



C O N S E R V I N G
COASTAL AND MARINE
BIODIVERSITY
for **S U S T A I N I N G**
LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS





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Foreword

Our Planet is blue: marine areas cover more than 70% of the surface of the Earth. The sea provides for so much that we, as human beings, have taken for granted: the oceans give us more than half of the oxygen we breathe; they regulate our climate, secure the livelihoods for many local communities, provide us with all the seafood and offer many recreational opportunities. Oceans form the very base of survival, but also of identity and pride for many fishers and their families, communities, and even entire nations.

Today, forty-six exceptional marine places have received the highest international recognition for conservation: inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Together, their surface covers about one third of all 6,000 marine protected areas. They are the “Crown Jewels of the Ocean”, protected through the - almost universally ratified - World Heritage Convention for future generations to continue enjoying their richness and splendour.

However, human activities are creating massive impact upon the ecosystems, and biodiversity loss has already breached safe planetary boundaries. In the coastal and marine areas the situation is alarming: our oceans are overfished, polluted and warming due to climate change. Marine ecosystems have deteriorated to a perilous level. The livelihoods of the poor depend most on the services, which marine

ecosystems provide; their coastal communities will suffer directly the consequences of acidification of oceans, decline in fish stocks and impacts of climate change. Whatever we lose in terms of species richness and diversity of habitats, will be lost forever. And with it, also potential uses for pharmaceutical purposes, inspirations for innovative technologies, solutions for climate challenges, or other scientific, artistic or economic potentials. So we need to act – and we need each and everyone for this!

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, via Wildlife Institute of India, has joined forces with IUCN, the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, UNESCO, WWF, the German government via GLZ, and many other allies to reach out and make a strong call to the public: The International Youth Forum - Go4BioDiv offers dedicated young people from all over the world with an opportunity to share their on-the-ground conservation experience with their peers and the wider public.

Go4BioDiv has already been carried out twice: in Germany 2008 and Japan 2010, and it was a great success. A few months ago it was honoured by the United Nations Decade jury in Germany for its “excellent approach to getting young people actively involved in international policy dialogue on the conservation of biodiversity”.

Now, in October 2012, Go4BioDiv will take place for the third time, under the theme 'Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods'. Thirty-five engaged young people have been selected to represent their communities, environmental groups and research institutes from the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific region, including Australia. They live and work in the most outstanding natural regions: marine World Heritage sites and other coastal protected areas, and they represent youth around our globe. These Youth Messengers want to make a strong call to the world, via the delegates of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to halt biodiversity loss in terrestrial and especially marine realms. In a refreshing and innovative way, including street theatre actions, a boat rally, and colourful exhibitions they aim at raising awareness of how important marine ecosystems are for future generations.

In view of the enormous task and urgency of coastal and marine conservation, we need to join forces across political and sector borders, beyond administrative jurisdictions, gender, race, age and religious boundaries. We need co-ordinated global actions to restore our oceans and save marine life. The Go4BioDiv Youth Messengers are a promising example of this new way of thinking, acting and networking for a common goal.



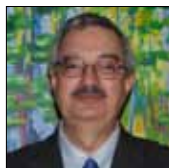
Mr. Hem Pande

Joint Secretary
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Mr. Kishore Rao

Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre



Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

Executive Secretary
CBD



Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre

Director General
IUCN



Mr. Heiko Warnken

Division Head
Environment and sustainable use of natural resources of BMZ



“Camarón que se duerme, se lo lleva la corriente”

TRADITIONAL SAYING FROM GALAPAGOS, ECUADOR

English translation: Shrimp asleep will be swept by the current

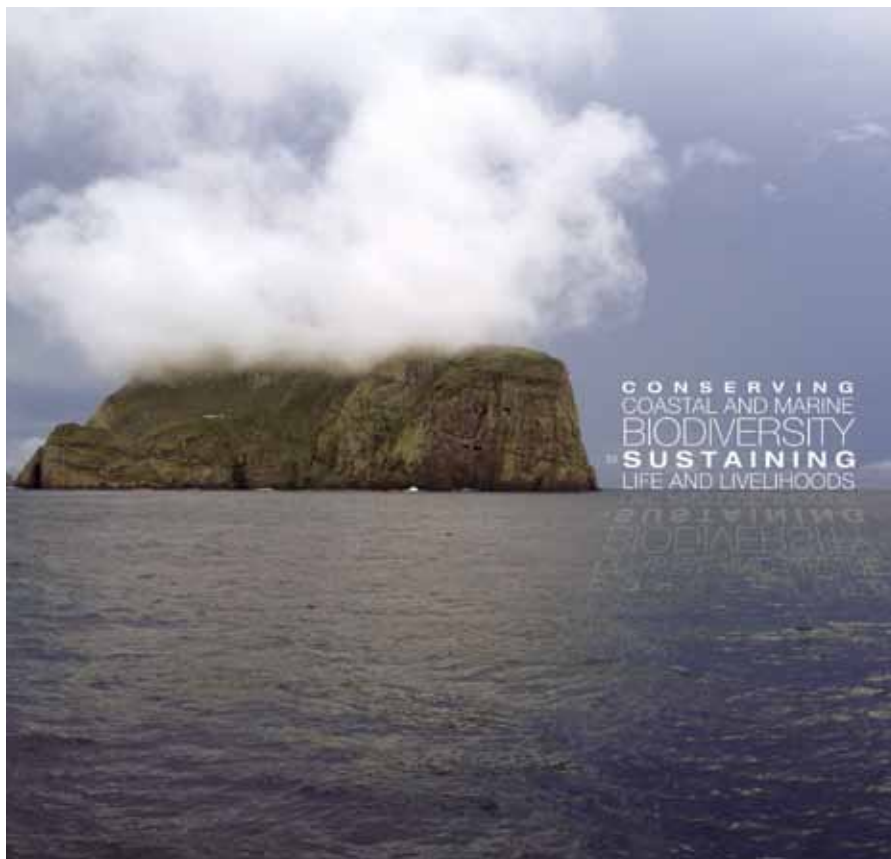
Meaning: Always stay alert if you don't want to be taken by surprises.



**“Maat magkamang ta dili kinanglan daw,
Kamangen ng daw ino igo an ta kinanglan”**

FROM CAGAYANCILLO (TUBBATAHA REEFS), PHILIPPINES

English translation: Don't take what you don't need - take only what is enough to satisfy your needs.



The International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv offers young dedicated people from all over the world the opportunity to share their on-the-ground conservation experience with their peers and the wider public. It enables them to participate in political discussions by engaging with international leaders during the Conferences of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COPs). So far, Go4BioDiv has been carried out twice, in Germany 2008 and in Japan 2010, and was a great success. In October 2012, Go4BioDiv takes place for the third time, in parallel to the CBD-COP 11 in India. The theme of this third International Youth Forum has been chosen in accordance with the COP 10 decisions (Nagoya mandate/ Aichi targets): 'Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods.'

Go4BioDiv is conceptualized and implemented to cause impacts at three levels:

1. On the lives of the participants (called 'Youth Messengers'), by exposing them to issues and experts in the field of biodiversity conservation, also making them a part of the bigger conservation and youth networks;
2. In the home countries of the Youth messengers, their national protected area systems, individual sites, cooperating institutions, and local communities, through multiple measures of public outreach and awareness generation of the Go4BioDiv Messengers prior, during and post COP;
3. On political decision-takers as well as the discussion processes in the context of COP and beyond, by providing a fresh youth perspective on relevant conservation and development issues, in particular those of cross-cutting and intergenerational relevance for the CBD Programmes of Work.

Keeping this in mind, Go4BioDiv 2012 in India was designed to have three phases:

1. A Virtual Phase, which started in April 2012. There, the critical issues concerning coastal and marine conservation and for livelihoods are discussed among the youth and a wider public. These discussions on the virtual platform will shape further activities and the Go4Biodiv Declaration during CBD COP-11.
2. The Live Phase of Go4BioDiv takes place in India during the CBD-COP (October 6-19, 2012). In the first 10 days of this phase, the participants are stationed in the Marine World Heritage site of India, the Sundarbans, where they prepare for their interventions in the CBD Conference. In the last 4 days of this phase they move to Hyderabad, where they will participate in the High Level Segment of the COP, sharing their messages in innovative, creative and globally understandable ways. They will spread their thoughts on coastal and marine conservation via a colourful exhibition, street theatre interventions, a boat rally, panel discussions and a Go4BioDiv declaration.

3. The post-COP Phase involves a follow-up process with the participants and networking with specialists, once they all get back to their respective countries, organizations and communities. There the youths act as messengers in pro of marine biodiversity conservation, while they remain connected via the virtual platform with the bigger Go4BioDiv community. An extensive publication on the challenges and opportunities of marine and coastal conservation is planned for late 2013. It will draw on the Go4BioDiv network and the Youth Messengers' experiences.



Moctar Ba 31
Banc d'Arguin
 Mauritania

Jenessa Tien 20
Kluane
 Canada

Breanna Chandler 24
Papahānaumokuākea
 USA

Marlon Williams 28
Belize Barrier Reef
 Belize

Maya Moure 27
Sian Ka'an
 Mexico

Yersil Nikolas Sánchez Espino 29
Coiba
 Panama

Thelma Samantha Cruz 17
Rio Plátano
 Honduras

Josué Morales 26
Cocos Island
 Costa Rica

Diego Cardeñosa 25
Malpelo
 Colombia

Johanna Elizabeth Carrión 23
Galapagos Islands
 Ecuador

Luisa Sette Camara 21
Albrolhos
 Brazil

Lorena Amend 19
Paracas
 Peru

Maria Soledad Lindner 28
Península Valdés
 Argentina



Jannes Landschoff 25

The Wadden Sea
Germany

Pavan Sabbithi 27

Kakinada bay/Coringa
Andhra Pradesh – India

Hirak Ranjan Dash 25

Puri
Orissa – India

Nguyen Bich Hanh 23

Ha Long Bay
Viet Nam

Manjari Roy 27

The Sundarbans
West Bengal – India

Vardhan Patankar 26

Andaman & Nicobar Islands
India

Erik Versluijs 19

The Wadden Sea
Netherlands

Rezvin Akter 27

The Sundarbans
Bangladesh

Sagar Suri 27

Coast line
Gujarat – India

Ananya Ashok 22

Palikarani Marsh
Tamil Nadu – India

Apoorva Usha Kulkarni 24

Pondicherry
Union Territory – India

Heather Ketebebang 29

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon
Palau

Glenda Simon 29

Tubbataha Reefs
Philippines

Hermansyah Akbar 30

Komodo
Indonesia

Gavin Jacob Singleton 25

Great Barrier Reef
Australia

Agnes Bianca Mendoza 23

Puerto-Princesa
Philippines

Gerard Anthony de Souza 26

Coastline of Goa
Goa – India

Nibedita Mukherjee 29

Kannur and Kasargod
Kerala – India

Simangele Msweli 19
iSimangaliso Wetland Park
South Africa

Shiva Sharma 29
Karnataka coastline
Karnataka – India

Maruti Giri Mahesthi 26
Ujung Kulon
Indonesia

Amelia Fowles 29
Macquarie Island
Australia

Jenessa Tlen, 20

Kluane, Canada



I am a member of Kluane First Nation. The Kluane National Park and Reserve (KNPR) is part of my heritage and culture. It means a great deal to our people and those who live near the park. Kluane First Nation (KFN) is one of two First Nations cooperative management partners of KNPR, which is part of the larger area encompassed by the World Heritage designation. My personal relationship with the site is that I grew up living next door to its boundary. I personally have observed changes in relation to the climate, forest, landscape and animals that live here. But further to that, my First Nations ancestors have occupied this landscape for time immemorial, and much of their knowledge of the land, animals and weather has been passed onto me through the tradition of oral history. As a member of KFN, I have subsistence harvesting rights within KNPR boundaries - but with those rights comes great responsibility. Learning more about sustainable development and responsible utilization of the landscape and all it offers is something I strive for. I am young and my experiences limited, but I feel that compared to many others my age in Canada, I have a good awareness of the issues we face now and will in the future, related to climate change and the importance of acting now for the future generations.

Breanna Chandler, 24

Papahānaumokuākea, USA



Papahānaumokuākea represents more than just one marine preserve; it represents all of the Hawaiian Islands, it is a shining example of hope. As the locals say "it is where life originated from", and once you see the vast array of life it is easy to understand that idea. This health and productivity of this site not only gives me hope that the next generations will be able to experience the rich diversity of our oceans. Papahānaumokuākea reminds me of 'Ohana' or family; it brings all walks of life together to share in her beauty. I know that Papahānaumokuākea will be my Ohana. The Aloha spirit that is Hawaii has become a part of me. My love for this archipelago was even further expanded during my numerous trips to the islands studying tropical ecology. I have come to see that the aloha spirit can be found in the lava flow across Kalapana, creating new life in Kealahou Bay, communities gathering together to re-plant Lohala Mountain, the vast cliffs and beaches of Waipi'o Valley, all the way to the marine preserves of Oahu. My time spent on these islands has only enhanced my connection and understanding of this precious



Yersil Nikolas Sánchez Espino, 29

Coiba, Panama



Coiba National Park is known for its huge biodiversity that comes along with high endemism of flora and fauna. One of the ecosystem services provided by the park is livelihood for small scale fisheries. Only 47 authorized vessels are allowed to harvest within the boundaries of the World Heritage site. Among other services we can find recreations such as scuba diving and scientific research. Only recently this has resulted in the discovering of a new kind of marine coral: *Pacifigorgia marviva*, on behalf of Erika Knie, founder of Fundación MarViva.

By training I am a lawyer. Till this date, I have assisted as part of the Secretary of the Directive Council of Coiba National Park, and worked in various committees that along with the Scientific Committee help to promote governance and governability within the boundaries of the World Heritage site. While working with some communities located in the buffer zone, I got to realize that the livelihoods of those groups of people depend not only on harvesting the goods that the site provides, but also on their constant interaction with the protected area administration and other communities, every single day. This is why governance aspects are so important.

Josué Morales, 26

Cocos Island, Costa Rica



Cocos Island possesses outstanding natural and scenic features in which many marine and terrestrial species have found a unique place to live. I feel that working in the Cocos Island National Park is a great opportunity for me. As I have this privilege, I am committed to doing it the best way because I've always felt a great affinity for nature conservation, and I want to pass on a healthy environment to future generations.

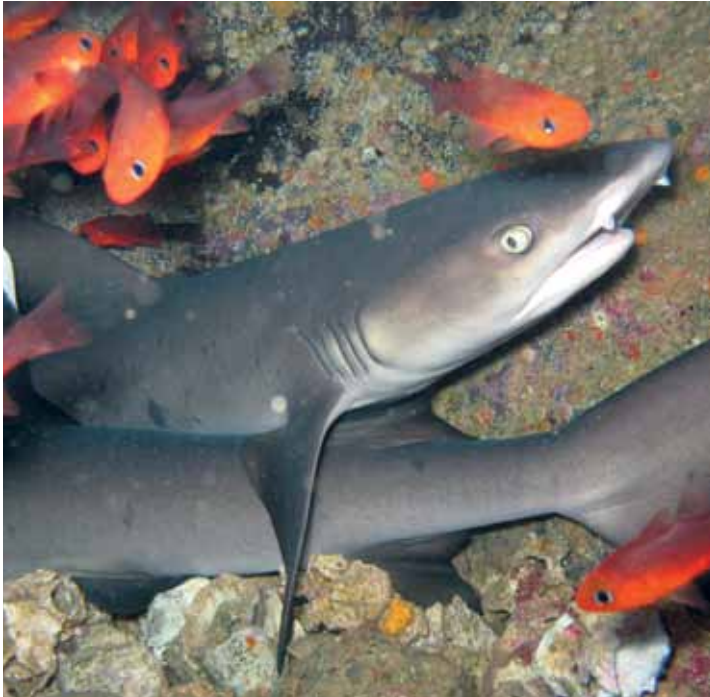
Cocos Island to me is a sample of what the planet was many years ago, so I want to protect it and avoid that it degrades environmentally as many other places have. A scientific study about Cocos Island has concluded that efforts to protect the area are working well and show positive results.

However, two of the biggest problems we suffer daily at Cocos Island are overfishing and illegal fishing: people with no respect for nature enter the protected area. Their high yielding fishing equipment does not distinguish between commercial fish species and turtles, dolphins, sharks and stingrays; so all of these get trapped on their fishing hooks. I think that coordination among marine protected areas worldwide, and with the international and national fishery sectors would help solve the problem.



Diego Cardeñosa, 25

Malpelo, Colombia



For the last few years, I have been working along with the Malpelo Foundation in shark conservation projects in the area. My work aims at the preservation and long-term conservation of the marine species around the Sanctuary.

As a scientist, I feel bound to protect and maintain biodiversity in our oceans and ensure that it remains a synonym of life for future generations. Since childhood I have admired the ocean and the species that inhabit it. Over the years, especially now as a biologist, I got to realize the important role of those species in the life of all of us. Many of the processes that sustain life on our planet depend on the ocean. It provides between 50 and 80 percent of the oxygen we breathe; over 50 percent of the world's population depends on it as a food source. For most people, the Ocean is still an inexhaustible source of life, yet every time we find more evidence to the contrary.

Malpelo is a great example of how one would expect to maintain conditions in the ocean. Its waters are full of life and one just needs to swim a few minutes to realize the need to preserve places like Malpelo around the world.

Johanna Elizabeth Carrión, 23

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



I was raised on the Galapagos Islands. Since I was little, I have learned about the uniqueness of living in such a fragile ecosystem with so many special characteristics. At university, I chose ecotourism and now the main objective of my career is to practice low-scale and low-impact tourism. Ecotourism is based on the concept of sustainable development. This is needed for Galapagos and its ecosystems in order to conserve the precious marine habitats.

Ocean means life for my community because the marine reserve, with its ecosystems and biodiversity, is one of the main attractions for tourists. Considering the amount of tourists that arrive in the archipelago every year, it is really important to protect our heritage. There are also about 500 active fishermen in my community who depend on the resources from our marine reserve to sustain their families. Today, most of them are conscious about the fishing regulations and respect them.

Even conservationists and scientists are part of my community: they are fascinated to observe and understand how life has adapted and species have evolved to survive in different environments.



Lorena Amend, 19

Paracas National Reserve, Peru



Living on the coast of Peru has led to my close relationship with the sea. In the Paracas region, I admire its spectacular shoreline with rocks, desert features, ancient cultures, and the abundant marine life. Due to the cold upwellings with waters rich in minerals, Peru hosts the most productive marine ecosystem of the world! Paracas National Reserve protects rare animal species like the Humboldt penguins, dolphins, whales or the sea lions and many migratory birds. But overfishing and climate change threaten the vulnerable ecosystem with its desert-like coast and fertile waters – if the cold Humboldt Current collapses due to climate change, this would have drastic consequences! Conserving the coastal ecosystem of Paracas is important because hundreds of lives depend on the area: animals, plants and humans. Tourism and fishery are very important for the reserve and the local people. Watching the rich coastal life of Peru and understanding the multiple challenges for conservation, it made me curious to learn more about the sea and ways to protect it – this is one of the reasons why I decided to go to India where at present I am working as a volunteer in marine turtle conservation, on the coasts of Kundapur.

Maria Soledad Lindner, 28

Peninsula Valdes, Argentina



The story of the Earth began in the ocean. There life emerged and evolved. From the tiny plankton to the huge whales... the ocean is the habitat of the major diversity of species. This huge mass of blue water gives the balance necessary for life, and every individual on the earth maintains a vital relation with the oceans.

My personal relation with Peninsula Valdés has its philosophical roots in conservation biology, understanding it with a holistic conception. I've developed a deep relation with the area by studying one of the most charismatic species, the southern right whale. The conservation needs of an emblematic species of our marine ecosystem, forces us to worry about the whole environment with an integral point of view and attitude. So, I've developed a profound relationship with the environment, the local people, tourists and authorities. I think that only if we work together, due to the synergic efforts of all the actors we can achieve the preservation of such unique places all over the world.



Luisa Sette Camara, 21

Abrolhos, Brazil



As part of my studies in law in university, I conducted a research about marine underwater noise pollution and its impacts on marine mammals in Abrolhos Marine National Park. This way, I have become aware of the threats Abrolhos is facing and since then, I have been advocating for a better protection of the site. 'Abrolhos' means life for me because of the nature and culture of this volcanic archipelago. It means life because of the strong relationship that Abrolhos' local community has with the ocean. The community respects nature and recognizes its intrinsic value. There is no need of research or economic valuation to show them the importance of the archipelago - they already know it. This relationship is reflected in the local culture, such as the folkloric party called "Marujada": important elements are songs related to the sea, and religion. With regards to nature, Abrolhos is a unique site that is home and refuge for thousands of species. It is the breeding area of humpback whales, which were almost extinct by commercial whaling, and home to a wide range of threatened species. Thus, Abrolhos is a refuge, a place to find peace in the middle of the chaotic outside world – for all the living organisms, including mankind.

Thelma Samantha Cruz, 17

Rio Plátano, Honduras



My site is special and of global importance due to its largely intact forests and other habitats, as well as the variety of indigenous and local cultures: We are more than 2000 people and belong to four very different and unique cultural groups: Miskito, Pech, Garífunas, and the Ladino. The reserve is also home to a number of endangered species, like the jaguar, ant-eater, or manatee, and is part of the largest section of undisturbed forests in Central America. We need awareness of people to preserve animal species in danger of extinction. It is important to ensure the life of indigenous peoples, as well as the need to prepare for climate change.

Apart from the mountainous and lowland tropical rainforest, two major mangrove ecosystems along the coast are a valuable, yet very fragile asset of our reserve: a huge brackish and an extensive freshwater lagoon. Water and the ocean mean life for me and my community, because they are needed for our way of living. First of all they offer one of our ways of transportation. But they are also the habitat and home for many different species of marine animals. They are the base of our economy.



Marlon Williams, 28

Belize Barrier Reef, Belize



I was raised in a 'tough' fishing family at the Rio Grande River in Southern Belize. Many of our fishing practices like loglines and baiting, nets and harpooning were passed down from my grandparents. Much of the practices we used were illegal but highly effective, and to date I haven't forgotten how to do any of them. With declining fish stocks all over the world, I saw the need to change, and the opportunity for my family and my community to find a sustainable way of living. Many people still believe that fish stocks will never be depleted: it is the mindset that needs to change. I don't expect every fisher in my community or Belize to convert, but to understand the very basics. If people understand that using a resource without allowing it to replete, will bring adverse effects, they also understand the concept of resource protection and nature conservation. When I make tours around the site, I normally share my story, telling about my change from employing many illegal fishing practices to being a conservationist and marine biologist. I believe that this touches many people's lives.

Maya Moure, 27

Sian Ka'an, Mexico



I have lived in Felipe Carrillo Puerto for 15 years, which is one of the municipalities of Sian Ka'an. I believe that knowing nature allows us to give every being or element its value. By valuating them in their context, it becomes a complement of a bigger picture. Living in a place with protected areas lets me understand the importance of using nature in a sustainable way, with respect and love, in contrast to the mainstream way of life.

Mangroves, wetlands, coral reefs and forests all provide us with vital ecosystem services. As a society, we are overvaluing money over nature. The economic forces of industry, mainly tourism industry in our region (Cancun, Riviera Maya, Tulum) are putting a huge pressure on the reserve itself and its wildlife. Seeing the impact on the resources, I am afraid that we are destroying the "chicken of golden eggs".

The conservation of coastal areas is an important strategy for the permanence of species, intact function of ecosystems and climate regulation. Thus the protection of this potential source of income (apart from the invaluable beauty of its nature and landscapes itself), is a focal point for environmental education. As I said before: there is nothing better than knowing nature in order to value it and to love it.



Jannes Landschoff, 25

The Wadden Sea, Germany



The Wadden Sea is characterized by its unique expansion of sedimentary tidal flats. It is an outstanding ecosystem with a remarkable role: on the one hand as a home for resident organisms, on the other as one of the world's most important wetlands for migratory birds. Its pure and wild nature with its natural dynamics offers unequalled opportunities. Every year up to 12 billion migratory birds visit the Wadden Sea twice: once in early summer on their way to the breeding grounds in the north, and again on their way back during winter.

Living on the seaside means living with the ocean. Especially when people live in the Wadden Sea, life is directly linked to the strong tides. The tides structure our days; you can for example only get out on the fishing boat when the tide is high. But also people, who do not directly live from the ocean, often have a connection to it. In the northern part of Germany, tourism plays an important role, and this is a strong link to conservation. There is a demand for a 'healthy coast' and clean water, where fish can be caught and people can swim. Therefore the community needs ecologists and conservation measures to safeguard coastlines like the Wadden Sea. Personally, and because I consider myself a coastal biologist, this means life to me.

Erik Versluijs, 19

The Wadden Sea, Netherlands



The Wadden Sea is the biggest tidal mud flat in the World. Since my childhood, I have visited the Wadden Sea often, mostly for bird watching. Now I know why this is such a good place for bird watching: the dynamic effect of the sea provides for a rich biodiversity. And this diversity provides plenty types of food resources for migrating and wintering birds. But not only birds use this food supply, also humans do. Fisheries are an essential part of the Wadden Sea, but this commercial sector has been intensified greatly. Recreation pressures have also increased, more and more people want to go to the Wadden Sea for days-out or holidays. In addition, there is negative influence from outside the area, like water pollution. All these factors have an effect on the tidal mud flats.

To preserve the area, diverse organizations have committed to nature conservation and research. After all, life in the Wadden Sea is important to all of these sectors: Fish need good conditions to propagate, so the fishing sector is dependent on a healthy sea. A region poor in biodiversity is not attractive for tourists, so the tour operators have an interest to conserve. For the local communities the Wadden Sea brings various types of income, so they get involved in nature conservation. To secure their income in the future all three sectors have to develop in a sustainable way and work together.



Moctar Ba, 31

Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania



Our Mangroves represent a big ecosystem service for many reasons. A lot of species of fish live and spawn in the mangroves' roots. Local communities use a kind of mangrove, *Avicennia germinans*, in different ways, and it's very useful for canoe building. But the mangrove ecosystem is also suitable for producing honey. The local communities Halpoulaar, Wolofs and Maures present in the marine sites of Mauretania try to use their natural resources rationally according to their traditional practices. The population of Imraguen in Banc d'Arguin with around 1.500 people is even recognized under the UNESCO World Heritage label.

Unfortunately, the marine environment of Mauretania will be negatively affected by climate change. Plus, our marine sites are big in size and their boundaries are therefore hard to control. My aim is to maintain the characteristics of our precious marine environment (via promotion of the environment, local development, protection of the animals, etc.) for enabling a good development of the area. Therefore, I specialized in Ecology and Management of Natural Resources at university and I am now working as a technical assistant in marine and coastal conservation in the park of Diawling.

Simangele Sithole, 19

iSimangaliso, South Africa



I live in the rural area which is near iSimangaliso Wetland Park and another marine reserve, St. Lucia. A lot of people in my neighbourhood earn their living from the World Heritage site these comprise. Elders use it for fishing and selling art work to tourists who come to enjoy the wonders of nature. iSimangaliso also promotes cultural activities and sports, like traditional dances and soccer tournaments.

Human life depends directly and indirectly on nature. The ocean provides many services, which are essential for human survival. A need in human life is economic development, and the ocean plays a large role in it. Many living organisms might not be directly connected to us but play a vital role in our lives since they are part of the food chain. You might think that a certain organism is useless only to find that without it, we cannot have good fish that we eat. It is also nice to see the beauty of nature; to safeguard it will allow future generations to have the pleasure of enjoying the presence of those creatures.



Sagar Suri, 27

Coast line, Gujarat - India



When I saw the ocean for the first time, I was completely blown away by its beauty and sheer majesty. When I frequented the shores more often, talking to the people around, I realized, that for the local communities living near the ocean it meant more than just the beauty or the cool breeze or even the drinking water. The mere vastness and great variety of species found in the marine ecosystems of Gujarat allow for the provision of various services. From mangroves to corals, and browsers to predators, all are being found here; this makes it a wholesome and balanced system. Some people, despite there being famous temples like Dwarka and Somnath close-by, would rather worship the water. The question, why the ocean means life for me and my community can aptly be answered by a statement I got from a fisherman near Beyt Dwarka. I was trying to learn more about the reasons for the ineffectiveness of certain governmental programmes. He said: "What they don't understand is, that just like they have their homes and offices, this is our office... and our home!" Once we take that into consideration I think we'll all understand the importance of the ocean.

Gerard Anthony de Souza, 26

Coastline of Goa, Goa - India



Goa is India's smallest coastal state and also the smallest in the country in terms of area. Besides being a coastal region, which as such means that it is fragile, Goa is set to lose its sand dunes, mangrove forests and river banks due to the tourism and resulting real estate industry. But at the same time, Goan beaches are nesting sites for several species of turtles. Tourism has put a huge pressure on the state's mangrove forests and beaches, since the real estate industry seeks to build anywhere and everywhere hotels, houses or other infrastructure.

While most of the world thinks Goa resembles sunny beaches, its Ocean means life for the Goans. The tourism boom has offered alternative avenues to most traditional communities, for instance to the fishermen (kharvi), toddy tappers (rendeiros) and farmers (xetkari). They let out rooms to tourists or migrants who come to service the tourism industry, or they put up shacks on beaches. Others let out rooms for shops selling curios and souvenirs, and thus they alienate from the land and the ocean. However, now with the state increasingly seeing the negative effects of tourism, there is a slight counter current in Goa.



Shiva Sharma, 29

Karnataka coastline, Karnataka - India



70% of our body is water, so is the composition of planet Earth and it is impossible to disassociate oneself from this fact. My personal relation with the marine site that I represent is as obvious as this fact. Hence my belief that something so huge, which is a part of our very existence, and is being exploited so cruelly urgently needs our attention. I was deeply affected when I got to know about the experiences that fishermen shared of returning homes with empty nets day after day, making their struggle of survival all the more tough. How can one not be influenced by looking at all this; or not take an action to do something about it in order to improve the situation? Considering that the presence of marine life is an important part of the whole of the ecosystem that exists on this planet, I personally want to bring about a positive change to the existing grave situation where fishermen communities are struggling day in and day out for meeting their basic needs of survival.

Nibedita Mukherjee, 29

Kannur and Kasargod, Kerala - India



The mangroves in Kannur play a big role in the lives of the people dependent on them for traditional fishing. Local communities have been dependent on these resources for several generations. Mangrove areas in northern Kerala are known to provide valuable fishery resources. Artisanal fishing is practiced in the backwaters and lagoons where mangroves grow. Over the years, however, commercial fishing (mechanized off-shore fishing) has replaced traditional fishing (non-mechanized) in several areas. Short term interests of 'development' (road construction, sand mining, commercial aquaculture) have the potential to ruin these beautiful forests.

The boundaries of the word 'life' and 'community' are a bit wide for me. The oceans are vast and so should be our vision to protect and restore their bio-diversity. I strongly believe that the youth in our generation have to join hands not only to prevent further ecological degradation of the oceans but also correct for the glaring mistakes done by our past generations.



Apoorva Usha Kulkarni, 24

Pondicherry, Union Territory - India



The vastness of the ocean beyond the sand beneath my feet has always fascinated me. The ocean brings me peace. Pondicherry has made me feel closer to the ocean. Being an ecologist and having a keen interest in marine ecosystems, I was lucky enough to have a huge coastal stretch lie right outside my University campus.

I relate to this coast in several ways. I wait for hours hoping to see a dolphin jump out of the water, taking a huge leap, and splash back into it. The inquisitiveness in me to know more about this coast and its people increased many folds as I helped the fishermen during dragnet-fishing. I often interact with these fishing communities and I want to make a difference to their critical conditions as they struggle for their sustainability. At the same time I want to protect the marine organisms under threat in this region.

A mother gives life and provides all that is necessary for her child's growth and nourishment; so the child completely relies on its mother for everything. Similarly the people here wholly rely on the ocean for their livelihoods, protection, nourishment and growth. Their economy depends on her and so does their only source of protein (fish). Their cultural and aesthetic values are deeply rooted to this coast.

Ananya Ashok, 22

Pallikaranai Marsh, Tamil Nadu - India



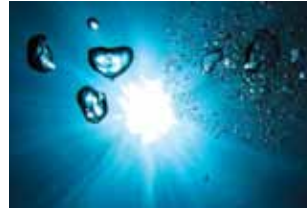
Many tend to think moving to urban living spaces puts one at a distance from living close to nature. I beg to differ. Man is still a part of the global ecosystem and living in a city does not mean we should distance ourselves from nature. Specifically in the context of Pallikaranai Marsh this is an issue: communities which several years back depended on the marsh as their sole source of sustenance have moved away to alternate livelihoods slowly, due to rising pressures from real estate business, pollution, massive constructions, etc. Huge IT buildings, a massive expanse of rail tracks and, to top it all, a stinking garbage dump now occupy what was once a part of Pallikaranai Marsh. Now the marsh literally stands abandoned in terms of traditional communities, which live and depend on the marsh for sustenance, still abundant with life forms. As a part of the urban space around the marsh, I feel the need to connect to my closest ecosystem - the Pallikaranai Marsh. Intangible but valuable are the benefits derived from the marsh, from plenty of oxygen to a scenic view outside our windows.

What do we do in return to the marsh? Those of us living in bustling cities need to realize that our bonding to the ocean goes much farther than its beaches! Let us protect and not pollute!



Vardhan Patankar, 26

Konkan coast, Maharashtra - India



The Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal form an archipelago of approximately 527 islands, islets and rocks. Its island reefs are the most diverse along the Indian subcontinent as they are in proximity to the East Indies triangle, which is believed to be the centre of origin for coral reefs.

I study Marine Biology and am passionate about the sea and underwater life. To me the sea is a profusion of colour: canary yellow, vermilion red, citroen orange, royal purple, pristine white dappled sunlight and an electric blue sea. I realised this nine years back, when I was introduced to diving.

I work with traditional indigenous people of the Nicobar archipelago. The islanders are heavily dependent on the sea for food, security and other ecosystem services and manage their resources through complex institutional mechanisms, maintained with an array of rules, rituals and 'superstitions', and enforced through kin and clanship bonds, rules of reciprocity, punishment and ostracization. Islanders believe that the sea provide them the energy to perform day-to-day activities and non-compliance or disrespect towards the sea or traditionally managed areas would bring bad luck, storms, tsunamis and destroy their resources and community.

Pavan Sabbithi, 27

Kakinada bay / Coringa, Andhra Pradesh - India

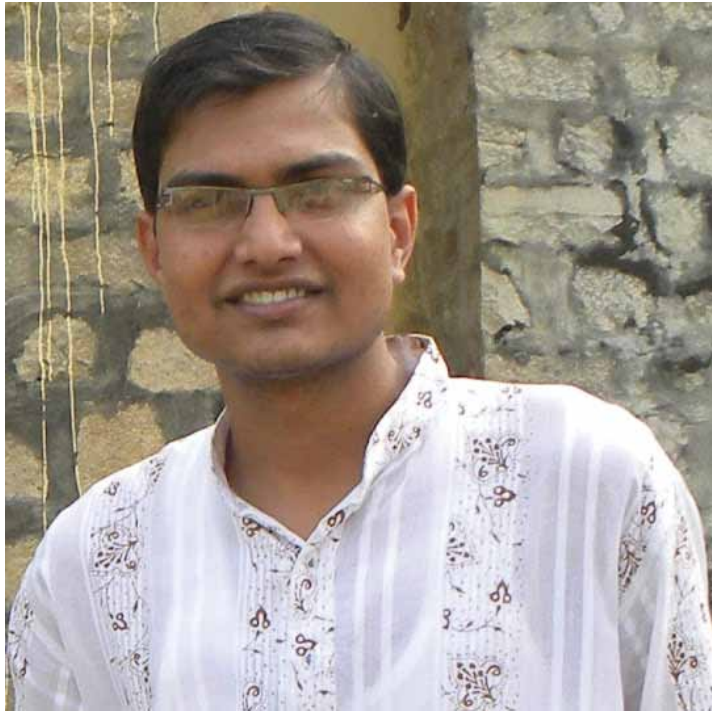


I was fortunate to be born in the beautiful place of Kakinada Bay, which is blessed with natural mangroves and scenic beauties. Here, the river Godavari joins the Bay of Bengal. Mangroves give great protection from heavy cyclones. They have saved our lives, our crops and our cattle for a long time. Hence, we love and respect the mangroves a lot. The ocean means life for me and my community in many ways: Without the ocean we wouldn't exist. It provides for everything we use in our daily lives, such as oxygen, food, recreation, defence, transportation, energy, minerals, cosmetics, jewellery, and decorative items - each of these have their own importance, for instance the oxygen we need: phytoplankton produces 60 to 80% of the earth's oxygen; or the food: varieties of fishes, crustaceans, algae, reptiles, sea mammals, molluscs and other types of sea organisms are a major part of our every day diet. I love and enjoy living with this beautiful creatures and mangroves - their existence is deeply linked to my life. We are very lucky to have the ocean, which we can use for resources of all kinds.



Hirak Dash, 25

Orissa Coast, India



Being a native of Balasore district I was residing 10 km away from the beach of Bay of Bengal. The famous Chandipur beach which is known for the Defence Research and Developmental Organization (DRDO)'s missile testing centre is a journey of around half an hour by cycle from my home. The upcoming high capacity Dhamara port in Bay of Bengal of Bhadrak district, Odisha is about an hour journey from my home. Regularly I visit to the Dhamara area as this is the famous fishing hub of our location and Hilasa fish is found here. After joined at NIT, Rourkela for a career in marine microbiology for last two years I am regularly visiting the other coastal areas of the state like Chilika, Gopalpur, Paradip, Bhitarkanika and Rushikulya for collocation of samples for my research. In the last two years of direct association with the coastal areas of my study sites, I have learned that the lack of public awareness to discharge domestic wastes, the lack of proper implementation of laws for discharging wastes by private sector industries and the unlawful deforestation of mangrove forests are the main cause of rising pollution level in the coastal areas of Odisha.

Manjari Roy, 27

West Bengal, Sundarbans - India



The Sundarbans, which is India's only coastal World Heritage site, has a special significance for me. I am a trained forester and my field assistant, Ranjitda, native to Sundarbans, is 64 years old. Poverty and illiteracy had forced him to work as a fisherman for the past 40 years. Two of his uncles and one of his sons in law have been devoured by the tiger. The 2009 cyclone, Aila, destroyed acres of paddy field where even today the saline soil is still a major impediment to rice cultivation. Ranjitda's house and field were also destroyed during the cyclone. Yet, such hardships have not effaced the smile from his face. He feels no rancour towards the tiger for what happened to his family; instead he insists that it was after all they who had trespassed in the tiger country. He feels that it is only due to the ferocious nature of the tiger, the mangrove forest still survives, otherwise had it not been for these natural barriers, the cyclone would have claimed his family's lives as well. The respect and love he feels towards the tiger and the forest is extremely poignant. To me, Ranjitda is the face of Sundarbans; he represents what most people in these areas endure.



Rezvin Akter, 27

The Sundarbans, Bangladesh



I don't live there – but I had the dream to visit the Sundarbans, a mysterious place to me, since I was studying at university. All the Bangladeshi people know about the significance of the Sundarbans and value it. My dream came true in 2009: I got an opportunity to enjoy the enormous beauty of the Sundarbans and to talk to the local people. This experience helped me realize that without the mangrove ecosystem, the community can't survive. It gives them food as well as protection and there is no other livelihood alternative. I always had a soft spot for the Sundarbans and this trip made a bond between me and them. I was lucky enough that one year later I got the chance to work with the Sundarbans Tiger Project of Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. Through this job I grew closer to the Sundarbans, getting to know its mangrove forests and inhabitants better. I have been in touch with the Sundarbans since then and they always give me a feeling of mental peace. We see Sundarbans as our 'Mother' because it takes care of us exactly as a mother does.

Maruti Giri Mahesthi, 26

Ujung Kulon, Indonesia



The marine habitats of Ujung Kulon National Park have a wide variety: There are rocky shores, mangrove swamps, mud flats, sea grass beds, coral reefs and sea trenches, which provide diverse and fascinating insights into the underwater world. With its rich biodiversity, the ocean has many functions for life, such as providing food resources, sources of livelihood, climate control, transportation, recreation and for marine habitat living. There are so many function of the sea; so it is necessary maintain, manage and conserve them.

I am working to conserve Ujung Kulon's biodiversity and ecosystem services for our future generations. I am an employee at the national park and work as a control budgeter. My job includes the planning of management activities of the park administration. I also monitor and controll the budgets for these activities. Our marine national park has 44,377 hectares of territorial waters. We carry out several activities to protect the territory. Our main marine activities are: the transplantation of coral reefs, marine operations with community groups around the area, the evaluation of marine protection zones, and coral reef monitoring.



Hermansyah Hermann, 30

Komodo, Indonesia



I work and live in Komodo National Park. My parents originated from Komodo Village. I fully understand that my home is a World Heritage site, which has lots of unique features and importance in term of biological diversity. It is important to maintain the ecological integrity of my site, to keep the balance of nature and ensure environmental sustainability. Saving the area, the ecosystems will sustain the benefit for people living inside the park and the surrounding area.

However, my site faces some major problems: blast fishing, cyanide fishing, and rock mining, for example. By putting good management practices and a plan into place, those problems have reduced. A growing challenge is tourism, though. Komodo is one of the favourite destinations for cruise-ship tours. Mass tourism will harm the area if not managed properly.

I think, youth can play an important role in the site's conservation. There are a range of activities which young people can do in coastal communities for marine biodiversity conservation: for example conducting marine conservation campaigns, supporting the establishment of new protected areas, or the management of existing sites and locally-managed marine protected areas.

Nguyen Bich Hanh, 23

Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam



Ha Long Bay was the first Vietnamese World Natural Heritage site. It has been recognized also as one of the seven “New Natural Wonders of the World”. The unique natural and cultural values of this dreamlike bay have been appreciated and loved by millions of visitors. With the values of Ha Long Bay, it does not only mean life for my community but is also source of a personal pride.

However, the threats caused by current socio-economic developments in Ha Long city have caused challenges for conservation and protection efforts in the bay. It is important to safeguard the marine ecosystems in Ha Long Bay. The Management Department, supported by UNESCO and other international organizations, strives continuously to raise environmental awareness in the communities. Activities to protect the environment in Ha Long Bay include: heritage education in schools, mangrove restoration, equipment of the park authority and techniques for environmental protection, rubbish collection, coordination of inspection and management measures in Ha Long Bay. With these activities, in addition to the rising awareness and sense of responsibility of local communities, the values of Ha Long Bay World Natural Heritage site can hopefully be preserved and promoted.



Agnes Bianca Mendoza, 23

Puerto-Princesa, Philippines



The Puerto Princesa National Park is home to the Underground River reputed to be the longest navigable underground river in the world. I have lived in Puerto Princesa City all my life and I have seen it grow from a backwater city to the prime tourist location it is now. I always go to the Underground River. Now, that it was declared one of the "New 7 Wonders", many tourists are rushing to the city. Our Underground River and its surroundings are the home to numerous species of marine, land and forest animals. It has one of the richest tree floras in Asia and is a home to endemic birds. It also provides a habitat for numerous species of mammals and reptiles. However, tourists might disturb their natural habitat; hence ways should be found and encouraged wherein the environment will be sustained as well as the tourism industry. I'd like to be part of looking for ways to preserve and conserve, not only our Underground River, but the whole city in which it is located. I believe it is our responsibility to take care of our natural resources, both for us and the future generations.

Glenda Simon, 29

Tubbataha Reefs, Philippines



I live in an archipelagic country that contains a vast expanse of waters surrounding its 7,107 islands bordered by the second longest coastline in the world. Fish is essential to the Filipino diet, culture and identity, as well as to our livelihood. For the 96 million Filipinos relying heavily on the bounty of the seas for survival, the ocean is indeed life. The residents of Cagayancillo, an offshore town with political jurisdiction over Tubbataha, are well aware of this. They believe that the rough waters and the changing currents of the seas have shaped their history, culture and way of life. For them the sea is a food basket that enriches their waters with fish and other marine resources that maintain their livelihoods. Should the sea cease to deliver its services, the rich culture of the people in Cagayancillo is likely to sink in the waters of oblivion. Through the eyes of my two-year old child, the sea is simply from where we get fish for food. It makes her smile to see fish on the plate, since that means food to her. With this picture before me, a dreadful thought seeks into the back of my mind: What if the time comes when fish is nowhere to be found because they have already vanished from the ocean? I will exert all efforts to ensure that this does not happen.



Heather Ketebengang, 29

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Palau



The islands and ocean within the Rock Islands-Southern Lagoon comprise a unique and exceptional habitat for a large number of marine and terrestrial plant and animal species. The biological value of our Lagoon is rich and diverse and provides resources for our community, both for subsistence and commercial harvesting. The stunning biodiversity, above and under water, also provides the foundation for Palau's tourism industry, and in turn, the nation's economy. The Rock Islands-Southern Lagoon is an integral part of Palau's cultural identity, both in the present day and historically.

Since Palau is a small island nation that is surrounded by the ocean, I am an islander, and the ocean is a part of my life. Without the ocean, I would not know who I am. The ocean was there when we were born into this nation and it has nurtured us with the food and resources that we need to live and survive in this world. The ocean not only defines who we are, but is also a great contribution to our health, livelihood, and our economy.

Gavin Jacob Singleton, 25

Great Barrier Reef, Australia



I have grown up along the Great Barrier Reef all my life and currently reside in Cairns in Far North Queensland, Australia. As I am a descendant of the Yirrganydji Aboriginal People, traditional owners from Cairns to Port Douglas along the coast, I have inherited the responsibility from my ancestors to be involved in the management of my traditional country which includes a small section of the Great Barrier Reef. It is important for us to work together alongside other coastal traditional owners, researchers, tourism operators and natural resource managers to protect and preserve the qualities and maintain the significance of the GBRWHA for all people across the globe.

The ocean is home to my community. We feel an unexplainable spiritual connection to the sea. Elders believe we not only belong to the sea but we also descend from it as well. We are told to live in harmony with all living things in the ocean, as it is the main provider of food and medicine for my community. It is a dreaming story time place; 'a creator' and home to all the animals, plants and organisms of the water and tells the story of the sacred currents of the sea.



Amelia Fowles, 29

Macquarie Island, Australia



There are not many places like Macquarie Island and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage site on the Earth: places where human beings have not obscured the land's origin. Here, the mountains have escaped the scars of roads and the intrusions of power lines, fences, and some marine ecosystems remain healthy. The partnership between human society and marine flora and fauna is in a sensitive balance. We see the ocean and near shore marine environment as a complex system of breathtaking beauty and diversity which gives us powerful energy, but also provides us with resources and space for exploration. Our lives are very connected to the ocean. The ocean means life - and our temperate oceans are teeming with plants and animals. The species here are unique because they are generally more localised in distribution: the majority of southern Australian marine species do not occur in other countries, making them more vulnerable to extinction. Many species are increasingly under pressure due to various stressors – World Heritage sites can act as a buffer against those. There are few ecosystems in the world as untouched or majestic as Macquarie Island and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage site.

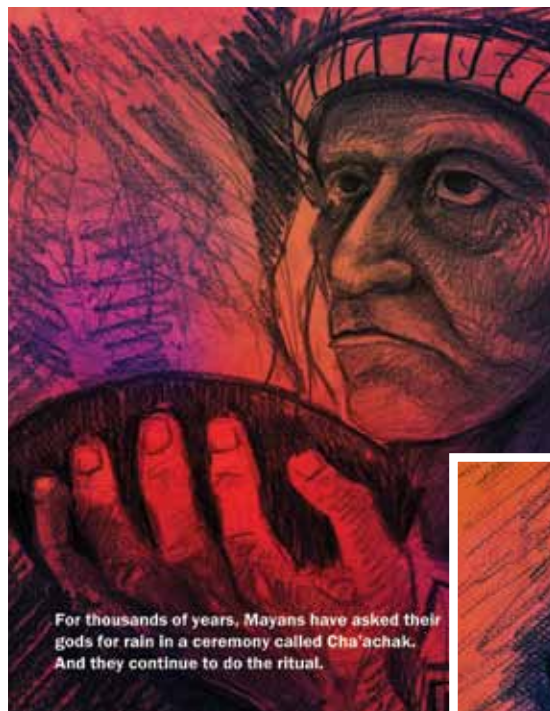


“Gosi tadi the gani noru tadad”

TRADITIONAL SAYING FROM KAKINADA BAY / CORINGA, ANDRA PRADESH, INDIA

English translation: If our dress doesn't get wet, our mouth won't get wet

Most of the Yanam fishermen wear a piece of cloth around their waist. During their daily fishing activities this cloth usually gets wet.



Story and illustration
from Mexico, contribution
of Maya Moure

Sea

Hey Turtles,
listen! We
have found the
lost eggs of
Grandpa's friend!

8.10.12

Lup Creek Road

the other animal couldn't find it. They sat at the water's edge, wondering what to do.

the other animal couldn't find it. They sat at the water's edge, wondering what to do.

Ocean Animals - to present

Not only are
squids and cuttlefish
but many others due
to various reasons
such as...

Over fishing has caused decline
in the fish grounds community.

Angry and dolphins friend, told me
that his mother was washed ashore
dead due to metal contamination.

Sea otters feed the jelly fishes and
living together in long lines and
flocks. Scientists think that when they
are alone - will have to look for food
all the time.

Sea snail friends on land have
no eyes or if no there is no
shell left due to coastal
erosion.

Sea horses are sensitive

ONLY WE HUMANS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIFE OF THESE SPECIES,
RESULTING IN A BETTER LIFE FOR
THEM AND OURSELVES AS WELL...



THE COAST OF PONDICHERY IS VERY
FRAGILE AND UNIQUE... LETS PRESERVE
IT AND MAKE A WAVE OF CHANGE..
FROM NOW ONWARDS... (2012) ..

Story of Ngemelís



There once was a boy from Peleliu (an island south of the Rock Islands) and a girl from Arkabesang (an island north of the Rock Islands) who fell in love. The two lovers made a promise to see each other on the night of a new moon in Ngemelís, a rock island between their homes. When they met, the lovers discussed plans for their future late into the night. When the girl awoke in the morning, she discovered her skirt had disappeared. Aided by her lover, they combed the entire island for the missing skirt, but it was nowhere to be found. Alongside the spot where she had been sleeping, however, they noticed the footprints a turtle had made during the night. Still without her skirt, the maiden was forced to gather leaves from the coconut palms to make a new one. Once she finished, she bid her lover farewell with the promise of meeting him there on the island again during the following full moon.

The full moon had arrived, and the boy from Peleliu sat waiting on the shores of Ngemelís for his lover. She had not forgotten her promise, and came sailing over the lagoon under the light of the full moon. After their first embrace, they sat together on the beach when they spotted a turtle crawling towards them. Upon closer inspection, they were surprised to see one of its fins entangled in a skirt, which it was dragging along behind itself. It was the very skirt the girl had lost during the new moon! And that was how the people of Palau learned of the egg laying cycle of the turtle.

Note: Ngemelís is one of the many rock islands protected under the Rock Islands of the Southern Lagoon.



“He puko’a kani ‘aina”

TRADITIONAL SAYING FROM HAWAII

English translation: A coral reef that grows into an island

In their travels around the Pacific, the Hawaiians would pass by many coralheads which the navigators would mark in their memories and pass on to their apprentices. Eventually they would notice that these small coralheads would grow into full islands. This transformation in nature teaches us that we can't expect to be perfect right away, often we start small and over time, like a coralhead, but we will mature and be successful.

35 Messengers

• Continent • Country • Site • Gender • Age • Background

- North America • Canada • Kluane/Wrangell-St Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek
Jenessa Tlen • F • 20 • young First Nation representative
- North America • USA • Papahānaumokuākea
Breanna Chandler • F • 24 • lives in California and works for AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project; has done research in Papahānaumokuākea and feels deeply connected since then
- Latin America • Mexico • Sian Ka'an
Maya Moure • F • 27 • Master studies of Rural Development and Environment, lives close to Sian Ka'an, co-organized Conference of Youth for UNFCCC COP 16
- Latin America • Belize • Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System
Marlon Williams • M • 28 • from local fishing community, now marine biologist for Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)
- Latin America • Honduras • Rio Platano
Thelma Samantha Cruz • F • 17 • high school student, represents local indigenous community
- Latin America • Costa Rica • Cocos Island National Park
Josue Morales • M • 26 • trained boat conductor, works as park ranger
- Latin America • Panama • Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection
Yersil Nikolas Sánchez Espino • M • 29 • works for Mar Viva as a public advocacy lawyer on governance and legislation enforcement
- Latin America • Colombia • Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary
Diego Cardeñoso • M • 25 • Ph.D. on shark conservation.
- Latin America • Ecuador • Galapagos Islands
Johanna Elizabeth Carrion • F • 23 • Ph.D. with Charles Darwin Foundation on tourist monitoring
- Latin America • Peru • Paracas
Lorena Amend • F • 19 • has recently graduated from high school in Peru, interest in creative things and cultures, at present doing an internship with Indian NGO on turtle conservation and children
- Latin America • Brazil • Albrook National Park
Luisa Sette Camara • F • 21 • environmental lawyer, Brazilian youth delegate to Rio+20 Youth Blast
- Latin America • Argentina • Peninsula Valdes
Maria Soledad Lindner • F • 28 • works for Fundación Ecomundo, a cultural space where science, art and education come together for conservation, co-coordinator of the Photoidentification project of Southern Right Whales
- Europe • Netherlands • The Wadden Sea
Erik Versluijs • M • 19 • studies Ecology and Wildlife, starting own environmental NGO
- Europe • Germany • The Wadden Sea
Jannes Landschoff • M • 25 • Biology student, life/ work / research in Wadden Sea
- Arab World • Mauritania • Banc d'Arguin National Park
Moctar Ba • M • 31 • technical assistant in marine and coastal conservation in the national park of Diawling
- Africa • South Africa • iSimangaliso Wetland Park
Simangele Msweli • F • 19 • Biology student, lives close to iSimangaliso and has done research about it
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Gujarat coastline
Sagar Suri • M • 27 • Youth Program officer (Centre for Environment Education), Mass communication and Journalism Post graduate

- Asia and the Pacific • India • Maharashtra: Konkan coast
Vardhan Patankar • M • 26 • Lives in the Andamans and Nicobar Islands and working on marine systems in this area
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Goa coastline
Gerard Anthony de Souza • M • 26 • Lives and works in the site, Journalist by profession
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Karnataka coastline
Shiva Sharma • F • 29 • Public engagement Campaigner, Greenpeace India Society, working especially with youth and volunteer groups
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Kerala: Kannur and Kasargod
Nibedita Mukherjee • F • 29 • Ph.D. on policies of mangrove conservation
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Tamil Nadu: Pallikarani Marsh
Ananya Ashok • F • 22 • International Climate Change Champion, lives in and campaigns for protection of the site
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Union Territory: Pondicherry
Apoorva Usha Kulkarni • F • 24 • Master Studies in Ecology and Environmental Science from Pondicherry University
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Andhra Pradesh: Kakinada bay, Coringa
Pavan Sabbithi • M • 27 • Lives and does research near the site and is active in civil society organization maintained by fishermen
- Asia and the Pacific • India • Orissa: Coastal site of Puri
Abhinav Sur • M • 21 • Integrated M.Sc student at the School of Biological Sciences, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER). Actively participates in Conservation Awareness Programmes organized by local organizations.
- Asia and the Pacific • India • West Bengal: Sundarbans
Manjari Roy • F • 27 • Junior Research Fellow, Wildlife Institute of India, Working on Population estimation and ecology of Tigers in Sunderbans Tiger Reserve,
- Asia and the Pacific • Bangladesh • The Sundarbans
Rezvin Akter • F • 27 • works with Sundarbans Tiger Project of Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh
- Asia and the Pacific • Viet Nam • Ha Long Bay
Nguyen Bich Hanh • F • 23 • worked for environmental division of Ha Long Bay management (until Aug 2012), especially active in environmental education and awareness raising
- Asia and the Pacific • Philippines • Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park
Agnes Bianca Mendoza • F • 23 • law school student, has been living in Puerto Princesa city all her life
- Asia and the Pacific • Philippines • Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
Glenda Simon • F • 29 • Undergraduate Degree in Business Management and Marketing, has been working with park management for last 7 years in various activities
- Asia and the Pacific • Palau • Rock Islands Southern Lagoon
Heather Ketebengang • F • 29 • studied environmental science, indigenous to region, works on Rock Islands with conservation society
- Asia and the Pacific • Indonesia • Komodo National Park
Hermansyah Akbar • M • 30 • from local village, now tour guide
- Asia and the Pacific • Indonesia • Ujung Kulon National Park
Maruti Giri Mahesthi • F • 26 • economist, works in budget sector of national park
- Asia and the Pacific • Australia • Great Barrier Reef
Gavin Jacob Singleton • M • 25 • indigenous representative from Reef, board director of the Dawul Wuru Indigenous Corporation
- Asia and the Pacific • Australia • Macquarie Island
Amelia Fowles • F • 29 • truly into WH and ocean conservation, has travelled a lot and experience in wilderness, PhD on anthropogenic stresses on reef



“Calmachicha”

TRADITIONAL SAYING FROM PENINSULA VALDEZ, ARGENTINA

English translation : No direct translation, local term for a calm sea without waves and wind

Partners of Go4BioDiv

Go4BioDiv 2012 is hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has been entrusted as coordinating agency and jointly organizes the event with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Further support is provided by the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD), the Marine World Heritage Programme of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, WWF, DFID, the World Bank, UNDP and the German National Park of the Bavarian Forest, where the very first Go4BioDiv took place.



Organization of Go4BioDiv

Go4BioDiv 2012 was planned and implemented by an Organizational Task Force, formed of members of the collaborating institutions

• **Dr. Vinod B. Mathur** (WII), a trained forester, is Dean of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), where he has been working since 1986. He has been designated as the nodal person for Go4BioDiv India 2012 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and supports multiple organizational aspects of this third International Youth Forum. [vbm\(at\)wii.gov.in](mailto:vbm(at)wii.gov.in)

• **Dr. Shazia Quasin** (WII) studied zoology for her master's degree from Calcutta University, and wildlife sciences with specialization on arachnology at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for her doctoral degree. Working as a youth coordinator for India, she is the liaison person between the Go4BioDiv Messengers and WII as the implementing agency, and is responsible for logistics of the youth forum. She represented India as a Youth Messenger during Go4BioDiv Japan, in 2010. [shazia\(at\)wii.gov.in](mailto:shazia(at)wii.gov.in)

• **Dr. Neeraj Khara** (GIZ - India) holds a doctorate in forestry, and has been working in the field of ecology and biodiversity for the past 12 years as a researcher, university professor and programme coordinator. In the Go4BioDiv team, she is responsible for coordinating the communication and outreach work, and the e-coaching course for the Youth Messengers. [neeraj.khara\(at\)giz.de](mailto:neeraj.khara(at)giz.de)

• **Nina Treu** (for GIZ) studied political science, economics and law in Heidelberg and Paris, where she focused on environmental politics and sustainable development. Nina was part of the organizational team of

Go4BioDiv Japan, and worked as the liaison person of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris. In Go4BioDiv India, Nina together with Verena holds the strings for the international aspects, and along with Shazia is the contact person for the Youth Messengers, coordinating their creative contributions. Apart from that, she takes care of the Go4BioDiv website [nina.treu\(at\)go4biodiv.org](mailto:nina.treu(at)go4biodiv.org).

• **Verena Treber** (IUCN) studied Business Management in parallel to an apprenticeship with GIZ. As part of the IUCN World Heritage team, she coordinates the technical inputs on World Heritage and marine conservation at this year's Forum and at the CEPA-fair. She has developed ideas for the exhibition, co-moderates Go4BioDiv's virtual discussions and supports the whole organizing process. Verena represented Germany as a Go4BioDiv Youth Messenger during COP9 in 2008. [verena.treber\(at\)iucn.org](mailto:verena.treber(at)iucn.org)

• **Dr. Thora Amend** (GIZ – Peru and Germany) is a trained geographer and cultural anthropologist, with a PhD on marine protected area management and resource governance. She has coordinated the Go4BioDiv-contributions of GIZ and other international partners in 2008/ Germany, 2010/Japan, and 2012/India, and initiated the International Youth Forum together with Lukas Laux in 2008. At present, she lives and works in Peru and supports Go4BioDiv with conceptual inputs and her international contacts in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. [thora.amend\(at\)giz.de](mailto:thora.amend(at)giz.de)

Go4BioDiv India has received important support from:

- **Dr. K. Sivarkumar** (WII) is a Marine Scientist. He supports the content-based part of Go4BioDiv in the e-coaching modules and workshop in the Sundarbans through his excellent background on coastal and marine biodiversity, ecology and management, as well as through his contacts in this field.
- **Tim Badman** (IUCN) is Director of the World Heritage Programme at IUCN. With his institutional contacts and his extensive knowledge of protected areas and World Heritage conservation (on a conceptual base, as well as on the ground), he serves as a back-up for the Organizational Task Force.
- **Dr. Hansjörg Neun** (GIZ) is Head of the Natural Resources Management Programme of GIZ India. He supports Go4BioDiv via the coordination of GIZ India's activities and his expertise on new social media in the light of knowledge management / information and communication technologies (IKM/ICT).
- **Dr. Fanny Douvere** (UNESCO WHC) leads the Marine Programme of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. She supports Go4BioDiv through her networks and contacts to the 46 marine World Heritage sites as well as her expertise in ocean conservation management.
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