PRESS RELEASE

Marseille, 21 March 2024

PURE OCEAN

PURE OCEAN ANNONCES 7 WINNING PROJECTS

The Pure Ocean endowment fund announces the support of 7 new scientific projects following its annual call for projects. Pure Ocean funds innovative ocean research projects around the world to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystems. The 7 new projects were selected by Pure Ocean's Scientific Committee for their scientific excellence and impact.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, **"2023 is by far the hottest year on record".** The ocean, like a sponge, absorbs 90% of the excess heat caused by our greenhouse gas emissions and captures almost 30% of CO_2. It is our best ally in the face of global warming. At the beginning of 2024, ocean surface temperatures averaged 21°C, breaking all records and jeopardizing its ability to provide us with essential ecosystem services.

For David Sussmann, President of Pure Ocean, ***"We are extraordinarily fortunate to be able to rely on scientists to help decipher the many environmental challenges we face and find innovative solutions to preserve the ocean. Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, Pure Ocean provides financial support each year to a selection of high-impact scientific projects, contributing to a better understanding and greater protection of the marine environment".***

PURE OCEAN 2024 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The 2024 call for projects, under the name **"Pure Ocean Challenges",** focused on four major themes linked to the United Nations' "10 Ocean Decade Challenges":

- Understanding and combating marine pollution
- Protecting biodiversity and restoring degraded marine ecosystems
- Strengthening the resilience of marine ecosystems and the people who depend on them in the face of climate change
- Improving our knowledge of the ocean system.

A RECORD YEAR WITH 173 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM 49 COUNTRIES

While the relevance of the research topics and the level of scientific excellence of the projects are the first elements to be evaluated, **the main criterion remains impact,** i.e. the tangible and lasting benefit procured by the realization of the project within the framework of one or more of the Pure Ocean Challenges. Innovation (technological, social, nature-based or exploratory), specific objectives, inter- or trans-disciplinarity and dissemination of results are also part of the selection criteria.

THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AT THE HEART OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Pure Ocean scientific committee is made up of four world-renowned ocean and climate experts: Gilles Bœuf, Anna Zivian, Kartik Shanker and Abdelmalek Faraj. The scientific committee validates the annual call for projects and evaluates the numerous candidate projects to establish the final short-list of winners.

PURE OCEAN

7 NEW SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS, 7 HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN

These projects join the 21 innovative projects supported by Pure Ocean since 2019.

©Canva

NEW ZEALAND

ANTARCTIC BIOLUM

Describing changes in the macrofauna of deep Antarctica using innovative 360° bioluminescence emission/detection.

Discover the diversity of species and their interactions to help preserve the Antarctic abyss.

Museum of New Zealand

©Florian Soppelsa

MARSEILLE

BUFFER

State-of-the-art genetic survey and restoration of red gorgonians in the Parc National des Calanques in the face of marine heatwaves.

Produce scientific, policy and awareness-raising tools for the targeted conservation of a threatened ecosystem in a marine protected area.

Ciimar

©OceanImageBank

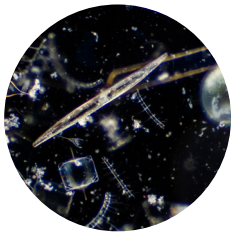
BANGLADESH

BYCATCH & BEYOND

Involve artisanal fishers in monitoring endangered species in the Bay of Bengal using a low-tech GPS radio box.

Combating bycatch of cetaceans and sharks by creating a network of local fishers involved in conservation data collection.

University of Dhaka



©Toaquatic, istock

FRANCE

MICROCEAN

Sequence the genomes of the planktonic species that drive the biological carbon pump, and describe the links between them and with humans.

Understand and promote understanding of the role played by the diversity of oceanic microorganisms in climate regulation, and shed light on the challenges facing the deep ocean.

MIO, Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography

©Canva

VIETNAM

PLUME

Quantifying pollutant, water and sediment flows in the river plumes of 3 Vietnamese estuaries and their socio-ecological impacts.

Building a novel Franco-Vietnamese model to understand the ecosystem services of estuaries and their resilience to anthropogenic pressures.

MIO, Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography

©KGrif, istock

BRASIL

REGEN OCEAN FARMS

Structuring artisanal seaweed production to regenerate socio-economic activity and coastal ecosystems.

Develop a pilot model for sustainable seaweed farming combining traditional know-how and biotechnological applications.

Instituto BKK

©Sashkin, Shutterstock

AUSTRALIA

SYNSEN

Further characterization of the consequences of plasticosis on seabird DNA.

Modeling the effects of microplastic ingestion on cellular aging.

University of Tasmania

PURE OCEAN

ABOUT PURE OCEAN

Pure Ocean is an international endowment fund based in Marseille and Lorient. Its main mission is to mobilize civil society to support ambitious and innovative scientific projects for the protection of biodiversity and fragile marine ecosystems. Through an international call for projects, followed by an analysis by the four eminent researchers who make up the scientific committee, Pure Ocean selects projects with a strong innovative dimension, whether technological, ecological or social. Pure Ocean also raises public awareness about endangered ecosystems, highlighting solutions to protect them through conferences, the promotion of races and sporting challenges, and by empowering people to act through the provision of "La Goutte Bleue", waste collection kits. **www.pure-ocean.org**

MEDIA CONTACT

stephanie@pure-ocean.org
Tél. : +33 (0)6 85 80 21 78

Visuals:
2024PureOceanProjects

PURE OCEAN

www.pure-ocean.org