



Once upon a time...

The project goal is to communicate science through short stories to facilitate the dialogue between scientists and the public. The partners are researchers from institutions in Germany, Chile and Portugal. They are cooperating with scientists, writers and artists in Germany and internationally. The scientists write short stories dealing with the topics of their field of research: the marine realm, climate change, the importance of the seas and oceans and how humans can discover, utilize and protect them. The target group are children as well as adults from all over the world.



[Once upon a time...](#)

Public Engagement

The first book was completed in the framework of the “Science Year 2016/17: Seas and Oceans” (Wissenschaftsjahr 2016/17: Meere und Ozeane) funded by the initiative Science in Dialog ([Wissenschaft im Dialog](#)) and the German Ministry of Education and Science (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF) through the competition “Show your research!” (Hochschulwettbewerb – Zeigt eure Forschung!). The projects had to show the public science in an understandable way and explain recent research findings. Once upon a time... was one of the three winners of the competition.

The first illustrated ebook is available on the homepage free of charge and can be read in English, German and Spanish. Currently, the stories are translated into Italian, French, Chinese, Portuguese, Hebrew, Philipino, Korean, Russian and Farsi to reach a broader audience. At the same time the team works on a second book with additional stories.

Gender

The project team is a very diverse group with fair distribution in gender and culture and the protagonists and events of the stories also reflect this diversity.

Education

Anthropogenic climate change and the impact of human activities on the oceans are the main topic of the stories. The scientists want to “raise the awareness about our environment, our home, our need to respect and take care of it”.

But the stories do not only want to entertain children and influence their attitude towards the topics at hand. With the “Would you like to know more?” section, the reader may go deeper into the scientific connections and current findings on the particular subject.