



## **On behalf of International Aquarium Network (IAN)**

**Essential partners, the Aquariums with 600 million visitors per year represent the greatest awareness network for the public on the future of the oceans.**

The aquariums spread over the five continents, influence the behavior of the individuals of all ages and all origins. Indeed, the Aquariums make it possible to understand in an attractive way the life of the oceans, their ecosystems, and the links which connect them to human being.

They are places of wonder and entertainment, but also places of awareness, education, research and conservation, due to the great diversity of activities they offer: Visits to exhibitions, school events, discussion forums for adults and families, on-site and off-site activities, etc.

### **Why is the aquarium network an essential partner?**

Aquariums also contribute to the development of science and knowledge thanks to their scientifically qualified staff, but Aquariums are also great places to host science: our breeding spaces allow scientists to experiment in very unique conditions. For example, the reproduction or resilience mechanisms of certain species such as corals or fish can be tested and better understood.

### **From global to local**

Aquariums have always participated in international conferences. They have the know-how to transcribe the major decisions taken in an understandable and educational way for their audience into concrete action to enable them to act individually.

### **From local to global**

Aquariums also offer the possibility of gathering the opinion of the public thanks to the establishment of discussion forums: what we call "Ocean Literacy", is therefore not only a movement in the direction of the experts towards the public but also the opportunity for scientists or decision-makers to learn from the public.

**On a more general level, Aquariums are also tools guiding different actions:**

Advice for sustainable seafood consumption

Expert advice at conferences

Conservation actions

Setting up living labs

...And many more actions

**In conclusion**

Through their know-how in raising public awareness, their ability to educate individuals about the oceans and also their ability to question them, their transcription at the local level of the decisions taken at major summits make the Aquariums important partners to help feeding major conferences and world summits.

Already committed in the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Goal, the International Aquarium Network (IAN) will play its full part in the implementation of the decisions taken at this UN conference on oceans 2022.

Philippe VALLETTE

Chairman of IAN Steering Committee

**work Secretariat**  
**c/o Nausicaà, Centre National de la Mer**  
**Boulevard Sainte Beuve – BP 189**  
**62203 Boulogne-sur-Mer Cedex**  
**France**  
**Tel : + 33 321 30 99 93**  
**Fax : + 33 321 30 93 94**  
**e-mail: [info@worldoceannetwork.org](mailto:info@worldoceannetwork.org)**  
**website: [www.worldoceannetwork.org](http://www.worldoceannetwork.org)**

**World Ocean Network Registered Office**  
**70, Coudenberg**  
**1000 Brussels**  
**Belgium**