



PURE
OCEAN

IMPACT REPORT

2025/2026

INNOVATING FOR THE OCEAN



STAYING THE COURSE

I often feel that the world is speeding up around us. Crises follow one another, tensions continue to mount, and it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish what truly matters from what is merely urgent, the immediate from the long term.

For the past eight years, Pure Ocean has made a simple choice: to stay the course. Not out of stubbornness, but because some convictions endure regardless of circumstances. **Protecting the ocean is one of them.** It regulates our climate, shelters extraordinary biodiversity, and supports billions of lives, all while facing growing pressures.

Yet faced with this reality, I choose hope.

I have seen researchers push the boundaries of knowledge with remarkable creativity and determination. I have seen projects supported by Pure Ocean deliver tangible results, sometimes beyond our expectations. I have seen companies, foundations, and citizens commit themselves because they genuinely believe in making a difference.

These experiences have taught me that meaningful transformation is born from perseverance.

Persevering when results take time to emerge.

Persevering when public attention shifts elsewhere.

Persevering when the challenges seem greater than the progress achieved.

Like sailors navigating through a storm, we adjust our course without losing sight of the horizon.

Once again this year, the projects we support demonstrate the power of science. At Pure Ocean, we believe in science, in cooperation, and in the responsibility each of us shares **to safeguard the habitability of our planet.**

My sincere thanks to all our partners, donors, researchers, and supporters who make this journey possible.

Together, let us stay the course.

David Sussmann

Founder and President, Pure Ocean

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**“The ocean is our
life insurance.
Protecting it is vital.”**

David Sussmann,
Founder and President
of Pure Ocean

PROTECTING THE OCEAN IS NOT AN OPTION. IT IS A NECESSITY.

The ocean covers 71% of the planet.

It produces 50% of the oxygen we breathe and absorbs
one quarter of the CO₂ emitted by human activities.

It directly feeds more than 3 billion people.

It regulates the climate. It connects human societies.

And yet today, it is being weakened on an unprecedented scale:
warming, acidification, pollution, habitat destruction, overexploitation.

50 %

of the oxygen
we breathe

25 %

of CO₂ absorbed

3 billion

people depend on it

Using 3D photogrammetry, the 3D-4-SEAC team is modelling and assessing the effectiveness of measures designed to protect key marine habitats in the Mediterranean.



ACCELERATING SOLUTIONS THROUGH SCIENCE

Pure Ocean funds scientific projects that deliver concrete contributions to ocean protection.

Pure Ocean mobilizes companies and citizens to fund scientific projects capable of protecting the ocean in real, measurable ways. Based in Marseille and Lorient, the NGO supports high-impact applied research programs worldwide. Each project is selected by an independent international scientific committee, ensuring rigor, relevance, and impact.



**DONORS /
BUSINESSES**



PURE OCEAN



**SCIENTIFIC
PROJECTS**



**CONCRETE
IMPACT**



Innovating for the ocean

Pure Ocean supports a wide range of innovative approaches:

- Technological: underwater robots, environmental DNA, ...
- Nature-inspired: biomimicry, blue carbon, ...
- Social: participatory science, community involvement
- Exploratory: discovery of still little-known ecosystems

➔ **Innovating to better understand, and better protect.**

4 priorities for action

The supported projects address the major challenges identified by the United Nations:



UNDERSTANDING MARINE POLLUTION AND COMBATING ITS ORIGINS



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS



STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE



IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCEAN SYSTEM



Bioluminescent bacteria, cultivated in the laboratory, are helping researchers better understand how living organisms communicate in the deep ocean.

4 HIGH-IMPACT PROJECTS

TRANSFORMING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
INTO CONCRETE SOLUTIONS



PLASTIDRUGS



BUFFER



REGEN OCEAN FARMS



ANTARCTIC BIOLUM





Santos Bay, Brazil / Brest
Harbor, France
Funding awarded: 55,8 K€
Duration: 24 months



PLASTIDRUGS

Revealing the invisible interactions between plastic pollution
and chemical contaminants



Rafael Trevisan,
LEMAR, Université de
Bretagne Occidentale

THE PLASTIDRUGS PROJECT

Understanding and measuring the accumulation of emerging pollutants (pharmaceuticals and toxic substances) on microplastics, and assessing their impacts on marine ecosystems in France and Brazil.

AN INVISIBLE THREAT TO ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Beyond being mere waste, microplastics act as true chemical sponges, capable of absorbing and concentrating invisible pollutants.

The PlastiDrugs project reveals that marine plastics concentrate invisible pollutants, with **contamination profiles that vary across regions:**

- Pharmaceuticals and antidepressants in Brest
- Cocaine and caffeine in Santos

The project also highlights:

- **Massive accumulation of chemical contaminants** on plastic surfaces
- **Amplified toxic effects** on marine organisms
- **Spread of pollution** throughout the food chain

18

molecules analyzed in water and marine plastics – the first study of its kind on chemical pollutants associated with plastic waste

10 x

more pollutants concentrated on plastics than in the surrounding water

80 to 90%

mortality among sea urchin larvae exposed to pollutants extracted from plastics

2

international scientific awards



➔ Plastic pollution is a global vector of contamination and a little-known, underestimated public health risk.



Marseille, France
Funding awarded: 78 K€
Duration: 24 months



BUFFER

Genetics in the service of Mediterranean ecosystem resilience



Jean-Baptiste Ledoux,
CIIMAR, Portugal

THE BUFFER PROJECT

Understanding the resistance mechanisms of red gorgonians to marine heatwaves in order to develop conservation solutions for the Calanques National Park and beyond.

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF A KEY ECOSYSTEM

Red gorgonians are **ecosystem-engineering species**, essential to the balance of coralligenous reefs, the second-richest marine habitat in the Mediterranean. As marine heatwaves become more frequent and intense, their decline threatens an entire ecosystem.

The BUFFER project provides a concrete pathway **from scientific knowledge to decision-making** by:

- Identifying the **genetic factors that confer resistance**
- Understanding the interactions between **environmental conditions and genetics**
- Enabling the **selection and protection** of the most resilient colonies
- Developing a **decision-support tool** for the Calanques National Park

20

scientific dives at depths ranging from 30 to 90 m

150

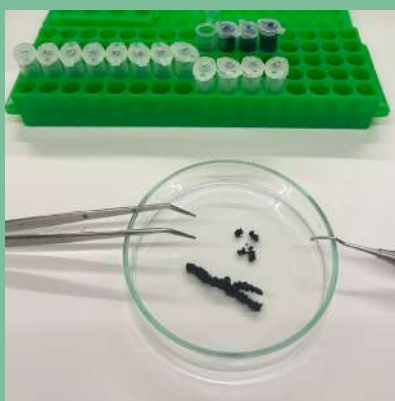
colonies studied

350

samples collected

300

DNA sequences analyzed (more than 3 TB of data)



WHAT COMES NEXT?

Promote these targeted solutions across the Mediterranean by implementing genetics-based restoration plans and thereby enhancing ecosystem adaptation to climate change.



Brazil

Funding awarded: 64 K€

Duration: 24 months



REGEN OCEAN FARMS

Sustainable Algae Farming: a driver of ocean regeneration and eco-innovation



Francimeire Costa,
Researcher, Instituto BKK,
Brazil

THE REGEN OCEAN FARMS PROJECT

Testing a pilot model for algae farming through the creation of seaweed farms that combine traditional know-how with biotechnological applications, in partnership with two Brazilian universities.

A REGENERATIVE MODEL WITH QUADRUPLE IMPACT

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the use of anti-methanogenic feed supplements for livestock
- Creation of sustainable alternatives to plastic
- Strengthening ecosystem resilience
 - > Seaweed farms act as natural water purifiers
 - > Seaweed-based biostimulants increase plants' resistance to drought
- Financial empowerment of women in Indigenous communities

6

algae farms established

3.4 tonnes

of dried seaweed biomass produced

90%

reduction in methane emissions from livestock fed with anti-methanogenic supplements

650

Brazilian families benefiting from income generated by the project



WHAT COMES NEXT?

- Consolidate this innovative and environmentally sustainable economic model.
- Strengthen the three new seaweed-based value chains: biomaterials, biostimulants, and anti-methanogenic feed supplements
- Develop additional algae farms along the Brazilian coastline.



ANTARCTIC BIOLUM

A bioluminescent camera-lure to discover deep-sea megafauna



New Zealand

Funding awarded: 60 K€

Duration: 24 months

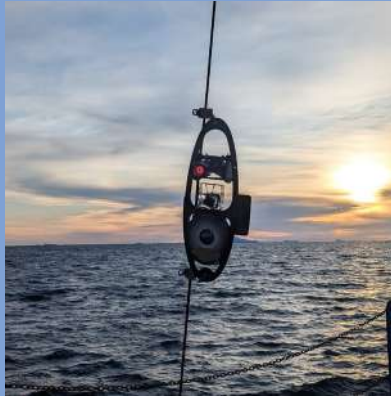
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Kathrin Bolstad & Thomas Linley,
Museum of Te Papa Tongarewa,
New Zealand

THE ANTARCTIC BIOLUM PROJECT

In one of the most inaccessible environments on Earth, this project is testing a non-invasive bioluminescent system for observing deep-sea marine life. Called ESCA (*Electronic Signalling Cephalopod Attractor*), the system combines a camera with a 360° bioluminescent lure to observe deep-ocean life without disturbing it.



ACCELERATING KNOWLEDGE AND PROTECTION OF THE DEEP OCEAN

- Development of a 360° camera with a bioluminescent lure (ESCA), providing unprecedented, non-intrusive access to abyssal fauna
- **Global dissemination** of images of the colossal squid in its natural habitat
- Observation of a previously inaccessible and **intact under-ice ecosystem** following the calving of Iceberg A84
- **An open and replicable technology** available to the scientific community (already reused to assess fish stocks)

→ Production of 4 ESCA observation systems (instead of only one originally planned)

3

Antarctic expeditions during 2025-2026, **100 + hours** of deep-sea exploration

1st

global observation of a juvenile colossal squid using the Schmidt Ocean Institute ROV (indirect contribution)

1 million +

people reached by this major scientific breakthrough, a world first

4

scientific papers currently in preparation, including one for publication in *Nature*

39 PROJECTS SUPPORTED WORLDWIDE



Understanding marine pollution
and combating its origins

- WHALE TELECOM
- BIOPLASTICS FROM THE DEEP
- SPO-PLASTIC
- MICROPOW
- BIOSA
- PLASTIDRUGS
- PLUME
- SYNSEN
- ALT-WASTE
- RIMIOMICS



Strengthening resilience
in the face of climate change

- COM-N
- SHAMA
- MANGROVE BEEKEEPING
- PANTHER
- YAF KERU-IMPACT
- REGEN OCEAN FARMS
- AQUAMAP
- SYMBIOSWAP





Protecting biodiversity and restoring ecosystems

- EMERGE
- AMTI
- PROTECTING AEGEAN CORALLIGENOUS
- FLOATING REEF
- MANTA
- REEF REBORN
- BUFFER
- BYCATCH & BEYOND
- BIRDS ON STICKS
- FISH ON THE MOVE



Improving our knowledge of the ocean system

- DEEP WONDERS
- WINGS OVER OCEAN
- COASTAL OCEAN WATCH
- MECOPO
- POLARIS
- IDEFIX
- 3D FOR SEA CONSERVATION
- CITIZEN INTO SCIENCE
- GENESIS
- ANTARCTIC BIOLUM
- MICROCEAN

KEY FIGURES & HIGHLIGHTS

39

projects supported since 2019.
99 partner organizations, research institutes, universities, and NGOs supported.

169

researchers supported, 32 international scientific publications resulting from supported projects.

64%

of Principal Investigators are women researchers. A real springboard for women scientists, who remain underrepresented in global research (31% of researchers worldwide).

6500

people directly engaged by Pure Ocean through 65 events, conferences, and hands-on initiatives.

30000+

participants in *La Goutte Bleue* team-building events.

27 254

followers across our social media channels. A community that grew by 10% this year.



PURE OCEAN AT UNOC

At the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference, Pure Ocean showcased promising results in support of Posidonia seagrass conservation and the fight against plastic pollution. *Jun 2025*

A NEW MILESTONE FOR MARINE RESTORATION PROTECTION

In early 2026, the PANTHER project reached a major milestone. Through an unprecedented collaboration between researchers, fishers, and local stakeholders, the marine site of Secca di Campobello, off Pantelleria Island, was granted a protected status dedicated to scientific research. This newly safeguarded area will enable scientists to monitor and validate the effectiveness of biodiversity restoration efforts carried out on the site.



FLOR DO MAR

Release of our second documentary, Flor do Mar, featuring the Brazilian project **Regen Ocean Farms**. Produced by Zeke Films and directed by Roxane Perrot and Ugo Isoard, the film was awarded the Gold Trophy at the 2026 Green Deauville Awards in the INFO / Seas, Oceans & Aquatic Environments category.

5 NEW PROJECTS IN 2026



NETHERLANDS

BIOPLASTICS FROM THE DEEP

A bioplastic inspired by squid to replace fossil fuel-based materials.

Accelerating the phase-out of conventional plastics and transforming industrial standards.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

DEEP WONDERS

An exploration of the deep sea to reveal unknown and vulnerable ecosystems.

Making deep-sea biodiversity visible and driving change in public policies.



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SPAIN

WHALE TELECOM

Acoustic monitoring of cetaceans via submarine cables reveals their interactions with maritime traffic.

Securing shipping routes to reduce collisions and protect species.



FRANCE

EMERGE

Using acoustics and environmental DNA to identify critical habitats for rays and sharks.

Building targeted protection strategies to preserve these essential predators.



SPAIN

WINGS OVER OCEAN

Seabirds become sensors to locate fishing activities at sea.

Mapping fishing effort to fight large-scale illegal practices.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Currently under review by our statutory auditor.

PURE OCEAN PROUD OF OUR DONORS



1% pour la Planète
Absolute Dreamer
Advance Emploi
Accor
Alfagel
Almond
Alstom Foundation
Alwena Shipping
Anova Hotel & Spa
Artemis Consult
Arcanes
Argisfood
Arkea Banque Entreprises
et Institutionnels
Arkea Capital
Arkea Crédit-Bail
Arkema
Banque Populaire Méditerranée
BBLM Avocats
Benevity (USA)
Beuchat International
Bien Fondé
Cabinet H&R de Veyrac
Cacatoès
Cap Bourbon
Capsum
Caragum International
Carmila France
Catlante Catamarans
CBRE
Charitips
CMH Ressources
ConHexa

Cotton Blue
CPAMIF
Crédit Agricole Corporate
& Investment Bank
Crédit Mutuel Arkea
Crédit Mutuel de Bretagne
Crédit Mutuel du Sud-Ouest
Crosscall
CSE CETIA Arkema
Dift
DigDash
Dune World
Ekho Conseil
Events for Heritage
Fonds de dotation Le Réflexe
Solidaire
Financière de l'Echiquier
Financière Meeschaert
Finopsys
Fondation Proman
Fonds HLD pour la Méditerranée
Gandee
Giving Foundation (UK)
Groupe Casino
Groupe Advance Emploi
GAS Bijoux
Hammerson Marseille
Hello Asso
Henner Méditerranée
Heoh
Howden France
IES Ingrédients
JHD

K-challenge
Kresk 4 Oceans
LBP AM
La Fabe
Les Bienfaiteurs
Les Roches Blanches de Cassis
Limmon
LinkCity
LMWR
Maison Frojo
Maison R&C
Maîtrise de l'Installation
Electrique MIE
Milhe et Avons
Marfret
Margot Invest
MicroDon
Naama
Ocean Hub Africa
Ollivier & Associés
Omega Energies
Orange
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Oryos
Paradis des Campeurs
Parfums Corania
PHX
Printemps
Pure Engagement
RDAI
Room Avocats
Rougerie + Tangram
Rubikle

Sail GP
Sage Foundation
Salesforce
Satex
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Sense Avocats
Setiex
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Sud Plaisance
SVR Lazartigues
TechnicoFlor
Tempo One
Valcara Action Consulting
Vet Sport Shop Nutreal
Wall Street English
X Plorer

*Some donors have chosen
to remain anonymous.*

ABOUT PURE OCEAN

Pure Ocean is an endowment fund based in Marseille and Lorient. Its main mission is to support innovative research projects around the world, contributing to the protection of fragile marine ecosystems and biodiversity. Beyond the funding of scientific projects, Pure Ocean organizes conferences and promotes races and sporting challenges to raise public awareness of the critical situation of our ocean.

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www.pure-ocean.org



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