



# OLYMPIC SURFING 2024 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MEDAL



# **CAMPAIGN PROMISES**

## **DUTY, RESPECT AND ADAPTATION**

Statement by Mr. EDOUARD FRITCH (ex president of French Polynesia) dated March 3, 2020:

- "Ecology, the environment, and the principles of sustainable development will be at the heart of the Teahupoo project... Sustainability on an environmental level: the Teahupoo wave is a gift from nature. Polynesians have a duty to preserve this gift. This preservation involves respecting the ecosystem of the site, including the preservation of the coral reef, the lagoon, the river, and terrestrial and marine biodiversity. In summary, to be sustainable, the competitions and the organization of the 2024 Olympics will adapt to the Teahupoo site, not the other way around. The natural beauty of the Teahupoo site will be preserved to the maximum."



# PARIS 2024 MAIN WISHES

<https://www.paris2024.org/fr/heritage-ambition-environnementale/>

Paris 2024 has made environmental responsibility a key focus of its bid and now its organization. This concept guides us in every stage of the project's design. Our ambition is collective: the City of Paris, IOC, IPC, businesses, CNOSF, CPSF, experts, associations... To ensure that the impact extends beyond the Games, we work with committed partners.

**SUSTAINABILITY.** "By leveraging 95% of existing or temporary sites, Paris 2024 has chosen sustainability. Building less significantly reduces carbon footprint and allows us to celebrate the rich architectural heritage of France by using the most beautiful Parisian landmarks as venues for sports.

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# PARIS 2024 CLAIMS

« To halve emissions related to the organization, Paris 2024 relies on frugality, efficiency, and innovation. At every level, Paris 2024 seeks, tests, and develops innovative solutions to deliver responsible Games, in collaboration with all stakeholders: 100% renewable energy during the Games, circular economy, sustainable food, responsible digital practices, clean mobility for the Olympic fleet, public transportation, and sustainable mobility options for spectators, biodiversity preservation, water management... When solutions exist, these Games will serve as a platform to scale them up. »

« When these solutions do not exist, they will serve as a lever to stimulate innovation through the expertise of SMEs, startups, actors in the social and solidarity economy (ESS), local communities, and all innovation stakeholders to whom Paris 2024 intends to give a leading role in delivering these Games. For instance, in 2019, Paris 2024, in collaboration with the French government, launched a call for projects related to off-grid energy production (innovative backup electricity solutions) that emit little to no pollutants and greenhouse gases. The first solutions are starting to emerge and will be tested in real-world conditions as soon as possible. »



# THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE GAMES

« The committee for the ecological transformation of the games supports Paris 2024 in its climate and environmental strategy across the entire project scope (carbon impact, biodiversity, circular economy, energy, catering, digital, temporary structures, innovation, and change management). This committee plays an advisory role and monitors the implementation of commitments. Presided over by Gilles Bœuf, the Committee for the Ecological Transformation of the Games consists of nine experts. »

# On site reality and abyssal expenses

- The announced cost is 527 million XPF, which is approximately 4,428,571 Euros.
- 97,943,500 XPF (approximately 823,054 Euros) for the foundations, awarded to BOYER COMPANY through a negotiated procedure (Announcement No. 55836 in the Journal Officiel de la Polynésie Française on April 4, 2023).
- 58,900,273 XPF (approximately 494,960 Euros) for the underwater network, awarded to CEGELEC – Polynésie through a competitive bidding process (Announcement No. 88948 in the Journal Officiel de la Polynésie Française on April 4, 2023).
- 161,716,911 XPF (approximately 1,358,965 Euros) for the aluminum structure.



# A financial extravagance for 3 days of competition

- The contract awarded to NAUTI SPORT INDUSTRIE through a competitive bidding process: 59,949,774 XPF, which is approximately 503,779 Euros.
- The technical lot awarded to CEGELEC POLYNESIE through a competitive bidding process: 59,949,774 XPF, which is approximately 503,779 Euros.
- The total cost of the four lots is 378,510,458 XPF, equivalent to approximately 3,180,760 Euros.
- The cost per day of competition is 175,600,000 XPF, which is approximately 1,476,190 Euros.



# Their innovative and grand sobriety





# The large scale LIES

In order to achieve this noble aspiration, the new arbitration tower for the Surfing Olympic Games in Paris 2024 has been designed to meet the requirements of the event, even though a wooden tower has been in use by the WSL for several years during its annual competition.

This tower is a 3-story aluminum platform, including:

- An air-conditioned room for internet servers and electronic terminals powered by an underwater cable supporting a capacity of 30KVA, extending over 800m and connected to the coast.
- A restroom with a sink using the same waste disposal system as that of airplanes, connected to a pipeline spanning 800m of lagoon for the supply of water and the disposal of human waste on land.



**Innovation, 100% renewable energy:** To achieve these Olympic ambitions, here are the options chosen by French Polynesia to meet the requirements of Paris 2024:

- Image transmission through a fiber optic cable brought from the land via an 800m-long underwater cable.
- A 20cm-wide and 800m-long cast iron casing containing a water supply pipe, a wastewater disposal pipe, an electrical cable, and a fiber optic cable, connecting the Judges' Tower and the coastline."

The passage appears to be raising questions about the use of what is described as traditional, outdated, and environmentally destructive technology in the context of striving for innovation and environmental responsibility in the Paris 2024 Olympics. It questions whether these choices align with the goals and principles of the Committee for the Ecological Transformation of the Games.



# The preservation and respect for the marine environment

**Actions taken by Paris 2024, with the complicity of the previous local government, in regard to PRESERVING and RESPECTING the marine environment of Teahupoo. It outlines several actions and decisions, including:**

- The absence of a prior Environmental Impact Assessment, resulting in no evaluation of the risks faced by marine biodiversity or recommendations for companies conducting underwater work. There was no assurance regarding the potential invasion of ciguatera, a toxic algae that poisons fish and consumers, which is often observed after marine development work. There was also no requirement for monitoring and tracking of environmental impacts.**
- The imposition of an oversized tower compared to its function.**
- The installation of 12 underwater concrete foundations, each held in place by 3 to 6 metal micropiles driven 4 meters deep into the coral reef, with associated risks.**

**The passage highlights concerns about potential environmental risks and impacts due to these decisions and actions taken in the context of the Teahupoo marine environment for the Paris 2024 Olympics.**



# Environmental responsibility in question

The passage describes the installation of an underwater cast iron pipeline, approximately 20 cm in diameter, connecting the arbitration tower to the mainland, spanning nearly 800 meters. This pipeline is used to transport water, wastewater, energy, fiber optics, all across a lagoon with limited accessibility due to shallow water and the presence of numerous coral heads that are at risk of being destroyed for state-related reasons.

The passage raises concerns about the perforation of the coral platform to install micro-piles for the foundations of the arbitration tower. This action carries the risk of weakening the reef and the potential for its collapse in the short, medium, or long term, particularly the fault responsible for the formation of the Hava'e wave. The environmental and ecological impacts of these actions are being questioned.



# THE ABSENCES

Regarding the Arbitration Tower, the Vai ara o Teahupoo, an association for the protection of Fenua aihere, and the resident surfers in the area denounce:

- The lack of consultation with the political authorities, the Institute of Youth and Sports of French Polynesia, the project owner, and the organizers of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games with the key stakeholders of Teahupoo, including environmental protection associations, non-professional surfers, and lagoon fishermen, in the design and approval of the project.
- The lack of transparency in this matter. To date, there is no GPS indication of the exact location of the structure at the Division of Land Affairs, except for a temporary occupation permit for a maritime area of 4,000m<sup>2</sup>. There are no site plans, no architectural plans, and no environmental impact statement at the Directorate of the Environment (DIREN).
- The absence of authorization for the construction of such a structure in the maritime domain, hence no urban planning and development constraints.
- The absence of the Directorate of the Environment in the management of this matter.

The passage outlines concerns about the lack of consultation, transparency, regulatory authorization, and the involvement of key environmental and regulatory authorities in the construction of the Arbitration Tower in Teahupoo.



# THE SACRIFICE OF TEAHUPOO FOR 3 DAYS OF COMPETITION

- The lagoon being disrupted by the movement of barges carrying equipment and materials required for construction, potentially necessitating the widening of the existing channel and the displacement of corals.
- The potential disappearance of lagoon biodiversity, including habitats.
- The risk of poisoning fish, which are a food source for the local population.
- The potential endangerment of the reef fault, which is responsible for creating a world-renowned and unique wave.



# OUR PROPOSITIONS

FROM MATA ARA IA TEAHUPOO ( VAOT Vaiara o Teahupoo environmental organization + local community + local surfers)

**MADE SEPT 9TH 2023**

- The use of the existing wooden tower, which has proven to be strong and effective over several years, even during large swells.
- Power supply through photovoltaic solar panels on a floating platform (already in use in France) or a generator coupled with photovoltaics.
- The use of Wi-Fi for image transmission.
- The use of dry toilets and hand sanitizers for hand disinfection.
- Limiting the number of people on the Judges' platform to 25.
- Positioning journalists and officials on an elevated platform on land



# UPDATES after Oct 16th 2023

**NEW PROPOSITION** after the meeting between the different associations of Teahupoo and the different actors in charge of the construction of the judging tower

Mata Ara ia Teahupoo proposes to move 450 meters back and install their removable tower on land at Pointe Fare Mahora

## BENEFITS :

- LAGOON OF TEAHUPOO PRESERVED
- LAGOON BIODIVERSITY PRESERVED
- BIODIVERSITY MAINTAINED
- NO RISK OF FISH POISONING
- REEF FAULT CREATING THE PERFECTION OF THIS WAVE PRESERVED
- REDUCTION IN THE COST OF THEIR TOWER







# The Perpetuation of the DIVINE HERITAGE

The consecration of the gods of Olympism from the Occident should NOT disturb the existence of the Māōhi deities.

On Polynesian lands, the mineral, the vegetal, the animals and all the natural elements are considered as emanations of a higher spiritual source called TUMU NUI, the Creative source.

At the mouth of the river Tiirahi, Taaroa comes to meet Tāne, their waters embrace in the embrace of life.

When Huatau blows, the wave swells majestically at Hava'e.

To offer the children of Teahupo'o its divine matrix.

**THIS HERITAGE MUST REMAIN INTACT**



# TEAHUPOO THE LAND OF THE GODS



CREDIT PHOTO @MANEA FABISCH



**A TIÀ MAI NO TE PĀRURU I TE TAIROTO  
E TE ÀRE O TEAHUPOO**

THANKS TO THOSE WHO RESPECT AND PRESERVE THE WELL-BEING AND INTEGRITY OF TEAHUPOO AND ITS POPULATION.

A PEACEFUL MARCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 15TH AT 11 AM, STARTING FROM THE TEAHUPOO TOWN HALL TO PK O.

SUPPORTERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR TEAHUPOO AND ITS WAVE ARE WELCOME.

PLEASE BRING TĪ LEAVES BRAIDED, WHICH WILL BE PLACED AT THE SPOT BY OUR SURFERS