NATURE
AND DEVELOPMENT
convergent objectives

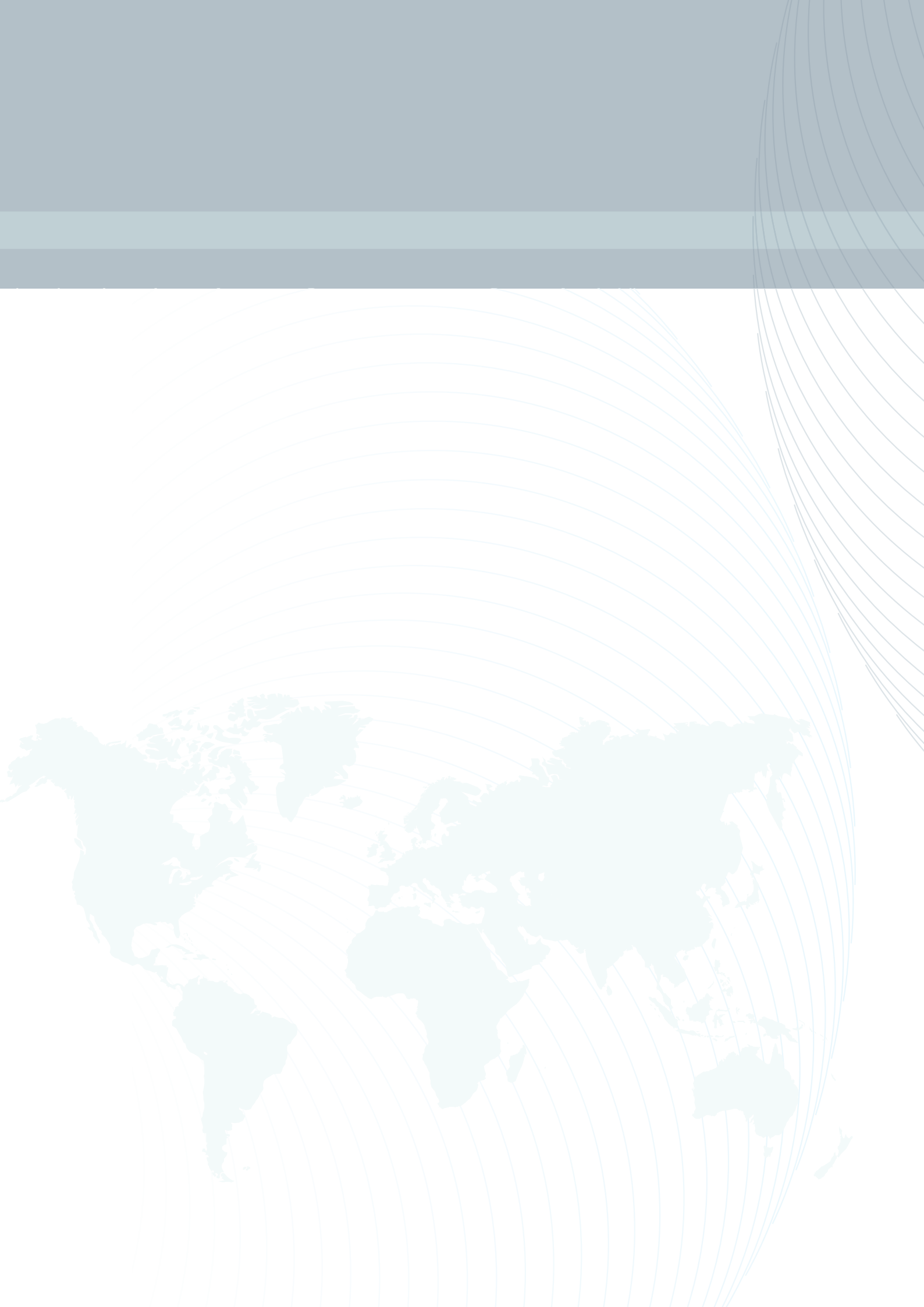
ACTION PLAN 2013 2016

Agence Française de Développement



AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Shaping sustainable futures





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiversity embodies all living organisms and their interactions, while accounting for genetic variability, species and ecosystems. Despite the complexity of understanding and quantifying this heritage, the Convention on Biological Diversity reflects global awareness on the current rapid and irreversible degradation of global biodiversity. Such trends arise in areas in which AFD is involved, including French overseas territories, which host remarkable biodiversity of local, regional and global importance. They undermine economies, increase their vulnerability to climate change and hamper future development. **Conservation of natural habitats and species is now a must for inclusive and mutually-supportive sustainable development policies and investment programmes. This is essential for biodiversity preservation, as well as for combating climate change and its impacts.**

In response to these challenges and in line with the international community's commitments at Hyderabad in 2012, **AFD is committed to doubling its funding in favour of biodiversity conservation** relative to the 2006-2010 reference period. These commitments will reach €160 million annually by 2015.

The Agency has adopted an approach to biodiversity that encompasses ecosystems, territories and landscapes through which the diversity of organisms and their interactions, including with humans, are integrated. AFD's 'Development' and 'Global Public Goods' mandates guide its operations in this sector.

AFD operations are focused in three priority areas:

- **protecting, restoring, managing and enhancing ecosystems, while fairly sharing the benefits of their utilization;**
- **mainstreaming ecosystem conservation in all sectoral development policies;**
- **strengthening partnerships between French biodiversity stakeholders, international stakeholders and national, public, private, scientific and associative stakeholders in countries where AFD operates.**

The first priority area covers all AFD activities devoted to the preservation, management, restoration and enhancement of natural resources, ecosystems and dependent services. AFD supports initiatives devoted to the management of natural protected areas, sustainable use of ecosystems (forestry, fisheries, agriculture, hunting) and the development of products and services derived from this usage (wood, non-timber forest products, fisheries resources, medicinal and aromatic plants, ecotourism, etc.), all in accordance with the principles of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.



Cambodia © Éric Beugnot - AFD

AFD **promotes integrated participatory land-use planning approaches.** Conservation of the natural environment and the wellbeing of people that depend on it are inseparable in the long term from the capacity of local stakeholders to jointly manage their resources.

The funded projects will help to:

- expand and improve ecosystem preservation with and to the benefit of local communities;
- economically promote biodiversity which is protected via support for accountable local sectors and in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol principles;
- structure mechanisms for sustainable funding of institutions devoted to biodiversity preservation;
- strengthen the policies and capacities of institutions devoted to biodiversity preservation.

The second priority area aims to **encourage the consideration of biodiversity in sectoral investments** that could have a marked impact on natural environments and species. AFD funds initiatives that:

- include nature conservation in sectoral policies (economic, social, territorial, etc.) in order to avoid the most destructive options, reduce impacts, offset unavoidable damage and restore degraded ecosystems;
- promote the sustainability of high-impact sectors – agricultural biodiversity, biodiversity in transformed landscapes, watershed and water table preservation, intra-urban biodiversity, companies that promote biodiversity, etc.

The Agency ensures that none of the projects it funds causes a net loss of biodiversity in critical habitats.

Through the third priority area, AFD is striving to **contribute to the international groundswell in opinion in favour of preserving biodiversity** in its geographical areas of operation, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, through initiatives that:

- strengthen the capacities of stakeholders in developing and emerging countries;
- support the internationalization of French expertise on biodiversity, so that AFD partners will benefit from the expertise developed by government agencies, local authorities, private companies and civil society stakeholders in metropolitan France and overseas territories;
- develop operational partnerships with international nature conservation organisations.

1

Back from fishing, Senegal
© Éric Belvaux - AFD

BIODIVERSITY,
A DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY



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1

BIODIVERSITY, A DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Growing pressure on nature impacts the livelihood of three billion people living in rural areas on less than $2/day.

Economic and population growth under way in AFD's geographical areas of operation goes hand-in-hand with **heavy pressure on nature**. The latter impacts the livelihood of three billion people living in rural areas on less than $2/day, with a substantial share of this income being derived directly from the daily use of the natural resources that they tap and utilize. These communities – which are often holders of traditional knowledge and historic rights regarding these natural resources – can play a key role in their sustainable conservation and promotion when they are given development opportunities and responsibilities.

Moreover, **biodiversity and climate change are tightly correlated** in AFD's geographical areas of operation: climate change undermines ecosystems by inducing rapid changes in vegetation, sometimes even desertification; and the destruction of some ecosystems, including tropical forests, is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Conversely, healthy and functional ecosystems facilitate adaptation to climate change. This includes its gradual effects on temperature, rainfall and river systems, as well as the sea level. This also applies to the resilience to natural disasters, such as droughts, flooding and cyclones.


© Étienne Woitellier

Bagan Market, Myanmar

The **risk of irreversible loss of ecosystem services** by destruction, degradation, fragmentation, pollution or human appropriation of the natural environment cannot be overlooked. Their impacts can often be significantly reduced by the application of suitable land-use planning policies. After preliminary assessment, investment-driven residual losses in natural environments should be minimized and offset through targeted measures.

FRENCH COMMITMENTS TO BIODIVERSITY

AFD's areas of operation, including the French overseas territories, host remarkable biodiversity.

France – **party to six major global conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** – mainstreams provisions from many acts of regional scope in its national legislation, particularly European directives on the preservation of natural habitats and species.

Pursuant to these commitments, France adopted a **National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS)**[1] on 19 May 2011. Based on twenty objectives that transpose the Aichi targets[2], NBS 2011-2020 organises voluntary contributions of all French government and private stakeholders to the preservation of biodiversity at various territorial levels and in all activity sectors (water, ground, sea, climate, energy, agriculture, forestry, urban planning, infrastructure, ecotourism, industry, trade, education, research, health, etc.). Targets 16 and 17 are especially pivotal for AFD as its areas of operation, including the French overseas territories, host remarkable biodiversity of prime local, regional and global importance.

The National Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020 and international action

Strategic goal: Ensure consistency across policies and the effectiveness of action

"Acting in a way which takes into account the concerns of those who are located at a distance and with whom we sometimes interact without even being aware of it: the neighbouring region, the neighbouring country or a country on the other side of the world. The aim of the strategy is also to develop ecological solidarity and to guarantee solidarity between states based on strengthening international action."

Target 16: Develop national and international solidarity among territories

In order to meet the challenges of preserving global biodiversity, international solidarity must be strengthened, ensuring greater mainstreaming of biodiversity into French development assistance by facilitating and supporting actions in favour of global biodiversity by local authorities, research bodies, NGOs and companies, and by supplementing the array of tools, methods, approaches and means available, especially in the field of innovation, to step up the French contribution.

Target 17: Reinforce green diplomacy and international governance for biodiversity

This responds to the need to strengthen the environmental coherence of French action abroad and to find ways of improving the effectiveness of action in favour of biodiversity, notably by addressing sectoral policies pursued by France abroad, such as trade, agriculture, forestry, education and culture, etc. This involves mobilising all government and private stakeholders. It therefore entails involving all relevant partners – official missions, local authorities, businesses, NGOs, non-profit organisations and research bodies – each according to their own negotiating and/or implementation level, with the aim of reinforcing the coherence and effectiveness of the activities of the different biodiversity agreements, their connections and complementarity, while mainstreaming and better integrating biodiversity into arenas which will apply or tackle them indirectly.

1 http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/1_bis_-_French_National_Biodiversity_Strategy_-_May_2011.pdf
2 See Appendix 1

COMPLEMENTARY FINANCING

The majority of funds allocated to the implementation of the CBD come from multilateral **Official Development Assistance** ($1 billion per year from the Facility for Global Environment, the European Development Fund, regional development banks and United Nations agencies) or bilateral ODA ($1.5 billion per year, with France, Germany, Japan, Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom being the main donors). Private American foundations also represent a major source of financing ($0.6 to 0.8 billion per year).

France is the only country that hosts a **financial tool dedicated to funding environmental conventions** – the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) – one of AFD's privileged financial partners for the implementation of its Cross-sectoral Intervention Framework.

French Development Assistance for biodiversity

€ million	2011	2012	2013
AFD	96	126	204
FFEM	9	18	10.15
FFEM BIODIVERSITY	16	16.31	8.5
TOTAL	**121**	**160.31**	**222.65**

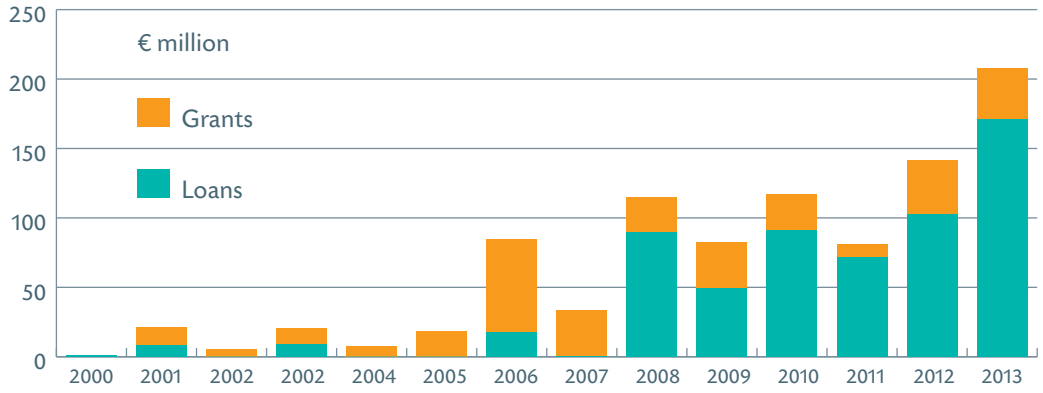
FFEM,
sustainable financing of biodiversity

The French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), which was founded in 1994, is a French public fund devoted to promoting global environmental preservation in developing and emerging countries. FFEM finances development projects that have a significant sustainable impact on major global environmental issues, including biodiversity and climate change. FFEM actions meet the guidelines of international conventions to which France is a signatory party, while dovetailing bilateral and multilateral aid and supporting innovation. FFEM has benefited from a total budget of €354 million since its founding. It was allocated a budget of €95 million for the 2011-2014 period. In 2013, biodiversity was FFEM's main area of intervention, accounting for almost 45 % of its funding.

INCREASED COMMITMENT AND HIGH OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY

AFD's annual commitments in favour of biodiversity increased from a few million euros in the late 1990s to an average of €80 million per year from 2006 to 2010, the reference period adopted to measure the Agency's commitment to **double the financial resources allocated to biodiversity** made at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad in 2012.

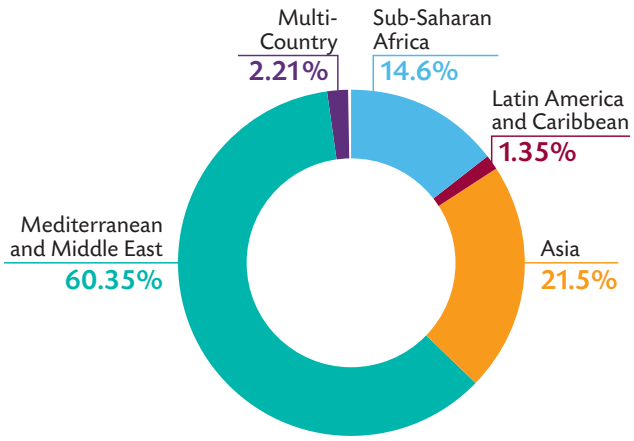
AFD biodiversity commitments over the 2000-2012 period ranked by financial product



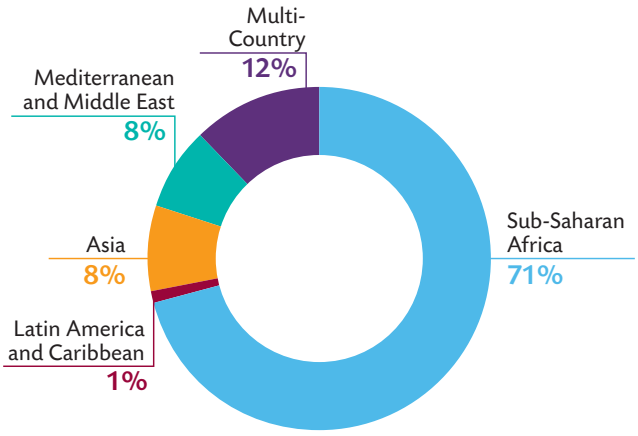
AFD interventions in favour of biodiversity have historically involved a portfolio of subsidised projects located in Africa and primarily focused on the preservation of forests and sustainable fisheries management. This portfolio now covers **a broader variety of initiatives and ecosystems** – protected areas, biodiversity conservation funds, degraded ecosystem restoration, etc. The geographical scope is open to emerging and middle-income countries of Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean Basin. Moreover, funding in the form of loans (China, India, Mexico and Turkey) reflect the fact that emerging countries now regard biodiversity preservation as a long-term investment. This diversification is in line with France's policy priority given to Africa which is, along with Haiti, recipient of at least 75% of subsidies devoted to biodiversity conservation.

AFD has also developed **an accounting method for direct and indirect contributions to biodiversity conservation regarding its interventions.** This method is based mainly on the 'Rio markers' introduced by the CBD in 1998 to qualify national contributions and monitor the fulfilment of national commitments.[3]

Distribution of biodiversity commitments, 2013



Geographical distribution of biodiversity subsidies, 2013



AFD finances **projects coordinated by government or private agencies, local authorities or civil society organisations.** These projects are either solely funded by AFD or are co-financed, especially (but not only) with the French Facility for Global Environment. The Agency may also contribute to research, analysis and prospective initiatives, and organize events, either independently or in collaboration with its technical or financial partners.

3 See page 35.

2

Baobab
© Naïg Cozannet - AFD

BIODIVERSITY
2013-2016
THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



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2

BIODIVERSITY 2013-2016
THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Make conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems an inclusive driver of growth and a sustainable development factor.

AFD's commitment in favour of biodiversity is reflected in a quadrennial cross-sectoral strategic intervention framework report that applies to all of the Agency's sectors and geographical areas of intervention.

It aims to **make conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems an inclusive driver of growth and a sustainable development factor** in countries where AFD operates, including French overseas territories. AFD thus contributes to France's commitments to stop global biodiversity loss.

Three strategic priorities have been set:

- **protecting, restoring, managing and enhancing ecosystems, while fairly sharing the benefits of their utilization;**
- **mainstreaming ecosystem conservation in all sectoral development policies;**
- **strengthening partnerships between French biodiversity stakeholders, international stakeholders and national, public, private, scientific and associative stakeholders in countries where AFD operates.**

Beyond their specific objectives, AFD interventions aim to sustainably contribute to **poverty reduction and integration of the most vulnerable communities** in economic, social, cultural and institutional development dynamics. They specifically support the participation of these communities in decision-making processes that affect them so as to take their rights, interests and wishes into account. Funded projects also address the need for **combating climate change**, while taking partner countries' requests concerning the adaptation and mitigation of emissions into account. They aim to **enhance the status and livelihood of women and girls, combat gender inequality**, secure women's rights regarding natural resources and sharing of the resulting benefits, recognise and promote their knowledge on biodiversity, and strengthen their skills and responsibilities.

SUSTAINABLY PROTECT, RESTORE, MANAGE AND DEVELOP ECOSYSTEMS

Safeguarding a natural environment, enhancing the wellbeing of communities that depend on it, and strengthening their abilities to jointly manage their lands are tightly meshed.

AFD intervenes to **sustainably preserve a consistent network of protected areas representative of the diversity of ecosystems and species worldwide.** Management of these areas helps maintain biodiversity at local, regional and global levels. Funded projects with this outlook are focused on the extension and management of protected areas, sustainable use of ecosystems (forest management, regulation of fisheries and hunting, etc.) or the development of products and biological resources (ecotourism, corporate social responsibility across value chains).

The Agency places emphasis on **integrated land-use planning and sectoral structuring** approaches in which economic stakeholders, communities that are dependent on the resources and have historical rights regarding biodiversity, as well as government institutions that apply the policies are involved. In the long term, safeguarding a natural environment, enhancing the wellbeing of communities that depend on it, and strengthening their abilities to jointly manage their lands are tightly meshed.

Initiatives conducted under the first priority fulfil four objectives:

ENHANCING ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION TO THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

AFD primarily earmarks funding for the:

- **extension of protected areas** for the conservation or restoration of marine or terrestrial ecosystems;
- **enhancement of the management of existing marine and terrestrial protected areas** by supporting their governance structures, defining management plans and strengthening usage regulations, and investments (equipment, agent capacity building, etc.);
- **economic promotion of biodiversity** in these areas in favour of local stakeholders;
- **improvement of the livelihoods** of people living within or in the vicinity of protected areas;
- monitoring of **scientific assessments on the state of protected or restored ecosystems** and promotion of the services they provide. **Cross-border or subregional cooperation** is strengthened to ensure the continuity of ecosystems while enhancing capacity building to facilitate exchanges between peers from different countries.

Quirimbas National Park in Mozambique



© Sean Nazerali – WWF

Quirimbas National Park, Mozambique

Quirimbas National Park (QNP) – encompassing marine and terrestrial ecosystems – covers an area of 7,500 km^2 and is located in one of the poorest provinces of Mozambique. It was created in 2002 with the support of WWF, with the aim of promoting dynamic development via ecosystem and natural resource conservation. AFD and FFEM are the main financial partners of the Park (€7.5 million and €1.7 million, respectively). The first phase (2004-2009) led to the setting up of co-management mechanisms, a drastic reduction in the illegal use of fisheries and forestry resources, an increase in agricultural and fishery yields as well as in income from ecotourism. In a situation of growing pressure on habitats and natural resources, particularly forests, fresh water and large mammals, the second phase (2010-2014) aims to enhance:

- local socioeconomic conditions through natural resource conservation, thus contributing to combating food insecurity;
- the Park's governance and management structure;
- the Park's financial sustainability (tourism income, carbon credits) while taking the need for climate change adaptation into account.

The project thus finances the strengthening of local resource management committees, preservation and monitoring activities in the marine and terrestrial areas, the dissemination of sustainable practices (conservation agriculture, fishing, creation of marine sanctuaries, the management of conflicts between farmers and elephants, and the development of ecotourism by awarding concessions for new sites and supporting community tourism). ■

A roadmap to set priorities for protected areas in Africa



© Ghislain Rieb – AFD

Zebras

Since 2007, FFEM (in West Africa) and AFD (in West and Central Africa) have supported the Global Protected Areas Programme of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) with respect to assessing and improving the effectiveness of protected area management in Africa. Many assessments of national and regional systems of parks or sites and several thematic studies (14 to date) have been carried out. In October 2011, IUCN, along with the World Commission on Protected Areas, organised a meeting in Burkina Faso with key African conservation stakeholders. Based on the identified proposals for actions, a roadmap was drawn up highlighting three areas of intervention: effective governance of protected areas and buffer zones, management performance regarding these areas, and the sustainability of their conservation. This roadmap offers a solid base for building a sustainable conservation strategy and planning African biodiversity conservation initiatives within the framework of the France-IUCN partnership agreement for 2013-2016. ■

Reducing the vulnerability of South Pacific island ecosystems to climate change



© Guillaume Chiron - AFD

Oponuhu Bay, French Polynesia

South Pacific islands are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and anthropogenic pressure, which lead to the deterioration of natural environments and biodiversity loss. Enhancing the resilience of these communities and ecosystems is a major challenge in this specific island setting.

The aim of this regional project – co-financed by AFD (€4.5 million), FFEM (€2 million), the European Union, local authorities and private operators – is to support Pacific Island countries and territories in integrated coastal zone management, with pilot sites in Fiji, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Vanuatu. This involves maintaining and improving ecosystem functionality, highlighting their economic value and implementing innovative financing mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of conservation initiatives (e.g. through payment for environmental services).

This project promotes an integrated 'from the mountain to the reef' approach and combines watershed management and the preservation of coastal areas and coral reefs. The approach is necessary from an ecological standpoint, while encouraging a shared vision at the community level, by strengthening the dialogue with local communities and capacity building in risk management. The project also participates in the implementation of economic and financial mechanisms that help ensure the sustainability of ecosystem services. It plays a part in maintaining fisheries, agriculture and ecotourism, as well as preserving biodiversity and landscapes from the impacts of climate change. ■

Restoration of the Liaoning wetlands in China



© G2S Creative Workhop

Liaohe Delta, China

China is one of the world's 17 megadiverse nations. It covers seven climatic zones, with a wide variety of habitats including 66 million ha of wetlands, i.e. 10% of the world's wetlands and 8% of China's landmass. The marked environmental impacts of China's development have led to active implementation of a wetlands conservation policy in recent decades. AFD supports the restoration of two major wetland areas in the province of Liaoning in northeastern China. These wetlands ensure the continuity of the migratory routes of East Asian birds, while also being major local economic resources. The project aims are: restoration of the world's largest reed bed (rehabilitation of hydraulic infrastructures, remediation, depollution) thus enabling it to recover its hydrological, ecological and biological functions; conservation and restoration of nesting and roosting sites of migratory birds; economic development of resources and sites (ecotourism, fisheries and aquaculture, sustainable use of reeds by the paper industry); and environmental education and joint land-use management. ■

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE SECTORS THAT PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In order to support sustainable ways of utilising biodiversity resources, AFD supports at the national or regional level:

- **forest policies** for forest ecosystem preservation, the renewal of harvestable species, the economic viability of forestry companies and fair sharing of benefits between all stakeholders, including local communities, through suitable forest taxation;
- **fisheries development policies** based on scientific data on fish stock dynamics, long-term management and sharing of benefits between the various stakeholders of the sector;
- **structuring of outlets for the sustainable use of wild plants** (medicinal, cosmetic, aromatic, horticultural and food crops) for the benefit of local people;
- **adoption of ecologically-intensive practices,** with low fossil fuel requirements, which effectively use natural renewable resources (solar energy, atmospheric carbon and nitrogen) and interactions between living organisms in cultivated areas to control pests and non-useful species, thus boosting the resilience of agriculture to climate change and making it less dependent on chemical inputs.

Sharing the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated knowledge



© Naïg Cozannet - AFD

Making rosella jam, Senegal

In 2010, CBD member states adopted the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use – the ABS Protocol, which comes into force on 12 October 2014. Party states undertake to clarify regulations regarding access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and provisions for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use with provider countries and local communities in the concerned areas. They must set up control mechanisms which will guarantee that users of genetic resources and associated knowledge will comply with the provisions of countries from which the resources originate. AFD contributes to the ABS Initiative for Africa managed by the German development cooperation agency. In this setting, the focus is on emerging sectors responsible for the utilization and development of biodiversity for the direct benefit of the local people and communities involved. ■

Supporting sustainable development of the forestry sector in the Congo Basin



© Virgine Leroy-Saudubray – AFD

Bandundu Forest,
Democratic Republic of the Congo

The 2011 external assessment of forest projects supported by AFD in the Congo Basin confirmed the relevance of operations carried out over the last 20 years to promote the sustainability of industrial logging practices implemented in the unique forests of this region. Partnerships between governments and private operators, especially European ones, facilitated by AFD have led to the definition of management plans for around 20 million ha of forests in the Congo Basin, over 5 million of which benefit from a certification system under international standards, such as the Forest Stewardship Council. This assessment highlighted the difficulty of supporting the informal local sector. It confirmed the need for capacity building in the public sector, civil society, and the local development dynamics in the sustainable forest management sector, with an outlook that should go beyond the maintenance of stocks of market-ready forest species to mainstream objectives regarding biodiversity conservation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the social wellbeing of local communities dependent on forests. These recommendations are included in the new funding arrangements.

Historically based in the Congo Basin, AFD interventions on sustainable forest development and management have gradually been extended to other regions and ecosystems. The forest project portfolio currently includes projects in India, Latin America, Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean Basin. ■

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF CONSERVATION

AFD supports **funding mechanisms that ensure the sustainability of resources allocated to biodiversity preservation.** Through partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society organisations on both local and international levels, the Agency finances the structuring of:

- international **trust funds** devoted to the preservation of one or several protected areas;
- **payment for services** provided by ecosystem conservation (drinking water, protection against flooding, erosion, siltation, sand encroachment, etc.);
- **compensation mechanisms** for damage to biodiversity and ecosystems aimed at achieving 'no net loss' of biodiversity.

Sangha Tri-National Foundation (STNF)

Sangha Tri-National (TNS) encompasses three adjacent national parks, i.e. Lobeke in Cameroon, Dzanga Sangha in the Central African Republic and Nouabale-Ndoki in the Republic of the Congo. It has a total surface area of some 44,000 km^2. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012, TNS is one of the last sanctuaries of large forest mammals in Central Africa. Its ecosystem provides essential environmental services to the local and indigenous people in all three countries. The Sangha Tri-National Foundation (STNF) was created in 2007 with the support of the NGOs WWF and WCS. This is a unique trust fund because of its tri-national structure. It is also original in terms of the composition of its capital – part comes from the private German company Krombacher (via Regenwald Stiftung, a foundation hosted by WWF-Germany) alongside KfW and AFD. The Foundation prompted the creation of the Tri-National Anti-Poaching Brigade. ■



© Frank Ribas - BRLi

Gorilla

Madagascar Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity (FAPBM)

Madagascar is one of the world's megadiverse nations and a hotspot of global biodiversity. Its wildlife and flora are unique but currently threatened by anthropogenic pressure and climate change. In 2003, the Malagasy government pledged to triple the size of its protected areas to roughly 6 million ha, or 12% of its landmass. New protected areas have been created, while including civil society and local communities in their governance bodies.



© Guillaume Chiron - AFD

Ankarana Special Reserve, Madagascar

The Malagasy Foundation was created in 2005, with the support of the NGOs Conservation International and WWF, along with France, to help cover the recurrent costs of the protected areas. France (AFD, FFEM) is the largest contributor/investor, providing €16.3 million, or some 45% of the capital. Over 20 terrestrial and marine protected areas receive funding from the Foundation for biodiversity preservation initiatives (supervision, surveillance, ecological monitoring) and socioeconomic development activities (conservation agriculture, ecotourism, environmental education, social investments) in favour of local communities within and in the vicinity of protected areas. The Foundation is also active within the Consortium of African Funds for the Environment (CAFE), which was founded with the support of AFD, FFEM and KfW. ■

STRENGTHENING POLICIES AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION

In all of AFD's geographical areas of operation, including the French overseas territories, this objective involves public stakeholders (administrations, local authorities, training and research institutions, government agencies and bodies devoted to sustainable natural resource management), as well as professional associations and civil society. It includes actions for the **dissemination of tools to facilitate public and private decision making in favour of habitat and natural resource conservation**. To this end, AFD supports:

- the formulation of **national sectoral strategies** for the preservation, sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems;
- programmes for **capacity-building**, training, field operations of authorities tasked with policing forests and/or protected areas;
- the establishment of **information systems** on the state of natural resources or independent observatories;
- systems for the **surveillance and control of the compliance** of natural resource harvesting and transformation practices, particularly those covering the forestry, game hunting and fisheries sectors.

Nationally, the adoption of a **biodiversity accounting** system provides a tool for measuring and accounting for the gradual depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation, which are not taken into account in conventional national accounting systems. This approach requires prior development of environmental accounting methods that incorporate standard environmental statistics, in addition to the economic value of ecosystem services and of losses resulting from their degradation. To this end, AFD participates in the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services initiative (WAVES) that was launched during the 10th COP of the CBD in Nagoya. It supports the implementation of national environmental accounting systems in five pilot countries (Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Madagascar and the Philippines).

Forests and their role in biodiversity conservation

The reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and their role in the conservation of biodiversity (REDD+) is recognised as the most significant and immediate climate change mitigation option in the short term. The principle is to provide remuneration for initiatives that avoid deforestation, reduce forest degradation or restore forest ecosystems. In order to combine mitigation and economic development, REDD+ requires an integrated territorial approach where the issues of governance, landholding, the rights of civil society and indigenous communities as well as the consistency of public policies are crucial.



© Naïg Cozannet - AFD

A moringa plantation, Senegal

AFD contributes to the local implementation of the REDD+ mechanism by implementing pilot projects that combine agriculture, biodiversity and local development, while enhancing capacity building and resources of stakeholders in developing and emerging countries involved in the implementation of REDD+, especially by providing access to satellite images (see below). AFD also supports the development of national REDD+ strategies, especially through its involvement in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). ■

Biodiversity budgetary loan to Mexico



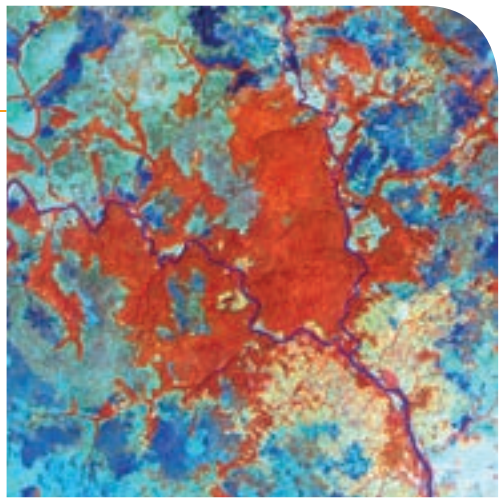
© Julien Calas - FFEM

Mexico

Mexico, with about 12% of global biodiversity, is the fourth megadiverse country in the world. Despite the firm political will in favour of environmental preservation, many ecosystems have been transformed and degraded in recent years, resulting in heavy biodiversity loss. 174 protected areas in Mexico, covering nearly 13% of the country's landmass, are administered by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP).

AFD supports the conservation of ecosystems and their biodiversity in Mexico through natural protected areas and promotes new instruments for sustainable land management. It has allocated a non-earmarked budget support loan of €60 million to the Ministry of Finance, coupled with a public policy matrix specifying CONANP's medium term priority objectives. In addition, a technical cooperation programme conducts studies and exchanges of experience on the promotion of new land conservation methods inspired from the French regional national parks model, and on development through the creation of brands and labels of sustainable production alternatives in protected areas. Finally, a pilot development project funded by FFEM promotes integrated land management and their biological connectivity along the Ameca-Manantlán biological corridor (State of Jalisco). ■

Satellite monitoring of forest cover in Central Africa



© CNES 2000, Distribution Airbus DS/SPOT Image

SPOT 4 image (20 m resolution) with the tropical rainforest represented in red, Central African Republic

AFD is financing a programme to improve Central African countries' (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon) access to high resolution SPOT images through a partnership with Astrium. These satellite data – covering 2 million km^2 – will be made available to any stakeholder intending to work on REDD+ in the Congo Basin. The project has an overall budget of €8.5 million for the 2011-2015 period. It will provide access to archival SPOT data for 1990, 2000 and 2010, in addition to new data acquired between 2011 and 2015. A web portal will be developed to enable all project beneficiaries to download satellite data. Forestry maps will be drawn up from archival images for the entire surface area of tropical rainforest in the Central African Republic and part of Cameroon for the years 1990, 2000 and 2010. In specialized remote sensing institutions in Central African countries, satellite data processing chains for forest cover monitoring will be enhanced. The project is managed by the French National Geographical Institute (IGN, international and national branches), the French National Center for Spacial Studies (CNES) and the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD). ■

INTEGRATING ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION IN SECTORAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services is the result of the shortage of protected areas and the residual impacts of human activities.

The loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services is the result of the shortage of protected areas and the residual impacts of human activities in the absence of suitable mitigation measures or compensation. It is essential to **mainstream biodiversity preservation in sectoral policies** (economic, social, territorial, etc.), as well as implementation tools (legislative and regulatory framework, control and policing, etc.), in order to **avoid destructive options, minimise impacts on the biosphere and systematically offset inevitable damage**, e.g. through degraded ecosystem restoration initiatives. These principles are part and parcel of all AFD operations, notably those related to agriculture, energy, transport, mining and urban development.

Biodiversity also offers many opportunities for the development of certain sectors: cultivated biodiversity, biodiversity in transformed landscapes, watershed and water table preservation, intra-urban biodiversity, businesses promoting biodiversity, etc. AFD supports **new biodiversity development initiatives**.

This area of intervention has three objectives:

GREATER CONSIDERATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN SUPPORTED PROJECTS

The following AFD tools are designed to take biodiversity related issues into account in its interventions:

1. an **exclusion list** indicating the types of projects that the AFD group refuses to finance for ethical, regulatory (major international agreements), environmental or social reasons. This list, which was adopted in 2009, prohibits the funding of projects that promote illegal activities regarding biodiversity; trade in all natural products prohibited by the CITES provisions; certain fisheries practices; the destruction of critical habitats; forestry projects without a sustainable development and management plan, etc.
2. the systematic mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in the drawing up of **strategic documents**: sectoral intervention frameworks (SIF), regional and country intervention frameworks (RIF and RIC).
3. ***ex-ante* analysis** of projects financed by the AFD group according to the principles and instruments of environmental and social responsibility that apply specifically to biodiversity: classification of all projects through an assessment of their environmental and social impact and obligations to define and implement a social and environmental management plan for projects with the greatest impact.
4. the systematic **independent opinion** provided by the Second Opinion department on six aspects of sustainable development for all projects proposed for funding by the Agency: 1) economic development, social welfare social imbalances, gender equality, biodiversity preservation, habitat and natural resource management, combating climate change, and the sustainability of project impacts and the governance framework. This sustainable development opinion is formulated at the first project appraisal stage and is scored on a scale of 0 to 5 (no contribution to very strong positive contribution), reflecting: the management/protection of biological/genetic diversity of habitats and environmental functionality; combating water and soil pollution; rational management of natural resources (water, soils, materials) and waste; and landscape preservation.
5. the implementation, by project owners, of the best options to **'avoid, reduce and offset'** the residual impacts of projects to as far as possible ensure the restoration or net gain of biodiversity.

AFD supports private investments with clearcut biodiversity conservation objectives and proven impacts, as well as benefit sharing with rights holders.

The AFD Group ensures that none of the projects it funds, regardless of who has planned them, causes any net biodiversity loss in critical habitats.

FACILITATING PRIVATE INVESTMENTS THAT ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

AFD supports **private investments with clearcut biodiversity conservation objectives and proven impacts, as well as benefit sharing** with rights holders. In this respect, the Agency can:

- grant lines of credit to local banks to upgrade the environmental standards of their client companies and/or to finance their projects for promoting biodiversity (ecotourism, ecosectors, etc.);
- participate in environmentally responsible investment funds though financing of technical assistance and venture capital.

SHARING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COSTS WITH ECONOMIC STAKEHOLDERS

AFD contributes to **structuring or expanding innovative systems** that allow sectors and activities that utilise or impact diversity or associated ecosystem services to directly contribute to their preservation, for instance:

- operators of hydraulic structures (electricity, drinking water, irrigation) would pay for rendered services via the maintenance of plant cover to hamper erosion, while regulating the water flow and contributing to ensuring the water quality;
- extractive industries (mining, hydrocarbons) would provide recurrent contributions to funds in order to offset biodiversity losses due to the residual impacts of their activities;
- AFD also supports the provision of funding for REDD+ projects that contribute to biodiversity preservation while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It intends to expand this type of pilot scheme to other ecosystems (including the marine environment).

Under objective 2, the AFD Group will ensure that **none of the projects** it funds, regardless of who has planned them, **causes any net biodiversity loss in critical habitats**, including: areas with a high biodiversity value; areas that are particularly important for endemic or limited-range species; critical sites for the survival of migratory species; areas that host a significant population of gregarious species; areas that have unique combinations of species or contain species that coexist as a result of key evolutionary processes or that provide essential ecosystem services; and land whose biodiversity is highly socially, economically or culturally important to local communities, such as primary forests or those with a high conservation value.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Capacity building, especially in African countries, is thus a cross-sectoral objective for all of its interventions.

Through objective 3, AFD aims to **participate in the international groundswell of opinion in favour of biodiversity preservation** in areas where it operates, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa. AFD will contribute to strengthening the capacities of private, associative, institutional and scientific stakeholders through the mobilisation of French expertise, with three objectives:

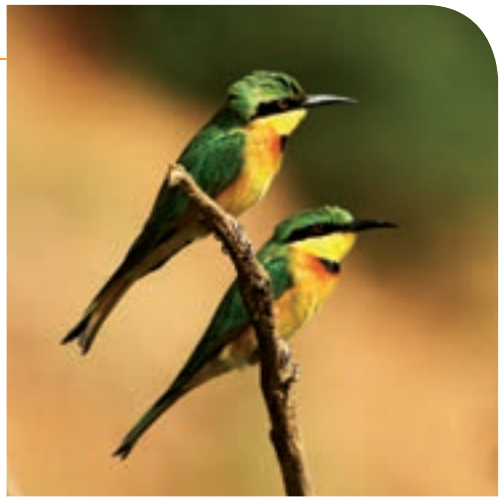
STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN DEVELOPING AND EMERGING COUNTRIES REGARDING BIODIVERSITY

AFD contributes to ensuring that the stakeholders involved – States, local authorities, private sector or civil society organisations – have sufficient expertise and resources tailored to their mission. **Capacity building**, especially in African countries, is thus a cross-sectoral objective for all of its interventions, irrespective of whether they concern **policy support** or the **enhancement of development or management practices**. This commitment is reflected through the funding of academic, professional or technical educational or training activities.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE STAKEHOLDERS

In its action in favour of biodiversity, AFD promotes **cooperation and the sharing of expertise with major international organisations** – NGOs, multi-donor networks. These partnerships also promote the involvement of all concerned stakeholders in supporting France's geographical themes and priorities.

Two historic partnerships



© Xavier Rufray - Biotope

Little bee-eaters *(Merops pusillus)*

AFD has developed ongoing relations with two partners, both of which are multi-stakehlolder organisations. The **France-IUCN Framework Agreement** signed in 2005 made France one of the 10 framework donors of the first worldwide conservation organisation. Alongside the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ecology and Overseas France, AFD contributes to IUCN capacity building for implementation of its strategic 2013-2016 programme in three priority areas for France:

- global governance of biodiversity and the APA protocol;
- preservation of forest and savanna ecosystems in Africa;
- preservation of oceans and regional seas, including European overseas territories.

The Agency contributes 70% of the estimated €7,525 million budget for the 2013-2016 period. This framework agreement is intended to increase the French expertise contribution to the global debate on nature conservation.

Since 2007, AFD has also been a partner of the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund** (CEPF), a multi-donor fund devoted to the protection of global biodiversity hotspots. Founded and cofinanced notably by the NGO Conservation International, World Bank, European Union and the Japanese development cooperation agency, CEPF provides support for civil society initiatives on biodiversity. In the first two phases (2003-2012), 1123 civil society organisations (small agricultural cooperatives, community associations, private sector partners and international NGOs) thus received financial support in 19 of the 34 biodiversity hotspots. AFD's contribution (€19.5 million since 2007) is geared towards meeting three objectives: improving biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in critical ecosystems and selected hotspots, especially in France's partner countries; capacity building and increased involvement of local civil society and NGOs, particularly French-speaking ones, regarding biodiversity management; and extending CEPF funding to other hotspots in countries where AFD operates, while focusing on four priority geographical areas: Polynesia-Micronesia, West Indies, Mediterranean, New Caledonia. ■

SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH BIODIVERSITY EXPERTISE

France – because of its institutional and territorial history – hosts broad ranging **scientific and technical expertise in the fields of the conservation, management and sustainable use of land and natural resources.** This expertise is embodied by a network of institutional stakeholders and public authorities, socioeconomic stakeholders in private or associative sectors that are involved in biodiversity conservation in France or abroad. This network should soon be brought together under the umbrella of a national biodiversity agency. A non-exhaustive list includes: educational and research institutions (CIRAD, CNRS, IFREMER, IRD, IRSTEA, etc.), specialized institutes, agencies and technical offices (Conservatoire du Littoral, IGN, ONCFS, ONEMA, ONF, MNHN, botanical gardens, conservatories, etc.), parks and protected areas (French national parks, regional natural parks, conservatories of natural areas, nature reserves, etc.), consulting firms or associations competent in these areas.

AFD acts as a facilitator for **mobilizing this French expertise in response to its partners' needs**, via funding technical assistance missions along with their financial support, or by providing support to strengthen partnerships between French civil society and local stakeholders in developing and emerging countries, and in overseas territories.

3

Madagascar
© Nicolas Hertkorn - AFD

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE FOR CONSERVATION



Shaping sustainable futures

3

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE FOR CONSERVATION

These initiatives contribute to anchoring AFD's strategies and operations in robust scientific and technical knowledge, while incorporating lessons from past experience.

In addition to its investment activities, AFD is committed to biodiversity by **producing knowledge** through research, project **assessments**, and finally via its training centre based in Marseille (CEFEB), providing **capacity building for its agents and partners**. These initiatives contribute to anchoring AFD's strategies and operations in robust scientific and technical knowledge, while incorporating lessons from past experience. This effort also helps to build the capacities of partner countries and regions regarding conservation and sustainable management. Finally, it fuels national and international debates on environment-development links. To support AFD's operations, biodiversity knowledge production has three objectives:

DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY FOR MAKING SUSTAINABLE CHOICES

This objective requires supporting and conducting research to **gain insight into the functions and value of biodiversity and environmental services** so as to be able to better target decisions concerning them. This includes more in-depth assessment and analysis of the impacts of biodiversity loss, measuring the economic value of natural capital, the costs of inaction or, conversely, the benefits generated by biodiversity preservation, and appraisal of the social value of biodiversity, especially for the poorest people, and **specifying factors regarding the environmental effectiveness of policies**. Studies carried out on these issues are focused, for instance, on sustainable financing mechanisms for biodiversity preservation, assessing institutions responsible for conservation and public policy, stakeholder interactions, population participation factors, or mainstreaming environmental issues in strategic and operational decisions.

ASSESSING AND CAPITALIZING ON THE RESULTS AND IMPACTS OF GRANTED FUNDING

The internal project assessment process enhances the quality of operations and their impacts. To this end, the Agency has developed an in-depth project **monitoring-assessment-capitalization** framework which is mainly based on an impact-oriented set of indicators, including those related to biodiversity.

These assessments and research studies are conducted in partnership with French and foreign research centres, NGOs, consulting firms and partner countries.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Through its Centre for Financial, Economic and Banking Studies (CEFEB), AFD is providing capacity building on biodiversity for its staff, in partnership with FFEM, and with the support of the public interest group *Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels* (ATEN), which acts as a training centre for French managers and agents of protected areas. It thus trains a minimum of 25 agents per year, including a substantial number of managers. This training should **give them in-depth insight into interrelations between biodiversity and development issues, showcase French expertise that can be mobilised** to the benefit of the Agency's partners, and **share experience acquired** in AFD-funded operations. Finally, it enables agents to manage the implementation of available tools and procedures so as to mainstream biodiversity in their projects, and help reduce their footprint regarding the environment and natural resources. Through CEFEB, AFD is also a partner for educational courses on sustainable development that are open to students and professionals from developing and emerging countries.

Accounting
for AFD's biodiversity commitment

In 1998, CBD introduced markers graded on a scale of 0 to 2 to qualify national contributions and monitor commitment fulfilment. These markers are currently questioned, especially with respect to accounting 100% for commitments not devoted to biodiversity but contributing positively to it (Rio Biodiversity marker 1). Since 2009, the European Union has been applying a 40% weighting to this type of commitment. The accounting rules for national contributions to global biodiversity are currently being reviewed within the CBD framework.

During project preparation, AFD project managers grade their project contributions based on the Rio Biodiversity markers:

0 no significant contribution,
1 significant but secondary contribution,
2 main goal.

The proposed approach to account for AFD's biodiversity commitments is based on these markers. Grade 2 projects account for 100% of their budget. For grade 1 projects, weighting is applied according to the extent of the implicit or explicit positive impact of the conservation project. (see table).

Accounting for biodiversity projects

Type of activity	Subject (examples)	Percentage of funding	Goals
Marker 2 projects (Rio Biodiversity)	Protected area (marine or terrestrial)	100%	1
	Support for environmental NGOs		
	Biodiversity trust funds		
	Budget support for biodiversity public investment programmes		
Marker 1 projects (Rio Biodiversity)	Sustainable management of forests	80%	1
	Sustainable management of fisheries		
	REDD		
Marker 1 projects (Rio Biodiversity)	Agro-ecology	30%	2
	Pastoralism-transhumance		
	Organic fair-trade sectors		
	Wastewater treatment, IWRM		
Marker 1 projects (Rio Biodiversity)	Urban development with an urban biodiversity element	5%	2
	Sustainable waste treatment – Reducing waste impact		
	Credit lines dedicated to the environment (non-climate)		
AFD staff (FTE)	Value of FTEs allocated to biodiversity	100%	3
Communication	Activities with a biodiversity aspect	50%	3
Knowledge production	Studies focused on biodiversity	100%	3

APPENDIX

Gecko *(Pachydactylus rangei)*
© Ghislain Rieb - AFD



Shaping sustainable futures

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

GOAL A | ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS BY MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

TARGET A.1

By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

TARGET A.2

By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

TARGET A.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 Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

TARGET A.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.

GOAL B | REDUCE THE DIRECT PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE

TARGET B.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.

TARGET B.6

By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

TARGET B.7

By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

TARGET B.8

By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

TARGET B.9

By 2020, invasive alien 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.

TARGET B.10

By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

STRATEGIC GOAL C | TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY BY SAFEGUARDING ECOSYSTEMS, SPECIES AND GENETIC DIVERSITY

TARGET C.11

By 2020, at least 17 % of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 % of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

TARGET C.12

By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

TARGET C.13

By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

STRATEGIC GOAL D | ENHANCE THE BENEFITS TO ALL FROM BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

TARGET D.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 and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

TARGET D.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 D.16

By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

STRATEGIC GOAL E | ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH PARTICIPATORY PLANNING, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

TARGET E.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 E.18

By 2020, the 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.

TARGET E.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.

TARGET E.20

By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization 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 Mobilization, 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.

AFD, the *Agence Française de Développement*, is a public development-finance institution that has worked for seventy years to alleviate poverty and foster sustainable development in the developing world and in the French Overseas Provinces. AFD executes the French government's development aid policies.

Working on four continents, AFD has seventy-one field offices and bureaus, including nine in France's overseas provinces and one in Brussels. The Agency provides financing and support for projects that improve living conditions, promote economic growth, and protect the planet.

In 2013, AFD committed €7.8 billion to projects in developing and emerging countries and in the French Overseas Provinces. These AFD-financed projects will provide schooling for children, improve maternal health, promote equality between men and women, support farmers and small businesses, and bolster access to drinking water, transportation and energy. These newly-funded projects will also help mitigate climate disruption by abating nearly 3.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent annually.



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