REMORA
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A MANIFESTO FOR EUROPE'S OCEAN FRONTIERS

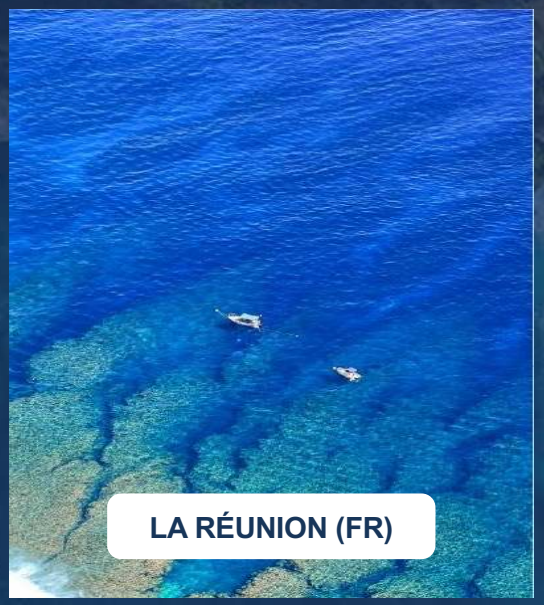
30% of its sea protected. Six years early.

In October 2024, the Azores protected 30% of their exclusive economic zone, on the basis of their own deep-sea science.

What Europe's Outermost Regions bring to its ocean ambitions, and what they need next.


MADEIRA (PT)


AÇORES (PT)


LA RÉUNION (FR)

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 2

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THE AMBITION

Europe has set itself a high bar

BY 2030 · OCEAN PACT

30%

of EU waters protected

20%

at least, of EU sea areas restored

BY 2035 · OCEANEYE

35%

of the world's ocean observing capacity

World-leading provider of ocean intelligence

Reaching them requires research capacity across all of Europe's ocean basins.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 1

THE GAP

Europe's ocean blind spots have an address

OceanEye itself notes persistent observation gaps in the Southern Hemisphere, the deep sea and coastal zones.



Europe's Outermost Regions sit precisely in these waters. Map: © European Commission.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 1

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WHAT ALREADY EXISTS · OBSERVATION

Europe already has eyes there

Decades of continuous monitoring, already integrated into Copernicus, can fill gaps in global ocean models and check satellite data against ground truth.

EMSO-Azores: a deep-sea observatory on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge

MAP-IO: a research vessel turned observatory across the Indian and Southern Oceans

125 km

of submarine cable in Madeira monitoring seismic activity and waves in real time

These waters are not empty of European science.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, pp. 1–2

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WHAT ALREADY EXISTS · A NATURAL LABORATORY

The deep sea, minutes from shore

Seamounts, hydrothermal vents, cold-water corals and tropical reefs lie minutes from the coast.

This “ocean natural twin” lets Europe test climate impacts, restoration methods and new technologies, from the laboratory to the open ocean.

Laboratory

Controlled experiments

→

4,000 m

simulated in a hyperbaric chamber (Azores)

→

Open ocean

Field validation at the Condor Seamount protected area

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 2

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WHAT ALREADY EXISTS · RESULTS

Already working for Europe

AZORES

Damaged deep-sea coral gardens are being restored.

AZORES

Fisheries observer programmes running since 1998 offer a ready platform for OceanEye's planned multi-sensor fishing vessels.

LA RÉUNION

Working with Madagascar, Mozambique and Mauritius on Indian Ocean cooperation.

And much more to come !

Source: REMORA Manifesto, pp. 2–3

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THE CHALLENGE

The bottleneck is not science

3–4× the current investment that OceanEye estimates is needed

- Outermost Region infrastructure is still funded mostly from regional resources.
- Small research teams face brain drain.
- EU research programmes have long been dominated by established players.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 4

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RECOMMENDATION 1 / 4

01

From periphery to frontier

Remoteness and insularity are what make these regions irreplaceable living laboratories.

Periphery	→	**Frontier**
Liability	→	**Strategic asset**
Exploration ground	→	**R&I partner**

They are the EU's interface with neighbouring countries and Small Island Developing States. Their researchers should lead projects, not just host them.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 3, recommendation 1

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RECOMMENDATION 2 / 4

02

Invest in permanent ocean infrastructure

Multiannual, operational funding to make Outermost Region observing systems permanent, shared and built to common standards.

Their data built into the planned European Digital Ocean System.

Their facilities open to EU researchers through Transnational Access.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 4, recommendation 2

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RECOMMENDATION 3 / 4

03

Help talent stay, and return

ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie strategies tailored to Outermost Region institutions, with doctoral networks and fellowships built on their strengths.

Joint supervision and exchanges with continental Europe, so talent flows in both directions.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 4, recommendation 3

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RECOMMENDATION 4 / 4

04

Fair access and a seat at the table

Name the Atlantic, Caribbean and Indian Ocean basins in the Ocean Mission and the €50 million Global Ocean Observing System alliance.

Make geographic diversity a formal criterion in Horizon Europe and FP10.

Give the Outermost Regions a formal place in Ocean Act governance.

Source: REMORA Manifesto, p. 4, recommendation 4

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Europe's ocean frontiers are already delivering

The Ocean Pact and OceanEye are under way. The Ocean Act and FP10 are being prepared.

Let’s make the Outermost Regions central players.

Read the Manifesto

4 pages: our key messages and four recommendations

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.24008748

Go further with the Policy Brief

16 pages: what the Outermost Regions contribute, what holds them back, and what can be done

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23342771

Frontiers of Europe. Frontiers of knowledge.