Protecting and progressing Planetary Health
Once again, I would like to thank them for their key contribution to our common struggle to protect the Planet.

However, faced with such a challenge, satisfaction for the work accomplished and results achieved, will not be sufficient. Day after day, year after year, we can see just how much work remains to be done.

That is why we are more determined than ever before to pursue and intensify our efforts, focusing on priority issues, projects, and initiatives, in line with what we have achieved so far.

Details of these projects and initiatives can be found in the pages that follow. For example, you will find Beyond Plastic Med, launched in 2015 with the Tara Ocean Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe, and the MAV A Foundation, in support of projects to combat plastic pollution in the Mediterranean. You will also find the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, created with Governments, UN institutions and private partners, the goal of which is to leverage grants but also investments, the profits of which will be allocated to initiatives to protect, regenerate, study, and conserve the corals. And you will find many other initiatives dedicated to large wildlife, the Mediterranean monk seal, ocean acidification, marine protected areas, and several other key issues at stake.

These large-scale collaborative initiatives will, I hope, enable us to enhance the effectiveness of our actions. This will not stop us from continuing to support more local or ad hoc projects, but they will always be based on the principle of partnership, which since 2006 has been our driving force, whether this be with scientific laboratories, local players, or international institutions.

After fifteen years of existence, after so many actions and so much effort, I am more convinced than ever of the relevance of our approach. An approach which, to be meaningful, should always focus on helping our contemporaries - especially the most destitute - to adopt a development paradigm capable of guaranteeing their future as well as the future of our Planet.
PROTECTING

For over 15 years, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, an international non-profit organisation, has been committed to progress planetary health for future generations. With the growing collective awareness of the environmental challenges facing humanity, the time has come for action, supported by science. The Foundation is working with its partners and indigenous communities to build a sustainable future, both through the projects we support and the initiatives we undertake, on a local and global scale. Together, we can change our relationship with Nature and achieve responsible and prosperous co-existence. An ideal supported by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco since the creation of His Foundation. It is with this faith in humanity’s ability to build more resilient societies that we are pursuing our missions.

Through its work, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation helps meet the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to build a world in which peace, justice and equality prevail for people and the planet.
2021 IN FIGURES

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT BY ACTION AREA

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<tr>
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<td>415 554</td>
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</tbody>
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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 populations concerned

Impact and added value of the project:
1. Exemplary nature and replicability of the project
2. Tangible, measurable aspect of the project’s anticipated results
3. Integration of social and economic aspects into the project’s activities (focus on sustainable development)
4. Cooperation and involvement of the local populations concerned

Competence and expertise of the project leader:
1. Quality and stability of partnerships
2. Technical and financial feasibility
3. Competence of project leaders
4. Quality of project management
5. 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 2021, 164 projects were received and examined.
24 were shortlisted and presented to the Scientific and Technical Committee.
22 projects were then presented to the Board of Directors.
21 projects were accepted.
As Head of State and President of His Foundation, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco has made the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus a priority of His Government and His Foundation. The Sovereign Prince is recognised internationally as a leading advocate for environmental issues, engaging his peers, the private sector and civil society to listen to scientists and accelerate the transition to a more sustainable world, through a collective and ambitious action.

**ONE PLANET SUMMIT**
On 11 January, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco participated in the One Planet Summit hosted by France, which brought together international leaders around the key issue of safeguarding biodiversity. During the session devoted to the protection of marine and terrestrial species, the Sovereign Prince spoke of two initiatives developed in the Mediterranean with the help of His Foundation: The MedFund to support Marine Protected Areas and BeMed, which tackles plastic pollution. The Sovereign Prince also reminded the gathering that taking action to protect the seas and forests was to act for the survival of humanity.

**ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK**
On 19 January, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco delivered a keynote address at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The Sovereign Prince spoke on the topic of national resilience in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, underlining that “the crisis we are experiencing is forcing us to radically reinvent the ways we live, produce and travel. It is urging us to rethink our relationship with nature and to re-evaluate our priorities.”

**LAUNCH OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE**
HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco spoke at A Brave New Ocean, a high-level event organised by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission as part of the Ocean Decade. The Sovereign Prince spoke of the threats to marine ecosystems, reminding those present of the vital role played by the ocean and the urgent need to preserve its ecosystems. The environment, the climate and protecting biodiversity have become major concerns on a global scale, and the ocean is at the heart of these issues. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development comes at a key moment, when we need to reinvent a healthier and more nature-friendly world.

**35TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEFS INITIATIVE**
HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco gave the closing speech at the 35th ICRI General Meeting which took place virtually on 1, 3 and 5 February. The Sovereign Prince took the opportunity to highlight the work accomplished under the joint leadership of the Governments of Monaco, Australia and Indonesia since 2018, which mobilised various stakeholders in the Principality, including the Monegasque Government, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Monaco Scientific Centre and the Oceanographic Museum. The Sovereign Prince also stated that “the way these actions complement each other reflects the way the ICRI works and is the key to its success. I believe that we must always work together to tackle these challenges, which are at the convergence of economics, science and politics. It is by working together that we will be effective in our actions and have a chance of saving the corals.”
The 12th edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative took place on 22 March as part of Monaco Ocean Week. Under the high patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, this high-level conference on ocean-related issues took place in hybrid format, with the participation of leading figures including John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Annick Girardin, France’s Minister of the Sea, Dr Ricardo Serrão Santos, Portugal’s Minister of the Sea, and Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries. More than 200 experts and leaders were invited to discuss the role of economic players and the financial sector in the development of a truly sustainable blue economy, which reconciles value and employment creation with ocean conservation – all of which are highly topical issues in the context of post-pandemic economic recovery.

In his opening address, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco began by calling for a universal commitment, emphasising that “the most important thing is to foster dialogue between the various stakeholders concerned, to pool knowledge, expertise and resources, to create shared diagnostics, goals and strategies.” At the key international events focused on protecting biodiversity and ocean conservation planned for 2021, this is the goal that must motivate us.

John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, said: “We cannot fight the climate crisis without the power of the ocean. The ocean is a source of sustainable climate solutions […] just think of the jobs that this work will create. The fact is that we are looking at the possibilities of the greatest economic transformation the world has seen since the industrial revolution.”

The day’s proceedings were divided into three sessions:

• Session 1 focused on the role of international negotiations in ocean governance.
• Session 2 explored ways to integrate ocean issues and Sustainable Development Goals (in particular SDG14) into corporate social responsibility strategies.
• Session 3 examined the role of the financial sector in managing risks related to biodiversity loss and in financing a sustainable blue economy.

### Key messages and recommendations from MBI 2021

To increase the effectiveness of global and regional agreements, we need to focus on three ‘Cs’:

• **Commitment**: We need to strengthen the implementation of agreements already in place, and for this we need to improve monitoring, auditing and compliance reviews, and develop innovative and sustainable sources of finance.

• **Coherence**: Full government support for integrated action to combat climate change and biodiversity loss is required, since implementation is often hindered by a lack of co-ordination at the national level, across ministries and agencies, resulting in divergent priorities and less efficient operations within international forums.

• **Collaboration**: All nations, industrial sectors, scientists, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities must join forces and adopt whole-ocean solutions that recognise our interdependence.

• Regional sea agreements and regional fishery organisations must align goals and targets to move forward together.

• If all maritime countries had a minister of the seas, this would facilitate sustainable maritime development and help address UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.

• We must better engage non-coastal countries in ocean issues.

• Inclusivity is a key challenge to avoid leaving anyone behind, as not all have the capacity to fully implement ocean conservation treaties. Capacity-building should be framed as a partnership, not a donor-recipient relationship, to help ensure the mechanisms we put in place do not perpetuate inequities but enable inclusive collaboration as joint ocean custodians.

• The legal recognition of the rights of nature, which has been applied in New Zealand and Ecuador and is developing around the world, could help bridge the gap between goals and the effective implementation of international agreements. It reframes humanity’s relationship with nature not as one of rights and resources but as one of reciprocity.

• Science is the driving force. Objective knowledge of the ocean based on data and observation must be increased and translated into management guidelines.

• To make up for the huge gap in ocean data, especially those relating to developing countries and the high seas, which severely limits our ability to effectively manage, identify and prioritise areas in need of attention, we must map ecologically and biologically significant marine areas, as well as share existing knowledge and address the huge disparity in the quality and quantity of marine data.

The Monaco Blue Initiative, launched in 2010 by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, is a unique platform for debate that brings together the major ocean stakeholders to reflect on the key conservation and governance challenges facing our future ocean in a truly sustainable and forward-looking way.

This event, hosted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Monaco Oceanographic Institute, provides a stimulating environment to encourage interaction between private-sector companies, scientists, decision-makers, large international organisations and civil society to explore and facilitiate potential synergies between the protection of the marine environment and the development of a truly sustainable blue economy.
8TH WORLD OCEAN SUMMIT
THE ECONOMIST

The 8th World Ocean Summit 2021, hosted by The Economist, took place online for the first time. High-level discussions and plenary sessions focused on aquaculture, fishing, energy, plastics, shipping and tourism. In his address, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco said: “There are few issues as urgent, as crucial and as close to us as those concerning the ocean. When we talk about the ocean, we refer to our life as human beings, here and now. We refer to health, energy, nutrition, economy, innovation, trade, international security”. He concluded on “the need to incorporate ocean issues in all our concerns, in all our duties.”

BAN ON HEAVY FUEL OIL IN THE ARCTIC
The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation joined more than 165 companies, explorers, politicians and NGOs as a signatory to the Arctic Commitment, which aims to ban the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) in the Arctic. Launched by the Clean Arctic Alliance in Tromsø during the 2017 Arctic Frontiers conference, the Arctic Commitment calls on the international governing body for shipping, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), to ban the use and carriage of HFO in the Arctic. An effective ban would protect Arctic communities and ecosystems – already under pressure from climate change – from the risks posed by a spill of HFO, a viscous and polluting fossil fuel that accounts for 80% of marine fuel used worldwide, along with black carbon emissions from burning HFO as fuel. Dr Sian Proctor, Lead Advisor to the Clean Arctic Alliance, said: “The support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the Arctic Commitment demonstrates the increasing groundswell of support for a rapid phase-out of the use and carriage of HFO as fuel by ships operating in the Arctic. With sea ice receding due to climate change, and ships making greater use of the Arctic Ocean for transporting goods, the Arctic nations must put in place more stringent bans on the use and carriage of HFO in their waters than the one recently approved by the IMO.”

HSH PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO HONOURED WITH THE 2021 JANE ALEXANDER GLOBAL WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR AWARD
HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco has been honoured with the 2021 Jane Alexander Global Wildlife Ambassador Award in recognition of its ongoing commitment to protecting biodiversity and the health of our planet. The Indianapolis Prize created this award to recognise the advocacy work and other invaluable contributions of remarkable public figures who are changing the future by sharing their passion for our planet’s wild wonders. “We have to make the link between nature’s health and human health. We have no other choice if we are to survive on this planet,” declared HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco.

ICUN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS IN MARSEILLE
At the World Conservation Congress in Marseille on 6 and 7 September, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Monegasque institutions centred on environmental protection were present alongside HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco to promote their actions and commitments in the field of planetary health. HSH the Sovereign Prince took part in several sessions connected with ocean conservation, calling for urgent, decisive collective action. First the Sovereign Prince spoke at a conference hosted by the Global Fund for Coral Reefs on 6 September. He talked about the special nature of this fund, which consists of two main vehicles: one based on traditional philanthropy and the other, finance-based, dedicated to consumer investment in specific guaranteed projects that take concrete action to protect coral reefs, particularly in developing countries.

In the closing session dedicated to the ocean, entitled A Blue Breakthrough, the Sovereign Prince underlined the importance of the IUCN Congress in providing an opportunity to rally all conservation stakeholders, as well as political decision-makers and public opinion around the key challenge for our planet’s future: the preservation of our seas.

“To better protect our planet from climate catastrophes, it is essential that we consider the oceans and their resources and learn to manage them sustainably [...] That is why we must remain determined on this subject as well as on everything that affects the oceans and has a direct impact on our world. It is an immense challenge scientifically, economically and politically, of course, but also philosophically, because we must learn to see beyond our borders, beyond our daily lives,” declared the Sovereign Prince.

LAUNCH OF THE HIGHLY PROTECTED MEDITERRANEAN INITIATIVE
The Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative was officially launched by The MedFund and the MAVA Foundation at the World Conservation Congress in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco on 7 September 2021.

Various scientific studies have shown that Highly Protected MPAs are effective tools for protecting biodiversity, provided they have long-term human and financial resources at their disposal. Yet, many Mediterranean MPAs are not managed efficiently and do not have the benefit of strong protection measures. Guided by science and encouraged by the commitment of multiple leaders to increase the number of Highly Protected MPAs in the Mediterranean, the MediFund Board of Directors decided to create a new funding window dedicated to MPAs benefiting from a high level of protection, called the Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative. The MAVA Foundation, which has been involved in nature conservation in the Mediterranean for many years, has decided to support this initiative, becoming the first partner to join this funding mechanism.
COMMEMORATION OF THE MADRID PROTOCOL

In October 2021, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco addressed the conference commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Madrid Protocol via video, underscoring the importance of this document dedicated to environmental protection in Antarctica, whose approach, which was innovative at the time, rings even truer today. The Sovereign Prince stressed that “the Madrid Protocol sets an example in its ability to anticipate problems and find solutions.” He designated Antarctica in Article 2 as a “natural reserve, devoted to peace and science”, protecting an area not under the jurisdiction of any one nation for the first time. It is an example that should inspire us and encourage us to extend the protection of natural environments. “We did this a few years ago within CCAMLR when the Ross Sea became the world’s largest Marine Protected Area. We should do the same now, particularly for three other priority areas in the region: the Antarctic Peninsula, the Weddell Sea and East Antarctica.”

5TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ECONOMICS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

From 12 to 14 October, the Monaco Scientific Centre co-organised the 5th Workshop on the Economics of Ocean Acidification. The conclusions were presented to HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and members of the Monegasque Government, French representatives, NGO leaders, the media and the scientific community. The fifth edition focused on the use of marine biological processes in mitigating climate change to determine the advantages and disadvantages of such processes. The workshop linked scientific knowledge (and the gaps in knowledge) of the concept of blue carbon (broadly defined as the biogenic carbon flowing through and stored in marine ecosystems that can be altered by the actions of humans) in coastal and marine ecosystems, with socio-economic disciplines that quantify climatic advantages on a local and global scale.

The workshop’s conclusions were presented at COP26 in Glasgow where, on 5 and 6 November, the Monaco Scientific Centre and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation hosted two international workshops on blue carbon and the role of the seas and oceans in mitigating the effects of climate change. These events took place in the Science Pavilion co-hosted by the IPCC, WMO, the MERI Foundation, the Monaco Scientific Centre and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

COP26: A HIGH-LEVEL CALL FOR DECISIVE CLIMATE ACTION

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco spoke at the high-level session for Heads of State on Tuesday 2 November, saying that he regretted the fact that we are not up to the commitments set forth by the Paris Agreement in 2015 nor are we up to the climate challenge. The Sovereign Prince nonetheless has faith in our ability to take action collectively. “Thankfully, there is still time to act. There is still time to limit global warming to 1.5°C, a threshold that the IPCC has shown us is a limit. There is still time to develop another energy model, which is the only way to guarantee our common future”. The Sovereign Prince said that “the solutions exist, solutions that protect nature and represent progress for humanity. We now need to develop them together, in our own countries and beyond, in all the seas of the world.”

HSH PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO HONOURS WITH A GRIFONE D’ARGENTO

On 5 November, the Sovereign Prince travelled to Noto in Italy to receive the Grifone d’Argento award for his commitment to environmental protection. The Sovereign Prince said that he was honoured to receive this distinction, “which for me is a recognition of the usefulness of the work I do day after day, whether on behalf of my country, in the international negotiations I take part in, or with my Foundation.”

2020 MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS FORUM

For the third time in the Mediterranean, around 250 key stakeholders concerned with the marine environment gathered in the Principality from 28 November to 1 December 2021, to share experience, engage in discussion and develop a joint working programme to ramp up protection of the Mediterranean Sea by 2030. A further 400 participants followed the event online in a fully interactive format. The opening ceremony took place at the Monaco Oceanographic Museum on 29 November in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. Representatives of national agencies, MPAs managers, scientists, civil society organisations, local economic players and international institutions debated solutions to the challenges that MPAs face to effectively protect marine ecosystems and the services they provide. The aim of the Forum was to finalise the post-2020 Roadmap for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas, an operational document intended as a living, regularly reviewed blueprint enlisting the support of all stakeholders whose involvement is needed to ensure greater effectiveness.

MEDITERRANEAN WATER FORUM IN MALTA

Being unfortunately unable to attend, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco addressed the Forum in a video message, speaking of his attachment to the water-related issues tackled at the Mediterranean Forums and the importance of this annual event. With water becoming a source of tension worldwide, the Sovereign Prince called for collective mobilisation around this issue. At the Mediterranean Forum, as well as at the World Water Forum in Dakar, he said, “We must be able to mobilise the available energies more effectively, share solutions, and most importantly gather the resources needed to act quickly – financial resources of course, but also human and political – especially where Sustainable Development Goal 6 is concerned.”
The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is pursuing an active strategy to develop and strengthen its initiatives in order to respond proactively and concretely to current environmental challenges. Ten initiatives are currently underway to combat plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, enable the effective management of marine protected areas, preserve emblematic species and step up conservation actions within the Pelagos Sanctuary. It also means promoting more harmonious cohabitation with wildlife and preserving the world’s coral reefs. Finally, it means working to protect our freshwater resources, a major ecological and societal challenge.

The natural landscape is home to a large number of businesses and leisure activities, leading to people coming into contact with wildlife. For them to coexist successfully, so that biodiversity flourishes alongside the smooth running of human activities, the land and resources need to be shared harmoniously.


The initiative brings together stakeholders from nature conservation, agriculture and hunting, representing differing viewpoints on wildlife management, with the shared goal of improving human–wildlife coexistence.

Focusing for now on the Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region, the IHF identifies and mobilises local “champions” – stakeholders who are willing to get involved to develop concrete projects promoting better social acceptability and managing interactions between wildlife and human activities (agriculture, farming, tourism, nature-based sport, hunting and environmental management).

The aim of the initiative is to assist field projects, reduce physical conflict (livestock attacks, crop destruction, etc.) and support events and publications promoting positive interactions between people and wildlife.

The most committed stakeholders are given support and encouraged to communicate with each other, via workshops, in order to bring about new partnerships and joint projects on a larger scale. The initiative operates through an annual call for projects, the first of which was launched in September 2020. Ten projects were selected and began in 2021. The second call for projects, launched in 2021, saw the selection of nine projects starting in 2022.

**OBJECTIVES:**

The initiative addresses several large wildlife species in rural and mountain areas: the wolf, deer, wild boar, moufflon, ibex, chamois, fox, mustelid and avifauna.
BEYOND PLASTIC MED
FOR A PLASTIC-FREE MEDITERRANEAN

Plastic pollution is a major ecological problem for the ocean. Once discarded in the natural environment, plastic can take up to 500 years to disintegrate and poses a threat to many animal species.

The Mediterranean Sea is almost completely enclosed and subject to intense human activity, making it one of the most plastic-polluted seas in the world, with three billion plastic particles. In 2020, with the pandemic, consumption of single-use plastic increased considerably. While some items are essential to help prevent the spread of the virus, it is important to remember that plastic pollution is one of the major environmental scourges of our century. Reducing the use of non-essential plastics is therefore vital to avoid making an already serious problem worse.

For this reason BeMed continues to support and encourage networking between stakeholders in the Mediterranean that are committed to combatting plastic pollution in order to introduce effective long-term solutions, help find new alternatives and encourage the sharing of best practice. BeMed has already invested more than 1.9 million euros in tackling the plastic scourge.

In 2021, the network was expanded with 12 new projects in 9 different countries:

- Raising awareness, research and introducing alternatives to plastic in the agricultural sector. Doctor Vet in Community Association – Albania
- Use of alternatives to plastic bags in a network of bakeries in Bizerte. Association de protection et de sauvegarde du littoral de Bizerte – Tunisia
- Survey of consumer habits relating to single-use plastics in Menorca and introducing Plastic Free Balsamics Certification in shops. Menorca Preservation Fund – Spain
- Cleaning and identifying waste found on the sea floor in the Ulcinj region to raise awareness and engage the public and local authorities. Green Life NGO – Montenegro
- Improving the waste collection system in the Ulcinj region, supporting shops in their search for alternatives to plastic and mobilising local environmental organisations. Regional Development Agency – Ulcinj Business Association – Montenegro
- Identifying macro and micro waste collected on land and in the sea on the west coast of Malta to inform and involve stakeholders and create an education kit. Zibel – Malta
- Using low-tech equipment to transform plastic collected in the sea into everyday items. Skopelos Dive Center PC – Greece
- Scientific study to better understand the microplastic pollution caused by shellfish farming practices and to raise awareness among stakeholders. UMR MARBEC – France
- Surveying marine pollution with diving clubs in Cyprus and using the data collected to raise the awareness of tourists and the general public. iSea, Environmental Organisation for the Preservation of the Aquatic Ecosystems – Greece, Cyprus
- Creating environmental clubs in primary schools in Nabeul to raise children’s awareness and put in place waste sorting systems in those schools, in cooperation with the local authority and ANGED. Association écotourisme environnement de Nabeul (ETE+) – Tunisia
- Improving waste management and encouraging the recycling of plastic. Association de protection et de sauvegarde du littoral de Bizerte – Tunisia
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The BeMed network now extends to 14 countries and supports a total of 69 projects. The yellow dots represent the location of organisations supported since 2015 and the blue dots the initiatives selected in 2021. (Clockwise from far left: Morocco, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Cyprus, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria) BeMed is generously supported by the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation and the Aether Fund of the Foundation for Future Generations for its call for micro-initiatives. The BeMed association is hosted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

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• Raising awareness and supporting stakeholders and the local authority with writing and implementing a waste management plan on two Croatian islands. **TATAVAKA association – Croatia**

• Gathering data and assessing the recyclability rate of plastic waste to raise awareness among the general public, schools and decision-making bodies about the importance of reducing our consumption of single-use plastics. **MareVivu – France**

### BEYOND PLASTIC MED (BEMED)

BeMed was founded on the initiative of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in partnership with MAVA Foundation, Surfrider Europe Foundation, the Tara Ocean Foundation and IUCN. BeMed works with stakeholders on the ground to tackle plastic pollution in the Mediterranean.

**TATAVAKA association – Croatia**

• Gathering data and assessing the recyclability rate of plastic waste to raise awareness among the general public, schools and decision-making bodies about the importance of reducing our consumption of single-use plastics.

**MareVivu – France**

• Raising awareness and supporting stakeholders and the local authority with writing and implementing a waste management plan on two Croatian islands.

### MR. GOODFISH

**PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD CONSUMPTION**

Launched in 2010 under the aegis of three aquariums, Nausicaá in France, Acquario di Genova in Italy and Aquarium Finisterrae in Spain, the Mr. Goodfish programme came about as a result of the simple observation that too many fish species are overfished, while many lesser-known ones are in plentiful supply and... delicious! Mr. Goodfish aims to raise awareness of sustainable seafood consumption by providing advice to the entire fishing sector, from the fisherman to the consumer. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has been coordinating the Mr. Goodfish programme throughout the south-east of France and Monaco since 2013, in the context of its commitment to protecting endangered marine species.

Mr. Goodfish seeks to reduce fishing pressure on fragile marine species by changing the practices of all those involved in the fishing sector, as well as our consumption habits. Each season, and for each coastline, Mr. Goodfish publishes a list of species recommended by its committee of experts based on the size of the fish, its reproduction period and its stock status. It takes a positive approach: rather than banning certain species, Mr. Goodfish promotes each season’s sustainable alternatives.

In France, more than 2200 professionals have already joined the programme. This year, the Columbus Hotel Monte-Carlo came on board with us to promote responsible seafood consumption. A partnership was also established with the Centre de Découverte Mer et Montagne environmental organisation in Nice to assist the operations team in developing and monitoring the Mr. Goodfish programme in the Mediterranean.

Learn more: [www.mrgoodfish.com](http://www.mrgoodfish.com)
BECAUSE THE OCEAN

The Because the Ocean (BTO) initiative was launched under the patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris in November 2015. It calls for better consideration of the interaction between the ocean and climate change within the mechanisms of the Convention. Twenty-three countries signed the first BTO declaration, urging for:

1) an IPCC special report on the ocean and climate change, as proposed by Monaco;
2) the convening of a United Nations Conference on the oceans to promote the implementation of SDG14, the Sustainable Development Goal for the oceans; and
3) the adoption of an ocean action plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Thanks to the growing interest of parties to the convention, a second BTO declaration was launched during COP22 in Marrakech. The 33 countries that signed it “encouraged” UNFCCC parties to consider submitting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that promote, if appropriate, ambitious climate action in order to minimise the adverse effects of climate change on the ocean and contribute to its protection and conservation”.

OBJECTIVE:
• Build on the lessons learned and the recommendations of this highly successful initiative.

Learn more: www.becausetheocean.org

GLOBAL FUND FOR CORAL REEFS

Coral reefs are home to a quarter of all marine life and support the livelihoods of a billion people around the world. Their worth is estimated at 10,000 billion US dollars per year. Although almost half the planet’s coral reefs have already disappeared due to climate change, pollution, overfishing and other anthropogenic stress factors, the financial resources devoted to their protection are only one seventh of the amount needed to save them.

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), administered by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, is the first UN trust fund focused specifically on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (“Life below water”) and the first global blended finance vehicle dedicated to coral reefs. The GFCR provides grants and private investor capital to support sustainable blue economy projects that have a positive impact on the coral reefs and the communities that depend on them.

Initiated by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and conceptualised during a workshop held in the Principality of Monaco in 2018, the GFCR has since become a global partnership of member states (Germany, UK), philanthropic organisations (the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation), United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNEP and UNCDF), financial institutions (BNP Paribas) and associated organisations (ICRI).

At its four meetings in 2021, the Board of Directors approved an initial funding cycle for projects on the ground as well as the establishment of a global team. This corresponds to total funding of 20 million US dollars for programmes in Fiji, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Bahamas, Kenya/Mauritania and Papua New Guinea, as well as grants for preparing proposals in the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) area (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico), the Solomon Islands and the Maldives.

Revenue-generating activities include the development of a reef-friendly fertilizer for the sugarcane plantations and a new sanitary landfill in Fiji, to prevent local sources of pollution continuing to damage the reefs. In the Philippines, the programme focusses on eco-tourism and sustainable fishing and aquaculture, as well as on the sustainable funding of more than 200 marine protected areas.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is involved in decision-making as a member of the Board of Directors, supports fundraising and communication, helps beneficiary countries prepare project proposals and takes part in governance and setting strategic objectives.

Learn more: www.globalfundcoralreefs.org

OBJECTIVE:
The GFCR aims to raise 125 million US dollars in the form of grants and 500 million US dollars in partner assets, which together will unlock more than two billion dollars of investment capital to benefit coral reefs over the next 10 years. New programmes will be considered for support in 2022.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

24. 25.

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The Monegasque Association on Ocean Acidification, which has been working on this issue since 2013, changed its name in 2021 to better reflect its scope. A relatively unknown consequence of our CO2 emissions is ocean acidity, which has risen by 30% since the start of the industrial revolution and could increase by 150% by the end of the century if our CO2 emissions continue to grow at the current rate. Ocean acidification threatens many organisms and ecosystems, including coral reefs, as well as the communities that depend on them. The association quickly became interested in studying ocean acidification in the context of multiple global stress factors (ocean warming, oxygen loss, etc.) – a vital area of research given that marine organisms are subject to a cocktail of simultaneous changes.

The AMAO has also been a frontrunner in its research of proposed measures to tackle ocean changes and the potential impact the measures might have on marine life. Within that context, the association coordinated the Ocean Solutions Initiative, the results of which appear in the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. To better reflect the scope of the association and to boost its impact, the AMAO’s General Assembly decided to formally expand its remit to include the other climate stressors affecting the ocean, as well as the solutions to counter them, while keeping a particular focus on ocean acidification. To that end, the AMAO changed its name in 2021, becoming Ocean Acidification and other ocean Changes – Impacts and Solutions (OACIS).

OACIS works to advance both the science relating to the impacts of acidification and climate change on the ocean and the potential solutions to mitigate them. OACIS, one of the Foundation’s most technical initiatives, brings together scientists working in its fields via specialist meetings, consolidation activities and technical training. The results are tailored to a lay audience to raise awareness among the general public and inform political decision-makers.

In 2021, OACIS brought together 15 experts from the natural, social and economic sciences at a scoping workshop organised during Monaco Ocean Week to identify future lines of work. OACIS members organised several events, including a panel discussion on ocean acidification impacts and research priorities in the Mediterranean during Monaco Ocean Week (run by the IUCN) and the fifth International Workshop on the Economics of Ocean Acidification (organised by the Monaco Scientific Centre). OACIS also supported an expert study on potential solutions to coral reef decline caused by climate change. Using temperature modelling from high and low CO2 emission scenarios, they projected future coral bleaching, taking into account their adaptive capacities.

How quickly we act over the next 30 years will determine which reefs, species, functions and ecosystem services can be sustained. Without huge efforts to mitigate and adapt, coral reefs as we know them today — and the services they provide people with (food production, reduction in flooding and erosion, tourism, economic resources, cultural values) — risk being one of the first major ecosystems this century to collapse under the weight of climate change.
**PELAGOS INITIATIVE**

The Pelagos Sanctuary is the first cross-border area in the Mediterranean dedicated to the protection of marine mammals. It is managed jointly by France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco. The Tripartite Pelagos Agreement came into force on 21 February 2002, following ratification by the three countries. As a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI), it harbours a remarkable biodiversity of animal species and is of scientific, aesthetic, cultural and educational interest.

Nonetheless, because of the lack of resources and a strong commitment from member states, the Pelagos Sanctuary is currently not fulfilling its original aims. In light of this, civil society was keen to take 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.

The purpose of the Pelagos Initiative is to act as a lever to boost the protection of the Sanctuary already implemented by the member states. The Pelagos Sanctuary’s territory extends well beyond the coastal zone and its increased protection could set an example for the management of marine protected areas in open waters.

In accordance with the Pelagos Agreement management plan, the aims of the Pelagos Initiative are to:

- Organise activities to raise awareness about the Pelagos Sanctuary.
- Support scientific projects that feed into Pelagos Agreement decision-making to increase the protection of the Sanctuary.
- Encourage the setting up of conservation projects common to all the MPAs within the Pelagos territory.

In 2021, the Initiative held its first call for projects to support projects within the Pelagos Sanctuary and meet those objectives. Further calls for projects will be launched annually. The Pelagos Initiative is careful to strike a balance between French, Italian and Monegasque projects to ensure that its impact is felt across the whole territory. It also promotes collaboration between stakeholders within the Sanctuary by encouraging projects run jointly in the three countries.

**DIMFE DONORS’ INITIATIVE FOR MEDITERRANEAN FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS**

Protecting freshwater ecosystems and managing water resources sustainably are key challenges of the 21st century. For this reason the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, MAVA Foundation and the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation have joined forces to take dedicated action on the issues of freshwater ecosystem conservation and restoration in the Mediterranean. The Donors’ Initiative For Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems (DIMFE) was launched on 7 September 2021 at the World Conservation Congress.

In addition to hosting a rich biodiversity, freshwater ecosystems provide a supply of water for local populations, yet they are constantly under threat. DIMFE plays its part in maintaining the balance of the planet’s ecosystems by focusing on the issues in the Mediterranean region, with the following objectives:

- Conservation and restoration of freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems,
- Sustainable use and management of water resources,
- Development and implementation of sustainable funding mechanisms for the conservation of freshwater ecosystems and sustainable water resource use.

DIMFE launches an annual call for projects with a strong impact on the ground. It relies on the knowledge of a network of experts who evaluate the proposals received and support the Initiative in implementing its action and communication strategy in order to provide conservation stakeholders with a sound financial partner.
THE MEDFUND

The MedFund is an environmental trust fund based in Monaco whose sole purpose is financing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean. Set up in 2015 by France, Tunisia and Monaco, with the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the MedPAN network, the MedFund underpins the commitment of several European countries and international environmental organisations to safeguard the future of the Mediterranean and those who live there through vital immediate action.

In 2021, The MedFund supported MPAs in the Kuriat Islands, La Galite, Kneiss, Zembra in Tunisia and the Karaburun-Sazan Marine Park in Albania, all of which have been funded since 2020.

Following a call for expressions of interest in 2020, three new MPAs were selected for MedFund support in 2021: Jbel Moussa and Al Hoceima in Morocco and Gokova in Turkey. The Fund’s Board of Directors approved funding of 1.04 million euros for these three MPAs for the next five years (2021–2025).

The MedFund supports a total of 8 Marine Protected Areas in Albania, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, representing an area of more than 3,000 square kilometres.

In July 2021, guided by the science and encouraged by the multinational commitment to increase the number of Highly Protected MPAs in the Mediterranean, the MedFund Board of Directors created a new funding window dedicated to MPAs benefiting from a high level of protection, called the Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative. The MAVA Foundation, which has been involved in conservation in the Mediterranean for many years, has provided funding of two million Swiss francs (1.8 million euros) to support this initiative, becoming the first partner to join the funding mechanism. The partnership with the MAVA Foundation was officially launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco.

The first call for expressions of interest relating to Highly Protected MPAs for the Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative was launched at the Mediterranean MPA Forum in December 2021. Applications from MPAs will be evaluated by a grant-awarding committee and submitted to the Board of Directors for decision during 2022.

The MedFund benefits from the financial support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Government of Monaco, the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), the French Development Agency (AFD), the MAVA Foundation and a network of partner aquariums and zoos.

Learn more: https://themedfund.org/

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In 2021, at the request of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), The MedFund and MedPAN developed a joint project in the Mediterranean entitled ‘Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean’, which relies on the alliance between a network of MPA managers (MedPAN) and a regional environmental fund (The MedFund). The GEF will allocate a budget of five million US dollars from 2022 for MPAs in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro and Albania.

By 2025, The MedFund aims to support around 20 Marine Protected Areas, representing an area of more than 7,000 square kilometres. The long-term objective is to support 80% of MPAs in the south-eastern Mediterranean.
On the initiative of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, five foundations (the MAVA Foundation, Thalassa Foundation, Fondation Segré, Fondation Sancta Devota and Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation) came together in 2019 to form the Monk Seal Alliance (MSA). The main objective of the MSA is to support and coordinate conservation efforts focused on the Mediterranean monk seal (Monachus monachus), one of the world’s most endangered species, with a total population estimated at less than 800 individuals.

The 2020 call for projects saw eight projects selected, all of which began in 2021. In total, more than 2.7 million euros have been invested.

On the Ras Nouadhibou (Cap Blanc) peninsula on the west coast of Africa, which is inhabited by a colony of over 330 monk seals, the CBD-Habitat Foundation monitors and supervises the smooth running of the local seal reserve. This year, the team carried out more than 3,800 hours of surveillance. They detected 583 violations (77% of them involving fishing nets used illegally in the reserve), recorded 65 seal births and took nearly 9,600 photos for the seal colony’s identification catalogue, which features photo ID for each individual.

In Turkey, thanks to the support of the Monk Seal Alliance, SAD-AFAG is assisting national coastal network AFBIKA (Mediterranean Seal Information & Rescue Network) by obtaining data on the species. SAD-AFAG is also collaborating with the relevant authorities and local stakeholders to prevent breeding caves being entered illegally. In addition, the organisation is drawing up plans for the management and conservation of marine and coastal areas for monk seals, including spatiotemporal measures, and regulations for development, tourism, fishing activities and shipping.

In Madeira, the aim of the project led by the Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation (IFCN) is to improve the conservation status of the species in the region, to examine the entire archipelago to identify potential habitats for monk seals and to mitigate negative human interactions. It also ensures the removal of marine litter from caves and organises awareness-raising activities to educate Madeiran citizens about and involve them in monk seal conservation.

As well as supporting projects, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, which coordinates the Monk Seal Alliance, promotes and fosters interaction and collaboration between stakeholders.

Learn more: www.monksealliance.org

This year, the team carried out more than 3,800 hours of surveillance. They detected 583 violations (77% of them involving fishing nets used illegally in the reserve)...
Africa boasts approximately 11% of the world’s 1.2 million square metres of dense tropical forest. Over the past 25 years, the African continent has lost around one third of its mangrove forests, which offer vital economic and environmental advantages to local communities.

The environmental, social and economic benefits of mangrove forests are generally undervalued, due to the lack of scientific knowledge generated in the majority of these difficult-to-access regions. Poor conservation strategies and the lack of incentives encouraging a behaviour shift in local communities are leading to deforestation as well as the degradation and loss of the mangrove forests’ biodiversity. Concerted action at local, national and regional level is needed to protect these forests, which often cross national boundaries.

This project, supported by the Foundation, involves strengthening local stakeholder capability and creating a successful synergy between local governance, the exploitation of mangrove products and ecosystem conservation in southern Senegal (Casamance), Guinea-Bissau and Guinea 🇬🇳

AN INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO MANGROVE MANAGEMENT IN SENEGAL

Project leader: Eclosio

- Boost scientific knowledge of the ecosystem services provided by mangroves.
- Achieve the integrated protection of biodiversity and fragile mangrove ecosystems in West Africa.
- Introduce sustainable management plans to benefit local communities.

OBJECTIVES:

For over 15 years, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, an international non-profit organisation, has been committed to progressing planetary health for present and future generations. With the collective awareness of the environmental challenges facing humanity, the time has come for action, supported by science. The Foundation is working with its partners and indigenous communities to build a sustainable future, both through the projects we support and the initiatives we undertake, on a local and global scale. Together, we can change our relationship with nature and achieve responsible and prosperous coexistence. An aspiration supported by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco since the creation of His Foundation. It is with confidence in humanity’s ability to build more resilient societies that we move forward in carrying out our missions.
RESTORING THE COASTAL FORESTS OF NEW CALEDONIA’S FORGOTTEN COAST

Project leader: Noé

New Caledonia is one of the world’s 35 biodiversity hotspots, which are defined as areas with rich biodiversity that is particularly under threat from human activity. It possesses exceptional flora, with more than 3,400 indigenous plant species, 76% of which are endemic—one of the highest rates in the world, putting it in third place after New Zealand and Hawaii. Nonetheless, of the 1,200 plant species assessed to date by New Caledonian flora experts, 43% are considered to be on the brink of extinction. This is all the more alarming considering that 72% of endangered species are outside protected areas.

Since 2016, Noé has been supporting three Borendy nurseries with the propagation of rare and endangered species. In 2019, Noé assessed the conservation status of two endangered conifers on the Forgotten Coast – Araucaria luxurians and A. scopulorum. The results reveal often small and fragmented populations. The largest populations are also the most degraded and the least dynamic, having suffered significant fires, in turn leading to severe erosion and a deterioration in water quality.

The project aims to define and implement, in liaison with local stakeholders, initiatives to restore these sites in order to safeguard the Araucarias, strengthen the connectivity of forests along the Forgotten Coast, and help restore the ecosystem services provided by these environments.

GENDER EQUALITY AND ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY IN SENEGAL (EGALES)

Project leader: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

The availability of electricity from renewable sources benefits health and education, supports economic growth, protects natural resources and helps combat climate change and pollution. It is also a factor in women’s independence, particularly in rural areas. Having access to electricity enables women to devote much of the time normally spent on basic survival activities (such as gathering firewood, fetching water, cooking and harvesting crops) to work that generates additional income, often in agriculture. In sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that women are responsible for 60 to 70% of production in the sector.

In Senegal, farming-very rarely benefits from machinery or electricity (only two in ten people in rural areas have access to electricity), which limits its economic potential. This is the case with market gardening in the Ziguinchor region, one of the country's main agricultural areas, where 80% of the working population is engaged in the primary sector.

The EGALES project aims to improve the human and economic development conditions for market gardeners in the community of Ouonck by using solar energy and optimising water use to protect the environment.

INCREASING BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE IN PORT-CROS NATIONAL PARK

Project leader: Parc National de Port-Cros

Port-Cros National Park (PNPC), created in 1963, is the oldest marine protected area in the European Union. Having benefited from substantial human, material and financial resources for decades, it has a wealth of experience on which to draw, giving it a technical advantage over many of its counterparts in multiple fields. Long held up as an example and emulated, PNPC remains a benchmark in the Mediterranean despite the increase in number of coastal and marine protected areas and their resources. In 2012, the Park was expanded by a factor of 70 without additional funding. In order to manage its resources as efficiently as possible, it requires a complete habitat map and robust biodiversity inventories.

To meet this need, the project will focus on drawing up inventories and mapping the Park’s terrestrial habitats and underwater caves to level up knowledge of the Park’s new areas and consolidate the development efforts and research carried out since its creation. It will also advocate new ways of managing the expanded area.

The work of drawing up inventories on the ground will be preceded by a detailed examination of the data recorded by naturalists in the early days of the Park.

This will enable researchers to determine the current state of knowledge as accurately as possible, and above all to analyse the positive and negative changes in the area’s biodiversity (e.g. local species extinctions). This extended time period analysis can then be compared with anthropogenic and climate change data.
Projects

YOUNG WATER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2021–2022

Project leader: Young Water Solutions

Supporting youth-led start-ups in the water and sanitation sector encourages the development of solutions to water-related challenges, creates jobs, decentralises economic opportunity and builds youth capacity. The Young Water Fellowship (YWF) was created on that basis in 2017, to fill the gap in technical and financial support for young entrepreneurs in the water sector.

YWF is a year-long aid programme for the creation of 30 youth-led social enterprises in Uganda, Senegal and Bangladesh. The start-ups must address issues related to water management at local level, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 6, while contributing to the development of ecosystems that support young social entrepreneurs in the water and sanitation sector.

To achieve this, the programme provides 30 handpicked entrepreneurs aged between 18 and 30 – known as “Young Water Fellows” – with financial support (seed funding) and technical support in the form of training, follow-up and networking.

OBJECTIVES:
- Build capacity in the water and sanitation entrepreneurial ecosystem in Uganda, Senegal and Bangladesh.
- Launch innovative youth-led start-ups that provide sustainable solutions to water and sanitation problems.
- Create a support network for young entrepreneurs to ensure the continued existence and development of their social enterprise.

SEATIES: WORKING TO ADAPT COASTAL AREAS TO CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS

Project leader: Ocean & Climate Platform

The Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate is unequivocal: the need to adapt coastal areas to climate-related risk is now a priority. However, in the case of medium-sized coastal cities in particular, the risks are still poorly understood and solutions inadequately deployed.

The Ocean & Climate Platform, with its network of international experts and scientists as well as its 85 member organisations, has designed this project to provide the cities’ administrators, decision-makers and stakeholders with a broad overview and an assessment of the various possible responses and solutions.

Focusing on a handful of cities in four regions that are representative of the diversity of risks (France, the Pacific, West Africa and the USA), Phase 1 will identify the types of response deployed, in terms of their technical, environmental, socio-economic and legal characteristics, and the types of risk faced by the cities.

In Phase 2, regional workshops will be organised to feed back to stakeholders and to analyse the key success factors for implementing these responses, with a particular focus on the environmental and social components.

OBJECTIVES:
- Study the effects of environmental changes on benthic organisms and communities in the Arctic.
- Enhance knowledge of ecosystem services provided by the Arctic.
- Engage with the public to highlight the risks facing Arctic ecosystems.

BENTHIC ORGANISMS AND COMMUNITIES IN A CHANGING ARCTIC OCEAN (ORCA)

Project leader: Sorbonne University

Climate-related environmental changes have major consequences for marine organisms and ecosystems and the services they provide, but our understanding of these consequences is particularly patchy in regions such as the Arctic.

Marine plants and algae living on the seafloor in polar coastal regions contribute around 5% of marine primary production and play a significant role in the global carbon footprint. The many ecosystem services they provide, including providing shelter and food, foster great biodiversity in coastal environments.

The ORCA project aims to address these issues by focusing on the effect of environmental conditions on benthic ecosystems in the Arctic. ORCA will highlight the major upheavals occurring in the Arctic and their consequences. Given the dearth of information currently available, the project will undoubtedly lead to significant advances in biology, ecology, biogeochemistry and mediation in this as yet little-known region.

OBJECTIVES:
- Study the effects of environmental changes on benthic organisms and communities in the Arctic.
- Enhance knowledge of ecosystem services provided by the Arctic.
- Engage with the public to highlight the risks facing Arctic ecosystems.
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The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has always sought to create a group dynamic, bringing together various stakeholders committed to environmental protection and finding appropriate solutions to the key challenges ahead. Only a collective, coordinated approach will enable us to forge a new relationship with nature, support innovations capable of accelerating the shift towards more resilient, sustainable societies, assist research and share knowledge while opening people’s minds.

During the 11th Prince’s Round Table for Philanthropy on 7 June, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco awarded the 2021 Prince’s Prize for Innovative Philanthropy to Dr Mutahunga Birungi, Executive Director of Bwindi Community Hospital in south-western Uganda, in recognition of the hospital’s outstanding work to provide the poorest communities with access to healthcare.

Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) was founded in 2003 by Dr Scott Kellerman and his wife, Carol, to help the Batwa indigenous community who lived in the Bwindi forest before it was declared a sanctuary for mountain gorillas. The BCH handles more than 40,000 consultations each year and directly involves thousands of people in local healthcare initiatives.

“I feel extremely humbled that, from an open-air clinic for Batwa indigenous people 18 years ago, Bwindi Community Hospital has grown to the extent that it now makes a meaningful contribution to improving access to healthcare and health training, especially for those who need it most. Our success is the result of a collective effort by the community, staff and many other people acting either individually or as organisations from different backgrounds”, Dr Birungi said. “It is by acting together that we will make the world a better place to live, for ourselves today and for those coming after us”.

The Prize, created jointly by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Tocqueville Foundation, recognises and supports innovative philanthropic projects that foster sustainable societal innovation.

The Prince’s Round Table for Philanthropy is hosted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Tocqueville Foundation, an international foundation under the auspices of the Fondation Entreprendre. This annual closed-door event brings together, alongside HSH the Sovereign Prince, leading international philanthropists keen to explore with their peers the role of philanthropy in addressing the major challenges the world currently faces. At a time when the pandemic has turned our societies upside down, it was essential to address the issue of the relationship between planetary health and global health. The theme chosen for the 2021 edition was Planetary Health.

Laurence Tubiana, Chief Executive Officer of the European Climate Foundation and Chair of the Board of Directors of the French Development Agency, and Professor Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam, shared their expertise in climate action and governance before concluding that human health and planetary health are closely related.
To address the crucial issue of protecting the ocean, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and its partners, the Monaco Oceanographic Institute, the Monaco Scientific Centre and the Monaco Yacht Club, with the support of the Monegasque Government, hosted another edition of this annual week of action with key international stakeholders involved in managing and protecting our seas. To tackle the threats facing the ocean, unhampered by the pandemic, Monaco Ocean Week 2021 took place in a hybrid format from 22 to 28 March. Opening with the Monaco Blue Initiative (MBI), the event brought together scientists, experts, NGOs and civil society representatives for a full week of discussion around key issues such as plastic pollution, ocean acidification, coral reefs and scientific research.

**Workshops dealing with plastic pollution**

During the week, a host of international stakeholders had the opportunity to engage in discussion, present solutions and launch initiatives to combat plastic pollution, including:

- A review of existing legal instruments, current developments and proposed solutions to combat plastic pollution in the ocean, in international, European and comparative law.
- A report on the latest figures relating to plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, with the IUCN.
- A presentation by BeMed 2021 awardees of their respective projects.
- Colombia’s contribution to the fight against plastic pollution.
- A presentation of upcycling, an innovative, creative, entrepreneurial approach to managing waste more efficiently, given by The Animal Fund.
- 15 suggestions for resolving the plastic crisis, by the German Ocean Foundation NGO.

**Preserving marine ecosystems and increasing knowledge**

Given the overexploitation of marine resources, it is vitally important to engage in debate as well as joint national and global initiatives to raise awareness and protect marine ecosystems. Monaco Ocean Week highlighted the following initiatives:

- The International Coral Reef Initiative, which Monaco co-chaired with Australia and Indonesia from 2018 to 2021.
- The Global Fund for Coral Reefs, a blended finance vehicle that uses public and donor funds to boost private investment for coral reef conservation and restoration.
- The Monk Seal Alliance, which works to protect the Mediterranean monk seal, one of the world’s most endangered species.
- The Monaco Ocean Science Federation, which brought together leaders of Europe’s foremost marine science research organisations to look beyond the crisis and map out a more positive future for the ocean.

- Sphyrna Odyssey, which revealed the findings of its Quiet Sea mission to monitor sound levels in the marine environment during lockdown.
- The yachtsman Boris Herrmann who installed an onboard laboratory on his IMOCA to measure CO2 emissions during the last Vendée Globe and report on the condition of the sea.

The Monaco Blue Initiative and Monaco Ocean Week are supported by Rolex and Barclays Private Bank.

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The annual fundraising evening co-hosted by the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation, WWF International and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation took place on 14 June in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. By the end of the evening, a total of 216,000 euros had been raised to support both organisations’ initiatives focused on protecting the Mediterranean and its iconic species, including whales, sharks, tuna and swordfish. The wildlife in this fragile zone faces many threats, from whales struck by ships, turtles ingesting plastic and being disturbed by tourists on their nesting beaches, to sharks threatened by overfishing.

WWF and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation are working to reduce the threats to marine wildlife in the Mediterranean by developing innovative solutions, including monitoring, to learn more about certain species and how best to protect them, and create the conditions for marine life to thrive.

The final of the 2nd Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge (MOPC) – a business start-up competition hosted by Monaco Impact, the International University of Monaco, the Oceanographic Institute and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation – took place on 16 June. The challenge gives students the opportunity to bring their business skills, creativity and commitment to bear on protecting the ocean. This year’s theme, ‘When the Circular Economy Saves the Ocean’, brought together 37 teams from various countries, representing all types of institutions (business schools, communications schools, engineering schools, etc.). The Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge also aims to inspire and support entrepreneurial projects that have a positive impact on the ocean.

The Start-up category was won by Wype, which tackles the somewhat taboo subject of wet wipes used in toilets with an eco-friendly gel alternative. The winner in the Student category was Hy-Plug, an initiative developing hydrogen refuelling stations for boats in ports and marinas. Fritsact, a start-up producing aquafeed with zero impact on the ocean, won the Audience Choice ‘Best Business Pitch’ award. The organisers’ Coup de cœur Special Award went to Watch Your Anchor, a project developing an app to tell skippers where to drop anchor without damaging plankton.
> Taking action together

15 YEARS OF ACTION TO PROTECT THE PLANET

To celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2021, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation hosted a number of events bringing together prestigious partners, philanthropists, scientists and celebrities who all share the same commitment to environmental protection.

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Planetary Health Awards

On 29 October, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation hosted its annual ceremony for Planetary Health Awards in the categories of Water, Biodiversity and Climate Change. In his opening speech, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco reviewed the actions undertaken by his Foundation since its inception, saying: “It is moving to think that the 700 projects we have led or supported over these years, as well as the 90 million euros we have invested, have enabled us to protect dozens of species, safeguard hundreds of ecosystems and help thousands of our fellow people.” The Sovereign Prince went on to address his sincere thanks to the teams, donors and partners who have supported the Foundation through the years.

The Water Award was presented to Chief Water Commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation and youth activist Autumn Peltier, in recognition of her commitment to providing access to clean water for Canada’s indigenous peoples. Autumn was a guest speaker at UN World Water Day in March 2019 and at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in 2020. Autumn continues unrelentingly to raise awareness of the sanctity of water and the need to protect it. She also advocates for the rights of indigenous children.

The Biodiversity Award went to IPBES, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in recognition of its valuable work in assessing the state of knowledge about the world’s biodiversity and ecosystems and the services they provide for people, as well as in developing the tools and methodologies to protect and use these vital natural assets sustainably.

The Climate Change Award went to GreenWave, a non-profit co-founded by Bren Smith in 2014 to replicate and scale the ecological and economic advantages of regenerative ocean farming. GreenWave’s 10-year goal is to provide training, tools and support to 10,000 farmers and economic and climate impacts. Regenerative ocean farming offers a powerful solution to the rising social and economic inequalities faced by many coastal communities.

Supporting the new generation of scientists

The evening also saw the awarding of diplomas to young researchers as part of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation IPCC Scholarships programme, which the Foundation has supported since 2011. The scholarships, awarded every two years, are a springboard for young researchers from developing countries, giving them access to science but also has a positive impact on their communities and region by increasing scientific knowledge around local climate-related issues.

In 2021, the Foundation joined forces with Moët Hennessy as part of the IPCC Scholarship Programme, with a view to broadening the scope of research to include the important topic of ‘living soil’, a new approach to agricultural production and wine-growing based on the natural dynamics of soils, their typicity and respect for their functional biodiversity.

The IPCC Secretary, Abdallah Mokssit, remarked that the programme was not only a success but a real advance, because supporting these young researchers over the years not only gives them access to science but also has a positive impact on their communities and region by increasing scientific knowledge around local climate-related issues.

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MONTE-CARLO GALA FOR PLANETARY HEALTH

On Thursday 23 September, the Sovereign Prince was joined by Sharon Stone, Orlando Bloom, Mélanie Laurent, Pom Klementieff, Lucas Bravo and Gaspard Ulliel for an exceptional edition of the event at the Prince’s Palace to mark the 15th anniversary of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the fifth Monte-Carlo Gala for Planetary Health.

Sharon Stone, guest of honour for this Gala, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco in recognition of her humanitarian commitment.

In her speech where she referred to both our own health and the health of our world during the pandemic, Sharon Stone said: “You can change your individual behaviour and your sense of responsibility and care”, before issuing a call to action as eco-citizens: “I would like to ask you all to consider making what you have done this evening part of your everyday reality. When you go outside, don’t be too proud to pick up the trash.”

In his speech, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco said that it was no longer possible “to turn a blind eye to situations that affect us all, whatever our circumstances and wherever we live”, because “the degradation of the ocean has devastating effects on coastal populations and on humanity as a whole. […] plastic pollution contaminates the food chain and contaminates us all. […] The disappearance of the most fragile ecosystems, such as corals, will deprive us of essential resources in the future.”

The auction raised funds to support the Foundation’s work on the ground. For this edition, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation was delighted to partner with the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation with a series of lots auctioned to benefit their work dedicated to the well-being and development of children.

Some 150 artists came together for the occasion, celebrating the Earth and Humanity with a strong message paying tribute to nature as well as our diversity and the wealth of different cultures with whom we share a desire to act together for the future of our planet.

Previous recipients:
• 2017: Leonardo DiCaprio
• 2018: Orlando Bloom
• 2019: Robert Redford
• 2020: Sting

Led by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Monte-Carlo Gala for Planetary Health is organised by his Foundation and Milutin Gatsby, Global Fundraising Chairman, with the support of the Monaco Yacht Show, the Monaco Oceanographic Institute, the Prince Albert I Foundation, the Yacht Club of Monaco, the Société des Bains de Mer and Monaco Private Label.

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Taking action together
RAISING AWARENESS

Our future depends on a new balance between humans and nature. Since we all have a part to play in creating that balance, it is essential we continue mobilising people from every generation. Raising awareness involves making scientists’ warnings about the reality of the ecological and climate crisis heard. It also involves promoting the voices of inspired and inspiring environmental stakeholders and stimulating reflection and discussion through conferences, exhibitions and films. It means supporting the younger generations in their understanding of the environment and ecosystems. In that sense, the Foundation acts as a transmitter of science and hope, sharing the ecological reality alongside the awe-inspiring beauty of our planet.

In the context of its partnership with the Prince Albert II Foundation, the Monte-Carlo Television Festival hosted the world premiere screening of investigative documentary Lions, Bones & Bullets on Monday 21 June at the Grimaldi Forum Monaco. The character-driven documentary Lions, Bones & Bullets, produced by Jagged Peak Films, reveals the underbelly of what the world thought was lion trophy-hunting but is, in reality, the mass production, trade in and taming of Africa’s wildlife for traditional Chinese medicine. It is an industry that not only exploits workers and consumers but also poses a huge health risk for the population at large. The documentary follows Richard Peirce, a Penguin-Random House published author, on an investigation from lion farms in South Africa to traffickers in South-East Asia to shed light on the sophisticated logistics of the wildlife trafficking. After presenting the problem, the film explores practical alternatives. The documentary exposes the world to the secret workings of the multi-million dollar lion breeding industry and opens up a broad ethical debate on the issue. The fate of the lion population plays a key role in determining the future of wildlife in Africa.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021
To mark its 15th anniversary in 2021, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation launched an international photography competition in partnership with Barclays Private Bank and Monaco Digital under the theme ‘Humanity & Wildlife: Crossed Destinies, Shared Territories’.

The first edition was entered by 1,400 photographers, with nearly 6,000 photographs uploaded to the competition’s Photocrowd platform. Entrants could submit up to five photographs in one or all of the competition categories: Incredible Wildlife, Wildlife in Crisis and Reasons for Hope.

The jury was made up of professional photographers and representatives from organisations committed to sustainable development. The public was also invited to vote for their favourite photographs directly on the competition page.

The 2021 Environmental Photographer of the Year Award went to Kathleen Ricker for her photograph Gorilla by the Water. A committed and passionate photographer, Kathleen captures shots of Ugandan mountain gorillas on her many treks.

Jean-Michel Krief, photographer, member of the jury and co-founder of the Sebitoli Chimpanzee Project in Uganda, said: “The photographer has perfectly captured the magic of the moment when the gorilla forgets her presence to concentrate on crossing the river in the heart of the sumptuous Ugandan forest.”

The winner of the Foundation’s Environmental Photography Prize received 6,000 euros, while the category winners were each awarded 1,000 euros. The recipients of the three public prizes each won 500 euros.

The most beautiful photographs from the competition were exhibited from 4 May to 1 June 2021 in the Principality of Monaco’s Boulingrins Gardens, to coincide with the Foundation’s 15th anniversary.

The exhibition is touring around the countries where the Foundation has a branch in order to raise public awareness about the crisis of accelerated biodiversity loss. The first stop was Italy in autumn 2021, in Rome then San Marino.

“...The exhibition is touring around the countries where the Foundation has a branch in order to raise public awareness about the crisis of accelerated biodiversity loss...
The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation teamed up with the Monte-Carlo Television Festival for its 60th edition, held from 18 to 22 June 2021, as the partner of the Prince Rainier III Special Prize. Created by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Festival’s Honorary President, this special prize is awarded to the best environmental documentary. It constitutes a new category in its own right the prestigious Golden Nymphs Awards Competition, with its own separate entry procedure. Jim Rakete’s film Now was awarded the 2021 Prince Rainier III Special Prize in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco.

The Monaco Philosophy Meetings

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation was delighted to partner with the Monaco Philosophy Meetings for their round table on the topic of “What can philosophy do to address the ecological crisis?” which was held on 18 June at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. Joseph Cohen, philosopher and founding member, hosted the event and philosophers Dominique Bourg, Joëlle Zask, and Serge Audier also participated.

Throughout the school year, under the supervision of Dr Heike Molenaar and their teacher Vanessa Albert, the Monegasque schoolchildren were in charge of managing this environmentally valuable and biodiversity-rich AME – a stretch of coast that is home to six ecosystems with an incredible variety of terrestrial and marine species. This awareness initiative enables the children to develop their knowledge, but more importantly to have hands-on experience of protecting the environment.

The six panels complete the work carried out by previous classes, which put up plaques inscribed with “Here begins the sea”.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is proud to support these active environmental protection ambassadors and to enable the youngest generation to contribute to the collective effort to protect Monaco’s ecosystems.

UPAW, Street Art Supporting the Environment

The 2021 edition of UPAW took place from 4 to 8 July at the foot of the sea wall in Monaco, providing the artists with a unique setting in which to create their works. This street art event brings together artists from different countries around the world every year. UPAW is proud to be a champion of street art while supporting the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation’s environmental protection work. The event’s founder, Alberto Colman, recalled the projects supported thanks to previous editions: “For the first three years, we helped the Foundation’s project to save chimpanzees in Uganda; in 2020, we contributed to the BeMed project, which tackles plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, and this year we raised money to help protect monk seals.”

A cheque for 45,000 euros was presented to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation on 20 October, which were the profits from the auction of paintings by Andrea Ravo Mattoni, Nadib Bandi, Michael Beernaerts, Chicadania, El Pesc, Manomatic, Miser Piro, Jacques Schneider, Cacao Rock, Mr OneTwo and Tones.
“CHERRY BLOSSOM”, AN EVENT FOR A GREAT CAUSE: PROTECTING THE OCEAN

From 25 March to 10 April, Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer and The High Life Monaco foundation organized “Cherry Blossom”, a charity event supporting the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The opening ceremony took place in the Patio of the Hôtel de Paris, in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II, Ms Mayu Wittouck, founder of The High Life Monaco, Mr. Olivier Wenden, Vice-President of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Mr. Jean-Luc Biamonti, President of the Société des Bains de Mer, in a décor inspired by a Japanese garden. Guests were initiated in the Japanese tradition of making wishes, addressed to the spirits to receive their blessing, by way of an Ema (little wooden plaque). Once written in calligraphy, the wishes were hung on the traditional wish shrine placed in the patio. The funds collected within the framework of “Cherry Blossom” were donated to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, for its action in support of the ocean, in particular through “Beyond Plastic Med”, an initiative launched in 2015 for a plastic-free Mediterranean Sea.

ARKTIC CIRCLE EXHIBITION BY OLIVIER ANRIGO

Olivier Anrigo presented his exhibition Arktic Circle at Espace 22 in Monaco from 26 November 2021 to 25 February 2022, inviting us on a photographic journey looking back at several years of expeditions undertaken in extreme conditions in places such as Norway, Finland, Iceland and Spitsbergen. The photographer portrays both the beauty and undeniable fragility of that region of the world, which is subject to profound climate change generated by human activities. This exhibition is part of the Arktic Interactions initiative, which aims to raise awareness of the need to protect these threatened regions. Anrigo launched this multi-faceted, experimental programme consisting of a book, exhibition, workshops and a series of documentaries with the support of a team of experts, including a glaciologist, naturalist and ornithologist, whose experience lies in assessing the condition of the different areas of the Arctic Circle, as well as visual image professionals. Anrigo’s book Arktic Circle brings together 95 of his most striking shots.

NAÏS IN THE LAND OF WOLVES SCREENING DAY FOR MONEGASQUE PUPILS

Naïs in the Land of Wolves is a documentary following the adventures of a father and his daughter, in the heart of Mercantour, the wildest national park in France. The documentary is supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation as part of its Human–Wildlife Initiative. It premiered at the Cinéma des Beaux-Arts in Monaco on 14 December in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and his children, Hereditary Prince Jacques and Princess Gabriella, the film’s director, Remy Masséglia, his daughter, Naïs, and Olivier Wenden, Vice-President of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Then on 18 January, it was the turn of 229 students from Monegasque schools to watch the documentary at a day of school screenings organized at the same cinema, also in the presence of director Remy Masséglia and his daughter, Naïs. Pupils from La Condamine, Révoires, FANB, Cours Saint Maur and Fontvieille schools had the opportunity to chat to Remy and Naïs about their incredible adventure in search of the wolves of Mercantour.

The incredible images were filmed over more than three years. Naïs is now four years old and preparing for a new adventure, this time following the tracks of otters and European polecats – a project that will also benefit from the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.
PARTNERSHIPS

To support its work, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation promotes and establishes partnerships with a network of committed stakeholders – scientists, NGOs, companies and philanthropists. In 2021, 8 new Memoranda of Understanding, 8 financial partnerships and 10 new project partnerships were approved.

EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION
Objective: To tackle the effects of climate change and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

MOËT HENNESSY
Objective: To support the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation’s IPCC Scholarship Programme by funding 10 research students working in the field of ‘living soil’, from 2020 to 2023.

MONTECYCLE
Objective: To accelerate the transition to zero waste by raising public awareness of upcycling and the manufacture of consumer products using recycled materials.

SUSTAINABLE WHALE WATCHING
Objective: To promote a sustainable approach to whale watching in the Pelagos Sanctuary, departing from Monaco, in partnership with the Yacht Club of Monaco, the Department of Maritime Affairs and Yachting Fishing Specialists.

AGIR POUR LE VIVANT
Objective: To undertake culture and biodiversity-related initiatives within the framework of Agir pour le Vivant, a programme spearheading discussion and initiatives in support of living things and biodiversity, thereby contributing to the formation of a new alliance for life on Earth.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Objective: To develop joint collaborations between the University and the Foundation in the areas of research and education to help achieve their common goals and develop the complementary nature and synergy of their activities.

UNESCO
Objective: To contribute to scientific research, international cooperation, data sharing and public awareness in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

SEK UNIVERSITY
Objective: To offer the winner of the second Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Environmental Photography Award the opportunity to visit the University’s research station in the Ecuadorian jungle.

Financial partnerships / sponsors
• Rolex
• Barclays Private Bank
• Société Monégasque des Eaux
• Monaco Digital
• Club Innovation
• Artistic Circle
• Art in Time
• Laguiole

Project partnerships
• École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne
• Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes
• UNIVERS-SEL
• Groupe de Recherche d’Échanges Technologiques
• Université de Perpignan Via Domitia
• Mangrove Music
• The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
• BIOTOPE
• Instituto Socioambiental
UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation have formalised their partnership for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 (the ‘Ocean Decade’) with an agreement. Signed on 17 November at an event during the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference, the agreement solidifies the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation’s contribution to implementing the Decade. It complements the Foundation’s role as a founding member of the Ocean Decade Alliance, a network of eminent partners whose mandate is to support the mobilisation of resources and networking to realise the vision of the Decade.

“Through this cooperation with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, we are one step closer to achieving the vision of the Decade: ‘the science we need for the ocean we want’,” said Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO, which coordinates the Ocean Decade. Through this agreement, the two institutions have agreed on several avenues of collaboration for the next three years, including cooperating closely at scientific and/or high-level events. Furthermore, IOC-UNESCO and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation will work together on the Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In addition, the Foundation will host the third edition of the Ocean Decade Foundations Dialogue in Monaco in 2023. This annual gathering of philanthropic organisations from around the world aims to explore the best ways to generate partnerships and funding models for the Decade.

During COP26 in Glasgow, Olivier Wenden, Vice-President of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), signed a partnership agreement between the two organisations. The collaboration will focus on issues of common interest such as combatting climate change and adapting to its harmful effects, international ocean governance and protecting and restoring biodiversity. These missions have been at the heart of both entities’ actions since their inception. Peeling energies and sharing expertise are essential conditions for advancing effectively towards sustainable development by deploying long-term solutions on all levels: local, regional, national and international.

Olivier Wenden said, “Working to identify solutions then taking them collectively to the highest levels of policy-making, encouraging dialogue and sharing best practices, is the best way to bring about the changes we need to cope with the impacts of climate change.” While Sébastien Treyer pointed out, “Only fast, decisive action, such as that initiated or supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, can help mitigate or control the threats to the natural world, including the ocean and the climate, while taking all the UN Sustainable Development Goals into account.”

On 25 November, Olivier Wenden, Vice-President and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and Dr Jorge Segovia, President of the Board of Regents of SEK International University in Ecuador, signed a partnership agreement to develop joint initiatives related to safeguarding biodiversity. One of the first collaborations will be on the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation’s 2022 Environmental Photography Awards. SEK University was keen to be involved in this event focused on raising awareness of sustainable development issues. The 2022 award winner will have the privilege of travelling to Ecuador to visit the University’s spectacular scientific research centre in the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest, within the Limoncocha Biological Reserve, next to a lagoon of the same name. It provides the University’s researchers, colleagues, students and research networks with a laboratory and meteorological station to carry out high-level research and community initiatives for the benefit of the indigenous Kitchwa population.
Since it was set up, the Foundation has opened several representative offices around the world to broaden its influence: in France and the UK in 2007, Switzerland, the US and Canada in 2008, and Germany and Italy in 2009. In 2011 Singapore joined its list of offices, then in 2016 it was Spain’s turn to open a branch. The most recent office opened in Beijing, China, in 2019. With these 10 foreign branches, the Foundation now benefits from a strong international network to support its initiatives and extend the impact of its work.
CANADA

Under its President, Dr Diane Vachon, the Canadian branch enthusiastically pursued its economic and media development, gaining nearly 1000 followers on its new Instagram account. Thanks to the help of its volunteers, including two young Monegasques studying in Montreal, and a strategic and communications plan developed over the past two years, the executive team is preparing to roll out a new ESG fundraising approach, covering Canada, the second largest country in the world, in its entirety. In 2021, the Canadian branch actively continued efforts in the Canadian Arctic in collaboration with its communities, including among others a project with Inuit women. The office also strengthened its association with the academic community, most notably partnering with the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University, as well as funding, jointly with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation headquarters, the UHC (International Student Network on Climate) project at Laval University.

UNDERWATER MONACO

New diving trips and research projects are being planned.

In 2021, the activities of the German branch of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, led by its President, Prof. Dr. Alexander Liegl, were again severely hampered by the pandemic. Several projects and discussions were initiated nevertheless, including bolstering the partnership with skipper Boris Herrmann, who took part in the Vendée Globe in January 2021, and teaming up with the Miniatur Wunderland attraction in Hamburg, which is in the process of building a miniature recreation of Monaco and Provence in the theme park.

FRANCE

Although 2021, like the previous year, took place in a rather difficult context due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the French branch under its President, HE Mr Christophe Steiner, continued to provide financial support for important projects such as the Life WolfAlps initiative with the European Park of the Alpes-Maritimes and others run by Port-Cros National Park and by Graine de Vie in Masoala National Park (Madagascar).
The work of the Singaporean branch, led by its President, Jacky Deromedi, was again greatly disrupted by the Covid-19 crisis, with the prestigious Balli in Monaco postponed to October 2021. To maintain its connections, the branch remained proactive and adaptive by organising dinners for small groups of members of the Foundation’s First Circle. A number of meetings were also held with associations whose objectives mirror the Foundation’s to identify opportunities for future partnerships. Significant press relations work was carried out to keep journalists regularly informed about the Foundation’s activities during that difficult period.

The Spanish branch, chaired by Carol Portabella, joined the Spanish Association of Foundations earlier this year. It also became a member of the Steering Committee of ‘Fundaciones por el Clima’, alongside major foundations such as the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, the Banco Sabadell Foundation and the Aon Foundation, and a member of the Fundaciones Donantes working group. The Foundation in Spain regularly participates in meetings with actors committed to the fight against climate change, such as the Ministry of Ecological Transition or institutions from the economic, entrepreneurial or educational sectors, and follows the evolution of projects in the field such as Siren Song.

At the end of the year, the Branch welcomed to its office Spanish and international personalities known for their commitment, such as Javier Goyeneche, Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza and Xandra Falcó.

Finally, the Spanish Branch was instrumental in the agreement between CODE.ORG and the Monegasque Government to promote access to computer programming in schools and to raise awareness of environmental issues.

In 2021, the Italian branch, chaired by Mr Marco Colasanti, developed an agreement with the manufacturer Montegrappa by creating two limited edition fountain pen models, one of 350 and the second of 999 pieces, symbolising the actions carried out by the Foundation, particularly in favour of the preservation of the sea. From 10 to 20 September 2021, the Italian branch organised the exhibition «Man - Wildlife: Crossed Destinies, Shared Territories» in the Piazza del Campidoglio in Rome. More than 70,000 people were able to see the magnificent photographs, which will then be exhibited in the historic centre of San Marino from 1 December 2021 to 9 January 2022. The Italian branch has also been heavily involved with the Government of the Republic of San Marino in structuring the «Small Smart Countries» Forum on environmental issues. The branch continues to build relationships with national and international universities and foundations, and has partnered with Ca’Foscari University in Venice to award two scholarships for deserving students to attend a master’s course in wildlife management and administration. Finally, the branch was honoured with the Mondo d’Oro 2021 Award from the GeoKnowledge Foundation.
USA

The US branch, under its President, J B Kelly, joined the Climate Leadership Council (CLC) to bolster its advocacy work. The CLC promotes climate solutions based on the Carbon Dividends Plan, an initiative that taxes US fossil fuel companies for their carbon emissions with the aim of exceeding the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Foundation also worked with Philadelphia Zoo, supporting its educational project to continue important conservation work at the same time as educating local school children about the importance of conservation.

The US branch also partnered with MIT Solve to support their annual programme of grants and initiatives, whose 2021 theme was sustainability. The grant awarded enables the Foundation to participate in important discussions about unmet sustainability needs and the solutions that MIT is endeavouring to find. The Foundation recently gave additional support to a non-profit company that has been supported by MIT Solve and whose work involves tracking and identifying sustainable fishing activities. Lastly, HE Maguy Maccario Doyle, Vice-President of the American branch, was actively involved in finalising a Memorandum of Understanding between the Foundation and Stanford University.

CHINA

The Chinese branch of the Foundation, headed by its President, Robert Shi, actively strengthened ties with Chinese organisations and universities in 2021. Within that context, the Foundation agreed to support the School of Environment of Tsinghua University for a period of three years with a scholarship awarded to 15 to 20 students each year for outstanding results in research and environmental protection.

The aim of this scholarship is not only to encourage students who have achieved outstanding results in the research and practice of environmental protection and ecology, but also to inspire more young students to take the necessary steps and action to protect the environment. On 29 July 2021, the Foundation’s Chinese branch partnered with WWF on the occasion of World Tiger Day through its official mini-blog, addressing in particular the establishment of a tiger corridor, domestic road lighting for tigers and cohabitation with tigers. Finally, the ongoing project to improve knowledge on cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Taihu is in its second phase with the main objective of improving the biological database.
GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors sets the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation’s strategy and supervises the management of its activities. Since the Foundation was established, it has been supported by exceptional men and women. Their experience and skills in fields related to the environment are of great benefit to the Foundation in carrying out its work.
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 DEVIS ALLEMAND
MONACO
Scientific Director of the Monaco Scientific Centre, member of the Scientific Committee of the French Research Institute for the Exploration 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 (ENS)

MR LUCIEN CHABASON
FRANCE
President of Plan Bleu, an 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 RAPHAEL COUVELET
FRANCE
Vice-President of the Ocean and Climate Platform

MR THOMAS GRENON
FRANCE
Former Director General of the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris

Ms ISABEL HOFFMANN
UK
Project Officer - Capitals Coalition, London

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

PR CHARLOTTE KARIBUHOYE SAID
KENYA
Director, West Africa Program & Head of Regional Office. MAIA Foundation for Nature

PROF BÉDRICH MOLDAN
CZECH REPUBLIC
Professor at Charles University in Prague and Director of the Environment Centre since 1992. member of the Scientific Council of the Czech Technical University in Prague

PROF DAVID MUNRO
SCOTLAND
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

DR OLAV ORHEIM
NORWAY
Senior Advisor to the Research Council of Norway

DR BERTHARD PICCARD
SWITZERLAND

Ms SANDRINE SOMMER
FRANCE
Development Director sustainable - Moët Hennessy

ETHICS COMMISSION

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

M. ARNAUD HAMON
MONACO
President. Director, Management Legal Affairs. Government of Monaco

M. SÁLVANO BRICEÑO
VENUEZLA
Chairman of the Scientific Committee. Integrated risk research (IRD) and Member of the IRDR Scientific Committee

PR. TULLIO SCOVAZZI
ITALY
Professor of International Law University degli Studi di Milano Bicocca

M. LÉDI BIANKU
FRANCE
Associate Professor at the University of Strasbourg

© Knut M Selmer Arctic fox
In 2013, as part of its commitment to optimising its activities, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation introduced an Integrated Quality and Environment Management System according to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, followed by an energy management system according to ISO 50001 in 2016. In December 2018, following the 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 intermediate audit, as provided for in the certification, took place in January 2021 to ensure the effectiveness of the Quality-Environment management system in place year on year.

Adhering to these international frames of reference is a way for the Foundation to show that it operates in compliance with current standards to ensure that its initiatives are properly managed, its efficiency is continually tested and its relationships with partners are 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.
- See to it that our processes and performance are continuously improved.

TRIPLE QUALITY, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ISO CERTIFICATION

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.

In January 2021 to ensure the effectiveness of the Quality-Environment management system in place year on year.

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