



Giant Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*)

Size: Disc width, up to 7.1 m **Weight:** Up to 1,350 kg **Habitat:** Tropical and temperate waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans **Surviving number:** Unknown; population declining



Photographed by Vincent Truchet

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Behemoth of the deep. The giant manta ray is the largest ray in existence, so large that adults have no natural predators except the most fearsome of sharks. This huge ray preys on small zooplankton, diving as deep as 1,000 meters and migrating as far as 1,000 kilometers to reach the best feeding areas. Periodically, it visits shallow reefs and allows cleaner fish to

remove parasites and aid in healing wounds. But there is nothing the giant manta ray can do to overcome its biggest threats: targeted fishing, bycatch and habitat degradation.

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.

