



3rd Edition

21 June 2012

Yeosu / South Korea

3rd EDITION - MONACO BLUE INITIATIVE

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« Marine Protected Areas, A win-win for biodiversity and economic development »

Opening adress, Keynote speeches and Concluding address

Opening address : HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco

« Mr President of Kiribati, Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to open the third Monaco Blue Initiative today in Yeosu.

Indeed, the exceptional relocation of this event, the first sessions of which were held in the Principality of Monaco, means we can incorporate our approach into the context of the Yeosu International Exposition, dedicated to the key subject of the life of the oceans and coasts.

It also allows us to widen the audience of the Monaco Blue Initiative and include distinguished personalities, who I welcome warmly.

Through its dynamism, through its inventiveness and its ambitions, but also through its traditions and culture, Korea is now a key player in the international debate and I sincerely hope that we can increase our contacts and projects with this country.

I am pleased that thanks to the welcome of the Korean authorities, we can use this day to extend our considerations to the seas and oceans in these regions of Asia and Oceania.

Our attendance here at this third Monaco Blue Initiative is therefore much more than a timing coincidence, it reflects the intention for dialogue and openness which is central to this process.

Launched at my instigation in 2010 by my Foundation and the Oceanographic Institute, right from the start, the Monaco Blue Initiative was set the objective of being a space for consideration and consultation involving as many of those concerned with the future of maritime areas.



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This naturally includes representatives from the environmental community who for years have worked to alert public opinion and decision-makers to the dangers faced by maritime areas, so vital to the balance of our planet and yet so often vulnerable.

It also includes politicians, who today are unable act alone, confronting challenges that often go beyond State borders and thus require the integration of many skills and processes.

It also includes the scientific community, whose expertise is essential in conducting responsible actions in fields where there are still uncertainties, even though we now have an accurate and undeniable analysis of the dangers to which our inaction would expose us.

And finally, this includes economic organisations, whose cooperation is needed on several levels, not only because they have substantial resources that we desperately need, but because they have a fundamental understanding of consumer expectations and the procedures for effective action.

At a time when the environmental approach is establishing itself as a global priority, there can be no question of it being a secondary consideration, removed from the economic realities that are also realities for the populations.

For all these reasons, I wanted the Monaco Blue Initiative to be primarily a place for discussion and meeting, which would help reconcile the protection of the marine environment and the concerns of local people, those who live with these seas and whose future must be a constant consideration for us.

Because, while we know that men are always responsible for the damage inflicted on the oceans, we also know that frequently, this harm is simply the result of the pressures suffered by these populations.

For them, environmental preservation too often presents itself in terms of an impossible trade-off between the present and the future, between man and his environment.

The damage suffered by nature firstly affects the most vulnerable populations, those who cannot protect themselves.

Since 2010, the Monaco Blue Initiative has worked constantly in the interests of reconciling the future of both the seas and man.

This work initially focused on the issue of deep seas, the status and understanding of which are currently central to many investigations.

These deep seas, which are home to an essential part of biodiversity, are too often ignored when not considered solely in terms of the irresponsible exploitation of their resources.

Yet, it is here, in what is one of our planet's last frontiers, that part of our ability to protect our shared heritage is played out, which is why I wanted to include them in the first Monaco Blue Initiative.

Alongside the deep seas, large marine species also appeared on our agenda in 2010, since they too are a focal point.



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In the Mediterranean in particular, with Bluefin tuna, we have witnessed the complexity of protecting these symbolic species.

And although my country's initiative for Bluefin tuna did not result in a trade ban, I am sure that the attention focused on this species, due to the Monaco Blue Initiative helped to raise vital awareness.

Since this is one of the challenges of today's meeting, as with the majority of initiatives that we undertake to promote environmental protection, raising the awareness of our contemporaries to the risks that we face today and everyone's responsibility, to the best of their ability and means, to limit the impact and reverse a disturbing trend.

Faced with the problems that affect how we consume, travel and feed ourselves, everyone should be concerned.

But everyone must also feel that they are being considered. Because nothing would be worse than an action being carried out despite a population's best interest, or even against it.

Another of the Monaco Blue Initiative's challenges is to reveal ways in which ecological demands can be better reconciled with economic needs.

In this regard, the focus on marine protected areas since last year has been the practical embodiment of this commitment.

Marine protected areas could not in fact be designed as areas that exclude men. Instead, they offer ways in which to improve man's relationship with the sea, for the benefit of everyone.

By allowing sustainable management of the diversity of marine resources, marine protected areas allow us to develop them in real terms while observing the laws of nature and with the aim of improving lives.

In this regard, I can give at least three important reasons for developing these areas.

Firstly, obviously, an ecological interest. Everyone here understands the need to protect a threatened natural heritage.

Marine protected areas go further by offering the ability to restore ecosystems often greatly damaged by decades of senseless human actions.

They therefore allow us to help marine areas to regenerate in an extremely interesting way and I believe we will talk about this again shortly.

The other interest of marine protected areas is measured in terms of fisheries resources, and is therefore economic. Indeed, it has been proven that the creation of these reserves helps to increase not only fish stocks, but also their size and their reproductive abilities.

Consequently, these areas have positive effects from which fishing undeniably profits... provided that it respects the regulations.

But as I said, public support is needed and needed at all levels.

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It would be futile and without a doubt useless to consider the value of these vital areas from a purely immediate economic perspective.

The third challenge for the Monaco Blue Initiative is to identify and study the difficulties that the development of these zones is facing, both in terms of definition and creation as well as daily management.

While this year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Montego Bay Convention on the Laws of the Sea, I think it is vital that here we address all the aspects related to their development and their status.

A few days before the Rio+20 Conference, which I will attend, this consideration must enable us to reach practical proposals that can be applied quickly.

I take the opportunity to express how i am concerned by the present situation of the prep com regarding the chapter on ocean in the project of declaration.

I wish to underline that I consider as essential that the international community could and should reach a consensus on the opening of negotiation talks regarding a new juridical instrument for the high sea.

Such an instrument seems, in my opinion, to be a true necessity for insuring a sustainable future for our seas and oceans.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Once again, I believe that the issue of the seas, which presents itself in similar terms in Yeosu and Monaco, can help us make real progress in the huge task of preserving our planet.

Because it gives us the opportunity to move forward together, and realising that, in the powerful words of President Obama speaking at the UN "we come from many places, but we share a common future".

Thank you. »

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Keynote Speech: H.E M. Beretitenti Anote Tong's, President of the Republic of Kiribati

« Your Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, Excellency President Toribiong Sung Ho Joo, Korean Vice-Minister of Transport, Agriculture and Maritime Affairs Members and supporters of the Monaco Blue Initiative, Moderator of the session, Members of the Panel, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend to you all warm greetings from Kiribati and from the Pacific.

Kam na mauri.

I am very happy to be part of the Third Edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative to share with you our love of the ocean, our vision, our passion and our experience in ocean conservation relevant to the topic of

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this session – marine protected areas and fisheries. The objective of the Monaco Blue Initiative to identify the potential synergies between a healthy environment and economic as well as social development around marine protected areas is an important and practical one.

Before I continue, let me express my deep gratitude to His Serene Highness and the organisers of this conference for the invitation to speak at this session. Let me also express my deep appreciation to the people and Government of Korea for the warm hospitality extended to me, my wife and my delegation since our arrival into this beautiful country.

To set the scene, let me briefly share with you some facts about my country, Kiribati.

Kiribati consists of 33 very low-lying atolls in the Pacific Ocean straddling the Equator. The atolls are narrow strips of land rising no more than two metres above sea level. They are scattered across five million square kilometres of water. Our EEZ is 3.5 million square kilometres. Our land area is about 810 square kilometres. We may be small in land mass but we truly are a huge nation of water. Our population is over 100,000, half of whom live on South Tarawa, the capital. Our ocean is the source of our livelihood, providing us with about 90 percent of our protein. The ocean is also a major source of our income, both at the individual and national levels. 80 percent of our people make their living through fishing. My Government earns about 40% of its revenue from the sale of fishing licences. While this may seem significant, it is only 5% of the value of our fish. It is the strong desire and aspiration of my Government to maximise returns from this important resource through value-adding. I am happy to say that we are embarking on this path in partnership with some of our partners in the industry.

The resources of our ocean are finite. If we are to continue to live off our ocean in the foreseeable future, we will need to change our unsustainable patterns of consumption and protect this precious resource. This is because the oceans that bind us all are not in good shape. As Ocean communities and custodians of the ocean and its entire ecosystem, we all share the responsibility to safeguard the health, integrity and viability of our ocean for the present and future generations. But there has been so much neglect of the Ocean's health and this is affecting its ability to provide the essential goods and services it has provided us since time immemorial. If nothing is done about this then our future and the future of humanity will be in serious jeopardy.

This is the main reason that has brought all of us together at this conference. We share a common interest and concern over the state of our Ocean and a common resolve to take action to improve its health, integrity and viability for our livelihood and survival. We represent the various sectors of the Ocean community from the public, scientific, academic, economic, and social to the political.

The theme for this edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative “The Living Ocean and Coast” with a particular focus on the integrated management of marine areas is an appropriate and timely one. The health of our world oceans is affected by centuries of unsustainable patterns of consumption in pursuit of economic development. An integrated ecosystem-based approach to marine management is essential to restore the health and vitality of the ocean and its ecosystem for the survival of present and future generations.



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Pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction and climate change are the major challenges facing our oceans. We have, in the past conferences, looked at the value of the ocean, our natural capital, and actions required to protecting it and the economically valuable marine species. Now, we have to focus on action. The cost of inaction is catastrophic.

Individually and collectively, the countries in the Pacific are taking action. Let me highlight some of these.

In Kiribati, the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) is our contribution to addressing the ocean challenges. PIPA is but one of the many national initiatives found around the Pacific. In 2010 PIPA was inscribed on the World Heritage list making it the largest world heritage site in the world – at least for now. This historic event is a major achievement and victory, not just for Kiribati and partners of PIPA – Conservation International and New England Aquarium – but also for the Pacific and for those who share our passion for the ocean. It is our hope that international resources would be mobilised to assist us in implementing our ocean governance and management programmes.

For those of you who are not very familiar with PIPA let me share with you some facts on PIPA.

In 2006, Kiribati took steps to designate part of its EEZ as a marine protected area. By 2008 the final stages were concluded to allocate an area of over 400,000 sq. km or 11% of Kiribati's EEZ as the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA). I am sure you would appreciate the challenge in looking after such a vast area and space. The preservation of the Phoenix Islands and the surrounding ocean is our gift to humanity and response to climate change given the role of the ocean in climate regulation. It is our contribution to international biodiversity conservation efforts such as the Aichi target under the Convention on Biological Diversity to increase from one percent of protection of the coastal and marine areas in 2011 to ten percent by 2020 in the form of networks of marine protected areas.

PIPA is unique in the world and globally significant as a natural climate change laboratory providing an opportunity to study the impacts of climate change on tropical marine systems without other impacts.

The designation of PIPA was by no means straight forward as forces both within the country and beyond expressed deep reservations. Our fisheries partners contested the loss of some of their fertile fishing grounds whilst our own people protested over the potential loss of much needed revenue. This is relevant for the session this morning. How can we protect the natural capital in a way that won't compromise our source of revenue that finances our health and education programmes? By closing off the whole of PIPA for the conservation and protection of the area's rich and pristine marine ecosystems, it is estimated that Kiribati will lose approximately US\$4 million on average per annum in fishing revenue. This is no mean feat for my country which depends on fishing licence fees for around 40% of its annual recurrent budget. This was a difficult decision but my Government is committed to doing the right thing for the future of its people, the people of the Pacific and the rest of the world.

To address the concern of our people, my Government and our PIPA partners – Conservation International and New England Aquarium – came up with a financing model.

Under this model, PIPA will be managed according to the terms of a Conservation Contract executed between Kiribati and a new statutory trust organization, the PIPA Trust, created under Kiribati law as a non-for-profit corporation. Kiribati has representation on PIPA Trust Board but does not have a



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controlling interest. The New England Aquarium and Conservation International hold other mandatory Board seats.

The basis of this Conservation Contract arrangement is a unique "reverse fishing license" financing program in which the Government of Kiribati will be reimbursed by the PIPA Trust for the amount that they would have made from selling fishing licenses if PIPA were not protected. This is conditional on the satisfactory performance by the Government of Kiribati on its obligation to ensure the long-term protection of the terrestrial, coral, and oceanic natural resources as well as any cultural resources within the PIPA as defined under the Conservation Contract.

The PIPA Trust will be supported in meeting its financial obligations under the Conservation Contract and its founding Act by the creation of the PIPA Trust Endowment Fund (PTEF), a fund that will be established with private and public contributions. The PTEF will be capitalized at a level sufficient to generate an income stream to cover the operating and management costs of the Trust, the operating and management costs of the PIPA, and the foregone revenues from fishing associated with the closure or restriction of activities within the PIPA, i.e. the conservation license fee. The funds of the Trust (PTEF) will be professionally managed by a private third party.

The goal of the financing mechanism and conservation payments to Kiribati is to allow Kiribati to create the PIPA for the benefit of future generations of Kiribati citizens and the world without producing negative impacts on current national expenditures for health, education, and social welfare. The long term goal is to use the PIPA as a platform for appropriate ecotourism and research that will produce additional revenues and employment opportunities in Kiribati.

The next step for us is in securing contributions to this Endowment Fund to allow my Government to fulfil the objectives of PIPA. Failure to do this may result in our inability to protect the area and to compensate for loss of revenue. It is our fervent hope therefore that like-minded partners will support us in our efforts.

The designation of PIPA is a very loud statement at the height of the climate change debate to say that indeed sacrifices can be made if there is a will and commitment. Even now, as we confront the possibility that our islands will become uninhabitable within the century due to rising sea levels we recognise the value of protecting something that we firmly believe to be the common heritage of all. As we continue with our unsustainable patterns of consumption of terrestrial resources and as we continue to pollute our atmosphere, it is imperative that we protect and preserve perhaps the last natural capital we have left. This is critical to our survival as a species.

While the inscription of PIPA has involved a lot of collaborative and commendable efforts by Government, Conservation International and New England Aquarium, the main challenge now lies ahead in safeguarding this common heritage of all for the present and future generations. We call on all to partner us in this endeavour and safeguard this precious treasure.

In the Pacific region, the Pacific Oceanscape was endorsed by the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in 2009. This is an annual Forum of Pacific Leaders, including Australia and New Zealand. In 2010, the Pacific Oceanscape Framework was endorsed at the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting. This is a regional initiative that will promote collaboration and exchanges between marine protected areas in the region



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and beyond, promote scientific research and exchange on issues such as implications of climate change on the issues of sovereignty and maritime boundaries as well as strengthen the implementation of UNCLOS in the region. The Pacific Oceanscape provides an opportunity to bring all national and regional marine conservation efforts and programmes together under one overarching framework. These efforts and programmes include the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Programme, the Micronesian Challenge, the Coral Triangle Initiative, fisheries conservation and management efforts such as under the Nauru Agreement and the on-going work of the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. We want to take this further beyond our region. There has been a positive signal from bilateral and multilateral partners, including the World Bank's Global Partnership for Ocean.

In response to the challenges posed by climate change, it will be necessary to build the resilience in ocean ecosystems so that marine life has the best chance of adapting to the changes brought about by climate change. Only by doing this can there be some assurance that the oceans, and the millions of people who depend on them directly for their livelihood and well-being, will survive the onslaught of global climate change.

Climate change remains the greatest moral challenge of the 21st Century. For low-lying island communities like Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, the Maldives and Kiribati, among others, climate change poses the very real issues of security and survival. The prospects for low lying island countries in the face of ever worsening projections of sea level rise continue to be pessimistic. Like I have done on numerous occasions I have no doubt that many of you have also pondered over the unprecedented international legal questions relating to sovereignty and what is to become of the EEZs of eroded coastal areas and submerged nations due to climate change should such scenario come about. This is an important issue that have serious implications on marine protected areas and fisheries. I have never fully resolved these questions but hopefully the Monaco Blue Initiative will be able to address it.

“What kind of legacy and future do we want to leave for our children and their children's children?” I will leave that to guide you in your work within the next few days but let me remind you of our strong connection to our planet, our environment and our ocean. Let us work together in safeguarding our natural capital for the present and future generations.

In closing, I wish you all the best in your important deliberations in the next few days with our Kiribati blessings of Te Mauri (Health) Te Raoi (Peace) ao Te Tabomoa (and Prosperity).

Thank you. »

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Closing address: H.E.M. Bernard Fautrier, Plenipotentiary Minister and Chief Executive Officer of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Mr. Robert Calcagno, Chief Executive Officer, Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation

« Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Once again, the Monaco Blue Initiative has demonstrated the relevance of its methods and the importance of the issues it holds close to its heart.

For this third edition and the second consecutive year devoted to the key issue of marine protected areas, I do believe that our discussions have confirmed the need to continue along the path of open dialogue. A dialogue in which all stakeholders involved should be represented and able to defend their legitimate interests.

Indeed, we have truly noticed today that each has his part to gain from the creation of Marine Protected Areas. The environment for one, as we cannot anymore conceive the exploitation of the oceans whilst degrading the ecosystems and biodiversity. But also the economic activities, from the most traditional to the most innovative, which for the most part can find their place in or around Marine Protected Areas, as long as we ask ourselves case by case for the conditions of their exercise.

This dialogue established at the heart of the Monaco Blue Initiative is the image of that which, locally, must be put in place to create shared and accepted projects carried forward by the different players, a necessary requirement to their credibility, and for their own utility.

Finally, this same spirit of dialogue should, I hope, be on the agenda of the major international events scheduled to take place over the next few months, and which are to be focused on discussion and action for the protection of the marine environment.

The first, as you already mentioned Your Highness, is the Rio + 20 conference. Less than one month before this undoubtedly crucial event, the preparatory work gives us reason to hope that a certain number of principles and significant developments for the protection of the seas will feature in its political declaration. Obviously it is too early to be totally sure, but it is not impossible that the disappointment of the last UN summits, together with increasingly specific scientific findings and greater public awareness, will encourage each of us into taking responsibility....

However, maritime issues should be effectively addressed during the conference, which should have a positive impact on the issue that concerns us today – Marine Protected Areas.

The second major event ahead of us is the IUCN congress, to be held here in Korea next September. Once again, we have grounds for hoping that this event, promoted by a key environmental organisation, will help to move things forward and reinforce our recommendations.

With the thirtieth anniversary of the Montego Bay Convention on the Law of the sea coming up in December, major discussion should take place concerning the topics covered by this convention, and in particular the law relating to high seas. We have seen today to what extent this needs to be clarified and adapted to current environmental issues. Because, let's remind ourselves, there could not be



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networks of Marine Protected Areas without establishing them in the high seas, and several key regions, Arctic and Antarctic foremost, must be covered. This is one of the next major challenges for the law of the sea.

I know that our work today will be of value for all the above events and I would like to think that each of us, in our own way, will become an ambassador. The projection of the seas is indeed a long-term commitment, requiring each of us to show tenacity and determination. The same tenacity and the same determination you have demonstrated today, ladies and gentlemen, by agreeing to devote your time to this important issue of responsibility.

We look forward to seeing you next year at the fourth edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative, which will be held this time in Monaco, which will lengthen the work done today by highlighting them once more by the essential questions of the deep seas and large marine species.

We hope that we can count on you on this occasion and would like to thank you in advance.

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Conclusions of the discussions

We are now facing a dual challenge to stop the continuous degradation we are inflicting on our marine ecosystems, all the while demanding more of our oceans in terms of food and energy.

It is therefore urgent to rethink our relationship with the oceans and review the way we manage our activities within and on the seas.

Healthy marine ecosystems are an essential requirement if we want oceans to keep matching our needs on the long term.

The Monaco Blue Initiative 2012 held in Yeosu, Korea, confirmed that businesses still fear that Marine Protected Areas are too focused on environment issues and might get in the way of their business opportunities. They prefer promoting their own best practices, industry by industry.

Some Marine Protected Areas have worked this around by covering remote and uninhabited areas, while others remain purely paperwork that lack any support by local actors.

The day's thorough dialogue hopefully showed that, on the contrary, Marine Protected Areas offer a great potential for local, efficient action.

The Monaco Blue Initiative today has highlighted that on the contrary, Marine Protected Areas are a formidable framework to shift locally to a sustainable management of marine activities.

First because only a global, integrated approach of all human activities at sea and their impact on the ecosystems, can lead to coherent and efficient solutions to protect the environment, as well as a global economic strategy allowing better coordination and improvement of the different activities.



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The Monaco Blue Initiative has shown that Marine Protected Areas can become efficient tools in the struggle with overfishing and allow the restoration of marine stocks, by regulating fishing around no-take reserves and favouring techniques that respect the environment. Other activities such as ecotourism or aquaculture can truly fit and benefit from a preserved environment. Finally, activities such as renewable marine energies can be compatible and complementary to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas.

Marine Protected Areas are also a great opportunity to associate locally the entirety of stakeholders, which must learn to work hand in hand, in the way the Monaco Blue Initiative has been working for three years. Open dialogue should allow all stakeholders to express their interests in order to conceive common, shared and respected projects. These are necessary requirements for credibility and efficiency. Traditional activities as well as innovative good practices have their place in this work.

The consultation must be permanent, from the overview, the choice of targets up to the monitoring of true consequences, both environmental and socio-economic. Flexible regulations might allow taking more easily into account feedback, monitoring and updated best practices.

The dialogue and trust between political authorities, economic players and experts of the marine environment are determining factors to ensure the sufficiently rapid and concrete advances so that we do not empty our oceans. This is how the Monaco Blue Initiative has been working for three years.

The Monaco Blue Initiative promotes a widened vision of Marine Protected Areas, articulating highly protected zones covering the most significant ecosystems and areas where economic activities can fit and benefit from the conserved environment, as long as they are well managed.

The Monaco Blue Initiative is committed to continuing this analysis with involved economic players that will be more widely assembled in favour of Marine Protected Areas. The exchange of experience and capacity building of all actors are determining factors for the conception of new models of development and for the rapid multiplication of Marine Protected Areas.

In addition, Marine Protected Areas cannot constitute coherent networks with the functioning of large ecosystems unless Marine Protected Areas can be created beyond National jurisdiction.

The oceans retain the status of common good. Marine Protected Areas provide a unique opportunity to give a new sense to this principle, by conceiving and deciding collectively the way in which we must protect the oceans to benefit on the long term from the services they provide us.

Expected follow-up

The MBI 2012 wishes to promote a new dynamic for the creation of Marine Protected Areas, by highlighting the potential of this concept, based on conclusive experiences, to lay down the basis for the development of economic activities at sea.

The MBI invites both political decision-makers as well as economic players to appropriate this concept that cannot and must not remain limited to conservation.

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco will carry the message of the Monaco Blue Initiative to the attention of the Heads of State when they will meet in Rio from the 19th to the 21st June.

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The Monaco Government, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute and the different participating organizations and partners of the Monaco Blue Initiative will then relay the message.

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