



OCEAN CONSERVATION FUND

2ND EDITION

THEME: “THREATENED MARINE SPECIES. FROM SCIENCE TO AWARENESS”.

P R E S E N T A T I O N

Oceanário de Lisboa and the Oceano Azul Foundation present the second edition of the Ocean Conservation Fund, with the aim of addressing critical challenges related to the conservation of marine ecosystems.

The aim of the Ocean Conservation Fund is to support new projects that can make a decisive contribution to the conservation of endangered species and marine biodiversity in general.

The planet's natural resources are essential for survival and for the economic and social development of mankind. It is recognised worldwide that the biological diversity of the oceans is an asset of huge value for current and future generations. However, it is known that threats to marine species and ecosystems have never been greater. Given that the decline in species caused by human activity continues to increase at an alarming rate, this initiative can play an essential and collaborative role in our efforts to maintain existing biodiversity.

Each edition of the Ocean Conservation Fund will have a different theme related to the conservation of marine species and ecosystems.

NATURE OF THE FUND

The Ocean Conservation Fund will support projects with a maximum duration of three years. The amount available for financing projects may vary and this year it is 150,000 euros. Ideally, one project will receive 100,000 euros and the remainder will be distributed between one or more projects depending on the decision taken by the jury.

Special appreciation will be given to projects that:

- | Present an *in situ* work component;
- | Ensure the scientific quality of the information collected and made available;
- | Are sustainable initiatives that can be continued after their initial period of implementation;
- | Encourage education, awareness and local action in the fight against biodiversity reduction;
- | Include a strong dissemination component, not just technical and scientific (articles, reports, books) but also, and above all, of a more generalist nature.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR THE 2nd EDITION (2018)

The theme of the second Ocean Conservation Fund is “Threatened marine species. From Science to Awareness.” Support will be given to new projects, developed within Portugal or abroad, that contribute to greater knowledge of marine species classified as endangered on the Red List of the ‘International Union for Conservation of Nature’ (IUCN), in other words, species classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable.

After 20 years supporting ocean conservation, Oceanário de Lisboa seeks to not only ensure the future integrity of endangered species, by funding and supporting scientific knowledge, but also to raise awareness of the importance of the balance of the oceans and marine resources, sharing the view that conservation of the oceans is everybody’s responsibility.

To be eligible, projects submitted must show significant potential to contribute to the conservation of target species, and must also include field work, guarantee the scientific quality of information, constitute sustainable initiatives and boost education. It is also crucial for them to present a strong component of dissemination of knowledge, not only to specialists, but also to members of the general public.

Oceanário de Lisboa has some examples of species classified as endangered by the IUCN, such as the ocean sunfish (*Mola mola*) and the common puffin (*Fratercula arctica*).

With this theme of “Threatened marine species. From Science to Awareness”, Oceanário de Lisboa and the Oceano Azul Foundation, through the Ocean Conservation Fund, intend to contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity.

T H E F U N D I N T H E O V E R A L L A C T I V I T Y O F O C E A N Á R I O D E L I S B O A

Aquariums encourage visitors to appreciate the beauty, potential and fragility of aquatic ecosystems. Oceanário de Lisboa seeks to raise awareness of the importance of balance for oceans and marine resources, sharing the view that conservation of the oceans is a responsibility that everybody must share.

Each year, more than 700 million people visit zoos and aquariums worldwide. The zoo industry has a huge educational and economic impact and increasingly involves projects that promote sustainability and nature conservation. The agendas of zoos and aquariums cover a majority of the planet's ecosystems, from mountains, forests and coastal wetlands, to the depths of the ocean, including coral reefs, seagrass meadows and other ecosystems. Their conservation work covers a wide range of species, involving breeding programmes, scientific data collection, recovery and repopulation of habitats, ecosystem protection measures, among many other aspects. In this context, Oceanário de Lisboa has supported projects that promote the conservation of aquatic systems and the oceans in particular since 1998. This work has generated results for science and for conservation at both national and international levels, with the involvement of a wide range of partners, including academic and research institutions, universities, NGOs, government organisations, renowned institutions such as the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the National Geographic Channel and international zoo industry associations.

Marine ecosystems are among the greatest assets of mankind, for which reason it is considered fundamental to ensure their integrity, through financing and support for scientific knowledge.