

Project Endorsement Form

1. PROJECT TITLE

Full title	Monaco Explorations Indian Ocean Expedition
Acronym	
Website	https://www.monacoexplorations.org/en/
Keywords (up to 10, describing the project research)	Sustainability Ocean Exploration Biological Oceanography Chemical Oceanography Physical Oceanography Ocean Observing Systems Ocean Pollution Ocean Literacy Coral eDNA
New initiative or continuing programme?	New initiative

2. APPLICANTS

Lead applicant / Project Leader / key research contact person:

First name	Gilles
Last name	BESSERO
Affiliation	Société des Explorations de Monaco (Monaco Explorations)
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Country	MONACO
Telephone	+377 93 15 40 61
Email address	contact@monacoexplorations.org
Institutional or personal website	https://www.monacoexplorations.org/en/

Other key participants / research team leaders: (repeat as needed)

First name	Francis
Last name	MARSAC
Role in the project	Saya de Malha Project Leader
Affiliation	Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)
Country	France
Email address	francis.marsac@ird.fr
Institutional or personal website	https://en.ird.fr/

First name	Hervé
Last name	CLAUSTRE
Role in the project	BGC-Argo Project Leader
Affiliation	Institut de la mer de Villefranche-sur-Mer
Country	France

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Email address	herve.claustre@imev-mer.fr
Institutional or personal website	https://biogeochemical-argo.org/

First name	Nick
Last name	D'ADAMO
Role in the project	Surface Drifter Project Leader
Affiliation	University of Western Australia
Country	Australia
Email address	nick.dadamo@uwa.edu.au
Institutional or personal website	https://www.uwa.edu.au/oceans-institute

First name	Didier
Last name	ZOCCOLA
Role in the project	World Coral Conservatory Co-Leader
Affiliation	Centre Scientifique de Monaco
Country	Monaco
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Institutional or personal website	https://www.centrescientifique.mc/en

First name	Margot
Last name	THIBAUT
Role in the project	MADCAPS Project Leader
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Institutional or personal website	https://umr-entropie.ird.nc

N.B.: Please note that all these names and contact details will be added to the IIOE-2 membership database.

3. ABSTRACT– Brief description of the project: (1/4 page maximum)

This will be placed on the IIOE-2 Website after endorsement.

Monaco Explorations “Indian Ocean Expedition” is the first phase of the “Monaco Explorations” project endorsed as a contribution to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

The Expedition will cover the area between Reunion Island, Mauritius, and Seychelles with a strong focus on the Saya de Malha Bank and the following objectives:

- Improving the understanding of the ecosystem status and functioning of the area explored through a multidisciplinary scientific approach and advising stakeholders through a holistic scientific approach (sustainability science).
- Sharing the issues and knowledge with the greatest possible number of people through an ambitious outreach programme.
- Through diplomatic action, mobilizing governments and informing policies by making available information and analyses to support the sustainable management of maritime areas.

The Expedition is expected to benefit from extensive media coverage and should result in the production of a documentary film for international distribution and other educational and artistic contents.

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4. LINKS TO IIOE-2 SCIENCE PLAN: (1/2 page maximum)

How do you anticipate your project to contribute to the IIOE-2 strategy and science delivery, with reference to which (either one or more) of the six IIOE-2 Science Plan themes that your project responds. Please state the specific issues and questions addressed by your project in the context of the IIOE-2 Science Plan themes and key issues.

The project is expected to contribute to IIOE-2 Science Plan themes 1, 2, 4 and 6 through the collection of data related to:

- Ocean surface circulation (Themes 2 and 4);
- Ocean physical, chemical and biological variables that are essential for understanding the changing health of the Indian Ocean and its response to climate change (Themes 2 and 4);
- Inventory of the benthic biodiversity of the poorly known Saya de Malha Bank and assessment of its specificities (Theme 6);
- Assessment of plastic pollution and its impact (Theme 1).

It is expected that the data will feed into ongoing and future research related to in situ observations, remote sensing and modelling and assimilation.

The project will also contribute to regional capacity development through the participation of students and early career ocean professionals from Mauritius and Seychelles. They will benefit from the at-sea-component of the International Master in Marine Biological Resources (IMBRSea) on instrumentation and acquisition of data in oceanography that is included in the Expedition programme.

5. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION(S):

Is the project part of a related multi-national activity? YES/~~NO~~

If No, would you welcome international collaboration in your project? YES/~~NO~~

6. REGION(S) OF STUDY

Provide a description of 'where' the research is to be conducted (for field based activities) and/or the region or regions to which the research pertains (you are encouraged to consider providing either the coordinates of the area of studies or the coordinates of the planned cruise tracks, as well as a figure as an addendum to your proposal).

See attached maps (Fig. 1 & 2).

6. TIMETABLE OF THE PROJECT

Start date: 1 October 2022	End date: 30 November 2022
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7. LINKAGES WITH OTHER PROJECTS / PROGRAMMES / INITIATIVES

Is the project part of a related national or multi-national activity?

If yes, provide the related activity title and website for reference, if available:

Monaco Explorations: <https://www.monacoexplorations.org/en/>
UN Ocean Decade: <https://www.oceandecade.org/>
Nippon Foundation/GEBCO Seabed 2030: <https://seabed2030.org/>
BGC-Argo: <https://biogeochemical-argo.org/>
World Coral Conservatory: <https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000823>

Is your project part of, or affiliated to, another SCOR, IOC or IOGOOS activity or project? **YES**

If “yes”, please indicate which activity or project:

UN Ocean Decade: <https://www.oceandecade.org/>
Nippon Foundation/GEBCO Seabed 2030: <https://seabed2030.org/>
BGC-Argo: <https://biogeochemical-argo.org/>

8. DATA MANAGEMENT AND SHARING

1. Will new data be collected as part of this project (yes or no)? **YES**

See Section 4 above.

2. Contact information if any, of the person in charge of the data management from whom the metadata can be accessed by interested IIOE-2 stakeholders.

Please note that for all IIOE-2-endorsed projects, IIOE-2 will have developed its own metadata portal. Once the project is endorsed, the project leader will be asked to provide the metadata information of the project.

Refer to the list of Key Participants in Section 2.

3. Recognizing the need for an initial period of exclusive data use, would you be willing to provide timely access to all data generated under this project and associated metadata in accordance with relevant national and funding agency data sharing policies? **YES/NO**

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9. FUNDING

Please note that IIOE-2 strongly encourages funded/resourced projects. However, IIOE-2 may endorse projects yet to receive funding/resourcing if IIOE-2 endorsement can be clearly shown to significantly aid in prospects for funding/resourcing.

Has funding and resources to successfully achieve and undertake the project been obtained? YES
Indicate the sources of funding and resources that have been approached and/or secured.

Sources of funding:

- Government of the Principality of Monaco
- Partner Organizations

10. BENEFITS FROM IIOE-2 ENDORSEMENT (1/4 page maximum)

Specify why you are seeking endorsement and how the activity would benefit from endorsement, and how the IIOE-2 SC could assist in the implementation of your project.

We seek IIOE-2 endorsement:

- to ensure that IIOE-2 stakeholders are aware of the Expedition,
- to assist in making best use at the regional level of the data collected by the Expedition, and
- to enhance the visibility of the Expedition in the region.

11. OPTIONAL: OTHER COMMENTS/INFORMATION/MATERIAL (length and detail may be at the discretion of and as deemed necessary by the applicant)

Please feel free to provide any other comments, information or materials that you feel relevant to your proposal for the IIOE-2 Steering Committee's information and benefit. You may provide this as general information or provide the additional comments/information/materials as relevant to any of the specific Sections above.

See Overview Document (V6 dated August 2022).

Monaco, 29 August 2022

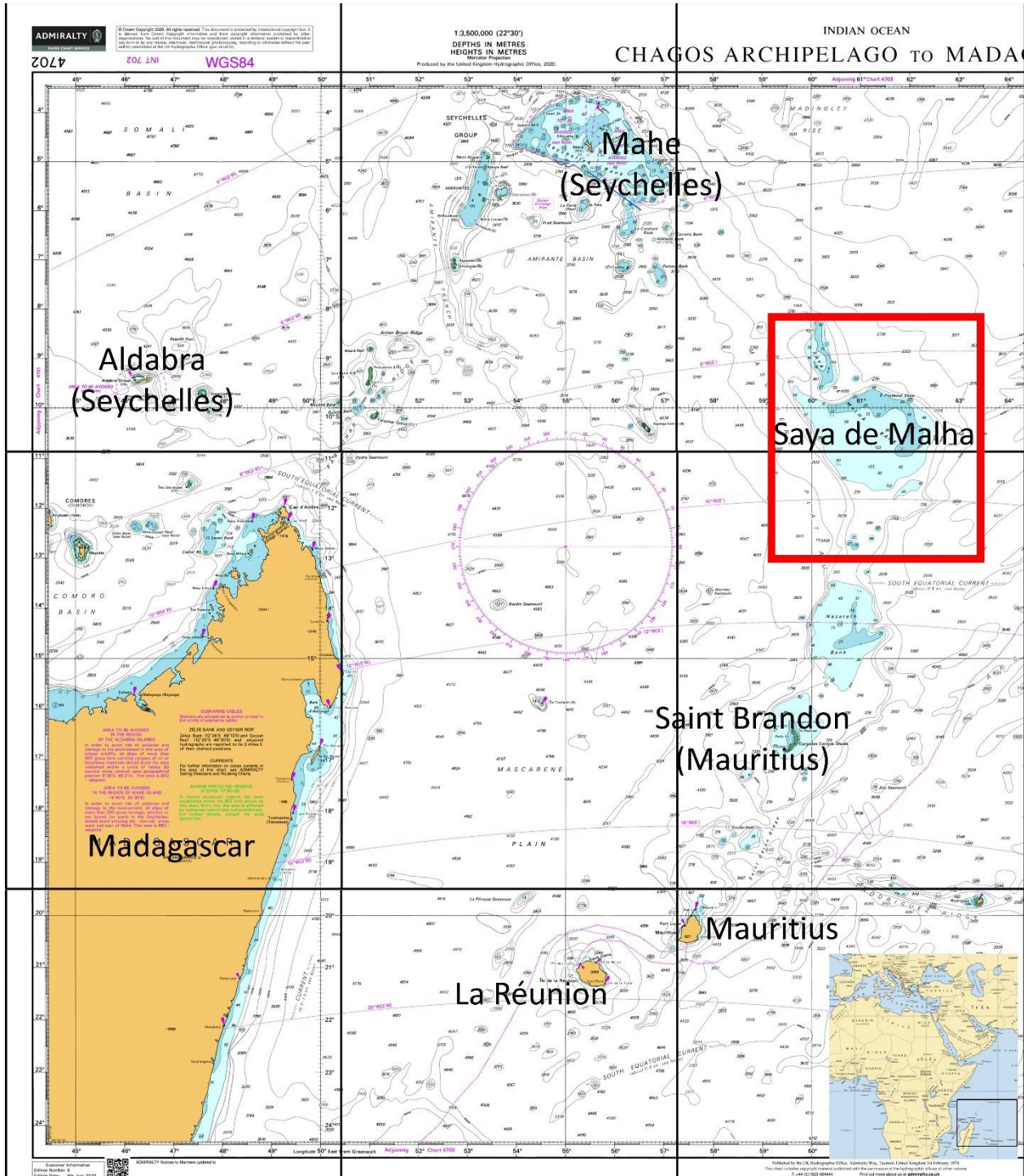
Gilles BESSERO



Monaco Explorations Chief Operation Officer
Expedition Leader

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Figure 1
Location map



Source: Admiralty Chart GB 4702



Monaco Explorations Indian Ocean Expedition

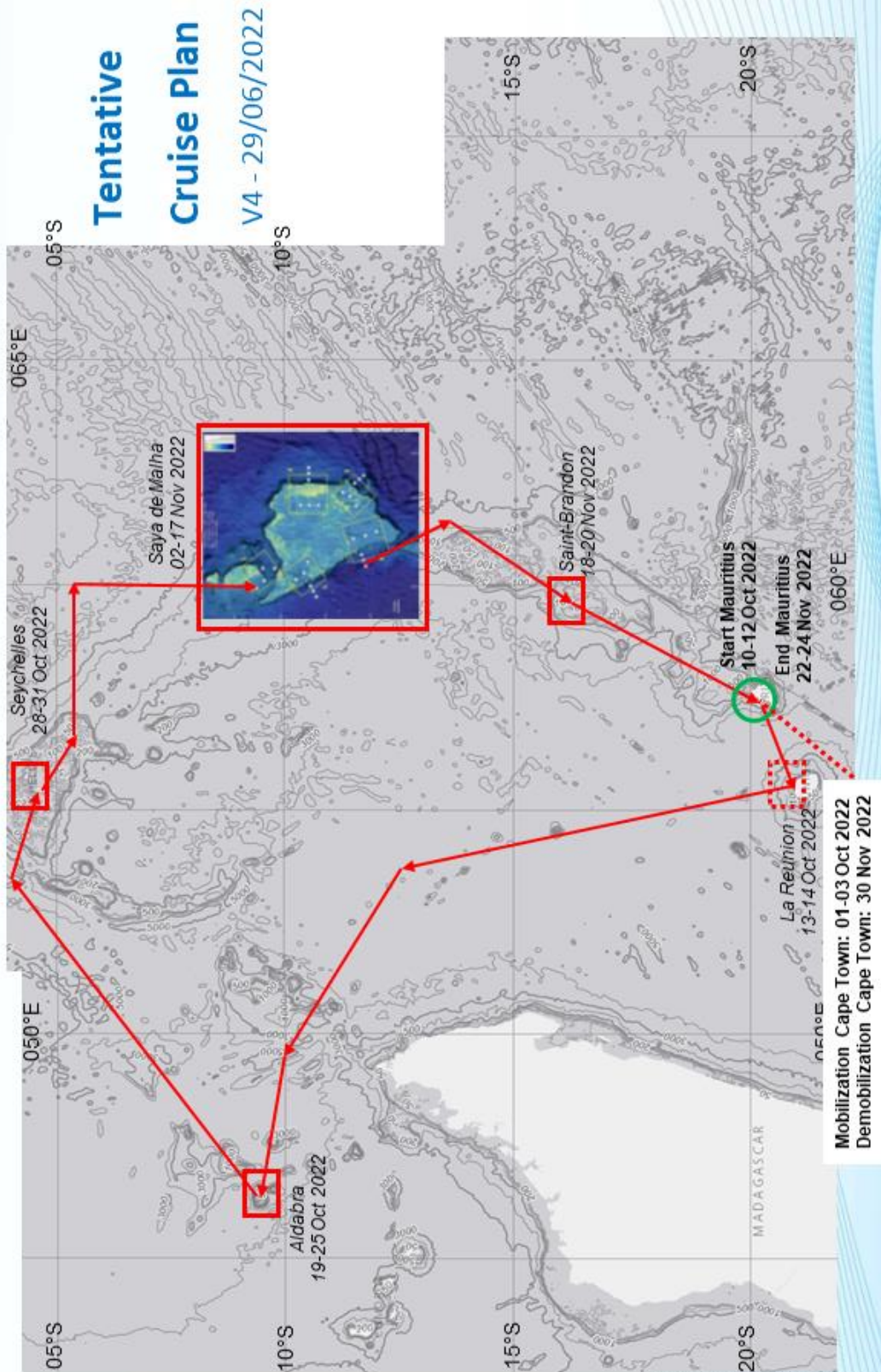


Figure 2