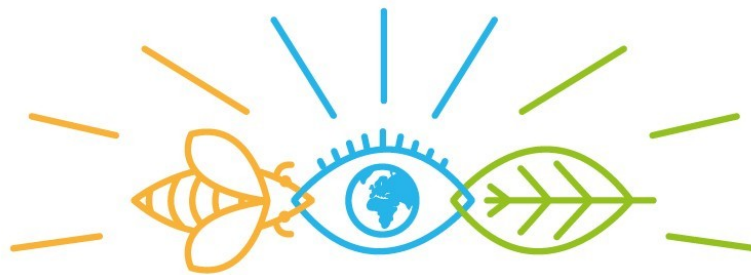


BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN



BIODIVERSITÉ.
TOUS VIVANTS !

Table of Contents

Regaining Biodiversity, a Matter of Survival for our Society



Theme 1: Regaining Biodiversity in the French Territories



Theme 2: Building a Pollution-Free Economy with Low Impact on Biodiversity



Theme 3: Protecting and Restoring Every Component of Nature



Theme 4: Developing an Ambitious European and International Roadmap for Biodiversity



Theme 5: Knowledge, Education and Training



Theme 6: Improving the Effectiveness of Biodiversity Policies

Regaining Biodiversity is a matter of survival for society

Our planet has entered a new era, the Anthropocene. In fact, humanity has become such a powerful force that its footprint is a great deal more significant than that of other species. We are destroying life very fast, forgetting that we are also part of it. The last biodiversity crisis on a similar scale to what is happening now took place 65 million years ago. It resulted in the disappearance of the dinosaurs. Today, the rate of species extinction is 100 to 1000 times faster than the natural rhythm observed over the last 10 million years. During the course of the past century, an average of two species of vertebrates vanished from the Earth every year: more than 200 in all. Biodiversity is quietly dying and we know that humanity is to blame.

Biodiversity is the rich variety of species and ecosystems, and their genetic diversity and interactions. Beyond their intrinsic value, these species and ecosystems provide an uncountable number of services to society. For example, insects pollinate our fields, wetlands provide us with drinking water and limit the damage from flooding, trees protect us from heat in the cities and from erosion in the mountains, oceans regulate the world climate when mangroves and dunes protect us from storms. They are the products of 4.7 billion years of innovation.

For many years now, nature has been calling out for help from us. At home, the silence of the birds is a surprise, and the drop in insects is a concern in our cities as it is in the countryside. Ecosystems are also being destroyed, degraded and polluted by our action on natural areas, by resource over-exploitation, introduction of alien invasive species, discharge of toxic substances and products into ecosystems, and of course by climate change. Biodiversity is under pressure. Our economy, our quality of life and our health are also being degraded.

It is high time that we reverse the trend and lend a strong impetus to preserving, restoring and regaining biodiversity. The richness of the ecosystems in our country, and especially in our overseas territories, gives France a special responsibility. Let us recall that the French territory alone hosts 10% of the species known at global level and has the second largest maritime area in the world, in particular because of the overseas communities.

At international level, crucial deadlines have been set to kick off this movement. In 2020, COP15 of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in China. It is there that the international community will discuss the commitments by each State for the coming decade. That year will be a turning point and we must not miss this opportunity to shift the general indifference for biodiversity.

France must be exemplary and take advantage of its climate leadership to also tackle biodiversity. We will not be able to address the climate challenge without the support of ecosystems which are our foremost allies in this fight. The two stakes are inseparable.

For all these reasons, urgent action must be taken at the heart of our public policies, across the whole territory and involving all the actors. The Law for the Recovery of Biodiversity, Nature and Landscapes has set a target of reducing the net loss of biodiversity to zero. This biodiversity action plan aims to put this goal into action, but also to speed up the application of the National Biodiversity Strategy that will run until 2020. Its mission is to strengthen France's action in preserving biodiversity, and going further, to mobilize for the first time levers to restore and regain it once it has been damaged.

The State must lead the way, and that is why the whole Government is making commitments through this plan and the roadmaps specific to each ministry. Successful implementation will require the integration of biodiversity stakes into all sectoral policies, for renewed consistency of public action with sufficient resources to match the ambitions.

In addition to this government drive, the ambition of this plan is to motivate all members of French society to undertake collective action in favour of biodiversity. Regional and local authorities, companies, associations and citizens... we are all concerned and we each have our own levers that we can pull. The biodiversity action plan is therefore accompanied by an Agenda for Action in which every territory, every local elected official, every entrepreneur, and every socio-professional player is called upon to get involved. To get involved in making their activities more sustainable, their territory more attractive, in maintaining and restoring the environmental amenities that are vital to our cities and our countryside, or by taking citizen action to promote biodiversity. Each of us, at our own level, should be able to contribute to meeting the biodiversity challenge, in terms of our skills, our responsibilities and our projects.

In the end, this plan intends to improve the everyday life of French people in the short term and to guarantee this will continue for generations to come.

6 Strategic Themes
24 Goals
90 Biodiversity Actions



Theme 1 - Regaining Biodiversity in the Territories

Urban encroachment upon natural areas and farmlands is spreading quickly. In France, more than 65,000 hectares are converted into artificial areas each year, which is the equivalent of one whole department every 8 years. Areas where species can live and move are getting scarcer, ecosystems are more and more fragmented and citizens are increasingly detached from an inaccessible nature. Beyond biodiversity itself, the attractiveness and resilience of the territories and the quality of life of citizens is at stake.

The Biodiversity Action Plan aims not only to put the brakes on the land take of natural and agricultural areas, but also to recover areas of biodiversity wherever possible: on industrial wasteland, in densely inhabited cities, on the outskirts of conurbations... This challenge of regaining the biodiversity of territories concerns both urban and rural environments.

Local authorities are on the frontline with the power and duty to act on this matter, and the State intends to support them. Trusting the territories, using the subsidiarity principle and multiplying initiatives as close to citizens as possible is the “territorial challenge” being made reality by the gradual creation of Regional Biodiversity Agencies.

1.1 Developing Nature in the City in order to provide Every Citizen with Access to Nature

In urban areas, both large and small, nature brings many benefits to citizens and contributes to their well-being. In particular, biodiversity in cities can combat the problem of urban heat pockets and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents. A city then becomes more resilient to global changes, and thus more desirable. The Biodiversity Action Plan aims to make biodiversity a key factor in building the cities of tomorrow and also in the sustainable planning of rural territories.


/// [Action 1] We will co-finance innovative projects to reinforce the integration of nature into cities and provide access for all citizens to areas rich in biodiversity. These projects may form part of the Investing in the Future programme, especially through the calls for projects from the *Ademe* (innovation contests) and the *Caisse des dépôts et consignations* (demonstrative initiatives and very ambitious innovative areas) to foster the development of an economic sector that is innovative and creates employment opportunities. The goal is to lead all our cities and conurbations to attain an average of between 1 tree per 4 inhabitants and 1 tree per 10 inhabitants, and ensure an increase in the proportion of green space by the year 2020. Furthermore, we encourage all municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants to set up a Nature in the City plan to develop access to natural areas for residents.


/// [Action 2] We will encourage municipalities that take biodiversity into account in managing public spaces. In order to do that, we will work with tourism players to upgrade the criteria for the “Villes et Villages fleuris” (Towns and Villages in Bloom) contest in order to strengthen the weighting of biodiversity. Furthermore, in the territories we will deploy the “Terre Saine” (Healthy Soil) label (pesticide-free municipality) and the “Ecojardins” (Ecogardens) label (ecological management of green spaces).

1.2 Deploying Nature-based Solutions for Resilient Territories


Since the beginning of the 21st Century, 11 out of 16 years have exceeded the average temperatures for the 1961-1990 period. The challenges involved in combatting climate change are numerous. We want to fully use nature's power of resilience. Plants can protect us from extreme climatic events, for example by stabilising the coastline against coastal erosion, or because vegetated areas can prevent the serious consequences of flooding. In this respect, special attention will be paid to wetlands, whose degradation and disappearance are continuing, despite several successive national plans.

In order to adapt to climate change and create resilience in the territories, the Biodiversity Action Plan intends to increase the use of nature-based solutions, i.e., solutions that rely upon the preservation of ecosystems or their restoration to a good condition in order to respond to a societal issue. To that end, the Government wishes to work with local authorities, and also with the insurance sector which is especially concerned by the increase in natural risks connected with climate change.

 [Action 3] **We will support 1000 local authorities before 2022 in their aim to become Territories Committed to Nature.** We will encourage them to improve their resilience with regard to climate change and to strengthen the integration of biodiversity stakes into all the components of planning. We will include a nature section in the contracts drawn up by the future French National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (State-Region planning contracts, rural area contracts, reciprocity agreements with conurbations, etc.) For the next generation of State-Region planning contracts, the State will ask Regions and Overseas Territories to devote a minimum budget percentage to biodiversity and will ask water agencies to become stakeholders in the initiative. Through territorial engineering and coordination, we will encourage local elected officials to put forward ambitious territory projects that bring all players together.

 [Action 4] **We will deploy nature-based solutions across our entire territory.**

- **Before the end of the year 2018, we will organise, together with insurers, a symposium on the role of nature-based solutions.** The purpose is to assess the possible role that insurance companies can play in reducing the risks associated with climate change.
- **We will run experiments in 20 pilot territories, from now until 2025, on innovative solutions for adapting territories to climate change.** This will involve testing, in the field and at a large scale, nature-based solutions in order to develop the resilience of territories, especially to the threat of flooding. That will form one of the priorities for water agencies in the context of their intervention in the territories and our operators will mobilise European funding for that purpose.


 [Action 5] **In 2019, we will strengthen the intervention framework for preserving and restoring wetlands.** In order to do this, in 2018 we will launch a parliamentary inquiry to assess the causes of the persistent disappearance of these environments.


1.3 Limiting the Consumption of Natural, Agricultural and Forest Areas to meet the Target of Zero Net Land Take


Urban sprawl and land take destroy and fragment natural, agricultural and forest areas and so contribute directly to the degradation of ecosystem function and to the erosion of biodiversity. Despite progress in urban planning, the consumption of natural areas is still too fast, even in areas without any increasing population. This is due to the construction of private homes and commercial areas on the outskirts of towns and the development of transport and logistics infrastructures.


With the general aim of combatting urban sprawl, recent measures have been taken such as re-centering zero-percent interest loans to encourage new builds in areas under pressure. Urban densification is also


a key concern in the “Action Coeur de ville” (Heart of the City Action) programme which aims to revitalize 222 town centres. But we need to go further, by committing to defining measurable targets and a roadmap to meet the target of zero net land take . Town planning and commercial development policies will be reviewed in order to stem the increase of human-developed areas, to foster sober town planning in terms of the use of space and to improve the implementation of the sequence “avoid - reduce - offset” in the context of territorial development.


 [Action 6] **We will perform an assessment of all existing measures to combat land take and the difficulties encountered by local elected officials in their application.**


 [Action 7] **Every year, we will publish an inventory of area consumption** and we will make data available to the territories and citizens that is transparent and comparable at all territorial levels.


 [Action 8] **We will support the inclusion of an obligation for local authorities to combat urban sprawl** and prioritize densification in the Law for Housing, Planning and Digital Technology (ELAN).

 [Action 9] **We will instruct prefects to systematically verify** that the measures to combat urban sprawl are applied and to submit regular reports about their action in this field.

 [Action 10] **We will define, in collaboration with the stakeholders, the time horizon for meeting the target of “Zero Net Land Take”** and the trajectory to progressively reach it. Local authorities, when renewing their town planning documents, will have to set a goal to control or reduce land take that is compatible with the roadmap defined at national level, whilst taking local particularities into account.

 [Action 11] **By 2020 we will support 10 innovative or demonstrator projects for de-urbanising or re-greening / renaturalising sites that have been degraded or highly artificialised.**

 [Action 12] **We will modernise the regulatory framework and governance related to commercial development** with the aim of limiting land take. Furthermore, we will grant the Prefect of the department the option of suspending commercial development projects that are liable to compromise projects to revitalise city centres covered by an agreement between the State and the local authorities involved. Retailers that locate in these city centres will be exempt from the need to request authorisation. Lastly, we will compel every new car park construction to be permeable to improve rainwater infiltration into the ground in order to combat flooding.

 [Action 13] **In parallel, a partnership working group** will be formed to make proposals (economic instruments, regulatory measures or other) to promote urban recycling, and to better integrate the issues of preserving natural and agricultural areas in town planning documents and policies. This group may examine the opportunity of extending the “avoid, reduce and offset” approach for impacts on the environment to all projects of commercial and logistics development. It will be supported by the Committee for the Green Economy to identify the economic instruments capable of putting a powerful brake on the consumption of undeveloped land and encouraging densification in urban building projects.



Theme 2 - Building a Pollution-Free Economy with Low Impact on Biodiversity

Economic development has long taken place to the detriment of biodiversity, in ignorance of the fact that the impact of human activities on nature will soon be massive and could have consequences on economic activity in return. For example, when watercourse flow rates drop because of climate change, a certain number of farming or industrial activities will be threatened. The aim of the Biodiversity Action Plan is to reconcile economic development with the preservation of biodiversity by limiting pressures on the latter and by strengthening synergies.

The various forms of pollution, be they plastics, chemicals or light, are one of the main causes of the erosion of biodiversity. Whilst several initiatives to reduce these pollutions have already been taken, they do not seem to be enough to slow the erosion of biodiversity. Indeed, decreasing pollution not only preserves nature, but it also safeguards our health.


The Government has committed to putting a range of measures in place to reduce all types of pollution and continue the work started at national level by the Plan for Reducing Plant Protection Products and by the Road Map for a Circular Economy, and at European level by the Directive on Waste.


To meet the challenge posed, companies must also commit to taking better account of biodiversity in all their activities from supply chains to production, from production to sales, and in recycling the products and services they sell. They will thus play an important role in the Agenda for Action and contribute to meeting the targets of the biodiversity action plan.


2.1 Putting an End to Plastic Pollution


The quantity of plastics to be found in watercourses and oceans continues to rise even though the damage is considerable for biodiversity. Nowadays, solutions exist both for limiting the production of waste at source and for recovering plastics, thus preventing their presence in the environment and in the sea, for example by putting in place deposit schemes and other collection arrangements, but also by developing products based on recyclable and recycled materials.


***Zero plastics discharged into the sea by 2025** is the ambitious target set by the biodiversity action plan and which everyone is invited to contribute to.*


 [Action 14] **We will work with the players in each channel to eliminate the 12 single-use plastic products** that are most often found on the coastlines and in the sea. In particular, we support a Europe-wide prohibition on marketing these 12 products. From 2020 onwards, these will be plastic bags, cotton wool buds, plates, beakers, cups, glasses, straws, expanded polystyrene containers for consumption on the go and plastic microbeads in rinse-off cosmetics. By 2022, this will cover drink stirrers, cutlery and plastic stalks for balloons. At national level, plastic bags, cotton wool buds and microbeads in rinse-off cosmetics are already prohibited. We will support the prohibition on the 1st January 2020 of single-use straws and plastic stalks in the Law for the Balance of Commercial Relations in the Agricultural and Food Sector and Healthy and Sustainable Food. Furthermore, we will work with the channels for other products to anticipate the arrival of this directive.


 [Action 15] **We will promote recycling and plastic substitution measures.** At European level, we will advocate for a target of 100% of plastics recycled from 2025, especially for bottles. We will continue to combat excessive packaging and to promote the use of packaging based on recycled or bio-degradable raw materials, especially through the increased application of the eco-modulation scheme when packaged goods are placed on the market. These modulated fees could reach up to 10% of the price of marketed goods.

 [Action 16] **We will support all overseas local authorities that wish to set up experiments of deposit schemes.** This initiative aims to promote the re-use and recycling of items, modelled on the deposit systems that used to exist for glass bottles. If the initiative is a success, it could inspire other territories. Furthermore, we will deploy as a priority in island territories that want to take part, community waste deposit schemes that create an incentive to return waste (each bottle and can collected contributes to funding an important environmental, health or community cause). To fund these operations, local authorities will receive a defined sum per tonne collected paid by the approved eco-organizations in the packaging sector.

 [Action 17] **The powers of local authorities to intervene to combat illegal dumping will be increased.** In fact, the unauthorized dumping of waste and materials does not only represent a nuisance for the French, illegal dumps also pose a threat to biodiversity through the release and runoff of plastics, heavy metals, or polluting substances such as asbestos and oils, etc. In this way, the most common violations will be subject to lump sum penalties and the presidents of public inter-municipal cooperation bodies that are responsible for waste may be vested with police powers in this field. The amount of financial penalties, especially fines, will be substantially increased so that they have a real dissuasive power.

 [Action 18] **We will improve operations to recover macro-waste and plastic particles before they reach the sea.** In fact, 80% of marine pollution comes from rivers and watercourses. Accordingly, we will mobilise water agencies and the Ademe in order to identify the areas where macro-waste accumulates in watercourses and in run-off water and to experiment with systems to recover this waste.

 [Action 19] **As is provided for in the Roadmap for a Circular Economy, by 2022 we will impose the installation of plastic particle recovery filters** on the wastewater circuits at sites where they are produced or used in order to limit their dispersion in the natural environment. This measure will be extended to cargo ports. Furthermore, we will encourage industrialists to generalise good practices for the maintenance and isolation of sites where industrial plastic granules are handled (granules, flakes or powders).

 [Action 20] **To prevent fishing equipment being abandoned at sea, we will support the establishment of a channel for collecting and adding value to damaged fishing nets.** 27% of the plastic waste washed up on beaches in Europe comes from fishing.

2.2 Making farming an ally of Biodiversity and accelerating agroecological conversion.

Certain intensive farming practices, and especially the use of fertilisers and pesticides, cause significant impacts on biodiversity and water quality. In the last few decades, the farming world has faced up to the biodiversity challenge and has developed virtuous practices, labels and quality brands that contribute to managing their impacts on biodiversity and to strengthening the incorporation of biodiversity issues into the heart of agricultural production.

Considering the impact of plant protection products on biodiversity (insects, pollinators and birds), additional efforts to reduce their use are expected. Structural action has been launched to reduce their use by 25% by 2020 and by 50% by 2025 in the context of the government action plan presented last April on plant protection products and on a less pesticide-dependent agriculture. Those actions should be supported and strengthened, especially by developing agroecological practices that foster biodiversity while preserving farm incomes.

We will continue and strengthen, at national level and in every region, the implementation of the agroecology project and the plans that support it (Ecoantibio (Eco antibiotics), Ecophyto (Eco plant protection), energy methanisation, nitrogen autonomy, organic ambition, vegetable proteins, sustainable seeds and agriculture, agroforestry, beekeeping, and learning other ways to produce). The project will be updated to incorporate the roadmap produced at the États généraux de l'alimentation (Food forum) and the goals of the Climate Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan that relate to agriculture.



[Action 21] **Developing Agroecology to Foster Biodiversity**

- **We will boost the development of all progressive initiatives concerning agroecology, including in particular organic farming, High Environmental Value certification and Dephy farms** (farms committed to a voluntary scheme for reducing the use of pesticides). All these initiatives contribute the consideration and preservation of biodiversity.
- **In this way, we will increase the share of utilised agricultural land labelled as organic farming to reach 15% by the year 2022.** At present, the percentage of French utilised agricultural land being farmed organically is a little more than 6%. This therefore involves more than doubling the area in 5 years.
- **We will develop the High Environmental Value label to reach 15,000 farms certified by 2022 and 50,000 by 2030.** On the 1st January 2018, 841 operations were HEV certified. **We will build in criteria for preserving biodiversity into the specifications for products with quality and origin labels** (AOC, AOP, etc.). These specifications will include agroecology requirements by 2030, and particularly measures aiming to preserve and improve biodiversity in farmland ecosystems.



[Action 22] **Reducing the Use of Pesticides whilst Supporting Farmers and Channels**

- **While respecting anonymity, we will ensure transparency on the purchase of phytopharmaceuticals** at the smallest scale possible (by municipality or lower than *département* level) in order to enable everyone to measure the efforts and achievements. Additionally, a cooperative platform to capitalise on geo-localised data on the treatment frequency indicator (TFI) of plant protection products will be put in place.
- **We will put an end to the main uses of glyphosate within the next three years at the latest and in five years for all uses,** but without leaving farmers with no solutions. To that end, by 2018 we will put in place a task force that will bring actors together to run and monitor the action plan to stop the use of products containing glyphosate.
- **The farm advisory offer will evolve to enable better consideration of the biodiversity stake.** In particular, work to separate the sale of plant protection products from the provision of advice on their use will enable the development of an independent advisory offer aiming at reducing their use and their associated impact. In addition, this advice will focus more on developing biodiversity as a lever of agricultural production and resilience. **We will list, capitalise on and disseminate alternative traditional practices to the use of phytopharmaceuticals and veterinary medication.**
- **We will develop new solutions to support the transition of farming practices following a move away from pesticides in the context of the Écophyto (Eco plant protection) project and a specific research programme** with 30 million euros of funding.

- **We will ensure that the projects led by the French development cooperation do not fund the use of plant protection products that are prohibited at a national or European level, because they present an unacceptable level of risk for the environment.**

[Action 23] **Strengthening Pollinator Protection**

- **We will support the prohibition of all insecticides containing one or more active substances that have identical modes of action to the neonicotinoid family (because this family of pesticides is especially toxic to insects) in the law arising from the *États généraux de l'alimentation (Food forum)* and we will strengthen the conditions of use for pesticides that are dangerous to pollinators.**
We will also launch initiatives to improve our knowledge on the state of pollinator health and combat other factors of stress, weakening or mortality (health risks in particular).


[Action 24] **Setting up Payments for Environmental Services**


- **We will set aside 150 million euros by 2021 in the context of the 11th Water Agencies' programme in order to experiment with new Payments for Environmental Services (PES) tools, without waiting for the next CAP.** These tools will enable us to recognise farmers' efforts when their practices contribute, beyond regulatory requirements, to improving the environment (for example, when they encourage pollinators, or when they contribute to controlling erosion, etc.) These PESs will prioritize the development of practices to preserve soils and restore biodiversity (planting hedges, restoring ponds, preserving grasslands, etc.) They can work alongside the ambitious initiatives to stop herbicide use, especially glyphosate, through the development of ground cover.
- **We will encourage farmers to increase the areas of permanent grassland and semi-natural landscape features such as hedges, ponds, low walls and grassy strips, etc.** In the context of the forthcoming CAP we will support the remuneration of farmers who maintain or increase the share of their utilised agricultural land devoted to such uses, beyond their obligations (currently 5%).

2.3 Reducing Light Pollution

Street and building lighting has an impact on many species of insects, birds and bats, by reducing the spaces they can move and feed in and even sometimes increasing the risks of mortality. Current regulations govern the times that building lighting can operate (on façades, in offices and shop windows, etc.).

Parallel to this, several local authorities have taken ambitious local measures in that regard. Adapting the standards applicable to all types of lighting use will enable us to significantly limit the impact on biodiversity of nearly 11 million lighting points.


 [Action 25] **We will define a single indicator to improve the monitoring and assessment of light pollution in France** based on recommendations from the Inspection Mission currently in progress on this subject by the General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development.


 [Action 26] **We will limit the impact of light pollution on biodiversity by upgrading the standards applicable and by relying on citizen initiatives.** By the end of the year, we will prepare regulations on both the lighting up and switching-off times, and on technical requirements for lighting facilities. This regulation will apply differently inside and outside built-up areas and in protected areas to limit the light disturbance arising from those lighting facilities. In parallel, sites of major importance for observing the night sky and for biodiversity will be identified and will be the focus of enhanced action. The State will offer special support for citizen and associative initiatives as regards light pollution.

2.4 Strengthening the Way Biodiversity Stakes are Taken into Account in Human, Animal and Plant Health Policies.

It has now been established that human health, the health of biodiversity (especially animal and plant, wild and cultivated) and environmental health all interact closely. The One Health approach thus promotes a systemic and integrated approach to health issues. In particular, it focuses on emerging diseases and the problem of resistance, such as resistance to antibiotics. These issues are closely linked to health policies (human, animal and plant health).


The present goal involves increasing the integration of biodiversity stakes into human, animal and plant health policies, and also developing specific measures to reduce the use of biocidal products and veterinary medication, in addition to the actions proposed by the action plan on plant protection products approved on the 25th April 2018.

 [Action 27] **We will increase eco-toxicology monitoring of ecosystems**, especially by producing a summary of the substances of major interest because of their impact on life, connected with the micropollutants plan for the section on water.

 [Action 28] **We will extend research work on:**

The impregnation of natural surroundings with veterinary and human antibiotics and resistant micro-organisms;

- The links between the functioning of ecosystems and the development of resistance mechanisms;
- The benefits of biodiversity, ecosystem health and preserving natural environments in preventing and combating diseases;
- The use of plant biodiversity as an alternative to plant protection products.


 [Action 29] **Given the impact of biocidal products, we will support, in the draft law arising from the États généraux de l'alimentation (Food forum), control over the availability of biocidal products by limiting over-the-counter sales of the biocidal products of highest concern for the environment**, in connection with the restrictions permitted during the marketing authorisation process by European regulations; whilst ensuring that good information on the risks involved in their use is provided during the sale of biocidal products to non-professional users.


2.5 Mobilising Companies


All companies have an impact on biodiversity, but they are also dependent on it. The first task to undertake is to encourage companies to identify these connections and then incorporate them into their corporate strategies, at the stages of production, supply and investment. Furthermore, biodiversity can become the driver for more sustainable and responsible production and consumption in order to reduce France's ecological footprint, both internationally and within our own territory.


Companies are already developing businesses for and about biodiversity, based in particular on existing research and development. But we are far from sufficiently tapping this potential and


more business and jobs could be created, whilst putting innovative technical solutions to use to enhance biodiversity preservation.

 [Action 30] **From 2018, we will start work to encourage companies to define their biodiversity footprint.** In this context, we will support work aiming to define a biodiversity impact indicator comparable to the ton of CO₂ for climate change. Once this biodiversity footprint has been defined, we will encourage its widespread use and lobby for the compulsory publication of this indicator at European level in the context of the CSR policy revision due in 2020. The French CSR platform will be encouraged from 2018 onwards to make proposals on this subject.

 [Action 31] **By 2022, we will support 4 priority sectors** (buildings and materials, agri-food, energy and chemical industries) to **significantly reduce their biodiversity footprint** along the whole chain of supply and production. Each one of them will have to identify their own levers and, according to the needs, work towards trajectories and scenarios that will enable improvements in the practices, and regulatory, incentive or methodological measures required for implementation (guides, labels, incentive tools, regulatory measures, commitments for green growth, etc.) in cooperation with the strategic committees for each sector.

 [Action 32] **We will strengthen the biodiversity criteria of green finance labels.** In particular, we will work on the labels of Energy and Ecological Transition for the Climate and Participative Funding for Green Growth to encourage investors and savers to take a better account of biodiversity in their investment strategies.

 [Action 33] **In order to foster innovation by companies on biodiversity, ecological engineering and biomimicry, the investments for the future programme (PIA - *programme d'investissement d'avenir*) will be mobilised afresh in 2019.** We will work towards an improved balance between the PIA calls for proposals and the specific expectations of companies working in the field of biodiversity.

 [Action 34] **The National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation (SNDI - *Stratégie nationale de lutte contre la déforestation importée*) will be published during the summer of 2018. By 2030 it intends to reduce and then to stop the impact of French imports on deforestation, the degradation of tropical forests, the conversion of ecosystems, and on indirect land use changes.** In this context, we will raise awareness among companies of the need to include in their initiatives and CSR monitoring reports a section detailing their combat against deforestation and the development of shared indicators specific to “zero deforestation” supply chains. A public-private sector platform will be created to bring together all the actors’ commitments, so that the tools developed by companies can be shared. It will also put in place a risk analysis and warning system for importers. This warning mechanism will rely on French import data from customs and from satellite monitoring of forest cover to provide targeted information to companies directly or indirectly involved in deforestation.



Theme 3: Protecting and Restoring Every Component of Nature

In the current state of knowledge, France has nearly 18,000 endemic species, i.e., species that exist nowhere else in the world. Those species are especially widespread in our overseas territories. This highlights our responsibility in this respect! For example, the bat populations on the mainland declined by almost 50% between 2006 and 2014. More than 35,000 hectares of natural habitat were lost between 1990 and 2012 in areas of “remarkable” natural interest. While it is vital to act everywhere, and for all species, the biodiversity action plan also intends to strengthen initiatives to protect the most threatened ecosystems.

Overall, French protected areas cover almost 20% of the territory, on land and at sea. Protecting biodiversity also means strengthening the regime of protected areas, from national parks to nature reserves and marine areas, including in particular the management of these existing areas. They protect biodiversity, while enabling French citizens to meet with living nature in beautiful landscapes.

3.1 Creating New Protected Areas and supporting ecological Networks in Our Territories


Protected areas are important reservoirs for biodiversity. Extending that network is a lever for preserving biodiversity, especially for the most vulnerable or threatened species and ecosystems. Furthermore, the creation of new protected areas contributes to the establishment of an ecological network (or green and blue belt) across the national territory.


On order to complete their life cycle (feeding, reproduction, rest, etc.) under favourable conditions, animal and plant species need to live and move in natural habitats that are in good condition and connected one to the other. The purpose of the green and blue belt is to create a national ecological network so as to combat the destruction and fragmentation of habitats caused by inhabited areas, linear and transport infrastructures, and also by the homogenization of habitats through unsustainable farming and forestry practices.

/// [Action 35] By 2022, we will improve the protected areas network. In particular, we will finance the creation or extension of 20 national nature reserves, at least two of which will be overseas. A national forum on protected areas will enable all players to get together and share their local experiences and thus ensure the best management of these areas. In addition, we will ask the Coastal and Lakeshore Conservation Authority to extend its protected domain by at least an extra 10,000 hectares by 2022.

/// [Action 36] In 2019, an 11th national park will be created on the border between the Champagne - Ardenne and Burgundy regions to protect lowland deciduous forests. This park project, which will cover sixty or so municipalities and more than 50,000 hectares, will be the first national park of lowland temperate woodlands, since the majority of existing parks are in the mountains or overseas.

/// [Action 37] Thanks to action by overseas communities, we aim to protect 100% of French marine coral reefs by 2025, with an intermediate target of 75% by 2021. In particular, we will support the deployment of the Coral Sea nature park by the New Caledonia government.

 [Action 38] **A new national strategy for marine protected areas will be developed in 2019**, built in collaboration with all actors, to ensure their effective management and promote the French vision on marine protected areas at international level.


 [Action 39] **In 2018, we will launch an operational study aimed at withdrawing 20 of the key blackspots in the regional plans for ecological coherence and we will restore aquatic continuity over 50,000 kms of watercourses in 2030.** This involves identifying the main obstacles to ecological continuity (road and rail infrastructures, conurbations, dams, etc.) and working to remove them. This work will contribute in an exemplary way to restoring ecological continuity and to accelerating the implementation of the green and blue belt.


 [Action 40] **By the end of the year 2018, we will issue a decree to protect specifically natural habitats instead of only species via regulatory measures** (this is the implementing decree referred to in section L.411-2 of the French Environmental Code regarding the list of natural habitats that France made a commitment with the European Commission to protect in order to complete the transposition of the Habitats Directive).


3.2 Protecting Endangered Species and Combating invasive Species


Species are a vital component of biological richness. Many of them are disappearing or suffering population collapse. For example, populations of common birds have declined by 22% between 1989 and 2017.


Specific measures will be taken for endangered species whilst, at the same time, other measures will focus on invasive species that are taking the place of native species and thus contribute to the degradation of biodiversity. The progression of these invasive species continues, despite recent measures whose implementation needs to be strengthened. In this way, the goal of the Biodiversity Action Plan is to enhance existing action on the highest priority issues.


 [Action 41] **we will reintroduce two female bears in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department.** Indeed, the bear populations are very fragile and are currently not viable. Specific measures to support this reintroduction will be taken locally, in particular for livestock farmers. For example, the compensation rates for damage caused by large predators will be harmonised.


 [Action 42] **By 2020, multi-species and habitats national action plans will be prepared for the most endangered species, in particular for overseas territories.** These action plans enable a summary to be made of the available knowledge and threats, as well as an identification of the priorities the partners of the plan should focus on. The advantage of multi-species and habitats plans is that they make it possible to identify actions that will contribute to preserving several species at the same time, and thus they give the action a wider impact.

 [Action 43] **By the end of 2018, we will put in place a national action plan for the protection of Cetaceans** in order to limit their disturbance and significantly reduce the beaching of marine mammals on French coastlines and their accidental catching in fishing nets. This action plan will include national measures to monitor and prevent the accidental catch of small cetaceans in fishing nets, as well as measures to establish minimum approach distances to marine mammals, reduce human-induced underwater noise, share information on the positions of cetaceans in order to avoid collisions, and promote the sustainable marine transport charter SAILS which includes measures aiming to limit collisions. We will ensure the promotion of these stakes within the various relevant international authorities alongside the most advanced countries such as Canada. Subject to the agreement of its European partners, France will work with them to create a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the Mediterranean.

 [Action 44] **We will put in place an adaptive management for huntable species** in order to better document and rationalise the numbers harvested depending on their conservation status. This principle is based on a strengthening of data collection on the conservation status of species and on the hunting bags; this data will be analysed by a scientific expertise authority that will provide advice on the management option best fitted for each species.

 [Action 45] **By 2020, we will prohibit the use of plants recognised as invasive in all public developments.** Furthermore, we will start preventive action against invasive alien species and will carry out exemplary initiatives to combat them in island territories, which are especially affected by this issue.


 [Action 46] **The integration of biodiversity into forestry management documents will be enhanced.** In particular, we will upgrade the system of green annexes to the regional forest management plans (SRGS - *schémas régionaux de gestion sylvicole*) so that the environmental regulations are better accounted for in forest management documents.

 [Action 47] **In autumn 2018, we will launch the first biodiversity ecological transition contract in the Alpes-Maritimes department** to encourage local development based on the richness of biodiversity and to foster new linkages between humans and nature.

3.3 Acting for the Preservation of Soil Biodiversity


Soil biodiversity is one of the least known forms, but it is crucial to the functioning of the many services provided by soils. Indeed, countless soil organisms contribute to the transformation of organic matter and thus to the cycle of nutrients needed by plants. They also recycle and store carbon in the soil in the form of the organic matter produced by their activity. They contribute to maintaining and improving soil structure and its hydrological features.

The Biodiversity Action Plan aims to improve our knowledge of soil biodiversity and to develop farming and forestry practices that will allow it to be conserved, restored and enhanced.


 [Action 48] **We will put in place measures aimed at the physical conservation of soils (combatting erosion and compression) but also at the maintenance and restoration of their quality,** for example by implementing an action plan that involves all the actors concerned.


To prevent erosion: we will produce a descriptive document that details the erosion process and suggests solutions that can be adapted to various contexts (for example, assisting with observing the type of erosion, assisting with the assessment of soil vulnerability to erosion, and assisting with identifying solutions to prevent erosion).

- **To prevent soil compression:** we will circulate existing documents on forest soil compression which suggest prevention solutions that can be adapted to different contexts. In order to encourage the use of certified machines, we will promote the eco-spreading label (certification of spreading machines that meet soil compression criteria) amongst farmers, farm equipment user cooperatives and corporations and we will add this label as a priority criterion for farm equipment investment aid in the Major Investment Plan.
- **To maintain quality:** we will carry out standardization and certification actions that have an impact on the maintenance of soil quality.

 [Action 49] **We will promote soil conservation-based farming** which, by limiting tillage, diversifying crop rotation and ensuring permanent soil cover, preserves the biological activity of the soil.

This work will be performed in collaboration with the task force in charge of running and monitoring the action plan for stopping the use of products containing glyphosate.


 [Action 50] **We will encourage research on soil biodiversity** to improve the capacity of the soil to support the growth of plant crops and to reduce weeds without resorting to fertilisers.


 [Action 51] **We will promote soil condition diagnoses** that enable purchasers and farmers to benefit from information on the condition of the soils they use in order to put in place appropriate management techniques to the benefit of biodiversity, production quality and the environment.

3.4 Promoting Genetic Diversity

Genetic diversity is often forgotten in public policies devoted to biodiversity. Nonetheless, this diversity is vital to preserve the adaptability of life to future living conditions. It is because a vast and rich genetic heritage exists that species have been able to find original solutions when faced with past upheavals. They will heavily need this richness to cope with future changes.

The Biodiversity Action Plan intends to strengthen the way in which genetic diversity is taken into account, especially for the species used in farming and in vegetable gardens.

 [Action 52] **We will encourage the protection and promotion of old seed varieties**, both for amateur and professional use. Furthermore, we will facilitate the marketing of ancient varieties for non-professional uses.

 [Action 53] **We will encourage the protection and promotion of heritage livestock breeds**. In addition, we will encourage the conservation of intra-breed genetic diversity of French animal genetic resources.



Theme 4: Developing an Ambitious European and International Roadmap for Biodiversity

The European and international agenda has many key deadlines for the coming years. The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, discussion of some parts of the Water Framework Directive, publication of the report on the state of biodiversity in the world by IPBES (the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) and COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity which will assess the commitments made in Japan in 2010 in order to formulate new ones.


In the same way that it is a leader on climate, and in the context of this full agenda, France wishes to take a world leading role on biodiversity issues and set them at the top of European and international agendas, both in commercial agreements and in the action frameworks on oceans and wildlife trafficking. In order to achieve this, it will be necessary to mobilise a maximum number of state and civil society players.


During the Inter-ministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development on the 8th February 2018, the Government committed over 300 million euros per annum to fund projects that foster biodiversity in the context of an ambitious revision of the Aichi targets. It also committed to increasing the funding of projects that meet the combined goals of combating climate change and protecting biodiversity.

4.1 Creating a new ambitious framework for biodiversity at the international scale

In 2010, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the so-called Aichi targets to stop the loss of biodiversity by 2020. At the CBD COP15 in 2020, these targets will be evaluated and we can already state that a large number of them will not be reached.


The goal is to give the CBD an impetus by completing an ambitious international framework for the coming decade, to encourage commitments by the States that are up to the biodiversity challenges. France also wishes to establish an agenda of concrete and multilateral action on the part of non-state players who can contribute to meeting the new targets to be set.


 [Action 54] **France will make biodiversity an environmental priority in its diplomatic network in the next two years** in order to obtain an ambitious and landmark goal at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in China in 2020. The strategic framework for global biodiversity must be renewed and made more efficient by: ambitious commitments made, in particular, by the Parties before COP15; commitments made by non-state players in the context of a Global Action Agenda modelled on that put in place for climate at COP21 for the Convention on Climate Change.


 [Action 55] **In order to achieve this ambition, France will bring biodiversity to the top level of the world political agenda by 2020**, by taking advantage of major international political events such as the High Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2018, COP14 of the CBD at Sharm-El-Sheikh in November 2018, the Fourth United Nations Assembly on the Environment in March 2019 in Nairobi, the G7 which France will preside over in 2019 and the G20, and lastly the World Conservation Congress organised by IUCN which France will host in Marseilles in 2020. **In this context, France will mobilise in particular heads of State to commit in favour of biodiversity.**

4.2 Enshrining Biodiversity as a Priority on the European Agenda

The European level is a crucial scale for biodiversity policy. It is there that the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Habitats, Fauna and Flora and Birds Directives were tabled. But it is also the level of sectoral policies that structure their potential impacts on biodiversity such as the Common Agricultural Policy or the Common Fisheries Policy in order to make them as compatible as possible with the challenges of preserving biodiversity. Furthermore, we would like the goal of preserving biodiversity within the European Union to be reflected in a much more ambitious way in the EU budget.

 [Action 56] **France will defend the position that 40% of the European budget should be devoted to the environment, including biodiversity.** This involves bringing the preservation and conservation of biodiversity to the fore as a major priority that cuts across the European Union's post-2020 Multiyear Financial Framework. As a principle, the budget should not finance action that harms that goal.


 [Action 57] **France will work at European level to integrate environmental criteria into public contracts by 2022** and will implement a 'zero deforestation' policy for the State's public procurement by the year 2022.


 [Action 58] **France will defend a long-term prohibition at European level of electric fishing on the one hand, and a change in European regulations on fishing to better protect sea turtles on the other.** This change is intended to make turtle exclusion devices (TED or equivalent) compulsory in wild tropical prawn trawler fishing in order to be able to extend it to the imports of such prawns to Europe. This device enables 97% of accidental catches of sea turtles to be eliminated.


4.3 Combating Trafficking of Wildlife and Protecting their Habitats

Wildlife trafficking involves hundreds of millions of plants and animals from several thousand different species, with disastrous consequences for the targeted populations. Whilst the most emblematic is probably the illegal trade in ivory, many other species are affected.


This involves enhancing the measures for combating the illegal trade in species and their derivatives, strengthening checks across the whole country and improving the handling of the animals seized. This requires cooperation with the countries involved to better preserve the natural environments of these species, especially tropical forests, or to regulate the local use and consumption that underpin the illegal networks (for example for elvers, which are much sought after in China).

 [Action 59] **We will strengthen the fight against species trafficking at European and international level.** At international level, France will support projects and initiatives to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, thereby contributing to preventing at the source the funding of organised crime and terrorism. At national level, we will intensify cooperation between the police and inspection services whilst setting up, from 2018, a steering committee presided over by the Minister in charge of customs and the Minister in charge of ecological transition, and in charge of defining the priorities for what to combat, and of publishing annually the results obtained,

 [Action 60] **The State will set up a hosting structure in 2018 to receive animals seized by Customs at Paris airports.** In fact, at present it is not possible to take care for these animals in good conditions while they await a transfer to more suitable structures. This initiative will then be applied at a wide scale.

 [Action 61] **France will intensify its action to protect tropical forests and the species they support, such as large apes.**


 [Action 62] **France will suggest to its partners along the Guyanese plateau (in particular Brazil, Surinam and Guyana) that an annual high level conference be held** for the preservation of Amazonian biodiversity and the ecosystem services associated therewith.


 [Action 63] **We will maintain ambitious positions as regards CITES**, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. France will bring the issue of closing internal elephant ivory markets to European and international attention, and will support ambitious resolution projects at the COP 18 of the Washington convention (CITES) in May 2019, with a view to increasing the protection of certain species (animals and plants, including precious wood).


4.4 Acting to Preserve the Oceans


The issue of the oceans is from the outset an issue of international scale. France has a presence in five oceans and possesses a vast exclusive economic zone. As such, it has a special responsibility in this field.

The Biodiversity Action Plan intends to strengthen multilateral discussions about the sea so that they rapidly result in actual commitments on protected areas and fisheries. We will therefore continue to be proactive in negotiating an ambitious treaty for the protection of biodiversity in the high seas.

 [Action 64] **France will mobilise its diplomatic network to obtain an ambitious agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the high seas in the context of the open intergovernmental conference at the United Nations.**

 [Action 65] **France will support the creation of a marine protected area in international waters in collaboration with the relevant organisations by the year 2022** and will support the creation of an Antarctic network of marine protected areas. It will rely on the regional sea conventions to which it is a Party.

 [Action 66] **In order to protect fishery resources internationally, France, together with the European Union, will offer its support to regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO) throughout the world** to provide them with better knowledge of the state of fish stocks in their areas and data about catches so that they can better regulate fishing efforts, and so they can take management measures that are suited to each zone. In particular, it will propose an increased presence of its scientists in the RFMO scientific councils.


 [Action 67] **France will promote the adoption by shipowners and cruise lines of a charter of good practices and will monitor the establishment of management systems for leisure fishing at sea**, in order to engage seafaring professionals in the protection of marine biodiversity.

4.5 Accounting for Biodiversity in the Drafting and Implementation of Trade Agreements

In order to ensure fair competition and the continuity of European channels, this involves introducing terms relating to conditions of competition and modes of production into trade agreements.

It is furthermore necessary to ensure that European biodiversity-friendly production methods are fully accounted for and developed in all European Union trade agreements, in order to avoid economic distortions for the virtuous producers and to encourage upwards harmonisation of channels.

 [Action 68] **We will work at enhancing the binding nature and the effective implementation of the chapters relating to sustainable development (including biodiversity) in the trade agreements negotiated by the European Union.**

 [Action 69] **France will undertake cooperation initiatives with the countries that produce the resources we import in order to make the relevant channels related to deforestation more sustainable.** This action will be undertaken in the context of our strategy to combat imported deforestation in partnership with the actors in the channels involved.



Theme 5: Knowledge, Education and Training

Protecting nature should become a national priority that involves every citizen. Citizens are of course already aware of the issue. 98% say they know what biodiversity is and nearly 75% feel involved in their everyday lives. Nevertheless, they do not always know how to contribute.

Environmental associations and local observatories are the main providers of nature observation data nowadays. Beyond that, to mobilise all players and all citizens, it is necessary to provide a clearer explanation of what is at stake and improve access to information on the condition of environments and species and, above all, on the levers that enable everybody to act where they can. This requires action to improve research, to disseminate knowledge, training and education about the environment, and also innovative actions based on the new forms of networking and training (social networks, learning communities, etc.).

The goal of the Biodiversity Action Plan is to awaken the desire to act among citizens and also among all players, and at every level: local, regional and national.

5.1 Developing Research and Knowledge on Biodiversity

The development of scientific research must be strengthened so that the state of scientific knowledge on living species and ecosystems can be as complete as possible. Improving our understanding of the functioning of ecosystems, their resilience, their interactions with mankind, and in particular the services they provide to us, must form part of a collective awareness drive and enable the identification of levers and practical courses of action.


Thus, the Biodiversity Action Plan prioritizes research that is as close as possible to public policy and to all players to support the changes of models and practices that will be needed in order to reach our ambitious goals on biodiversity.

/// [Action 70] Each year we will publish integrative indicators with figures and maps on the status of biodiversity and the pressures it is under in the context of the French National Biodiversity Observatory so that everyone can access reliable and up-to-date information with which to follow the results of our efforts. In particular, our efforts will be based on establishing a biodiversity surveillance network over the long term.

/// [Action 71] France will host the seventh plenary session of IPBES in Paris in April 2019, where a global historic report on biodiversity and ecosystem services will be under discussion, and will actively continue to support IPBES.

/// [Action 72] We will enhance European research collaboration on biodiversity by supporting the structuring of Biodiversa, the European network managed by the French National Agency for Research and the Foundation for Biodiversity Research.


/// [Action 73] The French Biodiversity Agency will support the creation of 600 new municipal biodiversity atlases (ABC - *atlas de la biodiversité communale*), to arrive at 1500 by 2020. A special focus will be placed on overseas territories with the ambitious goal of covering all such territories in due course. The ABCs will be listed on a single website and will feed an Open database on biodiversity to enable French citizens to discover the biodiversity of their territory.

 [Action 74] **We will continue our support for the 65 million observers programme** and the deployment of its innovative tools intended for the public at large. Indeed, the research and naturalistic data can and must be enriched through the contribution of participative sciences. In parallel, farmers will be encouraged to contribute to monitoring the biodiversity present on their land through the *Observatoire de la biodiversité agricole* (Agricultural Biodiversity Observatory). The goal will be, on the one hand, to double the number of land parcels transmitting data by 2020 (1200 compared to 600 today) and the number of demonstration sites (44 compared to 22 today), and on the other hand, to produce usable metadata for the French National Biodiversity Observatory.

5.2 Investing in Education and Training


Education of young people and lifelong learning are powerful levers to enhance consideration of biodiversity in all human activities. They help raise citizen awareness of biodiversity issues and also encourage everyone to act, in their professional field as in their private lives. This observation was made long ago and several such initiatives have already been implemented.


The goal of the Biodiversity Action Plan is to change the scale. This involves not only enhancing education and training about biodiversity, in schools, in sporting activities, and also in popular education, but above all, trying to reach all of society. It also involves encouraging the integration of biodiversity stakes in the curricula of professional training programmes and higher education, in connection with the Grandes Écoles network and the network of vocational schools. Lastly, awareness raising among young people can also be accelerated by deploying innovative projects, such as educational marine and terrestrial areas in association with the school environment.

 [Action 75] **A partnership will be established from the start of the academic year 2018 between the Ministry for National Education and the Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition to anchor biodiversity at the heart of the educational system.** This will involve the following commitments:

Promoting the development of “nature trips” (of at least 2 consecutive days) in middle school;

- Setting up, jointly with the Ministry for Overseas Territories and the French Biodiversity Agency, a network of educational marine and terrestrial areas, starting with the deployment of 500 of them by the year 2022;
- Launching a call for interest to provide all schools, from 2019, with a biodiversity teaching kit intended for primary level;
- Organising, for high schools, a call for projects for the World Nature Congress and a COP 15 on Biodiversity for schools in 2020;
- Including biodiversity content within the education and sustainable development materials produced by the Ministry of National Education;
 - Integrating nature education into the “Wednesday plans” for extracurricular activities.


 [Action 76] **With the ministries concerned, we will deploy a training plan for the key sectors:** judiciary, top civil servants, diplomats, elected officials, teachers and health professionals. The aim is to reach at least 20% of targeted players within the next 5 years. In parallel, **we will set up specific partnerships with the Grandes Écoles network** (administration, political sciences, agronomy, civil engineering, water and forestry, public works, development, town planning, architecture and landscaping, etc.) **and with the network of vocational schools and all players in professional training.**


 [Action 77] **We will deploy digital applications to enable French citizens to identify animal and plant species in everyday life,** inspired by existing material for plants in Plantnet which could be expanded by digitizing naturalistic collections, and especially herbariums. Furthermore, we will create a Pokemon Go for common biodiversity via a contest for ideas that was launched earlier this year.


5.3 Getting all Players to Act


Mobilising the State is not enough to reach the goals set for biodiversity, both at national and at international levels. The aim of the Biodiversity Action Plan is to carefully prepare for the World Conservation Congress, which will be held in Marseilles, by mobilising all non-State players, and also to limit the biodiversity footprint of other major events that will take place in France.

Every single person is concerned and has a part to play in turning the tide.

 [Action 78] **The Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition will appoint 3 champions to lead a mission to successfully mobilise players in favour of biodiversity.** Those champions will be one elected official, one corporate head and one personality from civil society. They will guide the mobilisation of national and international non-state players in favour of biodiversity in order to pick up the challenges of preserving and restoring it and to make an impact with the World Conservation Congress, organised by IUCN in Marseilles in 2020.

 [Action 79] **The French biodiversity Agency will launch a major communications campaign in the 1st quarter of 2019 in order to raise awareness among the general public. Additionally, it will deploy a digital educational platform to encourage the correct behaviour of citizens to help protect nature (in my garden, on my plate, in the house, when I travel etc.).**

 [Action 80] **In 2019, we will deploy a network of eco-volunteers for biodiversity across all territories** by mobilising in particular the civic service, the future universal national service and the sports world.

 [Action 81] **From 2020, we will strengthen the commitments for organisers of sporting events and managers of sports facilities to reach the same level of environmental excellence as that of the Olympic Games and Paralympics in Paris 2024.**



Theme 6: Improving the Effectiveness of Biodiversity Policies

It is not always easy to assess the effectiveness of public policies. They are often accused of being built through the sedimentation of a great number of measures and instruments, which can lack consistency. Furthermore, the accumulation of laws and regulations is not enough to preserve biodiversity if their enforcement is not monitored by inspections and if the prosecution of the offenses does not succeed..

The aim of the Biodiversity Action Plan is to better mobilise and better coordinate all the players so that biodiversity policies can be implemented more efficiently, especially as regards the application of environment law. To that end, improvements must be made in environmental policing in order to ensure a better application of the law. It will also be necessary to strengthen the law in the fields that require it.

6.1 Consolidating Environmental Law

Environmental law already has a wide range of tools, but their application must be strengthened. This will be done via emblematic and structuring action, including amending the constitution and calling on environmental diplomacy, and also via some very concrete legal staff training initiatives.

/// [Action 82] We will support the incorporation of environmental preservation and biological diversity into the founding principles of the French Republic, under the 1st article of the Constitution.

/// [Action 83] We will launch a joint mission between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition to strengthen the enforcement of environmental law, especially by enhancing the training of judges and by studying how to improve the court specialisation in protection of the environment and biodiversity.


/// [Action 84] At international level, we will continue to defend the adoption of a Global Pact for the Environment which, by consolidating and strengthening the fundamental principles and rights of international environment law, will contribute to protecting biodiversity.


6.2 Funding Biodiversity and Natural Areas

Biodiversity policies are diversifying and gradually deploy an increasingly ambitious action. The initiatives to protect biodiversity must therefore be funded. But the requirement to use public funds wisely leads us to also look for alternative funding to complement the more traditional funding sources: new measures, opening to sponsorship, and public participation are all channels to be explored.

Furthermore, the size of protected areas is not the only criterion, it is also important to look at the resources allocated to them and the effectiveness of their management. Accordingly, it is not enough to create new protected areas, it is also necessary to increase the funding devoted to those policies that are at the heart of action in favour of biodiversity, both for their exemplary nature, and for the issues they address. In fact, protected areas often host endangered species and

especially rare and emblematic ecosystems. They are also a laboratory to test and reveal new solutions to enhance biodiversity.


 [Action 85] **We will develop an application devoted to natural areas** to provide visitors to national parks, marine parks and national and regional reserves with information about the sites they are visiting and encourage them to contribute to funding the protection of these areas. To that end, in September 2018 we will launch a hackathon to explore the subject prior to its operational deployment in 2019.

 [Action 86] **We will start work to diversify the sources of funding for biodiversity and to experiment with new incentives to encourage sponsorship.** A special focus will be put on protected areas, in cooperation with the managers of these areas, and inspired by the existing original initiatives in other fields, such as the cultural heritage lottery, crowdfunding and sponsoring contracts, etc.

6.3 Reforming Public Subsidies Harmful to Biodiversity


During the One Planet Summit, France made a commitment alongside the OECD to develop the practices of “Green Budgeting”, which consist of analysing public funding with regard to environmental goals, including biodiversity.


In the context of the French action plan on plant protection products and on a less pesticide-dependent agriculture, the Government has already committed to reviewing how the fee for diffuse pollution is calculated from 2019 onwards, in order to make it more effective and increase the incentives to use alternatives to products in highest risk classes. It also contributes to the funding of supportive action for changing these practices

 [Action 87] **We will identify the subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity**, with a view to reducing them. For that purpose, we will request the Green Economy Committee to examine the possible levers in its work in progress on biodiversity.

6.4 Enhancing the Means and Effectiveness of Action

The means of action are not just financial, but also human and organisational. The Biodiversity Action Plan acknowledges that these pragmatic elements of skills and organisation are important for the success of biodiversity policies. This involves implementing the conclusions of several reports from the administration for improved efficiency of public action on the field of biodiversity.

 [Action 88] **We will upgrade the policing of the environment and rurality.** In order to reach critical mass (about 15 agents per department) and to guarantee the effectiveness of environmental policing, we will rapidly undertake consultations on actual changes in the organisation, coordination and sharing of the resources of the State and of its operators, and other on-site players that have a policing function (Agents from the National Forestry Office and Municipal Rural police). The policing powers of Environmental Inspectors will be strengthened to increase the dissuasive nature of the system for combating infringements.

 [Action 89] **The French Agency for Biodiversity will set up its economic valorisation service for biodiversity in French Guyana by the end of 2018.** This service will aim to lend its support and expertise across the whole national territory.

 [Action 90] **We will improve the application of the “avoid - reduce offset” (ARO) sequence to guarantee that there is no net loss of biodiversity through concrete actions** such as:

- Promoting “avoidance”** by making new tools and methodologies available to project leaders and engineering offices to better account for biodiversity issues in project design;
 - **Equipping the relevant departmental services** with a management and geolocation tool for the offsetting measures so as to facilitate the monitoring and control of these measures;
 - **Developing a standard approach** to scaling ecological compensation with the aim of simplifying and homogenising practices by 2020;
 - **Increasing the legibility of requirements relating to ARO measures** in the different clearance procedures in order to better monitor their implementation on the ground;
- Mobilising Prefects** to improve the monitoring of the implementation of offsetting measures and apply sanctions in the case of non-compliance. A support cell will be put in place at national level.



**Ministry for an Ecological
and Solidary Transition**

Hôtel de Roquelaure
246 boulevard Saint-Germain
75007 Paris

Tel: 33 (0)1 40 81 21 22

ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr