

Response to Notification 2012-018 FRANCE CBD on the implementation of protected areas program

In October 2010, France has participated actively in the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan, during which the States have ratified the International Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to increase respectively to 10% and 17% By 2020 the area of marine and land that will be subject to safeguards.

The strategy of creating protected areas and land metropolitan strategy creation and management of marine protected areas is directly in the implementation of decisions taken in Nagoya and the specific work program on protected areas of the CBD which reiterate the need for each country, to design a system protected areas consistent, well managed and ecologically representative.

These strategies also fulfill a key objective of the national strategy for biodiversity, for 2011-2020, which calls for the construction of an ecological infrastructure including a coherent network of protected areas Natura 2000 and which many other tools protection contribute. The desire of France to strengthen its network of protected areas in metropolitan or overseas, since 2010 has already led to the creation of three new marine parks, five national nature reserves new or expanded, two regional parks and a new national park emblematic of Mediterranean biodiversity, the national park of the Creeks.

These new protected areas now complement a very important network, members include 10 national parks, over 350 nature reserves, 650 sites acquired by the Coastal Conservancy, 235 forest biological reserves, 46 regional nature reserves, 36 Wetlands International Importance, 10 biosphere reserves, three marine nature reserves, two marine mammal sanctuaries, an international marine park Corso-Sardinian, and of course, the 1753 land and marine sites of the Natura 2000 network.

France wishes to pursue the dynamic creation of protected areas it initiated with the Grenelle Environment Round Table and the Sea, with a view to facilitating their "Connectivity" and to reconcile natural heritage preservation and sustainable socio-economic activities.

On land, 2% of the metropolitan area will be well under heavy protection by 2019: represent this target in 2019, over 1 million hectares in the heart of classified national park, nature reserve, reserve or biological protection order or geotope biotope. At sea, 20% of French waters will be placed under protection in 2020: three new marine parks should be created by the end of 2012.

Progress in strengthening the network of protected areas and planning systems of protected areas (one element of the work program on protected areas of the CBD) are accompanied, in addition, consolidation means Implementation of these systems, in terms of governance, participation, and capacity management (items 2 and 3 of the program).

France intends, as such, promote an environment conducive to the participation of local

communities and stakeholders through integrated management of these spaces (that is to say taking into account all the issues, cultural socio-economic , natural, ...).

This implies, for example to enhance the benefits of protected areas that are often the foundation of new territorial dynamics. Preservation of natural resources and ecosystem services, scientific research programs or training, fundraising, creating "green" jobs, supporting social inclusion, territorial attractiveness, recreational activities, promotion of local products, maintaining spiritual and cultural functions attached to these areas, environmental education and local partnerships are indeed so many levers of planning and enhancement of territories and their players.

On the necessary evaluation and effectiveness measures (program element 4), Natura 2000 is a framework for preferred shares. Specific operations are also faced in other categories of protected areas, like the construction of regional observatories and the National Observatory of biodiversity, which should contribute to a better evaluation of devices mobilized, including that of protected areas, for the preservation of natural heritage. Efforts are nevertheless to deploy nationwide to better structure these initiatives.

An initial analysis of the French areas protected under the work program on protected areas of the CBD was completed in 2007, a fresh report on the implementation by France of this work program is being developed and will be sent to the secretariat of the CBD in the fall of 2012.