



# AMMCO

African Marine Mammal  
Conservation Organization



REPORT

## STREET WHALE 2021

Art and Scientific fair to Celebrate Marine fauna in Cameroon

AMMCO is not responsible for the content in the speakers' presentations. Authors are responsible for the content of their presentations

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# 01. ABOUT AMMCO

# AMMCO

African Marine Mammal  
Conservation Organization



AMMCO is a Cameroonian non-profit organization created in 2012 and legalized in 2014. Its vision is to make Africa's coastal and aquatic environment a safe home for the African manatee and other marine animals, while considering the best interests of the local population. Our mission is to make Africa's marine and coastal environment a safe space for the African manatee and other aquatic megafauna, while considering the best interests of local people. Thus, we have set ourselves the objective of reducing by 10% the major threats weighing on the African manatee, other species of mega aquatic fauna (fauna) and their habitats while improving the living conditions of local communities by 2025. To achieve this objective, we are acting on four strategies, in particular the development of synergies for the conservation of marine fauna; improving knowledge of marine fauna; reducing the economic vulnerability of fishing communities; and advocacy for enforcement of the Marina Wildlife Law.

Our target species are the aquatic megafauna (animals whose adult mass is greater than 45 kg) living on our coasts, however we are concentrating our efforts on the African manatee, sea turtles, sharks and rays because they are more locally threatened than other aquatic megafauna species.

In order to better understand Cameroonian megafauna, since 2015 AMMCO has established a citizen science network formed by volunteer fishermen who use the SIREN mobile application developed by the organization to allow them to document observations of aquatic megafauna species. They meet in a timely manner along the Cameroonian coast. The data collected is automatically recorded in AMMCO's online server and can be viewed at the link <http://siren.ammco.org/web/en/>. This application made it possible to highlight the marine species present on the Cameroonian coasts and to serve as a support for the advocacy for the protection of five species of cetaceans including the sperm whale and the Atlantic humpback whale. AMMCO does not intend to stop there because a large majority of Cameroonian citizens are not aware of the presence of these species in Cameroon; AMMCO therefore intends to further raise awareness among the public, politicians and the private sector of the threats to these species and encourage them to become involved in the cause.

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'Together to save our aquatic wildlife'

## 02. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AMMCO:</b>	African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization
<b>MPA:</b>	Marine Protected Areas
<b>AESF:</b>	Association Emergence Sans Frontière
<b>BIR:</b>	Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide
<b>CITES:</b>	Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages
<b>COTCO:</b>	Cameroon Oil Transportation Company
<b>CWCS:</b>	Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>FAO:</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FISH4ACP:</b>	Project for the contribution of food security in Africa, Caribe et Pacific
<b>INN:</b>	Illegal, undeclared and Unregulated fishing
<b>JICA:</b>	Japanese International Cooperation Agency,
<b>LWC:</b>	Limbe Wildlife Centre
<b>MINEPDED</b>	Ministry of Environment, Nature protection and Sustainable Development
<b>MINEPIA:</b>	Ministry of livestock, fisheries and animal industry
<b>MINFOF:</b>	Ministry of forestry and wildlife
<b>MINRESI:</b>	Ministry of scientific research and innovation
<b>MINSANTE:</b>	Ministry of public health
<b>MINSUP:</b>	Ministry of higher education
<b>PAK:</b>	Kribi Autonomous Port
<b>SME:</b>	Small and medium size enterprises
<b>TRAFFIC:</b>	Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
<b>UICN:</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>WTG:</b>	Watershed Tash Group
<b>WWF:</b>	World Wild Fund for Nature
<b>ZSL:</b>	Zoological Society of London
<b>KOSAMARE:</b>	Kefalonia Organization of the Study and Awareness of the marine Environment

## 03. INTRODUCTION

The Street Whale is a concept combining art and science to popularize the knowledge of whales and other marine animals as well as their habitat in order to raise awareness of the dangers that threaten the balance of the marine ecosystem in Cameroon, and above all to explore solutions for the management of this environment and its resources. The Street Whale was organized by African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (AMMCO) and its partners (Street Corner and Madiba & Nature) from November 11 to 13, 2021 in Kribi. The event was mainly supported by the French Embassy in Cameroon, the PPI-IUCN and the urban community of Kribi.

The concept comes from the observation that the Cameroonian coast is gifted with biodiversity and a unique aquatic megafauna including the African manatee, sea turtles, sharks, rays, dolphins and especially whales and many species of fish and fruits of the sea. These animals ensure an ecological balance by their interaction in the food chain which extends to the human being. Many species such as sea turtles, whales and dolphins constitute sources of income for certain coastal communities which depend on ecotourism although the activity is still embryonic. Certain species of sea turtles and rays are considered by the communities as a cultural heritage.. On the Cameroonian coast, nearly 300 communities and more than 4,000 families depend directly on artisanal and semi-industrial fishing for their nutrition, education, health and other livelihoods[1].

Industrial fishing is also highly developed with more than 30 companies that practice trawling. The development of Agri-industry through the installation and expansion of industries promotes the release of chemical pollutants such as pesticides. Marine pollution is amplified by the construction and / or operational activities of the ports of Limbe, Douala and Kribi as well as the management of associated ballast water[2]. Added to these are the effects of oil and gas development. The risk of petroleum product spills is increased and pollution by heavy metals and radioactive substances is greater[3]. In addition, the ban on activity around oil platforms creates a conflict over the use of marine space.



PRESENTATION OF THE EVENT BY DR. TAKOUKAM KAMLA ARISTIDE,  
PRESIDENT OF AMMCO

[1] AquaDocs, Overview of Management and Exploitation of the Fisheries Resources of Cameroon, Central West Africa, 2021. <http://hdl.handle.net/1834/5228>

[2]<https://www.prc.cm/fr/actualites/actes/decrets/4239-decret-n-2020-240-du-28-avril-2020-portant-adhesion-du-cameroun-a-la-convention-internationale-pour-le-controle-et-la-gestion-des-eaux-de-ballast-et-sediments-des-navires-convention-bwm-adoptee-le-13-fevrier-2004-a-londres-angleterre>

[3]Folack, J.2007. Final reportSurveillance des eauxcôtières de laRépublique du Cameroun.Contrat N°2005/155, UNIDO. 49pp.

# 03. INTRODUCTION



However, the animals of the megafauna and other living marine resources, which are little known, are highly threatened, like the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin and the Hawksbill Turtle which are Critically Endangered, 16 species of elasmobranchs threatened on the IUCN Red List. These animals face poaching by local communities, accidental capture and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Pollution from domestic, plastic and petroleum waste affect the resource with a direct impact on the economy and human health[4].



Conservation actions have been initiated by AMMCO and other partners, in particular the biological and mechanical control against the invasive species *Salvinia molesta* from Lake Ossa in order to protect the African manatee, awareness campaigns and environmental education. Advocacy with government actors has been initiated on the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) for the sustainable management of marine resources in Cameroon.

Cameroon currently has the Douala-Edea National Park, a land park with a maritime extension, the Manyange na Elombo-Campo National Marine Park (recently approved by decree n ° 2021/4804 / PM of 09 July 2021, but whose management plan has not yet been developed) and Ndongere, proposed as MPA and not yet validated.



In order to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of a management plan for our oceans and resources, it was important for stakeholders to come together to discuss strategies for action. This report gives an account of the progress of these consultations organized as part of the Street Whale fair.

[4] Gabche C.E.,Folack J., YongbiG.C., 1998. TarballLevels on somebeaches in Cameroon.Marine Pollution Bulletin. 36 (7) : 535- 539.

# 04. THE STREET WHALE FAIR SUMMARIZED

- More than **33,000 people** directly or indirectly affected by one or more activities of the fair,
- **06 ministerial departments** (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINEPIA, MINRESI, MINESUP and MINSANTE) involved in the organization of the event,
- **08 partners** supported the event,
- **117 participants** in forums representing the government (MINFOF, MINEPIA, MINSANTE, MINRESI, MINESUP, Kribi City Council), diplomatic institutions (French Embassy in Cameroon), international and national organizations (FAO, TRAFFIC, JICA, LWC, ZSL, Tube Awu, Madiba and Nature, Impact Initiative, KOSAMARE, CWCS, WTG, WWF and AMMCO), private sector (IRONTECH, PAK), academia (ISH, French School), fishermen etc.
- These participants contributed to discussions on **04 themes** Marine Protected Areas, Maritime fishing, Pollution and coastal erosion as well as Citizen Science.
- **01 plastic whale** of **12 m long** was built in a participatory manner (by forum participants and curious people) using more than **1000 plastic** bottles collected on the beach,
- **Numerous artistic activities**, tales, traditional dances were organized to promote the local culture largely inspired by marine megafauna,
- **The SIREN citizen generated data** were presented
- **15 fishermen** of the AMMCO network were present.



FAMILY PICTURE

# 05. THEORETICAL STRUCTURE OF THE STREET WHALE.

## ● OBJECTIVES/GOALS

The general objective of the fair was to facilitate the sharing of knowledge between the actors and to stimulate the conservation of whales and other species of the aquatic megafauna and their habitat in Cameroon through the combination of art and discussion forums .

The specific objectives were:

- Mobilize the public to build a giant whale out of plastic bottle waste;
- Inform government actors, private sectors, civil society organizations, fishing communities and the public on issues related to marine biodiversity;
- Lead debates on issues related to community development, responsible fishing and the conservation of whales and other large marine animals in Cameroon.

## ● EXPECTED RESULTS

- The following results were expected at the end of the Street Whale fair:
- A giant whale monument in a plastic bottle;
- More than 10,000 people are informed about the sustainable management of the marine environment;
- The actors discuss and produce a roadmap (recommendations) for the development of a national strategic management plan on the use of marine and coastal ecosystems;
- Collaborations are initiated between the private sectors, the government and civil society for better management of marine resources.

## ● PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The activities planned for the Street Whale fair were as follows:

- Artistic activities .

- The construction of a giant whale of plastics;
- Painting workshops;
- Collection and valorization of seashells;
- Waste recovery (Beach cleanup);
- Story telling;
- Music;
- Dance.

- Scientific forums. Topics include

- Marine Protected Areas;
- Maritime Fishing;
- Pollution and erosion;
- Participatory science.

- Other activities. These included :

- The sea trip;
- Beach cleaning;
- The gala night.

# 06. THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STREET WHALE

The official launch of the Street Whale fair took place on November 11, 2021 at the Ngoye beach during a ceremony based around speeches (including that of the representatives of the mayor of the city of Kribi, the sub-prefect de Kribi, the French Embassy in Cameroon as well as the President of AMMCO) and artistic performances.



FAMILY PICTURE WITH THE CONSERVATOR OF KRIBI AND MS THE MAYOR



PICTURE OF THE PRESIDENT OF STREET CORNER



THE SCIENCE STANDS

## 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

The second day was mainly marked by the organization of four (04) forums in the conference room of Hotel Ilomba. Each forum consisted of one to four presentations by experts followed by a debate between a panel and participants. The forums focused on the following themes: (i) Marine Protected Areas, (ii) Maritime Fishing, (iii) Pollution and Coastal Erosion and (iv) Citizen Science.

### ● MARINE PROTECTED AREA FORUM

Two presentations were made within the framework of this forum whose theme was "Contribution of marine protected areas to community development and biodiversity conservation in Cameroon".

The presenters of this forum were Dr Gordon Ajonina, National Coordinator of CWCS and Mr Lekealem Joseph, Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DFAP) at MINFOF. Dr Gordon Ajonina provided an update on the situation of MPAs in Cameroon in terms of issues, government objectives in this area, and challenges to be met. He ended his presentation by suggesting the urgency of:

- Better identifying marine biodiversity hotspots;
- Create more community marine reserves;
- Improve the efficiency of MPA management through the development of the management plan (technical guidelines) and the development of the business (investment plan);
- Implement the management plan: who should be the conservator of the MPA? Consideration of the three management bodies: management committee; advisory committee and scientific committee;
- Drive participatory marine surveillance by local communities with mechanisms for influencing policies to be acted upon;
- Explore new funding opportunities.



MR LEKEALEM JOSEPH, DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS (DFAP) AT MINFOF

## 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

### • MARINE PROTECTED AREA FORUM

Mr Lekealem Joseph, for his part dwelled on the concept of marine protected area, their cultural dimension, their ecological importance (through the preservation of marine life, corridors and biological balance) and economic (by insisting on improving fishing performance, developing ecotourism, research).

He also insisted on the categorization of protected areas while demonstrating that they are representative of all ecosystems in Cameroon and cover approximately 20.47% of the national territory.

During the discussions that followed these presentations, the concerns of the participants generally focused on:

- Better identify key areas (hotspots) of marine biodiversity;
- Create more community marine reserves;
- Improve the effectiveness of MPA management through the development of the management plan (technical guidelines) and the development of business (investment plan);
- Implementing the management plan: who should be the custodian of the MPA? Consideration of the 3 management bodies: management committee; advisory committee and scientific committee;
- Boost participatory marine monitoring by local communities with policy influence mechanisms to take action;
- Explore new funding opportunities.



## 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

### • MARITIME FISHING FORUM

This forum was animated by four presentations (those of Mr. Momballa-Mbun Constant, Research Officer at TRAFFIC, on the implementation of the CITES listing for rays and sharks in Cameroon, of Dr Tidjou of MINEPIA, on the constraints to the development of fishing sector in Cameroon and Dr Meke, FAO, presented on the state of fishing in Cameroon and on the FISH4ACP project).

Mr. Momballa Mbun, in his presentation, talked about the protection of elasmobranchs (several species of which have their habitat in Cameroon or transit there at some point during their migration) by CITES. Subsequently, he returned to the challenges of protecting elasmobranchs, namely the difficulty of implementing the CITES listing, the ambiguity in the responsibilities, the difficulty of accessing data on international trade in rays and rays sharks.

Dr Tidjou focused on the constraints to the development of the fishing sector in Cameroon. She lamented the lack of data and encouraged research on the stock inventory.

In his first presentation, Dr Meke made an an assessment of fisheries in Cameroon. He defined fishing and explained industrial and artisanal fishing practices in Cameroon.



## 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

### • MARITIME FISHING FORUM

In his second presentation, Dr Meke presented the FISH4ACP project implemented by FAO. Overall, it emerged from his presentation that this project was initiated with the aim of combating IUU fishing and reversing this trend by ensuring the sustainable management of fisheries. This project promotes fisheries value chains, job creation and food security. The project will extend over 5 years (2020-2024), the 1st year devoted to the Analysis of value chains and upgrading plans and the follow-up to the upgrading of value chains.

During the discussions that followed this forum, the following points were raised:

- The Industrial Fishing-Artisanal Fishing conflict;
- Marine spatial planning;
- The increase in the penalty for violation;
- The responsibility of artisanal fishermen in collecting evidence of infringements of fishing legislation.

To help resolve the issues identified during this forum, the following proposals were made:

- Update the legislative and regulatory framework for fisheries so that it no longer depends closely on the 1994 MINFOF law, which is not directly applicable to fisheries;
- Improve collaboration between ministries for better surveillance (including the ministry of defense);
- Set up a sustainable system for collecting statistical fishing data;
- Structure the actors of the artisanal fishing into formal entities (Cooperatives, SMEs);
- Set up a guarantee fund to support the financing of fishing activities.



DR MEKE PIERRE, FAO



DR TIDJOU GWLADYS, REPRESENTING THE  
DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, MINEPIA

## 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

### • POLLUTION AND COASTAL EROSION FORUM

In this forum, four presentations were successively made by Ms. Djougo Yolande from MINSANTE, Dr. Tuekam Kayo from the University of Bamenda, Mr. Nourdi from Minresi and Mr. Ndomo from MINEPDED.

These speakers presented marine pollution according to its origins, including the oil and agricultural industries (chemical discharges, hydrocarbons, water discharged from factories, pesticides), households and fisheries (waste nets). This has consequences for marine biodiversity, human health and the economy. Regarding erosion, it was noted that between 1986 and 2020, 30.55% of the Cameroonian coast is in erosion, 27.70% in accretion and 41.75% stable (Njutapvouï et al., 2021[5]).

The discussions that followed these presentations focused on:

- The impact of marine heavy metals and plastic debris on human health;
- The plan of MINEPDED to fight against ghost fishing, knowing that there are monofilament nylon nets that cost less and are polluting, and cotton lines less accessible.

At the end of the discussions, the recommendations formulated to strengthen the fight against pollution and marine erosion are as follows:

- The creation of a framework for consultation between the actors to pool efforts;
- The effective involvement of urban communities and municipalities;
- Promotion of the circular economy;
- Sensitization of households and management of the watershed.



[5]Nourdi, Njutapvouï & Onguéné, Raphaël & Abessolo Ondo, Grégoire & Rudant, Jean & Dongue, Sakaros & Stieglitz, Thomas & Minette, Tomedi. (2021). Seasonal to decadal scale shoreline changes along the Cameroonian coastline, Bay of Bonny (1986 to 2020). Regional Studies in Marine Science. 45. 101798. 10.1016/j.rsma.2021.101798.

## 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

### • PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE FORUM

This forum was moderated by the AMMCO team and it helped to enlighten the participants on the concept of participatory science and its application Siren.

Dr Takoukam Kamla Aristide, President of AMMCO explained how the Siren application emerged and indicated the purpose of this tool (initially designed to document the African manatee). Research in the marine environment is still a luxury for Africa and Cameroon in particular because it is very expensive and the logistical and human resources are almost non-existent.

Siren was developed to circumvent this difficulty by capitalizing on the observations that fishermen make during their sea trip. Siren is a network of 80 fishermen along the Cameroonian coast that documents timely observations of species of aquatic fauna but also contributes to the preservation of endangered species. With Siren the user can take pictures of the animal while the geographical coordinates, date and time of the sighting are recorded automatically.

The data collected via the user's mobile phone is then transmitted to AMMCO's online server and then displayed on the web page <https://siren.ammco.org/web/en/>. The SIREN application also makes it possible to carry out participatory monitoring of IUU fishing through the documentation of cases of illegal fishing such as the use of non-regulatory meshes, non-compliance with fishing zones or the use of chemical substances



FISHERMEN OF SIREN NETWORK

## 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

- PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE FORUM

Following this introduction, Fogwan Nguedia Cedrick, marine and coastal program officer at AMMCO presented some results from the last five years of Siren operation. More than 17,700 sightings representing 374 species have been documented in Cameroonian marine and coastal waters through Siren between 2015 and 2021. These sightings include rays and sharks (39 species), sea turtles (5 species), cetaceans (dolphins and whales) and the African manatee. Several of these species belong to the IUCN Red List. He also said that through Siren, fishermen have acquired new mentalities that have encouraged them to save sea turtles from accidental captures, to reduce poaching. Siren has also allowed the pressure of industrial fishing to be transferred to artisanal fisheries, beach pollution and illegal fishing. Furthermore, Siren data was recently used in a scientific dissertation by Ghofrane Labyedh at the University of Sfax in Tunisia. This catalog reveals that Siren made it possible to inventory in Cameroonian coastal waters 3363 individuals of elasmobranchs representing 39 species distributed in three groups including 69% rays, 30% rays and 1% skates. Four orders have been identified including orectolobiformes, squatiniformes, carcharhiniformes and rajiformes. The elasmobranchs of Cameroon constitute 13 families including the dasyatidae, carcharhinidae, rhinobatidae, sphyrnidae, gymnuridae, triakidae, myliobatidae, rajidae, torpedinidae, squatinidae, zanobatidae, mobulidae and rhincodontidae. The most reported species are the daisy stingray (*Fontitrygon margarita*, 25%), the blackchin guitarfish (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*, 14%). Among the species of concern, 32 are cited in the IUCN Red List, including 16 at high threat levels (Vulnerable, Endangered and Critically Endangered).



FAMILY PICTURE WITH FISHERMEN OF THE SIREN NETWORK

# 6.1. SCIENTIFIC FORUMS AND DEBATES

## • PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE FORUM

Following this presentation, the debate first focused on:

- The choice of the naming of the App “Siren”: the name Siren was inspired both by manatee who are perceived as “sirens” (fabulous being from Greek mythology who is half woman and half fish) and the word “siren” which is the alert or the alarm. In a way Siren means: if you see the siren (manatee), then sound the siren (alert); or more simply report each time you see a manatee.
- The motivations for the engagement of the fishermen of the network: the response of the fisherman Mensah James adds “I was born in fishing but I ate sea turtles without knowing that they were threatened. The industrial fishing boats were destroying my nets and there was nothing I could do. Since joining Siren, I have realized that we have to protect these animals and in return AMMCO is fighting so that the industrialists no longer take my nets”.

The following recommendations were provided:

- Use the SIREN application for participatory monitoring of fishing activities ;
- Make the SIREN results available to the government so that they can be used in the mitigation of the industrial fishing-artisanal fishing conflict;
- Further support the initiative through financial support for better fisheries management and protection of marine megafauna.

The presentation materials of the different speakers are available on the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dko9dkFP9z-H-kjf-Ukc-NdIFIQ24xtw?usp=sharing>



PHOTOS OF AMMCO MEMBERS EXPLAINING THE SIREN APP



THE QR CODE OF THE PRESENTATIONS LINK

## 6.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Street Whale fair, beyond just scientific activities, allowed for the organization of several other activities in parallel.

- **ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES**

The fair was furnished with artistic activities. Every evening at Ngoye beach, a team of dancers, singers and painters was mobilized. A storyteller dishing folk laws based on the themes discussed during the forums. In particular he talked on fish and other mega marine species degradation and pollution etc.

The artistic activities ended with the construction of a 12 m long whale conceived and constructed by the famous Cameroonian artist Dieudonne Fokou. This whale was made using over 2,000 plastic bottles previously on the beach. The whale has a metal frame to which the bottles have been attached forming the life-size whale. The monument was handed over to the Kribi Urban Community and installed at Ngoye beach to arouse the curiosity of residents and visitors to the town of Kribi.

The monument was inaugurated on Saturday, November 13 in the presence of the city authorities, participants of the Street whale fair and curious passers-by. More than 100 people observed the monument on the first day and more than 2000 visitors the following day.



ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS

## 6.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- BEACH CLEANUP

The beach cleaning campaign was carried out on a 2 km stretch from Ngoye with the active contribution of the participants of the Street whale, volunteer citizens of Kribi, fishermen and above all the great mobilization of the Association team. Emergence Sans Frontière (ASF). More than 100 participants thus formed themselves into 2 groups to collect nearly 5,000 plastic bottles in 2 hours.

The teams also collected other types of waste which were then sorted and handed over to HYSACAM, the structure in charge of waste management in the city. The bottles were held back and used in the construction of the whale, the surplus also given to HYSACAM.



## 6.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- THE ORGANIZATION OF A SEA TRIP

The trip to sea was an opportunity for several participants to experience the marine environment for the very first time. It was done aboard a 12m cabin boat with a crew consisting of a pilot, a co-pilot and a seaman. For safety reasons, the 16 participants were escorted by two other boats from the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) up to 10 km offshore for a total distance traveled of 28 km there and back.

The pilot and his co-pilot pointed to sperm whales, sharks and dolphins spotting hotspots which were documented by the Siren app. Participants observed small sturgeon-like flying fish, oil rigs, a gas boat as well as more than 10 artisanal fishermen fishing.



PARTICIPANTS ENJOYING THE RELAXING VIEW DURING THE SEATRIP



## 6.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- GALA NIGHT

The gala night was held at the Ilomba Hotel conference hall. The evening began with the presentation of Dr Mfoumou Etienne who summarized the activities that furnished the three days. He insisted on the methods of project monitoring. The opportunity was then given to the participants to discuss the perspectives of collaboration. The evening was also enlivened by the presentation of prizes to fishermen who have contributed to marine megafauna documentation and conservation efforts through the Siren application.



ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES DURING THE GALA EVENING



MR SETTE MATHIEU, COOPERATION OFFICER, EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN CAMEROON WITH MRS. AGATHE BOUEDJILA, 2ND DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE URBAN COMMUNITY OF KRIBI AND DR. TAKOUKAM KAMLA ARISTIDE, PRESIDENT OF AMMCO

## 6.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- GALA NIGHT

Three winners were highlighted: Hayata Kodemaï, fisherman in Kribi, Dongmo Calvine, Landing monitoring agent in Douala and Mensah James, fisherman in Limbe. Among other things, they received waterproof bags to protect their phone, a smartphone with the Siren application installed for the beneficiary's own use and to facilitate their contribution to data collection. Many other prizes were offered to fishermen.

The evening ended with the musical sound of the artists and the storyteller.



AWARDS CEREMONY FOR WINNERS



MR. EDDY NNANGA, AMMCO COORDINATOR WITH THE WINNERS OF THE SIREN NETWORK

# 07. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STREET WHALE

The very first edition of Street Whale, a celebration fair for marine fauna was held in Kribi from November 11 to 13, 2021 and saw the participation of more than 1000 people at different levels through both scientific and artistic activities. The artistic activities culminated in the construction of a 12 m whale made from plastic bottles collected during the beach cleaning campaign. A sea trip allowed some participants to immerse themselves in the sea for the very first time. The forums fostered exchanges on the themes of marine protected areas and the involvement of communities, fishing and IUU fishing issues and conflict between artisanal and industrial fisheries, participatory science and the way in which fishermen have used it. Siren app as a tool to aid in marine megafauna conservation efforts. Over 33,000 were reached through online shares by the end of the celebration, as the impact continues to spread through shares on national and international media, social media and the monument left at Ngoye Beach in Kribi.

Overall, all the planned activities were carried out despite slight time delays for some activities. At the end of the activities, a brainstorming took place in order to consolidate all the recommendations, which are as follows:

- The establishment of MPAs must imperatively involve the neighboring populations;
- This involvement must take place at all levels and stages of the formulation of development plans;
- Strengthen the synergy between the competent authorities in the field of marine fauna (MINFOF, MINEPIA and MINEPDED at all levels of MPA governance);
- Federate the actions of institutional and non-institutional actors for optimal impact in fisheries in terms of surveillance, complementary research and management / governance;
- Improve fishing legislation to better adapt it to local reality;
- Promote the circular economy as an approach to combating pollution and reducing waste;
- Create a framework for consultation between all stakeholders to pool efforts to combat pollution and coastal erosion.

The overall recommendation from the brainstorming is to find a way to operationalize all of these recommendations.



PICTURE OF MR HENRI, PRESIDENT OF STREET CORNER, EXPLAINING ART

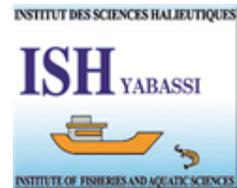
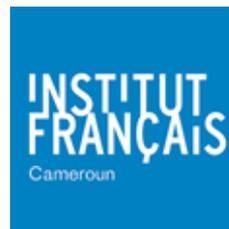


To all the institutions that contributed to the STREET WHALE event:

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We thank you for your support and your confidence.



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STREET WHALE: artistic and scientific celebration of marine fauna in Cameroon, 11-13 Nov 2021, Kribi



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**'Together to save our aquatic wildlife'**

