



Fondation
Valéry

Salvation Through Innovation

Annual Report 2024



Empowering
the right people
with the right
capital to drive
the right change



www.fondation-valery.ch

01

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ABOUT

US

A word from the president

When we embarked on our journey at Fondation Valery in 2018, we had a bold vision: to create something truly unique within the Swiss philanthropic ecosystem—something that would challenge conventional practices and inspire through innovation. From the very beginning, innovation has been at the heart of our foundation, shaping not only our strategies but also our identity.

Today, we see that vision materializing. Fondation Valery has secured a strategic position aligned with our founding ambitions, demonstrating that reimagining philanthropy is not only possible but necessary. What began as a learning journey for us has evolved into a model that now inspires others. We are honoured by the curiosity our work has sparked and recognize the responsibility that comes with being trailblazers in this space.

Philanthropy needs structures willing to take risks—organizations that can experiment, learn, and pave the way for more traditional players to follow. We embrace this role wholeheartedly, knowing that progress often emerges from the courage to try, fail, and refine.

Looking ahead, we are committed to scaling our approach, increasing the number of prototypes incubated and tested within our philanthropic sandbox. Beyond the nonprofit sector, we seek to bridge the gap between impact economies and traditional markets, fostering a new way of thinking that transcends boundaries.

As we move forward, we invite our partners, peers, and supporters to join us in this endeavour. Together, we can shape the future of philanthropy—one that is dynamic, forward-thinking, and capable of driving systemic change.

The Peoples



Sébastien Cap

Board President



Edouard Hegetschweiler

Board Member



Yannick Ritschel

Director



Julie Cruz

Board Member



The Founder

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Arsan Valery (1926—2018)

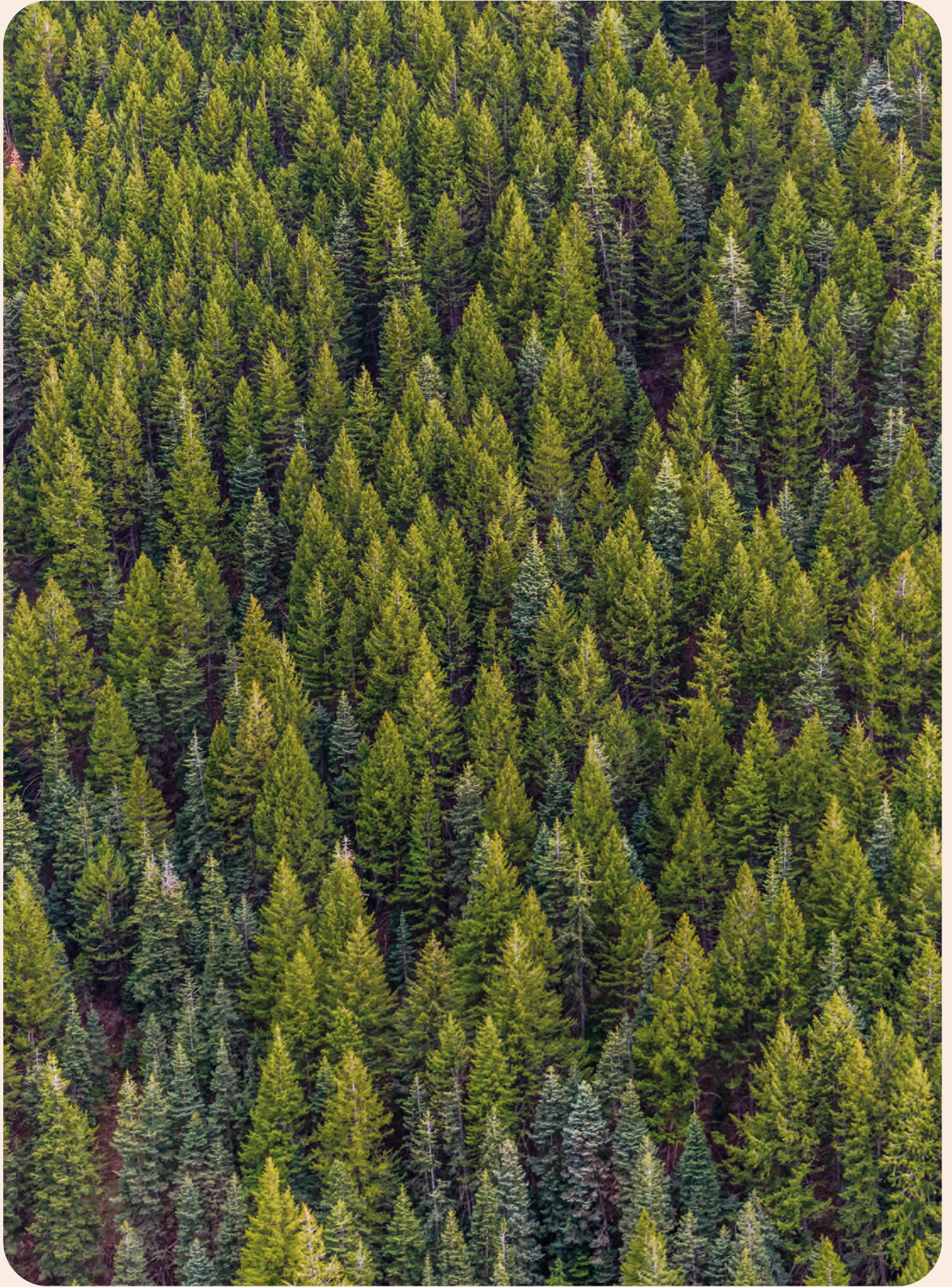
Born in 1926 to a Turkish father and a Russian mother, Arsan Valery spent his life in Lausanne. As graduate of the University of Lausanne, he was passionate about sciences, progress, and scientific research. Beyond his scientific interests, Mr. Arsan had various passions such as classical music, photography,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

Mantra



**Too small to change the world,
small enough to enter the rabbit hole**



Foundation Profile

Reinventing Tomorrow Today



Mission Statement

Bridging the gap

As a Philanthropic Venture Partner, we empower visionary entrepreneurs to transform bold ideas into scalable solutions, pioneering financial models that bridge the gap between traditional finance and philanthropy.



Vision

Impact as an Asset

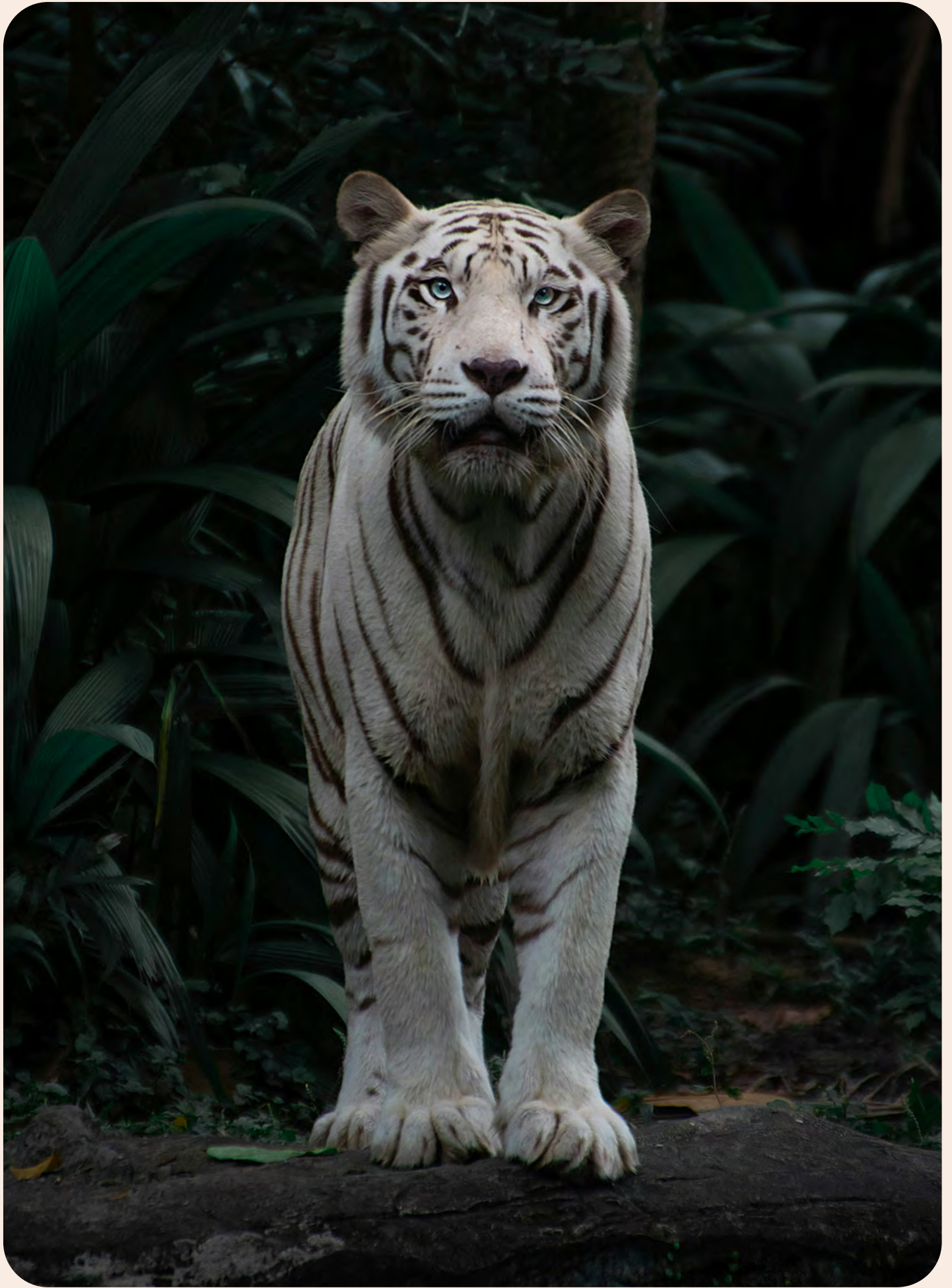
We envision a future where impact is recognized as a fundamental asset, seamlessly integrated into the economy, driving systemic change, and setting a new standard where positive impact defines value.



Unique positioning

Pioneering Innovation

Fondation Valery combines an unconventional risk appetite with financial creativity, enabling us to explore uncharted opportunities in both technology and funding models. We don't just support impact-driven innovation — we pioneer it! At Valery, we don't just support innovation — we pioneer it.



Theory of Change

At Fondation Valéry, we envision a world where environmental sustainability is embedded into the core of economic systems. Historically, due to technical limitations, knowledge gaps, and a lack of consideration, traditional financial models have failed to account for ecological costs, fuelling an unsustainable cycle of resource depletion. To break this pattern, we advocate for a transformative approach where environmental impact is quantified, valued, and seamlessly integrated into financial and business frameworks. By leveraging emerging technologies — from blockchain and AI to robotics and IoT — we seek to foster a data-driven conservation economy, where progress and ecological responsibility are no longer in opposition but work in synergy.

The digital transformation of economic systems presents an unprecedented opportunity to embed nature into decision-making. By integrating real-time Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) technologies, we can create digital twins of ecosystems, enabling precise impact assessments and fostering responsible resource management at scale. More than just a moral obligation, this shift represents a fundamental economic opportunity — paving the way for a multi-dimensional economy where impact is embedded into a product's value chain and follows it across its lifecycle. With blockchain-based value exchange systems emerging, we now have a viable pathway to making such a model a reality.

To bridge the gap between economic growth and environmental stewardship, we redefine impact as a measurable and tradable asset, incentivizing businesses and individuals to internalize ecological costs — laying the groundwork for a new “Impact-as-an-Asset” economy. Our approach focuses on establishing standardized impact metrics, developing tradable impact token to drive sustainable practices, and ensuring transparency and accountability through decentralized verification systems.

Embedding nature into the fabric of our economy will fundamentally reshape business models, forcing a shift in cost structures to reflect the true cost of operations. This correction will eliminate the competitive advantage of unsustainable practices, which currently externalize environmental damage, and will empower businesses that generate positive value to thrive. A full-cost approach will make the 4R model — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink — not just a sustainability principle, but an economically compelling strategy. By aligning nature within financial frameworks, the circular economy will no longer be an idealistic vision, but a profitable and regenerative economic model.

As the full cost of fossil fuels is finally accounted for, renewable energy will become the clear economic choice, eliminating the distorted market advantage currently enjoyed by extractive industries. This shift will level the playing field, enabling scalable, sustainable energy solutions to grow without artificial barriers and accelerating the transition toward a fully regenerative energy system.

We believe that impact accounting standards and responsible value chain frameworks are essential to building a transparent economy where businesses, governments, and individuals share responsibility for sustainability. Our approach is more than a vision — it is a call to action. Through collaboration, innovation, and commitment, we are creating a resilient and inclusive economy that values not just financial growth, but planetary well-being. The future is not just about sustaining what remains—it is about regenerating what has been lost and redefining prosperity for generations to come.



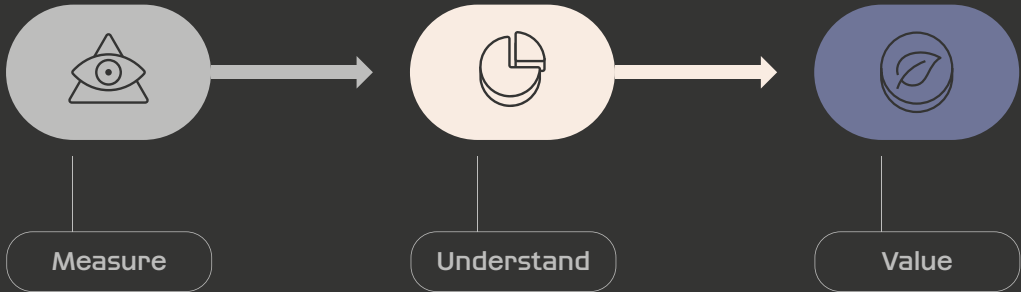
02

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OUR

STRATEGY

Biodiversity





Our approach to biodiversity is built on three interconnected pillars: Data, Information, and Value — each playing a critical role in transforming conservation efforts into measurable, actionable, and financially recognized initiatives.

Data

Data serves as the foundation, encompassing cutting-edge measurement solutions such as eDNA, bioacoustics, and advanced monitoring tools. We also prioritize the infrastructure that ensures fair data ownership, transparent storage, and efficient sharing. By leveraging MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) solutions and blockchain technologies, we enable trustworthy data acquisition and management. (See: WildIn Sync, Open Forest Protocol)

Information

Information emerges when raw data is curated and made actionable. Through rigorous research and the growing capabilities of artificial intelligence, we support the transformation of vast datasets into meaningful insights. These analytical tools empower decision-makers, guiding conservation efforts based on evidence-driven strategies. (See: GainForest)

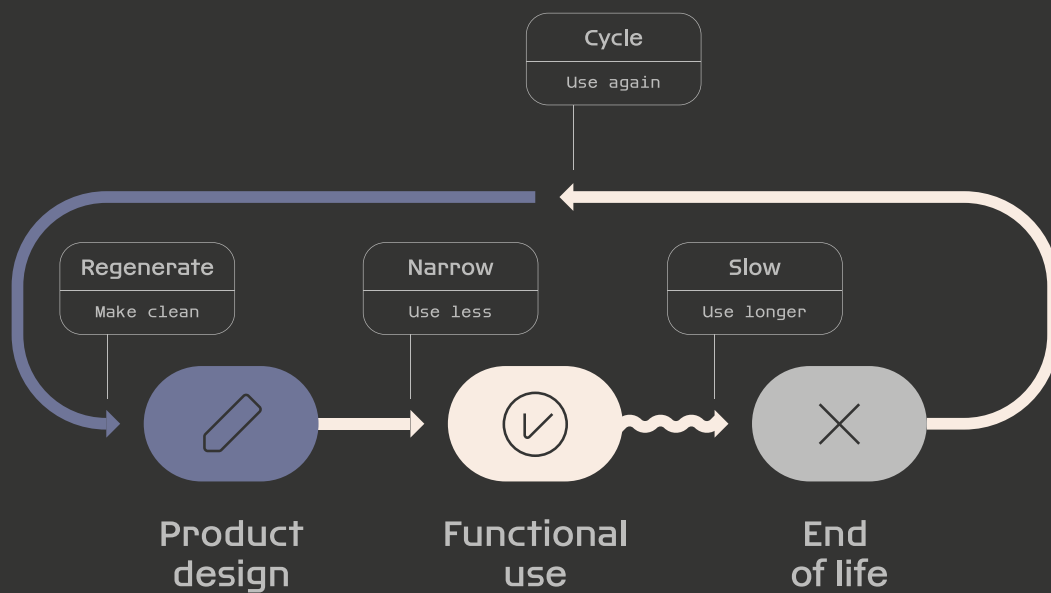
Value

Value is realized when actionable information gains societal and market recognition. By integrating biodiversity into financial frameworks, we work toward embedding nature into economic systems. Through accreditation and tokenization, we promote the financial valuation of conservation efforts, positioning nature as an asset to be preserved and invested in. (See: BrainForest)

At Fondation Valery, we believe that biodiversity must be measured, understood, and valued. By bridging science, technology, and finance, we aim to redefine conservation — ensuring that protecting nature is not just a responsibility but an opportunity for systemic change. To achieve this, we support projects that address one or more of these pillars.

“Nature as THE asset.”

Circular Economy





Our approach to the circular economy is built on the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink — a framework that enables us to maximize resource efficiency and minimize waste while driving innovation.

Reduce

We support monitoring solutions and analytics tools that optimize resource use, enabling industries and consumers to lower consumption without compromising functionality or efficiency. By leveraging data-driven insights, we help organizations make informed decisions that lead to smarter, more sustainable consumption patterns. (see: DataBaum)

Reuse

We foster collaborative platforms that connect industries, businesses, and individuals, embodying the philosophy that one person's waste is another's resource. By facilitating the exchange of byproducts and surplus materials, we create circular supply chains that extend product lifecycles and reduce the need for virgin materials. (see: TERRRATERRE)

Recycle

We invest in technological advancements such as robotics and computer vision to enhance waste identification and reintegration into production cycles. Additionally, we explore blockchain-enabled impact financing, ensuring transparency and trust among multiple stakeholders in the recycling ecosystem. By securing financial incentives for recycling activities, we help establish scalable and self-sustaining circular models. (See: ARC)

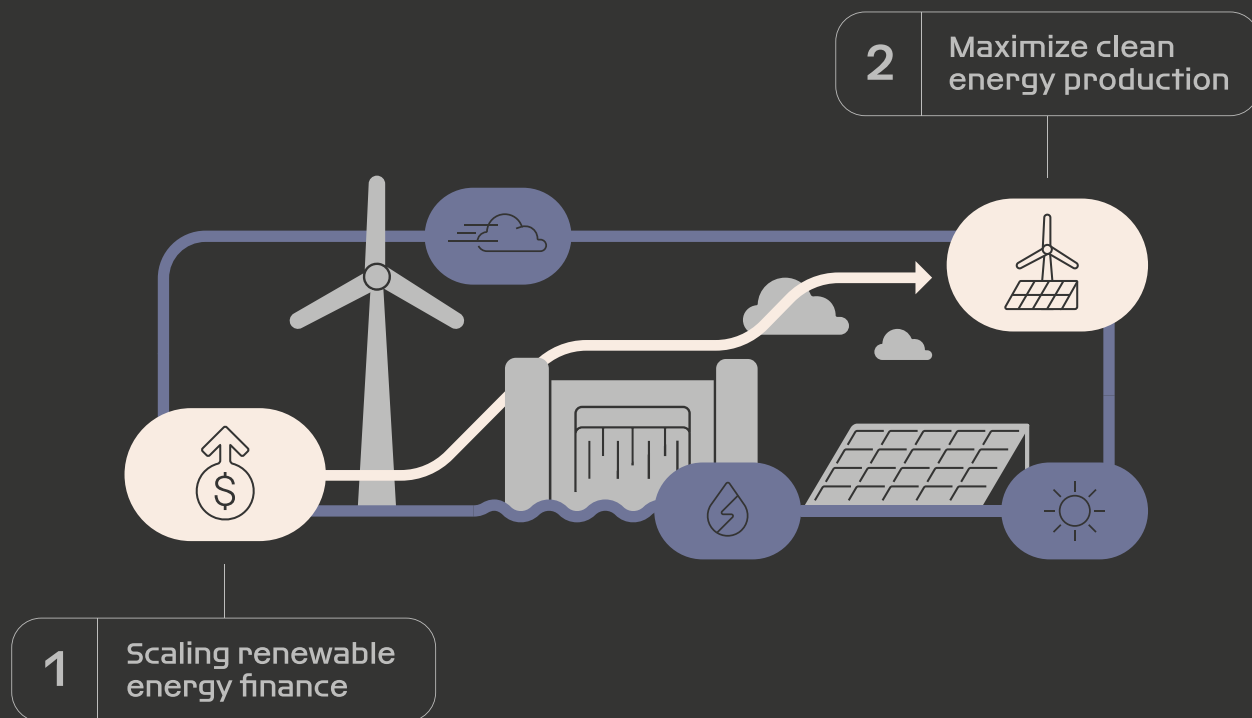
Rethink

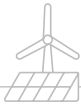
Innovation is key to circularity. We support the development of new materials and processes, including upcycling solutions that extract maximum value from resources while reducing reliance on materials with high environmental impact. By reimagining product design and supply chains, we drive systemic change toward a regenerative economy. (See: Bloom)

We believe that circularity is more than waste management — it is a strategic transformation that integrates technology, finance, and sustainability. Through our initiatives, we aim to reshape industries and contribute to a future where economic growth and environmental responsibility go hand in hand.

“The next generation is the Re-Gen!”

Renewable Energies





At Fondation Valéry, our approach to renewable energy is centred on maximizing the production and adoption of clean energy. To achieve this, we focus on two key pillars: scaling up emerging technologies and innovating financing mechanisms to accelerate their adoption.

Scaling Up Emerging Technologies

We actively support the deployment of promising but less mature technologies such as agro-photovoltaics and hydrogen. One of the main barriers to scaling these solutions is the lack of historical data, which increases perceived risks and slows down mass adoption. To bridge this gap, we facilitate real-world infrastructure deployment and provide academic research support for proof-of-concept (PoC) projects. These initiatives generate the necessary data to demonstrate feasibility, efficiency, and long-term benefits, reducing uncertainty and paving the way for widespread adoption. (See: Agroscope Agro-PV Project)

Innovative Financing for Clean Energy

Transitioning to renewable energy is not just about technology—it also requires financial innovation to remove adoption barriers. We focus on Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS) models, which shift the financial burden from users to third-party investors. These models eliminate upfront capital costs for businesses and consumers, making clean energy solutions more accessible, scalable, and economically viable. We actively support companies in designing and implementing these financing mechanisms, helping them navigate the transition toward sustainable energy solutions. (See: Servetia Initiative)

We believe that clean energy adoption requires both technological progress and financial accessibility. By integrating innovation with smart funding models, we contribute to a future where renewable energy is the standard, not the exception.

“Enter the Volt-Age!”

Impact Venture Accelerator Program

At Fondation Valery, we are committed to supporting impact-driven ventures as they navigate the challenges of scaling their solutions. To achieve this, we have partnered with leading organizations shaping the future of the impact economy, ensuring that ventures receive technical expertise, industry insights, and innovative financing solutions.

BrainForest

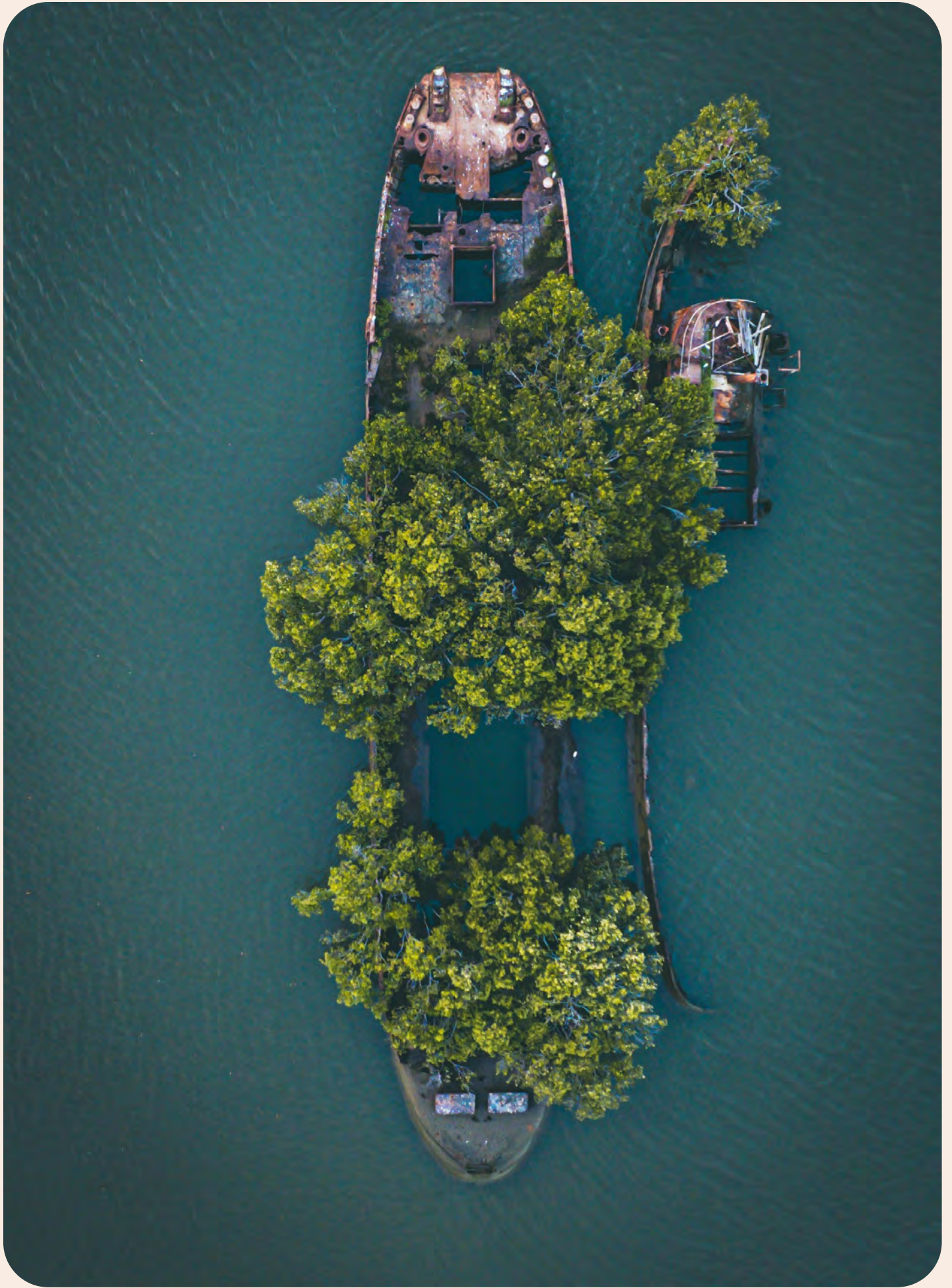
A venture studio specializing in forests and biodiversity, BrainForest helps early-stage projects through its venture program, selecting high-potential startups and providing them with hands-on support. In addition to mentorship and resources, they have established the Canopy Fund—the first philanthropic venture fund. This fund, backed by philanthropic capital, deploys financing through equity and venture debt, offering an innovative blended finance approach that bridges the gap between impact finance and philanthropy.

Tech4Regen

An accelerator based at EPFL Innovation Park, Tech4Regen focuses on scaling Greentech solutions by connecting ventures with industrial players. By facilitating collaboration between startups and established industries, they help accelerate the deployment and adoption of regenerative technologies.

Through these strategic partnerships, we provide ventures in our ecosystem with a launching pad for growth and impact. Looking ahead, we plan to expand this initiative by integrating additional partners, further strengthening the support system for pioneering impact ventures.

We believe that collaboration, innovation, and strategic funding are key to transforming impact-driven ideas into scalable solutions for a sustainable future.





Redefining Success:

The Rise of Phoenix Companies

In the world of traditional finance, unicorns have long been the ultimate symbol of success — startups that achieve a \$1 billion valuation, celebrated for their rapid growth and financial returns. But what if we measured success differently? What if, instead of sheer valuation, we defined it by the regenerative power of a company's impact?

Enter the Phoenix Company — a new paradigm for impact-driven ventures. Inspired by the mythological phoenix, which rises anew from its own ashes, these companies are not just built to scale; they are built to restore, regenerate, and sustain. Unlike unicorns, which chase exponential financial growth, phoenix companies focus on creating systemic change, ensuring that nature, communities, and economies thrive together.

A Phoenix Company is one that:

Regenerates — contributing to environmental restoration and social resilience rather than depleting resources.

Endures — designed for long-term sustainability, prioritizing impact over short-term financial gains.

Inspires — leading by example, proving that business success can be measured by the positive transformation it brings to the world.

This shift in perspective challenges the way we define value and legacy. A billion-dollar valuation may be impressive, but a company that restores biodiversity, eliminates waste, or empowers communities is truly priceless. The phoenix reminds us that true success is not just about creating wealth, but about creating a world worth living in.

At Fondation Valery, we are committed to nurturing Phoenix Companies, supporting those that rise from challenges and regenerate the systems they operate in. In doing so, we are not just redefining success — we are redesigning the future.

03

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OUR

PORTFOLIO

2024 Grants Portfolio



BrainForest

The first philanthropic venture fund for forests & biodiversity



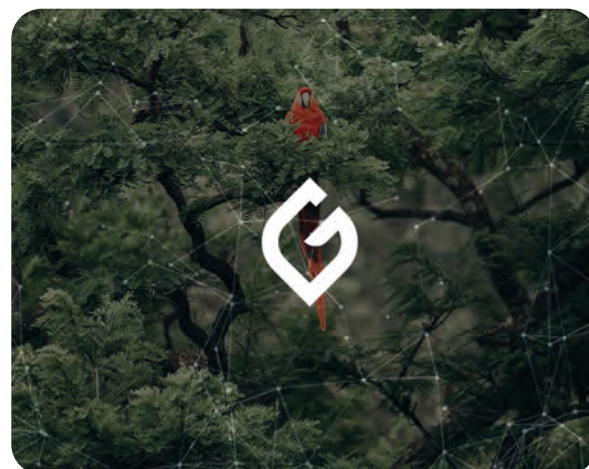
Tech4Regeneration

GreenTech scale up accelerator



Servetia

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



GainForest

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



WildIn Sync

Large scale eDNA monitoring project



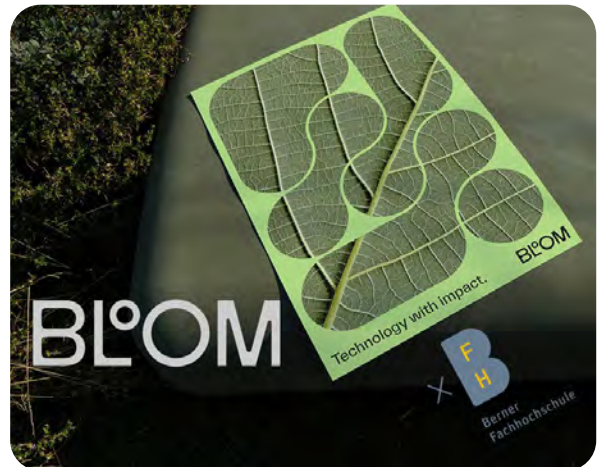
DataBaum

Farmers' decision support system for biodiversity conservation



Autonomous River Cleanup (ARC)

High-tech innovation for tackling river pollution globally



Bloom Biorenewables

Lignin based wood adhesives development

2024 Grants Portfolio



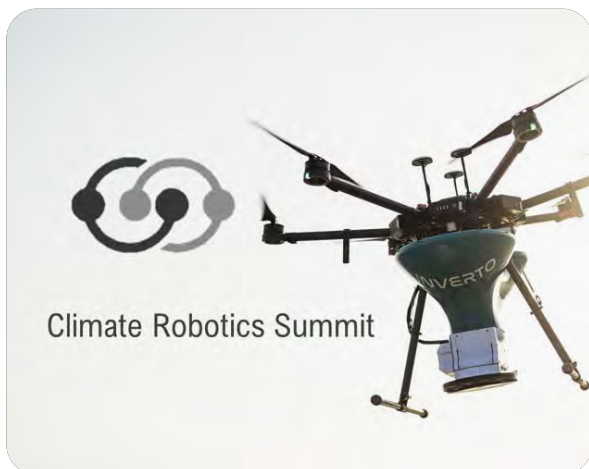
Agroscope

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



TERRRATERRE

Excavation soil trading platform for resource use optimization



Climate Robotics Summit

Accelerating climate action through responsible automation and multidisciplinary collaboration in Climate Robotics



Showcase 2030

Global platform that brings together key stakeholders to accelerate the transition to sustainable innovation

Foundations as Enablers of a Nature-Driven Economy

A New Role for Foundations

Traditionally, foundations have avoided direct economic activities, focusing instead on funding research, advocacy, education and conservation. However, this cautious approach has left a critical funding gap between exploratory research and commercialization. Without early-stage financial support, many promising technologies struggle to scale, delaying vital environmental solutions. Fondation Valéry aims to bridge the gap between philanthropy and scalable economic models by redefining the role of foundations. We integrate impact-driven funding with sustainable financial strategies, ensuring that our capital actively advances our mission. Throughout a venture's lifecycle, we have identified key intervention points where foundations can play a role — each depending on their risk appetite and strategic objectives.

1. Funding Early-Stage Ventures

Supporting projects from academia to commercialization, ensuring innovations reach market viability.

2. Providing Real-World Testing Grounds

Leveraging conservation sites for piloting new technologies and validating environmental impact.

3. Catalytic Investment

Acting as early investors to attract further capital and validate impact-focused ventures.

4. Proof-of-Concept Financing

Enabling proof-of-concept demonstrations by leveraging special purpose vehicles and blended finance.

5. Acting as First Clients

Creating market demand for emerging conservation and sustainability technologies.

6. Scaling Up

Supporting the transition from prototype to industrial-scale solutions, increasing investor confidence.

Beyond Traditional Philanthropy, a Hybrid Approach

A nature-driven economy requires innovative funding structures where philanthropic capital works alongside for-profit investment. By integrating hybrid financing models, foundations can ensure that impact-driven initiatives have the necessary resources to succeed. This approach fosters sustainable growth while preserving the foundational mission of environmental and social responsibility.

Fondation Valéry is committed to pioneering this shift — enabling a future where economic success is measured not just in financial returns, but in ecological and societal progress.

2024 Impact Investments Portfolio

At Fondation Valery, we believe that capital should serve a greater purpose. In 2024, we took a bold step toward aligning our financial resources with our mission by funding impact-driven for-profit ventures. Our investment strategy is built on a simple yet transformative principle: impact comes first. We seek projects that deliver tangible, positive change for society, where financial returns are a means to an end — not the ultimate goal.

But funding alone is not enough. Every investment we make must amplify impact beyond capital, whether by enabling a proof of concept, unlocking an entire industry, or sparking a ripple effect that attracts further investment. Our approach is deeply rooted in trust and long-term collaboration, ensuring that each venture we support has the foundation to thrive.

Our vision for the future is clear: to generate sufficient returns to finance a grant program solely from our impact investments. This self-reinforcing model would prove that impact can finance impact, creating a virtuous cycle where success fuels further transformation. By redefining how capital is deployed, we are not just investing in companies—we are investing in a future where finance becomes a powerful force for good.



2024 Impact Investments Portfolio



Open Forest Protocol

Catalytic Equity

Open Forest Protocol (OFP) is a scalable, open platform that enables forest projects worldwide to Measure, Report, and Verify (MRV) their carbon data with unprecedented transparency and efficiency. By leveraging blockchain technology, satellite imagery, OFP ensures that carbon credits are backed by verifiable, data-driven insights, making the carbon market more trustworthy and efficient. The platform enhances transparency by providing an immutable ledger for carbon credits, fosters credibility through rigorous annual verification using advanced monitoring tools, and increases accessibility by digitizing the carbon financing process, eliminating intermediaries, and enabling projects of all sizes to participate. By reinventing the carbon credit market, OFP accelerates the transition toward sustainable, nature-based climate solutions while ensuring integrity and accountability in carbon offset initiatives.



DataBaum

Catalytic Equity

DataBaum is revolutionizing sustainable agriculture through its advanced pest monitoring system, which significantly reduces pesticide usage by up to 45%. By combining AI-powered analytics, real-time weather data, and microclimatic monitoring, DataBaum enables farmers to make precise, data-driven decisions on pest control, preventing unnecessary chemical applications. This targeted approach not only minimizes environmental impact but also improves crop health, soil quality, and biodiversity. By reducing reliance on pesticides, DataBaum contributes to healthier food production, lower costs for farmers, and a more resilient agricultural system, demonstrating how technology can drive both economic and ecological benefits in farming.



Frigg.eco

Infrastructure debt financing

Fondation Valéry has extended debt financing to Frigg to support the development of a portfolio of photovoltaic infrastructures via their innovative platform. While tokenizing infrastructure represents a significant opportunity for the future, Frigg has developed a hybrid solution tailored to the current state of market adoption and regulatory constraints. Their platform bridges traditional finance (TradFi) and Web3 by digitizing and streamlining infrastructure documentation, monitoring, and management. By leveraging blockchain and smart contracts, Frigg enhances transparency, traceability, and operational efficiency across renewable energy projects. This approach not only strengthens investor confidence but also lays a solid foundation for future scalability and democratized access to sustainable energy investments.



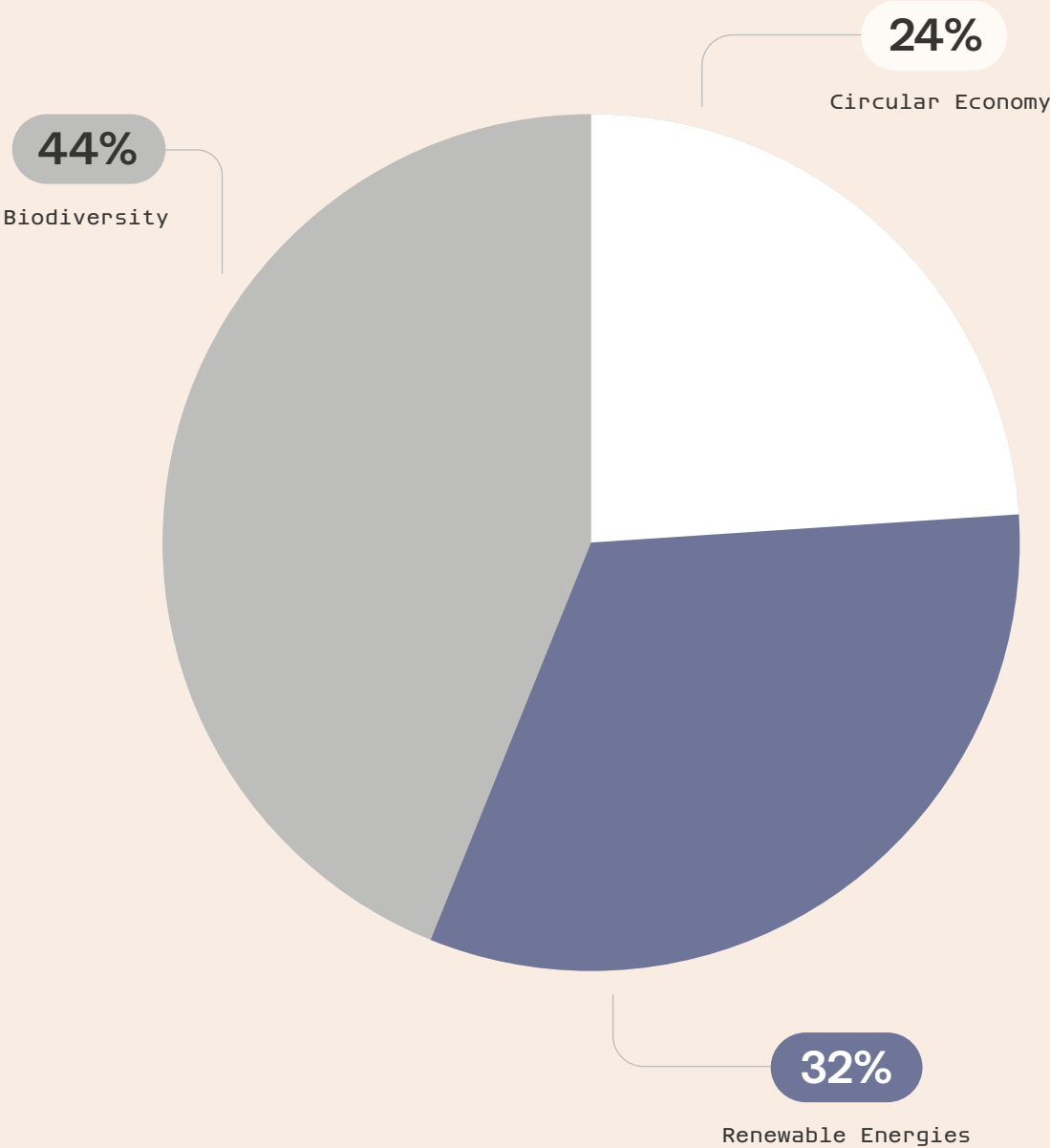
Voltiris

Infrastructure debt financing

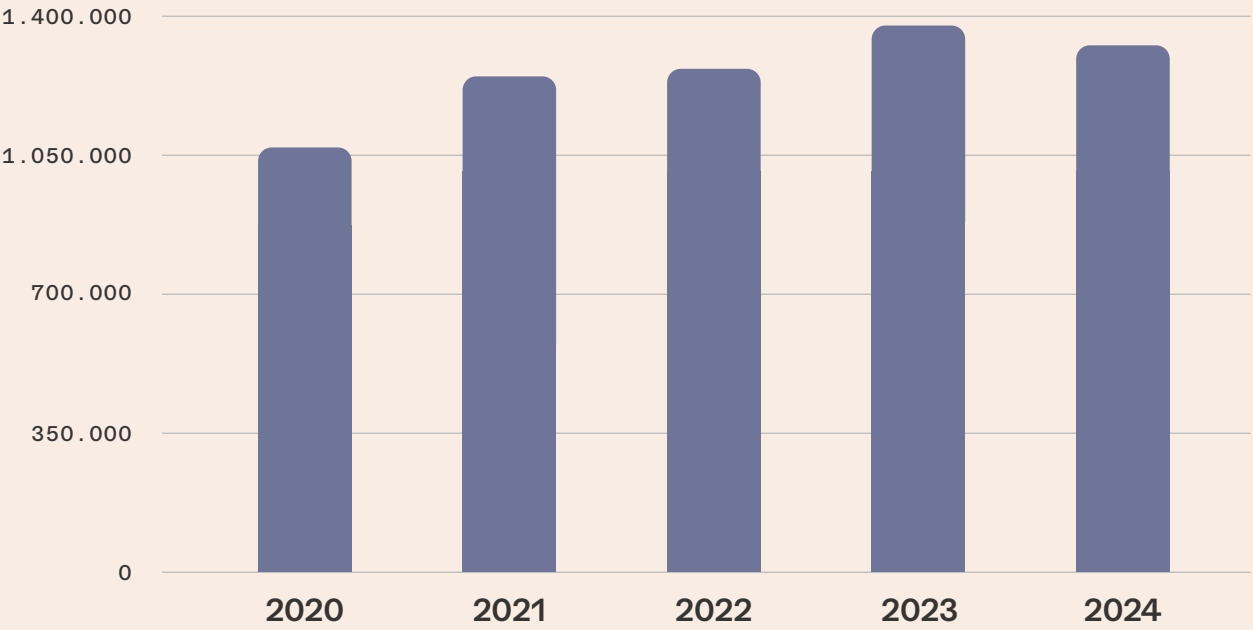
We are proud to support Voltiris in revolutionizing greenhouse agriculture with its spectrally selective solar modules, which generate green energy without compromising crop growth. Our investment in their first large-scale showcase, in partnership with a local bank, has enabled an Energy-as-a-Service model, making clean energy affordable for the contracting farmer by eliminating upfront costs. This innovative technology not only reduces reliance on fossil fuels but also optimizes water usage, contributing to more sustainable agricultural practices. By demonstrating the feasibility of integrating solar energy into greenhouse operations, this project paves the way for scaling up renewable solutions in agriculture, ensuring both economic and environmental benefits.

2024 Key Numbers

Thematic distribution



Grants — CHF



16

Ongoing projects
end of 2024



2025 Perspectives

As we move into 2025, Fondation Valéry is committed to building on the momentum of 2024 and accelerating the transformation of philanthropy into a powerful engine for sustainable impact. Beyond sourcing high-potential projects through our expanding network, we will focus on scaling our solution design process—either by partnering with visionary impact entrepreneurs or by developing solutions in-house.

One of our key innovations is the advancement of Impact-as-a-Service business models, pioneering hybrid for-profit and non-profit structures that merge the strengths of both worlds. These models will allow impact ventures to achieve financial sustainability with minimal philanthropic funding, ensuring that early-stage philanthropic capital serves as a catalyst for long-term market viability. By championing this approach, we aim to inspire a paradigm shift where philanthropy is no longer seen as a one-time contribution but as an essential enabler of systemic change.

In parallel, we will strengthen partnerships with like-minded foundations to develop collaborative funding strategies for blended finance instruments. With Swiss foundations managing 135 billion CHF in assets, even a fraction redirected toward impact projects could trigger massive ripple effects across industries. By working together, we can mobilize capital at scale, proving that impact finance is not just possible—it is financially and socially profitable.

By the end of 2025, our goal is to establish an impact fixed-income portfolio large enough to finance our first grant fully funded by impact investment returns—a milestone proving that impact can finance impact. To achieve this, we will expand our renewable energy investments and explore profitable nature-based solutions such as reforestation ventures.

Through these initiatives, we continue to push the boundaries of traditional philanthropy, accelerating its evolution toward impact finance. By aligning capital with mission, we aim not only to maximize our impact potential but also to reshape the future of philanthropy itself.

A word from our partners

“The collaboration with Fondation Valery has been instrumental to the development and impact of the Tech4Regen accelerator program.

Rooted in our complementary strengths, it enables us to approach projects from technological, business, and financial perspectives. What makes this partnership truly meaningful is our shared vision and values: restoring harmony between nature and human activities, fostering a future where biodiversity and the economy can thrive together.

Together, we champion renewable resources and energies, support the transition to circular industries, and advance regenerative models by uniting philanthropy and venture capital—demonstrating how shared purpose and ecosystem collaboration can scale impact.”

**TECH4
REGEN**

Bertrand Klaiber, Executive Director
Tech4Regen

“We’re proud to have Fondation Valery as a valued partner in our journey at Open Forest Protocol. This collaboration goes far beyond funding—it’s a true example of smart money.

Fondation Valery actively contributes their time, expertise, and network to help us scale our impact, co-design solutions, and build a stronger ecosystem around nature-based climate action.

Their deep commitment to environmental innovation and long-term thinking is fully aligned with OFP’s mission. We’re very grateful for this kind of partnership—where capital is just the beginning, and collaboration is the real driver of transformation.”

 **OPEN
FOREST
PROTOCOL**

Frederic Fournier, CEO and Co-Founder
Open Forest Protocol

“Fondation Valery is a rare gem in the philanthropic world – bold, fast, and willing to back the unproven – exactly the kind of partner innovative, early-stage initiatives need. By going first, they unlock support from others. Their use of philanthropy is genuinely catalytic. It’s also a huge plus to have their director in our investment committee and as a mentor in our Brainforest venture program – he knows the space well, actively connects us with his network, and, as a blockchain enthusiast, helps push the envelope.

Thank you, Fondation Valery, for being such an awesome partner – your trust and partnership mean a lot. “



Leo Caprez, Executive Director
BrainForest

“We deeply appreciate the invaluable support provided by Fondation Valery. Their innovative model to promote regenerative agriculture in Swiss vineyards—through grants and by participating in databaum’s equity round—represents a unique and forward-thinking approach. This blend of financial support and strategic vision not only accelerates sustainable transformation but also fosters a healthier planet and enhances the well-being of future generations.”



Dr. Saurabh Panday, CEO and Founder
DataBaum

