

Fondation
taraocéan
explore and share



2025 Annual Report



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00. Editorial



2025 was a profoundly blue year. Designated “Year of the Sea” by France, which hosted in Nice the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), these twelve months saw a growing collective momentum around ocean protection. From citizens to policymakers and economic stakeholders, awareness of the climate and economic challenges linked to a healthy ocean has accelerated, notably through the record attendance of over 100 states represented at a high level in Nice.

Yet 2025 was also marked by headwinds. Announcements by the U.S. government— withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the IPCC and the Climate Convention, budget cuts to research and censorship of climate-related terms—sent shockwaves around the world. Science, the fight against climate change, international cooperation and the very value of solidarity have been undermined, far beyond U.S. borders.

How can we remain hopeful in the face of such unpredictable and powerful setbacks?

We must stay the course, together and without wavering, because victories are within reach! The third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) proved that multilateralism, despite a new world order, enables major progress. The ratification by more than 85 countries of the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty is one such victory. After more than 14 years of the Foundation’s advocacy within an international coalition, 70% of the Ocean will soon be legally protected.

It is from this collective strength that we draw the resilience needed to build a future where sustainability and solidarity are one and the same, where protecting the Ocean and all living things becomes an indisputable priority. Faced with the challenges of global change—climate, pollution and biodiversity loss—let us remain mobilized, with passion and determination!

This shared commitment has enabled us to successfully carry out the *Tara* schooner’s *UNOC Mission (2025)* Tara’s stopover in Paris, the expansion of our operations with the arrival of a second ship, *Tara Polar Station*, and the welcome of 800,000 visitors to our exhibition at the Osaka World Expo’s France Pavilion also rank among our major highlights of the year.

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission and contributes to our impact: partners, donors, teachers, artists, sailors, scientists, volunteers and members of our community! Thanks to you, we can take action both on land and at sea.

Together, let’s defend life. Let’s protect the Ocean.

Étienne Bourgois, President
Romain Troublé, Chief Executive Officer

01. The foundation



Headquartered in France, the Tara Ocean Foundation is a pioneering nonprofit organization dedicated to ocean conservation.

Based on the deep conviction that the Ocean is essential to life on Earth, for over 20 years the Tara Ocean Foundation has helmed a transformational movement to protect ocean life. Exploring the Ocean and sharing scientific discoveries to inspire collective awareness is at the heart of our mission.

The Foundation conducts scientific expeditions, in partnership with leading international research laboratories, to study marine biodiversity and understand the impacts of climate change and pollution. We raise awareness among citizens - from younger generations to political decision-makers.

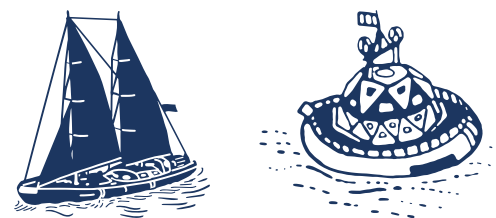
With United Nations Special Observer status, the Tara Ocean Foundation is a key stakeholder for international governance, such as the Global Plastics Treaty and the High Seas Treaty.

Exploring, sharing, and protecting this living ocean is more vital than ever.

Together, let's defend life. Let's protect the Ocean.

Our impact

FOUNDATION



Fleet of **2** research vessels

47 employees
committed to our cause
20 at sea and **27** on land



\$6.6 million annual
budget

EXPLORE

15
expeditions

76
countries
visited

+ 300
stopovers

+ 600,000
km traveled



700
scientists from international
leading laboratories

+ 150
million genes
characterized



100,000
microalgae species discovered

5,000
scientific publications
based on data collected during
expeditions



**“I’d never seen the Ocean like that before. Mom explained
how art and science reveal what we can’t see,
and now I want to protect the sea.”**

A child comment at the major exhibition at the Centquatre-Paris.



SHARE

+ 1.5
million students
reached, in France and
abroad



66,600
students involved
in the participatory
science program
“Plastic under
Microscope”
since its launch

Launch of
“Cultural Organizations
for the Ocean Alliance”
with
+ 50 institutions

+ 60
artists in residency
1 million
citizens and
women reached
by 2025

MEDIA



2,255
media mentions
in 2025

30
journalists mobilized
on average at
press briefings



ADVOCACY



A key player in **2** international treaties
thanks to our Special Observer status at the UN:

**Biodiversity Beyond
National Jurisdiction
treaty (BBNJ):**
14 years of advocacy

**International
treaty on plastic
pollution:**
committed since 2019



A committed advocate on key governance issues
(30x30 goal, deep-sea mining, Antarctic Treaty,
protection of the Central Arctic Ocean)



International cooperation



Joint projects management
with Chile, Brazil
and Senegal

Active participation
in NGO coalitions

Coordination in 3
European projects

02. Manifesto

Manifesto for Life

On the occasion of the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), the Foundation published its Manifesto for Life. In it, the Foundation articulates its purpose, political vision, and values for the defense of life and the protection of global, human, and environmental health.

Every organism on Earth is the result of billions of years of interactions with its natural environment and co-evolution with other living beings. Its ability to survive depends on the quality, stability, and diversity of its environment and its relationships with it. Humans are no more exempt from this rule than other species. We are part of life.

Yet never in Earth's recent history have so many changes occurred in such a short time. Freshwater resources are severely degraded, and the release of new substances¹ into the environment threatens the integrity and functionality of ecosystems. The overexploitation of natural habitats and species has led, in just 50 years, to a decline of nearly 75%² in wildlife populations, while the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions is leading us toward an increase, by the end of the century, of +2.9°C in the planet's average temperature. Human activity is disrupting living conditions on Earth so rapidly and so severely that the overall health of species and ecosystems is threatened—and, by extension, human health.

Our planet is already undergoing an irreversible transformation, but the scale of this change still depends entirely on the scope of our mobilization and our ability to understand that the various upheavals we are experiencing (climate, water, biodiversity, pollution) are in reality merely facets of a single issue: the crisis in our relationship with life.

For over 20 years, scientific expeditions led by the Tara Ocean Foundation, alongside international and multi-disciplinary partner laboratories, have been studying the complexity of life and its future. This science is crucial to understanding the links between biodiversity, climate change, and pollution. The Tara Ocean Foundation's commitment to defending life and protecting the Ocean is based on the recognition of these connections and the determination to provide systemic solutions.

No action purporting to reduce our impact on one planetary boundary³ should result in an increased impact on another boundary.

Every action should ultimately contribute to a single goal: preserving life. Without this, there is a high risk of failing to address the right questions and of tackling the emergencies we face in a way that compromises the future.

We observe that political, economic, and societal responses are being addressed separately and in a hierarchical manner. Policies to combat climate change have long overshadowed the issue of biodiversity or the consequences of introducing new entities into the environment. But how can we address the climate crisis without tackling the production of plastics, a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions? And how can we ignore the crucial role of living ocean organisms in the carbon cycle?

This reality now calls for a renewed dialogue between the basic, human, and social sciences, civil society, and the political sphere to enable informed decision-making grounded in a holistic vision.

While many are waiting for technological solutions that would allow us to preserve a societal model that is at the very root of the problems, we must acknowledge that pinning all our hopes solely on hypothetical new technologies would be unreasonable.

In fact, solutions and innovation must primarily be conceived in terms of our modes of production and consumption, as well as in the values of our society, which are currently incompatible with planetary limits. The infinite complexity of biodiversity will long remain an inexhaustible field of discovery, intellectual enrichment, and wonder that we must continue to explore. Scientific knowledge, ethical reflection, and democratic debate must enable a fair assessment of the relevance of technological solutions. We must be both ambitious, with a long-term vision, and humble, in order to address the issues of biodiversity protection and preservation in the best possible way.

Defending life, protecting global health, and ensuring environmental and social justice—these must be the priorities of every response we make to today's challenges. We must work together to build a new vision for society in harmony with life.

Together, let's defend life. Let's protect the Ocean.

1. The new entities include synthetic chemicals and substances (microplastics, endocrine disruptors, organic pollutants), radioactive materials (nuclear waste, nuclear weapons), and human interventions in evolutionary processes, such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and other direct modifications of evolution.
2. Living Planet Report, WWF (2024)
3. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>



03. 2025 Highlights

On the way to the United Nations Ocean Conference

For the first time since COP21 in Paris, France hosted a major UN environmental summit on ocean protection: the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) in Nice in June 2025, a unique moment that has guided the foundation's policy work over the past two years. From March to June, the schooner, through the *UNOC Mission (2025)*, charted its political course in France and Europe to advance the issues that drive the foundation and have defined its expertise for over 20 years: protection of Antarctica, creation and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), transition to sustainable fishing, the fight against plastic pollution, and strengthening international cooperation. The foundation has been a driving force behind ambitious proposals, but also a facilitator of dialogue among multiple stakeholders.

Many policymakers needed to be convinced to take concrete protective action so that the Ocean remains a living ecosystem. The summit led to major advances

in terms of governance (entry into force of the High Seas Treaty after 13 years of negotiations, new ratifications for an agreement against subsidies for destructive fishing practices, new dynamics among states, formation of a coalition to reduce plastic production) and announcements (creation of new MPAs).

However, national announcements were largely disappointing: only a small portion of France's maritime territory is subject to strict protection—from the ocean floor to the surface—despite this being essential for the resilience of ecosystems in the face of climate pressure.

The schooner *Tara* has established itself as a central venue for strategic dialogue, hosting ministerial exchanges and a meeting between Romain Troublé, the foundation's Chief Executive Officer, and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.



A diverse group of ten advocates from around the world, including Romain Troublé, the foundation's Chief Executive Officer, met with António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Green zone - United Nations
Ocean Conference - Nice

From June 2 to 13, alongside UNOC-3, numerous events open to the public were organized, including a route designed by the Tara Ocean Foundation winding through the city of Nice. From Port Lympia, where the schooner was moored, to Villa Arson with the “Becoming Ocean” exhibition, and on to the “L’Artistique” featuring a series of conferences, and on to the Palais des Expositions, renamed “The Whale”. The sole purpose of this route was to offer all audiences different perspectives on the Ocean.

“The Whale”, a venue designed to bring together civil society, the nonprofit sector, and the political sphere, welcomed nearly 120,000 people over 12 days as part of a cultural, scientific, and civic mobilization effort in which the Tara Ocean Foundation participated throughout the event.



120,000 visitors
at the Palais des Expositions - The Whale
355 visits aboard the schooner
341 media mentions
(161 digital, 124 print, 27 radio, 29 TV)

“Osaka Kaijū ”
- Universal exhibition

An Ode to the Ocean

Presented by artist Jean Jullien and the Tara Ocean Foundation from May 15 to June 12, 2025, in partnership with AXA, this unique exhibition at the France Pavilion of EXPO 2025 in Osaka, titled “Osaka Kaijū”, our connection to the Ocean: universal, loving, and vital”, highlighted the beauty and fragility of the Ocean through a monumental and immersive work.

Today, it is essential to unite available forces to amplify the Ocean’s voice. Through their unique perspectives, artists can become committed advocates for its protection.

Driven by his passion for the marine environment, artist Jean Jullien offered an experience that was both sensory and intimate, at the heart of ocean life. Hosted in the French Pavilion, whose theme was an ode to love, Jean Jullien presented, across more than 200 m², a supernatural encounter with his monster “Osaka Kaijū”. Halfway between a ship and a sea creature, this monumental floating artwork invites the public to dive into a little-known marine world.

Jean Jullien says he is honored to have been invited by the Tara Ocean Foundation to share, as much as possible, his work. Although based in Japan, the “Osaka Kaijū” bridges the various regions and cultures connected to the sea, staying true to the foundation’s vision of a single, universal Ocean.

Half-ship, half-aquatic creature, the Kaijū on display here has traversed all the world’s marine regions and brought back numerous traces of them. Its marked body tells of the lives, customs, and legends encountered in this vast blue expanse. Drawing on the countless myths and maritime tales of antiquity, Jean Jullien reimagines this narrative process to extend the story and inscribe new tales upon its skin, addressing climate challenges, perilous migrations, overfishing, and territorial conflicts.

A hymn to love—universal and vital—that connects us to the Ocean. An invisible bond we cannot ignore.

This exhibition was made possible thanks to the commitment of AXA, which offered the Tara Ocean Foundation the opportunity to use a temporary exhibition space in the heart of the French Pavilion.

29 days open
829 000 visitors, among them 80 % Japanese
80 people including **30 media representatives**
at the opening
17 media mentions
(14 digital, 3 print)



“In the face of our shared challenge, the 2025 Universal Exhibition with artist Jean Jullien was an opportunity to bring together diverse cultures to defend life, protect the Ocean, and honor each other’s cultural richness...”

Myriam Thomas, Director of the Ocean Culture
Department at the Tara Ocean Foundation.

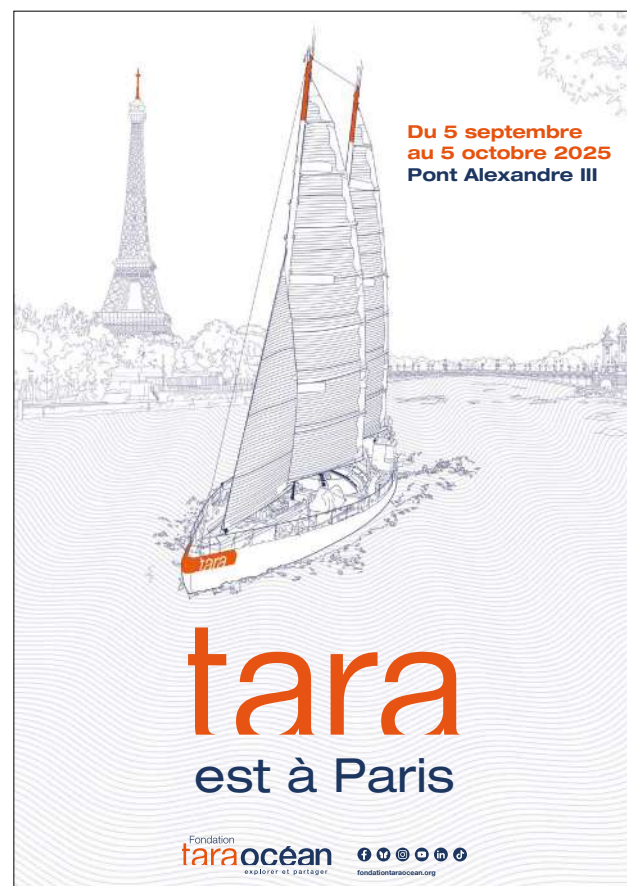
Tara's stopover in Paris

After the *UNOC Mission (2025)*, *Tara* made a stop in the capital. Ten years earlier, in 2015, the schooner had already docked at the Pont Alexandre III as part of COP21.

Having set sail from Le Havre on August 29 after being demasted, *Tara* arrived in Paris in early September, following four days of sailing on the Seine. Moored at the Port des Champs-Élysées, at the foot of the Grand Palais, the schooner *Tara* welcomed thousands of visitors throughout September during public tours on board as well as an exhibition on the dock.

This exceptional stopover also provided an opportunity to host private events for the foundation's partners, donors, and networks, to thank them for their support. While the Development Department took priority for events on board, all of the foundation's other departments were also able to use the ship to host numerous guests.

153 events organized on board, 104 of them for the Development department
1,613 guests welcomed, including a record:
138 people welcomed on Friday, October 3
 More than **4,700 people welcomed aboard** during *Tara's* stopover in Paris



Tara Polar Station: christening and first phase of testing

After 18 months of construction at Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie (CMN), *Tara Polar Station* left Cherbourg on April 10 to head to Lorient, *Tara's* historic home port since 2003, which now hosts both of the foundation's ships. Docked alongside *Tara*, *Tara Polar Station* was christened at the Découverte pier on April 24. The ceremony took place in the presence of Fabrice Loher, mayor and president of the Lorient metropolitan area; Loïc Chesnais Girard, President of the Regional Council of Brittany; Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, special envoy of the President of the Republic and Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues; as well as Thomas Pesquet and Agnès Troublé, known as agnès b., the ship's godfather and godmother.

Eighteen years after the first expedition *Tara Arctic (2006-2008)*, *Tara Polar Station* conducted a series

of tests under polar conditions. The drifting observatory and laboratory successfully completed a test drift from July to August, followed by a wintering in Finland from December to January.

The first expedition, *Tara Polaris I (2026-2027)*, will last 18 months, including approximately 14 months adrift. A total of ten expeditions, aimed at studying the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean and understanding the impact of climate change and pollution at the North Pole and beyond, are planned over the next twenty years. The crew will consist of 12 people in winter and 18 people in summer and will include sailors, scientists, artists-in-residence, and journalists.



Tara Polar Station by the numbers

5 years of design
18 months of construction
26m long
16m wide
500 days of autonomy
Designed to withstand temperatures as low as -52°C
90 % of the time trapped in the ice

167 media mentions
(80 digital, 38 print, 29 radio, 20 TV)

04. Explore to understand

Exploration is at the heart of the foundation's mission and the result of collaboration with leading international research laboratories. Thanks to the commitment of a broad community of scientists, sailors and institutional and financial partners, the foundation's research fleet helps us better understand and protect the world's Ocean. Revealing its richness as well as the pressures it faces, such as climate change and pollution, is essential to better anticipate the future and preserve this ecosystem vital to our planet's equilibrium.

UNOC Mission (2025)

Science aboard *Tara* during UNOC Science Week

The “One Ocean Science Congress” is an international scientific conference held from June 3 to 6, 2025, in Nice (France), ahead of the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3). By highlighting the scientific community and its dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders (international political representatives, civil society, etc.), this congress helped bring forward major scientific recommendations aimed at informing and improving global decision-making at UNOC-3.

These contributions, organized around ten themes—including the protection of marine ecosystems, the

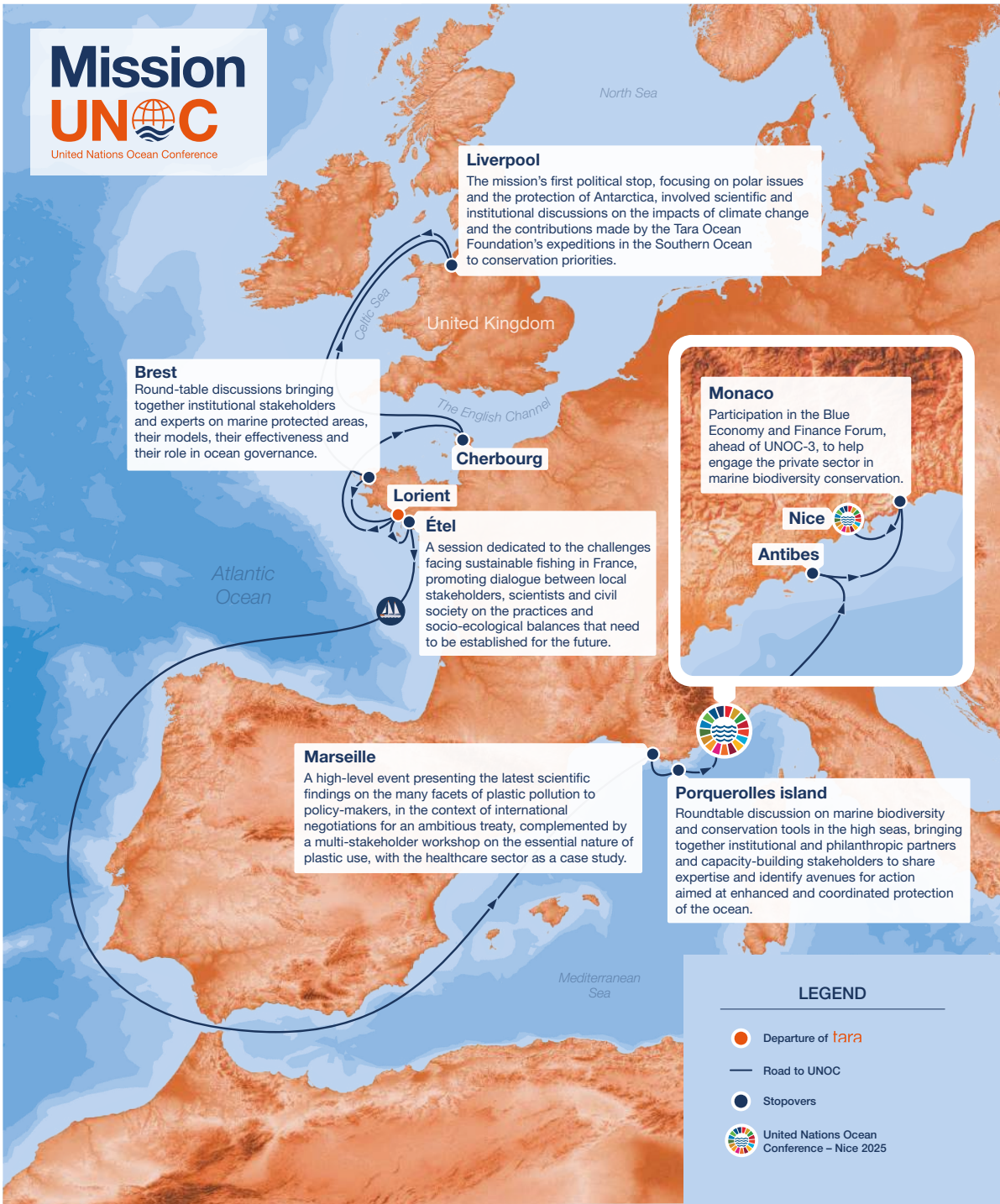
fight against plastic pollution, the equitable management of ocean resources, and the integration of scientific knowledge about the Ocean—were complemented by a unique gathering of all the scientific consortia from the Foundation's expeditions conducted over the past twenty years. Organized during a session titled “Exploring the Blue Frontier: Two Decades of Resources from the *Tara* Research Schooner,” this meeting offered a comprehensive and crossdisciplinary overview of the scientific results from the expeditions, highlighting the diversity of disciplines, the complementary nature of the approaches, the breadth of the data produced, and the major impact of the expeditions conducted aboard *Tara* on the understanding of marine ecosystems and on international oceanographic research.



The Schooner’s first political expedition

As part of its *UNOC Mission (2025)*, the foundation dedicated each port of call to targeted political initiatives aligned with the research priorities and challenges of its scientific partners, its advocacy efforts, and UNOC-3.

These stops helped mobilize civil society, decision-makers, scientists, and institutional and private partners around key issues of ocean governance and protection.



World Ocean Day

On June 8, World Ocean Day, *Tara* launched the “Wonders of the Ocean” parade, followed by over a hundred vessels that sailed through the Baie des Anges before heading to Nice. Fabien Cousteau, explorer and grandson of Jean-Yves Cousteau, hoisted the United Nations “World Ocean Day” flag aboard *Tara* alongside Vladimir Jares, Director of the Department for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at the UN, to officially launch the parade.

for its messages in a coherent manner and ensure its visibility at numerous events.

The Foundation’s presence was centered around three complementary locations: the Blue Zone (UN negotiations), the Green Zone (open to the public), and the Port of Nice, where the schooner *Tara* was moored. The Foundation organized high-level political and scientific meetings, bringing together ministers, foreign delegations, UN agencies, scientists, NGOs, and the media.

Final stop of the mission: our political action in Nice

A long-standing advocate for ocean protection and a special observer to the United Nations since 2015, the foundation recognized early on that UNOC-3, held for the first time in France in Nice, represented a strategic opportunity to convey scientific messages and amplify the impact of its advocacy. It therefore became deeply involved in its organizing committee, where it played a central role.

In the first half of 2025, a major portion of the Advocacy Department’s activity was devoted to preparing for the *Tara* schooner’s *UNOC Mission (2025)* and the Foundation’s presence in Nice. Well beyond the official conference week, several months of work enabled the Foundation to build momentum

Plastic Free!

The foundation contributed to the design of the “Plastic Overload,” which conveyed its key messages on the systemic nature of pollution and the need to respect the hierarchy of solutions, prioritizing the reduction of plastic production. Three dedicated events presented the latest available scientific data on the environmental and societal impacts of this pollution.

During a high-level session in the negotiation zone, Romain Troublé, the foundation’s Chief Executive Officer, reminded attending policymakers of the scientific consensus to reduce plastic production—a message that has yet to be widely addressed in official discussions.



Creating a historic moment and innovating for the protection of the High Seas

In collaboration with its Chilean and Senegalese partners, the foundation has based its advocacy on the central role of planktonic ecosystems as a decision-making tool for the creation of future marine protected areas (MPAs) in the High Seas under the Treaty. It has also contributed its expertise on the challenges of scientific cooperation in the High Seas, which will be at the heart of negotiations among States. The Foundation is already mobilized for the implementation of the treaty and the first Conference of the Parties (COP) on the High Seas!

The foundation co-organized two events at the “Beyond Borders” pavilion with the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), alongside partners from Chile and Senegal.



The foundation has also launched a working group focused on the Principle of Ocean Protection, an innovative concept centered on two key ideas:

- the Ocean must be protected by default: according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, it is considered a common heritage of humanity;
- the burden of proof must be reversed: it should no longer be up to associations, researchers, and states to prove that harm is occurring, but rather up to those who wish to exploit the Ocean to prove that their actions do not have irreversible negative impacts on marine ecosystems.

Within three years, at the next UNOC summit, the goal is to present an action plan to implement this principle in international law.



Shedding light on the Ocean’s incredible microscopic biodiversity

The Plankton Evening, organized in collaboration with the CNRS at the Institut de la Mer in Villefranche, brought together more than 80 decision-makers to highlight the central role of plankton in climate and biodiversity. The expertise of the foundation’s scientific partners on these ecosystems was widely shared during UNOC-3.

The foundation is one of the few organizations to shed light on these ecosystems, which are still rarely discussed at political summits.

Furthermore, as the next expedition to the Coral Triangle approaches, a side event at the summit, organized with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), provided an opportunity to present the scientific and advocacy objectives of this mission and to strengthen international cooperation. The strong diplomatic presence at UNOC-3 also made it possible to welcome aboard several representatives and government officials from the countries involved in the expedition.

Finally, the foundation continued its commitment to addressing biodiversity protection in polar regions through several side events, including the first announcements of the upcoming “Antarctica InSync” program, as well as an event aboard *Tara* dedicated to exploring strategies for the conservation of Antarctica.

18 events and dialogues organized
+ 100 decision-makers (ministers, UN negotiators at the UN, ambassadors) welcomed aboard the schooner *Tara* for high-level meetings
+ 600 participants in advocacy events

A year of preparations

Tara Coral: preparation and departure

Preparing an expedition on the scale of *Tara Coral (2026-2027)* in a region as vast and geopolitically complex as Southeast Asia requires foresight and coordination at multiple levels.

The first step is to define and characterize the scientific objectives, then translate them into operational terms through rigorous research protocols. This work was led by three research engineers who structured the scientific framework of the expedition. At the same time, it is necessary to coordinate the research program and formalize contractual relationships among partner laboratories within a consortium to ensure the expedition’s success, in close collaboration with the scientific institutes of the countries visited.

Organizing such an expedition also involves the technical and scientific mobilization of the schooner *Tara*: preparing the ship for navigation south of the Equator, equipping it with diving gear, and adapting it to the requirements of the scientific program (onboard laboratories, consumables).

Added to this are numerous logistical and legal challenges: managing port calls and maritime agents, applying for research permits and sample export licenses, securing liquid nitrogen supplies, and transporting and exporting samples from often remote ports.

Finally, the expedition’s success depends largely on the support of local authorities and the activation of strong diplomatic channels, with the crucial backing of the French embassies.



A 18 months expedition
30,000 NM that is **50,000 km at sea**
6 countries
26 stopovers
10 sampling sites (2 reefs studied per site)
+ 40 scientific partners including
11 from the Coral Triangle
67 scientists involved

16 people on board including
8 scientists, 6 crew members,
1 artist, 1 ship’s correspondent
+ 10 artists in residence on board
32 scientific protocols
~ 50,000 samples
1,440 scientific dives

Ten years after the departure of *Tara Pacific* (2016-2018), and against a backdrop of increasing coral bleaching, the research schooner *Tara* has set sail on its next expedition: *Tara Coral* (2026-2027).

the mechanisms that allow certain corals to withstand global warming and ultimately provide essential insights for future conservation strategies, among other things.

For 18 months, *Tara* will sail through the Coral Triangle, the true Amazon of the Ocean, to uncover



Sharing story



Hannah Manns, biological engineer, Tara Coral (2026–2027), University of Konstanz (Germany)

When I had the opportunity to participate in *Tara Coral* (2026-2028) as one of three research engineers, I felt both excited and honored to be part of a mission aimed at better understanding coral reef ecosystems and identifying their chances of survival in the face of global warming. The *Tara Coral* (2026-2028) expedition aims to identify the factors contributing to the thermal resistance and resilience of corals in the Coral Triangle.

The goal is not only to understand the thermal behavior of corals, but also to create guidelines for the sustainable protection of coral ecosystems in the future, based on scientific data. To tackle a challenge

of and achieve a holistic view, we are collaborating with over 65 interdisciplinary and international scientists, experts, and local partners.

After several online meetings, an intensive in-person gathering in Nice, and countless hours spent finalizing proposed protocols and determining equipment and storage needs, we have developed what I consider to be a demanding yet robust plan, along with onboard protocols to better understand the future of coral reefs in a warming world.

During this expedition, we will collect samples to characterize coral biology, their thermal history, and environmental parameters, and we will conduct experiments on board regarding current thermal resistance and resilience — something that has never been done directly on *Tara*.

To prepare the ship for this new mission, we gathered in November and December 2025 for a scientific mobilization phase. Together with *Tara*’s crew and engineers, we found solutions to install the new equipment and store the supplies needed for the *Tara Coral* (2026-2028) expedition. The warm welcome and exceptional support from the crew and all participants made the integration process very smooth, allowing us to familiarize ourselves with onboard procedures and prepare both the ship and our team for the expedition, with the goal of fostering a more sustainable relationship with the Ocean.



Tara Polar Station: 2025, a year of real-world testing campaigns

In preparation for the expedition scheduled for September 2026 and following the ship’s delivery, the year 2025 was dedicated to a comprehensive phase of sea trials for *Tara Polar Station*. The goal of this period was to test the ship in every aspect—structure, navigation systems, life on board, and scientific instruments—all under real-world conditions.

Although *Tara Polar Station* is not an icebreaker, it has demonstrated its ability to withstand sea ice. This testing phase also allowed the scientific teams to test and deploy their instruments, as well as refine the necessary protocols before the departure of the first expedition. Two major testing sessions were thus organized.

First session – Fram Strait

In June, *Tara Polar Station* departed from Lorient to reach the Fram Strait, located between northwestern Svalbard and northeastern Greenland. This mission was carried out in close coordination with the program of the Alfred Wegener Institute’s (AWI) research vessel *Polarstern* as part of its CONTRASTS (2025) scientific expedition. The *Polarstern* cleared a path for several nautical miles, facilitating the station’s access to the sea ice.

After stops in Tromsø (Norway) and then

Longyearbyen (Svalbard, Norway), the station set sail again on July 4 to rejoin the *Polarstern*. On July 7, *Tara Polar Station* deliberately allowed itself to become trapped in the ice, a particularly intense and emotionally charged moment for the crew.

During the few weeks of drifting, the crew of *Tara Polar Station* had the opportunity to observe six polar bears. Other individuals likely approached the station without being seen. This high density is due to the fact that the edge of the sea ice constitutes their vital habitat and breeding ground. All observed individuals appeared to be in good health. During future drifts, the drifting polar base will help us better understand the Arctic ecosystem so we can preserve it.

169 media mentions
(July - December 2025)
103 digital
42 print
18 radio
6 TV



Sharing story



Luc Airiau, chief engineer aboard Tara Polar Station

The Svalbard coastline has recently disappeared from view, and we are waiting at the edge of the pack ice on a glassy sea. The suspense and impatience to get down to business are palpable on board. Questions abound: How far will we be able to penetrate? Where should we stop to remain trapped long enough—a few weeks to complete the full battery of tests, rather than several months? Will we simply be able to keep up?

The *Polarstern* appears, an unlikely meeting between an icebreaker with over 40 years of missions in the ice and the brand-new *Tara Polar Station*. We’re out at sea, in the middle of nowhere. Soon the convoy sets off, and the station makes contact with its element for the very first time: it’s her baptism by fire on a frozen ocean. Everyone is at their post, focused. Everything is new; we have to keep an eye on everything. The structure vibrates so much, the propeller crushes the ice, the engine is pushed to its limit to navigate the chaos of ice blocks left in the *Polarstern*’s wake. Caution is key: we’re getting used to these new sounds. Which ones are normal? Which ones should alarm us? The two ships are navigating so close together that no mistakes are allowed, but it’s the only way to avoid getting stuck in the channel that’s closing so quickly in our wake. This moment of rare intensity is unique for the ship and for every crew member on board. You can see it in everyone’s eyes.

Soon calm returns; we’re about thirty miles into the pack. We stop; that’s enough. The *Polarstern* continues on its way toward its mission. The first to venture outside the station, both feet on the solid surface of the Arctic Ocean, discover this incredible dream come true: *Tara Polar Station*, motionless and alone, surrounded by pack ice!





© Maéva Bardy - Tara Ocean foundation

Over the course of the drift, the crew gradually came to understand the ship's behavior in this extreme environment, the reality of life in isolation, and the splendor of the sea ice. This drift was essential to validate the overall functioning of *Tara Polar Station* under operational conditions, identify necessary adjustments, and test the scientific equipment before the first major drift, *Tara Polaris I (2026-2027)*, scheduled for mid-2026.

The real-world tests focused in particular on:

- entering the ice and operations on the sea ice (deployments, moorings, landings);
- opening the moonpool and submerging scientific equipment;
- power generation and waste management;
- safety procedures;
- life on board;
- inspection dives beneath the hull.

At the end of this phase, *Tara Polar Station* set sail for Reykjavik to participate in the international "Arctic Circle Assembly" conference. Stuck at the dock for several days awaiting a favorable weather window, the station then set sail again for Oslo. This crossing provided an opportunity to test the ship under demanding sailing conditions, with rough seas and strong winds. The stopover in Oslo, organized in collaboration with the Fram Museum, served as an opportunity for an awareness-raising event and a tribute to the explorer Fridtjof Nansen and the first trans-polar drift conducted on his sailing ship *Fram* in 1893 in the Central Arctic Ocean.

Second session – Gulf of Bothnia, Finland

The second test campaign took place in the Gulf of Bothnia, Finland. Numerous scientists came on board with the specific aim of testing the scientific equipment under conditions similar to those of future expeditions. This session provided a concrete assessment of the ship's operational reality: available space, optimization of sampling systems, time required for instrument deployment and scientific operations, as well as the actual management of waste volumes produced. At the same time, the crew continued testing the ship under harsher weather conditions, with temperatures reaching -20°C .



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Consortium and new scientific publications

In 2025, the Tara Ocean Foundation continues to coordinate scientific expeditions involving at least twenty international laboratories and is overseeing two separate consortia this year for the expeditions planned on its two ships. These collaborations are based on consortium agreements, which define a structured framework and formalize the rules of cooperation among partners.

Each scientific consortium constitutes an agreement between French or international laboratories engaged in a joint project, where the results produced are the collective property of all members.

The research conducted on board is a long and rigorous process. After each expedition, the collected samples are analyzed in partner laboratories around the world. The results, often available several years later, are published in leading scientific journals such as *Nature* or *Science*. These publications reflect the collective work of the consortium and are part of an open science approach: the data are made available as open data, allowing the international scientific community to use and leverage them for new research.



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First consortium working session at the Centquatre-Paris, December 2024

tara
CORAL

Tara Coral expedition

75 scientists
40 scientific partners
17 countries represented



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Tara Polaris I Symposium at the ENS (Paris) – October 2025

tara
POLARIS I

Expédition Tara Polaris I

80 scientists
34 scientific partners
12 countries represented

Scientific publications 2025

from expeditions led by the
Tara Ocean Foundation

Tara Oceans — 2009 to 2013
7 publications

Tara Pacific — 2016 to 2018
8 publications

Microplastics Mission — 2019
6 publications

Microbiomes Mission — 2020 to 2022
7 publications

Tara Europa — 2023 to 2024
7 publications



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Foreword

This collection of scientific publications released in 2025 demonstrates the quality of the research conducted following the various scientific expeditions carried out aboard *Tara*.

This research, led by the various consortia involved in each expedition, helps advance existing knowledge, generate new insights, and shed light on the challenges facing the ocean and, more broadly, our planet.

These publications are the result of advanced research, reviewed and validated by peers. They reflect the commitment of the authors and partner laboratories to scientific excellence and the sharing of knowledge.



About the expeditions

Tara Oceans
2009 to 2013
A four-year scientific expedition across all the world's Ocean basins for a groundbreaking mission: to capture a comprehensive snapshot of the global planktonic ecosystem.

Tara Pacific
2016 to 2018
A two-and-a-half-year expedition in the Pacific Ocean with the goal of studying the biodiversity of coral reefs and how it is evolving in the face of global changes.

Microplastics Mission
2019
A 6-month investigation to trace the source of plastic pollution in Europe's 9 major rivers.

Microbiomes Mission
2020 to 2022
A 2-year expedition to study the services provided by the Ocean's microbiome and its largely unknown interactions with climate and pollution.

Tara Europa
2023 to 2024
18 months to study European coastal ecosystems—from viruses to animals—and understand how these ecosystems respond to natural and human-induced challenges.

About the Tara Ocean Foundation

Tara Ocean Foundation
Our future depends on the ocean, and no matter where we live on this planet, we all have a good reason to understand and protect the ocean.

The first foundation recognized as a public benefit organization dedicated to the ocean in France, founded in 2003 by Agnès Troublé, known as agnès b., and chaired by Etienne Bourgois, the Tara Ocean Foundation is leading a scientific revolution centered on this ecosystem.

Together with its partner scientific consortia, it is developing an open, innovative, and groundbreaking ocean science that will enable us in the future to predict, anticipate, and better understand climate risks and better protect biodiversity.

It uses this high-level scientific expertise and its Ocean expeditions to raise awareness and educate younger generations and the general public, mobilize policymakers at the highest levels, and enable developing countries to apply this new ocean-related knowledge.

To rise to the challenges of the century, its approach is based on a public-private-citizen partnership.

Scientific publications released this year



Tara Oceans 2009 to 2013

Scientific Coordinator:

Dr. Chris Bowler (replaced Éric Karsenti in 2020), CNRS Research Director at the École Normale Supérieure.

7 publications in 2025



A new reef-dwelling coral, *Pavona giannii* sp. nov. (Scleractinia, Agariciidae), with an overview of the skeletal morphology of the type specimens of the genus *Pavona*.
ZooKeys

Benzoni F (2025) A new reef-dwelling coral, *Pavona giannii* sp. nov. (Scleractinia, Agariciidae), with an overview of the skeletal morphology of the type specimens of the genus *Pavona*. ZooKeys 1260: 123–147

<https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1260.167263>



Temperature-driven biogeography of marine giant viruses infecting picoeukaryotes *Micromonas*
ISME Communications

David Demory, Hisashi Endo, Anne-Claire Baudoux, Estelle Bigeard, Nigel Grimsley, Nathalie Simon, Hiroyuki Ogata, Joshua S Weitz, Temperature-driven biogeography of marine giant viruses infecting picoeukaryotes *Micromonas*, ISME Communications, Volume 5, Issue 1, January 2025, ycaf137.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ismeco/ycaf137>



Dynamic Relocalization and Divergent Expression of a Major Facilitator Carrier Subfamily in Diatoms. *Physiologia Plantarum*

Liu, Shun; Powell, Victoria; Yang, Shun-Min; Lam, France; Bowler, Chris; Obornik, Miroslav; Dorrell, Richard G. Dynamic Relocalization and Divergent Expression of a Major Facilitator Carrier Subfamily in Diatoms, *Physiologia Plantarum*, vol. 177, iss. 3, 2025.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/ppl.70355>



Independent transitions to fully planktonic life cycles shaped the global distribution of medusozoans in the epipelagic zone.
PNAS

M. Boosten, C. Sant, O. Da Silva, S. Chaffron, L. Guidi, & L. Lelièvre, Independent transitions to fully planktonic life cycles shaped the global distribution of medusozoans in the epipelagic zone, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 122 (22) e2415979122, (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2415979122>



One species to rule them all: genomics sheds light on the *Pocillopora* species diversity and distinctiveness around the Arabian Peninsula. *Coral Reefs*

Oury, N., Berumen, M.L., Paulay, G. et al. One species to rule them all: genomics sheds light on the *Pocillopora* species diversity and distinctiveness around the Arabian Peninsula. *Coral Reefs* 44, 983–998 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-025-02659-0>



Patterns and drivers of diatom diversity and abundance in the global ocean.
Nature Communications

Pierella Karlusich, J.J., Cosnier, K., Zinger, L. et al. Patterns and drivers of diatom diversity and abundance in the global ocean. *Nat Commun* 16, 3452 (2025)

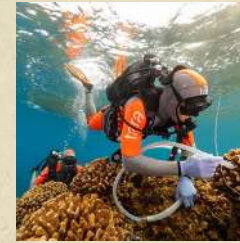
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-58027-7>



A genomic approach to Porites (Anthozoa: Scleractinia) megadiversity from the Indo-Pacific. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*

Tullia I. Terraneo, Francesca Benzoni, Roberto Arrigoni, Michael L. Berumen, Kiruthiga G. Mariappan, Chakkiath P. Antony, Hugo B. Harrison, Claude Payri, Danwei Huang, Andrew H. Baird, A genomic approach to Porites (Anthozoa: Scleractinia) megadiversity from the Indo-Pacific, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, Volume 203, 2025

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2024.108238>



Tara Pacific 2016 to 2018

Scientific Director:

Dr. Serge Planes, CNRS Research Director, and Dr. Denis Allemand, Scientific Director of the Scientific Center of Monaco

8 publications in 2025



Quantitative imaging datasets of surface micro- to mesoplankton communities and microplastic across the Pacific and North Atlantic oceans from the Tara Pacific expedition.
Earth System Science Data

Mériguet, Z., Bourdin, G., Kristan, N., Jalabert, L., Bun, O., Picheral, M., Caray-Counil, L., Maury, J., Pedrotti, M.-L., Elineau, A., Paz-Garcia, D. A., Karp-Boss, L., Gorsky, G., Lombard, F., and the Tara Pacific Consortium Coordinators team: Quantitative imaging datasets of surface micro- to mesoplankton communities and microplastic across the Pacific and North Atlantic oceans from the Tara Pacific expedition, *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, 17, 2761–2792, 2025.

<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-17-2761-2025>



Coral skeletal cores as windows into past Symbiodiniaceae community dynamics.
Global Change Biology

Jose F. Grillo, Vanessa Tirpitz, Jessica Reichert, Marine Canesi, Stéphanie Reynaud, Eric Douville, Maren Ziegler, Coral skeletal cores as windows into past Symbiodiniaceae community dynamics, *Global Change Biology* 2025

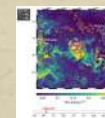
<https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.70575>



Morphological traits and machine learning for genetic lineage prediction of two reef-building corals.
PLoS One

Mitushasi G, Kitano YF, Oury N, Magalon H, Paz-García DA, Armstrong E, Hume BCC, Porro B, Moulin C, Boissin E, Bourdin G, Iwankow G, Poulain J, Romic S, Reddy MM; Tara Pacific Consortium Coordinators; Planes S, Allemand D, Voolstra CR, Forcioli D, Agostini S. Morphological traits and machine learning for genetic lineage prediction of two reef-building corals. *PLoS One*. 2025

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0326095>



Dynamics of the island mass effect – Part 1: Detecting the extent.
Biogeosciences

Bourdin, G., Karp-Boss, L., Lombard, F., Gorsky, G., and Boss, E.: Dynamics of the island mass effect – Part 1: Detecting the extent, *Biogeosciences*, 22, 3207–3233, 2025.

<https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-22-3207-2025>



Dynamics of island mass effect – Part II: Phytoplankton physiological responses.
EGUsphere

[preprint] Bourdin, G., Karp-Boss, L., Lombard, F., Gorsky, G., and Boss, E.: Dynamics of island mass effect – Part II: Phytoplankton physiological responses, *EGUsphere* [preprint], 2025.

<https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2025-426>



Coping with ocean acidification: metabolic shifts in Porites corals from the Palau Archipelago.
Coral Reefs

Plichon, K., Tredez, M., Roberty, S. et al. Coping with ocean acidification: metabolic shifts in Porites corals from the Palau Archipelago. *Coral Reefs* (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-025-02728-4>



UniCor and UniCorP: a novel metric and hierarchical feature selection algorithm for microbial community analysis.
ISME Communications

Staab S, Mayer KI, Cárdenas A, Peixoto RS, Schreiber F, Voolstra CR. UniCor and UniCorP: a novel metric and hierarchical feature selection algorithm for microbial community analysis. *ISME Commun.* (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ismeco/ycaf174>



Genomics-based quantitative biogeography of marine plankton.
bioRxiv

[PREPRINT] Margaux Crédeville, Roy El Hourany, Swan L. S. Sow, Julie Poulain, Manon Depaty, Eric Pelletier, Zoé Mériguet, Marie-Fanny Racault, Genoscope Sequencing Team, Aude Perdureau, Laurie Bertrand, Frédéric Gavory, Priscillia Gourvil, Céline Orvain, Morgane Ratin, Laurence Garczarek, Tom O Delmont, Adrien Thurotte, Corinne Le Quéré, Juan J Pierella Karlusich, Chris Bowler, Samuel Chaffron, Patrick Wincker, Fabien Lombard, Olivier Jaillon. Genomics-based quantitative biogeography of marine plankton; *bioRxiv*, 2025.

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.10.25.684415>



Microplastics Mission 2019

6 publications in 2025

Scientific Coordinator:

Dr. Jean-François Ghiglione, CNRS Research Director



Source, fate, and effects of plastic litters in the European land-sea continuum.

Environmental Science
and Pollution Research

Ghiglione JF and ter Halle A Source, fate, and effects of plastic litters in the European land-sea continuum. Environmental Science and Pollution Research (IF 5.05) 32, 10021–10022. (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-024-35827-w>



A pan-European study of the bacterial plastisphere diversity along river-to-sea continuums.

Environmental Science
and Pollution Research

Philip L, Chapron L, Barbe V, Burgaud G, Calvès I, Paul-Pont I, Thiébeauld O, Sperandio B, Navarro L, ter Halle A, Eyheraguibel B, Ludwig W, Palazot M, Kedzierski M, Meistertzheim AL, Ghiglione JF A pan-European study of the bacterial plastisphere diversity along river-to-sea continuums. Environmental Science and Pollution Research (IF 5.05) 32(16), 10164–10180 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-024-35658-9>



Comparison of macrolitter and meso-and microplastic pollution on French riverbanks and coastal beaches using citizen science with schoolchildren.

Environmental Science
and Pollution Research

Philip L, Le Picard M, Lavergne E, Bourgain P, Sabard B, Troublé R, Meistertzheim AL, Ludwig W, ter Hall A, Lacroix C, Ghiglione JF Comparison of macrolitter and meso-and microplastic pollution on French riverbanks and coastal beaches using citizen science with schoolchildren. Environmental Science and Pollution Research (IF 5.05), 32, 10066–10080. (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-024-35506-w>



Untargeted metabolomic insights into plastisphere communities in European rivers.

Environmental Science
and Pollution Research

Eyheraguibel B, Diémé B, Lagrée M, Durand S, Barbe V, Meistertzheim AL, ter Halle A, Burgaud G, Ghiglione JF Untargeted metabolomic insights into plastisphere communities in European rivers. Environmental Science and Pollution Research (IF 5.05) 32, 10181–10194 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-024-34214-9>



Plastic debris exposure and effects in rivers: boundaries for efficient ecological risk assessment.

Environmental Science
and Pollution Research

Ghiglione JF, ter Halle A Plastic debris exposure and effects in rivers: boundaries for efficient ecological risk assessment. Environmental Science and Pollution Research (IF 5.05) 32, 10023–10031 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-024-35201-w>



Mission Tara Microplastics: a field investigation of plastic pollution along the land-sea continuum in Europe.

Environmental Science
and Pollution Research

Ghiglione JF, Barbe V, Bruzaud S, Burgaud G, Cachot J, Eyheraguibel B, Lartaud F, Ludwig W, Meistertzheim AL, Paul-Pont I, Pesant S, ter Halle A, Thiebeauld O, the Mission Tara Microplastics consortium Mission Tara Microplastics: a field investigation of plastic pollution along the land-sea continuum in Europe. Environmental Science and Pollution Research (IF 5.05) 32, 10032–10049 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-023-26883-9>



Microbiomes Mission 2020 to 2022

7 publications in 2025

Scientific Director:

Daniele Iudicone, Researcher at the Anton Dohrn Zoological Station (Naples, Italy), Chris Bowler, Research Director at the CNRS and Chair of the Foundation's Scientific Committee, Colomban de Vargas, Research Director at the CNRS



Insights from the AtlantECO Mission Microbiomes Expedition.

One Ocean Science

Rocke, E., Stéphane, P., Chris, B., Colomban, V., and Iudicone, D. and the AtlantECO Mission Microbiomes consortium: Insights from the AtlantECO Mission Microbiomes Expedition, One Ocean Science Congress 2025, Nice, France, 3–6 Jun 2025, OOS2025-1340 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.5194/oos2025-1340>



A novel multispecies approach for the detection of regime shifts in a plankton community

– a case study in the North Sea.
Ocean Science

Dees, P., Fröb, F., Arellano-Nava, B., Johns, D. G., and Heinze, C.: A novel multispecies approach for the detection of regime shifts in a plankton community – a case study in the North Sea, Ocean Sci., 21, 2397–2417 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.5194/os-21-2397-2025>

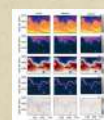


The southern gap in ocean microbiome science.

Ocean Microbiology

Sarmiento, H., Huber, P., Santos-Júnior, C.D. et al. The southern gap in ocean microbiome science. Ocean Microbiol. 1, 6 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s44375-025-00006-w>

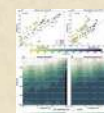


Origin and effects of resolution-dependent discretization biases in ocean biogeochemical simulations

ESS Open Archive

Muhammad Hassan Khan, Marcello Vichi, Francesco Paparella. Origin and effects of resolution-dependent discretization biases in ocean biogeochemical simulations. ESS Open Archive . December 01, 2025.

<https://doi.org/10.22541/essoar.176460925.52340078/v1>



A coupled physical-biogeochemical modeling approach to investigate the dynamics of the Benguela Upwelling System.

Frontiers in Marine Science

Salama AT, Lovato T, Butenschön M and Zavatarelli M A coupled physical-biogeochemical modeling approach to investigate the dynamics of the Benguela Upwelling System. Front. Mar. Sci. 12:1601284 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2025.1601284>



Conserved genetic markers reveal widespread diatom sexual reproduction in the global ocean.

Nature Communications

Bilcke, G., Campese, L., Annunziata, R. et al. Conserved genetic markers reveal widespread diatom sexual reproduction in the global ocean. Nat Commun 16, 10029 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-65296-9>



Unveiling the link between phytoplankton molecular physiology and biogeochemical cycling via genome-scale modeling.

Science Advances

Antoine Régimbeau et al., Unveiling the link between phytoplankton molecular physiology and biogeochemical cycling via genome-scale modeling. Sci. Adv. 11, eadq3593 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adq3593>



Tara Europa / TREC 2023 to 2024

7 publications in 2025

TREC Scientific Directors:

Peer Bork, Rainer Pepperkok, Detlev Arendt to EMBL

Scientific Director of Tara Europa:

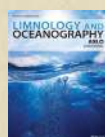
Colomban de Vargas, Research Director at the CNRS at the Roscoff Biological Station



Science on the go: bringing labs into the field. Nature

Docter-Loeb, H. 2025. Science on the go: bringing labs into the field. Nature 637, 1005-1007 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-00074-7>



Biomass-to-volume ratio as a central continuous functional trait for marine zooplankton. Limnology and Oceanography

Lemoine, J., Ayata, S.-D., Jaspers, C. and Lombard, F., Biomass-to-volume ratio as a central continuous functional trait for marine zooplankton (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1002/lno.70171>



Expanding on the portuarization syndrome from an ecological perspective: eDNA reveals rich diversity, non-indigenous hotspots, and biotic homogenization in ports. bioRxiv

[PREPRINT] Expanding on the portuarization syndrome from an ecological perspective: eDNA reveals rich diversity, non-indigenous hotspots, and biotic homogenization in ports. Ginevra Lilli, Annaëlle Caillarec-Joly, Clément Violet, Marc Bouchoucha, Xavier Turon, Sophie Arnaud-Haond, Frédérique Viard, bioRxiv 2025

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.10.27.684730>



Variations in the latitudinal diversity gradients of the ocean microbiome. bioRxiv

[PREPRINT] Variations in the latitudinal diversity gradients of the ocean microbiome, Dominic Eriksson, Jonas Schiller, Alexandre Schickele, Taylor Priest, Anna Mankowski, Enzo Faucher, Lucas J. Ustick, Michael Kuhn, Samuel Miravet-Verde, Hans-Joachim Ruscheweyh, Corentin Clerc, Nicolas Gruber, Shinichi Sunagawa, Peer Bork, Meike Vogt, bioRxiv 2025

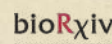
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.10.13.682024>



The coloNISation: spatio-temporal metabarcoding surveys in ports reveal homogenised communities with high genetic diversity and connectivity of non-indigenous species. bioRxiv

[PREPRINT] The coloNISation: spatio-temporal metabarcoding surveys in ports reveal homogenised communities with high genetic diversity and connectivity of non-indigenous species, J.Zarcero, A. Antich, M. Fernández-Tejedor, C. Palacin, O.S. Wangensteen, M. Rius, X. Turon, bioRxiv (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.11.18.688838>



From storms to warming seas: a long-term metabarcoding survey in port communities unveils high genetic diversity and ecological resilience of non-indigenous species. bioRxiv

[PREPRINT] From storms to warming seas: a long-term metabarcoding survey in port communities unveils high genetic diversity and ecological resilience of non-indigenous species, J. Zarcero, A. Antich, O.S. Wangensteen, M. Rius, X. Turon; bioRxiv 2025

<https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.20.695700>



Six key policy recommendations to advocate for marine conservation that matches the ocean's dynamism. npj Ocean Sustain

Esteban-Cantillo, O.J., Abreu, A., Bourgeois-Gironde, S. et al. Six key policy recommendations to advocate for marine conservation that matches the ocean's dynamism. npj Ocean Sustain 4, 50 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-025-00151-4>





Colophon

The Tara Ocean Foundation congratulates all authors and partner laboratories on these major scientific publications. The complementary nature of our expertise and the collaboration of various institutes within scientific consortia are a source of great pride and illustrate the richness of these partnerships. This collective momentum reinforces our commitment to continue working toward research guided by excellence, innovation, and discovery in the service of the ocean and the planet.

This scientific publications report was prepared by the Tara Ocean Foundation, typeset in Helvetica Neue LT Std, printed in 200 copies on 140 g/m² Woodstock Betulla uncoated paper (80% recycled, containing 20% FSC certified virgin fibers), and bound by Sprint Printing.

tara
ARCTIC

TARA
OCEANS

TARA
MÉDITERRANÉE

tara
PACIFIC

Mission
Microplastiques

Mission
Microbiomes

tara
EUROPA

tara
CORAL

tara
POLARIS I

2007-2008

Providing data for IPCC models and predicting major climate events

2009-2013

Unveiling the Ocean's invisible life through the first comprehensive study of the planktonic ecosystem

2014

Revealing the extent and impact of plastic on the marine ecosystem in the Mediterranean sea

2016-2018

Studying the biodiversity of reefs and their response to climate change and human pressures

2019

Identifying the sources and impacts of microplastics on marine biodiversity at the European level

2020-2022

Understanding the Ocean's invisible life, the services it provides, and its interactions with the climate and pollutions

2023-2024

Predicting the impact of human activities on European coastal ecosystems

2026-2028

Unraveling the secrets behind climate-resilient corals in Southeast Asian seas

2026-2027

Understanding the Central Arctic Ocean ecosystems and the impact of global changes, through all the seasons and over the next 20 years



www.fondationtaraocean.org



Sharing story



Paola Furla,
Scientific Director,
Université Côte-d'Azur,
member of the consortium
of Tara Pacific (2016–2018)
and co-director of the Tara Coral
(2026–2027) expedition

In the context of today's major environmental challenges, no single scientist can, on their own, fully grasp the complexity of the systems under study. The study of coral reefs, in particular, requires approaches that lie at the intersection of biology, climate, ocean chemistry, and human dynamics, making a multifaceted, integrated, and coordinated approach indispensable. Working in collaboration with researchers whose expertise complements one another allows us to approach scientific questions from various angles, enrich our hypotheses, and combine analytical methods.

“Beyond the scale of the resources mobilized, the collective effort strengthens the robustness of the results.”

Paola Furla, member of the consortium of *Tara Pacific* (2016–2018) expedition and co-director of the *Tara Coral* (2026–2028) expedition.

The consortium model adopted by the Tara Ocean Foundation's expeditions provides a structured framework for this interdisciplinarity. It brings together biologists, ecologists, oceanographers, geneticists, modelers, conservation specialists, and local partners around shared objectives. This diversity of expertise opens up a world of possibilities by providing access to tools, data, and research sites that far exceed the capabilities of a single laboratory.

Beyond the scale of the resources mobilized, collective work strengthens the robustness of the results. The comparison of approaches, crossvalidation of data, and ongoing scientific discussions help minimize bias, improve the interpretation of observations, and produce more robust and reproducible conclusions. This rigor is essential for addressing global challenges such as coral adaptation to climate change.

Finally, the consortium serves as a space for knowledge sharing and training, where expertise flows between institutions from various regions of the world. It fosters a science that is more open, more inclusive, and better grounded in local realities. For a scientist, being part of such a collaborative dynamic is not only a driver of efficiency but an indispensable condition for producing ambitious, credible, and long-term useful research for the understanding and protection of marine ecosystems. It also fosters exchanges with local decision-makers, who are delighted to have access to newly acquired knowledge.

Spotlight on two scientific publications

1. Microplastics: the hidden face of global pollution

Source, fate, and effects of plastic litters in the European land-sea continuum.
Environmental Science and Pollution Research (2025)

The special issue of *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* (ESPR), brings together 14 scientific articles and reveals cross-border microplastic pollution in the European land-sea continuum. This compilation includes the major findings of the *Microplastics Mission* (2019) on the origin and flows of plastic pollution in nine European rivers: the Loire, the Seine, the Rhine, the Elbe, the Thames, the Ebro, the Rhône, the Tiber, and the Garonne.



Key findings from these scientific analyses

1 • River Pollution

All European rivers contain microplastics, with an average of 3 large microplastics per cubic meter.

2 • Small microplastics

Their number and mass (25 µm – 500 µm) can be up to 1,000 times greater than those of large microplastics (500 µm – 5 mm). Invisible to the naked eye, they are more easily ingested by the food chain, from microzooplankton to fish.

3 • Distribution in the water column

Small microplastics are distributed evenly. In the Mediterranean, 65% of river-derived microplastics float on the surface, while only 35% sink to the depths.

4 • Rafts for microorganisms

Microplastics serve as substrates for microorganisms, including certain pathogens such as *Shewanella putrefaciens*, responsible for various infections in humans, detected in rivers.

5 • “Pollutant sponge” effect

Plastics bind to heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and pesticides. Over 16,000 chemical additives are

incorporated into them, 3,000 of which are toxic, exacerbating the environmental and health impacts.

6 • Primary plastics on riverbanks

A quarter of the large microplastics collected from the banks of French rivers and streams are primary plastic pellets, known as “mermaid tears.”



To learn more about the
Microplastics Mission (2019)

265 media mentions
(January–October 2025)
120 digital
51 print
69 radio
25 TV

2. Machine learning to facilitate coral research

Morphological traits and machine learning for genetic lineage prediction of two reef-building corals. *PLoS One* (2025)

This study focuses on reef-building corals, whose species identification is often complex because their morphology does not always correspond to their genetic identity. Researchers from the *Tara Pacific* (2016–2018) expedition combined morphological measurements with machine learning algorithms to predict the genetic lineage of corals. By training these models on morphological data linked to genetic labels, they demonstrated that they classified genetic lineages more accurately than traditional statistical methods. This approach could facilitate the study of biodiversity and reef conservation, while reducing the need to costly molecular analyses.



To learn more about
Tara Pacific (2016–2018)

05. Share to change

Just like exploration, sharing knowledge is at the heart of the foundation's mission. By making scientific discoveries accessible to the general public—whether through the eyes and sensibilities of artists, a podcast, workshops or lecture series—the foundation brings the voice of the Ocean to as many people as possible. Informing policymakers to contribute to informed decisions on the sustainable management and preservation of the Ocean, as well as training teachers through innovative educational resources, helps bridge the gap between science, policy and society.

How do we know the Ocean?

The Ocean is a unique and vast environment. There are many human communities living alongside it, each with different cultures and customs. Whether they are active participants or mere observers, all seek to explore and understand this boundless space.

While some knowledge comes from direct immersion, most of our interactions with the Ocean happen through personal experiences or by sharing information.

Creating to preserve: cultural actors in the service of Ocean protection

The year 2025 saw the launch of a major initiative bringing together cultural actors—both scientific and artistic—committed to protecting the Ocean. Born from the need to speak with a unified voice to share knowledge and build a true Ocean Culture, this alliance encourages the implementation of collective awareness-raising initiatives.

A clear goal emerged: to offer new narratives that transform our view of the Ocean and strengthen citizens' environmental commitment. Echoing the educational work carried out for decades by science outreach organizations, artists and cultural institutions help raise public awareness of contemporary issues while adding a sensory dimension. These initiatives help ensure that the Ocean remains a part of the public discourse over the long term.

Debate, understand, learn, and encourage inspiration and action.

It is essential to continue this mission and build momentum toward a fair and concrete understanding of the global and oceanic challenges ahead.



829,000 citizens in Osaka (80 % japanese)
120,000 citizens at UNOC
5,000 citizens at Villa Arson - Nice
15,000 citizens at FLOW - Occitanie
7,000 citizens at UNOC stopovers and events

Artists at the heart of our commitment

The exhibition “Becoming Ocean, a social conversation about the Ocean” – Villa Arson – Nice

On the sidelines of UNOC-3 and over a 15-week period (May–August 2025), the Tara Ocean Foundation, in partnership with Villa Arson and the Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary Foundation (TBA21), presented a major group exhibition exploring contemporary ocean issues. This initiative took place within the exceptional framework of the Biennale des Arts et de l’Océan, organized by the City of Nice.

Through this collective endeavor, the participating organizations sought to highlight the importance of collaboration and affirm a shared conviction: art and culture are drivers of social and environmental change.

Drawing on diverse artistic approaches and on knowledge and narratives related to the Ocean, the exhibition aimed to initiate a social dialogue on oceanic issues and their impacts on all the planet’s inhabitants of the planet. These human impacts—

overfishing, pollution, maritime transport, deep-sea mining—show that our relationship with the Ocean remains too often marked by domination and exploitation, to the detriment of marine biodiversity. This observation, established as the starting point of the exhibition, calls for a rethinking of our connection with the Ocean.

For this exhibition, some twenty artists left their traditional studios to meet with scientists, experts, and policymakers. Among them, six former residents aboard *Tara* collaborated once again: Antoine Bertin, Samuel Bollendorff, Nicolas Floc’h, Christian Sardet, Robertina Šebjanič, and Laure Winants.

- 15 weeks
- 5,842 visitors
- 20 artists including 6 «Tara»
- A first collaboration with
- 3 leading cultural organizations
- 43 media mentions



© Jean Christophe Lett - Tara Ocean foundation

The FLOW contemporary art tour in Occitanie: Tara at the honor of the first edition

In September 2025, The Eyes, publisher of the book “Tara: Artists Reveal the Ocean,” launched the first edition of the FLOW festival, a new artistic journey dedicated to photography and the visual arts, set in iconic sites of Occitan heritage. FLOW offers Occitania an artistic and civic gathering, bringing together heritage, photography, and contemporary issues to examine our present and envision the future.

The Tara Ocean Foundation was the guest of honor at this inaugural edition, highlighted by the participation of artists Samuel Bollendorff, Nicolas Floc’h, and Laure Winants, the promotion of the artists’ book, and the foundation’s work. The works were presented at the Musée de l’Étang de Thau in Bouzigues and at Château Laurens in Agde. A short documentary chronicling Nicolas Floc’h’s residency during *Tara Polar Station* test drift was also screened on October 3 during an evening event at Panacée MO.CO.

- 3 artists
- 2 venues
- 14,781 visitors to the sites featuring “Tara” artists



© Naomie Pecqueux - FLOW



© Naomie Pecqueux - FLOW

The color of water at the heart of the Arctic landscape with Nicolas Floc’h - Artist Residency

An iconic artist for the Tara Ocean Foundation since his first voyage aboard *Tara Pacific* (2016-2018) in 2016, Nicolas Floc’h was the first artist to stay aboard *Tara Polar Station* during the test drift in the summer of 2025.

An experienced diver and sailor, he was able to assist the crew with technical underwater operations and naturally integrated into the crew. This exceptional opportunity allowed him to capture valuable imagery that will be used to create two new color grids of Arctic waters, following the schooner’s route. He also produced several black-and-white photographs of extraordinary underwater landscapes.



© Maeva Bardy - Tara Ocean foundation

Raising public awareness

Tara Coral - the departure

The schooner *Tara* set sail from Lorient on December 13 and 14 during a festive weekend organized at the Cité de la Voile Éric-Tabarly, marking the launch of the *Tara Coral (2026-2027)* expedition. Lectures, meetings, tours, and workshops offered the public a new perspective on the world of coral.

The screening of the documentary “Tara, the Coral Odyssey” was followed by a discussion with Serge Planes, scientific director of the *Tara Pacific (2016-2018)* expedition. He recounted *Tara*’s first expedition to the Pacific corals and opened the discussion on the future prospects of the coral expedition in Southeast Asia. On Sunday, the departure was celebrated with an artistic performance by the Porte27 collective, blending aerial arts and music to create a moment of suspended, poetic beauty

The week leading up to the departure was dedicated to schoolchildren and underserved audiences with limited exposure to science outreach. Among the participants were young people from the Pays de Lorient local mission and deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, accompanied by Laetitia Sanquer, founder of SigneScience.

For her, this commitment makes accessibility a driving force behind science outreach and opening up to new audiences: “Making the Ocean, science, and exploration accessible means giving everyone the right to understand, to marvel, and to get involved.”

2,000 citizens on the docks
2 lectures
283 people visited *Tara* including
310 schoolchildren and 75 children



Fragments - A 6-season drift
Exhibition created by Yun Faillard,
scientific illustrator

Trained at the École Estienne, Yun Faillard uses nature observation, climate research, and visual storytelling to revitalize educational narratives.

This exhibition project was created as part of the Advanced Diploma in Applied Arts with a focus on scientific illustration, in close collaboration with the Tara Ocean Foundation.

The exhibition, designed as a sensory and informative experience, recounts fragments of a world that is disappearing. It follows the silent drift of *Tara Polar Station* ship across the ice floes through the six Inuit seasons, blending onboard science, polar storytelling, and climate urgency.

More than just a tool for communication, the exhibition offers a glimpse into a fragile ecosystem and immerses the visitor in the heart of climate research, where our shared future is being decided.

The exhibition was first presented in September 2025 on the banks of the Seine in Paris as part of the “Photoclimat Biennial”.



Tara Polar station -
An observatory and laboratory
at the heart of the climate system

Under a glowing sky and in perfect weather conditions, *Tara Polar Station* was launched on October 4, 2024, as workers and teams from the Tara Ocean Foundation looked on with emotion. From this unique moment came the idea to create an exhibition recounting the stages and challenges that made this project possible.

The exhibition’s 15 panels trace this extraordinary adventure, from the ship’s design to its construction. Presented in Lorient for the christening of *Tara Polar Station* and in Oslo at the Fram Museum, the exhibition highlights the parallels between the two ships: the *Fram*, a historic symbol of exploration, and *Tara Polar Station*, a modern force for research and conservation.



The “Plastic in the Sea, Solutions on Land” kit is taking root in the PACA region with new partners.

Building on the partnership with the EDF Group Foundation, the rollout of the “Plastic in the Sea, Solutions on Land” educational kit continues in the PACA region with the distribution of ten new kits. This phase relies on local partners, such as the “From City to Sea” initiative created by the UCPA in Marseille. This offers young people from local neighborhoods the opportunity to discover water sports while raising their awareness of environmental issues.



Bringing the Ocean into school curricula

Science, Ocean, Society: The foundation supports teachers with innovative educational resources to educate young people about sustainable development and international solidarity

New partnership agreements

At the start of the school year, the Tara Ocean Foundation signed, aboard the schooner *Tara*, two agreements with the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB)—as part of the “bluelights” project and the “educational areas”—and the Center for Media and Information Literacy (CLEMI), to synergize educational resources and explore opportunities for joint projects.

The OFB’s “educational zones” initiative, in which students become active participants in their local communities, aligns perfectly with the participatory science program “Plastic under microscope.” The agreement highlights the synergies between these two initiatives to facilitate their mutual development.

For the past ten years, CLEMI and the Foundation have been partners in co-facilitating the “Graines de Reporters Scientifiques” initiative, through which nearly 30,000 middle and high school students have spent an entire school year serving as investigative journalists on ocean-related issues. Building on this strong partnership, CLEMI and the Foundation will soon embark on an evolution of the program, firmly focused on solutions journalism. In addition, the Education Department continues to integrate international solidarity into its resources as part of a three-year partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD).

Diverse and multidisciplinary resources

The Education Department provides teachers in mainland France, the overseas territories, and French high schools around the world with innovative educational resources on science, society, and ocean issues.

The resources offered are free, diverse, and multi-faceted: educational activities, classroom experiments, teaching kits, scientific documentaries, live video-conferences with researchers, murals, and more. They highlight the importance of interdisciplinarity—a gateway to teaching complexity—while providing robust content for subject-specific instruction. By drawing on these resources, teachers contextualize science and environmental issues and develop engaging teaching methods for students, from elementary school—primarily starting in Cycle 3 (ages 9–12)—through the end of high school.

... co-developed and validated by the French Ministry of Education

The foundation’s resources are co-designed with the French Ministry of Education to ensure alignment with official curricula. The entire educational project has been supported for twenty years by the General Inspectorate and extended through close collaboration with Regional Educational Inspectors (IPR) and academic coordinators for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This unique collaboration is long-term in nature: it involves earlystage consultation, concept validation, coproduction, and dissemination to engage teachers in the educational offerings, as well as co-facilitation of training sessions and evaluation.

An advisory committee for the Education Department provides expert support. It includes, in particular, inspectors from the French Ministry of Education, experts from ADEME, the La Main à la pâte Foundation, AFD, UNESCO networks, the French Institute of Education, and others.



Signing of partnership agreements with representatives of CLEMI and OFB aboard the schooner *Tara* during its stopover in Paris (September 17, 2025).

+ 170,000 students have worked with the Tara Ocean Foundation's resources, supported by + 6,000 teachers

The Tara Ocean Foundation’s flagship educational initiatives and activities

Plastic Under Microscope

With “Plastic Under Microscope,” middle and high school students help scientists assess the state of plastic pollution. This citizen science initiative aims to build a database on plastics in France (beaches and riverbanks across mainland France and its overseas territories). The collected waste supports scientific research and contributes to decision-making at the European level, within the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Le Cèdre and the CNRS laboratory in Banyuls-sur-Mer are the project’s scientific partners. The objective of this initiative is twofold: to support researchers in their scientific inquiries, while serving as a catalyst for science education, eco-citizenship, the development of critical thinking, and youth engagement.

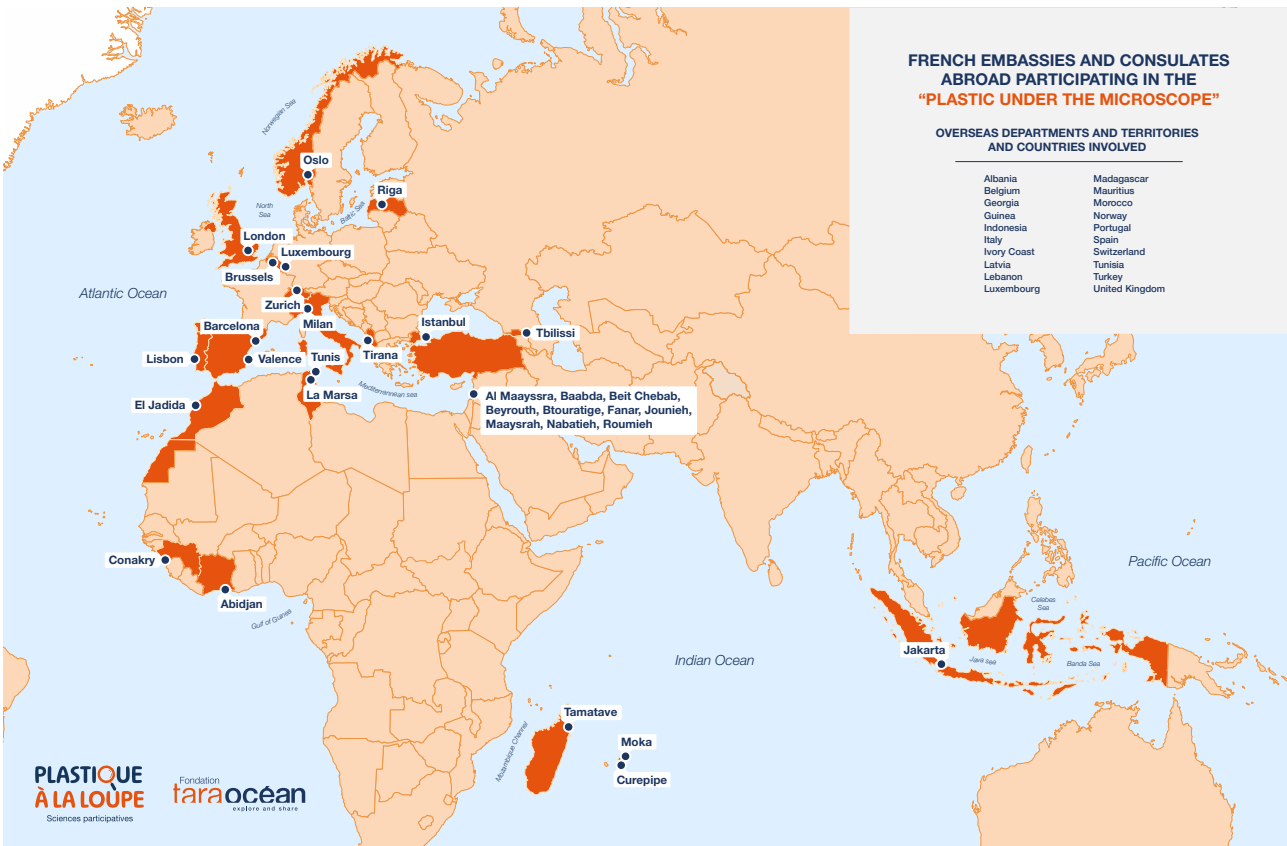
In 2025, in addition to the 31 National Education academies, 88 agricultural schools joined the initiative, further expanding its geographical reach. Furthermore, to broaden the scope of study and supplement the scientists’ data, French schools abroad in 21 countries are participating in “Plastic under microscope.”

+ 20,000 students
1,700 teachers
645 schools across mainland France, overseas territories, and abroad contributed to this citizen science initiative.

The Plastic Pollution Mural

Since 2022, the Tara Ocean Foundation has invited middle and high school students to collaboratively create a mural on plastic pollution. Given the success of this tool for introducing students to the challenges of plastic pollution, a version for students in Cycle 3 (ages 9–12) was launched in 2025. Nearly 900 teachers have been trained to lead the “Plastic Pollution Mural” activity (middle and upper secondary school version and Key Stage 3 version), reaching over 15,000 pupils.

15,000 students
900 teachers



The “Echoes of Port Calls – Virtual Expeditions” initiative

Through the *Tara* schooner’s port calls around the world, students explore local sustainable development issues that reflect broader eco-citizen challenges. Classes embark on a virtual expedition aboard their virtual ship and choose their itinerary based on a theme, a region of the world, or a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). This flexible and engaging format for classroom activities has garnered widespread support from the educational community in mainland France and its overseas territories, and is also expanding to French schools around the world. The work of classes enrolled in “Échos d’escales” was showcased at two end-of-year conferences, bringing together nearly 1,000 students from around the globe online.

+ 15,000 students that is
700 classes participated in the “Échos d’escales - Virtual Expeditions” in 2025.

The annual series of online meetings between students and scientists

The strength of the Tara Ocean Foundation’s educational platform also stems from its direct connection to the world of scientific research, particularly through the program of videoconference meetings between students and researchers. These meetings are consistently very successful. Their goal is to spark students’ curiosity about critical environmental issues, while fostering an interest in science and raising awareness of careers in research. These videoconferences then become lasting resources, accessible through a catalog of recordings.

19,000 students in
800 classes around the world
have participated in the
50 online sessions with scientists.



Initiatives in teacher training

Working closely with the educational community aims to have a lasting impact on younger generations. Whether in person or via videoconference, participation in teacher training is essential because it amplifies the impact of educational initiatives. These initiatives are also designed to align with official standards and curricula, as the training sessions are co-developed with the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of National Education.

In 2025, Season 2 of “Taracadémie” took place, a series of webinars for teachers seeking to deepen their knowledge of current environmental issues. The four scientific conferences offered brought together 400 teachers and are regularly viewed via on-demand replays.

+ 170,000 students worked with resources from the Tara Ocean Foundation, supported by
+ 6,000 teachers
+ 1,300 teachers in training programs

Our advocacy campaigns to call for more ambition and innovation to protect marine life

Transformingscientificknowledgeintoconcretepolicy actions for ocean conservation is at the heart of the Foundation’s Advocacy Department’s commitment. Its areas of focus are based on the scientific expertise gained from our past expeditions—protection of the High Seas, combating plastic pollution—and on that to be gained from our two upcoming expeditions—conservation of coral reefs and biodiversity in the Arctic and Antarctic. In the face of the environmental emergency, political decision-making must be based on the most recent scientific knowledge.



Strengthening our historical expertise

Combating plastic pollution: reducing the production and use of toxic substances

While scientific research aboard the schooner has focused on the impacts of plastics on the Ocean and the life it supports—even in their smallest forms—this pollution is now ubiquitous. From the poles to the peaks of mountain ranges, and even in the air we breathe, all ecosystems and all living organisms are affected—including us. Whether it’s climate, toxic, or environmental pollution, solutions must be implemented as early as possible, starting at the production stage, so that they can be systemic rather than merely symptomatic.

To contribute to this goal, the foundation’s teams have focused on three major areas:

- Strengthening the scientific consensus: knowledge of the impacts of plastics on biodiversity is relatively recent. Conversely, the petrochemical industry has had several decades of hindsight regarding the composition and toxicity of certain plastics, creating a profoundly asymmetrical balance of power that seeks to undermine Strengthening the scientific

consensus: knowledge of the impacts of plastics on biodiversity is relatively recent. Conversely, the petrochemical industry has had several decades of hindsight regarding the composition and toxicity of certain plastics, creating a profoundly asymmetrical balance of power that seeks to undermine

- Exploring the concept of essentiality: the scientific consensus on the solutions to be implemented is clear: we must reduce the volume of plastic produced and the use of toxic substances. But despite this evidence, questions remain: which plastics? Which polymers? Which uses should be prioritized? To provide some answers, the Tara Ocean Foundation and its partners have begun work on the concept of essentiality: defining which uses or needs are truly essential in order to eliminate what can be eliminated. This approach was applied in particular to the healthcare sector during the event held during *Tara’s* stopover in Marseille—an area where reducing plastic use is often deemed impossible because it is perceived as compromising the quality and effectiveness of care.

This work continued during *Tara’s* stopover in Paris and will continue in 2026 with the organization of a dedicated event.

- Contributing to negotiations for an international plastics treaty: the findings from this reflection were then presented to policymakers. The International Treaty on Plastic Pollution offers a unique opportunity to address this pollution on a global scale. Building on its status as a special observer at the UN, the foundation participated last August in the treaty’s seventh round of negotiations. Two months after UNOC-3, where some 100 states had come out in favor of reducing production, Geneva witnessed the same deadlocks: a minority of oil-producing states used the consensus voting rule to block any substantive progress.

The strongest signal ultimately came from China’s statement at the end of the session, opening the door to a dialogue on production cuts and effectively shifting the balance of power for negotiations, both within the treaty and elsewhere.

This commitment will continue in 2026 at the UN, European, and national levels, particularly with the upcoming publication of the results of the *Tara Europa – TREC (2023-2024)* expedition, which will provide unprecedented data on the distribution of pollutants, including those related to plastics, along European coastlines.



From negotiation to entry into force: a new decisive step for the High Seas

After more than twelve years of monitoring negotiations and three years of participating in diplomatic efforts to bring it into force, the treaty to protect biodiversity in the High Seas, or BBNJ Treaty, officially reached the required sixty ratifications in September 2025. By January 2027, the very first Conference of the Parties (COP) on the High Seas will take place, allowing the foundation to shift its focus from preparation to the implementation of a treaty that effectively protects biodiversity. This objective was the central focus of the fifth BBNJ workshop organized by the foundation last March, which brought together negotiators, scientists, and legal experts to discuss certain key outstanding issues: the composition of the scientific committee, the facilitation and monitoring of academic research, the identification of sites to be protected, and more. This preparatory work is crucial to ensure that the treaty can become operational as quickly as possible and that the first few COPs do not merely address institutional start-up issues. At the same time, the foundation is also working with its to consolidate Marine Protected Area (MPA) projects on the High Seas identified using technologies employed by scientists during expeditions.

Preparing the treaty, identifying priority sites for MPAs: all our work is geared toward the goal of establishing a protected ocean as quickly as possible, contributing to the international target of 30% MPAs by 2030.

Sharing the scientific techniques of the “Tara” consortium with developing countries

Since 2023, the foundation has launched the “Plankt’Eco,” supported by the French Fund for the Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), with the goal of advancing knowledge of planktonic ecosystems to integrate them into conservation tools. In 2024, it notably enabled the opening of a plankton imaging platform in Dakar, Senegal, benefiting the entire local scientific community, and in the future, the entire West African region.

This year, major advances have focused on the development of scientific tools that will enable the implementation of MPA projects in the High Seas at two key sites: the Humboldt Current—Chile and the Canary Current—Cape Verde, Mauritania, and Senegal.

“For the past 10 years, from the role of ocean ecosystems in climate regulation to the implementation of the BBNJ Treaty, the partnership between the FFEM and the Tara Ocean Foundation has demonstrated our shared commitment to a future where scientific knowledge informs decisions and strengthens the protection of the Ocean.”

Stéphanie Bouziges-Eschmann,
Secretary General of the French Fund for
the Global Environment (FFEM)



Committed to understanding and conserving the climate sentinels

Beyond our traditional areas of expertise, the coming years will be marked by the presence of the foundation’s two ships alongside the most iconic sentinels of global warming: coral reefs and the Arctic. Two ecosystems for which effective conservation measures are urgently needed.

Studying climate-resilient coral reefs: a key lever for their conservation

In parallel with preparations for the *Tara Coral (2026-2028)* expedition, 2025 provided an opportunity to outline the expedition’s scientific contributions to coral conservation policies. Several partnerships with local experts (civil society, NGOs, political bodies) have already been formalized to collaborate on policy initiatives during the schooner’s stops in the Coral Triangle or at major regional and international events. This work began at UNOC-3 with the first event presenting the *Tara Coral (2026-2028)* project and

establishing contact with many key players in coral conservation present in Nice, then continued in October with participation in the regional meeting of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs for the Asia-Pacific region.

Understanding the Arctic to anticipate and act on the climate crisis

On the opposite side of the globe, the foundation also revisits what formed the scientific focus of its very first expedition: the Arctic. In October, *Tara Polar Station* was in Reykjavik, Iceland, for the “Arctic Circle Assembly,” a major summit on polar conservation. In addition to presenting the scientific activities planned for the *Tara Polaris (2026-2046)* expeditions, the foundation organized a series of high-level meetings on board with Ocean Conservancy and Ocean North, to launch a proposal to designate the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO) as a marine protected area.

A successful first port of call for *Tara Polar Station*: over 500 visitors, including numerous diplomatic representatives, scientists, and NGO representatives, came to explore the ship and its expeditions. A milestone that strengthens the foundation’s ties with key Arctic stakeholders and opens new avenues for future expeditions. Fruitful and strategic discussions on Arctic Ocean governance and international cooperation, notably with Ocean Conservancy, Ocean North, and AMAP.

The Tara Ocean Foundation’s advocacy covers a wide range of topics, but they all revolve around a single vision: protecting the ocean and all living things through a systemic and comprehensive approach. It is this vision that notably inspired the drafting of our Manifesto for Life, as well as our stances on issues beyond our core expertise through an ethical lens, as was the case regarding the risks associated with marine geoengineering at the Conference of the Parties (COP) on Climate Change last November.

Raising awareness and engaging around the Ocean's major challenges

2025 was undoubtedly a “blue” year, thanks to the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) and France’s Year of the Sea. The world’s seas and Ocean took center stage in the French media and on social platform, generating a collective momentum among policymakers and the general public. The foundation enjoyed significant media coverage on topics ranging from the christening of *Tara Polar Station* to international treaties on plastic and the High Seas. The foundation’s experts, along with the scientists with whom it collaborates, worked with the media to better explain the major issues related to the Ocean, particularly its governance and the fight against plastic pollution.

2,555 media mentions including
1,160 digital
703 print
236 radio
156 TV



Microplastics Mission (2019)
expedition results featured in “Le Monde”.



“New Scientist” and “Bild” each published a feature story on *Tara Polar Station*.



Le Parisien, Le Figaro Science, and Le Point covered *Tara Polar Station*, the *Tara Coral (2026-2028)* expédition as well as the artists’ exhibition at Centquatre-Paris.

Mobilizing around UNOC-3 and the Year of the Sea

UNOC Mission (2025) expedition was an opportunity to invite content creators and public figures on board to raise awareness about the importance of studying and protecting the Ocean.

Ahead of UNOC-3, a campaign and a petition were launched around the #Letsbenicetotheocean movement in partnership with the Varda Group, the Ocean and Climate Platform, TBA21-Academy, Dona Bertarelli Philanthropy and MedPAN. The petition, which was widely shared, mobilized citizens around a paradigm shift to make ocean protection the norm rather than the exception.



Petition to mobilize ahead of UNOC-3

Bringing the adventure to life and sharing knowledge

On social media

The diverse content, covering both the adventure aboard the two ships and knowledge about the Ocean, helped expand the social media community and reach new audiences, some of whom are not typically interested in environmental issues.

Tara's exceptional stopover in Paris provided an opportunity to invite Tara Habis on board. The Parisian chef came to share her passion for cooking by creating an ocean-themed menu on board. This partnership helped introduce the foundation and its legendary schooner to a new audience.

Two video series were launched on YouTube to follow the UNOC Mission (2025) as well as Tara Polar Station testing campaign.

The Tara Ocean Foundation has developed two educational series:

- The Ocean Alphabet: one letter = one topic
- The Abyss: a dive to discover deep-sea organisms

In the run-up to the launch of the Tara Coral (2026-2028) and Tara Polaris I (2026-2027) expeditions, a communications campaign focusing on the themes of coral and the polar regions was launched. A series of interactive and informative publications explored a wide range of scientific and technical topics, as well as stories that offered an intimate look at the foundation's teams.

196,382 followers (+2 % from 2024)
+ 1,600 posts
+ 15 million people reached



Awareness campaign for the UNOC Mission (2025)



Hugo Décrypte mentioned our Tara Coral (2026-2028) expedition



When Tara meets Chief Tara Habis!



8 videos on the UNOC Mission (2025)



To relive the UNOC Mission (2025)



7 videos on Tara Polar Station tests



To see the Tara Polar Station under real-world conditions.



Examples of social media posts



Vous connaissiez le Krill ?
Que va être la lettre L ? #kril...

Example of an episode from The Ocean Alphabet



Website, Articles, and Newsletters

Articles are regularly published on the foundation’s website to inform a wide audience about the foundation’s work and raise awareness of key issues such as corals, the Central Arctic Ocean and plastic pollution. The site also features articles that explain scientific discoveries from expeditions in an accessible way. Numerous resources for teachers and science communicators are available on the site.

A version of the newsletter is now published on LinkedIn to share news with as many people as possible.



180,000 visitors (+ 10 % from 2024)
21 new articles, available in French and English
30,400 resources downloaded from the site (+ 60 % from 2024)



To access
the website

The Foundation's online shop

To mark the launch of our new expeditions, new products have been added to the foundation’s online shop: caps, t-shirts, mugs... These limited-edition collections offer must-have items from the ship while helping to financially support the foundation..



The “A Window on the Ocean” podcast

How can we protect the Ocean? The fourth season of the foundation’s podcast is now available ahead of the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC- 3).

In this new season, individuals from diverse backgrounds share their perspectives on why and how they are making a difference. Each episode offers food for thought to help us better understand our connection to the Ocean and what we can do on our own scale to protect it. The five episodes, each about 20 minutes long, are available on all streaming platforms and on the foundation’s website.



Episode 1
“Uniting for Life: The Role of Marine Protected Areas”
François Chartier,
Ocean Campaigner at Greenpeace,
and Martin Alessandrini, Advocacy officer at the Tara Ocean Foundation

Tara’s activities in Japan

Tara Ocean Japan is a Japanese sister organization of the Tara Ocean Foundation, with Yumiko Patouillet serving as its Secretary General. The organization was founded in late 2016, shortly before the schooner Tara made numerous stops in Japan as part of the *Tara Pacific (2016-2018)* expedition. Since then, it has established partnerships with several institutional, academic, and media organizations.

Continuation of the Tara-JAMBIO (2024-2027) Project

In 2025, the *Tara-JAMBIO Blue Carbon (2024-2027)* Project continued, with two objectives. The first is scientific: to improve the identification and understanding of the various CO₂ capture mechanisms across different ecosystems— particularly algae and seagrass beds—and the second is educational: to raise public awareness of the importance of these ecosystems in carbon storage by actively involving local communities, schools, artists, and the media. Research activities were conducted at seven sites between April and July, accompanied by outreach events at five of them.

Nine artists participated in the field missions alongside the scientists. The works produced draw on interdisciplinary exchanges and the experience gained during the research campaigns.

The project’s 2025 artistic activities took place as part of the “Art & Science” program, led by Tokyo University of the Arts x Kagawa University Setouchi. The works were presented at the Geijutsu Mirai Kenkyu jo -ten 2025 exhibition, held from November 21 to 30, 2025, at the Tokyo University of the Arts Museum of Art.



Publication of a scientific paper resulting from the Tara-JAMBIO joint study on microplastics

As part of the joint Tara-JAMBIO study on microplastics—the largest research effort ever conducted on microplastic pollution in Japan’s coastal waters and sediments—the first scientific article presenting the project’s results was published on August 11, 2025, in the scientific journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

Ramtahal, J.J., Sugimoto, K., Phan, S., Patouillet, Y., Troublé, R., Luscombe, C.K., Agostini, S. An Integrated Assessment of Microplastic Pollution in Coastal Surface Water and Sediment of Japan.2025. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.5c02645>

Publication of the Japanese edition of the book marking the 20th anniversary of the Tara Ocean Foundation

The Japanese edition of the book “Tara: A Story ofvCommitment to the Ocean,” originally published invFrance in 2023, was released on June 8, 2025, tovmark World Ocean Day.



A Growing Community: Social Media

In 2025, thanks to participation in the nonprofit support program offered by PR TIMES, Japan’s leading press distribution service, the number of press releases distributed increased significantly, rising from 4 in 2024 to 13 in 2025, thereby enhancing the overall visibility of Tara Ocean Japan’s activities.

Regarding the website’s “News” page, it is worth noting that the number of posts quadrupled.

Across all social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube), the number of followers has seen strong growth, with increases ranging from +13% to +307% depending on the platform. Thanks to its participation in the Osaka-Kansai World Expo, the foundation has seen a particularly significant increase in its Instagram followers.

In 2026, the main challenge will be to capitalize on the schooner’s stopover in Japan to continue this positive momentum.

Pour Instagram, X, Facebook, YouTube
10,346 followers
733 posts

Tara Ocean Japan

Sister association of the Tara Ocean Foundation



General Secretary
Yumiko Patouillet



Officer
of Public Relations
Yuki Ozawa



Project manager
for Asia
Michel Temman

06. Together with you

Financial Independence

The Tara Ocean Foundation is financially independent and operates thanks to a balanced mix of funding from public grants, corporate partners, and individual donors, whose numbers are growing. This balance between public and private funding is crucial for the foundation's future. The challenge for 2025 was therefore to continue scaling up operations in order to stabilize the missions of the two ships as much as possible.

... thanks to corporate partners,

In 2025, the foundation was able to count on the continued support of its co-founder Agnès Troublé, known as agnès b., as well as on the loyalty of corporate sponsors that have been committed for many years, such as BIC, L'Oréal, and Biotherm, the Veolia Foundation, Capgemini, as well as AXA for the second year and BNP Paribas, which donated a portion of its margin from the sale of structured products.

New companies have joined the initiative, with significant support from the CMN Naval group following the completion of the shipyard construction project, as well as from Interparfums. Other companies have organized one-off events to fund the foundation's missions (internal charity sale, charity run). This is notably the case for the Hôtel Belles-Rives, which organized the 5th edition of its prestigious "Bal des Rêves" to benefit the Tara Ocean Foundation, during Tara's stopover in Antibes.

... to public institutions,

In addition, public grants—whether at the European level (French Global Environment Facility, AtlantECO and BIOcean5D projects, BlueRemediomics) as well as at the national level (French Development Agency AFD and French Office for Biodiversity OFB) or even the regional level (Brittany Region, Lorient Agglomeration, and Le Cotentin Urban Community) represent a steadfast financial support that is essential for the long-term sustainability of certain salaried positions. This public support also reflects legitimate recognition of the Tara Ocean Foundation's role as a leading institutional player in science communication

... and to individual donors.

Fundraising from individuals continues to grow, with major loyal donors again this year (through their personal foundations or endowment funds), as well as through a strategy of donation campaigns timed to coincide with the payment of the Real Estate Wealth Tax (IFI) in the spring and at year-end with the Income Tax (IR). "Donor journeys" enable the foundation to build loyalty within its donor community.

New private foundations such as the Bird Endowment Fund have joined family foundations like the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation and the Rothschild Foundation, as well as private foundations such as the Albedo Foundation for the Cryosphere and the O Endowment Fund, not to mention a few very generous major donors who wish to remain anonymous. These private foundations reflect the trust placed in the Tara Ocean Foundation by major philanthropists.

Meetings

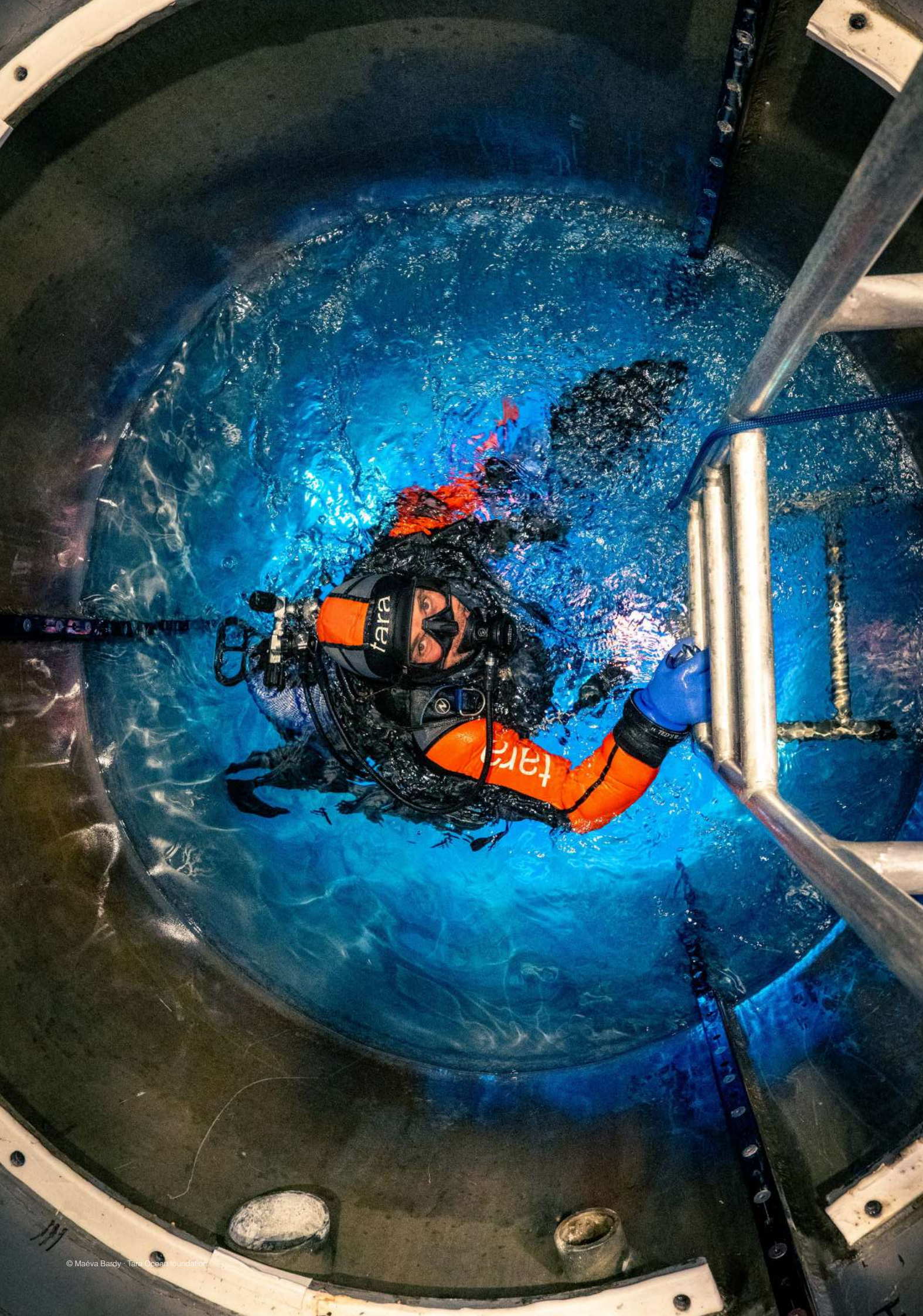
Tara's exceptional stopover in Paris was a wonderful opportunity to invite the foundation's corporate partners and donors, who were able to discover or rediscover the schooner on the Seine.

Finally, the traditional "Gala for the Ocean" dinner celebrated its tenth edition on December 11 in the prestigious halls of City Hall, made available by the Paris City Council, bringing together nearly 230 guests for the first time. The focus was on climate sentinels, featuring *Tara Polar Station* in the Arctic and *Tara* in the Coral Triangle. Following several speeches by distinguished guests, musicians Ballaké Sissoko and Piers Faccini closed the evening with a private concert. This fundraising event raised nearly €245,000.

A philanthropic investment to continue

The year 2025 marks an important milestone with the finalization of funding for *Tara Polar Station* project, which is now owned by the Tara Ocean Foundation. The foundation now has two ships.

It is against this backdrop of scaling up that a family of philanthropists decided to invest a significant amount of capital in late 2024 to support the foundation's development. This investment addresses a growing



need to build a cash reserve for the coming years. The Development Department continues its efforts to identify and convince new investors of the increasing need for private funding.

Once again this year, the Tara Ocean Foundation has been able to count on the continued generosity of

its patrons. It is thanks to their commitment that the foundation can continue to scale up its operations. More than ever, the foundation thanks its donors for their invaluable loyalty. The Tara Ocean Foundation warmly thanks all of its private and public partners who have renewed their trust in us and without whom none of this would be possible.

Our partners share their stories

Three Questions for Quentin Brenier — Bird Endowment Fund



1/ Why did you choose to support the Tara Ocean Foundation?

The Tara Ocean Foundation embodies a rare combination of innovation, scientific rigor, and human commitment. It is a cutting-edge foundation, backed by an internationally renowned scientific committee, capable of generating data that is essential to understanding and protecting the Ocean. It is a bold foundation that gives us the sense that it can truly make history by providing knowledge that is decisive for the future of the planet.

2/ How did you get your family on board with the challenges of the Ocean?

Every family has its own sensibilities. Faced with the endless array of legitimate causes, the issue of the environment stood out to us as a given, and we decided to defend what touches us most deeply: the Ocean.

3/ A special memory aboard Tara ?

A wonderful lunch on the schooner, right in the heart of Paris. The whole team gathered on deck, in T-shirts in October. A moment frozen in time, both simple and symbolic: camaraderie, commitment, and, in the background, a nod from the weather to the reality of climate change.

FOUNDING PARTNER



MAJOR PARTNERS



GREAT PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



INSPIRERS



SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS



EDUCATION PARTNERS



INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS





07. Our governance

Purpose of the foundation

The Tara Ocean Foundation's mission is to fund, either independently or in partnership, French and international scientific research on the impact of global warming and global changes on ecosystems, to raise public awareness of environmental issues, and to disseminate the data and results of this scientific research for educational purposes.

The Tara Ocean Foundation's means of action are:

- Organizing scientific expeditions, notably using the foundation's fleet,
- The co-production of films and the organization of cultural and educational events regarding the expeditions organized by the foundation and their results and/or the issues raised by these expeditions,
- Organizing exhibitions, conferences, events, television broadcasts, and online broadcasts, as well as publishing, reproducing, and editing in all forms and by all known or yet-to-be-discovered methods, regarding the expeditions organized by the foundation and their results and/or the issues raised by these expeditions,
- The organization of educational programs,
- The awarding of grants and financial assistance to researchers or research teams studying the impact of global warming and global changes on ecosystems, and more generally any action contributing to the promotion of the foundation's goals.

Administration and operations

BOARD OF 3 FOUNDING MEMBERS

Étienne Bourgois, CEO of agnès b., President of the Tara Ocean Foundation

Agnès Troublé dite agnès b., Fashion Designer / Entrepreneur.

Nathalie Kistler, Secretary General of the Corporation, appointed by the "Agnès Troublé, known as agnès b." Endowment Fund and Treasurer of the Tara Ocean Foundation

COLLEGE OF 4 QUALIFIED EXPERTS

Éric Karsenti, Emeritus Research Director at the CNRS and former Associate Research Director at EMBL

Gérard Bonhoure, Honorary Inspector General of National Education

Françoise Gaill, Emeritus Research Director at the CNRS

Fabien Vatinel, Expert in asset management

Selected for their expertise in the Foundation's areas of activity. They are co-opted by the other members of the Board of Directors.

BOARD OF TWO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Sylvie Duboué, President of the “Friends of Tara” Association and member of the Tara Ocean Foundation Board
Christian de Marliave, Publisher, polar specialist
Appointed by the “Friends of Tara” Association. Membership on the Board of Directors of the “Friends of Tara” Association is incompatible with membership on the Foundation’s Board of Directors in any college other than that of the “Friends of Tara.”.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER

Thierry Boisseaux, representative of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion.
Appointed by the Ministry of the Interior, attends meetings in an advisory capacity and ensures compliance with the bylaws and the public benefit nature of the Tara Ocean Foundation’s activities.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Romain Troublé, in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer of the Tara Ocean Foundation, oversees the Foundation’s departments and ensures its operations. He is vested with the powers necessary to carry out his duties by delegation from the President and the Treasurer. He attends, by right, in an advisory capacity, the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Sébastien Ruiz, as Secretary General of the Tara Ocean Foundation, oversees the shore-based team, manages the organization and its general services, and supports the development and implementation of the foundation’s social missions in support of the Chief Executive Officer. He is vested with the powers necessary to carry out his duties through sub-delegations from the President and the Treasurer. He attends, ex officio and in an advisory capacity, the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Responsibilities of the board of directors

The Board of Directors governs the foundation’s affairs through its deliberations.

In particular:

- It establishes the foundation’s action plan;
- It adopts the report presented to it annually by the executive board on the organization’s legal and financial status;
- It votes, upon the Executive Committee’s proposal, on the budget and its amendments, as well as on staffing projections;
- It receives, discusses, and approves the financial statements for the previous fiscal year presented to it by the treasurer, along with supporting documentation;
- It adopts, upon the Executive Board’s proposal, the bylaws;
- It accepts donations and bequests and allocates the proceeds thereof, and authorizes, outside of day-to-day management, the acquisition and disposal of

movable and immovable property , contracts, leases, and rental agreements, the creation of mortgages and loans, as well as sureties and guarantees granted in the name of the foundation;

- It appoints one or more auditors selected from the list referred to in Article L. 822-1 of the Commercial Code;
- It sets the terms and conditions of employment and compensation for staff;
- It is kept informed by the president of any proposed agreement binding the foundation and deliberates on agreements falling within the scope of Article L. 612-5 of the Commercial Code; in such cases, it makes its decision without the presence of the interested party.



© Maéva Bardy - Tara Ocean foundation

The Tara Ocean Foundation is supported by two committees: a scientific committee and an educational advisory committee.

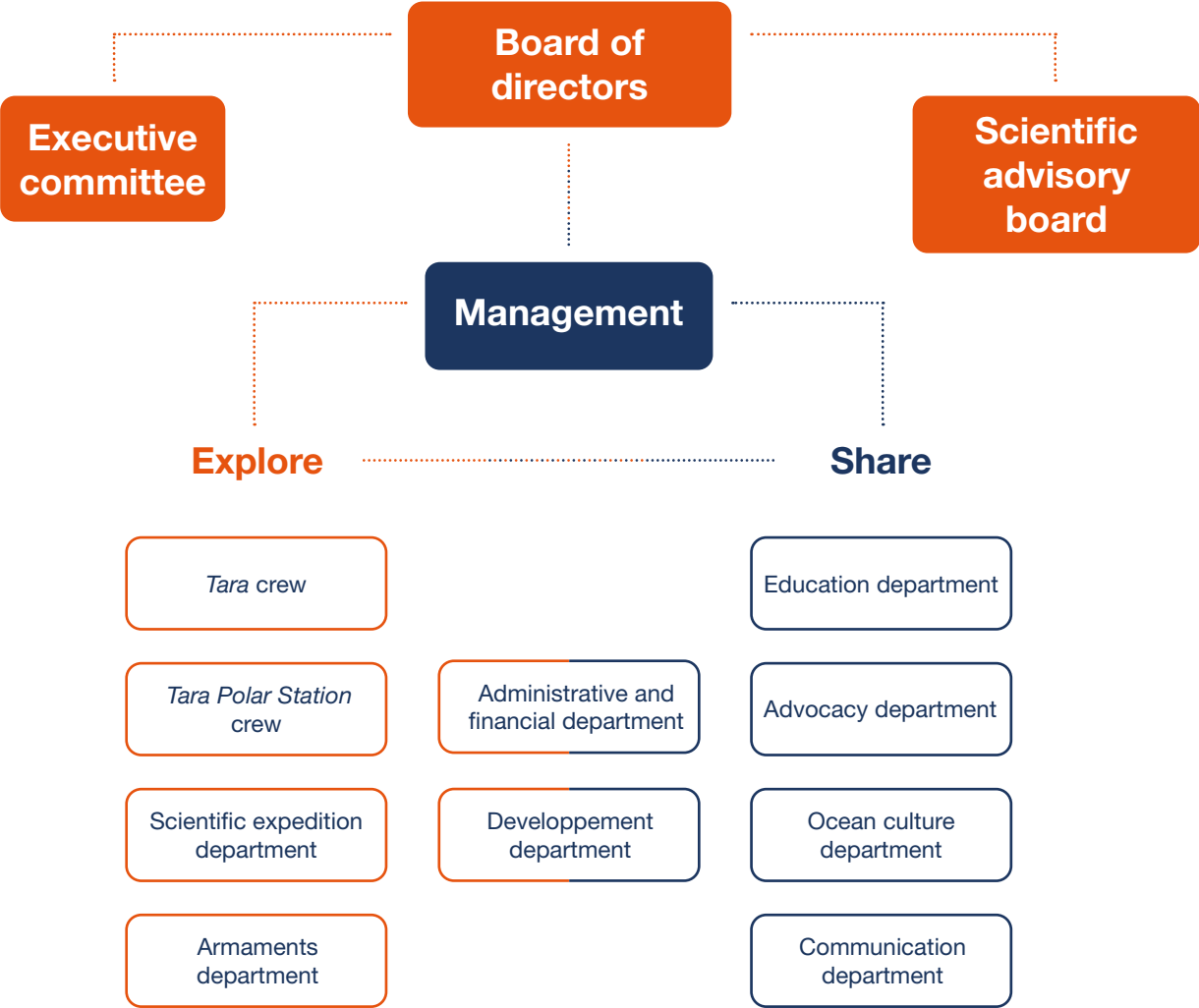
The Scientific committee

- Chris Bowler**, CNRS Research Director and, since 2010, head of the Environmental and Evolutionary Genomics Section at the Institute of Biology of the École normale supérieure (IBENS, CNRS/ENS)
Éric Karsenti, Emeritus Research Director at the CNRS and former Associate Research Director at the EMBL
Françoise Gaill, Research Director at the CNRS
Gaby Gorsky, Oceanographer
Patrick Wincker, Director of Genoscope - National Sequencing Center
Colomban de Vargas, Research Director at the CNRS at the Roscoff Biological Station
Serge Planes, Scientific Director of the Tara Pacific expedition; Serge Planes is a CNRS Research Director at the Center for Island Research and Environmental Observatory (CNRS/EPHE/UPVD)

The Educational advisory committee

- Gérard Bonhoure**, Honorary Inspector General of National Education
Florence Clément, ADEME
Sabine Lavorel, French Institute of Education
Françoise Ribola, Honorary Regional Educational Inspector for the French Ministry of Education
Gabrielle Zimmermann, La Main à la Pâte Foundation
Geneviève Baret, Associated Schools – UNESCO
Muriel Dagens, National Education
Monique Dupuis, Honorary Inspector General of National Education

Organization



Management

Coordinate teams, guide the foundation’s strategic initiatives



President
Étienne Bourgois



Chief Executive Officer
Romain Troublé



Secretary General
Sébastien Ruiz

Skills-based volunteering

Coordinating teams, guiding the foundation’s strategic initiatives



Executive Assistant from BNP Paribas
Pascale Bailly



Project Management Support from Capgemini
Olivier Chavane

Tara crew

Work with scientists to successfully carry out protocols

 Captain Léo Boulon	 First Lieutenant Julien Goulías	 Chief Engineer Dave Picaud
 Captain Morgan Andrieux	 First Lieutenant Robin Villion	 Chief Engineer Romain Burgos
 Lieutenant Emmanuelle Bily	 First Lieutenant Charlène Gicquel	 Cook Jérôme Lochen
 Lieutenant François Aurat	 Cook Anne-Cécile Airiau	 Cook Chloé Guilloux
 Lieutenant Simon Febvre	 Cook Marc Bergeal	 Cook Juliette Brunet

Tara Polar Station crew

Navigate and collaborate with scientists to successfully carry out protocols

 Captain Martin Hertau	 First Lieutenant Eliaz Millet	 Chief Engineer Luc Airiau
 Captain Yohann Mucherie	 First Lieutenant Daniel Cron	 Chief Engineer Matthijs Melsen
 Lieutenant Clémentine Gueno	 First Lieutenant David Monmarché	 Cook Sophie Bin
 Lieutenant Thomas Poinsot	 Lieutenant Jimmy Floch	 Cook Carole Pire
 Lieutenant Lucas Blijdorp		

Scientific expeditions department

Planning and coordinating scientific programs and leading expeditions



Department Director
Clémentine Moulin



Technical Advisor
Jean Collet



Work-Study Student - Logistics Coordinator
Johanna Camilleri



Logistics Project Manager
Aliénor Bourdais



Oceanographic Engineer
Thomas Linkowski



Medical Consultant
Thierry Mansir



Legal Project Manager
Alix Abautret



Scientific Project Manager, TPS
Nathalie Joli

Administrative and financial department

Sustainably managing the foundation's resources



Administrative and Financial Manager
Anne Ghuysen



Accounting Manager
Caroline Vergiat



Administrative Assistant
Marie-Sophie Bienfait



In charge of merchandise development
Sylvie Duboué

Development department

Raising funds for the foundation's initiatives



Department Director
Véronique Vezin



Partnerships Manager
Agathe Loriot



Work-Study Student - Philanthropy Officer
Justine Klaus



Head of Philanthropy
Jonathan Achard



Partnerships Officer
Pierre Mienville

Armaments department

Technical oversight of vessels and crew human resources.



Department Director
Samuel Audrain



Technical Director of the Armament
Loïc Vallette

Education department

Incorporating Ocean Science into School Curricula



Department Director
Brigitte Sabard



Education Project Manager
Marine Cornuault



Project Officer Teachers
Léa Prigent



Head of the Educational Platform
Pascaline Bourgain



Project Manager, "Plastics under the Microscope"
Lata Soccalingame

Advocacy department

Fostering dialogue to engage policymakers and preserve life



Department Director
Romy Hentinger



Director of Public Affairs
Henri Bourgeois Costa



Director of International Affairs
André Abreu de Almeida



Advocacy and International Cooperation Officer
Martin Alessandrini

Ocean culture department

Writing a New Collective Narrative of the Ocean



Department Director
Myriam Thomas



Project Manager for Outreach and Events
Thomas Larrat



Head of Cultural Programs and Audience Engagement
Valentine Boccas



Scientific Outreach Coordinator
Mathieu Auger

Communications department

Engaging the general public and the media in the foundation's mission and raising awareness of major ocean issues



Department Director
Bérengère Roche



Communications Project Manager
Eva-Salomé Romano



Graphic designer
Arthur Billaud



Head of Communications and Digital Marketing
Déborah Roussel



Work-Study Student - Digital Communications Specialist
Clémentine Benac



08. The foundation's carbon footprint

The Tara Ocean Foundation's Carbon Footprint® for the year 2025 amounts to 963 tCO₂e (tonnes of CO₂ equivalent), nearly double that of last year. This is primarily due to the commissioning of *Tara Polar Station*, which involves depreciation of the construction, equipment purchases, and additional fuel consumption...

The *Tara*'s missions in 2025 took place primarily in France (or nearby Europe), which undoubtedly reduced the distances traveled and, consequently, fuel consumption. Furthermore, since *Tara* used HVO—a biofuel made from recycled cooking oil—for the entire year of 2025, the carbon footprint associated with fuel combustion for this ship is “zero”.

Tara Polar Station, launched from the Cherbourg shipyard in April 2025, traveled 7,400 nautical miles in 2025 and primarily consumed MDO (Marine Diesel Oil), generating a carbon footprint of approximately 171 tCO₂e from fuel combustion.

The largest source of emissions in the Foundation's Bilan Carbone® report is procurement, accounting for 324 tCO₂e, though with a high degree of uncertainty.

Thanks to Pierre Gliganic, a volunteer with the Tara Ocean Foundation, for calculating and analyzing the annual Carbon Footprint®.

The foundation’s carbon footprint

GHG Emissions

Emissions categories	Figures	Emissions sources	Total tCO2e*
1. Direct GHG emissions	1.1	Direct emissions from stationary combustion sources	6
	1.2	Direct emissions from mobile combustion sources	171
	1.3	Direct emissions from non-energy processes	0
	1.4	Direct fugitive emissions	0
	1.5	Emissions from biomass (soils and forests)	0
	Subtotal of direct emissions		177
2. Indirect emissions associated with energy	2.1	Indirect emissions related to electricity consumption	1
	2.2	Indirect emissions related to other energy consumption other than electricity	0
	Subtotal of indirect energy-related emissions		1
3. Indirect emissions associated with transportation	3.1	Upstream freight transport	0
	3.2	Downstream freight transport	0
	3.3	Commuting	0
	3.4	Transportation of visitors and customers	0
	3.5	Business travel	98
	Subtotal of indirect emissions associated with transportation		98
4. Indirect emissions associated with purchased goods	4.1	Purchases of goods	384
	4.2	Fixed assets	250
	4.3	Waste management	8
	4.4	Upstream leased assets	0
	4.5	Purchases of services	44
	Subtotal of indirect emissions associated with purchased products		686
5. Indirect emissions associated with products sold	5.1	Use of products sold	0
	5.2	Downstream leased assets	0
	5.3	End of life of products sold	0
	5.4	Investments	0
	Subtotal of indirect emissions associated with products sold		0
6. Other indirect emissions	6.1	Other indirect emissions	0
	Subtotal of other indirect emissions		0
Total GHG emissions			963

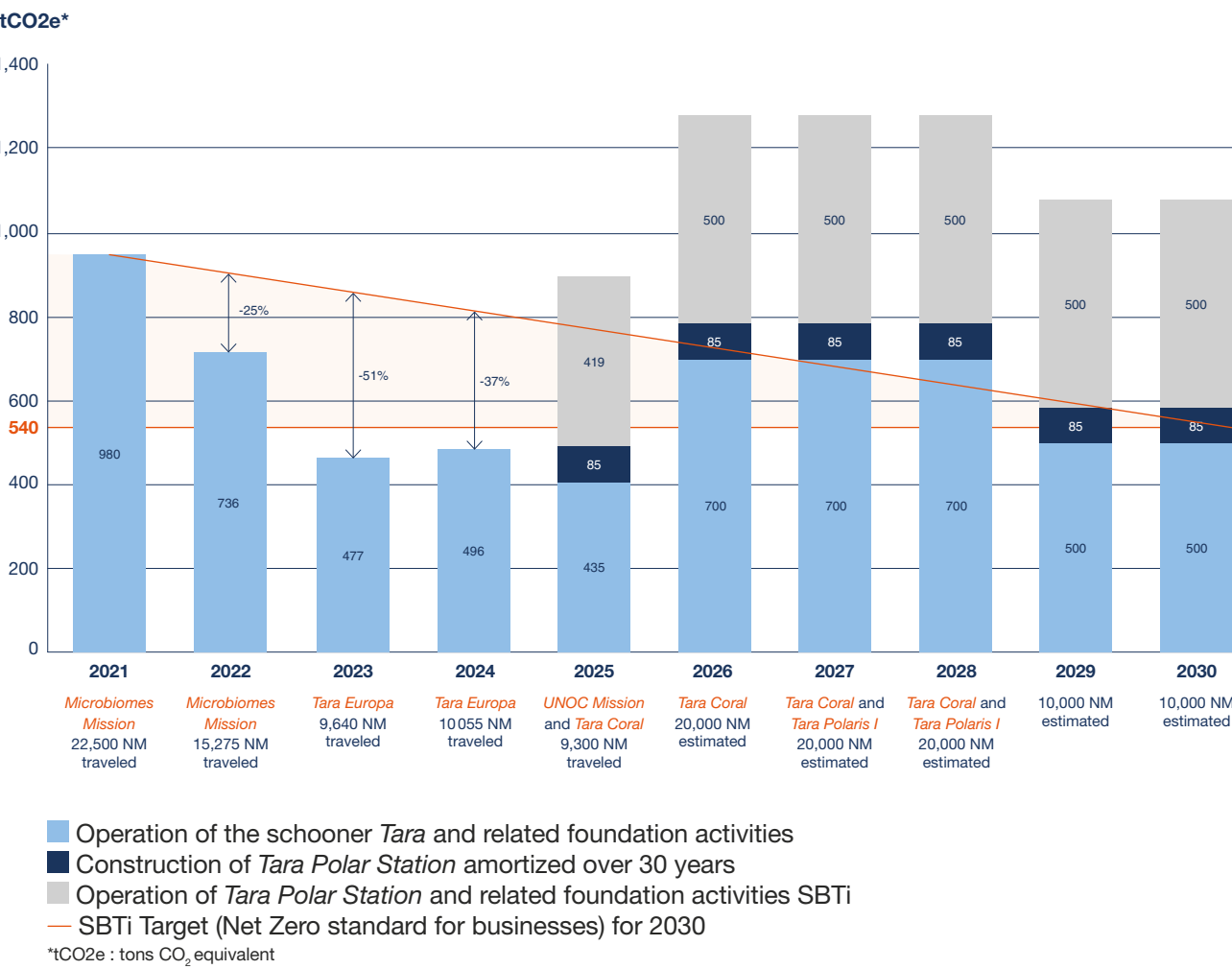
Emissions attributed to Scope 1 & 2

*tCO2e : tons of CO₂ equivalent | Emissions rounded up to the next whole number

Carbon roadmap 2030

45% reduction compared to the baseline year (2021) in line with the SBTi aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement (2015).

In 2025, the Tara Ocean Foundation doubled its operational capacity with the launch of its new vessel, *Tara Polar Station*, joining the schooner *Tara* to form a duo of climate change sentinels. This strategic expansion enables the Foundation to expand and accelerate scientific research, as well as deepen understanding of ocean-related environmental challenges. Aware of the carbon impact inherent in this growth, the Foundation pays particular attention to its carbon footprint, ensuring its activities align with ambitious reduction targets and actively exploring avenues for improvement to limit its environmental impact.



09. Financial report

The financial statements for the 2025 fiscal year were approved by the board of directors on May 4, 2026, and were certified without qualification by our auditors. They reflect the activities presented in this report in accordance with our mission.



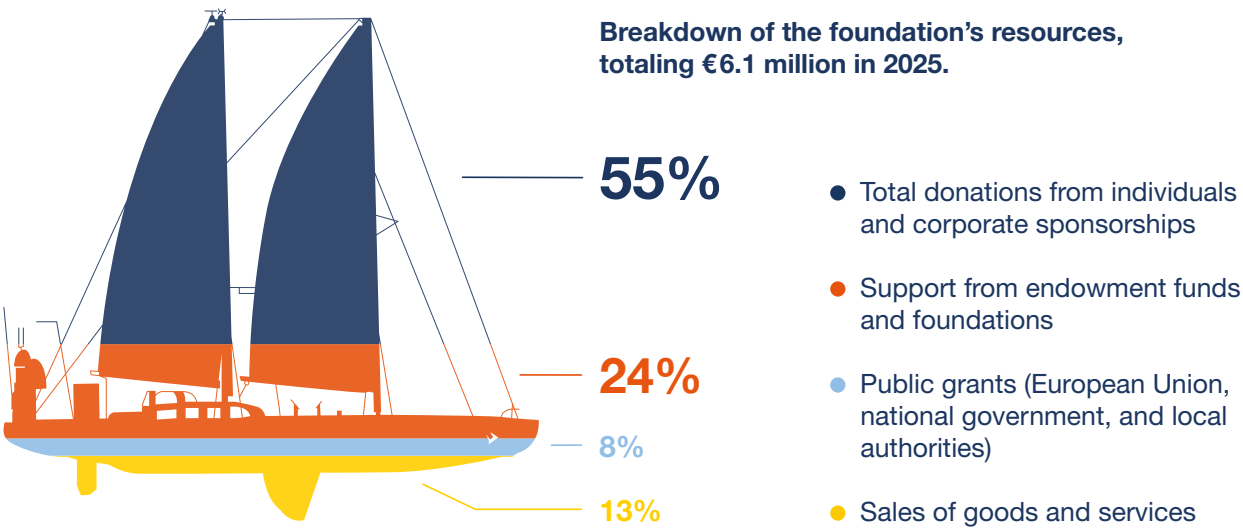
To view the full
our financial
statements

Summary balance sheet

ASSETS	Net 2025	Net 2024
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	€68,152	€70,122
Licenses, patents, and similar rights	€45,925	€70,122
Intangible assets in progress	€22,227	-
TANGIBLE ASSETS	€20,063,341	€14,267,677
Technical installations, industrial equipment, and tools	€2,308,996	€2,203,122
Other tangible fixed assets	€58,255	€52,780
Tangible assets in progress	€17,696,090	€12,011,775
FINANCIAL ASSETS	€33,589	€34,698
Other	€33,589	€34,698
CURRENT ASSETS	€13,032,544	€12,623,299
Inventories and work in progress	€125,472	€111,866
Receivables		
· Accounts receivable from customers, users, and related accounts	€115,817	€47,171
· Receivables received through bequests or donations	-	-
· Other	€4,250,532	€4,683,681
Marketable securities	€6,301,202	€6,074,537
Cash and cash equivalents	€1,279,604	€630,401
Prepaid expenses	€959,916	€1,075,642
TOTAL ACTIF	33 197 625 €	26 995 795 €

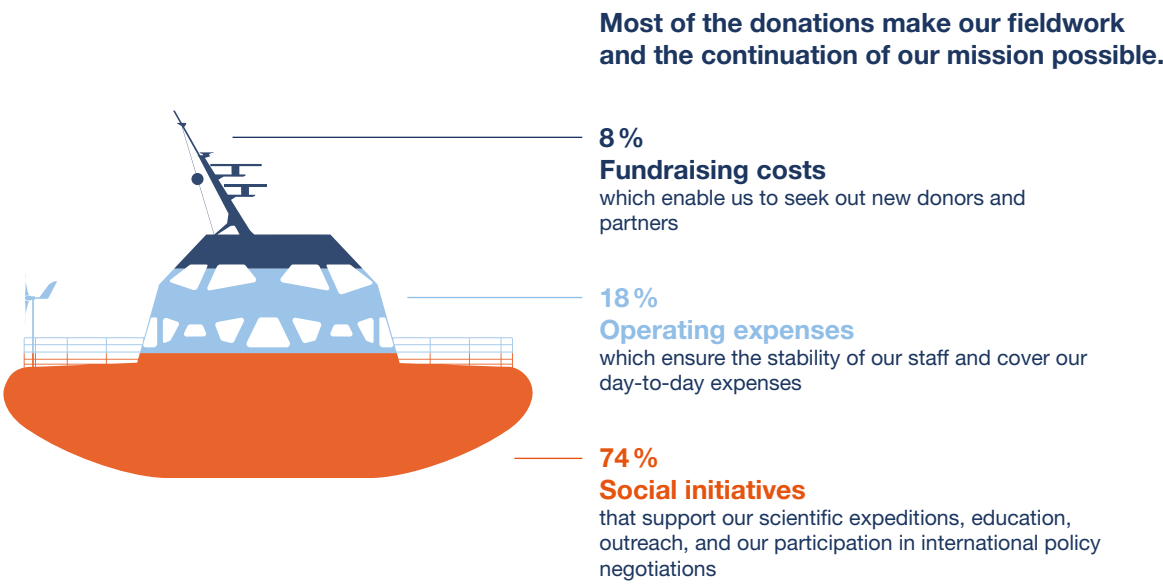
LIABILITIES	Net 2025	Net 2024
EQUITY	€22,045,646	€15,948,432
Equity without right of repurchase	-	-
· Statutory equity	€1,991,246	€1,991,246
· Additional equity	-	-
Reserves for the entity's projects	€3,000,000	-
Retained earnings	€1,451,002	€1,026,680
Net income or loss for the year	€1,013,509	€3,424,322
Capital grants	€14,589,888	€9,506,184
CARRYOVER AND EARMARKED FUNDS	€5,164,611	€5,140,538
Dedicated funds	€5,164,611	€5,140,538
DEBT	€5,987,369	€5,906,825
Loans and other financial liabilities	€881	€881
Accounts payable and related accounts	€316,475	€236,305
Tax and social security liabilities	€452,569	€371,319
Other liabilities	€885,483	€975,741
Deferred revenue	€4,331,961	€4,322,579
TOTAL LIABILITIES	€33,197,625	€26,995,795

Where do our resources come from?



Other income includes, in particular, expenses related to *Tara Polar Station* capitalized as “tangible assets in progress.”

How are our resources used?



These charts do not take into account the use of and carryovers in dedicated funds (funds allocated to projects financed by third parties and carried out by the foundation as part of its mission) as well as reversals of provisions.





10. Perspectives

The Foundation is scaling up, we stay the course. The Ocean, our greatest ally in the fight against global warming, remains largely misunderstood and under pressure. *Tara* data, collected during our many expeditions and produced in a consistent and comparable manner by numerous international partner laboratories under the auspices of the CNRS, further enriches human knowledge of the marine microbiome each year. This rigorous ocean science, consistent over time since 2009 and bringing together researchers from around the world, remains at the heart of our identity and is the driving force behind the Tara Ocean Foundation's impact.

Faced with the global challenges threatening the Ocean, we must cherish this rare public-private partnership: collaborative ocean science, founded on multidisciplinary and cooperation. Over the next two years, we will take the pulse of our planet from two regions that serve as sentinels of climate change and are incredibly rich in marine biodiversity. Aboard *Tara*, in the Coral Triangle, scientific teams led by the CNRS, the University of Konstanz and the University of Nice-Côte d'Azur will study the resilience of coral reefs to global warming in Southeast Asia—a potential source of hope and insight into how living organisms adapt in an environmental context that might discourage many. Aboard *Tara Polar Station*, the men and women involved in the *Tara Polaris (2026-2045)* program will be the first witnesses to the major transformations, but also to the fragile beauty, of our planet's only polar ocean: the Arctic Ocean.

Through research and with the support of our many partners and sponsors, we will continue to raise

awareness and take action to bring the Ocean's voice to policymakers and citizens. We will be fully engaged during the first COP on the High Seas, known as the "BBNJ," as well as during the upcoming negotiation session for the global treaty against plastic pollution.

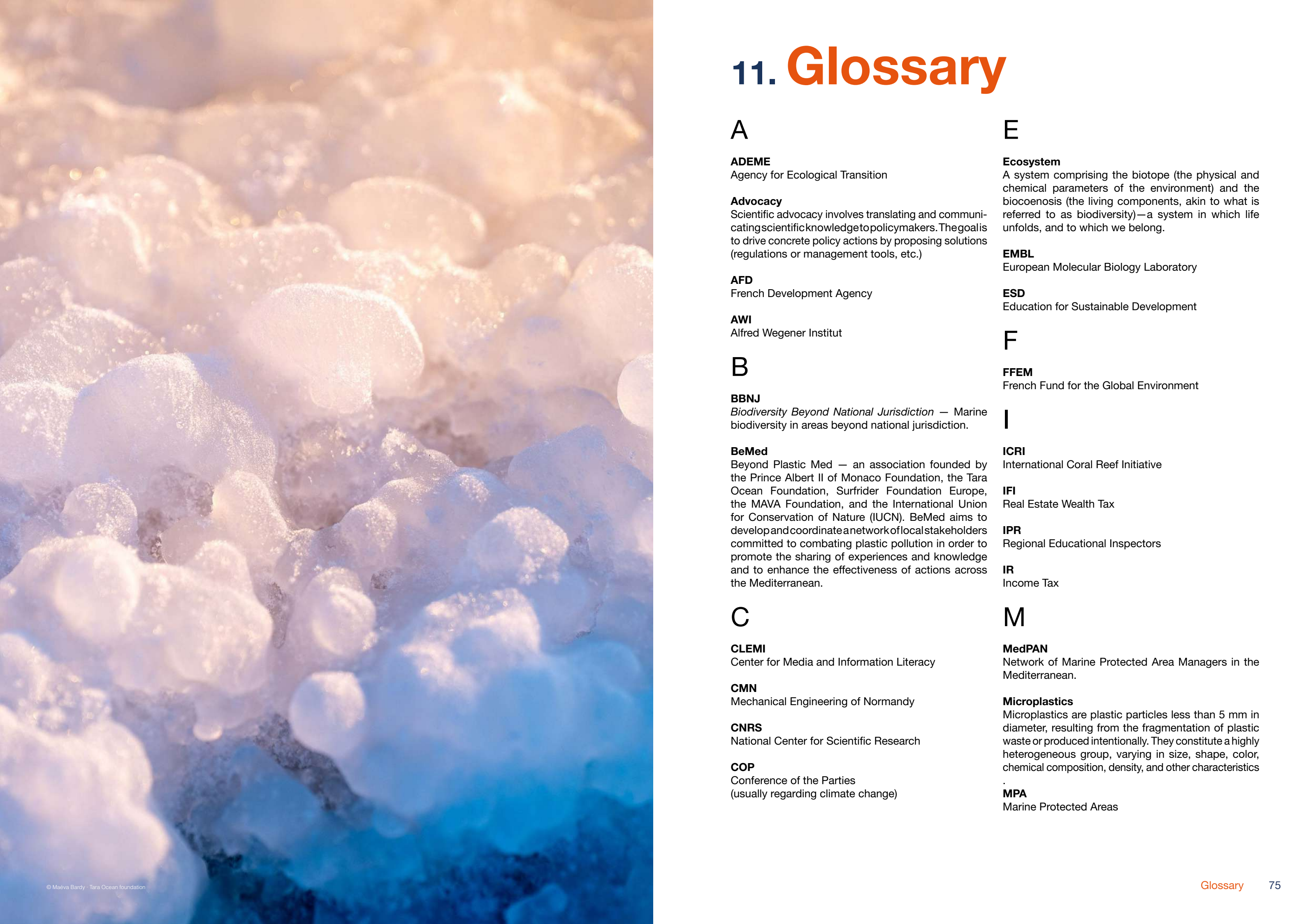
Beyond the Ocean, we believe that the challenge of *One Health* approach should not be seen as yet another constraint; it is an extraordinary opportunity to shift paradigms: to finally view the integrity of ecosystems as a strategic asset upon which our economies and our health are founded, and their degradation, not as a contingent liability, but as a certain debt. The question is no longer whether this change will happen. It is already happening. The question is who has begun to draw strategic conclusions from it.

On land and at sea, researchers, artists, sailors and the entire team will double their efforts to build bridges between science, policy-making and society. These efforts cannot succeed without the support of our loyal and visionary supporters, both current and future.

**Together, let's defend life.
Let's protect the Ocean.**

Thank you!

Étienne Bourgois, President
Romain Troublé, Chief Executive Officer



11. Glossary

A

ADEME

Agency for Ecological Transition

Advocacy

Scientific advocacy involves translating and communicating scientific knowledge to policymakers. The goal is to drive concrete policy actions by proposing solutions (regulations or management tools, etc.)

AFD

French Development Agency

AWI

Alfred Wegener Institut

B

BBNJ

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction — Marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

BeMed

Beyond Plastic Med — an association founded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Tara Ocean Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe, the MAVA Foundation, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). BeMed aims to develop and coordinate a network of local stakeholders committed to combating plastic pollution in order to promote the sharing of experiences and knowledge and to enhance the effectiveness of actions across the Mediterranean.

C

CLEMI

Center for Media and Information Literacy

CMN

Mechanical Engineering of Normandy

CNRS

National Center for Scientific Research

COP

Conference of the Parties
(usually regarding climate change)

E

Ecosystem

A system comprising the biotope (the physical and chemical parameters of the environment) and the biocoenosis (the living components, akin to what is referred to as biodiversity)—a system in which life unfolds, and to which we belong.

EMBL

European Molecular Biology Laboratory

ESD

Education for Sustainable Development

F

FFEM

French Fund for the Global Environment

I

ICRI

International Coral Reef Initiative

IFI

Real Estate Wealth Tax

IPR

Regional Educational Inspectors

IR

Income Tax

M

MedPAN

Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean.

Microplastics

Microplastics are plastic particles less than 5 mm in diameter, resulting from the fragmentation of plastic waste or produced intentionally. They constitute a highly heterogeneous group, varying in size, shape, color, chemical composition, density, and other characteristics.

MPA

Marine Protected Areas

O

OFB

French Office for Biodiversity

P

POC

Ocean & Climate Platform — was created in June 2014, on World Ocean Day, by a group of civil society actors, including the Tara Ocean Foundation. Today, it brings together more than 90 members, including research institutes, nongovernmental organizations, higher education institutions, aquariums, representatives from the private sector, and French and international institutions. The POC promotes discussion and exchange among the scientific community, civil society, and policymakers. It works to raise public and policy awareness of Ocean, climate, and biodiversity issues at both the national and international levels. Romain Troublé, director of the Tara Ocean Foundation, has served as the Platform’s president since November 2017.

Protocol

A scientific protocol is a detailed, reproducible method that defines the steps, tools, and conditions of an experiment or study. It ensures the rigor, transparency, and comparability of results. Adherence to it is essential for the validity of the research.

S

SDG

Sustainable Development Goal

Side events

A scientific foundation’s side events and workshops are targeted gatherings (conferences, workshops, roundtables) organized alongside major events (e.g., the UN Climate Change Conferences). They help disseminate knowledge and mobilize key stakeholders to engage a specific technical and political audience.

Structured products

A combination of several financial products such as stocks, bonds, currencies, indices, and others.

T

Tara-JAMBIO

Program to study microplastic pollution in Japan—in partnership with JAMBIO (Japanese Association for Marine BIOlogy)

U

UCPA

National Union of Outdoor Sports Centers

UNCLOS

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

UNOC

United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3)

Colophon

This annual report was prepared by the Tara Ocean Foundation and printed in 200 copies on 100% recycled, FSC-certified Nautilus SuperWhite paper.

Editors

Emma Château, Pascale Bailly et Sébastien Ruiz

Redaction

Tara Ocean foundation

Layout

Noa Joly et Arthur Billaud

Font

Helvetica Neue LT Std

Cover

Nautilus SuperWhite 150g/m²

Interior

Nautilus SuperWhite 120g/m²

Printing

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Microplastiques

Mission
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Providing data for IPCC models
and predicting major climate events

2009-2013
Unveiling the Ocean's invisible life
through the first comprehensive study
of the planktonic ecosystem

2014
Revealing the extent and impact
of plastic on the marine ecosystem
in the Mediterranean sea

2016-2018
Studying the biodiversity of reefs
and their response to climate change
and human pressures

2019
Identifying the sources and impacts
of microplastics on marine biodiversity
at the European level

2020-2022
Understanding the Ocean's invisible
life, the services it provides, and
its interactions with the climate
and pollutions

2023-2024
Predicting the impact of human
activities on European coastal
ecosystems

2026-2028
Unraveling the secrets behind
climate-resilient corals in Southeast
Asian seas

2026-2027
Understanding the Central Arctic
Ocean ecosystems and the impact
of global changes, through all the
seasons and over the next 20 years

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