



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

Annual activity report 2019

Some progress on the learning journey to protect the ocean

We are proud to have achieved a higher level of activity and reach than in any previous year. We implemented a larger number of activities ourselves and with partners, we increased outreach with emphasis on ocean literacy of young people, particularly through activities for World Ocean Day, contributed to academic exchange in multiple forums and engaged in testing capacity strengthening with women and men working in value chains in artisanal fisheries through supporting the small-scale fisheries academy in Senegal. Where results could be attributed more directly to our activities, such as with the training workshops of the academy, they encourage us to continue and step up the efforts.

Are we satisfied? Yes and no. Yes, because we carried forward an unprecedented number of substantial activities. No, because as more people are affected directly by overfishing and other malpractices, the effects of climate change and pollution, our sense of urgency is heightened about the need for changing course. Collectively, we need to make more and faster progress towards protecting the ocean’s biodiversity, reduce waste in its many forms, strive towards a circular economy and more social justice, living better with one another and within the boundaries of the blue planet. What does this tell us about next steps especially in the light of the need to connect local realities to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and push for alignment of important global negotiations and events scheduled for the ocean mega-year 2020 and beyond?

Together, we can and must do much more than reducing the use of plastic bags and cups! The changes needed in the way we produce and consume food from the ocean, sustain its climate stabilising function, save energy and materials where they are wasted - but also provide more and better services where they are lacking - touch deeply onto questions of justice and cooperation. More cooperation is a voucher to greater impact and success. We will therefore step up our own efforts in teaming up with others.

We are grateful to all those people who have supported the increased level of activities in 2019 with their donations, their time and expertise. A big THANK YOU to all members, volunteers and supporters for their commitment. We are proud about what we have achieved together.

This annual report walks you through the major highlights of the year. As usual, you’ll find more information, ideas and reviews by visiting the website (www.mundusmaris.org) in five languages (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish). Throughout the year, we provided additional resources in the social media to encourage more people to become an active part of the movement for change. Together we can!

Enjoy the read.

Cornelia E. Nauen
and the entire
Mundus maris team



2019 Budget

Total income from donations and membership fees, including carry-over was **28.249,99 €**. The investments / expenditures by broad category were as follows:

Total ACAD	5.144,14 €
Total YOUTH	5.921,90 €
Total EDUC	12.954,83 €
Total INFO / COMMS	1.662,90 €
Total STOB / OPER	2.566,22 €
Total financial investment	28.249,99 €

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 starting out with the participation on the “Love Your Ocean” platform organised by the German Marine Foundation at the huge **BOOT50** Fair from 19 to 27 January 2019 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. The quiz never failed to fascinate especially the young visitors. Volunteers of Q-quatics and *Mundus maris*, including biologists of the University of Düsseldorf disguised as Neptun and mermaid, were eye catchers and fun for the team and the visitors. We also contributed to the programme on stage and had countless discussions with visitors of all ages.



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Biofach Fair for sustainable fish, Nuremberg, 13-16 February 2019

Biofach showed that “bio” has outgrown childhood and is becoming a bigger business every year. The Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren (BNN), a business association of mostly retailers of natural foods and other natural products naturally had a booth at the fair and also contributed actively to the workshop and conference programme running parallel to the trade show. Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* and board chair of Q-quatics was invited

by BNN to talk about sustainable fish and criteria, which would make it easier for retailers to navigate the often treacherous value chains to ensure offering only sustainably produced seafood.

Slow Fish 2019 in Genoa focused on Blue Commons

Slow Fish was again at Porto Antico in Genoa, this year from 9 to 12 May. Good seafood and regional specialities from around the country and even from further afield appealed to the senses. Good books, some educational games and a stream of conferences nurtured curiosity and a playful way of learning. The strongest part, feeding us into the future, was the stream of engaged conversations among people from small-scale fisheries and their support structures from different parts of the world debating about how to ensure sustainable futures for the Blue Commons. Already the **Slow Fish** title “The Sea: A Common Good” set the tone. We contributed the Fish Sound Quiz in the educational area and participated actively in the workshops on Blue Commons.

Communities of Ocean Action for implementing SDG 14, Korea, 30-31 May

More partnerships and a boost of activities are needed to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030. That was the message of the meeting of the **Communities of Ocean Action** that took place in Incheon, Korea, on 30 and 31 May 2019. On invitation of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) *Mundus maris* participated together with other experts from civil society organisations (CSO), UN agencies, research organisations and governments taking stock of the more than 1500 commitments for SDG 14 made

since the 2017 UN Ocean Conference. The entire focus was on exchanging experiences on how to accelerate and scale up action. *Mundus maris* reported on the SSF Academy and its gender focus.



Ms. Rivera (Ramsar Convention Secretariat), Ambassador Peter Thomson (UN Secretary General Special Envoy for the Ocean), Comelia E Nauen (Mundus maris) Copyright: Mundus maris

Sustainable Seafood Info stand, Brussels, 19 October

As every year, *Mundus maris* participated in the Good Food events calendar in Brussels, again as the only voice to bring essential information to fish and seafood consumers about what constitutes legitimate products. That means products providing mandatory information on the species, the regional sourcing, the production method and whether it's fresh or frozen. Fish sellers at the Flagey market on 19 October were among those asking for info. [Read more](#)

Mundus maris invited to Sierra Leone

Mundus maris Vice President, Prof. Stella Williams was invited by the Director of Fisheries, Mrs. Kadijatu Jalloh, and Mrs Ranita A S Koroma, Environmental Safeguards Specialist of the Freetown Emergency Recovery Project, Ministry of Finance, to meet with interested personalities in order to present key aspects of the work of the organisation interested in learning e.g. about the SSF academy. [Read on](#)



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Fish Party Event at Lagos State University, Nigeria

Started in 2010 by Mr. Idowu Hunyinbo, this year's **Fish Party** event focused on the topic "Impacts of climate change on fisheries and food security". Stella Williams, Vice President of *Mundus maris*, was the keynote speaker at the celebrations which were held at Lagos State University (LASU) on Saturday, 9 November. Climate change is the big disruptor in fisheries and many other marine and coastal conditions and activities as sea level rise, acidification, lack of oxygen, storm surges and other effects impact on ecosystems and people's lives and habitats.

Documentary co-sponsored by Mundus maris garners large international recognition

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



6th Green Image Film Festival (Tokyo, Japan, February 2019): Green Image Grand Prize
30ème Festival des Rencontres Cinéma-Nature (Dompierre sur Besbre, France, April 2019) Grand Prix du Festival & Prix du Public · **6ème Festival de Films pour l'Environnement - FFPE** (St Casimir, Canada, April 2019): Best Foreign Film
8th Deauville Green Awards (Deauville, France, June 2019): Trophée d'or · **8ème Festival International du Documentaire des Droits de l'Homme** (Rabat, Morocco, June 2019): Prize of the Jury · **4th The African Film Festival-TAFF** (Dallas, Texas, USA, June 2019): Best documentary · **1st Tulum World Environment Film Festival** (Tulum, Mexico, July 2019): Best feature film · **1st Indo-Global International Film Festival** (Mumbai, India, July 2019): Best director · **5th Festival Corti di Mare** (Modica, Italy, September 2019): Best documentary.

Section 2 – Youth

Fridays for Future – big strike on 15 March in Brussels and around the globe

After weeks of Fridays for Future that raised the temperature of the public debate, Brussels saw the biggest **climate strike** march in 24 Belgian cities and towns this Friday, 15 March 2019. Led by young people, but mobilising participants of all age groups, civil society organisations, trade unions, various public administration personnel the marchers sent a clear signal to politicians and companies to stop dragging their feet and act.

Throughout the year, there were other specifically climate related activities, such as **climate marches** in September, including support for the **COP25** in Madrid towards the end of the year, which was disappointing. So we all together need to redouble efforts.



Fridays for Future
Copyright: Mundus maris/Cornelia E. Nauen

Congratulations to the winners of *Mundus maris* Awards 2019

We are thrilled to announce the winners of the *Mundus maris* **Awards 2019**. The theme chosen by the United Nations for World Ocean Day was

particularly timely, but also challenging: Gender and Ocean. It underscored how important it is to enrol the whole of humanity, men and women and people of all ages and orientations in the efforts to restore and protect the Ocean. What better motto to illustrate to which extent the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are interconnected. An international jury looked carefully at their submissions and chose the winners across the categories of the contest. They are presented in the digital museum.

Mundus maris celebrates World Ocean Day on three continents

Mundus maris and its friends and allies teamed up again this year to celebrate World Ocean Day, 8 June, together around the globe under the UN motto focused this year gender and the ocean. Celebrations entailed a quite diverse programme of activities, starting with the youth contest for *Mundus maris* Awards. Preparatory and awareness raising activities took place in several countries. Celebrations reached their culmination with special events on three continents: taking off in Brussels, Belgium, and followed by other engaging events in Argentina, Cameroon, Nigeria and Senegal. **Check out what happened there.**



World Ocean Day, Cameroon
Photo courtesy: Jeauberte Djamou

Section 3 – Education

The year kicked off with interesting teaching modules in two Belgian schools. But the biggest efforts went into method testing training workshops to start the programme of developing the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Senegal, with very promising results.

The water cycle and plastic pollution in Brussels river

Combining practice and theory always adds a lot to understanding a problem and its solutions. In this sense, the dynamic science teacher at the Montjoie Institute in Uccle, Ms Nlandu, came to the *Mundus maris* booth during the 2018 environment festival to discuss the possibilities of collaboration. Since then, the work programme of the year has consolidated and another class has joined. Thus, on February 11, 2019, an excursion to the Senne in Anderlecht was made – with remarkable results. [Read more](#)



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Protect the ocean from plastic pollution, courses in Brussels school

How to protect the ocean from plastic pollution? The integrated school in Sint Lambrechts Woluwe, Brussels, with its class of children with hearing problems and their teachers wanted to know more. Thus, thanks to a project of the school with the association Indigo they invited *Mundus maris* asbl to give a scientific course on this subject. So, on the 18th of February, 2019, from 9 am to 12 noon, we went to discover what **plastic pollution** is, the different types of plastic, what they cause in foodwebs and in the sea and what to do for stop it. It was the first of two courses.

Training workshops in Yoff and Hann, Senegal, to get the SSF Academy going



Photo courtesy M.F. Arraes Treffner

Readers will recall the launch of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) academy in Senegal end of 2018 as a concrete contribution towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. A large group of men and women from all segments of the sector and all regions of the country, sector administrators and academics had ensured a broad-based adherence to the idea and developed recommendations for activities. The next step had been the establishment of the first

Committee of the Initiative, on 24 March 2019. Since then, the pilot activities for methodological testing and curriculum development have started in earnest in time for World Ocean Day, 8 June 2019, with visits to local committees supporting the first test trainings in Yoff and Hann. The reports are available on the website. **Read on**

Strengthening capacities of Academy learners

From 14 to 16 October, the capacity-building workshop for artisanal fishers in Yoff - an activity conducted in the context of the small-scale fisheries academy in Senegal - brought together some thirty professionals. They reflected on their reality, analysed their economic activities and identified concrete measures to improve their livelihoods. The workshop was the second opportunity for fishers, divers, wholesalers, women micro-fishmongers and boat painters to conduct a series of analyses, visualisation exercises and exchange sessions for a sustainable fishery. Some participants reported significant advances in a short time.

Find out more



Photo courtesy M.F. Arraes Treffner

Take care of your environment – successful role play in Buenos Aires



Photo courtesy Carolina Castellanos Arévalo

On Thursday, September 19, 2019, an excellent debate was held between students from various thematic studies throughout the University of Belgrano, who gathered to participate in a role play interpreting the different parties in a conflict of interests arising from the production, use, waste and contamination with plastic materials, heavy metals and agrochemicals in the seas. Taking on different roles made them negotiate hard but fair in search of solutions. **Read on**

Section 4 – Academic work

In 2019 *Mundus maris* made again contributions to several academic events, reporting on our field work, participating in debates and making proposals for future work focused on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Lively exchanges at the MARE X Conference, Amsterdam, 25-28 June

Are women in fisheries and aquaculture still mostly invisible and underpaid? A meta-analysis of case studies from four continents back in 2002 had identified such a pattern across a wide range of countries as different levels of socio-economic development. *Mundus maris* convened a panel on gender in fisheries at this year's X **MARE** Conference in Amsterdam, which examined whether in times of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015 these findings needed an update.

Pre-Conference Gender Workshop, Mauritius



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On the 30th of June, as a WIOMSA pre-symposium activity, Women in Marine Science Network (WiMS), in collaboration with *Mundus maris*, hosted a **workshop** to discuss the gender dimension in marine science and practice. About 30 women, leading researchers, academics, scientists, policy makers, practitioners and students from Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Réunion (France) and Tanzania came together to explore “what could we start to

do here and now together towards gender equity in the context of our work on conservation and sustainable use of the Western Indian Ocean?”

Mundus maris supports WIOMSA's push for more gender awareness

WIOMSA, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, convened its 11th symposium from 1 to 5 July 2019 in Port Louis, Mauritius. The Organising Committee had invited Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* to deliver a keynote address on gender issues to support its own efforts to raise awareness on the topic. Starting with the opening with dance programme, four days of keynotes, parallel sessions of oral presentations on a wide array of marine issues with focus on the region and crammed poster sessions gave way to this keynote and a large number of special sessions mostly in an interactive format on day 5. **Read on**

Mundus maris at the FishBase/SeaLifeBase Symposium in Perth, Australia

This year's FishBase and SeaLifeBase **Symposium** stretched over two days and thus offered a wider array of talks and interaction than previous occasions. It took place at the Indian Ocean Research Centre (IOMRC) of the University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth, from 9 to 10 September. Peter Veth, Director, and Jessica Meeuwig, Head of the Marine Futures Lab, welcomed speakers and other participants with the usual “acknowledgement of nation”. Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* asbl reported on progress in the pilot phase of the small-scale fisheries academy in Senegal and proposed the development of 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.

More 2019 Highlights in brief

Teaching transdisciplinarity, Cape Town,
21-24 January

[Click here](#)

Road ahead - Q-quatics mini-symposium,
Philippines, 31 January

[Click here](#)

Ocean Dialogues, Brussels, 18-19 March

[Click here](#)

High-level Ocean Conference in the
European Parliament, 20 March

[Click here](#)

Mundus maris at the EGU Conference 2019
in April, Vienna

[Click here](#)

More preparations for World Ocean Day
in Nigeria

[Click here](#)

Open Science Conference in Brest, France,
17-21 June

[Click here](#)

European Development Days, Brussels,
18-19 June

[Click here](#)

Joint FISON/PESCAO-ECOWAS high profile
conference in Nigeria calls for greater
collaboration

[Click here](#)

Training on novel fish stock assessment
supporting West African management

[Click here](#)

Sunday without cars, Brussels, 22 September

[Click here](#)

What's been on by the Argentinean team
in October 2019?

[Click here](#)

GLOSS - Developing inputs to the UN
Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable
Development

[Click here](#)

FAO Symposium on Fisheries
Sustainability, 18-21 November

[Click here](#)

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Contact us at info@mundusmaris.org for
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