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<https://www.edf.fr/en/the-edf-group/our-commitments/corporate-social-responsibility/a-positive-approach-to-biodiversity>

## EDF'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

### A positive approach to biodiversity

With many industrial facilities located in or near protected areas the EDF group has long been familiar with biodiversity issues. In metropolitan France alone, EDF manages around 40,000 hectares of land and 50,000 hectares of reservoirs.

In 2006, EDF adopted a biodiversity policy. Ten years later, the group made biodiversity conservation one of its main development goals as part of its Cap 2030 strategic project. So it was only natural for EDF to join forces with Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE) and sign up to the association's latest voluntary initiative, *act4nature*.

### All group business activities involved

By making biodiversity one of its six Corporate Social Responsibility Goals, the group has underlined that this subject is a priority for all business activities and companies. This goal also meets international demands for companies to make a fair contribution to national and international biodiversity action plans. The EDF group approach is not just to avoid inflicting damage on the environment or to reduce the impacts of its industrial activities on ecosystems, but rather to have a positive effect on biodiversity.

For example, in the United Kingdom, EDF Energy has set a target of achieving a net positive impact by 2030.

More broadly, in non-OECD countries, new projects comply with international standards such as those of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

### Corporate Social Responsibility Goal on Biodiversity:

Launch a positive approach to biodiversity: don't limit ourselves to understanding and reducing our impacts but instead have a positive effect on biodiversity.

### Understand biodiversity issues and implement concrete, hands-on action

EDF has begun assessing the biodiversity issues of its industrial sites across the entire group.

At EDF's request, in June 2017 the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre began a wide-ranging study of the ecological sensitivity of the group's industrial sites (around 1,000 sites in 24 countries) to be completed in 2020.

In addition, the company is working to limit the loss of natural land by choosing to build on brownfield sites whenever possible. Avoiding damage to biodiversity is already one of the main pillars of impact studies for EDF projects and activities.

EDF also offers solutions to mitigate impacts on environment (fish-friendly water intakes, fish-friendly turbines, ...).

In France, EDF has set out its main orientations on biodiversity through a road map and a voluntary commitment to the country's National Biodiversity Strategy (SNB).

The 2014-2017 commitment, signed by the CEO, comprises 16 actions, relating in particular to protecting species and areas, preserving ecological continuity, developing a "local vegetation" supply chain for ecological restoration, and raising the biodiversity skills and knowledge of all its businesses and employees.

A new road map and a new commitment to the SNB are underway.

### Ecological continuity: results so far

EDF has carried out a major programme to take into account issues concerning aquatic ecological continuity. Since 2012, 37 fishways have been built and over 60 audits conducted and passed on to government departments in order to decide on appropriate measures.

Since 2013, over 60 analyses of sediment have been carried out on hydropower structures and EDF has developed a diagnosis protocol downstream from its dams.

### Romanche Gavet: a positive approach to biodiversity that also boosts the local economy

In the Isère department of eastern France, EDF has carried out a hydroelectric redevelopment scheme on the River Romanche. During the works, the river was temporarily diverted from its natural bed and its banks were uncovered. Once work was completed, EDF decided to go beyond the current regulations on renaturing sites.

The company has partnered for several years with FCBN (the French Federation of Botanical Conservatories) which has facilitated a close working relationship with CBNA (the country's conservatory for alpine plants) to replant local, invasive-species-resistant plants.

This hands-on approach also has positive benefits for the regional economy because it boosts the business of producers of plants and plant species.

### Innovate for biodiversity and harness collective intelligence

As the world becomes increasingly decentralised and interconnected, EDF is adjusting its means of action to fulfil its commitment to biodiversity. Through dedicated working groups the group makes use of a cross-functional way of operating that is more agile and quick to learn, harnessing the company's collective intelligence.

In addition, for more than 30 years EDF has set aside a dedicated R&D team working on environment, in partnership with external organisations.

Today, the biodiversity budget is one of the group's biggest environmental R&D budgets. Over the next four years, the group has allocated more than €21 million to research works on the effects of climate change on biodiversity; ecological continuity; the mitigation hierarchy and ecological restoration and land issues. This work enables continuous improvements in the company's biodiversity practices and contributes to scientific knowledge through publication of theses and articles in international journals.

### Enter into an open, participative process

EDF group always seeks to understand and answer stakeholders' expectations and become involved in local bodies governing biodiversity, such as river and river basin authorities and regional biodiversity committees.

Over time, EDF has developed a policy of cooperating with partners in non-profit, scientific and institutional communities who have strong local roots and biodiversity expertise. Moreover, the company's annual biodiversity reporting allows it to communicate with interested stakeholders (see the annual reference document available on [www.edf.fr](http://www.edf.fr)).

EDF is continuing to investigate ways of improving its reporting process and indicators, in particular on the basis of the 2014 recommendations of the French committee of the IUCN.

### EDF contributes to public policy

The measures taken by the company to protect threatened species highlight this commitment. EDF currently provides financial and technical support for a number of France's national action plans, including those for the apron (a Rhone River basin fish), the bearded vulture, Odonata, and the Pyrenean desman. The company is also involved in fighting invasive exotic species, which is among the goals of the national biodiversity strategy.

Since 2011, EDF has been restoring the various ecosystems of the Combe Madame site in eastern France as part of a national experiment in offsetting measures.



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