

2021 ACTIVITY REPORT



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# THE VEOLIA FOUNDATION

The Foundation supports community-oriented, nonprofit projects contributing to sustainable development, in France and abroad.

Its priority areas of action are humanitarian emergencies and development aid, employment and social links, and environmental conservation and biodiversity.

It takes an original approach by having each project supported by a Group employee acting as sponsor and by encouraging skills sponsorship, which gives its partners – nonprofits and institutions – access to the know-how of its Veoliaforce network of employee volunteers.

Since its creation in 2004, the Foundation has supported more than 1,500 projects and carried out more than 200 skills volunteering missions.



## EDITORIAL



### ANTOINE FRÉROT

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Veolia and President of the Veolia Foundation

The fight for ecological transformation takes place on many fronts. The Foundation participates at its own level, in its three main areas of activity: the conservation of nature, the fight against poverty and emergency humanitarian aid.

In this 21st century, the people forgotten by development still number in the billions. They lack access to electricity, drinking water, sanitation and education, among other things. They are several transitions behind: the energy transition, the water transition, the urban transition and the transition to a low-carbon world. One of the Foundation's missions is to help them make up for this lost time. It brings them water that does not make them sick, renewable energy, safe sanitation services, and so on – but also the promise of a better future.

**“The Foundation conveys a share of the world’s dreams.”**

Making up for all this lost time is a task that may seem Herculean, and indeed it is. The Foundation has neither the pretension nor the means to accomplish it; its ambition is to make significant

contributions to its areas of expertise that open up a path, instigate a transition, and lead to a transformation. It acts when what is vital is at stake, it goes where others do not, it takes action when everything collapses, it perseveres when despair saps human will.

The Foundation shares the Veolia Group's demand for excellence and implements it in its actions, whether they concern humanitarian emergencies – for example, to help the thousands of people displaced by the volcanic eruption on the island of Saint Vincent in the Caribbean – or long-term scientific research, by supporting the expeditions of the laboratory ship Tara to study microplastics, biodiversity and the ocean's microbiome. The balance of the oceans, which had remained stable for millions of years, has been upset by humans in less than two centuries. The Foundation is interested in how ecosystems function and in their future because their health and human health are intrinsically linked and protecting human health – like protecting nature and protecting jobs – is part of its mission.

The Foundation never acts alone: it enjoys the support of Veolia's passionate volunteers, experienced partners who boost its capacity for action, and donors and their faithful support. We would like to thank them all warmly. Because humanitarian emergencies, environmental conservation, professional reintegration, and ecological transformation are “team sports.”

For the most part, inventions powering ecological transformation are yet to be made. The Foundation contributes by innovating wherever it operates, in emerging and developed countries. For the Foundation, everyday life, field operations, nature, difficulties and the “real world that resists” are precious laboratories. The new services or technologies it invents with its partners are born out of the needs of the present, but also out of the dreams of those it helps. The Foundation conveys a share of the world's dreams.



## INTERVIEW



### THIERRY VANDELDELDE

Executive Officer of the Veolia Foundation

#### The health crisis caused considerable disruption in 2021. How did the Foundation deal with that?

**Thierry Vandevelde:** Business was not easy, especially travel, but we continued to enable as many people as possible to live better and in good health. On the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent, we moved rapidly after the Soufrière volcano erupted to measure the impact of the ash on water quality. In Equatorial Guinea, commissioned by UNICEF, we analyzed the quality of the water (rivers and groundwater) after the explosion of a munitions depot. And then there is Uvira, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where we have been fighting cholera for several years.

#### How do you fight this pandemic?

**T.V.:** By choosing access to water and, above all, by relying on the collective. The DRC has adopted a national strategy to eradicate cholera, and we are stakeholders in this program, which involves the relevant Congolese public authorities, at the national and local levels, as well as the French Development Agency and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. In short, it is a multisectoral, partnership-based approach, the only one possible for us to move forward together in the ecological transformation that awaits us.

#### How does the Veolia Foundation contribute to achieving this goal?

**T.V.:** Uvira is a life-size learning experience of what the IPCC sets out in its latest report: the violence and increased frequency of extreme climate events. This town of about 200,000 is becoming the unfortunate showcase for climate change. In April 2020, Uvira was hit by severe weather – not unlike the storm Alex in the Roya Valley, France. Many houses were destroyed, and access to water was compromised. In June 2021, Lake Tanganyika was the focus of attention. Its level had not fallen since the first floods at the end of 2020, despite the dry season that began in April. The level began to rise, and the lake inundated urban areas by up to

**“Only adaptive, forward-looking, and multidisciplinary solutions will enable us to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.”**

a hundred meters, submerging homes and causing almost 17,000 climate refugees. Originally, there was a water and health program to fight cholera. Today, we are struggling to organize and sustain access to an essential service in an environment that is more fluid than ever. We are building resilience in the face of climate change, so that no one is forgotten in the necessary ecological transformation.

#### Is your involvement in “One Sustainable Health” part of the same movement?

**T.V.:** It is the same idea: aware of our limitations, we are committed to renewing our approaches in order to be more effective together. Our starting point is that solving today’s threats and tomorrow’s problems cannot be achieved with yesterday’s approaches<sup>(1)</sup>. The health of humans, animals and the environment is closely linked and interdependent. Strategies must be renewed; a global approach must be adopted. That is the meaning of One Sustainable Health (OSH), which is a concept, a strategy, and an objective. A concept because it is based on the recognition of the interconnection between living beings. A strategy because it must inform the public decision-making process. And an objective because it is a lever for improving our understanding of our environment and pre-empting its dysfunctions. The Veolia Foundation is committed to encouraging collective and cross-sectoral action, to shifting the goal posts and changing the paradigm. Our ambition is clear: only adaptive, forward-looking, and multidisciplinary solutions will enable us to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

#### What form does this commitment take?

**T.V.:** We are making our experts and those of the group available. The working groups set up to formulate recommendations for the 2023 World Health Summit include experts from the Veolia Group. This specialized expertise is much sought after, beyond the OSH approach. When UNICEF asks us for assistance in Equatorial Guinea, a Veoliaforce volunteer goes on a mission, but they are not the only one on the job. In this particular case, the laboratories of our scientific and technical expertise department then took water samples to conduct additional analyses.

#### You mentioned the Foundation's Veoliaforce volunteers. What do they get out of a mission?

**T.V.:** The feedback we get makes us very proud, both of the volunteers and of their colleagues who share their workload during the mission<sup>(2)</sup>. And I haven’t forgotten the feedback from their superiors. For instance, Geneviève Leboucher, SVP Access to Water and Sanitation within the Group told us: “Veolia employees develop skills that they can put into practice outside the mission<sup>(3)</sup>.” Being a Veoliaforce volunteer teaches you to work differently, to adapt and to be responsive, skills that are essential in the context of the ecological transformation we are experiencing.

1. To paraphrase the Wildlife Conservation Society, which drew these conclusions at one of its seminars 17 years ago.  
2. Veoliaforce volunteers are Veolia group employees and undertake their missions as part of their work time.  
3. Source: <https://www.veolia.com/en/planetveolias-new-approches-delivering-sustainable-water-management>.

# SKILLS SPONSORSHIP

## MISSIONS



# EQUATORIAL GUINEA: DETECTING WATER CONTAMINATION

## COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF

Water resources are precious and the risks of pollution must be taken seriously. In Bata, Equatorial Guinea, the explosion of a stockpile of ammunition led UNICEF to work with GE-Proyecto to check the quality of the water and identify possible pollutants. The agency drew on the expertise of the Veolia Foundation and KWR (the Netherlands).



The Foundation drew on all the resources of the Veolia Group. The Veoliaforce volunteer in the field, Karim Helmi, was equipped with a mobile analysis laboratory to deliver initial conclusions on the quality of the resource. Then Veolia's Department of Scientific and Technological Expertise (DEST) took over for several months to conduct analyses of the samples taken and forwarded by the volunteer. This chain of skills, from the field to the laboratory, enabled UNICEF to fulfill its mission of helping the government to protect vulnerable people, particularly children.

In Bata, the economic capital of Equatorial Guinea, the explosion of an ammunition depot in March 2021 left the city scarred: more than 100 victims, 700 injured, and a great deal of material damage. To restore access to vital services, it was essential to ensure that the water quality was not contaminated. Consequently, UNICEF, the organization in charge of water and sanitation issues in humanitarian crises, called on the Veolia Foundation and its Veoliaforce volunteers. One of them went with an employee of the KWR Water Research Institute, another UNICEF partner, to boost the expertise available. The mission involved taking samples to identify biological pollution (diseases) and chemical pollution (ammunition residue, etc.). The objective included checking for the presence of geogenic toxic substances in the groundwater (arsenic, fluoride, etc.).



3 QUESTIONS TO...

## VALÉRIE INGRAND

Head of the Analysis Division,  
Veolia Scientific and Technological  
Expertise Department



**“Our research has useful skills for the humanitarian sector.”**

**Veolia's research laboratories are rarely on the front line during Veoliaforce missions.**

**How did your team find itself at the heart of this operation?**

**Valérie Ingrand:** It is indeed the first time that a request from the Foundation has led to the involvement of laboratory activities. And that's a very exciting development. The teams in the Analysis Division had to quickly reorganize their workloads to adapt to the specific conditions of a Veoliaforce mission that involved field sampling and laboratory analysis.

**What did the analyses conducted in the research laboratories reveal?**

**V.I.:** We set up an analytical expertise unit called “chemical fingerprint 4,000,” which involved searching for about 4,000 micropollutants of environmental interest, to which we added the analytical data of 70 explosive residues to complete the spectrum of examination for the context. The results were very reassuring, with pollution levels that are usually found in surface waters in Europe. And no explosive residues were identified.

**What does being a Veoliaforce volunteer mean for a Veolia researcher?**

**V.I.:** For the employees of the Scientific and Technological Expertise Department, working for the Foundation means feeling really “resourceful”: not giving up and moving forward together. On a human level, Veoliaforce volunteering is very gratifying. The Veolia Foundation is not an NGO, but it is recognized by NGOs as a valuable player in the sector. We really saw that. When you're on the second line, it's an experience that makes you very proud. Our research has useful skills for the humanitarian sector, and we saw this very tangibly in Equatorial Guinea and in our laboratories with this assignment.

# MAURITANIA: OPTIMIZING WASTE MANAGEMENT

## NEW COLLECTION VEHICLES

Residents of the town of Atar, Mauritania, now have a much-improved waste collection service.

Municipal teams have been provided with new vehicles and trained in their use.

Waste management is a vital link in a sustainable city, yet it is often the poor cousin of the essential services established by a municipality. In Atar, western Mauritania, a program to improve the waste management chain was launched with the support of the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) and the Veolia Foundation.

### WASTE COLLECTION EQUIPMENT

Vehicles were delivered to the site. The municipality's technical services were equipped with a JCB 20 T loader and a Renault Ampliroll truck with two 20 m<sup>3</sup> removable skips. Then two Veoliaforce experts, José de Graeve, logistics manager at the Veolia Foundation, and Romain Duthoit, a volunteer from the Oissel sorting center (Normandy), left for the site at the end of 2021 to train the local teams in their use. The machinery was checked to make sure it was operating correctly, and training in loader maintenance (lubrication, levels, filters, etc.) was provided. The best location for the skips had to be identified, and Veoliaforce's experts held discussions, particularly with informal waste collectors, to better understand their issues. The social acceptability of waste management had to be taken into account throughout the chain.

### EXPERTISE UPSTREAM AND FOLLOW-UP AHEAD

This expertise sponsorship is part of a support project launched in 2020. The entire sector and its needs were audited during an initial assignment. Then vehicles likely to be used on site were identified in France and their transportation organized. In the field, in addition to training the teams, the two Veoliaforce experts also began work on characterizing the waste in order to look at setting up recycling systems, again in conjunction with the AIMF.



3 QUESTIONS TO...

## ROMAIN DUTHOIT

Head of sorting  
and recovery operations  
in Oissel (Normandy)



“Waste collection  
has taken on a new  
dimension in Atar.”

**Was this assignment in Mauritania your first Veoliaforce assignment?**

**Romain Duthoit:** Yes and, to be honest, I didn't become a volunteer with the Foundation just so I could go to the other side of the world. My intention has always been to be part of a long-term project and, occasionally, when needed, to be able to lend a hand. It so happens that, in my career, I have collected waste and, today, I am responsible for a sorting center. When it came to identifying vehicles that could be given to the Atar town council to optimize waste management, I knew where in my region of

Normandy I would find a loader and an Ampliroll truck (with roll-off containers) which no longer met local requirements but could still be used.

**How did the assignment go?**

**R.D.:** Our biggest difficulty was the language barrier. Very few Mauritians speak French, the vast majority communicate only in Arabic. But we managed to understand each other. We had to, because they asked a lot of questions and we had to go over the use and maintenance with them (lubrication, levels, filters, etc.), in particular of the loader.

**What's the next step?**

**R.D.:** The AIMF is leading a waste characterization study carried out by a local engineering firm to see what can be done in terms of recycling. Consumption patterns vary greatly from one population to another. Take, for example, paper-cardboard: it would be pointless to consider recycling it as the Mauritians feed it to their goats! So we are only at the beginning of the study, but waste collection has already taken on a new dimension in Atar.

# INTERVENTIONS IN THE WEST INDIES, HAITI, AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## EMERGENCIES, POST-EMERGENCIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Veoliaforce assignments have led the Foundation's experts to work on several continents according to the events and development projects in progress.

### IN SAINT-VINCENT AFTER A VOLCANIC ERUPTION

After the Soufrière volcano on the Caribbean Island of Saint Vincent erupted in April 2021, thousands of people were evacuated, threatened by large plumes of smoke and ash. Among the personnel involved in the humanitarian assignment on the ground, Romain Verchère, an engineer from the Veolia Foundation, provided his expertise in water access. His contribution involved using a mobile laboratory to analyze the impact of ash on the water quality.

### IN HAITI AT A HEALTH CARE CENTER MANAGED BY DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Since 2018, the Veolia Foundation has been working with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) to treat wastewater from a hospital in the Drouillard neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. A plant has been designed and the decision made to use biodisks (treatment processes based on aerobic biological treatment with a fixed biomass). The installed unit treats effluent by combining the biodisks with rotating drum filtration and UV-LED disinfection of the residual microbial flora. To achieve this innovative installation, several Veoliaforce volunteers (Antonella Fioravanti, Merel de Wildt and Stéphanie Doualan) traveled to the site to develop the system, test its operation, and train staff in its use.

### IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO FIGHT CHOLERA

In Uvira, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, access to water is being improved to combat epidemics, particularly cholera. In this city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, major infrastructure work has been undertaken to double the production capacity of the water treatment plant, build a reservoir, and upgrade and extend the distribution network. The multi-sectoral strategy that has been in place for more than ten years aims to bring together actors from all relevant sectors. The program involves the Congolese government, the local water utility, international donors, scientific authorities, NGOs, and the Veolia Foundation's expertise in water access and project management. These local and international stakeholders are totally committed to the projects. The Agence Française de Développement (AFD – French development agency) has just renewed its partnership with the Veolia Foundation, which has been working in the field for ten years.



# AT THE HEART OF HUMANITARIAN PERSONNEL TRAINING

## PROVEN EXPERTISE OF COMMITTED PROFESSIONALS

Between training field operators, NGO employees, and Veoliaforce volunteers, the Veolia Foundation is becoming a partner of choice for humanitarian personnel who want to learn about access to essential services.

The pool of Veoliaforce volunteers was expanded by some 30 new experts after a training session in June 2021 in the Mayenne region of France. For three days, employees from all the Veolia Group's business lines familiarized themselves with emergency response techniques and equipment for access to essential services. They practiced installing Aquaforce units – the mobile water treatment units designed by the Veolia Foundation – setting up latrines, and analyzing water quality. A few days earlier, in Dakar (Senegal) and in Lyon (France), the Foundation had worked with Bioforce, the French leader in training, recognized by the international humanitarian community. The Veoliaforce experts taught the personnel enrolled by the Bioforce institute how to use Aquaforce units, which



have become a standard in humanitarian emergency response situations. The WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) expertise of Veoliaforce experts is also called on by the ERUs of the French Red Cross. These Emergency Response Units work in contexts as diverse as earthquakes, floods, tidal waves, and displaced people. The Veoliaforce volunteers placed at the disposal of the Red Cross help to restore access to drinking water for the community under the best possible conditions. The clear aim is to provide humanitarian aid workers with proven expertise and committed professionals to provide appropriate, high-quality solutions.

**Veoliaforce volunteers** are Veolia employees who go on an assignment during their working hours. Supervised by the Veolia Foundation and its partners, they work in the field or remotely to provide access to essential services. The action taken may be in response to a humanitarian emergency or as part of a development project.

# PROJECTS

SUPPORTED



## NGUÉKHOKH EIG

### DRINKING WATER AT AN AFFORDABLE COST IN A REGION WITH HIGH SALINITY

To the southeast of Dakar, the Kaolack region is experiencing a problem with access to drinking water. Due to the proximity of a stretch of sea water, the salinity level in the groundwater is much too high for human consumption. The fluoride level is also abnormally high (3.5 mg/l), to the point that it is harmful for health, as it causes osteoporosis and paralysis.

#### Membrane treatment for drinking water at an affordable price

In 2011, an NGO tried to come up with a reliable solution. With the support of the Veolia Foundation, it rolled out a mini water supply project adapted to the region's particular environment. It was based on the Waterpower process, a Veolia Water Systems innovation that includes pre-treatment of the water using reverse osmosis technology, disinfection treatment, and pH adjustment. Staff received training, and part of the water produced was consumed directly by the residents of the commune at a price of less than 600 CFA francs (approx. 1 USD) per cubic meter. The surplus production, sold by the Borehole Users Association (Asufor) to the people of the Kaolack region, has increased the revenue set aside to renew the facilities. In 2012, the 1985 borehole was damaged, and the installation stopped working. In 2017, following several repair attempts, the public authorities finally committed to the construction of a new deep borehole, which was commissioned early 2018.



#### Sustainable and replicable

The second stage of the project, still monitored and supported by the Veolia Foundation, consists not only in making what was installed in the village of Nguékhokh sustainable but also in considering replicating the model elsewhere. Sustainability is a real issue: in Nguékhokh, the pilot scheme is suffering the effects of the plant's prolonged shutdown. Two successive management committees have not reached the breakeven point for water sales, resulting in water production being shut down for several days. However, not operating the unit on a regular basis is both a financial and a technical risk (membrane durability, as they would become a medium for bacteriological growth, and quality of the water distributed after the osmosis-treated water has remained stagnant for a considerable time in the treated water tank at high temperature). A consultant commissioned by the Foundation spoke with the economic interest group to identify how to improve marketing the water. It was determined that it is necessary to raise awareness among the population and bring the water closer to consumers. The Veolia Foundation decided to support the implementation of these measures in 2021.

Location: **Nguékhokh (Senegal)**  
Sponsor: **Pierre Ascencio**  
Grant: **€15,000**

## INITIATING NEW MODES OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

### DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES

In Senegal and Cambodia, the Foundation has been supporting programs to provide access to essential services for several months. In particular, it has been interested in new models of aquaculture and the autonomous production of drinking water from river water. What do these projects have in common? The early-day experiments end up becoming quasi-permanent operations. The Foundation is renewing its support for several initiatives with the aim of making innovative and effective solutions the start of new modes of production and consumption.

#### A sustainable aquaculture model in Senegal

The Veolia Foundation has been involved in a pilot program with the Senegalese National Aquaculture Agency (ANA) since spring 2020. The project is based on a simplified aquaculture model (see p. 26) with a fishpond and an irrigation system for the neighboring market gardens. The funding provided allows for any corrective measures needed to optimize operations and facilitate production. The clear objective is to allow this virtuous and economically balanced food production model to prosper, and to support its replicability.

#### Autonomous drinking water units in Cambodia

The 1001 Fontaines association is committed to developing water treatment units in Cambodia to improve access to drinking water. After having installed 260 of these "water kiosks," it now wants to start a large-scale expansion phase. The Veolia Foundation, which has been involved in the project since its start in 2004, is extending the support it gives to 1001 Fontaines with the idea of continuing to target rural areas. The aim is to enable families to become small private operators with autonomous drinking water production units.

#### Produce drinking water from river water

In Saal, a village in eastern Senegal, the Foundation has set up a program to provide drinking water to residents from Gambia River water. A river water intake was built to supply the newly installed treatment plant. The Foundation's renewed support will help reduce the environmental footprint and improve economic profitability through the use of solar energy. The program in Nguékhokh, in the Kaolack region of Senegal (see p. 18), will also benefit from this grant.

Locations: **Senegal and Cambodia**  
Sponsor: **Thierry Vandevelde**  
Grant: **€ 170,000**



#### BURKINA FASO

**Association Burkinabé de Courage et de Nettoyage (A.B. Curnet)**  
Waste collection and recovery to help integrate communities experiencing hardship.

Location: **Ouagadougou**  
Sponsor: **Boris Efremenko**  
Grants: **€8,000 and €6,700**  
(the IS&T's solidarity action)

#### TUNISIA

**Solidarity Horizons**  
Renovation of the Gabès Oasis (south Tunisia): sanitation components.

Location: **Gabès**  
Sponsor: **Gilbert Bizien**  
Grant: **€5,000**

## HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

## AND DEVELOPMENT AID

## WAPIDI – WATER FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

**PUBLIC WATER SERVICE AS A STABILIZING FACTOR**

In Mali, the Veolia Foundation, together with various partners, has devised a program to improve the population's living conditions by reducing water stress, particularly in times of difficulty in accessing water. By ensuring the delivery of essential services in marginalized areas, the approach should improve trust between the central government and the population, thereby strengthening the conditions for stabilizing the country.

With the Crisis and Support Center (CDCS) of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Malian authorities, the project involves equipping five sites in the communes of Gao, Gossi, Hombori, Gadiaba Baïssamboula and Kidal with drinking water systems. The infrastructure, installed with ADED<sup>(1)</sup> and SEEBA<sup>(2)</sup>, includes the creation of boreholes with solar pumps and water towers (or the use of existing boreholes), as well as the installation of networks of standpipes and watering places. At the same time, the population and elected officials are trained in how to manage water points to ensure the infrastructure's durability. And a sanitation system around the standpipes and watering places is also planned.

(1) Association pour un développement durable au Mali.  
(2) Sahélienne de l'énergie, de l'eau et du bâtiment.

Location: **Mali**  
Sponsor: **Thierry Vandeveld**  
Grants (reallocation and Crisis Centre of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)): **€77,942 (ADED), €647,381 (SEEBA)**



### VIETNAM

**Asise (Association Solidarité Internationale Santé Éducation) Vietnam**  
A new school for the children of disadvantaged families.

Location: **Dĩ An**  
Sponsor: **Aurélie Tran Ngoc**  
Grant: **€25,000**

### WORLD

**Veoliaforce equipment**  
Renewal of emergency equipment supplies and development of new Veoliaforce equipment.

Location: **World**  
Sponsor: **Damien Machuel**  
Grant: **€280,000**

## DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

**DESIGN AND DEVELOP INNOVATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS**

Innovation is at the heart of the Veolia Foundation's approach. With Doctors Without Borders (MSF), a vast research-action program was launched in 2014 to test new operating methods and new equipment that could be used in humanitarian situations. In concrete terms, MSF is asking the Veolia Foundation for research/action support, informed by the technical skills available within the Veolia Group. In return, the Foundation is making its Veoliaforce volunteer experts available to support MSF in its research and innovation projects on issues related to its activities in the field and in areas close to the Veolia Group's business lines. The subjects cover drinking water, wastewater, waste management and energy:

- Drinking water: hybrid solar/thermal pumping (pilot installation of hybrid pumps in Chad); electrochlorination and inline chlorination module (test at an MSF hospital and two community health centers in Chad); water quality control in distribution networks (biofilms and bacterial contamination, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*).
- Sanitation: continuation of the work begun on biodisks as a wastewater treatment solution (tried in Haiti in hospitals managed by MSF) with a focus on optimizing the disinfection process; wastewater analysis kit to monitor the treatment systems installed; above-ground latrines; bio-activators for digesting excreta in latrines.
- Hygiene and waste: recycling resources and/or disposal; recycled-water hand-washing station; recycling hazardous waste produced by the projects (lead/acid batteries, in particular); identification and treatment methods for hazardous molecules used in therapies, in particular anticancer drugs (cytotoxic molecules).

The objective is to enable MSF to improve control of its environmental footprint and to become more autonomous during its operations.

Location: **World**  
Sponsor: **Damien Machuel**  
Grant: **€160,000**



### MALI

**Fondation Soumaïla Cissé pour l'Espoir et l'Excellence**  
Drilling a bore and a drinking water supply system in an outlying area of Bamako.

Location: **Mali**  
Sponsor: **Thierry Vandeveld**  
Grant (reallocation): **€55,000**

### MAURITANIA

**Association des ressortissants mauritaniens de Bouanzé et de ses environs en France (ARMBF)**  
Renovation of water infrastructure in Bouanzé.

Location: **Bouanzé**  
Sponsor: **José de Graeve**  
Grant: **€90,000**

## ZERO LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT DISTRICTS WHEN REINTEGRATION GOES HAND IN HAND WITH INNOVATION

The Territoires Zéro Chômeur de Longue Durée (TZCLD – zero long-term unemployment districts) program is an innovative mechanism to put an end to long-term unemployment. Trials have been operating since January 2017 under the terms of a law adopted unanimously by the French Parliament in February 2016, and they have now been conducted in a selection of ten districts with populations of 5,000 to 10,000 thanks to the mobilization of several NGOs: ATD Quart-Monde, Emmaüs France, Secours Catholique, Pacte Civique, the Fédération des Acteurs de la Solidarité, among others. The clear objective is to show that no-one is unemployable. The program is based on the belief that the financial cost to society of unemployment can be channeled into creating jobs that meet local needs, thus combining economic development, social cohesion, and the elimination of long-term unemployment in the district concerned. In practice, jobs are created through state-aided employment-oriented businesses (entreprises à but d'emploi, or EBEs), which recruit the long-term unemployed on a volunteer basis, offering permanent contracts at the minimum national wage and with a choice of working hours. Once employed, they carry out work that is useful to the local community but that has been abandoned by the traditional sector due to not being considered sufficiently profitable. The TZCLD projects thus supplement, with proven success, the existing regional dynamics of a return to employment, in particular those developed by the Structures de l'Insertion par l'Activité Économique (SIAEs – structures for integration through economic activity). Since December 14, 2020, a law has secured the status of the first 10 districts involved and has extended the trials to at least a further 50 districts. Public budgets cover some 75% of the cost of a long-term job in an EBE. A national TZCLD association was created to carry out the following four missions: assist the districts wishing to join the program; provide support to the participating districts; learn the lessons from the experiments undertaken and request external scientific assessments; and publicize the program so as to obtain the

long-term confirmation of the right to employment and to exercise a role of citizen watchdog. It helps candidate districts to apply to the Expérimentation Territoriale contre le Chômage de Longue Durée (ETCLD – district experimentation fund against long-term unemployment), which provides the list of districts selected to participate in the experiment. The ETCLD fund is the agency that finances part of the remuneration of the people recruited to work in EBEs. To support the program's ambitions, the Veolia Foundation provides financial support to the TZCLD association as well as to local initiatives, in specifically identified districts, in conjunction with local Veolia teams.

### Five TZCLD regions supported

- Bouffémont-Attainville-Moisselles (Val-d'Oise, Île-de-France), with a project managed by the EBE Bouffémont-Attainville-Moisselles
- Joinville (Haute-Marne, Grand Est), with a project managed by the non-profit Nouvelle équation
- Pontchâteau (Loire-Atlantique, Pays de la Loire), with a project managed by the EBE Espacea
- Vannes-Ménimur (Morbihan, Brittany), with a project managed by the EBE Acsomur
- Le Teil (Ardèche, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), with a project managed by the EBE Activiteil

By targeting a fragile population experiencing extreme precariousness, TZCLD focuses on people who are difficult to access, with the ambitious aim of economic and professional integration. To achieve this, it relies on all possible public and private stakeholders in a given region. This is undoubtedly a key to tackling serious exclusion.

**Location:** France  
**Sponsors:** Philippe Lagrange, Frédéric Coste, Benoît Ringot and Thierry Hugues  
**Grants:** €150,000 (€100,000 for the national association), €10,000 (for each of the regions supported)

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

### THROUGH WORK AND SOCIAL TIES



#### BOUFFÉMONT-ATTAINVILLE-MOISSELLES

(Val-d'Oise, Île-de-France), with a project managed by the EBE Bouffémont-Attainville-Moisselles

#### VANNES-MÉNIMUR

(Morbihan, Brittany), with a project managed by the EBE Acsomur

#### PONTCHÂTEAU

(Loire-Atlantique, Pays de la Loire), with a project managed by the EBE Espacea

#### JOINVILLE

(Haute-Marne, Grand Est), with a project managed by the non-profit Nouvelle équation

#### LE TEIL

(Ardèche, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), with a project managed by the EBE Activiteil

#### FRANCE

##### Dromolib

A bus fitted out to make accessing bikes easier for vulnerable people.

**Location:** Drôme  
**Sponsor:** Philippe Lagrange  
**Grant:** €5,000

#### FRANCE

##### Les Eaux vives

##### Emmaüs

Helping people gradually regain a social and professional life.

**Location:** Nantes (France)  
**Sponsor:** Victorine Vayer  
**Grant:** €15,000 €

## HEKO FARM

### AN OPEN-AIR LABORATORY FOR SHORT-CHAIN MODELS

Based in Marseille, the Heko Farm non-profit was created in response to the climate emergency. It is working on the emergence, in this metropolis, of a regionally differentiated, sustainable and resilient food system.

#### A project in the wake of the construction of the L2 ring road

In Marseille, the A507 urban motorway – or L2 ring road – has led to the redevelopment of many areas within the conurbation and to freeing up vacant and, until now, neglected urban land. Heko Farm took an interest in it. The non-profit contacted the company operating the A507 in order to transform this urban wasteland into a place of greenery and local life called Le Talus. Several programs have taken form on a former landfill site, in the heart of a working-class district: vegetable garden containers for hire, organic production and the sale of fruit and vegetables, a henhouse with fresh eggs for sale, a collective worm farm, etc. Heko Farm works with the integration through employment group La Varappe

to maintain the planted areas (fruit hedges, shrubs, and large trees), operate the urban nursery, and run the market garden and the bioclimatic greenhouse.

#### Solidarity kitchen in 2021

In 2021, Heko Farm worked on the idea of a solidarity kitchen at Le Talus. The key idea is to turn used shipping containers into a shared kitchen open to the public and allowing the inhabitants of the surrounding neighborhoods to participate in the preparation of meals, get training in catering skills, and consume meals. In addition to its classic catering activity, offering a range of sustainable and affordable dishes and products, the kitchen will host educational workshops on sustainable and regional food. Events will also be held on the manufacture of household and cosmetic products with traditional recipes that are both less expensive and more eco-responsible.

Location: **Marseille (France)**

Sponsor: **Hervé Pernot**

Grant: **€20,000**



## ACTA VISTA

### BUILD TO REBUILD

Since 2002, the Acta Vista non-profit has made sustainable professional integration its core business. Between consulting companies, assistance, project management, and the management of integration projects, it has achieved significant results. Its specialty is the conservation and renovation of exceptional heritage sites in France's Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, the Loire Valley, and the Luberon regions. Acta Vista intends to revive learning through action. It carries out workcamps for integration and vocational training in heritage building professions. The people it takes in learn a trade on prestigious buildings with the aim of finding a permanent job.

Acta Vista is particularly active on the coastal strip of the Massif des Calanques: development of the Gardiole and Fontasse domains, maintenance of the ramparts of the Ganteaume and Entrecasteaux forts, and restoration of Fortin de la Cride fort, Caroline Hospital on Ratonneau Island (Frioul archipelago), and Fort Saint-Nicolas.

In 2021, the team focused on the adapted induction required by the growing presence of asylum seekers and refugees. With the support of the Veolia Foundation, Acta Vista is adapting its practices and introducing new methods of support and training. The challenge is to both offer French language training and provide better support for the social and professional integration of people from these backgrounds, who are suffering personal trauma. The program is defined around the triptych of "employ, train, and support," based on the proven expertise of Acta Vista.

Location: **Marseille (France)**

Sponsor: **Hervé Pernot**

Grant: **€20,000**

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### The Maker Space Foundation NPC

A third place based around the circular economy.

Location: **Durban**

Sponsor: **Maria Dinard**

Grant: **€15,000**



### FRANCE

#### Télémaque

"School-business" mentoring to help people improve their social standing.

Location: **France**

Sponsor: **Marc d'Engrémont**

Grant: **€10,800 and €12,150**

## DEVISE A SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE MODEL

SIMPLIFIED AQUAPONICS AND R&D ON AQUACULTURE FEED

The passage seems natural between R&D on aquaculture feed and the real-life trials of a simplified aquaponics model in Senegal. However, they must now be upscaled. That is the purpose of this sustainable aquaculture program that brings together the Agence Nationale d'Aquaculture (ANA) in Senegal and the Paul Ricard Oceanographic Institute (IOPR) in France.

### Sustainable aquaculture in Senegal

In the pilot program supported by the Foundation in Senegal since 2020, a fishpond was built three meters above ground in the middle of fields. A solar pump feeds water to the pond inlet. There are two benefits for the community that operates it: the system produces more than 5,000 kg of fish per year, and the water from the pond, loaded with nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium from the aquaculture, is used to irrigate the neighboring market garden, which has seen its yields increase. As the beneficiaries repay the loan, the EIG can replicate the model and finance other ponds.

### Aquaculture feed research in France

Since 2018, IOPR has been working in the Var region of France, with the support of the Veolia Foundation, on developing an aquaculture feed using insect protein. A formula based on worm meal was successfully tested in 2020. IOPR wants to take things further. In order to host the research effort carried out by its teams, it is developing a platform on the île des Embiez, in the Var region. The aim is to test more virtuous and sustainable inputs such as soldier fly worms and marine worms. The teams do not yet know each other, but the Veolia Foundation wants to pool the support it has already given to these two initiatives and which it is renewing.

The challenge is therefore to organize collaboration between IOPR and the Senegalese ANA, in charge of rolling out the aquaponics model, around a low-tech model of fish and aquaponics production. The ANA will bring its expertise and capabilities for organizing technical training for the farmers. IOPR will provide technical support for installing the pilot hatchery, attempt to identify ways to optimize fish production, and offer aquaculture training in its aquaculture practices laboratory.

By encouraging cross-fertilization on a subject of general interest, the Foundation intends to encourage the emergence of sustainable and replicable models.

Locations: **Senegal and France**  
 Sponsor: **Mathilde Nithart**  
 Grants: **€150,000 (ANA and EIG), €150,000 (IOPR)**



## CONSERVATION

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIODIVERSITY



## OCEAN & CLIMATE PLATFORM (OCP)

A THINK TANK TO GENERATE AWARENESS OF THE OCEANS

Although essential, the role of the oceans in regulating our climate is poorly understood. To make people understand the need to protect marine ecosystems for our own survival, an awareness and advocacy platform is trying to garner the support of international decision-makers. Motivated by this goal, several non-governmental organizations and research institutes pooled resources in 2014 to create a platform called "ocean and climate" (OCP). Launched in the run-up to COP21, the OCP directly helped get the issue of oceans included in the preamble to the Paris Agreement. The OCP is continuing its advocacy work. In 2021, it published a report on Ocean/Climate/Biodiversity solutions promoted by the members of its network to highlight the range of concrete solutions available for protecting marine biodiversity and fighting against the impacts of climate change.

### A broad study of coastal cities exposed to the effects of climate change

The OCP is particularly interested in coastal cities and their relationship with climate change. The aim is to study the risks linked to climate change and to analyze the responses and solutions that may already exist in order to offer an overview to decision-makers and managers in these regions. Called Sea'ties, this program provides a forum for exchanging experience with sustainable solutions, informed by feedback from medium-sized cities with a diversity of climatic, geographical, social, economic, and political contexts. Sea'ties focuses on coastal cities in several regions of the world: Europe, West Africa, North Africa, North America (US West Coast), and the Pacific. The aim is to have adaptation issues included in public policies.

Location: **World**  
 Sponsors: **Mathilde Nithart, Clara Bercovici**  
 Grants: **€30,000, €30,000**

FRANCE

### AuditionSolidarité

Recycling and repairing used hearing aids.

Location: **France**  
 Sponsor: **Sandra Vedel**  
 Grant: **€15,000**



## MONACO OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

**BUILD A GLOBAL REFERENCE CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CORAL REEFS**

The Monaco Oceanographic Institute's purpose is to generate awareness of the oceans and ensure they are loved and protected. Since its creation in 1906, it has brought together scientific, political, economic, and non-profit sector stakeholders as well as the general public in support of its purpose. In 2016, during the International Coral Reef Symposium held in Honolulu (Hawaii), the stakeholders present agreed on the need to consider new solutions to save coral reefs. The creation of a Global Coral Conservatory is one of them. The project is to rely on an existing network of public and private aquariums around the world that will house a unique collection of the majority of scleractinian coral species (hard or stone corals) known to date, in the form of living colonies. The Conservatory has been designed to be a center for resources, research, and scientific studies. It is also a powerful tool for communication and decision-making.

Location: **Monaco**  
 Sponsor: **Manuel Nardi**  
 Grant: **€100,000**

## ONE SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FOR ALL FOUNDATION

**DEVELOP A "ONE SUSTAINABLE HEALTH" APPROACH**

This multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach aims to achieve a global understanding of human, animal, and environmental medicine. The premise is based on the permanent interactions between human activities and living organisms (animal, plant, and environmental). The OSH Forum approach aims to make this integrated, equitable, and global approach to health operational. Without borders between public and private, and national and international players, the approach will be operationally supported by an online platform (OSH Forum) allowing all stakeholders to interact. The process will lead to recommendations for public policies and operational actions in the field to promote health for all. The recommendations will be at the heart of an OSH Forum declaration, which can be adopted at the World Health Summit (WHS) 2022. These recommendations will help guide the public policies and operational programs of governments, international agencies, companies, NGOs, and foundations.

Location **World**  
 Sponsors: **Bénédicte Wallez and Sandrine Sourisseau**  
 Grant: **€25,000**



## ASSOCIATION LES AMIS RECYCLEURS

**A "THIRD PLACE" TO SHARE AND DISCUSS SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW**

At once a cafe/canteen, urban farm, collaborative repair workshop, and resource and learning center, the REcyclerie is a multi-faceted project focusing on eco-responsibility. Opened in Paris in June 2014 in the former Boulevard Ornano station on the old Paris inner ring line, it brings together various visitors (students, start-ups, communities, NGOs, artists, etc.) and organizes a program of events supported by the Veolia Foundation. With 2020 disrupted by the Covid-19 health crisis, the REcyclerie is restarting its activities in 2021 to "REsume control, one year to seize the present." The program is based on three main topics: "Take control to live life to the full and make decisions," "Reach out to renew links and forge others," and "Lend a helping hand to multiply actions and lead the way." The specific activity of the location has been expanded to include events around the Veolia Foundation's 2021 Environmental Book Prize, highlighting the winners and creating podcasts on the works and their authors. All this content is made available to the entire REcyclerie community.

Location: **Paris (France)**  
 Sponsor: **Fanny Demulier**  
 Grant: **€20,000**

### FRANCE

**IUCN French Committee**  
 Improve the protection of mangroves in French overseas territories and manage a network of observations and actions.

Location: **Guadeloupe (France)**  
 Sponsor: **Coline Jacobs**  
 Grant: **€20,000**

### FRANCE

**Veolia Eau Recherche et Innovation (VERI)**  
 Provide expertise to assist the Foundation's work on specific topics in the Mediterranean region.

Location: **Mediterranean Sea**  
 Sponsor: **Thierry Vandeveldde**  
 Grant: **€25,000**

# 2021 ENVIRONMENT BOOK PRIZE

## READING TO AWAKEN PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THE PLANET

Every year, the Veolia Foundation awards the Environment Book Prize to a work that aims to build public awareness of major environmental challenges. For the 16<sup>th</sup> Prize, the jury, chaired by Dominique Bourg, philosopher and professor, announced the winners at the “Le Livre sur la Place” book festival in Nancy (France).



The 16<sup>th</sup> Veolia Foundation Environment Book Prize was awarded to Thierry Libaert for *Des vents porteurs – Comment mobiliser (enfin) pour la planète* (favorable winds – how to (finally) mobilize people for the sake of the planet, published by Le Pommier), and the Youth Award went to Olivier Dain-Belmont and Fachri Maulana for *Permacité! La ville de mes rêves* (Permacity! The town of my dreams, published by Sarbacane).



In his book, Thierry Libaert, a specialist in environmental communication, shares his analysis: borne by a tidal wave of good intentions, we should have all become ecologists, the younger generation in the lead. However, if we look at our behavior, nothing is further from the truth. Our consumption habits, including those of young people, remain firmly anchored in an imaginary world of growth, material success, and purchasable pleasures. Under these conditions, how can we get people to support the greatest challenge of the century? He explains: “We have been fighting the wrong battle: any ecological discourse ‘against’ misses its target. To overcome the general inertia, we need to rethink all the awareness-raising speeches, link climate and ecological issues to our daily lives, offer a new narrative, modify our mental representations, reenchant our imagination. This book offers many ways to (finally!) find the winds to carry us forward.”



In *Permacité! La ville de mes rêves*, Olivier Dain-Belmont and Fachri Maulana tell the story of how Camille and her family move to a “permacity”, an economical and ecological neighborhood, through dynamic images that combine architectural drawings and illustrations for children. Camille discovers this city of the future that has many surprises in store for her. An extraordinary utopia, an adventure that leaves the reader wanting more. The ideas in the book have all already been put into practice around the world. It is enough to give everyone real hope.

**The first national literary award** linked to major environmental issues, the Veolia Foundation's Environment Book Prize was created in 2006 to encourage and promote writers and publishers who contribute to raising public awareness of the planet's major challenges. The jury is chaired by Dominique Bourg, philosopher and professor emeritus at the University of Lausanne, and includes writers, specialists and personalities committed to the environment: Françoise Gaill, Patricia Ricard, Marie-Odile Monchicourt, Stéphanie Bellin, Thierry Vandeveld, Carine Kraus, Gilles Degois, Romain Prudent, Fanny Demulier, and Yannick Poirier.

# 2021 STUDENT SOLIDARITY AWARDS

## RECOGNITION FOR INNOVATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE STUDENT INITIATIVES

Young people, especially students, show a strong capacity for commitment. Created together with the Human Resources Department, the Student Solidarity Award recognizes innovative projects created by tertiary education student associations in connection with the Foundation's major areas of interest.



The Veolia Foundation is regularly asked to support student projects. To channel these requests and encourage the initiatives of student associations, it launched the Student Solidarity Awards in 2008 in liaison with Veolia's Human Resources Department. It rewards innovative outreach initiatives by student associations, in France and abroad. These projects must fall within one of the Foundation's three areas of action. A prize pool of €9,000 is distributed among

the three winning associations. They benefit from the technical support and expertise of their sponsors. For the 2021 Prize, Estelle Brachlianoff, Veolia's Chief Operating Officer, presided over the award ceremony that took place on June 21, 2021, at the Group's headquarters in Aubervilliers (France). She presented the Jury's Grand Prize, explaining: "We need ambassadors, we need students for collective ecological transformation projects that make sense. At Veolia, we do a job that attracts young people, but which is all the more demanding because we have to show the way. We have to live up to our ambitions, and the new generations are asking us questions that we have to answer. At Veolia, what is non-negotiable is the collective. And we believe in human progress because we already have half the solutions for ecological transformation. This is what makes us optimistic and enthusiastic! So, what are we waiting for to move forward?"

## THE THREE WINNERS



**The Cordilleras Association, for the project "À l'Ombre des Glaciers Alpins à Grenoble, Zurich et Innsbruck" | École d'ingénieur AgroParisTech**  
From April to August 2021, the students of the Cordilleras Association of AgroParisTech crossed the Alps from France to Austria, alternating work with glaciology researchers, meetings with local stakeholders, and mountain expeditions. The aim was to study the melting of high-altitude glaciers along the Alpine arc, a victim of climate change, and to raise awareness of the impact of their melting on ecosystems and communities. A project that aims to improve understanding and think up effective solutions that will have a positive impact on the future.

**Hum'am, for the project Jendoub'Arts, a village In Tunisia's Jouaouda tribal area | Arts et Métiers ParisTech (Centre ENSAM de Paris)**

The Jendoub'Arts project is developing a cheese cooperative based at a goat farm together with an association and a school in Tunisia. It aims to empower rural women in Jouaouda, a village in the northwest of the country with high illiteracy and school dropout rates among women and girls. The aim is to develop a local economic fabric and social ties. An exemplary project in terms of support and sustainability.



**The Impulso Association, for the project "Programme agro-ingénieur Impulso Équateur", in Otavalo | École d'ingénieur AgroParisTech | Public Prize**

The program led by Impulso aims to combine female entrepreneurship and inclusion of indigenous Kichwa populations in Ecuador to reduce poverty while supporting the population in the shift towards the agro-ecological transition. Impulso is a microfinance project that combines solidarity, impact and sharing on the ground to help women entrepreneurs.



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