



PROJECT SEAHORSE

advancing marine conservation

Partner with Project Seahorse to save seahorses and the seas

Project Seahorse is a leader in marine conservation, making discoveries and collaborating globally to take effective action for seahorses and their seas. We envision a world in which marine ecosystems are healthy and well-managed. Our vision embraces the need to reconcile conservation and human dependency on the ocean.

Project Seahorse seeks allies, partners and donors for our projects and our program. We are an award-winning team that achieves a huge amount, using innovation and strategy. We have a rich slate of projects ready to go as soon as resources allow. Your engagement and contributions could make all the difference. We would be delighted to explore ideas with you. This document offers some examples of where we are poised to leap forward once resources are available.

Our approach is best summarised as pragmatic idealism. We are evidence-based but quick to deploy new information, rather than aspiring to perfect knowledge. Our research is intimately linked to our practical conservation action in a tight feedback loop. We often take the view that “we know enough” and just plunge in to management and policy, explicitly highlighting our uncertainties and adapting as new knowledge becomes available (often through those same initiatives). We pride ourselves on being responsive, nimble and quick to grasp opportunities that are within our reach and scope. We collaborate with partners and communities, using seahorses to focus efforts on finding marine conservation solutions.

We offer opportunities to influence the fate of marine life by collaborating with our team of ocean optimists and marine advocates. Project Seahorse paints a very broad canvas intellectually and programmatically, from fundamental biology and protected area planning to fisheries management and United Nations policy. We are proud of having made measurable differences to wild species and spaces in all these domains. We feed our many outputs directly into community empowerment, management, and policy... and then ensure that our contributions are mobilised for action.

Project Seahorse has a specific goal of securing healthy populations of seahorses – and healthy seas – in the western Pacific and Indian Oceans, where the pressures are greatest. Our reach is, however, global and we are involved in scores of countries on six continents. We are putting great efforts into growing collegiate capacity in countries that are homes to seahorses, pipefishes and seadragons. This is done through mentorship, advice and collaboration. The more people who engage, the faster and farther our voyage to a healthier ocean.

We invite you to partner with us on our adventure and our successes. We are seriously effective, in large part thanks to our donors. Join us.



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Harnessing the power of community scientists

We seek funds to unlock the massive potential of our community science program to leverage action on behalf of seahorses around the world. Could you help us to build a global early warning system for at-risk seahorse populations and habitats... and promote community action in response?

Our **iSeahorse** community science venture, a partnership with the globally renowned **iNaturalist**, is a gold mine waiting to be tapped. Ours is very much an action-oriented initiative with data gathering as an engine and a means to generate change. We have amassed over 7000 sightings from nearly 1400 individual contributors and have generated 12 sentinel monitoring programmes on five continents. **From such sightings, iSeahorse data has already prompted creation of one new marine protected area** in the village of Anda, Bohol, Philippines and expansion of another MPA.

iSeahorse is garnering community knowledge of great value for conservation and management of the world's 46 seahorse species. For example, preliminary analysis shows that 15% of verified sightings are outside the previously known range of the species. Such data are vital for conservation assessments on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, where 14 species are judged to be threatened and 17 are so poorly known as to be labelled Data Deficient. iSeahorse information is also indispensable as we promote and support national assessments to mobilise in-country action. We are able to find national assessments for only a tiny fraction of seahorse species / country combinations. Three-quarters of these resulted in evaluations of conservation concern and 16% could not come to a conclusion because of a dearth of data.

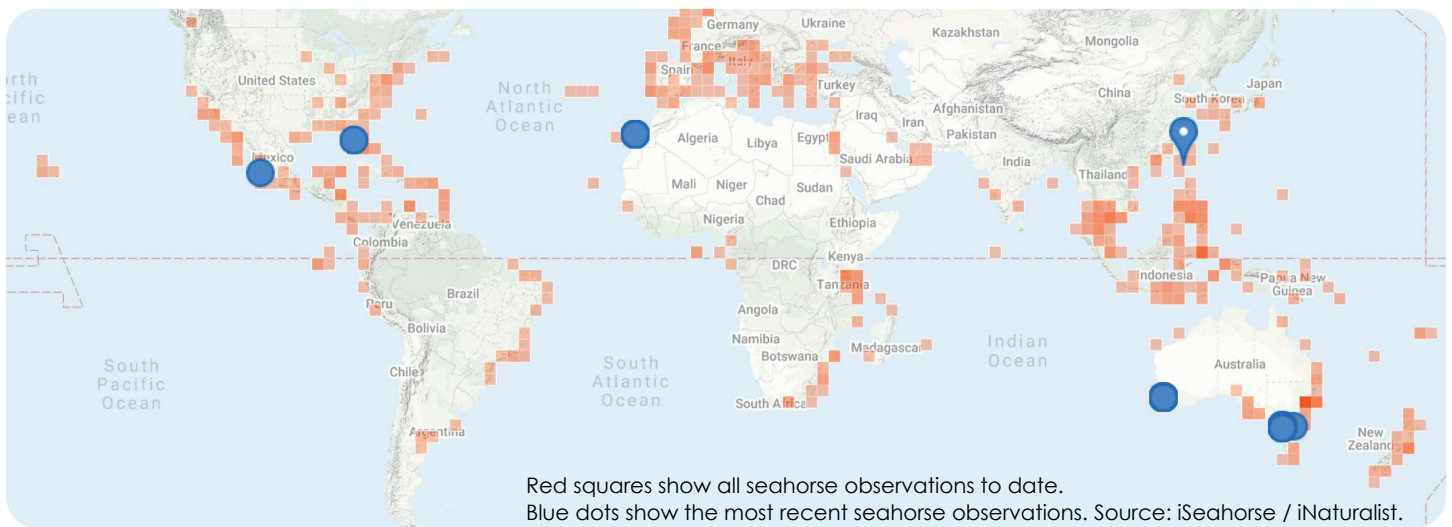


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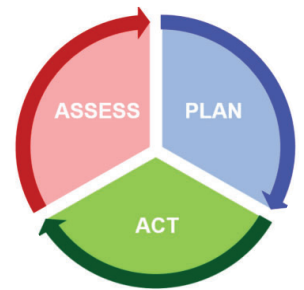
Welcome to **iSeahorse**
Let's save seahorses together!

Find out more



We seek support for a full-time staff member to probe this wonderful iSeahorse resource deeply to determine species distributions, occurrence, habitats, breeding seasons and more. We are currently seriously limited only by lack of dedicated staff time.

All knowledge garnered from iSeahorse will be immediately shared with the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group (SPS SG). Project Seahorse hosts this group of 40 volunteer experts from 21 countries and territories, which is charged with global conservation (assess, plan, act and communicate) of the 300 fish species in the family Syngnathidae.



With dedicated resources, we could do so much:

- Expand the number and diversity of contributions to iSeahorse
- Analyse and disseminate findings from iSeahorse sightings
- Deploy information from iSeahorse sightings to improve IUCN Red List assessments
- Extend our array of iSeahorse national experts and ambassadors around the world
- Mentor long-term monitoring programs to track trends in seahorse populations
- Return analyses of iSeahorse population monitoring to the groups that own the data
- Support local partners to take conservation action when data reveal critical trends such as declining seahorse populations

Budget items

- Salary and benefits
- Travel to visit monitoring projects
- Outreach and networking
- Communication costs including videos and infographics
- Operations



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**institutional overheads to be applied on top, as appropriate*

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Our vision is a world in which marine ecosystems are healthy and well-managed

This vision embraces the need to reconcile conservation and human dependency on the ocean.

Our mission statement has three elements:

1. Project Seahorse is an interdisciplinary and international organization committed to conservation and sustainable use of the world's coastal marine ecosystems.
2. We engage in connected research and management at scales ranging from community initiatives to international accords.
3. Collaborating with partners and communities, we use seahorses to focus our efforts in finding marine conservation solutions.



A schematic diagram of the many layers at which we engage in marine conservation research, management and policy. Project Seahorse has made research contributions and achieved measurable impacts in life history and ecology, marine protected areas, subsistence fisheries management, community development, national law, international trade, global policy, and public outreach. Together, these initiatives advance marine conservation.



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