

# LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

A SERIES OF LOCAL CASES



## Île-de-France, France

### Regional support for municipal biodiversity management

**SUMMARY:** When it comes to biodiversity management, regional authorities can play a key role as initiators and facilitators of processes. Île-de-France is an example of a region which has been actively coordinating efforts to manage and protect biodiversity within its area by means of driving the process, involving all stakeholders and financing activities.

### Biodiversity & biodiversity management in Île-de-France

#### Driving the process

The region of Île-de-France has been active in the field of biodiversity management and conservation since 1999. Recognising the importance of intensifying these efforts, it conducted a major study in cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders, resulting in the implementation of various activities in partnership with other actors. More than 130 activities were funded and implemented between 2003 and 2007, aiming to address the following three priority areas:



View of a natural area surrounding the Seine River in Île de France

- 1) increase the knowledge of regional biodiversity, including inventories, research programmes and studies;
- 2) improve the management of natural resources, including feasibility studies and maintenance and planning works;
- 3) increase public awareness of the importance of taking into account the impacts on biodiversity when planning the uses of land, including educational activities.

#### Working in partnership

In December 2003, the Region Île-de-France launched a Regional Charter for Biodiversity and Natural Areas in an effort to formalise its commitment to manage and protect biodiversity and that of its partners. All the partners signing the Charter commit, for example, to recognise the importance of biodiversity in the city, promote a better management of urban biodiversity, protect the forests and increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to work together to achieve these goals. By 2007, the Charter had over 200 signatories, ranging from businesses to local governments to regional parks. The region is now working to engage with the other signatories and to increase the number of partners.

## Providing financial support

The region acknowledges the need for financial contributions to implement projects – thus the Charter was conceived of as a framework instrument to be accompanied by funding for the implementation of activities. Between 2003 and 2007, the region invested 3.3 million Euro for implementing such biodiversity activities.

### Plan Seine 2007 – 2010 Ecological Continuity

This project runs from 2007 to 2010 and aims to assure the free movement and migration of fish in the Seine River and the restoration of the banks (regional scheme for the integrated restoration of banks) and wetlands. It also aims to ensure an ecological corridor between wetlands and the main axis of the basin to improve river biodiversity.



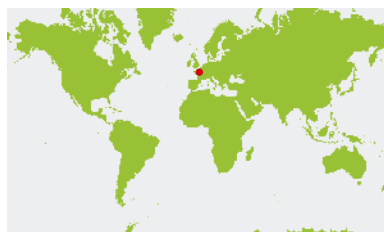
Limestone banks of the river Seine in Île-de-France

## Involvement in international initiatives

Île-de-France participates in numerous international projects and activities. It participates in ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity Project and joined the Countdown 2010 network in 2006. The region is also a member of METROPOLIS – The World Association of Major Metropolis and it is chairing the works of the Commission 1 of METROPOLIS

on eco-regions, which aims, amongst other things, to develop the Ecological Regions concept and the idea of metropolitan reserves of the biosphere from a global reflection, seeking collaboration with UNESCO (MAB Program). The regional council of Île-de-France decided in 2007 that it will be making all the necessary efforts to become a European eco-region.

## City contacts & profile



The Region of Île-de-France and its partners are committed to integrate biodiversity management into all their activities.

**ÎLE-DE-FRANCE** is one of the 26 administrative regions of France and includes the City of Paris, accounting for 20% of the regions' territory. The region has 11 million inhabitants. The natural and rural areas cover 80% of the region's territory. The region's rich biodiversity is threatened by pressures on its natural resources. Between 1982 and 1999, 1700 hectares of agricultural land and forests disappeared each year. Additionally, agricultural techniques aiming at increasing productivity, are contributing to the loss of species and to the modification of landscapes.

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**LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY** is a global urban biodiversity initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with IUCN. This pilot project of 21 cities around the globe focuses on the key roles that local governments play in conserving the world's biodiversity and retaining the relationship between people and nature. See: [www.iclei.org/lab](http://www.iclei.org/lab); [lab@iclei.org](mailto:lab@iclei.org)

**COUNTDOWN 2010** is a powerful network of more than 600 partners working together towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Each partner commits additional efforts to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. The secretariat – hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the 2010 biodiversity target and assesses progress towards 2010. See: [www.countdown2010.org](http://www.countdown2010.org)

**CITIES & BIODIVERSITY** is an initiative of local governments and UN agencies to increase awareness on the relevant role of cities and towns for conserving and managing biodiversity. See: [www.iclei.org/biodiversity](http://www.iclei.org/biodiversity)

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