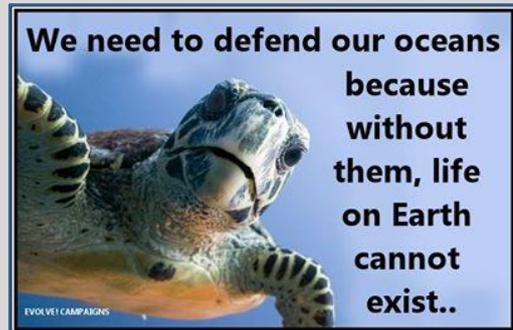


Conservation into action



Since Columbus discovered the Americas, the world has changed considerably. The discovered territories of 1492, first explored by seafarers and sea adventurers, followed suit by conquerors to gather and ship exotic and valuable goods to their King and country far away.

Nevertheless N- and S America developed into a powerful contingent and the mighty Atlantic Ocean became the sea-highway to Europe and Africa. The Atlantic Ocean with the exquisite wildlife mentioned recorded by Columbus, changed dramatically over time like the land.



The



great (humpback) whales were hunted and slaughtered for their blubber to make oil until the early twentieth century.

These large mammals even came to the brink of distinction, but since it is prohibited to kill whales their numbers started to rise again. Until recently when it became known that the World's Oceans are a dump for all kinds of micro-plastics which hinder and kills slowly the ocean wildlife.

ongoing

process of (miss)using the natural resources of the earth to greater benefit of only a fraction of the world's population lacking consideration for the environmental consequences is morally wrong. But it has reached its highest peak, it seems.

Even the abundance of fish in the oceans and their variety minimizes by the year due to overfishing. This

Since the late '70, concerned people as well as scientists all over the globe have raised their voice and combined forces to start organizations to save endangered species on land and in the oceans as well as to stop dumping toxic waste before it becomes too late.

The correspondent of "The Zeezwaluw Post" met two of those concerned people, Marjo and Edwin, the Dutch crew and owners of the "SY ORION of Aberdeen" (UK flagged) in the marina of Las Palmas. To make a long story short, the correspondent was very intrigued and eager to learn more about their special project they started in 2013.

The project is; "Ocean Conservation by bringing awareness into action". What does that mean?

Marjo & Edwin' sailing aim is: "to circumnavigate the wonderful world, to explore new coastlines, enjoy ocean wildlife, experience different cultures and living life as it is meant to be. Yet they don't want to "just" sail around the world!"





So, they gave hand and feet to their vision. They believe that a healthy marine ecosystem is essential for the whole planet and it is evident that marine life needs protection and conservation now. Therefore, their mission is to actively support organizations that are involved in conserving ocean life in order to help them reach their goals. That means that the "SY ORION" is able to accommodate up to 4 scientists on a shared cost basis to facilitate their work.

On a non-profit basis Marjo and Edwin help marine and environmental organizations in using their knowledge in their work. M&E contribute by creating awareness about the connection between daily life and the ecology of the oceans. By using their own skills[i][i], they support the sustainable development of communities living near the oceans and the environment they live in.

For example the world's third most important Caretta-Caretta turtle breeding ground is at Sal, one of the islands in the Cape Verde. M&E first goal is to help the local people of Sal in their effort to protect these turtles and their offspring.



The next project is to help the organization ASC in counting and photographing the underside of the tail of the humpback whales near the Cape Verde Islands, their breeding ground. The scientists are able to recognize the whale from the picture and monitor the whales in their habitat over a long period.

Marjo and Edwin are active members of:



Adventures and Scientists for Conservation



Oceanwatch



SOS Tartarugas Cabo Verde



Sea Shepherd Global

Click at a logo to go to the websites of that organization to read more about the projects.

To learn more about "SY ORION" upcoming activities and projects, the crew invites the readers of "The Zeezwaluw Post" to visit their [brand new website](#). It is really worthwhile, Marjo and Edwin explained to the correspondent.

In the next weeks their new website, they are building at the moment, will be online so keep tuned to their Facebook for now the read the latest news!

The correspondent was and still is very impressed by these committed fellow sailors and live-aboards. He and the crew of Zeezwaluw wishes them rewarding co-operation and many followers during their missions to bring awareness into action.

[ii][i] Edwin Butter, skipper, and a HSE certified Commercial Diver, SSI course director and a PADI master instructor. Travelled around the world extensively as a yacht master offshore from Arctic to Antarctica

Marjo Boertien is co-skipper and a certified training developer, teacher and writer. She has explored parts of the planet and its nature by hiking, biking, rafting and sailing.

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