THE EXTERNAL ACTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

#CommonWorld
Joint action to meet global challenges

The relations established between local authorities to address and enrich their local public policies provide essential leverage for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

International action is a specificity of French local authorities. With over 5,000 active authorities, as well as some 13,600 cooperation projects identified in 146 countries, France has one of the most dynamic international networks in this field.

- At national level, the legislative acknowledgment of the external action of local authorities (AECT – EALA) has come about gradually, and was fully recognized in 2014 with the Development and International Solidarity law (LOP-DSI).
- At worldwide level, the new international development assistance agenda encourages the support for the external action of local authorities to be scaled up. The adoption of the SDGs in 2015 and, with them, the emergence of the notion of universality – the goals are common to all countries – advocate for enhanced support for the partnerships established between French local authorities and their peers around the world.
- Coordinated action between AFD and a French local authority working at international level provides a more effective response to the demand of foreign local authorities, which are seeking exchanges of expertise and experience on good practices. It is for this reason that AFD provides for three main methods for working with French local authorities at international level.

With over 5,000 active local authorities, France has one of the most dynamic international networks for the external action of local authorities.

**Key milestones for the external action of local authorities**

**2005**  
*The Oudin-Santini Law* authorizes local authorities to earmark up to 1% of revenue from water and sanitation services for international solidarity actions dedicated to this sector;

**2007**  
*The Thiollière Law* allows local authorities to conduct cooperation or development assistance actions abroad;

**2014**  
*The LOP-DSI Law The Development and International Solidarity Law* fully recognizes the external action of local authorities, which is no longer only restricted to decentralized cooperation, but clearly includes the diversity of the international practices of the various regional actors (provision for the expertise of a semi-public company or an operator, economic outreach of companies, etc.). In addition, the law integrates the “1% waste” mechanism which extends the attributions offered by the Oudin-Santini Law.

**2016**  
*Signature of a strategic alliance between AFD and CDC (Caisse des Dépots):* the two institutions join forces to address sustainable development issues across the world, and promote internationalization of French territories.

*The Interministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development (CICID):* recognizing the important role played by local authorities in the transition to sustainable development models, gives mandate to AFD for financing their external action, and request that it develops a strategy on the “external action of local authorities”.

Dakar City Hall, Senegal  
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Three tools for working together for development

AFD devotes an increasing proportion of its activity to financing and supporting foreign local authorities. To implement this strategy, it aims to rely on the expertise, with a strong political dimension, of French local authorities.

Converging our actions with local authorities

AFD has supported the joint initiative of the Hauts-de-France Region and French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), in the context of their cooperation with the State of Minas Gerais (Brazil) for the implementation of a territorial climate energy plan to promote adaptation actions and start a transition towards a lower carbon economy. This technical cooperation action involving several regional actors is being conducted in conjunction with a EUR 300m AFD loan to finance the multiannual “Management for Citizenship” plan.

Financing the initiatives of local authorities

The construction of 2 micro hydropower plants in the city of Dschang in Cameroon is a project initiated by the city of Dschang, in partnership with Nantes Metropole and Électriciens sans frontières. AFD’s EUR 405,000 grant supports the investment expenditure. The project will connect 500 households to clean electricity, as well as several local public service facilities (schools, bus stations, etc.). The French local authority and its partner association assist the municipal contracting authority in strengthening its energy strategy and building its management capacities.

Promoting the expertise of local authorities

The project supported in Johannesburg (South Africa) aims to reduce persisting inequalities by implementing a completely new spatial strategy led by local authorities. A EUR 600,000 grant with funds from the Technical Expertise and Experience Sharing Fund (FEXTE) has been allocated to support the partnership of the South African local authority with, firstly, the City of Paris for the definition of a strategy to combat climate change and, secondly, with the European Lille Metropole for the implementation of integrated urban projects. Furthermore, a EUR 120m AFD loan supports the transformation strategy of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.

“AFD must continue to be this bridge between the local and international levels”
Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer of AFD
A springboard for the international outreach of local authorities

AFD and local authorities contribute together to France’s outreach abroad. Local authorities support France’s economic influence and outreach via the models they promote and the French economic actors they involve in their cooperation actions (companies, including engineering and consultancy firms, competitive clusters, NGO’s).

AFD supports the international promotion of over 60 territorial actors:

- The Greater Lyon Town Planning Agency (URBALYON) has been providing a land use plan for Ouagadougou’s implementation of urban development in Burkina Faso since 2013;
- The Avignon Hotel School contributed to strengthening the vocational training system of the Technical and Vocational Training Institute (INFOTEP) between 2012 and 2016 in the Dominican Republic;
- The Mediterranean Association for the Development of Education and Research (ADER) based in Marseille will be supporting the program in Rabat to develop a state-of-the-art industrial area until 2018.

Infotep project in the Dominican Republic © Franck Galbrun

Converge our actions with local authorities

Cofinancing
Promote financial and technical cooperation between French local authorities and foreign local authorities in conjunction with an AFD-funded project.

Promote the expertise of local authorities

Financing
Finance and provide technical expertise to developing countries, while promoting French know-how.

Finance the initiatives of local authorities

FICOL
Support the projects identified by local authorities and implemented in the context of their international partnerships.

French local authorities financing facility (FICOL):

- A mechanism set up in 2014 to support the external action of local authorities;
- Supports partnerships between local authorities around the world and contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Between 2014 and 2016, EUR 3m have been provided for these international partnerships and EUR 3m are available for 2016 alone.
Dialogue with French local elected officials to promote external action

The actions conducted by AFD in partnership with French local authorities fit in with the guidelines defined by the National Commission for Decentralized Cooperation (CNCD). CNCD is a consultative body with French local authorities and brings together, on a parity basis, national associations of elected officials (municipalities, departments, regions), including those specialized in international activities (Cités Unies France and the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions – AFCCRE), as well as AFD. It should also be noted that AFD has a close relationship with Cité Unies France (CUF), which allows it to dialogue directly with French local authorities.

Enhancing ties between local elected

Officials and AFD play a key role in development processes. AFD, by forging close ties with them, enhances its practices and draws upon the practical experiences developed by local authorities. AFD can also provide French elected officials with its knowledge and international experience, which supports the external promotion of their own environment. Consequently, AFD is committed to continuously raising the awareness of local elected officials of its expertise and field of activity.

Raising the awareness of civil society to sustainable development issues

Awareness-raising and education on development issues are two common missions for local authorities and AFD. AFD fulfils them through its commitment to reach out to citizens by organizing symposiums, seminars, meetings in universities, but also more far-reaching projects, such as the Nés quelque part exhibition, or by contributing to financing the film “Tomorrow” directed by Mélanie Laurent and Cyril Dion, which won the 2016 César award for the best documentary film.

“Nés quelque part”:
An entertaining exhibition to raise awareness of citizens of development issues.

The Nés quelque part exhibition, developed at the initiative of AFD, offers a unique experience which gives the possibility of stepping into the shoes of characters from countries facing development challenges. It was a great success in Paris, Lyon, Roubaix and Bordeaux and will travel all over France. The Nés quelque part exhibition is educational and interactive and aims to raise the awareness of the general public, in an entirely new way, in terms of the challenges of sustainable development by showing different perspectives.

For further information about the exhibition: http://nesquelquepart.fr/
AFD is the French development bank. Public and solidarity, it is committed to projects that improve the daily lives of populations in developing countries, emerging countries and overseas. AFD is involved in many sectors - energy, health, biodiversity, water, digital, training - and accompanies the transition to a safer, fairer and more sustainable world, a world in common. Its action is fully in line with the objectives of sustainable development (SDO). Present in 108 countries through a network of 85 agencies, AFD finances, monitors and supports over 2,500 development projects today. In 2016, AFD located € 9.4 billion to finance projects in developing countries and overseas.

PROPARCO, AFD’s subsidiary dedicated to private investment, promotes private investment in emerging and developing countries in order to boost growth, promote sustainable development and reach the Millennium Development Goals. Its financing is tailored to the specific needs of investors in the productive sector, financial systems, infrastructure and private equity investment.

www.proparco.fr

The French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) is a financial instrument of French cooperation and development policy, dedicated to the protection of the global environment in developing countries and emerging markets. With funds of €90 million for 2015-2018, the FFEM supports innovative work in developing countries in the following areas: climate, biodiversity, international waters, soil degradation including deforestation, persistent organic pollutants and the ozone layer. At the end of 2016, the FFEM had received financial pledges of €355 million, with 301 projects in their portfolio, 68% of which are in Africa and the Mediterranean.

www.ffem.fr - ffem@afd.fr

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