we can reconnect with the ocean! We need our dreams, the best scientific knowledge publicly available and moral purpose to achieve this feat. We are all called to restore and protect the Ocean. We hope our collective efforts will be great enough to take care of this Life Support System, for present and future generations and Planet Earth as a whole.

Here is the Mundus maris Awards challenge for this year:

- What is your dream for the Ocean in the future?  
Write up a story or draw up a cartoon.
- What would you do if you were to decide on how we could care better for the Ocean?  
Write up a story.

THE  
OCEAN AND THE  
HUMAN  
FAMILY





## A DIVE INTO THE FUTURE

*"I know a place where the world is still, where time and space have no hold. I know a place, where my heart and soul are one, and there are stories left untold... Oh my deep blue ocean world, I will return to you after the surface pulls you off me" - My Blue World by Lanna M.*

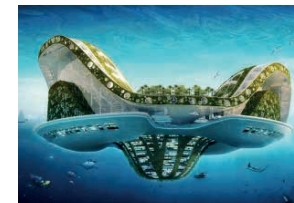
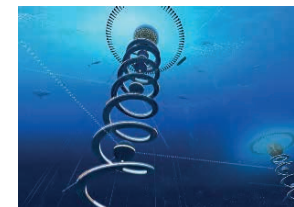
My gaze gets stuck towards a small dot in the blue infinity getting bolder and bolder, declaring its solid presence and making itself visible with its dynamic movements. I wonder what it is as I embrace the warmth of the coffee in my hand. Oh! It's just a whale, I assure myself as I look through the window - a sensation of life diving towards me. Did I just say "window"? No, it's not a window; rather the glass of an aquarium. Except the only difference is that we are ones who are inside it - the refugees of the impact of the climate change. We are the ones who took shelter in their paradise. After our planet had become a flooded earth without ice caps, we had to look towards our only source of hope, the abode of eternity, our ocean. And now here we are thriving in this beautiful blue world that never sleeps. I look back at my old giant friend. Its dazzling movements are hypnotizing all that's around it. It's hard to look away. "Grandpa!! Grandpa!! Aren't you going to come with us? We are going to visit the surface!" The voice of my grandson Tyson brings me back to my consciousness. "Wait up.... I will be right there." I look back. It's still there dancing with its surroundings.

For a moment I get the sensation as if it's waving towards me. The silent marine lives never protested or trended to be less unsettled by our presence underwater. Instead they embraced us in their world of ever living hope.

"Grandpa! We are going to be late," Tyson hurries. We walk along the blue garden as we head towards the spiral elevator. All the marine lives floating with the current as butterflies in a garden take me to a flashback into the past. How surprisingly I used to watch the fishes in my aquarium in the past during our life above the ground. Who would have thought that we would be living with them sharing their world and resources? The spiral elevator takes us to the world above which once was our home, our abode of hope. Our foolishness made us our own victims until it was too late for us to realize that we are living in a flooded earth without any polar ice caps. And we knew that our hope still resides in a world that would never refuse us a place among them. We had to look to the Ocean, a kingdom of endless possibilities and a world full of untold stories, our new home, and the final frontier! We finally reach the surface as the sun greets us with its warmth. Seeing the children's excitement forces me to plunge into flashbacks of the days of the reign of man above the land. How foolishly we only saw the ocean as a dimension of profit without recognizing its greatness, with the rage of insanity how we misused its resources, unbalanced its stability.

I stare with shame at the endless currents of the ocean from above. After we get back I go to my room in our new abode. The whale is still there. Slowly disappearing into the deep kingdom of water. I look at it with an empty gaze. As if it was a part of our family. I wonder if it wanted to interact with me in a long forgotten language, as if we were friends for ages. It is swimming away towards the unknown world and becoming blurred now, leaving us the message of survival. Yes, we have both survived in the same world. We don't know if long before a Captain pointed his soldiers towards the mighty sea and said, "Look that's our final frontier, the world yet to be explored, the world with the assurance of hope and we will conquer it someday. Or, whether someone quoted H.G. Wells to a young boy: „The past is but the beginning of a beginning, and all that is and has been is but the twilight of the dawn."

But one thing is for certain, if the human race unites in the common goal of a habitable ocean, then, in the words of Goddard: "Nobody knows what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow."



Story:  
Syed R. Tanzini,  
Bangladesh

Illustration References:

1. City of the future sinks into the ocean- Telegraph by Julian Ryall, Tokyo
2. Lillypad: Floating City for Climate Change refugees by inhabitat.com





## PRINCE OF THE OCEAN

Once upon a time, there lived a young fisherman with his wife and son in a small village just by the ocean. They were poor and lived in a small old hut made of grass. Life was so hard and difficult for them that the man had to go fishing every day to feed his family.

One day, he went out into the ocean to catch fish. He spent the whole day fishing, but could not catch any fish. Just as he was about to say "Today is a bad day, because I did not catch anything for the family", a small golden fish jumped into his fishing boat. The fisherman caught it and exclaimed "I've no fish today, but this small golden fish can fetch a good price at the fish market", upon which the little fish pleaded "please don't sell me. Put me back into the sea." The fisherman looked at the small, tiny fish and took pity with it. He said: "alright, I'll not kill or sell you. I will set you free." He then threw the fish back into the sea.

"One day I will reward you for your kindness" the little fish replied as it dived into the ocean. A few days later, the fisherman had a dream while sleeping. In the dream, he saw a handsome prince and the prince spoke to him.

Abubacarr Jarju,  
Gambia

"I'm the little golden baby fish you set free three days ago. I am the prince of the ocean. When you wake up look under your pillow and you'll find a small ring. It's a gift from me for sparing my life. Put it on your finger and wish for something. Tell your fellow fishermen not to catch baby fish and by doing so there will be abundance of fish and food for all of you."

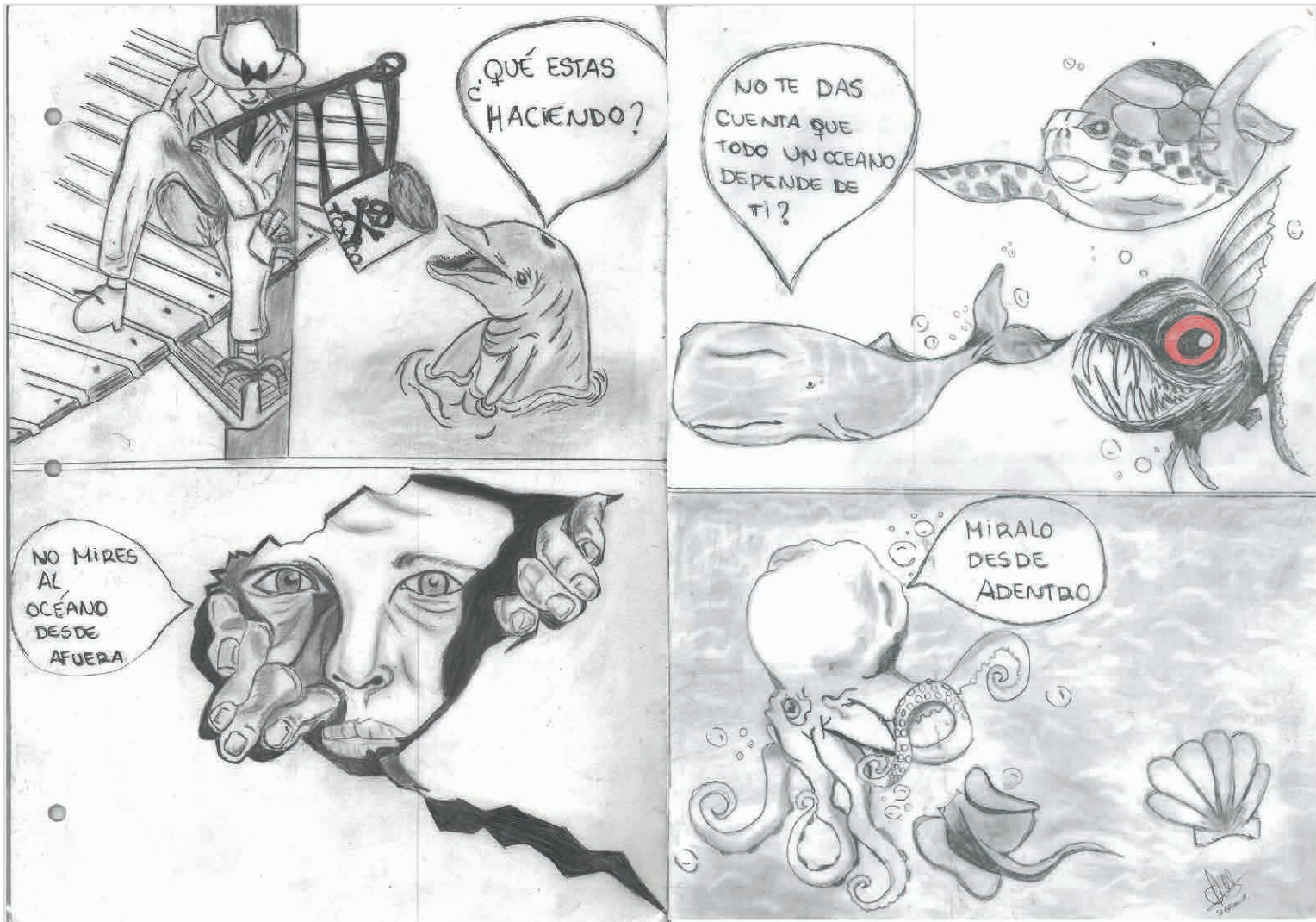
When the fisher woke up, he found the small ring

under his pillow. He put it on his finger and said: "I wish that I live in a big beautiful house with servants and plenty of money in my pocket", and his wish was granted. After that the young fisherman lived a rich, happy life with his wife and child. The fisherman continued to catch a lot of fish and there was enough for everybody for generations to come. From that time onward the fishing community stopped catching baby fish.





## THINK THE SEA



What are you doing?

On the box: poison / tóxico

Don't you realise that the entire ocean depends on you?

Don't watch the ocean from outside

See it from within

Pensar el mar,  
Stephanie González,  
Argentina



Most people consider it impossible to continue living after the abandonment of a love or injury. However, there is something on this planet, something that, its absence, would cause chaos, anarchy, the beginning of the end. It would be like an abyss, whose precipice is deep, whose summit is of great height. This „something“ has no arguments or defences and is vulnerable to the hands of man. That “something“ is the ocean. It faces many evils, such as pollution and destruction in various ways. An example is the depredation suffered by the oceans to finance large companies. This type of fishing is known as “industrial fishing”, which is really harmful to the ocean floor. Everything in its path is destroyed by this unselective fishing. The logic with which these companies are managed is that of the predominance of profitability over sustainability.

To analyse the situation, we are going to look at what happened... in Monte Hermoso (Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina), a coastal city of 6,000 inhabitants that in the year 2000 began to suffer from the incursions of large vessels up to only three hundred meters from the coast. Faced with this situation, the artisanal fishermen decided to form a “Chamber of Fishermen” and began the fight to counter this predation. The negative consequences caused by the trawlers were reflected in the poor results of a typical fishing day, reducing the catch and affecting the natural resource and various species by 70%. Bottom trawling, as its name implies,

provokes the destruction of the seabed, which is the basis of the food chain of most of the species making up coastal assemblages.

The fishing zone we refer to here corresponds to what is called “Zona Rincón”, stretching from San Cayetano to Bahía San Blas, a shallow spawning environment, breeding and reproduction area of various species: whiting, smooth hound sharks, croakers, Parona leatherjacket, among others. It was the year 2000, when artisanal fishermen, after repeated incursions of large trawlers, decided to found the “Chamber of Fishermen”. Once the Chamber was set up, they looked for ways to manage it for the benefits of its members (the fishermen, their employees and families), and the environment as well.

The first thing they proposed was to ensure that large bottom trawlers be kept out of nearshore areas of Zona Rincón. After many battles, they formed a „Regional Fisheries Council“, where not only Monte Hermoso fishers has a voice and vote, but also all other coastal fishers affected by the incursions of the large vessels.

In 2002, trawlers continued to get too close to our shores, approximately three hundred meters from the seashore, and they continued to snatch away the catch of our local fishermen. In that same year, the “Fishermen’s Chamber” together with the “Regional Fishing Council”, carrying out repeated blockages of Route 78 (next to the entrance bridge to the

Monte Hermoso Spa) [See Photo 1], managed to get Resolution number 491/02 signed by the then Minister of Agrarian Affairs, Emilio Monzó.

It determines that trawlers are prohibited from operating within a distance of 5 miles from the coast, benefiting the Rincón Area and setting a unique precedent on the coasts of America and the rest of the countries of the world. So, we consider that a benefit for all.

Added to this Resolution is the one prepared by the “Federal Fisheries Council” supported by the reports of the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP), which establishes a 6-month ban, in order to allow the development of marine species and prevent their extinction. Like any ban, it is determined by specific and temporary conditions of the resources and can be modified (decreased or increased as appropriate).

The vessels that practiced trawling destroyed all marine fauna and flora in their path along our coasts and harmed the catches of our fishers by taking a large part of their livelihood. We consider that what we have observed really happened to them and is happening to other communities as well. These tireless, low-profile workers, the artisanal fishers, have made themselves known to all those who did not help them when they needed it, fighting constantly, making themselves visible in roadblocks [See Photo 2] and requesting meetings with different figures of the local, provincial and national governments.





## THE SEA A WAY OF LIFE

In a few years, according to the account given by the fisherman Eduardo “Lalo” Flores, Vice President of the Chamber of Artisanal Fishermen of Monte Hermoso and Pehuen-co, trawlers flying various flags (including - unfortunately - ours) over-exploited resources, provoking in some cases a biomass decrease by up to 70 or 80% and “drying up” many fishing grounds in our region. With their large vessels they managed to extract 10 tons, wasting seven and retaining only three. Those seven tons waste were discarded at sea, “rotting the bottom”, killing a great variety of marine species that live there, breaking important trophic chains, as is the case of albatrosses. In order for this to stop happening, the „Monte Hermoso Chamber of Artisanal Fishermen“ asked for help from the locality in general and the municipality, gradually making their voice heard by many. It is important to note that this group of workers forced responses to more than one historical claim by artisanal fishers. They achieved this by a change in their public position and in the perception of political decision makers.

Vessels between 25 and 30 meters fishing for various species (that artisanal fishermen target as well), came to extract between 10 and 12 thousand boxes of fish deeply harming our fishermen. So thanks to a Resolution of the Federal Fisheries Council the entry of vessels of more than 25 meters was prohibited to the coastal zones of less than 50 meters of depth in

the Rincón Zone. Despite these achievements, fishermen continued to wonder how to defend our resource, not only today; but also in the future, thinking about the new generations, their jobs and, above all, caring for the environment.

They came to the conclusion that to know how to defend it, they had to feel like the sea, think like it, know its movements, be one with the sea. Understand the science intermixed with the experience of each fisherman.

The fishermen of Monte Hermoso were able to transmit their experience and make it known not only in their city, but also in different parts of the country and the world. These people, despite their low profile, defend their resource as best they can and with everything they have. They identify their struggle as “a fight for the future”, so that this resource is preserved. Their thought is that many of them are already ending their life in the sea, they spent their lives there, but they do not want to damage it, because their children, the children of the land, will continue to live of the sea. That is why they turned also to the statements of scientists in order to obtain the point of view of those who can determine more exact and just advice about marine protection. One of them pointed out with great wisdom: “Empirical knowledge must go hand in hand with scientific knowledge”, something that fishermen and the scientists who accompany them in their studies have very much on their minds to this day.

Thanks to the struggle of artisanal fishermen against trawlers, it was possible to carry out the construction of the “Fishing Terminal” [See photos 3,4,5,6,7], soon to be put into operation. It will give a strong boost to artisanal fishing in Monte Hermoso, since it will provide the possibility of generating added value for the product and improving the trade of their merchandise. This will allow fishers to make better use of their catches, while creating genuine jobs and searching new markets for their higher quality products. As if that were not enough, the waste of fish slaughter will be processed by means of the construction of two biodigesters. Generated by anaerobic decomposition, these will be a source of green energy used in the peripheral lighting of the processing plant. We believe that it is necessary to support the struggle of artisanal fishermen. We also consider it important to disseminate their struggle and their achievements, because their actions are replicable for any coastal town that wants to defend marine life and harvest and produce in a healthy and careful way. One of the authors of this work is the daughter of one of the fishermen who participated in the struggles, the search and projections for the future. Her dream, like that of many young people, is a better future, here in the present she tells this story so that that the dream is not lost.

Gimena Salcedo (16 ys)  
and Milagros Ailén  
Martínez (16 ys),  
Monte Hermoso,  
Argentina

*translated from Spanish*

<sup>1</sup> Biomass is the calculation of the number of individuals of a species on a certain physical space, m<sup>2</sup>, etc.



Foto1  
Blockage of Ruta 78



Foto 2  
Roadblock



Foto 3  
External view of Monte Hermoso  
fish processing plant



Foto 4  
Interior of  
the fish  
processing hall



Foto 6  
Fish freezing chamber



Foto 7  
Space for future  
recreation and  
rest of the fish  
plant workers



Foto 5  
Ice-making  
machine for  
fish processing

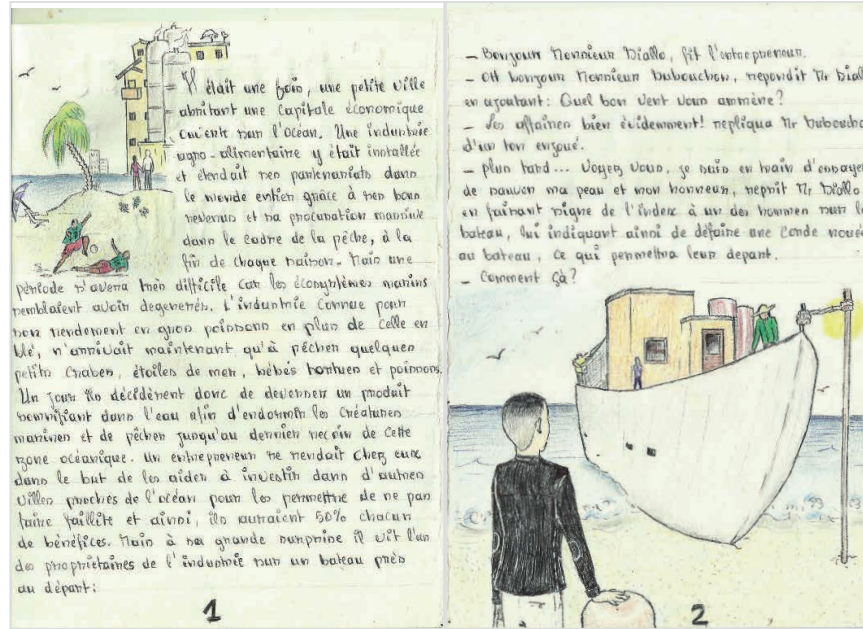




## THE OCEAN AND THE HUMAN FAMILY

**L' OCEAN ET LA FAMILLE HUMAINE**

NOMS ET PRENOMS: YANOU NSIKEN LEA ORNELA  
 AGE: 17 ans  
 Nationalité: Camerounaise  
 Adresse e-mail: NOLY LYON@yahoo.fr  
 TELEPHONE: 652-29-76-26 / 677-83-32-52



Once upon a time, there was a small town home to an ocean-facing economic capital. An agro-food industry was installed there and extended its partnerships all over the world thanks to its good earnings at the end of each season and its marine power of attorney in the framework of its fisheries. But a period proved very difficult because the marine ecosystems seemed to have degenerated. The industry known for its yield of large fish in addition to that of wheat, now only managed to catch a few small crabs, seastars, baby turtles and fish.

So one day they decided to pour a sleeping drug into the water in order to lull sea creatures into sleep and fish to the last corner of this marine area. An entrepreneur came to their home to help them invest in other cities near the ocean to keep them from going bankrupt and thus they would each share 50% of the profit. But to his surprise he saw one of the owners of the industry on a vessel about to take to the sea:

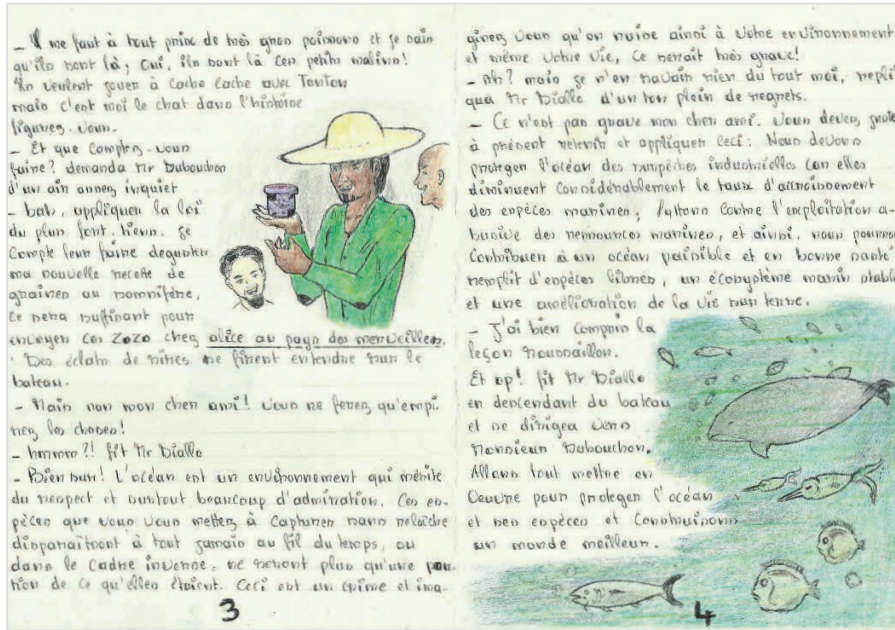
„Hello Mr. Diallo,” said the entrepreneur.

„Oh, hello Mr. Dubouchon”, replied Mr. Diallo, adding: „What good wind takes you here?”

„Business of course!” replied M. Dubouchon in a cheerful tone.

„Later ... you see, I am trying to save my skin and my honour,” said Mr. Diallo, waving the index finger at one of the men on the boat, telling him to untie a knotted rope of the boat to allow their departure.

„What do you mean?”



Yanou Njaba Lea Ornela,  
17 years,  
Cameroun

„I need really big fish at all costs and I know they are there; yes, there they are these clever little ones! They want to play hide and seek with uncle, but I'm the cat in the story, just imagine.”

„And what do you plan to do?” asked M. Dubouchon with a rather uneasy air.

„Bah, apply the law of the strongest, hey. I plan to make them taste my new recipe for sleeping pills. It will be exciting to send the zozo to Alice in Wonderland.”

Bursts of laughter were heard on the boat.

„But no, my dear friend! You will only make things worse!”

„Hmmm?!” said Mr. Diallo

„Of course! The ocean is an environment that deserves respect and above all a lot of admiration. Those species that you set out to capture relentlessly will disappear forever over time, or at best, be just a fraction of what they were. This is a crime and imagine, this would harm your environment and even your life, that would be very serious!”

„Ah, really? but myself, I didn't know anything about it,” replied Mr. Diallo in a tone full of regret.

„It doesn't matter my dear friend. Now you just need to remember and apply this: We need to protect the ocean from industrial overfishing because that drastically decreases the rate of growth of marine species. Let us fight against the misuse of marine resources, and so we can contribute to a peaceful and healthy ocean filled with free-roaming species, a stable marine ecosystem and improved life on earth.”

„I have well understood the lesson. And hop!” said Mr. Diallo as he got off the boat and walked towards Mr. Dubouchon. „Let's do everything to protect the ocean and its species and build a better world.”

So they went away hoping for the existence of a better ocean in the near future followed by strenuous efforts.





## HOW I WOULD CARE BETTER FOR THE OCEAN

**Mother Ocean,** The world's great spectacle, a wonder of immense expanse, vast in space, volume and almost without limits. It is a mystery in origin which remained largely unknown to mankind. A school of thought believes it to have been formed in the emergence of life as the Biblical point of view stated, also it is perhaps the oldest and greatest spectacle humanity has ever beheld and evolved with as the ages went by.

She has been the source of many life forms, a habitat, and a medium for transportation. She has directly or indirectly impacted the land, humans, animals, weather and climate. She provided means of survival for humans over ages.

Mother Ocean has directly and indirectly affected the biosphere and life. e.g oceanic evaporation as a phase of the water cycle is the source of most rainfall, and ocean temperatures largely determine the climate and wind patterns that in turn affect life on the land. Ocean has been the mother (habitat) to many native life forms which include fish, Radiata (jellyfish), cetaceans (marine mammals), cephalopods (e.g. octopuses), crustaceans (e.g. shrimps and lobsters), marine worms, plant and animal plankton, echinoderms (e.g. sea stars) etc. Marine shipping is the lifeline of global commerce

However, there is a dark side to the narrative as Mother Ocean has been faced with a lot of challenges due to the deliberate, and destructive tendency and attitudes and activities towards this precious space, especially from humans, through oil spills, ghost fishing, pollution, overfishing and more.

Run off from land and deliberate dumping of un-degradable wastes like plastics have been causing the ocean a lot of serious economic and health hiccups by damaging habitats, leading to the death of marine species and affecting entire ecosystems, not to forget pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals used on land, which ultimately find their way into the ocean. There, they kill vast numbers of marine life, particularly in bays and estuaries leading to dilapidated, even dead zones without oxygen.

Oil spillage is another scourge of the ocean with probably much more damage to ocean than on land. Oil on water spreads over large areas. The slicks prevent oxygen exchange with the potential to kill many organisms, plants and animals.

Overfishing also poses a huge threat, and is a well known stressor which destroys species' natural regenerative capacities bearing down on life forms and habitats of Mother Ocean.

All these problems Mother Ocean faces are the reason for observed changes, such as

1. when we can't find certain species of animals again
2. when we begin to have limited or dwindling numbers of organism
3. when the ocean color starts to change
4. when mortality of species and life form rises, etc.

However, these challenges can be addressed. With proper implementation of the following measures, these problems can be drastically reduce, such as when we

1. Help in protecting our ocean by educating citizens and influencing their attitude towards the ocean.
2. Travel the ocean without damaging the life forms
3. Fish for fun, food and consider the future
4. Control the use of certain chemicals
5. Reduce household pollutants thereby reducing the quantity of harmful chemicals in the run off
6. Reduce potentially harmful substances in waste released and only discharge of treated waste water should be allowed to be dumped in the ocean
7. Join in ocean cleaning exercise
8. Do not purchase endangered species
9. Re-introduce endangered species back into the ocean (if possible)
10. Help in upholding laws for safe maritime operations and safeguarding the ocean as a whole.

Quadri Blessing Emmanuel  
(24 ys), Nigeria



- 11. Make use of more re-usable goods and wastes as by-products
- 12. Encourage recycling of products
- 13. Make use of machinery, vessels and vehicles with low or no oil use. In the long run this will reduce demand for fossils and change people's focus away from oil exploration and associated spills harming the ocean.

The ocean view from shore at day and evening time



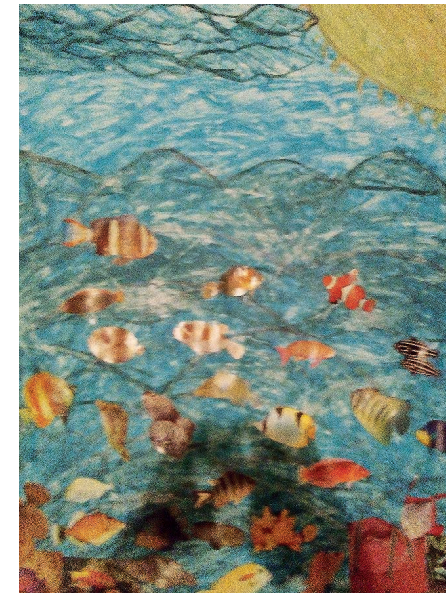
Ocean cleaners at work



Cleaning of the shoreline



School of fishes





## OUR DREAM

"In the future, our dream for the ocean is for it to be clean, clear, and calm. We especially dream that the small fish live and grow up peacefully. A Senegalese proverb says that in a village where all children are killed, there will never be adults tomorrow. We want an ocean full of healthy fish that we can eat without any negative impact on our health, without catching any disease.

Our dream is that the ocean preserves its immense resources, especially plants, so that we can continue to live normally on planet earth. We dream of the ocean to contain gas and oil if that meets human needs, but this will have to be gradually replaced with energy from the sun and wind which is said to exist in large quantities. Oil and gas must be exploited with care to avoid negative effects on the ocean and human life.

We dream of an ocean that will no longer be the gigantic dustbin of human beings and very different industries. We dream of an ocean where there is no more plastic waste, nylon nets that continue to fish every time they are lost. We no longer want an ocean whose bottom is filled with plastic bottles, glass, cans and containers.

We also dream that one day, we will stop dumping wastewater containing highly toxic products into the ocean, as is currently the case in the Bay of Hann whose water is contaminated by lead which decreases the IQ in children, arsenic, caustic soda, zinc and pesticides.

We dream of an ocean where ships must respect the tranquility of oceanic fauna and avoid oil spills. Finally, we dream of an ocean allowing all the inhabitants of the earth to benefit from its riches to ensure their existence."

3 girls (Amy Faye GUEYE, Amy THIONE, Mariama Bailo BA) and 5 boys (Mamadou DIAGNE, Ibrahima DIALLO, Abdoulaye DIALLO, El Hadj Ameth GUEYE, Saliou GUEYE, Oumar N'DIAYE) between 10 and 12 years old with their teacher, the director of the Khadim School, Magueth DIOP, Hann, Senegal.

### Explanation on the participation of the pupils of Khadim School in Hann Pêcheurs, Senegal

The participating pupils, three girls and five boys volunteered engaging with environmental issues. They are all between 10 and 12 years old and in the last class of primary school.

In a first step, the director, Magueth Diop, provided them with the inspirational text and the conditions for participation. These were discussed in an initial plenary session and then invited to do their own more specific research about the ocean in small groups e.g. by asking family members, fishers working out of the bay, representatives of the municipality and other potential resource persons. These enquiries were supported by a questionnaire provided by the director, engaged since many years in environmental advocacy for protecting the bay. The enquiries helped to raise some awareness among the adults contacted.

The pupils and the director then met in a second plenary. Each group of pupils reported on the findings of their enquiries. They compared notes to digest their findings and distil two texts together, one about their dream for the ocean and one about measures they would take if they were in charge.

## WHAT WE WOULD HAVE DONE

If we had the chance to decide in favor of the ocean, this is what we would do:

- Raise awareness of the serious attacks on the integrity of the ocean through national and international conferences, publications, paintings, posters, the introduction of school programs.
- Educate and inform the population on the interdependence between our existence and the state of health of the ocean: part of our oxygen is coming from the ocean.
- Impose the reduction of CO2 emissions.
- Pass laws prohibiting the use of the coast as a garbage dump.
- Manufacturers must be forced to equip themselves to treat their waste and wastewater before leaving the plant.
- Budgets must be voted for the protection of the ocean.
- Take measures to protect the ocean because their degradation has harmful impacts - with the contamination of the products produced from them - on public health.
- We will make laws against the importation, marketing and use of plastic bags.
- We will permanently ban the use of small mesh nets, monofilament nets and fishing with explosives.

- We will set up an international ocean police.
- We will ensure compliance with the various laws and regulations in favor of the environment in general, but which are currently not respected.
- We will fight and condemn the incivism which has contributed to the degradation of the environment in general and the ocean in particular through awareness campaigns.
- Will put in place a mechanism that ensures the health of the beaches on a long-term basis. This, we are going to substitute for periodic clean up drives by inhabitants with very short term effects, because as soon as you stop, it deteriorates again.

- We will oblige the local authorities to ensure the periodic collection of household waste if we do not want to give them the pretext of polluting.
- We will establish relationships with networks and institutions that defend the ocean.
- We are going to initiate the creation of the network of ocean sentries at the international level.





## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD TO DECIDE HOW TO BEST CARE FOR THE OCEAN?

The first thing I would do is to prohibit fishermen from doing harm. Many times they extract fish, kill them and take what they use or need and return the remains to the ocean. The second thing is to insist, insist, insist that people do not throw waste into the ocean. Generally that happens in all the world's oceans. In that way, they harm the fish and themselves. The waste most frequently found is: cigarette buds and cases, plastic and glass bottles, papers of any kind, oil, baby diapers, weeds.

Nor should fishermen be allowed to use trawl nets because all kinds of species are extracted, including those that are threatened by extinction or beings not yet described and recognised by humans. Sometimes they use certain species for consumption or experiments, such as the whale, used to make creams or the turtle used for the same purpose.

Considering all the above, I think that humans need many species from the sea, but this resource must be used without excess exploitation. Let there be moderate fishing. I would bar the passage of any boat that discharges oil and carries out trawl fishing etc.

My dream is that life continues to exist in the depths of the ocean, that people protect the living beings in the sea and that there is no indiscriminate exploitation of species. I would like the people who protect the animals to fight for all the species at risk of extinction or those that are going to become extinct and that we do not silence their voice.

Stefanía Ayelén García,  
13 years, Monte Hermoso,  
Argentina,  
authorised by her teacher,  
María Laura Bonzini

*translated from Spanish*

"The upcoming United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development will provide impetus and a common framework for action. I urge governments and all stakeholders to commit to the conservation and sustainability of the ocean through innovation and science."  
Antonio Guterres,  
UN Secretary General



STAR OF THE SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOMBASA, KENYA



Mariam Aboul  
13 years



Elizabeth Njeri  
13 years




Zeinab Bishar  
12 years



Marwa Haj Abad  
12 years



Damaris Mghambi  
12 years

A blue ribbon-shaped graphic containing the text "WORLD OCEAN DAY 2016". "WORLD" is in gold, "OCEAN" is in green, "DAY" is in dark green, and "2016" is in white.

WORLD  
OCEAN  
DAY 2016

The ocean is the heart of our planet. Like your heart pumping blood to every part of your body, the ocean connects people across the Earth, no matter where we live. The ocean regulates the climate, feeds millions of people every year, produces oxygen, is the home to an incredible array of wildlife, provides us with important medicines, and so much more!

In order to ensure the health and safety of our communities and future generations, it is imperative that we care for the ocean as it cares for us.

Here is the Mundus maris Awards challenge for this year: stories and films are welcome from all over the world.

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

HEALTHY  
OCEANS,  
HEALTHY  
PLANET





## WATER HAS NO ENEMY

Water, Water, Water  
Water has no enemy,  
Who wants to be an enemy of water?  
Water has no enemy,  
Water is what we drink,  
Water is what gives us food,  
Water is what gives us life,  
Water is what we used to bath,  
Water is what makes our plants to grow,  
Water is what makes our animals,  
fish and man to grow,

Water is life,  
Water is good,  
Water is everything,  
Who want to be enemy of water?  
If you are water enemy,  
You are enemy of yourself,  
You are enemy to yourself,  
You are enemy to life,  
Since no one can be enemy to life,

LET US MAKE OUR OCEAN CLEAN,  
So that we can have life.  
Clean ocean, clean life,  
Life is Good  
Water is Life.  
I love life,  
I love water,  
Let us keep OUR OCEAN CLEAN

Song: W-a-t-e-r, he no get enemy –  
„Omi o lota o“ Translation (Yoruba Language in Nigeria)

Adeleke Anointed, 11 years, Nigeria



## HOW CAN WE CARE FOR THE HEALTH OF THE OCEAN? CARING FOR OUR TOMORROW



*"A Yoruba adage says, "He, who brings water, brings life" – Ocean is life. The Ocean is our future. Here in lies our future. Help us to conserve our future.*

The ocean is the major source of water on Earth. It covers two thirds of our planet, which is blissful and no doubt complements of nature in its simplicity and beauty. The ocean is also the home of several untapped mineral resources and unknown species. Across the globe, people take out time to enjoy the scenery and comfort of the ocean by embarking on picnics and holiday trips at the ocean view. This has always been a great adventure for many especially for first timers.

However, the ocean has suffered a major setback in terms of cleanliness and hygiene due to human activities.

- Hunters have massacred thousands of endangered turtles, whales and other sea animals.
- Massive industrial fishing trawlers are devastating our last planet.
- Tons of trash cans, polyethylene bags, industrial effluents and waste products are being dumped in our ocean everyday.

I learnt that "a great father leaves an inheritance for his children's children". What are you leaving for us? - a polluted earth; - polluted atmosphere; - contaminated sea - degraded environment; and now; - the only planet, our tomorrow hanging in the balance.

Defending ocean (last planet) is a top priority!

**1. Can we prevent debris and trash from going into the ocean?** This can be done by making sure that all empty cans, polythene bags and all waste items from edibles consumed or used are not dumped in the ocean but instead, should be properly bagged and thrown away at the approved dumping sites.

**2. Can everyone be conscious of the cleanliness of the ocean?** With this in conscience, one will not mess the ocean up.

**3. Can dangerous chemicals used in hunting for animals and habitats from the ocean be strictly avoided?** The chemicals lead to the death of these habitats, causing both water and air pollution which is very unhealthy.

**4. Can we stop hunting the endangered species?** This can be done by stopping obnoxious fishing and using appropriate fishing gears.

**5. Can we put a stop to unhealthy activities of industrial fleets and oil pollution?** Yes! I see possibility everywhere. These and many more can be done, through our collective actions. Let's save our tomorrow.

In conclusion, World Ocean Day reminds us to keep our oceans clean.

Thank you for listening.

Jesusemilore Glory Adeogun, 9 years, Nigeria





## HEALTHY OCEAN, HEALTHY PLANET

*How do you want the oceans to be for your children in the near future?*

A. Like this



Photo credit:  
Lori Bongiorno. <http://coastalcare.org/2010/08/new-garbage-patch-discovered-in-indian-ocean/>

B. or this



Photo credit:  
Watchtower, <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/wp20140301/jesus-death/>

No doubt you chose picture “B” after all, who would want their children to live and play around such dirty environment as presented in the “A” picture!

It is indeed our common goal to “make the world a better place for our children.” These words are often used to inspire us into putting our best efforts towards “good works” such as: charity, disaster relief works, community development and so on, but can we really make the world a better place without caring for the ocean?

Consider:

- The ocean covers 71% of our planet, Earth.
- The ocean regulates the global climate by serving as an enormous thermal mass for heat storage and as a reservoir for CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Oceanic algae and aquatic plants produce the vast amount of oxygen on which we depend on for respiration.
- The ocean is the major source of food and livelihood for millions!

With these points in mind we can see clearly that we cannot have a better world while neglecting the ocean, it is, in fact, our primary responsibility to take care of the ocean. Now the big question is: so far, how well have we done?

Imagine a future world where our children will only hear of certain whales and fishes in stories and never get to see them; imagine a world where the beaches would be places that people keep away from instead of attracted to. Imagine a world where violent storms from raging seas become the order of the day. Do these things seem far-fetched, as if they can never happen? That is exactly where we are heading! If we continue in this trend, the results would be far more disastrous.

The good news though is that we can still do something about the health of the ocean. If we all put efforts and resources together we can make a difference.

### **How Can We Care for the Ocean?**

Each one of us contributes one way or the other, to the pollution of the ocean - this includes even those living far inland, a great distance from the shore. The following are simple things that all of us can do:

- Dispose refuse properly, and encourage recycling of wastes.
- Minimize the use of fossil fuel, and tune in for cleaner energy and renewable sources such as solar, wind and hydro energy.
- Always conserve energy by, for example, switching off the lights when they are not being used.
- Plant more trees!
- Join in ocean clean-up exercises around your vicinity.



Join efforts in oceans clean-up exercises in your locality

The movement for a healthy ocean is all-important, it should be of interest to you and I. Why not join the global association of concerned individuals who are passionate about the ocean and are eager to see it restored? You would do well to consider, visit our website at [www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org) and learn more about our activities.

Bethel Jahnezim, Nigeria





## WHY IS A HEALTHY OCEAN NECESSARY FOR THE HEALTH OF THE PLANET?

My name is Camila Montenegro and I lived in Antarctica, with my family, during 2013. There I learned the importance of maintaining the Antarctic ecosystem to conserve the diversity of species because they are very beautiful and very important for the balance of all of us who inhabit the planet. My school and my house were a few meters from the sea, at the Esperanza Base on the Antarctic Peninsula, that tip of the white continent stretching over the Weddell Sea. My classmates and I drew the animals that lived there and that we saw almost all the times. We also investigated their behaviour with the help of teacher Fabián Juárez and the principal of the Carmen Desch school.

How can we take care of the health of the ocean? At Esperanza Base, as soon as we arrived, the scientists taught us that we should not go near the penguins' nests or touch other animals. Only scientists could do it for study reasons. I learned that humans should modify the natural environment as little as possible. We still have a lot to learn from nature. By observing animals and their young, we learn to love them and take care of them, which is also taking care of ourselves. In this case, all the animals we saw depended on the food that the sea gave them. That is why it is very important that we keep it healthy.

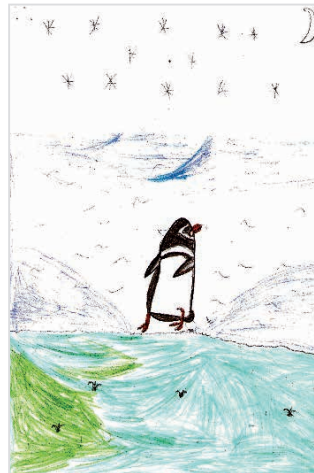
Among the animals of the place we saw four kinds of penguins. Here I show you how my classmates and I drew them. The chicks are fed by their parents with krill that they get from the sea. (Krill is an essential food for fish, birds and other marine animals such as whales). Once the penguins grow up, the mother and father accompany them to the water, beware of the skuas and leopard seals and teach them how to get their own food.

Participant: Camila Montenegro, 12 years, Argentina.

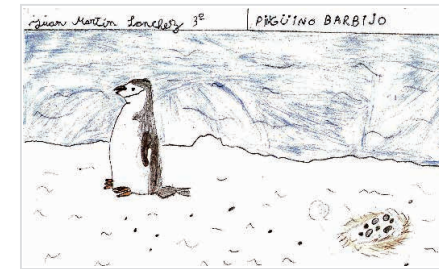
The ages of the authors correspond to the moment in which they made the drawings.

Coach: Patricia Pereyro. Coordinadora del Proyecto L.E.E.R. (Lectura y Escritura en Escuelas Rurales). Coincidir Asociación Civil, Buenos Aires, Argentina

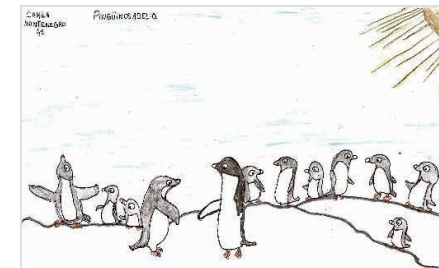
*translated from Spanish*



8 years



9 years



10 years



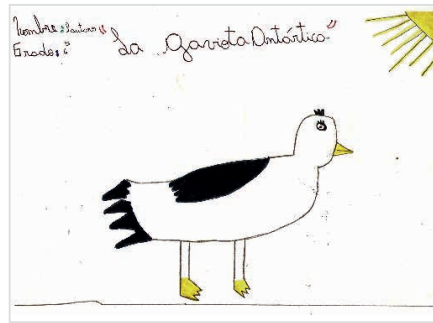
10 years



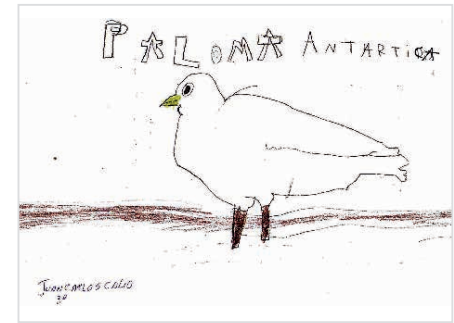
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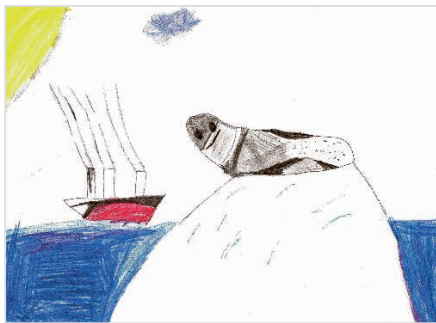
10 years



9 years



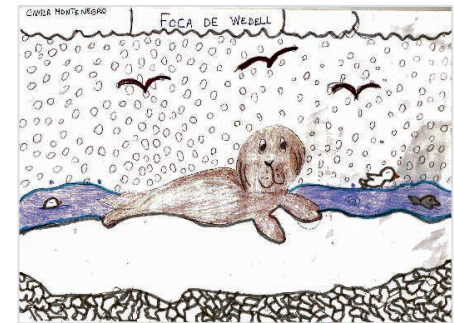
9 years



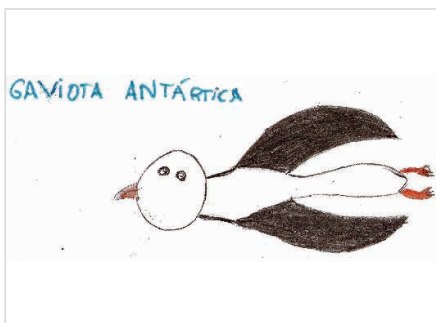
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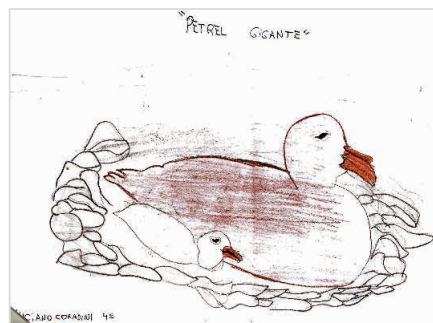
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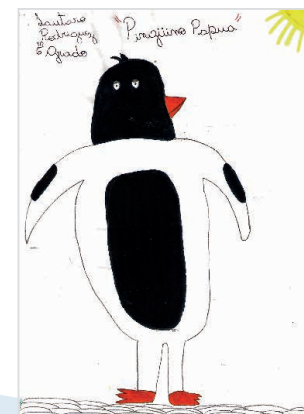
10 years



10 years



10 years





**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**  
**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26**

Mathematically,

Healthy oceans =

$$(8+5+1+12+20+8+25+15+3+5+1+14+19) = 136$$

Healthy planet =

$$(8+5+1+12+20+8+25+16+12+1+14+5+20) = 147$$

$$\text{Oceans} = (15+3+5+1+14+19) = 57$$

$$\text{Planet} = (16+12+1+14+5+20) = 68$$

Assume, Healthy planet is directly proportional to Healthy oceans

Healthy planet  $\propto$  Healthy oceans

$$\text{Healthy planet} = K * \text{Healthy oceans}$$

$$147 = K * 136$$

$$147 = 136K$$

$$K = 147/136$$

$$K = 1.08 \text{ (approximately 1)}$$

Since 1 = A

$\therefore$  Healthy oceans gives "A" Healthy planet

In contrast,

Human activity =

$$(8+21+13+1+14+1+3+20+9+22+9+20+25) = 166$$

$$\text{Oceans} = (15+3+5+1+14+19) = 57$$

$$\text{Imbalance} = (9+13+2+1+12+1+14+3+5) = 60$$

$$\text{Hazardous} = (8+1+26+1+18+4+15+21+19) = 113$$

With "HUMAN ACTIVITY"

$$X = K * (\text{Oceans} + \text{Human activity})$$

$$X = K * (57 + 166)$$

$$X = 1.08 * 223 = 241$$

$$X = 241$$

Since Imbalance & Hazardous =

$$173 \text{ and Planet} = 68$$

$$173+68 = 241$$

X = "Imbalance and hazardous planet"

$\therefore$  Unhealthy Oceans (due to human activity) gives Imbalance and Hazardous Planet.

With these proofs, it is very essential to maintain a Healthy Ocean as this leads to a Healthy Planet which is the body. When a part of the body is not in good condition, it affects the whole body and as the ocean is a part of the planet, it is essential to maintain its health.

When man heard this, he said: "what is the ocean to have been accorded such level of importance? Who are you? How are you important?"

An oceanographer replied: "it has saved man in so many ways."

Man said, "it hasn't, if it really had, then how?"

Oceanographer said, "firstly, it contains approximately 70% of the planet "earth" and above 95% of water on the planet. Also the Mindanao Deep is deeper than the highest land elevation (Mount Everest), thereby occupying a higher vertical column.

It removes the high concentration of toxic carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to help us produce a higher concentration of important oxygen through the process called photosynthesis (about 70% needed by the planet)."

An economist also said, "don't you know that it encompasses a lot of resources that are useful to man as:

Source of food

Source of minerals and energy

Source of employment

Sources of income

Source of foreign exchange

Source of tourist attraction

Source of recreational activity."

Before the economist could finish, man interrupted and said, "truly the ocean is a vital part of the planet but how can we ensure it is safe?"

A conservationist said: "In summary, always know that any harm caused to the ocean through over-exploitation, illegal and destructive fishing as well as unsustainable aquaculture practices, marine pollution, habitat destruction, introduction of alien species, climate change, and ocean acidification, overfishing and others is a harm done to the whole planet."

BE MINDFUL OF THE OCEAN'S HEALTH - HAPPY OCEAN DAY

Adeleye Tolulope David, 20 years, Nigeria



Hi, I'm Giuliana Britti and this is the text I produced for the project dedicated to World Ocean Day. The type chosen is: newspaper article.

World Ocean Day: Ready to make a difference? On 8 June 2016, we are all invited to World Ocean Day is a global initiative aimed at supporting and safeguarding the oceans. Do you think this day is superfluous and that the ocean couldn't be better? You are very wrong. We are in a historical moment where there are no half measures, in most cases seas and oceans are exploited without the slightest ethics, worrying about profit and not sustainability. Irresponsible fishing, pollution, bycatch and climate change are among the major threats that marine fauna and flora are forced to face on a daily basis. As if that were not enough, the situation becomes even more worrying when you consider that less than 4% of the ocean are actually protected. A drop in the ocean, literally. For this reason, World Ocean Day was born in 2011 (although the proposal actually dates back to 1992), a real celebration for the ocean to which each of us can contribute.

In fact, there are many initiatives proposed to help seas and oceans: one of the most important is "The Better Bag challenge". It consists of an interest in changing one's daily life and moving from the usual disposable plastic bags (causes of a large portion of marine pollution, which often, unfortunately, causes the death of many animals) to those made of fabric or reusable. This would not only make a difference in the ocean, it would also facilitate waste disposal. So many people around the world and several stores are already changing the world ... one bag at a time. And will you accept the challenge?

This is just one of the many options to save the ocean that we find on [www.worldoceansday.org](http://www.worldoceansday.org), the official website of the World Oceans Day Project.

Are the events and initiatives proposed not for you or are they too far away? No problem! In fact, on the site we can find the section "Create your event" where anyone can choose the activity that s/he deems best in their city and in the way they prefer. Creating an event is very simple: just enter the name of the event, its description and information on date and place.

Also from the site, it will be possible to download an enormous sample of free resources consisting of images, videos, promotional material and much more.

Finally, we also find a very fun initiative for the little ones: you can download a kit of the Octonauts (cute explorer animals, protagonists of a series of books and a TV series) with colouring images and posters. For this day we all can really make a difference, in different ways and according to one's availability.

The Ocean says thank you.

Giuliana Britti IVB,  
Liceo Artistico „Confalonieri-DeChirico“ sede Cerveteri,  
Italy



## HOW CAN WE TAKE CARE OF THE HEALTH OF THE OCEAN?

THEME : COMMENT  
POUVONS NOUS  
PRENDRE SOIN  
DE LA SANTE DE  
L'OCEAN ?

FAIT PAR : LEA DECOR

AGE : 18 ANS

NATIONALITE : CAMBODJANAISE



Un homme décide d'amener ses enfants à la rencontre de quelques pêcheurs. A leur arrivée, les pêcheurs les laissent choisir tous les poissons qu'ils veulent. L'aîné prit 10 gros maquereaux encore vivants, le second prit 03 tortues minuscules et quelques carpes, et le cadet émerveillé par les bébés poissons prit 06 bébés tortues, 08 bébés maquereaux et plusieurs poignées de petites crevettes. Ils les apportèrent à leur père :

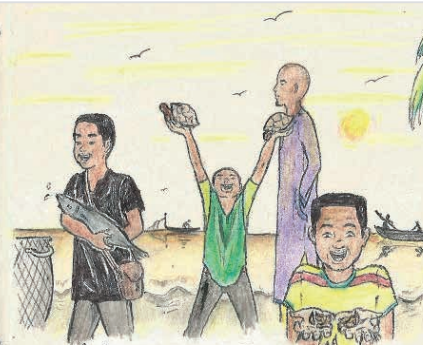
- papa, papa ! dit le cadet, regardez mes poissons, comme ils sont beaux quand ils sont bébés, et ils ont l'air si délicieux !

- Oui et ils sont aussi minuscules que toi, dit l'aîné.

- Filoton, soit raisonnable, vas les jeter dans l'eau tant qu'il est encore temps, répliqua le père.

- Oh ? bon d'accord, fit le petit en

1



ne dirigeant vers l'eau. Mais papa, reprend-t-il, pourquoi ne pourrais-je pas les garder ?

- parce qu'ils sont encore tous petits et il n'est pas bon de les manger. Si nous en pêchons beaucoup, certaines espèces disparaissent.

- Ah ben et pourquoi ? dit l'enfant.

- parce que si on ne les laisse pas grandir, ils ne pourront pas se reproduire et au fil du temps il n'y aura plus de poissons. Tiens, par

2

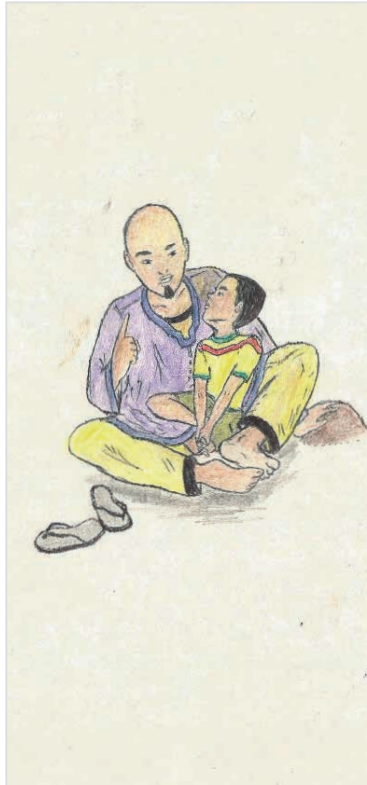
A man decides to bring his children to meet some fishermen, who, at their arrival, let them choose all the fish they want. The oldest boy took 10 large mackerels still alive, the second took 3 tiny turtles and a few carp, and the youngest one, in awe of the baby fish, took 6 baby turtles, 8 baby mackerels and several handfuls of small shrimp.

They brought them to their father:

- Daddy, daddy! Said the youngest one, look at my fish, how beautiful they are when they are babies, and they look so delicious!
- Yes and they are as tiny as you, said the oldest.
- "Son, be reasonable, go throw them in the water while there is still time," replied the father.
- Oh? All right, said the little one, moving to the water. But daddy, he goes on, why couldn't I keep them?
- because they are still very small and it is not good to eat them. If we fish a lot, some species will disappear.
- Oh really? Why? the child asked.
- because if we do not let them grow, they will not be able to reproduce and over time there will be no more fish. Here, for example seahorses, sharks, whales and many other species are endangered; there's just a handful left now, you know.
- Oh no, we probably fished a lot when they were babies.
- No my son. It's not just because of this, there are many other factors such as overfishing and poaching.
- Hey daddy, what is overfishing?
- Well, it is excessive and unreasonable fishing. You should know that some fishermen pour products into the water in order to kill the fish and thus get them in large quantities.
- How sad daddy !!
- You said it, son ...
- What can we do?
- We must therefore avoid poaching, overfishing, avoid building hotels by the sea and ocean. Because it could disturb the habitat of marine animals, we should prevent industrial waste from spilling into the sea, avoid capturing the animals because they sometimes live in groups and when one is caught there can be an imbalance.
- Ok dad, it's noted, let's get to work to protect the ocean ...



Léa Ornela Yanou Njaba,  
18 years,  
Cameroun,  
called „Léa Décor“



entemple les Hippocampes, les requins, les baleines et bien d'autres espèces sont en voie de disparition, on en compte maintenant juste une poignée tu sais.

- Oh non, on en a toutzement beaucoup pêché quand ils étaient bébés.

- Non mon fils, ce n'est pas seulement à cause de cela, il y'a bien d'autres facteurs, tels que: la surpêche et le braconnage.

- Dis papa, c'est quoi la surpêche?

- Eh bien c'est le fait de pêcher en quantité exagérée et pas raisonnable. Tu dois savoir que certains pêcheurs déversent des produits dans l'eau afin de tuer les poissons et ainsi pêcher en grande quantité.

- Que c'est triste papa!!

- Tu l'as dit filoton...

- Que pouvons nous faire?

- Nous devons donc éviter le braconnage, la surpêche, éviter de

3

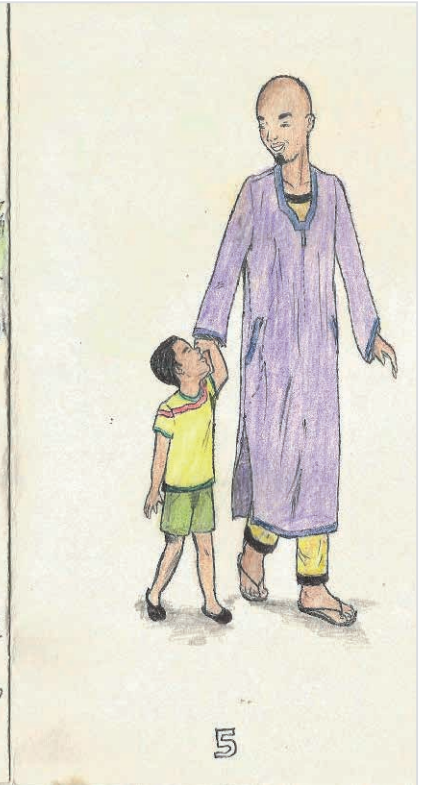


Construire des hôtels en bordate

et d'océan de mer, car cela pourrait déranger l'habitat des animaux marins, empêcher les déchets industriels de se déverser dans la mer, éviter de capturer les animaux car leur-ci vivent parfois en groupes et lorsqu'on en capture un, il peut y avoir déséquilibre.

- Ok papa, c'est noté, mettons nous en oeuvre pour protéger l'océan...

4



5

A purple banner-shaped graphic with the text "WORLD OCEAN DAY 2017" in a mix of gold, teal, and dark blue fonts.

# WORLD OCEAN DAY 2017

Life probably began in the ocean, and it has always been a story of fits and starts. We know that rather small changes in climate and productivity in the past have led to far-reaching changes in the ocean environment, mass extinctions of flora and fauna.

This occurred e.g. after the rise of the Isthmus of Panama, which separated the Pacific and the Caribbean between four and three million years ago. It can happen again, this time as a result of what we do and in ways which will be different because our human impacts have no precedent in history. Especially as we humans have already inflicted serious damage since we sailed all seas, overfished and polluted with plastic, chemicals and noise and provoke warming and acidification through our emissions of climate gasses.

The United Nations General Assembly has solemnly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 14 is to Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Let us seize the opportunity of World Oceans Day to contribute our share towards implementing the objective.

*Here is the Mundus maris Awards challenge for this year: tell a story in text or video format.*

OUR  
OCEANS,  
OUR  
FUTURE





## WHERE ELSE BUT HERE

Azure, deep, calm, vast  
Breadth so humbling, beauty alluring  
So far what's your inkling?

Undulations that calm the ears  
Even stir our hearts to peace  
That salty breeze primal to the skin  
Have you wondered why it's akin?

Our day to day living  
Designed to keep us going  
Working, eating, dreaming  
What keeps us all breathing?

It's the ocean, the sounds gave it away!  
Our life support, our lungs, not hearsay  
Drives the weather every single day  
Bears bounty down our plates  
Without it, life's far from possible  
The epitome of life in the absence of all

Sun shines upon phytoplankton to give us food  
Energizes the food chain, passes the goods  
Nourishes humans day by day  
So we'll keep living come what may

Until we meet them we'll never know  
Let's meet some, here goes!  
Sea turtles traverse the ocean furtively  
Decades pass of striking mystery  
Worry not, they smell home like it's destiny!

Charismatic they are but beyond  
They keep seagrass meadows in control  
Canopies provide food and home for many  
They graze on sponges to make corals healthy

Who knew whales are tremendous givers  
Huge plumes of iron in poop they deliver  
Fertilizes the ocean, make phytoplankton grow  
Absorbs tons of carbon, such a great role!

Now imagine dumping million tons of plastic  
Sharks, turtles, seabirds get sick  
Washed ashore necropsies reveal  
Seamless junk, how bleak!

Ice caps melt by multitudes  
Sea level rise makes it no good  
Penguins, bears, walruses, narwhals  
Vanishing ice, their beautiful paradise

We fish more than what we say  
Million tons more, our ocean's at stake  
If we aim truly for sustainability  
Accurate measures we must do diligently

Reefs aren't mere adorned displays  
Of vivid colors, forms intricate, lovely arrays  
We haven't seen the magnificent, not yet  
'Til we leave them be for years to rest

Every angle, doom escalates  
There's no going back it's late  
We reached the fringe, we're going down  
What if we press on, not frown?

Pristine our oceans might never be  
But huge promise our actions speak  
If there's courage to conserve them all  
Neither selfish agendas nor pointing brawls  
What if we listen, act on one call?

There's a movement called minimalism  
Where we love people and use things  
If we stop the madness for excess  
If we stop wanting what we don't need  
If we realize we're more than enough  
What kind of world will there be?

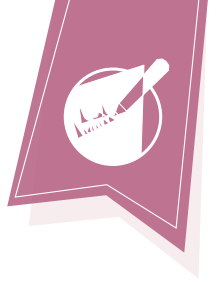
Carbon, as we are the culprit  
We add bursts by the minute  
Zero as agreed may be far from now  
But we matter by slowing down

Take long walks, work from home  
Commute, carpool, ride a bicycle  
Sort our garbage, freecycle  
Eat them all our freezer holds  
Eat them all lovely vegetables  
Such simple acts are incredible

Rubyann Robelle L. Polido, 23 years, Philippines



## MY LIVING OCEAN



Ocean, oh my ocean!  
Since creation linked to Earth,  
For her and all her inhabitants,  
you are admiration worth.

Ocean, oh my ocean!  
Though scummy as you are,  
You mingle perfectly with the cloudy sky.

What makes a great artist of you,  
Is your ability of mixing trouble and silence,  
Of dangerously interchanging quiet and violence.

What makes me fully trust you,  
Is this resistance you have got,  
Against destruction, nuisance and pollution of all sorts

I eat from you, from your inner share,  
You make me travel so often here and there,  
How could I live if you are not here?

You've made so many children dream  
By your stories, tales and myths,  
Just glance and see what now they are indeed.

Yesterday wasn't without you,  
Today without you will not be true,  
So, one could proudly say my future is you.

Nansi Kono Yvan Junior, Cameroon



## RETROSPECTIVE OF THE IMMINENT

Here we are, ninety two years after the third world. The unsolicited inexorable had establish itself... so effortlessly.

I looked at the picture frame in my hands, every day, with melancholy, with grief, with hatred. It was taken by my great grandparents, sometime around June 2024. Nobody could feel like me or any of the other Baharians, a tribe which was created during the war. We all had the common capacity to control water and change its state however we pleased. Scientists said that it was the insatiable need for security which developed our cerebral capacity but the secret remained ours. We were a new race of humans, the Baharian race. We had a whitish-bluish complexion due to a permanent dehydration. As guardians of what was left of the Atlantic Ocean, we were forbidden to touch water. For our safety, we had to run, taking along the waters. We had to remain hidden, completely out of sight and hopelessly out of minds.

The picture frame I was holding was a tribal treasure. I had access to it because I headed the department of security. I did not have the right to keep it with me but I did anyway. It was a panoramic 3D video. I loved keeping it next to me because in a world where we were deprived of our belongings, our lands, our dreams, expression and even the

freedom to think, it was the only escape. I would give all I had; my mind, my body, my soul, to go back to that epoch. I would gratefully be enslaved to whosoever took me back to those days. I would give my last breath, on a golden platter, just to feel what I saw, just for a second. I could not stand this life, nobody could; the eternal thirst, the unceasing dehydration, which was the price we had to pay for our "gift"- our cursed blessing - the unending dryness and the constant feeling of being alone, all alone in this world. So yes, I kept that picture frame with me and if it was something to do, I'd do it again.

I held the picture frame up ahead of me, the sight was captivating. It was a man and his wife in a ship and behind them, the ocean. Nothing but water. The wind was blowing her hair in her face and it made me smile, every time, the way she kept fighting with it to keep it back in place. It took of the man's hat off. They both looked at each other and burst out into laughter. I always joined them. They looked so happy. I turned around with the picture frame, staring in awe at it, every time, as if it was the first. So this is what the Atlantic used to look like.

This story was inspired by "Kumi", a short African film.

### DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to my Mother, Ebelle, my aunt Jeauberte and to a great friend of mine, TK, who inspired, guided and motivated me.

Also, I dedicate this piece, to everyone, all around the world, who has been sensitive enough to open their eyes to the changes the world was going through because of man and his actions. Let's give our children a future they will be happy to live in, let us give them something as beautiful as what we have.

Finally, I dedicate this piece to the United Nations, for their unstoppable efforts to see that we leave this world as beautiful and lovely as we found it, for those who will be coming after us and to God, for never letting down His children.

“What happened to it? How did it become so ridiculous?” I kept asking myself. However, if even I, who was the son of one of the five members of the High Council of Thoughts, did not have an answer to that question, nobody would. I would spend my whole time looking at that picture frame, how the birds migrated, the fish jumping, big and small, and the breeze until my beeper called me back to reality. I had work to do. I was summoned for an external expedition, a foreign being had penetrated our space. It was a human but the strangest thing was that she was alone. The troop and I rushed up towards her. She was tired, thirsty, disorientated and...old. How could she have found us? How did she travel all alone from their settlement to ours? We had to take her to the base for interrogation.

The guards pulled her in the interrogation room but the woman said she wanted to talk to no one but me. So I sent all the other guards out and stayed back with her. I did not even have the time to ask her a single question when she started shouting and yelling at me. “It is all your fault” she kept saying. She accused us of what was happening to the earth. She blamed us for the disappearance of the waters. She counted to me how in those days, our ancestors littered the oceans with toxic chemicals. They had been warned time without numbers but they remained headstrong.

Her people tried to fix things an uncountable number of times, but their efforts remained insignificant because they had no resources. She told me how oceans used to be beautiful, how they held life, how they were more than just water bodies but also habitats for other creatures. She told me how deep and wide it used to be, how, no matter how divided by land it used to be, it was the only link to all the continents. She emphasized on the effects of man and his careless lifestyle. She said a lot of things that troubled me.

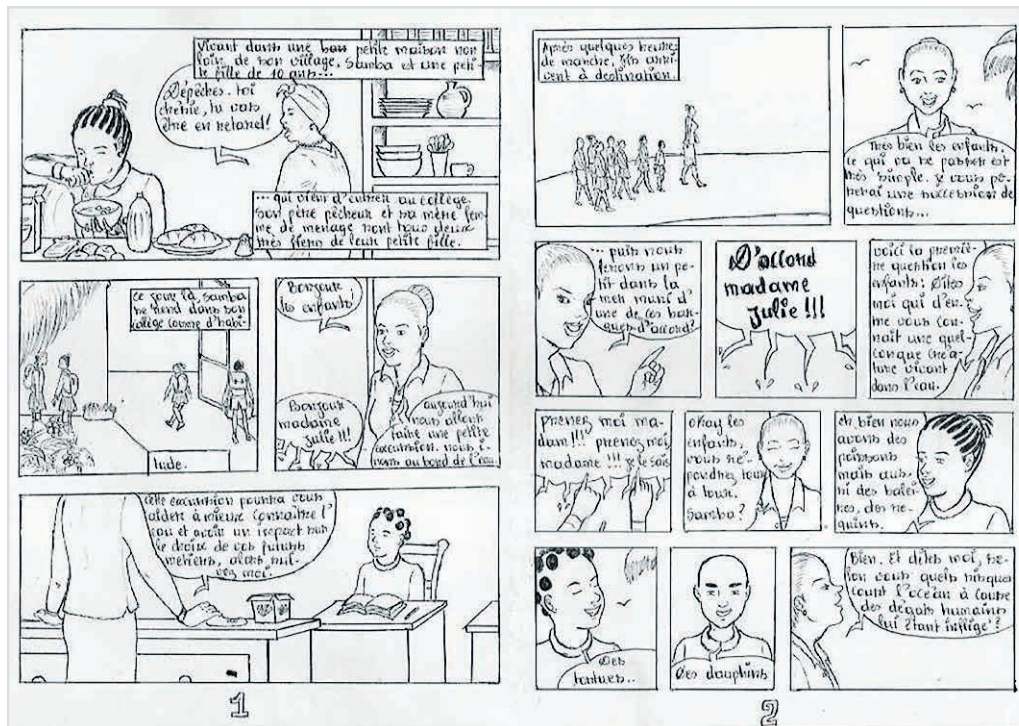
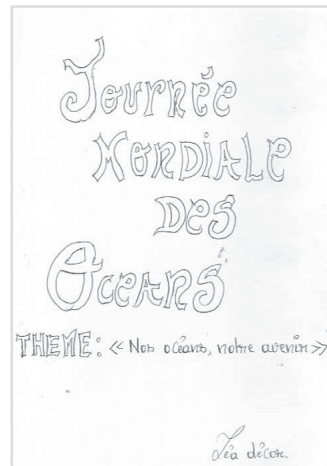
I went to bed that night a changed man. Knowing the truth had clarified things for me. What used to be, to me, our cursed gift, was now officially to me our chastisement. “See, but don’t touch”. We were cursed to see water but never touch it or even be able to feel it on our skin, in our mouths. The others were certain she was a spy and that she would betray us, but I felt otherwise. I had the feeling she was sent just for me. She was the answer to my perpetual questions. I decided to set her free. I knew the penance for betrayal, nailing on a cross, yet I chose to free her. As I entered her cell to wake her up, I felt a hand on my shoulder. It was one of the guards. I turned around to see the whole troop behind me. I was busted and sentenced to death.

I laid there, on my cross, full of resentment and regret. I caused it all. If the world had to end, it would be my fault. I turned my face to look at her again for the last time. I had lost all words, I could not say how sorry I was. She smiled, looked at me and said, “You can still fix it all, just be the change you want to see”. I closed my eyes firmly as one of the guards placed the first nail on my hand. I felt him raise his hand high to hit the nail and I scream, I scream like my life depended on it and when I opened my eyes, it was all just...a dream. A dream that had changed my reality and perspective on my lifestyle and the effects it had on those mighty water bodies. I had taken a step back into the future, all in my subconscious. Wow! That conference on Oceans of the World had completely turned me upside down.

Gobina Moukala Paola,  
20 years, Cameroon



## WORLD OCEAN DAY „OUR OCEAN, OUR FUTURE“



Samba is a little girl of 10 years living in a little house not far from the village. Hurry up, dear, you'll be late.

She has just entered secondary school. Her father, a fisher, and her mother, a house keeper, are both very proud of their little girl.

That day, she enters secondary school as she is used to.

Good morning children!

Good morning, Ms. Julie.

Today, we'll go on a little excursion. We'll go to the waterside.

This excursion can help you to get to know the water better and may help influence your choice of future job; so, follow me.

After several hours walk they arrive at their destination.

Very well, kids. What we'll do is easy. I shall ask you a series of questions.

Then we'll take a short bath in the sea using a boat, ok?

Great, Ms. Julie.

Attention children, here is the first question: Who among you knows a creature living in water?

Take me! Take me! I know an answer.

Alright, children, you can all respond one after another. Samba?

So, we have fish, but also whales and sharks.

Turtles

Dolphins

Very good. Now tell me what risks the ocean is exposed to as a result of human damage inflicted?

Ah, given that the ocean is the heart of the planet nothing will remain the same; in my view, many things will go wrong.

Ok, someone else...?

Take me, Madame. I think that will provoke marine pollution and kill animals, even provoke their disappearance.





Léa Ornela Yanou Njaba,  
Cameroun,  
called „Léa Décor“

NOM: Yanou  
 Prénom: Léa  
 Age: 18 ans  
 Nationalité: Camerounaise  
 Contact: 696-42-96-34 / 677-83-32-57  
 e-mail: bombossyanou@gmail.com

Good replies. Can you then tell me which damage humans inflict?

We have marine overexploitation, the discharge of dangerous chemicals into the waters, and the lack of respect for aquatic life, noise pollution from ship's engines, the submarines discharge engine and fuel residues.

Very good, children. I shall ask you a last question concerning your own reflection:

What would you envisage to protect the ocean, enable its sustainability and thus reduce human inflicted damage?

Well, we could organise awareness campaigns to reduce chemical ocean pollution, create associations to defend the marine animals from overfishing and abusive exploitation, mobilise the population for the sustainability of the ocean by showing them the importance of the ocean and urgency of its protection.

Mmh, it's also important to underline that without healthy ocean we would not eat fish anymore.

Hahahaha

Alright then, children. This day has been very instructive. Let's now enjoy the sea.




## OUR OCEAN, OUR FUTURE

**THEME :** *Notre Océan, Notre Avenir*

**PRENOM :** EDWIGE  
**PAULINE**  
**NOM :** NGAMBI  
**BIKES**  
**ÂGE :** 26 ans  
**NATIONALITE :**  
CAMEROUNAISE  
**ADRESSE POSTALE :**  
Ngambli bikes sous  
Gouverneur Ngambli  
Charles BP 1740  
Yaoundé.  
**Contact e-mail :**  
ngamblibikes@yahoo.fr  
**Travail :** person-  
nel  
**Format A4 :** 1  
**nombre de page :** 2

Je m'appelle Astulina Essomba, j'ai 18 ans et je suis une Camerounaise très curieuse. Nous sommes déjà en 2059 et la vie est devenue difficile. Les parts de terres ont réduit dans le monde entier, de nombreux îles ont disparu à cause du réchauffement climatique (fonte des glaces). Au Cameroun, il ne reste que l'Est et le Nord et le Nord qui émergent encore. Les pays développés ont mis en place des maisons, cités et autres qui flottent sur l'eau, ainsi donc ceux qui avaient les moyens compris au Cameroun et ailleurs pouvaient s'en procurer et être à l'abri du danger. Les bateaux et les navires les ravitaillaient en vivres pendant un mois. Ma famille n'avait pas assez de moyens, on a appris à nager pour survivre. La nuit, les grosses vagues venaient sur notre rot et lesisaient peu à peu nos maisons en dur. On faisait le feu avec les algues de mes remontées en surface. Je me disais : « Nous les pauvres, on n'a pas d'avenir sur cette planète ! L'eau potable est si cher, l'électricité pareil, la nourriture quasiment n'existe plus. Nos disparitions ne se continueront pas. » Soudain j'ai eu une idée : « On pourrait respirer dans l'eau à votre dans l'océan et respirant dans l'eau car il n'y a que l'océan qui est notre avenir. Mais je n'ai pas de moyens pour faire les recherches. » Épuisée, je parti dormir chez moi. Une nuit je n'avais pas sommeil, je suis sorti de la maison. À peine mes pieds ont touché le rot que



My name is Astulina Essomba, I am 18 years old and I am a very curious Cameroonian. It is already 2059 and life has become difficult. The plots of land are reduced all over the world, many of the islands have disappeared due to global warming (melting ice). In Cameroon, only the Far North and the North are still above water.

Developed countries have set up houses, cities and other structures that float on water, so those who have the means, including in Cameroon and elsewhere, can get hold of them and are out of harm's way. Boats and ships supplied them with food for a month.

My family did not have enough means, we learned to swim to survive. At night, the big waves came on our ground and gradually broke our brick house. We made a fire with the algae from my diving.

I said to myself: "We poor people have no future on this planet? Drinking water is so expensive, the habitat the same, food quite scarce and more. We will disappear if this continues."

Suddenly, I had an idea: "We could learn to live in the ocean which is our future. But I don't have the means to do the research." Exhausted, I went to sleep at home.

One night, I was not sleepy, I left the house. No sooner had my feet touched the ground that the waves carried me into the ocean. I was unconscious. A young woman woke me up and said to me: "Don't be afraid, because your wish has come true. Our ocean has so much natural resources and wealth for us. Look at the plankton."



NGAMBI  
BIKES  
EDWIGE  
PAULINE  
Cameroonaise  
ngambibikes@  
yahoo.fr  
24ans

Les vagues m'ont emportée dans l'océan. J'étais inconsciente.  
Une jeune femme me réveilla et me dit:  
- N'ai pas peur car ton vœux s'est réalisé. Notre océan  
a tellement de ressources naturelles et de richesses pour nous.  
Regarde ce plancton.  
Elle me donna et dit:  
- C'est une excellente source de protéines et constitue 50  
de la matière organique terrestre. La consommation de certain  
mes d'entre elles procurent à l'homme la capacité de  
respirer dans l'eau et ceux là ont des yeux étoiles.  
- Les poissons sont rares mais existent. Vas-y ma  
père et tu verras.  
Curieuse je me suis dit, sûrement elle a  
raison. Alors j'ai mangé et je me suis  
évanoui. Après mon père est venu me  
réveiller en disant:  
- Tu fais quoi dehors ça une heure  
pareil?  
Je toucha mon cou et je sentis quelque  
chose sur mon cou. Je regarda mon reflet  
sur l'eau et s'était des branchies.  
- Alors ce n'était pas un rêve?  
- Oui ma fille?  
Je couru entré dans l'océan et je  
respirais comme un poisson. C'était  
tellement génial que je suis parti à  
la recherche de ces planctons magiques.  
Je suis ressortis en disant:  
- Papa, fini la misère, voici le miracle  
de Dieu.  
Je lui montra les planctons et je  
lui dis:  
- Vas-y mange et va dans l'océan, tu vas te  
respirer.  
Mon père curieux comme moi, mangé aussi et entra dans  
l'océan. Il ressortit en criant:  
- Réveillez-vous! On a la solution à notre problème.  
Il donna les planctons à ceux qui voulaient et leur dit:  
- Mangez et allez dans l'océan.  
C'est ainsi que grâce à l'océan, une nouvelle espèce des humains  
est née: les océaniques. On ne pouvait pas les commercialiser  
sans car elles perdaient leur valeur. Les occidentaux ayant appri  
la nouvelle nous ont donné le prix nobel de la recherche médicale  
et ont créés des remèdes avec les derniers qui étaient gratuits  
pour tous.

FIN

Edwige Pauline  
NGAMBI BIKES,  
24 years,  
Cameroon

She gave it to me and said, "It is an excellent source of protein and is made up of exclusively of terrestrial organic matter. Consuming some of them gives humans the ability to "breathe in water" and these particular ones have starry eyes. They are rare, but exist. Go ahead, eat and you will see."

Curious, I said to myself, surely she is right. So I ate and I vanished. Afterwards, my father came to wake me up saying: "What are you doing outside at such an hour?" I touched my neck and felt something there. I looked at my reflection in the water and they were gills. - "So it wasn't a dream?" - "What my daughter?"

I ran into the ocean and I was breathing like a fish. It was so awesome that I went in search of these magical planktons. I came out saying: "Daddy, that's the end of the misery, here is the miracle of God."

I showed him the planktons and I said to him: "go ahead, eat, and go to the ocean, you will see you will breathe."

My father, curious like me, also ate and entered the ocean. He came out shouting, "Wake up! We have the solution to our problem." He gave the planktons to those who wanted them and said to them: "Eat and go to the ocean!"

This is how, thanks to the ocean, a new human species was born: "The Oceanians". You couldn't market them because they were losing their value. Westerners having heard the news gave us the Nobel Prize for research and created remedies with them that were free for everyone.



## DEAR WORLD



### Dear World

by Gillian Sherrill

Dear World,  
Tell me why we pollute  
our own oceans to the point  
we can not save them.

Dear World,  
Tell me why we show a cold shoulder  
to the countless species  
which need our help.

Dear World,  
Tell me why we carelessly  
pour petroleum into the oceans.

Dear World,  
Telle me why we refuse  
to believe that our planet is dying  
and needs our help.

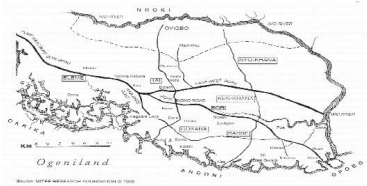
Dear World,  
Tell me why we can not accept  
that our oceans,  
our forests,  
our rainforests,  
our world,  
even ourselves,  
are dying  
and only ourselves can safe them.

Original in Spanish, Spanish class of the  
Missoula International School,  
USA – age group 13 to 18 years.





## OUR OCEAN OUR FUTURE



Our ocean our future, this story is based on the Ogoni land which is part of the Nigerian delta, the Ogoni being one of the largest population groups. Approximately 500,000 Ogoni people live in the 404 square miles of Ogoni land where they have been for at least 500 years.

The Ogoni people are a small minority group in Nigeria where the total population of 134 million is made up of over 250 ethnic groups. The Ogoni people are diverse group made up of six kingdoms where all speak four main languages. The Ogoni have a close connection to the land and water both physically and spiritually. The traditional lifestyle of the Ogoni is based on fishing in the river waters and farming yams and cassava on the fertile land of the delta. The Ogoni people practice animism and worship of the river as a god before the advent of oil drilling in the Ogoni land.

In the year 1950s several companies including Shell set up operation in the delta region of Nigeria, where the operation is being carried out extensively in the Ogoni region. Since then, the land, water and air has been polluted to such an extent that Ogoni people livelihood is threatened.

The effect of pollution on the Nigerian delta has been great as a result of oil spills, which have damaged the Ogoni land dramatically. At least one hundred pumping stations and marine pipelines crisscross Ogoni land. The pipelines run over farm land and through villages; leaks and spills are common

occurrence. From 1970 to 1982, 1,581 oil spill incidences were recorded with over 1.5 million gallons spilled by Shell. Shell runs oil operation in over one hundred different countries, 40% of the company spills in Nigeria. How little Shell has done to clean up these spills! Blowouts from pipelines result in the destruction of farm lands and rendering of water in the Ogoni land not consumable.

The industrial waste dumped into the Ogoni rivers makes that fishing is no longer a means for food production of the tribe, because very few fish survive in this condition.

The ground water is contaminated and not safe for drinking and the rain water is also unfit for drinking since it falls as acid rain.

The air has also been severely polluted. The natural gas that is a byproduct of drilling is flared off horizontally from five flaring stations, some of which are in close proximity to homes and villages. There is a massive amount of carbon dioxide created during flaring off. Gas that could be sold or donated to local people for use as domestic fuel. Gas flaring combined with Methane and soot during oil drilling in Ogoni land now suffers from low air quality which is linked to cancer, asthma and other lung diseases. The flaring has been associated with poor crop yield and plant growth in the Ogoni land.

The Ogoni people organized a body called "MOSOP

(Movement for Survival of Ogoni People)". The body is the strongest force of opposition to Shell and the Nigerian government. Many other NGO's such as Amnesty International and Greenpeace are involved. Mosop was created to protect the human rights of the Ogoni people but is now seen as a violent organization since they are always agitating and causing pipeline vandalization and prevention of oil and gas staff from performing drilling operations.



Ogoni Land before exploration of crude oil · Source: google images



Ogoni Land after exploration & exploitation of crude oil · Source: google images



Ogoni people protesting against the activity of Shell · Source: google images

Sheriff Azeez,  
18 years,  
Nigeria



## TRAGEDY OF THE OCEAN

Once in the ocean of the world the and mammals were abundant and roaming freely without fear. From one part of the world to another did they move until man came. Without care did he kill many of these abundant animals either accidentally or on purpose. Many of these declined in number and in no time became extinct. Breeding grounds were destroyed, lives shortened when they were prematurely caught in nets only to end up in cooking pots. Sadly, some were killed in oil spills. Though some survived, but many had died for no good cause. Here goes the story of a grey whale. Once in the Atlantic Ocean lived a pod of grey whales. Their leader, an old grey whale saw a calf playfully move near a ship at the surface where danger was looming. With both a surge of fear and rage, the old grey moved to stop the calf from getting to the surface, but it was too late as the calf had already poked his head out of the water. With this, he got attacked by harpooners and spearmen while some other whalers attacked with guns. In his desperate need to escape, he called the pod and got himself into a bigger trouble as he moved near the main hunting ship. The pod leader, on realizing this, attacked the ship and capsized it. With this, he succeeded in saving the calf. He sternly warned the members of the pod not to go near such an object again.

A member of his pod, who saw him move to stop the calf, asked how he knew how dangerous moving near the ship was. To answer this, he told his story to the pod. Once, though as a young calf, he had been part of another pod. His father, being the only adult male was the leader of the pod. Like the young calf who was attacked, he had ventured towards a boat, though smaller. Despite being warned by his father not to move near such objects, he turned a deaf ear. He was caught by men with nets and was dragged out of the water. Luckily, he was saved by the pod. Since then, he had sworn never to move near them. Years later, still a calf, he saw his father killed before his eyes while trying to save his younger brother from a bigger boat. These men used sophisticated weapons to attack. While aiming for his son, the harpooners saw a bigger whale and attacked it. Even though his father succeeded in saving his brother, he died from the injuries he had sustained. Fortunately, his elder brother had become an adult. So without much ado, they had a new pod leader. During their first migration which was due to lack of food, as a result of oil spills, they were attacked by a pod of killer whales thereby losing two of their young ones. They had also lost some young ones and some adults to the oil spills. They were not the only ones affected as there had been many other

mammals and fish that died due to the spills. As they migrated further, they saw turtles flee from their breeding grounds. As the turtles were traveling, looking for another abode, they saw another turtle on her way to their breeding spot who inquired how their trip fared, but the answer came in the negative. Still inquisitive, this turtle wanted to know why the trip yielded a bad result, the turtles answered that man had either built on their breeding spots or had polluted those areas by washing their oil tanks on the beaches where they laid their eggs. As they forged ahead looking tired, somewhere not far from the beach, they saw jellyfish floating on the surface. Some turtles then attacked them hoping to have a good meal on their long journey. Unfortunately for them, the meal proved fatal as the turtles began to fall off the surface looking as though they were being suffocated. Finally, only one of managed to regurgitate the jellyfish and then found out that the 'jellyfish' they had eaten were actually plastic bags used by humans and dumped in the sea.

After a long, unsuccessful migration, the pod of grey whales decided to go home. However, tragedy struck. The pod was cornered and secluded by boats with spearmen and harpooners. Every member of the pod were killed except the olde grey. He managed to escape with injuries that almost claimed his life. Ever since, he swore to protect whatever pod he came across in the future not minding his life.

We can see from this story the impact of the activities of humans on the life of aquatic animals. Though these are only some of the effects of human activities on aquatic animals, there are many other devastating effects which affect aquatic lives. Also, we seem to forget that the ocean is a source of different minerals. Some countries, for example Nigeria, derive some revenue through crude oil from the ocean, rather than repay the debt we owe it, we rather wash our tanks into the sea, or empty waste products in it. We seem to forget that the ocean is home to many endangered animals. By releasing these harmful chemicals, we ignorantly kill animals that we ought to protect.

Abdulrahman  
Oluwaseun Fakoya,  
Nigeria

We seem to forget that the ocean is home to many endangered animals. By releasing these harmful chemicals, we man's activities while many others have been listed as endangered - the blue whale and the Caribbean monk seal. Rethinking our actions towards the ocean is necessary before we create a disastrous future with ocean life. You do not want to imagine the world without a living ocean.



## OUR OCEAN, OUR FUTURE

I was strolling down the beach one sunny day, shocked at what I had seen  
Water filled with dirt and garbage, I used to think the water was clean  
I kept staring at the scrap, spoilt electronics, spilled oils and packs of empty tins.

Felt really bad, we should try to change our ways.  
Or we could terminate the fish lives before future days.  
We should love Mother Nature as she has loved us; at least that's what the wise one says.

If there's no grilled fish, tilapia, croaker or sardine  
We'd destroy our future if you know what I mean  
If we go down this path, years from now, no fish would be seen.

If we retrace our steps, quit polluting and adding garbage.  
Punish offenders who maltreat the waters, lock them in a cage.  
Try to clean and purify waters, stage by stage.

Then we'd have little volume of fish in sea dying  
We'd mass produce, take care, generate income; everyone is smiling  
The future would start from now, let's start living.

Whatever we do, we should try to protect our future;  
If we keep up with pollution, we'd destroy the cycle of Mother Nature;  
Our ocean, our future, thank God for Mother Nature.

Mangai Emmanuel Tobi, 20 years, Nigeria





Two neighbouring cities, Klistan and Habru, sharing the same boundary which is a land that both get their revenue from. In between these two cities, there was an ocean too. They both share the land and the ocean. Both of them are productive and useful. They get the water that they drink from the ocean and they also eat and export fish from the ocean. They also cultivate the land together in peace and harmony.

For two hundred years, they had been sharing the land and the ocean without boat until after the death of the previous leader of Klistan, Gidan. The people chose another leader to oversee the affairs of the city. Heth was appointed as the leader; the greedy man was not satisfied with the sharing of land and Ocean and all the riches that followed. He began to do a research on the history of both cities.

After his research, he realized that the land and the ocean is supposed to be of Habru only. He thought of what to do; he could not bear to think about loosing the land if the people of Habru can find out that both the land and the Ocean belonged to them. He had the idea of taking the land forcefully from the people of Habru before they realize that the land is truly theirs.

Adegoroye Adetoun,  
Nigeria

Some of the people of Klistan also agreed with him while the others believed that if they have been sharing the two resources for 200 years without problem, there is no need to start another one, but Heth, greedy like a tortoise refused to listen. At the end of all arguments and discussions, the majority wanted war.

Heth began to import more crude oil they ever needed to create weapons. A lot of people were fighting against the war because it was clearly out of greed that Heth wanted to make the land and Ocean officially part of their own territory. Heth tested his new weapons on human beings who were fighting against the war and after testing the weapons, the dead bodies were thrown into the ocean.

The people of Habru began to suspect the people of Klistan because of the excess importation of crude oil. As a result of this, the leader of Habru, Matri, sent spies led by Hena and Kedah his son. When they got to Klistan, they witnessed the killing of five men with dangerous chemicals; they also got the news from people around that they were planning a battle, they did not know that those two were from Habru. As they were going back to Habru, Kedah was killed, then the king of Habru became angry, he wanted to stop Heth immediately.

Matri sent 500 soldiers to stop the importation of crude oil whether the Klistanians agreed or not. The day after, when the soldiers of Habru tried to stop the ship from entering Klistan, they destroyed the ship and spilled the oil inside the ocean. A lot of lives were lost. Heth was furious, he wanted to make sure he got rid of Matri so that he would take over Habru. Matri wanted to make sure that Heth was punished for killing his son Kedah.

Heth's plan was to implant explosive devices around Matri's house in Habru at night but he made a little mistake that cost him his life. On getting to the boundary, the devices exploded and it destroyed the land that they were fighting over. People began to die in both cities, till the fish in the ocean were dead and floating on the face of the water. The water became poisonous as a result of the oil spillage and chemicals.

The people from Klistan chose another leader to replace Heth, it became really hard for them to eat and even find water to drink. It took years for the land to be productive again but till today, the ocean water is still very poisonous. The people of Habru and Klistan have been importing water since then. Due to ignorance and greediness, they lost their future and source of life in the ocean.



## ADELEKE ANOINTED

### World Ocean Day Story

Once upon a time, time! time!!

There was a man who had four children and a wife.

His occupation was fishing, and the wife was a trader.

The man who is the head and father of the household/family always went fishing every day, and the wife goes to the market to trade.

One day, he went fishing on getting there, it was a bad day for him, because he realised that the fish he caught that day was too small, for him and his family.



The second day, he thought of an idea; using chemical /poisonous liquid to kill fish so that he will be able to catch more fish.

He did not seek the consent of his wife and children. He went ahead to satisfy his ill desires.

The following day he went to buy the chemical.

He believed that using the chemical, the water would be polluted and all the fish would die and he will get as many fish as possible to satisfy his family.

Because he wanted to satisfy his needs and that of his family, he later used the chemical.

He caught so many fish as possible, he was happy and satisfied.

He took the fish home, on getting home, he told his wife to go and cook the fish, so that they will eat and be merry.

But his wife was so suspicious and asked him that "I hope you didn't use chemical to kill these fishes" because you have never caught these much fish before.

The husband shouted on her "go and cook the fish", and she went to cook the fish.



She fried the fish, and she served the fish with the dinner, she served the husband and the children and as they were eating the food the husband asked the wife that why are you not eating, and she said "I don't have the appetite to eat because I am tired" the wife replied.

And as they were busy enjoying the food, few minutes later, they started having stomach-pains and the father and the children were about to die, and the wife immediately called for help, but she did not see anybody. So, she rushed out to look for a taxi luckily she found one.

The taxi driver assisted her to call an ambulance and the half dead husband and children were rushed to the nearby medical centre where they got medical attentions.

Both the husband and the children were hospitalised for 5 days only the man was able to survive fully the children were unable to overcome the effect of the poison in their systems on time and they missed their studies and promotion examination. Their education were truncated just because of their father's action in destroying the oceans with chemicals.



#### CONCLUSION

The little story here is just talking about a man and his family. The man was a good man because his business was not going well, he decided to use chemical on the ocean for his personal interest, not knowing the consequences of what was going to happen to his family, if not for his wife they would have died. So this story is teaching us how to keep our ocean streams, and rivers clean. And to also stop the use of chemical to kill fish. **BECAUSE OUR OCEANS IS OUR FUTURE.** If we destroy the ocean we are destroying our future. I shall not destroy my future like this fisher man.

Name: Adeleke Anointed

Age: 12 years

Nationality: Nigeria

Address: Staff Secondary School, FUTA

Class: JSS 2





# THE TIGER SHARK

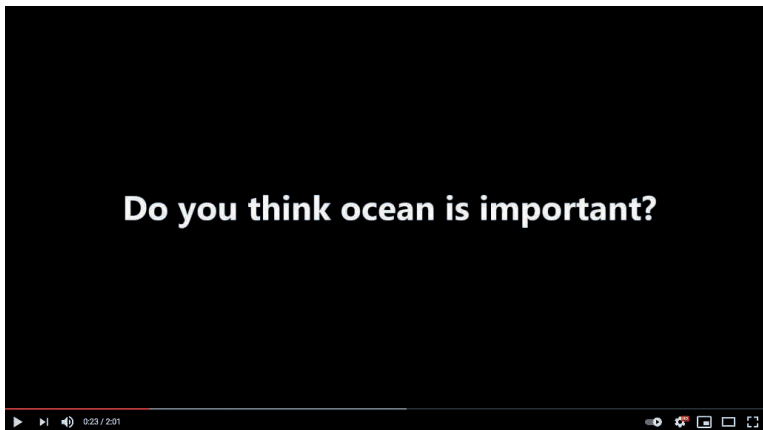
*for kids*



Joshua Wayne Balgobin  
6 years,  
Trinidad



## SEGARA (OCEAN)



Zahrah Izzaturrahim,  
21 years

Karina Amaliantami Putri,  
20 years

Regy Waluti,  
21 years

Fariza Rahmadinna,  
21 years

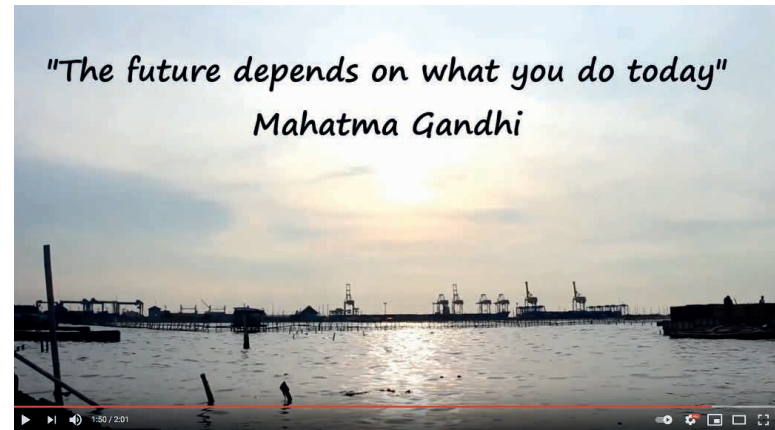
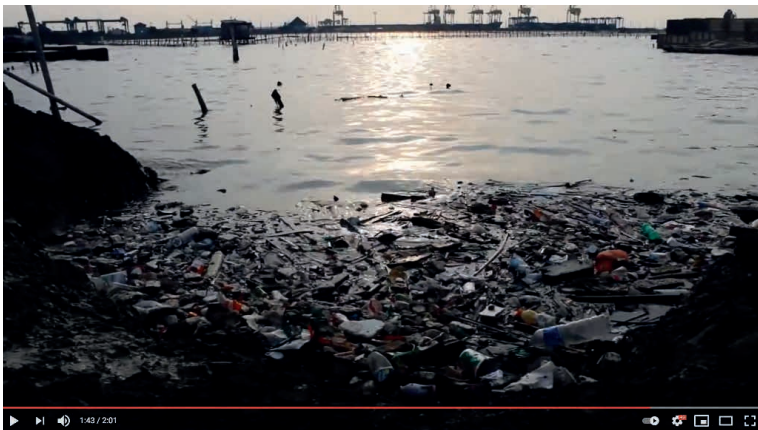
Indonesia





Team Participation:

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3. Editor:  
Karina Amaliantami Putri  
and Fariza Rahmadinna
4. Interviewer:  
Regy Waluti and  
Fariza Rahmadinna
5. Narrator:  
Zahrah Izzaturrahim



*"The future depends on what you do today"*  
**Mahatma Gandhi**

A green banner-shaped logo with the text "WORLD OCEAN DAY 2018" in a stylized, multi-colored font. The banner has a white border and a slight shadow.

WORLD  
OCEAN  
DAY 2018

This year's focus is on **preventing plastic pollution and cleaning the beaches of marine litter**. Plastic reaches the ocean mostly through the major rivers and along the shorelines. It makes up between 60-80% of marine debris, and destroys and harms marine life and habitat in many ways. As plastic is slowly broken up into smaller pieces, it travels as microplastic through the entire food chain and then ends up back on our dinner plate.

To fulfil our dream of a wondrous clean and healthy ocean teeming with life, we must do what we can to stop the garbage reaching the ocean in the first place – everywhere!

*Here is the Mundus maris Awards challenge for this year: tell a story in text or video format.*

AN  
OCEAN  
FREE OF  
PLASTIC





## PLASTIC FREE OCEAN

There was something that frightened me the day I saw a turtle with a chain around the neck in a TV documentary. This turtle was struggling to remove the chain and there was no assistance and to me it looked like the turtle was exhausted and may die at any time. I asked my parents so many questions about why was the turtle in chain as a feature of the documentary? My parents could not give me an answer as to why the person gave it a chain and why that was part of the aspect of the story being told in the documentary. Ops! on a closer look alas! It was not a real chain, it were strips of nylon that had been wired round the animal's neck that gave the impression of a chain tied around its neck. I wished I could have assisted the turtle, but I could not because it was a TV documentary.

First of all, I would like to define the following keywords:

**PLASTIC:** any of a large number of synthetic materials that can be molded when soft or set.

**FREE:** able to act at will; not under any form of compulsion or restraint

**OCEAN:** the vast area of salt water covering about 70 percent of the earth surface

**PLASTIC FREE OCEAN** can be defined as an ocean free of objects defined as plastic in nature.

Now that we know what plastic is, we can look at its composition.

### Contents of a plastic object

A plastic object is made of elements like carbon hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, chlorine and sulfur which when eaten by marine animals stays in their guts. Once it is in the guts it prevents food digestion and it leads to a slow and painful death. Some soft plastic materials are called nylon also strangulate the animals when wrapped around the aquatic animal like the turtle for example as shown in the TV documentary mentioned above.

To marine animals plastic does not only look like food, but also smells, feels, and even sounds like food; that is why thousands of marine animals die from ingesting plastic materials. Unique aquatic animals that are killed as a result of ingested plastics therefore become endangered species.

Here are some of the marine species that we have been taught at biology class that have been deeply affected by plastic pollution activities in our Ocean, for example the Atlantic Ocean in West Africa as well as other oceans in other continents around the world:

1. Sea turtle
2. Seals and sea lions
3. Sea birds
4. Fishes
5. Whales and dolphins
6. Polar bears.

Instead of polluting the marine environment with plastics, we as young people can join older people to do the following: after collecting the plastics during beach cleaning

1. Sell them to those recycling to make more money
2. Recycle the plastics to make other things that will be useful to man
3. Use to develop other useful item in other area of endeavors

### Uses of plastics

Plastic can be used for the following:

1. For production of household utensils
2. Construction works in buildings
3. Electrical and electronic applications
4. Plastic packaging
5. Transportation

### Advantages of plastics

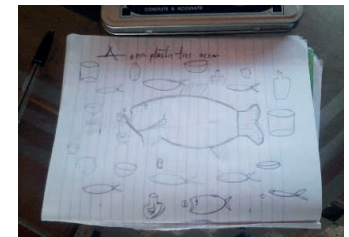
1. People mostly use plastics because they are cheap and easy to buy compare to ceramics, glass, steel or aluminum.
2. It is durable
3. Low cost
4. Water resistant
5. Lesser energy and heavy chemicals requirements in manufacture and is light weight.

### Disadvantages of plastics

1. Plastics bags are made of a non-renewable resource, which gives us more reasons to use recyclable shopping bags.
2. They are a hazard to wildlife animals, if they are not disposed properly.
3. Plastic bags clog or block roadside drains, which could cause the flooding of the street at heavy rainfalls.



Plastic free ocean with healthy animals

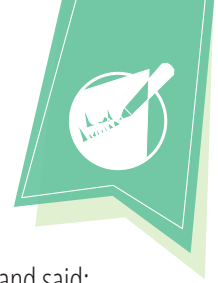


Non-plastic free ocean

Jesusemilore Glory Adeogun  
11 years  
Nigeria



## LILY THE LITTLE CATFISH



Once upon a time, there lived a little catfish called Lily. She had three brothers: Handy, Lucas and Benson. She equally had three sisters: Katy, Lucy and Meghan and lived with them and their parents in family. She was the most hardworking of all her brothers and sisters. They lived in the Atlantic Ocean in a little corner not very far from the coast in Kribi. She would have loved to go round the world in all of the oceans but according to her parents, she was too small for that. Consequently, while waiting for these wonderful days she often went around and visited. Every time she went out for visiting, she brought back a little keepsake. Things like shellfishes, pearls, algae, food and any other stuff of all sorts. She loved her expeditions and her trips here and there in the neighborhood. Nevertheless, her parents had always forbidden her two things. That is, to swim in the shallow waters of the coast and, of course, never to bring back plastic home. She understood why she never had to swim in the shallow waters of the coast because she knew human beings actually could be present and the two are not supposed to be together at the same point. Still, she tried getting why she wasn't supposed to bring back plastic home as keepsake or even touch it. For her, it actually was strange because it was as abundant as algae at the surface of water - so why?

Ekono Yann,  
14 years,  
Cameroon

Little curious cat fish that she was, she couldn't prevent herself from asking that question in her mind.

"What is so bad with plastic?"

So one day, during one of her expeditions she often did, she realized something in the water. It was like jammed in the coral. It actually was very different from what she had ever seen before. She then decided to go towards it. It was plastic. But it was just so different of what she had ever known. What was it doing there? She felt it so magnificent and did not understand why it was there as she knew plastic always remained at the surface of water. So enthusiastic, she decided to take it back home and on reaching, she opened the door and showed it to dad and mom. But on seeing their facial expressions, she quickly understood it wasn't any good.

Taking her courage in hand, she asked:

- Hey mom, what is wrong?

"Darling", her mom answered...

"Did we ask you never to bring back plastic home?" she continued and Lily replied

- Yes mom you did.

- Then why did you disobey?

Mama catfish asked again

- It... it... seemed s... so... Mom, I'm sorry.

Seeing this, Lily's parents looked at her and said:

- You need to know something.

- Yes, what? She silently asked.

- We are sorry to tell you this, but we are actually not your parents but respectively your uncle and aunt. But those you think are your brothers and sisters are actually your brothers and sisters.

Hearing this, Lily was so shocked that she couldn't say a word. She kept listening and they told her, if they did this, it was because their mother - as curious as she was - saw something identical to that one she brought back today, but for her it wasn't for keepsake but for eating. So she ate it and laid her eggs. Being tired, she expected some energy from what she thought was food but had the contrary effect. It tied up her intestines and got her suffocated. They realized this and had to dispose of her and take care of the eggs and raised them as their children till today.

After this shocking revelation, NOTHING WAS ANY LONGER THE SAME.

Today, the family has lost its joy and unity for no good reason, if not plastic. In search of consolation, Handy and Meghan left the house, but never came back. Katy was caught in a fishing net because she became recalcitrant as she left the house after the curfew. Everything is just a mess. BECAUSE OF PLASTIC IN THE SEA.

That's not its place. Not at all.



## DANGER OF PLASTICS IN THE AQUATIC FOOD CHAIN

The aquatic habitats are put at risk due to the pollution they are exposed to. Dumping of wastes into water bodies are causing great harm to aquatic animals, especially the endangered ones, which I fear, would soon be wiped out of existence. The wastes can also reduce the oxygen level of the water thereby affecting both the aquatic plants and animals.

Plastics are the most common wastes that dominate pollution in the ocean. Though they are beneficial to us, however, they also pose a major threat to the ocean life, which we rely on greatly. This is a story about the Mackerel.

Food became scarce since aquatic animals were migrating from the Indian Ocean due to the unhealthy environment. But the Mackerel wouldn't give up. After a long search, he spots plankton and quickens its pace to grab its prey not knowing it was a broken piece of plastic. What a perfect kill! He thinks. But it tasted sweeter than normal, he thinks again. The Mackerel put these thoughts aside as he too must migrate after his first kill that day.

The Bluefin tuna, another hungry hunter sensed the mackerel miles away. Oh! Here is the food, he thought. No, he won't hesitate to go after this one.

So he aimed his prey and gobbles it up. Feeling satisfied, he started migrating after two days of starvation not knowing death was at his door.

Another starved predator, the Lemon shark saw the Bluefin tuna after three days of hunting. He who hesitates is lost, so he wolfed it down. Then heavy waves moved him ashore. The shark struggled for breath at this.

The villagers on seeing the Lemon shark at the shore grabbed different weapons and stabbed it to death. Since the Mackerel ate a piece of plastic and it tasted sweeter than normal, he may bring plastic into his food choice only by judging the taste. This "sweet" plastic could have killed the Mackerel in days but he was consumed by a Bluefin tuna, which was later eaten by the Lemon shark. The villagers were amused to see the shark at the shore, so they hurried to kill it. Definitely, they made a big feast. It was later learnt that some villagers were rushed to the clinic. Some even died. So, the plastic as a whole once eaten by a prey, affects its predators.

In conclusions, aquatic animals are not the only ones affected in this story. Plastics are a major cause of death in our society because we consume them indirectly. I believe that if wastes are disposed of properly, the oceanic life will be safe and so will we. Health is wealth.

### THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On 5 December 2017, the United Nations declared that a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development would be held from 2021 to 2030. The Ocean Decade provides a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ocean Decade provides a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to create a new foundation across the science-policy interface to strengthen the management of our oceans and coasts for the benefit of humanity. The Ocean Decade will strengthen the international cooperation needed to develop the scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, The Science we need for the ocean we want: the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

Salamot Itunuoluwa Fakoya,  
14 years,  
Nigeria

## FOR A PLASTIC FREE OCEAN



Written in the fabrics of this wonder is beauty  
Beauty in the fabrics of the ocean  
Right from the beginning one ocean kept one earth safe  
One ocean a home for creation  
One pure ocean then three  
Still in its fabrics purity

Now the beaches don't look pretty no more  
Humanity now running towards a cliff  
we are telling them it's not a trash can  
The ocean is not a trash can  
They are now filling it up with plastic  
They think it may never really get full  
But who am I kidding.  
my soda bottle ended up there too  
I'll not play the blame game

We're all doing something wrong  
We may not even know but plastic hurts the ocean  
Kids swimming in plastic and not waters  
No one seems to really care  
No one is speaking loud enough  
They don't know every voice counts  
So, I'll add mine in languages and hope the universe hears

sensitizing, recovering and cleaning the ocean and recycling  
for a plastic free ocean  
sensibiliser, récupérer et nettoyer l'océan, recyclage  
pour un océan sans plastique  
crear conciencia, recuperar y limpiar el océano, reciclar  
por un océano sin plástico

Achu Prince-Will,  
20 years,  
Cameroon



## THE SAILOR'S TEAR

I am Albert FOKWA. I am a sailor. I am a widower and have no children today, and it's all because of a bouquet of plastic flowers. I'm not looking for anyone's pity, but I will admit to you anyway that what I am about to tell you is the saddest and most horrible thing I have experienced in my life and I do not wish that to anyone. Really!

We were happy, my wife and I. Her name was Lindsay. On January 5, it was going to be 6 years since we said yes to one another in front of God and men. Everything was going well. Although we could not have children, we lived our love passionately, no matter how sad this might occasionally felt. I will not lie to you, it actually made me very sad not to be able to have a child with the chosen one of my heart, but out of love for her, I put up with it. So you can imagine my joy and especially my surprise when Lindsay told me that we were going to have not one, but two babies. Of course I was asking her how she knew that and all and all and she told me that she was 6 weeks late, so she thought it best to go see a gynecologist. The latter then told her that she was pregnant. He arranged to meet her 6 weeks later and there he announced that she was carrying twins. Wanting to surprise me, she decided not to tell me and really took care to hide her physiological change. I couldn't believe it. Wow! I was finally going to be a dad.

She had planned to keep it from me until New Year's Day, which is about 2 more weeks, but hey. It was already a feat that she managed to hide 3 months pregnant from me. To celebrate, I decided to offer her a candlelit dinner in a small motorboat that the navy lent me from time to time. We drifted with the waves of the sea in front of a magnificent sunset. It was like a dream. I wanted to get far enough away from the coast so that I could be romantic enough without any restraint. This was the worst mistake of my life.

Night had fallen and after a few little kisses here and declarations of love there, Lyndsay was feeling tired. Probably because of the pregnancy. It was not necessary to force too much so we started our way back. I had just rediscovered what is called a shot from Cupid's arrow. As we were going, the boat's engine started making a very weird noise, suddenly it stopped. I didn't understand a thing, but you don't have to be Einstein to understand that it didn't bode well. Of course, as a sailor I decided to take a look and so I took the plunge. I noticed at that moment that a bouquet of plastic flower was stuck in the boat's thruster. You know, the fan-like thing that's directly connected to the engine. I recognized this plastic bouquet. I threw it on the beach when I decided to buy some real flowers for Lindsay.

Shit! I think I blundered and as if that wasn't enough the sea was starting to churn. Lindsay was beginning to panic. Of course, since she wasn't a mariner or a fisher, that was totally understandable. Then without me realizing it, Lindsay had fallen into the water. The little boat could not move forward, the water was very cold, we were far from shore and swimming there was unthinkable and the worst part was, it was dark. Where was my head then?

So I rushed to my wife who in a state like hers really couldn't swim for long. The waves were getting more and more violent. It looked like the sea was angry. Lindsay was having difficulty breathing and I was calming her. The more she struggled, the harder it was for us to get back to the boat, which due to the waves was gradually moving away until it was out of reach. It looked like Jack and Rose in version 2.0 of Titanic.

"Honey, I can't take it anymore. I can't swim properly anymore and I can't feel my fingers and feet anymore." She told me then that she could not swim anymore. It was the most horrible sight of my life.



Desperate, I started to scream, but there was no one who could hear me. I was way too far from the coast for that. I realized then that I couldn't hear Lindsay swimming anymore. Yes, she was drowning and in a last ditch effort she tried to tell me something, but she couldn't. I saw my wife drowning in front of me and whatever I might say, I was helpless in the face of it and besides it was my fault. Shocked, I then lost consciousness and woke up in an emergency room hospital. Lindsay was there too, but unconscious. In fact, she was dead. The cold killed her. In fact, some fishermen saw the boat in the distance with no one on board and thought that was strange so they decided to check the surroundings and that's when they saw us.

"Why did I survive and not her? It should have been me... Shit!" I could have lived a peaceful life with my wife and two children but no, it had to be that way. All because of a bouquet of plastic flowers that I myself threw on the ground.

Nansi Kono Yvan Junior,  
21 years,  
Cameroon

It could be you or the neighbor, friends or family. Let us learn not to throw anything on the ground because to throw on the ground is to throw into the sea. Above all, I think A PLASTIC-FREE OCEAN IS MUCH BETTER. Without that bouquet of plastic flowers in the sea that night, my wife and children would still be alive and I would have been happy and not as sad as I am now. It's not the most pleasant thing that has happened to me, but the reason I am writing this story today is so that accidents like this will never happen again. It could have been a bunch of plastic wrap, or hair extensions (synthetic strands) from treat wrappers. That does not matter!

Today, to honor the memory of my dead, I am an oceans volunteer and I fight against pollution with plastic in particular, and for the protection of lands and seas. I'm not asking you to necessarily do like me. Just throw your garbage in the trash can or recycle it. It could save entire lives.



## A SCENT OF APOCALYPSE

- I am weary ... Cloudy water may not be our death. O Tethys what can we do in the face of this evil that annoys us?
- Ocean, our helplessness is immense. Which are those cruel Nepheles who rule these clouds of poison, those unwanted wrecks of stray objects? O my brother, my husband, don't you smell this scent of apocalypse? What becomes of our batoids, our belugas and our blue whales?
- I don't know how to articulate it. They fade away, fade and fade ...

Naughty manners  
Unhealthy this land  
In the distance, the floating relief,  
Moldable by the current,  
Is an unwanted wreck  
Stray objects  
The depths of the asphyxiated azure tremble  
Under the plasticized profiteers  
Polymers replacing scales  
Make the sea moan,  
Garbage is venal

Lila Bel Mamoune,  
18 years,  
Belgium

*translated from French*

## THE WORLD'S OCEAN AND PLASTIC DEBRIS



**"Our ocean our pride, our ocean our heritage, our ocean our dignity our gift from nature"**



## THE WORLD'S OCEAN AND PLASTIC DEBRIS

Preamble:

"Water, water, water everywhere  
Yes from nature it was full and free  
Water was not meant for a dumping ground  
but to sustain life  
Industrial development and human production  
The indiscriminate disposal of plastic waste on land,  
sewages and bays  
Have rendered the oceans unusable"

Excerpt from The 3 Bs of Life by Asuquo, Francis (2018)

Every home, office and eatery have countless products made of plastics. The production of plastics is ever increasing with developed nations like United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia and China taking the lead in producing millions tons of plastics (like China at 1.32 to 3.52 mio. tons, USA with 30 mio. tons, Nigeria with 2.5 mio. tons) annually. At present, primary, secondary, micro-plastics congest our ocean, the latter serving as 'deadly meal, food' for marine life.



### Plastics in Nigerian ocean environment

In Nigeria, West Africa, a recent study revealed the abundance of plastic along the Atlantic Ocean coastline of Ibeno, Akwa Ibom State, southern Nigeria. This has resulted in polluting the water, beach as well as the environment of the ocean thereby making it inconvenient for recreational and tourism activities on the beach with decline in internal generated revenue for the local community and council. Plastics on Ibeno Beach, Nigeria (Courtesy of MACORN, 2018)

National Reference to Atlantic Ocean coastline of Ibeno, Akwa Ibom State

Location: Nigeria, 9.08200 N, 8.67530 E

State: Akwa Ibom State 4.93000 N, 7.87220 E

G.P.S. Coordinates of Ibeno Ocean 4.54210N, 8.00870E

### Nature of Plastics and Source:

Plastic products are indestructible and non-biodegradable. It appears there's no natural process that can breakdown plastic products because they are man-made and are unknown to nature. They enter the oceans through discharge from ships, recreational fishing, industrial discharge of plastic waste, tourism activities, coastal market disposals, and direct dumping by organized waste disposal groups. Most plastic enters the ocean through rivers from land-based sources.

### Threat and Dangers from plastics

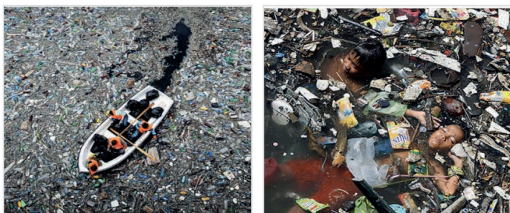
The silent ocean is shedding mermaid tears as plastic poison has undeniably been instilled by us. Plastics debris and waste in our oceans are disastrous for marine animals, marine birds and humans. Plastics are often ingested by marine fish and cause entanglement for marine mammals. When plastics ingestion occurs, it blocks the digestive tract, gets lodged in animals windpipes cutting airflow causing suffocation, resulting in malnutrition, starvation and potentially death.





### Entanglement of marine mammals by plastic rubber

Plastic in the ocean is a major obstacle for transportation, delivery of goods, and recreational activities such as swimming. This has become a problem for students and researchers in the marine disciplines during investigation and sampling as a result of high buoyancy of plastics discharged into the ocean.



### Plastics hindering marine transportation and swimming activities constituting human health impacts:

The contaminants that plastic adsorbs include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT). DDT and PCBs are persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that accumulate and pass from one species of organism to next along the food chain. Studies reveal that POPs have health effects on humans such as adverse neurologic, reproductive and immunologic effects because of microplastics and nurdles easily ingested by species. This affects humans during consumption of species contaminated by POPs.

Excerpts of the team submission from Institute of Oceanography Students, University of Calabar, Nigeria

Akpan, Precious Etuk  
22 years

Ayi, Ekpenyong Emmanuel  
22 years

Okon, Akanekong Edem  
24 years

Martins, Mfon Okon  
21 years

### Measures to Control and Eradicate Plastic Debris:

Formation of Clean Ocean Youth Watch Organization (COYWO)

With the present state of the ocean and its coastlines, creation of COYWO is inevitable to serve as a watch dog in every coastal community worldwide. Initiation of clean beach programmes such as weekly mopping up of plastics along beaches could be a reasonable exercise.

### Public Enlightenment

The use of social, electronic and print media is a veritable means of information dissemination. An impactful vehicle for creating awareness is the use of Jingles and drama in kindergartens and pre-primary schools to inculcate in children the dangers of indiscriminate disposal of plastic and authentic ways of plastic disposal. Initiation of clean beach programmes could also be useful exercises.

### Recycling and Zero Waste concepts:

A promising way towards a future of a plastic free ocean is recycling. Recycling is definitely a potentially great path to solving this issue. Reducing plastic use and reuse, wherever possible, are necessary steps towards prevention and zero waste.

### Enforcement of Laws and Order:

Enforcement of the conservation of the world's ocean through international legislation, such as The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). Likewise more countries and regional groupings pass laws and regulations about harmful abandoned fishing nets and foremost land-based

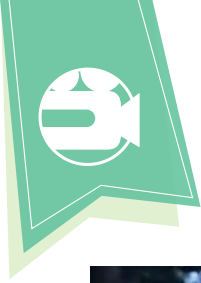
sources of plastic pollution that need strong enforcement measures to become more effective. Also re-enforcement of 1988 Annex V of MARPOL law with the intention of banning the dumping of plastic materials and garbage from ships.

### Life Scenario

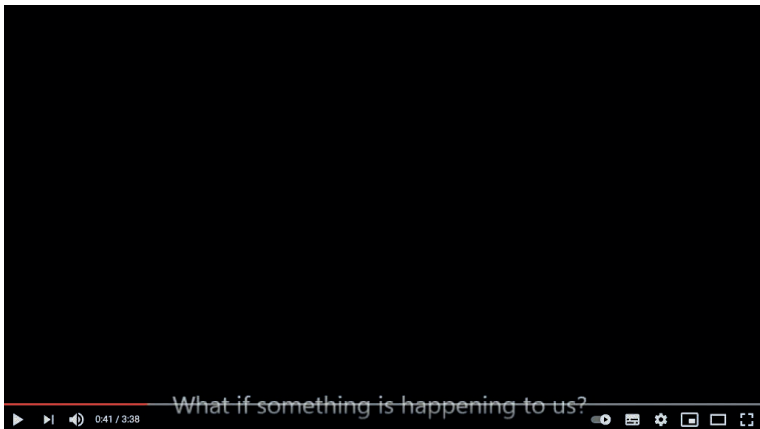
Living near a coastal environment, precisely Qua Ibeo River, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. My grandfather protected and preserved the river behind his house, he made routine of cleaning that very area each day because of a saying "cleanliness is next to Godliness". From that, he views the water body as his source of natural food, as he sails with his canoe every weekend for fishing. People go there for visit. Each time they come home, that place has served as a tourist site because of the recreational activities at the river, and the bank.

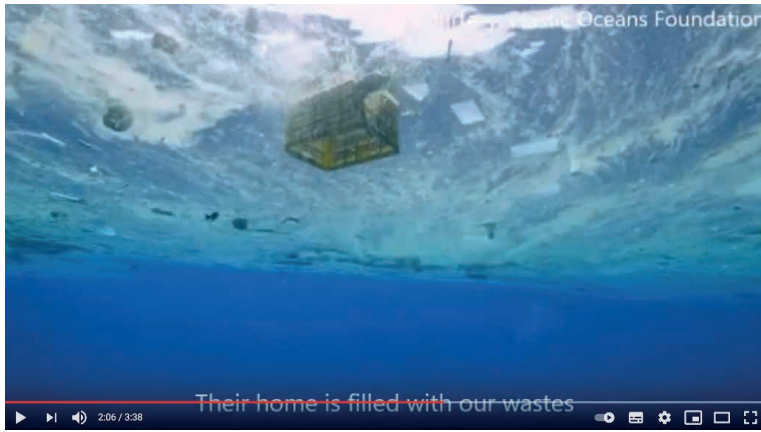
A day came when my grandpa went out, a tourist came there for sight-seeing; having heard lots about the site. He relaxed, toured round and threw the packs, and plastic bottle at the shore. Not quite long thereafter, granny came back and inquired of the dirt and acted very fast to remove the plastic from the river and informed the visitor of the effect of plastics to aquatic organisms and polluting the water itself, and he showed him a notice that was written in bold "DO NOT DROP ANYTHING NEAR THE SHORE OR INSIDE THE RIVER".

From this story, right from the time of our forefathers, they made their little efforts to keeping the coastal environment clean starting from their streams and rivers because the knew that our ocean is our heritage.



WHAT IF





Zahrah Izzaturrahim,  
22 years,  
Indonesia

A red ribbon-shaped graphic containing the text "WORLD OCEAN DAY 2019" in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The text is arranged vertically, with "WORLD" at the top, "OCEAN" in the middle, "DAY" at the bottom, and "2019" to the right of "DAY".

WORLD  
OCEAN  
DAY 2019

This year's focus is on **putting a female face to thinking the ocean.** How can you think the Ocean in the light of a woman's life, work and happiness?

Be inspired by your daily life, the memories of your family, the traditions of your community, your research on nature and culture, your knowledge of history, and your imagination for the future world. Submit your unique view and idea!

*Here is the Mundus maris Awards challenge for this year: tell a story as text, photo, picture, drawing or combination of text and illustration.*



# WOMAN AND OCEAN



## THE BRAVE WIDOW

Omisooore village is an small settlement with a large body of water that serves a lot of purposes e.g. as source of food, income and entertainment ground etc. This is why the village was named Omisooore (water does good). There lived a poor widow in the village named Omisewa. Her husband died years back of drowning while carrying out his daily business of fishing and she was left with two children.

Omisewa is a beautiful woman who is also a skilled fisher along her late husband. Dayo and Kemisola, Omisewa's children help her in her fishing business. The family solely depends on the water body for a living, as a source of income. She inherited her passion for fishing from her late parents and husband. She catches fish and brings them home for smoking while her two children hawk the processed fish after school.

One day, she went to the water to catch fish but the thought of money and her ambition to sponsor her children's education took grip of her heart. She said in her thought, „do I accept the offer of Mr. Arowolo to be his 4th wife? At least he promised to take care of my children's education“. But she screamed out, „No!!! I will remain diligent in my work and hope for God's blessing“. At the end of the day, she caught a huge fish with the help of a woman unknown to her.

The woman warned Omisewa not to sell the fish but wait for the wonder of the fish. She thought about this and then decided to keep the fish in her house waiting for the wonder.

The next day, she was tired waiting as the dead fish was starting to rot. She tried to cut the fish with a knife, but it was as strong as a rock. Then she tried opening the fish through the mouth and the wonder was revealed to her. She found a huge sum of money in the fish's mouth. Omisewa then perceived that the woman she met was not a natural being. This marked the beginning of the poor widow's family rise as her business continued to flourish.

Five years later, Dayo the eldest child, got admission into the university to study marine science. There he learnt about the Baduka fishing festival. During the festival, skilled fishers engage in a fishing contest. Dayo remembered what happened to his family five years ago. Without much hesitation, he registered his mother for the competition.

To cut the long story short, Mrs Omisewa won the contest. Being the first female winner, she was asked to make a request after the prize money was awarded to her. She quickly requested for funding of her children's education. The organisers miraculously granted scholarships for the two children up to doctorate degree level.

Mrs Omisewa from her life story became a mentor to so many mothers. Her greatest quote is that „Odo to ba gbagbe orisun re yoo gbe“ which means, a river that forgets its source will dry up. This is why she still practises fishing till date.

Popoola Kemisola Elizabeth  
14 years  
Nigeria

### **What a brave woman!**

## WOMEN AND OCEAN



OH! How beautiful the ocean is  
Just like the elegance of a woman  
OH! The Ocean is like a great flower  
That represents the dignity of a woman.

Have you ever heard the voice of the ocean  
It is as sonorous as that of women  
Pleasing to the ears of a human  
A melody to the heart of men.

A look at how women care for their offspring  
Tell me of how the ocean care for its creatures  
A habitat for creatures with gills  
A womb for wonderful offspring.

Boredom never exists with the ocean  
Just as how women bring fun to our hearts  
With the smile she implant on our faces  
With the smile the ocean brings to me.

Tell me of all your problems  
And I'll take you to the ocean  
Release your thoughts to a woman  
And she will solve them to the care!

Abiodun Victor,  
17 years,  
Nigeria



## INSPIRING WOMEN OF THE OCEAN

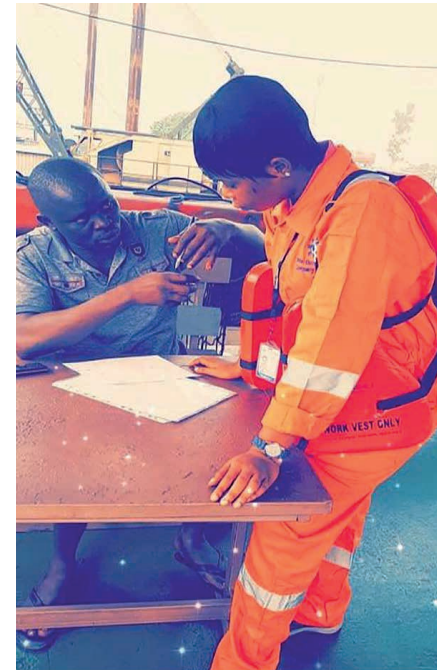
Women play a crucial role in marine environments and fisheries economies specifically in the small-scale and artisanal fisheries sector, though their contribution is still invisible and unacknowledged. A good example, where women have been undermined, is in the aspect of women being seafarers onboard a vessel.



Photo: Modupi Lasisa a Student of MAN ORON

The maritime industry is dominated by men, with only a small portion (2%) of the marine workforce being women. A majority of women who do work in the industry tend to do so in the cruise and ferries sector – primarily taking on service roles, such as hotel staff, catering, kitchen duties, cleaning etc. Within the maritime industry, there is a long history of gender stereotypes and setbacks for women to overcome before they can be seen as equal to their male counterparts. Aside from the general challenges faced by anyone working out at sea, including fatigue, harsh weather, difficult working conditions and long hours, women are also faced with the challenge of sexual harassment and discrimination, ongoing doubt over their capabilities, poor pay and limited opportunities for job growth and promotion.

While seafaring is diverse in terms of race, class and ethnicity, the diversity of seafarers across the world has still to take on a noticeable mixture of men and women. Many females hold back from entering the industry due to a lack of industry information regarding career options for women. There seems to be a general absence of training opportunities, workshops and seminars to provide women with a springboard to exchange ideas and views about the maritime sector. In addition, it is widely accepted that it is a male dominated industry, and so fewer women consider this as a career option.



Some women also have reservations about working in the industry due to perceptions that they are entering a man's world and will be subjected to harassment or discrimination by co-workers. With this idea also comes the opinion that women cannot advance in their field due to performance pressures or constant comparison with male colleagues. This is compounded by the fact that many companies are unwilling to hire women seafarers (unless in a service role).

Efetobor Jude  
24 years  
Nigeria



Finding a work and life balance as a seafarer can be a challenging task for many. Spending long periods at sea, away from family, friends and children are commonly seen as obstacles preventing women from embarking on shipping careers.

Social pressure and traditional social responsibility prevent women from pursuing a career as a seafarer – instead forcing them to select land-based jobs, so they can look after their children. There is also a lack of job security, as many private shipping companies only provide contractual employment, with poor or no leave conditions and retirement benefits.

Over the last few decades, advances have been made in improving the participation of women in the maritime sector. While conditions have somewhat improved, equal opportunities still have a long way to go before the gender gap is alleviated completely. The long history of men predominantly being at sea has undoubtedly created significant barriers to women entering the seafaring industry. There are many ways, we as a society, can help enhance the recruitment and retention of women in the maritime industry, as well as break down any stigmas associated with it.

An overhaul to the sector will come only from a unified effort that involves promotion by industry and government bodies, enhanced training opportunities, and efforts by the shipping industry to demonstrate

the value that gender diversity brings to worker performance. In addition, more women need to speak up about their experiences in the marine workforce, and discuss the perceptions (and misconceptions) associated with sailing. Strong female role models can help shift the maritime industry and make it a more viable career option for women.

According to a 2008 address by Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the IMO: “Female seafarers are an under-utilized, underdeveloped but valuable resource that could provide part of the solution to the increasing problem of finding sufficient, adequately trained personnel to manage and operate the world’s growing and sophisticated merchant fleet.” Ultimately, women need to be enticed into working in the industry. This needs to be supported by educational institutions that should provide female students with a stronger network to access maritime training and activities, mentoring programs and career opportunities.

Some good examples of institutions in Nigeria offering young women opportunities into been trained in the maritime sector include, the Maritime Academy of Nigeria (MAN ORON), the Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology (Oceanography) and the School of Marine Technology Burutu (DESOMATECH), which trains cadets in nautical and marine engineering courses. For generations, women were traditionally seen as home makers who

looked after the kids while their husbands were the breadwinners. This is no longer the case, as mothers seek careers of their own, firstly because they want to, and secondly, because, these days, families need two incomes due to the rising cost of living.

Below is a picture of female student from the Maritime Academy of Nigeria who against all odds has proven women are part of the ocean by taking up career as a seafarer onboard a vessel.



In order for the profession to be transformed, a greater work/life balance needs to be achieved and promoted. Women need to feel empowered, and to be encouraged and supported to work in the maritime sector. All this needs to happen alongside a changing human perception that seafaring is an industry that the women are part of; society needs to encourage and support more women working in the maritime industry.



## THE OCEAN FAMILY



Grandma, grandma, you promised to tell me the story of your life and how you became an ocean scientist, said little Daniel. I smiled at this little boy's enthusiasm. 80 year old Lydia calmed her grandson and started narrating her story.

It all began on a Friday morning, when my mother went to the ocean to start her daily activity as a fisher, she was heavily pregnant with me and then suddenly she felt a sharp pain in her back and my water broke, before everyone knew it, I was already out of her womb and then her fellow fishers sent for the midwife but I had already being born before her arrival, so when the midwife got to the ocean, she was taken to the canoe in which I was born and she cleaned my mother and I up. On reaching home, when my father saw my mother with a baby, tears of joy rolled down his cheeks. I looked so much like my mother, my eyes were as blue as the sky, my hair as shiny as gold.

As I grew up, I accompanied my mother to the ocean daily because I wasn't matured enough to start schooling. I learnt some basic principles about fishing. As usual, I went to the ocean with my mom but that day was a special one because I met my first friend Fiona; we were of the same age group. She was a foreigner but despite our differences we had a lot in common. Being the only child of my parents, I was so happy to have found my own friend.

On a sunny afternoon, I was just coming from Fiona's place. When I saw my parents packing our things, I didn't understand what was going on and when they saw the look on my face, my father told me he received a transfer letter and that we were moving the next day. I ran upstairs to my room, tears rolled down my cheeks, I buried my head in my pillow and different thoughts ran through my mind. I wasn't going to see Fiona again, I wasn't going to enjoy the serenity of the ocean, I was never going to fish again and before I knew it I drifted off to sleep on my bed and by the time I woke up the next day, we had arrived at our new place.

Fortunately for me, because my father worked with a government agency responsible for conservation of natural resources, this time around my father was taken to work in the aspect of forest and the government provided accommodation. The house we were given wasn't too far from the ocean. My parents gave the chance to choose my own room, so I picked the one from where I could enjoy the ocean view.

After settling down, my mother continued her fishing business and I accompanied her as usual. My daily presence at the ocean gave me so much joy that when it was time for me to start schooling, I didn't want to because I felt my happiness was connected to the ocean, but I had no other option than to start school.

One fateful afternoon, our school organised a symposium to create awareness about the effects of a

polluted ocean on the aquatic ecosystem. One of the experts who came to lecture us was an oceanographer. Immediately he said he was an oceanographer I puzzled in my brain to get a possible meaning to such a big word; and then I summoned up courage and asked the man what it means to be an oceanographer. Then he said to me that oceanography is the scientific study of the ocean. From that day, I made my decision that when I grow up I'll become an oceanographer too.

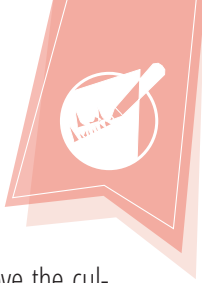
I waited eagerly for the school to close that day, I rushed home happily, singing my favourite song, people were looking at me because of my obvious excitement but I didn't mind them. Immediately I got home, I ran to my mother to inform her of what I learnt in school and the decision I made. My parents approved of my decision and supported me greatly because they knew I love anything pertaining to the ocean.

When it was time for me to get into the university, I burned midnight candles just to secure my admission to study my dream course (oceanography) and with the help of God and the support of my parents I eventually gained admission. It was during my second year in school I met my husband who happens to be your grandfather.

Grandma, now I understand why you are so passionate about the ocean because it centres around your life and happiness. Of course Daniel, that is why I love to stare at the ocean and also to prevent polluting the ocean because I know its effect on the ecosystem.

Alogba Oluwajomiloju  
Francisca  
14 years  
Nigeria

## WOMEN, THE FORGOTTEN OCEAN ENTREPRENEURS



The topic of the essay “Women and Ocean” is quite intriguing and exciting, we can relate to it because of our experiences from childhood days. Let’s share with you one of such experiences:

“I was raised in a community whose norms and values for women was to get married, have children and take care of their family and home. Thus any career path a woman chose was complementary for her to fulfill these obligations. Hence when I chose to study marine geology in school, my close relatives strongly objected even pressuring my parents to stop me from my course of study. When classes began, we were just two females, the rest of the class of 15 were males. I was determined not to allow pressure to conform to traditional gender roles affect me emotionally and mentally, so I put in my best in my studies. During my undergraduate training, I was involved in research projects onboard a small research vessel called Plankton Fisher, a German research vessel donated through the Germany-Nigerian Bilateral Cooperation to the Institute of Oceanography, University of Calabar. At the end of my four-year course of studies, I graduated as the overall best student in my class.” - Joan.

Her story is not an isolated one. Over the years women have suffered biases especially when it comes to professions linked to the ocean, be it in marine conservation, participation in ocean governance, industrial and small-scale fisheries or aboard ships and vessels. Sailing, surfing and maritime navigation have been perceived as “masculine jobs”.



A woman ship captain with other female oceanographers onboard a research vessel.

We envision a time when we will have more female ship captains and women onboard vessels/ research ships; we will have more women than men (Figure 1). Women will be actively involved in public decisions about the ocean. In the fishing sector the role of women will be appreciated and recognized. Rather than being the „invisible“ workforce they will number among the “paid labour” and allowed to take on greater responsibilities. Gone will be the days when women will be ignored, abused or relegated to the background as insignificant. They will have equal opportunities as the men folk.

Moving forward, there is need to remove the cultural barrier of a male-dominated ocean world for women to partake in governance of the oceans for the sake of achieving sustainability. Sustainable developments need leaders that devote a full time (100%) and women have a greater sense of commitment and a greater ability to multitask; hence their taking up leadership roles within this field can achieve long-term prosperity. More and more women need to be educated in sea faring experience and training on safety and security sectors such as navies, coast guards and maritime authorities.

Lukeson, Joanna, Mike, Toby, Victoria, David & Essien, Helen (intergenerational team)  
University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria



## A WOMEN AND THE OCEAN

When I was little, I watched as she tossed her fishing net into the ocean with all of her strength. Barefooted, mama would walk in the sand, her hair braided she would wear a smile.

She was as attractive as a goddess. She was an idol that never was worshipped enough, the mini god that never rested. She embraced the ocean just like every other woman; she took the pains and gains but concealed them whenever she saw my face. Sometimes the ocean could betray a woman by not bringing enough fish yet, she goes back because we needed to survive. While some days, we smile, laugh and feel excited because we have more than enough. By the ocean, mama stood to say to me...

When I die, pour the ocean sand over my face that way the ocean would be my face and the very place I longed to be: Home!!!



A woman!  
Beautiful among all creations  
She is like the calm waters and the stormy seas  
Her power is like the strong waves of the ocean  
A deep sea heart  
Powerful beyond words that man can say  
Formed from the finest bones  
As strong as the rib pulled from the side of man  
Made with the power of her own  
A strength from within, hidden from sight of man  
Mother of all creatures  
The mother nature  
The mother of all nations  
She is like the depth of the ocean  
The width of life  
The first to greet the sun  
The heartbeat of the earth  
She flows in the delight of power and never does she hide her depths  
She is a power in motion, cut across the history of life  
She is sweet, soft and swift  
Wealth of life can be fetched from between her lips  
Her hips wriggle to the whispering songs of the winds, which is to the nerve of man a lotion  
Her existence is the essence of our world  
Indeed the image of our God

She has nothing to earn, yet her love she never refuses to lend  
She is as calm as the ocean in its tides, as fine as the sands and as pure as the ocean's cool breeze along the sea shore  
No matter how the world goes from her, they would always come back to draw peace from her  
For her body is like the ocean always full of life  
She is the ocean  
I am the ocean.







I am a woman!  
I am beautiful, I am smart, I am pure, I am caring,  
yet so ambitious.  
I am not tired of fighting because I am strong-  
willed.

In me are nations... varieties.  
Sometimes there are wars, sometimes unity,  
sometimes confusion, sometimes certainties.  
Despite the different waves of emotions,  
I find my way through it all.  
I stand firm, I stand strong regardless.  
See! Look at me! Adorned with such beauty, such  
wealth, such regalia...  
I have always been so caring, peaceful, and have  
good ambience.  
But! I don't like what I have been through!  
I have been bruised, mocked, scorned, disappoint-  
ed, and I am even failing to provide the adequate  
services to humanity.  
I don't like what I have been through!  
For tons and tons of plastic are being thrown at me  
each year.  
With pollution on every side from human activities.  
I don't like what I am going through!  
With incessant fishing, they use destructive equip-  
ment that waste living creatures that I protect,  
they damage my coral reef despite the fact that I  
provide the resources they need.  
I don't like what I am going through!  
I am troubled on every side, yet not distressed,  
perplexed but not in despair, cast down but still, I  
remain indestructible.

I have been, and still I am going through all these  
turbulence, depression, disturbances and pressu-  
res... you name it, yet nothing changes me.  
I am blessed with all the treasures of the earth;  
adorned with such beauty, such wealth, such  
regalia... can you recall?  
It doesn't matter how you see me, no! it doesn't  
matter at all, because I remain unchanging. I will  
always be me. I will always be around till the end.  
Beat against me, throw things at me, and pounce  
on me. Whatever you do, I will still be standing!  
Because I have been built, fashioned and carefully  
crafted for tough times such as this!  
I am a woman! I am the ocean! And I remain  
unchanging despite all odds.  
These are my cogitations.

Afolabi Adetoun Adebunmi (Teacher), 38 years  
Adeyemi Adesumbo Elizabeth (Student), 22 years  
Tinuoye Oluwafunsho Olawale (Student), 24 years  
Abiodun Kikelomo Omolola (Student), 25 years  
Onuh Chidinma Sophea (Student), 25 years  
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## WOMEN AND OCEAN

Some of the human activities causing water pollution are uncontrolled construction sites, leaking sewer lines, accidental spills and leaks, improper discharge of human waste, mining activities, animal wastes and dumping trash, such as plastics and polyethylene bags into the water. Oil from ships, floods and run-off also makes water dirty. Much of that ends up in the ocean.

Excessive use of fertilizers is another cause of water pollution. Our rivers, lakes, seas and ocean are drowning in chemical waste, plastics and other pollutants. Our lives are in danger, especially women. Dirty water and poor sanitation are the roots of problems causing deaths due to complications during pregnancy and child birth. There is nothing more essential than clean water. For women the crisis is personal. They are responsible for finding resources that their families need to survive, for drinking, cooking, sanitation and hygiene.

They may stand in line and wait for water, they may walk long distances in search of water or pay large amounts of money to secure water. In their effort to get water for their families, they often face problems like certain death without water, possible death due to illness from dirty water. Water collection and finding a safe place to go are major activities affecting women.

They are left with little or no time for work, school or the care for their families. Without water at home, women can not live up to their full potential. Access to safe water is critical for the health of women and their babies during pregnancy and after.

Walking to collect water and carrying heavy water vessels can be dangerous for a pregnant women. Further, the consumption of unsafe water can be harmful to the health of both mother and her baby. Women bear the responsibility for water collection.

**Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for Sustainable development.**

**14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from Land based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.**

**14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.**

**14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels...**

**UN, Agenda 2030**

Sometimes I find myself thinking of people in my country and others who suffer from water pollution problems every day. I keep asking myself what can be done to solve the problem and finally I got some solutions to this problem. Here are some of the things we should do or avoid to stop making our water dirty.

We should not dump in or around rivers, we should clean up rivers that have a lot of trash in and around them, we should also follow all water laws and regulations given by the municipality, clean and maintain septic systems appropriately.

The government should make sure that water supplies are well treated, they should maintain and clean the sewer lines regularly. Chemicals and pesticides should be disposed appropriately. Cooking fats and oils should not be poured down the sink. It is our duty to set up a composting pile and never to throw garbage helter-skelterly.

Awino Lavander,  
11 years,  
Kenya

Factories, construction sites and agricultural sites should use safe run-off practices. We should avoid using bleaches when washing dishes and laundry. If at all possible, we must clean up our compounds regularly and encourage others to do the same.

The government should set up a place to educate the community about water safety and how to stop water pollution.

We should build toilets or latrines in our homes to avoid human wastes running off into the water. We should practice recycling to avoid plastics being dumped into the river. We should keep our environment clean to stop water pollution.

I hope by doing the above, our lives will change for the better. Our women will not suffer anymore because of water pollution. Let's join hands with our government to fight this calamity.

A green, ribbon-like banner with the text "WORLD OCEAN DAY 2020" in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The banner is slightly tilted and has a white outline.

WORLD  
OCEAN  
DAY 2020

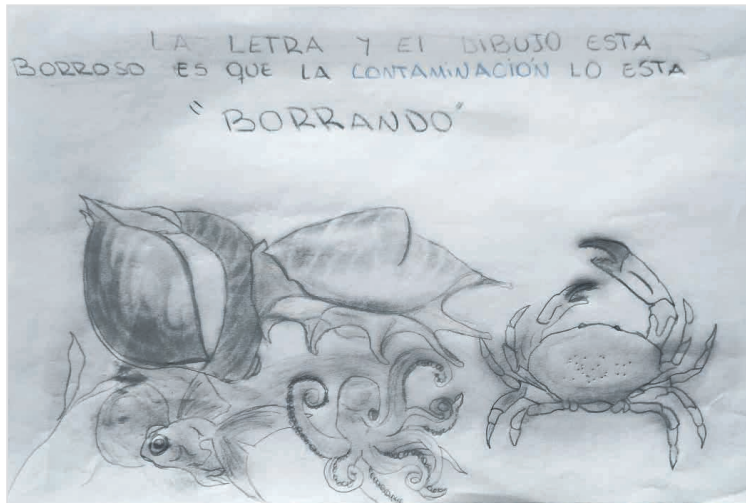
We celebrate World Ocean Day together again, the marine world, its harmony and its beauty. We are in awe discovering its wonders and secrets. And we are also committed about taking care of it and protecting it from threats such as pollution and mistreatment of its living beings. The World Ocean Day theme for 2020 is 'Innovation for a sustainable ocean'.

Stories, drawings, collages and other visual production are welcome, preferably by school classes, though individual submissions are also admitted.

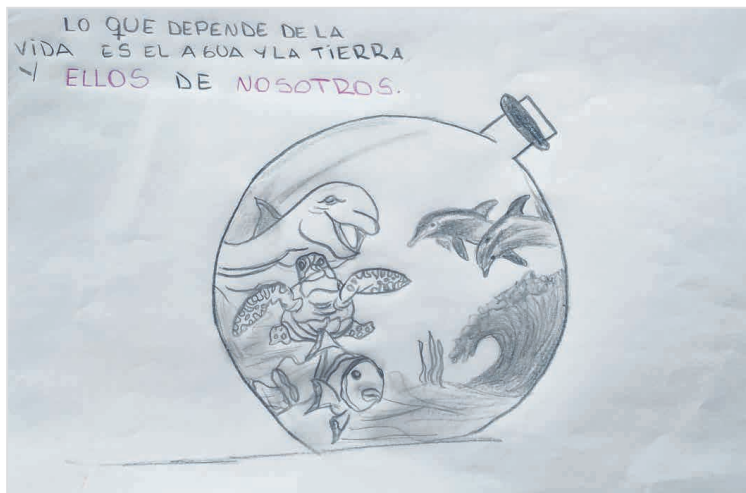


iNNOVATION  
FOR A  
SUSTAINABLE  
OCEAN

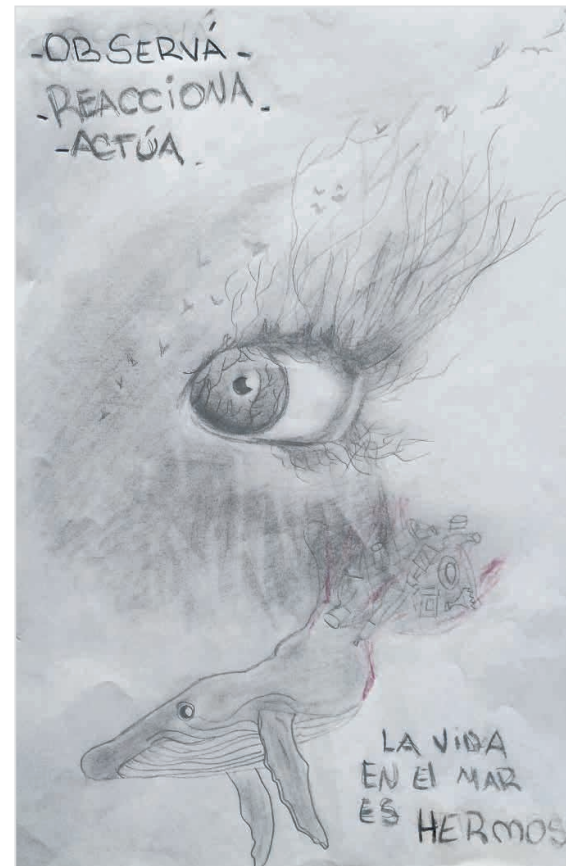




The handwriting and the drawing are blurred. It is because the contamination is ,erasing' them.



What depends on life is water and land and they on us.



González Stephanie Noemi  
23 years  
Argentina

Observe, react, act -  
Life in the sea is beautiful.



## THE TIDE OF OCEAN...

Ocean is a tide of waves,  
That flows through the waters of the earth...  
We are all born into it,  
We are carried by it...  
And because we are carried in it,  
It happens to take us places we dreamt never off.  
We never know why we are born for this tide,  
All we see is our lives carried by it...  
We are constantly washed away, dashed away,  
Unto hard rock, and unto soft sand...  
We are made to laugh and cry, by this tide!  
Sometimes it dashes us under itself,  
and into its waters,  
And cruelly and forcefully dumps us on its shores,  
Hopeless, helpless and finished...  
But I see a man firmly on the centre of the waters,  
He is unshaken, as the waves dash through him...  
I see him crying; as his tears form more waters.  
I see his hands outstretched in pity!  
I see his hands could encompass everyone, and  
everything,  
And even the waters, and even the tides...  
He seems so much at peace with himself,  
And the tide, and the waves, and the waters...  
He sees many lives, tumbling through the tides,  
At war with themselves,

Solomon Adelowo,  
24 years,  
Nigeria

And in battle with the ocean, the tides and  
the waves...  
He sees some at war, with other tumbling lives,  
dwelling in the waters,  
All pushed by the waves...  
Those who stumble unto him and hold his  
hands firmly,  
He protects from the tide, the waves and the  
ocean...  
They suddenly find peace, never felt, or known,  
or imagined...  
This is because he tides them over.  
I also see, he doesn't remove the tide entirely,  
He just turns the tide to their favor...  
I wondered who he was, as I tumbled through  
the tide of Ocean!  
And something told me, he was an  
Ocean Sustainability Enthusiast!  
That he changes lives, in wobbling tides,  
And that he could change mine!  
I believed...  
And I believed!  
Ocean is a tide of waves...

## THE BEAUTY OF AQUATIC LIFE..

The beauty of Aquatic life,  
Does not depend on how fulfilled an individual  
fisherman is,  
But on how fulfilled others can become,  
Because of you...

The beauty of Aquatic life,  
Does not depend on how much you catch,  
But on how much what you own,  
Touch other Ocean lives...

The beauty of Aquatic life,  
Depends not on how majestic your fishing gear is,  
But on how much your fishing gear makes the lives  
of small aquatic lives count...

The beauty of Aquatic life,  
Depends not on how beautiful the fish killed are,  
But how much you make our Ocean world a beau-  
tiful and better place...

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL WITH OCEAN...

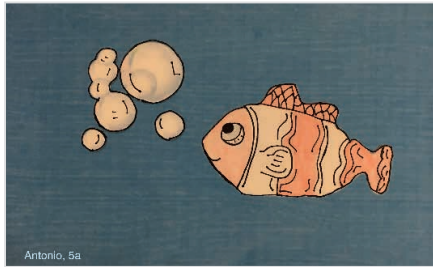




# GERMAN SCHOOL BARCELONA



Alex P.



Antonio



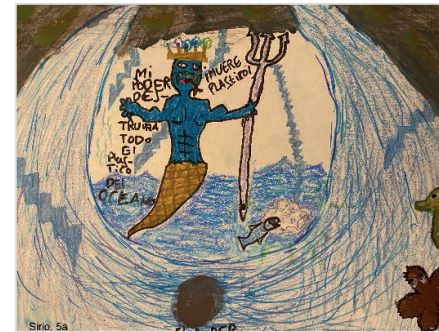
Nerea



Elena



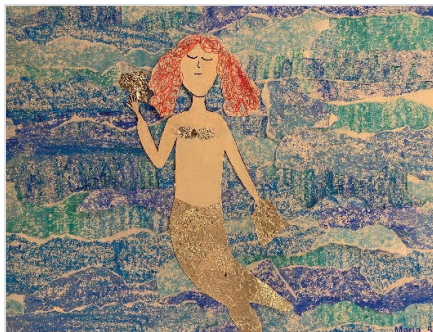
Ingrid



Sirio



Laura



Maria



Victor



Irene



Irene, 5a

Julia



Julia, 5a

Mateo



MATEO, 5E



HANNAH, 5D

Hannah



Leonardo  
5a

Leonardo



OLIVIA, 5D

Olivia





# GERMAN SCHOOL BARCELONA



Victoria



Zoe



Aaron



Ariadna



Diana



Alina



Maya



## GEDICHTE

### Another World

A world beyond the surface,  
Far away from the life you know.  
Full of diversity, life and hope,  
But hidden for the most.

Dive deep into the unknown,  
To find a world that you don't own.  
A world of colour, a world of peace,  
Of love and distant memories.

We must preserve this world of our mother.  
This place of hope and dignity.  
So, we can enjoy our lives and each other  
And don't end up in misery.

### Humanity

Look down in the dark and tell me what you see.  
Is it something beautiful and kind  
without any human mind?  
Or is it something strange and scary?  
Known as the mirror of your identity.  
It is a shadow of humanity, hidden under  
the surface of the sea.

Even in the darkest and deepest places  
you can find,  
the ghost of what was and still is.  
A piece of garbage, a sack of trash.  
Memories of life and death,  
lost and forgotten but far from gone.  
Always hoping that someone will come  
to save us from the end.  
But our home has degenerated  
to the garbage dump of our life  
and it will stab us with a knife.

### The beloved decay

The Ocean. A force unbroken and powerful.  
Strong and yet so fragile.  
Because nothing in the world is untouched  
by the hand of perdition and  
everything it touches must die.  
Ignorance of thought is the source of destruction.  
The eyes closed, but the wallet wide open,  
we wait and hope for a „happy ending“.  
That the sea forgives us and  
does not completely devour us.  
But our home has degenerated into  
the garbage dump of our lives.  
We took the chance of a good life ourselves.

Mia Cecilia Großmann,  
18 years,  
Germany





### My Thoughts

For me as a person even though I am registered as a Student in the Department of Marine Science the beach invokes in me a sense of fear and mystery that attracts people like me and make them cautious of the dangers of the Ocean. The Sea is large and filled with organisms like animals, plants and so on that are beyond our comprehension. I can say this due to my experience on a field trip to Tarkwa Bay on the Lagos Lagoon along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, part of the Central Eastern Atlantic. The Nigerian coastline is estimated at 853 kilometer in length (en. [wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Nigeria)).

The coastal environment of Southwest Nigeria is characterized by several features such as Sandy shoreline, a Continental Bay on the Eastern axis and a Peninsular on the Western axis, wetland, lagoon, creek and creeklets. The ecosystem therefore provides numerous habitats for a variety of biota (living plant and animal). For example the sandy shore provides suitable habitat for insects that burrow

into it and some specific plant termed the “Sand binder” that with time stabilizes the sand and make it better for other plants to find a place to grow and thrive. The wetlands are of two types: The Freshwater forest type hosting organisms that cannot tolerate saltwater and the other is the mangrove forest type inhabited by biota requiring some salinity. From our study in my Marine Science Class, the marine environment provides about three hundred times more inhabitable space for living organisms than what is provided by the Land and Fresh water. The different organisms that live and drift in the thin surface layer existing at the air-water interface of a body of water are called neuston. They include the jellyfish Portuguese Man of War, but also (invasive) water lattuce, duck weed, water hyacinth and lots of microorganisms.



## THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM – THE OCEAN

Planktons are mostly tiny organisms that are unable to swim against the water current. Some of the planktons depend on the water current as their means of movement to drift and float. The most important groups are the phytoplankton, composed of microscopic algae, and the zooplankton.

The phytoplanktons are the primary producer of food in the seabed so they are very important. They include diatoms, blue green algae - Euglena spp. The zooplanktons consist mostly of copepods (small crustaceans) and the ones found in Nigeria's Sea include Paracalanus spp, Acartia spp, and Oithona spp. In our fieldwork, as we moved further into the sea, we encountered larger, actively swimming animals, such as sea catfish, whales and manatees. These animals are called nekton and occur in the pelagic zone. The pelagic zone comprises the water column in the open sea. The demersal zone encompasses the water bodies near the coast and near the bottom or significantly affected by the sea bottom. The sea bottom is called the benthic zone. Animals living on or buried in the sea bottom are called benthos. Animals living attached to hard substrates or on the ocean floor are called epifauna. They comprise many different taxa, such as sponges, oysters, barnacles and sea stars.

These are all the features I gather from my experience on my field trip to Tarkwa Bay in Lagos State, Nigeria. I look forward to learning more after the Covid-19 Lockdown that has negatively impacted our closure and thus resulted in us as students staying at home for now until the Covid-19 Lockdown is removed so we can resume our studies. The marine ecosystem holds a special attraction for me as a young girl learning all about a rare and exciting new world of the aquatic life.

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Adeleye, Tolulope	FUTA, Akure	Nigeria
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Adeogun, Glory Jesusemilore		Nigeria
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Ambuli, Gladys		Kenya
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Awenaroro, Praise Efemena		Nigeria
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Bah, Penda	Hann Bel-Air	Senegal
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Oluwadamilare		Nigeria
Olasoyi, Deborah		Nigeria
Oludipe, Beloved		Nigeria
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Abiodun-Solanke, Jedidiah	Victoria Island	Nigeria	Havilahhazaiyah, Gold	Akure	Nigeria	Olusiji, Peace Semiloore	FUTA, Akure	Nigeria
Adeogun, Precious		Nigeria	Ige, Oluwademilade	Akure	Nigeria	Omokandugba, Jolomi	FUTA, Akure	Nigeria
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Ajayi, Ayomide		Nigeria	Jackson, Chacha Waichoka	Kehancha	Kenya	Orugbo, Goodness	Victoria Island	Nigeria
Ajayi, Seyi	Victoria Island	Nigeria	Jide-Ojo, Eniola	Akure	Nigeria	Orugbo, Greatness	Victoria Island	Nigeria
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Ayano, Blessing		
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Bintou, Fatou	Montagne B, Hann	Senegal
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Benards, Okeyo Bonzini, Maria Laura Ciss, Babacar Diop, Magueth Djamou Tchuidjio, Jeauberte Hussein Ali, Fatihya Maeba, Jane Maina, Daniel Mathieu, Vinciane Mwalimu, Newton Ndalila, Phenny Rodriguez, Marta Seleme, Anibal Touray, Lasana	Eco Ethics Team Escuela de Educación Secundaria N°2 Centre de Formation de Football Ecole primaire Khadim Bénévoles Océan Kilifi Primary School Kongowea Primary School Eco Ethics Team CRIE de Spa Star of the Sea School Sacred Heart Primary School Escuela de Educación Secundaria N°1 FAPBIO-RA y AGCB-CABA Serrekunda Lower Basic School	Mombasa Monte Hermoso Hann Bel-Air Hann Bel-Air Yaoundé Kilifi Mombasa Mombasa Spa Mombasa Mombasa Monte Hermoso Monte Hermoso Serrekunda	Argentina Senegal Senegal Cameroon Kenya Kenya Kenya Belgium Kenya Kenya Argentina Argentina Gambia

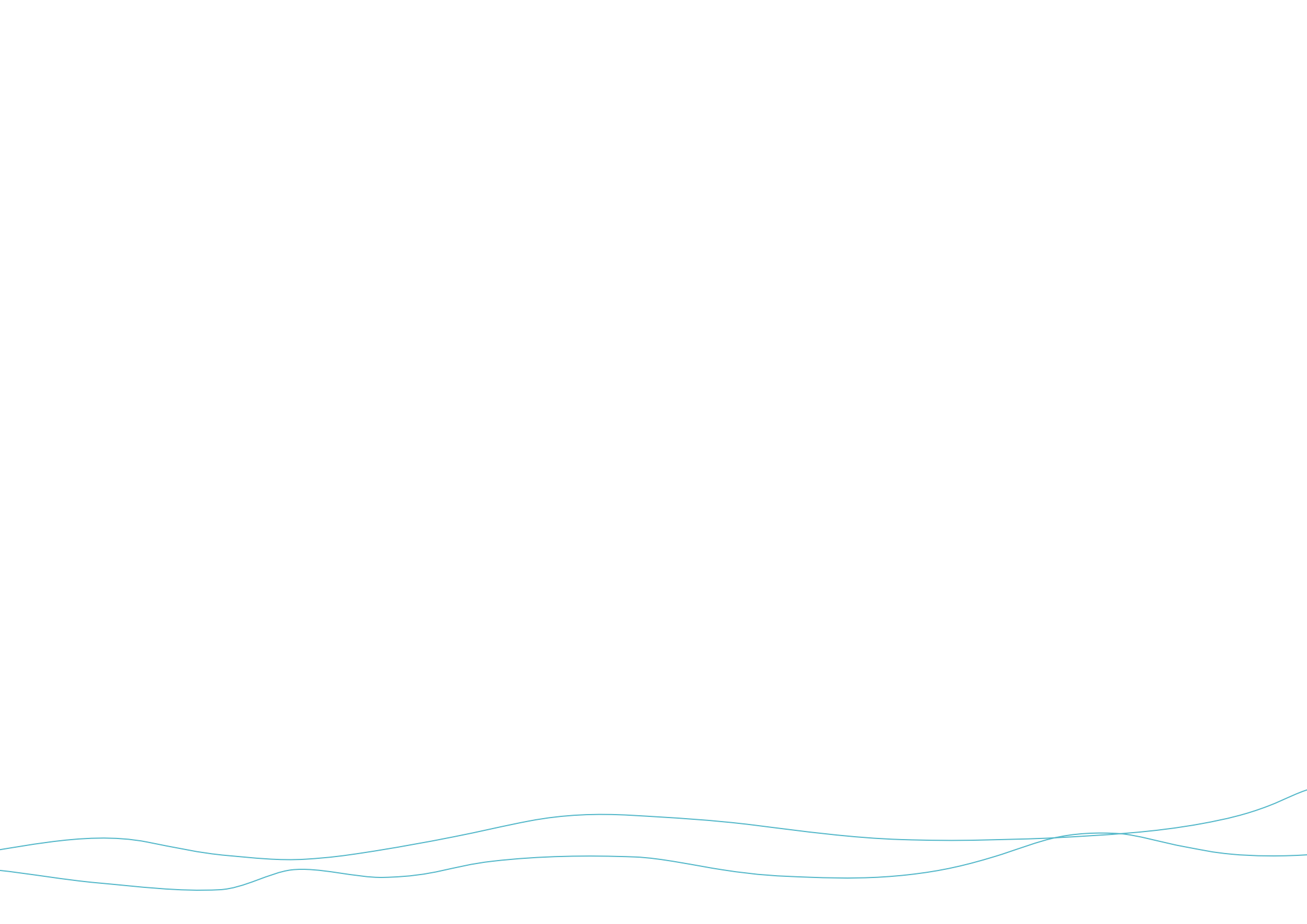
2016

Abiodun Solanke, Tomi	Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology	Victoria Island, Lagos	Nigeria
Adeleke, Lydia Mosunmola Benards, Okeyo Diop, Magueth Djamou Tchuidjio, Jeauberte Fagbenro, F.O. Hussein Ali, Fatihya Kitti, Priscillah Kuria, Mary Maeba, Jane Maina, Daniel Mazzarelli, Carla Ndalila, Phenny Olawusi-Peters, O.O. Pereyro, Patricia Petrucci, Nadia Touray, Lasana	Federal University of Technology Akure Eco Ethics Team Ecole primaire Khadim Bénévoles Océan Federal University of Technology Akure Kilifi Primary School Kibaoni Primary School Tom Mboya Special School Kongowea Primary School Eco Ethics Team Liceo Artistico C. De Chirico Sacred Heart Primary School Federal University of Technology Akure Fundación COINCIDIR Liceo Artistico C. De Chirico Serrekunda Lower Basic School	Akure Mombasa Hann Bel-Air Yaoundé Akure Kilifi Kilifi Mombasa Mombasa Mombasa Rome Mombasa Akure Fundación COINCIDIR Rome Serrekunda	Nigeria Kenya Senegal Cameroon Nigeria Kenya Kenya Kenya Kenya Kenya Italy Kenya Nigeria Argentina Italy Gambia



2017	Abiodun Solanke, Tomi	Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology	Victoria Island, Lagos	Nigeria	2017	Abdul-Salam, Modinat O.	First Tenderfoot College	Aga-Ireshe, Ikorodu, Lagos State	Nigeria		
	Adeleke, Lydia Mosunmola Akinlade, Deborah Ayodele, Sunday Bopelet epse Inonga, Léa Flore	Federal University of Technology Akure FUTA Staff Secondary School FUTA Staff Secondary School	Akure Akure Akure	Nigeria Nigeria Nigeria		Abiodun Solanke, Tomi	Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology	Victoria Island, Lagos	Nigeria		
	Djamou Tchuidjio, Jeauberte Fagbenro, F.O. Mbei epse Momba, Aurelie Lucile Nkomba epse Nkoue, Anne Marie Vicetta, Barbara	Inspection de l'éducation primaire Kribi I Bénévoles Océan Federal University of Technology Akure École publique d'application Joss - groupe I Centre bilingue – Petits Lapins Missoula International School	Kribi Yaoundé Akure Douala Yaoundé Missoula, Montana	Cameroon Cameroon Nigeria Cameroon USA		Adeleke, Lydia Mosunmola Benards, Okeyo Djamou Tchuidjio, Jeauberte Fagbenro, F.O. Maeba, Jane Mané, Madame	Federal University of Technology Akure Eco Ethics Team Bénévoles Océan Federal University of Technology Akure Kongowea Primary School Ecole Montagne B	Akure Mombasa Yaoundé Akure Mombasa Hann Bel-Air	Nigeria Kenya Cameroon Nigeria Kenya Senegal		
	2018	Abiodun Solanke, Tomi	Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology	Victoria Island, Lagos		Nigeria	2018	Bönning, Lisa De Juan, Cristina Dème, Monsieur Diouf, Madame Diaw, Madame Djamou Tchuidjio, Jeauberte Edwards-Schachter, Mónica Huber, Elena Kraft, Cornelia Laverna, Claudia Mulfinger, Michaela Niang, Monsieur Pereyro, Patricia Sané, Madame Westermann, Ines	Kosmos-Bildung Münsterlandschule Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria Orriols Ecole Kawabata Yasunari Ecole Kawabata Yasunari Ecole primaire Bara Gueye	Tilbeck, Havixbeck Valencia Hann Bel-Air Hann Bel-Air Hann Bel-Air	Germany Spain Senegal Senegal Senegal
		Adeleke, Lydia Mosunmola Benards, Okeyo Bifane Ella épouse MENDUGA, Antoinette	Federal University of Technology Akure Eco Ethics Team Ecole primaire d'application de Kribi Centre Groupe III	Akure Mombasa Kribi		Nigeria Kenya Cameroon		Bénévoles Océan	Yaoundé	Cameroon	
		Dechamps, Caroline Diop, Bina Djamou Tchuidjio, Jeauberte Fagbenro, F.O. Kato, Kazumi Maeba, Jane Mba, Anne Elise	Ecole Escale Ecole Kawabata Yasunari Bénévoles Océan Federal University of Technology Akure Bénévoles Océan Kongowea Primary School Ecole primaire d'application de Kribi Centre Groupe IA	Ucde Hann Bel-Air Yaoundé Akure Douala Mombasa		Belgium Senegal Cameroon Nigeria Cameroon Kenya		Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria Orriols Kosmos-Bildung Münsterlandschule Deutsche Schule Barcelona Deutsche Schule Barcelona Ecole primaire Doudou Mbathj Fundación COINCIDIR Ecole primaire Montagne 6 Kosmos-Bildung Münsterlandschule	Valencia Tilbeck, Havixbeck Barcelona Barcelona Barcelona Hann Bel-Air Puerto Madryn Hann Bel-Air Tilbeck, Havixbeck	Spain Germany Spain Spain Senegal Argentina Senegal Germany	
		Njokoue, Lucie	Ecole primaire d'application de Kribi Centre Groupe I	Kribi		Cameroon					
		Nkomba epse Nkoue, Anne Marie	Centre bilingue – Petits Lapins	Yaoundé		Cameroon					





„There is hope – I’ve seen it – but it does not come from the governments or corporations, it comes from the people. The people who have been unaware are now starting to wake up, and once we become aware we change. We can change and people are ready for change.“

*Greta Thunberg*

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