



SERVING OCEANS

SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY

The background of the entire page is a high-quality underwater photograph. It shows two large whales, likely humpbacks, swimming near the ocean's surface. The water is a deep, clear blue, and sunlight filters down from the top left, creating a shimmering effect on the water's surface and illuminating the whales' dark, textured skin. The whales are positioned diagonally across the frame, with one slightly ahead of the other.

**Serving oceans**



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# INTRODUCTION

## OUR FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

Passionate about marine biology and ocean conservation, Max-Olivier Bourcoud is the founder and current president of the *Swiss Cetacean Society* (SCS).

**For over ten years, he was a Whaling Protection Consultant for Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan at the Animal Welfare Department of the Bellerive Foundation in Geneva.**

In addition to his active commitment to ecology in Switzerland, Max-Olivier Bourcoud regularly participates in numerous environmental missions, both marine and terrestrial, in Florida, France, England and the Hawaiian archipelago.

Max-Olivier Bourcoud is also responsible for the environmental and sustainable development aspects of international equine events organized by *Equissima* in Lausanne.

In the field of education, Max-Olivier Bourcoud is a post-compulsory specialist teacher, which brings him to teach ecology and sustainable development at a vocational school.

He is also a specialist in the education sector regarding environmental and sustainable development, as well as a pedagogical accompanist for teachers in training in French-speaking Switzerland.



**Max-Olivier Bourcoud**  
*Founder and President*

# ABOUT THE SCS

## OUR MISSION

*To protect and preserve marine mammals and sea life in their natural habitat.*

We hold the conviction that better scientific knowledge of the animals and their environment is essential to ensure efficient protection measures.

## OUR VISION

*To facilitate scientific work at sea. We organise the logistics in the field of scientific and environmental projects abroad, distribute general knowledge and information about marine species, and encourage access to specialised education for the global population.*

**Over the years, SCS has acquired a solid experience in the logistics required for scientific research to protect marine mammals.**

## MEET THE COORDINATORS

The SCS team is made up of more than 50 talented individuals, combining expertise in environmental sciences, biology and marine preservation. Here are a few of our leading collaborators.



**Dr. ALEXANDRE DE TITTA**  
*Vice-President*



**Dr. CHRISTINE VINCENZETTI**  
*Development Consultant*



**IVAN MARTIN**  
*Indian Coasts Conservation Projects, Fundraiser & SCS Guide*



**CHARLOTTE BELLOT**  
*Executive Director & Education & Awareness*



**MELISSA BILL**  
*Vaquita Project, Events/ Volunteer Coordinator & SCS Guide*



**LAURA GALBIATI**  
*Green Turtles Project & SCS Guide*



**Dr. LIDA KYPRIOTOU**  
*Monk Seals Project*



**NICOLE DEMARTA**  
*Mangroves Project*



**ORIANE RÜTSCHÉ**  
*Community Manager*



**MELANIE JOTTERAND**  
*Webmaster and social networks Manager*



**PIERRE-ANDRÉ BARRAS**  
*Administrative Management and Accountant*

# LIFE ON THE SEA

## OUR IMPACT AND ACTIVITY

The Swiss Cetacean Society (SCS) organises worldwide campaigns at sea for data collection on cetacean wildlife. These scientific programmes are co-financed by the public. The collected data are then transmitted to corporate scientists who ensure proper treatment and usage. This SCS activity mobilises research platforms and volunteers supervised by trained naturalists.

Since 1997, SCS has carried out **over 1'500 days of data collection** in the Mediterranean Sea and helped gather invaluable information for tens of thousands of cetaceans belonging to 8 species.

In total, **more than 1'400 volunteers**, divided into over 280 teams, provide offshore work for the benefit of many research institutes, such as, the international Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (CIESM), the EcoOcéan Institute, Asociación Tursiops, and the Tethys Research Institute.

The purpose of these different scientific programmes is to study the whale and dolphin populations in order to improve their protection and conservation via concrete measures.

Similarly, SCS has participated as a logistics partner of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in an international and interdisciplinary study of the Mediterranean Fin Whale (the second largest whale in the world), involving a large number of researchers from various disciplines (oceanographers, ecologists, geneticists, biochemists, and various others).

During this project, SCS worked closely with the Laboratory of Ecotoxicology at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) for the analysis of micropollutants. In Greece, and soon in Mauritania, the SCS contributes to the preservation of the last Mediterranean Monk Seals.

Overseas, the SCS has been contributing, both financially and physically (through volunteers), to an environmental research project on Risso's Dolphins in the Azores (Risso's Dolphin

Research Center), as well as to another study on the interaction between Spotted Dolphins and Bottlenose Dolphins in the Bahamas (Dr Kathleen Dudsinski & Kelly Melillo from the Dolphin Communication Project).

The SCS also supported an environmental research project on Gray Whales in the Canadian Pacific (Dr David Duffus, University of Victoria-Vancouver) and helped slow the disappearance of the California Porpoise (Vaquita) in Mexico (ProNatura Mexico).

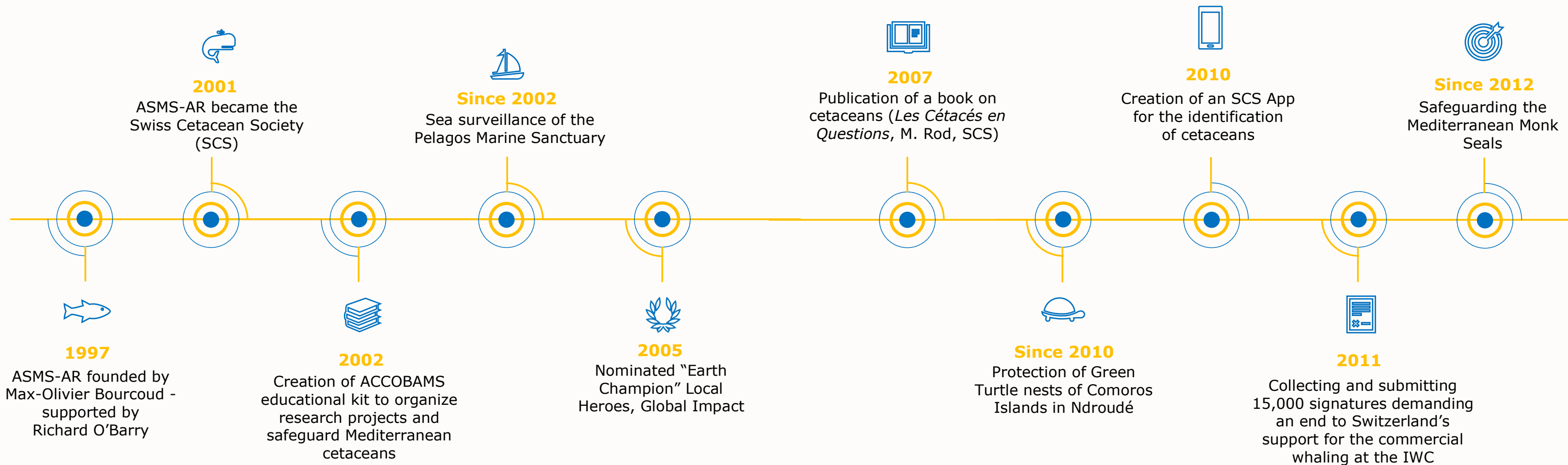
Currently, SCS is carrying out a project to protect Green Turtles in the Indian Ocean (Ulanga Ngazidja, Comoros Islands), as well as implementing various programmes for coastal conservation in India (Terra Conscious, Goa).

The SCS has thus become one of **the leading providers of cetacean data in the north-western Mediterranean Sea.**

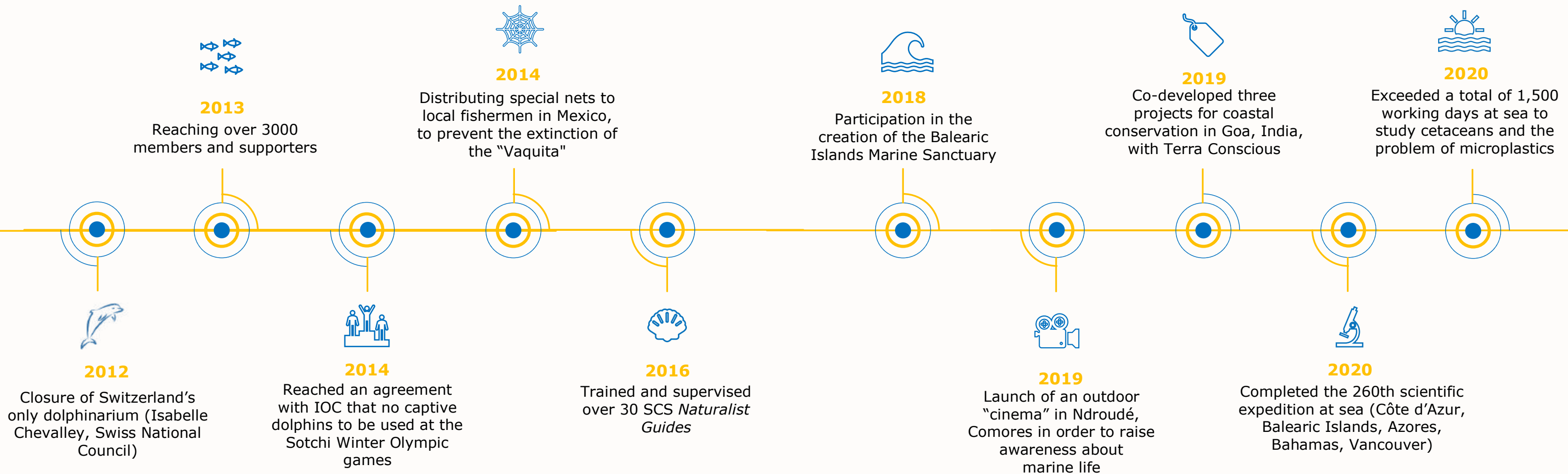


# OVER 20 YEARS OF OCEAN DEDICATION

Just a few of the many SCS achievements







# OUR PROJECTS

*"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."- Robert Swan*



## 1 PROJECT COAST CONSERVATION



## 3 PROJECT TURTLES



## 2 PROJECT SEALS

## 4 PROJECT VAQUITA







# 1 PROJECT COAST CONSERVATION

## COAST CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

This project has three key programmes responding to different aspects of marine conservation in India, in collaboration with our local partner Terra Conscious, with Goa as a starting point:

1. *Ocean Watch - Marine Wildlife Stranding Response*: a network established by Terra Conscious in 2017, to monitor the state's coastline and report marine wildlife stranding incidents to the state forest department.
2. *Students For Seas - Marine Ecology Education*: This 18 months pilot programme is

focused on creating a student network that will raise awareness about marine ecosystems and enable ground conservation action.

3. *Ocean Friendly Hospitality - Sustainable Coastal Tourism*: this project aims at creating a state-wide network of engaged and aware coastal hospitality partners, including hotels, restaurants, shacks and tourism operators, who practice and endorse responsible tourism.

### Why these programmes?

Goa is India's most polluted coastal destination, with tourists

### What will your support be used for ?

- Developing a network website and dashboard that allows for data to be entered and uploaded for public access.
- Creating a tool kit that can be used for local research projects, awareness building, and on ground engagement.
- Reach out to hotels through consultation workshops to develop 'Ocean Friendly' guidelines, networks, and management structures.
- Cetacean and sea turtle stretchers for efficient and humane transport of live, stranded animals.



### How YOU can support

Participate actively in the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal population.

Symbolically adopt a seal for a year for the amount of 150 CHF (per year).

Finance the purchase of research equipment; free donation – amount to gather 2'000 CHF.

Support an endangered population with a 50 CHF donation.

# 2 PROJECT SEALS

## S.O.S. FOR THE LAST MONK SEALS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

**To protect and contribute to the recovery of the Mediterranean monk seal population in the Cabo Blanco peninsula of Mauritania and in the Ionian Sea, thus worldwide.**

The Mediterranean Monk Seal, once abundant throughout the Mediterranean basin; the Black Sea; and along the northwest coast of Africa, has now become a rare and endangered species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The decline in the Monk Seal population is mainly due to deliberate killings by fishermen as seals come to eat fish from their nets and become competitors to be eliminated. Seals also strangle

themselves in the links of fishing nets, venturing into them for food.

Like other species, the monk seal is also a victim of mass tourism which causes pollution and forces them to go rest in underwater caves instead of beaches. This often leads to them drowning during high tides. Overfishing further increases pressure by causing pollution and depleting its food resources.

Thanks to our project in co-

operation with CBD Habitat, the population of the Cape Blanc colony of Mauritania is currently growing. Since the creation of the Seal Coast Reserve in 2001, the number of seals has increased from around 100 individuals in 1998 to more than 360 seals! At the same time, the number of pups (baby seals) born each year has almost tripled from 20 to more than 80 births. Similarly, our collaboration with the Tethys Institute helps reinforce the protection of the Monk Seal Population in the Ionian Sea.





### 3 PROJECT TURTLES

#### FIGHT AGAINST POACHING

This project is located in the Comoros Archipelago, near the village of N'Droudé. Formerly a spawning ground, the Green Turtles that come to lay eggs at N'Droudé have little chance of returning alive at sea; they are often poached before they even have time to bury their eggs in the sand.

To remedy this worrying situation in the medium-term, the SCS partnered with Ulanga N'gazidia, Comorian association.

Drastic large-scale protection measures were urgently put in place to prevent the extinction of this stunning species.

In 2011, thanks to SCS funding and the help of Ulanga N'gazidja, a local team of 4 "eco-guards" from N'droudé was set up to patrol and guard the turtles. These guards stand watch from when the turtles begin burying their eggs on the beach until their safe return to the sea.

**For an amount of CHF 350:**  
Contribute to the 6 months' salary for the weekly patrol of a local eco-guard.

**For an amount of CHF 700:**  
The equivalent of 1 year's salary for the weekly patrol to an eco-guard.

**For an amount of CHF 5'000:**  
Sponsor a Swiss student in a master's or Doctorate program. Including onsite stay to establish a "zero point" of the new ecosystem area to be conserved and protected.

### 4 PROJECT VAQUITA

#### AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

The Gulf of California Porpoise, known as Vaquita, is the smallest cetacean in the world. The species is classified as "critically endangered" on the Red List of the IUCN.

While natural factors have a definite influence on its mortality rate, its vulnerability is largely linked to artisanal fishing and poaching of the Totoaba fish, carried out with gillnets. The Vaquita has been a bycatch of these nets for many years.

The SCS is engaged in a project of developing Vaquita-friendly fishing gears, which would help avoid bycatches, as well as ensure that surveillance of illegal fishing finally becomes effective.

In 2014 the SCS began collaborating with Pronatura Noroeste AC. As part of its work on the world's most endangered species, the SCS decided to join the fight to save the last Vaquitas from extinction.

**For an amount of CHF 150:**  
Contribute in the development of a local fisherman's organisation that endorses Vaquita-friendly fishing gear.

**For an amount of CHF 300:**  
Help develop regulations and implementation methods for the Vaquita- friendly label.

**For an amount of CHF 350:**  
Contribute to the development of vaquita-friendly fishing gear for locals.



# UPCOMING PROJECTS

## PROJECT MANGROVE

### A LIVING TREASURE

At the limit of the terrestrial and marine domains, these forests play a role as a natural barrier, breaking the power of waves and wind, as well as protecting nearby villages. They also provide the clear waters essential for the health of coral reefs and seagrass beds. Mangroves serve as nurseries for the fry and larvae of many species of fish and crustaceans; they also provide places of rest and new habitats for just as many birds as for land animals.

Unfortunately, mangroves are not immune to human generated pressures including urban development, pollution and destruction of large areas for aquaculture. These ecosystems are constantly shrinking and fragmenting.

The project will initially focus in the Comoros, with the possibility of extending it to other sites.

Our project has several components, all of which aim to ensure long-term success:

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**Mangroves are unique and fragile ecosystems that play key roles in the vital functioning of the oceans.**

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#### ***Scientific analysis of potential sites:***

the choice of sites and the appropriate restoration method (self-regeneration or replanting) will be based on a detailed analysis of the terrain. This preliminary part will be carried out by leading mangrove scientists, who will also ensure follow-up analysis.

#### ***Analysis of the needs of local populations:***

in order to meet a real need and make a real difference, locals are involved in the project from the start. Cultural factors and local knowledge conducive to the sustainability of the project are determined using a participatory approach. Natives thus adhere to the project and help find economic outlets. A special focus will be put on sustainable solutions (such as renewable energies, circular economy and agroecology).

#### ***Transmission mangrove management knowledge:***

local actors are trained at all stages of the protection and development of mangroves. They have the know-how necessary for a long-term management. The coastal areas are protected, the mangroves play their role as carbon sink and the ecosystems provide the targeted resources.

Through these measures, this SCS project aims to:

- restore or revitalise mangroves in promising sites
- preserve biodiversity and create habitats
- protect shores from erosion and the impact of climate change
- restore security, autonomy and resources to locals

Donate now to help make this amazing project a reality!



## PROJECT GLACIALIS

A SCIENTIFIC VENTURE INTO THE ARCTIC

GLACIALIS is a partnered expedition project to monitor marine mammals in the Arctic. This innovative project will involve a team of marine biologists, research technicians and a professional photographer who are committed to document the fragile Arctic environment. The team will set sail on a vessel equipped to navigate in high latitudes from Azores to Baffin Bay in 2021, and then complete the North West Passage in 2022.

The aim of Expedition GLACIALIS is to use science and new technologies in visual, thermal and acoustic cetacean monitoring to help improve knowledge of the Arctic ecosystem, promote marine conservation, and positively influence the harmonious coexistence of humans and wildlife

### Issues in the Arctic

The Arctic is an ecosystem that climate change is dramatically impacting every day. Melting ice caps are causing anthropogenic changes that will impact marine species on a global scale. It is important to carefully document the current status so that mitigation strategies can be developed.

**Expedition GLACIALIS will sail from Azores archipelago to the Baffin Sea, covering a distance of over 4500 nautical miles in 5 months.**

### Visual, Thermal and Acoustic Catalogue

Ground-breaking, replicable protocols will be used in order to create the first combined catalogue of Arctic marine mammals. Acoustic devices and drone thermal cameras will allow for both noise pollution monitoring and species recognition.

### Additional Data Collection

A record will be kept of all wildlife encountered, locating biodiversity hotspots and endangered species. Macro-pollution and micro-plastics will be visually recorded. Waste monitoring will allow us to learn more about currents, pollution and direct threats to wildlife. Physicochemical testing will be conducted to monitor changes in salinity, temperature, pH and chlorophyll.

### Communicate and raise awareness

On this ambitious adventure, communication systems will be essential to connect us to daily weather and ice reports. Findings, data, and complications will all be published online and with collaborating institutes, universities, NGOs, and governments to encourage open science.

### Help GLACIALIS reach its full potential!

The crew, ship, budget, scientific methods, route and itinerary have been determined. Partners and sponsors have been documented, with platforms in place to release data and analysis to the public. Join, finance, and support this expedition through a partnership or sponsorship.

“

The future is in the hands of those who explore... and from all the beauty they discover while crossing perpetually receding frontiers, they develop for nature and for humankind an infinite love.

– Jacques Cousteau

”



An underwater photograph showing two whales swimming near the surface of the ocean. The water is deep blue, and sunlight filters through the surface, creating a shimmering effect. The whales are dark in color, and their heads and backs are visible as they move through the water.

## PROJECT EAR

AN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

### **Solving a scientific mystery essential to conservation: Where do whales go during winter?**

Whales have been the subject of continuous studies for a long time. Information on these species is abundant in some respects, but there is still a huge unanswered question: where do these giants go in winter and what do they do?

In general, research campaigns focus on the summer period, when whales are in the Ligurian Sea and weather conditions allow cetaceans to be monitored. But during 9 months of the year these animals are completely untraceable. In cooperation with Tursiops Marine Research, the SCS supports a solution to solve the great mystery of the Mediterranean whales: Ecological Acoustic Recording (EAR).

The results obtained from this project will have a remarkable impact on the international scientific community. Findings and data will be presented at worldwide events, such as the European Cetacean Society (ECS) and the Society for Marine Mammalogy congresses, as well as institutions in charge of the conservation of Mediterranean cetaceans.

This study will have a highly significant and long-lasting impact on the knowledge and conservation of Mediterranean marine mammals. The Balearic Islands is the starting point for the deployment of EAR listening.

**EAR is an instrument designed  
for the periodic recording of  
underwater audio signals.**



# FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

*It's your turn to make a difference - How to participate in the conservation of the marine world*

The SCS enjoys official public utility status and, therefore, all payments, donations, action support, contributions, purchases from the store, and expedition registrations are tax exempt. Proof of payment can be requested from SCS.

## 1 MEMBERSHIP

In order to be a financially sustainable institution, our revenues must be as diverse as possible. To achieve this, we need to attract more members by increasing our market reach, spreading awareness about our work, and encouraging public support for SCS projects.

In the next five years, the SCS aims to double its registered members by converting the increasing number of non-financial supporters established by conferences and events into full-time members and donors. This will significantly increase spontaneous, semi-prompted and prompted awareness and support of the SCS.

### Become a member of the SCS for CHF 60.- per year.

As a member, SCS offers you:

- SCS forums
- Informative evenings on expeditions in Lausanne
- A monthly electronic newsletter
- A team of specialists to answer all your questions

If you wish to participate or become a member of the SCS by supporting its activities, do not hesitate to contact us or to express your interest.

## 2 VALUE-IN-KIND

The SCS is made up of benevolent volunteers, working in different activities and projects for our organisation. Added to this is the full-time work of interns looking to broaden their environmental administrative skills and studies.

## 3 EVENTS & EXPEDITIONS

The SCS takes part in many fundraising events and marine life awareness campaigns. Every year the SCS organises around six expeditions in two different locations for a group of ocean enthusiasts that feel the responsibility to make a positive impact and expand their knowledge on marine conservation and protection.

### Expedition Liguria and Baleares

At an all-inclusive cost, eco-volunteers will navigate around the Mediterranean for 6 days during the summer to actively help in marine conservation and protection projects.

A team of highly qualified, on-board, SCS guides teach you about the everchanging ocean, the stunning marine life, the challenges the world is facing, and how you can be part of the important solution.

Find out more:  
[en.swisscetaceansociety.org/ecovolontaires](http://en.swisscetaceansociety.org/ecovolontaires)

## 4 DONATIONS & GRANTS

The SCS distributes donations in several amounts over different projects or pours them into an urgent action upon receipt; over 80 % of each donation to SCS is invested into field projects and awareness campaigns.

Donations can be made to each of our current projects, as well as our upcoming ones. You can symbolically adopt a monk seal, support the protection of green turtles by paying the salary of an eco-guard, participate in the protection of endangered species, and even participate in the development of "Vaquita friendly" methods.

It is your chance to make a difference and help in any way you can. ***The oceans are the "lungs of the Earth".***





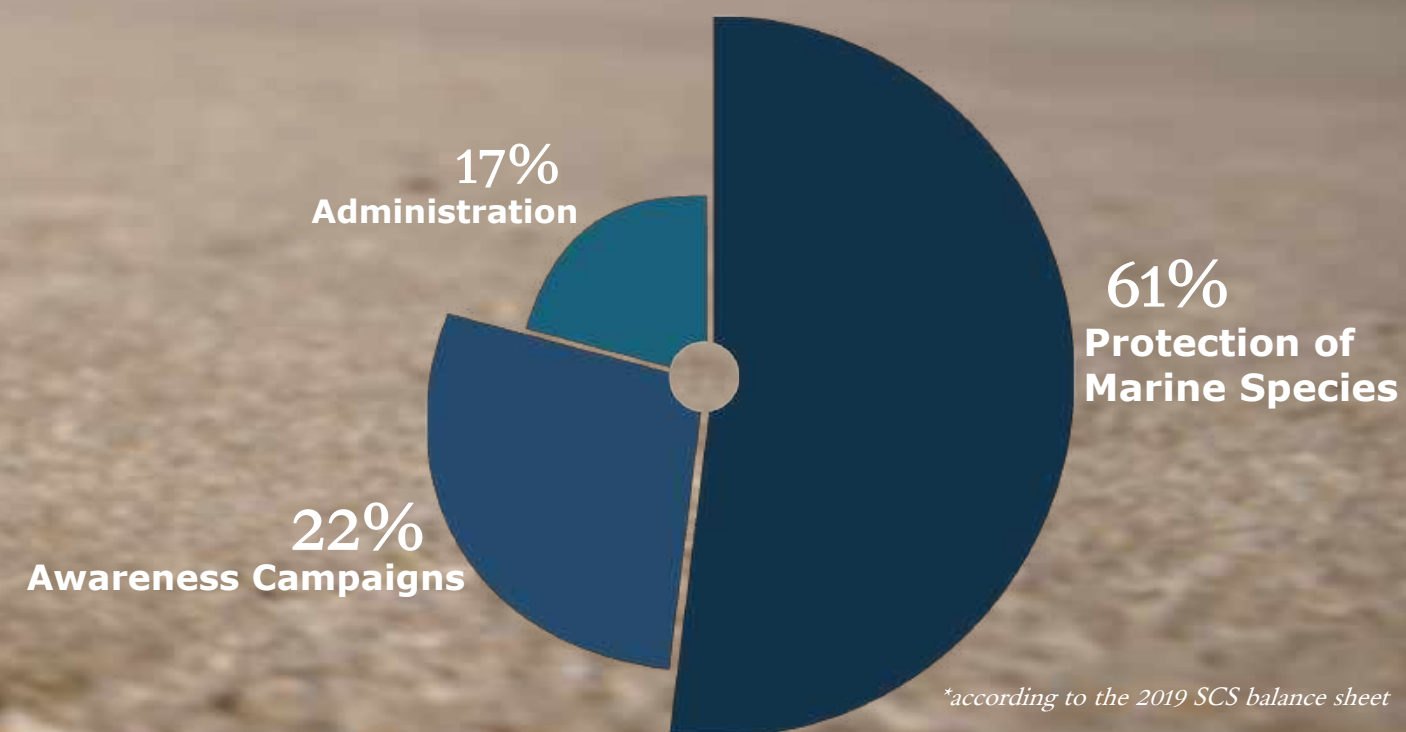
# FINANCIAL EXPENSES OVERVIEW

*A breakdown of the allocation of funds at the SCS*

The overall resources of the SCS are made up of volunteers, donations, annual membership fees, support from companies, events, expeditions, and value-in-kind benefits. These different resources allow the SCS to carry out concrete actions to preserve, protect and spread public awareness about marine environments and their species. The pie chart shows the investment in percentage of its received funds.

**Per CHF 100.- provided to the SCS, over CHF 80.- is invested into protection and conservation projects as well as raising funds and spreading awareness.**

## How your contribution is invested into the SCS\*







## Unsurpassed Network of Key Collaborators Worldwide



IONIAN DOLPHIN PROJECT  
[www.ioniandolphinproject.org](http://www.ioniandolphinproject.org)





# Our Ambassadors



  
**SERVING OCEANS**  
SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY

*« La vie tire ses origines des mers, toutes les grandes extinctions ont débuté par des régressions marines, or la biodiversité régresse dans les mers, de nombreuses populations s'effondrent. Faites comme nous, soutenez la Swiss Cetacean Society ! »*

**Dr. Dominique Bourg**  
Prof. hon. Université de Lausanne  
Philosophe-écrivain en éthique et environnement.



  
**SERVING OCEANS**  
SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY

*« Protéger les écosystèmes aquatiques est au centre de ma recherche. Du bord des lacs au fond des océans, des milliers d'espèces sont en danger de par notre mode de vie. C'est pourquoi je soutiens la Swiss Cetacean Society qui s'engage pour la protection des cétacés. »*

**Dr. Nathalie Chèvre**  
Université de Lausanne  
Faculté des Géosciences et de l'environnement.





*« Je soutiens les actions de la Swiss Cetacean Society, que je considère comme vitales pour la protection des océans. »*

**Bernard Stamm, navigateur suisse**  
Deux victoires en solitaire autour du globe, une victoire en double



*« Je soutiens la Swiss Cetacean Society pour partager et défendre ce qui nous relie tous à l'océan : nous faisons partie d'elle et elle fait partie de nous dans nos veines, se respecter soi-même c'est respecter la source de notre environnement ! »*

**Stéphane Tourreau**  
**Apnéiste**  
Vice Champion du Monde d'Apnée



*« Je soutiens la Swiss Cetacean Society parce que la préservation et l'éducation sur le milieu marin et sa faune me tiennent à cœur. »*

**Justine Mettraux, navigatrice professionnelle**  
Championne et vice-championne de France,  
Victoire Bol d'Or Lac Léman 2010



## REFERENCES & ADMINISTRATIVE INFO.

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### Charity Name

Swiss Cetacean Society - SCS

### Founder and President

Max-Olivier Bourcoud

### Company Address

P.O. Box 1430  
1001 Lausanne  
Switzerland

### Contact Information

[scs@swisscetaceansociety.org](mailto:scs@swisscetaceansociety.org)

### Website

[www.swisscetaceansociety.org](http://www.swisscetaceansociety.org)

### Donations

CCP: 17-180194-1  
IBAN: CH78 0900 0000 1718 0194 1

## SCS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE ORGANISATIONS WHO MADE OUR WORK OVER THE YEARS POSSIBLE

ACCOBAMS

Asociación Tursiops

Blue-in-Green

Centre National de la Recherche  
Scientifique (CNRS)

Dolphin Communication Project

Earth Champions

EcoOcéan Institut

École Polytechnique Fédérale de  
Lausanne (EPFL)

Friend of the Sea

Fundación CBD-Hábitat

Glacialis Expedition

International Union for Conservation  
of Nature (IUCN)

Longitude 181

MOm / Hellenic Society for the Study  
and Protection of the Monk Seal

OBSenMER

OceanEye

Pelagis Observatory

Pronatura Noroeste, AC

Risso's Dolphin Center

Terra Conscious


Tethys Research Institute

Ulanga Ngazidja

Whale Research Lab at the University  
of Victoria

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)





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📘 [facebook.com/SwissCetaceanSociety.SCS](https://facebook.com/SwissCetaceanSociety.SCS)

📷 [instagram.com/swiss\\_cetacean\\_society](https://instagram.com/swiss_cetacean_society)

**[www.swisscetaceansociety.org](http://www.swisscetaceansociety.org)**

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**Serving oceans**





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**Max-Olivier Bourcoud**  
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**Dr. ALEXANDRE DE TITTA**  
*Vice-President*



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*Executive Director & Education & Awareness*



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*Green Turtles Project & SCS Guide*



**Dr. LIDA KYPRIOTOU**  
*Monk Seals Project*



**NICOLE DEMARTA**  
*Mangroves Project*



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*Community Manager*



**MELANIE JOTTERAND**  
*Webmaster and social networks Manager*



**PIERRE-ANDRÉ BARRAS**  
*Administrative Management and Accountant*



# LIFE ON THE SEA

## OUR IMPACT AND ACTIVITY

The Swiss Cetacean Society (SCS) organises worldwide campaigns at sea for data collection on cetacean wildlife. These scientific programmes are co-financed by the public. The collected data are then transmitted to corporate scientists who ensure proper treatment and usage. This SCS activity mobilises research platforms and volunteers supervised by trained naturalists.

Since 1997, SCS has carried out **over 1'500 days of data collection** in the Mediterranean Sea and helped gather invaluable information for tens of thousands of cetaceans belonging to 8 species.

In total, **more than 1'400 volunteers**, divided into over 280 teams, provide offshore work for the benefit of many research institutes, such as, the international Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (CIESM), the EcoOcéan Institute, Asociación Tursiops, and the Tethys Research Institute.

The purpose of these different scientific programmes is to study the whale and dolphin populations in order to improve their protection and conservation via concrete measures.

Similarly, SCS has participated as a logistics partner of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in an international and interdisciplinary study of the Mediterranean Fin Whale (the second largest whale in the world), involving a large number of researchers from various disciplines (oceanographers, ecologists, geneticists, bio-chemists, and various others).

During this project, SCS worked closely with the Laboratory of Ecotoxicology at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) for the analysis of micropollutants. In Greece, and soon in Mauritania, the SCS contributes to the preservation of the last Mediterranean Monk Seals.

Overseas, the SCS has been contributing, both financially and physically (through volunteers), to an environmental research project on Risso's Dolphins in the Azores (Risso's Dolphin

Research Center), as well as to another study on the interaction between Spotted Dolphins and Bottlenose Dolphins in the Bahamas (Dr Kathleen Dudsinski & Kelly Melillo from the Dolphin Communication Project).

The SCS also supported an environmental research project on Gray Whales in the Canadian Pacific (Dr David Duffus, University of Victoria-Vancouver) and helped slow the disappearance of the California Porpoise (Vaquita) in Mexico (ProNatura Mexico).

Currently, SCS is carrying out a project to protect Green Turtles in the Indian Ocean (Ulanga Ngazidja, Comoros Islands), as well as implementing various programmes for coastal conservation in India (Terra Conscious, Goa).

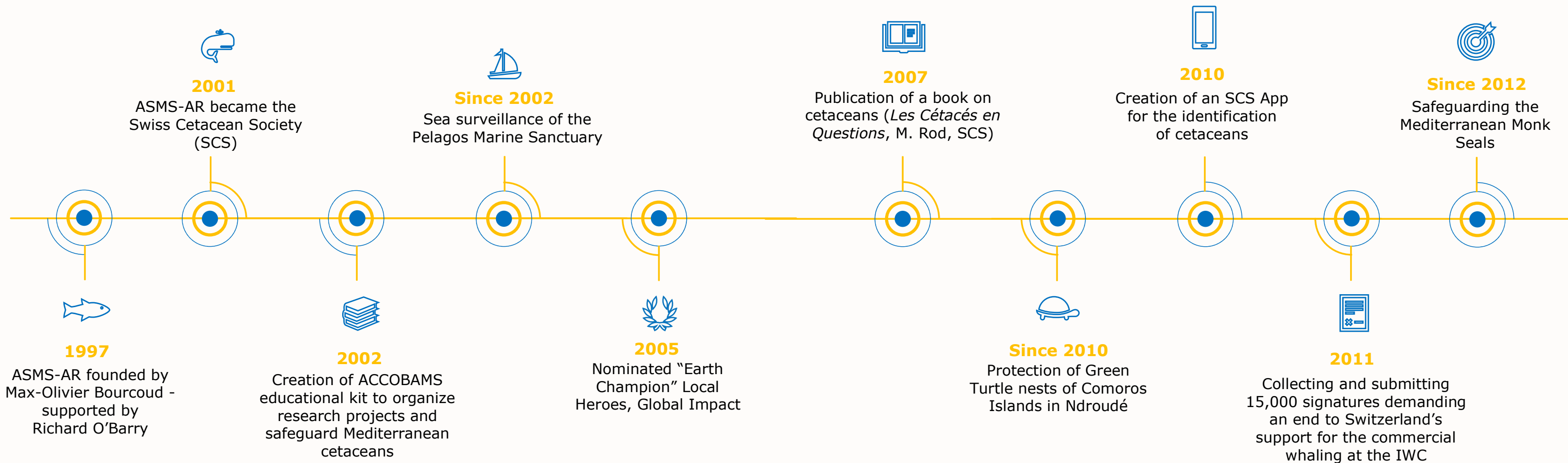
The SCS has thus become one of **the leading providers of cetacean data in the north-western Mediterranean Sea.**



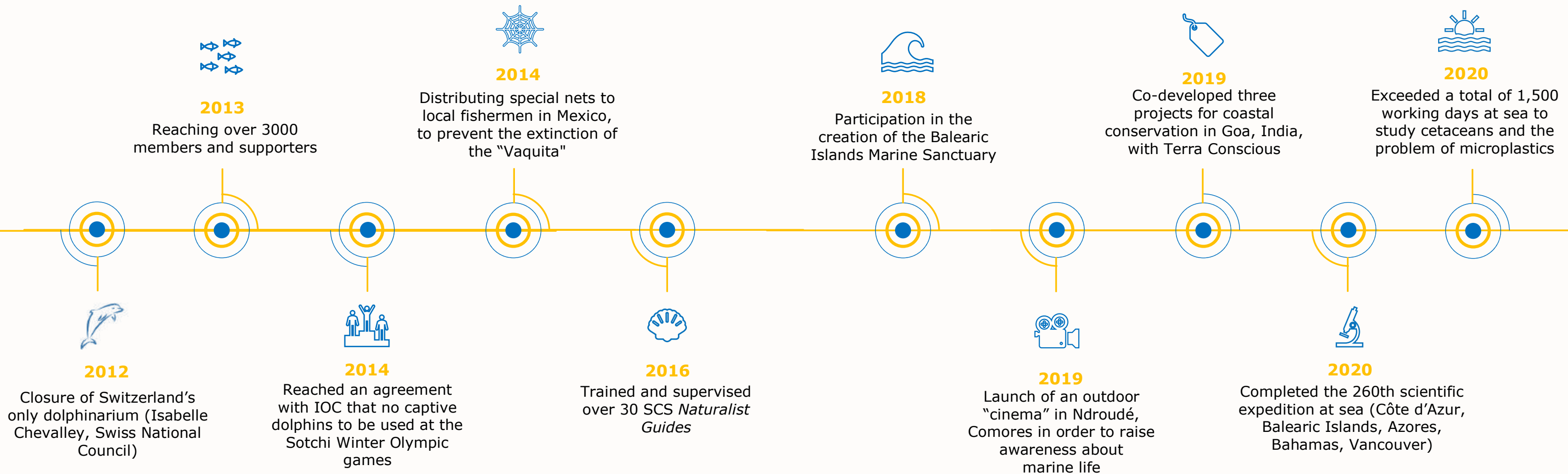


# OVER 20 YEARS OF OCEAN DEDICATION

Just a few of the many SCS achievements









# OUR PROJECTS

*"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."- Robert Swan*



## 1 PROJECT COAST CONSERVATION



## 3 PROJECT TURTLES



## 2 PROJECT SEALS

## 4 PROJECT VAQUITA







# 1 PROJECT COAST CONSERVATION

## COAST CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

This project has three key programmes responding to different aspects of marine conservation in India, in collaboration with our local partner Terra Conscious, with Goa as a starting point:

1. *Ocean Watch - Marine Wildlife Stranding Response:* a network established by Terra Conscious in 2017, to monitor the state's coastline and report marine wildlife stranding incidents to the state forest department.
2. *Students For Seas - Marine Ecology Education:* This 18 months pilot programme is

focused on creating a student network that will raise awareness about marine ecosystems and enable ground conservation action.

3. *Ocean Friendly Hospitality - Sustainable Coastal Tourism:* this project aims at creating a state-wide network of engaged and aware coastal hospitality partners, including hotels, restaurants, shacks and tourism operators, who practice and endorse responsible tourism.

### Why these programmes?

Goa is India's most polluted coastal destination, with tourists

### What will your support be used for ?

- Developing a network website and dashboard that allows for data to be entered and uploaded for public access.
- Creating a tool kit that can be used for local research projects, awareness building, and on ground engagement.
- Reach out to hotels through consultation workshops to develop 'Ocean Friendly' guidelines, networks, and management structures.
- Cetacean and sea turtle stretchers for efficient and humane transport of live, stranded animals.



### How YOU can support

Participate actively in the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal population.

Symbolically adopt a seal for a year for the amount of 150 CHF (per year).

Finance the purchase of research equipment; free donation – amount to gather 2'000 CHF.

Support an endangered population with a 50 CHF donation.

# 2 PROJECT SEALS

## S.O.S. FOR THE LAST MONK SEALS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

**To protect and contribute to the recovery of the Mediterranean monk seal population in the Cabo Blanco peninsula of Mauritania and in the Ionian Sea, thus worldwide.**

The Mediterranean Monk Seal, once abundant throughout the Mediterranean basin; the Black Sea; and along the northwest coast of Africa, has now become a rare and endangered species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The decline in the Monk Seal population is mainly due to deliberate killings by fishermen as seals come to eat fish from their nets and become competitors to be eliminated. Seals also strangle

themselves in the links of fishing nets, venturing into them for food.

Like other species, the monk seal is also a victim of mass tourism which causes pollution and forces them to go rest in underwater caves instead of beaches. This often leads to them drowning during high tides. Overfishing further increases pressure by causing pollution and depleting its food resources.

Thanks to our project in co-

operation with CBD Habitat, the population of the Cape Blanc colony of Mauritania is currently growing. Since the creation of the Seal Coast Reserve in 2001, the number of seals has increased from around 100 individuals in 1998 to more than 360 seals! At the same time, the number of pups (baby seals) born each year has almost tripled from 20 to more than 80 births. Similarly, our collaboration with the Tethys Institute helps reinforce the protection of the Monk Seal Population in the Ionian Sea.





## 3 PROJECT TURTLES

### FIGHT AGAINST POACHING

This project is located in the Comoros Archipelago, near the village of N'Droudé. Formerly a spawning ground, the Green Turtles that come to lay eggs at N'Droudé have little chance of returning alive at sea; they are often poached before they even have time to bury their eggs in the sand.

To remedy this worrying situation in the medium-term, the SCS partnered with Ulanga N'gazidia, Comorian association.

Drastic large-scale protection measures were urgently put in place to prevent the extinction of this stunning species.

In 2011, thanks to SCS funding and the help of Ulanga N'gazidja, a local team of 4 "eco-guards" from N'droudé was set up to patrol and guard the turtles. These guards stand watch from when the turtles begin burying their eggs on the beach until their safe return to the sea.

**For an amount of CHF 350:**  
Contribute to the 6 months' salary for the weekly patrol of a local eco-guard.

**For an amount of CHF 700:**  
The equivalent of 1 year's salary for the weekly patrol to an eco-guard.

**For an amount of CHF 5'000:**  
Sponsor a Swiss student in a master's or Doctorate program. Including onsite stay to establish a "zero point" of the new ecosystem area to be conserved and protected.

## 4 PROJECT VAQUITA

### AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

The Gulf of California Porpoise, known as Vaquita, is the smallest cetacean in the world. The species is classified as "critically endangered" on the Red List of the IUCN.

While natural factors have a definite influence on its mortality rate, its vulnerability is largely linked to artisanal fishing and poaching of the Totoaba fish, carried out with gillnets. The Vaquita has been a bycatch of these nets for many years.

The SCS is engaged in a project of developing Vaquita-friendly fishing gears, which would help avoid bycatches, as well as ensure that surveillance of illegal fishing finally becomes effective.

In 2014 the SCS began collaborating with Pronatura Noroeste AC. As part of its work on the world's most endangered species, the SCS decided to join the fight to save the last Vaquitas from extinction.

**For an amount of CHF 150:**  
Contribute in the development of a local fisherman's organisation that endorses Vaquita-friendly fishing gear.

**For an amount of CHF 300:**  
Help develop regulations and implementation methods for the Vaquita- friendly label.

**For an amount of CHF 350:**  
Contribute to the development of vaquita-friendly fishing gear for locals.



# UPCOMING PROJECTS

## PROJECT MANGROVE

### A LIVING TREASURE

At the limit of the terrestrial and marine domains, these forests play a role as a natural barrier, breaking the power of waves and wind, as well as protecting nearby villages. They also provide the clear waters essential for the health of coral reefs and seagrass beds. Mangroves serve as nurseries for the fry and larvae of many species of fish and crustaceans; they also provide places of rest and new habitats for just as many birds as for land animals.

Unfortunately, mangroves are not immune to human generated pressures including urban development, pollution and destruction of large areas for aquaculture. These ecosystems are constantly shrinking and fragmenting.

The project will initially focus in the Comoros, with the possibility of extending it to other sites.

Our project has several components, all of which aim to ensure long-term success:

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**Mangroves are unique and fragile ecosystems that play key roles in the vital functioning of the oceans.**

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#### ***Scientific analysis of potential sites:***

the choice of sites and the appropriate restoration method (self-regeneration or replanting) will be based on a detailed analysis of the terrain. This preliminary part will be carried out by leading mangrove scientists, who will also ensure follow-up analysis.

#### ***Analysis of the needs of local populations:***

in order to meet a real need and make a real difference, locals are involved in the project from the start. Cultural factors and local knowledge conducive to the sustainability of the project are determined using a participatory approach. Natives thus adhere to the project and help find economic outlets. A special focus will be put on sustainable solutions (such as renewable energies, circular economy and agroecology).

#### ***Transmission mangrove management knowledge:***

local actors are trained at all stages of the protection and development of mangroves. They have the know-how necessary for a long-term management. The coastal areas are protected, the mangroves play their role as carbon sink and the ecosystems provide the targeted resources.

Through these measures, this SCS project aims to:

- restore or revitalise mangroves in promising sites
- preserve biodiversity and create habitats
- protect shores from erosion and the impact of climate change
- restore security, autonomy and resources to locals

Donate now to help make this amazing project a reality!



## PROJECT GLACIALIS

A SCIENTIFIC VENTURE INTO THE ARCTIC

GLACIALIS is a partnered expedition project to monitor marine mammals in the Arctic. This innovative project will involve a team of marine biologists, research technicians and a professional photographer who are committed to document the fragile Arctic environment. The team will set sail on a vessel equipped to navigate in high latitudes from Azores to Baffin Bay in 2021, and then complete the North West Passage in 2022.

The aim of Expedition GLACIALIS is to use science and new technologies in visual, thermal and acoustic cetacean monitoring to help improve knowledge of the Arctic ecosystem, promote marine conservation, and positively influence the harmonious coexistence of humans and wildlife

### Issues in the Arctic

The Arctic is an ecosystem that climate change is dramatically impacting every day. Melting ice caps are causing anthropogenic changes that will impact marine species on a global scale. It is important to carefully document the current status so that mitigation strategies can be developed.

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**Expedition GLACIALIS will sail from Azores archipelago to the Baffin Sea, covering a distance of over 4500 nautical miles in 5 months.**

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### Visual, Thermal and Acoustic Catalogue

Ground-breaking, replicable protocols will be used in order to create the first combined catalogue of Arctic marine mammals. Acoustic devices and drone thermal cameras will allow for both noise pollution monitoring and species recognition.

### Additional Data Collection

A record will be kept of all wildlife encountered, locating biodiversity hotspots and endangered species. Macro-pollution and micro-plastics will be visually recorded. Waste monitoring will allow us to learn more about currents, pollution and direct threats to wildlife. Physicochemical testing will be conducted to monitor changes in salinity, temperature, pH and chlorophyll.

### Communicate and raise awareness

On this ambitious adventure, communication systems will be essential to connect us to daily weather and ice reports. Findings, data, and complications will all be published online and with collaborating institutes, universities, NGOs, and governments to encourage open science.

### Help GLACIALIS reach its full potential!

The crew, ship, budget, scientific methods, route and itinerary have been determined. Partners and sponsors have been documented, with platforms in place to release data and analysis to the public. Join, finance, and support this expedition through a partnership or sponsorship.

“

The future is in the hands of those who explore... and from all the beauty they discover while crossing perpetually receding frontiers, they develop for nature and for humankind an infinite love.

– Jacques Cousteau

”



An underwater photograph showing two whales swimming near the surface of the ocean. The water is a deep blue, and sunlight filters through the surface, creating a shimmering effect. The whales are dark in color, and their heads and backs are visible as they move through the water.

## PROJECT EAR

AN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

### **Solving a scientific mystery essential to conservation: Where do whales go during winter?**

Whales have been the subject of continuous studies for a long time. Information on these species is abundant in some respects, but there is still a huge unanswered question: where do these giants go in winter and what do they do?

In general, research campaigns focus on the summer period, when whales are in the Ligurian Sea and weather conditions allow cetaceans to be monitored. But during 9 months of the year these animals are completely untraceable. In cooperation with Tursiops Marine Research, the SCS supports a solution to solve the great mystery of the Mediterranean whales: Ecological Acoustic Recording (EAR).

The results obtained from this project will have a remarkable impact on the international scientific community. Findings and data will be presented at worldwide events, such as the European Cetacean Society (ECS) and the Society for Marine Mammalogy congresses, as well as institutions in charge of the conservation of Mediterranean cetaceans.

This study will have a highly significant and long-lasting impact on the knowledge and conservation of Mediterranean marine mammals. The Balearic Islands is the starting point for the deployment of EAR listening.

**EAR is an instrument designed  
for the periodic recording of  
underwater audio signals.**



# FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

*It's your turn to make a difference - How to participate in the conservation of the marine world*

The SCS enjoys official public utility status and, therefore, all payments, donations, action support, contributions, purchases from the store, and expedition registrations are tax exempt. Proof of payment can be requested from SCS.

## 1 MEMBERSHIP

In order to be a financially sustainable institution, our revenues must be as diverse as possible. To achieve this, we need to attract more members by increasing our market reach, spreading awareness about our work, and encouraging public support for SCS projects.

In the next five years, the SCS aims to double its registered members by converting the increasing number of non-financial supporters established by conferences and events into full-time members and donors. This will significantly increase spontaneous, semi-prompted and prompted awareness and support of the SCS.

### Become a member of the SCS for CHF 60.- per year.

As a member, SCS offers you:

- SCS forums
- Informative evenings on expeditions in Lausanne
- A monthly electronic newsletter
- A team of specialists to answer all your questions

If you wish to participate or become a member of the SCS by supporting its activities, do not hesitate to contact us or to express your interest.

## 2 VALUE-IN-KIND

The SCS is made up of benevolent volunteers, working in different activities and projects for our organisation. Added to this is the full-time work of interns looking to broaden their environmental administrative skills and studies.

## 3 EVENTS & EXPEDITIONS

The SCS takes part in many fundraising events and marine life awareness campaigns. Every year the SCS organises around six expeditions in two different locations for a group of ocean enthusiasts that feel the responsibility to make a positive impact and expand their knowledge on marine conservation and protection.

### Expedition Liguria and Baleares

At an all-inclusive cost, eco-volunteers will navigate around the Mediterranean for 6 days during the summer to actively help in marine conservation and protection projects.

A team of highly qualified, on-board, SCS guides teach you about the everchanging ocean, the stunning marine life, the challenges the world is facing, and how you can be part of the important solution.

Find out more:  
[en.swisscetaceansociety.org/ecovolontaires](http://en.swisscetaceansociety.org/ecovolontaires)

## 4 DONATIONS & GRANTS

The SCS distributes donations in several amounts over different projects or pours them into an urgent action upon receipt; over 80 % of each donation to SCS is invested into field projects and awareness campaigns.

Donations can be made to each of our current projects, as well as our upcoming ones. You can symbolically adopt a monk seal, support the protection of green turtles by paying the salary of an eco-guard, participate in the protection of endangered species, and even participate in the development of "Vaquita friendly" methods.

It is your chance to make a difference and help in any way you can. ***The oceans are the "lungs of the Earth".***





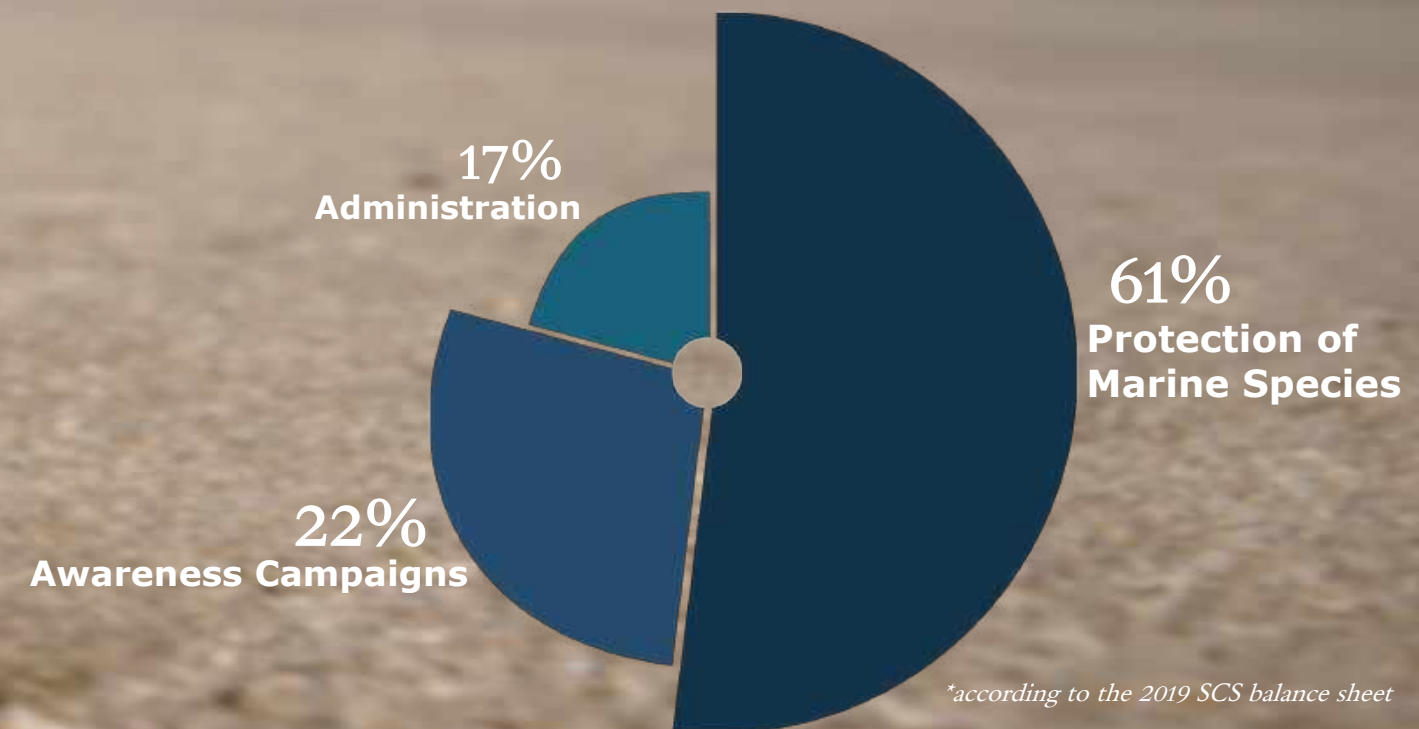
# FINANCIAL EXPENSES OVERVIEW

*A breakdown of the allocation of funds at the SCS*

The overall resources of the SCS are made up of volunteers, donations, annual membership fees, support from companies, events, expeditions, and value-in-kind benefits. These different resources allow the SCS to carry out concrete actions to preserve, protect and spread public awareness about marine environments and their species. The pie chart shows the investment in percentage of its received funds.

**Per CHF 100.- provided to the SCS, over CHF 80.- is invested into protection and conservation projects as well as raising funds and spreading awareness.**

## How your contribution is invested into the SCS\*



*\*according to the 2019 SCS balance sheet*





## Unsurpassed Network of Key Collaborators Worldwide



IONIAN DOLPHIN PROJECT  
[www.ioniandolphinsproject.org](http://www.ioniandolphinsproject.org)





# Our Ambassadors



  
**SERVING OCEANS**  
SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY

*« La vie tire ses origines des mers, toutes les grandes extinctions ont débuté par des régressions marines, or la biodiversité régresse dans les mers, de nombreuses populations s'effondrent. Faites comme nous, soutenez la Swiss Cetacean Society ! »*

**Dr. Dominique Bourg**  
**Prof. hon. Université de Lausanne**  
Philosophe-écrivain en éthique et environnement.



  
**SERVING OCEANS**  
SWISS CETACEAN SOCIETY

*« Protéger les écosystèmes aquatiques est au centre de ma recherche. Du bord des lacs au fond des océans, des milliers d'espèces sont en danger de par notre mode de vie. C'est pourquoi je soutiens la Swiss Cetacean Society qui s'engage pour la protection des cétacés. »*

**Dr. Nathalie Chèvre**  
**Université de Lausanne**  
Faculté des Géosciences et de l'environnement.





*« Je soutiens les actions de la Swiss Cetacean Society, que je considère comme vitales pour la protection des océans. »*

**Bernard Stamm, navigateur suisse**  
Deux victoires en solitaire autour du globe, une victoire en double



*« Je soutiens la Swiss Cetacean Society pour partager et défendre ce qui nous relie tous à l'océan : nous faisons partie d'elle et elle fait partie de nous dans nos veines, se respecter soi-même c'est respecter la source de notre environnement ! »*

**Stéphane Turreau**  
**Apnéiste**  
Vice Champion du Monde d'Apnée



*« Je soutiens la Swiss Cetacean Society parce que la préservation et l'éducation sur le milieu marin et sa faune me tiennent à cœur. »*

**Justine Mettraux, navigatrice professionnelle**  
Championne et vice-championne de France,  
Victoire Bol d'Or Lac Léman 2010



## REFERENCES & ADMINISTRATIVE INFO.

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### Charity Name

Swiss Cetacean Society - SCS

### Founder and President

Max-Olivier Bourcoud

### Company Address

P.O. Box 1430  
1001 Lausanne  
Switzerland

### Contact Information

[scs@swisscetaceansociety.org](mailto:scs@swisscetaceansociety.org)

### Website

[www.swisscetaceansociety.org](http://www.swisscetaceansociety.org)

### Donations

CCP: 17-180194-1  
IBAN: CH78 0900 0000 1718 0194 1

## SCS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE ORGANISATIONS WHO MADE OUR WORK OVER THE YEARS POSSIBLE

ACCOBAMS

Asociación Tursiops

Blue-in-Green

Centre National de la Recherche  
Scientifique (CNRS)

Dolphin Communication Project

Earth Champions

EcoOcéan Institut

École Polytechnique Fédérale de  
Lausanne (EPFL)

Friend of the Sea

Fundación CBD-Hábitat

Glacialis Expedition

International Union for Conservation  
of Nature (IUCN)

Longitude 181

MOm / Hellenic Society for the Study  
and Protection of the Monk Seal

OBSenMER

OceanEye

Pelagis Observatory

Pronatura Noroeste, AC

Risso's Dolphin Center

Terra Conscious

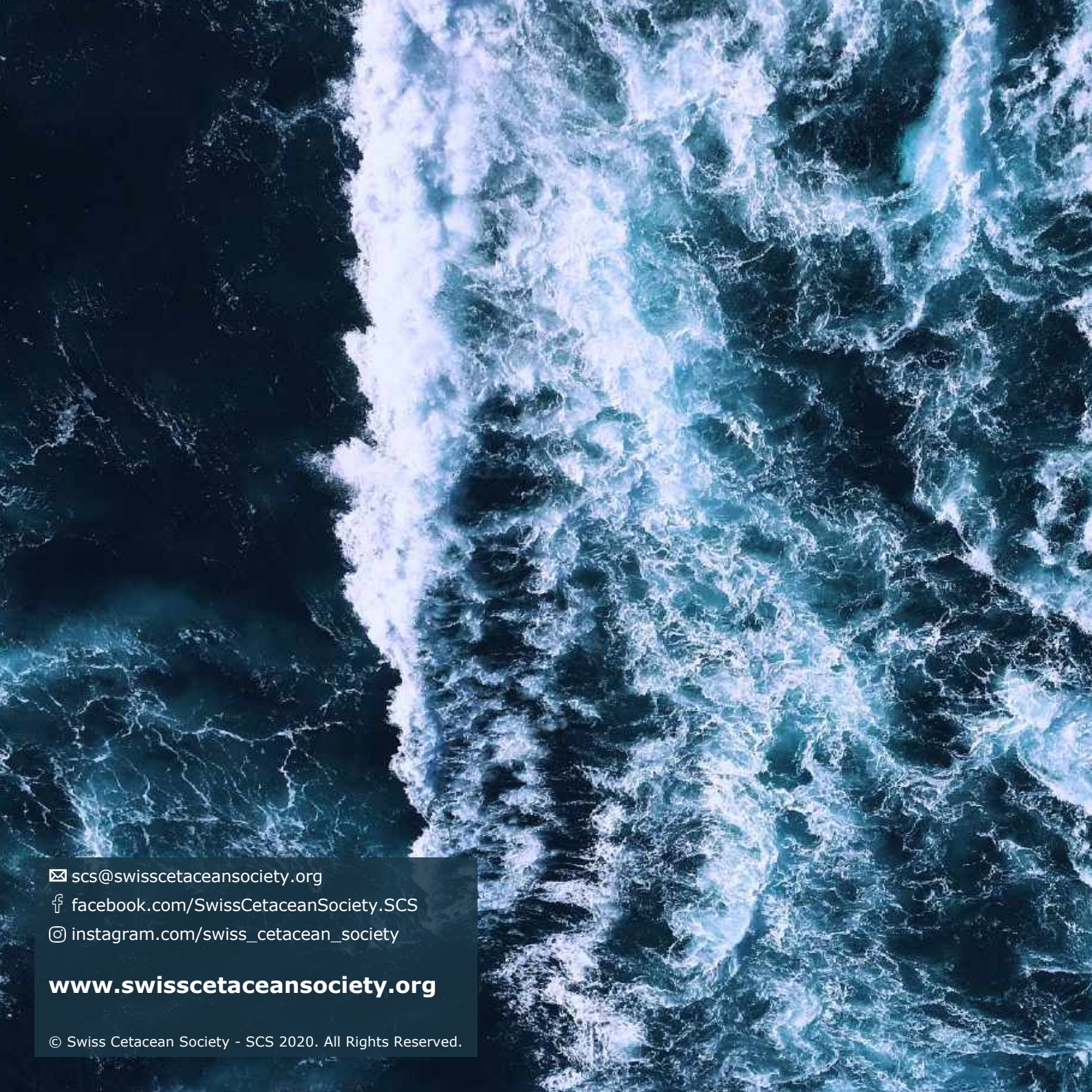
Tethys Research Institute

Ulanga Ngazidja

Whale Research Lab at the University  
of Victoria

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)





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**[www.swisscetaceansociety.org](http://www.swisscetaceansociety.org)**

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