



For a just world that values and conserves nature

French Nature Congress

Since June 2000, the IUCN French Committee has organised every year the French Nature Congress in order to debate priorities and issues regarding the conservation of biodiversity in France and throughout the world.

The various congress sessions have enabled 47 resolutions to be adopted and helped to prepare, for example, French contributions to IUCN world congresses, the national biodiversity strategy, political elections, the *Grenelle de l'Environnement* national forum, and the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

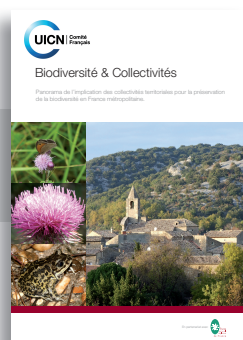
The IUCN worldwide

The International Union for Conservation of Nature, founded in 1948 at Fontainebleau, is a worldwide network of more than 1000 member organisations and 11000 scientists and experts, based in more than 160 countries. It is the only environmental organisation with the status of United Nations Observer.

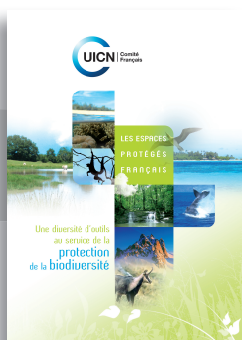
France is ranked 3rd in the world regarding the number of IUCN member organisations. The French Committee is the 2nd largest national committee in terms of the scope of its action programmes. It plays an active role in coordinating and promoting French expertise and proposals on biodiversity.



For all the news concerning the IUCN French Committee, its activities and publications, please visit www.uicn.fr.



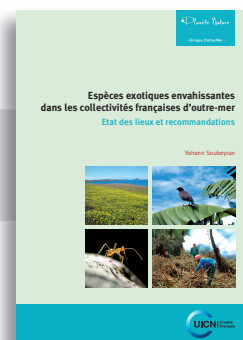
Biodiversity & Local Authorities
Overview of local authorities' involvement in biodiversity in metropolitan France



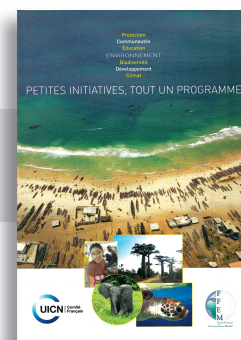
French Protected Areas
A range of tools for biodiversity conservation



The Red List of threatened species in France
Context, issues and methodology



Invasive alien species in French overseas territories
Assessment and recommendations



The Small Grants Programme of the French GEF



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Created in 1992, the IUCN French Committee is the network of organisations and experts of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in France. This democratic membership union is a unique partnership, bringing together 2 ministries, 13 public organisations, 40 non-governmental organisations, and more than 250 voluntary scientists and experts, who meet in specialised commissions and working groups.

Due to its mixed composition, the IUCN French Committee provides a unique platform for dialogue and expertise on biodiversity issues, which also involves local authorities and private companies.

The IUCN French Committee has two main missions: to respond to biodiversity issues in France, and to promote French expertise internationally.

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The IUCN French Committee's biodiversity action programmes

In order to fulfil its two missions, the IUCN French Committee has set up 7 programmes devoted to biodiversity policies, protected areas, species, ecosystem management, environmental education and communication, overseas territories and international actions. Their implementation depends on the active involvement of its member organisations, experts and partners in 5 commissions and 8 working groups. The IUCN French Committee carries out assessments, formulates concrete recommendations and manages projects to develop new policies, knowledge, and actions in favour of biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity Policies

The IUCN French Committee contributes actively to governmental policies on biodiversity. It has been particularly involved in the National Biodiversity Strategy and the *Grenelle de l'Environnement* (a multi-stakeholder national forum devoted to environmental issues). Its propositions take into consideration European and international issues and commitments.



It also helps to mobilise all the stakeholders, especially local authorities and business. The IUCN French Committee is involved in several partnerships with private companies, working together to draw up and implement specific policies on biodiversity. It also collaborates with local authorities and their associations to enhance their involvement in biodiversity conservation.

The implementation of this programme is completed by other studies concerning, for example, the integration of biodiversity into farming practices and biodiversity offsets.

Protected Areas

Protected areas, which are defined by IUCN in 6 broad categories, are the cornerstone of most biodiversity conservation strategies.

The IUCN French Committee plays an active role in formulating French national policy regarding protected areas. In particular, it supports the setting up of an efficiently managed national network, which is representative of the diversity of terrestrial and marine habitats. It participates in several thematic studies on marine and forest protected areas, on both the metropolitan France and overseas territories.

It also strives to promote French protected areas internationally by providing expertise on existing and potential UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites, by assessing the application of the recommendations of the Convention on Biological Diversity on protected areas, and by collaborating with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.



Species



The IUCN Red List is the authoritative worldwide inventory of the extinction risk faced by the planet's plant and animal species. In order to have a precise national inventory, the IUCN French Committee and the French National Museum of Natural History coordinate the compiling of the Red List of threatened species in France (metropolitan and overseas territories).

Since 2005, the French Committee has also been conducting an initiative regarding invasive alien species in the overseas territories, assessing the situation, proposing recommendations, and consolidating actions to fight this serious threat.

Finally, it provides expertise on national species protection policies and is taking part in national negotiations on the major international conventions regarding endangered species (CITES, IWC, etc.).

Ecosystem Management

The IUCN French Committee gives particular attention to the sustainable management of ecosystems, in particular forests, coastal zones, marine areas, mountains, and wetlands. A specific programme of actions has been set up to reinforce their conservation, within which several working groups are developing projects.

Legal assessments have been carried out regarding the French "Coast" and "Mountain" Laws on the occasion of their 20th anniversary, as well as on marine protection and sustainable tourism in mountain environments. The French Committee also works on the ecological services provided by ecosystems and the inclusion of biodiversity in the development of renewable energies.



Education and Communication

The IUCN French Committee undertakes actions to promote education and raise awareness about biodiversity, in order to enable behaviours, actions and policies to evolve.

Since 2007, it has co-initiated the creation of a national, festive event: "la Fête de la Nature" (Festival of nature). The Festival aims to build greater public awareness about nature, and offers the opportunity to participate to thousands of events that are organised throughout France. To mark the International Year of Biodiversity, the French Committee launched with several of its NGO members a public appeal and a campaign called: "Biodiversity is my nature".



Overseas Territories



The overseas territories are one of the geographical priorities of the IUCN French Committee, because they are one of the richest place on earth in terms of biodiversity. Its specific programme is organised around three main strategic areas: enhancing and disseminating knowledge, influencing public policies, and reinforcing the actions of local stakeholders.

The programme is implemented through a specific working groups that brings together some 100 experts from 48 public and private organisations present and/or working in the overseas territories.

In particular, the French Committee has published the first global inventory of overseas biodiversity, assessed the public funding allocated to overseas territories, and produced recommendations on the mining policy in French Guiana. It also initiated the IUCN's European overseas territories programme, in collaboration with its members in the Netherlands and the UK.

International Actions



The IUCN French Committee collaborates with the Small Grants Programme of the French Global Environment Facility. It is currently managing a portfolio of approximately 80 projects in some thirty, mainly French-speaking, African countries. The aim is to support African civil society organisations in the implementation of concrete biodiversity conservation projects or in combating climate change.

The French Committee has also carried out several missions and studies in other countries (including Africa, the Mediterranean region, Latin America and Southeast Asia) and participated in field projects (for example human-elephant conflicts in Burkina Faso, reforestation of mangroves in Senegal, protection of sea turtles in Central and West Africa...).

List of members

Agence des Aires Marines Protégées | Association des Amis de la Forêt de Fontainebleau | Association des Naturalistes de la Vallée du Loing | Association Française des Ingénieurs Ecologues | Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques | Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne | Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels | Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement | Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement | Club Alpin Français | Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes - France | Conseil International de la Chasse - France | Conseil Régional d'Ile-de-France - Direction de l'environnement | Conservatoire Botanique National de Brest | Conservatoire de l'Espace Littoral et des Rivages Lacustres | Fédération des clubs « Connaître et Protéger la Nature » | Fédération des Conservatoires Botaniques Nationaux | Fédération des Conservatoires d'Espaces Naturels | Fédération des Parcs Naturels Régionaux de France | Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelles | Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin | Fondation Internationale pour la Sauvegarde de la Faune | Fondation Nature et Découvertes | Fondation Nicolas Hulot pour la Nature et l'Homme | Fondation Tour du Valat | Fondation Yves Rocher | France Nature Environnement | Groupe Local d'Observation et d'Identification des Cétacés de la Réunion | Jardin Botanique de la Ville de Lyon | Kwata | Ligue pour la préservation de la faune sauvage et la défense des non chasseurs | Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux | Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement Durable et de la Mer | Ministère des Affaires Étrangères | Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle | Natureparif | Nausicaa | Noé Conservation | Observatoire Départemental de la Biodiversité Urbaine de Seine-Saint-Denis | Océanopolis | Office National de la Chasse et de Faune Sauvage | Office National des Forêts | Office Pour les Insectes et leur Environnement | Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental | Parcs Nationaux de France | Pronatura International | Province Sud de Nouvelle Calédonie - Direction de l'Environnement | Réserves Naturelles de France | Société Française pour l'Étude et la Protection des Mammifères | Société Française pour le Droit de l'Environnement | Société Réunionnaise pour l'Étude et la Protection de l'Environnement | Société Nationale des Parcs Zoologiques | Tchendukua - Ici et Ailleurs | Te Mana o te Moana | WWF France

French responsibilities concerning world biodiversity

France has major responsibilities regarding world biodiversity. It features 4 of the 5 main European biogeographical regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, and Mediterranean). Additionally, with its overseas territories in all three major oceans, France has the second largest maritime domain in the world. Moreover it's the only country with territories in 5 of the 34 world biodiversity hotspots (Mediterranean, Caribbean, New Caledonia, Indian Ocean Islands and Polynesia-Micronesia). France enjoys an exceptional natural heritage, but one that is seriously endangered: it is ranked 8th in the world for the number of globally threatened animal and plant species found there.