Offshore racing is a sport where the Ocean forms the natural backdrop. As such, skippers are the first to witness mankind’s impact on its environment.

As with any activity, sailing generates a variety of impact: from the construction, to participation in races, to the boats’ end of life phase. We are aware of this fact.

The purpose of our approach is not to clear our name of the impact related, rather it is about taking action by generating a beneficial impact: limiting our impact and spreading messages that are both encouraging and positive.

The aim is to put together a broad programme, putting forward specific and achievable actions and getting as many protagonists involved as possible.

We are keen for each project to take ownership of some of the actions put forward and for each one of them to become an ambassador for the programme.

Above all, the skippers are the primary ambassadors of the programme, so they take centre stage, but we are all involved.

07 “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

To change the world by 2030, the United Nations has set an agenda, illustrated by 17 “Sustainable Development Goals” that comply with universal objectives.

They propose a common base that allows organisations, which adopt this sustainable approach to illustrate their objectives and their ambition using shared references.

Our programme proposes actions with objectives of varying lengths and a Vendée Globe 2024 timeframe. We have integrated these objectives in our approach to bring them in line with our programme of Sustainable Development Goals, selecting the 7 objectives that correspond best with our actions.
4 THEMES

I Event organisation

The skippers have a power of influence that is multiplied by the massive audiences at race villages, via public relations activities with their sponsors, as well as through the professionals involved in running the projects. It is essential to convey a respectful image of our environment by helping to build accountable race villages.

II Ecological transition

Our impact requires us to call into question our activities. To this end, looking at the bigger picture with regards to how our projects operate and how our boats are built is essential. One of the primary actions is to find out where we come from so we know where we want to go.

III Raising awareness and education

It seems important to us to use every communication medium to broaden the spectrum of awareness and consequently encourage as many people as possible to take action to protect our environment. We are all tasked with limiting our impact. Though the conventional channels of communication are being utilised, it seems essential to us to perpetuate our commitments to public institutions.

IV Sciences

Sailors are fortunate in that their playing field is a domain about which they can help achieve a greater level of understanding by collecting data. Another emotive subject tackled will be the collisions with cetaceans.
I. EVENT ORGANISATION

“Contributing to and participating in environmentally-friendly events.”

△ Embracing events that conform to certain standards

> Ongoing // Working with the race organisers in a bid to adhere to the charter detailing 15 environmentally-friendly pledges written by the WWF

> 2019 - 2020 // Drafting of a charter pledging its commitment is underway with The Ocean Race

> 2021-2024 // Reviewing underway about how to force races and teams to apply the Global Reporting Initiative (Expert assessment of the impact of an event’s actions)

> 2021-2024 // Applying the ISO 20 121 standard

△ Actions during events

> Ongoing // Arranging the skippers’ participation in conferences organised by the Océan Bien Commun (Ocean as a Shared Resource for Mankind)

> Ongoing // Organising a beach clean-up and participation by the skippers

> Ongoing // Decreasing the use of consumables and striving to eliminate single-use plastic in the race village
II. Ecological transition

“Minimising our impact and developing innovative solutions.”

△ Be aware of our impact

- Ongoing // Fund a study to jointly construct one LCA per team in partnership with The Ocean Race

- Ongoing study // Perform a carbon footprint assessment of the Imoca Class teams’ work on decreasing the impact of carbon and offsetting it through the funding of coral planting

- 2021 – 2024 // Find a solution for older generation IMOCAs and explore how to give them renewed value

- 2021- 2024 // Create a solutions platform to improve a project’s lifecycle

△ Research and development

- Ongoing // Setting up of a think-tank to consider how to implement alternative technologies in boat construction (UBS/ IRMA & Kairos)

- 2021 - 2024 // Gradual enforcement of the use of bio-composites in boats

- 2021- 2024 // IMOCA fully equipped with clean energies (electric motors, renewable energies)

△ Collaborative actions

- Ongoing // Collecting up of old foul weather gear so as to donate it to associations or sailing clubs

- Ongoing // Facilitating collaborative actions between teams: Using the What’s App group for car sharing and the exchange/sale of second-hand equipment

- Ongoing // Implementing an audit with AUDELOR to develop and optimise waste management at the submarine base

- 2019 - 2020 // Creating a general pooling approach for human and material resources among local teams: implementing an audit of resources and making this readily available

△ Federations and institutions

- Ongoing // Discussions with World Sailing to come up with a solution for common actions that are in line with the World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030

- Ongoing // Discussions with the FFV about their sustainable commitments / Study into the creation of an inter-class sustainability committee
III. RAISING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

“Become protagonists for change”

△ Advocate for a change in consumption habits and raise awareness about more responsible methods of consumption

> Ongoing // Reaction to a Responsible skipper manifesto / Subsequent signing of the pledge of commitment

> Ongoing // Active participation by the Imoca Class and communication campaign regarding the No Plastic Challenge

> Ongoing // Encouragement for teams to ban the use of plastic bottles on the pontoons with the distribution of stainless steel water bottles in the Imoca colours among the teams

△ Contribute to a better understanding of the Oceans and their challenges

> Ongoing // Organise Ocean workshops with an interactive approach embracing skippers, teams and sponsors

> 2019-2020 // Create a solution for a media partnership for the benefit of kids with subjects centred on the Oceans

△ Promote educational action

> Ongoing // Creation of a database of educational kits (races and teams) on the IMOCA class' website

> Ongoing // Organisation of the Appeal for the Ocean signature collections with various classes

> 2020 // Solution for student challenges to remove plastic from race villages

△ Commit to environmental projects and public institutions

> Ocean As Common Good [Ocean as a Shared Resource for Mankind] // Signing of an approval agreement and financial support // Presence of skippers at the UNO to present the Appeal in June 2020

> Ongoing signature // UNFCC: Signing of the letter of commitment for “Sport For Climate Change”

> Ongoing discussion // Unesco & IOC: Agreement with the IOC to support the Imoca class’ initiatives and associate itself with the programme and the actions agreed by IOC for the oceanic science decade
IV. SCIENTIFIC

“Help to preserve and understand our oceans.”

△ On-board scientific equipment

> Ongoing // Providing contacts and support for those teams interested in a science project

> 2019-2024 // Searching for a financial partner to fund opportunities to carry scientific equipment aboard

△ Promote Participative Sciences

2019-2020 // Incentive by amateur sailor communities to contribute to our understanding of the oceans / Ongoing project with on-board participative sciences

△ Collisions with cetaceans

> Ongoing // Implementation of gates by Race Management staff so as to avoid migration zones

> 2019-2024 // Funding of an infrared sensor by the Imoca class?