



2022 Progress report of the Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin Foundation (CCAHD)



January 2023

Executive summary

2022 has been a busy year for the Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CCAHD). The previously informal network of scientists and conservationists was formally registered as a foundation (*stichting*) in the Netherlands and is pursuing the establishment of a bank account and formal charitable status under Dutch law. Core coordination and communication activities were driven by the CCAHD Secretariat, thanks to ongoing funding from the Friends of Nuremberg Zoo, and the CCAHD welcomed new partners, who are connected through an Email group.

Boat-based surveys to document AHD distribution and habitat preferences and establish photo-identification catalogues were conducted in Senegal and Guinea through projects hosted by CCAHD partners AACF and Biotope Guinea, while the National Parks agency in Gabon supported training boat surveys there. A regional project to harness local ecological knowledge through interview surveys commenced in seven AHD range countries: Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Liberia, Guinea, the Gambia and Senegal. These projects all include a strong focus on capacity building for AHD range-country scientists and conservation managers who have participated in both classroom-based and hands-on training events, as well as the development of protocols and resources that can be used throughout the AHD range.

CCAHD Board Members and partners have offered advice and formally contributed to the Convention on Migratory Species' Single Species Action Plan and a species review being conducted in response to a petition to include AHD as a threatened species under the US Endangered Species Act. AHD partners also presented the results of CCAHD projects to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission and contributed to the publication of five scientific publications.

In 2023, an emphasis will be placed on continuing ongoing projects and fundraising to allow the implementation of additional elements of the CCAHD 5-year Strategic Plan.

2022 in Numbers:

- >80 partners participating in the CCAHD
- 15 out of 19 possible AHD range countries represented
- 4 countries hosting boat-based surveys to document AHD
- 1,429 kms of boat survey tracks and 25 AHD sightings in Senegal
- 1,594 kms of boat survey tracks and 7 AHD sightings in Guinea
- 2,201 kms of boat survey tracks and 9 AHD sightings in Gabon
- >50 range-country participants to on-line or hands-on training in Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Senegal
- 5 Scientific publications produced in 2021-2022
- 4,400 visitors to the CCAHD website
- 29 Social media posts to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

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1. CCAHD structure and status

The Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin Foundation (From here on referred to as [CCAHD](#)) is a network of scientists and other stakeholders collaborating with the shared mission of ‘working towards the long-term sustainability of [Critically Endangered](#) Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*/AHD) populations and their habitats through research, awareness, capacity-building and action’. In addition to developing its own recommendations for conservation of the species, the CCAHD implements recommendations made by the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Whaling Commission’s Scientific Committee, and the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group. This report is intended to provide a brief overview of activities conducted over the course of the 2022 calendar year.

Formal structure and status

From its inception in 2020 through the end of 2021, the CCAHD functioned as an informal network without any legal status. While this was very effective in kickstarting collaborations and raising the profile of AHD and their imperiled conservation status (see the CCAHD [2021 Annual report](#)), it was not ideal for fundraising. In February 2022, the CCAHD formalized its status by creating a foundation (*stichting*) based in the Netherlands. The CCAHD Foundation is guided by a [Management Board and a Supervisory Board](#) which are both composed of international and AHD range country members, as well as individuals with expertise in financial management and legal/administrative obligations in the Netherlands. The Foundation is supported by a Secretariat, which is currently based in the Netherlands. The Secretariat currently consists of a single part-time Secretary General (Gianna Minton), who is supported by part time and volunteer communications experts (see more under communication below).

- The CCAHD Foundation’s full Articles of Association (in both Dutch and English) can be found [here](#).
- The CCAHD Foundation’s Financial Policy (in English) can be found [here](#).
- The CCAHD Foundation’s 5-year Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).
- The CCAHD Foundation also in the process of applying for formal recognition as a Public Benefit or Charitable organisation in the Netherlands ([ANBI status](#)).



CCAHD Management Board, Supervisory board and Secretariat.

Participation

A critical part of the CCAHD's work is to support local scientists and conservation NGOs in Atlantic humpback dolphin range countries, liaising with range country governments to improve the status of national populations, and increase within-country general awareness of the species. Achieving those goals relies on a network of local partners and national contact points in all of the confirmed and potential range countries.

Over the course of 2022, the effort to identify relevant partners who can contribute to AHD conservation throughout its range continued, and the CCAHD welcomed new partners from Congo, Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Guinea and Western Sahara. As of January 2023, CCAHD partners now include over 80 individuals and organisations from 15 of the 19 potential *Sousa teuszii* range countries as well as others from outside the region with interest and experience in protecting threatened cetaceans.

The current list of CCAHD partners can be found [here](#), and more insight into focal points and the status of knowledge about Atlantic humpback dolphins can be found by clicking on any of the range countries on our [interactive map](#). The CCAHD welcomes contact from local biologists, NGOs or interested individuals to further expand this network and maximize opportunities for conservation and collaboration.

Coordination and support

In 2020, the Friends of Nuremberg Zoo provided a grant to pay a part-time coordinator, build a trilingual website (<https://www.sousateuszii.org/>), and coordinate the drafting of a report to identify priorities for conservation for the species. This support was continued in 2021 and in 2022 and will be continued in 2023. Under the new formalized foundation status, the part-time coordinator became the General Secretary, and the funding made available from Friends of Nuremberg Zoo (while formally managed by the Zoo until such time as the Foundation has a working bank account), was allocated under Management and Supervisory Board approval to compensate the General Secretary for an average of 1.5 days per week throughout 2022 to carry out the following tasks:

- coordinate CCAHD board meetings and support the CCAHD Foundation Board in the administrative, financial and legal processes related to the establishment of a working Foundation;
- coordinate the CCAHD partnership and google group mailing list;
- support partners in their efforts to raise funds by sharing news of grant opportunities, reviewing draft applications, and writing letters of recommendation;
- support [ongoing research and awareness raising projects](#), ensuring effective exchange of resources and expertise between projects;
- support range country partners to document AHD sightings and strandings and conduct research and awareness raising activities. This included the development of research protocols and training materials, and conducting virtual training sessions for partners in Congo, Senegal, Guinea, Gabon and Western Sahara;
- maintain and update the CCAHD [website](#), including posting news items and revising text and pages as and when required;
- collaborate with the CCAHD Social Media coordinator to ensure regular posts on the CCAHD [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and Instagram accounts;

- send emails to members regarding funding opportunities, updates on the consortium's activities, and to solicit their input to CCAHD documents;
- collaborate with the fundraising coordinator to assist with the preparation of fundraising materials and concept notes for potential donors;
- coordinate and assist collaboration between the CCAHD and other international stakeholders, such as the IWC, CMS and IUCN; and
- coordinate the efforts to establish the CCAHD as a legal entity under Dutch law (see below).

2. CCAHD Activities in 2022

Establishment of a legal entity under Dutch law

As the CCAHD previously had no formal legal status or bank account, it was not possible to apply for or manage funds at a regional/consortium-wide level. To date, all projects have been run with grants that are hosted by partner organisations. While this formula had been successful so far, the CCAHD would like to be able to raise funds more centrally and on a larger scale. In February, 2022 the Notary firm, [De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek](#) provided *pro bono* services to prepare [articles of association](#) and protocols to establish the CCAHD as a Foundation under Dutch law. The first Board meeting was held on March 9th, 2022, formalizing the status of board members and allowing the Foundation to proceed with the drafting and endorsement of [financial policy](#) and a [5-year strategic plan](#).

The CCAHD Foundation has applied for a bank account in the Netherlands, a lengthy process which requires extensive research and due diligence under new anti-money laundering and tax fraud regulations. It is hoped that this process will be completed by the end of January 2023, and that this will allow the CCAHD Foundation to begin fundraising in earnest.

Fundraising

In July 2022 the CCAHD Foundation Management board and Supervisory board endorsed a [5-year strategic plan](#). This Plan covers all aspects of the CCAHD's activities, with a focus on fundraising to support range country partners in their efforts to better understand and protect AHD. Proposed activities to be funded are based closely on the CCAHD [Priorities Report](#), which was published in 2021 following a detailed assessment of gaps and priorities undertaken by CCAHD's Working Groups. The Secretariat and Management Board are now working with the Fundraising Working Group to identify potential donors and to develop concept notes, proposals and 'fundraising flyers' that can be posted on the CCAHD website and shared through other events and networks to attract donors and financial support as soon as a bank account has been obtained.

The focus of fundraising for the CCAHD Foundation centrally will be on larger donors or opportunities that might not be available to individual range-country NGOs. In parallel, the CCAHD Fundraising Working Group and Board members have continued to support range country partners in grant and fellowship

applications. Notices of grant opportunities are sent to the wider CCAHD mailing list, and partners wishing to apply for grants can receive input and feedback on drafts and/or letters of recommendation supporting the application.

A full account of grants awarded in 2020 and 2021 can be found in the CCAHD's [2021 annual report](#). Secured grants totaled over 550,000 Euros. Table 1 below details only *ongoing/active* grants and projects which are described in further detail in Section 3. Note that due to the ongoing lack of a central CCAHD bank account, these grants are hosted by CCAHD partners.

Table 1: Active grants being managed by CCAHD and range-country partners in 2022 (note that this does not include grants obtained in 2020 or 2021 for which the associated work has been completed – see the 2021 Annual report for more detail). Note that this table does not reflect in-kind support, such as the donation of passive acoustic recording devices by [Ocean Instruments](#) and [Chelonia Ltd](#).

Month grant awarded	Funding body	Amount secured	Host organisation	Proposed activities
Jan/22	Friends of Nuremberg Zoo	25,000.00 €	Friends of Nuremberg	Coordination software and services related to core functioning of the Consortium
Jan/23	Friends of Nuremberg Zoo	Amount to be determined	Friends of Nuremberg	Coordination software and services related to core functioning of the Consortium
Jan/22	Loro Parque Foundation	45,996.32 €	AACF	Continuing field surveys in the Saloum Delta, Senegal (second grant)
Dec/22	Loro Parque Foundation	13,314.00 €	AACF	Continuing field surveys in the Saloum Delta, Senegal (third grant)
Jul/22	SMM Conservation Fund	20,500.00 €	AMMCO	Two year project to develop and implement of interview surveys in 6 AHD range countries
Dec/21	Mohammed Bin Zayed Species Conservation fund	410,000.00 €	Biotope, Guinea office	Three-year project to conduct boat surveys, interview surveys, capacity building and awareness-raising in Guinea

The CCAHD also provides support to members who apply for grants at their own regional/country level, by disseminating news about grant opportunities, helping to draft/review proposals, and writing letters of recommendation. The Fundraising Working Group is preparing a 5-year master fundraising plan, which builds on the [Priorities Report](#), and can be used to approach potential donors.

Project implementation

CCAHD partners throughout the AHD range are engaged in a variety of activities to help raise awareness about the species and collect data when and where possible. Here we highlight a few activities that have had the most direct support or involvement of the CCAHD Foundation. Please bear in mind that this does not reflect the full scope of partners' activities. More details on each partner organisation and the scope

and scale of their activities can be found by clicking on the logos of partners represented on the '[partners and support](#)' page of the CCAHD website.

Surveys in the Saloum Delta, Senegal

Following from the successful survey in July 2021 (see the [2021 annual report](#) for more detail) research continued on what may be the largest known population of AHD in Senegal. This [project](#) to study the distribution, habitat use, and abundance of AHD in the Saloum Delta is led by the African Aquatic Conservation Fund ([AACF](#)) and was able to continue thanks to a second year of funding from the Loro Parque Foundation. The March 2022 survey included participants from Mauritania, Nigeria and Cameroon, as well as a Senegalese MSc student who works with AACF and whose MSc project will focus on the photo-identification and distribution of AHD in the Saloum Delta as well as interview surveys there (funded by the SMM grant - see below). The March-April 2022 survey documented a total of 22 AHD sightings over 16 days of boat-based effort. During 2022 the team also recovered passive acoustic monitoring devices that had been deployed in 2021 and deployed new devices (an ST500-STD, ST600-STDs and two LF-PODs), which are being monitored and checked regularly to swap data cards and batteries. The results of the 2021 and 2022 surveys were presented to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission through a written report that can be downloaded [here](#).



2022 Surveys in the Saloum Delta Senegal: Top from left to right: The multinational survey team capturing photos for individual identification; marine mammal identification guides were shared with marine protected area staff and rangers; leaping AHD against the mangrove-lined coastline. Bottom from left to right: Artisanal fishing boat with piles of nylon nets; Aristide from Cameroon taking water depth and temperature at the location of a dolphin sighting; Diana from Senegal, Nina from Switzerland, and Aristide from Cameroon entering data at the end of the day.

Research, capacity building and conservation for Atlantic humpback dolphins in Guinea

In 2022 the CCAHD launched a [3-year long project focused on research and conservation of AHD in Guinea](#). This project is implemented jointly by Biotope and CCAHD, supported by Mubadala and its asset GAC through a fund managed by the [Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund](#). CCAHD scientists are collaborating closely with the Guinean *Centre National des Sciences Halieutiques de Boussoura* (CNHSB), Biotope (International Department), [Guinée Ecologie](#), and [Biotope Guinea](#), who host and administer the project. The project was formally launched in May, with a [cross-cutting stakeholder meeting](#) that involved a variety of Guinean government agencies, NGOs and universities. The lead scientists on parallel marine turtle and manatee projects supported by the same fund also participated and presented their projects. The [first field survey](#) took place over two weeks in June, 2022, and a [second 2-week survey](#) was held in November, 2022, both in the area of the Rio Nuñez estuary and Tristao Islands, areas where AHD are known to occur. Boat surveys included three Guinean scientists, who received both classroom and hands-on experience in data collection, entry, and preliminary analysis. Additional training was given to over 20 agents working with government research agencies. Fieldwork included formal collaboration with local government and MPA managers and members of local fishing communities. One focal point, a fisherman based in the port city of Kamsar, was given a smart phone with which to record sightings and strandings using the 'SIREN' app, developed by CCAHD member Dr. Aristide Takoukam Kamla. In December 2022, the team also conducted pilot interviews with fishing communities in the Conakry area, during which they tested the questionnaire developed for the SMM funded regional fisheries interview project (see below), providing a valuable opportunity to tweak identified issues. The Guinea team developed a range of interview survey resources, including a training manual and training presentation that will be shared with the regional team. A series of meetings and consultations were also held to prepare for the creation of a children's book that will highlight the conservation status and threats to AHD in the region.



2022 Surveys and capacity building in Guinea: Top from left to right: A group of Atlantic humpback dolphins, including a mother and calf near the Tristao Islands, Guinea; A single AHD offshore from the port of Kamsar, Guinea; Bottom from left to right: Team members from Guinea Biotope and the CNHSB searching for dolphins; Pre-survey classroom-based training on dolphin biology and ecology as well as survey methodology; Informal interviews with local community members in Kamsar. Photos courtesy of Tilen Genov and Aurore Malapert.

Regional collaboration on the design and implementation of interview surveys in six *Sousa teuszii* range countries

In 2022, a coalition of CCAHD partners began work on a project funded by the [Society for Marine Mammalogy](#) (SMM) titled: 'Harnessing local ecological knowledge to fill data gaps and support conservation of the Critically Endangered Atlantic humpback dolphin'. The project is one of the first to be funded under the SMM's new [Conservation Fund](#) and is hosted by the African Marine Mammal Conservation Organisation ([AMMCO](#)). [This project](#) maximizes the potential of the collaboration within the CCAHD by pairing international expertise in interview-based studies with developing scientists in six range countries to document local ecological knowledge (LEK) for the AHD. Project partners in Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Liberia, The Gambia and Senegal collaborated with an international team of experts in interview survey techniques to develop a questionnaire, which was trialed in Congo and Guinea, as well as templates for data entry and analysis, a training manual, and power point presentations to train the survey teams. The project represents a relatively low-cost means to collect data on the species over a wide geographical range, in order to identify as yet unsurveyed areas where the species may occur, as well as to better understand threats where the species is known to occur. Funds are being sought to be able to expand interview surveys into additional AHD range countries.



The international team collaborating to conduct Local Ecological Knowledge interview surveys in six Atlantic humpback dolphin range countries.

Creation of resources to aid standardized data collection from strandings

Because it is not possible to conduct boat-based or interview surveys in every part of the AHD range, strandings of dead dolphins can be an incredibly important source of information on whether and where AHD occur and the threats they face. The CCAHD working groups on genetics, health and strandings all recommended that stranding response teams in AHD range countries be better equipped with simple guidelines and tools allow them to collect the most basic level of information and samples from stranded dolphins. In response to this priority, scientists working with the US Marine Mammal Commission collaborated with CCAHD scientists to create a [simple illustrated guide and datasheets](#) that range country partners can use and share with their networks in coastal areas (e.g. coastal park rangers, coast guard, community focal points etc.) to ensure that when a stranding is detected, photographs taken can allow accurate species identification and examination of possible external signs of injury, including fishing gear interaction. The resources also include instructions on how to collect genetic samples and teeth. The same MMC scientists have provided 50 sets of basic equipment to collect samples, which will be distributed to CCAHD partners in 2023.

Creation of resources and protocols to support to partner organisations conducting boat-based surveys

The CCAHD website features downloadable resources like [species ID guides](#), an [infographic](#) and [factsheets](#). In 2022 CCAHD scientists engaged in projects in Senegal and Guinea (see more below), developed protocols for boat-based survey work to collect data on distribution, relative abundance, and photo-identification of individual dolphins. These protocols are supported by power-point training presentations, which were also delivered online to partners in Congo and Gabon, who were able to use them to conduct boat surveys in April – December, 2022. The CCAHD Working Group focused on field-based research is now reviewing these resources to provide final input before they are made available through the CCAHD website.



Training presentations were delivered online to teams in Congo and Gabon, enabling them to apply boat survey and photo-identification protocols developed for projects in Senegal and Guinea to their own surveys in July-November 2022.

Capacity building for CCAHD range country scientists

In addition to the (online) classroom-based training that has been conducted in relation to fieldwork and interview surveys (see above), the CCAHD has also been working with range country partners to support and facilitate capacity building through formal academic studies. CCAHD Board members have written letters of recommendation for several partners pursuing fellowships and scholarships. In addition to working full time at Gabon's National Parks agency, Judicael Regis Kema Kema from Gabon is working toward his PhD at the University of La Rochelle (France) and the University of Omar Bongo (Gabon). He is formally supervised by CCAHD partner Prof. Vincent Ridoux in France and is supported by other CCAHD members around the globe. Diana Seck, who works with CCAHD partner [AACF](#) in Senegal, is undertaking an MSc at the University of Algarve. She is being supported by CCAHD members at AACF and the University of St. Andrews. Cedrick Fogwan, working with the [AMMCO](#) in Cameroon, is also pursuing a second Master's degree with the University of Douala to assess the diversity, distribution and threats of cetaceans with an emphasis on AHD. The CCAHD is seeking more opportunities to help range country partners obtain the formal academic support and degrees that will help them to more effectively implement AHD research and conservation measures.



Left: Diana Seck of the AACF in Senegal is increasingly responsible for organising and implementing boat based fieldwork, including the recovery and deployment of acoustic devices and the management of the Delta Saloum AHD photo-identification catalogue, which will form a key component of her MSc studies. Centre: Judicael Regis Kema Kema is pursuing a PhD focusing on cetaceans of Gabon. Right: Cedrick Fogwan is pursuing a second Master's degree focusing on cetaceans in Cameroon.

Collaboration with relevant International/Intergovernmental organisations

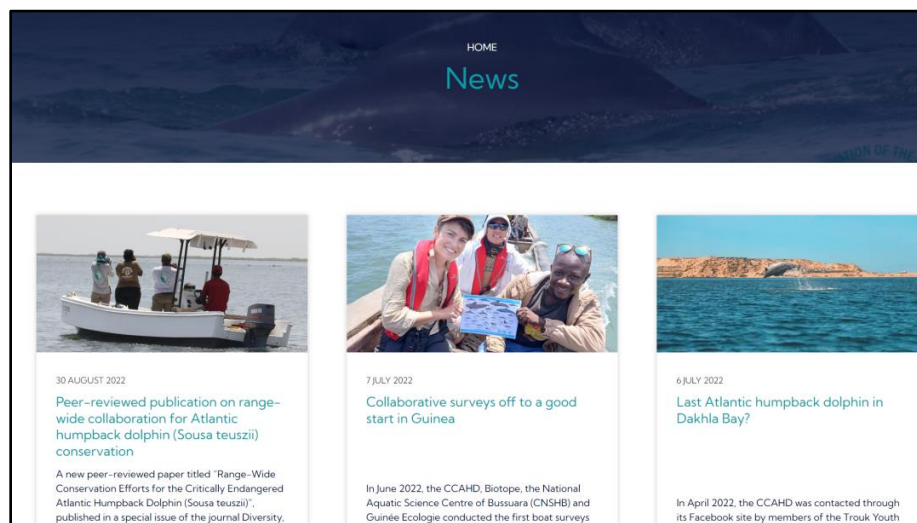
In order to ensure that CCAHD activities are complementary to, and in line with, the activities and priorities of the IGOs that have identified this species as a priority for conservation efforts, CCAHD members liaise closely with the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group, and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

- The [CCAHD 2021 Annual report](#) and [Saloum Delta Survey results](#) were formally presented to the IWC Scientific Committee meeting in May 2022. The work was commended by the IWC SC.

- CCAHD work continues to be featured as a conservation focus on [the IUCN SSC CSG website](#).
- Several CCAHD partners were also involved in a formal consultancy with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to draft a [Conservation Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback dolphin](#), as defined within the Concerted Action for the species (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1.3). After undergoing reviews by the CMS AHD Concerted Action Steering Committee and the CMS AHD Range country focal points, the latest draft is now [available for public review](#), and will be submitted to the CMS Scientific Council in July 2023, and the Conference of Parties in October 2023 for formal adoption.
- A [2021 petition](#) submitted by CCAHD partners to list AHD as threatened or endangered under the US Endangered Species Act was found in 2022 to be worthy of a full-scale review. In January 2022 the CCAHD submitted a collective response to an open call for evidence. Throughout the rest of the year, CCAHD partners were regularly consulted by NOAA the US government agency undertaking the review and are now serving formally providing feedback on initial drafts.

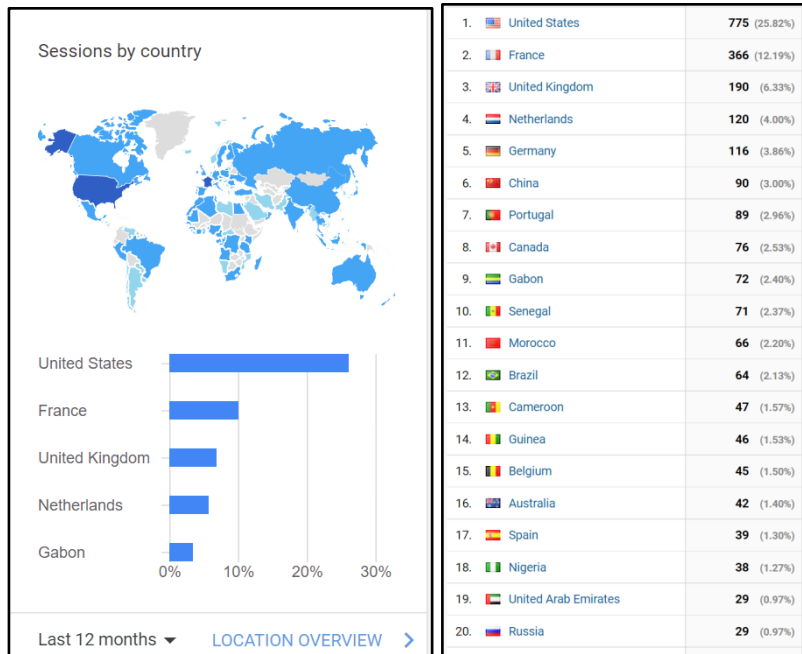
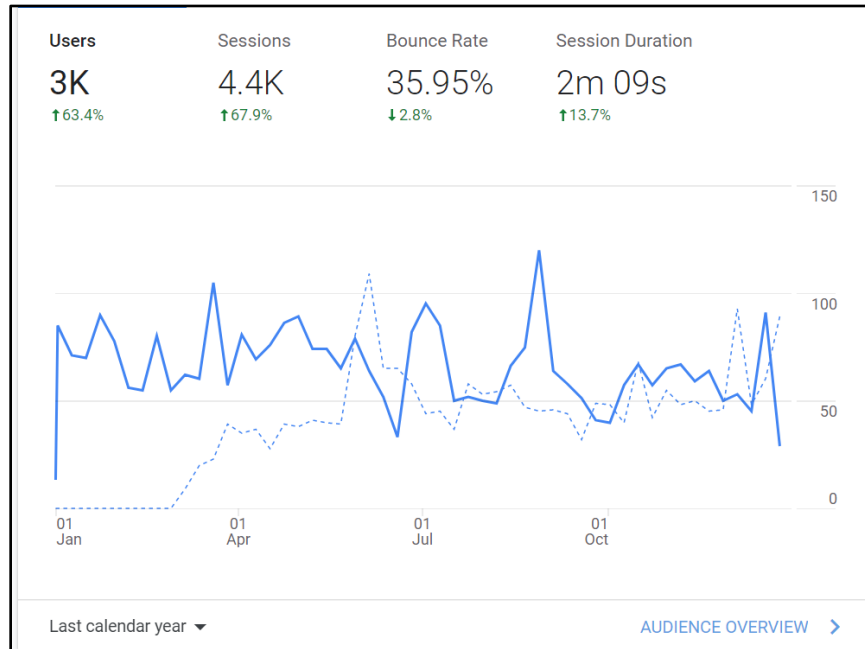
External communication - CCAHD website and social media

The CCAHD website, <https://www.sousateuszii.org/>, which was launched in January 2021, is a trilingual resource (English, [French](#) and [Portuguese](#)) for members of the public, researchers, managers, and potential funders. In 2022 an [introductory video](#) on AHD was added to the website, as well as new [resources to collect data from strandings](#) (see above). Furthermore, information detailing new [projects](#) was added, while other project descriptions were updated (see more details above). Five [news items](#) and a number of new downloadable resources were also added. The searchable table of literature was also updated to include newly published papers focusing on AHD.



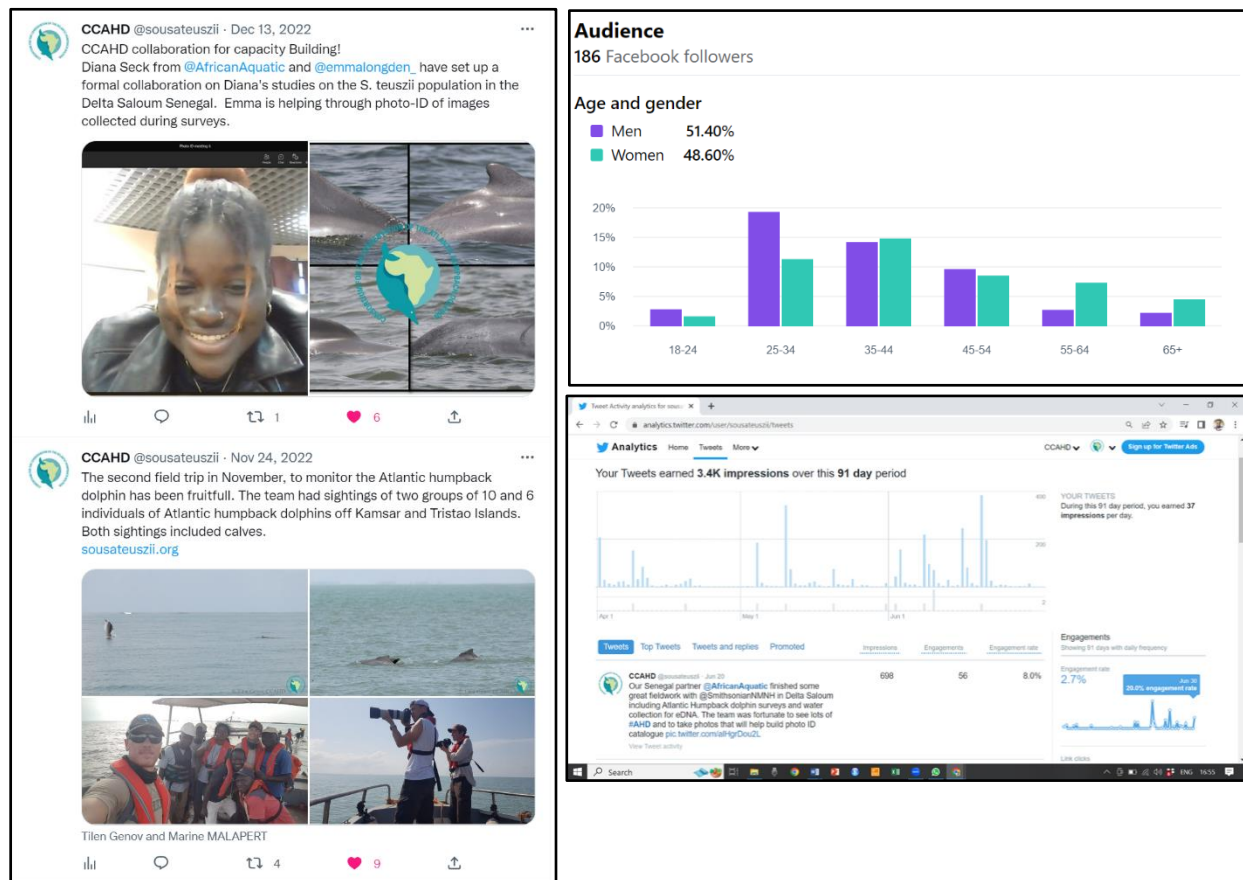
Examples of 2022 news items available on the CCAHD Website: [Sousateuszii.org](https://www.sousateuszii.org)

The website received an increased amount of traffic in 2022 when compared with 2021. Over 3,000 visitors engaged in over 4,400 sessions. Visitors to the website span the entire globe, with the highest number of visitors from the United States, followed by France and the UK. Visits from users in AHD range countries are gradually increasing.



Google Analytics charts and maps for the CCAHD website: sousateuszii.org

The CCAHD also has [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) and Instagram accounts. Updates are posted on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Toward the end of 2022, a portion of the Friends of Nuremberg Zoo coordination budget was made available to secure the services of a CCAHD partner from Cameroon to ensure more regular social media posts to highlight CCAHD activities and attract more attention to website resources. The Facebook account now has 186 followers, with the US and the UK ranking highest among user groups, but also with good representation from range countries. The Twitter account has 132 followers and reached up to 3,400 users over one 90-day period.



Examples of CCAHD Twitter posts, Facebook statistics, and Twitter statistics.

The Friends of Nuremberg core budget is also being used to engage a CCAHD partner and conservation communication expert from the Gambia who will develop a 5-year communication strategy for the CCAHD to complement the more general 5-year Strategic Plan. It is hoped that this strategy will enable us to more effectively reach target audiences in AHD range countries.

Scientific publications

In addition to external communication through the website and social media, CCAHD partners collaborated on number of scientific publications either directly focused on, or with relevance to AHD in 2021 and 2022. These included (in alphabetical order):

1. Bamy I.L., Djiba A. & Van Waerebeek K. (2021) [Recent survey for delphinids at Tristao Islands, Guinea, reinforces concern for bycatches and marine bushmeat use](#). Preprints, 16.
2. Ingram D.J., Prideaux M., Hodgins N., Frisch-Nwakanma H., Avila I.C., Collins T., Cosentino M., Keith-Diagne L., Marsh H., Shirley M.H., Van Waerebeek K., Djondo M.K., Fukuda Y., Glaus K.B.J., Jabado R.W., Lang J.W., Limpus C.J., Luber S., Manolis C., Webb G.J.W. & Porter L. (2022) [Widespread use of migratory megafauna for aquatic wild meat in the tropics](#). Frontiers in Marine Science 9.
3. Minton A.G., Keith-Diagne L., Seck D., Cerchio S., Tregenza N., Takoukam Kamla A., Eniang E., Senhoury C., Sallah-Muhammed Y., Lene A. & Cristiano N. (2022a) [Preliminary results of 2021 and 2022 *Sousa teuszii* surveys in the Saloum Delta, Senegal](#). Document presented to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission SC/68D/SM/12.
4. Minton G., Abel G., Collins T., Eniang E., Frisch-Nwakanma H., Keith-Diagne L., Kema Kema J.R., Takoukam Kamla A., Virtue M., Weir C. & Reeves R. (2022b) [Range-Wide Conservation Efforts for the Critically Endangered Atlantic Humpback Dolphin \(*Sousa teuszii*\)](#). Diversity 14, 716.
5. Samba Ould Bilal A., Wagne M.M., Wague A., Dia A. & Van Waerebeek K. (2022) Cetacean diversity in Mauritanian waters, an Annotated Checklist with new species records. Zenodo (Preprints).
6. Weir C.R., Minton G. & Collins T.J.Q. (2021) [Conservation of Africa's Most Imperiled Cetacean, the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin \(*Sousa teuszii*\)](#). In: The Encyclopedia of Conservation: Reference Module in Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences (pp. 1-12. Elsevier.

Plans for 2023 and Beyond

In 2022 the newly formed CCAHD Foundation Management Board and Supervisory Board approved a [5-year Strategic Plan](#), which includes plans for fundraising, capacity building and a suite of activities, many of which are already underway and others which may be dependent on the success of fundraising efforts. We urge interested parties to consult this Strategic plan to gain insight into the full range of planned activities. However, a few highlights that we aim to achieve during 2023 include:

- **Achieving full functionality as a Foundation under Dutch Law:** Once the CCAHD Foundation has a bank account, it will be able to apply for formal charitable status ([ANBI status](#)). The Management Board and Supervisory Board will continue to meet regularly, and existing Working Groups will continue to function to guide different aspects of the Foundation's planning, fundraising and field activities. Above all, the CCAHD will continue to welcome new partners from AHD range countries.
- **Fundraising:** Once a bank account has been obtained, the CCAHD Foundation will add new functionality to the website to encourage and facilitate on-line donations. Furthermore, the Fundraising working group will work closely with Board Members to identify and pursue funding

opportunities that are best suited to a higher level range-wide approach, and to develop a package of 'glossy' flyers that can be shared with potential donors.

- **Continuation of fieldwork in Senegal, Guinea, and interview project partner countries.** Funding has been secured to continue fieldwork, interview surveys, community awareness raising and capacity building in both Senegal and Guinea, while the 6-country interview project has a 2-year running time that commenced when funds were made available in the second half of 2022.
- **Focus on countries with potentially very small and declining AHD populations:** In 2022 a small NGO based in Dakhla Bay, Western Sahara contacted the CCAHD with [news and videos of a single AHD associating with bottlenose dolphins in the bay](#). The situation described gives cause for great concern, and the CCAHD is working with these local partners to try and raise funds and support to further investigate the situation there. Similarly, it is hoped that appropriate partners and funds can be identified to follow up on the very small population of AHD documented in Angola in 2009.