To the President of France Mr. Emmanuel Macron
Elysee Palace
55 Rue Du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris, France
8 February 2023

Re: Social and Environmental Organizations request for TotalEnergies to halt oil and gas exploration and extraction projects in South Africa

Dear President Macron

Social and Environmental Organisations, Coastal Communities in Southern Africa and France have committed to the defence of nature and human rights. We are writing to you since your country is the headquarters of TotalEnergies to immediately abandon all new hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects that TotalEnergies is developing off the South African coast.

We know that on September 5, 2022, TotalEnergies applied for a production license to develop two large gas fields, which could hold up to one billion barrels of oil equivalent, off the southern coast of South Africa. A few days later, an article reported that TotalEnergies were planning to invest about $3 billion to launch operations in South African waters, which are characterized by spectacular marine biodiversity and serve as a "blue corridor" and feeding or nesting ground for thousands of whales, seals, penguins, petrels, albatrosses, gannets and endangered leatherback turtles.

TotalEnergies is also involved in oil and gas reconnaissance applications all around the South African Coast, actively pursuing a development path that risks the livelihoods of current and future generations of coastal communities.

Civil society and artisanal fishers have been alerting the company for months: they are knowingly developing oil and gas projects in an area of unequalled strong marine currents that have so far forced TotalEnergies to abandon the exploitation of hydrocarbons buried under the ocean floor. Nature has long been stronger. Now, TotalEnergies' technological genius is enabling to meet the challenge of the staggering currents at the tip of Africa. But "can" does not mean "must".

The "duty", of Mr Pouyanné, is to make TotalEnergies an exemplary company. They *can* destroy nature and the climate, but we feel they *must* protect them rather. He runs one of the world's largest companies. They have a greater responsibility because their activities have a direct impact on the future of humanity and determine the planet's habitability. Moreover,TotalEnergies have more than any other entity, the financial   means to both transform activities to make the energy transition of our societies to reach the goal of net zero C02 Emissions by 2050.

In your words Mr President: "the climate mustn't pay the price". We applaud the law to ban all fracking and oil extraction in all of Frances territories in light of that could you also advise French Company TotalEnergies to leave our oceans.

Make Mr. Pouyanné aware that the planet is burning at both ends: the climate is warming at the rate of the most pessimistic scenarios and biodiversity is disappearing at a speed unprecedented in the history of life on Earth. The IPCC climate scientists warn us about the suffering future that is promised to us if we do not immediately and drastically reduce our CO2 emissions. The International Energy Agency has reiterated that no new fossil fuel extraction projects should be built. The UN Secretary General denounced the "moral and economic folly" of investing in new fossil fuel infrastructures.

Yet TotalEnergies persist in ignoring the frightening reality that is no longer an "inconvenient truth" but a "killing truth", which is materializing every day before our eyes.

We would like you as the French President to intervene on behalf of coastal communities in South Africa and request TotalEnergies Chairman to keep fossils in the ground, Send out this strong message from coastal communities to TotalEnergies Chairman, Keep it in the ground and put your total energy and TotalEnergies at the service of humanity and biodiversity.

Give hope to the youth and we look forward to the announcement that TotalEnergies will be giving up Promethean projects in South Africa.

Sincerely yours,