

ACTIVITY REPORT **2024 - 2025**

EDITORIAL



"For the coming year, the Fund wishes to strengthen the scope of its actions by supporting innovative and sustainable scientific projects, convinced that new synergies will emerge around this vital cause."



Gilles Sallé

Vendée Globe Foundation President

In 2024, the Vendée Globe Foundation was born out of a desire to anchor the Vendée Globe in an essential mission: to take action to better protect the oceans.

At the crossroads of sport, economics, and science, the Endowment Fund is composed of a committed Board of Directors and a renowned Scientific Council, which guarantee the quality and relevance of the projects supported. We are also delighted to have H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco as our Honorary President. With the help of our project manager and the support of more than 100 volunteers mobilized during the 2024 Vendée Globe, we have brought our actions closer to the public and our partners.

Thanks to the support of our 20 patrons, three projects have been supported this year:

- In partnership with UNESCO and the IMOCA Class, 25 skippers have taken scientific equipment on board to collect valuable data during their round-the-world voyage.
- With the Share the Ocean Consortium, which has mapped marine protected areas to limit collisions with marine wildlife.
- With Over the Swell, to protect marine megafauna, including the whale shark, the world's largest fish and an endangered species.

This first year has laid a solid foundation. It shows that combining sport, science, and collective commitment is not only possible, but above all necessary. The ocean is vital to our future: let's continue to work together to better preserve it.



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OUR VALUES

THE OCEAN IS THE “BLUE LUNG” OF OUR PLANET

The ocean plays a role as important as the forests for our atmosphere! It produces 50% of the oxygen we breathe and stores 50% of the CO₂ on our planet. We would be unable to breathe without it.



THE OCEAN IS CRUCIAL TO OUR LIVES

3.5 billion people depend on it as their primary source of food! The ocean covers more than 70% of our planet and accounts for 97% of the water available on Earth! In other words, we are all affected by the ocean.

THE OCEAN IS A KEY ELEMENT OF INNOVATION

It is an invaluable source of wealth: the ocean is fertile ground for the development of more sustainable energies, biotechnologies, and even medical advances.



MARINE BIODIVERSITY IS REMARKABLE

The ocean is a rich environment for ecosystems. Only 200,000 marine species are known to date, and if we do not protect them, half could disappear by 2100 and the ocean could contain more plastic than fish by 2050!

OUR MISSIONS

01

Promoting exchanges and knowledge sharing between scientists and the general public

02

Raise awareness of oceanographic issues and ecosystem preservation

03

Supporting innovation and scientific research in a sustainable manner for marine ecosystems

MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE VENDÉE GLOBE FOUNDATION SUPPORTED THREE MAJOR SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IN 2024-2025.



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01. INITIATIVE WITH UNESCO AND THE IMOCA CLASS

- **25/40 skippers** in the 2024 Vendée Globe voluntarily took scientific instruments on board.
- **100% of this equipment was deployed** (11 Argo floats, 13 weather buoys, 5 Calitoos, 4 OceanPacks, 2 TSG Gaillard, Argo Marget II, planctoscope).

► Thousands of data points are collected, up to 5 years after deployment. For example, in 75 days of racing, Nicolas Lunven collected nearly 1.8 million data points with his OceanPack!

► This system enables the expansion of cooperative science through data sharing between scientific centers (GEOMAR, CNRS, Ifremer), then freely accessible via a global database managed by UNESCO.

*Amount allocated: €15,000 (UNESCO)
2028 goal: to equip 100% of the fleet*

02. WILLIAM MISSION

During the oceanographic mission we supported:

- **12 whale sharks were tagged and 20 divers were trained.**
- Several schools in Finistère and Guinea benefited from educational workshops on the importance of protecting marine megafauna.

► The more data we have on whale sharks, the world's largest fish and an endangered species, the more arguments we have for implementing concrete measures to ensure their survival.

*Amount allocated: €20,000 (Over the Swell)
2030 goal: to create the world's first protected offshore corridor*



© Over the Swell

03. PROJECT WITH THE CONSORTIUM SHARE THE OCEAN

- **11 areas of vigilance identified** based on a map of important cetacean breeding and feeding areas.
- **2 Biodiversity Protection Areas (BPAs)** off-limits to skippers on the Vendée Globe route, under penalty of sanctions.

► The aim was to minimize the risk of collisions between boats and marine wildlife. On the New York-Vendée race, no collisions with marine animals were recorded thanks to this system!

*Amount allocated: €31,200 (Banyuls Design)
Objective: To reconcile the requirements of the yacht race, the choices made by the race management, and the need to protect marine ecosystems in the long term*



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OUR TEAM

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



GILLES SALLÉ
President



Laura LE GOFF
Secretary



Stéphanie RENAULT
Treasurer



Alain LEBOEUF
Founding member



Benoît CATEL
Founding member



Didier FAIVRE
Founding member



OUR SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD



Franck ZAL
President
HEMARINA

"The ocean is a library of innovations that we are only beginning to explore. Every marine organism holds secrets that could revolutionize human medicine. Protecting the oceans is therefore not only an ecological issue, it is also a matter of urgency for human health. Losing this biodiversity means losing opportunities for future cures."



Charlotte SCHOELINCK
Lisaqua



Daniela ZEPELLI
Ifremer



Matthieu GUESNE
Lhyfe



Simon BERNARD
Plastic Odyssey

OUR PERMANENT TEAM



Marie-Anaïs BARRAL
Assistant manager

"Our natural heritage is a precious intergenerational legacy that we cannot afford to damage. Many scientific innovations deserve to be known and supported because they provide real answers to current challenges."

THE YEAR IN 7 KEY DATES

May 28, 2024

Legal creation of the Endowment Fund
under the chairmanship of Gilles Sallé
Donation from our first patron: SODEBO

June 2024

Publication in the Official Journal
Recruitment of a permanent employee

July 2024

Selection of a Scientific Advisory Board
chaired by Dr. Franck Zal
Creation of communication materials

October–November 2024

The Fund will be promoting itself at
its stand in the Vendée Globe village,
run by over 100 volunteers and
thanks to our service sponsors.
Race for the ocean with Hyundai

November 8, 2024

Official launch with patrons and partners
under the honorary presidency of
H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco
Officialization of the partnership with
the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation



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January-May 2025

First fundraising campaign targeting the general public with U stores in Vendée

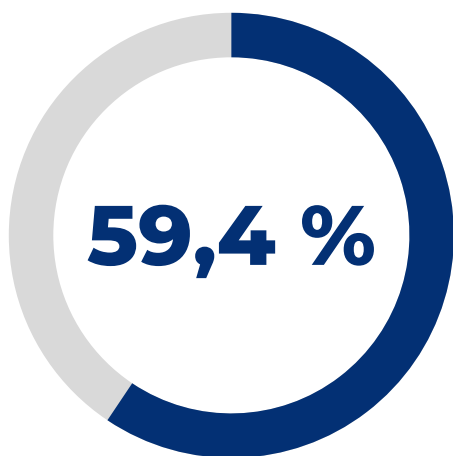
Since June 2025

First fundraising campaign with the Banque Populaire and Crédit Maritime Grand Ouest Foundation and our partner sponsor Petitgas Evening event organized by MEDEF - BPCMG
Review and opening of applications for support for scientific projects in 2025-2026



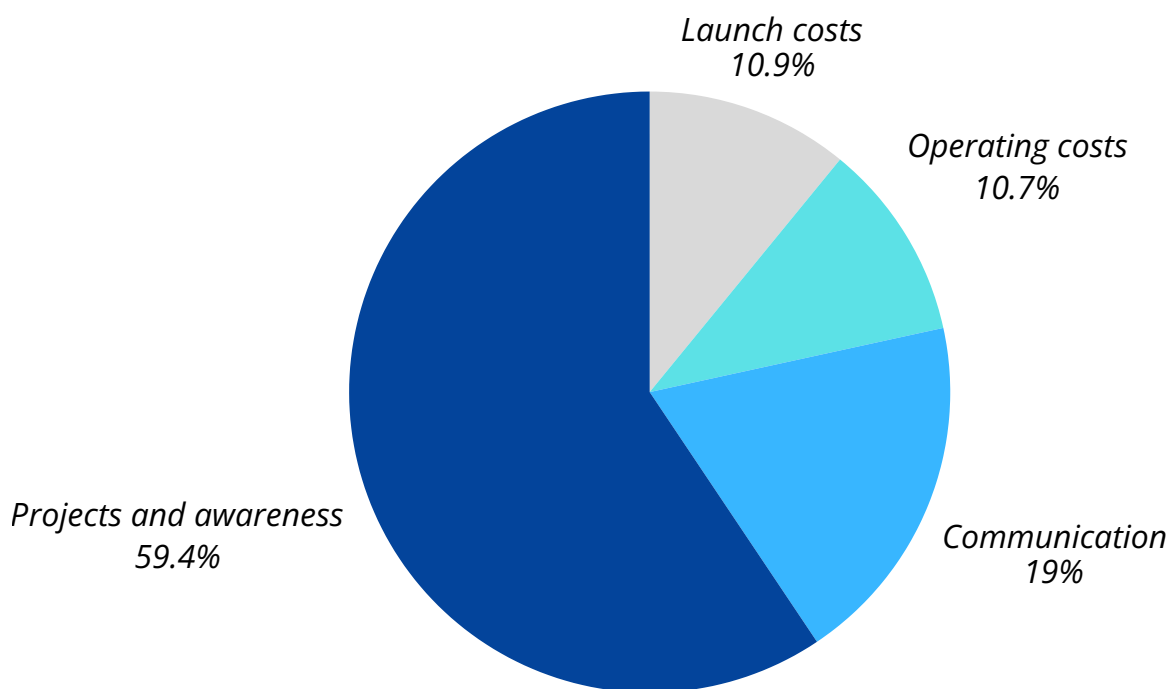
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OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT



PORTION ALLOCATED TO OUR SHARES

As part of our launch year, nearly 60% of our budget was allocated to the projects we supported this year and to our awareness-raising activities. This share is set to grow in the coming years, in line with our purpose.



Launch costs cover legal setup, graphic design, logo, and trademark registration for the Vendée Globe Foundation.

Operating costs include general, legal, accounting, business, and salary expenses.

Communication costs relate to updating the website and communication materials, as well as communication and event activities.

Support for scientific projects and awareness-raising activities complete the budget.

This breakdown includes cash expenditures and skills sponsorship.

Financial results

Income: 356 840 €

Expenses: 335 966 €

Initial allocation

30 000 €

Balance

+ 34 718,26€

Détail des dons

Cash donation

Donation in kind

Public generosity: 2%

Communication

Visitors: 1,3 M

Donators: 20

Subscribers: 950

THANKS

A big thank you to all our supporters, sponsors, members, and volunteers. Your trust and generosity make this adventure possible! We are now focusing on selecting new projects to continue translating our commitment to protected oceans and a sustainable and healthy natural heritage into concrete action.

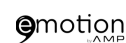
OUR MAJOR SPONSORS



OUR MAIN SPONSORS



OUR SUPPORTING PATRONS



OUTLOOK

FOR 2025-2026

INSPIRE AND EDUCATE

BY DEVELOPING OUR AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Through our participation in the Vendée Arctique-Les Sables race in June 2026, by running educational workshops in elementary, middle, and high schools, and by remaining active on our website and LinkedIn feed.

TRANSPARENCY

AND COMMUNICATION

We will strengthen our communication efforts with our supporters through ready-to-use materials (activity reports, CSR commitments, meeting times, etc.) because, for us, commitment is above all a human endeavor.

SELECTION OF NEW SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Projects will be pre-selected by the Scientific Council and approved by the Board of Directors by December 2025. They will then be closely monitored by our team throughout the year.

PROSPECTING

REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY

Carrying out our actions requires resources: science and innovation come at a cost. Thank you to everyone who, through their financial, human, or skills-based support, will work alongside us for a healthy ocean.

CONCLUSION

Since its creation in May 2024, the Vendée Globe Foundation has embodied the Vendée Globe's ambition to better understand the ocean in order to better preserve it. This first year has laid the foundations for a concrete, collective, and sustainable commitment. Thanks to the support of our patrons and partners, we are transforming the momentum of a legendary race into a force for action in the service of our fragile oceans. In this new year, the Fund will continue its mission to strengthen its impact and work sustainably for a healthier planet.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR READING!

CONTACT

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