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Media Release

The Embassy of France in Australian welcomes the port of call in Australia of the French scientific schooner Tara.

The Tara Pacific Expedition, undertaken over two years across the Pacific, will significantly contribute to a better understanding of coral reef ecosystems in the region and the effects of climate change on biodiversity.

This mission demonstrates France's engagement in scientific and climate research and the necessity of strong international partnerships to support it.

The Embassy of France also welcomes the support provided by Australian authorities to the research conducted by the Tara on the Great Barrier Reef.

France and Australia - founding members of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) - are playing a key role in the preservation of reef areas, which are at the forefront of the impact that climate change and human activity have on biodiversity.

France recognises the urgency to develop a greater understanding of reef ecosystems and of the conception and promotion of mechanisms that are necessary for their resilient management required to ensure their survival. Both France and Australia underlined this at the 2016 climate change conference (COP 22) through a joint communiqué. We continue to work together to develop innovative international initiatives to protect coral ecosystems as we approach COP 23 and the general assembly of the ICRI that will take place in December in Nairobi, Kenya.

France and Australia possess world class research capacities on the study of coral reefs. Science and technology cooperation is a key component of the bilateral partnership between France and Australia and the visit provides a timely opportunity to further our research and innovation cooperation.

France and Australia both are Pacific innovative nations. Today's round table on the protection of coral reefs at the Australian National Maritime Museum demonstrates our efforts to protect the world's natural heritage, and to tackle the challenges that it confronts.

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