

Annual activity report 2015

Dear friends,

the year 2015 was very important for the ocean and the growing realisation how essential its protection is at all scales, from local to global, indeed for the future of humanity. In September, the UN General Assembly adopted the new Agenda 2030, including Sustainable Development Goal 14 for the Ocean. The Climate Summit in Paris agreed on ambitious objectives, which go well beyond the national pledges put forward so far, but will have to be assessed and resubmitted every five years.

The Sea Around Us Project produced again a string of studies reconstructing real catches for some missing countries and compared these with what governments report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). They have now covered the world and will soon put out a global atlas for public access. Counting in illegal, unreported and unregulated catches, small-scale and subsistence production and recreational fisheries the tally is on average up to 50% higher than official statistics make believe. The lead scientists Daniel Pauly and Dirk Zeller noted in a Nature Communication published early 2016 that industrial catches were declining substantially since the mid-1990s while artisanal catches kept increasing.

Mundus maris kept track of these scientific and political developments and was engaged in a number of supporting activities throughout the year, including a youth contest and events in

five cities on three continents for World Oceans Day. We are active in various movements for change in pursuit of creating spaces for living sustainably with the ocean. That also means promoting social justice and respect for nature as a whole. Our website portrays the different projects implemented this year, such as major activities to celebrate World Oceans Day, as well as many other supporting activities ranging from interviews to reviews and youth reports to serve as a resource for everybody. **Click here** to see for yourselves.

The annual report is structured by broad themes rather than strictly chronologically. The sections correspond to the major lines of activities, namely (1) academic work, (2) youth work, (3) traditional societies confronted with modernity and cultural and artistic activities (4) communication, awareness and education. Together these are enabled by the combined efforts of Mundus maris members and sympathisers. We invested almost the entire budget into these activities. Only 0.5% was spent on statutory obligations and administration. Several of our participations in conferences were paid for by the organisers so the budget we account for in our financial report represents only a fraction of the real value of the investment.

We are looking back on a year of many successful activities connecting global trends with local action and seize the opportunity to express our gratitude to all supporters for their help and collaboration to make these activities happen.

Please continue volunteering and donating also in 2016.

We are looking forward to increase our reach in the coming year and would love to hear from you for any question, suggestion and interest in collaboration at info@mundusmaris.org.

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

2015 Budget

Total ACAD	4.531,22 €
Total YOUTH	6.707,14 €
Total TRADE	2.533,88 €
Total COMM / EDUC	2.457,66 €
Total STOB	350,56 €
Total Investments	16.580,46 €

ACAD = academic work, YOUTH = youth work, TRAD = traditional culture, COMM/EDUC = awareness, education, STOB = statutory obligations

Highlights from different places and activities unfolding throughout the year

Section 1 – Academic work for the promotion of sustainable living with the ocean

Perspectives of artisanal stake-holders on the reform of the fisheries sector policy in Senegal – continuation of field research

Mundus maris Vice-President Aliou Sall continued with interviews of boat owners, experienced fishermen, fish mongers and women fish processors and marketers, traditional leaders and members of the Local Artisanal Fisheries Committees appointed by the government in major landing sites. The objective is to find out how much information about the official processes has trickled down and what their perceptions and expectations are. The initial findings are that

(a) there is quite a gap between official reports e.g. of pirogue registration and fishing licences and the ground realities, e.g. the official stop on the construction of new pirogues appears not to be respected systematically, (b) many provisions of the legal framework are not well-known and (c) while recognising how important healthy resources are for their future, the fisherfolk are mostly unsatisfied with their involvement in the process and therefore tend to resist some of the restrictions or other measures which they perceive as questioning their status as legitimate stakeholders in the sector.

The analysis and some additional focus group

conversations was on-going through 2015 and expected to continue in 2016. Preliminary findings were presented in two scientific meetings (see below).

Science for Sustainability Symposium, Bremen, 19-21 January 2015 – invitation by the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT)

The year started with an interesting experience at the cross-section between production of knowledge and its use to enable better societal decision making, a heady mix considering growing social inequalities and dangerous ecological overshoot. The symposium also pondered what questions are being addressed, whose knowledge counts and how research results can be made more useful to humanity.

In its most extensive interpretation, sustainability science explicitly attempts to draw in a wide spectrum of disciplinary research - as well as e.g. tacit and traditional knowledge – and engages critically with all actors in society in the quest to help us live dignified lives within the regenerative capacity of Planet Earth. **Read more** about some interesting examples from different regions.

Participation in the final SOCIO-EC Symposium, Brussels, 17-18 February

Last year, we reported about activities to support implementing the reformed European Common Fisheries Policy. Our participation in the final symposium of the SOCIO-EC research project was an occasion to learn about the results of three years of intensive exploration about which management measures would best serve implementation of the reformed EU's Common

Fisheries Policy (CFP). We presented preliminary **results** of our own field research in Senegal led by Aliou Sall that aims to understand the key obstacles to reforming fisheries policies in that country and what might be ways to address them.

Kiel Sustainability Science Symposium, Kiel, Germany, 4-8 March

It is encouraging to see the spread of multidisciplinary collaborations and use of participatory methods among diverse stakeholders to produce insights and resolve for action that go well beyond the sum of what participants know already. Annette Breckwoldt **reported** enthusiastically about this inspiring symposium organised by the Excellence Cluster "Future Ocean" in Kiel.

Baltic Student Conference "Feeding the World without Destroying the World: Can Food Production Be(come) Sustainable?" in Rogow, Poland, from 15 to 19 April



World Café style intense conversations among small groups of Baltic students exploring priorities for making food production and consumption sustainable. (Photo: CE Nauen)

Upon invitation of the Baltic University Network, Cornelia E Nauen of participated as a lecturer at the student conference in Rogow, Poland.

She also moderated world café-style exchanges to draw together insights and recommendations from all sessions. After intensive conversations, the recommendations of the students clustered around these **four thrusts**: Act on lifestyles and sustainable being; reform policies and incentives; make education for sustainability cool; and manage land and water resources in ways compatible with the regenerative capacities of mother Earth!

Mundus maris at the EGU Conference in Vienna, 12 to 17 April 2015

Mundus maris participated at the Annual Assembly of the European Geosciences Union. This is a week-long gathering of earth sciences from all over the globe in Vienna, Austria. Some 11.500 scientists of all ages from more than 100 countries presented research results and exchanged in nearly 600 scientific sessions. We contributed a poster in response to the Education and Outreach Symposium hosted by EGU2015.

International Symposium to showcase 2013/14 international Roundtables of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) at UBC, Vancouver, 27 April 2015

Some will remember the very successful international roundtable last year at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) at UBC Vancouver, titled “**Spaceship Earth**”, which we had organised jointly with Prof. Rashid Sumaila of the Fisheries Centre of UBC and Prof. Sarah K. Meltzoff of the University of Miami. It explored innovative ways to connect to the ocean using the latest of the sciences, arts and traditional knowledge and engaging with people passionate about the ocean. This year, PWIAS invited the

convenors of the international roundtables funded the previous years to a symposium to showcase their results. Rashid Sumaila and Cornelia E Nauen did that with gusto for “Spaceship Earth”. **Click here** for more.



Daniel Pauly spoke about the gulf between real marine catches and official reports - a gap of 30 to 50%, which hinders good policy and investment (Photo: CE Nauen)

As an additional **bonus**, we were able to participate in the Ocean-Wise Symposium of leading researchers and practitioners organised in the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the campaign for sustainable seafood by the Vancouver Aquarium.

VIII MARE Conference, Amsterdam, 24-26 June

The opening lecture of this year’s MARE Conference by Prof. Oran R. Young of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California (Santa Barbara) first underscored the importance of the Ocean by any standard by putting a price estimate on what he called “big ticket issues”. He cited the same three major threats *Mundus maris* and others have repeatedly highlighted and labelled them as:



Prof. Svein Jentoft asking a question during a plenary session
(Photo: CE Nauen)

- Overharvesting: 90% of all stocks are fully exploited or overfished. This is a collective action problem that needs urgent action.
- Pollution and expanding dead zones: This is declared an “externality” and a social cost problem, but has many more facets.
- Climate change with acidification and warming: This is an Earth systems problem, not confined to the ocean. It requires top attention from individuals and institutions across the board.

Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* chaired a session in the Knowledge stream of the conference and presented preliminary findings of the field research in Senegal led by Aliou Sall. Interviews of stakeholders in major artisanal landing places aimed at understanding their perspectives in relation to the attempts at fisheries policy reform in the country and explore what could be approaches to overcome the current impasse.

The conference offered opportunities for interesting exchange and learning in its six parallel “streams” and the **many conversations** with mostly social scientists from all over the world.

FishBase Symposium and Consortium meeting celebrating 25 years of FishBase, 10 years of SeaLifeBase, 1-4 Sept. 2015 in Los Baños, Philippines

This year’s 13th annual FishBase Symposium was fittingly convened in the Philippines, where FishBase was originally conceived some 25 years ago by Daniel Pauly and Rainer Froese. The key organiser of this outstanding event was the FishBase Information and Research Group, FIN, based at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños.

The focal theme for celebrating the 25th anniversary of FishBase and the 10th anniversary of SeaLifeBase was using these public web resources for teaching and research. Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* recalled the origins and key achievements of FishBase in her opening address. The programme featured talks by several key members of the FishBase consortium and Filipino researchers and lecturers reporting



The fathers of FishBase, Daniel Pauly (left) and Rainer Froese, just before the start of the silver jubilee celebrations
(Photo: CE Nauen)

their experiences in collaborating with FishBase and SeaLifeBase and the interesting and creative use they make of the web archives.

The celebrations were also an excellent opportunity to take up the possibility of sponsoring individual species pages in the public web encyclopedias. *Mundus maris* now sponsors three:

1. ***Sardinella aurita***, the Round Sardinella in West Africa, which served as model for our mascots Samba and Kumba,
2. ***Engraulis ringens***, the famous Peruvian anchoveta, occurring in the cold Humboldt Current along the Pacific coast of Latin America, and
3. ***Euphausia superba***, the circumpolar Antarctic krill occurring in the Southern Ocean.

All three species are central to their respective ecosystems. Lots of other species pages are available for sponsoring. With a modest contribution, everybody can help keeping these essential sources of knowledge **freely available** in the public domain.

The video-training course by Dr. Stephen Cox of the Smithsonian Institution held back-to-back was an opportunity to learn about a successful effort to come to grips with the vexing challenge of how to get artisanal fisheries production data. The catch reconstructions conducted by the Sea Around Us Project had shown the missing millions in global statistics. Dr Cox reported about new technologies developed in Central America to record artisanal catches in great detail. Interest for the approach is increasing fast also in Asia. Read **here**.

Brussels Aquarium celebrates 10th anniversary and develops lab facilities to study and protect endangered amphibians, 12 September



Pierre Demol, the heart and soul of the Brussels Aquarium (left), addresses the guests, including the mayor, during the anniversary celebration (Photo: CE Nauen)

The Public Aquarium in Brussels was built and is painstakingly maintained by MM member Pierre Demol and his dedicated team. The aquarium is a magnet for school classes and tourists, though the reduction in public support for school excursions means that particularly schools from poorer neighbourhoods cannot afford the experience for their pupils. In the continuous effort to contribute to the study and protection of endangered aquatic species, the aquarium is currently being extended with facilities to save amphibians suffering from habitat loss and diseases and increasingly being threatened by extinction. *Mundus maris* is making a 500 Euro contribution towards this effort and invites the authorities and all its supporters to join this important effort.

Mundus maris at the DGM Forum and YOUMARES Networking Conference, Bremen, Germany, 15-18 September

This year, the German Society for Marine Research (DGM) celebrated its 35th anniversary with week-long activities and events at the University in Bremen under the motto “Limits of knowledge and action”. *Mundus maris* president Cornelia E Nauen is a long-standing member of the DGM. Keeping in touch with latest research, including that carried out by DGM members, is an important aspect of the *Mundus maris* mandate to make research more readily accessible to non-specialists and engage critically with the public. This year’s Forum saw several high-level keynote speakers, followed by two days of self-organised symposium giving young marine researchers (YOUMARES 6.0) the chance to showcase their research results. A most **worthwhile experience** and source of contacts and information both for the participants and *Mundus maris*.



Stefan Rahmstorf gave one of the impulse talks about tipping points for the climate (Photo: CE Nauen)

Section 2 – Youth work

Campus Plein Sud at the Free University Brussels (ULB), 2-13 March

The major theme of Campus Plein Sud at the ULB this year focused on the heroes in “the South”. *Mundus maris* centred its contribution on the many unsung heroes who promote development and solidarity in their communities on a daily basis and do much to improve living conditions. They may not be widely known, but without them, development would advance much more slowly. We offered an open course in the lecture series of Prof. Ariane Ramaekers. In collaboration with Campus en Transition we organised a film debate around the **video-interview** with Awa Seye, leader of the women in fisheries in Guet Ndar, Saint Louis, and all of Senegal.

ULB – Career Fair for Alumni studying German, 21 April

Upon invitation of the Alumni Portal for foreign students having studied German together with DAAD **we participated** with a professional stand at the career fair at the Free University Brussels (ULB). Among others we offered a position for a media and communication assistant to strengthen our communication team. Many participants stopped at the *Mundus maris* stand and showed interest in the job. But in the end, no suitable candidate could be selected in this occasion.

Mundus maris Awards contest for young people to celebrate World Oceans Day 2015

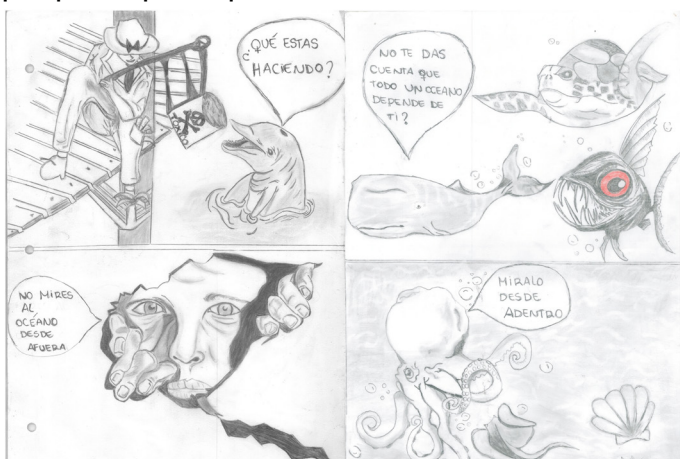
Early in the year we launched an invitation to young people around the globe to celebrate

World Oceans Day together by participating in the *Mundus maris* Awards contest. We titled the inspirational text “The Ocean and the Human Family” and invited participants to submit their work in one of three challenges:

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

For each challenge, three age categories were distinguished: up to 12 years, 13 to 18 years and 19 to 24 years.

For the contest and the special events for World Oceans Day, we exchanged letters of understanding with the municipality of Monte Hermoso in the south-eastern tip of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. Sergio Bambarén, best-selling author of stories about the sea from Peru, endorsed the initiative and invited young people to participate in **the contest**.



Stefanie Gonzalez from Argentina won the Special Bluefin Tuna Prize for her cartoon “Pensar el mar”.

More than 120 young people from 10 countries were inspired by the World Oceans Day Declaration “The Ocean and the Human Family” to the point of sending in their individual or group work. They were from Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and USA.

An international jury of experienced personalities examined the entries and selected the winners in the different challenges and age groups. Cash prizes were graduated according to the quality assessment of the jury and named after emblematic threatened species in the ocean. The top prize – Special Bluefin Tuna Prize of 300 Euro – went to Stefanie Gonzalez, 18 years, from Monte Hermoso for her cartoon “Pensar el mar” (Think the Sea). Find out more about the *Mundus maris* Awards [here](#).

Celebrating World Oceans Day 2015 with special events in different places

The culmination of a lot of preparatory and outreach work for World Oceans Day were special events organised by *Mundus maris* and our partners in Argentina, Belgium, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal. Thanks to the events, large numbers of people could get first-hand information about the ocean, participate in sports- and cultural programmes, beach-clean-ups and more. Each event centred on the specific local context, but also drew attention to the wider, even global threats to the ocean and what we can do together about them. In each event, the winners of the *Mundus maris* Awards were announced and honorary diplomas handed to participants and their teachers. The **pictures and texts** on the website give a flavour of each event.



Mundus maris stand for World Oceans Day celebrations in Brussels just before the announcement of the winners (Photo: P. Bottoni)

A **video** about the march, beach cleaning and ceremony in Kilifi County, Kenya, is available on our YouTube channel.



Beach cleaning at Baobab Beach in Kilifi County, Kenya

A Sea of Ideas for the UN Climate Summit in Paris

Given the limited attention to the ocean in the run-up to the UN Climate Summit in Paris in December, *Mundus maris* invited young people

to submit their ideas and suggestions. We wanted to offer an opportunity to the young minds to support wise decision making by the leaders that takes account of the crucial role of the ocean for the climate. After all, they will have to live with the consequences. A selection was used to produce a **short video**.

Special attention to young people and schools



Large crowds gathered throughout the day for the special session of the judge to regularise the kids' birth certificates (Photo: A. Sall)

The problem with school drop-outs in Senegal is reaching into every corner of the country. In the preparation of last year's World Ocean Day activities in the fishing village of Hann, we were more regularly confronted with the fact that kids without birth certificates could not complete their secondary education and thus see their chances for better futures jeopardised. From a few initial labour-intensive test-cases solved last year, it became clear that a more systematic approach would be needed, even though the

reasons and motivations for parents not seeking a birth certificate right from the beginning are quite diverse. With the support of the Schuman Trophy, we could help a local association to record cases, check and prepare the necessary documentation and also enrol the help of a local official dedicating his personal time and lots of energy into seeking solutions. And given the waves made by the effort, a judge was specially sent to Hann to receive and regularise the papers of all those that could be handled that day. 85 kids going back to school was a wonderful reward for the effort. Thanks to everybody for their tenacious commitment and for Schuman Trophy's financial aid. **Click here** for more.

3. Traditional culture, links to the arts and the people of the sea

Fisheries management – THE challenge in the Pacific

The South Pacific encompasses 15 independent island countries and 8 territories – in total more than 200 high islands and 2.500 low lying islands and atolls – which are distributed over a mainly tropical region with a range of 4.000 km from North to South and of 9.000 km from West to East. The relationship between 550.000 km² of land as compared to 29 million km² of ocean, representing one third of the world's EEZ (Economic Exclusive Zone) highlights the island character and the diversity of the South Pacific. Moreover, the region represents three different, however, geographically clustered cultural zones: Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. After spending more than a decade working in the Pacific, Dr. Mecki Kronen **sums up** some of the lessons she learned from working with the islanders.

“LAN MO NIOU DESSE” (What remains for us?) Documentary about artisanal fishing, fish processing and migration in Casamance, southern Senegal

On the heels of an earlier **collaboration** with ZIDEOProd, a film producing company in Senegal led by Thomas Grand, we responded positively to their request for co-funding of a new documentary about the artisanal fisheries in Casamance, the southern part of Senegal between The Gambia and Guinea Bissau. Traditional practices have come under stress as migrant pirogue fishers, sport fishers and foreign industrial vessels compete with local fishers for limited resources and most people do not see alternative livelihoods within reach. This scenario is evoked in the title “What remains for us?”. We are investing some financial resources into the production process and have written endorsement letters that helped to acquire the greater part of the funding needed.

“Compañero Océano” – film about Chilean artisanal fishers



Shot of an artisanal fisherman in Chile for the documentary (Photo: F Fuellgraf)

We were approached by Frederico Fuellgraf, a Brazilian journalist and film-maker living in Chile to help with the final stages of his latest film project about small-scale fishers in Chile titled “Compañero Océano”. Exemplified by the landing place “Caleta San Pedro” and its leader, Cosme Caracciolo, the film intends to portray living conditions and struggles of the fishers confronted with changing conditions in the sea, in national legislation and international markets.

Section 4. Communication, Awareness and Education

Our communication and awareness work in 2015 took many forms, from marching for the climate, interviewing fascinating people, reaching out through our World Oceans Day activities - *Mundus maris* Awards contest and events (see above) – teaming up with others to increase reach together, the participation in scientific and cultural meetings and events and, of course, through the internet and our presence in the social media.

The citizens march for the climate

The global climate march in Melbourne, Australia, kicked off the marching season with tens of thousands of participants. That was a big boost for people in Paris: those who could not march themselves because marches had been prevented for security reasons, and those flocking into the French capital to participate as delegates, observers, journalists, lobbyists, civil society representatives.

It was truly the biggest turnout of citizens ever for climate protection and solidarity. Hundreds of thousands of people defied all obstacles to the

marches. Some 2300 events in 175 countries were registered around the world and counting. Possibly even more smaller events never made it into the official record, but contributed to the global chorus. And *Mundus maris* members and sympathisers **took part** in the mobilisation to get a voice for the ocean and a viable agreement at the Climate Summit in Paris.

Co-sponsoring HUGYCUP 2015 competition for underwater photography and video

What better way to promote the love for the ocean and its wonderful creatures through diving and bringing back pictures to share widely? We supported premiered underwater photographer Danny van Belle in this year’s HUGYCUP competition. *Mundus maris* proudly sponsored the wide angle prize this year. It was won by Luc Eeckhaut, who was also the overall winner of the HUGYCUP 2014/15. **Congratulations!**



Luc Eeckhaut was the winner of the wide angle underwater photography prize of the HUGYCUP, sponsored by *Mundus maris*. Congratulations!

Encounters and interviews with fascinating personalities continued

We continued to interview people from different walks of life to discover their stories and particularly what connects them to the ocean.



Interview with Dr Johanne Fischer, Executive Secretary of the SPRFMO, Wellington, New Zealand

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) is responsible for a vast area covering almost a quarter of all high seas areas in the world. Dr Johanne Fischer is the Executive Secretary based at its headquarter in Wellington, New Zealand. We were fortunate to be able to interview her in New Zealand to learn more about the challenges of this young organisation and, more in general, what she sees as the major threats to the ocean and **what can be done** about them.

We also had the immense pleasure of interviewing René Schaerer, a tireless fighter for the rights of small-scale fishers and a well-known personality not only in his new home in Brazil. René is a Swiss born social entrepreneur and innovator. He promotes sustainable living on the coast of Brazil through viable economic activities, civic engagement and participation of small-scale fisherfolk. Don't miss what he **has to say**.

Talking about unusual life stories ... Bissan Ahmed, a poetess and medical doctor granted us an interview. She feels deeply attached to the sea for inspiration. **Discover** how she combines oncology, social engagement and poetry and what her dream for the ocean is.

Mundus maris with its own website and in the social media

The *Mundus maris* web resources are available in five languages (French, English, German, Italian and Spanish). With 3.5 million hits, the average duration/visit was more than five minutes.

Mundus maris is also present on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube and issues a monthly newsletter.

Resp.:
Dr. Cornelia E. Nauen
Mundus maris asbl
3, av. de Tervueren
1040 Brussels, Belgium

www.mundusmaris.org

Bank account BELFIUS:
IBAN: BE54 0688 9178 6297
BIC: GKCCBEBB

Registration Nr.: 830.328314