

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION

EDITORIAL

2024 was a landmark year for Surfrider Foundation Europe, with major advances in ocean conservation. We highlighted our expertise in monitoring the quality of the water in the Seine during the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, defending a position that is as much about the environment as it is about the health of athletes. At the same time, in-depth work during the European elections, by activating our community of volunteers, mobilising national bodies and lobbying at local, national and European level, resulted in concrete commitments in favour of the Ocean.

The adoption of the Plastics Reduction Directive (PPWR) and the Urban Waste Water Directive (UWWWD), as well as the revision of key texts on maritime transport, have marked significant legislative progress. These victories testify to the impact of our collective work based on strong scientific expertise and effective advocacy.

The change of CEO at the end of the year also marks a turning point for the NGO and heralds a new dynamic for the future.

2025 looks set to be a strategic year for our organisation and for ocean protection in general.

In a more constrained political and economic context, internal priorities will have to focus on stabilising our organisation and building a new roadmap for 2026-2030. As for the agenda, it will begin in France with the Year of the Sea, which will highlight Ocean issues, followed in June by UNOC 3 in Nice and then the release of the European Pact for the Ocean, which will provide opportunities to strengthen international commitments to protect the Ocean. Finally, new negotiations on the international treaty on plastics in August 2025 could mark a major step forward in the fight against this scourge.

So we've got some big events ahead of us, and we're going to take them on with flying colours, thanks to this incredible community of enthusiasts who are committed to the Ocean and who are one of Surfrider's greatest strengths.

Éric Morbo, *Executive Director*
Nathalie Van Den Broeck, *President*

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FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

THE YEAR IN FIGURES

138 649

people have benefited from our environmental awareness and education initiatives

6 953

employees sensitised by the Act! team during in-company awareness-raising activities

2 218

collections as part of the Ocean Initiatives

More than 1M

of waste collected as part of our participatory science initiatives

18

Ocean Friendly Film organised in 4 countries (France, Germany, Portugal, Norway)

21

Échappées Bleues and 401 children supported by this educational programme

4 002

members organised in 4 countries (France, Germany, Portugal, Norway)

10 078

donors and 396 skilled volunteers

19

institutional partners

94

partners private

25

analysis carried out as part of the monitoring of water quality in the Seine

30

spotlights monitored as part of the Ostreopsis project (Med + Atl) for around 115 samples

935

volunteers and 396 skills volunteers

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**OUR
ASSOCIATION**

In 2024, Surfrider Foundation Europe consolidated its federal model and strengthened its presence in Europe. The increasing autonomy of the national entities, combined with close coordination with head office, means that we can now act consistently and effectively throughout Europe.

At the same time, our approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has taken concrete steps forward, illustrating our desire to align our values, internal practices and actions on the ground.

A CONSOLIDATING FEDERAL MODEL AND A STRONGER EUROPEAN PRESENCE

2024 was a year of consolidation for Surfrider Foundation Europe's federal model. Present in France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands, our association is pursuing its European development by consolidating the foundations that are its strength: a decentralised, agile organisation that is deeply rooted in the territories, while remaining guided by a common vision and objectives.

This year, the European entities have continued to structure themselves, gaining in autonomy in the implementation of local projects and actions - such as the Surfrider Against

Cigarette Butts campaign or the Water Quality Workshop bringing together stakeholders and bathing water managers at the initiative of the German entity, the commitment of the Dutch team to water quality issues or the very regular exchanges between Surfrider Spain and local and national authorities - while remaining closely connected to the European headquarters.

This essential link guarantees the coherence of projects and enables resources, expertise and campaigns to be pooled so that the voice of the Ocean can be heard at the highest level.

AN INCREASINGLY AMBITIOUS CSR APPROACH

The year 2024 was also marked by significant progress in our approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In keeping with our environmental and social commitments, we continued to improve our internal practices :

A **new eco-designed website** was launched this year.

Produced by a specialist agency, it has been completely redesigned to limit its environmental footprint: lighter, less energy-consuming and more accessible, it places users and access to information at the heart of its design.

This work demonstrates our desire to take concrete action to reduce the digital impact of our tools.

Surfrider has also strengthened its commitment to well-being at work and skills development. Throughout the year, our teams have benefited from a number of key training courses:

- Training in Non-Violent Communication for all employees;
- Training to raise awareness of psychosocial risks, sexism and the various forms of addiction;
- Initial and refresher training for workplace first aiders.

In 2024, Surfrider joined the **TILT movement's CSR support programme**, making it possible to carry out a new carbon footprint (covering the year 2023). This assessment shows a total footprint of 449 tCO₂e, or 6.4 tCO₂e per employee, up on 2019, mainly due to a wider scope of analysis. Purchases of goods and services account for the majority of emissions (73%), followed by passenger transport (24%), with a clear improvement in commuting. Energy-related emissions fell to 3% thanks to more frugal practices.

At the same time, the association continued its drive for inclusion and equality:

- Introduction of menstrual leave for the employees concerned;
- Third participation in Duo Day, promoting the professional integration of people with disabilities;
- Organisation of anti-food-waste workshops, accompanied by the creation of a book of anti-food-waste recipes to raise awareness and take action on a daily basis.

These 'small steps' that we are taking internally reflect our commitment in the field: every gesture counts. Every step we take, however small, contributes to building a fairer, more inclusive model that respects our planet.

KEY INDICATORS

72

employees

80,2

% permanent contracts

75

% of women

62

% of employees benefited from training

2

employees involved in skills sponsorship

32

years (average age)

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SURFRIDER'S ACTIONS IN 2024.

STRENGTHENING OUR INFLUENCE FOR THE OCEAN

In 2024, Surfrider Foundation Europe consolidated its role as a key player in ocean protection by stepping up its advocacy, developing new strategic areas and supporting the emergence of key projects.

This year has been marked by a strong and determined drive to make the voice of the Ocean heard in European debates and to integrate environmental issues more fully into key sectors such as sport.

AMBITIOUS ADVOCACY WORK TO PUT THE OCEAN ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA

2024 was a major political year with the European elections.

Surfrider Foundation has been preparing for this for many months, in particular as part of the Blue Up campaign, and took full advantage of this opportunity to promote the interests of the Ocean.

Our advocacy team carried out in-depth work in Brussels, raising the candidates' awareness as much as possible before the vote, in order to position Surfrider as a key player in the protection of the Ocean with the European institutions.

This ambition was reflected in the organisation of three major events:

- The Ocean Debate
- Ocean Lab
- Ocean Week

These meetings provided an opportunity to mobilise political decision-makers, partner NGOs, scientists and citizens around marine issues, in a crucial political context.

Surfrider also strengthened its participation in European NGO coalitions and stepped up its interventions at high-level events, consolidating its role as the voice of civil society.

This work, carried out jointly with the coalition of blue NGOs, has led to a decisive step forward in meeting one of the key demands of the Manifesto for the Ocean: the Blue Manifesto 2.0, published ahead of the elections: confirmation by the European institutions of a Pact for the Oceans.



SPORT, A LEVER FOR COMMITMENT AND ACTION

Surfrider Foundation Europe took a new step in 2024 by structuring its positioning around the environmental issues linked to sport. Aware that sporting activities also have an impact on the environment and the ocean, we have developed an initial cross-cutting positioning project based on :

- helping sportspeople and those involved in the sports industry to reduce their environmental footprint (plastic pollution, water quality, carbon footprint, etc.)
- promoting environmental education through sport, as a vehicle for commitment and awareness-raising.

This approach has led to the publication of a series of recommendations for a more responsible approach to sport, as well as a strategic review of the sector's economic models.

As part of this drive, in June 2024 we formalised a strategic partnership with the French Triathlon Federation.

This joint commitment aims to raise awareness of the need to protect aquatic areas and to defend the interests of the sportspeople who benefit from them, in line with the values promoted by Surfrider.



INCUBATING, STRUCTURING AND TRANSFERRING: SUPPORTING THE EMERGENCE OF PROJECTS

In addition to its own campaigns, in 2024 Surfrider Foundation Europe continued its role as an incubator for high-impact ocean conservation projects. Supported until then by Surfrider, these projects have taken a decisive step by becoming legally autonomous:

- The Espace Pérenne de Dialogue Territorial (EPDT), an initiative aimed at establishing sustainable dialogue between coastal stakeholders, has become an independent association under the name Dialogue Océan.

- The Green Marine Europe programme, managed by Surfrider to support the decarbonisation and environmental transition of the maritime sector, now has its own legal structure attached directly to Green Marine International. This change is in line with its successful development, enabling the label to continue its deployment on a European and international scale.

With these advances, Surfrider is confirming its role as a structuring player, capable of bringing about, supporting and then passing on ambitious projects to build a sustainable future for the Ocean, together with all stakeholders.

FIGHTING PLASTIC POLLUTION

In 2024, Surfrider Foundation Europe stepped up its fight against plastic pollution, mobilising all its levers for action to reduce this scourge at European and local level.

This momentum is fuelled by the conviction that only a global, structured and offensive approach will make it possible to put a lasting stop to plastic contamination of the oceans.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES: CHANGING THE RULES OF THE GAME

The year was marked by a historic step forward in the fight against plastic pollution: the official recognition, within European legislation, of the pollution generated by biomedias from wastewater treatment plants.

This source of pollution has now been identified and regulated, and wastewater treatment plant operators are obliged to introduce preventive measures.

This victory is the result of in-depth work carried out by Surfrider Foundation's various entities, combining our scientific expertise, field observations, citizen mobilisation and advocacy actions.

In France, but also in Spain (in Galicia and Asturias), Surfrider teams have multiplied collection and quantification operations and gathered numerous testimonies from local players and citizens confronted with this pollution, thus reinforcing our arguments with the institutions.

At the same time, Surfrider was involved in another major legislative battle: the regulation of industrial plastic pellets.

The teams have continued their alert work, coordinated at European level, with the organisation of a field visit to Ecaussinnes for members of the European Parliament and the publication of a strategic report aimed at influencing the legislative process.

In Spain, and more specifically in the Tarragona region, the efforts of Surfrider's teams have led to an unprecedented breakthrough: 13 companies in the petrochemical sector have been found responsible for the pollution of natural resources by pellets. For the first time, this decision recognises the negative impact of the plastic value chain on the environment, and highlights the shortcomings of voluntary measures, which are largely insufficient to reduce plastic pollution.



Responsible for the dispersal of thousands of tonnes of plastic waste (among other things) in the ocean, the loss of containers at sea is a major issue that Surfrider has been tackling for many years.

In 2024, this issue finally received the recognition it deserves: thanks to constant lobbying of the European institutions,

and in close collaboration with a key member of the European Parliament, the issue of lost containers was included in the Erika III legislative package. This is a major step forward, paving the way for tighter control of such losses and greater responsibility on the part of those involved in maritime transport.

- The 'From source to solution' report, providing local authorities with concrete levers to combat marine litter.
- The 4-year report on the French AGEC law, to assess compliance with targets and the effectiveness of measures taken.

Throughout the year, Surfrider has maintained its role as an expert and whistleblower on a variety of issues - notably at major events during which members of the lobby team have raised the subject of plastic pollution and the need to drastically reduce plastic production - and produced a number of major publications, including :

- A report on the extended responsibility of tobacco producers;
- An assessment of the effectiveness of the European directive on single-use plastics, with a view to preparing ambitious new proposals;

Finally, 2024 saw the launch of the BeMed+ project, led by Surfrider and others.

Officially recognised by the European Commission's Restore our Ocean and Water Mission, this project consolidates the action taken over the last 10 years to combat plastic pollution in the Mediterranean as part of the BeMed programme.

RAISING AWARENESS BY ALL MEANS

Convinced that the fight against plastic pollution can only be won with the involvement of everyone, Surfrider's teams have continued to raise awareness on a large scale, through emblematic projects and major events.

Chronowaste

Organised at the Académie du Climat in Paris, and marking the launch of a new season of Ocean Initiatives, the Chronowaste, a participative challenge combining concrete action and awareness-raising, mobilised a large number of participants around the collection and quantification of waste.

The event was also an opportunity for Surfrider to raise awareness among participants and visitors to the various issues surrounding marine pollution, and more specifically plastic pollution (cigarette butts, single-use plastics, etc.), through Do It Yourself workshops and stands such as 'La Poisonnerie', 'Les surprises de la marée', etc.

Échappées Bleues

As raising awareness among the youngest members of society is an essential part of building a plastic-free future, Surfrider continued its Blue Escapes programme in 2024.

Through 21 Blue Escapes, the association enabled 401 children to enjoy an immersive experience at sea and on the coast,

discovering the pleasures of sailing while learning about the threats facing the ocean.

These children then had the chance to sail alongside professional skippers, as part of the Echappées Bleues project, in the villages of 5 major races: the Arkea Ultim Challenge, the Solitaire du Figaro, the Ocean Fifty Series, the Défi Azimut and finally the Vendée Globe.



Déplastification

At the start of 2024, Surfrider joined forces with Mas Baudran to launch an art competition on the theme of plastic pollution. The competition resulted in the selection of the 'Déplastification' project, designed by Antoine Boudin and Olivier Millagou.

The work is made up of six hourglasses filled with plastic fragments, whose flowing time illustrates the urgent need

to reduce the omnipresence of plastic in our society: each hourglass embodies a precise time marker, such as the time needed to produce a certain weight of plastic or to adopt a political decision.

Presented in 2024 at the Festival Agir pour le Vivant in Arles, the Salons des Éco-maires in Paris and the Mucem in Marseille, the installation will continue its journey in 2025 with an exhibition on the Surfrider Campus in Biarritz.

Plastic Origins

Placing public awareness and action at the heart of its activities, Surfrider has also continued to develop its Plastic Origins application by integrating on-board artificial intelligence.

Called Surfnet and designed to be as resource-efficient as possible, it enables users to detect and visualise plastic waste along waterways in real time.

ENCOURAGING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Mobilising the public has also been a key lever in our fight against plastic pollution. Once again this year, the Surfrider Against Cigarette Butt operation was a huge success across Europe. Organised in five countries - Portugal, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands and Germany - the campaign involved 31 collections of cigarette butts, a waste product as omnipresent as it is insidious, responsible for polluting millions of litres of water every year. This massive mobilisation once again illustrates our network's ability to take concrete action on the ground to combat aquatic waste.

We also launched an unprecedented experiment in Guadeloupe, in partnership with the local authorities, to adapt the OSPAR monitoring protocol to the overseas territories, as well as a new river monitoring site on the Nive.

Finally, Surfrider has continued its commitment to making the most of data from participatory science, convinced that citizen observation is an essential pillar for documenting and gaining recognition for the various forms of plastic pollution.

In 2024, we published a scientific article highlighting the contribution of volunteers and citizens involved in collecting environmental data.

This scientific recognition, through the publication and dissemination of this work, consolidates our approach: making the field a valuable source of knowledge and action to transform public policies in the long term.

ACTING FOR A HEALTHY AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT.

In 2024, Surfrider Foundation Europe continued and intensified its action to preserve water quality, an issue that has been at the heart of its mission for over 30 years. Whether we're talking about rivers, lakes or the ocean, we've mobilised all our levers - scientific expertise, advocacy, citizen mobilisation and awareness-raising - to protect aquatic ecosystems and ensure that everyone has access to clean water that poses no health risk.



This year, a decisive step was taken at the European level with the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/3019 on the treatment of urban wastewater. The result of a long legislative process, which Surfrider influenced as much as possible, this directive now imposes stricter standards for the management and treatment of urban wastewater, as well as reinforced measures to prevent the risks of overflows linked to stormwater.

It also introduces key new provisions to address pollution, notably through the mandatory implementation of a fourth treatment stage for all wastewater treatment plants above a certain threshold, in order to ensure their capacity to eliminate micropollutants. To support the additional costs generated by this advanced treatment, the directive introduces, for the first time, the application of the "polluter pays" principle targeting the pharmaceutical

and cosmetics industries, identified as major contributors to chemical pollution in wastewater.

Surfrider's heightened vigilance on water pollution also translated into targeted support for its national entities. In Germany, for example, a Water Quality Workshop was organized, bringing together representatives from local and national authorities, partner NGOs, and scientists.

This workshop, supported by the European headquarters alongside the German office, addressed the challenges of bathing water quality in urban environments, particularly in lakes and rivers, and helped raise awareness among local stakeholders about the importance of Surfrider's actions in combating all forms of water pollution.

A SUMMER UNDER SCRUTINY: WATER QUALITY AND THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES.

The issue of water quality took centre stage in the public debate during the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Surfrider Foundation Europe played an active role.

Aware that water quality is a genuine public health issue, and backed by over 20 years of expertise as well as a Manifesto outlining clear demands on the subject, the NGO launched an independent water sampling campaign in the Seine as early as the end of 2023, which intensified in the lead-up to the Games.

The first results, published in April, confirmed our concerns: water quality levels still did not meet the sanitary standards set by the Regional Health Agency (ARS) or the relevant sports federations.

These findings received extensive media coverage, significantly raising Surfrider's public profile and reinforcing our recognised expertise on water quality and the various sources of pollution—particularly bacteriological pollution.



Through this initiative, we highlighted the challenges of monitoring bathing water in urban environments and offered citizens the opportunity to engage with an issue that had previously received little attention—yet one that is set to become increasingly strategic, especially as the long-awaited proposal to revise the EU Bathing Water Directive has yet to be released.

As a complement to this monitoring effort, and with the aim of both collecting data and continuing our awareness-raising and local advocacy work, our teams supported several members of the Surfrider Blue program in sampling water at their favourite watersport locations to detect potential bacteriological contamination and initiate dialogue with local stakeholders.

Lastly, we continued our year-round water quality monitoring at the Matosinhos spot in Portugal.

This work, carried out throughout the year, will be the subject of a dedicated publication in 2025, helping to better inform users and strengthen vigilance around this sensitive coastal area.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING BIOLOGICAL POLLUTION: THE CASE OF OSTREOPSIS.

For several years now, the proliferation of the toxic algae *Ostreopsis* has posed a major environmental and public health challenge. Deeply committed to addressing this issue, Surfrider continued in 2024 its *Ostreopsis* monitoring programme along the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts. Over 120 data points were collected during the season, revealing significant peaks in the presence of the toxic algae.

In the Basque Country, a medical consultation unit was set up in collaboration with health authorities, and more than 350 testimonies were gathered from coastal users over a month and a half of open investigation.

To sustain awareness efforts and inform users in affected areas, Surfrider designed and distributed a dedicated information booklet, available in three languages (French, Spanish, and Basque).

HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE ON CHEMICAL POLLUTION

In 2024, Surfrider Foundation Europe continued and strengthened its commitment to addressing the challenges posed by chemical pollution, which has a major impact on water quality.

The organisation reinforced its presence in Brussels and its active role within NGO coalitions, becoming a key voice of civil society in discussions around the EU Bathing Water Directive and other crucial legislative frameworks.

Distributed at key information points and accessible online, this booklet provides essential information on *Ostreopsis*, helping coastal users understand the risks it may pose, as well as its links to climate change.

Finally, to further shed light on this growing concern, a photographic exhibition dedicated to *Ostreopsis*, created in collaboration with artist Pablo Boquedano, was displayed from May to August at the Surfrider Campus, attracting over a hundred visitors during its opening event.



Surfrider also maintained its alliance with several European NGOs in the context of the revision of the list of pollutants for surface and groundwater. This collaboration was marked by several key moments:

- On June 19, when the Council adopted its general approach to the proposal;
- On October 22, with the publication of a joint press release to mark the two-year anniversary of the legislative proposal and to denounce the continued lack of adoption;

- And finally, in December, when EU institutions gave the green light for trilogue negotiations, expected to begin in early 2025.

At the same time, Surfrider carried the voice of European citizens on the issue of nitrate pollution, taking part in two written consultations and a stakeholder meeting organised by the European Commission. These contributions reiterated the need for a more ambitious regulatory framework.

This broader mobilisation was echoed in January 2024, with the publication of a position paper on chemical pollution, in which Surfrider outlines its key demands for a stricter, more effective regulatory approach that meets both environmental and public health challenges.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES TO PROTECT MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

In response to the accelerating climate crisis and growing pressure on coasts and the Ocean, Surfrider Foundation Europe stepped up its efforts in 2024 to encourage more sustainable and responsible management aimed at strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal areas. This approach, which the organisation has championed for many years, has now become a key strategic pillar, drawing on a range of tools including advocacy, public awareness campaigns, and educational resources.

ADVOCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SPATIAL PLANNING

In 2024, Surfrider Foundation Europe intensified its efforts to raise awareness of the urgent need for coherent, sustainable, and climate-resilient planning for marine and coastal territories. These efforts were structured around several major scientific and political milestones at the European level.

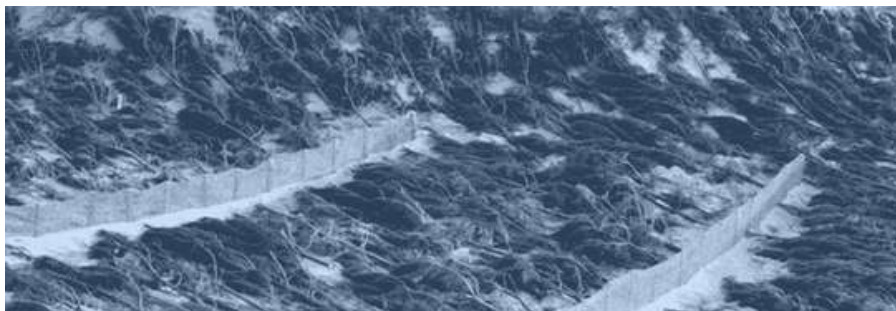
Early in the year, Surfrider published an official response to the European Commission's communication on climate-related risks, in direct reaction to the alarming report released by the European Environment Agency. The report highlights that Europe is the fastest-warming continent, heating at twice the global average, and that many identified climate risks have already reached critical levels.

The impact on marine ecosystems was deemed particularly severe, with the highest level of urgency. On this basis, Surfrider called on European institutions to adopt an ambitious strategy for Ocean resilience and coastal adaptation, aimed at protecting ecosystems, biodiversity, and coastal communities.

In this context, the organisation took part in the European Conference on Maritime Spatial Planning, a key opportunity to advocate for more sustainable management of marine areas. Surfrider used this platform to build strategic contacts and promote an integrated approach to coastal issues in European public policies.

In parallel, Surfrider actively contributed to the "La Mer en débat" public consultation in France, which focused on the expansion of offshore renewable energy. While the energy transition is essential, it cannot come at the expense of marine ecosystems. Surfrider therefore called for offshore wind projects to be framed by principles of sobriety, transparency, and strong protection of sensitive zones.





EQUIPPING AND ENGAGING CITIZENS

Convinced that sustainability is one of the keys to mitigating the effects of climate change, Surfrider created and distributed *Climatopia*, an educational booklet handed out to participants of the escape game *Emergence* and made available to the wider public on its website. The booklet helps users understand the impacts of climate change on the Ocean, identify the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions, and explore concrete solutions to reduce their carbon footprint.

As part of its efforts to promote nature-based climate solutions, Surfrider also published an information brief on blue carbon ecosystems—such as mangroves, seagrass meadows, and salt marshes—highlighting their role in carbon sequestration and coastal resilience. The document offers practical recommendations for local authorities on how to protect and restore these vital ecosystems and integrate them into territorial planning policies.

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH ART AND EXPERIENCE

To amplify its message, Surfrider also turned to the power of art and sensory experience as a means of raising awareness about the consequences of climate disruption.

Blue Carbon

From October 2 to December 15, the Surfrider Campus hosted the *Blue Carbon* exhibition, co-developed with LIENs and artist LX One. Combining scientific insight with artistic expression, the exhibition attracted over 850 visitors and aimed to increase public understanding of the importance of blue carbon ecosystems in combating climate change.

À la limite

At the same time, the *À la limite* exhibition, developed in collaboration with artist Marc Roger, continued its tour in 2024 in two formats: an indoor version presented at the Biarritz Media Library and the Cité des Sciences in Paris, and an outdoor version installed in Guéthary, Bidart, and Saint-Jean-de-Luz. Through photographs and texts, the exhibition invites the public to reconsider our relationship with the coastline and to reflect on how to adopt more sustainable practices to preserve these vulnerable areas.

ADVOCATING FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTOR

In 2024, Surfrider's expertise on the environmental impacts of maritime transport was recognised at the highest institutional levels. The organisation was consulted by the European Court of Auditors in the framework of its evaluation of public policies in this sector. Surfrider also took part in a high-level event organised by Green Marine Europe, contributing to key discussions on the need to accelerate decarbonisation and reduce pollution from shipping.

Surfrider also continued its legal and policy monitoring work to counter environmental harm caused by the sector. In France, 2024 saw a landmark ruling: the captain and owner of the Sea Force vessel were convicted for the illegal use of an open-loop scrubber. This judicial decision underlines the importance of constant vigilance and strict enforcement of existing regulations to hold maritime actors accountable and protect marine environments.

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**LOCAL
ACTION**

At the heart of Surfrider Foundation Europe's mission are the citizens across Europe who take concrete action every day to protect the Ocean. In 2024, this local mobilisation once again demonstrated its strength and impact, driven by a volunteer network that is more engaged and better structured than ever.

AN ACTIVE AND UNITED EUROPEAN NETWORK

Throughout the year, 48 local chapters across 13 European countries brought Surfrider's commitments to life on the ground.

Thanks to the dedication of 935 volunteers, the network carried out no fewer than 611 local actions—ranging from litter collections and awareness campaigns to interventions at cultural and sporting events.

This local momentum was strengthened by support from the European headquarters and

by major gatherings and training sessions, notably the Volunteers Days.

Held in Biarritz in March and Mannheim in October, these events brought together volunteers from across Europe to share experiences, receive training, and mobilise collectively around Surfrider's key campaigns.



INFORMING, EDUCATING AND MOBILISING CITIZENS

Throughout 2024, local chapters led numerous outreach campaigns to raise public awareness about marine pollution. Among the highlights was the Surfrider Against Cigarette Butts operation, which mobilised volunteers in five countries (Spain, Portugal, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands) on May 31 and June 1, resulting in 30 simultaneous cleanup actions.

Culture and education were also powerful tools for sparking awareness. In 2024, 18 Ocean Friendly Films events were organised across Europe—from Norway to Portugal, including Germany and France. Some screenings featured debates and talks, including in Rennes, where the Surfrider 35 local group co-hosted an event with a IPCC expert.

LOCAL STRUGGLES, CONCRETE VICTORIES

Alongside awareness-raising efforts, local groups were on the frontlines of major environmental battles, supported by Surfrider's core teams. In 2024, 10 local actions received enhanced support, leading to significant progress. Among the key victories:

- In northern Finistère (France), local efforts contributed to the implementation of a public policy aimed at tackling bacteriological pollution on several beaches.
- In Tarragona (Spain), volunteer mobilisation helped secure official recognition by the Catalan administration of the negative environmental impact of the plastic value chain.
- On the front of surf park projects, local chapters achieved major breakthroughs: significant progress in opposing the Canéjan project, and a definitive victory in San Sebastián with the official cancellation of the project.

In addition, volunteers made effective use of the "Offshore Wind" advocacy toolkit provided by Surfrider to participate in public events linked to "La mer en débat" (a national consultation in France), where they defended a vision of maritime planning that is both sustainable and respectful of marine ecosystems.

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**FOCUS
ASSESSMENT
PERFORMANCE
IMPACT**

Surfrider is an NGO whose social mission is to drive positive change by mobilising society toward lifestyles that are more respectful of the Ocean.

Impact assessment and evaluation are essential tools for taking a step back, objectively questioning the relevance, effectiveness and consistency of our actions. They also offer valuable insights to support better decision-making, reorient activities, and ensure that our work remains impactful and efficient. This process enables the organisation to measure how effectively its actions contribute to the positive change it seeks, while also refining its overall impact strategy.

At Surfrider, this work is coordinated by the API team (Assessment, Performance, Impact). Since 2022, the team has conducted impact evaluations on five projects, while also training 13 project managers in the process.

In 2024, the API team trained and supported four new staff members, focusing in particular on the impact measurement of the IOs (Impact Opportunities), event stands (led by HQ), and the Green Marine Europe program.

As a result of this work, impact evaluation reports were published in early 2025 for ACT! with Surfrider, the escape game Emergence, Green Marine Europe, and event stands.

Over the past few years, impact evaluation has become an increasingly important topic in the non-profit sector, encouraging a growing culture of sharing and collaboration.


In this context, the API team was approached by several organisations—including VigieMer Collective, the Maison du Zéro Déchet, and the Good Planet Foundation—seeking advice and feedback based on Surfrider's experience.

These requests reflect the recognition of Surfrider's expertise and pioneering role in this field.

The evaluations conducted in 2024 revealed the following key findings:

- Emergence: 90% of participants said they discovered a new eco-friendly action.
- ACT! with Surfrider: 77% of participants reported an intention to adopt a "zero waste" approach.
- Green Marine Europe: 66% of companies certified for at least 3 years stated that the label's performance indicators influenced their strategic decision-making.

2024 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT



The year 2024 was marked by the appointment of a new Executive Director, bringing renewed momentum while ensuring continuity in our strategic direction.

It also confirmed our commitment to strengthening Surfrider's local presence and capacity for action, notably through the ongoing development of national legal entities across Europe.

The investment plan launched to support the structuring and financial development of our offices in Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Germany continued throughout the year. Progress on this front is detailed in the activity report, and the 2024 accounts include the grants allocated to these countries to support their consolidation.

Additionally, we expanded our expertise in several key areas, particularly in bathing water quality, further reinforcing our credibility with institutional, scientific, and civil society stakeholders.

Thanks to rigorous financial management and cost control, the overall result for the year remains positive, with a surplus of €25,000.

This financial report presents the key highlights and analysis of our 2024 accounts, which were approved without reservation by our statutory auditor.

BALANCE SHEET ANALYSIS

In 2024, as in the previous year, the main investments focused on membership recruitment operations, as well as on the acquisition of equipment and the development of IT solutions, to effectively support the implementation of our strategic projects and strengthen our internal organisation.

In order to pursue these efforts without compromising our financial balance, we contracted a medium-term loan of €200,000, specifically allocated to the financing of our fundraising activities.

The surplus for the fiscal year, amounting to +€25,000, has contributed to further reinforcing our association equity, which now stands at €1,774,000.

This level of equity exceeds the target set in our strategic plan, which aimed to cover the equivalent of one quarter of activity, thereby enhancing our financial autonomy and resilience.

ACTIF	2024	2023	PASSIF	2024	2023
IMMOBILISATIONS	1 091 703	763 142	FONDS ASSOCIATIFS ET RESERVES	1 773 510	1 788 245
			report à nouveau	1 747 979	1 640 603
			fonds propres		
			résultat de l'exercice	25 531	107 376
			autres fonds associatifs		40 266
CREANCES	2 723 749	2 798 458	DETTES	2 041 942	1 773 355
créances usagers et comptes rattachés	1 392 822	1 732 908	emprunts et dettes	209 733	91 608
disponibilités	639 442	463 548	fournisseurs et comptes rattachés	358 954	203 745
autres	691 485	602 003	produits constatés d'avance	1 025 681	1 009 472
			autres	447 574	468 530
TOTAL	3 815 452	3 561 600	TOTAL	3 815 452	3 561 600

INCOME STATEMENT ANALYSIS / CER / CROD

Revenue analysis

The association's overall revenue remained stable compared to the previous fiscal year.

However, there was a continued increase in public generosity, reflecting our ability to sustain a strong donations dynamic, despite natural attrition.

This performance is primarily the result of investments in direct marketing, as well as a significant increase in one-off donations, particularly through solidarity-based financial products and online donation platforms.

Corporate sponsorship saw a 4% decrease, which was partially offset by a slight increase in public subsidies, thanks in part to the award of a new European grant.

Expenditure analysis

Operating expenses remained stable compared to the previous year. The following key developments are worth highlighting:

- A decrease in salary expenses, due to the departure of long-standing employees, who were replaced—or not—by more junior profiles.
- A reduction in grants awarded, marking the beginning of the phased conclusion of the investment plan for national entities.

A detailed breakdown of our expenditures is provided in the Statement of Use of Funds (CER) and the Income Statement by Source and Destination (CROD), annexed to this report.

The main takeaways are as follows:

- Spending on our core social mission remained stable compared to the previous year.
- The "Coastal Development and Climate Change" programme continued to grow, driven by the expansion of the Green Marine Europe programme, which plays a key role in the ecological transition of the maritime transport sector.
- Cross-cutting programmes showed an increase, due in particular to the strengthening of our educational missions, the development of innovative initiatives such as Art Campus and our escape game "Emergence", and the organisation of the "Blue Up" mobilisation and advocacy campaign, carried out ahead of the 2024 European elections. This campaign helped enhance our impact on awareness-raising and political influence.
- Coordination costs decreased slightly, as a direct result of the progressive conclusion of the initial investment plan.
- Fundraising expenses remained stable, reflecting cost control while maintaining the effectiveness of our actions.
- Lastly, administrative costs also remained stable, demonstrating sound operational management of our day-to-day activities.

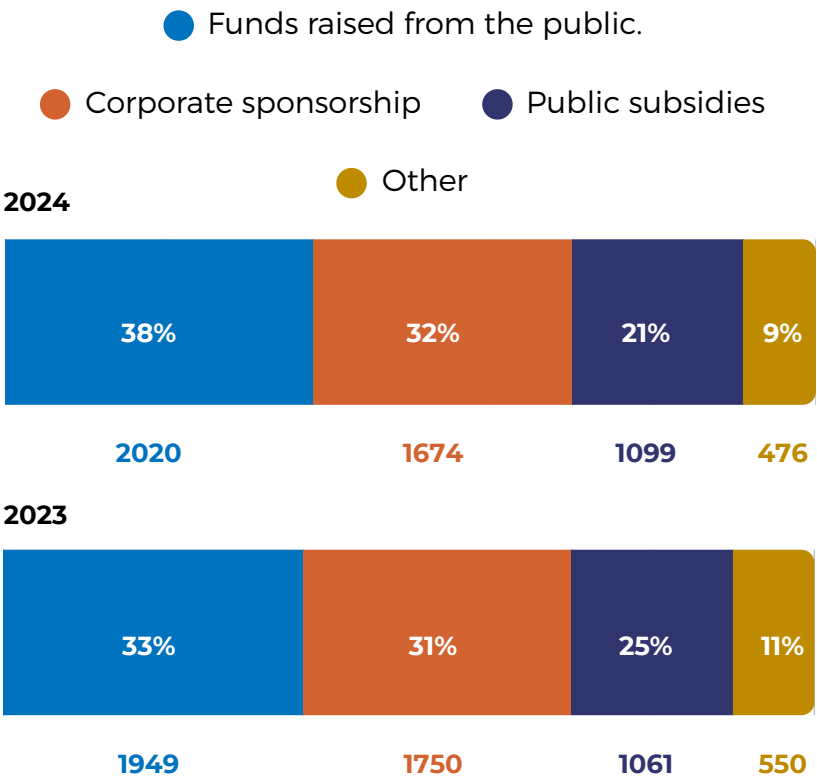
Compte de résultat par origine et destination				
A - Produits et charges par origine et destination	2024		2023	
	Total	Dont générosité du public	Total	Dont générosité du public
PRODUITS PAR ORIGINE				
1 - PRODUITS LIÉS À LA GÉNÉROSITÉ DU PUBLIC	3 694 093	2 019 653	3 699 324	1 949 452
1.1 Cotisations sans contrepartie	1 455 459		1 424 949	
1.2 Dons, legs et mécénat				
– dons manuels	564 195		524 503	
– legs, donations et assurances-vie				
– mécénat	1 674 439		1 749 872	
1.3 Autres produits liés à la générosité du public				
2 - PRODUITS NON LIÉS À LA GÉNÉROSITÉ DU PUBLIC	407 480		550 235	
2.1 Cotisations avec contrepartie				
2.2 Parrainage des entreprises				
2.3 Contributions financières sans contrepartie				
2.4 Autres produits non liés à la générosité du public	407 480		550 235	
3 - SUBVENTIONS ET AUTRES CONCOURS PUBLICS	1 098 813		960 110	
4- REPRISES SUR PROVISIONS ET DÉPRÉCIATIONS	68 820		100 986	
5 - UTILISATIONS DES FONDS DÉDIÉS ANTÉRIEURS				
TOTAL	5 269 205	2 019 653	5 310 655	1 949 452

Compte de résultat par origine et destination				
A - Produits et charges par origine et destination	2024		2023	
	Total	Dont générosité du public	Total	Dont générosité du public
CHARGES PAR DESTINATION				
1 - MISSIONS SOCIALES	3 722 274	1 563 995	3 712 853	1 330 075
1.1 Réalisées en France	3 294 799	1 232 311	3 116 085	838 422
– Actions réalisées par l'organisme	3 294 799	1 232 311	3 116 085	838 422
– Versements à un organisme central ou à d'autres organismes agissant en France				
1.2 Réalisées à l'étranger	427 475	331 684	596 768	491 653
– Actions réalisées par l'organisme	35 654	331 684	69 208	491 653
– Versements à un organisme central ou à d'autres organismes agissant à l'étranger	391 821		527 561	
2 - FRAIS DE RECHERCHE DE FONDS	644 746	159 314	643 065	153 491
2.1 Frais d'appel à la générosité du public	318 045	111 992	321 985	117 080
2.2 Frais de recherche d'autres ressources	326 701	47 322	321 080	36 411
3 - FRAIS DE FONCTIONNEMENT	562 931	97 694	533 639	104 234
4 - DOTATIONS AUX PROVISIONS ET DÉPRÉCIATIONS	313 722		313 722	
5 - IMPÔT SUR LES BÉNÉFICES				
6 - REPORTS EN FONDS DÉDIÉS DE L'EXERCICE				
TOTAL	5 243 674	1 821 002	5 203 279	1 587 800
EXCÉDENT OU DÉFICIT	25 531	25 531	107 376	107 376

B - Contributions volontaires en nature	2024		2023	
	Total	Dont générosité du public	Total	Dont générosité du public
PRODUITS PAR ORIGINE				
1 - CONTRIBUTIONS VOLONTAIRES LIÉES À LA GÉNÉROSITÉ DU PUBLIC	1 510 091		1 547 502	
Bénévolat Prestations en nature Dons en nature	1 510 091		1 547 502	
2 - CONTRIBUTIONS VOLONTAIRES NON LIÉES À LA GÉNÉROSITÉ DU PUBLIC				
3 - CONCOURS PUBLICS EN NATURE	40 360		131 606	
Prestations en nature	40 360		130 013	
Dons en nature			1 593	
TOTAL	1 550 551		1 679 108	
CHARGES PAR DESTINATION				
1 - CONTRIBUTIONS VOLONTAIRES AUX MISSIONS SOCIALES	1 547 533		1 675 824	
Réalisées en France Réalisées à l'étranger	1 457 533		1 675 824	
2 - CONTRIBUTIONS VOLONTAIRES À LA RECHERCHE DE FONDS				
3 - CONTRIBUTIONS VOLONTAIRES AU FONCTIONNEMENT	2 918		3284	
TOTAL	1 550 451		1 679 108	

BUSINESS MODEL.

SOURCES OF INCOME (€K)



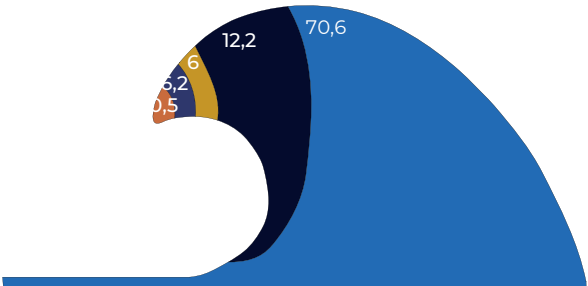
Despite a more challenging economic and political context, we managed to maintain a stable level of fundraising, nearly identical to the previous year.

In particular, public fundraising continued to grow, reflecting the ongoing commitment and renewed support of our donors toward our mission. This support was a key factor in our decision to continue investing in member recruitment and retention efforts.

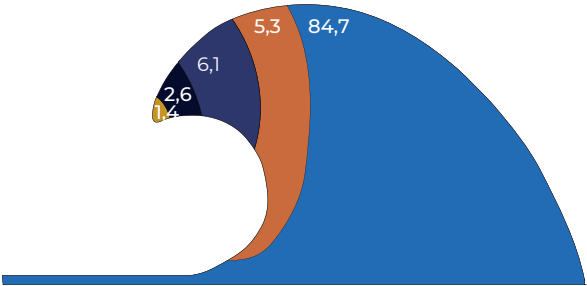
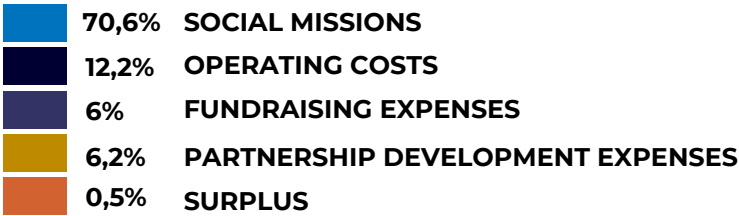
Although corporate sponsorship slightly declined, this was partially offset by a modest increase in public subsidies.

This stability, despite prevailing uncertainties, reflects the strength and resilience of our funding model.

SOURCES OF INCOME



USE OF TOTAL RESOURCES IN 2024



USE OF PUBLIC DONATIONS IN 2024



VALUING VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT



In our ongoing effort to strengthen the scientific rigour of our aquatic waste monitoring programmes, we continued in 2024 to refine how we account for volunteer participation in our Ocean Initiatives programme.

In 2023, we introduced adjustments to ensure greater accuracy and reliability, choosing to only count participants who were officially registered through a completed report form—without extrapolating estimates. As a result, although 2024 also saw a high number of cleanups across Europe, our official figures for citizen volunteer participation show a decline compared to previous years.

That said, we are proud to rely on the unwavering commitment of countless volunteers. Their collective contribution is equivalent to 47 full-time positions, and is valued in our financial report at €1,510,091.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who once again supported our mission this year!

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE

Depuis 1990, Surfrider Foundation Europe est devenue une référence dans le combat pour la protection de l'océan et de ses usagers, forte de la passion et de l'engagement de sa communauté sur le terrain.

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Sans oublier toutes les personnes agissant bénévolement au nom de Surfrider et sans qui ceci n'aurait de sens. Merci aux adhérents et donateurs de rendre ce travail possible.

Annual report 2024

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