



**PRESS KIT**

# **ONE PLANET SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY**

**JANUARY 2021**

# Introduction

## Why hold a One Planet Summit focused on biodiversity?

**1 million** species threatened with extinction according to IPBES

The global health crisis caused by the coronavirus epidemic is a stark reminder of the importance of nature for our daily lives and for our economies: **for all humans, biodiversity is our life insurance**. Yet the ravages being suffered by our ecosystems have reached unprecedented levels and will have far-reaching consequences for the way we live in the decades to come.

This is precisely the message reiterated, yet again, by the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** in its report, adopted in Paris in May 2019.

Around **1 million animal and plant species** could become extinct in the coming decades, signalling the dizzying pace, unheard-of in the history of humankind, with which biodiversity is collapsing:

- more than 40% of **amphibian** species are endangered;
- more than a third of **all marine mammals** are endangered;
- up to 70% of **coral reefs** have been either already lost or heavily damaged ;
- 100 million hectares of tropical forests have been lost between 1980 and 2000.

**40%**  
of amphibians  
endangered

**1/3**  
of marine mammals  
endangered

**70%**  
of coral reefs  
destroyed or  
endangered

This unprecedented destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems is accelerating **climate change** and exacerbating the **risk of the transmission of zoonoses**,<sup>1</sup> such as coronaviruses. Such biodiversity loss jeopardizes not only our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),<sup>2</sup> but also the wellbeing and dignity of millions of people.

**If we are to reverse this trend, we need to entirely rethink our relationship with nature.** This is an ambition that concerns everybody, including Governments, businesses, associations and every single one of us. There needs to be action in every corner of the globe, since every ecosystem counts, irrespective of its location. **The aim of the One Planet Summit is to show that action can be taken to protect and restore ecosystems**, by delivering practical, innovative solutions to relieve pressure on nature.

<sup>1</sup> Zoonoses are diseases or infections than can be transmitted from vertebrates to humans and vice versa. Zoonotic pathogens may be bacteria, viruses or parasites.

<sup>2</sup> Adopted by the United Nations on 20 September 2015, the aim of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set forth in Agenda 2030 is to help all States, stakeholders and individuals usher in a society that is more just, more resilient and more ecologically sound.

**2021,**  
the year of action  
for biodiversity

The year 2021 needs to be the year of action for biodiversity. The fifteenth Conference of the Parties (**COP15**) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in China (in Kunming) will be one of the year's major events. The COP15 is to set forth a **new global strategic framework for biodiversity** with ambitious collective objectives and greater wherewithal for implementation so as to halt biodiversity loss and set it on a path to recovery for the benefit of all.

It is in order to accelerate this action that France is organizing, in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank, a One Planet Summit for biodiversity, on 11 January 2021, in Paris. It will be an opportunity to further raise the international community's nature protection ambitions, while also addressing new issues stemming from the crisis.

The One Planet Summit for biodiversity was initially scheduled for June 2020, alongside the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), but had to be postponed owing to the global health situation.

This Summit will bring together Heads of State and Government as well as leaders of international organizations, financial institutions, the business sector and NGOs, who all stand ready to commit to concrete action to safeguard and restore biodiversity, to make strong new pronouncements and to launch transformational initiatives for nature.

By showing that it is possible to take action to protect the planet, we will be helping lay the foundation for an ambitious agreement for the COP15 in Kunming, China. The IUCN World Conservation Congress, which will take place in Marseille a few months later, will keep this momentum going.

## Taking action to preserve life: Four key themes

### 1) Protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems

The protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems is an essential pillar of pro-biodiversity action. **Protected areas**, and conservation of the species inhabiting them, play a crucial role in the protection and restoration of biodiversity. They will be a decisive factor in achieving a reversal of the current trend. An agreement at the COP15 built around an ambitious objective for protecting terrestrial and marine areas is a precondition for its success. The One Planet Summit aims to highlight the massive political and civic support that this ambition has garnered.

#### Two initiatives for protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, launched on the occasion of the OPS:

- The **High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People**, already joined by 50 Governments, aiming to achieve at least 30% protection by 2030;
- The multi-partner and multisectoral coalition aiming to make the **Mediterranean an "exemplary sea by 2030"**.

### 2) Mobilizing finance for the protection of biodiversity

To successfully bring all Governments on board to push for an ambitious framework at the COP15, it is important to demonstrate that mobilizing funding for sustainably managing

and protecting biodiversity is possible. The One Planet Summit showcases complementary initiatives that make it possible to **direct public and private investments toward projects for the protection, sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems**. Threats to biodiversity need to be duly considered and factored in by economic players in order to overhaul value chains.

#### Two initiatives for mobilizing finance for biodiversity protection, launched on the occasion of the OPS:

- **Coalition for the convergence of climate and biodiversity funding**. These countries pledge to commit 30% of their climate finance to projects that are favourable to biodiversity;
- The **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD)** which aims to better gauge firms' impact on nature so as to achieve greater transparency and the redirection of investments to nature-positive businesses.

### 3) Promoting agroecology

The One Planet Summit is an opportunity to show how our mobilization for biodiversity is truly a social and economic issue: promoting agroecology makes it possible to **protect ecosystem diversity while reducing pollution**, and at the same time **create jobs** and enhance **food security**.

#### Initiative for promoting agroecology, launched on the occasion of the OPS:

- The **Accelerator for the Great Green Wall** which will bring public stakeholders and private firms together so as to restore and preserve agriculture and farming areas in the Sahara and the Sahel.

### 4) Drawing the connection between deforestation and human health

Drawing on lessons from the current health crisis, the One Planet Summit will underscore the **link between deforestation, species survival and human health**. It is thus a chance to launch initiatives for preventing future pandemics, by combatting deforestation and preventing risks related to our contact with wild species. Moreover, forest areas harbour an incomparable wealth of biodiversity, vital for our survival. They play a crucial role in the defence against climate change and their loss aggravates global warming. Forests furthermore ensure the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people and are essential to the lives of 60 million members of indigenous communities. Deforestation must therefore be stopped, especially when it is the consequence of our imports. This implies, notably, establishing sustainable supply chains in order to safeguard the world's natural resources while ensuring fair economic development for producer countries.

#### Two initiatives drawing the connection between deforestation and human health, showcased at the OPS:

- The **PREZODE** initiative (PREventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) aiming to minimize the risk of infectious diseases from animal reservoirs (zoonotic diseases) emerging, through reduced pressure on biodiversity;
- The **Alliance for the conservation of tropical forests and rainforests** which has now been created and is operation-ready, and invites States to join the first core group of countries (donors and forest nations).

## What has the One Planet Summit process achieved in its first three years?

Ever since its inception in late 2017, the One Planet Summit initiative has been developing, as a pledging platform, **solutions** that nurture our oceans, climate and biodiversity. Three years – and three summits – later, some **forty very concrete coalitions and initiatives** have come into being. Their lead organisations are committed to achieving clearly specified objectives and to being accountable for them.

### Businesses and financiers aligned on the Paris Agreement objectives

Since 2017, an increasing number of economic stakeholders have undertaken specific, measurable commitments with a view to **reducing their climate impact and protecting the planet**. Initiatives launched by the One Planet Summit make up a significant share of this global movement.

### Concrete results at the grassroots level

Each edition of the One Planet Summit is an opportunity to identify and accelerate transformational initiatives and funding for solutions that benefit our oceans, climate and biodiversity. All of these projects reduce the environmental footprint of our economies, and yet at the same time bring about very concrete improvements in the lives of the beneficiaries, especially in developing countries.

**121 countries  
involved in  
coalitions**

**308 research projects  
conducted by 3,305  
researchers around the globe**

**+100%**  
**Twice as many financial  
players involved in coalitions  
for climate transition**

### One Planet Summit: Milestones

- 12 December 2017: launch of the initiative by the French President, two years after the Paris Agreement was signed at the COP21
- 26 September 2018: second edition of the One Planet Summit in New York, United States, to mobilize policy-makers
- 14 March 2019: third edition of the One Planet Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, to accelerate and bolster climate action in Africa
- 11 January 2021: fourth edition of the One Planet Summit for biodiversity

## France, a pioneer for action on biodiversity

France is home to abundant outstanding natural heritage, thanks to its very diverse expanses, both in its overseas territories and in continental France. By way of example, 80% of the ecosystems that exist in Europe can be found in metropolitan France. France is the world's second largest maritime nation, with over 10 million km<sup>2</sup> under its jurisdiction, and it is responsible for 10% of the planet's coral reefs by surface area. Our country hosts 10% of the world's known species.

Since the 1960s, France has been working to ensure greater protection of biodiversity, enacting major legislation on nature conservation (1976) and on biodiversity recovery (2016). As of 2010, public policies have been implemented with a holistic approach, building on the conviction that biodiversity can only be protected if it is taken into due consideration by all sectoral policies.

- **Regional approaches with maximum stakeholder mobilization**

The only way to combat biodiversity loss is to combine local, national and international endeavours. This entails collective action, involving the State, elected officials and local authorities, socio-economic stakeholders, scientists as well as input from civil society, whether through associations or direct citizen participation.

One of France's more salient policies in this regard is the push to strengthen the network of French protected areas. With the adoption of its national strategy for protected areas 2030, announced at the OPS, France will now have for the first time, here in early 2021, a strategy that encompasses all of its protected areas: whether on land or at sea, whether on the continent or overseas. This strategy will be supplemented by three triennial action plans, enabling the concretization and assessment of the pledged outcomes. At the grassroots level it will be broken down into locally-designed, locality-specific action plans as of 2021.

- **A holistic approach that seeks to inform all sectoral policies**

Preserving biodiversity requires a holistic approach, in which biodiversity issues are mainstreamed into all areas of public policy.

In support of its biodiversity policy, France created a Biodiversity Office in January 2020. For the first time in its history, France now has a single national operator to oversee biodiversity matters, whether aquatic, marine or terrestrial. The Office mobilizes technical expertise for the management of natural areas and supports stakeholders who are actively working to conserve, restore or promote biodiversity. It also assists the Environmental Police.

Furthermore, in late 2021 France's third national biodiversity strategy is scheduled for adoption. The strategy will chart the way through to 2030, in alignment with the global biodiversity framework that is to be adopted this year (World Conservation Congress, COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity). This strategy will be co-drafted with local authorities and the various stakeholders concerned.

### **Four national biodiversity measures announced at the One Planet Summit:**

- Protected areas: France pledges to **achieve its objective of 30% protected areas, both land and sea, by the summer of 2022.**
- Agroecology: rollout in France of a renewed agroecological transition programme, including, in particular, the **planting of 7,000 km of rural hedgerows** by 2022.
- International finance for biodiversity: by 2030, 30% of France's climate finance will go to pro-biodiversity projects.
- Deforestation: accelerated rollout of **the National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation (SNDI)** through the establishment of a data-sharing platform regarding imported deforestation, open to the private sector, and of a Charter of commitments drawn up between the State, the vegetable oil and protein sector, and the livestock sector, for the **National Strategy on Vegetable Proteins.**

# FOCUS INITIATIVE #1

## Great Green Wall Accelerator

In sub-Saharan Africa, the Sudano-Sahelian Zone has been identified as one of the world's climate change hotspots. The projected consequences are particularly alarming, with an anticipated rise in temperature of 3-6°C by 2100. Given that the population of the Sahel looks set to increase from 150 to 350 million by 2050, it is absolutely crucial that solutions be found to relieve pressure on natural resources pursuant to the Sustainable Development Goals and to safeguard biodiversity.

At the One Planet Summit, an "Accelerator for the Great Green Wall Project" will be launched so as to respond to the Sahel's development issues through the **dissemination of agroecological practices and the creation of a favourable ecosystem**.

This initiative is designed to coordinate the efforts of all parties involved, by mobilizing:

- a budgetary envelope of over 10 billion euros by 2025 marshalled by international donors;
- a group of major international private financiers, prepared to invest in natural capital and the green economy;
- more than a hundred firms *from the global agricultural sector*, united around the Charter of the IAM AFRICA (*International Agroecological Movement for Africa*), committed to helping achieve the agroecological transition objectives in the GGW countries.

The Great Green Wall Accelerator will give **renewed vigour** to this ambitious African initiative, launched in the 1980s, destined to stand as a shining example of the role that nature-based solutions<sup>3</sup> can play in the struggle against climate change.

Capable of rising to the planetary challenge, the Great Green Wall initiative will help conserve and restore biodiversity while delivering solutions regarding:

- job creation, because the way that farming value chains will be structured, encouraging the rollout of agroecological practices, will go hand in hand with the creation of sustainable, decent jobs;
- food security, because it will enable the development of agricultural production;
- a response to climate change, by permitting agricultural systems to adapt to rising temperatures, while furthermore contributing to carbon sequestration in the soil.

More broadly, it tallies with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, thanks to the myriad complementary initiatives implemented across the region.

### BACKGROUND

The Great Green Wall initiative was born in 1980s, from an idea floated by Burkina Faso's President Thomas Sankara and his counterparts in ten other countries of the Sahel-Sahara region. In 2007, the African Union created the Pan-African Great Green Wall Agency, comprising the eleven founding Sahel-Sahara States (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan), with a view to creating a 7,800 km long green belt stretching across the African continent, from Senegal to Djibouti. Halfway to completion, the Great Green Wall initiative is nowhere near achieving the objectives initially envisaged, but it is capitalizing on the experience accumulated thus far and currently comprises a mosaic of complementary initiatives. All of the partners involved are aware of the difficulties encountered, and of the need to bring the project to fruition by removing the obstacles identified with regard to funding and coordination of activities.

## FOCUS INITIATIVE #2

# High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

Over the last fifty years, our ecological footprint, which gauges the impact of human activities on nature, has increased by 190%. According to the IPBES Global Assessment, more than a million species are facing extinction. These species enable us to source water, food and medicine and provide us with crucial, irreplaceable services. In light of these findings, it is increasingly vital that biodiversity protection be enhanced internationally, regionally and nationally. Currently, only 15% of land and 7% of marine surface area is protected.

The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC) is an informal grouping of States, co-chaired by France and Costa Rica, whose **aim is to support the adoption of a target that would protect 30% of the planet (land and sea) by 2030**, as part of the forthcoming global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in China.

This target, based on science, echoes the recommendations issued by IPBES and the IUCN, which slate protected areas as indispensable and effective solutions for conserving species and ecosystems, and which recommend significantly increasing their total surface area, up to at least 30% by the year 2030. This goal needs to be complemented with qualitative features, such as effective management, establishment of connections between protected areas, and full due consideration of local populations.

There is a huge variety of existing tools from which to choose when selecting management and protection tools for natural milieux, flora and fauna, including national action plans for endangered species and for terrestrial and marine protected areas (national parks, natural marine parks, nature reserves, etc.). With these tools it is possible to tailor and combine solutions to any of the wide-ranging issues and problems that may be encountered in any given area, thus making management and protection more effective.

Fifty States have already signed on to this initiative: 43 Member States and 7 States currently formalizing their accession. The aim is to include enough countries to achieve a critical mass and thus weigh convincingly on negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Once the target has been adopted and incorporated into the forthcoming global biodiversity framework, it will be important not only to work with stakeholders in the field to ensure its effective implementation, but also to mobilize sufficient funding so as to guarantee the resources needed for implementation.

### BACKGROUND

The earlier Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted in 2010, aimed to achieve protection status for 17% of terrestrial areas and 10% of marine areas by the year 2020. This goal was never attained but encouraging progress was nonetheless made: 15% of land surface area and 7% of marine areas are currently protected.



## FOCUS INITIATIVE #3

# The Mediterranean, exemplary sea by 2030

The Mediterranean Sea's marine biodiversity and ecosystems are among the most endangered in the world. They are under multiple pressures: destruction of coastal ecosystems, plastic waste and pollution, over-fishing, spread of invasive species, and effects of climate change, especially rising water temperatures, deoxygenation, acidification and the rising sea level. Increasing urbanisation on both shores, seaside tourism and growth in maritime traffic in the region (accounting for 15% of global maritime traffic) have all directly impacted the quality of the marine environment and coasts, and could ultimately damage the region's economies.

The **coalition aiming to make the Mediterranean an exemplary sea by 2030** is focused on rekindling the regional drive to safeguard the Mediterranean basin in a multi-partner and multisectoral manner. Such an across-the-board approach is necessary in order to address biodiversity protection, overfishing, marine pollution and maritime transport.

The initiative is based on **four complementary objectives**:

- protect 30% of the Mediterranean by 2030, including reinforced protection for 10%
- end all overfishing by 2030
- ban single use plastics
- ensure greener maritime transport

The One Planet Summit will be the starting point for a process of political commitment, bringing together not only States, but also regional bodies, grassroots representatives, civil society and the private sector. Jointly spearheaded by France, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia, this draft action plan has thus far been shared with nearly a dozen countries from around the Mediterranean basin. The Mediterranean States will shortly set down a timeline for adopting and implementing this action plan. This undertaking builds largely on regional frameworks that are already in place.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in Marseille in September 2021, could bear witness to the culmination of these discussions.

### BACKGROUND

The primary instrument protecting the Mediterranean against different sources of pollution and safeguarding its biodiversity is the Barcelona Convention, signed in 1976 by the 21 coastal States, with its seven protocols that set forth its general principles in specific domains (pollution, immersion, waste, critical situations, biodiversity, offshore activities and integrated coastal zone management). The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), for its part, is the regional fisheries management organization whose remit covers the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. It is in charge of promoting the development, conservation, rational management and exploitation of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean region. It has 24 members.

## FOCUS INITIATIVE #4

# The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD)

For our economies to become compatible with nature conservation, we need to achieve a drastic reorientation of firms' activities and investment flows, whether public or private, toward biodiversity preservation. To this end, there needs to be greater and more systematic consideration of environmental issues in economic and financial markets through the creation of tools for evaluating risks and impact – positive or negative – on biodiversity.

While there are already such tools that can be used with regard to climate change mitigation, there is a lack of indicators,<sup>4</sup> which makes monitoring the impact of economic and financial activities on biodiversity more complex.

The initiative aspires to overcome this challenge by establishing, thanks to the collaborative efforts of top-level experts and corporates, a **common methodological framework for measuring biodiversity aspects and factoring these into economic and financial decisions.**

With this tool it will be possible to measure the environmental impact of a given economic activity, company or financial asset, which will thus enable investors (through a common reporting framework) to **redirect their capital toward the most environmentally-friendly activities and firms.**

This comes on top of regulatory developments concerning extra-financial reporting obligations incumbent on financial and non-financial players.

The OPS will give decisive political impetus to this process. The Taskforce is expected to be established before summer.

### BACKGROUND

Just like the contributions that the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) was able to make regarding the climate, the TNFD aims to foster corporates' and investors' commitment to protecting nature thanks to the definition of a common language. The task at hand is to draft a framework for measuring, taking into account and reporting the risks, impacts and benefits of economic activities and financial decisions with regard to biodiversity.

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<sup>4</sup> Like the level of greenhouse gas emissions (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) in the case of climate.

## FOCUS INITIATIVE #5

# Coalition for the convergence of climate and biodiversity funding

Climate goals and preserving the biosphere are but two of the vital choices to be made in the coming decade. Indeed, these two objectives are intrinsically interconnected. Scientists maintain that at least 30% of the solutions to the effects of climate change can be found in nature, being based on healthy wetlands, forests, oceans and prairies. Conversely, preserving these ecosystems cannot be envisaged without a determined fight against climate change, which is one of the chief factors in their degradation. Yet the solutions to these two intertwined challenges continue to be implemented as if in entirely separate silos. Globally, only 3% of climate finance is explicitly pro-biodiversity. Public mitigation or adaptation policies and projects fail to sufficiently incorporate nature-based solutions and are sometimes even harmful to ecosystems.

To give their actions greater consistency and effectiveness, this coalition's member countries hope to increase the proportion of their bilateral climate finance going to projects that also contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with the aim of reaching at least 30% by the year 2030.

In the case of France, this target will be reached as early as 2025 for French Development Agency (AFD) funding. This is possible chiefly, and specifically, by opting more broadly for nature-based solutions. At the same time, the issues of conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity will be increasingly mainstreamed into all sectors of AFD's interventions and activities.

### BACKGROUND

At the 2012 Hyderabad Biodiversity Conference, the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed to double biodiversity-related fund flows to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition by 2015, taking 2006-2010 flows as a baseline, and to maintain this twofold increase until the year 2020.

The initial pledge made at the COP21 Climate Change Conference aimed to raise 100 billion dollars annually from 2020 to 2025 for climate action in developing countries. In 2018, this funding reached 78.9 billion dollars. France had mobilized nearly 6 billion euros in 2019.

## FOCUS INITIATIVE #6

# PREZODE, preventing the emergence of zoonoses and pandemics

75% of all new infectious diseases in humans come from animals: the transmission of viruses and other pathogens from wild fauna to farmed animals and to humans is aggravated by the destruction of biodiversity. Prevention represents only a modest cost when compared with that of managing epidemics and their fallout. As the crisis from the coronavirus epidemic clearly shows, once a pandemic is under way, it is already too late: the destruction wreaked on health, economic, social and food systems rapidly spirals out of control. There is therefore an urgent need for coordination at the international level to prevent the emergence of zoonotic diseases, notably in connection with the destruction of habitats of wild animals and with trade in wild animals, pursuant to the international recommendations issued by IPBES.

This initiative thus creates an unprecedented international **research-action alliance dedicated to preventing new pandemics, centred on the "One Health" approach**: one health for biodiversity, for animals and for humans. PREZODE aims to bring numerous existing projects and programmes together and build on them. The joint efforts of researchers, local communities and decision-makers to find appropriate solutions are expected to result: in the identification and reduction of the main factors leading to the risk of zoonotic disease emergence; in the co-development of policies incorporating human and animal health, and biodiversity; in One Health real-time monitoring systems; and in improved science-society-government dialogue. The initiative will facilitate dialogue among all parties, concerted action, the targeted use of funds, and impact assessment.

Launched by France in cooperation with its main European partners, notably research institutes in Germany and the Netherlands, and building on numerous existing networks and partners around the world, this initiative has received support from the FAO and been welcomed by the other main international organizations concerned (OIE, WHO, UNEP), as well as by the European Commission and the World Bank.

Nearly 400 participants – researchers, and representatives working in human, animal and environmental health – took part in the preparatory discussions; over 50 countries have joined; close to a thousand researchers are involved. Governance of the initiative will be structured over the course of the year 2021. The budgetary requirements for its initial phase are estimated to be 200 million euros for the 2021-2025 period.

### BACKGROUND

The initiative is an operational complement to the "One Health" High-Level Expert Council, launched by France, Germany, the WHO, OIE, FAO and UNEP at the Paris Peace Forum on 12 November 2020.



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