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## BOUYGUES CONSTRUCTION'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

The construction sector is one of the most concerned by the erosion of biodiversity. Buildings, motorways and new neighbourhoods all have many different direct and indirect impacts on the natural habitat. Bouygues Construction, through its many business activities (infrastructure, buildings, energies & services, concessions), is therefore directly confronted with the major problem of deteriorating biodiversity, and is exposed to all forms of biodiversity. However, a new motorway, neighbourhood or building can also, in some cases, help protect and even improve living environments, species and their ecological functions.

In 2011, the group decided to define a clear strategy, to be shared by all its activities, and chose to make biodiversity a driver of sustainable construction.

Following deliberations comprised of three major stages – review, definition of priority issues/aims and drafting of an action plan – overseen and coordinated by biodiversity consultancy Gondwana, the biodiversity strategy and its plan of action were adopted in May 2012 and received National Strategy for Biodiversity (SNB) recognition in 2015 (common commitment 1). The biodiversity initiative, which currently forms part of the 12 pledges of its CSR policy, bolsters the group's practices, particularly with a view to renewing its SNB commitment in 2019.

The initiative has three parts:

### **1** Innovating and bolstering the group's technical expertise in biodiversity

The group believes that training technical and works teams and raising awareness of biodiversity amongst the greatest possible number of people are key to improving its skills set. Examples of actions implemented in this area are the creation of a network of "Biodiversity ambassadors" and the roll-out in 2018-2019 of a "green space and biodiversity" guide for all works teams. These themes will also be included in in-house training courses by 2019 (common commitment 8).

Furthermore, the group is carrying out its own R&D, for example on green roofs and on the eco-design of marine infrastructure, which has already been applied in ongoing flagship projects such as the Monaco offshore extension. The latter involves the creation of artificial reefs within fragile natural environments and designing concrete blocks that are able to host marine wildlife. This comes on top of the many different measures to protect or relocate species that are sometimes endemic to the site (common commitment 6).

These exceptional projects are made possible thanks to in-house expertise whose main pillars are the ecology engineers of Elan and the specialist environmental expertise department of the civil works division via its Biositiv brand, whose spearhead is the avoid-reduce-offset initiative (common commitment 5).

### **2** Offering new products and services focused on biodiversity

Bouygues Construction, as a founding member, is actively involved in IBPC (the International Biodiversity and Property Council), which promotes the BiodiverCity label. Promoting this label is a cornerstone of the strategy of the group, which currently has five BiodiverCity-label projects, including the first such project outside France (in Cuba). Several other projects are in the process of obtaining the label. The number of BiodiverCity labels is in fact one of the group's annual performance indicators (common commitments 4, 6). In addition to obtaining BiodiverCity label status for major projects, there is also a determination to significantly increase the number of more modest initiatives with this label. To facilitate this, a new indicator has been introduced to measure the share of building and infrastructure activities where biodiversity measures have been implemented.

Figures for 2018 will show the state of play and will be used to set quantified targets for 2020 (common commitment 3). In terms of the design stage in particular, in order to better factor in all the stakeholders involved in our neighbourhood development projects, a role-playing game has been developed in-house to better organise consultation exercises with future users and therefore helps with the design of neighbourhoods (common commitment 2).

In the Energy & Services activity, a partnership with the non-profit organisation Noé resulted in the creation of a sustainable street lighting offer, which has been rolled out in the northern French city of Valenciennes.

### **3** Getting involved in collective action with all stakeholders

Via its partnerships, patronage initiatives and involvement in working groups, Bouygues Construction participates in collective action with players such as LPO (the French bird protection league), FNTP (the French national public works federation), Orée and WWF France (common commitments 7 and 9).

There are two objectives:

- To collaborate and share expertise in order to continually improve our practices.
- To work together for an all-round improvement in the sector's skills set.

More specifically, Bouygues Construction is committed to sourcing its timber more responsibly in order to reduce the impact on forests, in cooperation with WWF France,

via a partnership that has been renewed for the 2017-2020 period. LinkCity has underlined its commitment by supporting the international call for action launched by IBPC: the charter for developing urban biodiversity signed on 15 March 2018.

