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Foundation Info



Veolia Environnement Foundation Newsletter

No.6 - July 2011

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)

FRONT PAGE



The Veolia Environnement Foundation in Global Alliance Against Cholera



The Global Alliance Against Cholera (GAAC) was officially launched on May 10, 2011 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A founding member, the Veolia Environnement Foundation has taken the battle it has been waging for four years in the DRC to other countries. The GAAC seeks to provide lasting solutions to eradicate cholera epidemics by improving access to safe drinking water and building new sanitation infrastructure in hot spots identified by epidemiological studies.

[More information here.](#)



Headed by Dr. Ibrahim A. Mayaki, former Prime Minister of Niger and now Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD), the GAAC is made up of international public and private-sector organizations, NGOs, researchers and experts. The recent cholera outbreaks in the Lake Chad area and Haiti make a global response that much more urgent.

See also [the interview with Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki](#).

LATEST PROJECTS TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

The Veolia Environnement Foundation's **Selection Committee met twice**, in April and June. It approved support for about 60 projects. At the June 9 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Foundation decided to support three new projects, one of which is an environmental remediation program in Senegal. The Trustees also renewed support for two initiatives: [the cholera eradication program](#) and scientific cooperation with the University of Arizona at [Biosphere 2](#), in the United States.

-WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT-



The non-profit Mosaïque, a major social player in France's Périgueux region, is installing its workforce development project in redesigned premises and being equipped to expand into the wood sector.

[Details about the project.](#)

-ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION-



In an attempt to conserve indigenous plant and animal life on Floreana Island, the Charles Darwin Foundation, supported by the Veolia Foundation, embarked on an ambitious scientific, educational and economic program in collaboration with the island's inhabitants and the members of the Galapagos National Park Service

[Program details.](#)

-OUTREACH-



International Development Enterprises India is increasing the income of a thousand small farmers in the State of Maharashtra by helping them set up irrigation systems and sustainable farming practices.

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

VOLONTEERS ON ASSIGNMENT

EMERGENCY & POST-EMERGENCY



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, May to September 2011): Since May, Veoliaforce volunteers have gone on three assignments in Kalemie, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, to support the NGO Solidarités International. The assignments are part of the cholera eradication program begun in 2007 to prevent epidemics in the DRC. The first phase of the Kalemie master plan calls for rehabilitation of part of the drinking water network and construction of a 500 cubic meter half-buried reservoir. André-Louis Chaussenerly (Sade Burkina Faso) and Franck Haaser, head of the Foundation's emergency response section, participated in the preparatory phase in May. Rodrigo Do Rio Leite (Veolia Water IDF) spent two weeks in June training the welding teams in charge of the project. Henri Marie, a Sade retiree, has been in Kalemie since June 15 and will remain there until September supporting the construction work.

[More information on the Veolia Foundation website.](#)



[See slideshow](#)



Japan (March 2011): The Veolia Environnement Foundation mobilized following the disaster that struck Japan in mid-March. A special "Solidarity Japan" account was opened at the request of the many Veolia employees who wanted to show their solidarity with the earthquake victims. All contributions will go to funding actions that will be decided based on discussions with the various Veolia entities operating in the stricken area.

Two Aquaforce 5000 mobile units were shipped to Minamisanriku in the middle of April. The town, in northern Japan, suffered major damage in the tsunami and is now providing temporary housing for a large number of refugees. The two units were put into operation by Japanese volunteers employed by Veolia Water Asia, who were trained by a Foundation employee.

[A few pictures and two extracts \(No. 1 et No. 2\) from Japanese TV news.](#)

DEVELOPMENT



Cameroon (June 2011): Three of the Foundation's volunteers, Frédérique Héry, Benjamin Moreau and Henri Vignoles, went to Bangangté, a town in western Cameroon, where they gave representatives of the 10 villages concerned the results of the technical studies on the water supply carried out by the Foundation. They also set up 15 latrine construction sites in some of the town's schools and markets, and met with the country's prime minister and its minister of water and energy, who both pledged their support for the project. The assignment was in connection with a partnership on access to water and sanitation with the international association of French-speaking mayors (AIMF) and the town of Bangangté. The Foundation provides technical and financial support for the project.

[See details about the project.](#)



Togo (April 2011): Foundation volunteer Dalton Cardozo went on a week-long assignment to determine the validity of three water and sanitation projects that organizations had submitted to the Foundation for co-funding. One was to build a simplified water supply system in the village of Fioqpo, northwest of Lomé, with Les Amis de la Terre Togo; another was to build hydraulic infrastructure in Gbatopé, northeast of Lomé, with Solidarité Humaine IDF; and the third was to build wells equipped with human-powered pumps in the Kara region, north of Lomé, with Premiers Pas.



TAAF (April 2011): After the partnership it signed in 2010 with the administration of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF), the Veolia Environnement Foundation embarked on an ambitious program to protect biodiversity on the Scattered Islands. The first step was to clean up the beaches of Juan de Nova. Seven Veoliaforce volunteers went to this 6 km by 1.6 km island in the Mozambique Channel, about 150 km from the west coast of Madagascar. There, they repacked 30 metric tons of waste in almost 140 containers for removal by Veoliaforce and treatment in France by Veolia Environmental Services. The Foundation sponsored an evaluation of the needs in 2010.

[The Scattered Islands protection program in detail and the article published in Planète Veolia.](#)

EVENTS



June 9: the **2011 Environment Book Prize** ceremony was held at Veolia Environnement's head office, in Paris. Nine of the 23 titles selected early in April were short-listed. The jury, chaired by Denis Tillinac, awarded first prize to *Une Histoire de la Forêt* by Martine Chalvet (Le Seuil). The Children's prize went to *Panthère* by Carl Hiaasen (Gallimard Jeunesse). And in an exceptional move, the jury singled out *Madagascar, l'Eden fragile* by Lucile Allorge (photographs by Régine Rosenthal, Priat) and *Leçons de choses* (Michel Lafon) by Emile Deyrolle and Louis-Albert de Broglie for special awards.



June 16: Antoine Frérot, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Veolia Environnement, headed the third edition of the **Student Solidarity Awards**. Topping the list of the four winning student-led non-profits was Ingénieurs du monde, from the Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne for its project for developing renewable energy in Nepalese schools. Created by the Foundation and Campus Veolia, the Student Solidarity Awards supports non-profit projects submitted by associations of Master's-level students enrolled at schools and universities connected with the Campus in France and other countries. Close to 50 associations submitted projects last November.

See the winning associations and the jury's choice on the Student Solidarity Awards pages of the Foundation's website.



May 2011: The first workshop on scientific cooperation between the Veolia Environnement Foundation and the University of Arizona was held at **Biosphere 2**, in Tucson, with some 30 scientists, experts and decision makers participating. The University of Arizona brought in representatives of several of its research departments, reflecting the diversity in its fields of expertise. French and American representatives from Veolia Water and Dalkia presented best practices illustrating Veolia's operating experience and involvement in environmental conservation. The discussions resulted in agreement on several common research topics, such as environmental footprints, capitalizing on ecosystem services and microplastic pollution.

More information on the Foundation website.

AT THE FOUNDATION



[More photos here.](#)

In April, the **Tara** docked in Guayaquil, Ecuador's business capital, where for four days close to 250 students, many employees of Interagua (a Proactiva subsidiary), the French Ambassador to Ecuador and the Ecuadorean environment minister visited the schooner. The stopover was also an opportunity to present the Tara Oceans scientific program that began in September. More than 50 journalists and close to 2,000 Ecuadoreans attended a scientific conference.

See pictures taken during the stopover and the Ecuadorean television coverage.



Thierry Vandevelde, executive officer of the Veolia Foundation, and the Prime Minister of Senegal inaugurated a defloridation and desalination unit in Nguécokh (Kaolack region). The Foundation has been providing support for [the project](#) since 2009.

FOUNDATION DIARY

Lyon (May 30-31): The Foundation works with many municipalities in developing countries on solving problems with access to water and sanitation. It attended the launch of the local authorities' process at the **World Water Forum**, where it discussed its projects in Cameroon, Benin and Burkina Faso to bolster municipal project ownership and management. During preparations for the sixth Forum, which will be held in Marseilles in March 2012, the Veolia Environnement Foundation was chosen to



coordinate a round table on cholera prevention with the WHO.



Narbonne (June 20-21): The Foundation, as a technical partner in a cooperative project between Greater Narbonne and the town of Karangasso Vigue, in Burkina Faso, was in Narbonne to greet the Burkinabe delegation. The delegation was made up of the mayor of Karangasso Vigue accompanied by his secretary general and the technical consultant ADAE, the Burkina Faso non-profit for the development of safe water. The visit had been organized to enable the Burkinabe delegation members to learn more about water and sanitation and increase their expertise. It included meetings with municipal officials and civil servants and trips to facilities (wellfields, treatment plant) with Veolia Water's local teams. Discussions were also held on the scheduling of the rest of the activities in the project.

The ADAE project funded by the Veolia Environnement Foundation.



Paris (July 7-8): The Foundation took part in the second **Forum pour la coopération internationale des collectivités**, which brings together the public and private players in international cooperation between regional authorities. It spoke at three sessions: the opening session, devoted to the role of decentralized cooperation on major risks and regional resilience, and one conference on decentralized cooperation with Central Africa and the great lakes area, and another on local public services in Africa.

Top of The News



With the creation of the Global Alliance Against Cholera (GAAC), the Veolia Environnement Foundation's battle against cholera knows no borders. The alliance seeks to provide lasting solutions to eradicate cholera epidemics by combining better access to safe drinking water and sanitation with better medical care in communities.

Since 2007, the Veolia Environnement Foundation has made combating cholera one of its priorities, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Here, it relies on Veolia's expertise in water, sanitation, waste management and hygiene, fields closely implicated in the outbreak of cholera epidemics.



Since 2010, the Foundation has expanded its reach to include other regions, such as the Lake Chad area. Its objectives are both operational and institutional. In the spring of 2011, the Global Alliance Against Cholera (GAAC) was born. Its goal is simple: to help attract long-term funding by advocating for a combined water and health approach.



[Find the interview with Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki.](#)

The origins of the Foundation's involvement

The Veolia Environnement Foundation became involved in the battle against cholera through a project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Its first assignment, at the end of 2007, was assessment. Epidemiologists from the University of the Mediterranean and Franche-Comté University studied cholera epidemics to understand precisely how they evolved in space and time. At the same time, engineers evaluated the systems for access to water and sanitation services and the communities' hygiene habits. The combined results revealed the sources of the cholera epidemic.

Progress

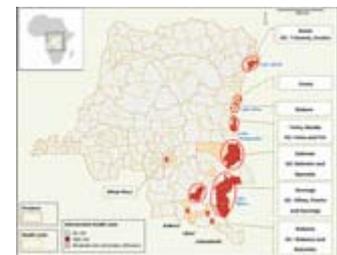
The Congolese authorities responsible for water management were involved in local measures. In 2008, the Foundation co-funded and prepared master plans for the rehabilitation of urban water treatment plants and distribution networks. The country's health department issued a strategic plan for eradicating cholera that replicated these efforts at the national level, and the Foundation signed its first partnership agreement with the ministry in 2009. Two years later, an interministerial meeting held in Kinshasa in May resulted in a consensus: an interministerial memorandum of understanding on eradicating cholera in the DRC was adopted, and the GAAC was officially launched.

The goal

This integrated approach, combining operating assistance and an institutional framework, is now in place in Kalemie and Uvira, two of the seven areas at the origin of the cholera outbreaks in the DRC. In Kalemie, the NGO Solidarités International has improved the water supply system in the most vulnerable neighborhoods and carried out emergency work on the primary network with funding from the Foundation. In Uvira, work began on making the water supply network reliable early in 2011, and the treatment plant's capacity should be increased. That work is being funded by the Foundation with a view to substantially increasing water service and attracting new sponsors and partners to fund lasting improvements to the city's water infrastructure.

Taking the same approach as in the DRC, epidemiological studies and studies on access to water and sanitation and on hygiene habits were carried out in the Lake Chad area at the end of 2010. The studies were conducted at UNICEF's request in Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad by volunteer Veoliaforce experts and their partners at Franche-Comté University. Partnering with Action Against Hunger, the Foundation is now providing technical support for the development of a protocol for research and analysis of *Vibrio cholerae* in the drinking water in N'djamena, Chad.

Thanks to the progress in this cholera-eradication project, the Veolia Environnement Foundation and GAAC are receiving recognition and invitations to take part in working groups to promote an innovative combined health and water approach. The Veolia Environnement Foundation took part in a round table of experts organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) held in Geneva in May 2011: the first step in a long-term collaboration.



Map of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its hot spots for cholera outbreaks.



The article published in [Planète](#).



Find details of the operations on the ground on the [GAAC website](#).

Top of The News

INTERVIEW



Doctor Ibrahim Hassane Mayaki is executive secretary of NEPAD (Nouveau Partenariat pour le développement en Afrique) and chairman of GAAC (Global Alliance Against Cholera), a think tank created at the initiative of the Veolia Foundation, whose aim is to reinforce strategies to combat cholera in affected countries.

How do you plan to extend the fight against cholera to other Congolese cities?

In early 2010, with the creation of GAAC, we joined our expertise on cholera to refine the strategy already implemented in Kalemie and Uvira and to extend it to six other sanctuary zones identified in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The mission of this consortium is to help with that extension and to share the results with international specialists, while conveying the message of our combat against this plague to directors of monetary funds and public authorities.

Who are these specialists?

The GAAC brings together a wide panel of experts on the fight against cholera: scientists such as Dr. Rita Colwell, a cholera specialist who was awarded the 2010 Stockholm Water Prize for her work on the subject; Professor Renaud Piarroux, who five years ago initiated the analysis of epidemiological data in the DRC; representatives of research institutes including the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Société de Pathologie Exotique in Paris; UN agencies, such as UNICEF and the WHO, which are active worldwide in the combat against cholera; along with NGOs, including the International Rescue Committee and Catholic Relief Services, which have set up programs to fight cholera in numerous countries. This initial panel is intended to progressively expand and attract new members with the help of the Veolia Foundation, which supported the project from the outset.

What is the first phase of GAAC's work?

To implement a common strategy to eradicate cholera in the DRC by taking into account the expertise of various members.

So is this a project that's useful in the other countries?

Of course. The DRC is the country most affected by cholera in the world. We want to concentrate on problems there, but we realize that this water and health strategy can be applied to other zones. In countries of the Lake Chad Basin - Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, and Niger - the Foundation intervened along with UNICEF to identify vulnerable regions and coordinate their epidemiological and hydraulic actions. Thus, during the last cholera epidemic in northern Cameroon, the Foundation intervened at the request of the UNICEF to improve the strategies of the fight against this disease. Working with the epidemiological database in order to bring a more effective solution, it participated in the evaluation and reorientation of activities being implemented by NGO's in the fields of water supply and wastewater treatment. GAAC aims to first concentrate on the DRC, but we are not limited to that; we can look at other countries and see what's happening, then use that information too. The Veolia Foundation has also intervened with the Red Cross in Zimbabwe, where a widespread epidemic took place in 2008. It was able to organize emergency help, then over the past two years to do the work necessary to rehabilitate water plants to stop future epidemics at their roots.



The program.

Japan - 2011

The Veolia Environnement Foundation mobilized following the disaster that struck Japan in mid-March. A special "Solidarity Japan" account was opened at the request of the many Veolia employees who wanted to show their solidarity with the earthquake victims. All contributions will go to funding actions that will be decided based on discussions with the various Veolia entities operating in the stricken area.

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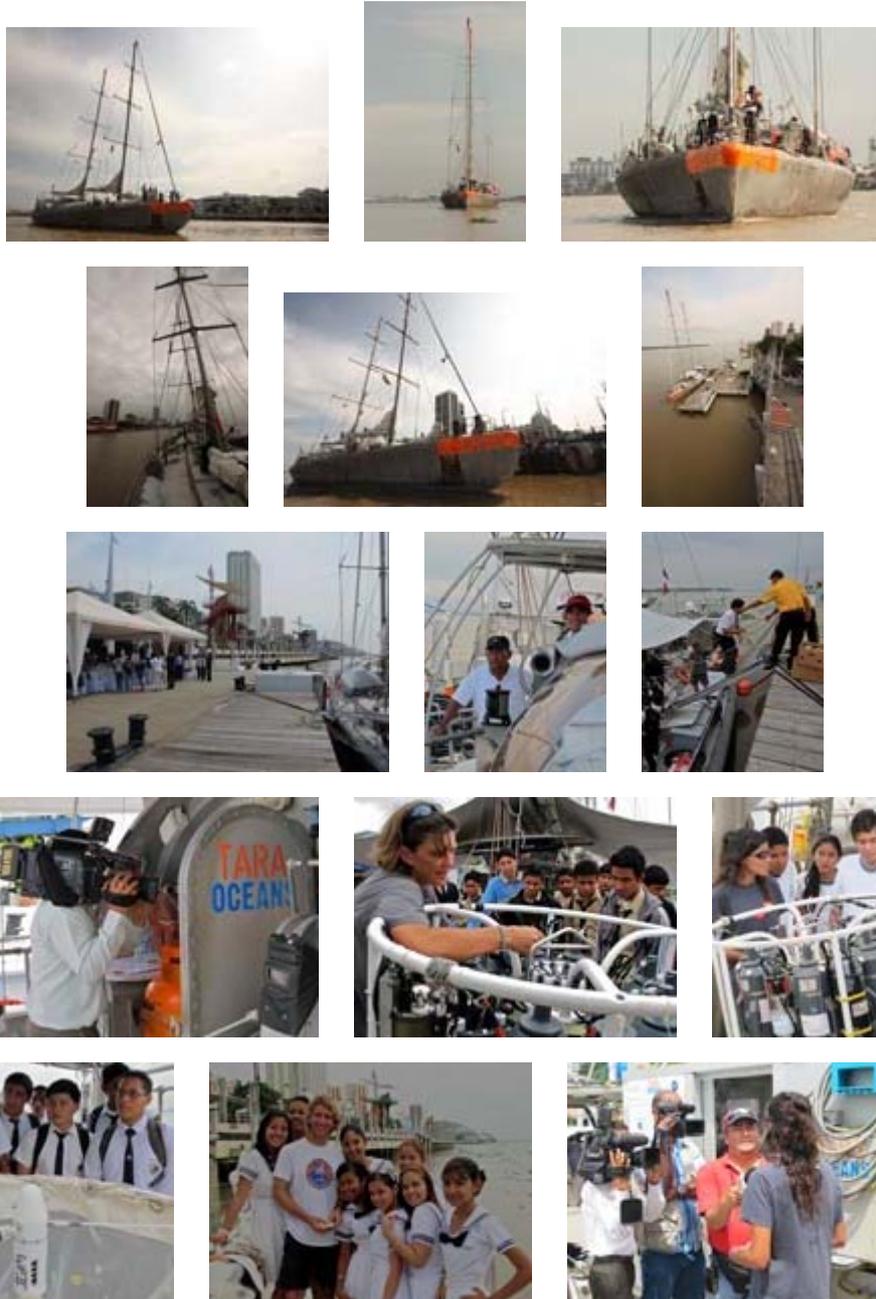


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Tara in Guayaquil



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