

2022

ACTIVITY REPORT

# THE SEACLEANERS SWISS

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# 2022



<https://www.theseacleaners.ch>

## THE ASSOCIATION

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Every day, our oceans suffer from plastic pollution, endangering not only marine life but also our own. To act for the protection of our oceans is to fight for the survival of our planet.

Isolated actions, although important, are not enough. It's essential to have an integrated approach to address this global challenge.

This is what The SeaCleaners offers.

## WHO WE ARE?

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The SeaCleaners Swiss is a non-profit association recognized as being of public utility.

## OUR MISSION

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In the face of a certain inertia from national and international public policies and the accelerating production and consumption of plastic, The SeaCleaners has chosen a proactive and pragmatic approach to contribute to the reduction of ocean pollution. This is particularly through the design, construction, and operation of one or more boats dedicated to collecting oceanic waste.



## OUR DREAM

The dream of The SeaCleaners Swiss is of a world in which the oceans and aquatic environments, once drastically decontaminated, will have regained their original beauty and the integrity of their functions vital for planetary balance. Both humanity and biodiversity depend on it.

# THE SEACLEANERS SWISS

## WHO WE ARE?

The SeaCleaners Swiss is more than just a branch of our global organization. It's the beating heart of our fight against plastic pollution, not only in Switzerland but also on the international stage.

## OUR MISSION



TO CONTRIBUTE TO CLEANING UP THE OCEANS AND AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS AND TO RECYCLE PLASTIC WASTE.



TO UNDERSTAND PLASTIC POLLUTION, DEVELOP AND WIDELY DISSEMINATE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.



TO SENSITIZE AND MOBILIZE ALL PUBLICS IN ORDER TO RAISE AWARENESS AND BRING ABOUT LASTING CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR.



TO ENSURE AN OPTIMAL MANAGEMENT OF OCEAN WASTE AND PROMOTE LOCAL DYNAMICS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT PLASTIC CONSUMPTION IN SWITZERLAND(\*):

### 350 000 TONS:

Switzerland's annual plastic packaging consumption.

### 100 TONS:

The amount of macro plastics found each year on the shores of Swiss lakes and rivers.

### 53 TONS:

The amount of plastic transported daily from Lake Léman to the Mediterranean.

### 10% OF WASTE FROM LÉMAN LAKE

are evacuated by the Rhône and discharged into the Mediterranean Sea every year.

## PRESIDENT OF THE SEACLEANERS SWISS.

Dear Members,

As you know, 2022 was the year when the Covid-related restrictions came to an end.

After two years of Covid, 2022 served as a transitional year since TSC, based in France, underwent a change in leadership focused now on corporate patronage. Additionally, the head of philanthropy laid out the major guiding principles. It took a year to measure the entire impact on TSC Swiss. Now, we are ready.

TSC Swiss also hired two interns in 2022, whose efforts were focused on corporate patronage. The results of their work will have a positive impact in the coming years.

The TSC Swiss committee strengthened this year, with a board of directors comprised of 6 individuals, all with solid experience in the field. The idea is indeed to introduce fresh perspectives through the experiences of other volunteer committee members. An expanded committee will be more effective if each member defines their role based on their experience and aspirations, beyond those with a statutory role.

I would like to heartily thank you for your commitment to TSC CH.

**Maurice Hoffstetter**  
**President of The SeaCleaners Swiss**

*Maurice Hoffstetter*



## DIRECTEUR THE SEACLEANERS SWISS

Dear Members,

Following a 2021 where The SeaCleaners Swiss found itself at a crossroads with a genuine resurgence in activity after Covid, 2022 marked the beginning of a new momentum.



The issue of plastic has become a flagship theme of the federal government's policy, and after several years of studies, the same council released a report in September on plastic pollution in Switzerland, demonstrating the impact our pollution has on the oceans.

This report, which will guide Switzerland's environmental policies in the coming years, has resonated significantly and positively with businesses. These companies, which previously were not receptive to our cause and various projects, began to assess the impact of their own plastic pollution, and we've seen "Sustainability" departments emerge within the majority of these players.

Starting from March 2022, several months before the release of this report, through various events, we noticed a growing trend of corporate donations. Much like philanthropy, decision-making within companies is a lengthy process, and we are convinced that 2023 will mark a turning point with the arrival of new industrial partners by our side.

We've already seen a significant increase in the amount of donations received in 2022. Beyond this rise in donations, it's important to remember that one of our crucial missions is raising awareness and education in schools, universities, businesses, and the general public.

## DIRECTOR OF THE SEACLEANERS SWISS

We have therefore decided to intensify all our efforts, leading to a surge in volunteer participation. Thanks to this renewed focus, and the collective effort of our volunteer and salaried team, we have expanded our on-ground initiatives. We marked our presence at the Climate Expo in Geneva, the Gala of the Vaud Rural Youth, the Paléo and Alternatiba Festivals.

We organized numerous “clean-up” drives during these events, as well as in Versoix for the third time during World Clean-up Day, and also in collaboration with several schools. We also had the opportunity to intervene during the week focused on plastic pollution at the WTO, during evenings with the IMD in Lausanne, and raised awareness among various school groups in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

We are now certain that this on-ground presence has become indispensable and will truly help change behaviors in the long term.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to all the private or anonymous donors, particularly SP Groupes SA, which continues to support us warmly by providing an office space and consistent financial backing. Also, thanks to PwC Switzerland, Fidolea SA, and Euroseas for their support.

We are convinced that the growth of SeaCleaners in Switzerland will continue on a solid and sustainable foundation, for the benefit of future generations.

**Benoit de Torcy**  
General Manager

*Benoit de Torcy*

## THE SEACLEANERS' FLAGSHIP PROJECT: THE MANTA

The Manta is more than just a boat. It's a true giant of the seas, a catamaran, the fruit of four years of R&D, which is at once a collection vessel, a processing plant and a scientific laboratory. Driven by renewable energies, this vessel is able to operate for the most part without fossil fuels, demonstrating exceptional environmental responsibility.



**The challenge. Every minute, our world dumps 20 tonnes of plastic waste into the oceans. The design of the Manta, a pioneering vessel capable of collecting and recycling marine plastic waste on an industrial scale.**

## OVERVIEW OF THE MANTA'S VALUES

Unrivalled efficiency: The Manta is the first factory ship capable of collecting and recycling huge quantities of floating plastic waste. In operation, it can collect and process 1 to 3 tonnes of plastic waste per hour, aiming to remove between 5,000 and 10,000 tonnes of plastic from the oceans every year.

Advanced technology: With over 45,000 hours of development, it incorporates an innovative hybrid propulsion system and is powered by renewable energies. It can operate most of the time without fossil fuels, reducing its environmental footprint.

Unique capabilities: The Manta is the only vessel capable of handling 100% of the plastic waste collected at sea. It integrates an onboard plant for sorting, processing, and converting plastic into energy, all with the minimal environmental footprint.

### Multiple missions :

- **Research:** It has research facilities on board, hosting scientific teams to study plastic pollution.
- **Education:** The Manta serves as an educational platform, raising awareness of plastic pollution among hundreds of visitors every day.
- **Promotion:** It aims to initiate the transition to a circular economy in countries most affected by plastic pollution.
- **Ambassador:** As an iconic vessel, it demonstrates plastic waste collection and recovery technologies, encouraging their widespread adoption.

**To date, the MANTA project has required + 45,000 working-hours.**

## MOBULA: A MULTI-PURPOSE POLLUTION CONTROL SOLUTION FOR COASTAL AND IN-LAND CALM WATERS

The MOBULA is a clean-up vessel featuring unique, innovative technology for the collection of floating solid and liquid waste.

Thanks to its removable floats and folding deck, it offers considerable storage capacity for plastic waste, while retaining the ability to be transported economically and safely in a 40-foot container.



# Support and patronage in Switzerland

The SeaCleaners Swiss's sponsors support the association every day in the development of its ocean protection missions.

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Several companies have already joined The SeaCleaners adventure. They are linked to the project by a sponsorship agreement that commits them to supporting the association in a long-term relationship.

## AN OVERVIEW OF 2022 SPONSORS



This year, the association benefited from in-kind sponsorship from the following Swiss companies:

- ✓ **SP Group**  
A company committed to reducing its carbon footprint through sustainable practices and energy innovations.
- ✓ **Lions Club Délemont**  
Club active in local projects related to preserve the environment, improve the community and nature.
- ✓ **BCV**  
Banque Cantonale Vaudoise, committed to sustainable banking practices and engaged with environmental, social and governance topics.
- ✓ **Fondation de Fondateur**  
It supports environmental initiatives in Switzerland, working to protect local ecosystems and promote sustainability.
- ✓ **Isaac Dreyfus Buerhuim Fondation**  
Foundation engaged in philanthropic projects focused on nature preservation and environmental awareness.
- ✓ **Fondation Vegor**  
It promotes sustainable agriculture and agroecology in Switzerland, helping to preserve farmland and biodiversity.
- ✓ **Erobulk Limited**  
Enterprise committed to reducing waste and minimizing its environmental impact in the transport and logistics sector.

# Awareness Raising Activities

The SeaCleaners Swiss acts against plastic pollution in a corrective and preventive way, notably by educating and raising awareness among the general public, in order to raise awareness and bring about lasting changes in behavior.

## RAISING AWARENESS AMONG SCHOOLS

Education is at the heart of our mission. 2022 was the year in which our awareness-raising initiatives took shape in several Swiss schools. Educational games, films and discussions helped to raise awareness of plastic issues. Among these schools:

### Blonay elementary school (VD)

A whole day dedicated to raising awareness, punctuated by a collection action and an enriching exchange with the person in charge of the sorting center.

### Mandala school in Venthône (VS)

Pupils aged 6 to 9 were immersed in a fun-filled day of learning.

### International School (La Chataigneraie, Founex)

During "Green Week", we co-created content with the children, awakening them to the challenges of plastics. Their commitment exceeded our expectations.

### Day out in Gland (VD)

As part of our vacation programs, a day was dedicated to children aged 8 to 11.

### Espace Entreprise Geneva (GE)

This vocational training center was also sensitized through educational activities and exchanges.

## 2022 in figures:

+15 key  
actions

+3000 people  
sensitized

+1600 children  
reached

## RAISING AWARENESS IN THE FIELD



Our presence in the field was marked by several emblematic events:

**Salon du Climat at Palexpo:** At the Salon du Climat at Palexpo, one of the world's most renowned environmental events, The SeaCleaners Swiss was dedicated to raising awareness, informing and engaging the public on the major issues surrounding plastic pollution of the oceans. At the heart of this international trade show, we were able to exchange views with key industry players, researchers, activists and passionate visitors from a wide range of backgrounds. This platform gave us the opportunity to highlight our initiatives, broaden our support network and reinforce our mission in front of a diverse and committed audience. The resonance of our message at Palexpo testifies to the growing importance of our actions and the relevance of our cause.

**Rallye des Jeunesses Campagnardes Vaudoises:** We set up an awareness camp for a week.

**Paléo Festival:** Our presence at one of Switzerland's biggest music festivals enabled us to raise awareness among festival-goers. Our stand was the meeting point for discussing environmental issues while enjoying the music.

**Alternatiba Festival:** Our presence at the Alternatiba Festival was marked not only by our usual awareness-raising activities, but also by an academic contribution. Our scientific manager gave a talk on plastic, its impact on the environment and possible solutions. This talk helped to raise public awareness by providing a scientific perspective on the subject.

**Meyrin Football Club Annual Gala:** Beyond the passion for soccer, we shared with the athletes and their fans the need for a clean environment for a healthy sport.

**Challenge Boubou at Club Nautique de Versoix:** A unique opportunity to combine the beauty of water sports with the imperative of protecting our waters. The 250 racing yachts sailed in an unspoiled setting, reminding everyone of the importance of our actions.

## “CLEAN-UP” OPERATIONS



Direct action in the field has always been at the heart of our concerns. Regular "clean-ups" have resulted in the collection of large quantities of waste:

**Clean-up at the Versoix nautical center:** In collaboration with sailing enthusiasts, we collected garbage around the lake.

**Clean-up after the Jeuneses Campagnardes Vaudoises Rally:** These two days we did not only cleaned up the area, but we also set an example for all rally participants.

**Clean-up at Venoge Festival (VD):** Festival-goers were encouraged to join in, turning the clean-up into a festive act of community.

**Clean-up in Blonay (VD):** The people of Blonay joined forces to show that every town has a role to play in this fight.

### 2022 figures:

4 actions clean up

+240 kg collected

+1400 L



## 2022 RESULTS AND OPERATING EXPENSES (FOR THE PERIOD 01/01/2022 TO 12/31/2022)

TOTAL ASSETS	287.274 CHF
operating income	198.043 CHF
Net income	+87.389 CHF



**198.043 CHF** were deducted from donations to cover the association's operating costs in Switzerland.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



GALLIFREY  
FOUNDATION

DG  
DOETSCH GREYER  
PHARMA • OTC • CONSUMER CARE



isaac  
dreyfus  
bernheim  
FONDATION/STIFTUNG



VEGEOR  
FOUNDATION



Cabinet Immobilier Edelweiss



B O R Y  
immobilier



Lions Club  
Delémont  
2800 Delémont



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Commune de  
Dardagny

# ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABILITY GOALS WITH THE SEACLEANERS

Ocean plastic pollution undermines the achievement of several of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), commitments adopted by UN member states to promote shared prosperity and protect the planet by 2030.

Fighting against the scourge of ocean plastic pollution, at all levels, is to participate in responding to the global challenges we face. By joining The SeaCleaners, you are joining the movement of those who are working towards a more sustainable future for all and transforming the world.

## NO POVERTY



The SeaCleaners is determined to turn plastic from a waste product into a valuable resource. Every day, we fight to give a second life to this waste and offer employment opportunities in the areas most in need. Our support for initiatives such as "**Social Plastic**" embodies our vision of a world without poverty, valuing every gram of plastic recovered and every workforce mobilized to protect our oceans.

## ZERO HUNGER



The ocean feeds humanity. However, plastic pollution is compromising this vital source. Our actions at The SeaCleaners transcend simple ocean cleaning. We fight to protect our fish stocks, **restore our food chain**, and guarantee food security for millions. Because a clean ocean means a future where hunger is relegated to the annals of history.

## GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The plastic you can't see is the most dangerous. Every microparticle, when it enters our food chain, puts our health at risk. At The SeaCleaners, we intervene before this plastic becomes invisible, **protecting the health of every individual**, every child, every future..

## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



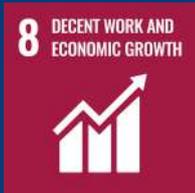
A drop of clean water is worth its weight in gold. The SeaCleaners, through MOBULA, strives to turn **every polluted drop into a source of life**. In partnership with local communities, we fight the dangers of plastic pollution to ensure clean, safe water for all.





## AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The **MANTA** is more than just a ship; it's a **vision for the future of energy**. With eco-friendly innovations, we're proving that the marine industry, too, can be a champion of sustainability. At The SeaCleaners, we're pushing the boundaries of what's possible when it comes to clean energy.



## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Value lies in what many consider useless. The SeaCleaners embraces the circular economy, **turning waste into resources**, and resources into sustainable jobs. Our projects are synonymous with opportunities, skills and local economic growth.



## REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The Plastic pollution is more than an environmental issue; it's a question of social justice. At The SeaCleaners, we fight for the unheard voices, the marginalized communities who bear the brunt of this pollution. We're working for a world where a **healthy environment is a fundamental right**, accessible to all.



## RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Responsibility is our watchword. The SeaCleaners works tirelessly to promote **responsible consumption and production**, putting education and awareness at the heart of every intervention. Because a sustainable future begins with informed choices today.



## CLIMATE ACTION

The fight against climate change is a race against time. At The SeaCleaners, every piece of plastic waste we remove, every preventive action we take, every piece of research we conduct is aimed at **restoring our planet's delicate balance**. Our mission is clear: for a stable climate, the oceans must be preserved.



## LIFE BELOW WATER

Aquatic life is the barometer of our planetary health. Every marine animal affected, every ecosystem disrupted, is a warning signal. With UNEP's support, we at The SeaCleaners are answering this call with unwavering determination. Together, we can turn back the tide of pollution and **provide a safe haven for marine life**.





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