Serving the Ocean for over 100 years.
Founded in 1906 by Prince Albert I, the Oceanographic Institute is a foundation officially recognised as serving the public interest. It brings together scientific, political, economic and public stakeholders to promote the sustainable use of the Ocean and the conservation of marine ecosystems.

Under the impetus of its Honorary President, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Oceanographic Institute contributes to Monaco’s commitment to the Ocean, notably alongside the Princely Government, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Monaco Science Centre and The Monaco Yacht Club.

As a vehicle for numerous projects on the national and international scene (symposia, exhibitions, educational programmes, etc.), it pursues its mission of environmental outreach using its two sites, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and the Maison des Océans in Paris.
for more than 100 years, the Oceanographic Institute has been a federating body for the protection of the Ocean. Born out of the clear-sightedness of my great-great-grandfather, Prince Albert I, this Foundation, which is officially recognised as serving the public interest, draws the strength of its commitment from its past, from the passion of the men and women who wrote it and from the combined forces of those individuals of Monaco who hold high the same banner.

In 1906, the relationship between man and the sea was utilitarian. The ocean, which had been exploited empirically for a long time, was perceived as an inexhaustible source of fish, a maritime route to be used. A visionary, Prince Albert I endeavoured to develop this potential in the service of mankind, while questioning - one of the first - the limits of this exploitation, urging more foresight. A course which has continued to be held by the various directors, officers and staff of its foundation.

Having become an instrument in the service of the Princes of Monaco, the Oceanographic Institute is with me today, and will still be here tomorrow. It carries in its genes the lasting imprint of a seafaring prince, a man of conviction, who was one of the pioneers of modern oceanography. With more than 100 years of expertise in protecting the Ocean, its voice is recognised, as well as its ability to unite all audiences: in Monaco, with a museum that raises awareness among more than 650,000 visitors each year; in Paris, with an "environmental hub" appreciated by professionals; throughout the world, finally, thanks to an ambitious digital strategy in line with that of the Principality.

“Monaco is a fertile land for protectors of the Ocean. Looking deep into the Mediterranean Sea every day is a privilege that imposes obligations upon us.”

Undoubtedly, this proximity to the sea fuels our environmental awareness, as it did for my great-great-grandfather. So, the list of committed institutions involved is long. Among them: the Principely Government, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute, the Monaco Science Centre, the Monaco Yacht Club, the Monegasque Association for the Protection of Nature, the Ecole Bleue or the Monaco Explorations which began in 2017.

At the heart of this close-knit team, I am expecting the Oceanographic Institute, of which I am Honorary President, to build bridges, to support the actions of each one and to act as a catalyst. I also expect it to mobilise political decision-makers, economic actors, experts and the general public in a collective effort. I expect this from all those who defend the environment. An isolated action is unlikely to have any impact. But if everyone works together, everything becomes possible.

Preserving the health of the Ocean, for the ecological balance of our planet and in the interests of all, has never been more vital. Together, we all have a role to play.

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco
Honorary President of the Oceanographic Institute

1 HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco on an Arctic exploration mission to pay tribute to his great-great-grandfather, Prince Albert I, 2006
Key figures of the Oceanographic Institute

650,000 visitors per year
to the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco

2 establishments
The Oceanographic Museum of Monaco
The Maison des Océans in Paris

A community of
140,000 followers

200 events
held at our sites in 2018

17 major exhibitions
since the centenary of the oceanographic Museum in 2010

100 scientific sheets published

100 permanent employees
OUR HISTORY

Born of the wish of a seafaring prince more than 100 years ago, the Oceanographic Institute has an extraordinary history. Honouring its past, the Foundation is now building the future. At the helm and on deck, at all times: people with a passion.
A Foundation recognised as serving the public interest

The Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation was founded by Prince Albert I, a passionate and visionary seafarer. Recognised as serving the public interest by French presidential decree on 16 May 1906, the Foundation has been working for the Ocean for more than a century. To promote the knowledge, love and protection of the Ocean, it brings together people from the worlds of politics, science, economics and associations and the general public. Managed by a Board of Directors assisted by a Scientific Council, it carries out its mission of environmental outreach via its two facilities, its international influence and the support of its partners.

La Maison des Océans, Paris

Located in the heart of the Latin Quarter in Paris, the Maison des Océans is the Foundation’s headquarters. This environmental “hub” hosts major players in the protection of the ocean: the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB), the Ocean and Climate Platform (OCP), the “United Nations” Special Envoy for the Oceans, the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), the Centre for Island Research and Environmental Observatory (CRIOBE). The Maison des Océans hosts high-level professional or general public events around the current major challenges (sustainable management of the ocean, climate, biodiversity, etc.).

The Oceanographic Museum, Monaco

Set against the mythical Rock of Monaco, the Oceanographic Museum is the “flagship” of the Foundation and raises awareness among more than 650,000 visitors per year. Beyond its remarkable architecture, it stands out for its world-renowned aquarium, its exhibition events and the alliance of art and science. A place of culture and exchange of ideas, where experiences in the protection of the Ocean are shared, the Oceanographic Museum organises and hosts international conferences. In 2019, a rescue Centre dedicated to marine species was added to the original building, strengthening its capacity for action and awareness.

THE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE IS THE SYMBOL OF OVER A HUNDRED YEARS OF COMMITMENT BY MONACO TO THE OCEAN.
More than a century serving the Ocean

1885
Prince Albert I undertakes his first scientific campaigns.

1900
Jules Richard, first director of the Oceanographic Museum.

1906
Creation of the Oceanographic Institute Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation.

1910
On 29 March, the Oceanographic Museum is inaugurated in Monaco.

1911
On 23 January, in Paris, the Oceanographic Institute of Paris is inaugurated, becoming the Maison des Océans on its centenary in 2011.

1921
Prince Albert I gives his Speech on the Ocean in Washington. A visionary, he warns against overexploitation, caused at the time by steam trawlers.

Albert I, founder of the Oceanographic Institute

Attracted by travel and science from an early age, Prince Albert I (1848 – 1922) devoted a large part of his life to the study of the ocean. For 30 years, he travelled the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic, from Cape Verde to the Arctic regions. As a result, new species notably of the deep sea were discovered, and anaphylaxis was recognised by his guest scientists Paul Portier and Charles Richet. This was a major advance in the medical field, which would be awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1913. He also coordinated and published the first general bathymetric chart of the oceans.

"So I started the culture of Oceanography, a new science that penetrates the secrets of the deep. And this work has filled the most beautiful years of my life taking the best of me.”

Prince Albert I of Monaco
The Career of a navigator, 1902

Prince Albert I founded the Oceanographic Institute in 1906 to raise awareness of the importance of the role of the Ocean and to enable this new science to be widely disseminated. In parallel with his expeditions, he undertook profound political, economic and social reforms in Monaco. A humanist, he opposed armed conflict and founded an International Institute for Peace, a forerunner of the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Temple of the Sea

It took eleven years of work for the Oceanographic Museum to rise, facing the Mediterranean Sea. The architect Paul Delefortrie drew up the plans, which were then executed by the contractors Fontana and Gamba.
Since his accession to the throne, HSH Prince Albert II has used his influence to improve environmental protection. He is the Honorary President of the Oceanographic Institute. Creation of the Monaco Explorations, under the impetus of HSH Prince Albert II.

Creation of the Monaco Blue Initiative.

Creation of an early Protected Marine Area at Larvotto in Monaco.

Creation of the Prince Albert II Foundation which supports the Sovereign’s commitment to the fight against climate change, the protection of biodiversity and to improving access to water management.

The Oceanographic Museum celebrates its centenary and opens to contemporary art. Damien Hirst presents a major exhibition. Other renowned artists will follow.

Inauguration of the exhibition Monaco and the Ocean.

The Oceanographic Museum is expanding with the opening of the Monegasque Centre for the Care of Marine Species (CMSEM).

“The only indication that there is life on the planet is the large swirl of blue that covers the globe: Water – the water that is needed equally by all living species, the community of entire life.”

J.-Y. Cousteau with Susan Schiefelbein, Extract from “The Human, the Orchid and the Octopus”, 1997

Calypso becomes the ship for Jacques-Yves Cousteau’s expeditions. It will be a support base for diving, filming and oceanographic research.

Creation of the Ramoge Commission, initiated by Prince Rainier III. The Ramoge Agreement, signed in 1976, unites Monaco, France and Italy with the aim of protecting the Mediterranean Sea.

At the request of Prince Rainier III, Jacques-Yves Cousteau takes over as Director of the Oceanographic Museum. He would remain in the post of Director for 31 years and reveal to the whole world the existence of an underwater world, its beauty and fragility - thanks to action carried out from the Principality.

“Precontinent III, HQ at the Oceanographic Museum.”

1999

Signing of the Pelagos Agreement creating a sanctuary in the Corso-Liguro-Provençal Basin for marine mammals.

1965

Precontinent III, HQ at the Oceanographic Museum.

1970

Creation of the Accobams Agreement to reduce threats to cetaceans in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the adjacent Atlantic area.

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“Let us have the courage and provide the means to ensure that those who still see the ocean as a sea of hope are not disappointed. That is the key to our survival, and what is more, it is our responsibility to build a more balanced, fair and sustainable world.”

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Excerpt from the speech at the U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2015
It covers nearly three quarters of the Earth’s surface, and provides essential resources and services (food, energy, minerals, medicines, navigation, climate, etc.). Essential to our survival, the Ocean is now under threat. Here, a quantified overview to better understand and protect it.
The 5 oceans (the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic and Southern) are connected and form a single Global Ocean.

The Ocean

more than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity.

The ocean covers 71% of the earth’s surface.

4 men have reached the deepest part of the Ocean, while 12 astronauts have set foot on the moon.

Treasures from the sea

50% international tourists visit the coastal areas.

350 million jobs around the world are linked to the ocean, which brings food security and work to many poor communities.

11 Nobel Prizes awarded for the study of marine organisms.
Climate regulator

93% of the increase in the Earth’s surface heat over the past 40 years has been absorbed by the ocean, which explains why it is warming up.

3 mm increase in the average sea level each year over the past two decades. This rate is accelerating.

Fishing industry and aquaculture

17% of animal protein consumed by humans come from fishing and aquaculture.

20.5 kg of fish are consumed per person every year compared with 9.0 kg in 1961.

It is believed that 35% of the fish caught does not reach our plates, due to waste all along the production line.

33% of world fish stocks are overexploited. This rate is accelerating. In the Mediterranean, this rate is as high as 62%.

90% of high-seas predators (sharks, sailfish, etc.) have disappeared in recent decades, mainly due to overfishing.

90% of the increase in the average sea level each year over the past two decades. This rate is accelerating.

100 to 300 million inhabitants in coastal areas are exposed to increased risk linked to the disappearance of the protection provided by sea creatures.

26% more acidic than at the start of the industrial age. This acidification of the ocean has adverse consequences for marine biodiversity.

The ocean has absorbed 30% of the CO₂ emitted by man since pre-industrial times, thereby limiting the impacts of global warming.

20.5 kg of fish are consumed per person every year compared with 9.0 kg in 1961.

26% more acidic than at the start of the industrial age. This acidification of the ocean has adverse consequences for marine biodiversity.
By 2020, the Marine Protected Areas should reach 10% of the Ocean's surface.

Globally, 80% of wastewater is released into the environment without being treated.

27,500,000 km², or 7.6% of the ocean, are currently classified as Marine Protected Areas. But only 4.8% are actively managed.

Experts in marine environment conservation want 30% of the Ocean to have enhanced protection by 2030.

In addition to the development of protected areas, it is necessary to ensure effective and sustainable management of 100% of the Ocean.

Pollution

8 million tons of plastics every year end up in the ocean.

400 oxygen deprived areas where most sea creatures cannot survive have been created since 2008 by the inconsiderate dumping of fertilisers.

Only 3% of the oceans are considered intact and safe from human activities, while 66% are profoundly affected.

Marine Protected Areas

8 million tons of plastics every year end up in the ocean.

Experts in marine environment conservation want 30% of the Ocean to have enhanced protection by 2030.

In addition to the development of protected areas, it is necessary to ensure effective and sustainable management of 100% of the Ocean.
The Oceanographic Institute federates those who will contribute to a better understanding and protection of the Ocean. As an environmental outreach body, it articulates its actions at several levels: politically, by contributing to Monaco’s actions for the Ocean; strategically, by mobilising experts and decision-makers; and operationally, by raising public awareness.
From the beginning of His reign, in 2005, HSH Prince Albert II paved the way for a “model country” under his leadership, the Princely Government is now pursuing a proactive policy in favor of sustainable development. As the preservation of the Ocean is inseparable from that of the planet, concerted global action is being considered: The National Pact for Energy Transition, marine heat pumps, transition towards carbon neutrality by 2050, the promotion of public transport, the rationalization of water consumption and waste water treatment, the reinforcement of selective sorting, fish hatcheries, artificial reefs... The Principality, a 2 km² City-State with 36,000 inhabitants and 50,000 employees, is seen as a laboratory for initiatives and innovation. The roadmap put in place at national level is coupled with a strong commitment on the international front. Swept up in this momentum, the Oceanographic Institute collaborates with the Principality’s major stakeholders, as well as with the Monegasque community and its various components - associations, entrepreneurs, scientists, decision-makers - to promote Monaco’s action for the Ocean.

Together with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute supports HSH Prince Albert II in his action for the Ocean by its involvement in the organisation of unifying events and in the mobilising of networks at the highest level.

The Monaco Blue Initiative

Launched in 2003 and co-organised by the Oceanographic Institute and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Monaco Blue Initiative is a discussion platform that develops communication and the exchange of views on the sustainable management and conservation of the Ocean. Once a year, its members - entrepreneurs, scientists, decision-makers - meet to discuss current and future global challenges. In March 2019, the 10th edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative, dedicated to Marine Protected Areas, brought together more than 140 participants from 26 countries at the Oceanographic Museum.

Monaco Ocean Week

For one week, international experts on the marine environment meet in Monaco every year, at the invitation of the Princely Government, the Prince Albert II Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute, the Monaco Science Centre and the Monaco Yacht Club.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, MONACO AND ITS PRINCES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO THE OCEAN FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS.
The Ocean and Climate Platform (OCP)

As founding members, the Prince Albert II Foundation and the Oceanographic Institute contribute to the mobilisation of this international multi-stakeholder network, created in 2014 with the support of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Today, the POC team has more than 70 members - research institutes, NGOs, aquaria, the private sector, French institutions and international agencies, and local authorities. It continues its action to ensure that the Ocean is better taken into account and prepares proposals for COP 25.

“This magnificent Temple of the Sea is a monument to the majesty and diversity of our seas and oceans - and to the importance of protecting and managing them sustainably. [...] Let us learn to love this fragile heritage so that future generations can marvel at the incredible variety of life on our blue planet earth.”

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Monaco Oceanographic Museum, 3 April 2013.

193 heads of state gathered by the UN in New York adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), setting a course up to 2030. Goal 14 is dedicated to aquatic life, echoing the speech of HSH Prince Albert II advocating greater consideration of the Ocean.

4 July 2018

The Principality of Monaco is co-chairing the secretariat of the ICRI (International Coral Reef Initiative), in collaboration with Australia and Indonesia until 2020.

4 July 2018

The Oceanographic Institute, in collaboration with Australia and Indonesia until 2020.

“…”

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Monaco Oceanographic Museum, 3 April 2013.

Monaco Ocean Science Federation

For the voice of the Ocean to carry further, Monaco laid the foundations of a Federation. Capable of having an impact on political decision-makers and conducting a collective communication strategy with the general public, it will aim to bring people together to build a concerted voice of reference on the Ocean. In contrast to the current scheme, in which scientists sometimes feel that they are working in isolation, the Monaco Ocean Science Federation will make it possible to develop a scientific basis around the major current and future challenges. With the contribution of the Oceanographic Institute, this joint thinking will guide science and communication. Among the priorities: to show that the Ocean can provide solutions in terms of health, well-being and climate regulation.
Monaco: a team committed to the Ocean

If the Oceanographic Institute was the brainchild of Prince Albert I to implement and share his passion for the Ocean, a whole team has been formed over the years under the impetus of the Princes of Monaco, to strengthen the means of action and the influence of the Principality in the knowledge and protection of the Ocean. A wide variety of actors are now bringing together their know-how, resources and networks to support HSH Prince Albert II’s environmental commitment, both in Monaco and internationally. True to its history, the Oceanographic Institute places itself in this collective notably by helping to connect the scientific community, decision-makers and the general public in the understanding of the Ocean and the challenges to its protection.

The Princely Government of Monaco

The Princely Government of Monaco is implementing an ambitious policy to preserve biodiversity, reduce energy consumption and combat plastic waste in the Principality. By sharing environmental issues with its visitors and welcoming 15,000 schoolchildren per year for themed workshops, the Oceanographic Museum helps to transform society. The Oceanographic Institute supports the initiatives of the Princely Government at national and international levels and contributes to the broad recognition of Monaco’s commitment.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

In June 2006, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco created his personal foundation to respond to the worrying threats facing our planet. “I have decided to create a foundation dedicated to environmental protection and sustainable development (…). This is a global challenge that requires urgent and concrete action in response to three major environmental issues: climate change, biodiversity and water,” he then explained. On a global scale, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation promotes a political vision, leads a network of partners, supports conservation projects and promotes more environmentally friendly behaviour. It has already supported more than 420 projects in various fields ranging from combating ocean acidification to renewable energy and preserving endangered species and biodiversity.

PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THE PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION IS WORKING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is increasingly active in the protection of the Ocean. In 2010, it joined forces with the Oceanographic Institute to launch the Monaco Blue Initiative, extended seven years later to the Monaco Ocean Week. To fight marine pollution, it launched the Beyond Plastic Med initiative, and to ensure sustainable funding of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas, it created the Blue Med Fund, which the Oceanographic Institute relays to European aquaria.
Monaco Science Centre

Created in 1960 from Prince Rainier III’s desire to contribute to the international effort to protect and conserve sea life, today the Monaco Scientific Centre (MSC) is a world-renowned scientific research agency, particularly in marine biology. Specialising in the study of the coral ecosystem and coral physiology, the MSC has recently expanded its field of activity to include polar biology and medical biology. Housed in the Oceanographic Museum for its first half-century, the MSC has made a significant contribution to the development of techniques for coral culture under controlled conditions. Today, the Monaco Science Centre and the Oceanographic Institute are working together to create the World Coral Conservatoire.

Monaco Yacht Club

Chaired by HSH Prince Albert II, the Monaco Yacht Club develops the “Art of Living on the Sea”. Through its sporting, educational and recreational activities, the Monaco Yacht Club promotes respect for the sea and the desire to explore, particularly through its environmental seminars, the Explorer Award or the Solar Boat Challenge.

The Oceanographic Institute and the Monaco Yacht Club have forged many links between their programmes for children. In particular, the Oceanographic Institute supports the educational project developed by the Malizia team.

The Monaco Explorations

The Monaco Explorations is a platform serving HSH Prince Albert II’s commitment to knowledge, sustainable management and protection of the Ocean.

Created at the initiative of Principely Government, the Monaco Explorations bring together the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute, the Monaco Scientific Centre and Monaco Yacht Club. They support the actions of these institutions through international missions that combine scientific research, public outreach and government cooperation.

The Oceanographic Institute supports the Monaco Explorations in setting up missions and implementing an outreach programme for young people and the general public.
The Monegasque Association for the Protection of Nature

Founded in 1975 on the initiative of Prince Rainier III to create and manage the Principality’s Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the Monegasque Association for the Protection of Nature has since carried out numerous awareness-raising and conservation projects, such as the study and protection of Posidonia meadows, the installation of innovative artificial reefs, monitoring of the Mediterranean’s noble pen shells and cleaning the seabed. The Oceanographic Institute is a member of the steering committee of the Monaco MPAs.

At the beginning of 2019, the Monegasque Association for the Protection of Nature created, together with the Monegasque National Education Department, the first Marine Educational Area of Monaco. This territory, which adjoins the Oceanographic Museum, will allow children to learn about the challenges of managing the sea.

The Ecole Bleue: the Academy of the ambassadors for the sea

It is committed to training future ambassadors for the Ocean. Through training courses for the general public dedicated to the discovery, respect and preservation of the underwater world, the Ecole Bleue - founded in 2002 by Pierre Frolla and Jean-Pierre Giordanno - defines itself as an academy of the sea. Its priority target group is children, aged 8 years or over, to whom it offers classes and courses to become comfortable on and under the water’s surface. Aware of the wealth and fragility of the Ocean, the trainees are more sensitive to its protection.

The Ecole Bleue is a regular partner in the actions of the Oceanographic Institute for young people, in particular the “Snapper Pour Tous” contest.

1. The Monegasque Association for the Protection of Nature team.
2. Quadruple freediving world record holder, Pierre Frolla, with the Ecole Bleue, a strong partner of the Oceanographic Institute.
3. Snorkeling with the Ecole Bleue for the winners of the “Snapper Pour Tous” contest.
The Albert I Grand Medals

Each year, the Oceanographic Institute honours those who, through their passion and commitment, contribute to making the Ocean known, loved and protected.

More than just an annual event, the Albert I Grand Medals Award Ceremony is a tradition. Since 1948, the Oceanographic Institute has rewarded personalities from the world of the sea for their scientific discoveries and commitment. The winners, French or foreign, are now divided into two categories. The "Science" section selects a highly qualified researcher in the field of oceanography for his or her entire career, specific work or an exceptional discovery. Created in 2014, the "Mediation" section highlights actions carried out by men and women in public life. 75 winners have already received the Albert I Grand Medal, among them Jacques-Yves Cousteau (1981), Gilles Bœuf (2012), Sandra Bessudo (2014), Leonardo DiCaprio (2015), Erik Orsenna (2016) and Dame Ellen MacArthur (2018).

2 Sandra Bessudo, awardee of the Albert I Grand Medal, for Outreach, 2014.
4 HSH Prince Albert II presents Dame Ellen MacArthur with the Albert I Grand Medal, Mediation Section, 2018.
5 HSH Prince Albert II presents Shubha Sathyendranath with the Albert I Grand Medal, Science Section, 2014.
6 Erik Orsenna, awardee of the Albert I Grand Medal, for Outreach, 2016.
7 SH Prince Albert II awards the Albert I Grand Medal, Outreach Section, to the actor Leonardo DiCaprio for his action in favour of the protection of the environment, 2015.
EVERY YEAR FAMOUS AMBASSADORS COME TO EXPLORE THE OCEAN BESIDE US AND ARE FILLED WITH WONDER AT IT.

1 The singer Bono in front of a work by Damien Hirst, on the occasion of the exhibition Cornucopia, 2010.

2 A special emotion-filled thought for Camille Muffat, who was the godmother of Stella, our black-tip shark, who joined us in 2013. A beautiful soul committed to the Ocean, who sadly left us too early.

3 Tennis champion Novak Djokovic at the Oceanographic Museum, 2016.

4 Beatles member Ringo Starr poses with Robert Calcagno in front of the “Yellow Submarine” at the Oceanographic Museum, 2013.
The Oceanographic Institute in touch with the public

Within its two institutions, the Oceanographic Institute welcomes politicians, scientists, NGOs, entrepreneurs and visitors with the same conviction and desire to share. Playing a federative role, it works to raise awareness, to convince and “recruit” as many people as possible to form a network of ambassadors for the protection of the Ocean.

The Oceanographic Institute stands out by its positioning. This Foundation, whose Honorary President is HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, is at the same time a world-class museum, an environmental hub recognised by experts and an active mediation body before both the highest authorities and civil society. A pioneering body at its creation in 1906, the Foundation strives to remain at the leading edge, questioning its methods to offer ever more innovative concepts. Over the past 100 years, its form has evolved around a constant: awareness of the need to protect the Ocean.

In direct contact with the public, the Foundation’s 100 permanent employees can now rely on numerous mediation channels to serve this cause of general interest.

The Oceanographic Institute reaches more than 650,000 visitors a year through the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and thousands of people through conferences, seminars or workshops offered at the Maison des Océans in Paris. In addition to this physical public, here is a growing virtual community (more than 140,000 people in 2019). Benefiting from extensive media coverage, the Foundation’s news is relayed by the local, national and international media. Each year, it is consulted as an expert reference on matters concerning the Ocean.

A strong ability to mobilize

The staff of the Oceanographic Institute gathered for the opening of the Monegasque Rescue Center for Marine Species (CMSEM), April 2019.

1

2 Responsible Fisheries Week at the Maison des Océans, organised by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), February 2019.
Always at the forefront

Awareness is achieved through wonder. “We love what has amazed us, and we protect what we love,” said Jacques-Yves Cousteau. Marked by constant evolution, the aquarium at the Oceanographic Museum was one of the first to be built in the world. With its recognised expertise, it was also a pioneer in reproduction and husbandry of corals – an adventure which began in 1989 with the installation by Professor Jean Jaubert of a coral reef, which today holds the world record for longevity in aquaria, with thirty years of unbroken growth. With its involvement in conservation actions, the Oceanographic Museum participates in international breeding programmes – such as that of the Banggai cardinalfish – and so contributes to the protection of endangered species. During visits, the public can see 550 Mediterranean and tropical species.

“From corals to sea turtles, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and its aquarium are seeking to raise public awareness about the protection of threatened species [...]. Monaco stands as a defender of the sea.”

Les Échos

REVEALING THE BEAUTY AND FRAGILITY OF THE OCEAN TO TRIGGER COMMITMENT.
A new rescue center

In collaboration with the French Mediterranean Sea Turtle Network (RTMMF), the Oceanographic Museum has been taking in sick or injured turtles for years. In 2019, a milestone was reached with the opening of the the Monegasque Rescue Center for Marine Species (CMSEM). Able to accommodate turtles, seahorses and noble pen shells, among other marine creatures, this new centre is at the heart of the Oceanographic Institute’s action and awareness programme. The care attendants work in collaboration with specialised veterinarians and French and European care centre networks. Once they have recovered and are deemed fit, the “patients” are returned to their natural environment. By contributing to their survival, but also to a better understanding of their life cycle, the Oceanographic Institute contributes to the protection and conservation of these species. The Oceanographic Institute carries out its conservation, research and awareness activities in partnership with French and international networks.
Art and Science

“I wanted to bring together in the same brilliance the two guiding forces of civilisation: Art and Science”

Albert I of Monaco,
Excerpt from the speech delivered for the inauguration of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 29 March 1910.

Major exhibitions

These invite you to discover and explore. Based on the latest scientific knowledge, the Oceanographic Institute’s exhibitions provide a better understanding of a species or an environment. Hence, “The Turtle Odyssey opened in 2019. Previously, visitors were able to browse through Sharks, The Sensation exhibition or The Mediterranean: Splendid, Fragile, Alive. True to the wishes of its founder to “to bring together in the same brilliance the two guiding forces of civilisation: Art and Science”, the Foundation does not hesitate to call on artists to expand its message for mediation and give it universal reach. Damien Hirst, Marc Quinn, Huang Yong Ping and Philippe Pasqua have exhibited monumental and original works. At the Oceanographic Museum, this unique combination of science and art ensures the sharing of knowledge as well as the transmission of emotions. It is the first step towards awareness.

1 The Origin of the World, presented at the exhibition The Littoral Zone by Marc Quinn, 2013.
2 Wu Zii, by the artist Huang Yong Ping presented at the Oceanographic Museum, 2011.
3 HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and the artist Philippe Pasqua during the exhibition Borderline, 2017.
A rewarding approach to the collections

Consisting mainly of pieces from Prince Albert I’s exploration campaigns, the historical collections of the Oceanographic Institute bring together several tens of thousands of highlighted objects in an engaging educational visit. Among the permanent exhibitions at the Oceanographic Museum: Monaco and the Ocean. Inaugurated in 2018, a 27-metre long theatrical ship offers visitors the chance to embark on a journey alongside sovereigns aware of the major challenges of their time. Exploratory and intimate, the space uses digital and electrotechnical technologies to trace the commitment to the Ocean of Prince Albert I, Rainer III and HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. Another exhibit not to be missed, the largest cabinet of curiosities in the marine world built over an area of 180 m² by artist Mark Dion. An interactive totem pole allows you to explore its many treasures.

Widely read and distributed publications

From tour guides to illustrated books, from travel logs to graphic novel, the Oceanographic Institute’s publications reflect its commitment to the protection of the Ocean and support its missions. They make scientific discourse accessible to the largest number of people, raise awareness through wonder and sharing of knowledge, and combine Art with Science. Among the latest books published: Sea turtles, The Great Odyssey and the graphic novel Albert I of Monaco, The Explorer Prince, published by Glénat.
A new generation for the Ocean

Operations to awaken ecological awareness

Mobilising the senses makes visitors alert. Readier to integrate knowledge, they are also more readily aware. To the scientific data, the Oceanographic Institute adds fun and sensory activities, such as a virtual dive with Immerseave 360° or a session of discovery of the fauna and flora of the Mediterranean around a touch pool. Many workshops offered during the school holidays are specifically designed to raise awareness among Ocean Ambassadors, in particular the “Snapper Club” to reach further and encourage vocation.

Federative events

A film preview, a conference at the launch of a book, a popular event... Every year, federative events punctuate the Oceanographic Institute’s calendar. Open to all, they make the Ocean accessible and its discovery a celebration. At the initiative of the Association of the Friends of the Oceanographic Museum and with the support of our partners, the first “Fête du Musée” was held in 2019. A day of activities for all ages around the preservation of the Ocean and the circular economy. Highlights of this edition: the opening of the Monegasque Rescue Center for Marine Species (CMSEM) and the Sea Turtles Odyssey exhibition. Meetings with experts and themed stands also allowed the public to be involved in collaborative and concrete projects.

Young ambassadors

The Oceanographic Institute conducts environmental education courses with the “Snapper Club”. In the course of a week spent in the Museum, young people aged 8 to 12 participate in workshops and games focused on the Ocean. In collaboration with the Princess Charlène of Monaco Foundation and the French and Monegasque National Education Departments, an annual competition is also organised for classes from disadvantaged or sensitive areas: the “Snapper Pour Tous” contest. The winners spend 2 days in contact with the marine environment with whale watching at sea, snorkeling and a meeting with a personality committed to protecting the Ocean. Sponsors of the latest editions: Marie Tabarly and Jean-Pierre Dick. The Princess Charlène of Monaco Foundation has been involved in this competition since its creation in 2014. HSH Princess Charlène even inspired its name “Snapper”, this term designating both a tropical fish and a “little rascal”.

1 A dive into virtual reality through the Immerseave 360° animation.
2 Discover the Mediterranean fauna and flora in the touch pool.
3 HSH Princess Charlène meets the winners of the annual competition “Snapper Pour Tous” contest, 2015.
4 Linocut workshops around the subject inspired by the marine world with the native Torres Strait Islander artist Alick Tipoti, April 2019.
5 Feeding of African spurred tortoises by the children of the “Snapper Club”.

4
Mobilising against waste

To challenge its visitors, the Oceanographic Museum displays an unusual tank in its aquarium. Its creation was entrusted to the artist Philippe Pasqua. Entitled “Profanation”, it shows a pile of waste recovered from the sea and bears witness to the impact of mankind on the natural environment. This initiative is part of the “World Aquaria against marine litter” campaign initiated by the European Union and supported by the Oceanographic Institute. To limit plastic waste at sea, the Oceanographic Institute and its Monegasque partners also support the “A balloon-free party” initiative. A call for ideas has been launched to find eco-responsible alternatives to the traditional balloon releases that aggravate marine pollution and cause the death of turtles, dolphins and birds, etc.
« Mobilisation to save the planet makes sense at the heart of the Museum where the century-old aquarium is housed. »

Le Monde

1 The Oceanographic Museum shop has been awarded the Committed Commerce label, 2018.
2 The Turtle Odyssey exhibition at the Oceanographic Museum, April 2019.
3 Albert I Grand Medals Award Ceremony at the Maison des Océans, 2016.
4 The “mirror effect”, reproduction of the jaw of a Megalodon by the artist Philippe Pasqua, 2016.
5 Testing a submarine by Pierre Casiraghi and Robert Calcagno, 2016.
Our bodies of governance

The Oceanographic Institute is managed by a Board of Directors whose legal honorary president is the Sovereign Prince of Monaco.

The Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board:
Professor Philippe Taquet,
Member of the Academy of Sciences
and Professor Emeritus at the National Museum of Natural History.

The Chairman:
Ms. Marie-Pierre Gramaglia,
Minister of Public Works, the Environment
and Urban Development

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Dr. Jean-Claude Duplessy,
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Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on sustainable development issues.
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Dr. Valérie Masson Delmotte,
Research Director - Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)
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Dr. Michel Petit,
Former Deputy Director General for research at the École Polytechnique

Honorary Vice-Chairman:
Mr. Pierre Bordry,
Former Chairman of the French Anti-Doping Agency

1 The first Meeting of the Board of Directors, painted by Louis Mayer (1869-1941).
2 A painting by the artist Toby Wright showing a meeting of the Council of the Oceanographic Institute November 2018, in the style of Louis Mayer (painting above).
3 Philippe Taquet at the Maison des Océans during the conference “The Coral Reef in One Hell of a State”, 2018.
The Scientific Council

Since its inception, the Oceanographic Institute has maintained a close link with the world of science. The Board of Directors is advised by a Scientific Council composed of eminent experts covering most of the disciplines of oceanography. In particular, the Scientific Council produces and validates a series of science fact sheets covering the main fields of knowledge about the ocean. It guides the Board of Directors in awarding the Prizes and Medals presented each year by the Oceanographic Institute.

Chairman:
Dr. Philippe Cury,
Research Director at the IRD (Institute of Research for Development), IRD Representative to the European Authorities

Vice-Chairman:
Prof. Ricardo Serrão Santos,
University of the Azores, Portugal.

Secretary:
Dr. Valérie Davenet,
Director, Department of the Environment, Department of Public Works, the Environment and Urban Planning, Princey Government of Monaco, Principality of Monaco.

Members:
Ms. Sandra Bessudo,
Founder and Director of the Malpelo and Other Marine Ecosystems Foundation, Bogotá, Colombia
Dr. Maria Betti,
Director of JRC Directorate G - Nuclear Safety and Security, Karlsruhe, Germany
Dr. Yves Fouquet,
Researcher at Ifremer-Brest, Geochemical Cycles and Resources Laboratory
Ms. Hélène Lafont-Couturier,
Heritage Curator, Director, Confluence Museum, Lyon
Mr. Cyrille Poitier Coutansais,
Research Director of the Centre for Strategic Marine Studies (CESM)
Prof. Patrick Rampal,
President of the Monaco Science Centre
Dr. Shubha Sathyendranath,
Outstanding Researcher at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Great Britain

The Executive Committee

Within the framework of the strategy and the general policy defined by the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee ensures the effective management of the Oceanographic Institute.

Its composition is as follows:

Mr. Robert Calcagno,
Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Céline Caron,
General Secretary
Mr. Olivier Dutourneau,
Vice-President Ocean Policy
Ms. Nadia Omains,
Vice-President International Relations
Mr. Joël Passeron,
Technical Vice-President
Mr. Bernard Reilhac,
Vice-President Development
Ms. Alexia Tye,
Chief Financial Officer

1 Scientific Council of the Oceanographic Institute, 2018.
2 Members of the Executive Committee, May 2019.
Supporting the projects of the Oceanographic Institute

The success of a sponsorship is based on values shared between the sponsor and the institution. To carry out its missions successfully, the Oceanographic Institute needs support from corporate or individual contributors. If you care about the protection of the Ocean and the actions that we take, join us. The range of our missions offers you many opportunities for action and lines of communication.

Participate in our actions for the preservation of the Ocean for more than 650,000 people by joining the Association of Friends of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco to:

- Promote the development of the Oceanographic Museum, an establishment of the Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, which is helping to promote Monaco’s commitment to the Ocean throughout the world.

- Support environmental outreach activities carried out in collaboration with our network of specialised partners.

- Support the awareness-raising operations for the public under the banner “Know, Love and Protect”: exhibitions, educational programmes for schools, visitors trails, etc.

Tailor-made partnerships to support the Oceanographic Institute in general:

The Oceanographic Institute carries out its missions thanks to the support of the Principely Government and its visitors. On the other hand, donations from private contributors, from companies to individuals, are essential.

We are convinced that the success of a sponsorship is based on values shared between the sponsor and the institution. The environmental outreach mission led by the Oceanographic Institute allows you to associate yourself with themes for intervention and lines of communication that you would like to use.

Contact: fundraising@oceano.org

p. 10-11 The Monegasque Rescue Center for Marine Species (CMSEM) and its rehabilitation tank, a new 550m² outdoor space at the Oceanographic Museum, April 2019.

p. 30-31 HSH Prince Albert II under water during the Monaco Explorations Mission to the Desertas Islands in Madeira, September 2017.


p. 70-71 Museum Festival, April 2019.