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# Green careers guide

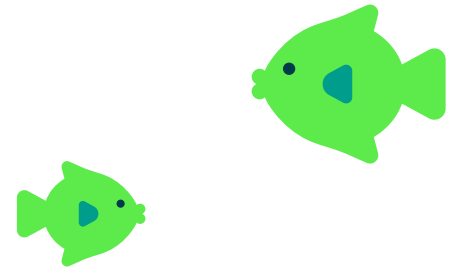
**Tilen Genov**  
Slovenia



# Tilen Genov

## founder of Morigenos NGO,

<https://www.morigenos.org/en/team/>



### What did you study?

I studied Marine Mammal Science as a Master of Research course and I am now completing my PhD in Marine Biology, with a project on the ecology and conservation of dolphins in the northern Adriatic Sea.

### What inspired you to study your subject at university and to work in the green industries?

I have always been fascinated by wildlife and wanted to do something where I can study them and work towards ensuring a more sustainable future.

### Why does climate change matter?

I think this should be a no-brainer, but sadly it is not for many people. It matters because it directly impacts the survival and wellbeing of many species, including our own.

### How did your studies help you get into the career you're in today?

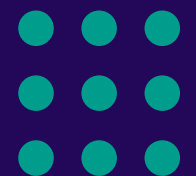
My studies helped me by providing me with skills and knowledge, as well as connections, that are important in my line of work.

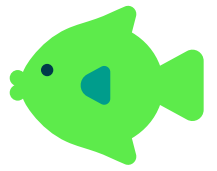
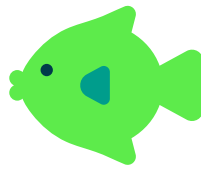
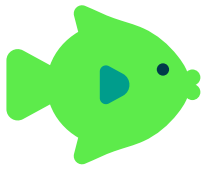
### What other experiences and support have you had along the way?

I spent a lot of my time volunteering in various projects around the world, and had started a research project investigating the ecology and status of dolphins off the coast of Slovenia, even before I enrolled in a university course. These experiences turned out to be vital in my career path. This would not have been possible without the support of my family either.

### What do you do now – what does your role involve?

I manage and coordinate Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society, a non-profit non-governmental organisation that focuses on scientific research and education, focusing particularly on marine mammals, towards improved marine conservation. My main research focuses on dolphins in the northern Adriatic Sea, but I also work on other species elsewhere, in collaboration with colleagues from other countries. My work includes estimating population abundance and dynamics of whale and dolphin populations, spatial modelling of habitat use, social network analysis, fishery interactions, the effects of pollutants and novel identification methods. I am particularly interested in using science to assess the status of cetacean populations, identify important habitats and evaluate threats, and in translating that knowledge into effective marine conservation. I also teach part-time at the University of Primorska in Slovenia. Other than that, my role involves participating at various science- or conservation-oriented bodies such as the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group, the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the International Whaling Commission, and the inter-governmental oceanographic commission of UNESCO.





## What exciting projects have you been involved in?

I have been lucky to be involved in a number of different projects focusing on marine mammal research and conservation, including projects in the Adriatic Sea, eastern and western Mediterranean, Red Sea, North Sea, Arabian Sea, the North and South Atlantic, and the south-east Pacific. I was lucky (and persistent) enough to have had a privilege of documenting the existence of a resident dolphin population off the coast of Slovenia and the Gulf of Trieste, which has now become very well studied.

## Do you have any tips for people looking to pursue a career in your sector?

Try to gain as much experience as possible, which may include volunteer work (if you are able to do that). Read a lot, attend conferences, take part in field projects and most importantly, try to do good work, regardless of what you're doing. Take advice and embrace knowledge from experienced people that came before you, but don't be afraid to test out your own new ideas or to take chances. And don't be afraid to fail, it is an inevitable part of progress.

