



Taking small steps towards a more sustainable future:

Capacity building for global grass root environmentalism working with Robert Bosch United World College biology students

Kristin Kaschner & Bio HL students 2015/2016

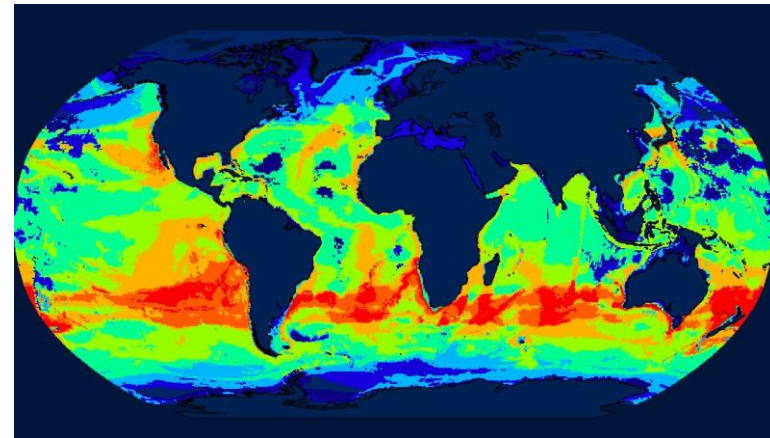
Environmental Laureate Convention, 2016

The vaquita, IMMAs and what these have to do with all of this.....

My one hat.....

- Marine biologist with specialisation in global conservation of marine mammals
- Recent research focus: Identification of *Important Marine Mammal Areas* (IMMAs) as priority areas for international conservation efforts

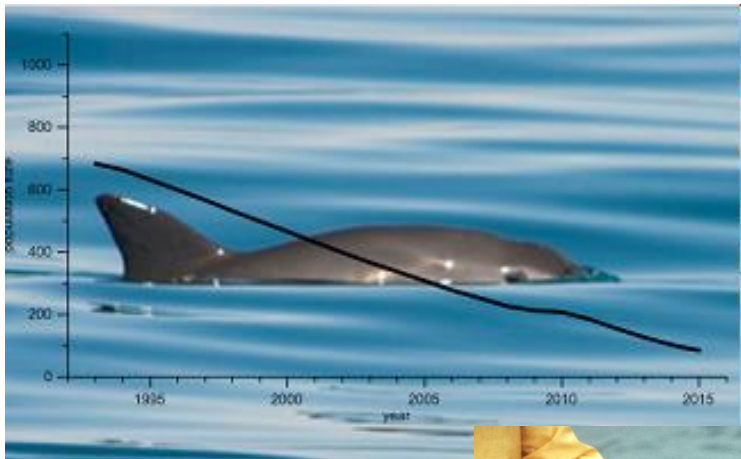
→ Top-down approach (UN, CBD etc)



The vaquita, IMMAs and what these have to do with all of this.....

BUT:

→ In reality, there are limitations to this approach, see e.g. the case of the vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*)



So, why are current conservation efforts failing to protect the vaquita?



In part: lack of involvement of local stake holders

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My other hat:

- Since 2015: part-time biology teacher at Robert Bosch United World College

206 students from 88 nations



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My other hat:

- Since 2015: part-time biology teacher at Robert Bosch United World College
 - ➔ Sustainability focus, including e.g.:
 - ➔ Special Focus Day: *Sustainability & Climate Change*
 - ➔ Group 4 Week: *Renewable Energy Projects*
 - ➔ College services: *Edible Campus, Polytunnel, Chick Coop*
 - ➔ Participation in One World Challenge (www.oneworldchallenge.me)
 - ➔ Collaboration with Environmental Laureate Convention: *Experts meet young talent*
 - ➔ Bio HL „pet project“ initiative (work in progress!)

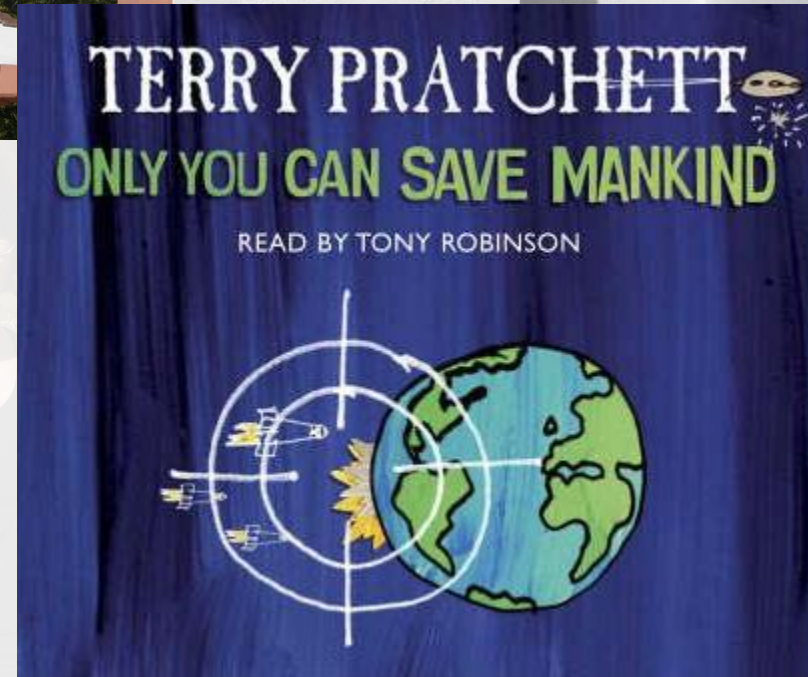
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Bio HL „pet project“:

- Bottom-up approach: Taking small steps towards a more sustainable future
- **Empowerment & capacity building:** Combining international *Know-How* (about conservation & sustainability efforts) with local knowledge:
 - Help UWC students to instigate grass-root environmentalism projects in their home countries

Tasks:

- 1.) *Identification of an environmental issue where an individual (or a small group) can realistically make a difference*
- 2.) *development of plan-of-action to implement a potential solution*



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Bio HL „pet project“:

1. Step: Brainstorming session about global environmental issues
2. Step: Pick one you care about & do some indepth background research
 - ➔ *What are the - potential - **specific** causes?*
 - ➔ *What has been tried by others? Did it work?
And if it did, why did it work?*
 - ➔ *What are the **specific** local circumstances
that may contribute to the problem?
Can we turn this around to have it work for us?*
3. Step: Development of a locally applicable realistic „solution“
4. Step: Development of a specific *Plan of Action*
 - ➔ *Who are the main players that need to be convinced?*
 - ➔ *What are the **specific** steps to implement the solution?*
 - ➔ *What are potential challenges? How can we overcome them? Etc*
5. Step: Implementation (hopefully....😊)

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Example: Improve recycling rates of plastic garbage in Trinidad

1. Step: Brainstorming
2. Step: Environmental pollution through garbage & wastes in Trinidad & Tobago
 - *Mainly plastics & paper (burnt or dumped into ocean)*
 - *Effects: pollution of air & water endangering humans & other species*
 - *Causes: Not recognised as a priority, lack of environmental education, lack of recycling infra-structure, some governmental corruption, also no established „culture“ of reduce/reuse/recycle (but probably **not** due financial issues)*
 - *Existing successful initiatives: **Plastikeep** (<http://plastikeep.com/waste.htm>)*
3. Step: Proposal: Recycling „competition“ in local high schools using a similar format as the One World Challenge (www.oneworldchallenge.me)
 - *Development of rules & framework (next steps)*
 - *Research into necessary tools & skills to implement platform (next steps)*
4. Step: Development of a specific *Plan of Action*
5. Step: Implementation (hopefully....☺)



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