

## **FRENCH MINISTER OF ECOLOGY RUGY LAUNCH OF A CALL FOR PROJECTS ZERO MARINE WASTE**

### **TO REDUCE IMPACT OF WASTE**

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**USPA NEWS** - Further to the meeting of signatures of Contracts of convergences and transformation ». by French President Macron and French PM, Edouard Philippe, at Ministry of overseas yesterday, François de Rugy, Minister of State, Minister for the Ecological and Solidarity Transition, Annick Girardin, Minister of Overseas Territories and Brune Poirson, Secretary to the Minister of State, Minister for Ecological and Solidarity Transition, announced the launch of a call for projects to reduce the impact of waste, including abandoned or lost nets and fishing gear, on marine biodiversity in overseas territories.

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Waste, nets and fishing gear abandoned or lost at sea have a considerable impact on biodiversity and marine fauna, notably by creating entanglement phenomena. Today, it is considered that a large majority of marine litter comes from onshore activities; plastic waste represents almost all of them.-----Faced with these alarming findings, a call for projects is launched to propose concrete, effective, sustainable and replicable solutions to reduce the impact of this waste on the marine environment. This is in line with the objectives of the Biodiversity Plan and the Overseas Blue Book, which aim to build a pollution-free economy with low impact on biodiversity, with a goal of zero plastics discharged into the sea by 2025.-----

The call for projects aims to carry out operations of localization of areas where waste accumulates, their recovery and prevention and recovery solutions. The objective is also to conduct pilot waste recovery operations with fishing professionals.

Candidates have until November 8, 2019 to apply for assistance. The total budget allocated for this call for projects is 300 000 euros, to be divided between the selected projects. This initiative is part of the strategy "Zero Waste in Overseas" initiated by Annick Girardin which Brune Poirson was able to help this morning during a meeting at the Ministry of Ecological Transition and solidarity with elected officials -sea. In particular, she had the opportunity to remind them of the state's desire to fight against the plastic pollution they are mainly confronted with.

#### **Article online:**

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