



# Annual Report

2024

PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION

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# Protecting and Progressing Planetary Health



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As I look back at the key moments of 2024 for the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, my overriding feeling is one of deep determination.

On the global stage, this year has, of course, been marked by setbacks for a number of environmental issues. But let me be clear: these reversals will not suppress the huge momentum we are part of.

On the contrary, they must encourage us to assume our responsibilities with even more resolve, to step up our ways of taking action and to involve new partners.

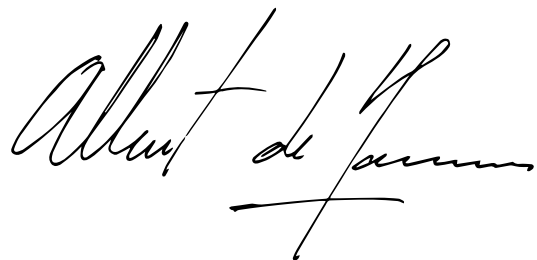
That is what we did in 2024, by bringing together stakeholders from business and finance to support the blue economy, by working with philanthropic institutions and political authorities and by teaming up with numerous NGOs wishing to join our fight and not give in to the prevailing defeatism. In 2024, we also continued our important work of winning hearts and minds, by supporting scientific research, helping to shift mindsets and contributing to the emergence of a new generation of leaders. All these initiatives, like all those we carried out to safeguard the global ocean, the

climate and biodiversity and to promote a more sustainable model of development, have proved that action is always possible. For that reason, in 2025, we will continue to take bold, agile steps to further extend our impact. We will do so in all the areas that the Foundation has centred its action on since 2006, which you will find presented in the following pages.

Whatever the situation, we will not give up. Our world needs us to carry on, our partners ask us to and our donors enable us to.

And our teams are more determined than ever. Like me, they know that those who are turning their backs on reality today will realise tomorrow how blind they were and will take up the fight with us.

On that day, we will be proud to have continued to chart the path that the future requires – the only responsible path for our world: that of sustainable development, pooling talent and willpower to achieve a shared ambition, for current and future generations. For the health of the entire planet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Albert II de Monaco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco





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· The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation  
· was established in 2006 with the core  
· purpose of protecting our planet, its  
· biodiversity and its water resources. As an  
· international non-profit organisation, it  
· has been working for nearly two decades to  
· implement concrete solutions to preserve  
· threatened ecological balances and ensure  
· a more ethical and more sustainable way  
· of life. With a holistic, inclusive approach,  
· the Foundation supports field projects  
· and develops its own initiatives, which are  
· achieved by bringing together committed  
· stakeholders at every level. This enables the  
· Foundation to successfully continue its work  
· to protect nature year after year.



PROTECTING



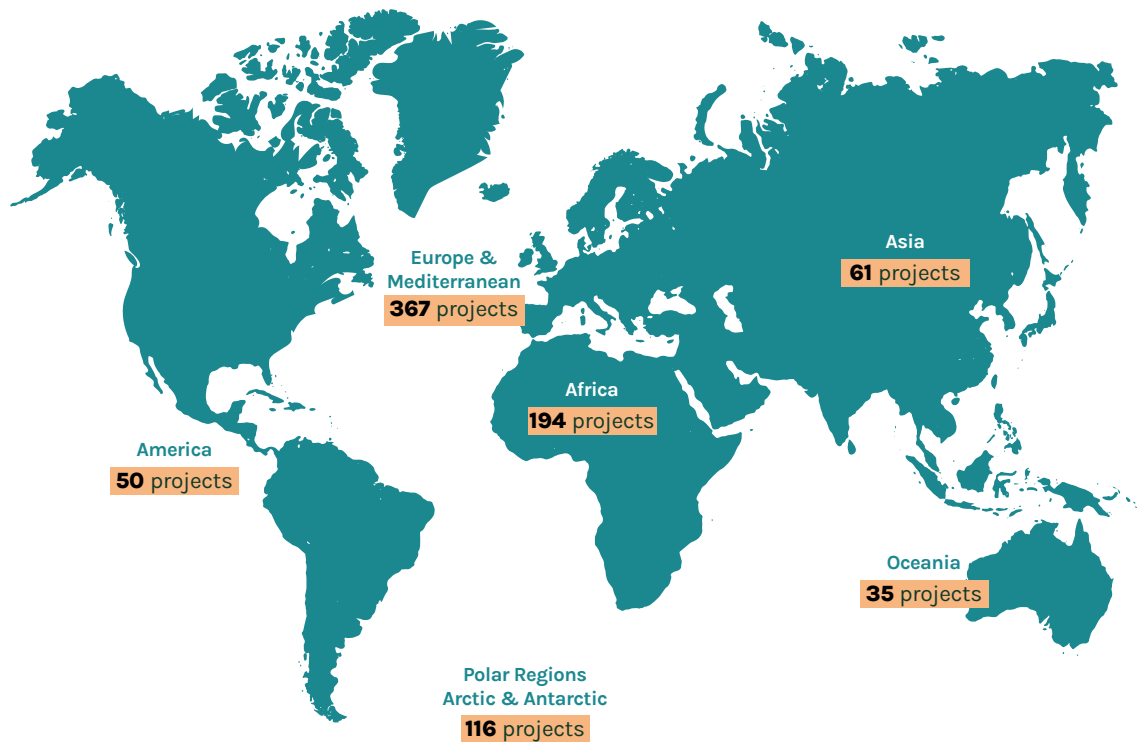
TAKING ACTION TOGETHER THROUGH SPECIFIC WORK

- Limiting the effects of climate change and promoting renewable energies.
- Safeguarding biodiversity.
- Managing water resources and combatting desertification.

- Building partnerships so that projects can be completed successfully and concrete initiatives can be undertaken in its priority spheres of action.
- Raising awareness among communities and authorities about the impact of human activities on the natural environment and encouraging more sustainable behaviour.
- Promoting and inspiring outstanding initiatives and innovative solutions by awarding prizes and grants.

IN TARGETED AREAS

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation focuses its efforts in three main geographical areas: the Mediterranean Basin, the Polar Regions and the Least Developed Countries (as classified by the United Nations), which are severely impacted by the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and threats to water resources.



Through its work, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation helps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to build a world in which peace, justice and equality prevail for people and the planet.



## NUMBER OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED SINCE 2006 BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

236	SDG 14   Life below water
228	SDG 15   Life on land
121	SDG 13   Climate action
89	SDG 6   Clean water and sanitation
56	SDG 4   Quality education
48	SDG 7   Affordable and clean energy
25	SDG 12   Responsible consumption and production
13	SDG 11   Sustainable cities and communities
7	SDG 17   Partnerships for the goals
<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>823</b>	

## FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN 2024

€ 3,231,760
€ 3,680,090
€ 1,102,212
€ 672,566
€ 224,240
€ 223,578
€ 46,778
€ 158,859
€ 491,628
<b>TOTAL FOR 2024</b>
<b>€ 9,831,711</b>

## PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

### Project selection process:

- Stage 1: Online application
- Stage 2: Detailed application form
- Stage 3: Assessment by the Scientific and Technical Committee
- Stage 4: Decision by the Board of Directors

### Consistency with the Foundation's spheres of action:

- Climate change and renewable energies
- Biodiversity knowledge and protection
- Water resource management and combatting desertification

### Priority geographical areas:

- Mediterranean Basin countries
- Polar Regions
- Least Developed Countries (as classified by the United Nations)

### Nature of the project:

- Research
- Technological innovation
- Field projects involving the affected communities

### Impact and added value of the project:

- Exemplary nature and replicability of the project
- Tangible, measurable aspect of the project's anticipated results

- Integration of social and economic aspects into the project's activities (focus on sustainable development)
- Cooperation and involvement of the affected local communities

### Competence and expertise of the project leader:

- Quality and stability of partnerships
- Technical and financial feasibility
- Competence of project leaders
- Quality of project management
- Existence of a project assessment procedure

### Activities not supported by the Foundation:

- The day-to-day running of organisations
- Projects run by a single person
- Projects of a solely commercial nature
- Projects with no other funding sources

**In 2024, 224 projects were submitted after the call for applications.**

-> 23 were shortlisted and presented to the Scientific and Technical Committee, then the Board of Directors.

-> 18 projects were accepted.

· HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco is a  
· committed and celebrated Head of State and  
· a steadfast champion of the environmental  
· cause, who campaigns widely for better  
· ocean, climate and biodiversity protection.  
· With the support of his Government and  
· his Foundation, the Sovereign Prince raises  
· awareness of today's ecological challenges  
· at the highest level, resolutely emphasising  
· the urgent need for us to come together to  
· build a more sustainable world that respects  
· Earth's limits and embraces social justice.



DELIVERING  
A MESSAGE



## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN DAVOS



© DR

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco participated in several events at the World Economic Forum, held in Davos from 15 to 19 January. Highlighting the close link between human health and planetary health, with reference to phenomena such as melting permafrost, he declared that it was “more necessary than ever to listen to what science has to say”. The Sovereign Prince also addressed the subject of the blue economy, which encompasses economic activities associated with the ocean that benefit marine and coastal ecosystems.

Citing the ReOcean Fund and the Ocean Innovators Platform - run by his Foundation - he stressed the importance of supporting innovative companies with their sustainable projects and the need to bring together as many stakeholders as possible. “That is the purpose of my work with the Principality of Monaco and with my Foundation; we are stepping up partnerships, discussions and collaborations to build this common future together”, he explained.



## 5TH MEDITERRANEAN WATER FORUM

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco opened the plenary sessions of the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum on Tuesday 6 February in Tunis. In his video address, he drew attention to the importance of protecting freshwater ecosystems. Citing the DIMFE initiative run by his Foundation, he called for strong commitments to managing and protecting these resources and for the funding already allocated to be increased. “Multilateral meetings tend to

focus on major water access projects [such as] desalination plants, large-scale water conveyance infrastructures and other technological innovations [which are] often costly and energy-intensive”, the Sovereign Prince explained, before emphasising the need “to preserve the very origin of water, ie its natural environment: groundwater, springs and freshwater ecosystems”.

## 15TH EDITION OF THE MONACO BLUE INITIATIVE

Working towards global ocean governance



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The 15th edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative (MBI), organised jointly by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, took place on Monday 18 March at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco and was attended by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, senior officials and eminent political figures.

The global ocean community was widely represented, with over 160 participants from Africa, Asia, North and South America, Oceania, Europe, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean island countries, the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

**This year's meeting reflected on the major challenges that have faced the ocean since 2010.**

Over the past 14 years, some decisive steps have been taken:

- The IPCC published a Special Report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere in the context of climate change;
- The International Treaty for the Protection of the High Seas and Marine Biodiversity (known as the 'BBNJ Agreement') was adopted by United Nations Member States;
- The 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity resulted in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- The WTO implemented the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to prohibit harmful fishing subsidies;
- Marine protected areas (MPAs) were created to help achieve the global 30 x 30 target to protect 30% of the Earth's sea and land by 2030, as outlined in the Global Biodiversity Framework.

New challenges have also emerged, such as the urgent need to protect the Southern Ocean, deep-sea mining and the sustainable management of MPAs. Examining all the factors involved, the MBI 2024 set out the priority action to be taken over the coming decade.

In his speech, the Sovereign Prince pointed out that a “global movement” for ocean protection is gathering pace: “there is growing awareness that the ocean is not just another piece of the puzzle for our future, but that it holds within it most of the keys that will determine that future, from the climate to biodiversity, from food to health, from peace to the economy”. Listing the critical advances made in environmental law, he acknowledged that “this progress has not yet

been enough to reverse the trend of the decline – and sometimes even destruction – of our ocean”. Prince Albert II therefore urged the international community to redouble its efforts at all the key marine conservation events.

### Three panel discussions were held

- Ocean protection and governance: success stories, lessons learned from the past 15 years and goals for the decade to come;
- A sustainable and regenerative blue economy: the role of the private sector to drive the shift towards a resilient ocean;
- The role of the Mediterranean Sea in achieving 30 x 30.



In 2010, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco launched the Monaco Blue Initiative (MBI) to bring together stakeholders in ocean conservation and governance. Since then, every year, representatives from governments and NGOs, scientists, private sector companies and civil society come together to pool their expertise, discuss progress and new challenges, and share emerging solutions for protecting the ocean. Co-organised by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation and boasting a forward-looking, interdisciplinary vision, the MBI is a platform for discussion, promoting innovation and the development of a sustainable blue economy with the aim of protecting the marine environment and the human communities that depend on it.



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Other MBI highlights included speeches by representatives of governments whose countries have made an ocean-positive shift, such as Jean-François Ferrari, Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy of the Republic of Seychelles, Sun Shuxian, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Director General of the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China, António Costa Silva, former Minister of the Economy and Maritime Affairs of the Portuguese Republic, Charlina Vitcheva, Director General of DG MARE, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and Christos Stylianides, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Island Policy of the Hellenic Republic.

The final MBI session provided an overview of ongoing multilateral processes in the areas of deep-sea mining, the plastic treaty and fisheries subsidies, and announced two major ocean events: the 9th international Our Ocean conference, which took place in Athens in April, and the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) being held in Nice in June 2025.

## Memorandum of understanding signed for the Blue Economy and Finance Forum

The Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) will be held at the Grimaldi Forum Monaco on 7 and 8 June 2025 as a special event of the UN Ocean Conference 2025 (UNOC), which is taking place in Nice from 9 to 13 June. The Principality of Monaco was asked to host and co-organise the BEFF with France by Ambassador Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Special Envoy of the President of France for UNOC, with the support of the Secretary General of UNOC, Ambassador Laurent Stefanini, and the Ambassador of France to Monaco, Jean d'Haussonville. On Monday 18 March, as part of the Monaco Blue Initiative (MBI), the French Organising Committee of UNOC 2025, the Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation formalised their cooperation with a memorandum of understanding. Co-chaired by Pascal Lamy and HE Ilana Seid, the BEFF aims to support blue economy initiatives for marine ecosystem conservation.



## OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE IN ATHENS



© Axel Bastello / Palais Princier

The 9th international Our Ocean conference was held in Athens on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 April. HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco took the opportunity on the second day to announce that his Foundation and other donors are pledging a total of 60.8 million US dollars over the next five years towards conservation efforts in the Mediterranean Sea. During the plenary session entitled 'The Challenges and Solutions of the Mediterranean Countries', the Sovereign Prince highlighted the need to mobilise widespread support to achieve the global 30 x 30 target set out in the Global

Biodiversity Framework (to protect 30% of the planet's sea and land by 2030). "Urgent action is needed at all levels", he declared, before appealing for collective action: "With this pledge, private and public donors call upon others to join the effort". The 30 x 30 initiative, which includes safeguarding the ecological integrity of the Mediterranean Sea, requires an investment of 277 million US dollars. It is hoped this landmark move will generate further financial support for marine conservation to strengthen the region's biodiversity and promote a sustainable blue economy.

## 79TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco attended the 79th UN General Assembly in New York from 22 to 24 September. During the event, he participated in the Summit of the Future – when world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future, putting multilateralism at the service of sustainable development – and he reaffirmed his commitments to protect the ocean. Speaking at the high-level General Debate of the 79th session, the Sovereign Prince stated that “the most threatening challenges for

humanity in the long term are without a doubt the multidimensional environmental crisis we are going through, which we are chiefly responsible for,” adding nevertheless that, “we must be optimistic when it comes to the future. Indeed, we now have several major international instruments [...]: the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the BBNJ Agreement, and soon, I hope, a new international agreement to combat plastic pollution in the world”.

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During his trip to New York, the Sovereign Prince met with many eminent figures - Board members of The Foundation for Post Conflict Development, diplomats from the Permanent Mission of Monaco to the UN and the President of the Republic of Latvia, Edgars Rinkēvičs - and delivered a speech to the International Union for Conservation of

Nature's (IUCN) Patrons of Nature. Lastly, Prince Albert II attended the signing of the partnership agreement between his Foundation and the International Olympic Committee, represented by its President, Thomas Bach, to support the Re.Generation Future Leaders Program.



## RATIFICATION OF THE HIGH SEAS TREATY

The International Treaty for the Protection of the High Seas and Marine Biodiversity, known as the 'BBNJ Agreement', opened for signature for a period of two years on 20 September 2023 in New York. It was signed by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco that same day. This year, on Thursday 9 May, the Principality of Monaco became the first European and Mediterranean state to ratify this historic treaty aimed at protecting the ocean. HE Isabelle Picco, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations, deposited the instrument of

ratification with the Chief of the Treaty Section at the UN Office for Legal Affairs. This represented the culmination of years of universally recognised contributions by the Principality of Monaco at the meetings of the Preparatory Commission (2016-2017) and the Intergovernmental Conference (2018-2023), which were responsible for drafting the text of the treaty. The outcome represents a major victory in safeguarding marine biodiversity and is testament to the power of multilateralism.

## BLUE AFRICA SUMMIT

The second edition of the Blue Africa Summit, which took place in Tangier, Morocco, on 10 October, aimed to establish a roadmap of the major challenges facing maritime Africa with a view to fully connecting the continent to the rest of the world. Held under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, it was attended by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. During his speech, the Sovereign Prince stated that Africa's future, like that of the entire planet, is intrinsically linked

to the future of the seas and oceans. The summit brought together nearly 100 scientific experts, economic stakeholders and political leaders to discuss topics such as ocean knowledge, international negotiations, the blue economy and blue finance. The event also saw the launch of the 'Roadmap Towards 2030', which guides Africa-Europe ocean cooperation, and established a series of recommendations for the third UN Ocean Conference.



• The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation works to reconcile economic vitality and respect for natural resources, which is crucial for the transition to more ethical living. It partners with creative entrepreneurs who are designing new solutions, specifically in the field of ocean protection. Its Blue Solutions Hub brings together initiatives relating to the sustainable blue economy and finance, including the Ocean Innovators Platform, which connects key stakeholders – researchers, investors, business owners and philanthropists – from cutting-edge technology and finance, and the ReOcean Fund, a private equity fund. By spearheading these initiatives, the Foundation acts as an incubator of ideas and innovations to advance ocean conservation.

OF PLASTIC POLLUTION FOR A CLEANER FUTURE



Kim Regner  
Professor Plastic  
Circularity  
University of Maastricht



Lavinia Zerbini  
CEO  
Waste Terra



Taylor Matney  
Co-Founder &  
Executive Director  
Dues Toke



Michéle Li  
CEO  
Cher Carbon

# INVESTING IN INNOVATION



## REOCEAN FUND

Investment as a catalyst for solutions



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Technological innovation is crucial for the transition to more ocean-positive living, but philanthropy alone is not enough for the substantial funds required. To help safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems, the focus has to be on large-scale investment. The ReOcean Fund, a private equity fund, was set up in 2023 by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Monaco Asset Management to support United Nations

Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) by investing 100 million euros to stimulate ocean innovations. The ocean is an exceptional source of solutions for planetary health, but it is under threat. Investing in high-impact mechanisms to protect this common good and drive a sustainable and regenerative blue economy has never been more urgent.

The ReOcean Fund invests in five key sectors and is global in scope:

- Marine and coastal ecosystem restoration and protection;
- Solutions to plastic pollution;
- Healthy and equitable blue food;
- Green shipping and sustainable yachting;
- Ocean data.

The ReOcean Fund has three governing committees to help achieve its objectives, ensure maximum impact of the investment throughout its lifecycle and guarantee integrity and expertise in the blue economy and finance:

- **The Investment Committee**, the fund's management body;
- **The Impact Committee**, which assesses the potential impact of each operation;
- **The Advisory Committee**, which advises management on the development of its strategy.

#### ReOcean Fund objectives:

- **Reduce** the key sources of pollution in the ocean.
- **Transform** the way we produce blue food and travel across the ocean.
- **Protect** marine and coastal ecosystems and the critical services they provide.
- **Inform and equip** stakeholders with robust, transparent data.





## LAUNCH OF THE BLUE ECONOMY INDEX

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation pursues a strategy of combining philanthropy and investment, believing it is essential to create a balance between economics, finance and environmental protection in the bid to regenerate the ocean and build resilient, low-carbon societies. “When companies embrace sustainability, they protect ecosystems, reduce risk, attract conscious investors and ensure their long-term profitability”, explains Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Foundation.

On Thursday 5 December, at Monaco Yacht Club, the Foundation, ODDO BHF Asset Management and Altitude Investment Solutions officially launched an innovative financial tool called the Blue Economy Index. This tool identifies companies that support the blue economy in key sectors such as sustainable fishing, waste management, plastic recycling and water treatment. Constituting a

concrete solution in the transition to a sustainable blue economy, the index helps investors wanting to back companies with top environmental, social and governance (ESG) credentials.

The Blue Economy Index is managed by ODDO BHF Asset Management, which is charging reduced management fees. Meanwhile Altitude Investment Solutions is donating a percentage of their index management fees and entry charges on the financial products they create. The two partners have pledged to support the Foundation’s Mediterranean programme, which takes action in a variety of areas: tackling plastic pollution, protecting emblematic species, conserving freshwater ecosystems, managing marine protected areas (MPAs) and supporting scientific research.



## RAISING AWARENESS OF THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Panel discussion at the ChangeNOW Summit in Paris



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On Monday 25 March during the ChangeNOW Summit, which was held in the Grand Palais temporary exhibition hall in Paris, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation hosted a round-table discussion entitled 'Regenerative Solutions for the Ocean: Investing in Tomorrow's Blue Economy'. Introduced by Kevin Tayebaly, ChangeNOW's Co-Founder and Chief Development Officer, it brought together Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Foundation, Jeremy Genin, Chief Investment

Officer at Monaco Asset Management and a member of the ReOcean Fund Impact Committee, and Sylvain Goupille, Co-Founder of Azollae, where he manages financial and carbon packages. Focusing on the close links between environmental protection and economic prosperity, the three experts explored a range of innovative solutions designed to regenerate the ocean while developing a sustainable blue economy.

## 8th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference

The FII 8th Edition conference, the largest international investment and innovation forum in the Middle East, was held in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, from 29 to 31 October. Olivier Wenden, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's Vice-Chairman and CEO, co-hosted a session on mobilising capital for blue-tech innovation and ocean regeneration with Deborah Lehr, Founder and CEO of Basilinna and Advisor at WAVE, and Raed Albasseet, Group Chief Environment & Sustainability Officer at Red Sea Global. In front of around 20 invited high-level audience members, the three experts explained the potential of the blue economy to combat climate change while stimulating innovation and creating jobs. They also stressed the urgent need to take action to protect marine resources and the communities that depend on them, which involves shifting mindsets to guide investment towards ocean-based solutions. Their recommendations have been shared in a joint publication by the Foundation, WAVE and Red Sea Global entitled *Ocean Regeneration for Future Prosperity*.

## Building Bridges

The 5th edition of Building Bridges kicked off with the Building Bridges Summit at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) on Monday 9 December. This was followed by the Building Bridges Action Days from 10 to 12 December: 70 events led by over 100 organisations to stimulate dialogue and collaboration between finance and sustainability. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation co-hosted a session on the sustainable blue economy with ODDO BHF Asset Management and the Green Digital Finance Alliance. During the panel event, the Foundation's Vice-Chairman and CEO, Olivier Wenden, and Executive Director, Romain Ciarlet, presented mechanisms that reconcile ocean conservation and economic growth, highlighting the success of the Ocean Innovators Platform (OIP) and two newly created financial tools, the ReOcean Fund and the Blue Economy Index. The session revealed the Foundation's proactive approach to rethinking investment for a more resilient and more equitable world to the audience of representatives from finance, the UN, universities, civil society and public authorities.



## OCEAN INNOVATORS PLATFORM

Innovations to unlock the power of the ocean



© JC Vinaj / FPA2

Promoting innovation, investment and entrepreneurship is the cornerstone of the Ocean Innovators Platform (OIP), a large-scale invitation-only event launched in 2022 and already a must-attend forum. Convening every year at Monaco Ocean Week (MOW) and hosting sessions at other international meetings, the OIP spotlights cutting-edge technologies and pioneering solutions that safeguard the seas at the same time as building a sustainable blue economy. The platform provides a unique opportunity for dialogue between high-level stakeholders – entrepreneurs, experts and

investors – enabling them to share ideas and knowledge in order to promote the most impactful measures for a protected, resilient ocean.

The OIP pits innovation and entrepreneurship against the pressures threatening our marine environments, such as climate change, pollution and habitat destruction due to human activities. Its overarching ambition is to harness the ocean's resources responsibly, minimise our impact and promote its health – to unlock the power of the ocean to address the climate crisis.



© JC Vinaj / FPA2

### Ocean Innovators Platform objectives:

- **Promote** the best innovative solutions and approaches to increase positive impact on the global ocean.
- **Connect** policymakers, investors, business leaders and philanthropists with talented innovators and entrepreneurs.
- **Create** an active community of economic stakeholders interested in business opportunities related to the protection of the ocean.

## Monaco Ocean Week 2024

The 6th edition of the OIP took place on Wednesday 20 March, in the context of Monaco Ocean Week, with a discussion-packed programme based on three subject areas. The morning session was devoted to aquaculture, a sector that supplies over 50% of the world's seafood products, but whose role in ensuring our food security is being seriously hampered by pollution. The panellists discussed regenerative aquaculture solutions that can enhance both the productivity and resilience of the sector.

Talks then focused on plastic pollution and the ways of limiting it upstream. Entrepreneurs presented a range of sustainable and innovative measures, from alternative materials and innovative collection systems to digital applications. Finally, the OIP addressed effective marine protected area management, highlighting cutting-edge technologies, specifically monitoring systems, that are playing a key role in achieving the global 30 x 30 target, which aims to protect one third of the world's seas and lands by 2030.

## New York Climate Week

The 7th OIP convened on Tuesday 24 September in New York, as part of Climate Week (22 to 29 September), for an evening of discussions at the prestigious Harvard Club, attended by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. In his opening address, the Sovereign Prince called for a surge of “collective will” to rethink our economic models in order to tackle the environmental challenge.

Two panel discussions brought together thought leaders to highlight innovative strategies that are driving a sustainable blue economy. The first gave the floor to HRH Princess Reema Bandar Al-Saud, who shared insights on the existing links between the ocean, the climate and the private sector. The second showcased innovative companies and investment opportunities in the marine sector, hearing from leading stakeholders such as Daniela Fernandez (Sustainable Ocean Alliance), Geoff Chapin (Carbonwave), Steven Henderson (Fleetzero) and Svanika Balasubramanian (rePurpose Global). Hosted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in partnership with Climate Impact, ChangeNOW, Builders Vision, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, the World Economic Forum’s 1,000 Ocean Startups Coalition, Blue Action and the Solar Impulse Foundation, this edition of the OIP focused on the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship and investment for ocean regeneration.

## Singapore edition

The 8th edition of the Ocean Innovators Platform (OIP) was hosted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation at the iconic Marina Bay Sands in Singapore on Wednesday 27 November in the presence of the Sovereign Prince.

The first session was a panel discussion with investors from venture capital and private equity funds, who shared insights on the new opportunities offered by blue tech. Moderated by Michelle Li, Founder and CEO of Clever Carbon, the discussion brought together Douglas Hansen-Luke, Executive Chairman of Future Planet Capital, Jérémy Genin, Chief Investment Officer at Monaco Asset Management, Rob Kaplan, Founder and CEO of Circulate Capital, and Sébastien Guillaud, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Shift4Good, to address topics such as sustainable aquaculture, green shipping and solutions to plastic pollution. Afterwards, Janice-Renee Yoshioka, Vice-President of Sustainable Finance at Conservation International, chatted to host Caroline Guyot, Managing Director of ENGIE-Factory APAC, about the opportunities, challenges and issues involved in a regenerative blue economy. Lastly, five entrepreneurs – the CEOs of Planet Protector Packaging, Blueyou, Nutri-San, Pyxis and Lucro – pitched their innovative solutions and business models to an audience of investors. The 8th OIP was held with the support of the ReOcean Fund, Builders Vision, Future Planet Capital, ChangeNOW and Shift4Good, and in partnership with Monaco Private Label.



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## DEVELOPING BLUE INNOVATION

### MIT Solve 2024



© MIT Solve

Solve is an initiative run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to support innovative solutions that tackle the environmental crisis for a sustainable future. At the Solve Challenge Finals, which took place in New York on Monday 23 September to coincide with the 79th UN General Assembly and Climate Week, 30 tech-based solutions that address challenges within

health, learning, climate and economic prosperity were awarded funding. Two of the cohort won the Prince Albert II of Monaco Ocean Innovation Prize, awarded with the support of MIT: SXD, which uses AI to eliminate waste in the fashion industry, and Symbrosia, which reduces livestock methane emissions through a natural seaweed-based feed supplement.

## 7th edition of the Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge

For its 7th edition, the Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge brought together over 90 students and young entrepreneurs who are developing technological solutions that have a positive impact on ocean protection in the short or medium term. The grand finale of this international competition – held jointly by the International University of Monaco, the Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, non-profit association Monaco Impact and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation – took place at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco on Wednesday 19 June. HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco presented awards to the three winners: Nema (Student category), an innovative supplier of blue energy, Innov&Sea (Startups category), which has developed an innovative in vitro ecotoxicity test, and Aqua (Jury's Special Prize), which has designed a device to clean the ocean using AI and drone technology.

## Ocean Pitch Challenge

Organised by Respect Ocean and Sustainable Ocean Alliance and supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Ocean Pitch Challenge is a competition that shines the spotlight on concrete solutions for the ocean. Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Foundation, was on the jury for the second year in a row. The 10 finalists were given pitch training to improve their ability to convince investors to fund their projects, before being judged in the grand finale. The jury singled out 3 winners from the 218 entrants from 49 countries: SubSea Quieter by Greenov (France), which develops underwater noise abatement and turbidity reduction systems for coastal and offshore maritime construction companies; Ittinsect Feed (Italy), which produces aquaculture feed by using biotech processes to treat insects, microalgae and agricultural by-products; and Azul Bio (United States), which creates coral microbiome boosters to improve reef resilience.





One of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's key strengths is its ability to bring together committed stakeholders and rally inspiring figures behind innovative projects for the planet's health. It invites citizens, policymakers, political leaders, NGOs and business leaders to work together to provide concrete, planet-wide support for long-term measures to protect the living world and the climate. With a proactive approach and a resolutely interdisciplinary vision, the Foundation is committed to delivering a message of hope as widely as possible and acting as a catalyst for ideas.



BRINGING  
PEOPLE  
TOGETHER

## MONACO OCEAN WEEK

A unique platform for knowledge sharing and strategic planning



One of the year's flagship events for ocean protection was held in the Principality from 18 to 22 March: Monaco Ocean Week (MOW), a platform for meetings, discussions and action that brings together local and international experts, scientists and representatives from non-profits and public authorities for an exceptional week of mobilisation.

Organised by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in partnership with the Monaco Government, Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, Monaco Scientific Centre and Monaco Yacht Club, with the support of Rolex and Barclays Private Bank, the forum featured more than 50 events.

The history of the Principality – the birthplace of modern oceanography, spearheaded by Prince Albert I of Monaco – is closely linked to the history of scientific progress in marine ecosystem knowledge and preservation. Monaco Ocean Week pursues that long-standing commitment to the

environmental cause at the same time as looking resolutely towards the future. It provides a unique platform for collaboration, innovation and strategic planning to inspire concrete, practical solutions enabling people to live in harmony with the ocean.

The Monaco Blue Initiative (see p. 13-15) kicked off MOW 2024 on Monday 18 March. The week featured a number of other key events also organised by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation:

- the 2nd edition of the Pelagos Forum to promote the protection of the Pelagos Sanctuary;
- an event devoted to eliminating carbon dioxide in the marine environment;
- the 6th edition of the Ocean Innovators Platform (see p. 28);
- the book launch of *Monaco and the Sea* by Denis Allemand and Philippe Mondielli (Éditions Gilletta);
- a legal round-table discussion on ocean conservation;
- a panel event on transforming the fashion industry and protecting the ocean;
- the announcement of the Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed) 2024 winners.

### The events were organised around four key subject areas

#### Ocean governance

Developing roadmaps, launching initiatives, strategic planning: Monaco Ocean Week is a forum for meetings aimed at strengthening ocean governance. Mirroring the Monaco Blue Initiative (MBI) – a platform that brings together thought leaders and key organisations in ocean conservation and management to work on concrete, innovation-based solutions – MOW 2024 facilitated collaborations to pursue and boost efforts to protect marine and coastal ecosystems all over the world. Among the topics discussed were the management of marine protected areas (MPAs), international collaboration systems and the preservation of seaweed and seagrass meadows, with sights set on the forthcoming UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) to be held in Nice in June 2025.

### Sustainable blue economy and finance

Monaco Ocean Week's invited speakers included entrepreneurs who innovate to create sectors that are more ethical and sustainable, ensuring economic prosperity and increased ocean protection. Covering transport, the decarbonisation of the maritime industry, the role of investments for more nature-positive aquaculture, and blue philanthropy, MOW 2024 shone the spotlight on the challenges associated with a sustainable blue economy and finance. Monaco Yacht Club hosted several related events: the 13th Environmental Symposium, the 4th Explorer Awards and the 2nd Monaco Smart Yacht Rendezvous. Other partners examined the adaptability of cities to rising sea levels and the scientific applications of 3D technology.

### Scientific progress under the microscope

Developments in scientific research are critical for a better understanding of the marine environment and, as a result, more effective ocean protection. Monaco Ocean Week provides scientists and the public with a unique opportunity to exchange views, review the most recent scientific progress and shine a light on tomorrow's challenges. Topics discussed included the Caprera Canyon,

which has been designated a new Hope Spot, solutions for coral reefs, cetacean distribution in the Mediterranean and reducing the impact of shipping traffic. A workshop on chemical analysis methodologies in the marine environment and monitoring ocean acidification also brought together a group of international experts.

### Raising public awareness

Raising awareness among the public, particularly young people, is a key objective of Monaco Ocean Week. Talks open to all took place throughout the week on subjects such as restoring seagrass meadows, the decline of krill and the link between the ocean and human health. The Monaco Government put on a fun educational trail around Fontvieille harbour, while a secondary school class were given an introduction to marine science and how a profiling float works, which they are following around the Atlantic Ocean. Other inspiring events were organised by bodies including Edinburgh Ocean Leaders, the Monegasque Association for the Protection of Nature (AMPN), Team Malizia and the secretariats of ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic area) and the Pelagos Agreement.





© Francesco Ferri

## SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE YACHTING

The Monaco Energy Boat Challenge, organised by Monaco Yacht Club and supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, took place in the Principality from 1 to 6 July. Open to the public and held in open source, the event brought together more than 450 engineering students from 40 universities and 25 countries to present their prototypes. The 11th edition was held as part of the Monaco, Capital of Advanced Yachting initiative and featured the presentation of the very first Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Sustainable Yachting Technology Award, which gives a grant of 25,000 euros to the best technological solution for improving energy efficiency and/or reducing carbon emissions. The winner was Italian team Physis (Politecnico di Milano), whose work includes improving the performance of fuel cells.

The 5th Hydrogen Round Table also took place during the Monaco Energy Boat Challenge. Organised jointly by the Foundation, the Monaco Government's Mission for Energy Transition and Monaco Yacht Club, it addressed the challenges and progress in hydrogen-based marine energy solutions.

The event also included a presentation on the progress in alternative propulsion systems and unveiled a new feature of SEA Index®, an online tool that calculates yachts' CO2 emissions, developed by Monaco Yacht Club's Superyacht Eco Association and supported by the Foundation. The Index now calculates the direct emissions of yachts based on the choice of fuel and enables them to compare their environmental impact.

## MONACO SMART & SUSTAINABLE MARINA

On 22 and 23 September, Monaco Yacht Club hosted the 4th edition of Monaco Smart & Sustainable Marina, an event devoted to technological innovations for greener marinas. Hosted by Monaco Marina Management with the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, this international event brought together a large number of investors and more than 250 professionals from the maritime industry. The programme featured three talks, focusing on the optimisation of marinas through technology, the challenge of financing the sustainable development of marinas and the importance of architecture in eco-friendly design. Networking sessions were held alongside, as were opportunities for around 20 start-ups and established companies to pitch their future solutions.

## NEW YORK CLIMATE WEEK 2024

Climate Week NYC is a major event that brings together leading climate stakeholders every year. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation played a very active role this year (22 to 29 September), organising a series of meetings. Among them were two panel discussions: one about sustainable fashion for students at the Pratt Institute School of Art, and the other hosted by the Forests and Communities Initiative at the Permanent Mission of Monaco to the United Nations, which highlighted the conservation action of Indigenous peoples. Two other events were held in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco: the 7th edition of the Ocean Innovators Platform (OIP) at the Harvard Club and the Polar Initiative evening event at the Explorers Club, which addressed the warming of the Arctic and its essential role in regulating the global climate. During the week, Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Foundation, participated in the MIT Solve event to present the Prince Albert II of Monaco Ocean Innovation Prize and attended the Earthshot Prize Innovation Summit reception, in the presence of HRH Prince William, founder of the Earthshot Prize.





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## 17TH PLANETARY HEALTH AWARDS CEREMONY

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's 17th annual Planetary Health Awards ceremony, held to honour leading figures and organisations engaged in environmental protection, took place on Thursday 7 November in the Salle Garnier at Monte-Carlo Opera House in the presence of the Sovereign Prince.

In his opening speech, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco spoke of “the imperative of collective action” to address ecological challenges. “At a time when the world is so divided, when it is so difficult to agree on fundamental values, this spirit is more necessary than ever”, he said, before emphasising the importance of innovation and adaptation. “It is the responsibility of all of us to leave our children a healthier planet, one that is not condemned to

destruction or injustice.” This requires us, he said, “to be both clear-sighted and determined”.

In 2024, the Planetary Health Awards recognised two individuals and one company: Juma Xipaia, Indigenous leader and Founder of the Instituto Juma in Brazil, which takes action to protect the environment and defend the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon, particularly in the Middle Xingu region; Professor Lidia Morawska, a physicist who is internationally recognised for her research on airborne particles and their impact on health; and NatureMetrics, a company founded in 2014 by Dr Kat Bruce, which develops solutions using environmental DNA (eDNA) technology, Earth observation and AI to provide biodiversity data at scale.

## The 2024 winners

### Juma Xipaia (Brazil)

The Indigenous leader said she was honoured to receive the distinction on behalf of the Instituto Juma and expressed her thanks for her generation, “but also for the generations to come, who deserve everything their ancestors have left for them”. Of the opinion that we have enough climate change treaties and agreements today, she continued, “What is lacking now is transforming knowledge into action”. “I come from a land very far away,” she added, “but we happen to be on the same planet, in the same boat”.

### Professor Lidia Morawska (Poland–Australia)

Receiving her award, the physicist said, “I have devoted my entire life to the study of air and the impact of air quality on human health and the environment. The complexity and cross-disciplinary nature of this field of science never cease to fascinate me and inspire me to keep exploring it further [...] My dream is for my work to contribute to a habitable planet with a clean, unpolluted atmosphere and healthy air, so that we can thrive”.

### NatureMetrics (United Kingdom)

Pippa Howard, Chief Nature Strategist at NatureMetrics, who received the award on behalf of the company, made a passionate plea for the environment, pointing out that “biodiversity is in catastrophic decline”. “I have understood,” she went on, “just how vital it is – for the protection and restoration of our planet – for us to communicate the state of nature more simply in order to help us make better decisions, to encourage the flow of action, capacity and financial resources to deliver on the goal of protecting and restoring our ecosystems”.

The Planetary Health Awards ceremony was followed by a panel discussion during which the three laureates talked about the challenges involved in communicating environmental issues. Defending collaboration, cross-disciplinarity and reconnecting with oneself and with the living world, the inspirational women explored topics such as how to communicate scientific data and how to stimulate global action.

## The ceremony also spotlighted the Foundation’s commitments to nurturing younger generations

The Sovereign Prince presented IPCC Scholarship Programme students with their diplomas in the presence of Dr Ladislaus Chang’a, Vice-President of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and Maria Elena Cuomo, President of the Cuomo Foundation, which co-partners this initiative supporting research into climate change and living soils with Moët Hennessy.

Then a short film was screened looking back at the highlights of the year of support given to the first cohort of the Re.Generation Future Leaders Program. Featuring leadership and communication training, masterclasses and speaking engagements at international events, the film portrays the shared adventure that enabled the young participants to forge connections and create a close-knit community to improve planetary health.





## STELIOS PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Every year since 2013, the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation hosts a fundraising dinner to support major environmental causes. The 12th edition, organised by Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, raised the substantial sum of 600,000 euros for WWF and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation to protect seagrass meadows in Greece and the

wider Mediterranean, which are remarkable havens of biodiversity. The dinner, which was attended by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Dr Adil Najam, President of WWF, brought together 50 important environmental supporters, who together demonstrated the power of philanthropy to meet the ecological challenges of today and tomorrow.



© Stelios Philanthropic Foundation

## MONACO HYDROGEN FORUM

The 3rd edition of the Monaco Hydrogen Forum, hosted by the Monaco Hydrogen Alliance, was held in the Principality on 2 and 3 December, in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. A flagship event for technological innovation in green hydrogen in the mobility sector, it brought together business leaders, policymakers and international experts with the aim of accelerating sustainable solutions for maritime transportation and ocean protection.

A highlight of the forum was the final stage of the Monaco Prize for Innovation in Renewable Hydrogen and Transportation, which saw eight finalists pitch their solutions to the jury and audience. The Sovereign Prince awarded the prize to British start-up Drift Energy, which designs sailing vessels equipped with underwater turbines that generate green hydrogen at sea through electrolysis thanks to their innovative system called Sail Power to X.



© Axel Bastello/Palais Princier

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VENDÉE GLOBE FOUNDATION

The announcement of the newly formed Vendée Globe Foundation, established to champion ocean protection, on Friday 8 November in Les Sables-d'Olonne coincided with the signing of a partnership agreement with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. HSH the Sovereign Prince, who has been appointed the Vendée Globe Foundation's Honorary President, took part in the ceremony to formalise the collaboration, along with Olivier Wenden, the Foundation's Vice-Chairman and CEO, Alain Lebéouf, President of the Vendée Departmental Council and the Vendée Globe, and Gilles Sallé, President of the Vendée Globe Foundation and Founding President of AMP Visual TV.

HSH Prince Albert II underlined the importance of this scientific partnership for the protection of marine ecosystems. Driven by shared values, the two institutions will work together to promote sustainable initiatives and support future generations. As part of the agreement, the Vendée Globe Foundation will select projects to support from the Foundation's portfolio, while skippers from the Vendée Globe, the famous round-the-world sailing race that celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024, will take part in the Foundation's Re.Generation Future Leaders Program.

· Tackling the threats faced by the living  
· world represents a huge challenge. To meet  
· it, every action counts. Our habits and  
· mindsets must change; we must follow,  
· with commitment and optimism, a path  
· more focused on securing the stability of  
· the planet. Raising awareness among as  
· many people as possible from a young age  
· about the importance of taking care of our  
· common good is one of the Prince Albert  
· II of Monaco Foundation's key objectives.  
· Through awareness-raising activities,  
· festivals, screenings and exhibitions, it aims  
· to communicate knowledge, share ideas  
· and solutions and promote new narratives  
· about nature and our relationship with the  
· living world.  
·

A woman with long dark hair tied back and a young child are seen from behind, looking at a large, vibrant display of monarch butterflies. The butterflies are spread across a forest background, with some appearing to fly in the air. The scene is bathed in a soft, teal light. The woman is wearing a white t-shirt and a black strap is visible over her shoulder. The child is also wearing a white t-shirt.

# RAISING AWARENESS

## SUPPORTING THE URBAN VEGETABLE GARDEN SCHEME IN MONACO'S SCHOOLS

Monaco Telecom renewed its support to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for vegetable gardens in the Principality's schools. On Tuesday 13 February at the École de Fontvieille, Martin Peronnet, Managing Director of Monaco Telecom, presented a donation to the Foundation, represented by Olivier Wenden, its Vice-Chairman and CEO, in the company of Armelle Borro de Saxce, Head of the Teacher Training Centre of the Department of National Education, Youth and Sports, Jessica Sbaraglia, Founder of Terrae – which runs the project– and Alexandre Moreno, Head of the primary school. Monaco Telecom has

funded this initiative aimed at teaching the younger generation to value natural resources since 2021.

The donation of 11,075 euros, raised from revenue generated by customers paying for paper bills, is funding the maintenance of the École de Fontvieille's vegetable garden as well as 30 hours of workshops for the pupils, run throughout the year. Since the initiative was launched in 2020, 7 schools – representing over 2,000 pupils – have enjoyed this practical introduction to the importance of healthy, sustainable food.





© FPA2

## LAUNCH OF THE 2024 EDITION OF STUDENTS ON ICE

In partnership with the Department of National Education, Youth and Sports, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation renewed its participation in the Students on Ice (SOI) programme, which gives two first-year college students (aged 16 to 17) from Monaco the opportunity to travel to the Canadian Arctic in the company of educators and scientists.

The 2024 edition of SOI was launched on Friday 23 February in the auditorium of the Lycée Rainier III on the occasion of the Foundation's Polar Symposium. In his opening speech, Olivier

Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Foundation, spoke about the challenges of protecting the polar regions. Geoff Green, Founder and Director of the SOI Foundation, then addressed the college students in a video message, before the laureates of the 2023 edition, Louise Trichereau and Théodora Sogno, shared their experiences and gave feedback about the trip. Lastly, the President of the Ice Memory Foundation, Jérôme Chappellaz, and its Director, Anne-Catherine Ohlmann, gave a talk about the work of their institution to preserve past climate data in glaciers by saving ice cores.



© JC Vinaj / FPA2

## #TIDESOFCHANGE: RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT SUSTAINABLE FASHION

On Friday 22 March at Monaco Yacht Club, during Monaco Ocean Week, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation held a first panel discussion on the subject of sustainable fashion, entitled '#TidesOfChange'. Open to the public, it brought together three inspiring experts to discuss the challenges involved in making fashion more ethical and sustainable: Runa Ray, fashion designer and Founder of Fashioning for Social Environmental Justice, Marisa Selfa, CEO of Ocean Born Lifestyle & Tailored by Ocean Born at the Ocean Born Foundation, and Georgia-Rae Taylor, Sustainable Strategy Director at Eco-Age.

In the era of fast fashion, how can we reduce the environmental footprint of this industry that is one of the most polluting in the world? Reducing clothing consumption, using AI to regulate production and creating sectors founded on social and environmental justice are some of the avenues that were explored during the panel event moderated by Nadège Massé, Director of Communications at the Foundation. Further emerging solutions for a more sustainable model were discussed, including slow fashion, which is based on fair practices and minimal impact.

## SEAS AND OCEANS WEEK AT THE LYCÉE ALBERT IER

Seas and Oceans Week was held at the Lycée Albert Ier from 15 to 19 April with the help of the Department of National Education, Youth and Sports. Led by 30 teachers for more than 300 students, the week featured a large number of cross-curricular educational activities delivered in the different languages studied at the school.

Several sessions were run with external partners from the Principality, including the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, giving students the opportunity to exhibit their work, play educational board games designed by their classmates, participate in fun, creative workshops and attend a theatre-based talk.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

### Making nature's voice heard through images

The fourth edition of the Environmental Photography Award once again involved the presentation of an open-air exhibition on the Promenade du Larvotto, from 5 June to 30 July. One of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's flagship awareness-raising events, it shares moving pleas for the protection of nature through a touring exhibition and an accompanying hardback book. It was supported by Barclays Private Bank, SEK International University and the Permanent Delegation of the Principality of Monaco to UNESCO as part of the celebrations marking Monaco's 75th anniversary as a member of UNESCO (1949-2024).

The 2024 Environmental Photography Award featured 36 photographs, shortlisted from over 11,000 images taken by 2,600 professional and amateur photographers from all over the world. A jury composed of eminent photographers and environment champions presented awards to seven photographs (one winner in each of its five categories, the Public Award and the Students' Choice Award).



© Fernando Faciole



© Thomas Vijayan





© Philippe Fitte / FPA2

Photojournalist and film producer Aaron Gekoski was declared the overall winner of the competition for his photograph *See No Evil*, which highlights the exploitation of captive orangutans in the tourism industry. Also winning the Humanity versus Nature and Changemakers: Reasons for Hope categories, he was awarded a 7,000-euro grant and a trip to SEK International University's scientific station in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

*"When it comes to the natural world, we know that people are more inclined to protect what they know and love. So we photographers have a vital role to play in informing the public, providing them with new knowledge and sharing our emotions and unique experiences."*  
Alex Mustard, President of the Jury

Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Foundation, and the 2024 Environmental Photographer of the Year, Aaron Gekoski, were joined by a large cohort of photographers at the exhibition opening, including the Jury President, Alex Mustard, and the Jury Members, Javier Aznar, Esther Horvath, Jasper Doest and Britta Jaschinski, along with Fernando Faciole, winner of the 2024 Public Award, Catherine Holmes, a photographer shortlisted in the Ocean Worlds category, Jaime Rojo, winner of the Into the Forest category, who also had two other shortlisted photographs in the exhibition, and Ivan Pedretti, who had two images in the Polar Wonders category.

*"It is essential to arm the public with knowledge so that environmental awareness can be turned into action in our everyday lives."*  
Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

## THE 2024 WINNERS

- **Humanity versus Nature and Environmental Photographer of the Year:**  
**Aaron Gekoski**, *See No Evil*, 2023, Thailand
- **Change Makers: Reasons for Hope:** **Aaron Gekoski**, *Substitute Rhinos*, 2022, Zimbabwe
- **Ocean Worlds:** **Magnus Lundgren**, *Inner Space Hitchhiker*, 2019, Philippines
- **Into the Forest:** **Jaime Rojo**, *Explosion of Monarchs*, 2022, Mexico
- **Polar Wonders:** **Daniel Valverde Fernández**, *Shaking Off the Snow*, 2022, Canada
- **Public Award 2024:** **Fernando Faciole**, *Rainy Release*, 2023, Brazil
- **Students' Choice Award 2024:** **Thomas Vijayan**, *Parenting Goals*, 2022, Antarctica



© Philippe Fitte / FPA2



© Magnus Lundgren



© Aaron Gekoski



© Daniel Valverde Fernández

## EXHIBITION TOUR DATES

- **8 April to 15 December 2024:**  
 GoodPlanet Foundation, Paris
- **15 May to 12 September 2024:**  
 Monaco train station, in partnership  
 with SNCF Hubs & Connexions
- **18 September to 15 December 2024:**  
 Montreal Convention Centre
- **3 to 14 October 2024:**  
 Ségur Hall, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
- **2 December 2024 to 13 January 2025:**  
 El Retiro Park, Madrid



© Jaime Rojo

## THE GREEN SHIFT FESTIVAL

### Creating new ecological narratives

For its second edition, the Green Shift Festival invited the public to the Promenade du Larvotto on 5, 6 and 7 June for three days on the themes of (Re)Connecting with the Living World, Imagining the Sea, and Ecology and Pop Culture.

Already proving to be a crucial public awareness-raising event, the Green Shift Festival is designed to give people the opportunity to meet and talk in a friendly setting to stimulate new ecological narratives. The festival's eclectic programme brings together inspirational experts from a variety of backgrounds to take part in performances, screenings of short films, panel discussions and workshops.

Over three days, it puts on a diverse range of awareness-raising events to highlight the numerous positive forms of environmental engagement and inspire as many people as possible. Among this year's key participants were screenwriter and film director Maud Baignères, Founder of Shibuya International, Cédric Biscay, artists Laure Prouvost and Bianca Bondi, manga

illustrator Sinath Bou, Director of the Carmignac Foundation, Charles Carmignac, climate activist dance company Minuit 12, anthropologist Hélène Collongues, journalist and sailor Olivier Le Carrer, film critic Xavier Leherpeur, Founder of the On est Prêt movement and President of Imagine 2050, Magali Payen, Editor-in-Chief of *Otaku Manga*, Matthieu Pinon, singer Xavier Polycarpe, Mapuche shaman Jorge Quilaqueo, journalists Sabah Rahmani and Sébastien Uscher.

*“By encouraging new ecological narratives, we can transform the way we perceive our world and interact with it. That is precisely the objective of all the work undertaken by the Foundation since it was established, whether supporting projects on the ground or taking part in major international events: to promote a more harmonious, more conscious and fairer relationship between people and their environment.”*

Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation



This year, the festival launched its very first evening 'happy hour to get involved' series to introduce the public to local environmental initiatives while they enjoyed specialities served from a food truck run in partnership with Sexy Tacos. In the mornings, the Kate Powers Foundation held free yoga and meditation classes.

Various school activities were organised, including a dance workshop with the Minuit 12 collective and a meeting with shaman Jorge Quilaqueo. The professional workshop for cultural institutions launched in 2023 was run again, in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Imagine 2050.

The festival also served as a test bed for fresh set design ideas, thanks to Gabriel-Noé Rosticher and Ahmad Reshad, two graduates of the École Supérieure d'Arts Plastiques de la Ville de Monaco, who designed some of the festival's furniture and seats in recycled, reusable wood. The Green Shift Festival was organised in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Les Rencontres Philosophiques de Monaco, the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Monaco Town Hall and Multimedia Library, Shibuya International, the Carmignac Foundation, Actes Sud, Imagine 2050,

Time for the Ocean, the Monaco Academy of the Sea, and media company We Demain, with the support of Sogeda.



© Philippe Fitte / FPA2



## UPAINT MONACO 2024

For the eighth consecutive year, the UPAINT street art festival transformed the Promenade du Larvotto into a fantastic outdoor gallery. From 7 to 10 June, 12 international artists celebrated street art to the delight of passers-by, art lovers and collectors. Their work on display in this exceptional seafront space depicted a world in harmony with nature,

encouraging spectators to dream and reflect on the major environmental issues. The festival ended on Monday 10 June in the company of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. Ahead of the traditional auction that closes the event each year, a cheque for 31,000 euros, raised at the 2023 edition, was presented to the Sovereign Prince for his Foundation.



© Direction de la Communication / Les Rencontres Philosophiques de Monaco

## PHILOMONACO WEEK: HONOURING ECOLOGY

From 11 to 16 June, for the third year in a row, Les Rencontres Philosophiques de Monaco organised PhiloMonaco Week, dedicating the first day to ecology once again. As the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation partnered with the event, Olivier Wenden, its Vice-Chairman and CEO, was invited to take part in the morning session at La Condamine market alongside philosophers Corine Pelluchon, Serge Audier, Thierry Paquot and

Olivier Rey, lawyer Aïnoha Pascual and journalist Alexandre Kouchner.

Three further ecology-related events were added to held that day: a “philosophy lunch” with Olivier Rey on the topic of ‘Repairing water’, then two panel discussions entitled ‘Is ecological radicalisation inevitable?’ and ‘Uninhabitable Earth?’, which sparked dialogue to try and answer some of the major questions of our time.

## ART EXPLORA FESTIVAL IN MARSEILLE

On Saturday 8 June, World Oceans Day, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation participated in the Ocean Weekend event held in Marseille as part of the Art Explora Festival, a touring festival with a 'museum boat' that sails all over the Mediterranean, offering the general public innovative cultural experiences with a focus on the issues facing that sea. The Foundation, a partner of the festival, organised a panel discussion entitled 'Journey to the Centre of the Pelagos Sanctuary' to

raise public awareness of the specially protected area of outstanding biodiversity covering 87,500 square kilometres between France, Monaco and Italy. H  l  ne Labach, Director of Miraceti, and Sylvain Petit, Director of SMILO – both representing partner organisations of the Foundation's Pelagos Initiative – were the speakers at the public panel event, which was held in the Vieux-Port district and moderated by Susan Gallon, Scientific Manager at MedPAN.



## INTERNATIONAL WRITING AND DRAWING COMPETITION

With the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and under the high patronage of the French National Commission for UNESCO, the association Nous les ambitieuses organised the fourth edition of its international writing and drawing competition, open to all French classes around the world, from secondary school to higher education. In 2024 and 2025, the competition is highlighting planetary health with the theme 'Let's preserve our resources – citizen and environmental ambitions!'.

On World Oceans Day, Saturday 8 June, in the presence of wildlife photographer Laurent Ballesta, patron of the event, the general public took part in activities in Monaco train station organised to accompany the announcement of the competition's first 50 international winners. Another 50 winners will be selected in 2025 and the winning works will be exhibited in Monaco as a prelude to the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June.

## MONTE-CARLO TELEVISION FESTIVAL



© Festival de Télévision de Monte-Carlo

The 63rd edition of the Monte-Carlo Television Festival took place from 14 to 18 June. During the event, the Prince Rainier III Special Prize, awarded in partnership with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and accompanied by a grant of 10,000 euros, was presented to German meteorologist Sven Plöger for his documentary *Wie extrem wird das Wetter, Sven Plöger? Die Macht des El Niño* (How extreme will the weather be, Sven Plöger? The Power of El Niño). The film follows the scientist to Panama to investigate the impact of the El Niño weather pattern, which is linked to severe storms, droughts and temperature increases. In the film, Plöger interviews world-famous scientists to try and find solutions for adapting to those extreme weather events. Sven Plöger was given the Prince Rainier III Special Prize by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Honorary President of the festival, and HSH Princess Charlene, during the festival's closing ceremony.



## AGIR POUR LE VIVANT FESTIVAL

The fifth Agir pour le vivant ('Action for the living world') festival was held from 26 August to 1 September in Arles with the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the third year in a row. The event provides a platform for cross-disciplinary discussion with the aim of building a more connected society. This year the Foundation oriented its support towards the Université du Vivant, an educational initiative

offering some 60 young people aged 18 to 25 masterclasses, practical workshops and meetings with environment experts, in the same vein as the Foundation's Re.Generation Future Leaders Program. The students had the opportunity to hear Imogen Napper, marine scientist, National Geographic explorer, plastic pollution expert and a member of the 2023 Re.Generation cohort.



© FPA2

## EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

On Sunday 15 September, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation took part in the European Heritage Days event for the third time, this year with the theme “routes, networks and connections”. The public was invited inside Villa Girasole to see the restoration of exceptional 19th-century leather wall hangings in one of the rooms. They were also treated to an exclusive display of animal sculptures made from recycled cardboard by Olivier Bertrand and a guided tour by the artist himself. Another highlight of the day, which was attended by 130 visitors, was the “walking”

presentation of the work of the Foundation and the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean (CIESM) with Philippe Mondielli, the Foundation’s Scientific Director, Salomé Mormentyn, Coordinator of the Polar Initiative, Laura Giuliano, Scientific Director of CIESM, and Lucile Courtial, Executive Secretary of Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed). Visitors learned about various aspects of the two institutions’ work, especially efforts to protect migratory animals and to create marine protected areas (MPAs).



## 2ND #TIDESOFCHANGE SUSTAINABLE FASHION PANEL EVENT IN NEW YORK

On Monday 23 September, as part of Climate Week in New York, the Pratt Institute School of Art hosted a round table discussion on sustainability and inclusivity in the fashion industry. While the fashion industry is one of the world's most polluting, new solutions are emerging to transform it and move towards greater social and environmental justice. In front of an audience of around 100 art, design and cultural management

students, three inspirational speakers discussed the issues at stake, raising awareness of the concrete measures in place to achieve a more ethical and conscious sector: Runa Ray, fashion designer and Founder of Fashioning for Social Environmental Justice, Nicole Rycroft, Founder and Executive Director of Canopy, and Dr Mary McBride, Chair and Professor at Pratt Institute Creative Enterprise Leadership.



## 2ND WORLD LIVING SOILS FORUM



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Moët Hennessy launched the World Living Soils Forum in 2022, a biennial international event dedicated to the preservation and regeneration of living soils, with the aim of facilitating the transition to regenerative agriculture around the world. Co-hosted with ChangeNOW, the second edition of the event was held at LUMA Arles on 8 and 9 October and brought together 180 speakers, including scientists, entrepreneurs, investors and farmers, as well as representatives of NGOs, institutions and associations. The two days were structured around four topics: Finance, Policies and Education; Soil Health and Measurement;

Nature-based Solutions and Regenerative Practices; and Society, Art and Culture. Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, participated in a panel discussion on the importance of training future farmers and future leaders in living soils. He took the opportunity to speak about the Re.Generation Future Leaders Program and the Green Shift Festival, which aim, respectively, to upskill changemakers, and to create positive new narratives to transform our shared goals. The World Living Soils Forum also saw the launch of a call to action to protect and regenerate living soils.



## SCREENING OF *CAP CORSE: THE MYSTERY OF THE RINGS*

The premiere of documentary *Cap Corse: the Mystery of the Rings* took place at the Oceanographic Museum on Monday 21 October in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. The film follows the latest Gombessa expedition undertaken by French photographer and biologist Laurent Ballesta with the support of Monaco Explorations and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The Gombessa team, accompanied by scientists from a variety of disciplines, uncovered

the secrets of some fascinating circular formations 20 metres in diameter discovered at a depth of over 100 metres off the coast of Cap Corse in Corsica. Unique in the Mediterranean, they are home to exceptional biodiversity. Laurent Ballesta gave a talk to the audience of 300 about the investigative documentary, which was co-written by film director Yann Rineau, Aurine Crémieu and himself, providing fascinating insights into their remarkable explorations.





# INITIATIVES

## RE.GENERATION FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM



© Axel Bastello/Palais Princier

The younger generation has a key role to play in tackling the current climate and biodiversity crisis. Informed about the dangers our planet faces and intent to take action, they will become tomorrow's leaders – those able to drive positive change.

In 2023, the Foundation launched the Re.Generation Future Leaders Program with the support of the Cuomo Foundation, Boustany Foundation, Moët Hennessy group and Moross family. The aim of this initiative is to promote and support talented young people who are destined to step into decision-making roles. These promising individuals from various parts of the world, all under the age of 35, are drawn from a wide range of sectors, including activism, conservation, science, media, finance,

politics, art, entrepreneurship and innovation. They all display an outstanding commitment to the environment, borne out by concrete action. Every year, around a dozen talented individuals are selected by the Foundation in partnership with a network of high-level partners (National Geographic, Jackson Wild, IUCN, One Young World, EuroNatur, Teri, Edinburgh Ocean Leaders and International University of Monaco).

In June 2024, 13 talented future leaders were hosted in Monaco for the second edition of the Re.Generation summer school. In addition to intensive training provided by the University of Edinburgh and INSEAD business school, the participants attended masterclasses given by

eminent figures, including Paul Polman (CEO, Imagine), explorer Ben Saunders, Sandrine Sommer (Director of Sustainable Development, Moët Hennessy), Heraldo Muñoz (former Minister-Secretary General of the Government of Chile), Santiago Lefebvre (Founder and CEO, ChangeNOW), and journalist Alex Wood Morton.

The cohort was given a special opportunity to have a conversation with HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco at the Palace of Monaco.

Following the course, support for the young leaders continued with public speaking opportunities at a host of events: the One Young World Summit, New York Climate Week, Reset Connect London, the Blue Earth Summit, COP16 and COP29. The visibility of the young leaders was also enhanced through interviews with the BBC and *Les Échos*.

Efforts to support the Re.Generation community continued with online masterclasses and interviews with experts on various environmental

subjects. A first in-person meeting was held in New York, as part of Climate Week, offering the cohort members present a fantastic opportunity to expand their networks.

[www.regeneration-leaders.org](http://www.regeneration-leaders.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the leadership and communication skills of the talented young people selected.
- Increase their visibility to highlight their environmental commitment and projects.
- Grow their network with a community of committed young leaders to amplify the impact of their actions.



## FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE



© Ian Hardy / FPA2

Forests are home to the majority of plant and animal species in the biosphere. They fertilise our soils, moderate our climate and provide many other vital ecosystem services. They are the green heart and lungs of our planet. Yet the destruction of this invaluable natural heritage has been increasing in recent decades. The world's largest tropical forest areas – the Amazon, Central Africa and Southeast Asia – are subject to enormous pressure, which threatens the ecological balance of the entire planet.

In 2022, given the urgency of the situation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, together with the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, the International Ranger Federation, the Global Forest Coalition and the International Indigenous

Forum on Biodiversity, launched the Forests and Communities Initiative (FCI). The initiative aims to protect tropical forest ecosystems through the direct action of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs), who play a key role in forest conservation. To achieve this, FCI adopts a holistic approach encompassing environmental law, best practice in forest conservation, protected area management and sustainable financing.

In 2024, the Forests and Communities Initiative approved support for four new projects located in Brazil, Ecuador, Papua New Guinea and Cameroon, bringing the total number of projects supported to ten. The year 2024 was marked by a strategic shift in response to the conclusions of the initiative's international conference, held in

November 2023 in Monaco. The event highlighted the need for a holistic approach that rethinks financing and governance mechanisms to foster greater recognition of Indigenous knowledge and promotes a rights-based, gender-just framework; the conference concluded with a call to action. To address these challenges, FCI launched a call for expressions of interest to establish strategic partnerships with Indigenous-led organisations active on the ground in the target regions for forest protection: the Amazon and Congo basins and Southeast Asia.

From over eighty applicant organisations, three will be selected that will then be responsible for choosing a portfolio of high-impact local projects. By bypassing international intermediaries and directly supporting IPs and LCs, FCI gives them a voice and the power to develop and choose the most relevant projects, which ensures effective local forest protection.

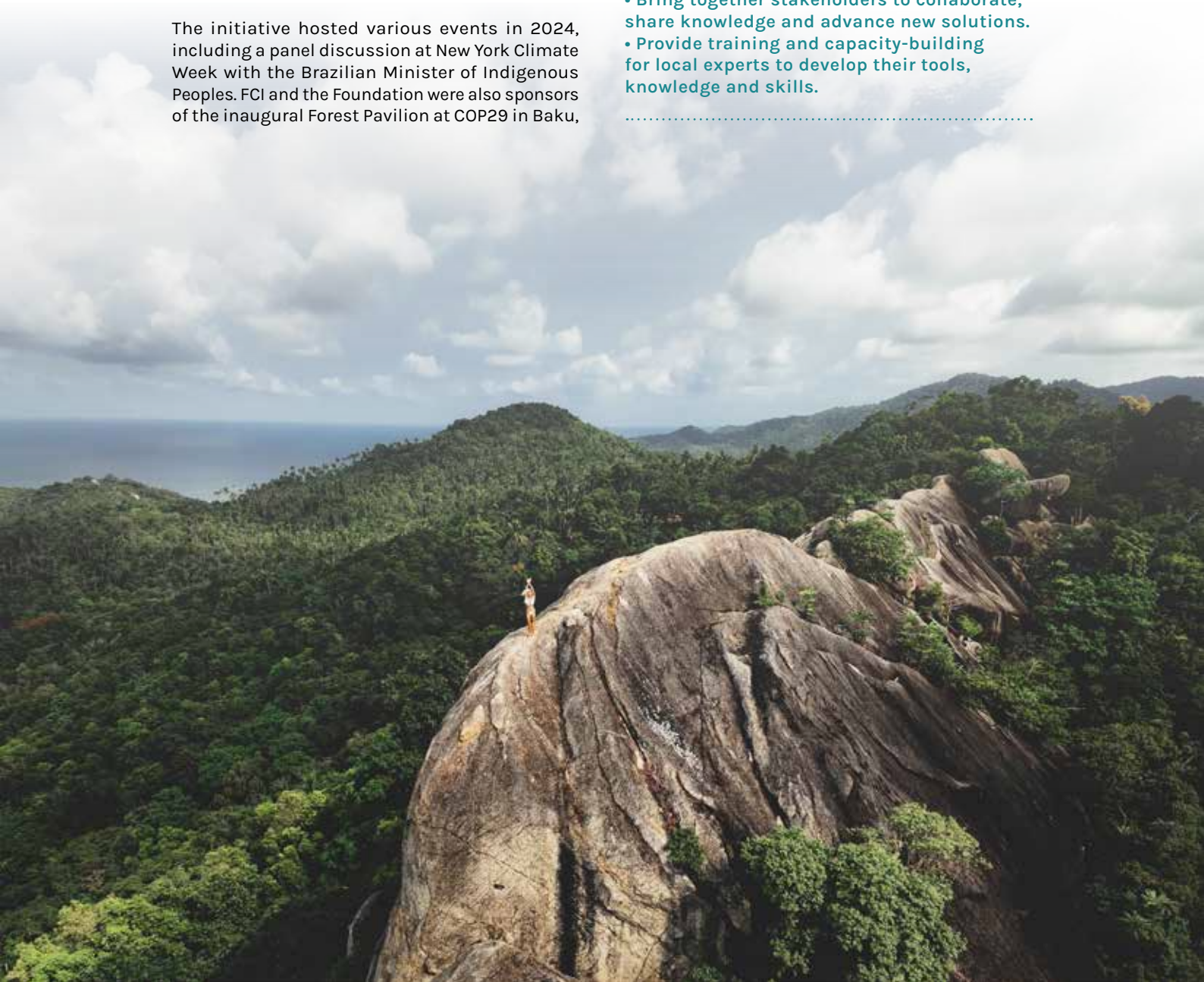
The initiative hosted various events in 2024, including a panel discussion at New York Climate Week with the Brazilian Minister of Indigenous Peoples. FCI and the Foundation were also sponsors of the inaugural Forest Pavilion at COP29 in Baku,

Azerbaijan, organised by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), in which they hosted a session on the roles of women, youth and Indigenous peoples in the context of the 'Forests for Climate, People and the Planet' event. This well-attended event was livestreamed on the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) YouTube channel.

[www.forestsandcommunitiesinitiative.org](http://www.forestsandcommunitiesinitiative.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Support the conservation of forest ecosystems through the action of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) in the Amazon and Congo basins and in Southeast Asia.
- Bring together stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge and advance new solutions.
- Provide training and capacity-building for local experts to develop their tools, knowledge and skills.





## BLUE SOLUTIONS HUB



The ocean offers huge potential for combatting climate change and biodiversity loss thanks to innovative nature-based solutions. These solutions are often developed by promising start-ups, but they struggle to access the capital needed to boost their impact. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which covers Life Below Water, is still severely underfunded, which prevents these companies from achieving significant benefits for the environment and society.

The Blue Solutions Hub is a programme focused on the development of ocean innovation and the transition towards a sustainable, regenerative blue economy. Its main partners are Monaco Asset Management, Builders Vision, Barclays and MIT Solve. The initiative addresses various sectors of priority interest, in particular solutions

to combat plastic pollution, sustainable blue food systems, sustainable shipping, ocean data harvesting, ethical, sustainable tourism, and harnessing innovative nature-based solutions to protect ecosystems. In supporting businesses at different stages of maturity, from start-ups to growing companies, the Blue Solutions Hub acts as a driver of change that aims to accelerate progress in the blue economy. It focuses on three key objectives: bringing together investors and innovators, fostering collaboration and facilitating access to resources; building a start-up pipeline that identifies and supports innovative ideas that meet ocean-related challenges; and fostering the growth of more mature businesses through targeted investment and strategic consulting to help boost their impact effectively.

In 2024, the Blue Solutions Hub made significant progress in the pursuit of its mission. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation hosted three editions of the Ocean Innovators Platform (p. 27-29): during Monaco Ocean Week in March, during New York Climate Week in September and in Singapore in November. These events brought together more than 500 investors and innovators, providing a wealth of opportunities for productive collaboration.

The ReOcean Fund, the private investment fund launched by the Foundation in 2023 to support SDG14 Life Below Water, advanced with its international promotion and its first investment in NatureMetrics, a leading provider of nature intelligence solutions powered by eDNA technology.

Also this year, alongside ODDO BHF Asset Management and Altitude Investment Solutions, the Foundation launched an innovative ocean-related financial index, the Blue Economy Index.

In addition, through its partnership with the MIT Solve Challenge programme, the Blue Solutions Hub awarded 100,000 US dollars in prizes to two innovative companies: SXD, which uses AI to reduce waste in the textile industry, and Symbrosia, which develops seaweed-based livestock feed solutions to reduce methane emissions.

## OBJECTIVES

- Foster the development of ocean innovation.
- Accelerate the transition towards a sustainable, regenerative blue economy.
- Bring together policymakers, investors and innovators to foster collaboration and facilitate access to resources.
- Invest in innovative, high-impact companies.



## POLAR INITIATIVE



© Philippe Fitte / FPA2

Despite their remoteness, the polar regions are essential not just to our health and well-being, but also to the stability of the planet. The poles harbour extraordinary biodiversity, with new species and resources constantly being discovered.

These regions provide food and livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of people, are home to local and Indigenous communities and fulfil a key role in regulating the global climate. Yet the polar regions are changing at an unprecedented rate. Global warming is causing accelerated ice sheet melt, which alters oceanic circulation, as well as ocean warming and acidification, which are particularly pronounced in the polar regions. These changes have consequences for humans worldwide: rising sea levels, climate disturbance

and intensifying extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, as well as direct impacts on polar organisms and ecosystems, which populations depend on for their survival.

Launched in 2022 by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in partnership with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, the Polar Initiative facilitates and supports scientific collaboration between the two poles, outreach to the public and policymakers about polar region issues, capacity-building activities and on-the-ground conservation projects.

In February 2024, the initiative hosted the second Polar Symposium in Monaco, bringing together scientists, NGOs, members of Indigenous communities and policymakers from the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Through panel discussions and workshops, participants identified priorities and concrete actions to strengthen the implementation of science and policy in the polar regions. The Polar Initiative has developed a new strategy from these discussions, along with a roadmap that aims to guide its diplomatic actions, reinforce the management and protection of polar ecosystems and support young scientists.

The initiative participated in a number of international events to communicate its results. During the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, it partnered with the European Polar Board and SCAR to host a session focused on long-term international engagement in the polar regions. At New York Climate Week, it organised an event on the rapid changes taking place in the Arctic, their impact on Indigenous communities and their link to the global climate crisis, in collaboration with the Arctic Initiative of Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, the Woodwell Climate Research Center and the Explorers Club. As part of the Polar Dialogue at the Arctic Circle Assembly, the initiative co-hosted a session on the connection between science and diplomacy.

In June 2024, the initiative launched its second call for projects with a focus on polar ecosystem protection and the use of scientific data to inform policy. The results of its first call for projects in 2023 were also announced and the initiative began supporting four new projects in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Three young Arctic scientists were selected for IASC-PA2F Fellowships, bringing the number of active fellows to seven. In addition, a new partnership was signed with the Istituto Idrografico della Marina Militare (IIM) to enable students to participate in polar expeditions. As a result of this collaboration, two students joined the High North 24 expedition in the Arctic in 2024.

[www.thepolarinitiative.org](http://www.thepolarinitiative.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Enhance international diplomacy to improve the protection of Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems and ensure that they are managed sustainably.
- Strengthen research programmes, focusing on capacity-building for early-career scientists and improving scientific collaboration between the two poles.
- Facilitate international collaboration between the various stakeholders in both polar regions.
- Support Indigenous populations in managing the impact of polar changes on their culture and way of life.



## DONORS' INITIATIVE FOR MEDITERRANEAN FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS - DIMFE



© Vjose-Narte / Xh.Xherri

Protecting freshwater ecosystems and managing water resources sustainably are key challenges in the 21st century. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, MAVA Foundation and Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation therefore joined forces to focus action on the conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems in the Mediterranean. In September 2021 they launched the Donors' Initiative for Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems (DIMFE) at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. The initiative has since been joined by the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Water covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface, but only 2.5% of it is freshwater. Despite the scarcity of wetlands, they are home to 12% of all known species. Yet their extinction rate is four to

six times higher than in marine and terrestrial environments. In the Mediterranean, populations of freshwater vertebrates have declined by an average of 28% since 1993 (Tour du Valat, 2021), and more than half of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1970. Protecting freshwater ecosystems is vital, particularly because they play a key role in the development and well-being of human populations through the provision of ecosystem services (drinking water, crop irrigation, etc) and nature-based solutions for tackling climate change.

In 2024, five new projects were supported by DIMFE in three Mediterranean countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Türkiye – bringing the total number of supported wetland restoration, conservation and protection field projects to fifteen.

A 4th call for projects was launched during the year to support new projects starting in 2025, for which 72 applications were received.

DIMFE participated in the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum in Tunis on Tuesday 6 February. HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco opened the plenary sessions with a video message and the initiative organised a side event in partnership with the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet). Addressing solutions to the water crisis, it emphasised the importance of putting the protection and restoration of Mediterranean freshwater ecosystems at the forefront of multilateral water talks.

In May, the initiative also participated in the 10th World Water Forum in Bali. It hosted two side events advocating for the protection of water at the source, a rare focus of international water

conferences, which tend to concentrate on energy-intensive alternative water supply solutions, such as desalination.

[www.dimfe.org](http://www.dimfe.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Conserve and restore freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Manage water resources sustainably.
- Develop and implement sustainable funding mechanisms to achieve these aims.



## GLOBAL FUND FOR CORAL REEFS - GFCR



Coral reefs are home to a quarter of all marine life and support the livelihoods of at least a billion people around the world. They provide an estimated 2.7 trillion US dollars in goods and services per year. Almost half the planet's coral reefs have already disappeared due to climate change, pollution, overfishing and other anthropogenic stress factors. Without immediate action and rapid mobilisation of resources, 90% of the world's coral reefs could degrade or disappear in the next 20 years. The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) was co-founded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco

Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation in September 2020, after the concept was developed during a workshop in Monaco in 2018. The Fund is now a global partnership of member countries, philanthropic organisations, UN agencies, financial institutions and international conservation organisations.

The Fund's action is focused on the reefs most resistant to climate change – those that have the best chance of surviving planetary warming if other local drivers of degradation such as pollution can be eliminated or mitigated.

The GFCR is a blended finance instrument with a 10-year investment plan that raises public and private sector funding for initiatives and businesses working to mitigate local drivers of coral reef degradation and to increase the adaptive capacity of reef-dependent communities.

It is composed of two main funding mechanisms – a grant fund and an investment fund – and works to achieve four goals:

- **Protecting** priority coral reef sites, including climate change-resilient ‘coral refugia’.
- **Transforming** the livelihoods of communities and sectors dependent on coral reefs.
- **Restoring** coral reefs using new technologies and adaptive approaches.
- **Aiding** coral reef-dependent communities to recover from major shocks and environmental insecurity.

In 2024, the GFCR expanded its funding portfolio to 23 coral reef countries and raised over 62 million US dollars in public and private finance. It increased global awareness of the urgent need to protect coral reefs, with 28 events hosted or co-hosted, and participation in 33 events at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16), including the co-convening of an Emergency Special Session on Coral Reefs calling for immediate increases in funding to prevent coral reef extinction.

2024 saw significant growth in blue finance mechanisms across Micronesia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea and in support for reef-positive companies working to promote sustainable aquaculture and fishing and to tackle plastic pollution in Latin America and Southeast Asia. To date, the GFCR now boasts a total of 144 financial mechanisms and reef-positive businesses in its portfolio. The GFCR Grant Fund has mobilised over 120 million US dollars in catalytic funding, including multi-year commitments from 16 state and philanthropic donors, with 3 new donors confirmed in 2024. The GFCR Equity Fund has secured a total of 135 million US dollars in funding since its activation in 2022.

A total of 42 million US dollars has been invested in catalytic grant programmes for coral nations since the GFCR became operational in 2021. In 2024 alone, the GFCR Board of Directors made decisions worth over 31 million US dollars for global programmes and operations.

[www.globalfundcoralreefs.org](http://www.globalfundcoralreefs.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen the resilience of coral reef ecosystems as well as the communities and economies that depend on them by unlocking new public and private resources to support sustainable businesses and financial solutions.**
- **Unlock finance streams to support conservation and increase communities’ adaptive capacity.**





## MONK SEAL ALLIANCE



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The Mediterranean monk seal was once abundant throughout the Mediterranean Sea and parts of the adjacent Atlantic. The situation was extremely bleak 20 years ago, with a population diminished to an estimated 400 to 500 individuals due to hunting, deliberate killing, accidental entrapment in nets, disease and habitat destruction. The species was classified as 'critically endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Bold regional and national measures to save the species, including the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) and dialogue with fishing communities, have relieved the pressure. These efforts have borne fruit and the current population is estimated at around 900 individuals, distributed across a handful of key sites in the Mediterranean (mainly in Greece, Türkiye and Cyprus), as well as Madeira and Cap Blanc in the Atlantic.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has been supporting monk seal conservation projects in the Mediterranean since 2011. To address the lack of collaboration between stakeholders, it began organising various expert meetings in 2017. Then in 2019 it spearheaded the creation of a coalition of donors to protect monk seals and their habitat: the Monk Seal Alliance (MSA). The alliance currently brings together four foundations: the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Fondation Segré, Thalassa Foundation and Hans Wilsdorf Foundation. The aim of the Monk Seal Alliance is to mobilise resources to intensify efforts to protect the monk seal.

During the Our Ocean Conference, held in Athens from 15 to 17 April 2024, the MSA launched a project in partnership with the Greek Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency (NECCA), to accelerate the process of creating Natura 2000 protected areas and implement actions to mitigate threats.

In December 2024, following advocacy efforts by MSA and its partners, the Greek Government confirmed the signing of a ministerial decree to implement urgent measures to protect monk seals in the Ionian Sea – a major success that will help manage human activities in an area subject to intense tourism pressure.

The project coordinated by the EuroNatur Foundation in the Adriatic ended in 2024 with encouraging results. In Albania and Montenegro, the entire coastline was mapped and potential resting and breeding sites were identified. A roadmap to protect the species in the Adriatic was drawn up and the five project partners set up a joint database. In Türkiye, SAD-AFAG, a partner of the Foundation, continued its actions on the ground to raise awareness among students at 50 schools, as well as to develop the Afrika citizen science network, which now has more than 600

active members. Considerable efforts have also made it possible to measure direct threats to seal caves and to put a stop to illegal entry into critical areas for the species.

[www.monksealalliance.org](http://www.monksealalliance.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Encourage concerted action to protect the Mediterranean monk seal and its habitat.
- Support collaborative conservation projects throughout its area of distribution.
- Increase cooperation between both donors and stakeholders on the ground at local, national and regional level.



## PELAGOS INITIATIVE



© JC Vinaj / FPA2

The Pelagos Sanctuary is the first cross-border area of the Mediterranean dedicated to the protection of marine mammals, stretching over 87,500 square kilometres between France, Monaco and Italy and harbouring remarkable biodiversity. Rich in plankton, it is home to an abundance of different whale and dolphin species, several of which are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Due to a lack of sufficient resources and commitment from the member states, the Pelagos Sanctuary has not yet achieved its initial goals. In response, civil society took action: in 2021, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Managers Network (MedPAN) came together to create the Pelagos Initiative. In 2023, the Didier & Martine Primat Foundation

joined the initiative as a financial partner, followed by the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation in 2024. The purpose of the Pelagos Initiative is to act as a catalyst to strengthen the protection of the Sanctuary already implemented by the member states. As the territory of the Pelagos Sanctuary extends well beyond the coastal zone, reinforcing its protection could serve as an example for the management of marine protected areas in open waters.

Five projects resulting from the call for projects issued in 2023 in partnership with UBS Optimus Foundation and UBS Monaco were supported in 2024, all focused on combatting climate change within the Sanctuary. In 2024, a second call for projects was launched as part of this partnership. In March 2024, during Monaco Ocean Week, the Pelagos Initiative hosted its second Pelagos Forum.

More than 100 local stakeholders, including MPA managers, municipalities, members of civil society and the private sector, scientific organisations and representatives of international agreements came together to dialogue and develop collaborative projects within the Sanctuary.

The initiative invited the Sanctuary's varied stakeholders to form a consortium and develop a joint project focused on ecosystem conservation in the zone. This new strategy was implemented in response to the results of the first Pelagos Forum hosted by the initiative, which highlighted both the lack of and the need for an integrated, community-based approach, recommending greater cooperation through the development of collaborative projects. In response to the call for expressions of interest, a consortium was shortlisted and granted initial support of 25,000 euros to develop and structure a large-scale multi-stakeholder project.

[www.initiativepelagos.org](http://www.initiativepelagos.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Support and promote research and collaborative activities in the Pelagos Sanctuary to protect marine mammals and their habitats.
- Raise awareness of the Sanctuary and the actions undertaken there.
- Facilitate interaction between the Sanctuary's MPA managers and organise joint activities.
- Raise funds and support projects to implement these actions and contribute to the Sanctuary's protection and conservation objectives.



## THE MEDFUND



© Renaud Dupuy de la Grandrive

Nearly 9% of the Mediterranean benefits from protection in the form of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other spatial conservation measures. Properly managed MPAs are scientifically proven to protect marine biodiversity, restore fish stocks and strengthen the resilience of marine ecosystems. However, Mediterranean MPAs are underfunded and/or funded sporadically, limiting their capacity to protect these ecosystems effectively and sustainably.

The MedFund is a Monaco-based environmental trust fund that was established in 2015 by France, Tunisia and Monaco on the initiative of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Set up with the sole purpose of financing marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean, the MedFund embodies the commitment of several Mediterranean countries and international environmental organisations.

The fund consists partly of an innovative financing mechanism that raises substantial capital, with the investment revenues providing MPAs with regular, long-term funding. Transparent and secure, it adheres to a responsible investment policy that is in line with a new, more sustainable Mediterranean economy. The MedFund receives funding from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, MAVA Foundation, Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Project, Global Environment Facility (GEF), French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), French Development Agency (AFD), the Governments of Monaco and Spain and a network of partner aquariums and zoos, including the Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation and Seaquarium Institut Marin in Le Grau-du-Roi, France.

In 2024, the MedFund Board of Directors approved funding of nearly 500,000 euros for two Albanian MPAs over the next five years: Porto Palermo MPA and Karaburun-Sazan MPA. This funding is being granted to local civil society organisations working alongside the national agencies in charge of protected areas. It helps finance activities that are vital for the management of these natural spaces, protecting marine ecosystems and the populations that depend on them. To date, the MedFund is supporting 21 MPAs, 5 of which are under strong protection, in 9 Mediterranean countries: Albania, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Türkiye, Montenegro, Lebanon, Croatia and Greece. This equates to over

9,600 square kilometres of protected coastal and marine areas and a total financial investment of around 6.6 million euros.

Guided by the new Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the Convention on Biological Diversity and the objective of reaching 30% of marine areas protected by 2030, the MedFund aims to consolidate its achievements in its 9 countries of operation and amplify its action in the Mediterranean. To this end, a 2025–2030 strategic plan is being developed to guide the MedFund's actions.

[www.themedfund.org](http://www.themedfund.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Mobilise public and private stakeholders to unlock new funding streams and raise awareness about the role of MPAs.
- Contribute to the long-term financing of underfunded but vital activities for effective MPA management, including recurring management costs.



## BEYOND PLASTIC MED - BEMED



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Plastic pollution is a major ecological problem for the ocean. Once it finds its way into the natural environment, plastic can take up to 500 years to disappear and is harmful to many animal species. More than 10 million tons of plastic enter the global ocean every year. The Mediterranean is one of the most heavily polluted seas in the world, contaminated with over 3,000 billion plastic particles.

To address the problem, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation teamed up with the Tara Ocean Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe, MAVA Foundation and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2015 to launch the Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed) initiative. In January 2019, BeMed became an association under Monegasque law. BeMed is dedicated to reducing plastic pollution in the Mediterranean by supporting a network of committed stakeholders, implementing solutions and facilitating the sharing of best practice.

### Call for micro-initiatives

To tackle local issues as effectively as possible, every year BeMed supports projects designed to find alternatives, improve waste management systems, raise awareness, gather data and help introduce new regulations.

In 2024, BeMed renewed its call for micro-initiatives for the 8th year in a row: 14 new projects were selected across 9 countries as part of the network of Mediterranean stakeholders set up by BeMed to boost the success of local efforts and create a regional anti-plastic pollution movement.

### Reducing single-use plastics

- Reducing single-use plastics at one of Albania's largest music festivals – **Active Mobility, Albania.**
- Reducing single-use plastics at several sports events and boosting the capacity of environmental protection organisations in four coastal towns in Egypt – **Banlastic Egypt, Egypt.**
- Supporting Greek hotel and restaurant owners in reducing their consumption of single-use plastic and improving their waste management – **MedVenture, Greece.**
- Supporting the Environmental Protection Agency in eliminating single-use plastics on their premises and creating a best practice guide – **Zero Waste Montenegro, Montenegro.**

### Research and awareness-raising

- Creating a podcast produced by and with young Sicilians and raising awareness within school curriculums – **Associazione Ulisse ETS, Italy.**

- Promoting and expanding the ‘Bring Your Cup’ initiative – **Cyprus Environment Foundation, Cyprus.**
- Mobilising local stakeholders, especially the hospitality sector and the islanders themselves, to make Tinos a zero plastic waste island – **Social Cooperative Entreprise Kalloni-Kellia, Greece.**
- Producing a card game for schools, associations and sailing schools that raises awareness of the impacts of plastic – **DelTa, Italy.**
- Studying the impact of children’s awareness-raising activities on parents and creating a parents’ guide – **Network for Children’s Rights, Greece.**

#### **Innovating, cleaning up and recycling**

- Characterising plastic pollution, raising awareness and improving waste management on Galite islands – **Méditerranée Action Nature (MAN), Tunisia.**
- Organising sampling operations, beach clean-ups and creative upcycling workshops for students – **TunSea pour la Science Participative, Tunisia.**
- Installing bins, organising clean-up events and raising awareness – **Fushë-Arrëz Municipality, Albania.**
- Helping the hospitality sector to reduce its plastic footprint (Plastic Free Balearics certification) and upcycling waste (broken parasols, wetsuits, fishing nets) into commercially viable items – **Menorca Preservation Fund, Spain.**
- Supporting Moroccan agricultural sectors in reducing the production of plastic waste – **Engineering Business Leaders, Morocco.**

#### **Community of Practice**

In 2024, BeMed reinforced the assistance it gives its community by organising opportunities for exchange, including an event in Greece attended by many on-the-ground stakeholders already receiving support. Participants were offered training in the art of storytelling so they can use it as a tool in their awareness-raising initiatives. The community also had the honour of welcoming HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, who visited to learn about the results of their efforts.

#### **Deployment of the ‘Towards a zero single-use plastic hotel’ method in Tunisia**

BeMed Business Club’s first pilot project, carried out at the InterContinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu in 2022, was repeated in La Badira hotel in Tunisia. The Tunisian project concentrated on reducing plastic behind the scenes, especially in the kitchen, and generated positive results in terms of operational efficiency, costs and circular waste management. A ‘Guide for a successful adaptation’ has been produced for hoteliers wishing to replicate the approach.

#### **New pilot project in the retail sector**

In 2024, through its Business Club, BeMed launched a new project with Carrefour Monaco to reduce the use of single-use plastic in store. Scheduled to take two years, the project has four main aims: encouraging customers to reuse plastic, integrating reuse solutions in store, improving waste management, and deplasticising by removing or replacing plastic in consumer products.

#### **BeMed+ project**

Efforts in the two pilot regions, Monastir in Tunisia and the Shkumbin River in Albania, began in partnership with Surfrider Foundation Europe, IUCN, Notre Grand Bleu and the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania. This first year focused on field studies to identify existing scientific data, the main sources of plastic pollution, initiatives and good practice implemented in other cities, policy levers and barriers, as well as the social and economic measures required to reduce society’s dependence on plastic and limit plastic “leakage” into the environment in those regions. These efforts will enable the project’s future activities to be adapted to local contexts and issues.

[www.beyondplasticmed.org](http://www.beyondplasticmed.org)

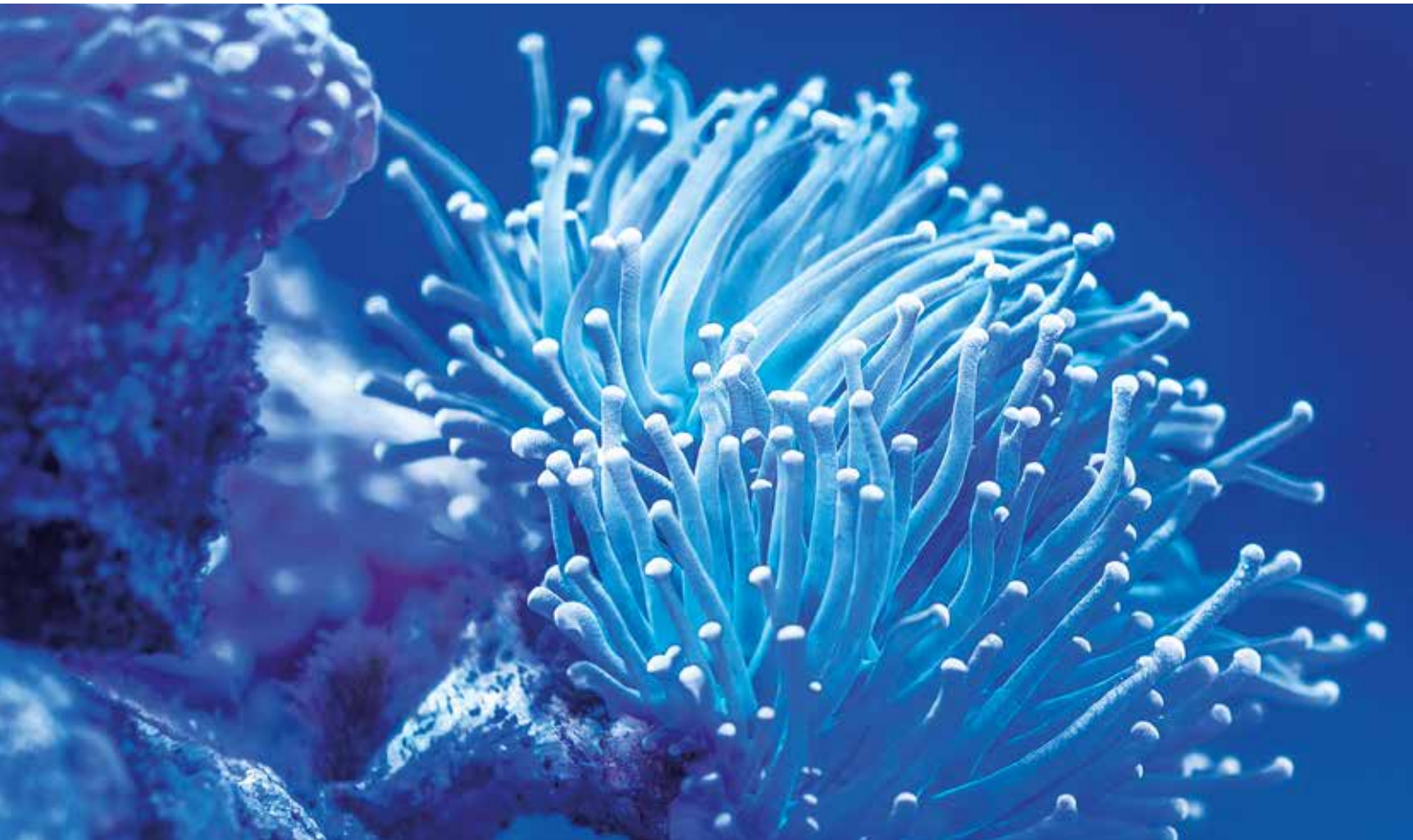
#### **OBJECTIVES**

- **Support and reinforce the capacity of stakeholders on the ground.**
- **Enable experience sharing and boost the impact of solutions by building and promoting the BeMed network of Mediterranean stakeholders.**
- **Implement concrete solutions to reduce plastic pollution.**

BeMed is generously supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation, Chanel, the Aether Fund of the Foundation for Future Generations, the Région Sud, the Vilebrequin Foundation, the Sancta Devota Foundation, the French Facility for Global Environment, Kresk 4 Oceans, and the Audemars-Watkins Foundation.



## OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND OTHER OCEAN CHANGES - IMPACTS AND SOLUTIONS - OACIS



The ocean absorbs more than a quarter of all CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by human activities every day, playing a critical role in mitigating global warming. However, the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> alters the chemistry of seawater: the ocean's pH drops, acidifying the water. It also becomes warmer and oxygen-poor. The impact of these combined stressors on marine organisms and ecosystems, as well as the communities that depend on them, is complex and not yet properly understood.

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and his Foundation brought attention to the issue at a very early stage, namely through the Monaco Declaration on Ocean Acidification, which was signed by 150 scientists from 26 countries in 2009. The OACIS initiative

(Ocean Acidification and other ocean Changes – Impacts and Solutions), launched in 2013, works to advance the science relating to the impacts of acidification and climate change on the ocean as well as ocean-based solutions to mitigate them.

OACIS brings together various stakeholders, including the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Government of Monaco, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Environment Laboratories, Monaco Scientific Centre, Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, Oceanographic Laboratory in Villefranche-sur-Mer, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI). As one of the

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## OBJECTIVES

- Advance research on ocean acidification and other ocean changes, including their impacts and potential solutions.
  - Bring together stakeholders working in this field.
  - Train the next generation of scientists studying the effects of climate change on marine life.
- 

Foundation's most technical initiatives, OACIS brings together scientists working in this field by organising expert meetings, synthesis activities and technical training. The results are tailored to a lay audience to raise awareness among the general public and to convey the messages to policymakers.

In 2024, OACIS continued to provide training for the next generation of scientists studying the effects of climate change on marine life. From 18 to 29 November, the initiative hosted the second edition of its Winter School on Ocean Acidification and Multiple Stressors for early-career scientists. Twelve early-career scientists from around the world (Argentina, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Croatia,

Ghana, Italy, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines and Portugal) took part in the training, which was held at the IAEA's Marine Environment Laboratories in Monaco and the Institut de la Mer de Villefranche (IMEV).

The initiative also hosted a full-house event during Monaco Ocean Week at the Monaco Yacht Club on 19 March. Two panel discussions moderated by a journalist highlighted the challenges and opportunities of CO<sub>2</sub> removal methods such as blue carbon and ocean alkalisation enhancement. OACIS also funded a new research project focused on the technique of alkalisation and its potential impacts on marine life, which began in April 2024.

## HUMAN-WILDLIFE INITIATIVE



Numerous business and leisure activities take place in natural spaces, resulting in human-wildlife interactions. A peaceful coexistence, in which biodiversity flourishes alongside the smooth operation of human activities, requires the land and resources to be shared harmoniously. To address this issue, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation launched the Human-Wildlife Initiative (IHF) in 2020 in partnership with the French National Council for the Protection of Nature, the Alpes-Maritimes Chamber of Agriculture, the Alpes-Maritimes Hunting Federation and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur League for the Protection of Birds (LPO PACA).

The initiative fosters dialogue between stakeholders from agriculture, hunting and nature conservation with the shared goal of improving human-wildlife coexistence. It seeks to identify and mobilise local stakeholders who are willing to get involved in developing concrete projects to improve the social acceptability of the necessary measures to more effectively manage the interrelationships between wildlife and human activities (agriculture, livestock farming, tourism, nature-based sports, hunting and environmental management). It supports and encourages the most committed stakeholders, via workshops, in order to create new partnerships and joint projects on a larger scale.

Initially, IHF focused on the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region in the south of France. In 2022, it was launched in Spain with the support of the Foundation's Spanish branch and think-tank Observatorio Grupo Campo Grande. This year it was launched in French-speaking Switzerland, in cooperation with technical partners including the Kora Foundation, Pro Natura and the Swiss Ornithological Institute. Eight new projects selected by the initiative's partners began in 2024. Several focus on raising awareness: a campaign encouraging users to protect the wintering grounds of emblematic species, a programme to educate local stakeholders about the conservation of a seabird colony, and the organisation of educational activities in schools. Other projects are science-based, such as studying wolf populations in a mountainous area and training speleologists to monitor bats.

The MonAsia association increased its support for the Human-Wildlife Initiative, specifically to fund actions in Mercantour National Park. In 2024, the initiative issued a call for projects covering the three territories currently involved: France (PACA

region), Spain and French-speaking Switzerland. It plans to progressively extend its scope throughout France and in other countries, with the aim of maximising its impact on the protection and mutual understanding of ecosystems.

[www.initiativehommefaunesauvage.org](http://www.initiativehommefaunesauvage.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Identify and mobilise local stakeholders committed to improving human-wildlife coexistence.
- Put forward innovative proposals and concrete recommendations for improved consideration of wildlife species (wolves, deer, wild boar, mouflon, ibex, chamois, foxes, mustelids, rodents, bats and birds) in land management.



## GREEN SHIFT INITIATIVE



© Philippe Fitte / FPA2

Since it was established, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has promoted a fairer, more harmonious and more sustainable balance between people and their environment by supporting projects on the ground, through diplomacy at major international meetings and by setting up mediation and awareness-raising initiatives.

In 2023, to reinforce its efforts to transform the way we perceive and interact with our world, the Foundation created the Green Shift Initiative. Taking a holistic approach marrying science, art and culture, it aims to foster the emergence of positive, inspiring ecological narratives. Calling on the emotions, creativity and collective intelligence, it encourages as many people as possible to get involved and take action to create a future that is both sustainable *and* desirable.

### The Environmental Photography Award

(p. 47-49), an annual competition launched by the Foundation in 2021, was naturally one of the founding pillars of this new initiative. Its purpose is to reward photographers for their work promoting environmental protection and to amplify the impact of their messages via a touring exhibition and a book.

The overall winner of the fourth edition in 2024 was photographer Aaron Gekoski for his image *See No Evil*, a poignant illustration of animal exploitation in the name of entertaining tourists.

The 36 new photographs shortlisted for the 2024 edition fulfilled the competition's dual objective of celebrating the incredible beauty of our planet and illustrating the varying relationships that people have with nature in the following five categories:

Polar Wonders, Into the Forest, Ocean Worlds, Humanity versus Nature and Change Makers: Reasons for Hope.

**The Green Shift Festival** (p. 50-51) is the second key component of the initiative. Free, open to all and held every summer in the Principality, it offers an opportunity to reflect and exchange ideas during joyful, inclusive ecology-focused events. For the second edition in 2024, a slot before the evening performances was added to the programme for the presentation of local environmental initiatives, to root the festival deeper into the Monegasque region and drive change. A total of 12 organisations came to talk about their actions. In addition, following an initial professional workshop held in 2023, a second working group was organised in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs, bringing together the Principality's cultural institutions to implement an action plan addressing the transition challenges facing the sector.

The Foundation invited two artists and set designers to help design the stage and some of the furniture and seating, in partnership with the École Supérieure d'Arts Plastiques de la Ville de Monaco and with the support of Sogeda.

Finally, the topic of sustainable fashion, recognised as a key area for shifting mindsets, was addressed in a series of **#TidesOfChange round table discussions** (p. 46 and 56), held during international events.

In 2024, during Monaco Ocean Week and New York Climate Week, these discussions helped raise awareness among young professionals and the general public about the subject of sustainable fashion to contribute to the sector's transformation. The September 2024 issue of *Impact* magazine featured a special report entitled 'The Fashion Industry, balancing innovation and sustainability' and the Foundation spoke at third-party events such as the Vroom Summit to share these messages.

Fashion, art, photography and culture in general have an immediate and universal impact on the general public. They help change our relationship with the living world and inspire us to turn our environmental awareness into action in our daily lives. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation also wishes to support projects that embody its values. With this in mind, the Green Shift initiative partnered with two ambitious programmes in 2024. The first was Imagine 2050, an online course for cultural and creative industries and businesses that provides the tools for understanding environmental issues and the inspiration to start communicating positive, sustainable socio-ecological narratives.

The second was the Déclic Influence programme, led by citizen mobilisation movement On Est Prêt, which enlists the help of influencers to show new audiences that the ecological transition is desirable. The Foundation was also a partner of the #ClimateCall event hosted on 22 October by the association, during which over 30 content creators took part in a unique and entertaining experience to raise awareness of the concept of "planetary boundaries" with the aim of accelerating their followers' ecological and social mobilisation. The initiative will also support a residency in 2025.

[www.thegreenshiftinitiative.org](http://www.thegreenshiftinitiative.org)



© Ian Hardy / FPA2

## OBJECTIVES

- Foster the emergence of new positive and inspiring ecological narratives.
- Educate and raise awareness through a sensitive, cultural approach to ecology.
- Question our lifestyles so we change our relationship with the living world.
- Support the transition of key industries such as culture and fashion.

· The Projects department of the Prince  
· Albert II of Monaco Foundation considers  
· requests for support submitted during  
· the Foundation's annual call for projects,  
· which currently also includes projects  
· aligned specifically with the objectives  
· of the Polar Initiative and the Forests and  
· Communities Initiative. The shortlisted  
· projects are presented to the Foundation's  
· Scientific and Technical Committee and  
· subsequently to the Board of Directors. In  
· 2024, out of the 224 applications received,  
· 23 projects were submitted for approval  
· by the Foundation's governing bodies and  
· 18 projects were accepted.

· **The 6 projects that were the subject of  
· a support agreement in 2024, excluding  
· those of the initiatives, are presented here.**



# PROJECTS



## PROTECTING SEA TURTLES and developing long-term economic activities on the island of São Tomé

**Project leader:** Programa Tatô  
**Location:** São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe supports remarkable biodiversity and is home to important breeding and feeding grounds for five sea turtle species on the IUCN Red List. Yet the coastal communities of this small island country off Central Africa have a long tradition of exploiting the turtles for meat and egg consumption, and for shell-based crafts. Fisheries bycatch, pollution, coastal urbanisation and erosion, illegal sand extraction and rampant tourism also put the reptiles' lives at risk. The purpose of this project is to strengthen the community sea turtle conservation programme on the island of São Tomé. It provides protection

and ecological monitoring of their critical nesting and foraging areas, as well as improving the living situations of communities who previously made a living from turtle poaching and trade, by creating long-term alternative economic activities. The project also works to change mentalities about the marine and coastal environment. Programa Tatô currently employs more than 60 people, mostly from coastal communities, who are in charge of monitoring and protecting the sites, applied research, environmental communication and education, developing sustainable ecotourism and advocating for marine biodiversity conservation.

### Objectives

- > Protect the critical nesting and feeding grounds of endangered sea turtles.
- > Promote long-term economic alternatives for former sea turtle poachers and traders.



## PACK4GOOD – GETTING FORESTS OUT OF THE BOX: reducing the impact of packaging on forests

**Project leader:** Canopy Planet Society  
**Location:** International

From food and electronics to clothing and cosmetics, packaging is ubiquitous in our society. The growth of e-commerce and the high demand for disposable items have only increased that trend. Moreover, in spite of the digital transition and the decline of printed material, the forest product industry is booming. Packaging now accounts for more than half the world's paper and cardboard production: approximately 221 million tonnes per year. As a result, some 2.3 billion trees – the majority from ancient and endangered forests – are logged each year. Canopy's Pack4Good initiative tackles this scourge by encouraging industry

leaders to implement permanent solutions that reduce waste and protect forests. Canopy harnesses the power of its partnerships, especially in the publishing and fashion sectors: to date, 347 businesses have joined Pack4Good, and 8 global packaging manufacturers have signed agreements to remove ancient and endangered forests from their supply chain and adopt next-generation solutions. Canopy continues to focus efforts on recruiting influential brands and conglomerates in order to catalyse sustainable, low-impact supply solutions in key sectors.

### Objectives

- > Reduce the growing impact of paper packaging on forests.
- > Develop viable eco-friendly alternatives to plastic and paper packaging.



## KASOFOR: providing access to vital needs and protecting biodiversity in Senegal

**Project leader:** Fondation Énergies pour le Monde  
**Location:** Senegal

Senegal's ambition is to achieve universal access to electricity by 2035. Currently, only a minority (42%) of the population in rural areas has a supply. The country's Energy Ministry and the Senegalese Rural Electrification Agency (ASER) have therefore introduced a policy to bring electricity to remote areas. Despite this, some parts still have no realistic prospects of access to clean, sustainable electricity. The rural coastal community of Kafountine, composed of 14 island villages, is suffering the full effects of climate change. Factors such as diminishing crop yields, rising water levels, biodiversity loss and deteriorating human health are making local populations vulnerable, causing neighbourhoods to be relocated and

prompting young people to leave. The Kasofor project, set up by Fondation Énergies pour le Monde, which specialises in electrification and rural development, is a response to an appeal from local elected representatives. It aims to boost the area's economic resilience holistically, at the same time as preserving biodiversity, promoting gender equality and providing access to essential services (water and electricity).

The project's scope is two-fold: developing a local economy that integrates women and youth into the community's value chains; and supporting eco-positive governance to ensure natural resources are managed sustainably while the local development plan is implemented.

### Objectives

- > Build on the area's economic resilience by supporting the integration of women and young people.
- > Strengthen governance centred on the sustainable management of natural resources.



## THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE OF MANGROVES

### towards local mangrove governance in Benin

**Project leader:** Louvain Coopération ASBL  
**Location:** Benin

Mangroves are outstanding reservoirs of biodiversity and areas of fundamental biological value. They also play a key economic role by providing populations with essential resources and services, and increasing the resilience of aquatic and coastal environments. But these tropical forest ecosystems are fragile and impacted by climate change and human activity. Salinity, drought, over-exploitation of resources, hydro-agricultural activities (rice paddies) and aggressive tourism are some of the factors contributing to mangrove decline and putting the basic needs of local communities at risk. In

southern Benin, the mangroves have lost almost a third of their surface area in two decades. The Socio-Ecological Resilience of Mangroves project implements governance policies to protect the endangered ecosystems and boost the well-being of the populations that depend on them. It takes action locally, raising awareness, empowering and advocating for community interests. It also builds knowledge and skills in the field of mangrove restoration and conservation, while at the same time strengthening the technical, financial, economic, social, environmental and institutional capabilities of local partners.

### Objectives

- > Improve the well-being of local communities and measures to protect their environment.
- > Strengthen the governance and management of mangrove ecosystems.



## IMPROVING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION in the Arctic

**Project leader:** Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), University of Helsinki  
**Location:** The Arctic

The Arctic region is particularly impacted by climate change, undergoing accelerated warming and potentially irreversible changes to its environment. Only sound scientific knowledge based on an integrated understanding of the Earth system will ensure its preservation in the future. Yet research efforts in these areas remain fragmented among the different disciplines. The Arena for the Gap Analysis of the Existing Arctic Science Co-operations (AASCO) is therefore bringing research communities together to work towards a joined-up approach to science. Over a two-year period (2020–2022), the project hosted two international forums assembling more than

600 participants and partners from a variety of fields, including the University of the Arctic (UArctic), the World Meteorological Organization, the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks, the Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System, China's Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Moscow State University and Harvard Law School. The project is ongoing, with two further conferences planned to strengthen the Arctic community by inviting scientific experts and international organisations to collaborate. In a changing geopolitical landscape, it is more vital than ever to ensure the availability and sharing of data on this endangered region.

### Objectives

- > Bring together research communities with expertise in a changing Arctic.
- > Ensure free access to data in a changing geopolitical landscape and boost research funding.



## STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE of Pakistan's coastal ecological and social systems

**Project leader:** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
**Location:** Pakistan

Pakistan has more than 1,000 kilometres of coastline. The large coastal city of Karachi is home to approximately 70% of the country's industrial activities, which generate high levels of pollution. Pakistan's coastal region harbours exceptional biodiversity, with its coral reefs, sea turtles, dolphins, porpoises and migratory birds, as well as significant natural resources, thanks in particular to its mangrove forests. These provide communities with essential services. Traditional fishing in the mangrove wetlands, inlets and adjacent coastal waters contributes significantly to the livelihoods of households in the Sindh coastal area. But these human activities are damaging the environment, with

trees logged for firewood, habitat encroachment and uncontrolled waste disposal. The project aims to curb or even reverse these trends to ensure coastal development is managed sustainably, bringing together traditional coastal communities and protecting their well-being. This objective can be achieved by building the capacity of coastal governance to implement practical measures with an integrated and inclusive approach, the goal being to preserve the coastal ecosystem and provide livelihoods for communities in the Indus delta and on the Baluchistan coast, while taking action to reduce poverty, particularly among women, which is an underlying factor in mangrove degradation.

### Objectives

- > Build the resilience of Pakistan's coastal ecosystems.
- > Improve resource management and living conditions in coastal communities.



Over the years, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has forged important partnerships with stakeholders that share its commitment to improving planetary health. A robust network of international organisations and institutions, along with scientific, economic and civil society bodies, stand by the Foundation to sustain its work and bolster its impact on the ground. In 2024, new Memorandums of Understanding and financial partnerships were established that are consistent with the Foundation's strategies and objectives.



# PARTNERSHIPS





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© Yacht Club Monaco

## PARTNERSHIPS

- **Seaworthy Collective**

**Objective:** to pool efforts on the forthcoming editions of the Ocean Innovators Platform (OIP) and in the context of the ReOcean Fund.

- **Permanent Delegation of the Principality of Monaco to UNESCO**

**Objective:** to co-organise the Foundation's 2024 Environmental Photography Award exhibition at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris as part of the celebrations marking Monaco's 75th anniversary as a member of UNESCO (1949–2024).

- **European Polar Board**

**Objective:** to collaborate on events organised as part of the Foundation's Polar Initiative, such as the 2nd edition of the Polar Symposium and the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference.

- **United Nations Ocean Conference 2025 (UNOC)**

**Objective:** to co-host the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF), a UNOC special event, in the Principality on 7 and 8 June 2025 with the Oceanographic Institute-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation and the French Organising Committee of UNOC 2025.

- **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

**Objective:** to foster collaborations in the context of the Foundation's Re.Generation Future Leaders Program initiative and IOC events.

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Marine Environment Laboratories**

**Objective:** to work together on ocean acidification and co-host events as part of the Foundation's Ocean Acidification and other Ocean Change – Impacts and Solutions (OACIS) initiative.

- **Istituto Idrografico della Marina (IIM)**

**Objective:** to develop partnerships, including for the IIM to host one or more students and/or scientists put forward by the Foundation during future hydrographic surveys.

- **Vendée Globe Foundation**

**Objective:** to welcome Vendée Globe skippers as participants in the Foundation's Re.Generation Future Leaders Program and to liaise over the selection of scientific projects in the fields of the ocean and technology for Vendée Globe Foundation support.

## FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Art Explora Foundation
- Barclays Private Bank
- Builders Vision
- ChangeNOW
- Coty
- Fabergé
- Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Seychelles in Monaco
- Monaco Red Cross
- MonAsia
- The Monegasque
- Rolex
- Société Générale

· The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation  
· - whose executive team is based in the  
· Principality of Monaco - relies on its network  
· of influential international branches to  
· promote its work and raise awareness among  
· local audiences. The President of each branch  
· works in alignment with the Sovereign  
· Prince to support projects often focusing  
· on problems specific to their geographical  
· area, which bolsters the Foundation's impact  
· around the world. Since the Foundation was  
· established in 2006, 11 offices have been  
· opened: in France and the United Kingdom  
· (2007), Switzerland, the United States and  
· Canada (2008), Germany and Italy (2009),  
· Singapore (2011), Spain (2016), China (2019)  
· and Brazil for Latin America (2023).



OUR TEAMS  
AROUND THE  
WORLD



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## MONACO

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Vice-Chairman and CEO

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**Administrative and Financial Director**  
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## CANADA

The Canadian branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, headed by its President, Dr Diane Vachon, had a very active 2024 in terms of scientific projects and communication efforts. Among its achievements was the launch of a new initiative called Ombrelle to support research in the country's Arctic region in close collaboration with Indigenous communities. The projects selected by the branch and presented to the Foundation's Scientific and Technical Committee ranged from the study of nanoparticles in marine and ocean ecosystems to the impact of maritime transport on marine mammals. The Canadian office also continued its support for the team of Dr Esther Lévesque and Mrs José Gérin-Lajoie at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières for both their work on Inuit elder knowledge and their publications. In addition, the branch put on a one-off exhibition of 19 images from the various editions of the Foundation's Environmental Photography Award, with a spotlight on both Canadian and international projects. Held in the main hall of the impressive Montreal Convention Centre, *Beauty Will Save the World* opened at the pre-opening ceremony reception of the One Young World Summit on Wednesday 18 September and ran until Sunday 15 December, welcoming thousands of visitors. Dr Vachon and her team had the pleasure of welcoming the 2024 class of the Foundation's Re.Generation Future Leaders Program to the summit and organised a dinner in their honour.

The branch's President and management team would like to warmly thank the Montreal Convention Centre for its outstanding partnership for the photography exhibition, as well as Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP for their extraordinary support, both financial and logistical, from 2015 to 2025.



**President**

Dr Diane Vachon

**Treasurer**

Ms Eugenia Turculet

**Secretary**

Ms Sophie Amyot

**Members**

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- Prof Kalifa Goïta
- Prof Michel Gosselin
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## CHINA

Under its President, Robert Shi, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's representative office in Beijing took part in the annual conference of overseas NGOs hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and the Environment on Wednesday 31 January. A meeting with the China Environmental Protection Foundation (CEPF) was held on Friday 8 March to review the results of the second phase of the Lake Taihu cyanobacteria bloom project. It provided the opportunity for CEPF to present further potential cooperation projects, covering areas such as biodiversity, water resource protection and environmental education. On Sunday 24 March, to mark its fifth anniversary, the Foundation's Chinese branch published an article about its objectives and key achievements on social media platform Weibo. On 1 September, for the third year in a row, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation officially renewed its Friends of Tsinghua University Scholarship to support students working in the field of environmental protection. Lastly, the Beijing office was invited by the Embassy of Monaco in China to join them in the Monaco Pavilion in the National Pavilions Hall at the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, from 5 to 10 November, with a wall devoted to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.



**President**  
Mr Robert Shi

**Secretary**  
Ms Sophie Sun

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## FRANCE

In 2024, under the leadership of its President, Thomas Grenon, the French branch renewed its support for the biodiversity preservation project run by Port Cros National Park in Hyères in the Var, which was launched in 2021 and is scheduled to run until 2025. Donations received from entities committed to protecting the ocean were allocated to the Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed) initiative, which works to combat plastic pollution in the Mediterranean. Several other projects were supported by the French branch in its bid to help amplify the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's work around the world: improving the long-term resilience of communities on the Kafountine Islands in Senegal, protecting the remarkable biodiversity of Sainte Marie in Madagascar and improving the resilience of its communities, carrying out a biodiversity inventory and mapping the territories of Port-Cros National Park, continuing to support the 'Ice Memory' programme, which aims to create a global sanctuary for ice cores from the world's major glaciers.



### **President**

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### **Treasurer**

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## GERMANY

The German branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, led by its President, Prof Dr Alexander Liegl, continued to build its network and develop its activities this year. A lunch was held for HSH the Sovereign Prince and 18 generous donors in Hamburg on Friday 26 April on the initiative of Heribert Diehl and his wife Jacqueline (Lui Ming) to raise funds for the Foundation and its German branch. Afterwards, they visited the Miniatur Wunderland museum for the opening of the new miniature model of Monaco by the Principality's royal family.

On 20 and 21 September, some of the Foundation's major patrons were invited to the Oktoberfest opening ceremony in Munich in the presence of Olivier Wenden, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Foundation. Mr Hans Kompers, a long-time benefactor, donated an electric car to the German branch, which was later sold at the Swiss Club of Monaco's 75th anniversary gala auction in aid of the Foundation. The year 2024 also saw new collaborations being forged: Romain Ciarlet, Executive Director of the Foundation and German branch's Board member, took part in the Global Asset Owner Meeting on Biodiversity in Frankfurt am Main (4 to 6 June), a new cooperation proposal was agreed for the ongoing partnership with the Deutsche Meeresstiftung (German Ocean Foundation) and discussions were held with research zoologist HRH Princess Auguste von Bayern about the Biotopia project and the Foundation's potential participation in the upcoming DLD Nature conference in Munich.



**President**  
Prof Dr Alexander Liegl

- Members**  
 Mr Andreas Eisenbach  
 Mr Günther Fleig  
 Mr Holger Jung  
 Mr Bernd Kunth  
 Mr Bernhard Stempfle  
 Ms Barbara Zumbaum  
 Mr Romain Ciarlet

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 Fondation Prince Albert II. de  
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## ITALY

Headed by its President, Marco Colasanti, the Italian branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation made significant achievements in 2024. The honorary title of 'Araldi' was created and awarded to 11 extraordinary figures who stand out for their environmental commitment, their involvement with the Italian branch and their desire to help promote the Foundation's actions. The office partnered with Montegrappa for the third time on the production of the 'Life' pen from the 'Solidarity' collection – combining innovative design and the subject of climate change. A new line of cufflinks was designed alongside, the proceeds from which will also contribute to supporting the Foundation's projects. The Italian branch also signed a partnership agreement with the celebrated Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei to promote promising research projects in the field of sustainable development, in connection with the fight against climate change and environmental protection.

Another important event took place on Friday 27 September in Rome, when the Italian branch celebrated its 15th anniversary in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. A seminar bringing together eminent figures was organised first at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei to reflect on current challenges in the field of sustainability and explore how ethics and pragmatism can interact effectively in the search for responsible solutions. Then a large gala dinner was held in aid of the Foundation at the prestigious Palazzo Colonna, attended by the Sovereign Prince and key influential figures who are committed to protecting the planet.





**President**  
Mr Marco Colasanti

**Vice President**  
Ms Anne Eastwood

**Secretary**  
Ms Elisabeth Lanteri-Minet

**Advisors**  
Mr Robert Fillon  
Mr Romain Ciarlet  
Ms Hélène Onoforo Sanaia

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## LATIN AMERICA

The Latin American Branch, under its President, Arnaldo Wald Filho, Honorary Consul of Monaco in Brazil, became fully operational in 2024, initially focusing on Brazil while planning to expand to other Latin American countries later. The Branch's priorities in 2024 included: fundraising for the headquarters' ongoing projects in Latin America, establishing a presence in the scientific and student community and integrating the Foundation into Brazilian society by engaging with business leaders, key investors and strategic partners. Professor Carlos Nobre attended the Foundation's Forests and Communities Initiative event during New York Climate Week, alongside Sônia Guajajara, Brazilian Minister for Indigenous Peoples, as well as the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) in Cali, Colombia, where he was joined by Federico Perez and Professor Tasso Azevedo.

A bilateral agreement was signed with the University of São Paulo, the most prestigious university in Latin America, to create and finance three PhD scholarships. If this initiative proves successful, the Branch intends to extend the scholarship projects to other major universities in Latin America. Additionally, the branch signed an agreement with FAPESP, the São Paulo Research Foundation, which provides grants, funding and programmes to support research, education and innovation. The Branch also became member of the F20 international Climate Solutions Forum.

Arnaldo Wald Filho hosted a dinner to introduce the Foundation to over 200 targeted high value potential donors and public authorities. In addition, Arnaldo Wald Filho, HRH Prince Charles-Philippe d'Orléans and Professor José Góis Chilão had a breakfast meeting with Brazil's Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services, Geraldo Alckmin.

Media coverage includes: front cover and 20-page article about Arnaldo Wald Filho and Prince Charles-Philippe d'Orléans in Brazilian business magazine VIDI; 20-minute interview with CNN Brazil; 40-minute video interview by the AT Talks podcast (available on Spotify and YouTube); and more than 20 media pickups by press agencies, newspapers, newsletters and news websites.



### President

Mr Arnaldo Wald Filho

### Vice-Chairs

HRH Prince Charles-Philippe d'Orléans  
Ms Luciana de Montigny  
HE Mr Heraldo Muñoz

### Secretary

Mr Paulo Hime Funari

### Treasurer

Mr Raphaël Ghiandai

### Coordinator

Prof Dr José Góis Chilão

### Development Committee

Prof Tasso Azevedo  
Mr João-Carlos Camargo  
Prof Manuela Carneiro da Cunha  
Ms Eleonora Halpern  
Mr Rafael Improta Vieira  
Ms Yolanda Kakabadse  
Mr Marcelo Mena  
Prof Carlos Nobre  
Mr Federico Perez  
Mr David Safra  
Mr Sebastião Salgado

-----  
Fundação Príncipe Albert II de Monaco

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## SINGAPORE

Under the leadership of its President, Jacky Deromedi, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation office in Singapore stepped up efforts to combat the impact of climate change given Southeast Asia's particular vulnerability to those threats. To that end, the branch strengthened its collaboration with the Temasek Foundation, focusing on shared priorities like adapting to and mitigating climate change. They also established or consolidated partnerships with other key stakeholders in the region.

In 2024, the Asian branch devoted much time to organising three major events that took place in November, starting with an exhibition at Cuturi Gallery entitled *Ocean Grace*, which presented a selection of underwater photographs by duo Olivier Jude and Sylvie Laurent alongside portrait sculptures by Marcos Marin (9 to 23 November). Then, the eighth edition of the Ocean Innovators Platform (OIP) took place on Wednesday 27 November at Marina Bay Sands Singapore, marking the beginning of a new partnership between the Foundation and Builders Vision, which organises OIP events every two years, alternating between San Francisco and Singapore.

Lastly, the branch's traditional gala dinner was held that same day, in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. The chosen theme was glaciers, heralding 2025, which has been declared International Year of Glacier Preservation by the United Nations General Assembly. The evening brought together 600 guests in an exceptional immersive setting. A refined dinner and spectacular show were followed by an exclusive auction that raised a record amount of 5 million Singapore dollars for the Foundation.



**President**  
Ms Jacky Deromedi

**Members**  
Mr Jean-Marc Arnaud Deromedi  
Mr Raphaël Ghiandai

-----  
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## SPAIN

The Spanish branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, under its President, Carol Portabella Settimó, started the year 2024 with the presentation of the 2023 Environmental Photography Award exhibition at the Instituto de Empresa (IE) University in Madrid (1 December 2023 – 31 January 2024). A conference-debate was organised with students on the role of youth in the fight against climate change, with the participation of Javier Goyeneche, Gonzalo Garland and Carol Portabella Settimó.

In addition, as part of the scholarship programme for sustainable development aimed at Masters students, staff members at the Fundación Instituto de Empresa (IE Foundation) and the Foundation assessed new applications and selected the two new recipients. Following the Human-Wildlife Initiative's first call for projects in Spain, an event was held to present the progress of the seven programmes selected. A second call for projects was launched in September. The branch also continued its commitment to the Marilles Foundation to support the creation of marine and coastal habitats in the Balearic Sea and promoted Beyond Plastic Med's (BeMed) call for micro-initiatives among its networks. The Spanish branch facilitated the exhibition of the new Environmental Photography Award in El Retiro Park in Madrid for the third year in a row (2 December 2024 – 13 January 2025), with the support of SEK International University. The Spanish branch and its President participated in numerous institutional events in 2024, including a panel discussion at the 3rd SDG Observatory (El Español) on noise pollution in the oceans, events run by the Fundaciones por el Clima network (which the Spanish branch is a founding member of), the annual ceremony of the Fundación Princesa de Girona (FPdGi), held under the patronage of TM the King and Queen of Spain, and the Ocean Decade Conference on marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.



### President

Ms Carol Portabella Settimó



### Vice-Secretary

Ms Inés Oraa Gortázar

### Members

Ms Milagros Couchoud  
 Mr Alejandro Fernández de Aroz  
 Mr Francisco José García del Pozo Cantarero  
 Ms Xandra Falcó  
 HE Ms Catherine Fautrier-Rousseau  
 Mr Manuel Andrés Ferreiro Fernández  
 Mr Philippe Guillaumet  
 Mr Francisco Adolfo Granero Jimenez  
 HE Mr Jean-Luc Van Klaveren  
 Mr Iñigo López de la Osa Escribano  
 Mr Pablo Melendo  
 Ms Francesca Thyssen  
 Mr Raphaël Ghiandai

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## SWITZERLAND

Led by its President, Derek Queisser de Stockalper, the Swiss branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation helped to promote the head office's initiatives in Switzerland: the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) was presented to potential investors, and the ReOcean Fund was introduced to private equity fund Estari, which specialises in impact investments and energy transition. As part of the Foundation's Re.Generation Future Leaders Program, two memorandums of understanding were signed - with the Kofi Annan Foundation and with the Earth Foundation - thanks to the support of the branch. The President participated in and contributed to numerous events, including the Sustainability Rounds on the role of the World Trade Organization in improving companies' competitiveness and reducing their negative environmental externalities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's global workshop on financing cross-border water cooperation, the eighth edition of the International Glacier Film Festival, and the green finance round table organised by financial group Oddo BHF during the Building Bridges event. Lastly, the Foundation's Swiss office extended its academic network with the University of Zurich (UZH), the University of Lausanne (UNIL), the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and the Graduate Institute (Water Hub Initiative). New connections were made with key stakeholders in the local private sector and philanthropy, including Swiss Life, Rothschild & Co and the Gallifrey Foundation, and new relationships were forged with the Diplomatic Club of Geneva.



**President**

Mr Derek Queisser de Stockalper

**Members**

Mr Eric de Graffenried  
Mr Albert Manzone  
Ms Elisabeth Oltramare  
Mr Romain Ciarlet

-----  
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## UNITED KINGDOM

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's British branch, headed by its President, HE Evelyne Genta, continued to support a number of field initiatives in 2024. Monitoring was implemented for several projects approved in 2023 in consultation with the Monaco head office: the marine conservation project on the Cambodian coast run by Fauna & Flora International, the satellite surveillance of deep-sea fishing by the Oxford Martin School, the BirdLife International programmes in Guinea and Senegal, the Scott Polar Research Institute's Antarctic ice sheet research project, the second phase of the Ocean Leaders programme at the University of Edinburgh, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust project to preserve wetlands in Cambodia, and the High Conservation Value Network's biodiversity programme involving local-level landscape conservation methods. For two other projects – the University of Cambridge Conservation Initiative's (CCI) Collaborative Fund and the MSc Cleantech Innovation Programme at Imperial College – a final phase of financial support was activated in 2024. To help amplify the work of the Foundation, HE Evelyne Genta is playing an active role in organising the Foundation's Board of Directors meeting and Planetary Health Awards ceremony, which are taking place in London in 2025.



**President**  
HE Ms Evelyne Genta

**Members**  
Prof David Munro  
Mr Timothy Thornton Jones  
Mr Raphaël Ghiandai

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## USA

Under its President, John B. Kelly III, the American branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation participated in several diplomatic events in 2024, including a round table on international ocean governance organised by the French and Costa Rican ambassadors, and a top-level panel discussion about the Ice Memory Foundation, held jointly by the Embassy of Monaco in the USA and the French and Swiss embassies ahead of the International Year of Glacier Preservation in 2025. The US branch also pursued its work with longstanding partners such as the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). Within that context, Ambassador HE Maguy Maccario-Doyle took part in an event about the future of the tropics, held on 27 and 28 April and bringing together over 200 attendees, including Dr Joshua Tewksbury and Dr Ellen Stofan from the Smithsonian Institution, Dr Cristián Samper from the Bezos Earth Fund and Alfredo Giron from the World Economic Forum. The President, Mr Kelly, accepted the Galien Foundation's Roy Vagelos Pro Bono Humanum Award for Global Health Equity on behalf of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco for his contribution to improving human well-being through environment protection. In addition to the prize, a grant of 100,000 US dollars was awarded to fund one of the Foundation's projects in the United States. Lastly, the call for proposals was announced for the Monaco Camp Prize 2025, a project close to the American branch's heart, which supports biodiversity conservation and resilience efforts in the context of climate change in Yellowstone Park.



**President**

Mr John B. Kelly III

**Vice-President**

HE Ms Maguy Maccario-Doyle

**Treasurer**

Ms Nancy Bugos

**Executive Director**

Mr John Coffman

**Members**

Mr Jérôme de Bontin

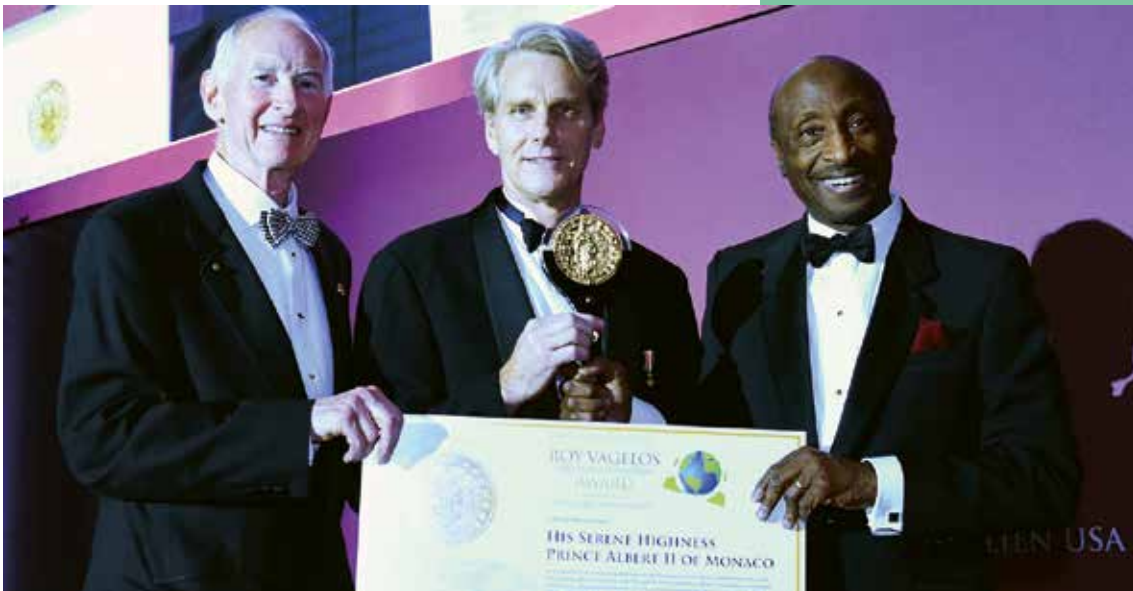
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· The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation  
· relies on the commitment of the outstanding  
· people on its Board of Directors to set  
· strategies, draw up roadmaps, guide  
· actions and assess outcomes. Each of its  
· members boasts key skills in sectors related  
· to protecting the planet and contributes to  
· the institution's international recognition.  
· The Foundation's expertise also derives  
· from its Scientific and Technical Committee  
· and its Ethics Committee, two key bodies  
· that guarantee the quality of the projects  
· supported and the respect for its founding  
· values.



PRINCE ALBERT II  
OF MONACO  
FOUNDATION

# GOVERNANCE

## GOVERNANCE BODIES

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation convened its Board of Directors on 29 April and 7 November 2024. The Scientific and Technical Committee met on 8 February and 4 July 2024.

A General Meeting was held on 24 June for the Foundation's active members, in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. The purpose of the meeting was to review the activities of the past two years, before discussing the Foundation's strategic orientations and objectives for the coming years. Initially held every two years, the meeting will become an annual event from 2025.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### HSH PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO

• **Mr OLIVIER WENDEN**  
**MONACO**

Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

• **HE Mr BERNARD FAUTRIER**  
**MONACO**

Minister Plenipotentiary, Special Advisor to HSH the Sovereign Prince on environmental issues

• **Mr THOMAS BREZZO**  
**MONACO**

President of the National Council of Monaco

• **Mr ROBERT CALCAGNO**  
**MONACO**

CEO of the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco-Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation

• **Ms MARIA DAMANAKI**  
**GREECE**

Former Global Managing Director for Oceans at The Nature Conservancy

• **Prof TIM FLANNERY**  
**AUSTRALIA**

Biologist and palaeontologist, Chief Councillor, Climate Council of Australia, former Head of Zoology at the Australian Museum, Sydney, former Chief Commissioner of Australia's first Climate Commission

• **Mr MARCO LAMBERTINI**  
**ITALY**

Member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), member of the UN Global Compact Board, member of the Global Commons Alliance Steering Committee, former Director General of WWF International

• **Mr ALAIN LE ROY**  
**FRANCE**

Ambassador of France, Honorary Senior Audit Manager at the Cour des Comptes (French Audit Office), former UN Deputy Secretary-General

• **HE Mr HERALDO MUÑOZ**  
**CHILI**

Former President of the Party for Democracy (PPD), former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile

• **Dr SUNITA NARAIN**  
**INDIA**

Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Director of the Society for Environmental Communications, New Delhi

• **Mr PAUL POLMAN**  
**NETHERLANDS**

Business leader, investor, philanthropist

• **Dr THIERRY VANDELDE**  
**FRANCE**

Executive Director of the Veolia Foundation

• **Ms SALLY YOZELL**  
**USA**

Director of the Stimson Center's Environmental Safety Program, former Advisor to the US Secretary of State

## SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Scientific and Technical Committee acts as a think tank and provides guidance in each of the Foundation's main areas of intervention. The Committee is involved in the project selection process and delivers opinions to the Board of Directors about the Foundation's projects and partnerships. The Committee is composed of key figures known for their expertise in the environment and sustainable development fields.

• **Prof DENIS ALLEMAND**  
**MONACO**

Former Scientific Director of the Monaco Scientific Centre, member of the Scientific Committee of the French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER)

• **Mr LAURENT BOPP**  
**FRANCE**

CNRS Research Director at the Laboratory of Dynamic Meteorology of the Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (IPSL), Visiting Professor at the École Normale Supérieure de Paris (IPSL)

• **Mr LUCIEN CHABASON**  
**FRANCE**

Former President of Plan Bleu, the environment and sustainable development centre for the Mediterranean, Deputy Director, Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

• **Ms MILAGROS COUCHOUD**  
**SPAIN**

President of the Mediterranean Water Institute (IME)

• **Mr RAPHAËL CUVELIER**  
**FRANCE**

Vice-President of the Ocean and Climate Platform

• **Prof JEAN JAUBERT**  
**FRANCE**

Former Director of the Musée Océanographique in Monaco, specialist in the biology and ecology of reef-constructing corals, former Scientific Director and Head of Expeditions at the Cousteau Society

• **Prof CHARLOTTE KARIBUHOYE-SAID**  
**SENEGAL**

Director, West Africa Programme, Regional Director, MAVA Foundation for Nature

• **Prof DAVID MUNRO**  
**UNITED KINGDOM**

Honorary Professor at the University of Dundee, and Honorary Research Fellow in the School of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh, geographical advisor to the publishers of *The Times Atlas of the World*, former Director of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS)

• **Dr OLAV ORHEIM**  
**NORWAY**

Senior Advisor at the Research Council of Norway

• **Dr BERTRAND PICCARD**  
**SWITZERLAND**

Pioneer of hang-gliding and microlighting in Europe, UN Goodwill Ambassador (UNFPA), winner of the first transatlantic balloon race (1992), Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation

• **Mr GUILLAUME SAINTENY**  
**FRANCE**

President of Plan Bleu, President GS Conseil, former Lecturer in Sustainable Development at the École Polytechnique, former Deputy Cabinet Director in the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

• **Ms SANDRINE SOMMER**  
**FRANCE**

Sustainable Development Director, Moët Hennessy

• **Prof MICHAEL MEREDITH**  
**UNITED KINGDOM**

Joint Director, UK National Climate Science Partnership, Science Leader at the British Antarctic Survey, Professorial Fellow in Oceanography at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

The purpose of the Executive Board is to supervise the Foundation's activities. It administers day-to-day business and implements the decisions of the Board of Directors. The Executive Board is composed of the Foundation's President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Treasurer and two Administrators nominated by the Board of Directors.

◦ Prof **TIM FLANNERY**  
**AUSTRALIA**

Biologist and palaeontologist, Chief Councillor, Climate Council of Australia, former Head of Zoology at the Australian Museum, Sydney, former Chief Commissioner of Australia's first Climate Commission

◦ Dr **SUNITA NARAIN**  
**INDIA**

Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Director of the Society for Environmental Communications, New Delhi

## ETHICS COMMISSION

The Ethics Commission guarantees that all the Foundation's activities respect its founding values and ethical standards.

◦ Mr **ARNAUD HAMON**  
**MONACO**

Director of Legal Affairs, Government of Monaco

◦ Prof **TULLIO SCOVAZZI**  
**ITALY**

Professor of International Law, University of Milano-Bicocca

◦ Ms **ANNE FOUBERT**  
**FRANCE**

Lecturer in Public Law at the University of Orléans

◦ Mr **SÁLVANO BRICEÑO**  
**VENEZUELA**

Former Science Committee Chair, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

◦ Mr **LEDI BIANKU**  
**FRANCE**

Associate Professor at the University of Strasbourg

## DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Development and Fundraising Committee helps set the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's international development strategy. It also assists in raising the financial resources needed to carry out the Foundation's programme of action.

• **HE Ms EVELYNE GENTA**

**President**

President of the United Kingdom branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

• **LADY MONIKA DEL CAMPO BACARDI OF BAYFIELD HALL**

**Member**

Co-founder of the production company Ambi Pictures

• **Ms JACKY DEROMEDI**

**Member**

President of the Singapore branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

• **LADY TINA GREEN**

**Member**

Business woman and interior designer

## EMERITUS MEMBERS

Emeritus members are key figures who have served on the Foundation's various governing bodies and who the President has chosen to thank. They can continue to support the Foundation in achieving its objectives.

• **Ms ISABEL HOFFMANN**

Project Manager, Capitals Coalition, London

• **Ms PAULA KAHUMBU**

Executive Director of WildlifeDirect

• **Ms JANE LUBCHENCO**

Deputy Director for Climate and Environment at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

• **Ms JULIA MARTON-LEFÈVRE**

Former Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

• **Mr BEDŘICH MOLDAN**

Director of the Environment Center of the Charles Darwin University in Prague

• **Mr RUBENS RICUPERO**

Former Minister of the Environment and Amazonian Affairs

• **Ms SAMANTHA SMITH**

Director of Just Transition Centre

• **Mr OTTO STEINMETZ**

Former Member of the Dresdner Bank Executive Board

• **Mr BJÖRN STIGSON**

Former Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

• **Prof KLAUS TÖPFER**

Former German Federal Minister for the Environment and Nature Conservation

## TRIPLE QUALITY ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY ISO CERTIFICATION

As part of its commitment to optimising its activities, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation implemented an Integrated Quality and Environmental Management System complying with ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 in 2013, followed by an ISO 50001 Energy Management System in 2016. In December 2024, following an audit carried out by DNV-GL, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation had all three certifications renewed for a period of three years. The recertification audit took place from 10 to 13 December 2024, confirming the effectiveness of the Quality and Environmental Management System in place. Complying with these international standards demonstrates that the Foundation operates within current frameworks to ensure its initiatives are properly implemented, its efficiency is continually tested and the quality of its relationships with partners is continuously improved, with the overarching aim of reducing the environmental impact of its activities.

### Our commitments

- Provide, maintain and develop the human, organisational and technical resources needed to meet our objectives.
- Respond as effectively as possible to all requests.
- Build on our expertise.
- Comply with the legal and regulatory requirements specific to our activities.
- Anticipate, control and reduce our impact on the environment.
- Carry out an energy assessment and take the necessary steps to reduce our energy consumption.
- Ensure that our processes and performance are continuously improved.



• **STATUTORY AUDITOR**  
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• **BANKS**  
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BNP Paribas  
Barclays  
UBS



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thanks the following entities for their support and collaboration in 2024

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