



CCAHD

Consortium for the Conservation
of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin



CCAHD

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

© Gianna Minton, CCAHD



© Andaya Vincent, AACF/CCAHD

CONTENTS

Contents	1
Foreword	2
Executive summary	3
Introduction	5
CCAHD Activities in 2025	6
Collaborative research and conservation action in <i>Sousa teuszii</i> range countries	15
Financial accounting	19
2026 and beyond	20



FOREWORD



Maximin Djondo
Chairman of the Board



The Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) remains one of the world's most threatened and least understood marine mammals. Against the backdrop of a rapidly changing political and environmental climate, 2025 has been a year of important progress for our Consortium. This report highlights how CCAHD continues to unite science, policy, and community action across borders to address this urgent conservation challenge.

Our network has grown stronger, bringing together over **120 partners** committed to a shared vision. This year, we expanded our communications reach, strengthened capacity building efforts, and supported impactful field activities across multiple range countries. Our engagement with regional and global policy processes has also contributed to raising the profile of the species and ensuring that its conservation remains a priority on the international agenda. These achievements reflect the dedication and collaboration of our partners working on the frontlines of conservation.

While fundraising remains challenging, we have made meaningful strides in securing support and reinforcing strategic partnerships that position us for future growth. At the heart of our work lies a commitment to partnership.

Looking ahead, CCAHD will continue to deepen collaboration, strengthen scientific knowledge, and scale up conservation action. Protecting the Atlantic humpback dolphin also means safeguarding coastal ecosystems and supporting the communities that depend on them. The progress highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the dedication of our partners, the support of our donors, and the invaluable contributions of coastal communities who are essential stewards of marine biodiversity.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our partners, donors, and supporters whose dedication makes this work possible. Together, we are transforming concern into action, and action into hope.



Executive Summary

© Gianni Minion, CCAHD

The Critically Endangered Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) is one of the most threatened and least known cetaceans in the world. Endemic to shallow Atlantic African coastal waters, the species is in decline due to gillnet fisheries, habitat degradation, coastal development, and expanding maritime activity. Against this backdrop, the **Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CCAHD)** plays a unique and essential role: connecting science, policy, and community action across national boundaries to safeguard this species and the ecosystems it represents.

Founded in 2020 and formally established as a Dutch foundation in 2022 with ANBI charitable status in 2023, CCAHD has grown into a network of over **120 partners spanning all 19 potential range countries and beyond**. These partners include government agencies, universities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), and independent scientists. Guided by an international Board and supported by a small but highly effective Secretariat, CCAHD provides coordination, technical leadership, communications, and fundraising support under an ambitious five-year strategic plan.

In 2025, CCAHD experienced significant growth in visibility, capacity, and impact. Strategic investment in communications has transformed the Consortium's reach and the communications team produced **19 website articles, over 70 social media posts, three editions of the *Sousa Sentinel* newsletter, and hosted six bilingual webinars**. Website use increased by **82%**, with more than **54,000 visits**, while social media channels reached tens of thousands of viewers globally, with growing engagement across range countries. These platforms not only raise awareness, but also showcase partner achievements, disseminate best practices, and strengthen collaboration across the network.

CCAHD also invested heavily in education and outreach. Printed and translated resources such as the Children’s book, *Keita and the Dolphins*, marine mammal identification guides, and stranding response materials were distributed across Liberia, Benin, Congo, Angola and beyond. Notably, the Children’s book is now available in English, French, Portuguese, and soon Braille, supporting inclusive engagement with coastal communities, schools, policy makers, and donors alike.

Technical support and capacity building remain central to CCAHD’s mission. In 2025 the Secretariat delivered online training on stranding response and data curation, reviewed multiple partner grant proposals, and supported range-country scientists pursuing MSc and PhD degrees. Six bi-monthly webinars brought together more than **240 live participants and 347 additional viewers**, covering topics from bycatch mitigation to acoustic monitoring and local ecological knowledge.

On the ground, partner projects across Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, and Senegal advanced research, monitoring, and community engagement. Highlights included the discovery of previously undocumented populations in Cameroon, documentation of strandings and bycatch in Côte d’Ivoire, school outreach in Guinea, and intensive boat-based, photo-identification, eDNA and acoustic surveys in Senegal’s Saloum Delta—home to the largest known population of Atlantic humpback dolphins.

Fundraising remains challenging, but progress has been made. In 2025 CCAHD secured almost **€64,000** for core coordination, communications, and bycatch mitigation work, notably through support from **Nuremberg Zoo, Georgia Aquarium, and the Voluntary Conservation Fund of the International Whaling Commission**. While several large proposals were unsuccessful, they strengthened partnerships, provided opportunities for refining messaging and positioned CCAHD for renewed applications in 2026.

Looking ahead, CCAHD will build on its growing recognition by expanding regional and international partnerships, deepening communication and outreach, strengthening scientific capacity in range countries, consolidating and publishing new data to inform an IUCN Red List update, and scaling up monitoring and bycatch mitigation in priority areas.

Protecting the Atlantic humpback dolphin is more than conserving a species—it is about supporting healthy coastal ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods across the species’ range states. With its collaborative model, expanding network, and science-driven approach, CCAHD is turning concern into coordinated action. Continued partnership and investment will be essential to ensure a resilient future for the Atlantic humpback dolphin and the communities who share its waters.





1. Introduction

The Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin Foundation (hereon referred to as [CCAHD](#)) was formed in 2020. It began as an informal network of scientists who shared concerns over the bleak outlook for the [Critically Endangered](#) Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*), which is endemic to shallow nearshore waters along the Atlantic coast of Africa. In order to facilitate fundraising for conservation action on the ground, the CCAHD gained official status as a foundation (Stichting) in the Netherlands in 2022. In 2023, following lengthy and stringent checks, the organisation was recognized as a charity ([ANBI](#) status) in the Netherlands (relevant documentation is available [here](#)).

Since its formation in 2020, the CCAHD has grown to include over 120 partners in all 19 known or anticipated Atlantic humpback dolphin (AHD) range countries and beyond. Partners include (representatives of) range-country non-governmental organisations (NGOs), universities and government agencies,

international NGOs and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), and scientists affiliated with various research or conservation organisations around the globe (see [this page](#) of our website and page 23 of this report for more details).

The Foundation is managed by a [Board composed of range-country, international, and Dutch members](#) with a broad range of technical, legal and financial expertise, and supported by a Secretariat who implement the organisation's ambitious [5-year strategic plan](#) and ensure effective communications, both within the network of partners, and externally to help raise global awareness and support for AHD conservation. Ten working groups focusing on topics ranging from strandings and health to fundraising provide technical support and advice for research and conservation action, as well as fund-raising and communication. These working groups are open to all members.

2025 has been a year of growth and challenge for the CCAHD and its partners. Read on to learn more about our highlights and achievements, as well as ambitions for 2026 and beyond.

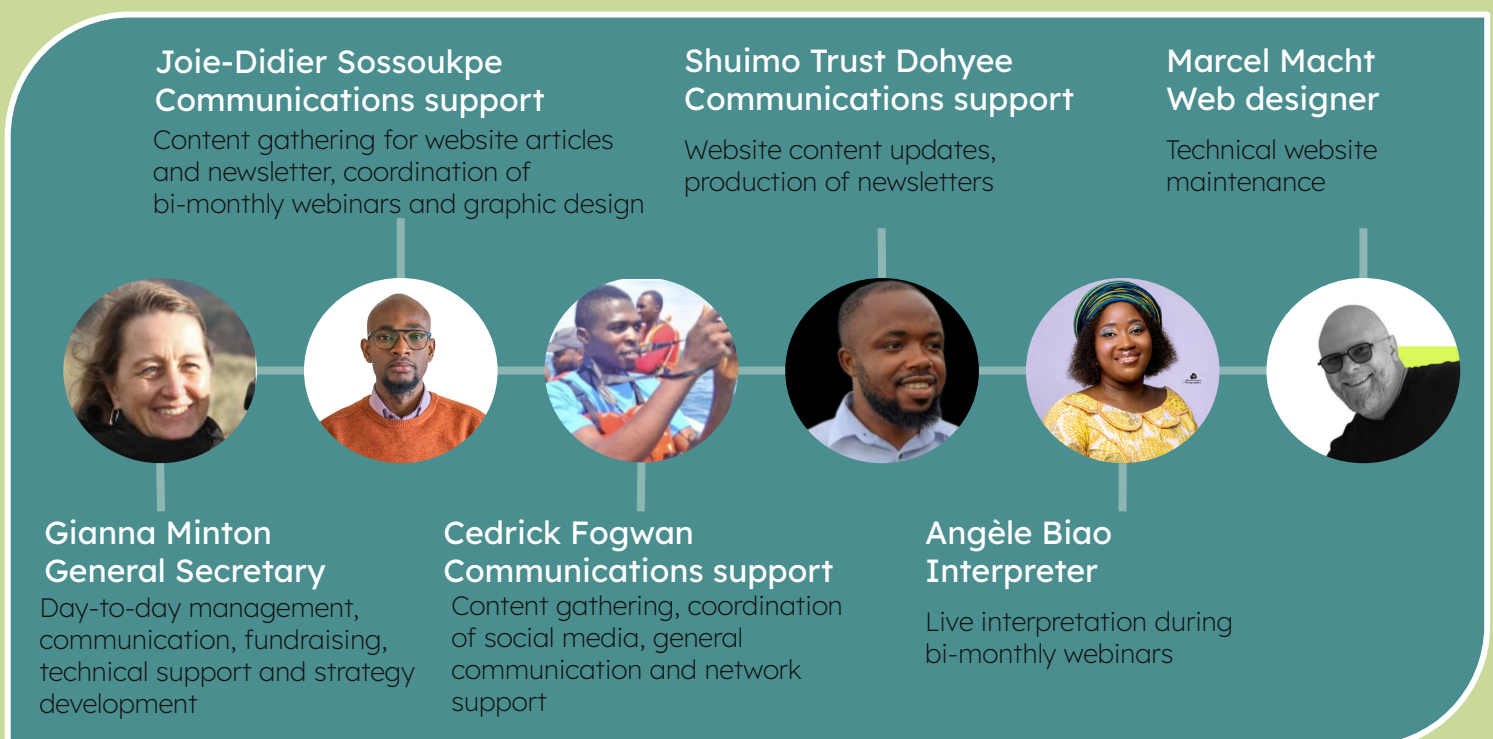
2. CCAHD Activities in 2025

As a consortium, it is sometimes difficult to draw a clear line between activities that are conducted by the CCAHD, and those that are implemented by our partners with direct or indirect support. In this section, we focus on those activities that have been supported directly with CCAHD funding, and implemented by the Secretariat with support from partners. Section 3 highlights activities carried out by partners throughout the AHD range with direct or indirect support from the CCAHD.

2.1 Core coordination

The most important functions of the CCAHD are to provide technical support to range country partners, facilitate exchanges and communication between partners, and highlight the conservation needs and valuable work of the CCAHD and its partners among the wider, global community. In 2025, these tasks were carried out by the CCAHD Secretariat, which was supported by funding from Nuremberg Zoo and Georgia Aquarium. The Secretariat roles and their relevant tasks are summarised in the graphic below. All contracted staff work on a part-time consultancy basis. Dr. Gianna Minton serves as General Secretary, responsible for day-to-day management, external relations, and strategy development, while a team of experts from Cameroon and Benin manage all aspects of external communications. Additional contracts are in place for simultaneous interpretation during webinars and technical support and maintenance of the CCAHD trilingual website.

Donations for core funding also allow annual subscriptions for vital software and services, such as DeepL Pro to support translation of all website content and communications from English to French and Portuguese, MailChimp to support newsletters (see below), Mentimeter to support interactive webinars, and Google cloud storage.



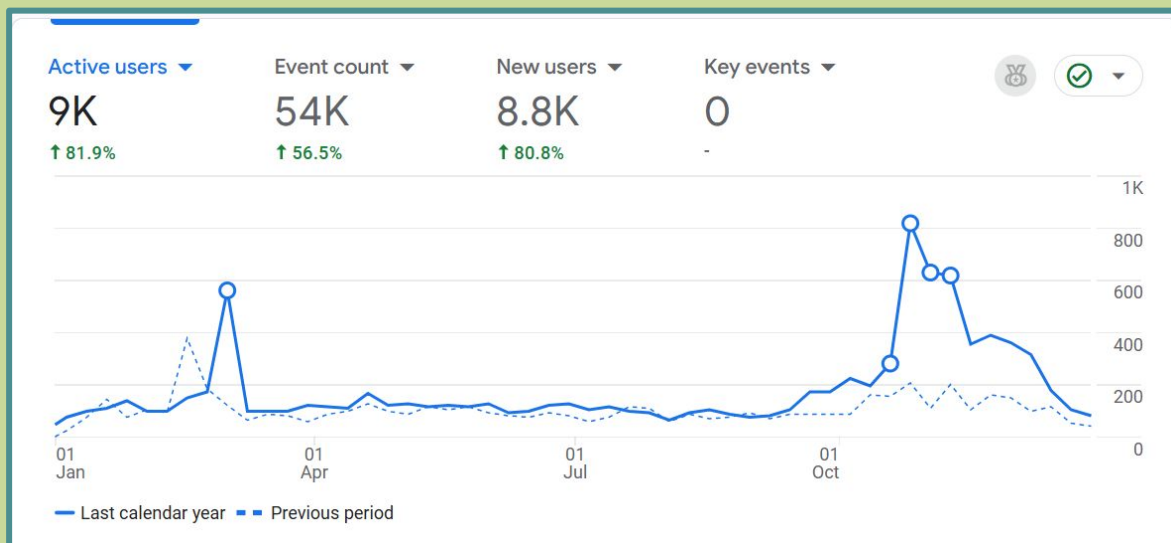
CCAHD Secretariat part-time consultant staff

2.2 Communications

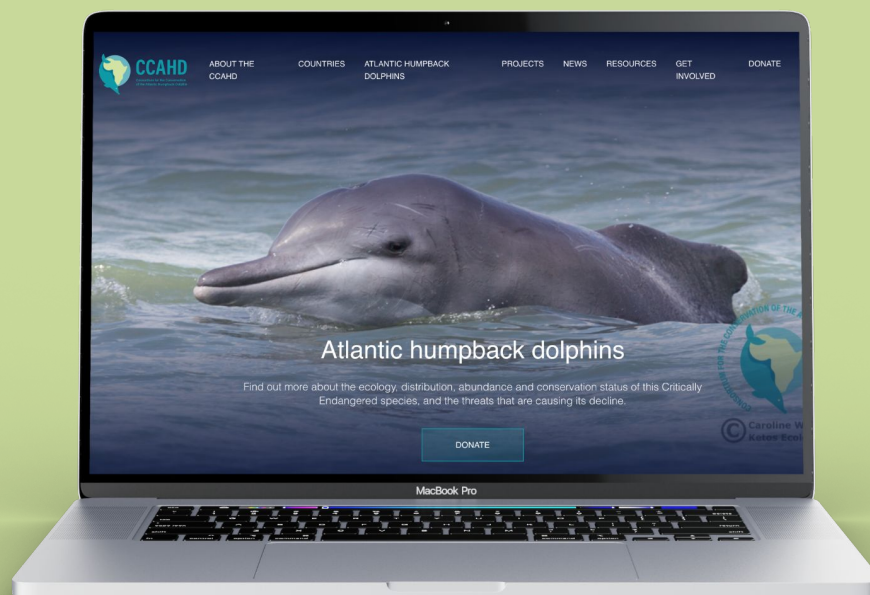
The growing team in the Secretariat includes three AHD range-country communications specialists, who solicit, compile, and post news items for our [website](#) and trimesterly newsletter, create weekly social media posts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#), and coordinate a bi-monthly [webinar series](#). The addition of contracted team members has allowed the General Secretary to focus on providing technical support for range country partners, fundraising, and strategy building with international partners.

Website and social media

In 2025 the CCAHD comms team generated a total of 19 news items for the website, and over 70 social media posts. The investment in communications seems to be paying off, with dramatic increases in viewership for our website and all three social media channels. Active users and new users of our website are up 82% from 2024 with over 54,000 visits over the course of 2025. The CCAHD has 616 followers on Facebook with over 56,000 views, in the past year. Our Instagram account has 399 followers with 7,777 views, while our newer LinkedIn account has 267 followers and over 15,453 impressions in the past year. All three platforms as well as our website receive visitors from all over the world, with a growing base in AHD range countries.



CCAHD website statistics for the 2025 calendar year



Insights

Learn how your Page is performing.

Custom: 1 Jan-31 Dec See all



63,736

Views i



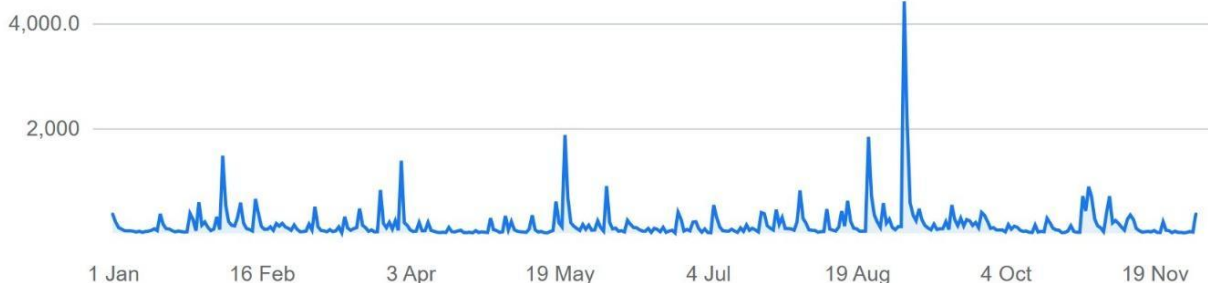
5,210 ↓ -13%

Engagement i



594 ↑ 24%

Total followers i



Recent posts

<p>31 December 14:24 686 Views</p>	<p>20 December 12:15 351 Views</p>	<p>9 December 17:39 528 Views</p>	<p>8 December 15:29 379 Views</p>	<p>2 December 10:05 406 Views</p>	<p>2 December 01:06 1,113 Views</p>	<p>26 November 05:46 970 Views</p>
---	---	--	--	--	--	---

Towns/cities i

Lifetime

Conakry, Guinea	22.8%
Yaoundé, Cameroon	15.2%
Libreville, Gabon	12.2%
Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo	8.9%
Douala, Cameroon	8.9%
Cotonou, Benin	8%

Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin

[Enhance your Page](#)

223 followers

Facebook and LinkedIn statistics for January -December 2025 demonstrating steady growth in the number of followers and total impressions, especially in AHD range countries.

In a November 2024 meeting, the CCAHD Board agreed that an investment in communications is one of the most important components of building up recognition that will support fund-raising efforts, allowing (potential) donors to see what we can achieve with their support, as well as how their contributions can be publicly recognised. See, for example, this end-of-year [video](#) thanking all of our partners and sponsors. Showcasing partners' efforts on the ground also motivates and inspires them, and helps to build a sense of collaboration and community. Social media posts, more in depth website articles, and webinars also help to disseminate good practices and the resources developed by CCAHD among relevant stakeholders.

Newsletter

In 2025, the CCAHD comms team launched the Sousa Sentinel newsletter with three issues published in April, September and December. Delivered to over 200 email addresses, and accessible through our social media platforms, these newsletters highlight work being undertaken by the CCAHD and partners throughout the AHD range, and provide another opportunity to recognize the support of partners and sponsors around the globe.



The Sousa Sentinel newsletter was published and shared directly via email with over 200 addresses in April, September and December.

Translation, printing and distribution of outreach materials

Throughout the year, the CCAHD Secretariat and partners extensively used our education and outreach resources to raise awareness of AHD and inspire conservation action throughout their range. Although our resources are all available in electronic format on the [resources page](#) of our CCAHD website, printed copies, particularly of the [Keita and the Dolphins book](#), excite and engage audiences of all ages as they leaf through the vibrant illustrations. In addition to being a wonderful vehicle for teaching young people about AHD and the importance of protecting their marine environment, the book serves as an effective 'hook' to interest members of the general public, policy makers, and potential funders attending conferences or multilateral meetings.





AMCO, Cameroon

Regional [marine mammal identification guides](#), and [data collection from stranding guides](#), printed on sturdy waterproof card, as well as [infographics](#), are also used in stakeholder engagements and to support data collection efforts in the field. Core funding from Nuremberg Zoo and Georgia Aquarium allowed CCAHD to print and distribute the following materials:

- 100 Keita and the Dolphin books in [Liberia](#), where our CCAHD partner is engaging fishers and fishing communities as citizen scientists.
- Shipping of 200 Keita and the Dolphin books, fund-raising flyers, T-shirts and materials for display and sharing at the [IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi](#) (see more below).
- 200 French language Keita and the dolphin books and stranding response guides for partners in Benin and for use in a January 2026 workshop in Congo.

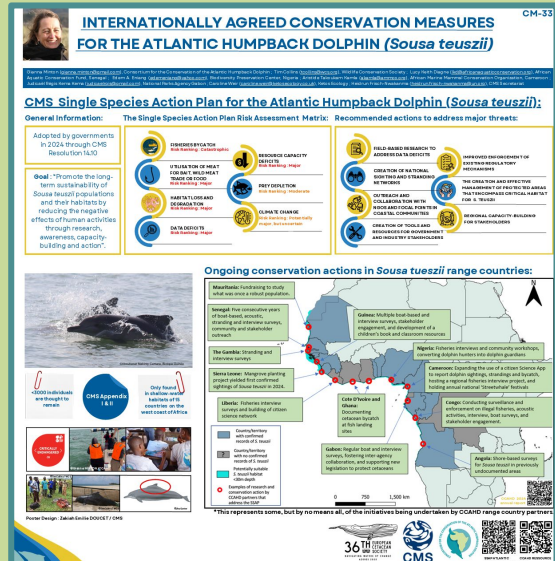
Furthermore, our CCAHD partner in Angola was also able to translate Keita and the dolphins into Portuguese, so that this is now available for download on the CCAHD website, and a braille translation has been completed! The CCAHD and Kitabanga are looking for funds to support printing of this valuable resource that will make marine and coastal education more accessible for visually impaired children in Angola and other Portuguese speaking countries.



AACF, Senegal

Representation at international meetings

The CCAHD was well represented at two important international meetings in 2025. At the European Cetacean Society Conference in May in the Azores, PhD candidate and CCAHD board member, Judicael Regis Kema Kema presented a poster on fishers' local ecological knowledge in Gabon, while an international team presented a poster on the CMS Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic humpback dolphin. In October, separate funding streams allowed the CCAHD General Secretary and partners from Cameroon, Ghana, and Benin to attend the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi. The Nuremberg Zoo separately funded a cetacean-focused booth for the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group, which featured CCAHD materials and was visited by hundreds of Congress participants.



CCAHD partners at the European Cetacean Society Conference in the Azores in May, 2025, and at the booth titled «Conservation Planning and Action for Cetaceans» at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, October, 2025.

2.3 Technical support and capacity building

The CCAHD Secretariat supports range country partners through provision of technical support for implementation of research and conservation actions, online training, and review and feedback on funding applications for their local or national level activities.

Ad-hoc technical support and online training

The General Secretary and other senior CCAHD partners are in regular contact with most CCAHD members throughout the year, and are able to provide technical support for the country-specific activities highlighted below in Section 3. For example, in 2025 the General Secretary provided three online training sessions on the curation of dolphin sighting and stranding records, as well as how to sample strandings using CCAHD protocols. The General Secretary, and members of the CCAHD Board and Bycatch and Stranding Working Groups also reviewed and/or contributed to seven funding proposals written by CCAHD partners, and provided feedback/suggestions and/or letters of reference on behalf of the CCAHD.

Webinars

In 2025, the CCAHD hosted six bi-monthly webinars exploring different ways to protect and conserve Atlantic humpback dolphins. Topics covered included:



These sessions brought together experts, practitioners, and local stakeholders to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative approaches. Simultaneous interpretation from French to English and English to French ensured that the sessions were accessible to CCAHD stakeholders in almost all 19 possible range countries. Live online (Mentimeter) polls and lively question and answer sessions allowed participants to contribute their questions and ideas, helping to guide future CCAHD activities. In total 242 people participated in the live webinars and 347 watched the recordings (available through the links above).

Training opportunities and support for higher academic degrees for range country scientists

In 2025 the CCAHD regularly shared information about opportunities for training workshops and scholarships, and wrote letters of recommendation for various in-person and online training opportunities, including an [eDNA training workshop in Accra](#).

In 2025 experienced CCAHD scientists continued to provide technical and logistical support to two range-country scientists pursuing master's degrees related to marine and coastal conservation as well as two PhD candidates focusing on cetacean research and conservation at La Rochelle and Omar Bongo Universities (in partnership) and St. Andrews in Scotland (with both PhDs facilitated by CCAHD collaborations). The CCAHD team is currently supporting a PhD application and funding proposal process for a scientist in Senegal. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS, a CCAHD partner) is actively supporting this process under the GEF Fonseca Leadership Programme in Africa (see [here](#) for more details).



2.4 Fundraising

Guided by the Management Board, and supported by the CCAHD fundraising Working Group, the General Secretary has devoted a significant amount of time to writing grant proposals and developing the CCAHD fundraising strategy. CCAHD technical Working Groups, including those focusing on bycatch and strandings, have also collaborated to prepare funding proposals with range-country partners. The successful applications, together with a modest number of [online donations made through our website](#), and a few private donations made by anonymous individuals, totalled over 63,000 euros in 2025. This does not reflect the results of funding applications prepared by AHD range country partners to support their location-specific projects – many of which are highlighted in Section 3 below.

The conservation funding landscape is notoriously challenging, and became even more so in 2025. As funding from Official Development Assistance sources becomes increasingly scarce (in part due to a shift in priorities towards national/regional security), competition for other funding sources becomes more fierce. The CCAHD Secretariat and Working Group convenors collaborated with partners to develop 12 different funding proposals, including a collaborative proposal with the CMS for 2.5 million USD from the Kunming Biodiversity Fund. Despite being invited to the second stage of proposals for this fund, available only to UN bodies, the bid was unsuccessful. However the CMS and CCAHD were encouraged to apply again in 2026, and feedback provided by the Kunming secretariat should help to refine and strengthen a new application. The application process, which involved detailed negotiations with partners in 12 AHD range countries, as well as the IWC and experts who would help to provide regional training and capacity building, allowed us to consolidate partnerships and map out concrete action plans at regional national levels, including the staffing needs to ensure smooth project coordination and delivery. A successful application of this magnitude would significantly change the scope and scale of CCAHD work - enabling us to implement many of the activities set forth in our [5-year strategic plan](#). The CCAHD is prepared to put these plans into action as soon as the funding is available.



3. Collaborative research and conservation action in *Sousa teuszii* range countries

The CCAHD's great strength lies in the dedication, motivation, and innovation of its range country partners, who work tirelessly and against significant challenges to promote marine and coastal conservation throughout the region. The summaries below highlight some, but certainly not all of the efforts that are underway throughout the Atlantic humpback dolphin range. Some activities have been supported directly through funding or materials/resources provided by the CCAHD, while others have been indirectly supported through the provision of technical advice or encouragement. The projects below are presented in alphabetical order by country name.

3.1 Angola

CCAHD partners, the Project Wambi team (part of the [Kitabanga Project](#)) have made the most of CCAHD resources, using the regional marine mammal ID guide to create a billboard-sized cetacean information panel at one of their study sites where they monitor turtle nesting and document shore-based cetacean observations. Debora Carvalho also translated the Keita and the Dolphins book into Portuguese, and is working with relevant authorities and donors in Angola to create a braille version as well! The Wambi and Kitabanga teams were also involved in the dramatic rescue of a stranded humpback whale, with support from the CCAHD and the International Whaling Commission's Stranding Expert Panel (read more [here](#)).



3.2 Cameroon



In 2025 CCAHD partner, the African Marine Conservation Organisation (AMCO), documented two bycatch events through *SIREN*, AMCO's citizen-science smartphone app used by fishers to document marine sightings during their routine activities. The reports both came from a region where the AHD type specimen was discovered in the late 1800s, but had not been documented in over 100 years. In order to better document the events and ensure that this newly discovered population does not disappear before it can be better understood, AMCO organised a three-day mission to the area in late November 2025. Facilitated through emergency support from the CCAHD, the team met with fishers, offered training, and raised awareness about the need to protect this threatened species (read more [here](#)). Partners Tube Awu also coordinated a number of school and community outreach sessions using Keita and the Dolphins and supporting resources (read more [here](#)).



Cedrick Fogwan from AMCO worked with fishers from the Bakassi region in Cameroon to show them how to respond to live strandings/bycatch events and how to collect data from strandings. The team also conducted outreach and education in local schools using Keita and the Dolphin and accompanying resources.

3.3 Congo

The Republic of Congo (also referred to as 'Congo Brazzaville' to distinguish it from the Democratic Republic of Congo) has long been identified as a priority site for a bycatch mitigation pilot project in the context of the *International Whaling Commission's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative*. Building on foundational work conducted by *WCS Congo* and *Exeter University*, CCAHD partners *Renatura*, *Noé* and *WCS* collaborated with the International Whaling Commission to prepare several funding proposals that would support a Bycatch Risk Assessment and the initiation of bycatch mitigation trials. Both teams continue to collect data on dolphins, fishing effort and bycatch through fisheries interviews (Renatura) and boat- and beach-based observation surveys (Noe). Funding from the IWC supported a workshop planned for January, 2026. Read more [here](#).



3.4 Côte D'Ivoire

Following reports of several dolphin strandings in 2024, the CCAHD continued to support partner CEM in Côte D'Ivoire in 2025, through an Emergency Grant (made possible through a private donor). Initially only focused on turtles and sharks, the CEM team began to notice an increased number of dolphin carcasses among incidental captures and stranded animals documented during their monitoring activities. Following online training sessions and follow up meetings, the CEM team set up a cetacean documentation/data collection protocol at fish landing sites. Their online database includes bycatch records with linked photos, tooth-counts and measurements of 31 cetacean carcasses. Although the work has not yet yielded any confirmed records of AHD, the project will continue in 2026 and may reveal the first confirmed record of the species in Côte D'Ivoire.



CCAHD partners, CEM have continued to work with fishers in Côte D'Ivoire to document dolphin bycatch and strandings (pictured here - a common bottlenose dolphin).

3.5 Gabon

In 2025 Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN) coordinated cetacean monitoring in the Marine Protected Areas of Port-Gentil and Mayumba, both important habitats for coastal cetaceans, including AHD. Surveys were conducted using the standardised boat-based protocol developed by the CCAHD, and senior CCAHD scientists provided technical support, ensuring methodological consistency across range countries. Four dedicated surveys in 2025, entailed 573 km and 28 hours of observation effort. Four cetacean species were documented, including humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), and AHD, which were only observed in Mayumba.

Systematic recording of anthropogenic pressures on the navigated transects revealed frequent artisanal fishing activity, unattended fishing nets, floating debris, high levels of vessel traffic, and one documented case of illegal trawl fishing. Through the direct application of CCAHD protocols and continued technical engagement, the Gabon programme continues to strengthen regional knowledge of AHD distribution, habitat use, and exposure to human pressures in Central Africa.

3.6 Guinea

Following the successful [multi-year project in Guinea](#) funded by the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Foundation, the CCAHD continued to work with partners Biotope Guinea to support [educational outreach activities](#). Their school programmes include activities focused on [Keita and the Dolphins](#) and accompanying classroom materials, as well as the launch of 'Capitaines Ecolos' programme, nominating environmental ambassadors in each class. The CCAHD also continued to work with Biotope and government partners, the Centre National des Sciences Halieutiques de Boussoura (CNSHB) to support data collection from strandings. Following an in-person training workshop in 2024, A follow-up [virtual training was conducted in May 2025](#) to review data storage and archiving protocols using an online database designed by the CCAHD for the CNSHB. Read more [here](#).

CCAHD partners Biotope Guinea organised school outreach events using Keita and the Dolphins and accompanying classroom materials, while partners from the CNSHB continued to document and collect data and samples from stranded cetaceans.



3.7 Senegal

CCAHD partner, the African Aquatic Conservation Fund (AACF) had an incredible year. In February 2025, they carried out their [fifth annual boat survey](#) to conduct photo-identification and document the distribution of Atlantic humpback dolphins in the Saloum Delta, which is believed to host the largest and possibly most robust population of AHD in the species' range. For 18 days, the team surveyed transects in the waters of the Delta using the [CCAHD protocol for boat-based research](#) and documented a total of 17 AHD encounters. The team was joined by the CCAHD General Secretary and an acoustics expert from the University of St. Andrews, as well as a German TV crew who featured the footage in a German documentary. Following the survey, the team introduced Keita and the Dolphins to school audiences.

In May 2025, the team carried out its fifth year of environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling in the Saloum Delta, as part of a long-standing partnership with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Read more [here](#).

In October the team conducted [another boat survey](#). Over the course of two weeks they recorded 12 AHD sightings, augmenting the photo-identification catalogue which already includes over 300 distinct individuals, many with multi-year sighting histories that are beginning to provide insights into the ranging patterns of individuals. The team was joined by another acoustics expert from the University of St. Andrews, and used the time in the field to recover and redeploy acoustic recorders ([Soundtraps](#) and a [Little FPod](#)). The comparison of boat-based recordings made in the presence of confirmed dolphin sightings with the recordings made by bottom-mounted passive recorders will help the team from St. Andrews to develop classifiers that will help researchers throughout the region to distinguish AHD vocalizations from other dolphin species.

AACF is grateful for the support of the Loro Parque Foundation and the HX Foundation for this project.





4. Financial accounting

The CCAHD Foundation holds an account with the ABN-AMRO bank in the Netherlands. At the start of 2025, the bank balance was €9,724.13. Over the course of the 2025 calendar year € 63,896.28 was received, with the bulk of donations coming from Nuremberg Zoo and Georgia Aquarium to support core coordination and communication. A small number of donations from individual private donors and online donations contributed to core funds.

Over the course of the year a total of € 41,965.00 was spent. The bank balance on December 31st, 2025 was €31,656.49. The 2025 financial statement is available on the CCAHD website [here](#).






5. 2026 and beyond

2025 has been a time of maturation and consolidation for the CCAHD. The core team has expanded to include more staff from AHD range countries, and our professional and personal networks and online presence in range countries has also grown. The growth of our social media presence, launch of our trimesterly newsletters, bi-monthly webinars and presence at regional and international forums are having a snowball effect: more and more CCAHD partners are using the resources and materials developed to support data collection and education and outreach activities and the involvement of coastal communities and other marine and coastal stakeholders in grassroots citizen science and conservation efforts, thus addressing knowledge and awareness gaps that have been preventing effective conservation action. At the same time, international stakeholders engaged in conservation and/or coastal or marine activities in the region are recognising the CCAHD and reaching out to us either through our website or other channels for advice and consultations.


In 2026 we plan to build on this increased strength and recognition in the following ways:




Expansion of our regional and international networks and partnerships: The CCAHD has applied for membership to the Regional Partnership for Marine and Coastal Conservation in West Africa (Partenariat Régional pour la Conservation de la zone côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest – [PRCM](#)), and we have secured funding to support four AHD range country partners to represent the CCAHD at the [PRCM annual forum](#) in Mauritania in April 2026. Funding has also been secured to ensure AHD range country representation and participation at the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee meeting, and CCAHD representation at the European Cetacean Society conference in April 2026, and the Society for Marine Mammalogy biennial conference in October. We are also in discussion with prominent international NGOs and industry stakeholders to explore potential new collaborations in the coming year.

 **Continued investment in communication, education and outreach:** Coastal communities who share their waters and resources with the dolphins, government managers who design and enforce fisheries, development or conservation policies, industries who engage in activities that impact AHD habitats, and civil society organisations who engage in conservation activities cannot act to protect these dolphins if they don't know that the dolphins are present, and aren't aware of how their actions can have a positive impact. We will continue to engage these stakeholders and use all the tools at our disposal, including our website, social media, newsletters, infographics, webinars and face-to-face meetings to motivate a broad range of stakeholders to become conservation partners.

 **Capacity building:** Scientists from the Atlantic coast of Africa have traditionally been under-represented in the cetacean research and conservation community. To boost capacity for regional scientists, we will continue our webinar series, continue to share notices of workshop and training opportunities, and support CCAHD partners applying for, or studying towards, higher academic degrees. We will also continue to work with partners such as the International Whaling Commission and the IUCN to seek funding for national and regional workshops to address specific capacity needs, such as stranding response, bycatch risk assessment and mitigation, and conservation planning. The first of these workshops will take place in Congo, in January 2026. Read more [here](#).

 **Consolidation and publication of collected knowledge:** In 2026, the CCAHD will publish a review of data collected since the last IUCN Red List assessment of *Sousa teuszii* in 2017. This will result in an easily accessible update on the species' status, reflecting the valuable data collected by CCAHD partners through reporting networks, stranding and bycatch surveys, and dedicated boat-based cetacean surveys. Individual CCAHD partners will also publish more detailed results of their data collection efforts in range countries where dedicated research has been conducted. Some of these publications will be featured at international meetings, such as the European Cetacean Society Conference and Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission in April 2026.

 **Closing knowledge gaps and monitoring and protecting dolphin populations:** While many partners are effectively capitalising on local ecological knowledge and citizen science networks, more systematic boat-based research is urgently needed in several locations. In some countries, like Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Nigeria and Angola, recent reports prove that AHD are present, but we do not have any detailed information on their range or (relative) abundance. In other areas, like the Bijagos Archipelago in Guinea Bissau, or the Banc D'Arguin in Mauritania, previously documented populations have not been the focus of studies for over 20 years, and their current status urgently needs to be confirmed which in turn will determine which areas require active conservation management and protection. It is also of the utmost importance to continue monitoring and surveys in countries where research is ongoing, such as Senegal, Guinea, Congo and Gabon, so that threats can be documented, and population trends can be detected.

The CCAHD and its partners will work towards addressing these challenges, and welcome collaboration from any parties who are interested in joining us in this mission.

Partners and donors

International Organisations



INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION



Donors



MUBADALA



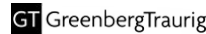
INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION



DOLPHIN QUEST



International and Range-country partners



SARASOTA DOLPHIN RESEARCH PROGRAM
A program of the Chicago Zoological Society



WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION





Noé, Conkouati-Douli National Park, Congo

Editorial team

Head of publication: Maximin Djondo, Chairman of the Board

Editor-in-chief: Gianna Minton, General Secretary

Proofreading and revision: CCAHD partners and Board members

Graphic design and layout: Joie-Didier Sossoukpe

Contact: infocchad@gmail.com

March, 2026

