

# BIODIVERSITY GUIDELINES

## INTRODUCTION

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Biological diversity or “biodiversity” represents the biological richness composed of living organisms, the mutual relationships that unite them and their connections with the environments in which they live.

Biodiversity is essential for the functioning of our ecosystems, it provides all of our oxygen and our food and is involved in vital elementary mechanisms such as the purification of air, the water cycle and the fertilization of the soil. It also plays an essential role in the stabilization and moderation of the climate and in limiting the consequences of natural catastrophes.

Biodiversity, a vital resource for human beings, is at the core of environmental problematics and also represents a substantial economic factor, at present and for the future. Food, textiles, energy, construction, medicine, and biotechnologies are all sectors that depend directly on living systems and their potential.

At present, biodiversity in France and on the entire planet is facing a substantial phenomenon of erosion: acceleration of the pace of extinction of species, impoverishment and alteration of the genetic capital of populations, deterioration of ecosystems and loss of natural habitats. The main impacts on biodiversity are due to competition for the occupation of spaces between human activities with a big ecological footprint and natural environments.

In light of this reality, and aware of the environmental impacts linked to its construction and operations activities, the Eiffage Group wants to define and formulate its comprehensive commitment in terms of biodiversity. This is reflected in these Guidelines which present its ambition and its approach to biodiversity as well as the pillars of this approach.

# 1. THE GROUP'S AMBITION IN BIODIVERSITY

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## Reducing the ecological footprint as much as possible

Eiffage is aware that its construction and operation activities put pressure on species and natural environments and is seeking to reduce its ecological footprint as much as possible.

Initially, Eiffage is giving priority to approaches to avoid or reduce the impact on living systems in project design and also during work and operation phases. In a second phase, the group will address the residual impacts by taking additional appropriate and qualitative compensation measures with follow-up.

Eiffage commits itself to:

- Measuring the direct and indirect impacts of its activities on biodiversity, in order to propose approaches to avoid or reduce impacts to be implemented before the start of work, with efficient, long-term compensatory measures if necessary
- Giving priority to the implementation of compensatory measures before the start of work and making this approach obligatory for animal and plant species on the red list
- Including the renaturation of artificialized sites in these approaches
- Identifying and internalizing the ecological costs of its activities

## 2. EIFFAGE'S BIODIVERSITY APPROACH

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### Approaching biodiversity through its ecological services

Biodiversity is a universal heritage which conditions the equilibrium of humanity and the conditions of life on Earth. It is from this standpoint that the group considers all of the impacts of its activities on biodiversity, by highlighting the ecological services provided by each milieu and by each species involved. Beyond the emblematic species that require particular protection, Eiffage seeks to preserve ordinary biodiversity and ecological continuity. In this sense, ecological functionalities are evaluated in order to design and offer a response in proportion to the stakes identified.

### Systematizing the notion of biodiversity stakes

If the Group wants to take suitable and efficient actions with regard to biodiversity, it seems essential that it identify and evaluate the environmental stakes corresponding to each activity or work site as of the planning stage. With this rationale, Eiffage is systematizing the analysis and taking into account of the stakes of biodiversity within the framework of all commercial opportunities and for all of the branches of the group.

### 3. THE PILLARS OF THE GROUP'S BIODIVERSITY APPROACH

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#### Conscious-raising and/or training for the various contributors

Eiffage considers that it is essential to provide consciousness-raising and/or training for all in-house actors and partners regarding issues of remarkable and ordinary biodiversity and the milieus affected. This will reinforce our understanding of the stakes and helps ensure people's involvement and effectiveness.

Eiffage commits itself to:

- Provide consciousness-raising and/or training for its employees in the regulations and techniques applicable in biodiversity
- Provide consciousness-raising to the public regarding the ecological services provided by species and milieus for which there will be specific measures within the framework of the group's activities
- Sharing knowledge of construction and public works techniques and practices, particularly with partner engineering firms, in order to improve proposals for environmental corrective measures during the design phase and also during the monitoring phase.

## Developing innovation and R&D

As Eiffage wants to establish a proactive ecological approach, it is putting environmental innovation at the heart of its strategy. The involvement of employees in house is strongly encouraged in this regard. The group also stresses the importance of collaboration with the scientific and university community, as well as with NGO's that have acknowledged expertise in the field.

Eiffage commits itself to:

- Developing ONE innovation linked to biodiversity per work site/project that offers potential for use in this way
- Including the stakes of biodiversity in all of the Group's R&D budgets in order to contribute to the improvement of scientific knowledge, technical processes, and the protection and preservation of living systems
- Rewarding and promoting in-house initiatives, for example during the Innovation Trophies

## Continuing our approach through a sincere and adapted communications policy

Biodiversity appears to be a crucial factor in sustainable development that is still little known and sometimes neglected by civil society. In light of this reality and in awareness of the pressure that its activities have on living systems, Eiffage considers that it has a responsibility to communicate with and inform the general public regarding its work in management of biodiversity, particularly within the framework of its major infrastructure projects.

Eiffage commits itself to:

- Promoting work site visits and/or open house days for the public
- Distributing to the attention of the general public the environmental aspects of the Group's projects subject to LOTI (Loi d'Orientation des Transports Intérieurs – Interior Transport Law) appraisals
- Carrying out exemplary projects in terms of biodiversity