

Maddalena Bearzi graduated from the University of Padova, Italy, with a degree in Natural Science and later received a Ph.D. in Biology and a Postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles. Since 1990, Maddalena has been involved in studying the ecology of marine mammals and sea turtles with a strong conservation bias. She has worked on diverse research and educational projects around the world. Among these projects, she organized and conducted the Yucatan Programs (Rio Lagartos and El Palmar Reserves, Mexico), two long-term investigations on local dolphins and sea turtles. In 1996, Maddalena founded the Los Angeles Dolphin Project in California, the first comprehensive marine mammal study ever conducted in L.A. waters. Under Maddalena's directorship, the LADP has become one of the longest running dolphin studies in California and the source of many scientific and conservation publications and collaborations. In 1998, she co-founded Ocean Conservation Society taking the position of President, where she combined her skills as a marine biologist with her experience as an active environmentalist. She has a strong academic background in Marine Biology, Ecology, and Marine Mammal Conservation combined with twenty years of field research experience, and five years of teaching experience at the University of California, Los Angeles. Maddalena has a broad experience as a writer, journalist and television reporter - she has written a book and over 350 articles for local and national publications on science, nature, and travel -. In 1998, she has published the book "Beautiful Minds: The Parallel Lives of Great Apes and Dolphins", written in collaboration with Dr. Craig Stanford for Harvard University Press (now available also in paperback). She currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and dog, working on two new books. Further information on her conservation work and outreach public efforts can be found at [http:// www. oceanconservation.org](http://www.oceanconservation.org).