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VEOLIA'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

Resourcing the world is a mission Veolia has set itself. Veolia's core activities, water, waste management and energy, naturally contribute to preserving biodiversity.

In 2015 Veolia made nine commitments to sustainable development, with one of them specifically made to biodiversity. The Group is committed to "preserving and restoring biodiversity" and is determined to both reduce its footprint from its activities as well as those of its clients, and also foster conditions that will help conserving species in their natural habitats. This commitment is made at the company's highest level by its CEO and by the Executive Committee members, each of them being responsible for one specific commitment.

In 2018, Veolia gets involved in the **act4nature** initiative and confirms its commitment by signing collective commitments and by making individual commitments. These commitments are in keeping with its 2015-2018 NBS action plan and will be part of the next NBS action plan for the period 2019-2021.

Veolia's approach is built around the three lines developed in its biodiversity commitment

Aspect 1

Better take into account biodiversity issues locally and design innovative solutions inspired by nature.

1 - Deploy the 2015-2018 NBS commitment and keep on implementing the biodiversity commitment beyond 2018.

In 2015, the Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition acknowledged the group's commitment to the National Biodiversity Strategy in France.

The commitment materialised through the implementation of an action plan to be deployed until the end of 2018. It will be redefined in 2019 when the group renews its commitment to the new Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition's NBS.

2 - Continuously improve its knowledge of biodiversity issues.

In 2015 a methodology to identify the sites with biodiversity issues was developed, focusing mainly on the impacts from their land coverage.

To go further, Veolia wants to add other criteria to this analysis and improve its knowledge in its issues such as its activities and processes major impacts and dependencies.

3 - Continue and reinforce the deployment of preservation plans in the seven main countries with biodiversity issues (nine Business Units).

In addition to the identification of sites with issues, the group has identified seven priority countries for the implementation of actions for biodiversity (representing 75% of the total revenue and 80% of permeable land). Most of these countries have developed a preservation plan (countries action plans for biodiversité).

Over the period 2019-2022, the group will strengthen its assistance and the monitoring of their commitments implementation (deployment indicators, support, etc.).

4 - Continue developing impact indicators with research bodies to measure the state of biodiversity.

It means carrying on the works Veolia and the MNHN have been undertaking since 2016 on biodiversity and ecosystems health indicators. The indicators are based on an analysis of the environmental noise during which bats are counted and identified.

Bats are good ecosystem's health indicators, and studying these data allows to measure the impact of development projects or of a specific policy.

5 - Put into place a biodiversity footprint assessment (or some equivalent system).

As for carbon, the group wants to put into place a biodiversity footprint calculation to better measure the external environmental factors of its activities.

In 2018, a review of footprint tools, existing or in progress, will be carried out.

At the same time, Veolia, will participate in the development of a biodiversity footprint tool produced by the CDC Biodiversity B4B club by bringing feedback from its activities and by testing the tool. These works will allow the group to select a footprint calculation tool.

6 - Preserve nature by fostering the circular economy.

One of Veolia's ambitions is to rethink its activities to be able to go from a linear to a circular logic and help its clients along the same path.

This is one of Veolia's sustainable development commitments three pillars: "Sustainably manage natural resources by supporting a circular economy".

The circular economy systematically turns waste into new resources, thereby contributing to the reduction of withdrawals from nature and protecting it from pollution. For this reason, the group has determined the target of achieving € 3.8 billion of its revenue linked to the circular economy by 2020. Similarly, Veolia is committed to protecting the sea and the ocean through its fight against land pollution and the transformation of waste; its target is to multiply by five its current revenue from plastic recycling by the year 2025 (1 billion euros revenue).

Aspect 2

Raise awareness and involve more people both internally and externally and promote initiatives put in place in collaboration with local players.

7 - Raise awareness of biodiversity among collaborators.

A support to raise awareness, developed by one of the Veolia's activities will be offered as soon as 2018 to all its Business Units. They will be able to adapt the support to their local context, using their own feedback, to train their managers.

An e-learning will be put on-line and accessible to everyone.

8 - Better enhance biodiversity internally and externally as a component of our activities.

To push forward the consideration given to biodiversity in its organisations and by its stakeholders, the group will reinforce its communication to better highlight its initiatives (create more links between activities and nature, breaking down barriers between other SDGs and Biodiversity).

Veolia will also more broadly promote the topic by working with its partners (IUCN, Orée, CDC Biodiversité, AFB, etc.) on projects and publications.

9 - Promote and foster biodiversity projects internally and with its clients.

Veolia developed a portfolio of biodiversity know-how to encourage its clients to adopt ecological solutions in their sites management processes. To go further and as soon as 2019, the group will carry out case studies illustrating good practices implemented by business units and will offer them internally and to its clients.

10 - Support initiatives and establish local partnerships.

To support its actions at a global as well as local level, Veolia will keep on reinforcing the establishment of partnerships with associations for the protection of the environment, in particular on its nine BUs sites which have biodiversity issues, including also other priority sites.

Aspect 3

Deploy ecological management actions for our sites and our clients.

11 - Encourage clients to put into place green infrastructures.

Where it operates, the group will suggest that cities put into place green infrastructure according to their issues and priorities (green discharge zones, vegetalisation to reduce heat islands, etc.).

12 - Assist sites, subcontractors and clients to put in place ecological tools.

In keeping with its commitment to the NBS, Veolia has made available to its site managers/or its clients and subcontractors various tools, in particular the ecological management calculator "EcoLogiCal", a guide to an ecological management and a green spaces maintenance charter.

The group will more broadly deploy the use of these tools on the sites it operates by 2021.

13 - Organise a feedback on the impacts from compensation management and strategy.

From 2019, Veolia will assess, overall its activities, its impacts on biodiversity, in particular in relation with projects that have to comply with a compensation requirement (or similar).