

If this page does not display properly, [cliquez ici](#).  
Read the newsletter [in French](#).



Veolia Environnement Foundation Newsletter

No. 4 - November 2010

*Foundation Info* keeps you informed of what's happening at the Veolia Environnement Foundation: the projects being supported, the sponsors' reports, volunteers leaving on emergency relief, development assistance and other assignments around the world. The links in the contents section below will give you more information on the topic: just click and find! Please send us your suggestions, comments, pictures and anything else you'd like to share. ([fondation.ve@veolia.com](mailto:fondation.ve@veolia.com))

## TOP OF THE NEWS



In Moldavia, the country's education ministry launched the **Child-Friendly Schools program** at the beginning of September in the presence of UNICEF and various partners. The first two Child-Friendly Schools were officially opened in Molesti (in the Ialoveni district) and Sofrincani (Edinet district). These schools are now offering children quality education in an environment that is conducive to learning. The schools' infrastructure (roof, windows, doors, heating, bathrooms, lighting, etc.) was renovated thanks to financial and technical support from the Veolia Environnement Foundation and the Moldavi Social Investment Fund, while the teachers' training was funded by UNICEF.

*More information in the press release.*

*Project details and photographs of the event.*

## LATEST PROJECTS SUPPORTED

The Veolia Environnement Foundation's **Selection Committee** met on June 22. It selected **41 projects**, of which 24 are in France and 17 are in other countries (17 in outreach, 16 in workforce development and eight in environmental conservation).

*List of supported projects.*

At the June 9 meeting of its Board of Trustees, the Veolia Environnement Foundation decided to support two new projects. In **Brazil**, the Foundation joined forces with the NGO Conservation International to preserve the Abrolhos coral reef, which is being threatened by continental pollution and climate change. In **Cameroon**, it is supporting a new international outreach program to improve access to water in seven villages in the Bangangté district, so that 150,000 people will be supplied with water and have access to a basic sanitation system. In addition to its three-year financial assistance, the Foundation will contribute the expertise of Veoliaforce volunteers. The Board of Trustees also decided to renew its support for the pioneering **Tara Oceans** scientific expedition to protect, understand and highlight marine biodiversity (see below for the latest on the expedition).

### -WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT-



In the Somme region of northern France, the nonprofit **AREMA** is remediating waterways, swamps and ponds threatened by the proliferation of certain plants. At the same time, it is helping people return to the workforce. Central to the program is the use of a scythe-equipped boat to mechanize a large part of the operations, and therefore work faster. The Veolia Environnement Foundation is participating in the funding to purchase the boat and its accessories.

*More information on the Foundation's website.*

### -ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION-



In the heart of Paris's Parc de La Villette, the Veolia Environnement Foundation is supporting a project to expand the **Jardins Passagers**. In response to visitor demand, the total area will be increased by 50% and new spaces will be created: ecological, nature and conservatory gardens; a space for instruction in eco-responsible methods of cultivation, and an ecological house.

*Find more about about the project.*

#### -OUTREACH-



In Cameroon, the Veolia Environnement Foundation supports the nonprofit **Elans (Working Together for North-South Action)**, which, with the Dschang district (population of 60,000) in the western part of the country, is rolling out an ambitious project for household waste management. The target is to increase the collection rate from 30% to 80%. Besides funding, the Foundation is contributing the expertise of volunteers from Veolia Environmental Services in the form of skills transfer. They will be determining the costs and choosing suitable equipment.

*Get details of the project.*

All the projects supported are presented on the **Foundation's website**.

### A SPONSOR REPORTS BACK -----



#### **A new form of skills transfer**

A few months ago, the Veolia Environnement Foundation introduced a **new form of support** by transferring legal, administrative and financial expertise. **Jean Sturzenegger**, the deputy administrative and financial director of Veolia Transport, and **Louis de la Roncière**, project leader at Campus Veolia Environnement, are contributing financial expertise to the nonprofit La Petite Reine. Another donation of this type comes from **Laurence Miller**, legal advisor on environmental law at the head office of Veolia Environnement, who has been providing legal assistance to the nonprofit Ares for the past few weeks.

*Reed our interview with Laurence Miller.*

### VOLUNTEERS ON ASSIGNMENT -----

#### **EMERGENCY & POST-EMERGENCY RELIEF**



- **Pakistan (September 2010): Nicolas Le Goff**, quality manager at Veoliaforce, spent three weeks in Pakistan after the flooding in that country over the summer. After the Veolia Foundation had shipped an Aquaforce 5000 water treatment unit to Pakistan, he set off on assignment to support the NGO Première Urgence in assessing the needs in Sindh Province and starting up the unit. The Foundation also supported the French Red Cross's work in ensuring drinking water supply at a mobile health center in Sindh Province. **Frédéric Plumus**, logistics manager at Veoliaforce, helped in the assessments preceding the installation of the water treatment equipment. In addition, the Foundation made water storage and distribution equipment available to the NGO Solidarités and provided the NGO Handicap International with an Aquaforce 5000 mobile unit.

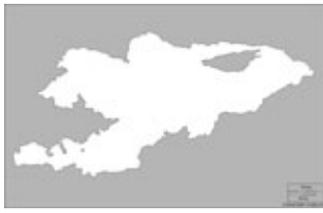


- **Zimbabwe (July 2010): Paul Hoeflerlin**, engineer at Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, went to Zimbabwe in July 2010. The American Veoliaforce volunteer provided support for the French Red Cross under a program to rehabilitate water treatment plants. The program was set up after the unprecedented cholera epidemic that struck the country in 2008. He took over from **Marie Le Bihan**, whose assignment ran from June 26 to July 12

*Reed the Paul Hoeflerlin interview.*

*Veoliaforce volunteer assignments in Zimbabwe since the end of 2008.*

- **Kyrgyzstan (June 2010): Benjamin Fournier**, site manager at Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, and **Nicolas Le Goff**, quality manager at Veoliaforce, left for Kyrgyzstan at the end of June to support the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). Ethnic tensions



between the Kyrgyz and Uzbek had led to violent clashes in the south of the country in June. Rioting broke out in the city of Osh and many people fled their homes. The government declared a state of emergency in the city, which now has large numbers of refugees. The volunteers were assigned the task of siting water access points in the newly formed refugee camps.



- **Haiti (June 2010): Sébastien Leduc**, operator at Veolia Water, and **Yannick Dufès**, design engineer at Veolia Water, worked with the French Red Cross at Petit-Goâve, a coastal city 68 km south of Port-au-Prince. Their assignment had two objectives: to train the teams of the Haitian Water and Sanitation Department (DINEPA) and the National Drinking Water Service (SNEP) in techniques for water leak detection, and to continue the work begun two months earlier by other volunteers. Following the earthquake, they worked with the French Red Cross on a master plan for upgrading the city's water supply system.

## DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE



- **Cuba (September 2010): Antonella Fioravanti**, project leader at OTV, spent September 19 to 25 in Havana working on a sanitation project with the Paris region wastewater authority (SIAAP). The SIAAP and the Foundation joined forces to finance the clean-up of the Rio Ariguanabo watershed in order to protect the underlying aquifer supplying drinking water to a part of Havana. Her work served to validate a broader project defined by the Cuban National Institute of Water Resources (INRH) and to fine-tune a study on rehabilitating the water treatment plant in Béjucal, a small town southwest of Havana.

*More information about the project and the Foundation's support.*



- **Mali (August 2010): Sophie Sauzereau**, water division trainer at Campus Veolia Environnement, was in Mali from August 8 to 20. Her assignment in the village of Teriya Bugu, between Ségou and Mobti, was to evaluate the water resources and water facilities before recommending a timetable for rehabilitation. Sophie Sauzereau, a Veoliaforce volunteer, worked on behalf of the Association for Rural Development (AEDR).

*Read what Sophie Sauzereau had to say about the training she received in June as a Veoliaforce volunteer.*



- **Benin (summer 2010): Emmanuel Peyrouzère**, assistant network manager at Veolia Water, visited Benin from June 27 to July 5 with the CASE (Seine-Eure Metropolitan Area). The volunteer monitored construction work to supply drinking water to five villages around Bohicon, a city with a population of 70,000 in the south of the country.

*More information about this project to supply water in Benin.*



- **Cameroon (June 2010): Christian Prajalas**, operations manager at Veolia Water, was in Cameroon from July 8 to 16. At the request of the Orangerie Foundation, he handled the technical acceptance of a water supply network operating with a solar-powered pump in Banah, a village in western Cameroon.

*Other volunteer assignments.*

## NEWS IN BRIEF... -----

- **The Tara Oceans scientific expedition** has entered its second year. After sailing across the Indian Ocean, the *Tara* set off again on September 5 from Cape Town, South Africa. During the year, the schooner will cross the Atlantic, sail down the east coast of South America and cross the Pacific. It is expected in Auckland, New Zealand, in June 2011, where it will



pause for a few weeks before taking off again. **The Veolia Foundation has been supporting the expedition since the spring of 2009.**

*The program and the itinerary.*



- **The nonprofit Idées (Engineers for Development and Exchange)**, created in the ESME Sudria school, headed for Madagascar last summer. Students enrolled in the school spent June 20 to August 7 starting water supply to three new villages in the Alakamisy-Ambohimaha district. Now 800 villagers have access to drinking water.

Supported by the Veolia Foundation through a special award in the 2010 competition for the **Student Solidarity Prize**, the organization was singled out for the continuity in its work with residents of several villages in southern Madagascar. Every year for the past 15 years, Idées members have gone to Madagascar to improve the villagers' living conditions (construction and rehabilitation of drinking water networks, electrification, construction of schools).

*More information.*



- Since the beginning of 2010, the Veolia Foundation has been training **Veoliaforce volunteers outside France**. After Guayaquil, Ecuador, it was **China's turn**, with two training sessions open to volunteers from Veolia Water Systems and Veolia Water. Sessions were held in Chengdu, from September 20 to October 1, in offices at the water treatment plant. In all, 37 volunteers from eight countries in the area enrolled (China, Taiwan, New Zealand, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia, Singapore and Japan). The training is designed to familiarize new volunteers with the equipment used in emergency deployments and give them a better idea of the types of assignments carried out by Veoliaforce.



- A partner of the **Forum for international cooperation by public authorities (ICIC)**, the Veolia Environnement Foundation was present in Paris on July 5 and 6 at the conference on The levers for sustainable access to water and sanitation. The Foundation also took part in a working meeting on Madagascar.

## PUBLICATION -----



- *Fondations solidaires pour l'emploi, Histoires des possibles* will be launched on November 16 at a press conference attended by various outreach players (foundations, social business enterprises, etc.) at the Comptoir Général events center. Produced in a partnership with various foundations, the book spotlights projects that foster social integration through working in companies based on a real economic activity, as described by many beneficiaries. The press conference will feature a presentation of innovative and reproducible actions that have been successful, as well as a discussion on the relationships between corporate foundations and social integration projects: to what extent are they sources of societal innovations? *Order the book online*

## DIARY -----

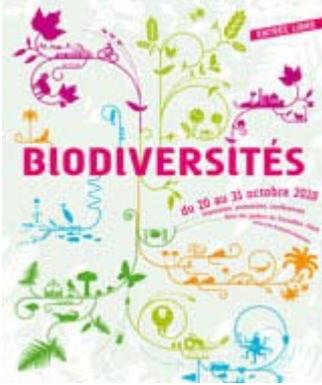


- On September 29, the **Veolia Stiftung** celebrated its 10th anniversary. Funded by the Veolia Environnement Foundation since 2004, this sister foundation encourages environment-related projects in Berlin that create jobs. It has its own board of trustees, which selects projects in the German capital. Since its creation a decade ago, the Veolia Stiftung has supported over 200 projects. Outside Berlin, projects are supported by a network of employees from Veolia Environnement's four divisions in Germany.

Over 200 people (sponsors, project leaders and employees of local subsidiaries) attended the celebrations at the head office of Berliner



Wasserbetriebe. The guest of honor was the former minister of culture and professor of ethics, Julian Nida-Rümelin, who congratulated the Veolia Stiftung for its involvement in local projects fostering sustainable development.



- **October 20 to 31:** The Veolia Foundation partnered with the biodiversity exhibition presented by the CNRS (French scientific research center) in the Trocadéro gardens in Paris from October 20 to 31. Demonstrations, scientific workshops, conferences, films and contact with researchers gave visitors a better understanding of biodiversity and the issues in maintaining it. The journey into the heart of different ecosystems was a pleasant and enriching way to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity!

At the exhibition, the **Veolia Environnement Foundation** presented the major biodiversity protection projects it supports.

*[More information on the Foundation's website.](#)*

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Legal notices](#)

*[Print all of the newsletter](#)*

# Feedback



*Laurence Miller legal advisor on environmental law at the head office of Veolia Environnement, is a Foundation sponsor and volunteer. It is in the second capacity that she has been providing legal assistance over the past few weeks for the Ares organization with help from the legal and tax departments of Veolia Environnement.*

**You have been working for Veolia Environnement for 11 years, and after sponsoring a project, you're now a Veoliaforce volunteer. How did you learn about the Veolia Environnement Foundation's work?**

**Laurence Miller:** In 1999, when I started working at Sarp Industries, the company's hazardous waste treatment subsidiary, I found out about the Foundation's program and applied to be a sponsor. Less than two years later, I was asked to sponsor a project in workforce integration through street theater (in the 18th *arrondissement* of Paris). The experience lasted a year, from preparing the project study to monitoring it.

**Now you've gone further with another type of aid because, since the fall, you have been providing legal assistance for the Ares organization. What led up to this partnership?**

I had done an internship at Ares when I was at law school. The organization, which has been in existence for 20 years, takes on 350 people a year in its workforce integration program, with 90 permanent employees providing support. Ares was created to help people with serious social problems, mainly the homeless, enter the workforce by offering them an 18-month contract leading to a permanent job in a network of partner companies, of which Veolia Environnement is one.

A few months ago, the organization contacted me for a legal audit of its activities. I was, of course, very happy to be able to help them as much as I could. But besides my personal commitment, I had to find the time and technical resources to give them the best help possible. So I contacted the Veolia Environnement Foundation, which encouraged me to speak to my superior about offering this new type of assistance. The project was favorably, even enthusiastically, received by the head of the Legal Department, Eric Haza, as well as by the VE SA Director of Human Resources, Sylvie Bailly, and the Tax Director, Béatrice Deshayes. So we all got involved together!

**This transfer of legal skills is a first for the Veolia Environnement Foundation. Can you explain in concrete terms how legal assistance is provided to an organization like Ares?**

Following four years of strong growth in its activities, Ares feels the need to improve its organization, especially when it comes to legal matters. The help they need involves all sorts of questions that are beyond my expertise. The idea is to be able to call in the right person to deal with the question, whether it be about commercial contracts, company law, labor law or tax law. By being the contact person for Ares at Veolia, I take all questions and speak to the most qualified people in order to come up with the answers. By the same token, I deal with just one person at Ares, and that is its administrative and financial director, Audrey Mougnot.

**How much time does this assistance take?**

According to the timetable we have set up for the rest of the year, it will probably take one day a month. But we don't have very much experience with this type of philanthropy and it could end up being very time-consuming. We'll learn as we go. But, professionally, this kind of work is very rewarding and enriching. Ares deals closely with public authorities and its concerns are not that different from those of a public services provider like Veolia Environnement.



*[Go to the Ares Services website.](#)*

Print

# On assignment



*Paul Hoferlin, an engineer at Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, was in Zimbabwe from July 9 to 26 to provide support for the French Red Cross, one of the Foundation's partners. He was stationed in Kadoma, a city with a population of 100,000 in the center of the country, where he took over from Patrice Darré, who went out in September 2009 to identify and prioritize the work to be done at the water treatment plants.*

**Between 2008 and 2009, a number of volunteers took turns working on the ground to halt the cholera epidemic that had been ravaging Zimbabwe. Now that the epidemic is under control, what were your objectives when you got there in the summer?**

My job was to evaluate the performance of the two water treatment plants supplying the city of Kadoma: the quality of the water entering and leaving the plant and the operation of the control and treatment equipment. After the epidemic, the Red Cross had done some work on rehabilitating the plants and wanted an expert to check it. The idea was to also come up with recommendations for preventing future cholera outbreaks in the country.



**And it was in connection with this preventive work that you trained local technicians?**

Yes. At the request of the Red Cross, we trained the teams at the Kadoma plants. When everything is running smoothly, the technicians know how to run the water plant. But things get tricky when the water quality changes, seasonally or after a big storm, for example... Therefore, we explained to them in detail about how the filters and everything else worked so that the water supply would not be interrupted because of a slight technical problem.

**What was your relationship with the Red Cross and local teams like?**

It was the first time I'd worked with the Red Cross, and it was a fantastic experience, and the Zimbabweans I met were very welcoming.

**This was your first assignment as a Veoliaforce volunteer. What were you expecting?**

I had no idea what to expect, particularly since it was the first time I had ever been to Africa. As it turned out, I discovered a magnificent country! And it's so satisfying to know that you are helping others, to know that training local technicians means that people in Kadoma will be supplied with good quality water.

**So, would you be prepared to go off on another assignment?**

Yes, definitely! It's not up to me, but Veoliaforce just has to ask and I would be delighted to help!



[Find the other Veoliaforce volunteer assignments here.](#)

Print

# Feedback



*Sophie Sauzereau, Campus Veolia Training Manager, attended the course that took place at the beginning of June in southern France. She was able to learn more about emergency interventions and development programs for her role as a Veoliaforce volunteer.*

**You and another 20 or so colleagues from the Veolia group spent May 30 to June 2 in Plaisian on a training course.**

**How did the three days go?**

**Sophie Sauzereau:** The program included a presentation of the Foundation, practical workshops on assembling water treatment equipment and interventions from Veoliaforce partners. These were particularly interesting: using Haiti as an example, they gave us the chance to really understand how these NGOs operate and their organization on the ground.

**Was there anything on the course that you found surprising?**

I was particularly surprised by the very varied profiles of the volunteers that took part. Participants came from very different origins within the Veolia group and had followed very different career paths. This made the exchanges between us even more interesting.

**How did you become a Veoliaforce volunteer?**

Watching colleagues leaving on assignments over a number of years awoke my interest. Feedback from volunteers who have returned from assignments is really important; it makes it a reality and you think: "Why not me!" Then it's just a question of wanting to go and being available!



**Do you feel more attracted to emergency or development work?**

Both! They are complementary. I'm going to work on a development project in Mali in August. The assignment is to provide technical expertise on a water quality problem in Teriya Bugu, in the Ségo region.

## Sophie Sauzereau: A snapshot

**1992:** Masters degree in analytical chemistry (Greenwich)

**1994:** Post-graduate University Diploma in applied analysis techniques for biological industries (Rouen)

**1996:** joins Veolia Water (at the time, Compagnie Générale des Eaux) as Quality Manager at the Méry-sur-Oise plant, then technical manager at the Saint-Denis agency and lastly, manager of the Epinay-sur-Seine operations area.

**2006:** becomes water industries trainer at Campus Veolia Environnement.

**2010:** becomes Veoliaforce volunteer and attends course.