



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

# Annual activity report 2020



**10 years of Mundus maris - Turning a huge challenge into an opportunity**

The dense work programme planned for 2020 had a good start with two events in January, but then got largely thrown off course because of the Covid-19 outbreak. The pandemic forced the cancellation of large numbers of scheduled events and had particularly bad effects on international negotiations which should have made 2020 a mega year for the Ocean. That was not to happen.

Others, such as many conferences or working meetings could be moved into digital spaces. These were not as good as physical gatherings and associated personal and professional networking, but did allow enough of the ordinary functions of such meetings to be very useful. Not only, the learning effects, particularly of international meetings, workshops and conferences were probably enhanced as many events opened free of charge to people, such as young professionals, who would otherwise not have been able to attend in person – with the additional bonus of saving travelling emissions.

So, in the face of these new challenges, we learnt new things and also strengthened our response capabilities, not the least through more regular board meetings and greater attention to share work results, new sources of information and learning in the different digital spaces. The supportive videos from members and friends to help us celebrate our 10 year anniversary were a joy. The interesting feedback to our questionnaire about where to put our emphasis in the next 10 years helped us reflect on what matters most.

We also laid systematic foundations to documenting core commitments of our work, be it the regular activities on and around World Ocean Day (8 June), or the development of the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy launched initially in Senegal end 2018. The harvest of these research and documentation efforts will become more visible only next year in the form of a Book of the Marine World and academic publications geared to document work connecting local realities to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more specifically the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

Thankfully, we were thus able to carry out a number of activities mobilising members, partners and sympathisers. We are particularly grateful to all those people who stood by us with their donations, their time and expertise. A big THANK YOU to all. Together we can be proud about what we have achieved.

The report focuses on the major highlights of the year. You'll find out more by visiting the website ([www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org)) in five languages (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish). We also continued providing resources and information through the different social media channels. Enjoy the read about the change you helped to achieve.

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



**2020 Budget**

Total income from donations and membership fees, including carry-over was **11.662,93 €**. The investments / expenditures by broad category were as follows:

Total ACAD	565,79 €
Total YOUTH	617,00 €
Total EDUC	7.288,38 €
Total INFO / COMMS	757,02 €
Total STOB / OPER	2.434,74 €
Total financial investment	11.662,93 €

ACAD = academic work  
 YOUTH = youth work  
 EDUC = education  
 INFO / COMMS = information & communication  
 STOB / OPER = statutory obligations & operational costs

# Recent Highlights from different places

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

## Section 1 – Information, Communication

Our general information and communication activities throughout the year were quite varied. For a largely volunteering organisation, the degree of activities can not easily be deduced from the importance of the financial investment. Indeed our expenditures were exceptionally low because of fewer on-site activities, but probably reached more people as we learnt to work more regularly with the digital media. You can access our monthly newsletters with the highlights of activities on the landing page of our [website](#).

### Humans and the Sea – an adventurous journey



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Our information and awareness raising activities had a nice start on 8 January with the participation in a public lecture series about 'Humans and the Sea' at Kiel University, Germany. That produced hugely diverse perspectives and narratives. In response to the lectures, authors were invited to develop their presentations and stories into stand alone chapters and the attractive result in book form was ready at the end of the year. *Mundus maris* contributed perspectives on our work with the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Senegal with the gist presented on the [website](#).

### Fish Sounds at the Boot Fair on the 'Love Your Ocean' Platform

Later in January we had a hay day with our participation on the "Love Your Ocean" platform organised by the German Marine Foundation at the huge **BOOT Fair** from 18 to 26 January 2020 in Düsseldorf. Together with the scientific non-profit Quantitative Aquatics based in the Philippines, we staffed the station of the fish sound quiz in FishBase. Especially the young visitors had lots of fun trying to figure out which of three fish shown was making the noise they. Volunteers of Q-quatics and *Mundus maris*, including biologists of the University of Düsseldorf disguised as Neptun and mermaid, were eye catchers for the team and the visitors. We also contributed to the programme on stage again and had countless discussions with visitors of all ages.



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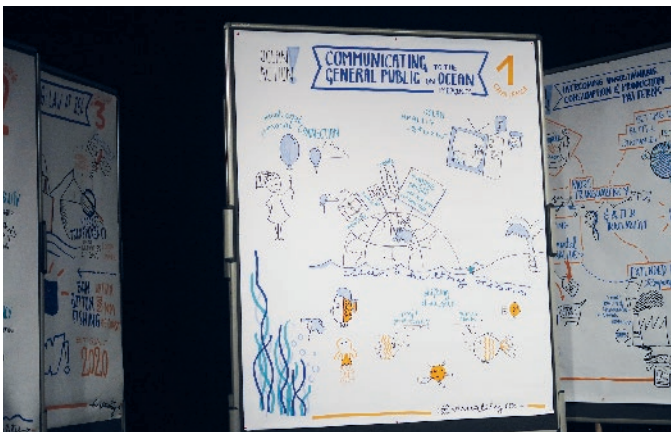
### Ocean Action Conference, Brussels, 5 Feb. 2020

This timely conference organised by Seas At Risk in Brussels, 5 February 2020, put all the emphasis where it urgently belongs: on implementation and action! Taking issue with the gulf between talk and action, even between legislation supposed to be enacted, but regularly broken and ignored without consequences for the perpetrators in high office and in implementation



agencies alike, the consortium supporting the conference had elaborated a Blue Manifesto of an implementation roadmap between now and 2030 to meet commitments.

Peter Thomson, Special Envoy for the Ocean for UN Secretary General António Guterres, spoke to conference participants in a video-message. He alerted everybody again to the forthcoming UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon in June, where he expected more ambitious pledges to implement Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Life under Water” and make up for lost ground from lack of action in the first five years since the adoption of the SDGs by the UN General Assembly in 2015. *Mundus maris* participated actively throughout, including in the afternoon workshops. [Read more](#)



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### Then the Covid-19 pandemic stopped many activities in their tracks

Among the first victims was a workshop for women and men in artisanal fisheries in Senegal, which had to be called off literally two days before it was scheduled to start. Several other items in our annual calendar, from Good Food, European Development Days and green mobility events in Brussels to most of the on-site events for World Ocean Day (8 June) could not take place.

The invitation to schools to participate with their works contribute to the Book of the Marine World to celebrate World Ocean Day had gone out early. But with many schools closed the minds

of teachers and students were focused on more mundane challenges. We therefore extended the deadline for the entries to World Fisheries Day (21 November). Still, the invitation to participate in this year’s *Mundus maris* Awards to honour the UN motto 2020 ‘Innovation for a sustainable ocean’ mobilised comparatively few participants. [Read more](#)

### Solidarity with artisanal fishers in Senegal triggers results

The major organisations of small-scale fishers in Senegal, men, women, of all professions along the artisanal value chains were up in arms in May and June in the face of further threats to their livelihoods and future. What was happening? Fisheries landings are going down since the turn of the millennium, mostly as a result of overfishing by industrial fleets. Those flying the Senegalese flag are often in foreign ownership or joint ventures oriented to export. The Minister for Fisheries and the Maritime Economy apparently wanted to grant 56 more licences primarily to Chinese and Turkish industrial vessels or boats to be “Senegalised”... The local protests were echoed and supported by *Mundus maris* and many other organisations.

As then reported by several media outlets, the Minister at the time, Alioune Ndoye, made the much awaited announcement on World Ocean Day, June 8, 2020, that the deal was off and that with two exceptions, no new licences were to be issued to either foreign vessels or those changing flag state to Senegal. [Read on](#)

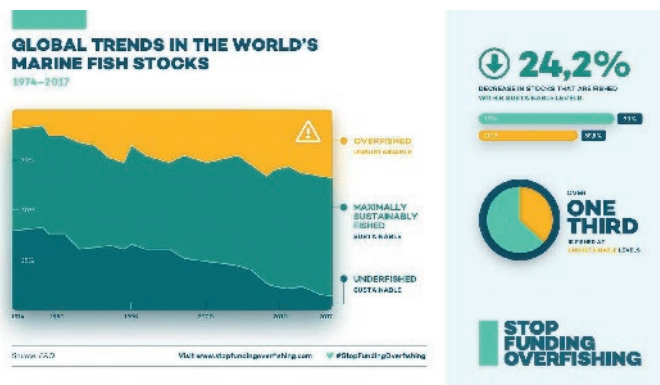


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## Joint Webinar organised by Ocean Ambassadors Nigeria in July

**Ocean Ambassadors** is a dynamic non-profit in Nigeria promoting ocean literacy and interest in maritime professions with focus on young minds. They invited *Mundus maris* Vice President, Prof. Stella Williams, to join as speaker in a webinar on 25 July 2020 as a first step to develop mutually beneficial collaboration. It was also part of reaching out through the digital media to remain active under corona conditions. The webinar focused on this year's UN motto for World Ocean Day "Innovation for a sustainable ocean" and was specifically convened for this year's African Union Day for Seas and Oceans. Congrats, quite a nice success!

## The campaign to phase out harmful fisheries subsidies gained traction



Fridays for Future  
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Phasing out harmful fisheries subsidies has been on the agenda of the **World Trade Organization** (WTO) since 20 years. Doing so at long last by end 2020 is target 6 of SDG 14 "Life under Water". It's urgent as harmful subsidies are currently estimated at about USD 20.5 per year<sup>1</sup> fuelling overfishing and all kinds of illicit practices while also affecting other SDGs negatively. Much of this campaigning happened in the social media and reached far and wide across all continents. *Mundus maris* has actively campaigned throughout the year 2020, together with 173 other civil society organisations coordinated by Pew Charitable

Trusts, to request the WTO to deliver on the promises by the deadline at the end of the year. Helas, it was not to be. So the campaigning will continue next year to bring back ecological and economic reason into the fishery.

<sup>1</sup> U. Rashid Sumaila, Daniel Skerritt, Anna Schuhbauer, Naazia Ebrahim, Yang Li, Hong Sik Kim, Tabitha Grace Mallory, Vicky W.L. Lam and Daniel Pauly (2019). Updated estimates and analysis of global fisheries subsidies. *Marine Policy*, 109:103695

## Documentary co-sponsored by Mundus maris receiving more international recognition

"Poisson d'or, Poisson africain" by Thomas Grand and Moussa Diop about artisanal fishing in Senegal, completed in 2018, won prizes again this year in several prestigious film festivals around the globe. Congrats to the team! Here is a selection:

**38ème Grand Prix International URTI du Documentaire d'Auteur** (Paris, France, March 2020): Grand Prix · **32ème Fête Européenne de l'Image Sous-Marine et de l'Environnement** (Strasbourg, France, March 2020): Prix de l'Environnement · **1er Retro Avant Garde Film Festival NYC** (New York, USA, May 2020): Human Rights Prize · **2nd Kiarostami Film Festival** (Istanbul, Turkey, May 2020): Prize for the Best Documentary · **2nd Retro Avant Garde Film Festival Cairo** (Cairo, Egypt, May 2020): Prize for the Best Feature Film · **3rd MENA Film Festival** (The Hague, Netherlands, June 2020): Prize for the Best Feature Film Director · **12th SiciliAmbiente Film Festival** (San Vito La Capo, Italy, August 2020): Prize Greenpeace Italia and 2nd Prize Documentary Contest · **2ème Festival des Mémoires de la Mer** (Rochefort, France, September 2020): Prize « Les Mémoires de la Mer 2020 » · **11th Silicon Valley African Film Festival** (San José, California, USA, October 2020): Prize for the Best Feature Film · **5th Lake International Panafrikan Film Festival** (Nairobi, Kenya, November 2020): Prize for the Best Documentary · **15th Festival de Películas Nativas Arica Nativa** (Arica, Chile, November 2020): Prize for the Best Film, Category Africa Feature Films



## Section 2 – Youth

### World Ocean Day – focus on supporting Covid protection in African schools

*Mundus maris* and its friends and allies teamed up again this year to celebrate **World Ocean Day**, 8 June. However, lockdowns prevailed in many places so the focus shifted towards how to help schools with hand washers and face masks. That was all the rage in Cameroon and Senegal. In Akure, Nigeria, a clean-up exercise with strict distancing and wearing of face masks allowed on site activities of a small group of enthusiasts, while most pupils and teachers participated only online. The events we usually organise in Europe were all cancelled in 2020. But we decided to develop a selection of submissions to *Mundus maris* Awards from 2014 to now to develop a broader cross-section of aspects around UN mottos for World Ocean Day into the Book of the Marine World. Stay tuned, though it will take some time to finish.



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### Climate protection NOW – Mundus maris supports strikes of Fridays for Future

25 September 2020. No more than 1.5°C increase max! - in some 480 towns and cities in Germany alone Fridays for Future had called to strikes and demonstrations to ask for immediate

climate protection measures keeping in mind the necessary distancing between protesters and mandatory face masks - corona obliging. *Mundus maris* was at the **demonstration in Düsseldorf** in front of the Parliament building to underscore that climate protection and ocean protection go hand in hand. Despite the rainy weather in some parts, some 200,000 people of all ages took to the streets again - 21,000 in Berlin, 16,000 in Hamburg and 10,000 in Cologne.



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### Concert for the Ocean, Louvain, 14 Nov. 2020

We are all connected to the ocean that provides us with every second breath we take, provides food, enjoyment, jobs, trade routes and more. To celebrate the Ocean and 10 years of *Mundus maris* the language of music invites us to navigate the seas and visit coastal cities, which welcome us with their melodies. The journey begins in Belgium, the headquarters of *Mundus maris*. From there we travel through different European countries, such as Germany and Spain, and reach Senegal and Nigeria on the African continent.



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**Read more**



## Section 3 – Education

The plans for the year were of the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Senegal. We wanted to build on the promising results and support the emergence of local facilitators able to carry the opportunities of the Academy forward to more collective action in their professional groups and into other communities. But then the Covid-19 took hold.



### No new workshops of the SSF Academy in Senegal, but ...

But that did not mean sitting idle. Throughout the work leading up to the launch of the **Academy**, we had noted that many men and women working in artisanal fisheries in different segments of the value chain had no information about existing regulations and their rights. We had also noted that written materials were often either not available or of no use to those with little access to formal schooling. That had already informed the choice of working methods in the Academy in 2019 emphasising visual thinking, drawings and respectful dialogue to support structured approaches to individual and collective change journeys. In collaboration with ICSF, the Fisheries Transparency Initiative and others, we therefore produced a version with Wolof sound track of a video explaining the principles and objectives of the Voluntary Guidelines to Secure Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. It is posted on the *Mundus maris* YouTube channel and copied elsewhere. It can help reduce access barriers for people to know their rights. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### Making more guidance available for workshops of the SSF Academy

Addressed to the Academy committees and any external facilitators intent on supporting work, Maria Fernanda Arraes Treffner, principal facilitator of the Academy since its launch, had prepared three detailed technical reports. They

were produced in French and finalised end 2019 and then more widely disseminated in 2020. The focus is on gender equity in order to help make artisanal fisheries more robust and successful. The reports are available on the [website](#). For those wanting guidance about the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) developed by Linda Mayoux which informs our work in Senegal, click [here](#) for an English manual.

### Strengthening exchange between Nigeria and Argentina

*Mundus maris* Vice-President Prof. Stella Williams felt honoured to have been requested by the Vice President for Latin America - Professor Marcelo Morales Yokobori - to interact with his students in Argentina. They asked pointed questions about fisheries and aquaculture in Nigeria specifically, but also wanted an update on West Africa. This is the first in a series of online and outreach activities planned by Marcelo for his students in different places. This 30-minutes [video](#) illustrates the interest of students in Argentina in learning about regional trends and of educational programmes put in place by *Mundus maris* asbl.

### The story of the sturgeon

We are living in exceptional times: the covid-19 pandemic has affected Rome and many different parts of the world even more seriously. The memory of other essential aspects of life will do us some good. Like healthy and sustainable nutrition, like the memory of our past, recent or distant. On the staircase of the Palazzo dei Conservatori, which is located in the Campidoglio of Rome, on the right for those who enter from the magnificent square, there is a bas-relief of an uncertain era. It depicts a sturgeon, a fish present in the Tiber, the river that crosses the eternal city, until only some decades ago. Discover more about it. [Read more](#)



## Section 4 – Academic work

In 2020 *Mundus maris* made again some academic contributions, reporting on our field work, participating in debates and making proposals for future work focused on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition a number of book chapters and research articles are in preparation, most of which are expected to be published in 2021.

### The EGU General Assembly this time in Zoomlandia



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Not all the preparations were in vain for the annual trip to Vienna for the usually massive gathering of geoscientists from around the globe. As a matter of fact, far from giving up, the **EGU General Assembly 2020** from 3 to 8 May in the online format “Sharing Geoscience Online” was an exciting experiment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a great success throughout the entire week. In the context of the ongoing scientific exchange with the International Association for the Promotion of Geoethics (IAPG) *Mundus maris* contributed a presentation to one of their sessions at EGU titled “Small is beautiful - or is it? The challenges of integrating human rights principles and multiple functionalities into sector policies favourable to artisanal fisheries and mining”.

### Celebratory FishBase/SeaLifeBase Symposium in Paris postponed to next year

This year’s FishBase and SeaLifeBase Symposium had been intended as a big celebration of 30 years of FishBase and 15 years of SeaLifeBase. But the pandemic meant that it needed to be postponed into next year. That leaves more time for *Mundus maris* to implement its proposal from last year for an app providing access to key information in FishBase via cell phones to complement a **teaching kit** on the ecosystem approach to fisheries developed earlier.

### World Fisheries Day Webinar: *Mundus maris* and Belgrano University

What is the ocean in distress telling us? How can we study its many facets to understand better its role in the global climate system, its ecosystems and the people drawing food, air to breath, recreation, jobs and more from it? The University Belgrano and *Mundus maris* joined forces for a day-long webinar on 6 November to explore at least some of these facets. It was orchestrated by Dr. Marcelo L. Morales Yokobori, researcher in ecology, conservation and marine resources and Vice President of *Mundus maris*.

The webinar was both a preparation for World Fisheries Day, 21 November, and a catch up on missed on-site activities for World Ocean Day, 8 June. **Read on**

UNIVERSIDAD DE Belgrano  
BUENOS AIRES - ARGENTINA

Mundus maris

Jornada Día Mundial de la Pesca

Intervenciones invitados de: África, Europa y América

6 de Noviembre

9:00 Arg 12:00 Dak 13:00 Bru/Lag

Por Google Meet

Inscripciones: [dmp.terracuranda.org](http://dmp.terracuranda.org)  
[www.terracuranda.org](http://www.terracuranda.org)

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## More information for you

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

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

We welcome any support towards moving ocean protection and the future of sustainable artisanal fisheries forward. Your time, your experience, your financial contribution make a difference! Be part of the change wave for a healthy ocean and healthy planet.

The General Assembly in May 2020 elected a new board for the next two years. The composition is as follows:

- Dr. Cornelia E Nauen, President
- Prof. Stella Williams, Vice-President
- Dr. Aliou Sall, Vice-President
- Dr. Maria del Carmen Patricia Morales, Vice-President
- Dr. Marcelo Lino Morales Yokobori, Vice-President
- Dr. Mechthild Kronen, Treasurer



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