



## OPENING OF THE PURE OCEAN 2026 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Pure Ocean today launches its annual Call for Projects. True to its mission of supporting applied research for ocean protection, the endowment fund invites universities, research institutes, and NGOs worldwide to submit their innovative projects. For this 7th edition, Pure Ocean continues its commitment to funding scientific initiatives capable of providing concrete solutions to the major environmental challenges threatening marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

Climate change, the loss of marine biodiversity, and plastic pollution are deeply undermining the ocean and the essential services it provides humanity. In this context, scientific research plays a crucial role: documenting impacts, identifying solutions, and opening new perspectives. The expedition led this summer off Argentina by the Schmidt Ocean Institute and CONICET provided a vivid illustration—revealing unknown species and ecosystems via livestream to millions worldwide. These discoveries are a powerful reminder that investing in ocean science is essential to better understand and protect this vital ecosystem.

### SUPPORTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Thanks to its donors, Pure Ocean enables research teams worldwide to develop innovative approaches and deepen our understanding of how the ocean works. Since 2019, 34 projects have already been funded, delivering critical knowledge and actionable pathways to address the threats facing marine ecosystems.



### THE PURE OCEAN 2026 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The 2026 Call for Projects, under the name **“Pure Ocean Challenges”**, focuses on four major themes in line with the United Nations’ “10 Ocean Decade Challenges”:

- Understanding and combating marine pollution,
- Protecting biodiversity and restoring degraded marine ecosystems,
- Strengthening the resilience of marine ecosystems and the people who depend on them in the face of climate change,
- Improving our knowledge of the ocean system.

Projects supported by Pure Ocean must incorporate an innovative dimension – technological, social, exploratory or inspired by nature.

*“At a time when opinion too often outweighs facts, it is more essential than ever to support scientific research. Data produced by researchers are our shared foundation for understanding the ocean, measuring threats, and identifying credible solutions. By funding applied research projects around the world, Pure Ocean reaffirms its commitment: giving scientists the means to guide action and ensure the ocean’s long-term preservation.”*

**David Sussmann, President de Pure Ocean**

## ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

The project must respond to one or more of the four Pure Ocean Challenges, and take place over a period of one or two years. There is no age limit, but candidates in the early stages of their career are particularly encouraged to apply. While only non-profit organizations (universities, research institutes, and NGOs) can apply for and receive funding, projects may involve collaboration with private, for-profit players (companies, start-ups, etc.). Applications will be assessed according to one main criterion: **impact**, i.e. the tangible and lasting benefit provided by the project's implementation in the context of one or more of the Pure Ocean Challenges.

As in 2025, **the Pure Ocean Call for Projects will follow a two-phase process.** First, all eligible applicants complete an online form outlining the main aspects of their project. Then, 40 preselected candidates are invited to submit a full proposal for in-depth evaluation.

## SPECIAL FOCUS - 2026 CALL FOR PROJECTS

**This year, particular attention will be given to projects that:**

- propose alternatives to petroleum-based plastics
- mobilizing space technologies, in particular to combat illegal fishing
- study life in the deep sea
- are carried out along the French coastline (Atlantic, Mediterranean, Corsica)

## THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee, composed of five leading global experts on the ocean and climate, plays a key role in selecting the projects supported by Pure Ocean. It approves the annual Call for Projects and evaluates the numerous applications to determine the final list of grantees. In 2025, it selected 6 projects out of 315 applications received from 82 countries.

## DISCOVER THE 2026 CALL FOR PROJECTS

<https://www.pure-ocean.org/en/call-for-projects/>

**PHASE 1** OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS IS OPEN  
UNTIL **WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1ST, 2025**

## AMBITIOUS PROJECTS, AROUND THE WORLD

Since 2019, Pure Ocean has supported 34 innovative projects including:



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GHANA

### ALT-Waste

**Map underwater textile pollution in Accra using an autonomous robot and assess its impact on sea turtles and lagoon ecosystems.**

Make the scale of textile pollution visible to support political restrictions, encourage citizen mobilization, and restore marine habitats and fisheries.

*The Or Foundation*



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MEDITERRANEAN / RED SEA

### SymbioSwap

**Transplant symbiotic algae between Mediterranean and tropical corals to study their role in heat resistance.**

Uncover a coral adaptation mechanism to climate change and assess threats to Mediterranean biodiversity.

*University of Perpignan Via Domitia*



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POLYNESIA

### Birds On Sticks

**Install secure nesting boxes to encourage the return of seabirds and the nutrients they bring, and restore coral reef health.**

Improve global coral restoration initiatives by demonstrating the effectiveness of this ecological engineering method.

*University of Essex*

## ABOUT PURE OCEAN

Pure Ocean is an international endowment fund based in Marseille and Lorient. Its primary mission is to support ambitious and innovative scientific projects aimed at protecting fragile marine biodiversity and ecosystems. Pure Ocean brings together companies, entrepreneurs, and civil society to address urgent challenges such as marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate resilience. The organization also raises public awareness about threatened ecosystems through conferences, races, and sporting challenges. It further encourages citizen engagement through *La Goutte Bleue*, a movement promoting the collection of waste in natural environments.

[www.pure-ocean.org](http://www.pure-ocean.org)

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**Link to visuals:**

[2026PureOceanProjects](https://2026PureOceanProjects.com)



[www.pure-ocean.org](http://www.pure-ocean.org)