SWOT Team Member Spotlight

Jérôme Bourjea (France—La Réunion)

I was born in France but have spent most of my life living and working overseas in Brazil, Madagascar, and Senegal; I currently reside on the French Indian Ocean island of La Réunion. For the past 10 years, I have been studying marine turtles and large pelagic fishes within the West Indian Ocean region as a researcher for IFREMER, the French Research Institute for Exploration of the Sea. My goal is to provide useful and reliable scientific information to managers to improve efficiency in the conservation of endangered or exploited species. *SWOT Report* provides a perfect portal for communicating about sea turtles, because it combines quality scientific information with emotion in a way that allows us to see nature for its beauty while not losing sight of the practical realities of research and conservation.

Eduardo Amir Cuevas Flores (Mexico)

For the past 14 years, I have been working on sea turtle conservation and research in Mexico's Yucatán peninsula, where I have lived my whole life. I currently work for Pronatura Península de Yucatán where I am responsible for strategic planning of the organization's coastal conservation efforts; I also lead the sea turtle conservation program. In my time working with sea turtles, I have been continually inspired by their strength and resilience. Even when faced with adversity, they always fight for their objective, such as a nesting female that comes out to lay her eggs in spite of lights, predators, sand berms, or other obstacles. One of the things I like about SWOT is that it makes technical information accessible to a broader audience, which can influence decision makers and projects alike.

George Meyer (United States)

I grew up in Tucson, Arizona, where sea turtles were as common as leprechauns. But seeing pristine desert ripped up for golf courses made me determined to protect what's left. As a comedy writer, I managed to work on "Late Night with David Letterman," "Saturday Night Live," and many seasons of "The Simpsons." Now I'm trying to share my good fortune by supporting conservation. It's encouraging to see kids learning to value nature, especially in Seattle, Washington, where I live with Maria Semple and our daughter, Poppy Meyer. I support SWOT and serve on its Editorial Advisory Board because I believe it can help enlighten people worldwide to the beauty and mystery of sea turtles.

Miya Su Rowe (United States)

As a graphic designer, I have the great pleasure and opportunity to work with some exciting people and subjects, including *SWOT Report*, which I have designed since volume I. I am the creative director at Rowe Design House, which I started 10 years ago and where I have built a niche working primarily with environmental, wildlife, and humanitarian organizations. My goal as a conservationist—but also as a parent—is to teach my children to think of the world around them, whether that pertains to people, animals, or the environment. When my children tell people they meet that their mom helps saves sea turtles, I'd like to think that in some way I do play a small part. Since designing the first issue of *SWOT Report*, I have learned from and developed respect for all the people who make each report a success.

Michele Westmorland (United States)

I am a freelance photographer and Founding Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers, specializing in travel, resort, lifestyle, and environmental photography. Although the bulk of my portfolio consists of commercial imagery, I am also passionate about conservation. Some of my most recognized images are those of the ocean environment, which were the focus of my 2006 book, *Ocean Duets*. Several of my images have appeared in past volumes of *SWOT Report*, and I have been pleased to contribute to sea turtle conservation efforts in this way. In addition to photography, I am an active public speaker and am involved in a variety of projects and professional associations. You can see my images and follow my work at www.westmorlandimages.com.