



## Announcement and call for abstracts

CETAMADA organisation, in partnership with the University of Reunion Island, the Indian Ocean Cetacean (IndoCet) Consortium and supported by the Council of Reunion Island, are pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "Humpback Whale World Congress" that will be held in Reunion Island, from 3<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.

**CETAMADA**, a Malagasy organisation, established since 2009, is dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals and their habitat in Madagascar. The organisation is committed towards a sustainable development approach through the involvement of the local population. CETAMADA activities are focused on four types of action: training and promotion of responsible and sustainable ecotourism, education and awareness of the environment and marine heritage, development of community activities and scientific research.

**The Council of Reunion Island**, a French regional institution, responsible and leader of biodiversity tasks, manager of the classification gap of Humpback Whale migratory path as World Heritage Site.

**The University of Reunion Island**, the Faculty of Science and Technology, the marine ecology laboratory has been conducting fundamental and applied research on the functioning, the resilience and the evolution of marine and tropical insular ecosystems. The lab focuses especially on the biodiversity, ecology and dynamics of marine populations and on conservation biology by observing tropical marine environments and global changes.

**Indian Ocean Cetacean**: a regional consortium working on cetacean in the Indian Ocean area.

**Date:** Monday, July 03<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, July 07<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**Venue:** Saint Denis, Reunion Island.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> July: Plenary sessions and oral presentations
- 6<sup>th</sup> July: Special sessions and thematic workshops
- 7<sup>th</sup> July: Completion of workshops and "whale watching"





## Congress objectives

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Humpback Whale World Congress aims to advance scientific research and conservation efforts of humpback whales in their feeding grounds, but also during their breeding and their migration periods. The congress will bring together scientists and organizations working on various fields of research and conservation, promoting the exchange of expertise and partnerships.

Different scientific topics will be covered during the conference:

### *Basic Research*

Anatomy, Biology, Ecology, Ethology, Population dynamics, Engineer Sciences, Economics, History, Hunting.

### *Applied Research*

Methodology (visual observations, acoustic, genetics, tags, drones), data collection and storage protocols, tools and support software analysis (fluke's identification, automatic classification of sound units).

### *Regional Collaboration Programs*

Workshops will encourage the exchange of information, practices, and experiences to favor partnerships focused on conservation.

### *Management, conservation and implementation of sustainable development policy*

Preventive measures, establishment and management of marine protected areas, control measures on the impact of human activities, role of participatory science, alternatives to the use of natural resources.

### *Economy and social involvement*

Humpback whales are coastal species, generating direct and indirect economic activities. This session will aim to explore viable strategies to preserve economic and social initiatives, with an emphasis on potential benefits and limitations.

## Call for abstracts

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Abstracts on any topics related to humpback whales research and conservation are welcomed and will be considered for peer-review. Priority will be given to abstracts showing with a high scientific quality, meeting the diverse issues on the knowledge and the conservation of the humpback whales.

Abstracts must be in English, the official language of the congress, and should not exceed 350 words.

Abstracts must contain the following information: **Title, name of author(s), affiliations, postal and email addresses.**

Abstracts must be in Times New Roman, 12-point font; single-spaced with justified alignment. Abstract files should be submitted in plain text format only.

Abstracts should provide a brief statement outlining the aim, the methodology, the results and a conclusion.

All abstracts will be peer-reviewed and must be submitted to HWWC Scientific Committee no later than **March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017**. Final of acceptance for oral presentations and poster session will be noticed to authors on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017.

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Abstracts should be submitted by email to: [info@hwwc.mg](mailto:info@hwwc.mg)

## Financial assistance

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A small number of grants will be provided to experts, researchers and students. The high quality of submitted abstracts will be the main criteria for selection by the HWWC Scientific Committee.

## Registration fees

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A registration fee of 150 Euros for regular, and 90 Euros for student will be charged which will go towards covering certain costs of the congress. The organizing committee could be open to providing a grant for deserving candidates, under their discretion.

## Key Dates and Deadlines

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- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017: Opening for early registration
- March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Deadline for abstract submission
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017: Decisions for abstract submission
- May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017: Online release of the program and call for paper for special issue
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Congress in Reunion Island, Indian Ocean

## Further enquiries

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For any enquiries regarding abstract submission please contact the congress office at the following address: [secretary@hwwc.mg](mailto:secretary@hwwc.mg)