



Under the Presidency of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, and co-organised by the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Government of Monaco, the MBI is an international platform for dialogue bringing together scientists, policymakers, economic actors and international organisations to advance **concrete solutions for sustainable Ocean governance and a resilient blue economy**. Rooted in Monaco's century-long tradition of ocean science, the **MBI has served as a precursor forum since its inception**. It was here, in 2013, where Palau and Monaco first championed the idea of an Ocean dedicated Sustainable Development Goal. Intentionally science-driven and forward-looking, **MBI is where tomorrow's ocean priorities are shaped today**.

## A new format

The Monaco Blue Initiative is reinventing itself through a renewed format with a more streamlined agenda and more collaborative work, including a round of workshops designed to foster genuine working sessions aimed at identifying challenges in a more technical and solution-oriented setting.

**24**  
nationalities  
represented

**43%**  
representation of the  
private sector

**88**  
organisations  
represented

**6**  
solution-oriented  
workshops

**30**  
high-level  
speakers

## What MBI 2026 delivered



### Governance

**Standardisation** of metrics and guidelines is key to creating an enabling environment and scaling blue finance: simple, comprehensive, and normalised frameworks demonstrate that **ocean investment is not only sustainable, but profitable**.

Governance should not operate in silos: it should place communities at the heart of the conversation and be **based on knowledge** (indigenous, traditional and scientific). Discussions also highlighted the interconnected nature of ocean challenges and the need for **simple, practical data and reporting frameworks**.



### High Seas and MPA protection

The **BBNJ Agreement** is now in force, but implementation remains the central challenge. Discussions revolved around the need for cooperation, information sharing, common rules and science as key levers for the two pillars of the Treaty: **conservation and sustainable use**.

Among those actions, MPA creation and management was underlined as a major challenge. It was noted that BBNJ exists to strengthen existing international bodies, not replace them, and thereby **provide the foundational layer for biodiversity accountability**.



### Finance

**Equity and benefit-sharing** should be central to global capital allocation. Moreover, scarce resources should not be used as the bottom line to attract investors, but clear frameworks, such as the Special Fund for BBNJ create **major opportunities for private sector participation**, particularly through de-risking instruments that can unlock broader ocean investment. While clusters are being created especially regionally, speakers insisted on collectively **including developing countries and "Small Island Developing States" in conversations**.



"Marine protected areas have stood at the heart of the Monaco Blue Initiative from the very beginning"  
**HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco**



## Highlights of the 17<sup>th</sup> edition

Creating a unique momentum to connect political ambition, scientific expertise and financial mobilisation around Ocean action, **participants emphasised the importance of science-based decision-making, stronger international cooperation and more operational approaches capable of turning global commitments into measurable action**.

Among the highlights of the MBI 2026, GIST announced the world's first ocean risk datasets for listed equity investors, in partnership with Hub Ocean, to be published at the end of 2026 on MPA's and Ocean sensitive areas, for risk management in portfolio analytics.

Their Serene Highnesses Prince Albert II of Monaco and Princess Charlene of Monaco also announced a partnership between their two Foundations joining forces around sport and ocean protection.



In His opening speech, **HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco** recalled the fundamental role of cooperation between public authorities and the economic and financial world declaring that: "Investing in the Ocean is no longer simply responsible. It is profitable. The Ocean has become an asset class in its own right. This is why we are changing the role of the Monaco Blue Initiative itself. From this year, it is conceived as a prelude to the Blue Economy and Finance Forum."