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Fondation Infos

Veolia Fondation Newsletter

N°13 - July 2014

Fondation Infos keeps you informed of what's happening at the Veolia Environnement Foundation: the projects being supported, reports from sponsors, volunteers leaving on emergency relief, development aid and other assignments around the world. The links in the contents section below will give you more information on each 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 Cameroon community of Bangangté received this year's United Nations Public Service Excellence Award. This award recognizes Modeab, a project supported by the Fondation Veolia. In less than four years, the foundation and its partners have helped establish a public water service. Through financial support and skills volunteering, the project has improved access to water and sanitation for 200,000 Cameroonians.

[Description](#) and a look back over the four years of this exceptional program.

LATEST PROJECTS SUPPORTED

The Fondation Veolia selection committee met May 23. It selected 14 projects, including nine in France and five internationally in the fields of humanitarian relief and development assistance (five projects), social ties and employment support (six projects) and environment and biodiversity protection (three projects).

[Find map](#) of supported projects on [the foundation website](#).

The foundation's board of directors met on March 17 and expressed its support for four projects, including two new projects: one involving waste management in Bamako, Mali, and the other linked to a drinking water and sanitation program in the Republic of Guinea.

-SOCIAL LINKS AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT-



The Association for workforce integration of young people and adults in difficulty (APIJ) is recruiting new teams and acquired new equipment to respond, in particular, to demand for construction and ecological restoration in Seine-Saint Denis.

[Find the details of the project here](#).

-ENVIRONMENTAL & BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION-



Founded in 2005, [the Heart of the Forest Association](#) develops reforestation and development projects in southern countries (Madagascar, Cameroon, Peru ...) to propose alternatives to deforestation. The Fondation Veolia provides support through a project developed in southwestern Cameroon aimed at curbing the significant deforestation of the Moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*).

[Visit the foundation site for more information](#).

-HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES AND DEVELOPMENT AID-



An extensive program to supply drinking water and sanitation (Pnaepa) was undertaken by the Republic of Guinea. It aims to develop the supply of drinking water for rural and semi-urban populations. The Fondation Veolia provides its support via a cooperative agreement with the Republic of Guinea's Ministry of Energy and Water. The support includes assisting local governments in the development of drinking water supplies and sanitation projects. Personnel will be trained and innovative financing support sought. A first assessment mission was conducted in March 2014.

TESTIMONY



Eric Hestin, deputy director of the 2EI consulting bureau (Veolia Environment), is sponsoring the APIJ project. This association for the workforce integration of young people and adults in difficulty received the foundation's support at its selection committee meeting on December 10, 2013. Testimony on an experience that extends beyond professional boundaries.

[Find the testimony of Eric Hestin here.](#)

REPORT AVAILABLE



The 2013 Fondation Veolia activity report on actions to support people and human development, is now available. Download it by clicking [on this link](#). You will find projects supported in 2013 in the fields of development aid and humanitarian emergencies, support for employment and social ties and the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

FOUNDATION LIFE



Thierry Vandevelde, CEO of Fondation Veolia, participated in the National Humanitarian Conference held March 31 at the center for ministerial conferences. At a roundtable hosted by Didier Le Bret, director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Crisis Center, Thierry discussed the motivations of corporate foundations in supporting humanitarian actions. The first conference in late 2011 had provided an opportunity to begin the process of drafting the French government's humanitarian strategy, which was adopted July 6, 2012. This second meeting enabled a dialogue and interaction between government and NGOs regarding key current humanitarian issues.



On April 4, 11 young people from the third "CréaJeunes" class submitted their draft business creation plans at the conclusion of a training course designed by Adie and supported by the Fondation Veolia. [The Association for the Right to Economic Initiative \(ADIE\) has been supported by the foundation since 2006](#). An annual contribution of € 60,000 helps promote small business creation in disadvantaged neighborhoods, with assistance focused on providing tools and solutions to support micro-entrepreneurs.



On 12 June, in the presence of Veolia CEO Antoine Frérot, the Fondation Veolia and the Veolia training department announced the winners of the [2014 edition of the Student Solidarity award](#). Topo sans frontières, Istom Student Environmental Expertise (ISEE), Mexisol, Nana Xhimai and Hand in Hand were the winning student associations. Find the winners and details of the projects supported [here](#).

[Read more.](#)

The graphic identity of the Fondation Veolia is evolving. Partners, please don't hesitate to use the visuals available on [the dedicated page on the foundation website](#).

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Modeab program (Cameroon) recognized by the United Nations

The Cameroon community of Bangangté received this year's United Nations Public Service Excellence Award in recognition of Modeab, a project supported by the Fondation Veolia. In less than four years, the foundation and its partners have helped establish a public water service. Through financial support and skills volunteering, the project has improved access to water and sanitation for 200,000 Cameroonians. Description.

Since the beginning of the Modeab (Master sustainable work in the areas of water and sanitation in Bangangté) project in 2010, the Fondation Veolia has conducted an unparalleled effort to design, develop and implement public service to provide access to water. The work is enormous but has provided a lasting experience. The seven rehabilitated water networks and 15 ecological latrines made available in Bangangté are designed to ensure the sustainable operation of the public service by strengthening the management, organizational, project management, monitoring and evaluation capabilities of municipal and local actors.

How was the project born? Three and a half years ago, the situation was clear. Only 44% of the population had access to drinking water in Cameroon and 34% to sanitation. However, there was an existing infrastructure. The country had benefited during the 1980s from Danish cooperation to install 350 water systems. But due to a lack of care and maintenance, these facilities broke down one after another. When Modeab was born in 2010, the challenge, in addition to new water supply and sanitation infrastructure, was to develop **sustainable management systems**. The community of Bangangté would play a pioneering role in the field, supported by the Fondation Veolia, which convinced several partners to support the process. Water supply systems were rehabilitated and latrines installed with the permanent objective of continuing operation.

A study was conducted alongside the ongoing construction in order to structure the public service. As the community management systems previously in force had not provided sustainable access to water, there was a need to innovate. The foundation envisioned **an approach that took into account the government's decentralization movement initiated in 2010**. The municipality became the sponsor of the communal infrastructure and a Water Authority was created. A volunteer Committee of Water Users (CUE) allowed people to be heard by the water services operator. This professional from the private sector sells access to drinking water. The operator receives revenue from the sales but must repay a portion of the revenues to the authority, the CUE and a renovation account. To involve all stakeholders and provide security, a double signature (the authority and CUE) is necessary for the operator to use the subsidies from this account. At Baména, a Bangangté community whose network was the first to be rehabilitated, about € 3000 has been already set aside to deal with any pump failure. **Access to water became sustainable.**

The innovative nature of the approach was recognized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which chose to distinguish the public service project. On June 26, the Mayor of Bangangté, together with the community's partners, received the United Nations Excellence Award for public service at a ceremony held in Seoul. On site, the infrastructure has been steadily put into service and the last missions by Veoliaforce volunteers are preparing for **the full autonomy of public water service and sanitation**. The Fondation Veolia was previously directly involved in the construction performed; it now concentrates more of its efforts in conducting training workshops for current and future operators of public water service. For the foundation and its partners, the success of Modeab will be measured by the sustainability of its facilities in the years ahead.



Modeab in figures

200,000 Cameroonian beneficiaries

5 partners: the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF); the Paris area interdepartmental association for sanitation (Siaap) ; the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (AESN).

2 suppliers of social outreach

20 field mission volunteers

€ 1.3 million allocated by partners, including € 313,000 by Fondation Veolia

€ 50,000: sponsorship of skills volunteering from the Fondation Veolia

7 water networks rehabilitated

15 ecological latrines made available

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Eric Hestin, manager of a consulting and studies subsidiary on sustainable urban development, has for several months been the sponsor of a workforce integration association. The APIJ conducts outreach in neighborhoods from Cosmonautes in Saint-Denis (Seine-Saint-Denis) to Saint-Blaise in Paris. Testimony on an experience that extends beyond professional boundaries.

Since 2010, you have been in your job at Veolia's consulting and studies subsidiary 2EI. How did you hear about the foundation?

Eric Hestin: Several employees around me were sponsors or have participated in foundation activities. In addition, Alice Peyrard, development manager at Veolia Water and a volunteer with the foundation, introduced me to APIJ, which I sponsor today.

This association for the workforce integration of young people and adults in difficulty now has 30 employees. What were its needs when you met with its team initially?

EH: The APIJ works in three areas. First, there is a reception and support area at the Cosmonautes housing project in Saint-Denis, for people most in need. School projects are then used to train those who wish in woodworking and, more broadly, in ecological construction. Finally, there is an integration company specializing in eco-construction, using wood, in particular. Rémy Beauvisage, the head of the association who I met with told me about many of these reintegration activities. Their sustainability depends on the purchase of a van-type vehicle, ideally equipped with a rack and a trailer hitch. The foundation was requested to support this particular purchase.

A purchase that you followed up in getting the support from the foundation in December?

E. H.: Yes, and it is underway. I put the APIJ in connection with Sade, one of my former employers, with the idea that the research by Rémy Beauvisage and his team could expand into resale of professional vehicles.

And you are continuing your involvement with the association?

EH: Yes, I've become a member of their board but, for now, I'm still a humble observer!

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Find more information on the project and the activities of the APIJ on [the Fondation Veolia website](#).



Eric Hestin, 44, is an engineer. He joined Veolia in 1996 and worked for Sade, including in the Philippines and the UK before moving to Australia (2007-2009). Since 2010, he has been the executive director of 2EI, a consulting and studies subsidiary specializing in sustainable urban development.