



Venture  
Philanthropy

**For Immediate Release:**

For Pristine Seas press inquiries, contact:  
Kirsten Weymouth  
Senior Communications Director  
Pristine Seas  
+1.703.938.4995  
kweymouth@ngs.org

For LGT VP press inquiries, contact:  
Nava Emilia Anvari  
Investment Manager  
LGT Venture Philanthropy  
+254.742.075.215  
nava.anvari@lgtvp.com

## LGT Venture Philanthropy Partners with National Geographic Pristine Seas to Protect and Restore Marine Life

Washington, DC, United States, August 13, 2021 – LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation (LGT VP) announces a new engagement with National Geographic Pristine Seas, to provide flexible funding and capacity building support for the creation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Pristine Seas will work with local communities, governments and partners through 2030 to establish 40 new MPAs and catalyze the global community to protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Enric Sala, Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society and award-winning author of *The Nature of Nature: Why We Need the Wild*, formed Pristine Seas in 2008 to address the challenges of overfishing and ocean exploitation. Pristine Seas has been instrumental in the creation of 23 of the largest MPAs worldwide, covering an area twice the size of India or 6.5 million km<sup>2</sup>. The ocean covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface, and shelters an incredible diversity of life, yet only 7% is currently protected. The science shows that establishing highly protected marine reserves where fishing and other damaging activities are banned can help the ocean recover and restore biodiversity, protect carbon stocks and increase our food supply.

LGT VP engages with organizations that protect or regenerate marine and terrestrial ecosystems, empower local communities and protect the Commons, combating Climate Change in the process. "The ocean has this incredible ability to regenerate itself, if left undisturbed. Pristine Seas' intervention is elegant in its simplicity, helping to protect vital areas in the ocean important to biodiversity, climate change and livelihoods," explains Oliver Karius, CEO of LGT VP. "Pristine Seas' unique combination of deep scientific knowledge, compelling media capabilities and passion makes them and the team at National Geographic Society ideal partners for LGT VP, and we are thrilled to support their ambitious journey to the '30x30' goals of environmental protection."

"We're excited to partner with LGT VP on expanding the protection of the ocean. We will be able to achieve the protection of at least 30% of the ocean by 2030 only by working together with world-class organizations that complement each other's skills and impact," says Sala.

*National Geographic Pristine Seas is an exploration, research and media project founded and led by National Geographic Explorer in Residence Enric Sala. The Pristine Seas team is comprised of determined scientists, policy experts and filmmakers*

who work to inspire the creation of protected areas where marine life can thrive—while ensuring effective management for years to come. Pristine Seas has helped to inspire the creation of 23 marine reserves, an area totaling over 6.5M square kilometers. Learn more at [nationalgeographic.org/pristine-seas](https://nationalgeographic.org/pristine-seas).

**LGT Venture Philanthropy** is an independent charitable foundation established in 2007 with teams in Switzerland, Sub-Saharan Africa and India. The foundation strives to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people, contribute to healthy ecosystems and build resilient, inclusive and prosperous communities. LGT VP deploys philanthropic capital to organizations with effective, innovative, and scalable solutions to social and environmental challenges, thus directly contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit [www.lgtvp.com](http://www.lgtvp.com).

###