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<https://www.suez.com/en/Who-we-are/A-committed-group/Preserve-biodiversity>

SUEZ'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

Suez made a commitment in 2015 to launch a resource revolution, which means designing services that enable development while reducing pressure on natural resources. Biodiversity is one of these resources.

For Suez, it is:

- A natural asset at the beginning of the group's value chain;
- A resource affected by the infrastructure managed by the group (networks, factories, waste storage centres etc.);
- A resource preserved by the contribution of the group's activities to protecting natural capital (biodiversity reservoirs, wildlife corridors, wastewater treatment, artificial wetlands etc.).

Preserving and promoting biodiversity are thus part of the commitments Suez has made in two areas:

- The group's 2017-2021 Sustainable Development Roadmap, whose progress is published every year;
- The Suez contribution to France's National Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2020)⁽¹⁾.

These commitments can be summarised as follows:

1 Measuring our impact and promote biodiversity

→ **Commitment:**

Rolling out biodiversity action plans at 50% of priority sites managed by the group by 2021.

To identify these priorities, Suez has developed diagnostic tools (Ecological Quality Indicator) and decision support tools (Mesange®) tailored to its activities.

→ **Commitment:**

Implementing a biodiversity strategy in all Group Business Units by 2021.

Suez intends to draw inspiration from its contribution to the National Biodiversity Strategy in France, proposing to adopt strategic priorities and action plans adapted to local issues and the specifics in the countries where it operates.

2 Strengthening consideration for biodiversity in the value chain of the Group's activities

→ **Commitment:**

Putting forward 100% sustainable solutions by 2021.

Suez will set up a consistent and complete evaluation reference system to guarantee that its new solutions contribute to addressing the main issues of sustainable development: water resources, biodiversity, climate change, health, the expectations of citizens.

3 Promoting circular economy solutions that encourage biodiversity

→ **Commitment:**

Doubling the volume of plastic recycled by 2021;

→ **Commitment:**

Speeding up by 2021 the roll-out of integrated and collaborative approaches designed to significantly reduce the disposal of plastic at sea.

80% of waste disposed of in the world consists of plastic, affecting biodiversity and the marine food chain. Suez is committed to using its expertise to deploy new water and waste management models that limit the flows of macro- and microplastics that find their way from land to sea.

4 Incorporating biodiversity in research and innovation programmes

→ **Commitment:**

Defining the outlines of a marine biodiversity research programme by 2020.

Suez is committed to a policy of partnerships with the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and with specialist NGOs and has launched an internal R&D programme on the subject.

→ **Commitment:**

Offering our customers solutions to treat microplastics in wastewater before it is discharged into the sea by 2021.

(1) For more information concerning SUEZ contribution to France's National Biodiversity Strategy, please refer to: <https://www.suez.com/en/Who-we-are/A-committed-group/Preserve-biodiversity>

Currently in its pilot phase, this group R&D programme aims to equip wastewater treatment plants with microplastic processing systems with capacity for one million population equivalent by 2021.

5 Promoting a framework for actions that encourage biodiversity

→ Commitment:

Deploying a biodiversity awareness module in all the group's Business Units by 2020.

This e-learning module is currently in the test phase, with help from the group's network of biodiversity experts.

→ Commitment:

Designing guides to biodiversity management for all the types of sites managed by the group by 2020.

The guide currently intended for large waste recovery sites will be supplemented by a guide for small sites and guides covering drinking water plants, wastewater treatment plants, sorting centres etc.

6 Sharing knowledge

→ Commitment:

Supporting a partnership programme of studies and research with the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle until 2021.

In 2017, Suez renewed its partnership with the French Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle with the aim of creating biodiversity indicators relevant to all the Group's activities in France, studying the integration of land assets into ecological networks at different scales (via a thesis project) and contributing biodiversity data from sites managed by the group to the National Inventory of Natural Heritage.

In addition, Suez has made a commitment to a support programme for CIFRE theses relating to biodiversity: having co-directed a doctoral thesis on the incorporation of biodiversity into environmental accounting, the group is supporting a thesis supervised by Orée on the role of ecosystem services in land valuation.

→ Commitment:

Annual monitoring of the group's Sustainable Development strategy and performance by a panel of stakeholders.

Suez is committed to strengthening still further the role of dialogue with stakeholders within the group's processes: every year, it reviews the progress of its Sustainable Development policy, including the biodiversity commitments in its Roadmap, with a panel of stakeholders moderated by a third-party guarantor.