PLASTIC ODYSSEY

Scaling Local Solutions
To Solve The Global Plastic Crisis

2026 – 2030

Our Partners

Main

L'OCCITANE EN PROVENCE

Field

après demain

Officials

CLARINS · CA · matmut · koesio

Main patron

FORVIA Foundation

A GLOBAL EMERGENCY

Every minute, 19 tons of plastic waste are dumped into the ocean.

If we do nothing, by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean. **Yet 80% of this pollution could be avoided with existing, proven solutions.**

"During a stopover in Dakar in 2016, not only was I struck by the plastic pollution, but I was impressed by the ingenuity and ubiquitous culture of recycling. I kept telling myself that if plastic recycling technologies, held by only a few specialists today, were to be democratized, not only would this pollution disappear, but thousands of jobs would be created."

— **Simon Bernard**,
Co-founder and CEO of Plastic Odyssey

Plastic Odyssey began with a simple idea:

What if we visited the 30 countries most affected by plastic pollution, not to study the problem but to collect the solutions?

For three years, our vessel has journeyed through these regions stricken by the plastic waste crisis, dropping anchor in 40 ports across 3 continents (Africa, South America, and Asia).

On board: engineers, scientists, educators… all working to identify what really works.

Now, after this global expedition, we're ready for Phase 2: scaling up these proven ideas, making them grow wherever they can have the biggest impact.

PHASE 1: THE GLOBAL EXPEDITION

EXPLORING AND PROVING WHAT WORKS

A Floating Laboratory for Solutions

During the expedition (2022–2025), the Plastic Odyssey vessel became a true **ambassador for plastic waste reduction and recycling**: a place to identify, test, and document the best local initiatives tackling plastic pollution.

An expedition toward the regions most affected by plastic pollution

Departing from Marseille on October 1, 2022, for a 3-year expedition through the countries most affected by plastic pollution, around 20 explorers aboard a 40-meter laboratory vessel sail the seas **to identify, document, and share practical solutions to the plastic waste crisis.**

TIMELINE :

2022	Mediterranean Basin
2023	West Africa and South America
2024	Pacific and Southeast Asia
2025	Indian Ocean and Africa (East-West)
2026	Africa, France Tour, Mediterranean Sea

I. RECYCLING SOLUTIONS

CLEAN UP THE PAST

- **15 low-tech recycling systems tested** and validated onboard.
- **300+ local innovations documented** across 30 countries.
- **2,000 entrepreneurs trained** through onboard workshops and our online Recycling Academy.
- **15 micro-factories launched** during the journey: each turning plastic waste into usable materials (tiles, benches, building bricks).

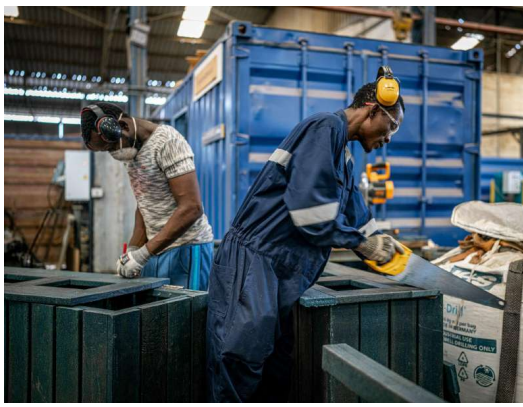
These systems proved that with simple tools and knowledge, **waste can become a local resource** — and a source of income.

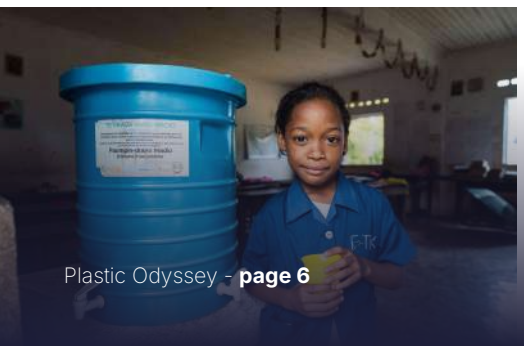
II. ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC

BUILD THE FUTURE

At every stopover, our crew met innovators replacing single-use plastics with **sustainable, locally made alternatives**. We collected and shared these real-world solutions: refill systems, reusable containers, natural materials.

They're now featured in our open-source library, showcased in our traveling exhibition, **'The Treasure Trunks'**, and used in our educational tools like the **'Solutions Fresk'** and the **'Young Explorers'** program, which have already reached over 15,000 students.





The Zero-Waste Lab

Humanity is drowning in plastic waste! A huge portion of this is linked to what we eat: water bottles, packaging, over-packaging, single-serve portions, and more.

Our goal: Zero plastic on board Plastic Odyssey!
On board the vessel, we experiment with new ways to minimize packaging: buying in bulk, eliminating single-use plastics, meticulously tracking our waste, and creating our own recipes in the Zero-Waste Lab.

We now make our own plant-based milk, bread, pasta, sweets, crackers, yogurt, and beverages (kefir, kombucha, ginger beer, iced tea, bissap) and even our own cleaning products. The result: a healthier, more creative lifestyle and, above all, a drastic reduction in our waste!

III. SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS

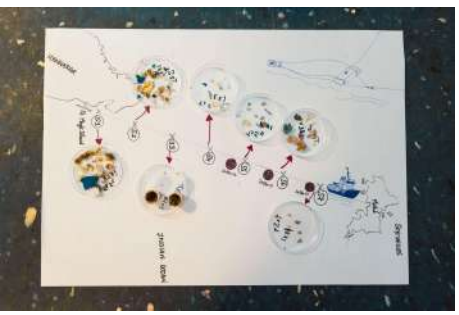
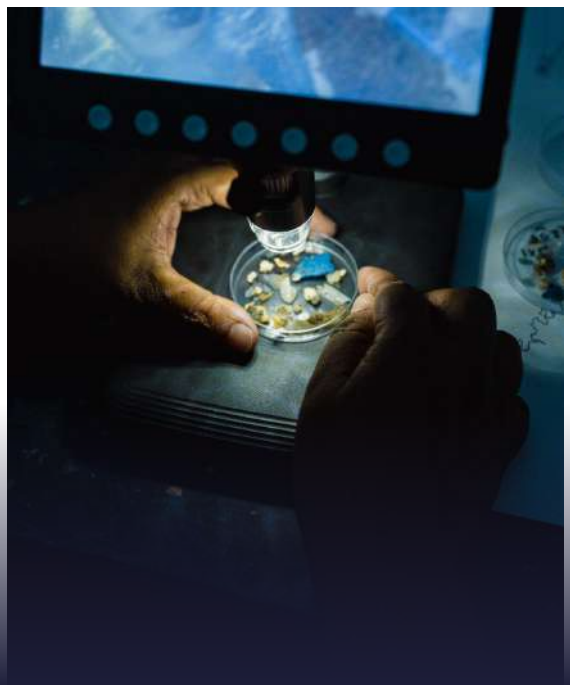
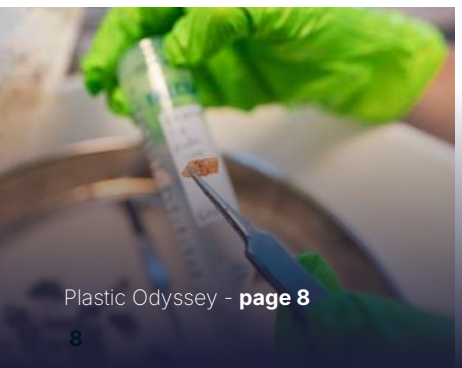
UNDERSTAND TO ACT

Plastic Odyssey also served as a **scientific research vessel:**

- Scientific missions conducted in partnership with institutes like **IRD, CNRS and UNESCO.**
- Measurement of plastic accumulation zones, especially in remote islands and marine sanctuaries.
- Flagship achievements:

  - **Henderson Island (UNESCO)**: 9 tons of plastic removed during the first "*Impossible Cleanup*®", 1 scientific study published.
  - **ExPLOI Mission**: Mapping plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean with 20 regional scientists on board the vessel for 4 months.
  - **Aldabra Atoll (UNESCO)**: A first-of-its-kind reconnaissance mission to map plastic pollution in preparation for a future cleanup (2027).
  - **Saint Brandon Archipelago**: 5 tons of waste collected in 4 days by a team of 8 people. A physical and technical challenge.

These missions proved one thing: even in the most isolated places, **it is possible to restore ecosystems if we act now.**
These expeditions have also allowed us to develop new methods for measuring plastic pollution (such as drone mapping and photogrammetry), new tools to facilitate collection, and to test various waste extraction solutions like floating platforms and parasails.

PHASE 2: THE DEPLOYMENT

REPLICATE, SCALE, AND MULTIPLY IMPACT

World doesn't need more pilot projects.
It needs replication, scaling what works.

Phase 2 is about **making the seeds planted during the expedition grow everywhere** they can:

- On the one hand, in **economically viable territories**, where recycling can create jobs.
- On the other, in **fragile and remote ecosystems**, where action is urgent but unprofitable and where no one else will go.

I. "IMPOSSIBLE CLEANUPS" PROGRAM WITH UNESCO

RESTORING WORLD HERITAGE TREASURES

In 2025, Plastic Odyssey and UNESCO joined forces to act where pollution meets heritage. There are **51 marine World Heritage sites** — ecosystems of exceptional value, now turned into **plastic traps**.

Our mission: **restore them, one by one**.
Following the success on Henderson Island and Saint Brandon Archipelago, we will now deploy our know-how on:

- **Santa Luzia (Cape Verde)** – 2026
- **Aldabra (Seychelles)** – 2027

Each mission combines:
- Scientific data collection
- Field cleanup operations
- Recycling on site using mobile micro-factories

These expeditions are not just clean-ups. They're **replicable field labs**, developing and sharing the methods to restore other sanctuaries.

unesco
x
PLASTIC ODYSSEY

**"No one goes there because it's not profitable.
That's exactly why we must."**

II. FACTORIES: NETWORK OF RECYCLING PLANTS

A DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM FOR PLASTIC RECOVERY

Plastic Odyssey helps make low-value **waste management profitable and self-sustaining** wherever possible.

- A **franchise network** of 200+ micro factories under construction to
  - **create 10,000 jobs**
  - **recycle 100,000 of plastic tons/year**

During the Expedition:

- **15 recycling factories** launched in Senegal, Philippines, Indonesia and more
- Each unit is **containerized** and consists of **3 to 5 machines**, which enable the creation of 7 to 10 jobs.
- Plastic waste is **transformed into recycled materials** for the manufacturing of bricks, tiles, and furniture.

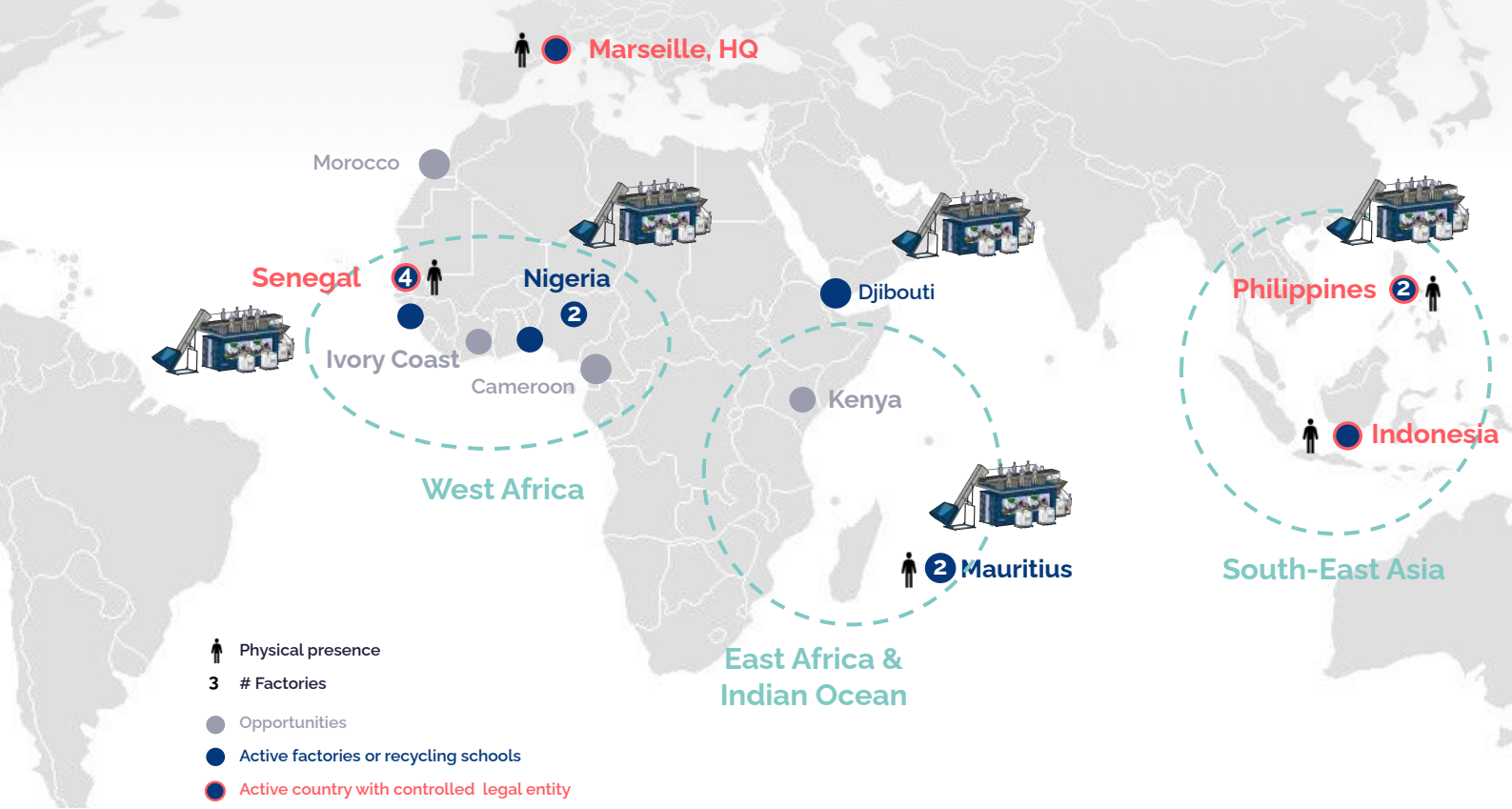
Phase 2 goal: scale this model

We now provide:

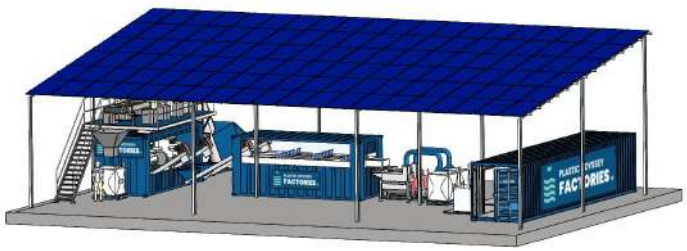
- Open-source machine blueprints via the Recycling Academy
- Business mentorship and financing tools
- Starter equipment and logistics support

Each factory is a **profitable local business**, built on a **replicable model** that contributes to the development of a global circular economy, while reducing plastic pollution and generating income for communities.

PLASTIC ODYSSEY FACTORIES.



Supporting a global decentralized collection & recycling network with a Franchise model that access to partners, mutualize core functions and aggregate streams.



BUILT TO LAST

We want to invent a new industrial and impact business model. It will take decades with many challenges on the way.

We need to put ambition and rhythm but have a self sustaining business that is fit for lasting through aleas and crisis.

READY TO SCALE

We build the assets and proofs to be ready to scale and finance this scale.

- **50M€**
- **100 000 T recycled**
- **10 000 jobs created**
- **200 Factories**
- **10 Countries**

START 2024 **BUILD** 2027+ **SCALE**

III. OUR TOOLS FOR AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

To scale impact, Plastic Odyssey has developed a complete ecosystem of **open-source tools** turning knowledge into action across audiences worldwide.

Our ready-to-scale toolbox:

Recycling Academy (MOOC)
A free online training platform helping entrepreneurs **launch local recycling businesses**.

The "Solutions Fresk"
A collaborative workshop that turns **awareness into empowerment**.
Using 54 illustrated cards from the expedition, participants explore the lifecycle of plastic and real-world solutions.

Young Explorers Program
A **classroom kit** connecting science, geography, and citizenship.
Children students investigate plastic use in their community and design their own action plan.

Documentary & Digital Series
A window into the expedition: **stories, solutions, and local heroes** shared worldwide.

Exhibition of Solutions
An immersive travelling experience presenting the most **promising innovations** discovered on the expedition from recycling systems to plastic-free alternatives.

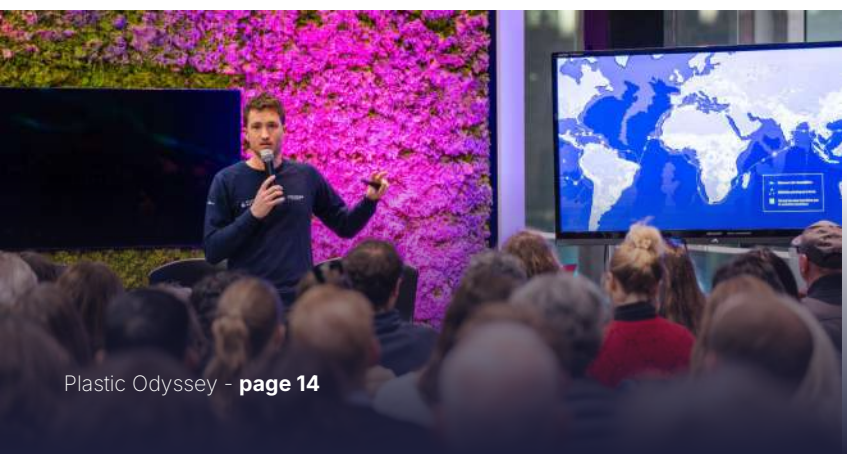
Each tool spreads one idea: **solutions exist and everyone can take part in them.**

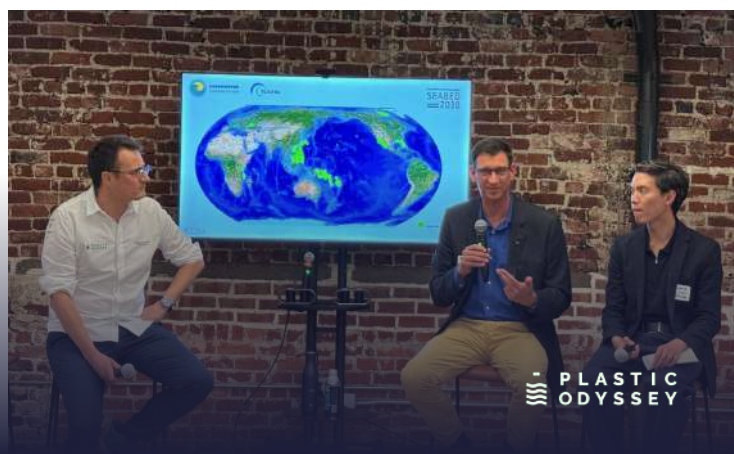
OPEN HORIZONS

ESTABLISHING OUR U.S. 501(c)(3) NONPROFIT

Plastic Odyssey Fund (San Francisco, USA)

Founded in 2025 as a non-profit organization, the Plastic Odyssey Fund (USA) mobilizes partners and philanthropic leaders across the United States to deploy the Plastic Odyssey approach on a global scale. **A fundraising campaign is currently underway** to finance these biodiversity restoration missions and expand educational tools across multiple continents.



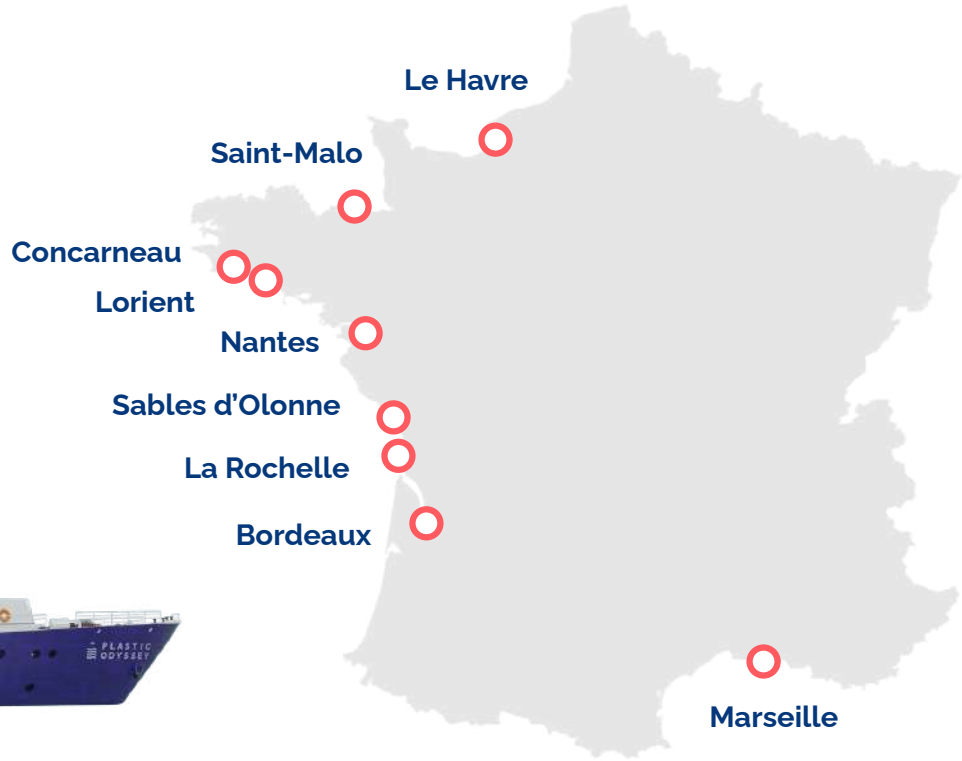


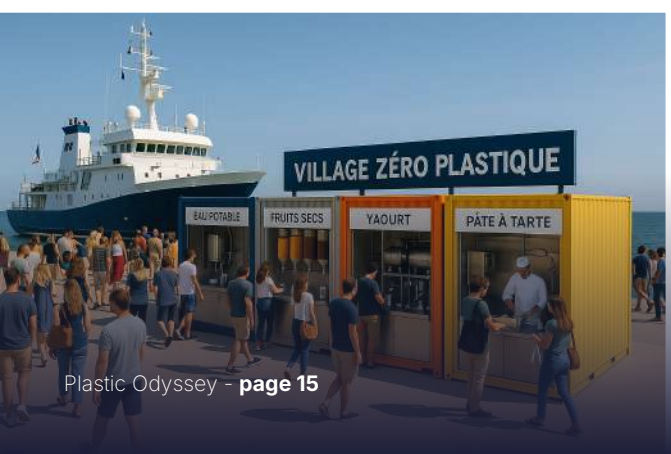
OPEN HORIZONS

FRENCH LOCAL CHAPTERS

The Plastic Odyssey 2026 France Tour

Back in France, the vessel will make stopovers at **several ports across the country** to engage with citizens, schools, and businesses. This France Tour will lead to the **creation of local branches in each city**, responsible for training volunteers and educators to ensure long-term action: cleanup operations, screenings, and workshops, long after the ship has departed.





EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

TURNING PLASTIC POLLUTION INTO SOLUTIONS

Plastic Odyssey Academy (Foundation)

Plastic Odyssey Academy is a **global philanthropic engine** supporting hight-impact recycling, education and social innovation programs in developing countries.

Our programs :

- **Awareness & Community Engagement**: Mobilizing communities through education, action and local recycling awareness
- **Entrepreneurship & Project Launch**: Supporting local entrepreneurs and initiatives to build viable recycling projects
- **Education & Ecosystem Building**: Engaging students, universities and training hubs to build long-term local capacity

PLASTIC ODYSSEY ACADEMY.

AMBITION

2026–2035

- Train 50,000 young change-makers
- Deploy **100 Factories & FabLabs**
- Create **5,000 local jobs**
- Divert **100,000 tons of plastic** from the environment
- Avoid **500,000 tons of CO_2eq** through recycling
- Mobilize **1M people** through education & community action
- Build a **global movement** where plastic waste becomes opportunity, not pollution

A HUMAN ADVENTURE BEHIND THE MISSION

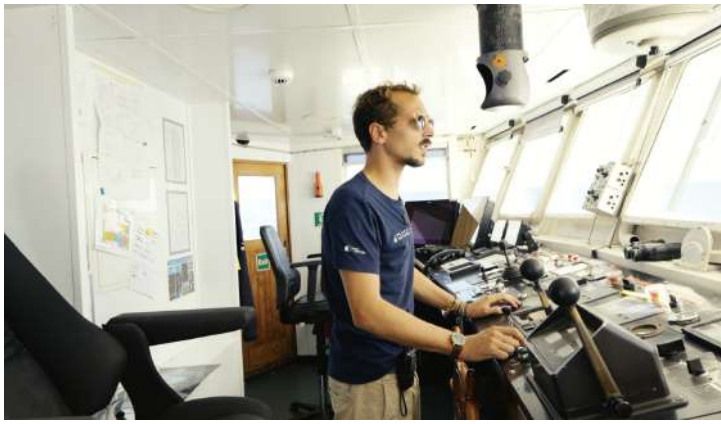
Born from two young merchant navy officers who refused to stay passive as plastic invaded the oceans,

Plastic Odyssey is today a team of **engineers, scientists, educators, and sailors** united by one conviction:

Optimism and action can outpace resignation.

After storms, delays, and breakdowns, the crew has built a true **"storm-proof" resilience** — the same energy our societies will need to overcome the plastic crisis.

Inventive, united, and determined, this team embodies what Plastic Odyssey stands for:
doing things differently, together.



PLASTIC ODYSSEY TEAM

PLASTIC ODYSSEY

Simon Bernard
Co-founder of Plastic Odyssey
CEO

Alexandre Dechelotte
Co-founder of Plastic Odyssey
Executive Director

Morgane Kerdoncuff
Stopovers Director

Maïté Abos
Communications Director

Marine Reveilhac
Onboard Reporter

Yoann Long
Master of the Vessel

Thibault Roudier
Head of Training

Sarah Domergue
Head of Education & Awareness

Germain Giraud
Head of Onboard Recycling Workshop

Alaric De Beaudrap
Stopovers Coordinator

Luc Des Vallières
Head of Partnerships

Marin In
Head of Zero-Waste Lab

Marjurie Vu
Administrative Coordinator

+ 10 marins

PLASTIC ODYSSEY FUND.

Fabien Lamaison
Executive Director, USA 🇺🇸

PLASTIC ODYSSEY TEAM

PLASTIC ODYSSEY FACTORIES.

Benoit Blancher
CEO

Thibault Kheres
Finance & Legal Director

Tom Bébien
Technical Director

Ouraye Ndir
Compliance & Accounting Manager, Senegal 🇸🇳

Souleymane Ciss
Social and Territorial Engineer, Senegal 🇸🇳

Abdou Karim Diol
Production Manager, Senegal 🇸🇳

Elisabeth Demaegdt
Project Manager, Senegal 🇸🇳

+ 18 salariés

Maxime Thirouin
Engineer, Philippines 🇵🇭

Diana Nurul Ilyas
Indonesia Country Manager 🇮🇩

Ada Zheng
Machines Sourcing & sales

PLASTIC ODYSSEY ADVISORY.

Jean-Baptiste Grassin
Advisory Developer, Mauritius 🇲🇺

PLASTIC ODYSSEY ACADEMY.

Anna Kalifa
Academy Programs Developer

LOOKING AHEAD

2026-2027

2026

France Tour

Return of the global expedition
Deployment of educational solutions and establishment of local Plastic Odyssey community branches across France: *Marseille - Bordeaux - La Rochelle - Nantes - Les Sables d'Olonne - Lorient - Concarneau - Saint Malo - Le Havre*

Route du Rhum
For the first time, several skippers will set sail under the Plastic Odyssey colors, serving as ambassadors for solutions on the ocean… and for the ocean

UNESCO Program & New Vessel

Design of the Plastic Odyssey 2: The first sailing research and transport vessel dedicated to the restoration and protection of maritime sites threatened by plastic pollution
Scientific program development and innovative technical solutions for the protection of UNESCO World Heritage sites

Events (US & Europe)

Climate Week NYC: Organizing the flagship Ocean Event during New York Climate Week (September 2026)
Route du Rhum: Participating in the race start events (October 2026)

2027

Mediterranean Tour (To be confirmed)

Stopovers and events across several Mediterranean countries:

- Advocacy: Scaling the reach of documented solutions worldwide
- Community Building: Deploying educational tools and structuring local branches of the global Plastic Odyssey community

Events (US & Europe)

COP OCEAN - New York: Participation in the UN Ocean Conference (January 2027)

PLASTIC ODYSSEY IN A NUTSHELL

FROM EXPLORATION TO REPLICATION

I. SEARCH — The World Tour of Solutions (2022–2025)

- 3-year expedition | 40 ports of call | 3 continents
- 300+ local solutions identified and documented
- 15 low-tech recycling systems tested on board
- Scientific missions: Henderson Island & Aldabra (UNESCO) & ExPLOI (Indian Ocean)
- 2,000 entrepreneurs trained | 15,000 students engaged

II. SEED — Local Action & Knowledge Sharing (2022-2025)

- First 15 recycling factories launched in Africa, Asia & Indian Ocean (up to 500 tons/year each)
- Educational tools created – Recycling Academy, Young Explorers, Solutions Fresk
- Open-source library of technologies and alternatives to plastic
- A growing community of local innovators and change-makers

III. SCALE — Replication & Impact (2025–2030)

- UNESCO Partnership: Restore 50 marine World Heritage sites ("*Impossible Cleanup*®")
- Réseau de franchisés : Deploying viable local recycling economies on a global scale (200 micro-factories | 10,000 jobs | 100,000 tons of plastic recycled per year)
- 2026 France Tour: Building a nationwide network of volunteers and community-led initiatives
- Mediterranean Program: Vessel stopovers across multiple countries to deploy educational tools and establish local branches
- Plastic Odyssey Fund (USA): Accelerating global deployment and philanthropic mobilization
- **The Goal: Achieve a 10x impact growth within the next 5 years**

DIVE INTO THE HEART OF THE ADVENTURE

A 360° EXPERIENCE

EPISODE 1: Watch
70 min • October, 2023

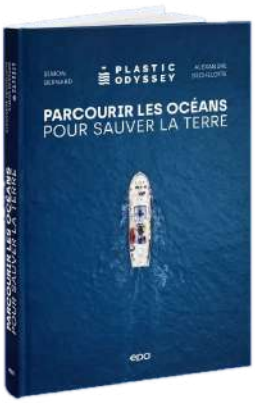
EPISODE 2: Watch
90 min • February, 2025

DOCUMENTARY SERIES

Directed by Pierre de Parscau and produced by Les Gens Bien Production and Plastic Odyssey, this exclusive documentary series broadcast on CANAL+DOCS and myCANAL recounts the entire Plastic Odyssey adventure, from the project's inception to the ship's construction years, including key expedition stopovers. The first two episodes were selected and screened at the La Rochelle International Adventure Film and Book Festival (FIFAV) in 2023 and 2024.

WEB SERIES

Discover our exclusive web series and dive into the heart of the Plastic Odyssey adventure: explore the vessel's stopovers, documented concrete solutions, recycling entrepreneurs, and the change-makers committed to a plastic-free future. Featuring inspiring portraits and testimonies from men and women filmed during our 3-year global expedition across 40 countries.
Watch on YouTube



THE PLASTIC ODYSSEY BOOK

This book uniquely tells the project's story, written by Alexandre Dechelotte and Simon Bernard, co-founders of Plastic Odyssey. It takes readers behind the scenes of the global expedition to save the planet from the plastic waste crisis.
Available in bookstores under Éditions EPA.
Buy Online

DIVE INTO THE HEART OF THE ADVENTURE

A 360° EXPERIENCE

PODCAST

Discover the Plastic Odyssey team with this immersive podcast:
life onboard, the kitchen, cabins—you'll hear it all. Featuring rich soundscapes and inspiring stories from the ship's explorers. Dive deep into the expedition through their expertise, perspectives, and emotions.
Recorded by Renée Prod for GEO.
Listen to the teaser

WEB ECOSYSTEM

Plastic Odyssey offers a rich digital ecosystem where you can follow our expeditions (World Tour Stopovers, Henderson, Aldabra), access online recycling training (Academy), discover and join our educational programs (Code Ocean, Young Explorers), explore our catalog of plastic alternatives, or even step aboard the vessel from your own home via our immersive virtual tour.

FAKE NEWS REPORT

In the debate around ocean plastic pollution, everyone has their own scientific truth, with more or less good faith. For 4 years, Simon Bernard, President of Plastic Odyssey, has combed through scientific reports to separate fact from fiction. He shares the results of these 4 years of investigation, and addresses the fake news that does more harm than good to the environment.
Read the Report

BOARD THE MISSION

"There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew."
— Marshall McLuhan

Plastic Odyssey has proven that change is possible.
Now, it's time to scale it.

We invite partners, institutions, and investors to help us:

- Fund and replicate **micro-factories** where recycling can create jobs
- Support **strategic expeditions** to restore UNESCO sanctuaries
- Amplify the **educational and community movement** that turns awareness into action

Together, let's make the impossible clean-ups possible, and transform the plastic crisis into a story of resilience, innovation, and shared hope.

HISTORICAL PARTNERS

Main Partner

L'OCCITANE EN PROVENCE

Field Partner

apres demain

Official Partners

CLARINS · matmut · koesio

Main Patron

FORVIA Foundation

Carbon Contribution Partner

Removall

Social Partners

MOTUL · ERGET GROUP · GROUPE IMA · DOMORROW · SARA · RUBIS ENERGIE

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

UNESCO

Agreement with UNESCO to share the stories and images of the expedition with the general public through events, films and photo exhibitions.

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

Identification of the study object, implementation of a scientific protocol and technical training to carry out independent sampling during the expedition, analysis of data after the expedition and preparation of scientific reports or publications.

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE

"Plastic Odyssey, their ambition made us dream."
Adrien GEIGER, CEO of L'Occitane en Provence

L'Occitane en Provence, Main Partner of Plastic Odyssey

Reducing waste is one of **Maison L'Occitane en Provence**'s top priorities. When it was founded in 1976, L'Occitane en Provence boutiques already offered a deposit system for glass bottles.

In 1992, the Maison launched "L'action Mistral", a program designed to raise awareness among consumers and public authorities of the importance of recycling and the need for sorting. Today, L'Occitane en Provence is still involved in numerous initiatives, whether carried out by its own teams or through partnerships, and has built its strategy around 3 "R"s: Reduce, Recycle and React.

- **REDUCE,** by reducing the weight of its packaging and encouraging its re-use, thanks to alternatives such as refills or bulk fountains.
- **RECYCLE,** by encouraging the use of recycled materials and ensuring that, at the end of the cycle, each waste product can become a resource.
- **REACT,** through partnerships with key players and innovative initiatives such as Plastic Odyssey.

Find out more on the L'Occitane en Provence website

après demain

"Recycling used plastic by recovering it and creating jobs corresponds perfectly to the values defended by Après-Demain SA. "

Thierry Mauvernay
President, Managing Director

Après-Demain, Plastic Odyssey's field partner

Après-Demain SA is a private family-owned company based in Switzerland and the parent company of a group composed of a Life Sciences cluster, Debiopharm ™, asset diversification clusters and a Philanthropy cluster.

Private and independent company committed to having a positive impact on the long term by taking care of people and the planet to preserve the future.

Après-Demain is already very committed to environmental protection (impact, renewable energies) and supports Plastic Odyssey since 2022 for a period of 3 years.

More information on Après-Demain website

CLARINS

"A wonderful project, as inspiring as it is concrete."
Christian Courtin Clarins, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee

Clarins and Plastic Odyssey share a strong vision: respect for nature and people

Christian Courtin Clarins has pioneered important environmental changes within the Group. Shocked by marine pollution while sailing in Asia, he took a pioneering decision in 1999 to ban plastic bags from all his points of sale.

matmut

"What an inspiration to act in favor of the preservation of our planet!"
Stéphanie Boutin, Deputy General Manager of La Matmut

Matmut's CSR commitments

This partnership is part of Matmut's proactive approach to CSR. The company, aware of the major environmental challenges we are facing today, has, for many years now, been committed to reducing its ecological footprint by carrying out several actions with its members and employees.

"I hope that, in the end, this project will outgrow us."
Philippe Brassac, Chief Executive Officer of Crédit Agricole S.A

Shared beliefs in the fight against plastic pollution

Plastic Odyssey's approach is to use local experiences as a starting point to develop solutions on a global scale. It is particularly relevant for a decentralized, mutualist Group like Crédit Agricole, which combines international presence with proximity to its local communities.

koesio

Environmental commitment is no longer an option, it is a direction.

Motul is a French company of American origin which designs, produces and distributes engine lubricants and dielectric fluids, as well as industrial products through its MotulTech business.

Rubis Energie has set itself the goal of being a committed and civic-minded partner with commitments to decarbonization and energy transition.

Erget Group is a leading expert in corporate risk and specialized markets in France and internationally and has supported Plastic Odyssey since 2021.

The philanthropic endowment fund that supports projects of general interest for the environment and the ecological and solidarity transition.

SARA focuses on air, water, soil and subsoil protection and waste management.

The IMA Group is committed to a CSR approach in order to generalize good social, societal, environmental and economic practices throughout the Group, pillars of sustainable development.

PLASTIC ODYSSEY

press@plasticodyssey.org

plasticodyssey.org