

THE 10 COMMON COMMITMENTS

The scientific community:

- warns us about the damage to biodiversity caused by the current global economic development model⁽¹⁾ and demographic trends;
- gives us notice that the assumption of a sixth mass extinction caused by human activity is proving to be true⁽²⁾;
- explains to us that biodiversity is under threat and, consequently, so is the functioning of the living planet;
- alerts us that ecosystem services will be affected, without us yet being able to estimate all the social and economic consequences, including impacts on our businesses.

The scientific community also specifically points out that the situation will get worse on land and in our oceans if no action is taken to address the factors behind biodiversity damage: land artificialisation and territorial fragmentation that reduce habitats, resource overexploitation, monocultures, pollutions, expansion of alien invasive species, and lastly climate change. These high-inertia mechanisms are for the most part interlinked, indirect and diffuse.

Our companies can contribute to the development of new dynamics. Beyond their corporate social responsibility, it is in their interest to do so since they depend on ecosystems working properly and since a change of approach also carries new opportunities.

We already have solutions and can develop new ones, thereby meeting changes in the mindset and expectations of a growing part of the population.

Concrete experiences in our companies and our value chains, from suppliers to customers, are encouraging us to change scale and create value by integrating biodiversity into our strategies.

Most of the countries in which we operate are pursuing public policies, at various levels, aimed at conserving and restoring biodiversity as well as encouraging all actors to play an active part in this direction. In France, the National Biodiversity Strategy (SNB), formulated within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁽³⁾, implements initiatives along those lines and encourages companies to adopt voluntary approaches to meeting targets set by the international community.

The commitments that follow are in line with those public authorities' initiatives.

Aware of the role our companies are expected to play, we are accordingly committing to integrating nature - environments, animals, plants, ecosystems, interactions and genetic heritage - into our strategies and business models, and to taking concrete action to provide solutions for the conservation of biological diversity, its restoration, the sustainable use of natural resources and a equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilisation.

(1) See latest reports from IUCN and IPBES.

(2) Text validated by the FRB Scientific Committee and reference to "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice", BioScience, Volume 67, Issue 12, 1 December 2017.

(3) International treaty adopted at the Rio Earth Summit 1992, the parties to which adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets).

More specifically, we the signatories undertake to:

- 1 Integrate biodiversity into our corporate strategy, founding our action on available scientific knowledge;
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- 2 Engage in dialogue with all our stakeholders regarding their expectations and our impacts, actions and progress;
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- 3 Assess the various components of biodiversity of concern to us, using direct and indirect impact indicators, risk and performance indicators and, when relevant for decision making purposes, assess in economic terms our impacts and our reliance on smoothly functioning ecosystems;
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- 4 Promote the progressive integration of biological diversity into decisions throughout our value chains, from the production of natural raw materials to the final stage of our products life cycle after use by consumers;
.....
- 5 Primarily prevent, reduce and ultimately offset our impacts, by seeking on a case-by-case basis no net loss as a bottom line or even a net gain of biodiversity⁽⁴⁾ in our activities and geographical areas of influence, and by factoring in the need for ecosystems to adapt to climate change;
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- 6 Give priority to the development of Nature-based Solutions⁽⁵⁾, ensuring that they are implemented in a science-based and biodiversity-friendly manner, and promoting a certain variety in such solutions;
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- 7 Incorporate biodiversity into our dialogue with policymakers so that this issue is progressively embedded into public policies. When invited to do so, contribute to the national biodiversity strategies of countries where we operate;
.....
- 8 Raise awareness of and train our employees in biodiversity and its relation to their jobs. Promote and encourage nature-friendly initiatives by them and providing due recognition to such actions and practices;
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- 9 Mobilise resources and establish appropriate partnerships to support and monitor our actions taken in the field;
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- 10 Publicly report on the implementation of these commitments and of our individual commitments set out below.

Moreover, we call on other organisations across all sectors to join us in making and fulfilling these commitments. The individual commitments set out below take stock of these common commitments based on our respective activities.

(4) WCC-2016-Res-059-ENIUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets
https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2016_RES_059_EN.pdf

(5) WCC-2016-Res-069-ENDefining Nature-based Solutions
https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2016_RES_069_EN.pdf

Individual commitments

Free contribution (about 2500 characters) stating the location and implementation dates of the actions.

- **SMART guidelines adapted for signatories' individual commitments:**

Specific: range of actions that are directly or indirectly linked with biodiversity.

Measurable: possibility to monitor their implementation through indicators of direct and indirect impacts, risks and progress and to identify, monitor and evaluate the effects on the state of biodiversity and on the evolutions of stakeholder's behaviors.

Additional: that goes beyond mere compliance with current legislation or regulation, but also beyond current and past actions of the company, and results in positive, significant, tangible, direct or indirect impacts on biodiversity without negative impacts.

Realistic: consistent with the company's activities as a whole, be it in terms of avoiding and reducing negative impacts or implementing measures beneficial to biodiversity. The objectives are defined proportionally to the company's size, means and activities.

Time-bound: the objectives and planned actions evolve and are incorporated in an ambition that is ratcheted up regularly, in order to improve the ecological performance of the company. It is a true program with an explicit duration and implementation dates.