

LISBON, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

## **Sociedade Francisco Manuel dos Santos presents the Oceano Azul Foundation**

- Sociedade Francisco Manuel dos Santos presents the Oceano Azul Foundation, fulfilling the promise made to the Portuguese State during the application process for the concession of the Oceanário de Lisboa.
- The public presentation of the Oceano Azul Foundation marks the culmination of a process which began over three years ago.
- The Oceano Azul Foundation is funded by a grant of 30 million euros, from Sociedade Francisco Manuel dos Santos.
- The presentation event features the participation of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Oceano Azul Foundation, José Soares dos Santos, Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien van Oranje-Nassau, Jane Lubchenco and Nuno Vieira Matias, the Board's Special Advisors, Julie Packard and Viriato Soromenho-Marques and the CEO of the Board of Directors, Tiago Pitta e Cunha.

Sociedade Francisco Manuel dos Santos presents today the Oceano Azul Foundation, at Convento do Beato, in Lisbon, at 9 a.m. The Public Presentation marks the culmination of a process which began over three years ago.

Funded by a grant from Sociedade Francisco Manuel dos Santos (SFMS), of 30 million euros, throughout 10 years, the Oceano Azul Foundation aims to become one of the world leaders in ocean sustainability.

The creation of the Oceano Azul Foundation results from the conviction that, in times of profound change, the need arises to develop policies which will allow the coexistence of human development and ocean protection. The Foundation was thus born of a will to bring Portugal closer to the sea and to help the country obtain a leading role in the European and global oceans agenda.

Under the motto *From the Ocean's Point of View*, the Oceano Azul Foundation will focus its activity in three pillars: 1) Education and Literacy, 2) Conservation and 3) Capacity Building. To prepare a "blue generation" through educational programs for school children, to promote the protection and value of the natural blue capital and to disseminate good practices which may contribute to a truly sustainable exploitation of the ocean, are some of the areas to be developed by the Foundation. The Oceanário de Lisboa, the Foundation's key asset, will play an essential role in the fulfillment of its Literacy and Conservation pillars and may turn today's excellence into an ambitious future project, essential to the Country's development.

In September 2016, in partnership with the Waitt Foundation, the Oceano Azul Foundation organized a scientific expedition to the eastern group of the Azorian Archipelago, with the aim of promoting a comprehensive survey of the region's natural marine value and filming the works. Led by Prof. Emanuel Gonçalves, from the Oceano Azul Foundation, an international scientific team studied the marine life of the coastal areas and of the shallow sea banks in the islands of São Miguel, Santa Maria and the Formigas islets, making over 350 dives, which represent 880 hours of underwater work. This expedition is an example of the initiatives and partnerships the Foundation wishes to continue developing.

The Oceano Azul Foundation's Board of Trustees and a group of internationally renowned collaborators will contribute to turning the Oceano Azul Foundation into a leading organization in ocean issues and help guide its activity. The Board of Trustees is constituted by José Soares dos Santos (Chairman), Princess Laurentien van Oranje-Nassau, Special Advisor to *Rewilding Europe* and Fellow of the European Climate Foundation, Jane Lubchenco, former U.S. Science Envoy for the Ocean, nominated by President Barack Obama, and former administrator of NOAA, Kristian Parker, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Oak Foundation, and Admiral Nuno Vieira Martins, former Navy Chief of Staff.

### **Speakers:**

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic

José Soares dos Santos, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

Princess Laurentien van Oranje-Nassau, Special Advisor to *Rewilding Europe*, Fellow of the European Climate Foundation and member of the Board of Trustees of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

Jane Lubchenco, former U.S. Science Envoy for the Ocean, nominated by President Barack Obama, former administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and member of the Board of Trustees of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

Nuno Vieira Martins, former Navy Chief of Staff and member of the Board of Trustees of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

Julie Packard. Executive Director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Special Advisor of the Board of Trustees of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

Viriato Soromenho-Marques. Professor of Philosophy in the University of Lisbon. Former scientific coordinator of the Gulbenkian Environment Program. Special Advisor of the Board of Trustees of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

Moderator: Tiago Pitta e Cunha, CEO of the Board of Directors of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

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