

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy

The CSR policy serving IFREMER's purpose

IFREMER's scientific and technological activities, including research, collaboration, transfer of innovation and expertise to support public policy decision-making, are based on two core principles: sustainable development and open science. They aim to:

- Provide support for the sustainable management of physical and living marine resources and maritime spatial planning;
- Enhance support for the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, and the management of marine-related risks;
- Share marine data information and knowledge, and develop valuable services for marine stakeholders and the society at large.

IFREMER, actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is structured around 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 14th of which is dedicated to Life Below Water. By leveraging its research, expertise, and innovation, IFREMER is committed to making significant contributions to the achievement of SDG 14 targets and to the advancement of other SDGs related to marine ecosystems, resources, and maritime activities.

The policy and regulatory framework for sustainable development issues in France has evolved significantly 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 Law on Waste Prevention and the Circular Economy 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, including the greenhouse gas emissions assessment, the program to implement ecologically responsible public services, the National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement, the Energy Sobriety Plan, the Ecological Plan, and, as from 2025, the European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive on the publication of extra-financial data by companies.

Five key areas of responsible engagement

In December 2022, IFREMER Board of Directors approved five key areas of responsible commitment. This decision is the result of the collective work carried out in 2020, as part of Action 42 of the Institute's 2019-2023 Objectives and Performance Contract. These five pillars are as follows:

- Strengthening public responsibility towards and through the ocean
- Supporting a sustainable transition of the marine ecosystem through green innovation
- Eco-design strategies for ocean observation
- Reducing IFREMER's environmental footprint
- Being a responsible employer

In alignment with the ISO 26000 standard, the Institute's CSR strategy is founded upon three core principles:

- The Institute maintains the highest standards of conduct, ensuring its activities comply with existing regulations and anticipating changes in these regulations as part of a policy of continuous improvement;
- All Institute staff and facilities are involved in this process;
- Collaboration with other entities within the Institute and with external 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 institutions actively committed to sustainable development.

IFREMER CSR Policy Implementation Plan

The IFREMER CSR policy will be implemented across the entire Institute, at all levels (departments, units, laboratories, etc.), with particular focus on IFREMER's research centers and affiliated entities.

These commitments are outlined in a roadmap, which will be updated on a regular basis and linked to a dashboard that sets objectives and includes initiatives and results.

Furthermore, a central committee for sustainable development has also been established 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 prioritize "the ocean and ocean sciences in its [environmental, energy and food] transition policies". This is a significant strategic shift with far-reaching implications for operational practices, organizational structure, infrastructure design and management, partnerships, and indeed the focus of the Institute's research endeavors.

François Houllier
Chief Executive Officer

