

Benoît de RUFFRAY  
CEO

<http://www.developpementdurable.eiffage.com/en/reducing-our-ecological-footprint/Biodiversity-from-regulatory-to-competitive-challenge>

## EIFFAGE'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

In a world facing new challenges in terms of sustainable development, Eiffage, number three in France in construction and concessions, which drives nearly 100,000 projects per year, is positioning itself as an ecological and socially responsible player.

The group, which has its own foresight laboratory on the sustainable city, Phosphore, offers concrete solutions at the junction of ecological transition and innovation: low carbon construction, use of biobased materials and reuse, modular and mutable buildings, recycled and connected sustainable road, renewable energy mix, ecomobility offer, etc.

Aware of being exposed to the risk of erosion of biodiversity, Eiffage constantly incorporates new expertise and renews its constructive and design methods.

NB: the numbers indicated in parentheses hereafter refer to the 10 common commitments *act4nature*.

### Eiffage's biodiversity strategy (1) is structured around three major axes detailed below:

■ **Axis 1 :**  
control the environmental impact of construction and operation activities by better assessing our impacts and strictly applying the Avoid-Reduce-Offset sequential steps of the mitigation hierarchy (3) (4) (5);

■ **Axis 2 :**  
develop an offer of products and services that respect the environment (4) (6);

■ **Axis 3 :**  
mobilise the group's innovation capabilities to meet these challenges (6).

Since 2009, Eiffage has adopted a voluntary biodiversity conservation policy (1), in particular through two Biodiversity and Water and Aquatic Charters, signed by the President and Chief Executive Officer, which apply to all subsidiaries and group employees.

The group then defined its concrete commitments via a specific action plan (1) within the framework of SNB (National Biodiversity Strategy) of the government which was officially recognised in 2012 and again in 2015. In this context, four complementary guidelines have been defined:

- Increase the skills of employees and raise awareness of biodiversity through programs that engage the company's payroll (8);

- Participate in basic and applied research for biodiversity (6) (9);

- Leading an innovative approach to biodiversity issues in the core business (4) (6);

- Share knowledge about biodiversity and collaborate with progress circles (2) (7).

In the continuity of the NBS system, the *act4nature* commitment will enable Eiffage to reinforce the visibility of its commitment to the preservation of biodiversity:

- by extending the internal dynamics initiated by the 2012-2015 and 2015-2018 action programs through new thematic and geographical variations, etc.;
- by deepening some of the actions most in touch with the core business;
- by anticipating new practices, knowledge and know-how, via long-term or innovative actions, particularly in R & D, in France and internationally.

Each of these orientations is based on a series of specific commitments consistent with those of *act4nature*.

The actions recalled here are the most representative of our commitments for almost 10 years, and will continue until 2020.

Eiffage intends to continue publicizing its biodiversity commitments as it has done since 2012 via its institutional website, as well as their implementation through monitoring and reporting under the control of its associative partners, and in accordance with the SNB institutional framework (1) (2) (10).

**Axis 1** Training courses, awareness, commitment of the employees

**Master 2 "Bioterre":** created in 2009 by Eiffage in partnership with the Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, this state diploma at the Bac +5 level combines fundamental and applied courses in tune with the professional reality of conducting projects integrating biodiversity. In 2018, Bioterre placed 5th in the international SMBG ranking and 2nd in the French masters in environment and sustainable development.

Since its creation, some 40 Eiffage employees have followed this training and, in total, more than 180 students.

**Mooc dedicated to ecological engineering:** Eiffage participated in 2017 with the Uved in the creation of a Mooc on the new professions of biodiversity which reached a record level of registered (more than 11 000 for the 1st session end of 2017).

**Internal network of employed beekeepers:** a dozen employees, from several branches and several sites in France, provide support to install new apiaries on the Eiffage sites, such as at the group's headquarters in Vélizy-Villacoublay, France, as part of the "Bzzz network".

**Biodiversity prevention and risk management package:** this internal tool created in 2010 aims to give the "good habits" in biodiversity to the employees in the field through the fundamentals (law, actors, tools, etc.), good practices (design, construction, operation) and groups of wildlife species. It was deeply renewed in 2017 to be more accessible (digital version), operational and transversal, and to integrate new regulations and practices.

**Commitment of the employees:** internal mechanisms make it possible to sensitise and engage employees to the preservation of the biodiversity by concrete and mobilising actions, like the annual photo contest (more than 10 000 shots realised in 7 years), the Butterfly Effect website, the internal network of "biodiversity ambassadors" and active employees in the company vegetable gardens. Other actions will be implemented in the coming years, for example through individual employee commitments to environmental and social associations.

## Axis 2 R&D

**Ittecop:** Eiffage is a partner of the Ittecop-FRB-CILB 2017-2020 call for projects and is involved in several of the associated research programs: a project on the link between infrastructures, ecological compensation and agro-ecology; and a thesis, funded under the partnership with the Sorbonne University, on temporary biodiversity in the motorway basins.

**Biomimeticism:** Founding member of Ceebios, Eiffage promotes and implements biomimetic innovations in its construction and development projects, like the Nianing church in Dakar, Senegal.

## Axis 3 Innovative approach in the core of construction trades

**Urban biodiversity:** Eiffage has been a member of the IBPC (International Biodiversity & Property Council) since 2016, and contributes to promoting and enhancing the Biodiversity© label, which has become a reference label. Two buildings delivered by Eiffage have been labelled, and for the first time, a development area in its entirety (pilot site).

**Bio-sourced materials:** since 2016, Eiffage has signed an agreement with Karibati to support and equip projects with a high intensity of bioresources, in particular through the use of solid wood laminated like the construction of the largest wooden tower in Europe in Bordeaux (Hyperion). In addition, Eiffage has been contributing since 2015 to the emergence of a timber traceability label with DNA Products.

**Birdlife issues in the building sector:** through a new partnership with the LPO (Bird Protection League), Eiffage intends to integrate these issues more systematically into the design of new buildings.

**Experiments of biogenic and positive biodiversity devices in the marine environment:** invested in this area since 2013

via partnerships with innovative engineering companies (SeaBoost, Créocéan, etc.), Eiffage implements in 2018 and 2019 such devices within the framework of harbor extension works of Port Haliguen (Morbihan), experiment supported by the AFB (French Agency for Biodiversity) within the framework of the PIA 2 biodiversity.

Other markets are also targeted for these marine ecological engineering actions like offshore wind.

To challenge its biodiversity policy and implement its commitments, Eiffage shares the knowledge acquired with its stakeholders and institutions, and participates in many circles of progress.

Thus, Eiffage develops its partnership ecosystem via:

- specific partnerships (Humanité et Biodiversité, LPO, IBPC, Ceebios, BBOP); strategic and technical exchanges (AFB, Museum national d'Histoire Naturelle, Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité, IDDRI, or UPGE);

- support actions (replacement of sick plane trees of the Canal du Midi with VNF (Waterways of France) in 2018, patronage in favor of the Athenas center for the European Lynx and the villages of the Soptom turtles in 2017 and 2018 in France and Senegal);

- or participation in associative or inter-company think tanks (Orée, CIL & B, CDC Biodiversity / MEB, Medef, FNTF, EGF-BTP, FFB, etc.).

The group is also a member of the national Copil (pilot committee) of the Avoid-Reduce-Offset Sequence of the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition.

In addition, a clearly international orientation is confirmed for the years to come:

- active participation of Eiffage in the BBOP on the topics of ecological compensation, mitigation hierarchy (AMR sequence to mitigate environmental impacts), Net Positive Impact or biodiversity indicators (in connection with the ongoing work of the CDC Biodiversity - club B4B +);

- promotion of the Biodiversity® label beyond France with the IBPC, environmental labels in the building sector (HQE, Breeam, Leed, etc.) with little integration of biodiversity.

Finally, regular publications and participations in collective statements underline and distinguish Eiffage's commitment, notably:

- 2017: senatorial commission of inquiry on the reality of compensatory measures;

- 2016: participation in Emmanuel Delannoy's report on "Biodiversity, an opportunity for economic development and job creation";

- 2015: participation in the publication of the book "Ecological Engineering: Innovative Practices for Ecosystems and Territories";

- 2014: publication of the book Eiffage "Towards ecological civil engineering";

- 2012: 1st Biodiversity prize for the Enterprise & Environment prize, with the company Dervenn, for the Fipan project (Intervention Fund for Natural Heritage);

- 2011: Eiffage's participation in the report "Public aid harmful to biodiversity" - under the direction of Guillaume Sainteny for the Center for Strategic Analysis.