

Check upon delivery



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

## **Opening Remarks**

**Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility**

**Viewing of the movie “Oceans”  
Copacabana Room  
4<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly, Punta del Este, Uruguay  
Monday May 24 @ 18h**

Tonight marks the South American debut of the movie Oceans, and we are honored to have its acclaimed director Jacques Perrin with us tonight. We all work very hard to raise awareness about the state of the world's oceans. But the impact of this one film I am sure will be far more dramatic than a thousand press releases. What really brought this home to me was an article in Time magazine where the reviewer said that in France "a movie with a bunch of fish" was TWICE as popular than another film starring the big Hollywood star George Clooney!

Now, some of you may not have read Time magazine. But if one needs a reminder that what is bad for the oceans is bad for us just look at a website or turn on a television: the huge oil spill in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico is a punishing

We're here tonight to change the tide. One step at a time and this film moves us in the right direction.

What we are about to see has been called the "new mark for nature films" and you will agree with me after you see this masterpiece. This is NOT a static slideshow or a powerpoint presentation. Monsieur Perrin and his team travelled the world for four years, making 70 expeditions to 54 locations. And thanks to new technology perfected for this film the cameras move with the same speed and agility as dolphins and whales. You are transported with these beautiful creatures to see the oceans as no one has ever seen it before.

UNEP joins us in our support of this effort, with a public information and education campaign in both developed and developing countries that will help further ocean research and understanding of the huge challenges we face today

keeping the seas safe for future generations. The plight of the oceans is not a one country issue, it is borderless and the GEF in its capacity of investing locally for global impact looks forward to building awareness and sparking action.

It's time we reach out to save our oceans and we count on you all to help us.  
Thank you and enjoy the show!