

Our unquenchable hunger for more

Humans have always been connected to the ocean because every living creature first arose from its depths. Everything is connected to the ocean, through the movements of the tide, evaporation and the water cycle, the atmosphere, and the weather. All of which affect us as humanity.

The earliest records of history show that people used the sea for many things; they crafted boats used for transport, which led to discoveries of other lands, ecosystems, creatures, and people, eventually leading to trade. Ancient cultures, largely from water-surrounded countries or islands like New Zealand, Polynesia, Fiji or Hawaii had, and often still have a deep connection to the ocean.

In 2018, I visited New Zealand for three months myself. I discovered that a lot of Maori symbols were connected to the ocean, like the Hei Matau (fishhook) or the Moana (sea) symbol.

Many people don't know about the importance of the ocean and its inhabitants.

Because most people don't see the ocean from inside and so, don't think about it. We are living in a globalized world and have always the opportunity to watch documentaries or read scientific essays about the ocean. Should these technologies and our knowledge not make us more sensitive and connected to the ocean?

However, due to human disturbance over the past few centuries, the ocean now has to face many problems, such as oil spills, industrial agriculture effects, death zones, an overabundance of plastic, coral bleaching, overfishing, and the extinction of marine life. Oil spills have caused the death of millions of seabirds, sea creatures, corals, and plants in recent years. But there are still thousands of offshore oil rigs in the world. Time bombs ready to explode and built by human hands. The increase of nutrients in the ocean because of industrial agriculture can lead to algal bloom, which consumes oxygen and creates uninhabitable dead zones in the ocean. Human disturbance, Climate Change, and the increase of carbon dioxide leads to coral bleaching and can destroy whole reef ecosystems.

We take more than we need from the ocean and only give our waste in return. We don't give the ocean time to recover and even extinct whole species because of our unquenchable hunger and outdated mindset.

In conclusion, humans contribute a lot to the destruction of the ocean and its inhabitants. If we would start to think about the consequences of our reckless actions and not just about the best profit - the ocean and us, too, might still have a chance. But if we continue on as before and as we are, we will not only destroy an incredible and diverse habitat but also the basis of all life, including ourselves. Everyone has to work for a future in which it is still possible to see corals, sharks, whales, and sea turtles. We all have to realize how beautiful and important the ocean is and learn once again to love and respect this colourful place on earth.