

PLASTIC ODYSSEY

THE EXPEDITION OF SOLUTIONS
AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

First 18 months in review

A look back at the first 18 months of the expedition:
Mediterranean, West Africa, Latin America and Pacific

Partners

Main

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE

Field

apres
demain

Official

CLARINS  matmut 

Solidarity

FONDATION
ENDEAVOUR

BUNZL

CMA CGM

UN
environment
programme

NEW
PLASTICS
ECONOMY

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP
ON MARINE LITTER



Past stopovers

14,318 nautical miles covered



[VIEW MAP](#)

18 months / 20 stopovers

- Beirut, Lebanon
 - Alexandria, Egypt
 - Bizerte, Tunisia
 - Tangier, Morocco
 - Dakar, Senegal
 - Conakry, Guinea
 - Mindelo, Cape Verde
 - Recife, Brazil
 - French Guiana
 - Guadeloupe
 - Martinique
 - Dominican Republic
 - Colombia
 - Panama
 - Costa Rica
 - Ecuador
 - Henderson + Pitcairn
 - French Polynesia
 - Fiji
 - New Caledonia + Vanuatu
- Oct. 22
Apr. 23
- May 23
Dec. 23
- Jan. 24
June 24

Back in figures

The expedition - 18 months review



346 Days of stopovers

125 Sailing days

+50 Organized events

60 Ministers and ambassadors received

14 318 Nautical miles travelled

210 Local initiatives visited

50 Documented field initiatives

+200 Local media reporting

The global Plastic Odyssey community counts more than 66k total followers after these 18 months and has grown by nearly 24k followers since the start of the expedition.

+8 754 on LinkedIn

+10 118 on Instagram

+4 496 on Facebook

Back in figures

The expedition - 18 months review



3 427

School visits on board the Plastic Odyssey ship

+360

Active members in the global technical recycling community
212  80  60 

10

Tonnes of plastic waste removed from the world's most polluted island

10

New micro-factories being installed in 2024

12

Documentary film screenings

13

Videos on plastic alternatives

The Plastic Odyssey website has over 3,500 visits per month after these 18 months and records numerous daily requests for contact and resource downloads (training guides).

68k

Website visits since the departure on October 1, 2022

+1 650

Cumulative downloads of the 3 Training Guides   



A look back at some key moments

Henderson & Pacific Mission



The uninhabited island, Henderson (Pitcairn Islands, South Pacific)

A UNESCO World Heritage Site

KNOWN AS THE MOST POLLUTED PLACE ON EARTH

A 2015 analysis (published in 2017) revealed that in South Polynesia, on one of the four islands of the Pitcairn archipelago, Henderson Island, more than 8 tons of plastic washed up on its beaches: *"the highest density of plastic debris ever recorded in the world"*.

The 38 km² island has **over 38 million pieces of plastic** on its shores. Conservative estimates suggest that 3,500 to 13,500 new plastic items wash up on Henderson every day.

The beach on the eastern side of the island, 2 km long, is polluted by **30 million pieces of plastic waste**.





The island's eastern beach, polluted by plastic waste

An Impossible Cleanup

THE FIRST ATTEMPT - 2019

In 2019, an expedition attempted to clean up this isolated sanctuary. **6 tons of garbage were collected** on the eastern beach of the island. Unfortunately, blocked by waves breaking on the coral reef that protects the island, the team was unable to remove the big bags filled with waste and was forced to leave them on the island.

The major challenge in removing the waste from Henderson Island is therefore to **cross the coral reef without damaging it**. A difficult step because of the rocks and waves blocking access to the beach. Therefore, extracting the waste using conventional means is impossible and requires inventing new solutions that can be replicated in other polluted areas that are difficult to access.

5 years after this unsuccessful attempt, Plastic Odyssey decided to tackle this impossible mission.



Henderson Island is one of the world's last raised coral atolls

Making the Impossible Possible

A CHALLENGE TAKEN UP BY PLASTIC ODYSSEY

After months of preparation, the Plastic Odyssey teams arrived on Henderson Island on February 12, 2024 and succeeded, thanks to innovative low-tech solutions, in cleaning up the beach designated as the most polluted in the world.

The plastic waste was recycled and transformed into street furniture for the neighboring island of Pitcairn.





Plastic Odyssey team cleans up Henderson Island's east beach

Credits: Olivier Löser / Plastic Odyssey

Low-tech Solutions

To solve the problem of waste extraction without damaging the coral reef, **several innovative systems** have been used:

THE RAFT

When the weather is favorable, a raft is used to transport the big-bags to the ship.

THE PARASAIL

When the waves are too strong, an ascending parasail system evacuates the waste above the water.





First tests of using parasailing to extract waste from the island

Credits: Olivier Löser / Plastic Odyssey

Results in Figures

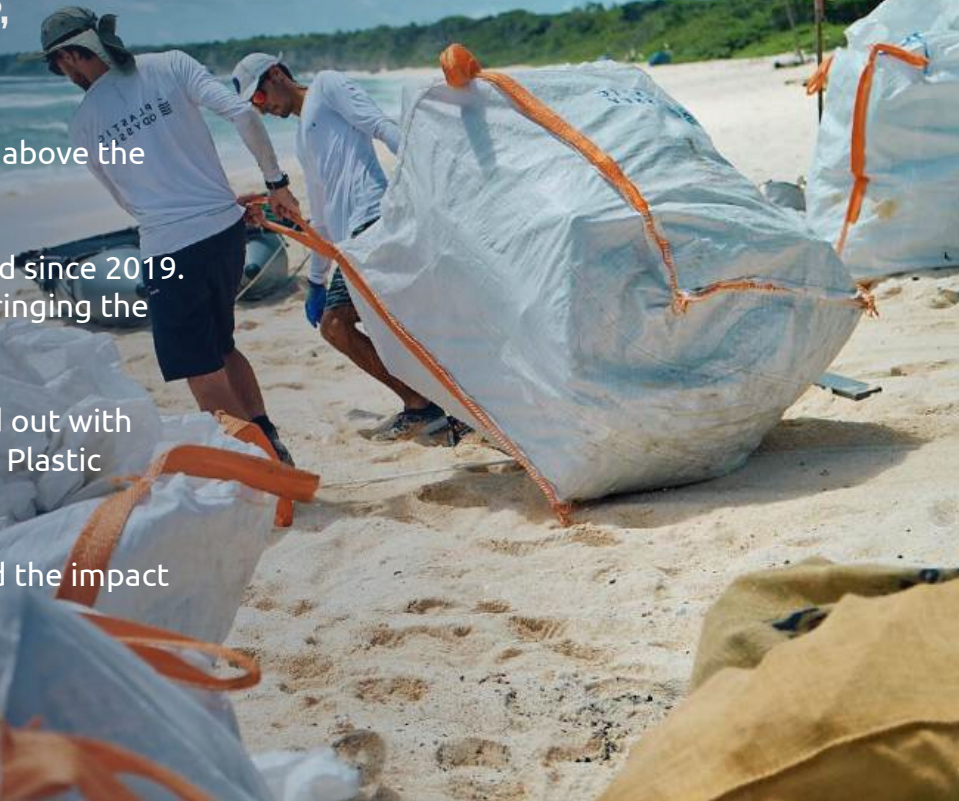
7 DAYS AND 25 PEOPLE MOBILIZED TO CLEAN UP, EVACUATE AND RECYCLE WASTE

6 tons of plastic waste from 2019, confined in big bags above the high tide line, were successfully evacuated.

The beach was cleaned of new garbage that accumulated since 2019. **An additional 3 tons were collected** and disposed of bringing the total mass of waste disposed of to over 9 tons.

The **recycling of plastics** into useful objects was carried out with Pitcairn residents, using on-board machinery aboard the Plastic Odyssey floating laboratory.

Scientific **data** have been collected to better understand the impact of plastic pollution.





*The Quest to Restore Earth's
Most Polluted Sanctuary*

 PLASTIC
ODYSSEY

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[PRESS KIT](#)



French Polynesia: A unique stopover on 6 atolls (Mangareva, Hao, Apataki, Rangiroa, Moorea, Tahiti)



French Polynesia: Focus on recycling plastic waste from pearl farming



French Polynesia: Shredding plastic nets used in pearl farms



French Polynesia: Manufacturing a bench from pearl farming waste, offered to the inhabitants



French Polynesia: The Plastic Odyssey vessel in Moorea



French Polynesia: Meeting with the president to discuss a recycling sector in the Tuamotus



New Caledonia: Beach cleanup in Lifou (Loyalty Islands)

CLEAN UP THE PAST BUILD THE FUTURE

RECYCLE VALUING PLASTIC LEGACY

Recycling 1 out of every 2 pieces of waste in the 32 most polluting countries would prevent over 45% of ocean pollution.



REDUCE BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORLD

Reducing waste production to 1.7 kg per day per person would prevent 26% of ocean pollution.

Our solutions :





Our solutions **CLEAN UP THE PAST**



ONLINE

Free & Online training program for recycling entrepreneurs

- 3 training guides
- 10 mini-guides (+6)
- Community 
- +300 active members
- 'Tech' Instagram account

The free resources

DISCOVER



ON BOARD

Support & Incubation program for recycling entrepreneurs

- 18 training sessions
- +100 entrepreneurs
- New format
- Thematic workshops

The training program

DISCOVER



ON LAND

Network of micro-factories to recycle plastic waste

- 14 New micro-factories
- Project in Senegal (10)
- Project in Nigeria (2)
- Project in Philippines (2)
- Development in Dakar

The micro-recycling factories

DISCOVER



Our solutions
BUILD THE FUTURE



ON LAND **ONLINE**

Nomadic exhibition showcasing solutions to plastic waste

- 12 exhibition countries
- 42 solutions documented
- 13 videos alternatives
- Web page update
- New plastic solutions catalog

The solutions catalog

DISCOVER



ON LAND **ONLINE**

Educational resources to train young explorers

- 3,500 school visits
- 15 schools supported
- 350 young explorers
- Audio logbook
- Work with students (Les Gobelins Paris)

The educational resources

DISCOVER



ON LAND **ONLINE**

Research program to influence behavioral change

- Deviations Program
- +300 children's drawings
- +1500 questionnaires
- 4 "behavior change" workshops

The research program

DISCOVER

Episode 2 of the CANAL+ documentary

The continuation of the CANAL+ documentary was **filmed in February 2024** during the Henderson expedition. It will be available on your screens at the end of the year!

A **documentary series** about the expedition is also in preparation in the United States... Stay tuned!

WATCH EPISODE 1

EPISODE 2 TEASER



Web series - COMPLETED

The final two episodes of the web series, produced in partnership with 'Les Éclaireurs,' the digital media of CANAL+, are now available (Ecuador and French Polynesia)! The web series consists of **ten episodes**, with **over 1,000,000 views** across all platforms!

[WATCH ALL EPISODES](#)



les Éclaireurs

**TROUVER
DES ALTERNATIVES
AU POLYSTYRENE
EN EQUATEUR**



les Éclaireurs

**LES DECHETS
PERLICOLES
EN POLYNESIE
FRANÇAISE**

NEW: Solutions Catalog and Alternative Videos

Discover online the **content of the Treasure Trunks** from the ship, our traveling exhibition that gathers plastic alternatives from around the world. We also went to meet those who have decided to take action. Find it in a **series of 13 videos!**

DISCOVER THE CATALOG

ALTERNATIVE VIDEOS





Heading to Asia & deploying recycling projects

A new mission and new projects



Beginning of a 6-month mission across numerous Asian countries



SUNU Plastic Odyssey: Launch of a large-scale recycling project in Senegal



Micro-factories: Launch of a project in the Philippines in partnership with Delfingen



Micro-factories: Launch of a project in Nigeria in partnership with two universities

Coming by the end of 2024

June

Launch of the SUNU Plastic Odyssey project

Development of a recycling sector in Senegal

June - July

Stopover in Indonesia

Ambon, Kendari, Labuan Bajo, Bali,
Surabaya, Jakarta

[VIEW MAP](#)

August

Technical stop and stopover in Singapore

Shipyard and resumption of the expedition with the vessel

September

Stopover in Cambodia

Siem Reap and Phnom Penh

October

Stopover in Hong Kong

Events with partners

November

Episode 2 of the CANAL+ documentary

Pacific Mission

Our Partners

Main Partner

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE

Field Partner



Official Partners

CLARINS



matmut 

Main Patron

FORVIA
Foundation

Solidarity Partners



Our Partners

Main media partners

vivendi

CANAL+
GROUPE

CANAL+
DOCS

PM
PRISMA MEDIA

GEO

dailymotion

Social Partners

MOTUL

ULYSSE  NARDIN

 ERGET GROUP

 GROUPE
IMA

 DELFININGEN

BIODERMA
LABORATOIRE DERMATOLOGIQUE

dOmorrow
Agit pour les générations futures

 SARA

 ELECTRO
DEPOT

 Geogas

RUBIS
ENERGIE

An underwater photograph showing a clear blue ocean. In the center, a white plastic cup with a purple lid is partially submerged, with some yellow and brown leaves or debris caught inside it. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the water and some distant greenery on the surface.

plasticodyssey.org



@plasticodyssey