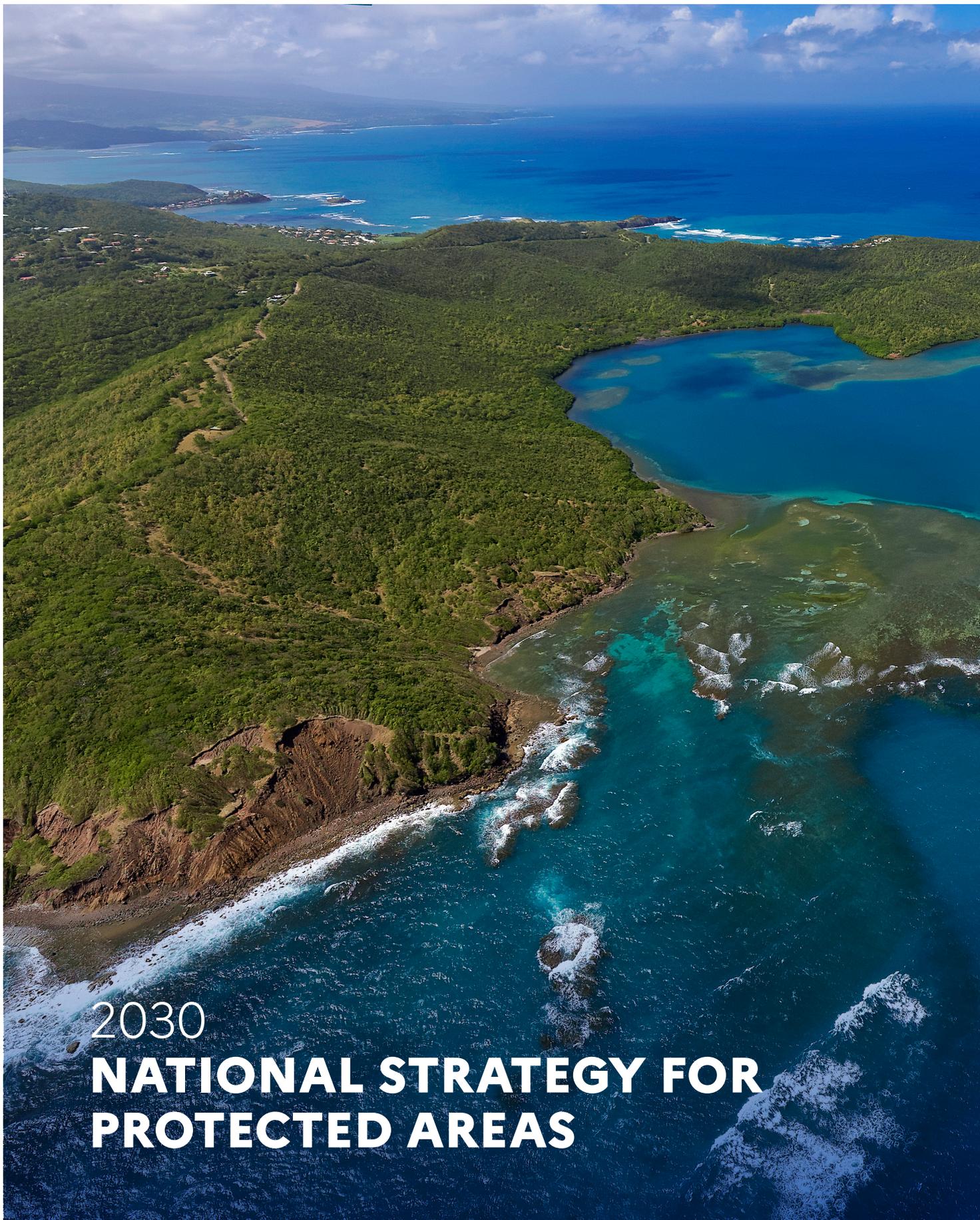




GOVERNEMENT

*Liberté
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2030

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PROTECTED AREAS



NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PROTECTED AREAS



*Île de la Possession (Crozet archipelago)
National Nature Reserve of the French Southern lands*

Emmanuel Macron

President of the Republic



« There exists another disruption - I referred to it when I spoke of an upheaval of the ecosystem – which is inseparable from climate change and that is the disruption of biodiversity. »

« This fight for biodiversity is above all a fight for our very survival like for our food supply, for our capacity to live, to clothe ourselves, to keep warm, to continue to evolve in ecosystems that are inhabited and are our home, this biodiversity is essential to us. »

« It is my profound belief that the fight for biodiversity is crucial and inseparable from the fight against global warming and climate change since they are all tied together and the consequences of failure on one side have immediate repercussions on the other. »

Extracts from the speech by the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, for the launching of the Office Français de la Biodiversité (French Office for Biodiversity) on 13 February 2020 in Chamonix.

Barbara Pompili

Minister for the Ecological Transition



The struggle for the preservation of biodiversity is one of the fights that is closest to my heart. In critical moments such as the ones we are currently crossing as a result of climatic challenges, and especially today owing to the health crisis, we must be able to reinvent ourselves and turn our eyes to the future.

In this context the Government has committed the country to engaging in a profound ecological transformation with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, to transform our ways of producing goods, of consumption, of housing ourselves, of travelling, so as to turn France into a society that respects biodiversity and is resilient in confronting the effects of global changes. A society that is capable of facing up to the challenges of this century.

To stand side by side with our local communities, their elected representatives and their inhabitants in anticipating and in the course of such crises, to invent and carry through with them solutions that work, that give lasting protection, we need to devise inclusive strategies that are shared by all concerned. This is the case with the national strategy for protected areas, which, through its action plans, is resolutely founded on the local communities.

Our country is host to a living heritage of a unique richness. It is our good fortune, and our duty is to protect it. A duty to defend this nature of which we form an integral part and which provides so many services without which we would simply have no future.

Seen like this, protected areas constitute a vital link in the territorial ecosystem during the ecological transition. They offer models of sustainable development, of activities that reconcile production with the protection of nature. Local players must be regarded as the driving forces of this transition, and the protected areas must constitute sources of inspiration for the carbon-free society we wish to construct.

In this task, the challenge lies in the personal involvement, mobilisation and active participation of everyone, including ordinary citizens. But success will also depend on the capacity of the networks of protected areas to make people perceive the benefits to be derived from protecting such territories in terms of a living environment, the preservation of water resources and economic development, in short, of all the positive amenities that contribute to local development.

In our fight to leave to our children a society that is greener, more just and capable of taking up the challenges of our century, protected areas are essential.

That in sum is the ecology in which I believe: an ecology focused on practical action, an ecology of local communities and progress that creates employment by inventing the future.

Annick Girardin

Minister for the Sea



The sea is a territory to be protected. It is a common good for the whole of humanity. It is through long-term planning and consultations among all the players concerned that we will succeed in finding common ground to achieve a useful protection that would be impossible without the uses and users of the sea.

For this reason, protected areas lie at the heart of my ambition as Minister: to plan maritime spaces while reconciling environmental protection with the blue economy. The protected areas strategy now reflects this ambition by forming an element of the sustainable development of maritime activities. For the first time we have defined a single strategy for both land and sea. This strategy materialises the recognition of the self-evident link between these two complementary expanses, whether positive – the nutritional contributions of the land, the recycling of water by the oceans – or negative – for example, pollution originating from the land. This link is embodied by the coastline and we are all fully aware of its ecological role and the intensity of its utilisation. Since the land and sea are interdependent it is essential to reinforce the common framework for maritime and terrestrial planning, and the Minister for the Sea is at the centre of this reality.

Next, without any contradiction, it is clear that the marine environment contains specific elements and these are given prominence in the strategy. In regard to governance, the strategic documents concerned with the maritime facade and sea basins have been drawn up in consultation with all users of the sea. The objective is always the same: to find a satisfactory balance between the preservation of the sea's exceptional biodiversity and the sustainable exploitation of its resources, particularly with respect to the definition of zones of high protection. The consultations, already with a long history, which took place for the definition of the marine nature park in the Iroise, are a good example that we have been monitoring for several years.

Indeed, the protected areas inspire a sense of continuity, which is to the credit of our country. We have now reached the third strategy for marine protected areas. The first one goes back to 2007 and was followed in 2012 by a new strategy. The two of them made it possible to constitute, in a little over ten years, a network covering over 20% of the zones under French jurisdiction, in metropolitan France and its overseas territories. Much remains to be done, further zones remain to be identified, to be shared, to be subject to planning, resources for their management to be established, forms of cooperation to be developed within France and internationally. The Strategy for protected areas sets the goal for all of this.

Our international commitments take on a special dimension where maritime spaces are concerned. We are determined to build a network of protected areas for our own benefit, for the safeguarding of our own heritage, for our own use, but also for the benefit of the planet, in the Antarctic, the Northeastern Atlantic, and alongside the World Heritage oceans program. Once we have reached 30% of protected areas, they will constitute 1% of the world's oceans. France is keen to have everyone recognise the oceans as a common good of humanity and to bring about negotiations on biodiversity in the high seas for the rapid achievement of an ambitious treaty.

Our approach in the form of protected areas will always place the emphasis on the mobilisation of all the players involved and will seek to encourage sustainable activities rather than introduce *a priori* exclusions. I also believe in the value of a protected area when it is integrated into land planning. This strategy is a challenge for us, let us mobilise all our efforts

Bérangère Abba

Secretary of State Responsible for Biodiversity



To protect our natural spaces and the species that inhabit them is to protect humanity, our own well-being and our health. The health and economic crisis we are traversing has given us a brutal reminder of our vulnerabilities and has made clear the dangers of an imbalance between ecosystems and human activities. We knew the consequences of climate change and pollution but we can no longer ignore the consequences of attacks on biodiversity.

To preserve, restore and enjoy the benefits of our national capital, the protection of species and natural spaces is essential. That is the ambition of our national strategy for protected areas.

By 2022 30% of French terrestrial and marine ecosystems will have been classified as protected areas, with 10% given high protection, compared to only 1.8% today. All spaces are taken into account: metropolitan France and its overseas territories, land and sea. This new approach, more global in extent, is expressed in concrete three-year action plans with operational objectives conducive to evaluation.

Our protection strategy "in the French fashion" seeks to re-establish the balance between preserved nature and human activity. Economic initiatives and dynamism should be exemplary. They are a source

of innovation, in particular regarding solutions founded on nature. These areas offer the public a nature that is accessible to enable people to rediscover their roots, to rediscover a connection to the living world, and sometimes even to engender professional vocations in the green economy of today and tomorrow.

The restoration of this balance is to find a new anchorage, a new meaning to life.

This strategy relies on the territories concerned. With different levels of protection, different modes of management and governance adapted to local realities, it takes account of the particular characteristics of each area, seeing it as an ecosystem in itself, and makes it possible to initiate projects that reconcile environmental demands with a strong development potential.

With this strategy we are laying the first brick for the National Biodiversity Strategy 2021-2030. We shall also carry this ambition to the major international gatherings because the climate and biodiversity crises are interdependent and also so that COP 15 May be for biodiversity what COP 21 has been for the climate, a founding moment for mobilisation on behalf of the environment.

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OBJECTIVE 1
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- 1 30% of the territory in protected areas
- 2 10% of the territory under high protection
- 3 Local diagnostic surveys and dialogue for strengthening network protection, coherence and connectivity
- 4 Identify and mobilise new tools
- 5 Reinforce land-use and regulatory tools

OBJECTIVE 2
A custom-made and effective management of the protected areas network

- 6 Manager training and network dynamism
- 7 Evaluation and adaptation of the management of protected areas

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- 10 Integrate protected areas into the policies and projects of each territory
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- 1 Preparation of territorial action plans
- 2 Coordination
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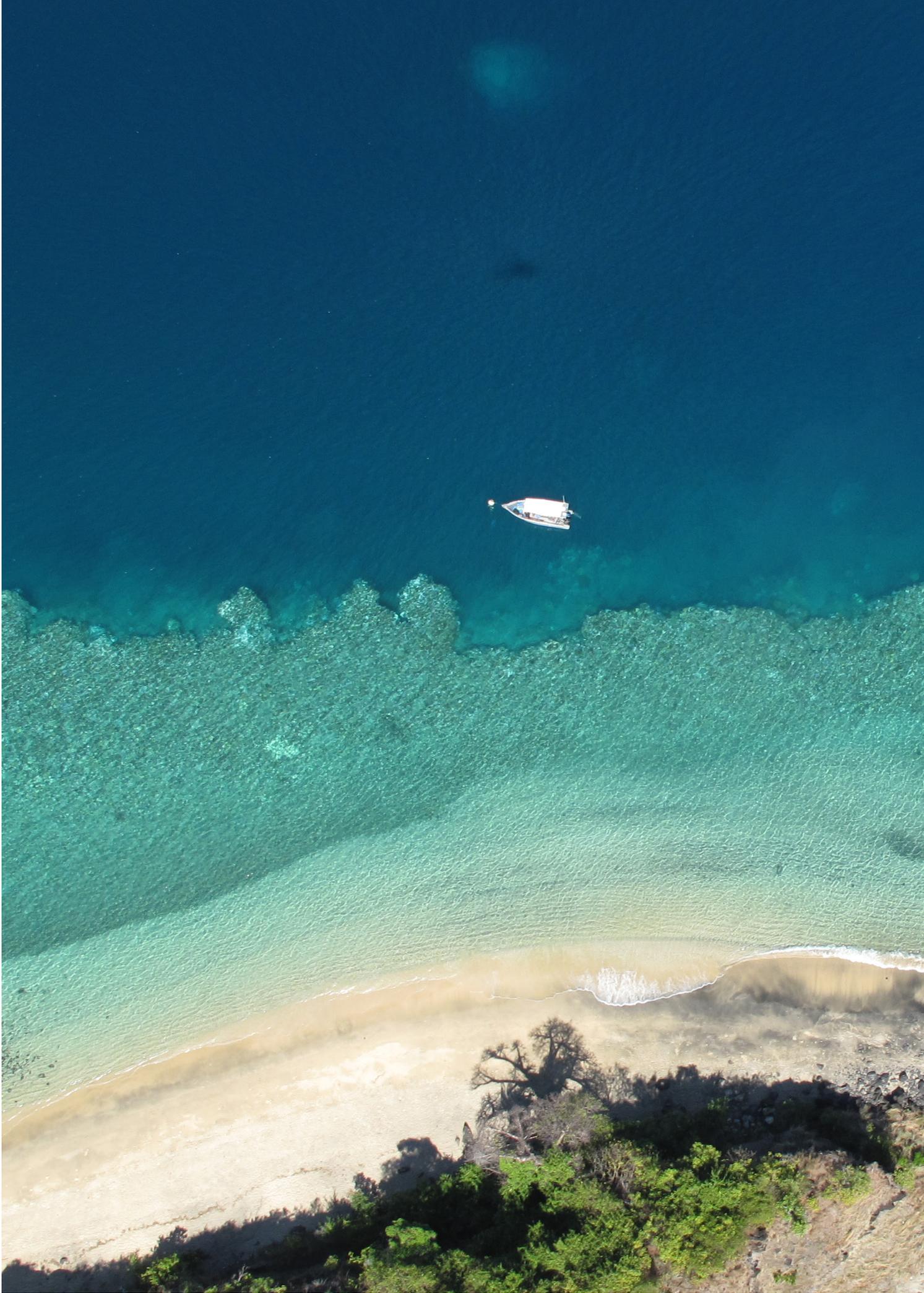
*Transhumant pastoralism at the Aseller pass
Cévennes National Park*

Acronyms

AFD	French Agency for Development
ARB	Regional Agency for Biodiversity
AMG	Managed Marine Area of “Tainui Atea” in French Polynesia
CACEM	Marine Environment Control Support Centre
CDB	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGEDD	General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development
CNB	National Committee for Biodiversity
CNML	National Council for the Sea and Coastline
CNRS	National Centre for Scientific Research
CNPN	National Council for the Protection of Nature
COM	Overseas collectivity
CRB	Regional Committee for Biodiversity
DCSMM	Marine strategy framework directive
DDT(M)	Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea
DEAL	Environment, Planning, and Housing Directorate
DIRM	Interregional Directorate for the sea
DREAL	Environment, Planning, and Housing Regional Directorate
DROM	Overseas departments and regions
DSBM	Sea basin strategy paper
DSF	Maritime facade strategy paper
FCEN	Federation of Natural Areas Conservation Trusts
FFEM	French Facility for Global Environment
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Acronyms

MISEN	Water and Nature Inter-Service Mission
MTE	Ministry for Ecological Transition
MNHN	Paris National Museum of Natural History
OFB	French Office for Biodiversity
ORE	Conservation servitude
PNR	Regional Nature Park
PLU	Local planning scheme
PRFB	Forest and timber regional programme
RNF	French Nature Network
SAGE	Water planning and management scheme
SAR	Regional planning scheme
SCAP	Strategy for the creation of protected areas
SCOT	Local land-use coordination scheme
SCGAMP	Marine protected area creation and management strategy
SDAGE	Water planning and management master plan
SNB	National Biodiversity Strategy
SRADDET	Regional planning, sustainable development and territorial equality scheme
UICN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
TAAF	French Southern and Antarctic lands
UMS	Joint services unit



Introduction



Beach and fringing reef on Mayotte – Mayotte Marine Nature Park

Biodiversity on our planet is collapsing

“Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history — and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world” warns the 2019 report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The report estimates that around one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction within the next decades, more than ever before in human history.

The crisis is amplifying and accelerating

Natural habitats are experiencing pressures and changes at a magnitude and rate never seen before, in great part due to pressures imposed by human activities. The artificialisation of the territory, fragmentation of natural habitats and various types of pollution constitute as many threats bearing on ecosystems. Climate change represents an unprecedented challenge to which the protected areas network will need to adapt.

The Covid-19 crisis has recently highlighted the relationships between health and biodiversity and the key role of certain anthropogenic pressures (deforestation, land artificialisation, hunting, and consumption of protected species) in the emergence of new pathogenic agents in our societies, in particular at tropical and equatorial latitudes. Recent scientific research has underlined this risk, in particular in the Amazon and in New Caledonia. Protected areas constitute a preventive response to this risk, in particular in the overseas territories.

The survival of humankind is at stake

This biodiversity is our shared heritage and a capital for our future. Beyond its intrinsic value, it provides vital everyday services (pollination, filtering and cleaning of water and air, protection against floods or marine submersions, food quality and diversity, resilience in the face of climate change, improvement of living environments, dilution of infectious agents, reduction of chronic diseases, provision of pharmaceutical molecules, etc.) and underpins our cultural identities (landscapes, traditional knowledge and skills, etc.). Conserving biodiversity is looking after a natural capital on which depend our health, our quality of life, and our survival.

A worldwide mobilisation is gathering strength

Since the International Convention on Biological Diversity in Rio in 1992 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets included in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, many international agreements highlight the global ambitions for conserving biodiversity, in particular through the creation of protected areas.

The new biodiversity strategy of the European Union and the Conference of the Parties signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to be held in China in 2021 will set the international framework for actions in favour of biodiversity and in particular developing protected areas. The European Commission has already manifested its high ambitions in this matter and aims to protect at least 30% of the Union’s land surface and 30% of its marine surface by 2030, of which at least one third (that is 10 % of the Union’s lands and 10% of the Union’s seas) to be under high protection.

Protected areas are a key element of this mobilisation

The global mobilisation has laid the foundations for ambitious international biodiversity conservation agreements, with a focus on the creation of protected areas - a long recognised cutting-edge tool for biodiversity conservation. The last IPBES report of 2019 stressed the effectiveness of protected areas in combating biodiversity collapse; it recommended their strengthening in all ecosystems.

Protected areas contribute directly to protecting wildlife, preserving genetic diversity, natural habitats, species, communities, landscapes, and sites of geological interest and to sustaining natural processes, ecosystems, and their functions. Thus, protected areas also indirectly contribute to the attenuation of and adaptation to climate-related changes. By implementing efficient measures inside specified delimited areas covering an appropriate proportion of land and marine surfaces, they contribute to the recovery of Biodiversity and all the services provided by healthy ecosystems.

Given the richness and state of its biodiversity, France is particularly concerned and deeply committed to its protection

Encompassing many overseas, insular, and continental territories in the Pacific, Americas, Indian Ocean, Southern and Antarctic zones, as well as metropolitan France, which lies at the crossroads of four terrestrial biogeographical regions and two marine regions, France bears a special responsibility in the conservation of global biodiversity.

From Guiana to the Alps, from the Pacific to the Mediterranean, from the West Indies to Brittany, France includes a high diversity of habitats and species both on land and in water. Its ecosystems contain some 10% of the 1.8 million species known on our planet. The overseas territories harbour 80% of France’s biodiversity, including four-fifths of the species endemic to the country. These species-rich ecosystems are particularly threatened by the destruction of natural habitats, overharvesting of wildlife, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and climate change.

Thanks to its overseas territories, France has jurisdiction over the second-largest maritime area in the world, which includes 55,000 Sq. km of coral reefs and lagoons – that is 10% of the world’s coral reefs and 20% of its atolls. In addition, France includes more than seven million hectares of tropical forest in French Guiana, and the world’s most diverse marine bird communities in the French Southern and Antarctic lands. In total, on a surface covering 0.08% of the world’s dry lands there are more than 3,450 vascular plants and 380 vertebrate species not found anywhere else than in French overseas territories – more than in the whole of continental Europe.

At the international level, France is committed to mobilising efforts and promoting biodiversity and the creation of protected areas that reconcile the protection and conservation of natural habitats with sustainable economic and social development. In the framework of its international cooperation and development aid, the country is particularly active in regard to tropical forests and in the support of biodiversity conservation of the high seas in United Nations negotiations (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions, BBNJ).

France can rely on its significant achievements in favour of biodiversity and protected areas

France has been working steadily to further the conservation of biodiversity for nearly 60 years. The 1976 Law on the protection of nature laid the foundations for the protection of natural habitats and wildlife and enabled the creation of nature reserves. From the nature paintings of the Barbizon artists to the establishment of the Forests National Park, its 11th national park, France has been pursuing its rich tradition of nature conservation. Over the years, the country has set up an extensive and diverse professional network of protected areas of varying status and practices, whose diversity in all territories is both an asset and a source of resilience. The 2016 Law for the reconquest of biodiversity, nature and landscapes introduced a powerful agency geared to the protection and restoration of biodiversity in metropolitan France and its overseas territories: the French Office for Biodiversity (*Office Français de la Biodiversité, OFB*).

Regarding protected areas, France devised a strategy for their creation (*Stratégie de Création d’Aires Protégées, SCAP*) in 2009 and a strategy for the creation and management of marine protected areas (*Stratégie de Création et de Gestion d’Aires Marines Protégées, SCGAMP*) in 2007, modified in 2012. These strategies enabled the protected areas network to progress substantially, for example the creation of the Calanques National Park and the development of the network of marine nature parks. They also drew attention to existing obstacles, which the new national strategy for protected

areas is seeking to overcome. The SCGAMP’s component concerning overseas territories was completed by the Overseas Trajectory 5.0 (*Trajectoire Outre mer 5.0*) launched in 2019, which establishes a sustainable development framework for actions initiated in the wake of the 'Overseas blue book' (*Livre bleu outre-mer*), which has been guiding national action since 2018.

For the first time, a unified strategy for metropolitan France and the overseas territories, integrated with respect to terrestrial and marine issues

It stems from the ambition expressed by the President of the Republic to protect 30% of the area under the country’s jurisdiction, with a third of this under high protection. It seeks to help check biodiversity losses on land and at sea. It also aims to ensure the resilience of the exceptional ecosystems both in metropolitan France and overseas in the face of global changes by developing, both in quantity and quality, a network of protected areas throughout the national territory and at an appropriate ecoregional scale.

In order to address these challenges while taking into account the exceptional natural heritage overseas, for the first time, this new strategy covers all protected areas, whether marine, terrestrial, in metropolitan France or overseas, focusing on improving the effectiveness of each area and on new creations.

A strategy rooted in local settings

Protected areas are living entities, and some are at the same time biodiversity strongholds and the living environment of many citizens who are experiencing the early stages of a different relationship with nature. The new strategy has the ambition to deepen stakeholders' involvement in and the territorial integration of protected areas, which are not isolated 'no-go zones' but territories interacting with their surroundings.

Promoting interconnections between protected areas and their surrounding territories

The new national strategy for terrestrial and marine protected areas will need to permit a dynamic approach to addressing issues, with careful attention paid to the link between land and sea, in particular in overseas islands and along coastlines, where this link is stronger and has more impact. A remarkable biodiversity is to be found in coastal habitats (mangroves, seagrass meadows, etc.), the meeting-place of a number of anthropogenic pressures and present-day challenges such as climate change and coastal erosion. The coast-line will require special attention and the development of a network of high-value protected areas.

Promoting a variety of types of protected areas suited to local situations

The strategy takes a renewed approach incorporating a range of regulatory and other tools that takes into account areas covered by contractual measures or incentives in favour of biodiversity, landscapes or cultural heritage. This diversity of status is important because it facilitates adaptation to the local setting, in a continuum ranging from nature conservation to sustainable development. This will make it possible to take into account the different ecological and social issues by a greater involvement of communities and local stakeholders. Proper coordination of these tools and their management adjusted to the local context helps to deal with the prevailing diversity of ecosystems, management issues, uses and cultures and to increase the resilience of the national protected areas network.

Promoting a protected areas governance mobilising local stakeholders

The strategy comes with a new institutional context: local authorities have been given greater and wider powers regarding biodiversity and are now key players, alongside the State, in biodiversity conservation. The success of the national strategy will therefore depend in a large part on its capacity to elicit a broad and active support locally and draw on local dynamics. Thus will the State, the local authorities, and other stakeholders work hand in hand to implement the strategy in the regions, the overseas territories, and the maritime zones. The local level will be responsible for implementing the strategy and for keeping higher levels informed about projects concerning new protected areas and local issues to be taken into account in applying action plans over the next decade.

It is paramount that protected areas benefit from the expertise and support of everyone for devising collective solutions. Dialogue and shared governance are the driving forces for creating and piloting protected areas as collective solutions of 'ecological solidarity' and as locally-rooted projects. Local dialogue will aim at involving the various local stakeholders (civil society, socio-professional groups, scientific researchers, etc.) in the decision-making process. These participants in the ecological transition will be backed by a new agency dedicated to biodiversity in general, the French Office for Biodiversity (*Office Français de la Biodiversité, OFB*), which will play a key role at both domestic and international levels. It will assist the Ministry for Ecological Transition nationally, but also the Prefects and local authorities throughout the country in implementing the strategy locally.

The seven targets of the new French strategy for a coherent and effective protected areas network

This new strategic vision for the 2020-2030 decade will not be limited to the creation of new protected areas; it will actively promote high-quality management and an integrated approach to the development of the protected areas network. The strategy is conceived as the fruit of concerted efforts, drawing on experience acquired by the various protagonists in recent years.

► The strategy is based on the development of an ambitious protected areas network aiming to cover 30% of the national territory and of marine areas under French jurisdiction, including 10% under high protection. Given the current challenges, it is vital to focus efforts on increasing the number and size of protected areas that are ecologically interconnected and resilient to global changes.

However, this objective will not be fulfilled unless the six other accompanying strategic targets ensure the qualitative development and sustainability of the protected areas network.

► The second strategic target aims to back the implementation of an effective and appropriate management of the network, with the focus on the effectiveness of the management of protected areas, by investing in skills, methods of piloting (planning and evaluation), and network leadership.

► In keeping with best management practices, and in order to better preserve the natural heritage, landscape and cultural, the third target focuses on promoting sustainable activities in the protected areas network by developing, in cooperation with the social and economic stakeholders, commendable practices compatible with the preservation of habitats, while ensuring compatibility of land uses within the network.

► Consolidating the integration of the protected areas network into the local settings then emerges as one of the main goals of the new strategy, designed to reinforce the two-way connection between territories and their protected areas. This objective seeks to weave protected areas into local projects and public policies, to better involve citizens and other stakeholders in action and protected areas governance, and to use protected areas as key places for reconnecting society with nature.

► At the international level, a fifth target proposes to include the French protected areas network as part of international cooperation efforts for the benefit of nature and humanity by advocating an ambitious global framework for biodiversity and taking national responsibility in this field by co-building conservation projects at the appropriate scale for regional ecological solidarity.

► To facilitate the deployment and proper management of a substantial and high-quality network of protected areas, it is vital to secure adequate long-term resources. The sixth target is cross-cutting and is intended to ensure the permanence of the protected areas network with diverse and reliable funding sources as needed for setting up and managing protected areas to cover 30% of the national territory, with priority for the 10% of the territory under high protection.

► The seventh and last target concerns the role of protected areas in furthering knowledge on biodiversity. This other cross-cutting target will focus on two complementary measures, providing protected area managers with the necessary information and skills to succeed in their mission, and using protected areas to improve knowledge directly applicable for the enhancement of nature conservation.

The strategy, its objectives and corresponding measures, together with its action plan constitute a national framework that is more focused on support and stimulation than on exhaustiveness. The framework will be supplemented as needed by actions undertaken by local authorities (regions, departments, overseas territories), within their respective spheres of responsibility, which will serve as inputs into the three-year action plans and local activities.

The strategy provides for evaluation, to be carried out on a regular basis to keep it closely in tune with national and local issues.

A key strategy to be integrated into the new national strategy for biodiversity

The implementation of the new strategy for protected areas will actively contribute to international and domestic policies on biodiversity conservation as well as to adaptation to and attenuation of global changes. Particular attention will be given to coordinating the national strategy for protected areas with the various strategies, plans, and programmes already being implemented, in particular the national strategy for biodiversity, the national plan for adaptation to climate change, and the national low-carbon strategy adopted in 2019.

The development of the protected areas network will also need to take into account and watch over strategic national interests, such as the most sensitive operational activities of the armed forces.

The national strategy for protected areas will be included as the contribution for protected areas in the new national strategy for biodiversity, which will be revised in 2021 to take account of the international commitments agreed during the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be organised in China in that year.

What is a protected area in France?

The common qualitative definition of a protected area

To ensure coherence with the international framework, the new national strategy for protected areas is based on the definition of a protected area as outlined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. This definition is compatible with the French vision of protected areas, aiming to conserve nature but also in some cases to safeguard biodiversity while allowing the sustainable development of activities in the area. The protected areas network, as understood in the strategy, integrates protected tracts of land destined to conserve nature along with other tools whose final purpose is the preservation of nature, but without excluding other goals that make up the three pillars of sustainable development.

A detailed description of the characteristics of protected areas is provided in Appendix 1.

A protected area is thus “a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (IUCN Definition 2008).

Common qualitative definition of high protection

Even though no cross-cutting and established definition of high protection existed at the domestic or international level, there were in France two historical approaches to high protection. On land, all the areas under statutory protection (nature reserves, national park core areas, biological reserves, areas under protection orders) were considered to be under high protection (methodology of the Strategy for the creation of protected areas – *Stratégie pour la création d’aires protégées SCAP 2009-2019*).

Maritime zones under high protection within marine protected areas were evaluated on a case-by-case basis according to five criteria (nationally established in 2018 as part of the implementation of marine habitats action plans): coverage of the priority ecological issues defined in the Maritime facade strategy papers (*Documents Stratégiques de Façade*), priority given to location within a marine protected area, existence of rules to regulate activities, existence of a management document, and existence of a control system.

However, as the national strategy for protected areas aims to unify ongoing initiatives regarding terrestrial and marine habitats and to improve interconnections between these habitats in order to promote shared solutions that take account of global changes, a common definition has been adopted. This makes it possible to bring together all the instruments deployable for high protection, from significant impact reduction to interference-free protection.

In the framework of the present strategy, an area under high protection is thus a geographical area in which the pressures generated by human activities that could jeopardise the conservation of the ecological issues at stake in this area are eliminated or significantly reduced, in a durable way, by means of land-use protection or other special regulations as well as an effective control over the activities concerned.

The qualitative definitions mentioned above will need to be coordinated with the EU objectives currently being discussed, in particular as part of the implementation of the new European biodiversity strategy.

National and international accounting

Data concerning the new protected areas will be included in the national figures after submission to the National Council for the Protection of Nature (*Conseil National de la Protection de la Nature*). The French Office for Biodiversity (*Office Français de la Biodiversité*) oversees applications to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for their international recognition on behalf of and after validation by the Ministry for Ecological Transition.

The toolkits for each category are summarised in Appendix 1.



Ten-year objectives



Paulilles Bay and Cape Béar – Conservatoire du Littoral site

Objective 1

DEVELOP A NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS RESILIENT TO GLOBAL CHANGES



Sanderlings in the Banc d'Arguin National Nature Reserve

The qualitative development of the protected areas network over the next decade will depend on the deployment of a strong ambition combining national leadership and local dynamism, with action focused on the most biodiverse or threatened ecosystems. The quality of the future network of protected areas will also depend on its ability to sustain the ecological connectivity between ecosystems by mobilising instruments and public policies that could, indirectly, serve to establish wildlife corridors between protected areas and by reinforcing or adapting existing instruments. The coherence of the network will also need to be assessed at the ecoregional level.

Protect at least 30% of the national territory, with a third of this area under high protection (that is 10% of the national territory)

The surface area of the protected areas network must be sufficiently large to ensure and, if necessary, enhance the conservation of the biological, geological, cultural, and landscape heritage. The ecosystems of metropolitan France and its overseas territories are facing increasing pressures from the global climatic and anthropogenic changes, which may, in certain situations, be harmful to their ecology. Land artificialisation, overexploitation of natural resources, climate change, worsening diffuse pollution, strong population growth, and the increasing worldwide mobility of people and traded goods all constitute ongoing developments that challenge the ability of ecosystems to maintain a healthy conservation.

In the face of these changes, the national strategy for protected areas must, at the national level but also from an ecoregional perspective, improve the protected areas network to conserve and restore ecosystems so as to make them more resilient and resistant.

Step up the protection of particularly threatened high-interest ecosystems

In order to be fully operational, the protected areas network must be underpinned by strongly protected areas where a high degree of nature conservation is intended.

Highly protected areas are fundamental for conserving first-priority biodiversity and geodiversity sectors and alleviating pressures on them. By regulating certain land uses and activities, or by protecting the land, highly protected areas allow important ecological processes to continue. They sometimes involve the implementation of management or restoration measures, such as the designation of restricted access zones for the tranquillity of certain species, the fostering of ecosystem maturation, pollution suppression, the regulation of species harvesting, the delimitation of free-evolution zones in ecosystems, etc. These measures come with appropriate policing and control systems. The strict protection of protected areas thereby greatly contributes to conserving or restoring the ecological integrity and resilience of these natural habitats in the context of global change.

The strategy thus aims at concerted action to designate areas under high protection, prioritising remarkable ecosystems, rich in biodiversity or particularly vulnerable to oncoming changes such as wetlands (in compliance with the commitments of the Assises de l'Eau, whose target is to double the wetland surface area under high protection), coastal habitats (mangroves and coastal savannahs of French Guiana), sensitive marine habitats (100% of coral reefs to be integrated into protected areas by 2025, the protection of seagrass meadows, etc.), island habitats, mountain areas, and forest areas with a focus on subnatural forests. Particular attention will be paid to the remarkable biodiversity of overseas territories.

Ensure the coherence and resilience of the national protected areas network by 2030

In compliance with the recommendations of the scientific community and protected area managers, this strategy aims to ensure the general coherence of the protected areas network. Such coherence requires that protected areas are:

- ▶ **representative** of the biological, geological, cultural and landscape heritage;
- ▶ **sufficiently large** to safeguard the distribution of target species and habitats;
- ▶ **replicative**, that is making sure each species, habitat, landscape, geological object, and cultural object is protected in multiple places;
- ▶ **ecologically connected** in a functionally effective way. Species on land and at sea move in fundamentally different ways. **On land**, the objective is to allow species to move as they require to complete their life cycle and adapt more easily to climate changes. High-biodiversity areas, ecotones, transition zones between two ecosystems and wildlife corridors must therefore be fully integrated into the protected areas network. **At sea**, connectivity operates between interdependent functional zones that may be separated by considerable distances, for example spawning or breeding grounds, fish larvae dispersal areas, feeding grounds, etc. (coral reef and high sea fishes, marine mammals, turtles, etc.).

This ambition is essential to strengthen the resilience of the protected areas network in the face of global changes.

The entire range of the many complementary tools available for protecting nature at the national level will have to be used to make sure the network is successfully developed throughout the national territory. In each area, all the stakeholders, especially the State and local authorities, but also agents from the private and associative sectors, will be invited to contribute to this effort in collaboration with scientific experts.

This qualitative upgrading of the network over the next decade is an ambitious undertaking calling for both national leadership and local dynamism and focusing on the most biodiverse ecosystems the least covered by the French network, or the most threatened (Measure 3). However, the quality of the protected areas network will also depend on the ability to maintain the connectivity between ecosystems, by means of appropriate instruments and public policies (Measure 4) and by strengthening certain existing tools (Measure 5).

To address these objectives, the strategy proposes to operate through two complementary approaches:

- In the short term and by 2022, to maintain the current momentum to increase the proportion of protected areas and areas under high protection in the French national territory (Measures 1 and 2);
- In the medium term, to draw on local diagnostic studies (regions, maritime facades, overseas marine basins, ecoregions) and on the broad range of instruments available to enhance the network of protected areas (Measures 3, 4, and 5).

TARGET 1¹

By 2022, to ensure at least 30% of the national territory and of the maritime waters under French sovereignty or jurisdiction is included in a coherent* network of protected areas to be effectively managed as such by 2030.

*The criteria used to evaluate the coherence of the protected areas network are given above.

TARGET 2

By 2022, 10% of the national territory and of the maritime waters under French sovereignty or jurisdiction will be included in highly protected areas to be effectively managed as such by 2030.

1. A formal distinction exists between the creation – which is the legal act or the land acquisition deed – and the effective management, which implies that all the attributes of a zone that is effectively operational are in place, such as: a management team, a budget, a governance, a management plan of some kind, a control system, and an evaluation system. Several months or even years may separate these two stages.

Measure 1

Expand the protected areas network to cover at least 30% of the national territory and maritime areas

The objective is here to expand the national network of protected areas by creating new protected areas in zones under no specific protection so far.

The extension of the protected areas network will be based on French protection instruments (regional nature parks, the Natura 2000 network, nature reserves, etc.), both in metropolitan France and overseas and at sea as well as on land. These projects will benefit from the various local consultation stages, in the regions, maritime facades and sea basins (see Measure 3), provided for under this strategy. Certain new protected area projects were already under way before the publication of this strategy; they must be allowed to proceed and contribute in 2022 to the collective ambition to increase to 30% the proportion of protected areas on the national territory and in the maritime waters under French sovereignty or jurisdiction (in metropolitan France and overseas).

Measure 2

Strengthen the protected areas network to reach 10% of the national territory and maritime areas under high protection

As we stand confronted with the ecological emergency underlined in the IPBES report of May 2019, it has become necessary to engage in 'transformative changes' and to step up, nation-wide and in the short term, the level of protection of the protected areas network, both on land and at sea.

With this measure, the national strategy for protected areas aims at developing the network of highly protected areas, in metropolitan France as well as in the overseas territories, to include a diversity of ecosystems, in particular by:

- ▶ Reinforcing protection zones in the Scattered Islands and in other parts of the French Southern lands;
- ▶ Designating or extending 20 national nature reserves by 2022 to protect wetlands, forests and open habitats, as well as high-interest maritime spaces in metropolitan France;
- ▶ Doubling the surface area of wetlands under high protection in metropolitan France, in compliance with the commitments made during the Assises de l'Eau, without excluding the possibility of designating a wetlands national park;
- ▶ Extending zones under high protection as part of the maritime facades and overseas marine basins strategies;
- ▶ Identifying and designating forest areas to be placed under high protection both overseas and in metropolitan France (the 10% target will be computed at the national scale);
- ▶ Stepping up the protection of certain high-priority marine ecosystems;
- ▶ Improving the protection of coastal areas by extending areas protected and managed by the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire du Littoral*).

The objective is to increase the surface area under high protection to 10% by 2022.



Cliffs at Cape Blanc Nez - Regional Nature Park of the Côte d'Opale capes and marshes

Measure 3

In addition to actions for 2022, drawing on local diagnostic surveys, strengthen the protection, coherence, and connectivity of the network of protected areas and highly protected areas through local concerted action by 2030

The objective of this measure is to provide the national strategy with future projects, building on exchanges between the local and the national levels and guided by local diagnostic studies concerning the new areas to be considered for conservation.

Beyond the projects identified in Measures 1 and 2 and detailed in the first action plan, each territory (region), maritime façade, and overseas marine basin will determine its own progressive targets for the development of protected areas, including high protection areas, by 2030.

The objective is that by 2030 each region, maritime facade and overseas marine basin will have progressively established a coherent and well-managed network of protected areas.

To this end, the measure utilises tools adapted to the context and local diagnostic reports to focus on the protection of ecosystems of high interest for their natural, cultural, or landscape heritage contributing to the ecological relevance of the network.

Certain ecosystems, due to their biological importance or their vulnerability to global changes, must be targeted in priority when reinforcing the protected areas network. It is in particular the case of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass meadows overseas, and wetlands, open habitats, certain forest ecosystems, and coastal habitats. These priority ecosystems identified at the national level will be supplemented, in certain settings and in particular overseas, by other localised and vulnerable heritage habitats.

In regard to maritime zones, the increase in highly protected areas should not exclusively concern the high seas, but also include coastal waters. The objective will be pursued in all waters under French jurisdiction. Moreover, the strengthening of the protected areas network should also contribute to controlling coastal erosion and marine submersions.

The land-sea interface should also be the object of analyses and specific consideration: catchment areas draining into reefal zones (in the overseas territories), sea phanerogam meadows (both overseas and in the Mediterranean), or into any remarkable marine habitat will need to be assessed specifically to evaluate the need to include them in the network of protected areas and highly protected areas. For example, mangroves on Mayotte, Guadeloupe and in the Pacific territories (in accordance with their own strategies and respecting their jurisdiction) will be able to benefit from a specific protection, given the numerous ecosystem services they provide: coastal protection, carbon capture, spawning and nursery grounds for fish species, quality landscape (living environment, tourism), cultural heritage, etc.

The development objectives for protected areas, including highly protected areas, will need to take into consideration trends related to climate change and will aim at promoting strategies for the attenuation of and adaptation to climate-related changes in the protected areas network.

If required, the protected areas network will be able to help give greater protection in key areas for wildlife migrations such as latitudinal or altitudinal ecological corridors. This will need to be based on the local 'blue and green network' green infrastructure (*trame verte et bleue*), and on other initiatives such as the 'black network' (*trame noire*) and the 'brown network' (*trame brune*) in order to incorporate other ecological dimensions of ecosystems interconnectivity. The development of the protected areas network will need to be integrated into, or be consistent with, regional strategies for biodiversity, Maritime facade strategic papers and Sea basin strategic papers.





The volcanic mountain range of the Piton de la Fournaise
Réunion National Park

The objectives for consolidating the protected areas network will, depending on the local dynamics, draw on voluntary contributions from local authorities by the means of land-use tools and regulatory instruments, and by taking advantage of ongoing local initiatives.

The implementation of the national strategy for protected areas in the different parts of the country (regions, overseas territories, maritime facades, overseas marine basins, and at the ecoregional scale) will include reinforcing the high protection inside the existing network of protected areas. This will involve endorsing the high protection of sensitive sectors in certain protected areas, preferably lying within marine nature parks, Natura 2000 sites, regional nature parks, or associated peripheral zones of national parks (*aires d'adhésion*). Particularly important biodiversity issues are at stake in such areas. Planning tools such as charters or suitability maps will be used if necessary, and in particular their hierarchical and spatial analyses of the issues at stake, to identify the zones where high protection is to be developed.

For the overseas departments and regions

A diagnosis phase will begin as soon as the strategy is launched, in order to have at hand by the end of 2021 locally-conducted analyses on the state of the protected areas network and appropriate development or extension workplans for areas under high protection. Such a diagnostic study could also be undertaken at the request of overseas local authorities with exclusive powers in this matter. Launched by the competent local authority, the diagnostic process will be able to associate other local authorities and representative bodies, including traditional community leaders.

For the maritime facades of metropolitan France

A survey of priority ecological issues and a diagnostic study of the state of the protected areas network along each maritime facade were carried out in 2017-2018 in collaboration with the various stakeholders, including local authorities, as part of the elaboration of the Maritime facade strategic papers. The resulting findings are currently being analysed to identify candidate areas for high protection to be included by March 2022 in the action plan of each Maritime facade strategic paper, after consulting all concerned parties. These target areas will be evaluated, and other target areas identified where needed, at the end of the current strategic papers' cycle, by 2026 and later. The Maritime facade strategic papers (*Document Stratégiques de Façade, DSF*) will thus be used as channels for the local expression, on the maritime facades of the metropolitan territory, of the national strategy for protected areas.

For the overseas marine basins and the marine waters of territories with competence in environmental matters (collectivities of the Pacific and Saint-Barthelemy)

The selection of new areas to be considered for protection will be undertaken either as part of the adoption process of Sea basin strategic papers, or driven by the active leadership of the competent local authority only.

Measure 4

Identify and mobilise the tools that contribute to the coherence of the protected areas network

Maintaining the interactions and interconnections between natural habitats is vital for the resilience and conservation of nature as a whole, faced with rapid, impacting changes. This is why the strategy aims, with this measure, to do more than simply develop the protected areas network, but also seeks to ensure all these areas are sufficiently connected to each other to allow the functions and services of terrestrial and marine ecosystems to continue.

A number of initiatives and tools, even though not considered as pertaining to protected areas in a strict sense, contribute to the preservation of natural habitats (in terms of connectivity in particular). The 14th Conference of the Parties that took place in the framework of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018 agreed on a common internationally recognised definition of "other effective conservation measures": "a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values" (Decision 14/8)

In France, this may concern public lands (areas owned by the State, such as military training grounds, or by public institutions, local authorities, etc.) or private lands, participatory management initiatives areas (terrestrial or marine educational areas), cultural or traditional initiatives areas (such as rahui and tapu in French Polynesia), on which effective conservation may result from other objectives: containment of urban sprawl, conservation of land in its natural state, preservation of water resources, restoration of degraded tracts of land, habitats of interest for hunting or fishing purposes, sustainable management according to the principles of the National Forestry Office (*Office National des Forêts, ONF*), protected forest status, sustainable exploitation of natural resources, effective protection due to sacred character, etc. Such spaces contribute to the coherence of the protected areas network and should therefore be recognised and supported for their contributions.

The significance of integrated management initiatives and large-scale planning initiatives such as the Managed Marine Area (*Aire Marine Gérée, AMG*) 'Tainui Atea' in French Polynesia, whose role in the protection of maritime zones will be showcased. On this issue, the State will support French Polynesia's policy in favour of the development of protected areas and will uphold its application for their international recognition as a tool contributing to the sustainable management of resources and even to the preservation of biodiversity.

Moreover, in a context of climate change, it is necessary to permit the extension of existing delimited areas and the urgent designation of new protected areas on alternative sites in order to anticipate and mitigate the disappearance of certain species, habitats and associated functions (such as the terrestrial fringe of coastline expected to be lost to marine submersion), on corridor sites that link up protected areas to allow the retreating movements of species, and on the last areas of high ecological concern that remain with no protective status.

In view of the complex procedures for establishing a new protected area or changing its limits, the strategy should make use of the many tools at hand, including the designation of buffer zones, that is spaces surrounding protected areas and serving as transitions between these areas and areas of more intense human activity. Steps should be taken on this issue, in a concerted manner, building on an initial study defining the various tools and concepts involved.

THE MANAGED MARINE AREA OF FRENCH POLYNESIA

The exclusive economic zone of French Polynesia, covering a surface area of 4.8 million sq. km, has been classified as a managed marine area, named 'Tainui Atea', by Order of the Council of Ministers n°507/CM of 3 April 2018.

The administration of the classified area is under the responsibility of French Polynesia and takes the form of an integrated management plan that presents the issues, objectives and main measures taken for the appropriate management of the Polynesian maritime space. A large number of the management measures, in particular those of a regulatory nature, pre-existed the establishment of the managed marine area, and some date from more than 20 years ago. The position adopted by French Polynesia is to advocate and prioritise an approach to environmental preservation that includes humankind and its activities, with the emphasis on precaution and anticipation. Nature without human-kind is not conceivable in the Polynesian culture. The challenge is to strike a durable balance between the development of a blue economy and a strong protection of the marine environment, in part by alleviating pressures exerted by certain activities or uses. Even though the management of the exclusive economic zone is the core of the management plan, such a plan cannot succeed without the appropriate management of adjacent areas, which include in particular the Polynesian coastlines and the open sea, but also the economic zones of the Pacific Ocean States, since all these form a single entity. (Adapted from the management plan adopted by Order n°4247 MCE of 6 April 2020).

Measure 5

Use the reinforcement of existing land-use and regulatory tools to expand the network of protected and highly protected areas

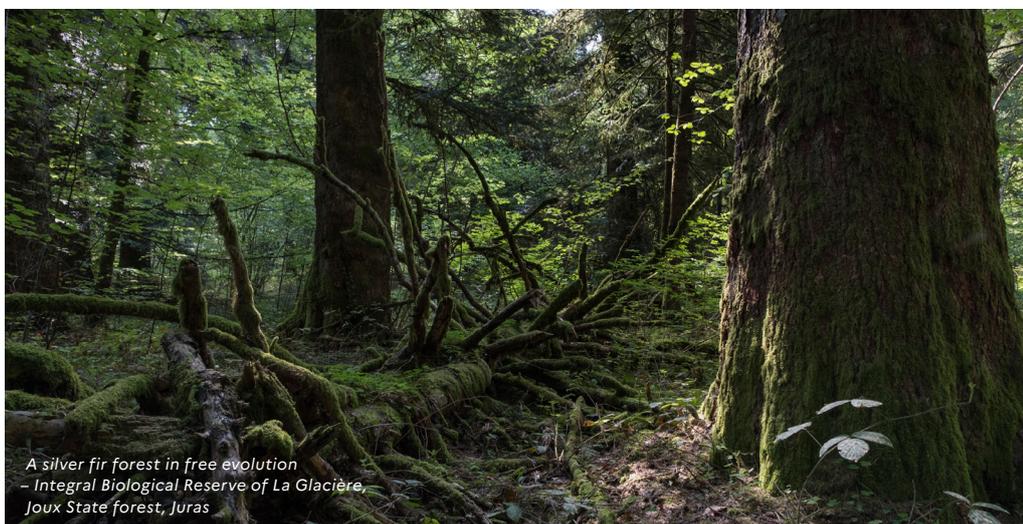
France has since 1930 developed numerous instruments for nature conservation. It also opened the way to involving a great diversity of stakeholders in the management of nature areas. Such diversity is a major asset because it allows a broad range of different approaches capable of addressing conservation issues and sustainable development issues. The objectives of this measure are to tap into the rich existing toolbox to improve its effectiveness by optimising the way each instrument is used, to recognise the contribution of certain land-use protection tools to the definition of high protection, and to enhance synergies between instruments.

This measure thus increases the level of protection in protected areas, including some already under high protection, by paying special attention to existing tools and in particular those concerning land-use protection.

- In the short term, this stiffening of the protection will above all target areas under high protection: areas covered by prefectural order of protection, for which a strategic plan will be prepared aimed at improving existing arrangements, land-use control tools deployed by the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire du Littoral*) and sites already acquired by the Natural Areas Conservation Trusts (*Conservatoires des Espaces Naturels, CEN*) or the departments as sensitive natural areas (*Espaces naturels sensibles*).
 - In the medium term, it will endeavour to enhance synergies between regulatory tools and public (State and local levels) and private land-use tools in order to maximise effectiveness, especially in a context of land-use pressures (periurban areas).
- Thus the objective, over the coming decade, is to find new ways of utilising protection instruments that can be incorporated into the toolkit for high protection, by providing the means and the necessary institutional framework for this development.**

Objective 2

SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EFFECTIVE AND CUSTOM-MADE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK



Echoing the conclusions of the two workshops held in Biarritz at the end of 2019 for the launching of the strategy, the national strategy for protected areas promotes the implementation of a high-quality management for the protected areas network, with the primary emphasis on planning and evaluation for the management of protected areas. Effective management is crucial for the successful development of the protected areas network.

France has built up over the years a powerful network of skilled professionals dealing with protected areas. This network is composed of different bodies, federations and other networks displaying a variety of skills and specialist qualifications.

These agencies and these skills are invaluable assets for safeguarding biodiversity and protected areas. National parks, marine nature parks, the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres* or more briefly *Conservatoire du Littoral*), Natural Areas Conservation Trusts (*Conservatoires des Espaces Naturels*), the Nature Reserves of France association (*Réserves Naturelles de France*), nature reserve managers, the National Forests Office (*Office National des Forêts, ONF*), the Regional Nature Parks of France, the operational managers of Natura 2000 sites, etc... All these networks help to improve, by their everyday actions, the management of the protected areas network. They will benefit from the creation of the French Office for Biodiversity (*Office Français de la Biodiversité, OFB*), which merges the powers of agencies formerly responsible for network leadership (*Conférence des Aires Protégées, Agence des Aires Marines Protégées, Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels, etc.*).

Given the coming challenges, it has become necessary to link these large networks at the national level in order to identify synergies and stimulate strong cross-cutting actions embodying the strategy: such is the mission of the National Conference for Protected Areas (*Conférence Nationale des Aires Protégées, CAP*), which is steered and animated by the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB). The Office will play a key role in implementing the strategy, by providing leadership, expertise and management.

The strategy thus proposes to make full use of the diversity and capacities within these networks, while providing support to enable them to collectively address the challenges of an effective and appropriate management of protected areas for the next decade in a context of climate change.

The evaluation of management quality, and thereby the potential of a protected area to successfully meet the original objectives of its designation, is essential. A number of tools are needed, such as management plans and scorecards, that will make it possible to gauge the effectiveness of applied measures and adapt actions or regulations as necessary.

High-quality management – on which principles?

For each protected area, the quality of its management is based, among other things, on:

- ▶ one or more managers with the human, technical and financial capacity to implement the actions;
- ▶ regularly updated management documents;
- ▶ coordination and evaluation tools;
- ▶ incorporation of issues pertaining to higher territorial levels;
- ▶ balanced governance involving all protagonists, including volunteers;
- ▶ access to specific knowledge concerning each particular protected area;
- ▶ means of surveillance and control of activities and, for maritime zones, regulatory tools.

For the network of protected areas, management quality is founded on the same basic principles:

- ▶ existence of an organised and coordinated network of managers, backed by access to financial, human, technical and scientific resources;
- ▶ coordination at the relevant territorial levels;
- ▶ existence of a governance among protected areas, in harmony with other policies, involving all protagonists in meeting the targets;
- ▶ integration of the characteristic traits of the various types of protected area and their complementarity;
- ▶ recourse to scientific experts as bearers of the necessary knowledge for augmenting and evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas, and to the most recent research findings on emerging topics.

The national strategy for protected areas must also ensure that protected area managers are provided with adequate means for addressing management issues in order to bolster the effectiveness of their action (Objective 6).

In the international context, the ever-enhanced integration of the French protected areas into international networks (regional cooperation) and of international standards is possible (in particular with regard to certification in reference to the IUCN Green List of protected areas, cf. Objective 5).

THE GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

France took an active part in the international initiative that created the Green List of protected and conserved areas, which aims to recognise, showcase, promote and multiply everywhere in the world protected or conserved areas that are noted for their equity and effectiveness, and provide local populations and their natural environment with long-term conservation outcomes. As such, the Green List of protected and conserved areas of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is a new system for certifying the quality of protected area management and governance, which are assessed against internationally-approved standards. This initiative, officially launched in 2014, promotes a positive approach to conservation and aims to recognise, encourage and give prominence to the successes of protected area managers. The increasing recourse to international labelling supplements and encourages the national strategic framework aimed at improving the quality of management and governance in all French protected areas. The creation of a French-language network of the Green List of protected and co-n-served areas will facilitate the sharing of experience and skill building in matters of protected areas management and governance.

Upgrading the skills of managers by network structuring

For an adequate quality of management, protected areas networks need to be structured at the relevant territorial scales, with a highly active governance. The quality and dynamism of the network will directly contribute to greater and more appropriate skills in the management teams (Measure 6). The national strategy will focus on strengthening the following four points :

- ▶ planning and evaluation of management outcomes;
- ▶ management steering: governance, methods enhancing collaborative action, project engineering, funding;
- ▶ consideration for the local setting and its social and economic situation, supervision of local usage, and linkage with other public policies;
- ▶ adaptation of protected area management to the challenges of climate change.

To readjust its approach from one centred on resources to one focusing on outcomes and reporting, so as to achieve a more legible protected areas policy that wins the support of stakeholders and citizens, the strategy promotes a high-quality management of the protected areas network by endorsing the planning and evaluation principles for protected areas management (Measure 7), with intelligible management documents based on prioritised targets, and monitored using indicators in an appropriate governance framework.



Badge of the French Office for Biodiversity
(Office Français de la Biodiversité)

TARGET 3

By 2030, protected areas will be managed effectively*.

*The criteria used to assess the effectiveness of the management of a protected area are summarised in the box page 25.

TARGET 4

By 2030, the biodiversity conservation status will have improved in protected areas.

Measure 6

Strengthen the professional training of protected area managers and dynamise network leadership

The objective is to deploy by 2030, in each territorial unit, an active and functional network of protected area professionals. The aim is to provide managers throughout the country with easy access to inservice training so as to enable them to prepare and review high-quality management plans.

This will involve fostering the development of individual and collective skills of managers and local participants, and nurturing a common culture regarding the purposes and methods of protected areas management. This effort will be needed at the national and regional levels, for all statuses alike, making use of existing networks. It will combine several approaches:

- ▶ exchanges between managers ('occupational' groups);
- ▶ access to resources (information, expert knowledge, etc.);
- ▶ access to a range of professional training courses meeting their needs.

In the short term, each region and overseas collectivity will need to be covered by an active network of protected area professionals in order to facilitate the sharing of experience and knowledge by setting up systems for peer mentoring among managers, disseminating and sharing resources, identifying resource people on different targeted topics (in the fields of science, regulations, governance, etc.).

The mission of the Regional Agencies for Biodiversity (*Agences Régionales de Biodiversité*) is to spearhead, stimulate and support the setting up and development of such local networks of protected area managers, making full use of existing networks.

The French Office for Biodiversity will assist the Ministry for Ecological Transition, heads of managers' networks and local authorities concerning the general leadership of the managers network, using national instruments such as resource centres, professional training opportunities, design or support of national inter-network projects, provision of information and expert knowledge.

The creation of a unique resource centre dedicated to management documents (elaboration, management evaluation) for assisting managers, and its coordination by the French Office for Biodiversity, will make it possible to rally managers in support of a common line of action regarding the effectiveness of protected areas management.

In order to assist in developing the capacities of the teams responsible for managing protected areas, resources and individually-tailored professional training will be made available by 2021 on topics such as planning, evaluation or protected areas governance, with particular reference to climate change.

By 2025, protected area managers will also be able to propose in their area, in particular to local stakeholders, awareness-raising and feedback channels on aspects of the management of protected areas (in the context of climate change, among others) in order to integrate them as fully as possible in local public policies. Thus will managers be in a position to suggest solutions to stakeholders emanating from other sectoral policies while benefiting more easily from the feedback of local players (fishing, farming, forest management, etc.).

Measure 7

Improve the methodology for piloting, evaluating and adapting the management of protected areas

Protected areas management must constantly be evaluated and adjusted by questioning and redefining priorities to keep pace with changes in ecological, social, economic and climatic issues.

This measure requires that by 2030 all the protected areas for which a management document is planned will effectively have prepared one. A situation analysis will first be carried out regarding the types of validated management documents, of a generic nature or per type of protected area.

The methodology of the guide to preparing management plans for natural spaces will then be adapted to all the concerned statuses, integrating the specific traits of each different type of protected area. It is important that the governance bodies of these areas be in place beforehand. In particular, the setting up of the steering committees of Natura 2000 sites and the elaboration and implementation of their management plans ('objectives documents') are essential for meeting the conservation targets of these sites.

Issues of concern must be identified and ranked to guarantee management quality. Local, national and international issues – including climate change in particular – will need to be identified, prioritised and transposed in the management documents during their elaboration or revision, so as to ensure managerial coherence and relevance for each site as well as at the intersite level.

Where appropriate, the management of overlapping or nearby protected areas can be coordinated (governance, measures, evaluation) to optimise overall management and increase its effectiveness with regard to its conservation objectives. A review of the experience gained will nourish reflection on ways to better coordinate the management of several sites.

The use of scorecards based on indicators reflecting the type and objectives of the protected area concerned will then be in general use. They will be prepared at the scale of the protected area, with input from the networks. They will contribute to reporting and will help to improve management steering. Evaluation considerations regarding the effects of the management on the protection and conservation of ecosystems and on biological diversity will be addressed at the scale of the entire set of protected areas as a whole

In the medium term, a system for assessing site management effectiveness will be deployed for all categories of protected area in order to make sure conservation objectives are met with respect to local, national, European and global issues.

It will be necessary to store evaluation data in information systems which, once harmonised, will make it possible to fulfil international reporting obligations. Voluntary protected areas will also be able to initiate a procedure to seek international certification on management and governance quality, such as the IUCN Green List, in order to benefit from experience sharing, constantly improve their performance and showcase their successes globally.

In certain cases, the implementation of evaluation systems will require the updating of existing management documents.

Regarding the Natura 2000 maritime network, analysis of the risks that conservation objectives could be jeopardised by professional maritime fishing activities, as specified in Article 91 of the Biodiversity Law of 2016, will also require the updating of existing management plans. The implementation of this measure also assumes that monitoring and surveillance systems are operational and able to track progress in meeting the protected areas objectives.



Glorieuses Islands
National Nature Reserve of the Glorieuses archipelago

The strategy will thus strengthen the structuring role of protected areas in long-term monitoring. It will establish them as true sentinels, via thematic observatories covering different sites and networks of protected areas, for the benefit of local strategies for their management and other levels of reporting.

THE LIFE NATUR'ADAPT PROJECT

The LIFE Natu'Adapt project, coordinated by the French Nature Reserves association (Reserves Naturelles de France), aims to incorporate the challenges of climate change into the management of protected areas in Europe.

Planned over a period of 5 years (2018-2023), it draws on a collective learning process focused on three main axes:

- ▶ Designing operational methods and tools that will enable protected area managers to carry out climate change vulnerability assessments and develop adaptation plans;
- ▶ Setting up and leading a transdisciplinary community around natural spaces and climate change;
- ▶ Activating all the necessary levers (institutional, financial, awareness-raising, etc.) for effectively implementing adaptation.

The various tools and methods developed are first tested on six nature reserves partners in the project, before being reviewed and retested on 15 other sites; only then will they be deployed on a national and European scale.

The partners involved in the project:

Réserves Naturelles de France (Nature reserves of France), Europarc Federation, Paris National Museum of Natural History, Tela Botanica, Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (Bird protection league), Asters Conservatoire des Espaces Naturels de Haute-Savoie (Haute-Savoie Natural Spaces Conservation Trust), Fédération des Réserves Naturelles Catalanes (Federation of Nature Reserves of Catalonia), Syndicat Mixte du Parc Naturel Régional du Morvan (Morvan Regional Park), Syndicat Mixte du Parc Naturel Régional des Volcans d'Auvergne (Auvergne volcanos Regional Nature Park), Petite Camargue Alsacienne Association.

Financing agencies: Europe, Ministry for Ecological Transition, Office Français de la Biodiversité (French Office for Biodiversity).

For more information: naturadapt.com

Objective 3

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES IN THE PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK



Lobster traps on the quay and fishing boats leaving the harbour

Thanks to the quality of the ecosystem services they provide, protected areas support many professional and recreational uses: pastoralism, agriculture, forestry, fishing, tourism, hunting, gathering, cultural activities, outdoor sports, spiritual activities, various types of equipment or infrastructure related to mobility or the provision of water and energy, etc. Such uses, when close to the protected area or inside its boundaries, can impact the state of the heritage to be protected, in a positive or negative way. It is thus the first objective of any protected area to promote the best possible balance between such uses and heritage conservation, and to give prominence to the ecosystem services that support them.

Many social and economic players are often deeply involved in the management and protection of the protected areas network and take part in the governance and management of these spaces. However, certain activities, undertaken inside protected areas or close by, can be at odds with the conservation objectives of protected areas.

For this, it is essential to take into account the direct and indirect impacts of activities, as well as their overall cumulated impact, to define criteria of compatibility for each activity with respect to the issues at stake, and to enforce effective compatibility by means of control missions.

The challenge, for the strategy, is to accommodate the conservation of natural heritage with providing support to sustainable activities when possible. The strategy thus proceeds using two complementary approaches:

- ▶ on the one hand, to ensure compatibility of uses in the protected areas network, drawing on a detailed knowledge of compatible practices and enforcing the effective control of activities when there exist regulations, in particular in areas under high protection (Measure 8);
- ▶ on the other hand, to develop best practices compatible with the preservation of ecosystems and landscape and cultural heritage within protected areas in full collaboration with social and economic stakeholders from the sectors concerned (Measure 9), with the possibility of later extending such pilot approaches to zones outside protected areas.

Certain types of protected area (national and regional parks, marine nature parks, certain protected areas of the Pacific territorial unit, etc.) already pursue sustainable development objectives regarding activities and have a governance system that takes these objectives into account. Such protected areas (and their buffer zones, if present) should then facilitate the compatibility of uses by supporting and assisting certain sustainable practices

by means of awareness-raising, training, contractual commitments, certification, technical assistance, policing and financial incentives.

However, policing is necessary as well to make sure the activities undertaken are effectively compatible with conservation objectives in areas under high protection. This entails a functional alignment with criminal justice policy. It will therefore be necessary to evaluate the impact of activities on the conservation objectives of the protected areas so that only compatible activities are authorised, and to ascertain,

through suitable controls, that in protected areas the imposed regulatory measures are complied with, in particular in zones under high protection.

Target 5

By 2030, protected areas will contribute, by the reach of their ambition in the matter, to meeting at least the national objectives for ecological transition in the different sectors of activity inside their perimeter.

SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

At sea, the policing requirements of each marine protected area are included in the surveillance and control plan (plan de surveillance et de contrôle) of the relevant maritime facade. The surveillance and control of activities with an impact on the marine environment require the mobilisation of all the administrations of the State's maritime activities that contribute to implementing the control plans for the marine environment of each maritime facade and sea basin, under the operational coordination of the maritime prefects and governmental delegates for State maritime activities overseas. They include in particular the department of maritime affairs, the French navy, the national gendarmerie and the customs. The implementation of control plans for the marine environment also involves State operators (above all the French Office for Biodiversity). These operational means are supplemented by the powers of protected areas managers. The Marine Environment Control Support Centre (*Centre d'Appui au Contrôle de l'Environnement Marin, CACEM*) is responsible for providing back-up to the field units and for centralised reporting.



On land, planning controls by the Water and Nature Police is the responsibility of the Water and Nature Inter-Service Missions (Mission Inter-Services de l'Eau et de la Nature, MISEN), piloted by the Departmental Directorates for Territories and the Sea (*Directions Départementales des Territoires et de la Mer, DDTM*) and the Environment, Planning and Housing Directorates (*Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement, DEAL*). Control plans for each department are drawn up in the first three months of each year and then validated by the prefect and the public prosecutor(s) concerned, in compliance with the 22 August 2017 Order on the organisation and practice of control by the services and agencies responsible for water and nature policing.

Measure 8

Ensure compatibility of uses by means of a framework for monitoring and controlling activities geared to the conservation issues of the protected areas

Evaluation of compatibility of uses must be carried out, both on land and at sea, making use of existing practices and frameworks.

To guarantee that uses are compatible with natural heritage conservation objectives, the proper application of regulatory measures applying in the protected areas must be controlled:

- ▶ *Prima facie* evaluation of the compatibility of projects by assessing their impact;
- ▶ *Ex post* control of compliance with statutory orders (policing).

Prior assessment of the compatibility of uses

An analysis of the compatibility between uses and conservation issues at stake will need to be carried out in all protected areas.

At sea, improving the definition and application of compatibility criteria in the protected areas network, together with the analysis of all risks posed by sea fishing activities for habitats of community interest in Natura 2000 sites, will directly contribute to this general evaluation in the medium term.

More precisely, along the maritime facades of metropolitan France and in the overseas marine basins, it will be necessary to evaluate the compatibility of activities with respect to the environmental objectives specified in the Maritime facade strategic papers and Sea basin strategy papers. It will also be necessary in this case to examine the compatibility of terrestrial activities with the conservation objectives of marine protected areas. Possible ways will be sought of increasing the capacity of coastal marine protected areas, in particular those encompassing coral reef ecosystems, to bear on the regulation of development projects or other activities in their water catchment area. This fits in with the framework for the application of the 2019 national action plan for coral reefs, in line with the philosophy underlying studies on buffer zones and the recommendations of the National Council for the Sea and Coastline (*Conseil National de la Mer et des Littoraux, CNML*).

Stiffen control capacities in key sectors

Improving the conservation of protected areas requires capacities for monitoring and controlling the proper implementation of regulatory and other measures to be maintained or even stepped up. The protected areas network, in particular the

part under high protection, must be considered as one of the priority areas for law enforcement in regard to environmental preservation, with controls targeted on priority issues. Surveillance and enforcement objectives should be prioritised and targeted in accordance with two approaches.

By type of protected area and, more specifically:

- high-protection areas;
- Natura 2000 sites, focusing on compliance with protection orders resulting from the impact analysis and on the tightening of regulations concerning human activities.

By type of setting

Given the vast expanses that require policing, the difficulty in accessing them and above all the importance of the biodiversity issues at stake confronted with numerous pressures such as poaching or illegal gold extraction, certain protected areas, in particular overseas (French Guiana), require special measures to ensure the effective deployment of the environmental protection police forces. These measures will need to be sustained over the long term if the objectives of the strategy are to be met by 2030 and take into account the capacity master plans regarding the provision of State resources.

Strengthen the organisation of surveillance and enforcement

Regarding the police forces that help enforce the protection of the environment, the positive trend observed over the preceding decade, which saw improved participant coordination and better target ranking, in particular on land, will need to be pursued further, with inter-service missions to facilitate coordination between different public institutions (to which the State has delegated its enforcement mission) around prefects and public prosecutors, allowing in particular a coordinated definition of the objectives in the control plans. Protected area managers invested with policing powers or who employ agents with investigatory police functions take action primarily to guarantee enforcement of the rules that apply in these areas. They may, if needed, be assisted by other agents of the environment police to reinforce the policing system already active in the field, according to the

principles agreed on by the Water and Nature Inter-Service Mission (*Mission Inter-Services de l'Eau et de la Nature, MISEN*).

In marine habitats, the issue will be to optimise the use of the surveillance and policing capacities of the State's maritime activities (*Action de l'État en mer*) and its operators. Up to 2030, this tightening of enforcement will draw on the expertise of the Marine Environment Control Support Centre (*Centre d'Appui au Contrôle de l'Environnement Marin, CACEM*).

In the medium term, structuring the action of the environmental protection police forces must continue by maintaining the resources at hand, coordinating existing resources, training inservice enforcement agents, as well as by raising the awareness of magistrates and improving legal processes. In addition, coordination between the prosecution policy and the control policy on this matter will need to be enhanced. The ultimate goal is to provide by 2030 all the protected areas with a surveillance and enforcement framework that is effective and consistent with the local requirements.

Measure 9

Support uses compatible with the conservation objectives of protected areas

The French approach to protected areas includes some categories within which human activities are possible as long as they do not jeopardise the conservation objectives of the site. This calls for a collective effort to guide the persons concerned towards compatible models, with the goal of achieving environmental excellence.

The French approach to protected areas includes some categories within which human activities are possible as long as they do not jeopardise the conservation objectives of the site. This calls for a collective effort to guide the persons concerned towards compatible models, with the goal of achieving environmental excellence.

The measure aims to support and make known a number of sustainable practices already deployed, throughout the implementation of this strategy, by the economic operators and other users of protected areas.

The many achievements seen in protected areas concerning the development of positive-impact practices were all obtained by means of strong partnerships between the protected area managers and representatives of each type of use. Examples include certain agro-environmental and climate-related measures of the Natura 2000 network, arrangements proposed by the European charter for sustainable tourism, and the farming-forestry-hunting balance observatory (*Observatoire de l'équilibre agro-sylvo-cynégétique*) of the Cévennes National Park.

By 2030, changes in practices will be supported within economic sectors in a way consistent with the conservation objectives being pursued, be it through example-setting (by participating in networks of reference sites), deployment of good practices, or making the most of innovations in protected areas (certifications such as 'park brands' or partnerships between businesses and protected areas).

The ambition is that protected areas become territories noted for their exemplarity, or even their excellence, in matters of ecological transition, setting the trend for the various public policies, by building on partnerships aimed at positive-impact practices. Besides, protected areas are becoming places for experimenting and innovating in favour of ecological transition, including the taking into consideration of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change in activities such as farming, forestry, commercial fishing, tourism, water management, energy management etc.

Protected areas such as parks, whose purpose includes supporting the sustainable development of human activities and appropriate governance, will define their objectives in this matter and will be fully integrated into the support policies targeting such activities (farming, forestry, commercial fishing, sustainable tourism, etc.). Moreover, at a time when citizens are feeling a growing need for connection with natural spaces, protected areas should be included in locally-coordinated strategies encouraging environmentally-sustainable tourism in particular.

Lastly, another objective is that by 2030 public policies within the protected areas network make use of the various levers available to integrate objectives relating to the reconquest of biodiversity in land-use planning, energy transition, support to various sectors, and the development of tourism and outdoor activities.

Objective 4

CONSOLIDATE THE INTEGRATION OF THE PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK INTO THE LOCAL SETTING



In order to meet the current conservation challenges it is facing, the protected areas network must mobilise all the components of its territory, in an inclusive manner, so as to collectively work out responses to the erosion of biodiversity.

Protected areas lie at the core of sustainable development and land-use projects in their regions. The relationship between protected areas and local stakeholders, in particular those of local economy, must be organised and strengthened for their mutual benefit.

In this context, the strategy aims to exploit the strong interactions that link protected areas with the surrounding territory, and with the people living near and sometimes inside their boundaries.

These interactions should be considered with an 'ecological solidarity' perspective: the protection of a given habitat is all the stronger when the surrounding communities are involved, and at the same time the protection of a given area is all the more effective and durable when it is upheld by the citizens, stakeholders and institutions of the surrounding territory.

The national strategy for protected areas thus aims to:

- ▶ more fully integrate protected areas into sectoral public policies and locally-developed projects (Measure 10);
- ▶ achieve greater participation of citizens and partners in protected area action and governance (Measure 11);
- ▶ turn protected areas into key sites for reconnecting people with nature (Measure 12).

TARGET 6

By 2030, all the territorial planning documents per region, per maritime facade and per sea basin, will be consistent with the key features of the protected areas network.

TARGET 7

By 2030, protected areas will be endowed with a suitable governance system and guarantee public access.

Measure 10

Improve the integration of protected areas in the various public policies and in locally-developed projects

The effectiveness of the protection of a protected area depends on the relevance of the guidelines set out in its management document, but also on respect for these guidelines by the various public policies covering the same area: planning policies (land use planning, transport infrastructures, town planning) and sectoral policies regarding natural resources management (agriculture, forestry, commercial fishing, tourism, water, energy, etc.). Conversely, a protected area will be upheld by local citizens, stakeholders and institutions if it is consistently in keeping with other public policies.

The objective is to enhance coordination between the management documents of protected areas and the planning documents prepared by the State and local authorities with respect to the integrated maritime policy (Sea basin strategic paper, Maritime facade strategic paper), planning policy (green infrastructure; Regional planning, sustainable development and territorial equality scheme; Regional planning scheme; Local land-use coordination scheme; Local planning scheme; mobility schemes; etc.) and natural resources management policy (Water planning and management master plan, Water planning and management scheme, Forest and timber regional programme, etc.).

This coordination is organised to ensure consistency:

- ▶ guidelines are to be taken into account (with different levels: from simple consideration to full conformity, including compatibility);
- ▶ consultations are to be carried out during the preparation of the documents (more or less binding: simple opinion, assent, collaboration in the preparation, cross participation in steering bodies).

Within the strategy framework, the reciprocal coordination of protected areas objectives and statuses with the planning policies prepared by the State and local authorities will be analysed (level of inclusion, mode of consultation, etc.). Potential ways to reinforce such coordination between land-planning schemes and policies concerning protected areas will then be proposed, including in particular the integration of elements relating to the ecological coherence of protected areas into the various regional schemes and sea basin papers. Regarding marine habitats in metropolitan France, the coherence of the network of marine protected areas is already taken into account in the Maritime facade strategy papers.

The deployment of the protected areas network must be prepared in close keeping with policies concerning the local green infrastructure.

In this context, special attention will be focused on the land-sea interface in order to take more fully into consideration the impacts of dry land activities on the conservation objectives of marine protected areas. Ensuring that policies are aligned and that the functionalities of preserved or restored ecosystems are maintained will require that all the national land-planning schemes, per sea basin, per maritime facade and per region (coordinated by the Regional planning, sustainable development and territorial equality scheme, or SRADDET) concerned with land-use planning and the development of infra-structures strictly adhere to, from the review stage onwards, a policy of prioritising the avoidance of impacts on protected areas, in accordance with the 'avoid-reduce-compensate' sequence. An evaluation on this matter will be conducted every three years and submitted to the Regional Committee for Biodiversity (*Comité Régional de la Biodiversité, CRB*) at the region level and to the National Committee for Biodiversity (*Comité National de la Biodiversité, CNB*) at the national level.

Moreover, the objective is also that actions aimed at territorial development and coherence fully consider protected areas as assets and factors of cohesion by integrating them into contractual arrangements, development projects, and solidarity mechanisms. To this end, protected area managers are assisted in devising tools, methods and procedures rooted in local conditions.

The deeper integration of protected areas into local public policies will involve several projects with a mobilising effect:

- ▶ an analytical study of the current situation;
- ▶ a possible legislative and regulatory exercise to construct a secure framework for the mechanisms used to coordinate the planning documents for the various public policies;

- ▶ a programme to raise the awareness of decision-makers and thereby increase political support;
- ▶ a capacity-building programme for the teams involved.

At the same time, experiments could be carried out, on a case-by-case basis and collaboratively, to simplify the territorial governance of protected areas where zoning systems overlap.

Measure 11

Encourage and support citizens in the management and governance of protected areas

The more the policies and actions of protected areas are supported by citizens and the partners involved, the more they will be effective and durably successful.

During this decade, the strategy will nurture the involvement of local citizens and stakeholders in the actions and governance of the protected areas. Individual involvement in the action of protected areas will be encouraged and valued, in addition to the cooperation developed by protected area managers with economic operators and users as part of the supervision of usage (Measure 3):

- ▶ deployment of civic service volunteers inside protected areas;
- ▶ deployment of national programmes of participatory science in protected areas with the twin objectives of raising public awareness regarding biodiversity and of amassing biological data;
- ▶ deployment of commitments in favour of nature, proposed in exchange for tax incentives to the owners of land within protected areas: conservation servitudes (*Obligation Réelle Environnementale, ORE*), Natura 2000 charters, tax-deductible habitat restoration work, and the Local Life Committee (*Comité de Vie Locale*) of the Amazonian Park in French Guiana, an approach that could be transposed to other territories.

- ▶ official recognition of citizens' initiatives aimed at contributing to the creation and management of protected areas (participatory management, marine or terrestrial areas used for educational purposes).

The governance of protected areas should uphold the involvement of local stakeholders in their management and promote participatory processes.

Great progress has been made over recent years in opening up governance; this should be pursued by opening up governance to all stakeholders (elected representatives, economic players, associations, users, citizens, etc.). In order to take stock of these changes, and if necessary reinforce them, each protected areas network will need to examine the current situation, evaluate the organisation and functioning of its governance, for example by interviewing members of their various bodies, and stimulate within them the sharing of good practices in these matters. They could, for example, if such collective action revealed the need, take appropriate collective measures.

In overseas territories, the associations of local residents and users have a very significant impact. Experimenting with special governance systems will be possible, on a case-by-case basis and collaboratively.

Measure 12

Use protected areas as key resources for connecting society, and youth in particular, with nature

Industrialised and urbanised societies have seen their relationship with nature become more distant, in particular in the case of city-dwellers. Reconquering this relationship is one of the keys to their future. By proposing nature as something shared via education, immersion, heritage interpretation and communication, protected areas can become places offering a special opportunity for connecting more closely with the natural world through the dissemination of knowledge about nature and related skills and uses.

Protected areas must become key places where citizens can reconnect with nature, getting to know more about it and about the skills and uses involved. To this end, the educational and visitor reception roles of protected areas will need to be stepped up by 2030, in particular by deploying tools to enhance the interpretation and discovery process or by organising different types of event.

Interpretation programmes in protected areas that provide all types of visitor with an experience of the natural world will be reinforced and coordinated. Everywhere in France protected areas will be mobilised in a coordinated way to take an active part in special events such as nature festivals, science festivals, sea festivals, heritage days (*journées du patrimoine*), sustainable development weeks (*semaine du développement durable*), 'a protected area in your neighbourhood' event, etc.

By 2030, all the protected areas whose accessibility and sensitivity make it feasible, will organise public access to citizens (including for persons with reduced mobility). Such access should integrate the policies concerning land planning, but also health and well-being from the 'health and environment' standpoint.

A national communication programme on protected areas will be implemented, accompanied by a series of convivial events proposing varied experiences of nature and geared in particular towards eliciting the involvement of schoolchildren and teachers on sustainable development issues.

Educational actions for young people will be reinforced in protected areas, building on the services provided by the National Education authority (*Éducation Nationale*), agricultural colleges and networks of associations. This will be based on existing framework agreements, encouraging local initiatives but also pre-and in-service training of teachers in State schools and agricultural colleges. The strategy has the additional ambition to develop 'nature education pathways' to give every young person the opportunity to accumulate the equivalent of 30 days of practical experience in nature.

Objective 5

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO STEM THE EROSION OF BIODIVERSITY



Humpback whale in Mayotte lagoon – Mayotte Marine Nature Park

The fight to stem the erosion of biodiversity is an overarching international issue. In this context, the French network of protected areas is a key tool for contributing to this effort, in particular regarding cooperation between regions but also at the international level: cross-border and regional cooperation in metropolitan France and French Guiana, in the Caribbean, and in the Indian, Pacific, Antarctic, Atlantic and Southern Oceans.

The particular characteristics of the overseas territories constitute remarkable assets that are worth showcasing in their regional environment. Due to its presence overseas in the Caribbean zone, the Indian Ocean, the northern Atlantic, the Southern Ocean and the Pacific, France is a major player at the international level, with respect to bordering States and multilateral organisations in these regions.

TARGET 8

By 2030, all the cross-border ecoregions will have benefited from one or more regional cooperation programmes involving French protected areas.

Measure 13

Use protected areas to advocate an ambitious global framework for biodiversity

Pleading for an ambitious framework

At the global scale, France is pleading for the establishment of a representative, interconnected and effectively managed network of protected areas including at least 30% of terrestrial ecosystems and 30% of marine ecosystems by 2030. France is advocating the inclusion of this objective in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will be adopted during COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This objective has also been selected by the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

Moreover, one of the key priorities of the ongoing CBD negotiations is about improving the quality of management of existing protected areas and the effectiveness of measures in favour of ecosystems.

France is actively involved, at the European Commission, in the negotiation process under the aegis of the United Nations of an ambitious international agreement for the protection of biodiversity in the high seas, one of the main objectives of which is to define a mechanism for designating and managing marine protected areas beyond national jurisdictions.

Setting an example

In order to defend this ambitious framework, France:

- ▶ Supports and upholds projects for the creation of new protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdictions. France is thus backing the Evlanov seamount project for a marine protected area in the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean in the framework of the OSPAR Convention, as well as the projects concerning Antarctic marine protected areas in the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources (CCAMLR).
- ▶ Strives for the inclusion, in UNESCO's world heritage list, of sites located in areas under national jurisdiction, such as the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia. These efforts also concern open sea sites in areas beyond national jurisdiction, with

France supporting the candidatures of the Costa Rica thermal dome, close to the French atoll of Clipperton, and of the Sargasso Sea, as part of a project proposed by the Sargasso Sea Commission.

- ▶ Actively contributes to the development of the global network of biosphere reserves, both on land and at sea. There are 14 biosphere reserves in France, including two overseas. Several new projects for biosphere reserves are currently being studied, on the island of Martinique, in the Sarrebourg area, on the Austral Islands of French Polynesia and in the Landes forest of Gascogne². France will continue over the next decade to contribute actively to these internationally-recognised instruments.

Beyond the adoption of ambitious objectives at the European level (EU Biodiversity Strategy) and globally (CBD global framework), France's international commitment should serve to improve the quality of the management of protected areas for the benefit of all. To this end, the strategy has the ambition to strengthen the piloting process and promote reporting as well as the sharing of knowledge acquired in matters of designation, management, and the evaluation of actions undertaken in protected areas. Full use will be made of the instruments arising from the implementation of France's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (guides, frames of reference, data, reporting and management effectiveness evaluation process, etc.).

In addition, a broad dissemination of the lessons learned from the French experience in protected areas will be encouraged, in particular concerning the coordination and compatibility of human activities with the objectives of biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation. Moreover, the French network of protected areas will need to learn from the experience of other countries regarding the creation, management and funding of protected areas.

² <https://www.mab-france.org/workspace/uploads/mab/documents/mab-rapport-d-active-2018-2019.pdf>

Measure 14

Consolidate international cooperation and enhance the role of French protected areas in international networks

Given its presence in many areas and ecosystems of the globe, France will continue its involvement in regional networks and cooperation.

Regional seas conventions³ are instruments of regional cooperation particularly useful for practical action aimed at creating new protected areas in areas under national jurisdiction and beyond (in particular the OSPAR and CCAMLR conventions), increasing resources for protected area managers, setting up common or coordinated surveillance protocols involving different States parties to the regional sea conventions, or designing shared tools for evaluating the management of protected areas. France will utilise existing working groups of regional seas conventions to promote the development of networks of marine protected areas in the areas covered by these conventions, including in the high seas.

Besides, the managers of protected areas, including national parks, are particularly involved in the networking process to connect them with their counterparts, in the context of cross-border or inter-regional cooperation agreements. Protected area managers will be supported in their efforts to develop new agreements for collaboration between protected areas and to strengthen existing agreements.

The involvement of protected area managers in European networks (Europarc, Eurosite, Alparc and Redparques in particular) and international networks (WCPA, OSPAR Convention, CCAMLR, MedPAN, Cartagena Convention, etc.) will be reviewed and the conditions for its enhancement will be assessed.

The number of protected areas officially recognised by several international instruments, including UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme (and its network of biosphere reserves), or included in the World Heritage List or in IUCN's Green List of protected areas, will be increased significantly by 2030 to give prominence to the exceptional biodiversity of these sites and the quality of their management.

As concerns science, cooperation involving data exchange, joint monitoring and experience sharing are also precious for the furthering and dissemination of knowledge. Such initiatives will be supported, both in metropolitan France and overseas, in particular in the area of the Southern and Antarctic Lands as well as around Clipperton island.

3. France is a contracting party to six regional seas conventions out of the 18 such conventions in force: Oslo-Paris Convention (OSPAR) for the protection of the marine environment of the North-Eastern Atlantic Ocean, Barcelona Convention for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean Sea, Cartagena Convention for the Caribbean Sea, Nairobi Convention for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean, Noumea and Apia Conventions for the Southern Pacific Ocean, and Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Resources (CCAMLR).

THE CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

In the framework of the 2030 national strategy for protected areas, France will pursue its actions to strengthen the network of marine protected areas in the Caribbean.



The bay of the Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin – Guadeloupe National Park

Under the Cartagena Convention (protection and promotion of the marine environment in the Caribbean region), the 26 States Parties to the Convention decided in 2019 to extend the list of areas specially protected under this Convention by including, among other sites, the French Guianan national nature reserves of the Kaw-Roura marshes and Amana, both of which take an active part in preserving mangrove ecosystems (Kaw-Roura) and marine turtles (Amana). In addition, the regional activity centre for specially protected areas and wildlife (SPAW-RAC), in Guadeloupe, is a key actor for assisting the 26 States with the creation and sustainable management of marine protected areas. It plays a pivotal role in regional cooperation on these matters.

Objective 6

A DURABLE NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS



Even though the costs of water, infrastructures, housing, and agricultural support policies have long been recognised and accepted as legitimate, costs relating to nature are less well documented (evaluation of ecosystem services and of the value of biodiversity by the Strategic Analysis Council (*Conseil d'Analyse Stratégique*) in 2009) and recognised: nature tends to be considered as both cost-free and maintenance-free.

There exists no economic model for protected areas and biodiversity; both still largely depend today on State financial support even though protected areas also serve the objectives of a number of other policies, such as rural development, education, recreational activities and tourism, and social inclusion. In the context of the implementation of the national strategy for protected areas, this situation requires the search for a greater diversity of reliable funding for protected areas right from the start of the implementation period.

Available funds must be sustainable and sufficient to meet the requirements of establishing and managing protected areas over 30% of the territory and in particular reaching the objective of 10% of the territory under high protection.

To this end, the Government is committed to supporting the national strategy for protected areas and additional resources for protected areas and biodiversity have been incorporated into budget proposals for 2021. This is supplemented by the mobilisation of France Relance

resources in excess of €60 million to the exclusive benefit of protected areas. However, these short-term additional resources will need to be paired with prospects of new financial resources in the medium term.

The objective is that by 2030 all the protected areas will be properly funded, including with a participation of the State budget and operators, to function, invest and, in fine, be effectively managed. Operating costs should be covered in part or in totality by resources from local authorities or private sponsors, or even from individual donations, depending on the type of protected area.

It is important in the medium term to be in a position to make better use of and support the economic model concerning protected areas, improve the evaluation of the effectiveness of actions and funding as well as of the services provided, and organise capacity-building for managers on these issues. The funding of protected areas in France has not been studied or analysed per se. Several surveys have shed some light on this subject, but their approach is either centred on the types of player (e.g. surveys carried out by *Réserves Naturelles de France*, *Rivages de France* and *Conservatoire du Littoral*, AMP) or on the overall funding of policies regarding water, biodiversity and marine environments (e.g. the 2016 and 2019 CGEDD reports, coordinated by P. Lavarde).

A complete diagnostic report will be submitted to the General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (*Conseil Général de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, CGEDD*) and to the national audit office (*Inspection Générale des Finances*) in order to improve the understanding and legibility of the cost structure (operating and investment costs), budgets and human resources, public and private funding mechanisms of protected areas and the current and future needs of the network for the 2020-2030 decade. This report will

make recommendations and propose future improvements (regarding budgets, taxation, etc.) to help meet the needs of managers, including with a view to the optimisation and rational organisation of these funding sources from different sectors and ministries.

This diagnostic survey will need to take into account any special requirements linked to the achievement of the high-protection targets included in Objective 1.

Measure 15

Consolidate the financing of protected areas

Beyond the general budget of the State and the taxes allocated to certain public institutions (for example the Coastal Conservation Trust, *Conservatoire du Littoral*), two main specific resources currently contribute to funding protected areas: taxes allocated to the Water Agencies (*Agences de l'Eau*) and the share of the local development tax collected by the departments. A diagnostic survey on the operation of protected areas, including their economic models, their financial obligations, and their funding sources (public or private) will be carried out, including the incentive or disincentives related to such taxation. These analyses should cover all the resources and needs of protected areas for the 2020-2030 decade, including resources originating from the State as well as from local authorities and their respective operators.

The objective is to define the most appropriate means (public and private) of financing protected areas so as to attain the biodiversity conservation objectives described in this strategy. This objective will be pursued while respecting governmental priorities concerning expenditure and taxation.

To supplement these national arrangements, several European or even international policies and funds can contribute to the financing of protected areas policies in the framework of the European Biodiversity Strategy and other policies (for agriculture, sea, nature, etc.). An important challenge is to develop and optimise the use of these resources by enhancing the capacity of managers to design and submit projects, to deal with outlays pending inpayments and spend the entirety of the funds allocated, and by developing room for coordination and dialogue between those providing financial backing and managers.

Measure 16

Support a change of paradigm by giving prominence to the benefits provided by protected areas and mobilising the entire community for their funding

The objective is to present by 2022 the funding of protected areas in a different and integrated manner, seeing it as a global investment and giving, for example, rough estimates of the costs incurred and services rendered by protected areas.

The objective is also to bolster the participation of private individuals, in particular by developing and ensuring the reliability of sponsorship, or even through participatory contributions, in order to increase the resilience of the network by 2030.

Objective 7

CONSOLIDATE THE ROLE OF PROTECTED AREAS IN FURTHERING KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING BIODIVERSITY



Adapting protected areas management in a context of global change has two requirements: to provide protected areas and their managers with the necessary data to guide management and to use protected areas as places where the evolution of wildlife or the management of the natural, cultural, and landscape heritage can be observed and studied.

First

The protected areas network should be seen as an exciting laboratory for in situ research that should be capable of delivering knowledge on a range of subjects related to biodiversity, in particular on the adaptation of our environment to global changes and the impacts of anthropogenic pressures. Protected areas networks will be involved in extending fundamental knowledge about biodiversity via large-scale monitoring and inventory campaigns, participatory science programmes, interdisciplinary research, and development programmes (evaluation of protected area management, local integration of protected areas, etc.). Knowledge produced in protected areas will document the state of conservation of ecosystems and ecosystem services, pressure mechanisms affecting biodiversity, and management implementation and its outcomes. Certain protected areas have already included the development of knowledge as one of their missions (national parks, marine parks, national hunting and wild fauna reserves, nature reserves, etc.).

Research programmes will be launched. In the short term, they are to focus on the evaluation of protected areas management, the integration of human and social sciences into management practices, and a set of themes prioritised after consultations with persons from the research sector and protected area managers.

In the medium term, these contributions will make it possible not only to improve knowledge of the national network, but also to better understand and anticipate conservation strategies with respect to global changes, including climate change and other ongoing pressures by feeding data to European networks that monitor terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biodiversity. Research outputs will thus be able to assist the development of protected sites beyond the marine territory (in the open sea), the application of European community directives (Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive), and the adjustment of management practices linked to solutions based on nature, naturalness and noninterference.

Second

By 2030 protected areas will be required to have sufficient access to scientific data to implement high-quality management, using, in particular, data from information system databanks on biodiversity (*Système d'Information sur la Biodiversité SIB*), the marine environment (*SI Milieu Marin*) and water (*SI Eau*). Regular meetings will be organised to facilitate exchanges, and information-sharing tools for networks will be set up via a collaborative portal between managers and scientists. Close attention will be paid to make sure the data are made accessible in summaries and transdisciplinary scientific outreach publications. At the same time, protected areas will contribute outstandingly to the production of data for these different information systems. Some supervision will be needed for clearing possible constraints concerning data access (Aarhus Convention, Lemaire Law, etc.). Exhaustive and regularly updated catalogues of protocols and indicators will be made available to managers.



Research needs will have to be made more explicit to permit the development of research programmes concerning protected areas. Priority research themes will be defined on the basis of exchanges with network heads and of thematic workshops with the scientific community. Efforts will also have to be invested in the identification of potential funding sources.

Measure 17

Ensure acquired knowledge is circulated among protected area managers and local stakeholders

The increase in knowledge should be used to provide managers with effective tools to assist management: methods and protocols, indicators, experience feedback, and large-scale experimental schemes. It should be used to help protected areas to attain their objectives and better participate in improving local knowledge. As part of the implementation of Objective 1 of the strategy, the data obtained should be made available for the planned local diagnostic studies.

In order to facilitate the evaluation of the protected areas networks at the national and ecoregional scales, indicators will be designed, worked out, disseminated, and regularly updated at these same scales. They will include pressure indicators, integrating the most significant sources of pressure in each ecoregion, and state indicators, taking into account those defined in national and European policies on biodiversity conservation and in terrestrial and marine monitoring programmes. They will allow comparisons to be made within and outside the network, with due attention to the diversity of the tools used.

Management impact will also be evaluated by setting up an experimental network of demonstration sites, which will

provide example-setting feedback useful for disseminating and spreading good management practices while at the same time optimising overall monitoring effort. Evaluating the effectiveness of measures for the interconnection of sites with a harmonised approach to monitoring will involve procedures such as a call for expressions of interest.

At the individual site level, appropriate methodological tools will be made available to all managers; for the most pervasive pressures, their degree of compatibility with the conservation objectives of the protected areas will be assessed. Sensitivity rating tables will be established, with threshold values where relevant. At the same time, research will be developed on indicators that

measure progress towards habitat conservation objectives, with a particular focus on favourable ecosystem trajectories. The other missions of protected areas are also to benefit from research on monitoring and evaluation in the form of coordinated efforts in human and social sciences.

Inventory and monitoring protocols and harmonised indicators will also be provided to the entire network, forming a common corpus consistent with the work undertaken as part of the national biodiversity evaluation and monitoring process. Additional backing in statistics will be made available in the context of special calls for expressions of interest.

The governance of protected areas being a priority topic along with evaluation, knowledge and evaluation feedback will be developed on the subjects of concerted approach, ownership by the various stakeholders, and citizen involvement. Dissemination of scientific information as a tool to coordinate discussions with the various local protagonists, as well as the place ecosystem services should be given in protected areas management and their integration into the local setting, will also be dealt with.

Permanent structures to enhance collaboration between scientific teams, research laboratories and protected area managers will be reinforced by organising scientific panels, scientific intelligence, and regular colloquiums, and by

setting up or maintaining collaborative structures such as research agreements (*Groupements d'intérêts scientifiques*). As regards the scientific direction of European programmes, inter-directive cooperation will be developed at the national level.

All the actors of protected areas will need to have access to fully up-to-date knowledge, both at the national level and in each ecoregion. Such knowledge will be accessible in particular via the Nature France, Milieu Marin France and Eau France data portals, which were set up as part of the three information systems on biodiversity, marine environment, and water (*Système d'Information Biodiversité, Système d'Information Milieu Marin and Système d'Information Eau*).

A resource centre for scientific issues applied to protected areas management will be established and will include experience feedback and research outputs. Since the 'business' information systems regarding the management of terrestrial and marine protected areas are part of the Information System on biodiversity and the Information System on the marine environment, they will make it possible to store information and data related to actions undertaken by protected area managers, their funding and their indicators. Such information systems will need to be operational by 2030 for networks with reporting obligations. For the other networks, an assessment of the existing situation and needs will make it possible to work out the type of organisation to be set up.

Measure 18

Use protected areas as laboratories of fundamental and applied research to improve knowledge on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate-related changes

Protected areas are meant to become places where knowledge is produced, in the fields of biodiversity or the humanities, or of an innovative nature. They must become reference sites for the monitoring of ecosystems throughout the national territory. In these developments, priority will be given to questions of evaluation and governance and to themes selected at the end of the needs assessment phase.

The involvement of protected areas in furthering fundamental and applied knowledge on biodiversity will be intensified. Monitoring, research and development programmes applied to the management of protected areas, and integrating restoration ecology will be reinforced and pursued on a long-term basis. Managers will be provided with the necessary means to implement research programmes conducive to a greater understanding of the effectiveness of management measures and the functioning of natural habitats. The links between protected areas and research activities supported by the French Office for Biodiversity, or other national research organisms, will be strengthened.

The personal scientific skills and expertise, including naturalist knowledge, of protected area managers will be recorded in a directory for each network and ecoregion, maritime façade, and overseas marine basin. These directories will be made widely accessible in order to facilitate the setting up of multistructural projects and consolidate the links between managers and researchers.

Major inventory programmes such as the All-taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) will be launched in a number of protected areas, focusing in priority on major habitat types that have previously seen few or no such surveys. They will make it possible, among other things, to establish detailed benchmarks for these ecosystems. They will contribute to sustaining local and more distant networks of

naturalists and taxonomic experts. They will also provide real opportunities for communication and awareness-raising on biodiversity-related topics in the areas concerned.

Calls for research projects will be developed: they should involve protected spaces as the focus of research or as field research sites or fund projects involving the joint participation of the scientific and protected areas management communities. They will be as far as possible cross-disciplinary in order to integrate the scientific with the social and economic aspects and thus better address the complexity of the topics dealt with. Other possible foci will be management evaluation issues, governance issues, and the needs identified by managers and researchers.

Beyond these calls for projects, various research and development organisms and financing institutions will be approached so that protected areas are given more prominence as a research subject in existing research programme documents at different scales.

In regard to the dissemination of the findings of such studies, thematic syntheses of the scientific literature will be produced and technical outreach vectors will be developed with the publication of new scientific journals on priority issues. Enhancing

the value and findings of research carried out in protected areas through publication in scientific or naturalist journals will be encouraged: technical training will continue to be proposed to managers, and a scientific backing, including via co-authorship of scientific papers, will be provided.

Protected areas will be integrated into the national and local mechanisms for the surveillance and monitoring of marine and terrestrial biodiversity, taking into account the impact of global changes. The protected areas network will also pursue its participation in the surveillance of plant and animal health, tracking anomalous health disorders and contributing to the national surveillance programmes as regards high-risk health threats and contaminants.

Lastly, all forms of innovation, whether technological or otherwise, with a preference for open licenses, will be encouraged throughout the network; in this respect, the relations between manager networks and innovation-funding organisms will be developed.





Implementation of the national strategy

La Meije – Ecrins National Park



The Chesterfield reef – Coral Sea Nature Park (New Caledonia)

One of the conditions for the success of this future strategy lies in the operational capacity of its implementation, at national and local levels, as well as the monitoring and dynamic evaluation of the actions planned.

The strategy will thus be implemented by means of three successive three-year action plans terminating in 2030.

In this context, the launching of the strategy is accompanied by a first three-year action plan (2021-2023) comprising actions to implement at the national level, actions to implement at local levels, and actions that pertain to several different territorial levels. Specific action plans will also be deployed at the levels of the region, maritime façade, and overseas marine basin. They will be based on, but also contribute to, the national action plans.

More specifically, in the case of metropolitan maritime facades, the three-year action plans will carry over the actions listed in the 2013-2022 programme of measures included in the Marine habitat action plans, as well as in the 2022-2027 and 2028-2033 Marine environment action plans of the Maritime facade strategic papers.

Local governance of the strategy

The following administrative levels have been selected for applying the strategy:

- ▶ the regional level in metropolitan France and in overseas regions and the local authority level⁴ in the other overseas territories on land;
- ▶ the maritime facade level in metropolitan France and the marine basin level overseas in marine zones.

Each territorial unit will need to analyse and propose development pathways for the protected areas network, detailing in particular its ambition for each of the major thematic objectives of the new national strategy for protected areas.

The local piloting body will thus have two missions: to implement and adapt locally the strategy and the national action plan but also to report back on management actions and projects regarding protected areas, as well as issues of national importance to supplement the three-year action plan.

⁴ In the case of overseas local authorities, the appropriateness of the procedure depends on their level of responsibilities and their organisation.

On land, in metropolitan France and in the overseas departments and regions

Regional prefects and the 'deconcentrated' services of the State will be mobilised to supervise, alongside the Regions, which lead local authorities on matters of biodiversity, the deployment of the strategy throughout the territory. Once the strategy is launched, prefects will set up a regional steering body co-chaired by the prefect and a representative from the Regional Council or the competent authority, which will either draw on or merge, as needed, with pre-existing regional bodies such as the Regional Committees for Biodiversity (*Comités Régionaux de Biodiversité, CRB*) or, overseas, the Water and Biodiversity Committees (*Comités de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité*). These steering bodies will involve State operators, local authorities, protected area managers, environmental protection associations, socio-professional groups, the civil society, and scientists, all working in close collaboration to embody a collective ambition. They will build on the expertise of the Regional Scientific Councils for Natural Heritage (*Conseils Scientifiques Régionaux du Patrimoine Naturel, CSRPN*) and on regional bodies constituted of representatives from the State services, the regional authorities, the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), the Regional Agencies for Biodiversity (*Agences Régionales de la Biodiversité, ARB*) if needed, and the Water Agencies (*Agences de l'Eau*).

Overseas⁵, in marine zones

The same approach and general programme are considered (see above). In overseas marine basins, discussions concerning the action plans will be possible in the Sea Basin Maritime Councils (*Conseils Maritimes de Bassins*). They will take place under the leadership of the prefects and high-commissioner, in collaboration with or in backing of local authorities depending on these authorities' level of responsibilities.

Along the maritime facades of metropolitan France

The prefects coordinating the maritime facades will be in charge of the piloting, in association with the elected representatives and stakeholders concerned. For the sake of consistency, programmes of measures and action plans established in application of the Framework directive for the marine environment strategy (*Directive-Cadre Stratégie pour le Milieu Marin*) will be merged with the local version of the 2020-2030 National Strategy for Protected Areas. Each maritime facade has been provided with programmes of measures, adopted in 2016 by the prefects coordinating the facade (maritime prefects and regional prefects designated under the *Code de l'Environnement*). Coordination could be ensured through the Facade Maritime Committees (*Comités Maritimes de Facade*). In March 2022, these programmes of measures will be replaced by the action plans of the Maritime facade strategic papers. In the same way as the programmes of measures currently in force, these action plans will oversee the development and consolidation of the network of marine protected areas within each maritime facade. These action plans will be applied for a duration of six years and will therefore be renewed at the end of 2027 after evaluation.

In the collectivity of the French Southern and Antarctic lands

The prefect, who is the senior administrator of the French Southern and Antarctic lands (*Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises, TAAF*), will be responsible for the deployment of an ambitious strategy.

In the collectivities of the Pacific⁶

With the assistance of the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), each high-commissioner will use his or her prerogatives over land and sea to support local authorities that wish to be associated with this strategy, include therein their own line of action, or pilot their own actions with the same purpose.

National strategy and action plans

Each measure is designed to address one aspect of the strategy over the coming decade. It consists of a group of actions to be effectively implemented via the three-year plans.

The national three-year action plan (2021-2023) will therefore include:

- ▶ actions to be implemented at the national level;
- ▶ actions to be implemented at the local level;
- ▶ actions that may involve several levels.

The success of the national strategy will depend largely on its capacity to win broad support in the different parts of the country and to harness local expertise and momentum. Although national leadership is essential, it must be accompanied by a constant, reciprocal, and mutually enriching dialogue between the different implementation levels.

5. Regarding overseas collectivities, the appropriateness of the procedure depends on their level of responsibilities and their organisation.

6. Regarding overseas collectivities, the appropriateness of the procedure depends on their level of responsibilities and their organisation.

On this basis, regarding terrestrial and overseas⁷ zones, including maritime ones, it is proposed to give formal expression to the local transcription of this action plan by the end of 2021, at the regional level in metropolitan France and at that of each overseas territory. The national action plan does not seek exhaustiveness, and each area will be able to propose in its own local action plan supplementary actions dealing with a particular measure of the strategy.

Regarding the maritime facades of metropolitan France, the three-year action plans will include the actions mentioned in the 2016-2022 programmes of measures of the Marine environment action plans and, successively, the 2022-2027 and 2028-2034 Marine Environment action plans of the Maritime facade strategic papers (*Documents Stratégiques de Façade*). It will thus be possible to include, in these various action plans of the Maritime facade strategic papers, measures concerning the creation of new high-protection zones in metropolitan waters. Maritime prefects will have a pivotal role⁸ in the implementation of the strategy and action plans, concerning the adoption of high-level protection in particular, but also regulatory measures taken in the wake of risk analyses, etc. Since they are in charge of the operational coordination of the State's means of action at sea (*Action de l'État en Mer*), they also play a major role in the application of the surveillance and control policy for preserving the marine environment, a mission considered by the Interministerial Committee for the Sea (*Comité Interministériel de la Mer*) to be a priority of the State's maritime activities.

In 2023, the outcomes of the national action plan will be analysed, taking into account the results obtained at the national level and more local levels, as well as those of supplementary actions proposed where needed in certain territorial units. These assessments will make it possible to give formal expression to a new three-year action plan for 2024-2026.

Local three-year action plans will need to remain simple in their formal presentation (roadmap), be structured at the discretion of stakeholders, at the level of the region, maritime facade and overseas marine basins, and be devised within the 12 months following the launching of the national action plan.

7. Regarding overseas collectivities, the appropriateness of the procedure depends on their level of responsibilities and their organisation.

8. Maritime prefects have authority in all fields covered by the State's maritime activities. They therefore play a major role in the piloting of the network of marine protected areas. In this matter, they are responsible for the technical coordination of the network of maritime Natura 2000 sites, co-lead the procedure for establishing new marine nature parks with the designated departmental prefects, hold the office of Government commissioner within these parks' administrative bodies, chair or co-chair the various governance bodies of marine protected areas (Natura 2000 sites, National Nature Reserves, etc.), monitor or supervise the implementation of actions provided for in management documents ('objectives documents', management plans, etc.) and pilot themselves or jointly the creation and extension of perimeters. Their regulatory authority enables them to adopt regulations defined as part of marine protected areas leadership (orders for biotope protection, fishing management measures in Natura 2000 sites, orders regulating the anchorage and movements of vessels for environmental purposes, etc.). Since they are responsible for coordinating the State's means of action at sea, they play a major role in implementing the surveillance and control policy for the preservation of the marine environment, a mission considered by the Interministerial Committee for the Sea (*Comité Interministériel de la Mer*) to be a priority of the State's maritime activities.

In particular, each region, maritime facade or overseas marine basin will propose by the end of 2021, including overseas, the evaluation and ranking of protection needs based on natural heritage issues, threats, and existing instruments, drawing on the data made available under Measure 3. This collaboratively established ranking at the region, maritime facade or overseas marine basin level, will be a helpful input for the 2024-2026 national action plan.

In regions possessing a maritime facade or an overseas marine basin, reciprocal relationships and the sharing of action plans will need to be established between the stakeholders of terrestrial and marine environments. The aim is to strengthen the coherence of the propositions and the land-sea relationships within the protected areas network.

It will be possible, in coordination with the regional level, to deploy a department-level organisation coordinated by the departmental prefects and regional prefect. A committee associating all the stakeholders will make it possible to propose and implement a departmental strategy, based on national and regional priorities but also taking into consideration local characteristics.

Services, DREALs (Environment, Planning, and Housing Regional Directorates) and DEALs (Environment, Planning, and Housing Directorates) will assist with the structuring of a network of agents responsible for the protected areas network within the State's services (Departmental Directorates for Territories and the Sea, DDTM).

State's operators are ready to amplify the future strategy

In order to implement the action plan of this strategy, the State will mobilise public operators to all contribute, to the extent of their assignments, to the conservation of biodiversity and the development of the French network of protected areas.

For implementing the strategy at all levels, the French Office for Biodiversity will assist the Ministry for Ecological Transition (*Ministère de la Transition Écologique, MTE*) at the national level, as well as, locally, the prefects and local authorities.

In particular, the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) will be responsible for energising and monitoring the strategy for the Ministry for Ecological Transition, and also for the evaluation of the strategy indicators and for the provision of cartographic and bibliographical tools.

The French National Forestry Office (*Office National des Forêts, ONF*), the public bodies running the national parks, the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire du Littoral*), the Water Agencies (*Agences de l'Eau*), the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (*Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires*), as well as local government bodies with specific powers will be mobilised.

At the international level, the French Agency for Development (*Agence Française de Développement, AFD*) and the French Facility for Global Environment (*Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial, FFEM*) will back international cooperation actions promoting the development of protected areas and their coordinated management.

Leadership of the implementation at the national level

The general piloting of the implementation of the 2030 national strategy is the responsibility of the Ministry for Ecological Transition (*Ministère de la Transition Écologique*) in collaboration with the Ministry for the Sea (*Ministère de la Mer*).

At the national level, it is necessary to elicit and sustain collective action involving all the stakeholders of protected areas: the State, local authorities, operators, representatives of social and professional circles, nature conservation associations, representatives of users, scientists, etc. The whole of this community must care and feel involved. National bodies will be mobilised for this purpose.

The National Committee for Biodiversity (*Comité National de la Biodiversité, CNB*) is the authority responsible for information, exchange, and consultation on strategic issues related to biodiversity. It serves as the leading body for monitoring the implementation of the protected areas strategy at the national level. As from the beginning of 2022, it will be presented with an annual review.

The National Council for the Protection of Nature (*Conseil National de Protection de la Nature, CNPN*) is in charge of the scientific and technical expertise, with authority over the protection of biodiversity and more specifically the protection of species, habitats, geodiversity, and ecosystems. It will participate in the evaluation of the strategy via the issuance of a yearly scientific and technical opinion regarding the annual review of the implementation of key measures of the strategy, drawing on findings submitted by the protected areas commission. It will take part in monitoring the figures concerning new protected areas.

The National Council for the Sea and Coastline (*Conseil National de la Mer et des Littoraux*) is a forum for dialogue and strategic reflection on policies that concern the sea and coastline. It will take part in the evaluation of the strategy via the issuance of an opinion on the annual review of the implementation of key measures of the strategy, in particular as regards marine and coastal environments.

In this context, an evaluation of the extent to which the objectives of the strategy have been met and the implementation of the action plan has been carried out will be conducted by the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) every three years, on behalf of the Ministry for Ecological Transition; it will be submitted to the National Committee for Biodiversity (CNB), the National Council for the Protection of Nature (CNPN), and the National Council for the Sea and Coastline (CNML).

Monitoring and evaluation of the strategy

Drawing on the lessons learned from the preceding strategies and on the advice of the national authorities consulted (National Committee for Biodiversity, National Council for the Protection of Nature, National Council for the Sea and Coastline), the strategy follows a logic conducive to evaluation and is organised around a set of short- and medium-term targets. The monitoring and evaluation of the strategy must permit, on the one hand, a yearly assessment to check that the actions planned as part of the three-year action plans have been properly implemented and, on the other, an assessment of the results obtained in relation to the targets to be reached by 2030.

The monitoring and evaluation process is at the core of the leadership and piloting of the strategy because it contributes to the involvement of stakeholders at the different levels and makes it possible to adjust the three-year action plans, if needed, according to the efforts already made, the results obtained and what remains to be achieved in order to reach the targets.

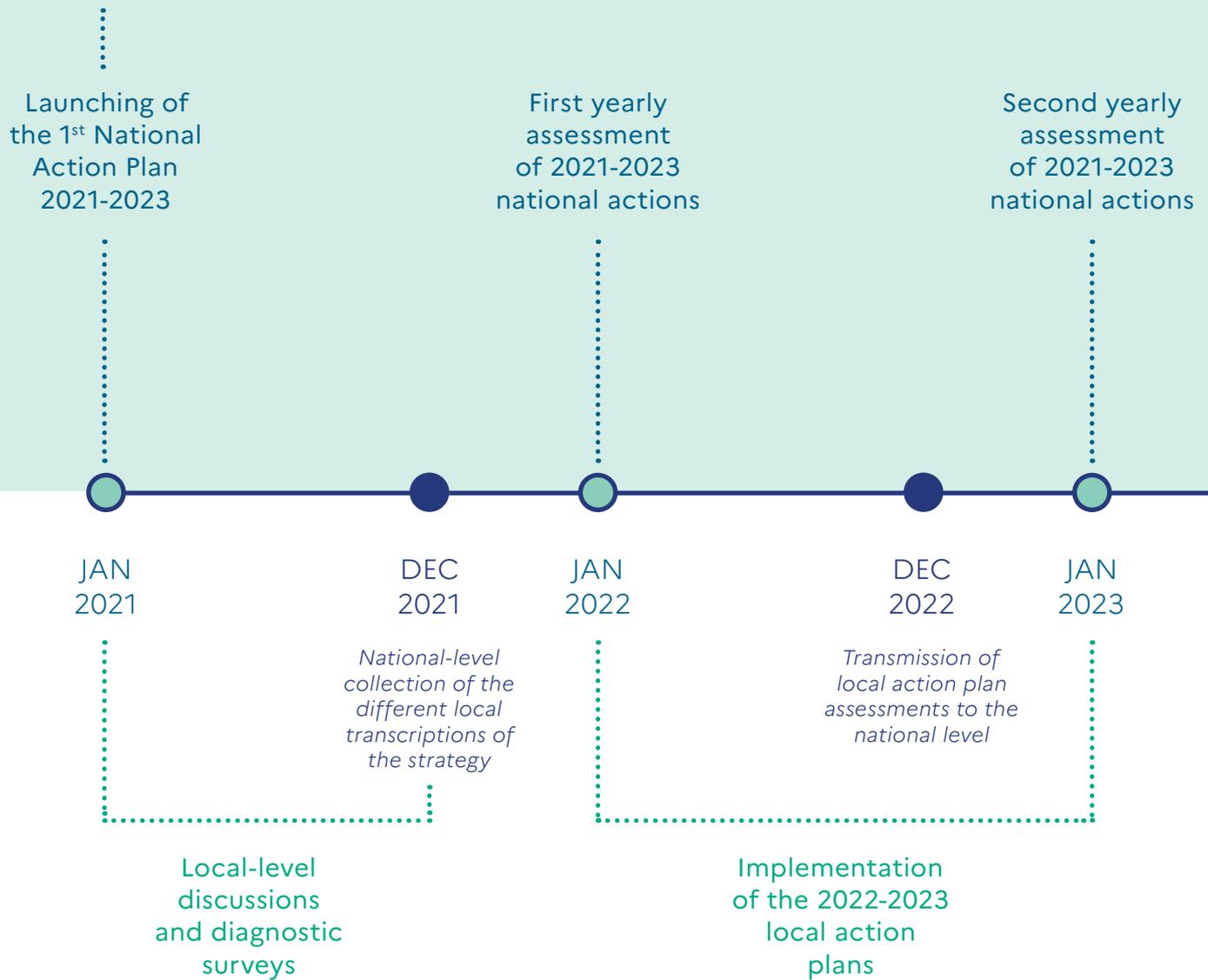
The monitoring of the strategy, carried out each year, serves to assess and report on the implementation of the actions provided for in the three-year action plans, using indicators of outputs and inputs. Each nationally-identified entity piloting an action will be responsible for reporting on progress achieved and on difficulties encountered.

The evaluation of the strategy, every three years, serves to assess and report on the extent to which the agreed objectives and targets have been met, as well as to prioritise the actions to be undertaken, nationally and locally, to build consensus and cooperation among stakeholders, and to increase transparency by reporting actions, inputs, and results to the general public. The strategy will be evaluated at the end of the implementation period of each action plan, in the short term (2024), medium term (2026), and before the end of the period covered by the strategy (2029).

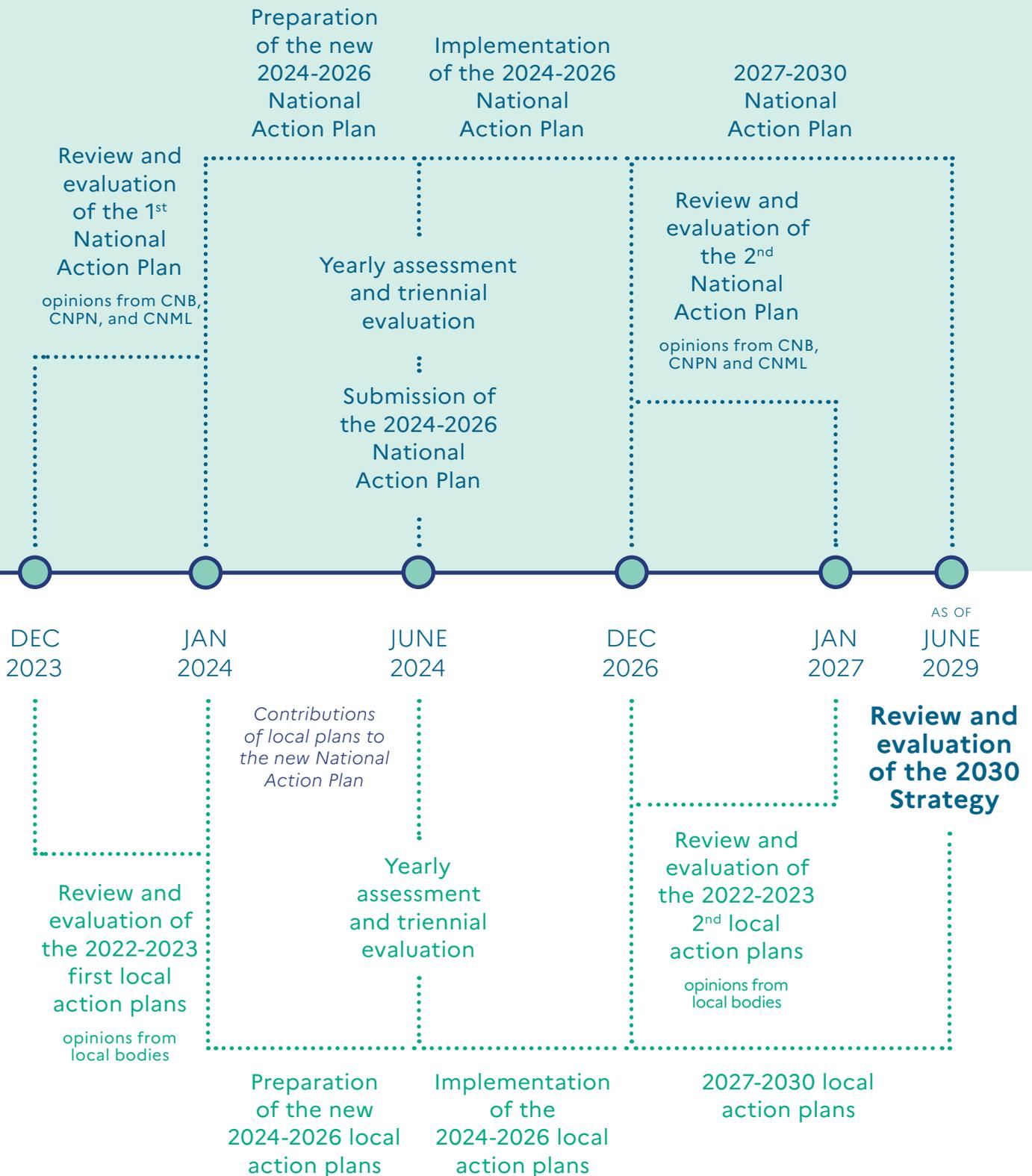
Monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken under the leadership of the French Office for Biodiversity (*Office Français de Biodiversité, OFB*), piloted by the Ministry for Ecological Transition (*Ministère de la Transition Écologique, MTE*). The OFB will propose a methodology for approval by the Ministry for Ecological Transition after consultation.

Timeline

Launching of the
2030 National
Strategy for
Protected Areas



NATIONAL ACTION PLANS



LOCAL ACTION PLANS

Glossary

Protected areas (*aires protégées*)

"A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values" (IUCN Definition 2008)

Educational marine and terrestrial areas (*aires marines et terrestres éducatives*)

Coastal maritime zone or any small-size terrestrial area managed in a participatory way by the children of a primary school according to principles set down in a charter.

Activities (*activités*)

Set of actions carried out by a person, a company or a country for a particular purpose whose outcomes affect a particular place.

Other effective area-based conservation measures, OECMs (*Autres mesures de conservation efficaces par zones*)

"A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values" (CBD COP14 Decision 14/8).

Right holder (*ayant droit*)

A right holder is a person who owns the legal right to something, due to his or her legal, financial, or tax situation or to his or her family relationship with the direct beneficiary of the right. In French, an *ayant droit* is also a person who has inherited from a deceased person (beneficiary).

Biodiversity (*biodiversité*)

According to the definition given in the French *Code de l'Environnement* (Article L.110-1), largely based on that given in Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, biodiversity, or biological diversity, "means the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems, as well as the interactions between living organisms".

Coherence (*cohérence*)

Here, the ecological coherence of a protected areas network consists altogether in its representativity, replication, relevance regarding local ecological issues, connectivity, level of protection of the natural heritage, and level of resilience in the face of global changes.

Compatibility (*compatibilité*)

Capability of performing harmoniously in association. When of a particular land use or activity, it means that it can be made to respect the conservation objectives of a protected area.

Connectivity (*connectivité*)

Here, concerns the functional and effective connection that is necessary for the long-term functioning, stability, and resilience of ecosystems.

Wildlife corridor, ecological corridor (*corridor écologique*)

One or several elements of a landscape that serve as functional links between biodiversity strongholds, giving species the possibility to move from one to another and complete their life cycle.

Criterion (*critère*)

Standard that makes it possible to judge, assess, or define something, for example, to judge whether a given activity or land use is compatible with the conservation objectives of a protected area.

Management document (*document de gestion*)

A strategic document that defines the long-term vision and operational plan in the short or medium term. The evaluation, based on comparing the outputs with the issues at stake, lies at the core of the elaboration and implementation process of the management document.

Ecotone (*écotone*)

Ecological transition zone between two or more ecosystems: for example, an estuary, which is an ecotone between a marine ecosystem, a fluvial ecosystem, and a terrestrial ecosystem.

Issues at stake (*enjeux*)

Here, heritage elements (natural, geological, or cultural) or functional features (Ecological, social, or economic) of a protected area for which it is accountable and which must be conserved or enhanced.

Endemic species (*espèces endémiques*)

A species is endemic to a given area when all the existing populations of this species are located in this area and nowhere else. The concept of endemism cannot be dissociated from a given geographical area; for example, a species is endemic to the Pyrenees or to Réunion island.

Invasive species (*espèce exotique envahissante, espèce invasive*)

Species artificially introduced into a geographical area outside its natural distribution range and whose survival and reproduction or propagation deeply affect the ecosystems colonised, with sometimes the potential to eventually disrupt ecosystem services of economic interest or give rise to major health risks.

Generalist/specialist species (*espèces généralistes/spécialistes*)

The degree of specialisation of a species is usually assessed by counting the number of different habitats the species can be found in. This is a way to classify species into different categories, from specialists (found in a small number of habitats, with a limited ability to colonise new habitats) to generalists (found in many different habitats, with a greater dispersal ability).

Evaluation (*évaluation*)

Application of methods and procedures to assess the consequences of a policy, a programme, a project, or an output, such as the evaluation of the effectiveness of the management of protected areas.

Maritime facades (*façades maritimes*)

Geographical units used in metropolitan France for planning purposes in relation to environmental or sustainable development issues. According to the *Code de l'Environnement*, metropolitan marine waters are distributed over four different maritime facades: Eastern Channel-North Sea, North Atlantic-Western Channel, South Atlantic, Mediterranean.

Geodiversity (géodiversité)

According to the *Code de l'Environnement* (Article L.110-1), geodiversity encompasses geological, geomorphological, hydrological and pedological diversity, as well as the dynamic processes that govern them, and their interactions with the fauna, flora, and climate.

Manager (gestionnaire)

In this strategy, the word 'manager' with no other specification designates the organism (and its representatives) that manages a protected area, with the meaning of managers for this territory's project as formalised in the reference document used for its management (management plan, charter, 'objectives document'; this does not preclude the quality of manager in the sense of land owner or exploiter, or that of manager of stocks of natural resources, within the limits of legal frameworks). These managers who remain in position can thus contribute to the conservation of the protected area if the governance conditions allow it.

All-taxa Biodiversity Inventory, ATBI (*inventaire général de la biodiversité*)

Coordinated inventory of all the species present in a given area, with the idea of improving knowledge in taxonomy and chorology and reaching a deeper understanding of ecological communities and their interactions within ecosystems. Such inventories are useful for assessing the heritage value of the area and setting up monitoring programmes.

IUCN Green List (*Liste Verte de l'UICN*)

Launched in 2014, the IUCN Green List of protected and conserved areas is an International certification that aims to recognise, throughout the world, protected areas that are managed fairly and effectively, with positive outcomes for nature and local communities. It provides an international benchmark for quality of management and governance that motivates improved performance and achievement of conservation objectives. Seventeen excellence criteria must be achieved for green-listing, covering good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes.

Naturalness (*naturalité*)

Reflects the degree to which an environment is affected by humankind, and conversely to which it is 'wild.' It includes two components: biological naturalness, defined by observable traits that express its closeness to the 'wild' state, and anthropic naturalness, which is related to the past or present level of human intervention. The naturalness of an ecosystem can be further estimated using three additional criteria: biophysical integrity (position on a continuum from pristine to artificial), spontaneity (absence of current anthropogenic influence, whatever happened in the past) and continuity in space and time (size, connectivity, and age).

Biodiversity hotspots (*points chauds de la biodiversité*)

Generic term designating a zone with a high biological value characterised by its richness in species or habitats, or by a high rate of endemism.

Pressure - State – Response (*pression – état – réponse*)

Framework based on the notion of causality: anthropogenic activities exert pressures on the environment and alter natural resources in quality and quantity, and society responds to these changes by taking measures of conservation, environmental remediation, etc.

High protection (*protection forte*)

Natural area in which the pressures of anthropogenic activities that may undermine the conservation of key ecological issues at stake in this area are eliminated or significantly reduced, in the long term, by land-use protection or by applying appropriate regulatory measures associated with an effective control of the activities concerned.

Biogeographical provinces (*provinces biogéographiques*) and ecoregions (*écorégions*)

Applied to protected areas, representativity is an objective that consists in covering and reflecting the diversity of ecosystems, habitats, species, and natural heritage in general.

Representativity or representativeness (*représentativité*)

Applied to protected areas, representativity is an objective that consists in covering and reflecting the diversity of ecosystems, habitats, species, and natural heritage in general.

Replication (*réplication*)

Designates here the protection of a sufficiently large number of individuals, habitats and ecological processes inside several protected areas sufficiently distant from one another to mitigate losses given the threats faced by each protected area.

Biodiversity strongholds (*réservoirs de biodiversité*)

In the framework of the French 'green and blue network' green infrastructure (trame verte et bleue), biodiversity strongholds are defined as areas in which biodiversity, composed of elements either rare or common, or threatened or not, is highest or best represented, where species are able to achieve all or part of their life cycle (feeding, reproduction, resting) and where natural habitats can function properly, in particular due to their adequate size. Such areas may be suitable for population nuclei from which individuals may disperse elsewhere or for providing habitats for new populations to settle in.

Ecosystem services (*services écosystémiques*)

Social and economic benefits derived from the sustainable use of the ecological functions of ecosystems. Certain ecosystem services are material benefits provided by natural processes, such as products of direct use to people (food, materials, energy, etc.), water filtering and cleaning, soil stabilisation, pollination. Others are nonmaterial benefits, such as the provision of sites appropriate for recreational or cultural activities.

Local levels, territories (*territoires*)

Subdivisions of the country that correspond to administrative units (authority, jurisdiction). The strategy is to be applied at different administrative levels:

- Regional level in metropolitan France and overseas regions, and 'collectivities' in other overseas territories, on land;
- Maritime facade in metropolitan France, sea basin in overseas marine zones, whether departments, regions or 'collectivities'.

Department (*département*)

Used throughout this document to primarily mean the second order administrative unit of France, as in the units that make up a region at the regional level.

Uses (*usages*)

Activities undertaken inside a certain perimeter (for example, a protected area) or a function provided by a particular feature of this area.

Tools and instruments associated with the notion of protected area

Definition of a protected area

A protected area is “a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (IUCN Definition 2008).

ON LAND

Are considered as protected areas:

- National Parks (core zone and associated peripheral zones) (*Parcs Nationaux*)
- Nature Reserves (*Réserves Naturelles*)
- Biological Reserves (*Réserves Biologiques*)
- Prefectoral Orders for biotope, natural habitat, or geotope protection (*Arrêtés de Protection préfectoraux*)
- National hunting and wild fauna reserves (*Réserves Nationales de Chasse et de Faune Sauvage*)
- Sites of the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire du Littoral*)
- Sites of the Natural Areas Conservation Trusts (*Conservatoires des Espaces Naturels*): acquired and managed sites
- Regional Nature Parks (*Parcs Naturels Régionaux*)
- Sites of the Natura 2000 network (*sites Natura 2000*)
- RAMSAR sites, being among the areas delineated by France in application of regional or international instruments (*sites RAMSAR*)
- Sites inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage list, being among the areas delineated by France in application of regional or international instruments (*sites du Patrimoine Mondial de l’UNESCO*)

- Biosphere Reserves, being among the areas delineated by France in application of regional or international instruments (*Réserves de Biosphère*).

Potential new tools and instruments to be adopted after analysis or to apply on a case-by-case basis when implementing the first action plan:

- Protected perimeter of National Nature Reserves after submission to the National Council for the Protection of Nature (CNPN)
- Sensitive Natural Areas (*Espaces Naturels Sensibles*), provided criteria to be defined during the first action plan are met
- Sites acquired by the Water Agencies (*Agences de l’Eau*), provided criteria to be defined during the first action plan are met
- Classified Sites (*Sites Classés*), provided criteria to be defined during the first action plan are met
- Protected areas designated in application of the regulations of French Polynesia, the government and provinces of New Caledonia and Wallis-and-Futuna, provided criteria to be defined during the first action plan are met, and after submission to the CNPN.

IN MARINE AREAS

All the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) mentioned in Article L. 334-1 of the *Code de l'Environnement*:

- National Parks (*Parcs Nationaux*) encompassing a marine area
- Nature Reserves (*Réserves Naturelles*) encompassing a marine area and, if necessary, the perimeters under protection of the reserves whose management plan has been approved by the ministry in charge of the environment after seeking the opinion of the National Council for the Protection of Nature (CNPN)
- Orders for the protection of biotopes, natural habitats and sites of geological interest covering a marine area (*Arrêtés de Protection*)
- Marine Nature Parks (*Parcs Naturels Marins*)
- Natura 2000 sites encompassing a marine area (*sites Natura 2000*)
- Marine parts of the coastline under the authority of the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire du Littoral*)
- Fishing Conservation Areas (*Zones de Conservation Halieutiques*)
- Marine parts of Regional Nature Parks (*Parcs Naturels Régionaux*)
- National hunting and wild fauna reserves (*Réserves Nationales de Chasse et de Faune Sauvage*) encompassing a marine area
- Marine Protected Areas (*Aires Marines Protégées*) created in application of the regulations of French Polynesia, the government and provinces of New Caledonia and Wallis-and-Futuna
- Marine zones of protected areas delineated by France in application of regional or international instruments to which France is a party.

Tools and instruments associated with the notion of protected area

For information, presented below is the explanation for protected area definition from IUCN's Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories.

PHRASE	EXPLANATION
Clearly defined geographical space	Includes land, inland water, marine and coastal areas, or a combination of two or more of these. "Space" has three dimensions, for example, as when the airspace above a protected area is protected from low-flying aircraft or in marine protected areas when a certain water depth is protected or the seabed is protected but water above is not: conversely subsurface areas sometimes are not protected (for example, are open for mining). "Clearly defined" implies a spatially defined area with agreed and demarcated borders. These borders can sometimes be defined by physical features that move over time (for example, river banks) or by management actions (for example, agreed no-take zones).
Recognised	Implies that protection can include a range of governance types declared by people as well as those identified by the state, but that such sites should be recognised in some way (in particular through listing on the World Database on Protected Areas – WDPA).
Dedicated	Implies specific binding commitment to conservation in the long term, through, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International conventions and agreements - National, provincial, and local law - Customary law - Covenants of NGOs - Private trusts and company policies - Certification schemes.
Managed	Assumes some active steps to conserve the natural (and possibly other) values for which the protected area was established; note that "managed" can include a decision to leave the area untouched if this is the best conservation strategy.
Legal or other effective means	Means that protected areas must either be gazetted (that is, recognised under statutory civil law), recognised through an international convention or agreement, or else managed through other effective but non-gazetted means, such as through recognised traditional rules under which community conserved areas operate or the policies of established nongovernmental organisations.

Appendix 1

PHRASE	EXPLANATION
... to achieve	Implies some level of effectiveness – a new element that was not present in the 1994 definition but which has been strongly requested by many protected area managers and others. Although the category will still be determined by objectives, management effectiveness will progressively be recorded on the World Database on Protected Areas and over time will become an important contributory criterion in identification and recognition of protected areas.
Long-term	Protected areas should be managed in perpetuity and not as a short-term or temporary management strategy.
Conservation	In the context of this definition conservation refers to the in-situ maintenance of ecosystems and natural and seminatural habitats and of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species (see definition of agrobiodiversity in the Appendix), in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.
Nature	In this context nature always refers to biodiversity, at genetic, species, and ecosystem level, and often also refers to geodiversity, landform and broader natural values.
Associated ecosystem services	Means here ecosystem services that are related to but do not interfere with the aim of nature conservation. These can include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious, and other nonmaterial benefits.
Cultural values	Includes those that do not interfere with the conservation outcome (all cultural values in a protected area should meet this criterion), including in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - those that contribute to conservation outcomes (for example, traditional management practices on which key species have become reliant); - those that are themselves under threat
Issue of incompatibility of industrial activities with Marine Protected Areas	Note that IUCN ¹ considers that a protected area is not compatible with industrial activities that impede the achievement of conservation objectives. In particular, 'industrial fishing' (defined as fishing by vessels more than 12 m in length and using trawling gears, purse seines, or large longlines) is not allowed in MPAs and OECMs to the extent that it is not compatible with the conservation objectives and the management goals of these areas.

1. The explanatory note by France concerning its abstention on the adoption of Motion 066 during the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress: Being anxious to ensure the environmental, economic, and social durability of fishing activities, France cannot endorse a definition of industrial fishing that would result in barring as a matter of principle certain segments of its fishing fleet from pursuing their activities in certain areas. Moreover, the French authorities consider that activities inside protected areas should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using robust data and methods, in particular environmental impact assessments, and in order to always comply with the conservation objectives of the protected area considered and to allow or preserve the sound ecological state of the ecosystem. France defends an approach to marine protected areas that permits, in many cases, the coexistence of activities. The issue in all marine protected areas is the elimination of pressures exerted on ecosystems, but this does not imply the elimination of sustainable uses. A well-managed fishing activity can therefore be compatible with the conservation of species and habitats in a protected area, whatever the length of the vessel. France calls for the strict application of all measures that make it possible to exploit sustainably the biological resources of the sea, in particular in protected marine areas, and the strict enforcement of these measures, in particular by intensifying the fight against illegal, undeclared, and unregulated fishing (IUU).

Tools and instruments associated **with the notion of highly protected area**

Definition of high protection

A protected area under high protection is a natural area in which the pressures of human activities that may undermine the conservation of the ecological issues at stake of this area are eliminated or significantly reduced, in a durable way, by means of land-use protection or special regulations associated with an effective control of the activities concerned.

ON LAND

All the tools and instruments listed below, except those in bold (these new high-protection categories will be taken into account according to criteria to be defined in the course of the first action plan), are recognised as areas under high protection:

- core areas of National Parks (*zones coeur de Parcs Nationaux*)
- Nature Reserves (*Réserves Naturelles*)
- Biological Reserves (*Réserves Biologiques*)
- Orders for biotope, natural habitat, or geotope protection (*Arrêtés de Protection*)
- **Protection perimeter of National Nature Reserves (*Réserves Naturelles Nationales*) after submission to the National Council for the Protection of Nature (CNPN)**
- **National hunting and wild fauna reserves (*Réserves Nationales de Chasse et de Faune Sauvage*), provided that a special conservation management is implemented**
- **sites acquired by the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire du Littoral*), provided that a special conservation management is implemented**
- **sites acquired by the Natural Areas Conservation Trusts (*Conservatoires des Espaces Naturels*), provided that a strategy is devised to ensure these acquisitions are long term**
- **the definition of a pre-existing or new instrument appropriate for the high protection of forests.**

IN MARINE AREAS

All the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) mentioned in Article L.334-1 of the *Code de l'Environnement* can include a high protection zone:

- National Parks (*Parcs Nationaux*) encompassing a marine area
- Nature Reserves (*Réserves Naturelles*) encompassing a marine area and, if necessary, the perimeters under protection of the reserves whose management plan has been approved by the ministry responsible for the environment after seeking the opinion of the National Council for the Protection of Nature (CNPN)
- Orders for the protection of biotopes, natural habitats and sites of geological interest covering a marine area (*Arrêtés de Protection*)
- Marine Nature Parks (*Parcs Naturels Marins*)
- Natura 2000 sites encompassing a marine area (*sites Natura 2000*)
- Marine parts of the coastline under the authority of the Coastal Conservation Trust (*Conservatoire du Littoral*)
- Fishing Conservation Areas (*Zones de Conservation Halieutiques*)
- Marine parts of Regional Nature Parks (*Parcs Naturels Régionaux*)
- National hunting and wild fauna reserves (*Réserves Nationales de Chasse et de Faune Sauvage*) encompassing a marine area
- Marine Protected Areas (*Aires Marines Protégées*) designated in application of the regulations of French Polynesia, the government and provinces of New Caledonia and Wallis-and-Futuna

IN MARINE AREAS

- Marine zones of protected areas delineated by France in application of regional or international instruments to which France is a party.

High protection zones can be designated within the above-mentioned MPAs provided the following five criteria are met, as defined in the 2018 framework established by the Ministry for Ecological Transition on a proposal from the French Office for Biodiversity (*Office Français de la Biodiversité*) in coordination with the other ministries and the 'deconcentrated' services of the State (DREAL, DIRM, maritime prefects, regional prefects):

1. They cover priority ecological issues;
2. They should be in priority located inside Marine Protected Areas;
3. A special regulation of activities is in place to effectively reduce very significantly, or even eliminate, the main pressures exerted on the ecological features justifying the high degree of protection;

4. They are guided by a management document, prepared by the governance body of the concerned MPA, which defines the conservation objectives and a system for evaluating management effectiveness;

5. An operational policing system is in place for the control of activities.

These criteria signify that Marine Protected Areas that do not have management plans, such as areas under prefectural orders for protection (*Arrêtés préfectoraux de Protection*) and national hunting and wild fauna reserves (*Réserves Nationales de Chasse et de Faune Sauvage*) cannot designate high protection zones unless they are enclosed within an MPA with a management plan.

For example, an area under prefectural order for protection that is located inside a Marine Nature Park can become a high protection zone.

Breakdown of ecoregions retained for the national monitoring **of the development of the network of protected areas and high-protection areas**

The achievement of objectives will be monitored at different levels, including the ecoregional level.

Ecoregions will be based on the Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) system proposed by Spalding et al. (2007), retaining the intermediate level, that is provinces, which seems the most appropriate. Regarding terrestrial areas, rather than using a biogeographical zoning that requires the breakdown of small territorial units such as islands into sub-units of diminutive size, we propose to extend the different MEOW ecoregions to include adjoining terrestrial areas.

The ecoregional approach of the future strategy will be based on the two-tiered system detailed in the table below.

TERRITORY CONCERNED	MEOW PROVINCE	ECOREGION	GOVERNANCE LEVEL
Metropolitan France		Alpine	Administrative Region
Metropolitan France		Atlantic	Administrative Region
Metropolitan France		Continental	Administrative Region
Metropolitan France		Mediterranean	Administrative Region
Metropolitan France	Northern European Seas	North Sea English Channel	Eastern Channel and North Sea Maritime Facade
Metropolitan France		Celtic Seas	North Atlantic and Western Channel Maritime Facade
Metropolitan France	Lusitanian	North Bay of Biscay	South Atlantic Maritime Facade
Metropolitan France		South Bay of Biscay	
Metropolitan France	Mediterranean Sea	Western Mediterranean	Mediterranean Maritime Facade
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Cold Temperature Northwest Atlantic	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Saint Pierre and Miquelon Sea Basin

Appendix 2

TERRITORY CONCERNED	MEOW PROVINCE	ECOREGION	GOVERNANCE LEVEL
Guadeloupe	Tropical Northwestern Atlantic	Antilles	Antilles Sea Basin
Martinique			
Saint Martin			
Saint Barthelemy			
French Guiana	North Brazil Shelf	Guiana	Guiana Sea Basin
Mayotte	Western Indian Ocean	Indian Ocean	South Indian Ocean Sea Basin
La Réunion			
Glorieuses islands			
Tromelin			
Juan de Nova			
Europa			
Kerguelen	Subantactic Islands	Southern and Antarctic Lands	
Crozet			
Saint Paul and Amsterdam	Amsterdam - St Paul		
Adelie Land	Continental High Antarctic		
Clipperton	Tropical Eastern Pacific	Clipperton	High-Commissioner of the Republic
Wallis and Futuna	Central Polynesia	Wallis and Futuna	Wallis and Futuna
	Marshall, Gilbert and Ellis Islands		
French Polynesia	Southeast Polynesia	South Polynesia	French Polynesia
	Marquesas	Marquesas	
New Caledonia	Tropical Southwestern Pacific	New Caledonia	New Caledonia
	Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands		

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