Monograph on the French National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) review process


September 2014

1. Introduction: National context

a. French territory is rich in natural resources and has an exceptional terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Owing to its geographical position in Europe and overseas, France has an immensely rich natural and cultural heritage, making it a "megadiverse" country. Indeed, its overseas departments, territories and collectivities cover a wide range of latitudes: the Mascarene Islands, Guiana Shield, Caribbean, South Pacific, Austral and Antarctic Islands, and the North American sub-boreal zone. In continental Europe, France lies at a crossroads of influences and covers 4 of the 11 biogeographical regions (Atlantic, alpine, continental and Mediterranean). French territory can thus be found in 5 of the world's 37 terrestrial biodiversity hotspots identified by the WWF and the IUCN; four of these hotspots are overseas. In addition, the French exclusive economic zone covers more than 11 million km², making it the second largest in the world. All these elements give the country a high degree of responsibility in terms of biodiversity.

This wealth is an asset in meeting the challenge of ecological transition. Firstly, biodiversity, whether it be genetic, specific, ecosystemic or landscape biodiversity, is one of the foundations of France's cultural diversity. The traditional knowledge of French populations is partly linked to their knowledge of biodiversity, both in mainland France and overseas. Indeed, biodiversity is the direct or indirect basis of many human activities, from nutrition and medicine to clothing, construction, agriculture and livestock farming. It is also a source of advantages that benefit us all. The exploratory study to assess the services provided by ecosystems in France identified 43 ecosystemic services in three categories:

- provisioning services (fruit and vegetable crops, building timber and fuelwood, fish resources, etc.);
- regulating services (forests preventing avalanches, rivers regulating flooding, attenuation of climatic variations, etc.);
- cultural and aesthetic services (landscapes for leisure pursuits, the cultural or religious value of certain natural environments, etc.).

The status and trends in biological diversity remain worrying, although there is evidence of increasing mobilisation of the various stakeholders concerned.

Biodiversity is vulnerable and threatened: the destruction, fragmentation and deterioration of habitats, the pollution of air, soil, watercourses and oceans, the exploitation of species at a rate that does not allow for the replenishment of their populations, the arrival or spread of invasive
alien species, climate change and changes or reductions in human activity lead to landscape homogenisation and the loss of biodiversity.

Thus, even if the conservation status of habitats and species of Community interest has stabilised in France, no significant improvement has been seen yet. According to France's 2013 reporting data for the European Union's Habitats and Species Directive, only 22% of the habitats of Community interest have a favourable conservation status. This is a slight improvement compared to 2007, when only 17% of habitats of Community interest had a favourable conservation status. The reporting also revealed a distinct improvement in the knowledge about habitats and species and the methods for assessing their status. However, the situation varies from one ecosystem type to another, and this could determine priorities. Some agricultural ecosystems, for example, are particularly threatened, and this would justify priority investment.

Changing demographic trends, production methods and consumption patterns are also exacerbating pressure. The relative extent of the pressure varies depending on the geographical, human and ecological context. For example, the Polynesian atolls are particularly sensitive to rising sea levels caused by climate change. The impact of invasive alien species is very significant in island environments, particularly overseas.

At the same time, there is evidence of the mobilisation of stakeholders.

The perception of biodiversity by the French population has changed. Over a third of French people (35%) say that the loss of biodiversity is already having an impact on their daily lives (rising from 28% in 2010). The French place issues of biodiversity loss among the most worrying problems concerning the degradation of the environment. Production methods are increasingly cited among the reasons for this loss of biodiversity. (Source: CREDOC / « Les Français et la biodiversité » - 2013 CREDOC survey).

At the same time, there is an increase in national spending\(^1\) on biodiversity, which includes spending by central and local government, Europe, businesses and households. Investment to protect biodiversity and landscapes thus rose by an average of 5.8% per year between 2000 and 2011. Funding for the management of habitats and species and the acquisition of knowledge rose by 10.6% and 16.5% respectively over this period. On the other hand, funding of actions to reduce pressure on habitats rose by only 0.5% and thus needs to be increased.

b. Biodiversity policy is managed by the Ministry of Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development\(^2\)

France’s institutional structure has changed significantly over the last 40 years. The first Ministry for the Protection of Nature and the Environment was set up under the authority of the Prime Minister in 1971. It became the Ministry of Ecology in 2005 and underwent extensive restructuring in 2008 following its merger with the Ministry of Equipment and Transports to become the Ministry of Ecology, Energy, and Sustainable Development.

---

1. L’économie de l’environnement en 2011, CGDD, Références, July 2013
2. Sometimes called the "Ministry of Sustainable Development".
These changes reflect the desire to take into account issues regarding environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources in all sectoral policies. Policies on ecology, transport and energy thus fall under the responsibility of a single ministerial department in order to promote growth and respect for the environment.

The implementation of policy on ecology is controlled by the State, both by central and decentralised state departments, and by the various regions. This is done via public bodies and local and regional authorities. Decentralised government entrusts the management of biodiversity policies to the regions in particular. For example, the regions are co-developing the regional ecological coherence schemes with the State within the terms of the Biodiversity bill that is currently under discussion; they will soon develop and implement regional biodiversity strategies (RBSs). The French departments are implementing action to protect over 200,000 hectares of sensitive natural areas through land acquisition and land-use planning, and local authority groups are the principal managers of the 1753 Natura 2000 sites.

1976 was a milestone, with the adoption of the Nature Conservation Act that marked the inception of French environment law which has laid out the framework for impact studies, the protection of species, natural reserves and the approval of nature conservation associations.\(^3\)

The adoption of the environment charter\(^4\) in 2005 put the principles of environmental protection on the same level as the Human and Citizen Rights of 1789 and the economic and social rights of the 1946 preamble of the Constitution. It recognises, in particular, the right for all to live in a balanced and healthy environment, the right to access information held by public authorities and the right to participate in public decisions that have an impact on the environment. The fundamental principles of environmental preservation are also enshrined in the French Constitution (article 34).

The 2009 Grenelle Environment Forum was an important step in mobilising all the elements of French society with regard to environmental issues – the State, local authorities, economic stakeholders, social partners and civil society. The conclusions drawn from the Grenelle Forum have been integrated into the laws of 3 August 2009 (known as Grenelle 1) and 12 July 2010 (known as Grenelle 2). The NBS review follows the same principle of consultation as was adopted during the Grenelle Forum.

Finally, at the opening of the 2012 environmental conference, the President of the Republic promised to "make France an exemplary country with regard to regaining biodiversity". This commitment is included in the roadmap for ecological transition drafted by the government following this conference and is reflected in a biodiversity bill to be examined by Parliament in 2015. This bill aims to contribute to a better reconciliation between human activity and biodiversity and to provide a response to the commitment made as a Party to the CBD to "live in harmony with nature".

c. **The national biodiversity strategy: France's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

---


\(^4\) [http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/La-Charte-de-l-environnement.html](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/La-Charte-de-l-environnement.html)

In 2004, France responded to the international commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by adopting its first national biodiversity strategy (NBS) for 2004-2010. The latter constitutes the biodiversity component of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). The adoption of the NBS marks the desire to integrate biodiversity into all public policies. The NBS is organised into four cross-disciplinary directions (mobilising all of the stakeholders, recognising the value of living things, improving integration into public policies and developing scientific knowledge and observation) and consists of ten sectoral action plans implemented by various government departments (natural heritage, agriculture, forest, sea, overseas, international, research, tourism, land transport infrastructures and town planning). These plans were revised in 2009 to integrate the commitments of the Grenelle Environment Forum.

The objective set by the CBD was ambitious: reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. It must be noted that the objective was not achieved, neither in France nor in other countries, as the scale of the actions was insufficient to cope with the pressures on biodiversity. The 2004-2010 NBS was nevertheless an important tool for mobilising the nation to improve the protection and use of biodiversity in metropolitan France and its overseas territories as well as in the marine spaces under French sovereignty.

The French authorities launched a review of the first national biodiversity strategy in 2010 during the International Year of Biodiversity by establishing a national review committee and conducting a wide consultation of all the elements of society: government departments and local authorities, economic stakeholders and social partners, civil society representatives and scientists.

Following this consultation, a veritable phase of collective development that took almost a year, the second National Biodiversity Strategy, for 2011-2020, was officially adopted on 19 May 2011.

2. Coordination of the NBS review

a. Assessment of the 2004-2010 NBS and launch of the review during the Chamonix Conference

The 10 sectoral action plans of the NBS were assessed in 2008. In addition, in 2010 the departmental councils of the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment were entrusted with the mission of assessing the 2004-2010 NBS. The report of this mission, entitled "The National Biodiversity Strategy: assessment and prospects", identified several factors that had limited the success of this first NBS, including:

(i) the implementation and the governance of the NBS;
(ii) insufficient political backing and shortcomings in the conceptual framework and methodology;
(iii) the lack of personnel and financial resources;
(iv) failure to meet the objective of integrating biodiversity into sectoral policies via action plans managed by each ministry;
(v) the poorly defined position of the biodiversity strategy due to inadequate prioritisation of the various environmental protection policies and the various strategies that need to be developed;
(vi) the great difficulty in measuring the effects of the various actions;
(vii) the 2004 NBS development process, which mainly involved consultation between a central administration department, a few NGOs and a few members of the scientific community, but involved neither the local and regional authorities, nor businesses whose activities directly or indirectly impact biodiversity.

The report also made several suggestions for the next NBS:
(i) recall the main purpose of the NBS;
(ii) redefine the lines of the strategy;
(iii) implement a mode of governance that closely involves all of the stakeholders, by setting up one or several committees, each of which should be represented by members of the following six types of body: the State, national public bodies, local and regional authorities, businesses, union organisations, associations.

The review process was launched by the Ministry of Sustainable Development during a conference entitled "What mode of governance will lead to success?", organised in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc from 10 to 12 May 2010, and which was attended by nearly 400 participants (see list in appendix). Associations, local authorities, businesses, State departments, public bodies, businesses and unions were thus invited to take a fresh and creative look at the governance of biodiversity, which is the cornerstone of success of tomorrow's public and private policies.

Indeed, despite the adoption of new measures, the absence of any figures on the conservation and use of biodiversity shows that the accumulation of instruments is not the sole guarantee of effectiveness. Feedback has emphasised problems caused by unenforced and unclear rules, and poorly coordinated stakeholder actions.

As a result, improvement in governance and decision-making processes has become a key to success for the development and implementation of biodiversity policies. Beyond this, governance is a challenge for our modern democracies in which the concepts of participation and responsibility are being reconsidered. It is therefore a matter of bringing together all the stakeholders and encouraging them to commit to protecting biodiversity.

In order to direct the debate on the governance of biodiversity, it was decided to base it on the direct threats to biodiversity. The themes of four workshops during the conference therefore included the loss of habitats, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution and invasive alien species. Unlike the classical approach, which is based on the various natural environments, this pressure-related approach made it possible to better assess the different stakeholders, whether they be directly or indirectly involved in biodiversity issues.

In order to ensure that each category of stakeholder could express its point of view in the various workshops, the ministry made sure that the various types of body were equally represented. A special effort was also made to ensure that the representation of the Overseas Territories reflected the wealth of their biodiversity. The results of the French Biodiversity
Conference in Chamonix contributed to the review of the National Biodiversity Strategy, both in substance and with regard to the how the NBS review committee is constituted.

b. The National Biodiversity Strategy review committee

Following the Conference, the review was accompanied by the "NBS Review Committee", whose role is to steer the process, validate decisions (made on the basis of consensus), liaise with and support the bodies involved and guarantee the smooth running of the process and the quality of its results. This committee has approximately 100 member structures (see table 1), divided into seven types of body, and representing all of the stakeholders concerned by biodiversity: associations and other structures involved in environmental protection and education and the acquisition of knowledge about the environment, local and regional authorities, businesses and professional organisations, public bodies, the State (ministries concerned), qualified individuals and bodies, and workers’ trade unions. This review committee became the National NBS Committee following the adoption of the new NBS; as such, it ensures monitoring of the implementation of the strategy.

Table 1: Composition of the NBS Review Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of body</th>
<th>No. of structures</th>
<th>Name of the structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associations and other structures involved in environmental protection and education and the acquisition of knowledge about the environment</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>AFDPZ, AFIE, FCBN, FCEN, FNC, FNE, FNH, FNPF, FRB, Humanité Biodiversité, JNE, LPO, RNF, UCA, IUCN, UNAF, UNCEP, WWF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and regional authorities</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>ACCDOM, ACUF, AdCF, ADF, AMF, AMGVF, ANEL, ANEM, APVF, ARF, Assemblée nationale (National Assembly), Ecomaires, EPF, FMVM, FPNRF, New Caledonia, OPECST, Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses/Professional Organisations</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>ANIA, APCA, CGPME, CNPF, CNPME, FEBEA, FFP, FNAU, FNPPR, FNSEA, FTNP, FP, LISEA, MEDEF, SAF, SNAL, UNICEM, UIPG, UPA, Vinci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public bodies</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>AAMP, AFD, FFEM, Agence eau Rhin Meuse (Water Agency), ATEN, CELRL, CIRAD, CNRS, CPU, IFREMER, INRA, IRD, IRSTEIA, MNHN, ONCPS, ONEMA, ONF, PNF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>DATAR, DDT, MAAF, MAE, MEDDE (Cabinet, CGDD, CGEDD, DAEI, DEB, DPMA), DREAL, MEN, MESR, MINDEF, MINEFI, MOM, MSJEPVA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified individuals and bodies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>CESE, CLCV, CNPN, CPP, CSPNB, EPE, IEE, INSERM, Orée, UFC Que choisir, IUCN International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee trade unions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>CFDT, CFTC, CGT, EFA-CGC, FO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several cross-disciplinary working groups met up during the course of a year (from May 2010 to 2011) in order to construct the architecture and the content of the NBS. Issues concerning the involvement of stakeholders, local authorities and overseas territories, the instruments needed...
to take action, international issues, knowledge acquisition, innovation and action in the field of 
communication, and public education and awareness raising were thus looked into in greater 
detail. The consultation also took into account the work carried out at the Conference and the 
objectives adopted as part of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Several official bodies have been consulted regarding the subject (e.g. the National Council for 
Sustainable Development and the Grenelle Environment Forum (CNDDGE), and the Economic, 
Social and Environmental Council (CESE)). An online public consultation was carried out during 
the drafting of the text (see section 3 below).

The mode of governance adopted for the NBS review reflects both the desire for a joint mode of 
governance, and the desire to involve all the parties concerned. It has allowed for the 
development of a strategy that takes an entirely different approach to the previous one. Indeed, 
the 2011-2020 NBS seeks to encourage the voluntary commitment of the various stakeholders 
in society at all territorial levels, both in metropolitan France and overseas, with a view to 
achieving the objectives set.

It sets the common goal of preserving, restoring, enhancing and making better use of 
biodiversity, ensuring its sustainable and equitable use, and, in order to do this, successfully 
involving all stakeholders and all sectors of activity. This ambition involves six main directions, 
broken down into twenty objectives, and covers all the areas in which there are stakes at hand 
for society.

The text of the National Biodiversity Strategy was officially presented on 19 May 2011 by the 
National NBS Committee during the International Day for Biological Diversity and was 
subsequently adopted. The review was led by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and the 
NBS now falls under the authority of the Prime Minister, illustrating its interdepartmental and 
cross-industry nature.

c. A European and international process

The National Biodiversity Strategy review process, carried out over the period of almost a year, 
made it possible to take account of the simultaneous negotiation processes at European Union 
level and for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The setting up of a national committee for the International Year of Biodiversity has helped to 
allow consultation to take place upstream of major European and international deadlines.

At European level, several conferences\(^5\) in 2009 and 2010 provided the opportunity for wide 
consultation between the Member States, which was open to civil society, and from which a 
consensus emerged on the assessment and perspectives for strengthening the action of the 
European Union.

The European Union is equipped with relevant instruments that have arisen from the Habitats, 
fauna and flora and Birds Directives – the Natura 2000 network in particular – and the

\(^5\) These include, in particular, the conferences of Athens (April 2009), Stromstad (September 2009), Madrid (January 
2010) and Ghent (September 2010).
biodiversity action plan which was adopted in 2006. The aim is to improve their implementation, in particular the designation of natura 2000 sites (both on land and at sea), management and the raising of required funding. It nevertheless seemed necessary to identify and address certain shortcomings, especially with regard to invasive alien species, ecological continuity and synergies between policies and environmental initiatives. Furthermore, the integration of biodiversity into land planning and resource management policies remains the main challenge.

In March 2010, on the basis of this assessment, the Council of Environment Ministers adopted conclusions establishing a strong ambition to enhance biodiversity, both on the EU territory and at global level, and mandating the Commission to propose a strategy taking account of the outcome of international negotiations within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The EU strategy for biodiversity to 2020 was endorsed in 2011.

The adoption of the CBD strategic plan during the 10th Conference of the Parties in Nagoya in October 2010 was a crucial step in the biodiversity strategy review process, both at European and French level. The various consultation phases allowed the commitments made in Nagoya to be properly considered in the national strategy. This is reflected in the correspondence between the objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy and those adopted at European and international level.

3. Communication, raising public awareness and commitments

a. Consultation with the general public

The public was involved in the development of the 2011-2020 NBS at a very early stage. Indeed, the Ministry for Sustainable Development organised a public consultation in collaboration with the Review Committee in order to involve citizens in the development of the 2011-2020 NBS.

A 17-item questionnaire was put online on the Ministry's website from 22 March to 15 April 2011. Internet users were therefore able to voice their opinions as to the possible priorities of the future NBS and suggest concrete action to enhance biodiversity. During the three-week consultation period, 6312 citizens seized this opportunity to express their views regarding biodiversity and the NBS review.

Those who replied made a total of 13,824 very varied suggestions that can be grouped into 7 broad categories, ranked by order of importance:
- raising awareness and educating about biodiversity;
- listening to one another and making decisions on biodiversity;
- reducing and changing the impact of activities;
- preserving species and restoring ecosystems;
- managing and controlling the occupation of space;
- acquiring knowledge about biodiversity;
- establishing a societal vision of biodiversity.

They also highlighted several prerequisites for an effective NBS:
implementation of a mode of governance that enables the promotion and the support of the various stakeholders and better mobilisation of local expertise;
- demonstration of a strong political will;
- enhancement of awareness, particularly at school;
- changing of agricultural practices (pollution) and industrial practices (overpackaging);
- increasing conservation action (protection or management);
- improving integration of biodiversity by the various regions and territories.

These opinions and suggestions were taken into account by the NBS Review Committee in the drafting of the Strategy's text. This strong public involvement confirmed that preserving biodiversity has become an issue of mutual concern in French society. Indeed, during the development of the EU biodiversity strategy, a public consultation was organised by the European Commission. The French response to this consultation accounted for 45% of the total replies received.

b. The participatory approach of the representatives of all segments of society

The 2011-2020 NBS was mainly designed around a new principle of governance: consultation and deeper and more proactive involvement of the various stakeholders, at all territorial levels, both in metropolitan France and overseas.

For the NBS, this involves the following:
- shared governance with the stakeholders (State, local and regional authorities, businesses and professional organisations, workers' trade unions and associations or other structures involved in environmental protection and education and the acquisition of knowledge about the environment); this relies on decision-making and advisory bodies, both at national and local level;
- effective and increased participation of stakeholders at all stages (from the design phase to implementation and monitoring) and as far upstream as possible;
- steering that allows for the expression of the various interests of the stakeholders and coordination between the different decision-making levels (international, European, national, local);
- continuous improvement in implementation;
- public consultation to improve participation of the general public in decision-making and improve access to information;
- cross-disciplinary initiatives that aim to improve the coherence of policies and actions and make them more understandable and effective;
- monitoring and assessment to encourage action, assist decision-making and drive change.

In this spirit of collaboration and partnership, the NBS aims to improve the dissemination of information, raise awareness, improve consultation and involvement of elected officials and citizens and encourage them to participate and start initiatives so that they may voluntarily contribute to its success through responsible action.
By pursuing the achievement of and strengthening these objectives, the NBS has established a veritable monitoring and assessment system. The monitoring and assessment principles are as follows:

(i) Monitor and assess the results of the implementation of the NBS: An annual scoreboard of strategy implementation monitoring indicators is presented to the National NBS Monitoring Committee to ensure the smooth running of the steering group and coordination of the entire strategy implementation process. A thorough assessment is carried out every three years;

(ii) Monitor the effects of the NBS on biodiversity: The French National Observatory for Biodiversity (ONB), established pursuant to article 25 of the Grenelle 1 law, is responsible, among other missions, for monitoring the effects of the NBS on biodiversity and on the interfaces between biodiversity and society. To do this, the ONB is responsible for: transposing the strategic directions and objectives of the NBS into concepts for which indicators can be developed; developing a set of indicators for monitoring the effects of the NBS as a whole, as well as sets of specific indicators for finer levels of monitoring when required for national, European and international issues; providing data for these indicators and making it available to public and private decision-makers and citizens. In addition, information on the implementation of the NBS is regularly made available online on the French CHM website: http://biodiv.mnhn.fr/fr/.

c. The involvement of all of the stakeholders in the review process has encouraged them to commit to implementing the NBS.

The founding principle of the 2011-2020 NBS developed as a result of process described above is to put in place a coherent framework so that all of the public and private stakeholders can contribute to its implementation on a voluntary basis while honouring their commitments. The NBS aims to strengthen individual and collective capacity to act, at various territorial levels and in all sectors of activity (water, soil, sea, climate, energy, agriculture, forest, town planning, infrastructure, tourism, industry, commerce, education, research, health, etc.). All of those involved, within the limits of their means and skills, can thus contribute to fulfilling the ambition of the Strategy and achieving the twenty objectives of its six strategic directions.

The strategy's mobilisation mechanism consists of two steps. First of all, the stakeholders that wish to become involved (legal persons) sign to adhere to the NBS in order to express their interest and promote the strategy. Each member is then invited to take action by proposing a "voluntary commitment" during the yearly "request for recognition" sessions. A voluntary commitment is a project consisting of a coherent and significant set of actions which are integrated into the participant's core activity, go beyond simply complying with legislation and are proportionate to the capabilities of the project leader.

The applications submitted during the annual NBS "request for recognition" sessions are analysed by a pair of evaluators consisting of a mandated evaluator, recruited by a call for tenders, who examines all of the applications, and an evaluator from the "stakeholder

---

6 The first set of indicators was proposed on 22 May 2012. It is updated and consolidated on the same date every year. The last update was carried out on 22 May 2014. The indicators are available online on the ONB website: http://indicateurs-biodiversite.naturefrance.fr/.
commitment" commission of the National NBS Committee. Evaluation is carried out according to a frame of reference in order to verify that the project is in keeping with the ten characteristics defined for the recognition of a commitment. In the light of the results of this evaluation, the National NBS Committee assigns the status "recognised NBS commitment" to applications which meet the necessary criteria. Those whose commitments are not recognised receive the support of the secretariat of the NBS in preparation for a new commitment application during the next session.

To date (24 September 2014), 410 structures have signed to adhere to the NBS: 160 associations, 153 businesses/professional organisations, 48 public bodies, 47 local and regional authorities and 2 workers' unions.

In 2012, 22 projects led by 23 members (15 companies, 4 associations, 2 local and regional authorities and 1 workers' union) were awarded NBS recognition following the first "request for recognition" session. In 2013, 33 projects proposed by 17 companies, 8 associations, 4 local and regional authorities and 4 public bodies were recognised.

Recognition of NBS commitments does not entitle the project leader to any funding. However, other stakeholders, that might potentially provide funding, may consider NBS recognition of a commitment to be a guarantee of the quality and coherence of a project, in connection with the activity of the body or bodies leading the project. In addition, a "recognised NBS commitment" is publicised at national level. The project leader has the right to mention the NBS in any communication referring to actions concerning the recognised commitment, and may use the "recognised NBS commitment" logo in compliance with specific rules.

The commitments of the State

Just like the other stakeholders, the State has made commitments for the 2011-2013 period concerning the implementation of the NBS by the various State departments. The launch of calls for NBS projects was one of the State's most significant commitments to the preservation of biodiversity for the 2011-2013 period. These calls for projects concerned the 8 following topics:
A) The re-establishment of ecological continuities in existing transport infrastructures;
B) The restoration of remarkable or sensitive environments;
C) The fight against invasive alien species, both terrestrial and marine, in the overseas departments and collectivities;
D) The conservation and sustainable use of native plant species for the development of local industries;
E) Innovative ecological engineering projects;
F) The improvement of agro-ecological infrastructures;
G) The development of urban habitat networks and the use of brownfield sites and derelict land in ports;
H) The integration of biodiversity into local forest development strategies.

There have been four calls for projects: (i) July 2011 (topics: A, B, C, D and E); (ii) October 2011 (topics F and G); (iii) February 2012 (topic H); (iv) April 2012 (topics A and B).
115 projects were selected, of which almost a quarter were overseas projects. The total cost was 17 million euros, a significant part of which was financed by the water agencies, and the rest by the Ministry of Sustainable Development or the French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments (ONEMA).

The government’s other commitments were fulfilled or resumed, as from 2013, in the framework letters for the “roadmap for ecological transition” (FRTE), which is drafted every year following a two-day environment conference that brings together all of the partners of environmental dialogue. Indeed, ecological transition requires the involvement and willpower of all stakeholders, and the active participation of citizens themselves. The Government's approach is based on respect and the desire to encourage the involvement of society as a whole. Alongside the State, it involves non-governmental organisations, workers' unions, employers' unions, representatives of local elected officials and parliamentarians in the reflection and decision-making processes.

This roadmap engages the responsibility of the Government and serves as a basis for the framework letters for the ecological transition sent to each minister for the coming year.

4. Conclusions and key lessons

The National Biodiversity Strategy review process was defined in the context of a need to increase the involvement of stakeholders in its development.

Indeed, faced with the issues resulting from the loss of biodiversity, society as a whole should be involved. Ecological stakeholders cannot combat the pressures facing biodiversity on their own.

Furthermore, involving all of the stakeholders in the national strategy review process is likely to prompt them to commit to its operational implementation. The national strategy falls under the authority of the Prime Minister and is interdepartmental and cross-industry.

Finally, policies to improve biodiversity are interdependent and must be implemented at all territorial levels, from regional and national level to the French borders and European and international levels.

Interdependence between the strategy review process and its implementation will continue. The recognition of commitments is subject to review every three years and the 2011-2020 NBS is also due to be assessed in 2015. This assessment will be based on quantitative criteria (number of member structures, number or voluntary commitments), but will also, and above all, be based on qualitative criteria. Particular attention will be given to the primary objectives that have led to the largest number of voluntary commitments, as well as to the effects on biodiversity and the changes in behaviour resulting from the recognised projects. A mid-term analysis of reports on recognised NBS commitments in 2012 and 2013 will provide substantial information on this.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAMP</td>
<td>Agence des aires marines protégées (Agency for marine protected areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCDOM</td>
<td>Association des communes et collectivités d'outre mer (Association of overseas towns and authorities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACUF</td>
<td>Association des communautés urbaines de France (French Urban Communities Association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AdCF</td>
<td>Assemblée des Communautés de France (Assembly of French Local Authorities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADF</td>
<td>Assemblée des Départements de France (Assembly of French Departments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFD</td>
<td>L’Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFDPZ</td>
<td>Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques (French Association of Zoos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFIE</td>
<td>Association Française Interprofessionnelle des Ecologues (French Interprofessional Association of Ecologists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMF</td>
<td>Association des Maires de France (French Mayors' Association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMGVF</td>
<td>Association des maires de grandes villes de France (French Mayors' Association for Large Cities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANEL</td>
<td>Association Nationale des Elus du Littoral (French Association of Elected Representatives from Coastal Areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANEM</td>
<td>Association Nationale des Elus de Montagne (French Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANIA</td>
<td>Association Nationale des Industries Alimentaires (French Association of Food Industries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APCA</td>
<td>Assemblée Permanente des Chambers d’Agriculture (Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APVF</td>
<td>Association des petites villes de France (Association of Small French Towns)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARF</td>
<td>Association des régions de France (Association of French Regions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATEN</td>
<td>Acteurs Territoires Espaces Naturels (skills and resources centre for nature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELRL</td>
<td>Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres (Coastal and Lakeside Conservation Authority)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESE</td>
<td>Conseil économique, social et environnemental (Economic, Social and Environmental Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFDT</td>
<td>Confédération française démocratique du travail (French Democratic Confederation of Labour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFTC</td>
<td>Confédération française des travailleurs chrétiens (French Confederation Of Christian Workers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGDD</td>
<td>Commissariat Général au Développement Durable (General Commission for Sustainable Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGEDD</td>
<td>Conseil Général de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGPME</td>
<td>Confédération générale du patronat des petites et moyennes entreprises (General Employers' Confederation for Small and Medium Enterprises)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGT</td>
<td>Confédération générale du travail (General Labour Confederation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIRAD</td>
<td>Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLCV</td>
<td>Consommation, logement et cadre de vie (national consumer association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDOC</td>
<td>Centre de recherche pour l'étude et l'observation des conditions de vie (Research Centre for the Study of Living conditions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNPMEM</td>
<td>Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins (National Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Fish Farming)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNPF</td>
<td>Centre national de la propriété forestière (National Forest Owners' Centre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNRS</td>
<td>Centre national de la recherche scientifique (National Centre for Scientific Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPP</td>
<td>Comité de protection des personnes (ethical research committee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPU</td>
<td>Conférence des présidents d'université (Conference of University Presidents)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSPNB</td>
<td>Conseil Scientifique du Patrimoine Naturel et de la Biodiversité (Scientific Council for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATAR</td>
<td>Délégation interministérielle à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'attractivité régionale (Interministerial Delegation for Territorial Development and Regional Attractiveness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDT</td>
<td>Direction Départementale des Territoires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAEI</td>
<td>Direction des Affaires Européennes et Internationales (MEDDE)(Directorate for European and international affairs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEB</td>
<td>Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité (MEDDE) (Directorate for Water and Biodiversity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPMA</td>
<td>Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture (MEDDE) (Maritime fisheries and aquaculture department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DREAL</td>
<td>Direction régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement (Regional Directorate for the Environment, Development and Housing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFA-CGC</td>
<td>Syndicat des Cadres de l'Environnement, Forêt et Agriculture (Managers' union for Environment, Forestry and Agriculture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>Entreprises pour l'environnement (business association committed to environmental protection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPF</td>
<td>Etablissement Public Foncier (public development agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCBN</td>
<td>Fédération des conservatoires botaniques nationaux (National Federation of Botanical Conservatories)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCEN</td>
<td>Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels (Federation of natural area conservatories)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBEA</td>
<td>Fédération des Entreprises de la Beauté (French Federation of Beauty Enterprises)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFEM</td>
<td>Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (French Global Environment Facility)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFP</td>
<td>Fédération Française du Paysage (French Landscape Federation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMVM</td>
<td>Fédération des Villes Moyennes (Federation of Medium-sized Cities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNAU</td>
<td>Fédération Nationale des Agences d'Urbanisme (network of French public agencies for urban planning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNC</td>
<td>Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs (French Hunting Federation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNE</td>
<td>France nature environnement (French federation of environmental protection associations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNH</td>
<td>Fondation Nicolas-Hulot pour la nature et l'homme (Nicolas Hulot Foundation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNPF</td>
<td>Fédération Nationale de la Pêche en France (French Fishing Federation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNPPR</td>
<td>Fédération nationale de la propriété privée rurale (French Federation for Rural Private Property)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNSEA</td>
<td>Fédération nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles (French Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNTP</td>
<td>Fédération Nationale des Travaux Publics (French Federation for Public Works)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FO</td>
<td>Force Ouvrière (workers’ union)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPF</td>
<td>Fédération des Forestiers Privés de France (Federation of French private forest owners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPNRF</td>
<td>Fédération des parcs naturels régionaux de France (Federation of French Regional Natural Parks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRB</td>
<td>Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRTE</td>
<td>Feuille de route annuelle pour la transition écologique (annual roadmap for ecological transition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEE</td>
<td>Institut d’Etudes Européennes (Institute of European Studies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| IFREMER | Institut Français de Recherche pour l’Exploitation de la Mer (French Research
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Acronym in English</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INRA</td>
<td>Institut national de la recherche agronomique</td>
<td>(French Institute for Agricultural Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSERM</td>
<td>Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale</td>
<td>(French Institute for Health and Medical Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRD</td>
<td>Institut de recherche pour le développement</td>
<td>(French Research Institute for Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRSTEA</td>
<td>Institut de recherche en sciences et technologies pour l'environnement et l'agriculture</td>
<td>(French Research Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Science and Technology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNE</td>
<td>Journaliste pour la Nature et l'Écologie</td>
<td>(Nature and Ecology Journalist association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISEA</td>
<td>Ligne à grande vitesse SEA Tours-Bordeaux</td>
<td>(Tours-Bordeaux high-speed rail link)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPO</td>
<td>Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux</td>
<td>(Bird Protection League)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAF</td>
<td>Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt</td>
<td>(Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAEDI</td>
<td>Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et du Développement International</td>
<td>(Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDDE</td>
<td>Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Énergie</td>
<td>(Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDEF</td>
<td>Mouvement des entreprises de France</td>
<td>(Movement of French Enterprises)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEN</td>
<td>Ministère de l'Éducation nationale</td>
<td>(Ministry of National Education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MESR</td>
<td>Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche</td>
<td>(Ministry of Higher Education and Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINDEF</td>
<td>Ministère de la Défense</td>
<td>(Ministry of Defence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINEFI</td>
<td>Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances</td>
<td>(Ministry of Economy and Finances)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNHN</td>
<td>Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle</td>
<td>(French Natural History Museum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOM</td>
<td>Ministère des Outre-Mer</td>
<td>(Ministry of Overseas France)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSJEPVA</td>
<td>Ministère de la Ville, de la Jeunesse et des Sports</td>
<td>(Ministry of Urban Affairs, Youth Affairs and Sport)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPECST</td>
<td>Office parlementaire d'évaluation des choix scientifiques et technologiques</td>
<td>(Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONB</td>
<td>Observatoire National de la Biodiversité</td>
<td>(French Observatory for Biodiversity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCFS</td>
<td>Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage</td>
<td>(French Hunting and Wildlife Agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONEMA</td>
<td>Office National de l’Eau et des Milieux Aquatiques (French Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONF</td>
<td>Offices National des Forêts (French Forestry Commission)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNF</td>
<td>Parcs nationaux de France (French National Parks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNF</td>
<td>Réserves naturelles de France (French Nature Reserves)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAF</td>
<td>Société des Agriculteurs de France (French Farmers’ Association)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAL</td>
<td>Syndicat National des Aménageurs Lotisseurs (French Developers' Union)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS</td>
<td>National Biodiversity Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSDS</td>
<td>National Sustainable Development Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBS</td>
<td>Regional Biodiversity Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCA</td>
<td>Union des Corporations Artisanales (Union of Craftsmen's Guilds)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UFC Que choisir</td>
<td>Union Française des Consommateurs (French consumer association)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAF</td>
<td>Union nationale des associations familiales (French Union of Family Associations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCPIE</td>
<td>Union Nationale des Centres Permanents d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement (French Union of Environmental Education Centres)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEM</td>
<td>Union Nationale des Industries de Carrières et Matériaux de Construction (French Union of Quarry and Building Materials Industries)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNPG</td>
<td>Union Nationale des Producteurs de Granulats (French Union of Aggregate Producers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPA</td>
<td>Union professionnelle artisanale (Professional Union of Craftspeople)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWF</td>
<td>World Wide Fund for Nature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>