

Heritage project

Sperm whales
voices



RAISING STONES
events

WHY WE NEED TO ACT FOR THE OCEAN?

Our company is committed to three essential causes: protecting water, social assistance, and preserving biodiversity. Together, we are building a sustainable and united future.

Protecting freshwater and oceans is crucial for our planet. By preserving these ecosystems, we ensure vital resources and preserve biodiversity. Acting in this direction aligns with the United Nations' criteria for sustainable development, thereby promoting a future where water is clean, oceans are healthy, and future generations benefit from these aquatic treasures.

The ocean plays a crucial role in regulating the Earth's climate, weather patterns, and the overall health of the planet. It is also home to a vast array of plant and animal species, many of which are still undiscovered and undocumented.

However, human activities have greatly impacted the ocean and its ecosystems. Overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change are just a few examples of the threats facing the ocean today. These threats not only harm the ocean and its inhabitants but also have serious consequences for human health and well-being.

Therefore, it is important to take action to protect and preserve the ocean. This includes reducing our carbon emissions to slow down climate change, reducing plastic and other forms of pollution, promoting sustainable fishing practices, protecting important ocean habitats, and supporting scientific research and education about the ocean.

For those reasons, Raising Stones decided to elaborate partnership with ocean association in order to help them to develop their actions.

Some datas:

- Sperm whales population has declined by more than **50%** over the past few decades due to human activities such as overfishing, pollution, and noise pollution
- The current estimated population size of sperm whales in the Mediterranean is fewer than **250 individuals**.
- Studies have found that sperm whales in the Mediterranean modify their behavior in response to ship noise, potentially affecting their ability to find food and communicate with one another.

OUR PARTNER

Longitude 181 raises awareness among the general public, lobbies decision-makers and develops programmes to study and preserve large marine animals: sharks, rays and sperm whales. Symbols of wild life, they are the best indicators of the health of the ocean and their preservation requires the preservation of all the ecosystems on which they depend.

Longitude 181 is a small volunteer organisation that has gained recognition for its effectiveness and concrete results in the field of marine conservation. Marine conservation is the least funded of all environmental activities. Our independence is mainly financed by memberships from dive centres, organisations, companies, etc



PROJECT'S PRESENTATION

Sperm whales, the largest toothed cetaceans in the Mediterranean, inhabit the western basin and are found in large numbers in the Pelagos sanctuary between France, Monaco and Italy. The sperm whale is an excellent indicator species for the health of the deep sea ecosystem, particularly the deep sea zone where its prey, squid, lives. However, this zone, which is not directly observed, remains poorly studied, even though it is strongly impacted by climate change and noise pollution. To measure the impact of these disturbances on the number and distribution of sperm whales, it is necessary to have a precise idea of inter- and intra-group exchanges, and therefore to follow the evolution of social structures on an individual scale. This is the study that we wish to carry out on the fragile Mediterranean population, which is currently classified as "In danger of extinction".

Longitude 181 intends to contribute to a detailed knowledge of the social structures of sperm whales and their evolution in order to better understand the population and better protect it. This programme is unique in the world.

In addition to sound identification, underwater visual identity cards are produced, which have a double advantage. On the one hand, they immediately give the sex of the individual (without invasive biopsy), essential information for sperm whales whose males leave, at sexual maturity, the social unit of females where they were born. In addition, these underwater maps facilitate the recognition of each individual by pointing to ventral markings invisible from the surface.

These underwater identity cards will improve on the low recapture rate of traditional methods based on maps made solely from observations made at the surface, out of the water. The maps will also indicate to boats where the mammals are located so that they can avoid them and not disturb them.

Financial target: 50 000€ - Donation from 500€



Up to 60% of your donation is tax-deductible under certain conditions.

