

France

Biodiversity strategy and action plans : priority for action.

The French Strategy for Biodiversity was endorsed by the government in 2004 and is part of the national strategy for sustainable development.

To date, 11 action plans have been launched to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors : nature conservation, sea and marine activities, international cooperation, agriculture, land planning, urban planning, infrastructures, forest, research, tourism, overseas territories.

The French action plan for overseas territories sets out measures fed into 9 specific action plans which provide a comprehensive framework for biodiversity conservation on a local basis (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Reunion, Wallis and Futuna, Saint Pierre and Miquelon).

The "ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement durable et de l'Aménagement du territoire" (French Ministry of Environment) coordinates the implementation of these action plans by different government departments in partnership with NGOs, the corporate sector, scientists and local authorities. A technical committee comprising action plan coordinators oversees the overall implementation process of all sectoral action plans and synchronises information exchange on public actions. The first annual progress report was issued in 2006 and the midway report toward 2010 biodiversity target is now available. The first plan revision cycle (due every two years) has started.

Our achievements towards the 2010 biodiversity target



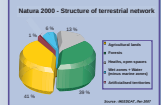
Ensure conservation and proper functioning of natural habitats, ecosystems and natural and semi-natural environments

In response to the CBD programme of work on protected areas : law dated 14 April 2006 on national parks ; year 2007 saw the creation of the national parks of Reunion island and Guiana in very different socioeconomic settings. Creation also of the first natural marine park of 'Mer d'Iroise' in order to protect the diversity of its habitats as well as the rare or threatened species of national and European interest. (1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10)

The rural development programme 2007-2013 introduces new agri-environmental measures for biodiversity incorporated into 9 schemes, 2 of which are national : new grassland bonus and new agrienvironmental rotation measure implemented in some regions. (1,3,4,8)

France coordinates the Congo Basin international forest partnership in 2006. Cameroon has thus been allowed to benefit from 20 000 000 € for conservation actions and sustainable forest management within the framework of a disendebment and development programme. (1,2,4,7,8,10,11)

Natura 2000 : around 180 additional sites designated in 2007, i.e a total of 1 706 terrestrial sites for natural habitats and species of European interest. The French terrestrial network was deemed satisfactory by the European Commission in March 2007. Efforts are now geared towards the designation of marine sites from now through September 2008. (1,2,5,7,8)



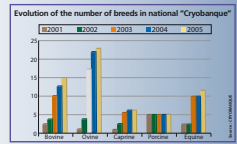
Ensure genetic diversity conservation

Access to genetic resources linked to wild species and benefit-sharing derived from their use in the core of French Guiana National Park. By a new provision of the law dated 14 April, 2006 on national parks, their use from now on is subject to authorisation by the Guinean collectivity. (3,4,8,9,10)

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was an agenda item of the CBD/SBSTTA meeting in Paris beginning of July 2007. Its implementation and reinforcement were discussed and the integration of its main target axes into national policy specified. (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11)

At CDB/COP 8 held in Curitiba in 2006, France supported decision VIII-4 aiming to establish by 2010 an international regime on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources. (2,3,4,9,10)

In 2007, collection by the Cryobanque of the genetic material of 3 new domesticated species (bovine breed : Rouge des Prés) and setting up of European measures in support of local genetic diversity conservation (participation in Heritage Sheep programme). (3,11)



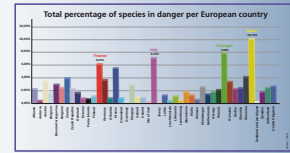
Ensure wild species conservation

Struggle against invasive species. The decree implementing the law on the development of rural territories prohibits the trade of officially listed invasive plant species across metropolitan France. For instance, the introduction into the natural environment of the 'ludwigia' is forbidden by the ruling dated 14 May, 2007. (6, 8)

Wild species protection : out of 42 projected species action plans and national plans for restoration, about 20 are under implementation or assessment. They mainly concern birds and mammals. (2)

Change in legislation : Environment code, articles L. 411-1, L. 411-2. Every infrastructure project shall comprise a survey of the species concerned by the drawing and measures taken to protect them. Derogations are granted if there is no other solution and only if species maintenance can be ensured in an acceptable state of conservation. (1,2,4,5,8)

A national red list of threatened species was launched by IUCN France and the MNHN in 2007. The first findings (birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals) were published in September 2007. France hosts 6,07 % of the threatened species in Europe versus 2,22 % for the 27 EU countries. (2,5,7,8)



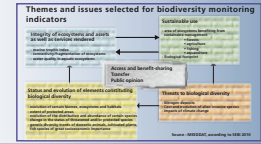
Rally, value, integrate, know more and better : cross-cutting actions of the French strategy for biodiversity

Launching of the Scientific Foundation for Biodiversity to address biodiversity challenges. It consists of research public bodies, environmental NGOs and corporate bodies and it coordinates research activities and general public information. (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11)

A study based on the MA approach to quantify benefits derived from ecosystems in France will start soon. (1,2,3,4,8)

Outstanding actions of awareness-raising on biodiversity were carried out in 2006 and 2007 : multimedia communications campaign on biodiversity and climate change (MEEDDAT), public events around international biodiversity day - May, 22 : 'fête de la nature' (NGO network) (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11)

Indicators relating to the conservation of natural and semi-natural areas and the proper functioning of ecosystems have been included in the set of national biodiversity monitoring indicators and are consistent with indicators set up by the European Environment Agency (EEA). (1,2,3,4,6,11)



2010 Biodiversity Target :

- 1 Promote conservation of ecosystems and habitats
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
- 2 Promote the conservation of species diversity
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
- 3 Promote the conservation of genetic diversity
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
- 4 Promote sustainable use and consumption
4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
- 5 Reduce pressures from habitat loss
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
- 6 Control threats from invasive alien species
6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
- 7 Address challenges from climate change and pollution
7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7
- 8 Maintain capacity of ecosystems to provide services
8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8
- 9 Maintain cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities
9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9
- 10 Ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources
10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
- 11 Ensure provision of adequate resources
11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11