



Fondation  
Valéry

# Salvation Through Innovation

Annual Report      2023





# Championing Innovation and Disruption For a More Sustainable Tomorrow

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[www.fondation-valery.ch](http://www.fondation-valery.ch)

01

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OUR

COMPANY

## A word from the president

In 2023, Fondation Valery marked a significant turning point on its journey to becoming a highly impactful institution in the Swiss philanthropic landscape. Our new branding reflects the realization of our vision for the future, driven strongly by innovation and sustainable technologies. The adoption of our new strategy, supported by four pillars, aims to implement a comprehensive approach to achieve our goals with maximum efficacy, contributing to making Switzerland a hub for co-creation and innovation for a better tomorrow. We are fortunate to have motivated and highly skilled partners who are instrumental in bringing our vision to life through impactful initiatives funded by the foundation. These strong partnerships have enabled us to establish an extensive network of collaborators across the country, spanning both the German and French-speaking regions, thereby fostering connections between the two areas.

It is a source of pride for us to observe that our efforts to promote outside-of-the-box thinking are beginning to yield positive results, and the foundation is starting to gain recognition as an innovation hub focused on sustainability. Our plan is to continue in this direction by further strengthening our partnerships, continually challenging the status quo, and consistently delivering new solutions by leveraging our creativity and expertise.



## Governance



**Sébastien Cap**

Board President



**Edouard Hegetschweiler**

Board Member



**Yannick Ritschel**

Director



**Julie Cruz**

Board Member







# About Fondation Valery

**Established in 2018, Fondation Valery emerged as a final testament to Arsan Valery's deep reverence for the Earth. Through this foundation, the founder aspired to perpetuate his cherished principles of sustainability for the benefit of generations to come.**

In the evolving landscape of the 21st century, the convergence of new technologies has sparked a wave of transformative potential across various facets of human existence.

From artificial intelligence (AI) to blockchain, robotics, and beyond, these innovations have permeated industries, reshaped economies, and redefined the way we interact with the world around us.

Amidst this technological revolution, one of the most pressing imperatives is the integration of these advancements into the realm of sustainability. The profound impact of AI, blockchain, robotics, and their counterparts on sustainable practices, environmental preservation, and socio-economic equity holds the promise of a future that is not only technologically advanced, but also harmoniously balanced with our planet's needs.

Our strategy delves into the symbiotic relationship between cutting-edge technologies and the pursuit of global sustainability, illuminating the potential for a more resilient, equitable, and ecologically responsible world.

The Valery Foundation aims to position itself as a philanthropic Impact Lab, promoting the dynamic and innovative vision of traditional for-profit incubators while upholding the values of the philanthropic realm.

Given its limited resources, the foundation leverages its capacity to generate tech-oriented innovative solutions and collaborates with external teams to implement projects developed within the Lab. It focuses on projects with the potential for wide-scale deployment within relevant domains, achieving significant impact despite its resource constraints.

Its remarkable agility and low aversion to risk empower the foundation to explore paths often overlooked by conventional institutions burdened by inertia in adapting to rapid technological changes. In addition to internally developed flagship projects, the foundation also supports a network of strategic partners. This financial backing is accompanied by foundational support to highlight these projects or foster synergies among various initiatives.



## Mission

The foundation aims to carry out all activities in Switzerland and abroad in the fields of environmental protection, promotion of ecological values, development of renewable energies, as well as broad health development.







# The Founder

## Arsan Valery (1926—2018)

Born in 1926 to a Turkish father and a Russian mother, Arsan Valery spent his life in Lausanne. As graduate of the University of Lausanne, he was passionate about sciences, progress, and scientific research. Beyond his scientific interests, Mr. Arsan had various passions such as classical music, photography, Egyptology, and traveling. Despite his affluent background, Mr. Arsan lived his life with

a simplicity that reflects honourably upon him. He spent his free time salvaging old electronic devices to give them a second life, as he despised wastefulness and cared about the environment. One could describe Mr. Arsan as cultured, highly respectful, humble, and somewhat solitary. Mr. Arsan passed away on September 1st, 2018.

02

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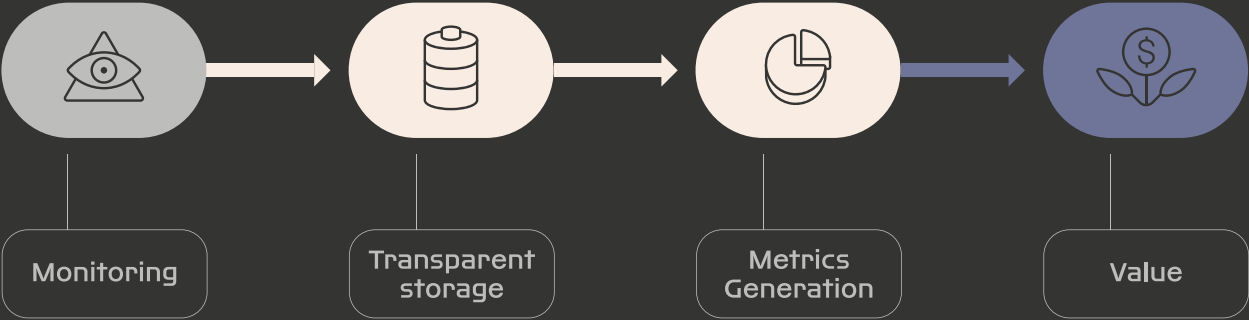
**OUR FOUR**

**STRATEGIC**

**PILLARS**



# Biodiversity





**A cornerstone of our planet's vitality: An intricate tapestry woven from a diverse array of life forms, along with their ecosystems.**

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, biodiversity provides a bedrock of crucial services, from pollination and pest control to the intricate cycling of nutrients, underpinning the stability of ecosystems and the sustenance of life on Earth. Regrettably, this intricate balance is unravelling at an unprecedented pace, fuelled by a complex interplay of human-driven factors.

Changes in land and sea use, resource overuse, pollution, the spread of invasive species, and the threat of climate change are driving biodiversity loss and the rapid degradation of ecosystems. Without a comprehensive response, our unsustainable exploitation of nature may threaten the foundations of our economies, health, and overall well-being.

**You can't protect what you can't measure: the emergence of new technologies is revolutionizing our ability to monitor and analyse biodiversity and its intricate interdependencies.**

These monitoring technologies encompass eDNA, satellite imagery, bioacoustics, and others, enabling the mapping of biodiversity on a significantly larger scale than previously feasible. Furthermore, the emergence of dedicated blockchains for storing biodiversity data ensures transparent storage practices while creating novel market opportunities for local communities, enabling revenue generation through data collection.

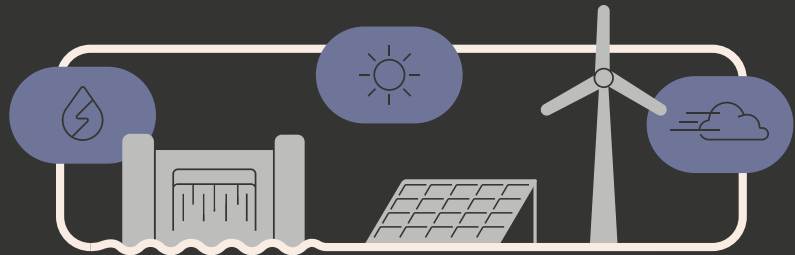
Artificial Intelligence harnesses these datasets, offering fresh insights into the dynamics within the biodiversity realm. It aids in more effectively assessing the current state or evolution of ecosystems. Fondation Valéry actively promotes the development and deployment of these innovative technologies.



# Renewable Energies

1

Maximize clean energy production



Time dependance



Energy storage



Smart homes



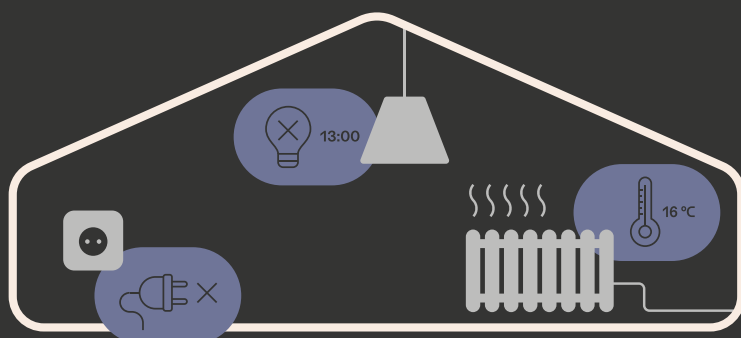
Reuse energy

2

Increase efficiency

3

Minimize energy consumption





## **A Key Player In Combatting Climate Change And Securing Our Energy Future.**

Renewable energies are sustainable sources of power derived from nature, such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass, and ocean energy. They're eco-friendly, replenishable, and play a crucial role in addressing climate change, reducing pollution, and ensuring a more secure energy future.

Most energy consumed in Switzerland is in the form of petroleum and motor fuels (43%), followed by electricity (26%) and gas (15%). Switzerland heavily relies on energy imports accounting for 70% of its domestic energy consumption. Domestically, electricity is mainly produced using hydropower (62%), nuclear power (29%), and renewables-driven and conventional thermal power plants (9%).

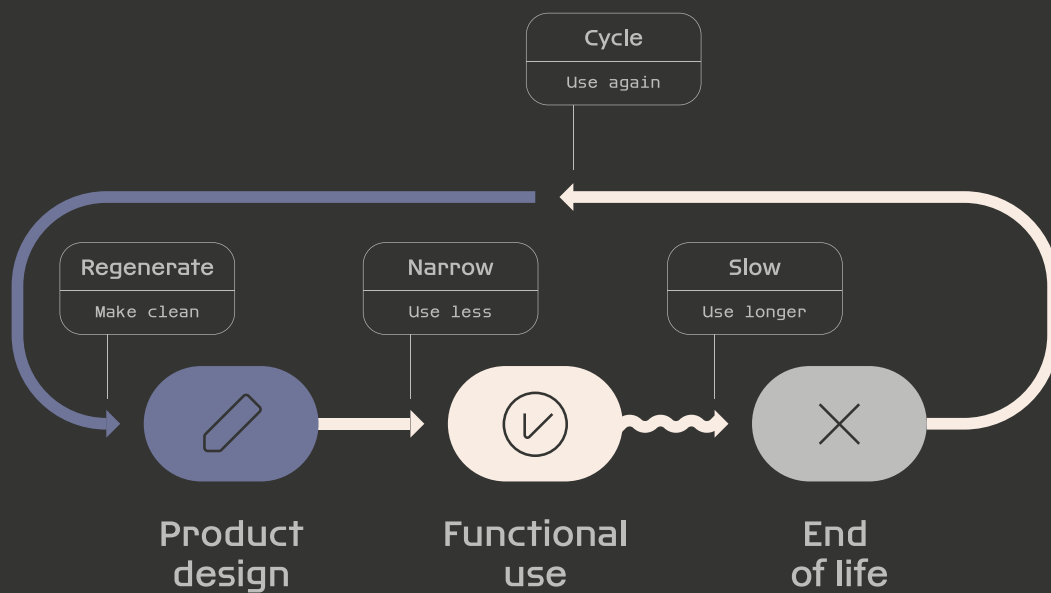
**Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050 supports the expansion of renewable energies, currently at 29% of total consumption, set to rise through campaigns, incentives, and research.**

Achieving Climate Neutrality hinges on three key factors: maximizing renewable energy production, minimizing energy consumption, and enhancing infrastructure efficiency.

Fondation Valery addresses these aspects through various projects. It supports the development of promising facilities like Agro-PV and advocates for servitisation as an alternative business model to overcome the financial challenges associated with high initial investments.

By embracing the Servitisation model (also known as 'as-a-Service' or XaaS), clean and energy-efficient solutions are deployed rapidly. Rather than selling technologies outright, they are offered as services, with customers paying based on usage, consumption, or outcomes. This approach not only delivers economic advantages but also reduces emissions and energy consumption. By making clean and efficient technologies accessible through services, users are more inclined to adopt them. Additionally, this model creates new market opportunities for solution providers, fostering innovation and sustainability.

# Circular Economy







## **An Economic System That Aims To Minimize Waste, Maximize Resource Efficiency, And Promote Sustainability.**

In contrast to the traditional linear economy, where products are manufactured, used, and then discarded as waste, the circular economy aims to create a closed-loop system where products, materials, and resources are reused, repaired, remanufactured, and recycled to extend their lifespan and minimize environmental impact.

Switzerland uses only 6.9% of renewed materials for production purposes. Despite low local extraction, Switzerland meets its material needs through foreign extraction, contributing to waste and emissions elsewhere accounting for 71% of its carbon footprint. Material consumption is critical as it drives 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and over 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress globally.

## **One Man's Thrash Is Another Man's Treasure: The Art Of Transforming Waste Into Resource.**

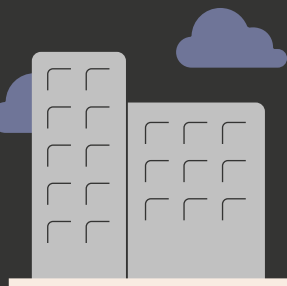
In recent decades, our economies have been constructed upon the erroneous assumption of inexhaustible resources. This fallacy led to the development of inefficient value chains, where production residues, deemed worthless, were discarded as waste. The growing scarcity of resources necessitates a fundamental reassessment of our value chains, encouraging the profitable transformation of by-products into reusable resources.

The emergence of new technologies facilitates a more economically viable transformation, thereby generating fresh opportunities to derive value from waste. Fondation Valéry actively backs projects that enhance efficiency within these value chains, fostering sustainable practices and resource optimization.

# Health

1

Screening for  
high impact levers

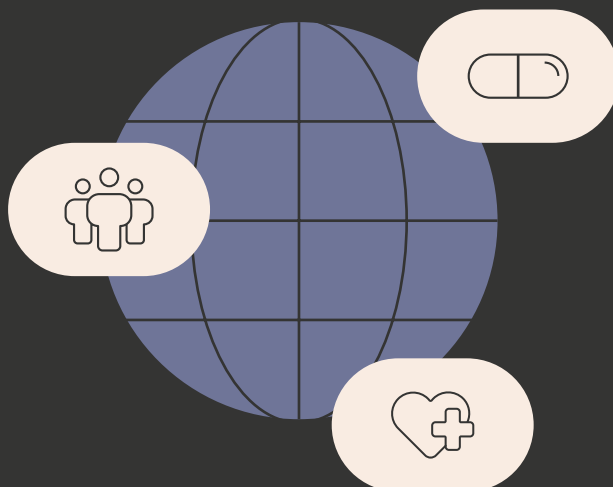


2

Strategic funding

3

Scalable output





## **A Wide Variety Of Complex Issues That Affect The Lives Of Millions Of People Across The Globe.**

In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, the landscape of public health is marked by complex and far-reaching challenges that transcend borders and impact the lives of people across the globe. These challenges encompass a diverse array of issues, ranging from infectious diseases and inadequate healthcare access to the rise of non-communicable diseases and the consequences of environmental degradation.

## **Technology As a Beacon of Hope For a Healthier Future**

Amidst this backdrop, technology emerges as a potent tool in addressing these challenges.

The rapid advancements in digital health, telemedicine, data analytics, and artificial intelligence have reshaped how we diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases. Technology not only enhances our ability to respond to health crises but also improves healthcare delivery in underserved regions, facilitates real-time monitoring of epidemics, and empowers individuals to take charge of their health.

As we delve into an exploration of global health challenges, the role of technology stands as a beacon of hope, offering novel avenues to navigate the complex web of issues and usher in a healthier future for all.



**03**

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**COMPANY**

**IN**

**NUMBERS**

## Ongoing Projects 2023



### Servetia

Promote Energy-as-a-Service to boost the adoption of renewable energy



### BrainForest

The venture studio driving forest conservation and community empowerment through innovative philanthropy



### eDNAxTractor

Democratize biodiversity eDNA monitoring through the use of a portable field device



### BiodivX

Promote cross-disciplinary innovation in autonomous biodiversity monitoring



### GainForest

Address the funding gap in global conservation efforts and revolutionize philanthropy by harnessing Web3 and state-of-the-art technologies



### Nature Finance

Supporting nature positive endowment investment practices



### Climact

Advancing the understanding of glacial erosion and retreat through robot sediment sampling in subglacial streams



### Autonomous River Cleanup

High-tech innovation for tackling river pollution globally



## Ongoing Projects 2023



### Summit Foundation

Reduce the environmental impact of human activity in high traffic locations by proposing concrete solutions and awareness-raising methods



### Showcase 2023

Uniting Changemakers for a Net-Positive Planet through Collaborative Innovation on Climate Action, Nature & Biodiversity, and Equity & Inclusion



### Agroscope

Pioneer comparative study on Agri-PV, highlighting its potential as an untapped energy source for Switzerland



### SeaCleaners Swiss

Combat marine plastic pollution through waste collection programs and educational campaigns, foster innovation and resilience in local communities



### Kinderspital Zürich

An automated motion analysis and playful training of the trunk in children and adolescents with neurological diagnoses



### UNIGE – Faculty of Medicine

Utilizing artificial intelligence to create personalized treatments for individuals with colorectal cancer

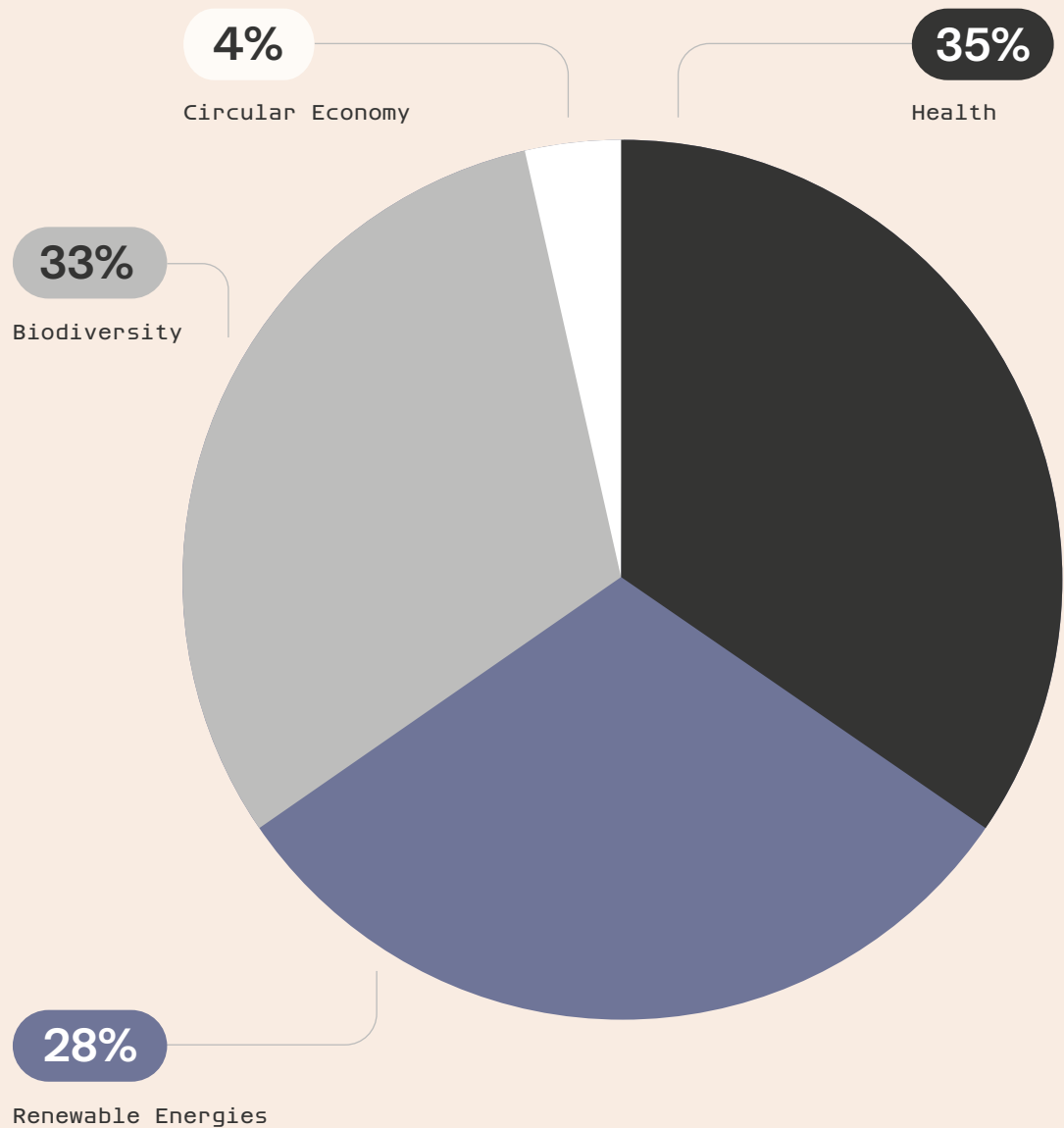


### UNIGE – Faculty of Medicine

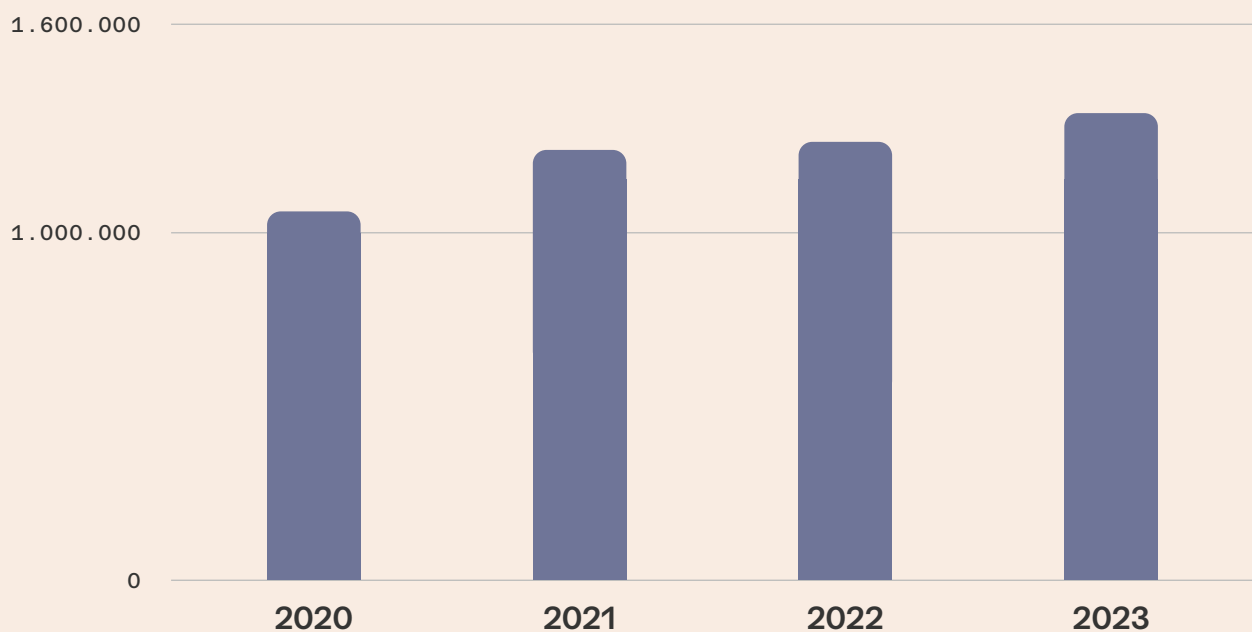
Revolutionizing T1 diabetes treatment with enhanced protein therapy for improved metabolism and reduced insulin dependence

# 2023 Key Numbers

## Thematic distribution



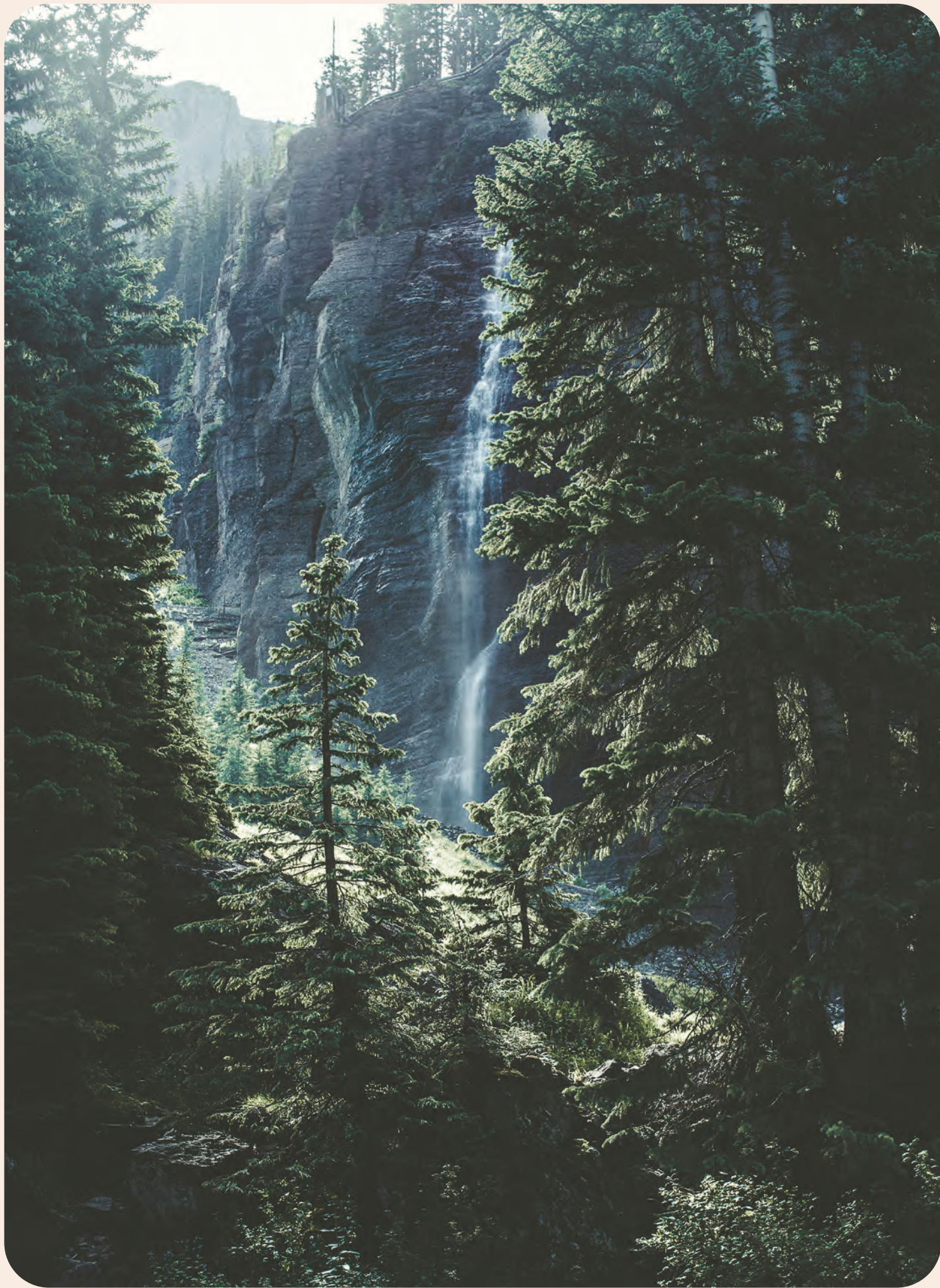
## Grants — CHF



15

Ongoing projects  
end of 2023





## 2024 Perspective

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**In the coming year, we are committed to expanding our project portfolio with new initiatives aligned with our ecosystem of solutions and fostering synergies among them.**

Fondation Valéry will continue to serve as a catalyst within the philanthropic landscape, facilitating the emergence and funding of impactful initiatives.

Additionally, we aspire to lead in sustainable investment, exploring innovative investment solutions to maximize our impact both in grant activities and endowment. Our first direct-line startup investment marks the beginning of impactful venture financing, complementing

our non-profit efforts. We are also exploring blended finance mechanisms to create self-financing projects as proof of concept for future scaling. Recognizing that innovation in non-profit endeavours is essential, we understand that pairing it with innovation in asset allocation is crucial to addressing our challenges effectively.

Lastly, we remain committed to building strong partnerships and spreading our vision across Switzerland to drive meaningful change.



## A word from our partners

“Our collaboration with Fondation Valery has been immensely rewarding. It enabled us to enhance our efforts in empowering local communities for biodiversity protection, thanks to a grant and also the expansive network opportunities that are provided to us. Their flexible support was key in the success of our AI + Environment summit in Zurich, attended by 150 participants, demonstrating the diverse and impactful support we’ve received through our relationship.”

“Our dialogue with Fondation Valery has been very fruitful: together we have been able to identify projects that are doing pioneering work in the field of sustainability and for whose support we are very grateful. This has created a basis of trust that facilitates collaboration and provides both sides with valuable feedback. We also appreciate Fondation Valery’s great commitment to building bridges to other institutions and foundations in order to tackle the major challenges of our century together.”



Simeon Max, GainForest

**ETH** zürich

Dr. Markus Gut, ETH Zürich Foundation

“With the generous support of Fondation Valery, E4S partnered with BASE to launch “Servetia,” aiming to promote the wider adoption of energy-efficient technologies for Swiss buildings. Servetia advocates for servitisation, a business model also known as ‘as-a-Service’ or XaaS, to accelerate the deployment of clean and energy-efficient solutions. To date, Servetia has developed a proof of concept and engaged with academia, showcasing at events like Showcase 2030 and Building Bridges in Geneva. Through Servetia, E4S continues to drive tangible actions for the energy transition alongside industrial partners. Additionally, Fondation Valery supports Showcase2030, a gathering of over 600 stakeholders collaborating on climate action, biodiversity, and equity.”

**E4S**

Dominik Breitingner, E4S

“Through its support of the Servetia Initiative, Fondation Valery has been a crucial donor for BASE to pilot the Servitisation business model within the Swiss market. With Servetia, Fondation Valery is facilitating the adoption and financing of sustainable technologies and contributing to the decarbonisation of the wider market. The support of Fondation Valery extends beyond its financial contribution, as they are providing invaluable technical and networking support, which has significantly helped facilitate the deployment of Servitisation in the Swiss market.”

 **BASE**

Yannick Heinrich, BASE



