Corporate Social Responsibility Policy (CSR)

The CSR policy serving Ifremer’s purpose

Ifremer’s scientific and technological activities, including research, collaboration, innovation transfer, and expertise in support of decision making for public policy, are based on the dual principles of sustainable development and open science. They aim to:

- Sustainably manage physical and living marine resources and maritime spatial planning;
- Protect and restore marine ecosystems and marine-related risk management;
- Share ocean data and knowledge, and develop valuable services for the community.

Ifremer, actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development structured around 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which the 14th is dedicated to Life Below Water. Through its research, expertise, and innovation, Ifremer aims to contribute not only to achieving the targets of SDG 14, but also to those of other SDGs which are related in varying capacities to marine ecosystems, their natural resources, and maritime activities.

The policy and regulatory framework relating to sustainable development issues in France has evolved considerably over the years: from the Grenelle laws of 2009 and 2010 to the creation of a national council for ecological transition in 2023, supported by the anti-waste and circular economy law (AGEC) of 2020, the French energy and climate strategy and the national biodiversity strategy.

In practical terms, this approach is reflected in a number of specific policies and measures: greenhouse gas emission assessment, the programme implementing eco-responsible public services, the National Plan of Action for Sustainable Public Procurement, the Energy Sobriety Plan, the Ecological Plan, and, as from 2025, the European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive concerning the publication of extra-financial data by companies.

Five key areas of responsible commitment

In December 2022, Ifremer’s Board of Directors adopted five key areas of responsible commitment. This decision is the result of collective work undertaken in 2020 as part of action 42 of the Institute’s 2019-2023 Contract of Objectives and Performance. The five pillars are:

- Promoting the ocean as a common good of humanity,
- Making transitions in the maritime ecosystem,
- Limiting the environmental footprint of Ifremer,
- Limiting the environmental impact of oceanographic observation,
- Ifremer, a responsible employer.
In line with the ISO 26000 standard, the Institute's CSR strategy is based on three principles:

- Exemplarity of the Institute, which guarantees that its activities comply with existing regulations and anticipates changes in these regulations as part of a policy of continuous improvement;
- The involvement of all its employees and facilities;
- Cooperation both within the institute and with its counterparts (research bodies, universities) and partners. Ifremer is already an active member of the Club for Sustainable Development for Public Institutions (ClubDDEP), an informal network of voluntary public bodies actively committed to sustainable development.

**Ifremer's measures to implement its CSR policy**

The CSR principles and commitments will be implemented throughout the Institute, at all levels (departments, units, laboratories, divisions, etc.), and particularly within the framework of Ifremer’s research centres and affiliated entities.

They are set out in the form of a roadmap, which will be regularly updated and associated with a dashboard establishing objectives and including initiatives and results.

A central Sustainable Development committee has also been set up by the Central Social and Economic Committee (CSE-C) of the Ifremer-Genavir Economic and Social Unit.

**Placing the ocean and ocean sciences at the heart of transition policies**

Ifremer's 2024-2028 contract of objectives, resources, and performance will place "the ocean and ocean sciences at the heart of its [ecological, energy and food] transition policies". This is a significant move, with vast implications in terms of work practices, work organisation, infrastructure, partnerships, and indeed the focus of the institute's research undertakings.

François HOULLIER
Président-directeur général