

## A sad but necessary decision

The project was originally co-ordinated by Carla Zickfeld, who was our vice-president at that time. Several members of the association were instrumental in the development of this project and gave their full support for its development. *Mundus maris* Vice President, Dr. Aliou Sall, who was also the Senegalese coordinator of the Mare Nostrum project, opened his broad network of contacts for Carla Zickfeld and her husband, Stefan Karkow, who was involved as a documentarist and, as a non-member of *Mundus maris*, on the basis of cost reimbursement. Leaders of traditional fishermen, women in fish processing and marketing, teachers and students in schools, generously gave their time and experience, even opened their homes in good faith to be part of the development of this space for dialogue and diversity. *Mundus maris* paid the equipment (computer, video camera and peripherals) and travel expenses to carry out and document the field work to make visible the cultural and social struggle for recognition of the traditional fishermen, who are often led by the National Collective of Fishermen in Senegal (CNPS).

The work began with a lot of enthusiasm in the last days of the Dak'Art Biennial in 2010. The brief glimpses of the first two-week exploratory trip to the fishing villages, cultural organisations and artists nourished hope for the development of a very interesting and broadly based, participatory project. You can take part on this website. In 2011, the General Assembly of *Mundus maris* decided to create a new mandate with the intention of expanding the documentation.

Two trips of one month each in Senegal for *Mundus maris* in 2011 were filled with an intense programme of visits, interviews and visual and audio documentation. The plan foresaw the development of project-based proposals that can be funded on the basis of the results. It was at this point that the exchange of material with *Mundus maris*, already reduced to a trickle dried up entirely. Just as the acquisition of documentation thanks to Aliou Sall's tireless leadership and cooperation reached the climax, the transmission stopped completely. Weeks of distraction maneuvers and holding tactics followed, including public discrediting of *Mundus maris* and some members, especially by Mr Karkow. The extensive search for a consensual solution failed. Therefore, the Management Committee decided to close the project out of respect for the various partners and to limit the damage already provoked. The President informed the relevant organisations accordingly.

Zickfeld and Karkow show on their website, which is named deceitfully similar as Mar Nostrum, material the publication of which was expressly forbidden by the depicted and directly affected persons.

We are informed that the persons concerned have reported to the German police and informed the internet provider of the MarNostrum site based in Germany. *Mundus maris* is horrified by this new breach of trust and supports all the defensive measures of the victims in Senegal. We dissociate our association publicly from Carla Zickfeld and Stefan Karkow and condemn their actions in the strongest way. We find it particularly contemptuous of the two that they obviously rely on the complications of the transnational enforcement of rights by ignoring the explicit prohibition of fishermen to their material for personal use. Could this be so because the fishermen are 'only from a developing country' and that this a small price to be paid for Mrs. Zickfelds and Mr. Karkow's personal ambitions?

*Mundus maris* reiterates that it will support any defensive measures of victims in Senegal. Similarly, *Mundus maris* reaffirms its commitment to working with fishermen. *Mundus maris* asbl also reaffirmed its rights to the materials ordered to carry out the project agreed with Zickfeld and Karkow. We retain the legitimate material on our website to meet the commitments made to our local partners, as we also believe that the underlying concepts and approaches are still relevant. But we must close the project with the now misleading name, in order to avoid further misuse.