

Plastic Odyssey calls at the Port of Sansouci in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from August 28 to September 22, 2023, continuing its exploration of solutions to plastic pollution in the Caribbean region.



In October 2022, the ship Plastic Odyssey set off on a 3-year expedition around the world from the Port of Marseille. After several stopovers in the Mediterranean (Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco) and West Africa (Senegal, Guinea, Cape Verde), the Plastic Odyssey expedition ship and its crew are continuing their adventure in South and Central America (Brazil, Guyana, Saint Lucia, French West Indies) and will be in the Dominican Republic for a 3-week stopover in Santo Domingo.

The programme includes a press conference to launch the stopover, technical training for recycling entrepreneurs involved in the fight against plastic pollution, the incubation of local projects on board, visits to the ship for schoolchildren, the development of new low-tech machines on board and numerous actions in the field.

THE STOPOVER PROGRAMME

This stopover is organised around two main themes:

- Meet and exchange with local recycling entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions to pollution ;
- Explore and share alternatives for building a plastic-free world.

Provide technical training to recycling entrepreneurs

From **September 4th to 8th**, the expedition team will offer a training programme in recycling techniques to local teams, helping to develop skills and promote sustainable management of plastic waste. The first part, in the form of masterclasses, will welcome between 150 and 200 professionals and students from the sector. The second part, focusing on experimentation and prototyping on board the ship in the Plastic Odyssey recycling workshop, will be aimed at a dozen entrepreneurs selected through a call for applications for the innovative approach of their project.

Discovering low-tech recycling initiatives on the field

Throughout the voyage, the Plastic Odyssey expedition teams will visit local initiatives that are turning plastic waste into resources through the ingenuity of alternative technologies. We are looking for committed players in the sector, so don't hesitate to contact the Plastic Odyssey teams via [the online form](#).

Present an exhibition on alternatives to plastic

From port to port, the ship carries the exhibition «**Les Malles aux Trésors**» : a library of solutions and objects from around the world to replace plastic. The nomadic exhibition is enriched with new objects at each port of call, highlighting the solutions discovered during the expedition. It will be completed by the Dominican reduction initiatives discovered during our stopover in Santo Domingo.

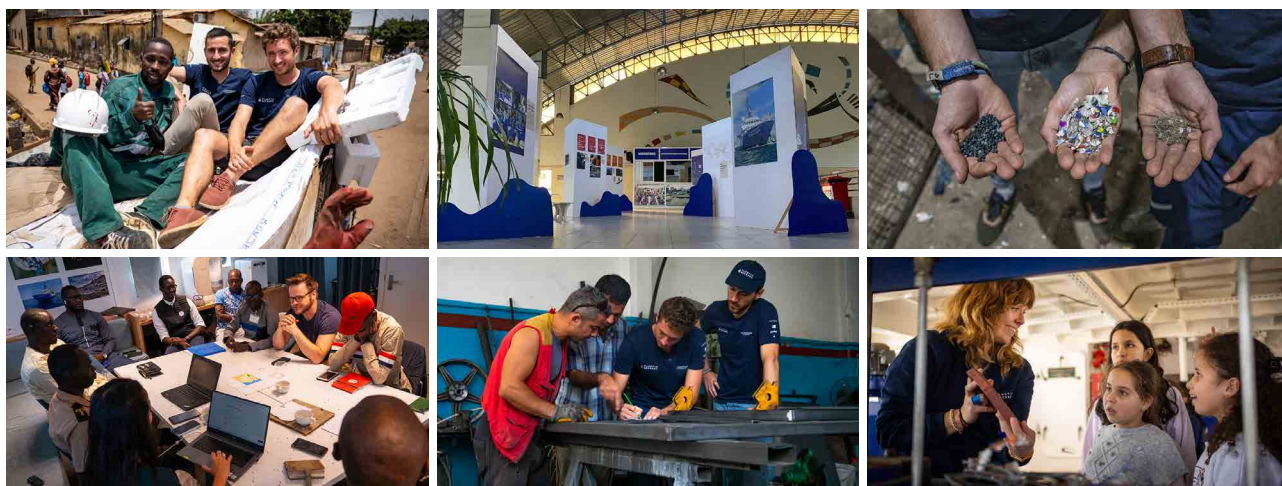
The exhibition is free and open to all at Espace Montesino **from September 6th to 10th**.

Sharing our experience with school children

As raising awareness of plastic pollution is central to building a more sustainable world, young people of all ages are invited to visit the ship and meet the crew from 11 to 15 September 2023, as part of school partnerships with the expedition.

Finding solutions to reduce plastic

The Plastic Odyssey team is also conducting a global research program to understand how we can break our addiction to plastic. Visit plasticodyssey.org to learn more.



OUR STOPOVER PARTNERS

El Fideicomiso do Sostenible is a key partner of Plastic Odyssey's stopover in the Dominican Republic, supporting the expedition throughout the organisation of the stopover. From the communication and logistic of welcoming the ship to the opening and closing events, media production, working hand in hand with the Foundation's team is a mark of this institution's commitment to environmental issues, particularly the protection of the ocean and coastlines.

The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources has made a major contribution to the preparations for the arrival of the Plastic Odyssey ship, in particular by helping to identify and establish contacts with the local ecosystem and key players in the region.

The Port of Sansouci welcomed the Plastic Odyssey ship to the Punta Torrecillas area in the best possible conditions, enabling visits to the ship for as many people as possible, especially schoolchildren, with over 200 children expected on board during our stopover.

The French Embassy in the Dominican Republic supports the Plastic Odyssey expedition and has provided invaluable support to the entire team to make this stopover a success. The French Embassy is aware of the importance of such innovative initiatives with an international scope and of the development of Franco-Dominican cooperation projects focusing on environmental protection and the fight against pollution.

The Franco-Dominican Chamber of Commerce and Industry has supported Plastic Odyssey's stopover in the Dominican Republic from the outset and is organising various events in collaboration with the ship for members of its business network.

THE REST OF THE EXPEDITION

After this stopover in the Dominican Republic, the Plastic Odyssey expedition team will head to Costa Rica, then Panama, where it will cross the Canal at the end of October and continue to discover Central and Latin American initiatives until the end of 2023, before heading to Asia in 2024. The boat will be an ambassador for the fight against plastic pollution in these continents. The team will meet the actors who are building the world of today and tomorrow, with the aim of creating a global network of solutions to curb plastic pollution.



WHAT IS PLASTIC ODYSSEY?

Plastic Odyssey was created in 2016 on the initiative of Simon BERNARD, Alexandre DECHELOTTE and Bob VRIGNAUD, two young sailors and an engineer, all three of whom are passionate about low-tech and respect for the environment. It is based on a simple observation: 20 tonnes of plastic are dumped into the ocean every minute. Once at sea, most of this plastic cannot be recovered. The project's action is therefore focused on land, with two main pillars:



Clean up the past: For over four years, Plastic Odyssey has been developing low-tech, open-source technologies to turn plastic waste into resources, treating waste already generated on land before it enters the ocean. The goal of these machines is to economically develop the plastic waste processing industry: creating jobs while tackling pollution at its source.



Build the future: Turning plastic waste into resources isn't enough! In order to eliminate plastic pollution in the long term, Plastic Odyssey is working on several awareness-raising programmes aimed at the communities most affected by plastic pollution. The aim of these programmes is to give everyone access to the concrete solutions that exist to avoid using plastic.

Plastic Odyssey invites local and international media to join them on this stopover. There will be opportunities to interview the expedition team to discuss the progress, discoveries and challenges encountered during their stay.

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You can scan this QrCode to see more resources (photos/videos) and the press kit.

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