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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

PREMIER MINISTRE

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2011-2020



Introduction

In 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, France embarked on the process of revising the first National Biodiversity Strategy, NBS (stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité, SNB)[1] adopted in February 2004.

A response to international, European and French commitments

The National Biodiversity Strategy is the outcome of French commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ratified by France in 1994. The Minister for the Environment at that time was tasked with presenting a strategy which could be implemented across all government departments with the precise aim of: "halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010", in line with the commitment made by all the other European Union members. This aim was applied in the NBS to each of the key components of the living world: genes, species, habitats, ecosystems and their translation into an ecological infrastructure. The 2004-2010 NBS was:

➔ **structured around four cross-cutting goals:** "mobilising all stakeholders, recognising the value of the living world, improving its mainstreaming into public policy, and developing scientific knowledge and observation";
➔ **set out in ten sectoral action plans[2]:** These were predominantly drafted in 2005 and 2006, and updated in 2009 to incorporate the Grenelle Environment Forum commitments.
The target set was ambitious. It must be acknowledged that it was not met either in France or on a European level. The scale of the actions taken was not sufficiently far-reaching to confront the pressures being exerted on biodiversity.

A major instrument for national mobilisation

The 2004-2010 NBS, which is reinforced by the Grenelle Acts[3], nevertheless remains a key instrument for national mobilisation to protect and enhance biodiversity in mainland France and in overseas territories, as well as marine areas under national sovereignty. It forms the biodiversity component of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (SNDD)[4]. The issues the NBS tried to face in 2004-2010 are still challenging:

1. «Stratégie française pour la biodiversité, enjeux, finalités, orientations» [«French strategy for biodiversity: issues, aims and approaches»], February 2004.
2. The 2004-2010 National Biodiversity Strategy is divided into ten action plans organised and implemented by the government departments concerned: Natural Heritage, Agriculture, International, Spatial Planning, Land Transport Infrastructures, the Sea, Forestry, Overseas Territories, Research, Tourism. The Overseas Territories action plan comprises a cross-cutting action plan and 10 local action plans, i.e. one per département and overseas collectivity.
3. The implementation of Grenelle Environment Forum legislation was based on the framework law for Grenelle commitments (known as Grenelle 1, August 2009, cf. notably articles 1 and 23) and on the law referring to the national commitment to the environment (known as Grenelle 2, July 2010).
4. Challenge No 6 of the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2010-2013, entitled «conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources».

➔ **building our capacity to act together** to protect biodiversity at different territorial levels;
➔ **mobilising and using data,** and information relating to biodiversity to make it accessible to as many people as possible;
➔ **adressing the emergence of new issues,** especially those relating to climate change and the services delivered by **ecosystems**.

The Aichi Targets of the CBD strategic plan adopted in Japan in October 2010 (set out in Annex), the objective set in 2010 by the European Union[5], as well as the proposed framework of action for 2011-2020 by the European Commission in its Communication dated May 2011, provide strong impetus to the National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020. The Aichi Targets provided input and structure to the work of the NBS Review Committee.

EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY TARGETS

The Communication from the European Commission (COM (2011) 244 – 3 May) concerning EU biodiversity strategy up to 2020, recalls the important contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to the EU 2020 strategy for growth and jobs (*A more resource efficient economy; A more climate-resilient, low-carbon economy; A leader in research and innovation; New skills, jobs and business opportunities*).

The EU biodiversity strategy is structured around 6 main targets (including measurable goals) which are then set out in actions:
1/conserving and restoring nature;
2/ maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services;
3/ ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries;
4/ combating invasive alien species;
5/ addressing the global biodiversity crisis;
6/ contributions from other environmental policies and initiatives).

A coherent framework for a strategy designed for stakeholders by stakeholders

France is fully aware of its responsibilities and must demonstrate increased willingness to act against a background of continuing degradation of biodiversity, despite commitments made by the European Union and the international community.
In particular, most citizens and economic and social stakeholders are not aware of the objectives of the first strategy and its action plans but also, and above all, what actually constitutes biodiversity[6]. The aim of the 2011-2020 strategy is therefore implementation not just at government level, but also by local authorities and various stakeholders in civil society.
The NBS is consistent with different existing national strategies and action plans. These will be pursued and supplemented by new commitments, designed to improve the connections between them and give them greater efficiency.

5. The main EU objective adopted by the European Council in March 2010: «to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by *2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss*».
6. «La stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité: bilan et perspectives, juin 2010», [«The National Biodiversity Strategy: assessment and perspectives, June 2010»] a joint report by the Council for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas and the Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

A common ambition

- To conserve and restore, reinforce and enhance biodiversity
- Ensure its sustainable and equitable use
- For so doing, call for involvement of one and all and every field of activity

The National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) aims to preserve, restore and increase living diversity in every area for which France is responsible on the mainland and overseas. This also extends to the European and international framework, where France can contribute to this ambition in a spirit of global solidarity. The objective is to maintain the long-term capacity of ecosystems to function, adapt and evolve. To this end, the NBS promotes the reduction of direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity, sustainable use of living resources and equitable distribution of the benefits which they provide.

The NBS contributes to the integrated development of territories and to sustainable development in mainland and overseas France. As a result, it is integrated as a priority into all public policies, at every territorial scale, such as policies relating to water, soil, the sea, climate and energy agriculture and forestry as well as spatial planning, infrastructures, industry, trade, education, research, health, etc. In this way, it participates fully in designing a project for our society, which aims to improve the well-being of present and future generations through in-depth transformation of our relationship to nature.

The NBS brings together all the stakeholders – the state, regional authorities, economic stakeholders, non profit associations, research stakeholders – in planning, implementing and evaluating its effects. It aims to provide information, raise awareness, mobilise elected representatives and citizens and promote their involvement and initiatives so that they contribute to its success through responsible measures.

Taking action together

There is a consensus of opinion that one of the keys to tackling biodiversity erosion successfully relies upon the mobilisation of society as a whole. The National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020 was conceived to reflect this. The choice of a collaborative process was made as soon as the review was launched, during a national conference held in May 2010 in Chamonix ("Biodiversity governance: choosing the best option for collective success"). A Review Committee comprising more than 100 national networks and bodies then worked to produce the NBS 2011-2020 with its shared vision and common ambition.

Among the basic principles and novel features of this 2011-2020 strategy, a coherent framework is provided to enable all stakeholders (legal entities) to contribute responsibly on a voluntary basis. Citizens are urged to formalise personal commitments mainly via stakeholders, subscribers to the NBS who in turn are also invited to devise mobilisation instruments. Each player, according to his own resources and field of competence, can thus contribute to achieving the ambition, the six strategic goals and the twenty targets[7]. It is within this cohesive framework that all local authorities can act in favour of biodiversity. The evolution and interactions of biodiversity with human activities are not uniform across French territory. The National Biodiversity Strategy was built up to provide a framework to be shared by all stakeholders and adaptable to the various issues of each part of the territory and to the variety of options for action open to each stakeholder. For a given stakeholder, in a given territory, certain strategic goals or targets may be of particular significance.

By mobilising as many people as possible, the National Biodiversity Strategy helps to reinforce our collective capacity for action at different territorial levels and in all spheres of activity. A call for subscription and a commitment device have been set up to concretely express this will. All stakeholders are thus invited to become active subscribers in order to highlight and increase the status value of the NBS. Everyone is also invited to commit to action as per the principles for action and governance officially approved together during the establishment of the strategy. Voluntary commitment aims to develop meaningful actions in favour of biodiversity with gradual and proportionate improvement in the practices of the stakeholders concerned. This coherent framework for subscription and commitment forms a part of the National Biodiversity Strategy – **Taking action for collective success.**

NBS 2011-2020

A shared vision, a common ambition
Six strategic goals
Twenty interacting targets
Incorporation of the Aichi Targets adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity COP10

7. For instance, in Saint Barts in the Caribbean, in French Polynesia, Wallis-et-Futuna and in New Caledonia, the environment falls within the territorial jurisdiction of the local authorities.

THE NBS, A COHERENT FRAMEWORK FOR MOBILISATION

The **implementation of the NBS** is a dynamic process which is based on subscribing to the NBS and a declaration of voluntary commitment.

Subscribing to the NBS

Stakeholder mobilisation is reflected first and foremost in the signature of a voluntary subscription to the National Biodiversity Strategy, to its vision, ambition, strategic goals, targets and governance principles. Subscribing organisations declare that they are ready to: "a) disseminate and promote this strategy and its procedural rules through information and education within their networks and among their partners; b) share the lessons learned from their experiences in promoting biodiversity; c) familiarise themselves and others with the tools proposed by the strategy in order to initiate activities; d) explore, within two years, the scope and implementation conditions of a declaration of voluntary commitment for objectives relevant to their field of activity and then submit it to the NBS Secretariat at the Ministry of Sustainable Development." This subscription is the first phase open to all meant to inform, share and study how to commit to biodiversity beyond legal requirements solely. The Department will update monitoring of stakeholders who subscribe to the strategy and commit themselves by signing the declaration of voluntary commitment.

The declaration of voluntary commitment to the NBS

Within two years, subscribers may take action by a declaration of voluntary commitment to the NBS presenting the projects they intend to carry out. They may subscribe and commit themselves throughout the duration of the NBS 2011-2020. Their actions must go beyond mere compliance with existing regulations and necessarily have a positive and significant impact on biodiversity. Actions can be very diverse and must be commensurate with the size and activity of the organisation. These can fit into the scheme of existing measures (Agenda 21, corporate social responsibility, certifications relevant to their sector, etc.) and further strengthen them, facilitate their appropriation and even reinforce their biodiversity component, if existing. The commitment must bear dedication, significance and further value, be measurable and revisable. The declaration defines the general framework of the commitment and includes a description of the project, its partners, its scope for action and its objectives, accompanied by performance indicators. It is registered with ad hoc committees, namely the NBS Monitoring Committee or regional monitoring committees[8], bringing together all stakeholders, and supported as regards working methods by the national committee. The acknowledged "NBS commitment" constitutes a guarantee of quality and consistency. It entitles subscribers to mention the NBS in any communication relating to actions undertaken as part of their commitment and to use the NBS logo.

Methodological tools are designed to assist in drafting, registering and monitoring commitments within the general framework set up by the NBS. This is the aim of the "*Action guide*" which contains general methodological recommendations by type of stakeholder, as well as practical examples of possible activities.

8. Regional green and blue infrastructure committees (Comités régionaux Trame verte et bleue) can play this role.

The Twenty National Biodiversity Strategy Targets

STRATEGIC GOAL A - Create the desire to act in favour of biodiversity

Target 1 →	Generate interest in, enrich and share a common nature-oriented culture
Target 2 →	Reinforce mobilisation and citizen initiatives
Target 3 →	Tackle biodiversity as a positive issue in decision-making

STRATEGIC GOAL B - Preserve life and its capacity to evolve

Target 4 →	Preserve species and their diversity
Target 5 →	Build a green infrastructure including a consistent network of protected areas
Target 6 →	Preserve and restore ecosystems and their functioning

STRATEGIC GOAL C - Invest in a common asset : our ecological capital

Target 7 →	Integrate biodiversity into economic decisions
Target 8 →	Develop innovative concepts and actions for and through biodiversity
Target 9 →	Develop and secure resources in favour of biodiversity
Target 10 →	Handle biodiversity as a driving force for development and regional cooperation overseas

STRATEGIC GOAL D - Ensure a sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity

Target 11 →	Control pressures on biodiversity
Target 12 →	Safeguard sustainability of biological resource use
Target 13 →	Share equitably the benefits arising out of the utilisation of biodiversity on all scales

STRATEGIC GOAL E - Ensure policy coherence and the effectiveness of action

Target 14 →	Ensure consistency between public policies on all scales
Target 15 →	Ensure ecological efficiency of public and private policies and projects
Target 16 →	Develop national and international solidarity amongst territories
Target 17 →	Reinforce green diplomacy and international governance in the field of biodiversity

STRATEGIC GOAL F - Develop, share and promote knowledge-building

Target 18 →	Develop research, organise and perpetuate production, analysis, sharing and dissemination of knowledge
Target 19 →	Improve expertise based on all available knowledge to reinforce capacity to anticipate and to act
Target 20 →	Develop and organise mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into education and learning

Mapping between the Aichi Targets (CBD strategic plan) and the NBS targets

NBS TARGETS	CBD STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS (AICHI TARGETS)
NBS 2011-2020	**CBD Target 17:** By 2015, each party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing, an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
Target 1 – *Generate, enhance and share a common nature-oriented culture*	**CBD Target 1:** By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve it and use it sustainably.
Target 3 – *Turn biodiversity into a positive issue for decision-makers*	**CBD Target 2:** By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
Target 4 – *Preserve species and their diversity*	**CBD Target 12:** By 2020, the extinction of threatened species has been prevented and the conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
	CBD Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants, and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically valuable species, is maintained and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
Target 5 – *Build a green infrastructure including a coherent network of protected areas*	**CBD Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes.

Annexes

NBS TARGETS	CBD STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS (AICHI TARGETS)
Target 6 – *Preserve and restore ecosystems and their functioning*	**CBD Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes.
	CBD Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous populations and the poor and vulnerable.
	CBD Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
Target 7 – *Integrate preservation of biodiversity into economic decisions*	**CBD Target 2:** By 2020, at the latest, the values of biodiversity are integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and integrated into national accounts, where required and reporting systems.
	CBD Target 3: By 2020 at the latest, incentives, including subsidies harmful to biodiversity, are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied consistent and in harmony with the terms of the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
Target 8 – *Develop innovative concepts and actions for and through biodiversity*	**CBD Target 4:** By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
	CBD Target 18: By 2020, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources are respected subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.
	CBD Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

The 20 Aichi Targets are reflected in one or more of the NBS goals which are formulated in more general terms.

This is not the case for the following NBS goals:

- target 2, reinforce mobilisation and citizen initiatives;
- target 10, handle biodiversity as a driving force for development and regional cooperation overseas;
- target 15, ensure ecological efficiency of public and private projects;
- target 16, develop national and international solidarity amongst territories;
- target 17, reinforce green diplomacy and international governance in the field of biodiversity;
- target 19, improve expertise based on all available knowledge to reinforce capacity to anticipate and to act;
- target 20, develop and organise mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in all education and training courses.

NBS TARGETS	CBD STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS (AICHI TARGETS)
Target 9 – *Develop and secure resources for biodiversity*	**CBD Target 20:** By 2020, at the latest, the mobilisation of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.
Target 11 – *Control pressures on biodiversity*	**CBD Target 5:** By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved, and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
	CBD Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
	CBD Target 9: By 2020, alien invasive species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
	CBD Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable marine and coastal ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimised, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Annexes

NBS TARGETS	CBD STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS (AICHI TARGETS)
Target 12 – *Safeguard sustainability of biological resource use*	**CBD Target 4:** By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
	CBD Target 6: By 2020, all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably and legally, and by applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries no longer have significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
	CBD Target 7: By 2020, zones under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
Target 13 – *Share equitably the benefits arising out of the utilisation of biodiversity on all scales*	**CBD Target 16:** By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.
Target 14 – *Ensure consistency between public policies on all scales*	**CBD Target 3:** By 2020 at the latest, incentives, including subsidies harmful to biodiversity, are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied consistent and in harmony with the terms of the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
	CBD Target 17: By 2015, each party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing, en effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
Target 18 – *Develop, research, organise and perpetuate the production, analysis, sharing and dissemination of knowledge*	**CBD Target 18:** By 2020, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources are respected subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.
	CBD Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

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The full text of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020 is available on the website of the Ministry of Sustainable Development:

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