



FRANCE'S COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 was adopted by France in November 2023 to help achieve the objectives set by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity by 2030 is a significant challenge. France, with its rich biodiversity, particularly in its overseas territories, is committed to playing a key role in implementing the Global Framework internationally, within the European Union and in its own regions.

France is home to an outstanding biodiversity

From French Guiana to the Alps, the Pacific to the Mediterranean and the West Indies to Brittany, France is home to an exceptional variety of natural environments and species. It has a presence in four of Europe's five major biogeographical regions and owns the second largest maritime area in the world. This natural heritage gives it a unique responsibility.

10% of the world's described species can be found in France.

France has the second largest maritime area in the world, after the United States and ahead of Australia, Russia and the United Kingdom.

Overseas territories account for 0.08 % of the world's landmass but are home to 80% of France's biodiversity, with 18,845 endemic species, including 9,006 in New Caledonia alone!

The French Southern Territories are France's largest nature reserve and the second largest protected area in the world. They cover 1,662,679 km², including approximately 7,700 km² of land and 1,655,000 km² of sea, and are second only to Marae Moana or the Cook Islands Marine Park, a 1,976,000 km² marine park located in the Cook Islands.

France ranks 10th among those countries which provide a home to the largest number of endangered species.





Biodiversity is inextricably linked to societal, climate and economic issues

Biodiversity is the bedrock of our life on Earth (air, water, food, materials), our physical and mental health, and our well-being: when nature is healthy, we are healthy!

Nature is an irreplaceable resource as regards our health: at least 50% of anti-cancer molecules come from nature, at a time when cancer rates are rising across all generations. 84% of crops depend directly on pollination by insects, a process valued at between €2.3 and €5.3 billion per year in France. The French have a strong attachment to nature. Contact with nature strengthens the immune system, helps the body to function properly, reduces stress and anxiety, improves concentration and plays an important role in the cognitive and social development of children.

Biodiversity is our ally in the fight against and adaptation to climate change.

Ecosystems such as forests, mangroves and peatlands which are in good ecological condition help mitigate the effects of climate change. These ecosystems help regulate greenhouse gas emissions, and consequently maintain climate balance.

Biodiversity also provides solutions to adapting to the effects of climate change by naturally combating the risks of flooding, storms, landslides and soil and coastal erosion. Utilising biodiversity by employing nature-based solutions helps solve planning issues and risks to populations. These solutions are particularly cost-effective: nearly 3 euros are earned for every euro invested.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are the mainstay of our economic activities.

On a global scale, over half of gross domestic product depends directly on nature. According to the European Central Bank, 72% of companies in the eurozone, or around 3 million businesses, are critically dependent on ecosystem services and will face significant economic difficulties as a result of ecosystem degradation. In France, the value of services provided by nature is estimated at €49 billion per year (Efese report), and the Banque de France estimates that 42% of shares and bonds held by French companies are highly or very highly dependent on services provided by nature.

of jobs in France depend on biodiversity, including 10% directly.

France is not immune to biodiversity loss

Alarming findings by international experts show that 75% of terrestrial environments and 40% of marine ecosystems worldwide are severely damaged. There are 1 million endangered species in the world. This decline in biodiversity is the result of human activities which cause significant stress to the natural world.

Unfortunately, France has not been spared from biodiversity loss, as can be illustrated by some key figures.

In terms of decline in abundance, for example among birds (Stoc monitoring): between 1989 and 2023, 44% of the population of common birds in built-up areas disappeared, and 44% in agricultural areas and 5% in forest areas.

In terms of species diversity according to the IUCN Red List: by 2023, 16% of species assessed in the National Red List will be extinct or threatened with extinction. Overseas, this affects, for example, 63% of birds in French Polynesia, 67% of amphibians in Martinique and 45% of terrestrial flora in Réunion.

In terms of areas experiencing loss of habitats of community interest: in France, over the period 2013-2018, only 20% of these habitats were considered to be in a favourable state of conservation.



France's response to biodiversity loss

The adoption of a national strategy in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (NBS) implements the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal in December 2022. It sets targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. The NBS2030 is also inspired by the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, adopted in 2020 alongside the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy.

The NBS2030 is the result of a collaborative effort involving people, local authorities, experts and stakeholders in mainland France, Corsica and the overseas territories. The participatory development process began in 2019 and was completed by the collection of opinions from national authorities in October 2023, which helped to further develop the project. Interministerial work enabled the project to be refined, provided it with indicators and set out the resources needed to make the NBS2030 operational. The NBS2030 was presented by Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne on 27 November 2023.

The European Nature Restoration Law

France has also supported the Nature Restoration Law, which came into force throughout the European Union in August 2024. France is doing everything in its power to ensure that this law is properly implemented. It is developing the 'Act to Restore Nature' Plan, which will reinforce and refine the restoration objectives set out in the NBS. In particular, it is ensuring that all stakeholders are consulted through the organisation of a major public debate launched in May 2025 by the Minister for the Ecological Transition, Agnès Pannier Runacher.





Biodiversity lies at the heart of ecological planning

The NBS2030 is led by the Ministry of the Ecological Transition, which chairs the interministerial governance body comprising some thirty ministries and government agencies. The NBS2030 is the biodiversity component of the ecological planning process. It is led by a department within the Prime Minister's office, whose role is to implement and roll out various environmental policies (biodiversity, climate, including mitigation and adaptation, resources and water) across France in coordination with all government departments, businesses, local authorities, associations and citizens in order to meet the key challenges of the ecological transition. Food, health, drinking water, biodiversity, climate change: the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) highlight how closely interlinked the issues of food, health, drinking water and biodiversity are, and how the challenges they pose must be addressed jointly.

Biodiversity lies at the heart of ecological planning of regions

The regionalisation of ecological planning is essential. Regional COPs (similar to the international Conference Of the Parties), which are chaired by prefects and regional presidents, enable the national strategy to be broken down into annual operational roadmaps through consultation with all stakeholders and alongside regional biodiversity strategies. These are carried out in conjunction with local authorities and regional stakeholders.



The uncovering of the 'La Savasse' watercourse, at the bottom La Côte des Chapeliers

RESTORING NATURE: A BENEFIT FOR REGIONS

The example of uncovering the 'La Savasse' watercourse in Romans-sur-Isère (Drôme)

Drôme, a department with an already particularly warm climate, will be among the departments most affected by rising average temperatures, more frequent heat waves and water stress in summer. Making a region resilient to climate change is something which can be achieved at a community or a neighbourhood level.

The 'Découverture de La Savasse' project has restored a 250-metre stretch of river to the open air. Located in the heart of the town centre, the project has converted a 4,000 m² former asphalt car park into a planted, shaded riverbank within which the Savasse river flows uncovered and can meander once again. Completed at the end of 2024, it is expected to provide coolness from summer 2025 onwards by reducing albedo (through the temperature of the cool water, which will provide comfort in the area nearby, and natural ventilation and shade from the trees on the future riverbank) and will be a new oasis for biodiversity in the town.





REDUCE PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY

The main aim of the National Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 is to reduce the pressures on biodiversity in France and internationally. It is also important to increase the quantity and quality of protected areas.

France has already achieved its **target of 30% of land and sea areas protected by 2030** (target 3 of the Global framework) with 33.4% protected in 2024. This is due in particular to national parks, marine protected areas, national reserves, etc. It also plans to achieve 10% high-level protection by 2030 and increase the level of protection for exceptional and threatened ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, glacial ecosystems, old-growth forests, etc.). In addition to quantitative targets, France plans to develop a coherent and resilient network of protected areas across the entire country. France is also committed to protecting marine biodiversity in the open seas through the adoption of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

France has also committed to reducing the five main causes of biodiversity loss identified by IPBES at a global level and is monitoring their progress using indicators which are updated annually.

- Overfishing, the second cause, remains an issue in France despite progress: 63% of the country's fish stocks were estimated to be at the maximum sustainable yield level in 2022. The target objective is 100% by 2030.
- Climate change, the third cause, is a challenge both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. France is continuing to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, with a target of 373 million tonnes of CO₂eq by 2023. The target is 55% lower than in 1990.



Pollution is the fourth leading cause of loss. Reducing the risks and impacts of plant protection products by half is a key challenge (target 7 of the Global framework). In agriculture, the number of plant protection product treatment units reached 91.4 million in 2022, a slight increase since 2011. France has also set a target of halving light pollution. In 2023, reduction was off to a promising start with 72% of the country affected by light pollution compared with 82% the previous year. The fight against plastic pollution is also a priority and can be achieved by reducing coastal landfills.

The NBS in action



Reduce coastal waste and combat plastic pollution

In the year 2024, two coastal landfill sites were restored and repurposed, and 14 sites were involved in the National Plan for the Resorption of Coastal Landfill Sites (with a target of 55 by 2030). The number of districts participating in the 'Plastic-Free Beaches' initiative has risen to 120 and continues to grow, representing 10% of coastal communities, with a target of 100% by 2030. For example, 65% of communities who have signed up have incorporated the zero plastic target for events.

In France, the rate of introduction of IAS is increasing: since 1985, each department in France has seen an average of 14 additional invasive alien species every 10 years. This is the fifth leading cause of biodiversity loss worldwide and is particularly acute in France's overseas communities. According to the IUCN Red List, invasive alien species threaten 46% of land species which are considered endangered in overseas territories.



RESTORE BIODIVERSITY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

In addition to reducing pressures on species and habitats, it is vital to restore key terrestrial and marine ecosystems by taking into account resilience to climate change and by focusing particularly on nature-based solutions.

In addition to reducing pressures (passive restoration), France has set targets for active restoration (which will be refined with the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law). Maintaining and restoring hedges (net gain of 50,000 kilometres by 2030), natural grasslands, wetlands (50,000 hectares by 2026) and soils, and planting 1 billion trees by 2030 are all measures which meet target 2 of the Global framework. In France, a total of 27,336 hectares of wetlands were restored in 2024 (8,733 in 2022) thanks to funding from water agencies, and 64 million trees were planted. In addition, **strengthening protection and reversing the decline of threatened species** is an essential task (target 4 of the Global framework). National Action Plans (NAPs) are legally non-binding tools aimed at restoring populations of protected species. These plans cover over 470 protected species across the country by 2024.

The NBS in action



Increasing the size of protected species populations: the example of the lesser kestrel (Falco naumanii)

Actions taken as part of the NAP to aid the lesser kestrel (2010-2015, renewed for 2021-2030) have enabled its population to grow from two pairs in 1983 to 700 pairs in 2022. This improvement has been made possible mainly through preventing mortality and preserving its habitat and nesting areas.

Last but not least, in the context of climate change, bringing nature back into towns and cities will address the challenges of adaptation and improving the well-being of inhabitants (target 12 of the Global framework).

The NBS in action



Bringing nature back into towns and cities

The revision of the Nature in the City plan was completed with the launch of the new plan on 30 September 2024. It seeks to accelerate changes in practices and design relating to the place of nature in towns and cities. It has three objectives: to ensure species diversity in the face of biodiversity loss, to adapt towns and cities to climate change and to improve the health and quality of life of inhabitants. In 2024, €142 million was spent on renaturing towns and villages as part of the Green Fund scheme, a driving force for projects promoting ecological transition. Since 2023, the projects funded have provided for the cumulative renaturation of approximately 1,200 hectares and it is forecast that at





MOBILISE ALL STAKEHOLDERS

All stakeholders have a role to play in safeguarding and restoring biodiversity, from governments to citizens, local authorities, businesses, associations and everybody who uses nature, who are often the people most involved in its preservation.

Mobilising all stakeholders requires the government to lead by example, particularly through training for civil servants and local government officials (target 20 of the Global framework): by 2024, more than 50% of senior civil servants and local government officials will have received training on biodiversity issues. Training must continue in all sectors and from an early age: in 2024, there were 1,536 educational areas (marine and terrestrial) in France, where students could learn about the participatory management of a small natural area. Support for businesses must enable them to strengthen their commitments and increase the transparency of their actions as regards biodiversity (target 15 of the Global framework): by 2024, 175 businesses have signed up to the national programme Companies Committed to Nature led by the French Biodiversity Agency. Last but not least, NBS2030 is a whole-of-society strategy: involving all members of the public also requires celebratory and awareness-raising events such as the Nature Festival, which attracted 1 million participants in 2024.

The NBS in action



The Municipal Biodiversity Atlas (atlas de la biodiversité communale or ABC) is a key tool for helping local authorities take better account of the biodiversity in their region and in their local policies and spatial planning documents. Inclusion of the ABC programme in the NBS2030 has strengthened the French Biodiversity Agency's capacity to support and assist local stakeholders. In 2024, **121 new local authorities** (districts, inter-district bodies, regional nature parks, national parks, etc.) were able to launch an ABC, involving over **1,000 new communities**. Since 2017, **4,598 districts** have been incorporated into the ABC programme, which has a real impact on combating land artificialisation.



SECURING THE RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

In order to achieve the objectives set out in the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030, it is important to ensure that the appropriate resources are available to meet these goals. These resources are not only financial, but also include research, knowledge sharing and the management to steer the strategy.

Mobilising public and private funding for biodiversity is vital in order to be able to achieve the targets set. On a global scale, the French Development Agency (AFD) continues to integrate biodiversity into all its areas of intervention. 2023 was a record year, with €1.1 billion in funding for biodiversity, surpassing the €1 billion target for 2025. At European and national level, efforts are being focused on improving the efficiency of public spending and identifying and reducing public expenditure which is harmful to biodiversity. To achieve this end, France has been relying for several years on the 'Green Budget' approach (targets18 – 19 of the Global framework). Seeking private funding through biodiversity certificates and payments for environmental services and low-carbon accreditations is also a key focus. Achieving the objectives of the NBS also depends on well-established interministerial management and the contribution of all stakeholders (local authorities, businesses, associations, etc.).

The NBS in action



Promote the environmental services provided by districts

In 2024, recognition of the contribution made by districts to the objectives of the ecological transition was formalised through reform of the grant for rural amenities. There has been a significant increase (from €41.3 million in 2023 to €100 million in 2024), with the number of districts benefiting from the grant now standing at 8,921. The allocation criteria aim to support rural districts whose region is covered by a significant proportion of protected areas or is adjacent to a marine protected area. This is a paradigm shift in that it moves away from an approach which considers biodiversity as a constraint to recognising and valuing the commitment of districts which support protected areas, biodiversity reservoirs and carbon sinks for the benefit of the entire national community.



In its capacity as a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, France is committed to reporting regularly on progress made in promoting biodiversity. A digital monitoring system based on a series of national indicators (status, pressure and implementation) tracks pressures on biodiversity in France and the efforts made to address them in line with the NBS. Based on this monitoring system, the Government submits an annual progress report on the NBS to the stakeholders the National gathered within **Biodiversity** Committee and reports every two years to the CBD Secretariat about the ongoing progress of the Global Biodiversity Framework. At European level, France is also committed to reporting on various structural biodiversity policies, such as the Habitat Directive, the Birds Directive, the Nature Restoration Regulation, the Invasive Alien Species Regulation, etc.



The various actions implemented in the regions and the key indicators are shown at biodiversite.gouv.fr.



