



ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUBNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Preliminary insights on governance and finance,
from an on-going OECD project

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Objective of the inception report

- Examine opportunities and challenges associated with enhancing the effectiveness of subnational biodiversity policy
 - including key interdependencies between national strategies and policies, and interlinkages between biodiversity and climate
 - Informed by examples from Scotland and France (and others)
- A joint project between the OECD's Environment Directorate and the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
- Based on research and questionnaire responses (13 so far)
- With support from the Scottish Government office in Paris
- Analysis undertaken in the context of the Edinburgh Declaration



Key issues examined

- Coherence between national & subnational strategies, plans and programmes
 - E.g., Coherence between national & subnational level
 - Synergies between biodiversity and climate action, including role of NbS
 - Setting targets, and monitoring & reporting requirements
- Institutional coherence and co-ordination
 - E.g., Mechanisms for vertical co-ordination and planning processes
 - Finance and budgeting mechanisms
 - Stakeholder engagement and participatory planning
- Implementing effective biodiversity policy
 - Spatial planning and other regulatory instruments
 - Fiscal and other economic instruments
- Areas for further work



Preliminary insights on governance

- Co-ordination across national and subnational governments through planning processes
 - France consulting with regional agencies to formulate its new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
 - Cities translate NBSAP into local context (e.g. Niort)



Preliminary insights on governance

- Many cities seek synergies across sectors, in particular with green and open space policies
 - Glasgow (linking its open space strategy with biodiversity)
 - Seine Saint-Denis (linking biodiversity and climate action via NbS)
- Countries are also integrating biodiversity into regional/rural/urban development policy frameworks
 - In 2020, 48 countries (out of 69 surveyed) give extensive or moderate attention to green and blue infrastructure, ecosystems, biodiversity and nature-based solutions within their national urban policies.
- Examples of action plans requiring annual monitoring reports
 - Edinburgh BAP and Glasgow LBAP



Preliminary insights on finance

- Several questionnaire responses highlight lack of finance as a challenge to effective implementation
- Examples of good practice:
 - Green budgeting – including biodiversity
 - France has taken lead at national level (identified both positive and negative expenditures)
 - Department of Mayenne applied green budgeting in December 2020, using same methodology. 5.5% of budget environmentally harmful – mainly road investments
 - The Basque Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 includes estimated implementation costs to achieve 2020 Action Plan



Preliminary insights on finance

- Biodiversity offsets in the Scottish Borders
 - Applied to renewable energy developments, two projects funded by biodiversity offsets have created more than 30,000 ha under management for black grouse
 - Helping to meet objectives of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the Scottish Borders LBAP, and others
- Biodiversity offsets in France and the City of Paris
 - City of Paris working with CDC Biodiversité to identify opportunities to pool biodiversity offsets to promote ecological connectivity (e.g. *les Bois de boulogne* and *Vincennes*)
 - City of Paris also uses fines/penalties and PES to raise finance for biodiversity (Eau de Paris paying farmers to improve water quality)



Taxes as a means to generate revenue

- France's development tax: an instrument for financing biodiversity protection. Enshrined in national law; application and tax rate determined by municipal council and departmental councils
 - Proceeds from departmental tax are intended to finance protection of environmentally sensitive areas (ENS)
 - From January 2022, renaturation operations may also be financed under ENS. Changes are also intended to incentivise the reduction of land take



Thank you

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/>

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