



Reconciling Development with Nature

#WorldInCommon



AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

1 million

animal and plant
species threatened
with extinction

2/3

of the planet's
ecosystems
are degraded

80%

of the Sustainable Development
Goals depend on the preservation
of ecosystems

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The ambition

Meeting the challenge of a pro-nature economy

Scientists maintain that ecosystems and natural resources are the foundations on which the future of all societies will be built. It is therefore crucial to preserve their integrity, diversity and capacity to provide essential services to people and territories. This is also the focus of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, yet current development models are still struggling to achieve it.

AFD as a Group - including PROPARCO and Expertise France - is actively involved in taking on this challenge. It is committed to promoting the financial and technical support that ensures a gradual and fair transition towards a pro-nature economy. An economy that protects ecosystems and ensures sustainable management of resources by public and private stakeholders in all sectors that benefit human development and inclusive social cohesion, especially for the most vulnerable.

2 main objectives

Preserving and restoring natural environments

A society's prosperity depends on healthy and well-managed ecosystems, which is why AFD supports the conservation and restoration of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

We promote the creation and strengthening of protected areas through a territorial approach based on inclusive local governance. Supporting wildlife protection and the fight against illegal wildlife trading are also a priority for AFD.

To ensure these objectives are reached sustainably, all projects supported by AFD are implemented with and for local communities and, whenever possible, will also support public policies and governance for biodiversity.

Mainstreaming biodiversity in all sectors

For AFD, facilitating the transition towards a pro-nature economy requires that investments be more inclusive of biodiversity and climate-friendly practices in all sectors. This mainstreaming approach is based on three principles:

- Excluding activities that cause deforestation, damage ecosystems or pollute and overexploit nature;
- Improving risk management and control for projects affecting biodiversity;
- Mobilizing nature and ecosystem services to promote sustainable pathways to production (namely agricultural) and local development



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A €1 billion pledge

Between 2020 and 2025, AFD will double its financing for biodiversity

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Biodiversity and climate: an interwoven ambition

Fighting climate change and preserving the biosphere will call for a number of vital decisions to be made over the next decade. We need to recognize that these two ambitions are intrinsically interwoven, as forests, oceans, prairies and wetlands are great carbon sinks, key elements of the climatic equilibrium, but at the same time their ability to play that role is severely undermined by climate change. However, if they are preserved, well-managed and ultimately are allowed to function in their natural state, they can continue to play their essential role.

Indeed, scientific evidence suggests that at least 30% of climate change solutions are nature-based (*i.e.* provided by functioning ecosystems). Yet only 2% of international climate finance currently benefits biodiversity and ecosystems. There is a huge gap to fill by more proactive climate finance towards biodiversity.

By committing to merge climate and biodiversity into a single ambition, we are making a pledge for the Planet, in line with France's higher ambition for Nature. We are confident many in the international arena will follow this path.

A crosscutting approach

At the heart of development challenges, biodiversity is an economic, social and governance issue. We believe it is both global and crosscutting to all sectors, such as agriculture, urban development, energy, water and sanitation.

This stance means ensuring that more and more projects take into account and benefit biodiversity. It also implies increasing our financial commitments directed to biodiversity.

This crosscutting approach (*i.e.* mainstreaming biodiversity in all sectors) embraced by AFD places biodiversity as an essential marker of our action, on equal footing with climate and gender issues.

The French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) is a main partner for AFD, leveraging innovation and research related to biodiversity and the preservation of natural resources.

30%

of climate change solutions are nature-based

30%

of AFD's climate finance will benefit biodiversity by 2025

Together for the planet

- With development banks, such as the International Development Finance Club (IDFC), to mobilize public and private financing.
- With the French Office for Biodiversity, National Forestry Office and Conference on Protected Areas to promote the French approach to conservation.
- With research institutes in the North and South for science-based solutions.
- Through a dialogue with international organizations, such as IUCN, to strengthen France's position in international negotiations and debates.
- With WWF, CI, WCS, Noé and other organizations, to reinforce civil society in the South.
- To strengthen biodiversity information systems, with GBIF, via the Data4Nature initiative.

With all our partners in over 100 countries: Kenya Wildlife Service, Central African Forest Commission, Madagascar's Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity, Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Mexico's National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, to build solutions adapted to local situations.



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Taking action

Reconciling people, landscapes and nature

Our future calls for a kind of local development (people and landscapes) that maintains healthy ecosystems (nature) in each region, country and continent. Nature provides solutions that markedly contribute to food and water security ensure reliable and renewable supplies of energy and goods, as well as increasing resilience in the face of climatic and sanitary crises. Conservation and development, far from opposing dynamics, constitute an essential synergy.

Achieving this balance means reforming legal and governance frameworks. It also requires new standards and practices, particularly in areas that put the most pressure on the environment: agriculture, fishing, forestry, urbanization, industrialization and water and ocean pollution.

AFD therefore invests in a wide range of projects with benefiting the new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework prepared under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



€457 M

invested for biodiversity
in 2019



SUPPORTING PUBLIC POLICIES

In Mexico, AFD is supporting public policies on protected areas and ecological connectivity. Preserving and developing natural, terrestrial and marine spaces requires strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks.

NATURE FOR CLIMATE

AFD is supporting Costa Rica's National Decarbonization Plan. It will promote the transition of the agriculture sector towards low-carbon practices with efficient use of natural resources (land, water) and the restoration of coastal ecosystems able to store carbon.



FOR AN AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Mali's food security depends on the cotton sector. AFD is financing its ecological intensification by promoting techniques for improving soil fertility and resilience to climate change.



PRESERVING COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

In 2020, AFD launched the Kiwa Initiative for climate and biodiversity in the South Pacific. By planting mangroves, regenerating coral reefs and combating invasive species, this program is restoring ecosystems and contributing to the resilience of populations to land erosion and the effects of climate change.



140

biodiversity projects
launched in 2019





DEVELOPING NATURAL HERITAGE

In China, AFD is assisting Xianju National Park with its activities to conserve natural environments and develop ecotourism and environmental education. It is drawing on French expertise to create consultation platforms with local stakeholders.

RENATURING CITIES

Expertise France is working with European Union financing to set 250 cities firmly on the path to their green transition with the CitiesWithNature network. AFD is developing a "sustainable cities" financial tool alongside it for more urban biodiversity.

9.4 M

hectares of natural areas
protected or restored by projects
financed by AFD in 2019



IMPROVED RISK MANAGEMENT

AFD is helping build policies and tools to manage the consequences of development on nature in six African and Asian countries. Once these standards are implemented, they require urban and industrial developers to offset the loss of biodiversity.



LESS PLASTIC IN THE OCEANS

Since 2018, the Clean Oceans initiative has been promoting a chain-based approach to the source of marine plastic pollution: switching to bioplastics, recycling, waste treatment, improved sanitation, as is the case with a wastewater treatment plant in Sri Lanka.



SUPPORTING FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

In the Congo Basin, conservation and sustainable management projects are preserving biological diversity and forest landscapes by involving local communities and indigenous peoples.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF PROTECTED AREAS

In Madagascar, AFD is helping to conserve natural capital by providing financial support for the preservation of protected areas and the communities that depend on them. In Africa and the Mediterranean, the Group is investing in six conservation trust funds.

New Global Biodiversity Framework

Agence Française de Développement and its Team France partners are working on the negotiation and implementation of a “New Framework for People and Nature”, promoting a renewed ambition to protect biodiversity.

Drawing on the Paris Agreement, this new Global Biodiversity Framework will be negotiated in China in 2021. It aims to engage countries and mobilize stakeholders in an ecological and territorial transition. It will also ensure that production and consumption patterns are sustainable and that there is a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity. As a development agency, AFD is sharing its expertise with Team France, and is working towards the implementation of this new framework.



Agence Française de Développement Group (AFD Group) implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. It finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a more coherent and resilient world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are active in more than 4,000 projects in the field – in overseas France, in some 115 countries and in crisis areas, working to promote the “common goods” that are climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality, education and health. It's our way of contributing to the commitment France and the French people have made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Towards a world in common.



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