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Student Solidarity Awards

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OUR ACTIONS TO SERVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)







Life below water

Partnerships to achieve the goals The world is in the grip of a serious and unprecedented health crisis. Given our mission, our Group is doing everything it can to ensure the continuation of the essential services we provide for individuals and health systems. Veolia is introducing changes to limit the virus' propagation and maintain drinking water, wastewater and waste and energy services while also protecting its employees, especially those working in the field.

We have a higher level of responsibility than some other companies because the services we provide are essential for everyday life. This epidemic has struck Asia, Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa, indeed everywhere we are present, and our employees are committed to shouldering their responsibility. Our clients are counting on us, hospitals are counting on us, end users and public authorities are counting on us.

Since 1853, we have shown that we are able to counter adversity. Almost 170 years since its foundation, our company has relied on its unique expertise and unfailing commitment to deal with extreme crises, provide solutions and take action where an emergency needs us most.

In this report, you will see that our purpose is defined by our usefulness. More than just words, day after day, we must prove just how useful we are, whatever the situation. Our people work to this end each and every day, strengthened by what this global health crisis is revealing: new forms of solidarity, pragmatism and innovation, and effective solutions that are in place to assist each of us and protect the health of all.

ANTOINE FRÉROT CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF VEOLIA

... 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. "Contributing to human progress by adhering strictly to the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations to build a better and more sustainable future for all – this is the purpose that guided Veolia's action in 2019."

ANTOINE FRÉROT, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This purpose guides both our Group's business activities in water, waste management and energy to serve cities and industry, but also its non-commercial activities, notably those carried out by the Veolia Foundation. Indeed, the Foundation illustrates the very purpose of our company in extreme situations where natural disasters have destroyed everything in their path, where the negligence of human beings has caused severe pollution of land, air and water or where hopes of finding employment have dwindled to almost nothing.

In each of its fields of activity – humanitarian emergencies, environmental conservation and integration through work – the Veolia Foundation makes its own contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. A tiny contribution on the scale of the world's needs, but an important one for the people who benefit from it, as in Mozambique, where it restored drinking water supply after cyclone Idai; in the Great Lakes region in Africa, where it fights cholera epidemics; and in France, where it helps the unemployed move back into the world of work.

Against the tragic calculations of natural disasters and human suffering, against ecological disasters that illustrate both mankind's power and its impotence, the Foundation quietly continues its work through numerous concrete projects that give new hope to our anxious societies and open up a future that looked to be closed. To do this it relies on a network of experienced volunteers available, if necessary, to travel at very short notice to the other end of the world to save human lives, and on a chain of faithful and financial partr

nonprofit and financial partners. Their fidelity corresponds to that of the Foundation and its vocation. It also reflects its effectiveness – there is no right to error when lives are at stake due to lack of safe drinking water or electricity and when every hour counts. Because we cannot trick nature – sooner or later, it turns against those who pollute it or plunder its resources.

What is perhaps less known is that the Foundation is also a testbed for experimentation and innovation. Every year, it invents new equipment better adapted to the needs of humanitarian emergencies; new approaches for polluting less and recycling more, for teaching human beings to use our planet's resources responsibly and without damaging it, new forms of solidarity to bring together even more skills and expand its field of action. Since its creation, the Foundation has been acting to combat poverty and precariousness. It does the same thing through innovation, an ideal way of demonstrating our solidarity with those without access to essential services, with nature, which is both beautiful and fragile, and with future generations. True, the future requires renewable energies and recycled waste, digital technology and the circular economy - but what it needs even more is solidarity.



THIERRY VANDEVELDE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE VEOLIA FOUNDATION

"THE FOUNDATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE GROUP'S PURPOSE, WHICH IN TURN VALIDATES OUR APPROACH: CO-BUILDING INNOVATIVE MODELS, THE ONLY WAY TO ADDRESS THE BIG PROBLEMS FACING OUR SOCIETY."

What do you see as the main highlights of the Foundation in 2019?

Thierry Vandevelde: Our priority emergency intervention in Mozambique in the aftermath of tropical cyclone Idai. Several thousands of people had lost their homes and we had to react rapidly to have a chance of curbing potential epidemics of waterborne diseases. The Foundation was contacted by the Foreign Affairs Ministry and its partners Médecins sans frontières (MSF), the French Red Cross and Solidarités International to work together in the field and deploy the mobile water treatment units – Aquaforce 2000 and Aquaforce 15000 – designed by our experts.

How has the persistence of the emergency led to changes in your missions?

T. V.: Crises tend to persist over time and emergencies can become permanent. However designing facilities for the longer term is not always taken into account – as can be seen, unfortunately, in refugee camps across the world. How can we adapt the



structures in which they are accommodated? How can we improve facilities for refugees and displaced people whose number is constantly increasing? How can we improve health conditions and reduce the negative impacts that these huge gatherings of people can have on their immediate environment? These are all questions for which we are seeking solutions, with our partners. They also inspire our quest for research and innovation in the field of humanitarian intervention

The main United Nations agencies are looking at the question of "greening" humanitarian action. What is your reaction on this point?

T. V.: This concern was formally expressed during the first World Forum on Refugees organized in Geneva in December 2019 by UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. The Foundation can propose solutions to minimize the environmental footprint of refugee camps. With the NGO Solidarités International, in particular, on the Sittwe site in Myanmar, Veoliaforce experts intervened to improve operation and double the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant serving the refugee camps. Our partnership with Médecins sans frontières on innovation in humanitarian work is more topical than ever. MSF is already well advanced on this point and is a pioneer in taking into account the environmental impact of its activities. For our part, we provide assistance in management of the waste generated and utilities (wastewater, low-carbon energy production systems, etc.) in the camps. In Haiti, for instance, the Foundation trialed a system using biodisks for treating wastewater in an MSF hospital.

So, adaptation to climate change has become a central issue of your missions?

T. V.: Yes, and a good example is our pilot project for supplying water to people living along the Gambia River, who must adapt to climate disruption and scarcity of groundwater resources and find new solutions for their communities to thrive. Based on an agreement with the OMVG, the agency responsible for optimum management of the Gambia River, we installed a station for treating river water to produce safe drinking water and a small water distribution network in the village of Saal, in Senegal. The system has recently begun operating without any Veolia volunteer in the field – the challenge is for the population to take ownership of the system, manage it and meet its operating and maintenance costs.

Closer to home, the Foundation is supporting Médecins du Monde in its health monitoring work in unofficial migrant camps in the Paris region. How did this example of collaboration start?

T. V.: In Aubervilliers, where Veolia's head office is located, the Foundation was keen to respond to the concerns of many employees about the living conditions of migrants living in wasteland around the Paris ring road. We started by supporting Médecins du Monde in its emergency medical assistance missions with refugees. Then, in December last year, the NGO came to talk to Group employees. The employees then spontaneously came together around the idea of collecting toiletries and sanitary products – a citizen initiative that mirrors the DNA of our Group!

And in 2019, the Veolia Group defined its corporate purpose. In what way is this approach consistent with the Foundation's missions?

T. V.: The Foundation is an important part of the Group's stated purpose. It validates our approach: co-building innovative models, the only way to address the big problems facing our society. The Foundation creates links with its stakeholders, notably with its powerful network of partners – more than one hundred, including foundations, UN agencies, and scientific and R&D organizations. In this way the Foundation contributes to a better understanding of their expectations, an approach popular with Group employees, many of whom sign up as Veoliaforce volunteers. At our own small scale, faced with crises that exceed our limited capacities, we move ahead with partnerships, we break down silos and we trust in the capacity of the people on the ground to implement responses.

DEVELOPMENT AID

AND HUMANITARIAN **EMERGENCIES**

To live well, people need safe drinking water, food and energy. They also need adequate hygiene and access to healthcare to protect their health. The projects supported by the Foundation, its sponsors and Veoliaforce volunteers are designed to satisfy these basic needs, particularly for vulnerable people.

Adapting to climate change by treating water from the Gambia River to provide safe drinking water

Access to water is becoming more difficult in Saal, in east Senegal. Climate change is further depleting the groundwater resources traditionally used by villagers. For several weeks every year, the wells run dry, leaving them with limited access to quality water and forcing them to use low-quality water that exposes them to diarrhea and related illnesses, the second cause of mortality in children under five. During periods of hydric stress, the families collect water from the Gambia River, and this was the point of departure for the project supported by the Veolia Foundation. The idea is to take water from the river and treat it to supply the village.

Two missions carried out in 2018 by Foundation engineers and Veoliaforce volunteers focused on the project's feasibility. These preliminary works enabled signature of an agreement with its partner the OMVG, the agency responsible for optimum management of the Gambia River, which could eventually be replicated over its entire scope of action. The Foundation also works with the nonprofit Leeket Bi, set up in Senegal in 2010 to combat rural exodus in Africa by fostering village development.

Practically, it involves organizing a raft-based water intake in the Gambia River using a thermal pump connected to a buried pipeline to feed the treatment plant. The infrastructure is comprised of a water treatment unit (lamella plate clarification, sand filtration and chlorination), a 10-meter high water tower with a capacity of 20 cubic meters, a small analysis lab and buried pipes to serve the four village standpipes.

with the OMVG.

SENEGAL



The project also involves community structuring of water access through a municipal management committee and training of technicians.

This operation for producing safe drinking water from the Gambia River is a first in this region. The pilot program could serve as a model for other initiatives as part of the extension project now being developed

Location: village of Saal (Senegal) Sponsor: Pierre-Élie Fratczak Grant: €150,000

Médecins sans frontières

Developing logistics innovations to serve humanitarian action

For almost a decade, Médecins sans frontières (MSF) and the Veolia Foundation have been working in partnership to promote innovative equipment and operating methods in the humanitarian sector. The different Aquaforce mobile water treatment units designed by Veolia Foundation experts have been tested by MSF in Uganda, South Sudan and Kenya. This research and innovation program also covers the issue of sanitation. The Foundation supports MSF in assessing technical solutions for wastewater treatment, in particular via study and forthcoming implementation of a solution for treating wastewater in a pilot hospital in Port-au-Prince, in Haiti. The partnership also has a training

volunteers are assisting MSF with the cultural changes that accompany innovation and carry out missions in the field to familiarize the teams with the equipment made available. For MSF, over and above the efficacy of solutions and processes, the goal is also to limit the ecological footprint of its interventions – an ambition that enables Veoliaforce network experts to place their skills at the service of humanitarian action.

component: the Foundation's Veoliaforce

Location: World **Sponsor:** Damien Machuel **Grant:** €170,000



Akamasoa

Bringing water to the top of Akamasoa with Father Pedro

Akamasoa, on the island of Madagascar, has become a key player in aid to the most vulnerable communities. The nonprofit, whose name means "good and faithful friends" in the Malgache language, sprang from the efforts of Father Pedro Opeka, an Argentinian Lazarist missionary, to help 70 families living in the Andralanitra rubbish dump serving the capital to escape poverty. Under his aegis, it helps families build homes and provides access to education, healthcare and jobs. The project supported by the Veolia Foundation consists of providing access to safe drinking water in the upper part of the village, which has adopted the name of "Akamasoa". For its almost 18,000 residents, some of whom have to walk long distances today to fetch water, it will bring daily benefits.

MADAGASCAR



This access to water will also enable Akamasoa to launch another project: building an inclusive hotel, the Hostel of Father Pedro. The vocation of the establishment is to help residents find jobs thanks to hotel training in the structure before going on to work in other establishments in the country. All the profits generated by the structure, which will have 25 rooms, a restaurant and a shop, will go to the nonprofit Akamasoa, the goal being to turn the hotel into a profitable venture.



Location: Angkor, Siem Reap (Cambodia) Sponsor: Bernard Willinger Grant: €175,000

Association pour la cité hydraulique d'Angkor (Acha)

Preserve the Angkor temples through optimized hydraulic management

The famous temples of Angkor in Cambodia are built on successive layers of sandy soil. The development of mass tourism and population growth in the nearby town of Siem Reap have led to greater pressure on the water table, a development that must be compensated for maintaining the effective irrigation

system created when the temples were built. A first project supported by the Veolia Foundation led to the installation of a remote management and flood control system around the temples. But Acha, the nonprofit for hydraulic management of Angkor, is keen to go further. In 2019, a program named "Sagera" (acronym for Angkor region assisted water management system) led by Acha should take this work to a new stage. The goal today is to develop an assisted water management system relying on the latest artificial intelligence techniques. The project involves installing a network of sensors and a hydraulic management system over 400 km², recharging the water table, improving access to water and sanitation for neighboring populations and facilitating development of market gardening activities.



Médecins du Monde

Improving the environmental health of people living in Manila

In Manila, capital of the Philippines, Médecins du Monde (MDM) is working on the environmental factors affecting the health of low-income urban communities. The NGO looks at the population's exposure to external factors (biological, chemical, physical) likely to have an impact, whether negative or positive, on their physical and mental health. Exposure to these different factors interacts with other health determinants (behavioral, social, psychological, cultural, economic and political)

Location: Manila (Philippines) Sponsor: Damien Machuel Grant: €100,000



Location: Madagascar Sponsor: Nicolas Renard **Grant:**€30,000

They can exacerbate already existing social and geographical inequalities and threaten the most vulnerable groups. After having supported a program to prevent sanitary and environmental risks in Manila, in 2012, the Foundation is once again supporting MDM in the holistic approach implemented to enable residents of Barangay 775 to adopt best practices for themselves. To encourage communities to take ownership of these environmental health initiatives, MDM has chosen to implement a shared approach involving the communities and local authorities. The NGO will be at the center of change by playing the role of facilitator, with the creation of a platform of actors likely to collaborate to act on the different factors, depending on their specific expertise.



Eliminating cholera in Uvira, in South-Kivu

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). also known as Congo-Kinshasa, resurgence of cholera is a major public health problem, particularly in cities. In view of this issue, a number of development actors, including the Veolia Foundation, decided to implement a concerted strategy to eliminate this waterborne disease that causes uncontrollable vomiting and diarrhea. Major infrastructure work has been carried out to double the production capacity of the water treatment plant, build a reservoir and rehabilitate and extend the distribution network. In parallel, midway through execution of the infrastructure works, community structuring is being organized in the field to improve the community's understanding of the new water access system. Lastly, the program is the subject of a scientific assessment carried out by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), which has been monitoring the project since the beginning to measure its effectiveness.

Location: Uvira (Democratic Republic

of the Congo) Sponsor: Damien Machuel **Grant:** €427,000

cleaning truck. **Location:** Galgouli (Burkina Faso) Sponsor: Boris Efremenko **Grant:**€15,000

BURKINA FASO

A.B. Curnet

Helping women in difficulty through

an eco-citizen environmental project

In Ouagadougou, the nonprofit A.B. Curnet,

dedicated to helping young girls and women

in precarious circumstances move back into

mainstream society, focuses on collecting

household waste and transforming it into

compost as a way of allowing its beneficiaries

to find employment. The Veolia Foundation

is helping the nonprofit to buy a hydro-

BURKINA FASO

Burkin'Ardenn'Avenir' (B'A'A')

Extending a water distribution

network for public places

In Galgouli, in the south of Burkina Faso, two primary schools, one junior secondary and a dispensary will be equipped with water access points. The first beneficiaries will be the schoolchildren and the patients of the dispensary-maternity clinic. The village water management committee will be responsible for setting up the water payment system. It will be assisted by the people in charge of the different public establishments.

Location: Galgouli (Burkina Faso) Sponsor: Helman le Pas de Sécheval Grant: €15,000

Un enfant par la main

Diversifying energy sources in a rural area

In Mbour, in the rural region of Thiès (Senegal), natural resources are already widely used as energy sources. Families use wood, farm residues, dried manure and charcoal as fuel for cooking. However, this dependence on plant biomass has negative consequences for the local environment. The project supported by the Veolia Foundation aims to diversify energy sources around Mbour by installing biodigestors,

which produce biogas from organic waste such as human or animal excrement. The goal is to help some 30 families adopt practices that will better protect their environment and their health.

Location: Mbour (Senegal) Sponsor: Alain Gibert **Grant:**€15,000



WORLD

Veoliaforce training sessions

Organization of training and refresher sessions for Veoliaforce volunteers.

Location: France and international **Sponsor:** Romain Verchere **Grant:** €24,000



FRANCE

des Barrails Renovation of a second

integration of very vulnerable people.



ISP Video project covering cholera in the DRC.

Repuplic of the Congo) **Grant:** €40,000



Association Notre-Dame

reception center for social

Location: Preignac (France) Sponsor: Vincent Duchateau Grant: €10,000



blueEnergy

Construction of two wells and workshops to raise awareness of good water practices in the town of Bluefields.

Location: Bluefields (Nicaragua) Sponsor: Luca Pinardi **Grant:** €12.000

the program to eradicate

Location: Uvira (Democratic Sponsor: Thierry Vandevelde

VIETNAM

Association Solidarité Internationale Santé et Éducation

Construction and operation of a humanist and ecological school for the children of poor working-class families in Vietnam.

Location: Dĩ An (Vietnam) Sponsor: Aurélie Tran Ngoc Grant: €25,000

FRANCE

Renewing Veoliaforce emergency equipment inventory

Replenishing supplies of the Foundation's intervention equipment and material: Aquaforce units, drinking water and wastewater analysis kits, etc.

Location: Pantin (France) **Sponsor:** José de Graeve **Grant:** €200,000

SKILLS VOLUNTEERING MISSIONS...

Humanitarian emergency after a cyclone in East Africa

On March 14, 2019, Mozambigue, Malawi and Zimbabwe were struck by one of the most terrible cyclones in their history. With 1,000 deaths and hundreds of thousands of people displaced, Idai had devastating consequences, particularly in Mozambique and Beira, the country's second-largest city. With the French Red Cross, Médecins sans frontières and Solidarités International, the Veolia Foundation mobilized to send equipment and 10 or so Veoliaforce experts.

With winds of over 200 kilometers/hour, Idai developed into a tropical cyclone of an intensity seen only a few times in the cyclone season every year. It hit Mozambique twice, leaving the south of the country facing an unprecedented crisis. In the first few days after the disaster, the international community mobilized to cover the elementary needs of the population: emergency accommodation, water, hygiene, and sanitation to prevent the feared outbreak of cholera in a region already vulnerable to waterborne diseases and malaria. Contacted by the French Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Veolia

Foundation responded to the call: water treatment units were sent and a first Veoliaforce volunteer trained by the French Red Cross Emergency Response Unit left on mission on March 23.

Humanitarian actors converged around Beira, which had become the center for coordinating humanitarian aid. Médecins sans frontières and Solidarités International, two of the Veolia Foundation's partners, were present from these first days. They welcomed some 10 Veoliaforce experts tasked with deploying the Aquaforce mobile water treatment units designed by the Foundation. This equipment was installed as close as possible to the population and in the health centers opened shortly after the disaster. The goal was to supply safe drinking water to patients and the surrounding population. Over these two months of intervention, the Veoliaforce missions focused on assessing available water production equipment, repairing pre-existing infrastructure, deploying Aquaforce units, optimizing production and storage of the water produced and installing distribution ramps.

A substantial training effort was organized to ensure sustainable access to drinking water after the departure of the Veolia Foundation volunteers by setting up a local team equipped to continue the work. Mozambique residents were trained to operate the Aquaforce units before being handed the controls to produce drinking water under their own steam.

Location: Mozambique Date: March-April 2019



Read the personal accounts of Veoliaforce experts on their return from Mozambique on the Foundation website



Study of the impact of environmental factors on the health of vulnerable communities

the Foundation.

Location: Philippines Date: March 2019

With Médecins du Monde, its NGO partner, the Veolia Foundation is looking at the population's exposure to external factors (biological, chemical, physical) likely to have effects, whether negative or positive, on their physical and mental health. In Manila (Philippines), where health and environmental risk actions campaigns have already been conducted, two Veoliaforce experts carried out a mission concerning waste management, an essential component of the program initiated by Médecins du Monde with

... SKILLS VOLUNTEERING MISSIONS...

Innovation to secure sustainable access to water for a rural community

The Veolia Foundation's engineers do not only bring their expertise to bear on humanitarian emergencies. A small village in east Senegal has benefitted from a development program giving its inhabitants access to safe drinking water. The project in Saal, south of Tambacounda, a large city in east Senegal, launched in 2018 with exploratory missions to establish its feasibility, took on its full dimension in 2019. Throughout the period, some 10 Veoliaforce experts relayed each other in the village to complete this ambitious program for producing drinking water from the Gambia River. Their work led to the installation of a water intake on the Gambia River and construction of a 4-kilometer pipeline

to take the water to the new treatment unit installed in Saal. The water can then be stored in the new water tower before being made available through a network of standpipes. The team worked closely on community structuring with local contacts to define the ideal sites for installing the standpipes and organizing access to the water.

Location: Senegal Date: March-April 2019

Combating cholera by providing access to water

For more than ten years, the Veolia Foundation has been conducting a major program to combat cholera in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by reinforcing its access to water infrastructure. Since the start of the works launched in Uvira, in South-Kivu province, Veoliaforce experts have made frequent site visits to monitor the works and their reception alongside Regideso, the local operator. One Veoliaforce volunteer, an expert in water networks and pipelines, intervened to assess the quality of the works in progress.

This structuring program is also monitored by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, which has been studying the project to measure its effectiveness from the outset. The overriding ambition is clear: to curb the resurgence of cholera in this part of the African Great Lakes Region.

Location: Democratic Republic of the Congo Date: July 2019

Ensuring the sustainability of a sanitation service



In Bangangté, Cameroon, a program to provide sustainable access to water and sanitation has allowed the municipality to organize robust public access to water service and launch a project to treat and recycle wastewater sludge. The Veolia Foundation supported the municipality when it acquired a sewage truck and a Veoliaforce volunteer visited the site in November 2019 to complete the training of local personnel in maintenance of the equipment and safety measures.

Location: Cameroon Date: November 2019



SOCIAL

INCLUSION

THROUGH WORK AND SOCIAL LINKS

Work provides dignity and independence and gives meaning to people's lives. The Foundation supports initiatives and structures helping people who have dropped out of mainstream society return to work: nonprofits and enterprises running subsidized employment schemes and projects that offer training and mentoring or that help strengthen social links. Each of these projects is supported by a Group employee acting as sponsor.

Acta Vista (Groupe SOS)

Building to rebuild your life

Since 2002, the nonprofit Acta Vista has made sustainable work integration its core activity. Whether advising companies, providing assistance, assembling or managing projects or running back-to-work schemes, its results are conclusive. Its specialty is preservation and rehabilitation of outstanding heritage sites in the south of France, the Loire valley and the Luberon. Acta Vista is keen to revitalize on-the job apprenticeship and runs back-to-work schemes and professional training in heritage-related trades. The people it works with learn a trade by working on prestigious buildings and monuments – the goal is to achieve sustainable, long-term integration into the labor market.

In 2015, Acta Vista focused on interior and exterior restoration of the La Cride military fort in Sanary-sur-Mer (Var department). The missions assigned to the young beneficiaries were varied – they included excavation of interior soils, construction of a stairway, clearing out interior spaces, weatherproof tiling of the terrace, underbody and surface coatings, reinforcement of a moat retaining wall, and construction and erection of a wooden belvedere.

In 2017, its employees worked on the Caroline hospital, on the Ratonneau island, in the Le Frioul group of islands off Marseille. Almost 300 people on subsidized employment contracts carried out reinforcement work on 7 of the 12 hospital pavilions and finished restoration work on one of them, the Pavilion of Chevalier Roze. In 2019, again supported by the Veolia Foundation, Acta Vista teams focused on the Fort Saint-Nicolas. The City of Marseille entrusted work on this structure, classified as a Historic Monument in 2002, to the nonprofit to carry out training and workintegration workshops, in liaison with the Drac⁽¹⁾ and Bâtiments de France architects, enabling restoration and upgrading of certain parts of the building. The works were gradually extended to the upper floors.

Today, Acta Vista recruits and trains more than 350 people a year under subsidized employment contracts, one third of them under the age of 26. Some 92% of employees qualify for a diploma at the end of the subsidized employment period and over 60% obtain a job. These kinds of work-integration initiatives can also help build social links when the employees work on preserving local built heritage to the benefit of all.

(1) Regional directorate of cultural affairs.

Location: Marseille (France) Sponsor: Hervé Pernot Grant: €50,000







Heko Farm

An ecological urban farm in Marseille

The nonprofit Heko Farm, based in Marseille, is working to establish a local, sustainable and resilient food system in the city. It can point to several successful initiatives, notably the project called "Le Talus", installed on a former worksite waste dump alongside the A507 urban motorway (bypass L2).

Two problems are associated with this unused urban land: no green spaces and the difficulty of accessing quality local food. To solve them, an ecological urban farm was set up in 2019. Le Talus combines market gardening containers for rental, organic production and sale of fruit and vegetables, a hen house selling fresh eggs, a collective vermicomposter, a range of training courses and events, a beehive, a pond for educational activities and a canteen. In this third place supported by the Veolia Foundation, people can grow produce, eat and enjoy a drink, observe the different activities and socialize. It is open to all throughout the day on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Tuesdays are dedicated to participatory activities where the people present build structures, plant vegetables, harvest the produce and prepare Le Talus' future. The goal is to trial ecological transition in this open-air laboratory.

Location: Marseille (France) Sponsor: Hervé Pernot Grant: €10.000





Location: Calcutta and New Delhi (India) Sponsor: Chandana Das Grant: €20,000

Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y)

Training centers in India for young people in very precarious circumstances

Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y) has adopted an original positioning. The nonprofit, dedicated to professional and social integration of young adults aged 18 to 24, relies on entrepreneurship to help the people it supports and has set up entrepreneurial micro-project incubators near shantytowns. These Life Projects Centers offer young people in very difficult circumstances (single mothers, school dropouts, disabled people, former prisoners, etc.) a specially adapted coaching program called "Professional Training for Entrepreneurs".



Espaces

Urban agriculture on rooftops

The nonprofit Espaces, set up in 1994, is dedicated to social integration of people in difficult circumstances through urban ecology. It has developed high-level skills in ecological engineering – the Espaces team coordinates more than 25 shared or inclusive gardens, all managed according to the principle of zero chemicals. Two of the gardens are installed on rooftops. In 2016, it decided to move into urban agriculture projects. CultiCime, designed in partnership with Topager, a company specializing in design of ornamental and urban vegetable gardens, is one of these projects. The pilot initiative is located in Aubervilliers on the roof of a shopping center whose owner agreed to sign an operating lease. The soil is one meter deep – unusual for a rooftop garden –

which means that trees can be planted. Espaces coordinates the project and the human resources, while Topager contributes its agronomic expertise and monitors the crops. The growing methods are based on the principles of agro-ecology: no chemical fertilizers, respect of biodiversity and biological interactions between the different species. The crops are irrigated by a carefully controlled dripfeed system which delivers substantial water savings.

The goal, supported by the Veolia Foundation, is an ambitious one: to create a new economic model of profitable urban agriculture that can be replicated and creates subsidized jobs.

Location: Aubervilliers (France) Sponsor: Luc Mosqueron Grant: €40.000



Associação Arca de Noé de Apoio Social

Escaping poverty in a Brazilian favela

In the Vila Prudente favela in São Paulo, Brazil, 90% of adults have no secondary school diploma⁽¹⁾ and the jobless rate is much higher than the national average, which means that poverty is a common feature. The Franco-Brazilian nonprofit Arca de Noé de Apoio Social is working to help change this situation. It offers residents educational and social assistance to help them become independent and boost their self-confidence, making them better prepared to adapt to the working world. Arca de Noé de Apoio Social runs two centers installed in the heart of the favela. One of them welcomes 120 children, aged 6 to 14, every day and offers educational, cultural and sporting activities. The second is devoted to adults and young people aged 16 and over and teaches trades such as bread-making, the hotel industry and sales. With the support of the Veolia Foundation, new training programs will be set up in 2020 and 2021, around digital techniques, English language learning and the catering trade.

(1) According to an Ipsos study.

Location: São Paulo (Brazil) Sponsor: Valentine Barnoin Grant: €20,000 Five days a week, they follow a well-defined schedule: two and a half days are devoted to development and management of the economic micro-activity they have chosen; one and half days to remedial schooling, and one day of personal coaching allowing them to define their life objectives. During the twelve months of training, the beneficiaries receive a weekly stipend to help them become autonomous. This funding – a genuine investment to help young people integrate into society – is a strong point of LP4Y's educational program. The stipend is double the amount of the poverty threshold but less than the local minimum age to ensure that employment remains an attractive option. From their first day at the center, they are lifted out of poverty and can support themselves for a year while undergoing training. Coaching is provided to help them make the best use of the Life Project Money stipend. Since opening of the first center in 2009, LP4Y has helped 2,000 young people towards professional integration in the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and India. Some 1,000 have set up a business activity, 300 are looking for a job and 600 are still in training.



ASEI – Agir, Soigner, Éduquer, Inclure

For Toulouse region inclusive and outreach enterprises

ASEI (Agir, Soigner, Éduquer, Inclure), set up shortly after World War II, is dedicated to helping disabled people. It runs specialized reception centers and fosters inclusion of disabled people in schools or business depending on their age. ASEI has focused more particularly on employment support, a strategy steered by the regional health agencies that encourages integration of disabled people in the business world. The Veolia Foundation is supporting the nonprofit to make it a key contact in Occitanie, capable of understanding the way companies work and their particular constraints, with the aim of overcoming them so as to integrate more people with disabilities.

Location: Toulouse (France) Sponsor: Pierre Dissaux Grant: €10,000



The École des semeurs

Organic farming to combat school drop-out

Since December 2019, the École des semeurs has been training young school drop-outs in organic vegetable growing techniques. The structure stands out for its practical approach to the jobs taught: the young people spend 70% of their time learning in the field and dealing with real customer orders, which helps them build confidence in themselves and their capacities. In Bernay and Pont-Audemer, in Normandy, the École des semeurs is keen to set up a market gardening school supported by the Veolia Foundation. It will welcome young school drop-outs from the age of 15 in the Château de Beaumesnil with the aim of providing training qualifying them for market gardening jobs. The young people will prepare the soil and sow the crops, then process and sell the products in the Château shop and outdoor markets and to local authorities.

Location: Bernay and Pont-Audemer (France) Sponsor: Louis de Reboul Grant: €15.000

Yokoumi

Promoting the emancipation of Togolese women

Yokoumi supports a women's shea butter cooperative in Kélizio as a way of fostering the emancipation of Togolese women. The nonprofit markets its cosmetic products and devotes part of its revenues to supporting a micro-credit program. These different initiatives aim to help Togolese women achieve financial independence.

Location: town of Tsévié and village of Kélizio (Togo) Sponsor: Boris Efremenko Grant: €5,000



SOUTH AFRICA

Savoir-Fair

Launch of a third place dedicated to the circular economy and responsible agriculture in South Africa.

Location: Durban (South Africa) Sponsor: Maria Caniati Dinard Grant: €25,000



NIGER

Empow'Her

A third place to build awareness of ecology and help women through a dedicated center in Niamey, in Niger.

Location: Niamey (Niger) Sponsor: Fanny Demulier Grant: €30,000

FRANCE

Var federation for fishing and protection of the aquatic environment

Adapting a fishing pontoon for people with reduced mobility and a space for encouraging awareness of biodiversity.

Location: Brignoles (France) Sponsor: Olivier Cavallo Grant: €10,000

Transmission

Opening of La Cassette in Aubervilliers – a third place dedicated to training and creation of radio programs and podcasts.

Location: Aubervilliers (France) Sponsor: Thierry Vandevelde Grant: €20,000



Novaedia

Creation and development of an inclusive urban farm in Seine-Saint-Denis.

Location: Stains (France) Sponsor: Xavier Metteil Grant: €20,000 019 Veolia Foundatio

ENVIRONMENTAL

CONSERVATION

AND BIODIVERSITY

Living in harmony with nature, conserving resources and biodiversity, mitigating climate disruption - all these can help keep our planet habitable. The Foundation encourages initiatives to build public awareness and teach eco-responsible behavior. It contributes to their financing and helps raise their profile, with the attentive and enthusiastic support of a sponsor.

Tara Ocean **Foundation**

Microplastic pollution: studying the origins of pollution by looking at nine European rivers

For six months, the schooner Tara has sailed around Europe and studied nine rivers. Its objective is to characterize microplastic pollution flows to assess the impact of plastic carried from land into the sea.

Microplastics account for 94% of the plastic found in the seas. The crew of the famous schooner Tara discovered this after taking samples of the plastics caught in their nets during its different expeditions since 2010. In 2014, it focused more particularly at plastic waste in the Mediterranean during an expedition also supported by the Veolia Foundation. These findings prompted it to return to sea, from May to November 2019, to trace this very specific type of pollution.

Formed from the breakdown of larger plastic waste, microplastics have numerous interactions with marine organisms: dispersal of the potentially invasive or pathogenic species attached to plastic waste, accumulation of toxic products in the food chain, etc.

In order to measure this impact, Tara visited 9 of Europe's 15 largest rivers for six months. Samples were taken in the estuaries of the Thames (England), the Elbe and the Rhine (Germany), the Seine, the Loire, the Garonne and the Rhône (France), the Ebro (Spain) and the Tiber (Italy).

The expedition allowed it to identify the sources of pollution, understand how they break up into small particles in rivers and predict their dispersal in the ocean. Another subject of study was to understand their impact on marine biodiversity and on the food chain.

In addition, the 18 stopovers provided an opportunity to discover the high-level scientific research carried out with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). A consortium coordinated by the EMBL brings together more than 100 scientists and 18 partner institutions across the world to study plastics pollution.

The scientific director of the 2019 Microplastics Mission was the ecotoxicologist Jean-François Ghiglione.

Location: Mediterranean Sponsors: Célia Devinoy, Mathilde Nithart **Grant:**€200.000



L'Œil d'Andromède

Discovering biodiversity in the twilight zone

Surveillance of coastal waters stops at 80 meters below the surface. The diver Laurent Ballesta and his team are keen to enrich knowledge of deeper marine environment to characterize the biodiversity of this twilight zone and measure the effects of pollution.

L'Œil d'Andromède (Andromeda's Eye), a marine and coastal ecology nonprofit, seeks to build greater awareness of the need to preserve the environment. Its flag-bearer Laurent Ballesta is renowned for his explorations in deep-sea environments and leads expeditions, known as "Gombessa", to improve knowledge of them. The goal is to promote their esthetic potential, often littleknown, and carry out ecological audits.

The expedition supported by the Veolia Foundation took place over three weeks in the summer of 2019 in the French Mediterranean between Marseille and Monaco. It complemented the surveillance of coastal waters which, at the present time, stops at a depth of 80 meters in very deep waters. Laurent Ballesta and his team dived to a depth of around 100 meters to assess the state of water in this so-called "twilight" zone and that of its biodiversity. Another objective of the expedition was to set up a surveillance system.

This twilight zone is particularly difficult to access and is not well-known. However, it could be essential to the Mediterranean environment as a refuge from human pressure and warming and as spawning



grounds for fish and amphibians. It shelters coralline reefs, formed by accumulation of calcareous algae skeletons, forming an ecosystem of 1,700 species.

This innovative approach is working on transdisciplinary scientific protocols and developing a new diving technique combining autonomy and saturation mechanisms.

A first campaign of bathymetric acquisition (measurement of deep marine environments) made it possible to precisely locate the sites of interest. It was followed by a surveillance campaign during which the scientific protocols were established in partnership with researchers recognized in their particular field of study.

The data gathered will be used to establish reference points for mapping ecosystems, conduct a biodiversity inventory and characterize pollution – a valuable store of knowledge to guide best practices in the future.

Location: Mauguio (Herault, France) Sponsor: Emmanuel Plessis Grant: €50.000



Location: Toulon (Var, France) Sponsor: Emmanuel Plessis Grant: €10,000

University of Toulon

Pollution in the Mediterranean: what is the impact of micro and nanoplastics?

The university of Toulon, founded in 1968, works on the issue of microplastics (μ P), the plastics particles under 5 millimeters large that infest the Mediterranean. This state of affairs was observed by lfremer following evaluation campaigns carried out in 2012 and 2015. However, little data is available for the Toulon ecosystem on the presence of microplastics,

Observatoire du plancton

Pollution on the Atlantic coast: microplastics and participative science

The Observatoire du plancton, set up in 2003 and based in Port-Louis, in the Morbihan, has a dual purpose, scientific and educational. The nonprofit regularly conducts scientific studies on the theme of plankton before disseminating the findings to as many people as possible: marine professionals,



WORLD

Tara Ocean Foundation Design of a unit to process onboard water for a polar station currently in project phase.

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notably in the harbor and on the origins of these μ P particles on land, an essential step for identifying possible actions by local actors. The project supported by the Veolia Foundation should lead to the creation of an innovative method for detecting and identifying nanoplastics by the university of Toulon. This first phase will allow the evaluation of their toxicity for certain marine plankton organisms and, by extension, to estimate their potential impact on the consumer products sold by the fishing industry – an essential contribution to greater knowledge of plastics pollution in the sea.

leisure sailors, environmental protection nonprofit volunteers, schools and the general public.

In 2019, it took on a new mission, coordinated by the Bretagne-Sud university, aimed at acquiring new data about local microplastics pollution and its distribution in terms of geography and time, an observatory that relies on participative science. The nonprofit will involve other actors concerned by the issue to extract and characterize microplastics. The first step consists of establishing uniform collection methods to guarantee homogeneous data that can be exploited by the scientific world. To this end, and with the support of the Veolia Foundation, the Observatory has acquired a Zooscan, an imaging system that can measure and classify the organisms present in a liquid environment.

Location: France Sponsor: Yoann Burban Grant: €10,000

> Location: World Sponsor: Camille Besse Grant: €150,000

Up2green Reforestation

Restoring mangroves in Casamance

Up2green, established in 2009, is a French NGO dedicated to reforestation and community agro-forestry across the world. It has created and developed programs in Asia (India, Thailand), Africa (Senegal, Benin), South America (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia) and central America (Mexico). It has multiple objectives in all the places where it acts: conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, management and protection of water resources, rehabilitation of soils, atmospheric carbon capture and, of course, subsistence and wellbeing for local populations. In various countries, the nonprofit accompanies and develops programs to highlight the importance of trees in agricultural systems and landscapes. In Senegal, and more particularly in Casamance, mangroves provide sustenance for many populations, which means it is



essential to protect this ecosystem and maintain its resources. The forests of Casamance are also threatened by the market for charcoal, and farming practices must take better management of this resource into account. The project supported by the Veolia Foundation on the occasion of World Environment Day aims to focus on fruit and forest species to enhance living conditions for the inhabitants and maintain natural resources.

Location: Casamance region (Senegal) Sponsor: David Colon **Grant:** €20,000



Association des Amis REcycleurs

Supporting the programs of a place for people to talk about eco-responsibility.

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

SENEGAL

Unité mixte internationale 3189 **Environnement Santé Sociétés**

Stemming bilharzia in Senegal

March 1, 2009 saw the birth of the Unité mixte internationale 3189 Environnement Santé Sociétés, known as "UMI 3189 ESS". at the initiative of the French CNRS scientific research center. It was the first mixed international laboratory ever created in sub-Saharan Africa. The research organization has two objectives: to show the way towards pooling shared research tools between researchers in the countries of the North and the South, and to carry out interdisciplinary studies involving human, social, biological and medical studies, together with environmental studies. It brings together France, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali.

In 2019, the UMI 3189 ESS, supported by the Veolia Foundation, focused on close study of freshwater snails, the intermediary host of a parasite that causes bilharzia. This parasitic disease is rampant in 78 tropical countries, with some 243 million carriers. They can suffer serious complications: chronic renal insufficiency, sterility, portal hypertension, cancer of the bladder and the liver. Until now, very little data had been collected on the issue in this region, and the project aims to identify and genetically characterize the different species of water snail, describe their distribution and measure the prevalence of infestation by parasites of each species identified.

Location: Ferlo region Senegal) Sponsor: Thierry Vandevelde **Grant:**€5,250



FRANCE

IUCN French Committee

Creation of a "green list" of protected environments.

Location: metropolitan and overseas France Sponsor: Coline Jacobs **Grant:** €20,000

VERI

Providing expertise to monitor multi-trophic aquaculture projects.

Location: Aubervilliers (France) Sponsor: Thierry Vandevelde Grant: €32,500

Association Pour vos Yeux

Building awareness of good water management through an artistic approach.

Location: Indre-et-Loire (France) Sponsor: José de Graeve **Grant:**€5,000



Every year since 2006, the Veolia Foundation awards the Environment Book Prize to a work that aims to build public awareness of major environmental challenges. The jury, chaired by Dominique Bourg, philosopher and professor, announced the 2019 prizewinners at the Livre sur la place festival in Nancy, in September 2019.

Reading to awaken people's conscience

The Veolia Foundation 2019 Environment Book Prize, the leading French literary prize focusing on the big environmental challenges, was awarded this year to *Le Bug humain*, by Sébastien Bohler. The young readers' prize was awarded to *Océans... et comment les sauver*, by Amandine Thomas.

For Sébastien Bohler, who has a PhD in neuroscience and is editor-in-chief of the magazine *Cerveau & Psycho*, this is not just a critical moment: we are experiencing a genuine tragedy: overpopulation, obesity, over-production, overconsumption, over-heating and over-indebtedness, which is leading humanity to the brink. Yet no tangible collective response is forthcoming. Worse, awareness of what awaits us seems to have no impact on the course of events. The first culprit is not human greed but the very composition of our brains. Inside the brain a small organ called the "striatum" prompts us to pursue five objectives to ensure the survival of our species: eat, reproduce, acquire power, expand our territory, obtain power over others.

Yesterday, our brain was our ally against nature – but today it is becoming our enemy. Sébastien Bohler proposes three solutions: increase our sensory enjoyment while at the same time reducing our consumption, award altruism a higher social status, and develop our taste for knowledge, since satisfying our curiosity releases dopamine in the striatum.

Amandine Thomas, illustrator and graphic designer, offers us an educational and optimistic book. The oceans are endangered, but there is some good news: we can act to save them! This playful book for children of 7 and over presents conversations by children accompanied by illustrations and 10 aquatic ecosystems across the world, with their specific features, their vulnerability and concrete ways of acting to protect them.



A STRONG PRESENCE AT THE BOOK FAIR

Partner of the 2019 Paris Book Fair, the Veolia Foundation was present, together with the prizewinners of the 2018 Environment Book Prize

A conference was organized in the presence of Pablo Servigne and Gauthier Chapelle, authors of *L'Entraide, l'autre loi de la jungle*, Henri Trubert, their publisher and founder of Les Liens qui libèrent, and Thierry Vandevelde, Executive Director of the Veolia Foundation and member of the Prize jury. Philosophy and reading workshops were organized in the Foundation space for high-school and primary school students, allowing them to talk with the 2018 prize-winners.





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2019 **STUDENT** SOLIDARITY AWARDS...

VEOLIA



In this year's ceremony, Veolia's Chairman and **Chief Executive Officer**, **Antoine Frérot, handed** the awards to the 4 prizewinners, selected from among 128 candidates from all over the world, at the Group's head office in Aubervilliers on June 16.

Encouraging student initiatives that serve the community

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.

VEOLIA

It rewards innovative outreach initiatives in one of the Foundation's three fields of action led by student associations, in France and other parts of the world. A jury nominates three prizewinners and a public prize is awarded after an online vote. The winners receive financial support and technical back-up in the form of skills provided by a Group employee acting as sponsor.





Centrale Nantes

"Rev'Action" (Récup'Eau Vietnam) The Rev'Action project will

allow villagers in Liên Son 2,

a full plastics recycling circle: from waste treating

South Vietnam, to set up

(crushing) to production

of molded objects or fine

cables. The project aims

to fabricate a crusher,

an extruding machine,

an injection press and

a compressor.

Bordeaux university

"Les Recyclettes" (Récup')

Récup' recycles organic waste (40% of household waste) in the urban environment by distributing Bokashi composters (concentrated organic matter containing a large quantity of nutrients) to transform waste into compost in apartments. The compost is collected by the association using threewheeler bikes and delivered to market gardeners for growing fruit and vegetables which are then sold to the members – a perfect circle between consumers

Grant:€3.000 Location: Liên Son 2 (Vietnam) Sponsor: Aurélie Tran Ngoc

PUBLIC PRIZE



and producers!

AgroParisTech Sea Plastics

Grant: €3,000 Location: Bordeaux (France) Sponsor: Sophie Delage



keen to make a contribution to scientific research in the missions. In 2019, the goal is to develop new sampling and nautical consumables.

Grant: €5,000 Location: Mediterranean Sponsor: Valentin Deltreil



CentraleSupélec

"Envol Vert" (Perunidad)

The Envol Vert project in the rural provinces of Chanchamayo and Satipo in Peru aims to restore the natural balance of depleted soils, diversify activity and significantly boost the income of coffee growers through sustainable forest exploitation. This project raises its beneficiaries' awareness of eco-responsible behavior.



Grant: €4.000 Location: Chanchamayo and Satipo (Peru) Sponsor: Jean-Marc Raymond

With the Sea Plastics association, AgroParisTech students are Mediterranean. Since 2016, the members of the association use their gap year to organize a three-to-six month sailing expedition to carry out sampling campaigns or other scientific protocols aimed at improving knowledge about microplastics and its damaging effects in the marine environment. The grant will be invested in the boat, in particular its navigation system

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