

Sustainable Development Department

2024 REVIEW



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Foreword

2024, A YEAR OF ACCELERATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Issues related to climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, access to public services and energy transition are now undeniable priorities. In a global context marked by the interdependence of environmental, social and economic crises, these issues are now central to the priorities of governments, international institutions and civil society. The urgency to act is clear.

In this constantly changing landscape, Expertise France's Sustainable Development Department continued to grow in 2024, consolidating its role as a key player in international cooperation in support of ecological and social transitions. The expansion of its interventions and the reinforcement of its field presence signal the growing engagement of partners on these issues.

In response, the department is committed to designing and implementing concrete, structured solutions that are rooted in local realities. Thanks to the valuable support of its technical and financial partners, foremost among which are the European Union and the French Development Agency (AFD), Expertise France provides on-the-ground support for the implementation of resilient, inclusive and sustainable transition pathways that are fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2024, the Sustainable Development Department continued its commitment alongside a wide range of stakeholders in 50 countries and 25 overseas countries and territories. The projects are built on the transfer of expertise, peer-to-peer dialogue, and support for local, national and regional initiatives. Their objective: to support reforms and foster the implementation of ambitious public policies capable of driving deep and lasting transformations.

This work is grounded in long-term partnerships with local and international stakeholders, whose tangible benefits unfold and become visible over time. In 2024, nearly 100 strategic and normative documents, including public policies, sectoral strategies and regulatory frameworks, were developed or revised with the support of the teams. These advances are helping to durably shape public responses to environmental and social challenges.

Sustainability also depends on the transfer of skills. In 2024, more than 2,200 people were trained, 66% of whom came from national and local institutions and 14% from civil society and the private sector. Nearly 1,600 people also took part in dialogue spaces and peer-to-peer exchanges - essential forums for moving forward collectively and building shared solutions to the challenges mentioned above.

Alongside the department's traditional areas of focus (climate, biodiversity, agriculture and energy), 2024 saw the emergence of new priorities gaining traction in partners' strategies: the circular economy, or more broadly the green economy, urban services, the blue economy and ocean protection. The geographic expansion of the Agency's and the Department's scope of action has amplified conservation and nature protection efforts, particularly in the most vulnerable territories.

The year 2024 was also marked by the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, held two years after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Expertise France supported several partner countries in their participation in negotiations and in showcasing transformative solutions. More broadly, 28 countries were supported in 2024 in translating and implementing international agreements on climate and biodiversity.

This booklet presents a selection of flagship actions and topics carried out in 2024, illustrating the ambition that drives us: to support development pathways aligned with the SDGs, capable of reconciling social justice, economic performance and environmental sustainability!



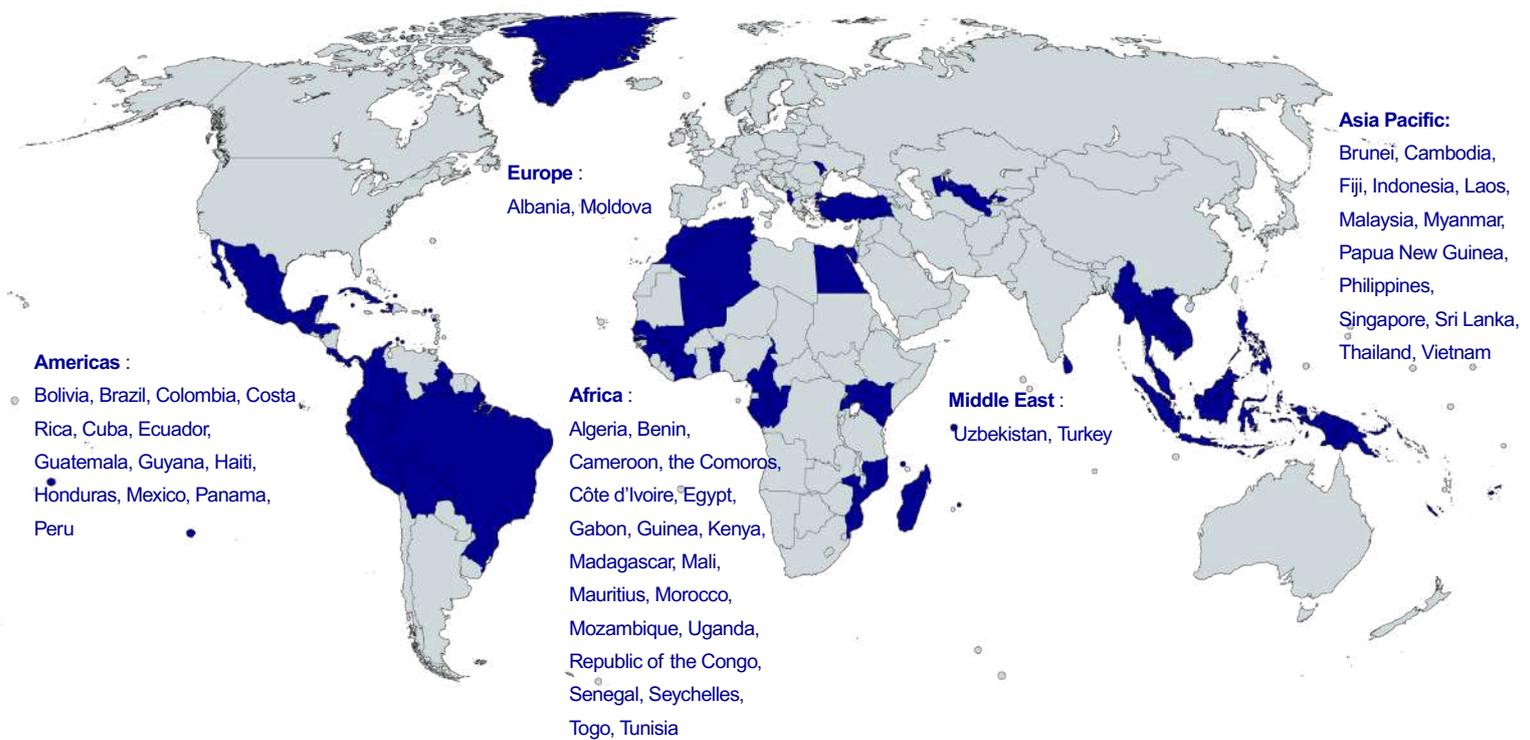
Nicolas CHENET

*Head of the Sustainable Development
Department*

The areas of intervention of the Sustainable Development Department in 2024

In 2024, the concept of sustainability remains more essential than ever when it comes to economic and social development and international cooperation. The accelerated loss of biodiversity, the growing effects of climate change on people, ecosystems and societies, rapid urbanisation that public services are struggling to respond to, and the challenges facing agricultural systems – which must feed a growing population, generate fair incomes while respecting nature and strengthening their resilience – are a reminder of the urgent need for action.

It is in this context that the **Sustainable Development Department continued its commitment alongside local partners and authorities**. The year 2024 was once again marked by numerous actions in this direction. **Over 50 projects were implemented in 50 countries and 25 overseas countries and territories¹**.



50 countries of intervention	25 overseas countries and territories ¹	42 million euros in contract volume	48 average implementation time in months	+7 average budget per project in millions of euros
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among **13** countries supported in implementing their international environmental commitments (Paris Climate Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Agreement (biodiversity))

[1] The status of Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) applies to countries and territories that are constitutionally linked to a Member State of the European Union but are not part of the EU territory. For France, these are New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, and Wallis and Futuna. For Denmark, it is Greenland. For the Netherlands, it is Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Saint Eustatius and Sint Maarten, the Dutch part of the island of Saint Martin). The 12 British Overseas Territories are Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, Turks and Caicos Islands, and British Virgin Islands.

Key figures for the Sustainable Development Department in 2024

611 organisations supported in the area of sustainable development, 15% more than in 2023

 240 national and supranational institutions and local authorities	 396 on biodiversity protection issues	 78 on regional development and urban planning	 41 on waste management	 51 on climate	 8 on agriculture
 32 in the provision of basic social services	 32 on the topic of business support	 24 in the use of digital technology and the digital transition			

3166 staff from organisations benefiting from capacity building on sustainable development issues, of whom at least 28% were women

 1787 staff members trained on biodiversity	 369 staff members trained on circular economy	 253 staff members trained on waste management	 147 staff members trained on agriculture and fishery
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5028 farmers supported, belonging to **409** collective producers organisations and **107** MSMEs in the agriculture sector

456 people who have found a job in the agricultural sector

1014 people trained to structure or revitalise community groups, with the aim of strengthening their income-generating activities

6890 new households served by new waste collection services

2492 people sensitised on natural disaster risk management

11 million hectares of marine protected areas with improved management

A strong presence of the Department at international forums

In 2024, the department actively took part in several major international events, most notably the **16th Conference of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, held in Cali, Colombia, in November. The aim objectives of this CoP were to **finalise the monitoring mechanism for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, particularly through the development of **national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs²)**, and to mobilise the necessary funding for its implementation.

The Agency built on the work carried out since 2018 in the negotiation process of this global framework, notably through the projects **Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework – EU support, BIODEV2030, Euroclima+ and Forests, Climate Change and Biodiversity (FCCB) projects**. Through these initiatives, the Agency has helped foster global alignment with European positions and mobilise its partners around French priorities. Its role in influence diplomacy has significantly raised its visibility within the CBD, as reflected in the granting of **observer status by the Convention Secretariat**.

With a **32-member delegation**, Expertise France was entrusted with managing the European Union pavilion, where it showcased project results through an integrated approach. Twenty-one sessions were organised, each bringing together an average of over 40 participants, making the pavilion a **central hub for dialogue and peer-to-peer cooperation around transformative action**.

This mobilisation has strengthened the image of the EU and its Member States as committed **partners to biodiversity hotspot countries in supporting their efforts to conserve and sustainably use their natural resources**. It has also helped to strengthen ties with numerous regional groups and stakeholders.

The conference was marked by the **signing of a partnership between the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and Expertise France**. Finally, the agency supported the participation of a **large Papuan delegation** through the FCCB programme, illustrating the country's strong commitment to biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation.



Participation of the Post-2020 project in COP16

[2] National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) define countries' plans for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and sharing the benefits of genetic resources equitably, in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Expertise France also took part in the **12th World Urban Forum (WUF12)**, UN-Habitat's biennial conference on sustainable urbanisation, which was held for the first time on the African continent, in Cairo, from 4 to 8 November 2024. With more than 25,000 participants from 182 countries, this edition was the largest to date. The Department participated in three events:

1. The launch of the **collaborative urban platform**, alongside the Cameroonian authorities. Unveiled on this occasion, this digital tool aims to bring together urban development stakeholders around the sharing of geographical data and enhanced consultation at all levels.

2. A roundtable on **urban planning in the face of environmental risks** highlighted progress made on the **local development plan for Lualaba Province**, within the framework of the REGUL project (see page 28). These discussions reflected a commitment to anticipating urban growth and strengthening territorial governance in highly constrained areas, such as the mining zones of Kolwezi.

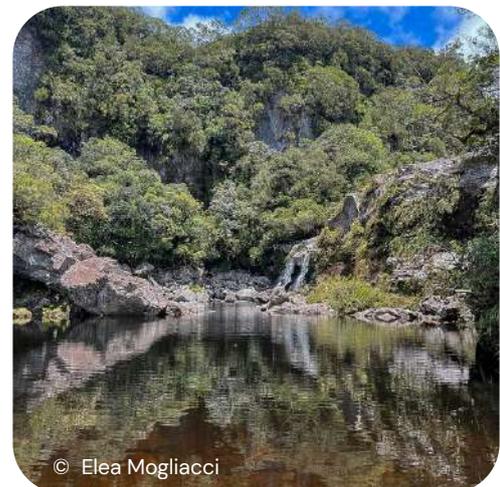
3. An active contribution to the **French Pavilion**, coordinated by the French Partnership for Cities and Territories (PFVT), through the moderation of a debate on urban informality. Informality was addressed as a lasting reality of cities, to be integrated into their management through inclusive and participatory approaches.

Through its participation in WUF12, Expertise France increased its visibility and reaffirmed its approach in support of sustainable and inclusive cities, by promoting:

- planned urbanisation adapted to population growth;
- the operational implementation of these plans to ensure access to essential services for all, including in informal urban contexts;
- support to local authorities in advancing urban governance tailored to social, economic and environmental challenges;
- investments in sustainable urban infrastructure, aimed at reducing pressures on natural resources, ensuring service accessibility, and strengthening territorial resilience to risks.



Participation of Expertise France in the World Urban Forum (WUF)



Focus on projects



Towards the blue economy: a growing priority for international cooperation

The blue economy is playing an increasingly important role in international cooperation and development projects, driven by growing awareness of the need to preserve marine and aquatic resources, as well as the oceans' essential role in carbon storage. It refers to a development model that sustainably leverages these resources by **balancing economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability** through **integrated management of marine and aquatic spaces**.

This dynamic is also reflected in the work of Expertise France, which is increasingly involved in projects related to this thematic area. In 2024, the department notably led the Blue Economy project in Algeria (see next page), while preparing, in partnership with the European Union and national and implementing stakeholders, the launch of three regional programmes conducted in consortium: in West Africa, Central Africa and the south-west Indian Ocean.



The agency focuses on four main areas:

- 1) **Integrated and participatory governance of marine and coastal areas**, including surveillance, prevention and enforcement against illegal activities at sea,
- 2) Improved **knowledge of marine and coastal ecosystems**,
- 3) **Protection, restoration** and, where necessary, **remediation of these ecosystems**,
- 4) Development of **sustainable economic activities** for coastal communities.

It should be noted that this thematic area is not the exclusive responsibility of the Sustainable Development Department; other departments also contribute, in particular the Peace, Stability and Security Department through the lens of maritime control and surveillance.

Towards the sustainable development of Algeria's coastline: the blue economy in action

The “**Blue Economy – Fisheries and Aquaculture**” programme, funded by the European Union and implemented since 2022 by Expertise France and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), supports Algeria in the **sustainable development of its coastline**, in line with the **National Strategy for the Blue Economy**.

The programme implements its actions in the country's **14 coastal wilayas** to create employment within coastal communities, improve working conditions and incomes for small-scale fishermen, and strengthen the governance of fishery resources. Since its launch, 30 studies have been conducted and 300 people trained.

In 2024, part of the activities focused on the **entrepreneurial ecosystem**, supporting the development of **innovative startups**, particularly in the fields of aquaculture, ‘bluetech’ and blue biotechnology. **29 incubators** (both university-based and private) were reinforced to support project leaders, while nine BlueSpaces incubators were established within training institutions under the Ministry responsible for fisheries and aquaculture.

The programme also supports the **shipbuilding and repair** sector to help it become better structured, comply with international standards, access new markets and offer appropriate training opportunities.

“ *The Blue Up programme has enabled me to better understand the global challenges of the blue economy in the Mediterranean region in order to better grasp the opportunities in this sector, a vision and expertise that I did not have before, as the manager of a women's incubator.* ”

Sarah Ait Hamou, co-founder of the private women's incubator WomWork By The Annex DZ



“ *[The shipbuilding sector] is experiencing significant growth in Algeria, particularly in the fishing industry. National skills and expertise are growing stronger, enabling operators in the sector to build vessels over 30 metres in length for bluefin tuna fishing and other deep-sea fisheries, the development of which is encouraged by the Ministry of Fisheries and Fishery Products.* ”

Mr. Cazalet, Deputy Project Manager





Strengthening agricultural value chains in Mali: lessons learned from the PACAO project

The West Africa Competitiveness Support Project (PACAO), funded by the European Union and implemented in Mali by Expertise France, **came to an end in December 2024 after three years of intervention in the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso and the district of Bamako.**

In a country where agriculture accounts for 45% of GDP and employs 80% of the working population, the project targeted three key sectors: **mangoes, shea and cattle fattening.** The aim was to enhance competitiveness in both national and international markets. To this end, PACAO **supported the structuring of the mango and cattle/meat inter-professional organisations and contributed to the creation of the shea sector inter-professional.** These organisations have since professionalised and are now able to provide quality services to their members.

Despite a challenging diplomatic and security context, the project also stimulated the private sector and strengthened the capacities of production and processing units. Members of **400 cooperatives** and around **100 companies** benefited from technical support in quality, organisation, management and marketing. By the end of the project, 84% of them were applying at least one good practice in their respective sectors.

In parallel, 23 pilot projects were funded, enabling the acquisition of modern equipment, product diversification, improved storage and preservation capacities, and the establishment of sustainable sales contracts.

Key figures of the project:

456

jobs created or consolidated in the three sectors

+30%

volume of mangoes processed by pilot projects between 2022 and 2024 (200T to 259T)

+37%

volume of shea processed by pilot projects between 2022 and 2024 (44T to 60T)

+27%

average turnover of local processing companies

“

PACAO's support has been crucial for us, as it has enabled us to purchase crates for harvesting mangoes, build a mango ripening room and purchase an insulated container for storing processed mangoes. Thanks to this equipment, we were able to sell 10.8 tonnes of mangoes despite this year's poor production, and we recruited 15 seasonal workers, including 14 women who worked throughout the season.

Check, Keletigui Berthé, AGSA Economic Interest Grouping

“

PACAO's support has greatly improved our knowledge of mango processing techniques, but what we remember most is the marketing training that enabled us to promote our products and sell them through social media. To be honest, before the PACAO training, I really didn't know how that was possible.

Ms Traoré Rokiatou Coulibaly in Sikasso

The PACAO experience in Mali highlighted the effectiveness of a support approach **focused on the economic actors themselves**, building on existing sector dynamics, particularly in contexts where public sector capacities are limited. **Placing the inter-professional organisations at the heart of the project**, especially in its governance, proved particularly relevant: by involving them throughout implementation, they played a **leading role** as technical intermediaries, representative bodies and service providers. Their legitimacy was strengthened through the mapping of sector actors and the creation of consolidated databases, giving them today a clear and up-to-date overview of their members and their needs.

Furthermore, involving national stakeholders (the Plant Protection Office (OPV) and AMANORM, the standards organisation) not only as beneficiaries but also as active field partners promoted greater ownership of the project, improved coordination between local and national levels, and more effective and sustainable implementation. This **partnership-based, multi-stakeholder approach** is one of the key factors behind the project's success.



© Expertise France - PACAO

on the left: mango preparation stage

on the right: presentation of a shea butter chumer



© Expertise France - PACAO

AFIDEV: modernising Comorian agriculture to serve strategic sectors



AFIDEV is one of the flagship projects of the **France-Comoros Development Plan** (PDFC), implemented by Expertise France throughout the Comoros: Grande Comore, Mohéli and Anjouan. In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Tourism and Handicrafts (MAPETA), the project supports the **modernisation of Comorian agriculture around three key crops: vanilla, ylang-ylang and cloves.**

The objective is clear: **to strengthen the role of agriculture in local economic development** by acting on three levers. The first is **to improve the competitiveness, organisation and diversification of cash crop sectors**, turning them into real drivers of growth. Secondly, the project aims **to increase the volume and quality of production**, thereby contributing to improving producers' incomes and access to employment. Finally, AFIDEV supports the **development of vegetable production**, which is essential for strengthening food security in the archipelago.

The project in 2024

3288

trained
producers

92

people supported in
vegetable
production

14

firms and
individuals
supported toward
quality certification

“

The agricultural extension or advisory support system is currently being developed in the Comoros. It is within this new framework that the pilot farms are being planned. Initially, the project aims to help establish the governance framework for these farms (who does what and what each party's responsibilities are). The project has already recruited a national consultant to carry out this work. The project is therefore contributing to the development of the new extension and advisory support system. The physical establishment of the pilot farms could take place during the second half of 2025 and continue into 2026.

AFIDEV Communication

The Post-2020 project: a lever of influence for multi-level action in favour of biodiversity



The Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework – EU Support project was carried out in two distinct phases. The first phase, implemented between 2018 and 2021, aimed to support the **development of a new global biodiversity framework** that was both ambitious and inclusive. The second phase, carried out from 2022 to 2024, focused on the **adoption and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal agreement**. It focused on **strengthening the influence and capacities of key actors to drive transformative action for nature and to initiate concrete changes in the policies and decision-making processes** of ten partner countries.

Expertise France played a triple role in this project: **technical support, stakeholder mobilisation and diplomatic coordination**. In particular, the Agency was able to navigate complex relationships between non-European countries, international organisations, EU Member States and various components of civil society (private sector, youth, local communities, etc.), as well as within European institutions and components of the French team (MEAE, MTECT, AFD Group).

During the second phase, completed at the end of 2024, more than **400 non-state actors participated and advocated for a 'nature-positive' dynamic** through formal and informal coalitions at major international events. In addition, 118 events were organised, bringing together more than **4,200 participants** in total, and **51 publications** were produced to inform strategic thinking.

Although the full impact of this project will only be measurable in the long term, several positive signs are already emerging: **12 declarations have been adopted by various project partners to affirm their commitment to biodiversity**. Furthermore, the open rate for the project newsletter, which exceeds 23% (a high rate compared to the average), demonstrates strong interest in the topic and growing support for advocacy on nature-related issues, both in international negotiations and at the national level.

On the ground, the project has also contributed to structural advances: in three countries, **plans to implement the global biodiversity framework have been established through participatory processes** supported by the project. This technical support has emphasised the integration of strategies that promote behavioural change, recognising that sustainable impacts require both individual and systemic changes. It also helped to identify and remove obstacles to the effective implementation of existing policies. These results demonstrate the transformative nature of this project and point to sustainable and structural impacts for global action in favour of biodiversity.



<https://4post2020bd.net/>

VARUNA: a regional ambition for biodiversity

The Union of the Comoros, France, Mauritius, Madagascar and the Seychelles: these territories in the south-western Indian Ocean are home to remarkable biodiversity, characterised by very high rates of endemism. However, this natural heritage, both terrestrial and marine, is seriously threatened by **increasing pressures linked to human activities:** land artificialisation, deforestation, proliferation of invasive exotic species, overexploitation of resources, pollution, climate change, mass tourism, etc.

Highly involved in the region, AFD launched the Varuna programme in 2022 with the aim of helping to slow down the erosion of biodiversity. Project management has been entrusted to Expertise France, which is leading this programme bringing together **17 partners**. The project is structured around three main areas:

1. **Structuring networks of regional stakeholders** – protected area managers, researchers, businesses – to encourage concerted action in favour of biodiversity;
2. **Supporting businesses in integrating ecological transition issues** into their strategies and economic models.
3. **Supporting research and raising awareness among local populations.**

In 2024, Expertise France launched the **Indian Ocean Business Biodiversity Fund (FBBOI)**, a call for projects with a budget of €2.5 million to fund initiatives led by the private sector in partnership with civil society. **The aim is to help these actors reduce their impact on ecosystems and integrate biodiversity conservation into their core activities.**



The project in 2024

45

marine protected areas that are members of the network established and managed by Réserves Naturelles de France, representing nearly **117 km²**

90

Companies participated in biodiversity dialogue platforms, led by CaPBOI.

48

ePoP videos were produced by young Madagascans about the nature that surrounds them and the threats to it.

18000

People were able to discover a travelling exhibition dedicated to Malagasy biodiversity.

78

Malagasy journalists were trained on biodiversity issues by IRD.

121

stakeholders on the periphery of terrestrial protected areas were involved in CIRAD experiments on the co-management of forest landscapes

“

Social, economic and environmental issues are inextricably linked. It is crucial to integrate biodiversity conservation into socially sustainable development.

Frédérique JANKOWSKI, Socio-anthropologist, Head of the project Living Forest (CIRAD)

Halfway through the project, the team drew several lessons regarding the programme’s regional dimension. Despite the diversity of initiatives, a **regional coherence has emerged around a strong identity embodied by the Varuna brand**, which unites partners under a common banner. Varuna’s added value today lies in its ability **to animate and equip a diverse ecosystem of territorial actors** in a region characterised by accessibility challenges.

Regional governance is based on steering committees that bring together representatives from the five territories’ partners, along with a few observer members.

These spaces for dialogue play a central role in fostering collective momentum and shared ownership of challenges, despite the diversity of contexts.

Varuna today positions itself as an ambitious programme that drives **transdisciplinary collaboration across actions, actors and territories**, in service of preserving a common good that knows no borders: biodiversity.



<https://varuna-biodiversite.org/>



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These photos are from the photo contest organised by the Varuna project team in 2024!



BIODEV2030 : Promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue to integrate biodiversity into sectoral public policies

Faced with the alarming collapse of biodiversity – one million animal and plant species threatened with extinction, rapidly declining ecosystems – the **BIODEV2030 project** aims **to integrate biodiversity issues into public development policies and the production practices of the sectors that have the greatest impact on biodiversity (mainstreaming)**. The objective: to reconcile economic development and nature conservation.

Launched in 2020, the first phase of the project has established a **dynamic of scientific and multi-stakeholder dialogue in 16 pilot countries. Working closely with the National Focal Points** of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a wide range of actors – ministries, businesses, NGOs, local communities – have mobilised around a common goal: to share a common vision of priority biodiversity issues and promote high-impact voluntary commitments in the sectors with the greatest impact on biodiversity.

Building on the momentum already created in Phase I and on a trio of stakeholders including sectoral ministries and the Ministry of the Environment, Phase II (2023-2026) is organising **multi-stakeholder dialogue workshops at the national level**.

The project in 2024

15

countries of implementation: Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, Senegal, Tunisia, Vietnam

122

organisations gathered for national multi-stakeholder dialogues

15

national multi-stakeholder dialogue workshops

12

national multi-stakeholder dialogue workshops

85

participants in international events organised by BIODEV2030

“

The second phase of BIODEV2030 focuses on shrimp fishing in Madagascar, as it is a strategic sector that accounts for 12.5% of shrimp exports on the African continent. However, this economic wealth must no longer come at the expense of nature. BIODEV2030 provides support for public policies to integrate biodiversity into the sector and implements a pilot project in the field to test sustainable and reproducible fishing practices. The second phase of the project has already led to the creation of a national platform for sustainable shrimp fishing, the selection of a pilot area for action, and the identification of policy priorities for concrete progress.

Lie Haar Andriamanalina, Natural Capital officer, WWF Madagascar

Their main objective is to support national authorities in **identifying priority sectoral public policy instruments to be reformed in order to change production practices in favour of biodiversity**; they also provide support for the **revision and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**.

In 2025, the project will enter a new phase: **supporting a pilot region in each country in identifying concrete actions to combine economic development and biodiversity conservation**. This project will roll out the voluntary commitments identified in phase I across one or more identified productive sectors and will be presented to donors active in each of the pilot sites.

BIODEV2030 is a project delegated by AFD to Expertise France, which is responsible for its management and operation management. Operation management has been entrusted to a consortium comprising the **IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and WWF France (World Wildlife Fund)**. Expertise France is coordinating the project and supporting project managers in 15 countries to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue, support negotiations and develop pilot territorial projects.



<https://www.biodev2030.org/>



© IUCN Kenya



© WWF Tunisia

On the previous page, first national workshop in Mozambique, August 2024. On the left, workshop to launch phase 2 of the project in Kenya, July 2024. On the right, second national workshop in Tunisia, February 2025.

Expertise France supports Papua-New-Guinea in protecting its biodiversity

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is home to the third largest tropical forest in the world, after the Amazon and the Congo Basin. A **true reserve of biodiversity and a crucial carbon sink for the planet**, this forest is at the heart of the Papuan government's priorities, which is committed to sustainable economic and social development that respects the environment.

In this context, the European Union is supporting these efforts through the **Forest, Climate Change and Biodiversity (FCCB) programme**, launched in 2023 for a period of four years. Expertise France is involved in this programme to **support national and local authorities in implementing public policies and governance mechanisms** related to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. The Agency also contributes to **strengthening knowledge by supporting research and public awareness campaigns**, while **promoting public and private investment in sustainable economic sectors and activities that do not contribute to deforestation**.

In 2023, France formalised its commitment at the **One Forest Summit in Gabon**, with President Emmanuel Macron announcing the creation of a **Country Package** for PNG. This mechanism is based on a cooperation agreement involving multiple countries and actors (public, private, multilateral and philanthropic), providing financial and technical support for sustainable investments in forest, biodiversity and climate protection.

In 2024, France expressed its intention to actively contribute to the implementation of the Country Package by providing the PNG government with an international technical expert (ITE) and technical assistance to the inter-agency taskforce.

This initiative, designed to complement the FCCB programme, is part of a broader European dynamic driven by the "Team Europe Initiative"¹, in support of the country's sustainable development pathways.

Furthermore, France's contribution to the Country Package led to a third AFD-funded project. Formulated to support the sustainable management of forest and marine resources while improving the livelihoods of the populations that depend on them, the project **Solwara na Graun blo pipol (SoNG)**, signed in April 2025, aims **to support community-led conservation and natural resource management initiatives**, while **strengthening governance frameworks for marine and forest ecosystems**, biodiversity and climate.

The project will particularly focus on aligning local actions with national and provincial public policies, supporting civil society organisations engaged with local communities in conservation and sustainable ecosystem management, and backing research initiatives focused on these issues. Finally, the project will provide technical assistance to UNDP to establish a PNG Climate and Biodiversity Fund (PNG BCF).

[1] A Team Europe Initiative, or 'Team Europe', is a collaborative approach by the EU that brings together the European Commission, Member States and their implementing agencies and public development banks, and the European Investment Bank, to work together on common priorities in partner countries. The aim is to maximise the impact of European aid by combining resources, expertise and actions in a coordinated and coherent manner.



Circular economy: a structuring lever for the transition of territories

In the face of the climate emergency and the limitations of traditional linear models, the circular economy has become a priority in European public policies, as well as in international cooperation and official development assistance. By promoting **waste reduction, resource reuse, and the transformation of production and consumption patterns**, it serves as a strategic lever to support the **transition toward more sustainable models**.

Recognising this, the department developed in 2024 a specific theory of change for the circular economy. It was created collaboratively to identify the **levers of transformation that can be activated** through the teams' projects and to formalise the intended change outcomes. This strategic approach is based on five core pillars:

1. **Strengthening regulatory and institutional frameworks**, a necessary foundation for transitioning toward a circular economy that encourages virtuous practices,
2. **Effective implementation of public policies at the territorial level**, to ensure the operational application of the circular framework,



3. The **development of appropriate and accessible infrastructure and services**, enabling the concrete integration of circularity principles,

4. The **involvement of the private sector in applying circular economy standards**, and the creation of bridges between public and private actors to enrich public policies through field-based experiences,

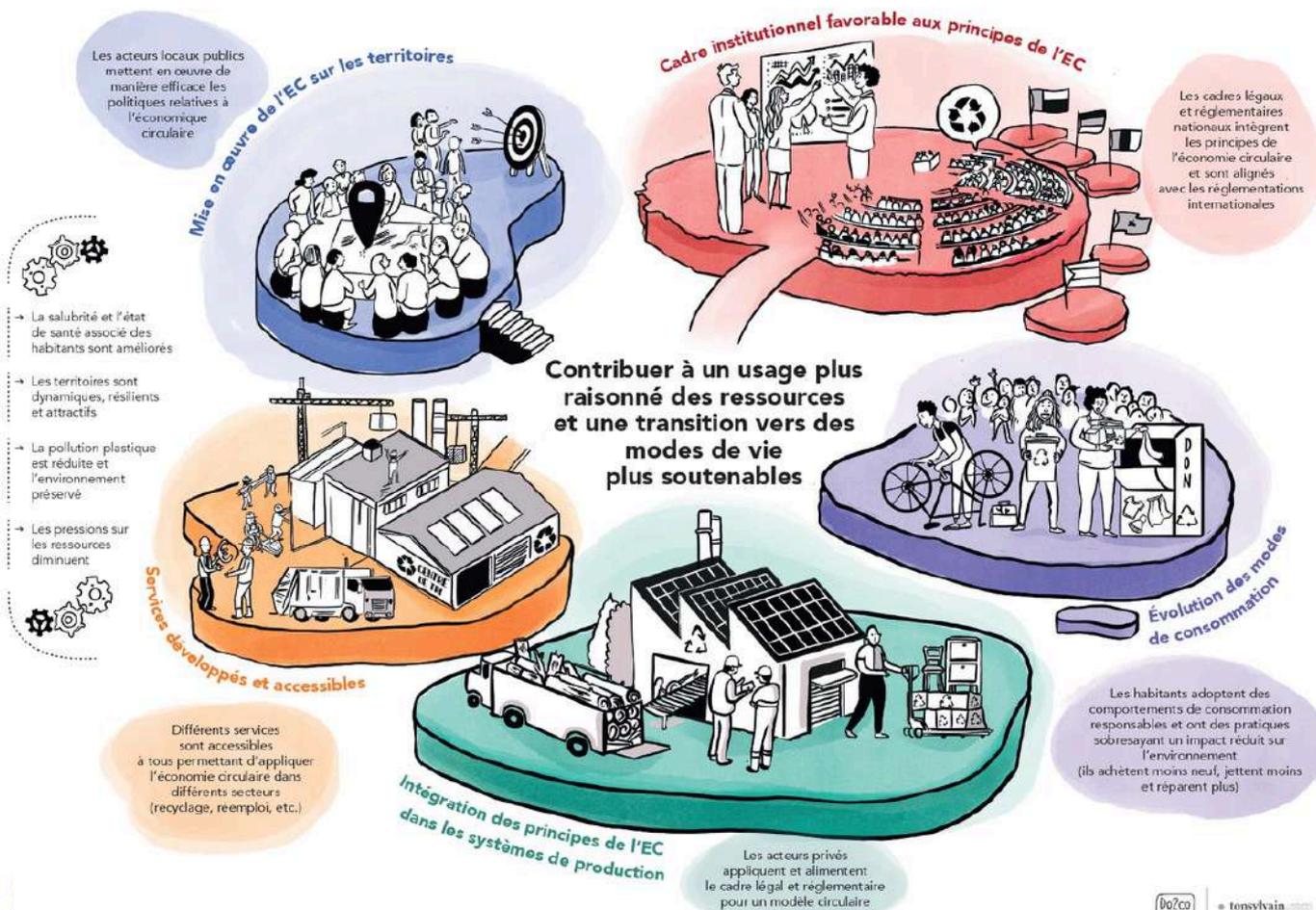
5. The evolution of **citizens' behaviors and consumption patterns** toward more moderate practices with lower environmental impact.

To act on these various levers, the department supports public and private actors in **transforming their models, facilitates the structuring of multi-stakeholder platforms, promotes regional cooperation and the exchange of good practices, provides support for planning processes**, whether urban, sectoral, or entrepreneurial, **encourages citizen-led initiatives, develops training programmes, and funds pilot projects** in areas such as recycling and reuse...

In 2024, **four projects** were implemented by the department in the field of circular economy:

- A regional project in the southwest Indian Ocean, in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (**IORA**),
- The **Green Forward** project, deployed in the Middle East and North Africa, aimed at advancing regulatory frameworks and creating a shared vision on the topic across nine countries in the region,
- The **Green Recovery Fund** project (see article on Sri Lanka on the next page),
- The **CIRCULAR** project, also in Sri Lanka (see next page),
- And another regional project, supporting **ASEAN** in the development of a regional strategy for marine waste management.

In parallel, **3 new projects** were under development for launch in 2025: a waste management and circular economy promotion project in **Angola**; a project to support the **Mauritian** government in implementing its national roadmap on this issue, with a particular focus on the construction sector; and the **regional SWITCH-to-CE** project for promoting the circular economy in the East and Southern Africa region (implemented jointly with Expertise France's Sustainable and Inclusive Economy Department).



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Visual representation of the Theory of Change of the Circular Economy Unit within the Urban Development and Circular Economy Division (DUEC). This Theory of Change outlines the impact vision, intervention priorities, and expected outcomes of the thematic unit. It illustrates how its actions contribute to sustainable transformations.

Green and circular Economy: a pathway to a resilient Sri Lanka

Following the major economic crisis that struck Sri Lanka in 2022, the government embarked on an **ambitious transition toward a more sustainable development model** by adopting a roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 ("Carbon Net Zero 2050").

It is in this context that Expertise France launched its first intervention in the country in 2023 through the **EU Green Recovery Fund** project. This initiative, funded by the European Union, aims to lay the foundations for an inclusive economic recovery by supporting three priority areas: establishing a **structured political dialogue**, developing a **favorable environment for entrepreneurship and investment**, and improving **access for SMEs to "green" financing**. In 2024, the project focused particularly on the **regulatory framework of the green economy**, notably the operationalisation of the green taxonomy—a classification system for economic activities that do not exacerbate climate change.

Furthermore, Expertise France committed to a second green and circular economy project in the country, focusing on the food sector. The **CIRCULAR** project, implemented jointly by FAO, GIZ, and Expertise France, aims to **reduce waste and packaging production in the food and agro-food sectors**. It plans to support stakeholders in the adoption of plastic alternatives and to carry out awareness campaigns targeting consumers.



Launched in September 2024 for a duration of three years, Expertise France's component of this project aims to: (i) **support the transition of businesses toward a circular model**, notably by facilitating their access to financing, and (ii) **change the behavior of producers and consumers** to adopt sustainable production and consumption practices aimed at reducing the use of single-use plastics.

“ *The EU Green Recovery Facility arrived at a critical moment, as national institutions were striving to find solutions to address the country's economic crisis. Everyone, from the Central Bank to the Ministry of Finance, was searching for a way forward, and the Facility created an essential platform to begin serious discussions about the green economy. For the first time, diverse stakeholders came together to initiate a structured dialogue on the green transition, and this inter-ministerial coordination was considered one of the Facility's key contributions. We also appreciate the project team's advanced technical expertise, which sets the Facility apart from other projects. The team's ability to bring new perspectives and support informed discussions is a clear added value.*

Ms. Kumudini Vidyalkara, Director of the Environment Planning & Economics Division at the Ministry of Environment

Basic urban services: a growing focus for the department

In recent years, the department's urban projects have primarily focused on **planning, land-use management, and urban governance**. The **Urbayiti** project, implemented since 2017, follows this approach by working on the legal and institutional framework for urban development, strengthening the role of civil society, and undertaking construction or rehabilitation works to create more resilient infrastructure against natural disaster risks (see next page).

In Cameroon, the **Plateforme Urbaine** project, launched in 2023, contributes to improving territorial planning policies (see page 26). Its ambition is to act both on the **institutional and regulatory framework** for urban development, on **urban management and planning mechanisms**, and on **better production, accessibility, and use of urban data**, while integrating **social inclusion and resilience considerations**.

More recently, **waste management** has taken an increasingly prominent place in the department's interventions.

This involves both **strengthening collection and treatment services** provided by cities and the **institutional frameworks** that supports them, and **integrating circular economy approaches to promote waste recovery and reuse**. The **GEDEC** project, launched in 2023, supports five Togolese municipalities in structuring household waste and sewage sludge management sectors. It assists cities in defining **sectoral strategies for waste management and sanitation, trains local operators** in partnership with civil society organisations such as the **Miawodo association** to improve service quality, and **raises public awareness about users' roles, responsibilities, and good practices** in daily life.

Finally, a new project was initiated in 2024 on **urban mobility in the Dominican Republic**. Starting in 2025, its objective will be to support the main mobility regulation operator in its coordination role and assist the city of Santo Domingo in redesigning urban spaces to enable active modes of transport.

The GEDEC project in 2024

6890

Households subscribed to waste collection and desludging services in the municipalities of Kozah, Ogou, Tchaoudjo, Tone, and Zio in Togo.

53

trained municipal staff

129

Men and women working for solid waste and sewage sludge operators have been trained.



Support for urban development operations in Haiti: adapting despite a complex context

For several years, Haiti has faced increasing insecurity, persistent institutional instability, and high inflation. This deteriorated context strongly affects public services, the population, as well as development projects.

Launched in 2018 with the support of the European Union, the **Urbayiti** programme aims **to strengthen urban governance** at local and national levels and **to increase the resilience of cities and their inhabitants** to the many challenges they face: climate change, economic, health, and security crises. Due to the overall degradation of the context, particularly marked in 2024 and especially in Port-au-Prince, the programme had to redirect its interventions. Activities in the capital were reduced, while continuing **to support the City Hall and the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities** through the provision of construction equipment and vehicles (pick-ups, dump trucks).

Efforts were refocused on the **departments of the South and Grand'Anse**, already beneficiaries of the programme's support, particularly in the cities of Jérémie, Dame-Marie, Beaumont, and Les Cayes.

In **Jérémie**, the technical studies and preliminary development plans for the rehabilitation of the central market have now been finalised. The project plans the reconstruction of two market halls, improvements to surrounding roads, lighting, and sanitation, to make the market a safe and functional space.



Consultations are ongoing, and construction work is expected to begin soon as this booklet is being written.

In **Beaumont**, an administrative complex development project has been approved with the City Hall. It includes the creation of a municipal hotel, access roads, and associated networks (sanitation, electricity, etc.).

In **Dame-Marie**, hydraulic studies have been carried out to identify the drainage works necessary to reduce flooding in the municipality. Part of the development will be defined in 2025 for implementation in 2026.

Finally, in **Les Cayes**, the City Hall's technical services receive material support with the repair of existing dump trucks and the future acquisition of construction equipment (backhoes, excavators).

“ *The Urbayiti programme takes place within a society experiencing significant demographic transition, which raises major challenges such as civil insecurity, sanitation issues, access to drinking water, and public services. The desired impact is for cities to become more resilient to natural shocks, for operational frameworks to be better established, for investments to be more secure, and for city halls to have greater operational autonomy, thereby reducing the critical problems currently faced by our various cities...*

Jacques Philippe Mondésir, REPRI Expertise France





Planning the Cameroonian city of tomorrow: data, governance, and inclusion at the heart of the Urban Platform (Plateforme Urbaine)

Cameroon has one of the highest urbanisation rates in sub-Saharan Africa, with 55% of the population living in urban areas in 2020 — a proportion expected to reach 70% by 2050 for an estimated population of 34 million. This rapid, often poorly managed growth, combined with significant internal displacement flows, leads to a marked informality in the urban economy, deteriorating access to basic social services, mobility challenges, worsening pollution and sanitation problems, and increased impoverishment of certain segments of the population.

It is in this context that the **Plateforme Urbaine in Cameroon** (PUC) project takes place, funded by the European Union as part of its “Cameroon: Inclusive, Green, and Sustainable Cities” programme. Over a four-year period, this project aims to address several systemic challenges related to the multiplicity of stakeholders, the complex regulatory framework governing urban development and spatial planning—resulting in confusion over operational procedures—the limited capacities of decentralised local authorities (CTD in French), and difficulties in accessing urban data.

The project is therefore guided by two objectives: (i) **strengthening land management and urban planning mechanisms**, and (ii) **improving access to data and territorial planning documents**, with the ultimate goal of enhancing public policies for sustainable and inclusive cities.

To achieve this, the project supports the administrations responsible for these public planning policies through the establishment of a **National Urban Stakeholders Platform** (PNAU in French) and **thematic working groups** on urban and territorial planning. This consultation framework has enabled the co-construction, with civil society associations, of an action plan to simplify the regulatory framework for urban development. This plan includes, in particular, the revision of urban planning legislation, the organisation of a national workshop to improve policy coherence in this area, and the development of guidance for local authorities and sector professionals. The project also supports the elaboration of the **National Policy and Strategy for Waste Management, Hygiene, and Sanitation**.

The project in 2024

68

Organizations active in the Urban Platform:
37% are public institutions, 19% local
authorities, and 13% businesses

The success of the PNAU has made it a model of multi-stakeholder coordination for urban development, with recognition currently underway as a public-interest association. Integrated into the framework of the future Urban Modernisation Programme (PMU in French), whose ministerial decree is being finalised, it is expected to play a **central role in guiding urban policies**.

At the same time, a **collaborative digital platform** has been developed and made publicly accessible. It **centralises data, studies, and documents** produced by urban sector actors, while allowing citizens to consult ongoing projects and monitor their implementation.

In line with tool modernisation, two pilot initiatives were conducted in Soa. The first concerns the **BANOC** (Cameroon Open Digital Address Database), a digital addressing system that divides Cameroon into micro-geographic cells to facilitate location, planning, and access to services.



84

People participated in the thematic
working groups in 2023, including 31
who received intensive training in
urban management and planning

The second tool, the **multi-purpose cadastre**, uses cadastral data for various purposes, including taxation. By combining these tools, local authorities can better identify their fiscal potential and strengthen revenue collection. Already adopted by the General Directorate of Taxes (DGI), the Soa Municipality, and the national electricity concessionaire ENEO, these tools are expected to improve public service quality.

The results in Soa are promising and pave the way for a nationwide deployment. By making territorial data accessible, reliable, and easy to use, these tools concretely enhance the capacities of local authorities to build more inclusive, sustainable, and efficient cities.

At mid-term, the PUC project demonstrates significant progress. It addresses the needs of Cameroonian cities with practical, tailored tools and strengthens collaboration among urban stakeholders. The next phase of the project will be crucial to consolidate achievements, broaden local authority engagement, and ensure the sustainability of the tools and methods developed.



Towards sustainable and inclusive urban planning at the heart of Lualaba with the REGUL project



The **REGUL project (Strengthening Urban Management in Lualaba)**, implemented by Expertise France and funded by the French Embassy in Congo, aims to address the challenges posed by the **rapid and unplanned urbanisation of Kolwezi**, a mining city and provincial capital of Lualaba in the DRC. Inherited from fragmented development around mining concessions, the city faces **strong land, social, and environmental pressures**, exacerbated since decentralisation in 2015. Despite this, the presence of a structured administration and resources from mining activities offer potential to experiment with new models of urban governance.

Launched in 2023 for a duration of 18 months, the REGUL project seeks to lay the foundations for harmonious, sustainable, and inclusive urban development. It is organised around three main pillars:

1. **Strengthening the capacities of local institutions**
2. **Structuring strategic planning for Kolwezi and Lualaba**
3. Contributing to the **national reflection on urban policies**

The REGUL project illustrates that urban management must first rely on **solid knowledge production to result in a clear territorial strategy**. In the absence of reliable data, conducting a shared territorial diagnosis can itself be a high-value action.

The project in a few figures

35

municipal and provincial officers trained in urban planning

5

studies carried out, including a territorial and institutional diagnosis, a consolidated urban diagnosis, and strategic orientations to prepare the groundwork for the Local Development Plan, whose preliminary draft will be finalised in 2025.

37

representatives from 12 civil society and private sector organizations participating in consultation workshops conducted as part of the diagnostics.

“

All the sessions provided an opportunity to refresh our knowledge on urban planning and development, and we all reflected together on the city's evolution. The trainings were also a chance to get to know one another across departments, to exchange ideas, and to understand how other services operate.

Technical officer of the city

In such cases, it is essential to design the sequence of studies in a coherent manner, while supporting their dissemination through operational guides tailored to the political and institutional context. To ensure the sustainability of actions, **co-constructing these strategies with authorities who are often unfamiliar with such processes is crucial**, alongside the **engagement of civil society**. When civil society is less mature or less active, it can be reached through third-party institutions—such as universities, religious institutions, or media figures—by clearly defining the expected level of participation, ranging from simple consultation (gathering opinions) to co-decision-making (sharing decision-making power). Messages should be simplified and conveyed by local mediators to avoid overly technical language. Finally, **strong local ownership**, a **clear distribution of roles and responsibilities**, and the **facilitation of self-assessment workshops**, both organisational and territorial, help foster project ownership and encourage lasting dynamics.

Operational success relies on simple but crucial conditions: a project manager who is well rooted locally, a committed focal point, and genuine investment in training the technical teams of the authorities. The implementation of concrete pilot operations—such as small-scale developments related to environmental or pollution issues, which do not require prior planning documents—as well as the provision of appropriate basic equipment, also help to strengthen this local grounding.

Moreover, the project can foster collaboration among local actors and generate **territorial momentum** around these issues. To ensure the legitimacy and relevance of the messages delivered to the authorities, it is strongly recommended to consistently prioritise the use of local service providers, both for studies and for training activities.



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On the left : participation of Gulain Amani Mushizi, project manager for Expertise France, at the 12th World Urban Forum in Cairo (Egypt)
On the right : photo of Kolwezi

Supporting African cities in the face of climate change: Expertise France's action within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors

Launched in 2015, the **Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA)** supports African cities in their energy transition and fight against climate change. As the regional chapter of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), it responds to the climate emergency that particularly affects the African continent.

Between 2019 and 2024, Phase 3 of the programme is implemented by AECID, GIZ, AFD, and Expertise France. Expertise France works with **seven cities in Mali, Kenya, Uganda, and Togo**, deliberately focusing on fast-growing regional capitals and intermediate cities often overlooked by donors.

Expertise France's action is structured around two main objectives:

1. Improving **urban climate planning** for resilient, low-carbon development.
2. Strengthening **cooperation and knowledge exchange** between cities.



With a budget of €4.7 million, the project ended in October 2024. It supported cities in developing **Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans (SEACAPs)**. As in the REGUL project (page 28), the **collection of local data**—although time-consuming—was essential to lay the groundwork for a territorial dynamic around climate and energy issues, through the implementation of diagnostic studies. Workshops helped involve residents in the diagnostics, thereby raising awareness on these topics.

Co-construction with the municipalities' technical teams was once again central: they led the development of the SEACAPs, conducted citizen consultations, and managed communication on the climate plan and related climate issues. The **involvement of elected officials** then proved crucial to ensuring the ownership and sustainability of the SEACAPs.

The use of local experts proved to be a real added value. Their knowledge of the context strengthened the quality of the diagnostics and facilitated ownership of the results by local authorities, while also contributing to the development of local expertise through close collaboration with international experts.

The experience also highlighted the need to **adapt tools to the capacities of the cities.** SEACAPs, often too ambitious for smaller municipalities, would benefit from being simplified and focused more on adaptation and sustainable energy rather than mitigation. A streamlined version, integrated into existing and legally recognised planning documents, would allow for better ownership and practical implementation moving forward.



<https://comssa.org/fr>

The project in a few figures :

5

Municipalities continue to receive support, and each city has a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (PAAEDC).

3

Pilot projects have demonstrated the implementation of the plans: solar electrification of municipal sites, solar-powered operation of a water pump, and biogas production from waste for cooking.

93%

Participants in the training sessions feel better equipped to integrate climate and energy issues into local planning thanks to the CoM SSA project.

“ *The diagnostic studies provided information and data to support decision-making. This has improved our team’s decision-making processes. [...] Issues are now addressed using more information than before.* ”

Laban Okeyo, Director of Renewable Energies, Kisumu County (Kenya)



“ *Climate change has become an urgent issue for our African cities; it is no longer a distant future but a present reality. The population of Kloto is already experiencing its effects, and it is more than time to act. With the Covenant of Mayors, we fight daily to adapt through more sustainable local planning and concrete actions.* ”

Yawo Winny DOGBATSE, Mayor of Kloto 1 Municipality. President of the Regional Forum of CoM SSA.



Technical Assistance supporting public policy loans to facilitate the energy transition

The Energy division of the Sustainable Development department manages several **Technical Assistance (TA)** projects linked to Public Policy Budget Financing (PPBF), as part of its collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD). This specific mechanism aims to provide resources and support to beneficiary states to help them implement their sectoral policies.

In 2024, three TAs were underway: in **Uzbekistan, Albania, and Moldova**. The AFD supports these countries in their energy transition, and **Expertise France accompanies the implementation by mobilising tailored expertise and organising training sessions on technical and cross-cutting topics.**

The TAs offer numerous advantages for Expertise France:

- **Mobilisation of qualified expertise:** The skills brought in mainly come from French and European institutions, showcasing sectoral know-how and encouraging the exchange of best practices among peers. This approach positions Expertise France as a coordinator and a showcase of French expertise serving partner countries;

- **Strengthening knowledge of local contexts:** These mechanisms offer a valuable opportunity for the agency to expand its geographical presence, gain in-depth understanding of local contexts, institutional dynamics, and key stakeholders, thereby contributing to building strong and lasting trust-based relationships;
- **Tool for influence and strategic positioning:** The Technical Assistance projects enable Expertise France to work closely with countries while supporting priority reforms of partner governments. They also help reinforce the influence of French and European policies in strategic sectors or territories;
- **Strong structural impact:** By supporting deep reforms, the TAs strengthen the capacities of local institutions and ensure better ownership of the deliverables and tools produced. Thus, these projects take on a direct operational role in the implementation of public policies.

More specifically, in Albania, the PPBF is part of the “Reform and Growth 2024-2027” programme proposed by the European Commission to support the **economic integration of the Western Balkans**, particularly Albania, into the EU Single Market.

“

The peer exchange facilitated by Expertise France between our agency and the French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) has been extremely valuable. This collaboration allows us to engage directly with experienced counterparts. The webinars and feedback sessions help us strengthen our regulatory framework in a concrete and effective way. We appreciate this practical approach and look forward to continuing this partnership.

Abdullajon Otaboev, Deputy Director of the Energy Market Development and Regulation Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The technical assistance supports national institutions in **creating an electricity market compliant with European standards, developing support mechanisms for renewable energies, improving energy efficiency, and strengthening sector governance.**

In Moldova, the TA targets the same objectives, with a dedicated local project team integrated within the Ministry of Energy. The TA provides targeted support for the **measures and reforms defined in the national roadmap**, as well as to help the country achieve the “acquis communautaires” necessary to progress in its European Union accession negotiations.

Finally, in Uzbekistan, the loan is co-financed with the Asian Development Bank. The technical assistance supports the reform of the energy sector through **strengthening the regulatory framework, improving energy efficiency, deploying renewable energies, and modernising the grid.** It also facilitates strategic dialogue with Uzbek institutions on the social impact of tariff increases, helping Uzbekistan accelerate its transition to a decarbonised economy that is both sustainable and beneficial for the Uzbek people.

Our TAs in a few figures :

13

Partner institutions supported in the 3 countries

27-19

27 Albanian and 19 Uzbek agents trained on the various topics covered

+30

Documents produced, including legislative texts, strategic documents, technical studies, and feasibility studies



Towards inclusive rural electrification with the MAX project in the Ivory Coast



In the Ivory Coast, where the majority of the population lives in rural areas, electrification is a major driver of economic and social development. Funded by the European Union through a €4 million grant managed by AFD, the “**MAX**” project implemented by Expertise France aims to **enhance the impact of rural electrification by improving access to and use of electrical equipment** by households, economic actors, and public services alike.

The project’s approach is based on **supporting public authorities to facilitate access to equipment, assisting public infrastructure, and involving the private sector in the distribution of quality solutions.**

Within the framework of the MAX project, three schemes were tested to facilitate rural populations’ access to electrical equipment for productive use, through partnerships between NGOs and microfinance institutions. These trials helped to better understand the strengths and limitations of different financing approaches and community organisation models:

The **VSLA** approach (CARE model): Inspired by a method developed in Niger, this approach relies on **Village Savings and Loan Associations**, which mobilise local resources and strengthen solidarity among members. It enables beneficiaries to develop a savings culture and structure collective economic strategies. This model has demonstrated its full potential in terms of social cohesion but requires careful support when new credit mechanisms are introduced, to avoid disrupting individual savings goals.

The project in 2024

1014

Number of people trained in the structuring or revitalization of community groups by CARE and EdM

66

Community maintenance workers trained in managing primary failures of energy equipment

26

MSEs gained access to financing solutions to equip themselves

14

New MSEs were created, supported by professional integration assistance

- The “**Groups with Individual Responsibility**” approach (EdM model): Implemented by Entrepreneurs du Monde through the incubation of actors such as EKILEKO, this approach combines flexibility and effectiveness. Based on a staggered payment system, it allows beneficiaries to access quality equipment with a low interest rate (2.5%). It is characterised by comprehensive support: mobilising beneficiaries, linking with suppliers, follow-up, and after-sales service. This promising model contributes to the sustainability of energy use, especially in less structured areas. Its long-term strengthening would benefit from consolidating the legal status of local organisations.
- The **cooperative** approach (e.g., SOCOPAHLD): This model relies on well-established agricultural cooperatives that have built trust with farmers. Their ability to organise group purchases, ensure credit recovery, and mobilise internal resources for logistics, after-sales service, and awareness campaigns makes it a particularly robust solution. Cooperatives can guarantee credits based on agricultural production, facilitating access to financing without requiring immediate proof of profitability of income-generating activities. This mechanism offers excellent sustainability potential and can be expanded to other groups through partnerships or synergies with VSLAs.

To enhance the project’s effectiveness and support the distribution of quality equipment across the country, the following recommendations are made:

- Pre-select suppliers and equipment in coordination with the relevant authorities (such as the General Directorate of Energy and the Directorate for Energy Efficiency), within a regulatory framework (e.g. labeling, compliance);
- Create a single validated product catalogue, shared nationally among project stakeholders, to secure supply chains, ensure delivery conditions, and facilitate price negotiations;
- Adapt models to local realities by combining approaches according to beneficiary profiles and existing community dynamics.



“ *We plan to further expand the areas where our various activities are implemented, and this grant should help us reach newly electrified communities.*

Natogoma KABA, beneficiary

“ *The MAX project will allow us to lift our producers out of energy poverty.*

Moussa SAWADOGO, beneficiary

RESEMBID: strengthening island resilience to climate shocks

Launched in 2019, the **RESEMBID** programme (Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity) will conclude in September 2025. It has supported **47 projects across the 12 Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)**, with three core objectives: **i) enhancing adaptation to extreme weather events, ii) improving access to sustainable and resilient energy, and iii) protecting marine and coastal biodiversity.**

Caribbean OCTs are on the frontline of climate disruption, facing severe events such as hurricanes Irma and Maria, often with limited response capacity due to small and vulnerable economies. In this context, it is critical to reduce structural vulnerabilities and strengthen the resilience of both economic infrastructure and fragile coastal ecosystems.

Renewable energy development is a key lever, allowing these territories to reduce their dependence on imported fossil fuels and increase energy autonomy. Likewise, **protecting marine ecosystems** - coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves - is essential. These ecosystems not only support tourism but also provide natural protection against storms and coastal flooding, thereby enhancing the resilience of coastal communities.



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*From top to bottom:
Coral transplantation on reef systems located in the Marine Protected Areas of Aruba.
Volunteers assisting with mangrove restoration at Spaans Lagoen.
Boat of Lac Bay, Bonaire.*

“

Thanks to the RESEMBID project, we were able to achieve several important milestones, including the installation of renewable energy infrastructure in several of our healthcare facilities. We installed renewable energy systems using solar power and backup batteries. In addition, we were able to install solar-powered street lights.

Luc Clerveaux - RESEMBID Focal Point for the Turks and Caicos Islands

“

These projects truly belong to us, and with the resources at our disposal, I am confident that we have taken a step forward toward a more sustainable and resilient Anguilla.

Anthea Ipison, RESEMBID Focal Point for Anguilla

“

In collaboration with local communities, we planted over 5,000 trees on our island. By adopting a "Ridge to Reef" approach, we are not only restoring our terrestrial environment but also protecting our key reefs by mitigating coastal erosion and reducing sediment runoff. Thanks to RESEMBID, our local staff is better equipped and ready to continue reforestation efforts beyond the lifetime of this project.

Dr. Kimani Kitson-Walters, RESEMBID Focal Point for St. Eustatius

In 2024, nearly **2,500 people** took part in **education and awareness campaigns on disaster risk reduction and management**. The SMART Schools Initiative, implemented in the British Virgin Islands, perfectly illustrates this integrated approach. The project helped make educational infrastructure more resilient to natural disasters while raising students' awareness about the importance of protecting their environment—particularly marine ecosystems that play a vital role in safeguarding island territories from climate-related hazards.

13 policies and compliance measures were introduced across the OCTs, including in the Cayman Islands, to support the **scaling-up of energy-saving practices and renewable energy use**. In this territory, RESEMBID supported the government in developing energy efficiency standards, auditing and retrofitting public buildings, and making recommendations for an electric vehicle financing mechanism.

Finally, **500 agents from government institutions benefited from training on the sustainable management of ecosystems**, notably in Anguilla, Aruba, the Cayman Islands, Saint-Barthélemy, Sint Maarten, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In the latter, the programme provided targeted support to the conch sector, assisting its transition towards more sustainable exploitation. This included assessing harvest levels compatible with CITES requirements to balance species conservation with support for local livelihoods.



Installation of coastal signs at Lac Bay, Bonaire



<https://resembid.org/>



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