



The 4th July 2018 Biodiversity Action Plan  
for mainland and overseas France

## Preserving biodiversity is protecting life!

From French Guiana to the Alps, from the Pacific Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, from the French Antilles to Brittany, France has a diversity of natural environments and species, both on land and at sea. These ecosystems support about 10% of the 1.8 million known species on our planet. This biodiversity is our common

heritage and our capital for the future.

With the 4th July 2018 Biodiversity Action Plan, the State is rallying with local authorities, NGOs, socio-economic stakeholders and citizens to achieve a common objective: preserving biodiversity because it protects us. Because, beyond its intrinsic value, it provides

services essential to our daily lives: pollination, water and air purification, protection against risks of marine submersion and flooding, food quality and diversity, resilience to climate change, improvements to the living environment...

Preserving biodiversity is watching over a natural capital upon which our survival and living conditions depend.

**26%**

of the species assessed in 2018 are threatened in France, with this risk reaching 39% in the overseas islands

**590,000 ha**

of natural and agricultural areas were converted into artificial areas between 2006 and 2015, i.e. a department such as Seine-et-Marne

**68 %**

of the habitats threatened in Europe are located in mainland France

# 5 major focuses to take action!

It is urgent to put biodiversity at the heart of our public policies, and to act to preserve it in our territories, by involving all the stakeholders!

The Biodiversity Action Plan sets the goal to reduce the net loss of biodiversity to zero, but also to speed up the implementation of the French National Biodiversity Strategy. The Government makes commitments through this Plan, the ambition of which is also to get the French society involved in a collective mobilisation and to support the necessary changes.



## Limiting land consumption and preserving environments

Urban sprawl and land take directly contribute to the degradation of ecosystem function, the loss of species diversity and the aggravation of extreme weather events, by destroying and fragmenting natural and agricultural areas. Despite improvements in urban and rural planning, the consumption of these areas remains too rapid, even in territories where the population and employment are not increasing.

### What the Biodiversity Action Plan says

The Biodiversity Action Plan sets the goal to achieve zero net land take. This involves limiting as much as possible the consumption of new areas, and, where this is impossible, “returning to nature” or “renaturalising” the equivalent of the areas consumed. This is achieved, for example, through the development of nature in the city which, beyond biodiversity-related issues, improves urban living conditions and makes it possible to deploy nature-based solutions for more resilient territories.



22%

of specialist common birds in farmland, woodland and built environments, disappeared in mainland France between 1989 and 2017



## Protecting ecosystems and certain emblematic and threatened species

For more than a century, the protection of natural environments and species has been based on a range of instruments and tools: national action plans for threatened species, national and regional parks, marine natural parks, nature reserves, and so on. French protected areas cover more than 20% of the territory, on land and at sea. The protection of these areas also allows everyone to discover this natural heritage and these exceptional landscapes, which contribute to France's attractiveness.

### What the Biodiversity Action Plan says

The Biodiversity Action Plan includes the extension of the marine and terrestrial protected areas network and the strengthening of their management: the objective is to preserve species and ecosystems, while contributing to the implementation of green and blue infrastructure. At the same time, the protection of threatened species, such as bears and certain Cetaceans, contributes to the preservation and restoration of their habitats. The Plan also aims to strengthen education and training, for instance by deploying 500 educational terrestrial and marine areas by 2022. At the international level, the aim is to strengthen the fight against wildlife trafficking and the mobilisation for tropical forest protection.





## Preserving the sea and coast

Present in all the oceans,

except the Arctic Ocean, France possesses the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest maritime area in the world. The amount of plastic found in the oceans continues to increase with adverse consequences on biodiversity and human health. Today, solutions exist to limit waste generation at source, recover plastics, and develop products based on recyclable and recycled materials.

### What the Biodiversity Action Plan says

The Biodiversity Action Plan aims to mobilise the territories and citizens so that no more plastic is discharged into the ocean. It also intends to maintain the momentum to create marine protected areas and strengthen the management actions carried out within them. It also sets a goal of protecting 100% of French coral reefs by 2025. On the coast, it plans to extend the natural areas protected by the Conservatoire du littoral (French Coastal Conservation Authority) by 10,000 hectares by 2022. At the international level, the Plan intends to strengthen discussions about the sea so that they rapidly result in actual commitments on protected areas, fisheries, and biodiversity protection in the high seas.



## Taking account of the relationship between health and the environment

Intensive agricultural practices, in particular those having significant recourse to the use of plant protection products, have negative impacts on biodiversity, water quality, and the health of producers, users and residents. The agricultural world is aware of the challenges and has already begun to take up these issues, by changing practices and developing labels and quality marks. More broadly, the development of certain human activities releases pollutants into the environment, with potential consequences for human, animal and plant health.

### What the Biodiversity Action Plan says

The Biodiversity Action Plan seeks to encourage and support a more environmentally friendly agriculture (decrease of the water and biodiversity footprint, soil conservation...) and one that is more protective of the health of farmers and consumers. This also involves improving diagnosis sharing, by achieving better transparency on plant protection product sales data. The Plan also aims at strengthening the way biodiversity stakes are taken into account in human, animal and plant health policies.

**29%**

of the sites monitored overseas show a loss of the surface area of live corals in 2017



## Enabling the transition of our production and consumption models

Our economy is highly dependent on biodiversity: without it there would not be any raw materials, energy or agriculture. Several reports assess the services provided by nature and show that biodiversity forms the basis of our economy and our present and future well-being. Companies and consumers are becoming increasingly aware that the sustainability of their activity and choices also depends on their ability to sustainably manage natural resources.

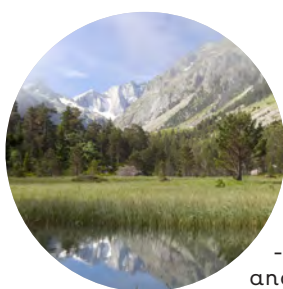
### What the Biodiversity Action Plan says

The Biodiversity Action Plan intends to reconcile economic development and biodiversity conservation by mobilising and supporting economic stakeholders, and by enabling the transition of our production and consumption models (agroecological conversion, reduction of the biodiversity footprint...).

## France is mobilising at the international level:

France wishes, as it has done on climate, to take a world-leading role on biodiversity issues and set them high on European and international agendas. It aims to make biodiversity a European priority, particularly in the discussions of sectoral policies such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, and European aid.

Major events are already on the calendar to put biodiversity conservation at the heart of the debate.



**2019**

France holds the presidency of the G7 - forum for discussion and economic partnership bringing together the world's seven leading powers - with the aim of mobilising partners on the theme of biodiversity.



**June 2020**

France will host the 7<sup>th</sup> World Conservation Congress in Marseille. This congress is an important moment for citizen, political, scientific, associative, and corporate mobilisation and awareness-raising to rally the international community and support the political negotiations, which will take place a few months later at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



**April-May 2019**

France hosts the plenary meeting of IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). On this occasion, IPBES will unveil its first report on the state of biodiversity in the world. This major event will provide scientists with a legitimate, recognised and visible interface to question decision-makers.



**December 2020**

France, alongside the European Union, will participate in COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in China. This conference is a major political event where the global strategic framework for biodiversity (adopted in 2010) will be renewed. France wants to raise the level of ambition and strengthen the means of implementation.