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<https://group.bnpparibas/en/group/corporate-social-responsibility>

## BNP PARIBAS' INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

BNP Paribas has been proactively engaged in protecting biodiversity for many years through initiatives that target its «indirect» impacts, relating to its financing activities in high-risk sectors, and its "direct" impacts, associated with its real estate assets and paper purchases.

As part of its financing and investing activities, BNP Paribas requires its clients in high biodiversity impact sectors (such as farming, palm oil production, pulp and paper, and mining) to be firmly committed to protecting High Conservation Value areas, sites designated by the Alliance for Zero Extinction, wetlands subject to the Ramsar Convention, the IUCN's protected area categories I-IV and UNESCO World Heritage sites. BNP Paribas has also excluded from its portfolio any companies involved in the production, trade or use of drift nets longer than 2.5 kilometres and those involved in the trade of animal and plant species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and not in possession of a CITES exemption document. These commitments apply to the whole group, across all of its businesses and geographies. To ensure their effective application, mandatory training is provided to relationship managers who deal with clients in the relevant sectors.

In its own sphere of operation, the group takes action to protect biodiversity on the properties it owns. In Belgium, for example, BNP Paribas Fortis acquired Lake Virelles (125 hectares) in 1985 and transferred its management to three associations. The site now hosts a bird-watching station and a hospital for birds and mammals. In France, the group owns a 23-hectare park in Louveciennes, near Paris, which is managed in accordance with the highest standards in environmental responsibility. Park initiatives include maintaining ecological continuity, promoting flowering meadows, reducing the use of pesticides, planting local, non-invasive species, maintaining natural nesting areas, and leaving dead trees on the ground to provide shelter for insects and small animals.

Lastly, the group decided in 2017 to become carbon neutral by offsetting its direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through partnerships with WildLifeWorks and the GoodPlanet Foundation and their respective programmes to protect forests and promote biodiversity in Kenya and India.

### To take its commitments a step further, BNP Paribas also sets concrete targets for the future:

- In its financing and investing activities, BNP Paribas has undertaken to eliminate deforestation from its portfolio by 2020, as part of its commitment to the "zero net deforestation" goal set out in the Soft Commodities' Compact, launched jointly by the Consumer Goods Forum and the Banking Environment Initiative. In practical terms, BNP Paribas requires its clients in the farming, palm oil production, pulp and paper, and mining sectors to protect High Conservation Value (HCV) forests and to prohibit slash-and-burn practices. In the palm oil production sector, it also requires its clients to have a policy for the protection of high carbon stock forests ("High Carbon Stock Approach").
- In addition, BNP Paribas is participating in the research conducted by CDC Biodiversité to develop biodiversity performance indicators for certain business sectors (such as farming) and by extension for the portfolios of banks that support those sectors. The first report was published in March 2018. Research is still under way, with the aim of developing a methodology by 2020.
- In its own sphere of operation, BNP Paribas has undertaken to reduce its paper consumption per employee by 30% between 2012 and 2020 and to increase the portion of responsibly-sourced paper (recycled or PEFC/FSC-certified) in its supply to at least 80% by 2020, in order to contribute to the protection of forests and their biodiversity. This commitment applies to the whole group, across all of its businesses and geographies.

All of these initiatives are detailed in our annual Corporate Social Responsibility report, which is reviewed by our statutory auditors.