The Caisse des Dépôts Group's policy on biodiversity

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Introduction

In May 2019, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity¹ and Ecosystem Services (IPBES²) published a global report³ confirming a "rapid decline in biodiversity": over one million species are threatened with extinction. The report states that "nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history — and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world". According to BIOFIN, a United Nations programme, an estimated 823 billion dollars is needed per year to finance biodiversity.

The preservation of biodiversity, defined as all living beings, the ecosystems in which they live and the interactions between species themselves and with their environment, is also essential in the fight against other environmental scourges such as climate change, desertification, the scarcity of water and various types of pollution.

The Caisse des Dépôts Group, which has served the public interest for two centuries, has included its desire to step up the ecological transformation and contribute towards offering a better life to all in its "raison d'être". In this respect, it undertakes to place biodiversity at the heart of its ecological transformation strategy and to contribute towards the achievement of national and international biodiversity goals.

This commitment is made by all the Group's entities⁴. Furthermore, through its subsidiary, CDC Biodiversité, created in 2007, it contributes towards reconciling biodiversity and economic development to serve public interest and roll out adapted tools and metrics. CDC Biodiversité designs and adapts economic, ecological and financial solutions to implement concrete actions to restore and preserve biodiversity, which it can manage in the long-term. As a pioneer in the field of ecological compensation, it also develops innovative solutions adapted to the needs of public and private biodiversity actors and developers, by promoting nature-based solutions. Furthermore, the Mission économie de la biodiversité (MEB), supported by the Banque des Territoires, publishes applied research on topics in relation with the challenge of reconciling economy and biodiversity.

¹ The definition of "Biodiversity" according to the French Biodiversity Agency is as follows:

[&]quot;all living beings and the ecosystems in which they live. This term also includes the interactions of species with one another and their environment."

² IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body comprising over 130 member Governments. Established by Governments in 2012, IPBES provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and the contributions they make to people, as well as options and actions to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets.

³ The IPBES provides an evaluation in its global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It assesses the changes having occurred over the last five decades and provides a comprehensive overview of the relationship between economic development trajectories and their impact on nature. It is the most exhaustive document existing to date (drafted by 145 experts, with 15,000 scientific references and government sources). For further information: https://ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment

⁴ For the Transdev subsidiary, the biodiversity policy is currently only being rolled out in France.

Since 2020, the Group's entities have set themselves goals in terms of biodiversity in the context of initiatives relevant to their activities.

- La Caisse des Dépôts, CDC Biodiversité, Icade, la Compagnie des Alpes, La Poste Group, La Société Forestière and CDC Habitat are members of the "Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature act4nature France" initiative. Each company involved in this initiative must submit an action plan with quantified targets within the following year. In this context, they develop their own biodiversity action plans in order to improve their consideration of the most material biodiversity issues (and resources). The strategic holdings Suez, Egis, RTE and GRTgaz are also members of the "Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature act4nature France" initiative.
- La Caisse des Dépôts, la Banque Postale, La Banque Postale AM, CNP Assurances, and STOA are members of the "Finance for Biodiversity" initiative. The initiative provides a common framework enabling its members to:
 - Collaborate and share knowledge
 - Engage with companies in their portfolio
 - Assess impacts
 - Set targets
 - Report publicly before 2025

In 2022, the need to bring the Group's biodiversity strategy and goals in line appeared before the COP 15 on biological diversity. This led to this **policy on biodiversity** divided into 4 areas, developed in the different sections of this document:

- **1. Footprint measurement.** This is key to the successful integration of biodiversity issues.
- Reduction of direct and indirect negative impacts. Because the collapse of the living world is the result of the impact of our human societies, reducing such impacts is a priority.
- **3. Increase of direct and indirect positive impacts.** Positive solutions promoting biodiversity can be developed and contributed to.
- **4. Contribution to research, training and awareness raising.** The issues relating to biodiversity must continue to be explored and relayed.

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Footprint measurement and biodiversity risks

The climate policy experience, developed by various types of actors, demonstrates the importance of their ability to measure their greenhouse gas emissions. This measurement guides decisions aiming to reduce their "carbon footprint", and to determine their short, medium- and long-term goals in line with national and international goals in this respect.

For the same reasons, in order to seriously tackle the collapse of biodiversity, tools to measure the "biodiversity footprint" of economic actors must be developed.

The Group's entities are committed to:

- Measuring and publishing the biodiversity footprint of their operational activities and investment portfolios, by the end of 2024, within the limit of available tools. As of 2022, several of the group's financial entities have started measuring and publishing the biodiversity footprints of their listed assets.
- In areas in which tools are non-existent or not sufficiently reliable, the group's entities will make all efforts to analyse their impact, for example as part of the "entreprise engagées pour la nature act4nature France" or "Finance for Biodiversity" initiatives, and will help to develop suitable tools.
- Engaging with their partners and companies in which they invest, to measure the biodiversity footprint of their own activities.

Furthermore, the Group is developing solutions to measure biodiversity footprints, and notably:

- The GBS (Global Biodiversity Score): after years of development, in May 2020, CDC Biodiversité launched the first version of its "Global Biodiversity Score" (GBS). The GBS enables companies and financial institutions to measure their impact on biodiversity and integrate this data into their operational steering policy and their decision-making strategy. In 2021, CDC Biodiversité started rolling this GBS tool out for local authorities.
- The BIA-GBS solution: since 2021, CDC Biodiversité and Carbon4 Finance offer a "BIA-GBS" database for financial institutions that wish to measure the biodiversity footprint of their listed asset portfolios. In particular, this database is used by the CDC's asset management department, La Banque Postale, LBPAM and CNP Assurances.

- The biodiversity footprint adapted to small and medium-sized listed companies (SMID): in 2022, a solution to calculate the footprint of French SMIDs was tested at the request of CDC Croissance (with involvement from its partner Ethifinance), with a view to gradually obtaining a measurement for small and medium-sized listed companies.
- In addition, CDC Biodiversité has developed a service to assist with the measurement of biodiversity footprints for Private Equity portfolios.
- La Société Forestière is developing a new tool to measure forest biodiversity for its clients. Based on the last version of the Index of Biodiversity Potential developed by CNPF-IDF, and completed on the European scale, La Société Forestière partnered with CDC Biodiversité to broaden monitoring indicators at the level of a stand as well as that of a massif. The aim is to assess the growth of biodiversity in light of the silviculture adopted and, therefore, be able to truly steer the performance of assets as regards biodiversity protection. This assessment is currently being carried out on CNP Assurances' and Caisse des Dépôts' assets, using the CNPF-IDF version, and will be continued with the new tool as soon as it is implemented. These assessments will be completed in 2025 and 2026 respectively. This tool may then be shared with forest professionals and made public once it has been tested by La Société Forestière by 2026.

Lastly, the Group promotes the emergence of a framework for the analysis and reporting of risks relating to biodiversity. Thus, Caisse des Dépôts is a member of the **TNFD forum** (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures). This international working group was officially launched in 2021 and aims to develop and provide a common framework for the management and disclosure of nature-related risks, with the ultimate goal of redirecting private financial flows towards positive outcomes for nature.

In 2023, the group will step up its work on the measurement and management of biodiversity-related risks, mirroring CNP Assurances which published a measurement of its investment portfolio's dependence on biodiversity loss in 2022, relying on the work carried out by the Banque de France.

Reduction of direct and indirect negative impacts

The IPBES states that our human societies apply five types of pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity:

- 1. changes in land and sea uses (direct destruction of a natural habitat),
- 2. direct exploitation of certain living organisms
- 3. climate change,
- 4. pollution,
- 5. invasive alien species

The Group's entities are committed to improving biodiversity-related criteria in the assessment and monitoring of their investments and operations in order to manage their risks and inform their decisions

This policy aims to address these five types of pressure, insofar as possible, in order to reduce the Group's direct and indirect impacts. It is completed by the action plans developed by the Group's various entities.

I- Change of land use

A) Combatting deforestation and imported deforestation

Internal operation and operational business areas

The Group's entities are committed to: reducing and eliminating deforestation risks in their supply chains, notably by including supply criteria, a preference for certain labels in procurement, and dialogue with suppliers among the levers used to strive towards "zero deforestation".

Financial business areas

The group expects the companies that it finances or invests in:

To not directly contribute towards deforestation through their operations, to reduce their impacts and to compensate for those they cannot reduce.

- **To adopt "zero deforestation"** policies in their value chains when they include the following raw materials:
- Cocoa, coffee, soya, farms, including: agri-food, catering, distribution.
- Hevea (rubber): including: tyres.
- Palm oil, including: biofuels, chemistry, agri-food.
- Wood and paper pulp: (see also "II. Overuse of certain organisms").

Furthermore, the Group excludes financing and investment in operators and traders in these raw materials, save for companies having implemented a recognised policy on the prevention⁵ of deforestation^{6,7}.

B) Combatting the artificialisation of soils

France has committed to achieving "Zero net artificialisation" by 2050, and to halving the pace of artificialisation by 2030.

The Caisse des Dépôts Group intends to contribute towards the goal of zero net artificialisation in French regions by supporting local authorities and companies through a range of solutions.

The group is also committed to measuring, with increasing detail, the direct contribution of its real estate and infrastructure projects and investments towards the artificialisation of soils in order to apply an avoidance and reduction approach and take voluntary steps towards renaturalisation or reversing artificialisation.

The **Banque des Territoires** is involved in work to assess the impact of its actions on biodiversity and its dependency on the latter. This work will be complete in 2023. It aims to measure this impact and dependency, and start examining existing indicators and those that should be developed. The goal is to optimise the Banque des Territoires' activities, by aiming to reduce its direct and indirect negative impact and to increase its positive impact on biodiversity.

For its **direct real estate investment portfolio**, Caisse des Dépôts' asset management department has committed to respecting the goal of **zero net artificialisation as from 2021**.

The La Poste Group is committed, through the intermediary of its property company La Poste Immobilier, to 75% new property reconversion operations by 2030.

The CDC Habitat Group is committed to monitoring its impact on the urban sprawl through an indicator for all new projects. This takes account of several criteria: the nature of the site (agricultural, natural, industrial, etc.), the proximity of services, the public transport available, the sealing of soil, etc. On 2021, 67% of projects made no contribution to the urban sprawl and 22% contributed only slightly. By 2023, the CDC Habitat Group is committed to setting out a methodology to measure – starting in 2024 – its impact on the artificialisation of soils and to rolling out a Zero Net Artificialisation strategy.

⁵ For example, through certification (RSPO for palm oil) and/or responses to the CDP questionnaire.

⁶ SFIL excludes financing and investment in all operation and negotiation projects

⁷ Excluding CNP Assurances which is currently in the analysis stages on this topic. Excluding Bpifrance which will favour increased shareholder dialogue on this topic.

In order to limit its impact, it invests in particular in the redevelopment of existing assets with the creation of the Hab'initio fund. With an allocation of 250 million euros, the Hab'initio fund aims to transform offices into housing, and carries out property conversion operations to pursue mainly residential programmes with partner developers.

In order to promote biodiversity in CDC Habitat's new construction operations and rehabilitation operations with outdoor developments, these operations will be subject to a social and ecological assessment and support with the implementation of recommendations will be provided throughout the operation (based on OS 2024) Thermal rehabilitation operations involving exterior insulation, and other operations on buildings (e.g., demolition, densification) will be afforded special care in order to preserve wildlife.

Moreover, the Caisse des Dépôts group will continue discussions on the topic of soil artificialisation as part of a working group dedicated to this matter in 2023, and which will bring together all concerned entities in order to set a goal of contributing towards "Zero Net Artificialisation".

C) Combatting the destruction of sensitive areas

Internal operation and operational business areas

For sites/operations located in or near sensitive areas in terms of biodiversity (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO world heritage sites and key biodiversity areas along with other protected areas), the group favours avoidance and excludes all operations considered to have an excessive impact. Appropriate assessments are carried out where applicable and, based on their results, necessary mitigation measures are implemented according to an "avoid, reduce, compensate" approach.

Furthermore, with 80% of France's biodiversity (in number of species) located in overseas territories, and 10% of global biodiversity being endemic to these territories (IUCN data), France plays a key role in the preservation of living entities in such départements and territories. With the LPO and its local partners, the La Poste Group has launched an ad hoc programme with 3 goals: protect species, spaces and habitats through responsible management of postal sites; raise awareness among overseas postmen and post ladies and involve them in local biodiversity issues; contribute towards raising the awareness of overseas populations and mobilising them.

Financial business areas

The Group expects the companies that it finances or invests in: to pay special care to sensitive areas by excluding operations that have the most impact on these sites. These principles also guide its investment in physical assets.

II- Overuse of certain living organisms

A) Combatting overfishing

On a global scale, one third of stocks is overused, while 60% of stocks is already used at the maximum sustainable level.

Internal operation and operational business areas

The restaurants and company canteens of the Caisse des Dépôts Group entities are striving to ensure 100% of their supplies are from sustainable fishing and aquaculture, including for crustaceans⁸ and molluscs. The offer of vegetarian alternatives is also used as a lever to reduce this type of pressure.

Financial business areas

The Group expects companies operating in the **fishing**, **catering**, **agri-food** and **distribution** sectors which it finances or invests in to **prefer** products from sustainable fishing and aquaculture chains, and even to set themselves the goal of achieving a 100% sustainable supply chain.

B) Combatting the overexploitation of forests (wood and its by-products)

Internal operation and operational business areas

For internal purposes and operational activities, the Group's entities strive to ensure that their supplies are 100% wood, paper and cardboard from sustainably managed forests and/or from reycling.

Forest management

A Caisse des Dépôts Group entity, La Société Forestière, systematically offers its clients sustainable management solutions.

The Caisse des Dépôts Groups owns9 around 120,000 hectares of forest land (held by Caisse des Dépôts and CNP Assurances and entrusted to La Société Financière for management). The entities concerned are committed to exploiting this land whilst preserving the diversity of its ecosystems based on a multifunctional management approach. The group has established a group of initiatives and has set itself ambitious goals aiming to protect, preserve and even restore the biodiversity in its portfolio: the biodiversity of its forest assets is measured using a recognised method (Index of Potential Biodiversity), forest practices are diversified to increase types of habitat and ensure greater resilience, green or blue guides are developed to optimise ecological continuity. Partnerships with associations have also been entered into for the purpose of pursuing environmental protection projects, dedicated to biodiversity or aquatic environments. Furthermore, the group adjusts its applied management practices so as to minimise its impact on biodiversity: forest works are suspended during the mating seasons of the most sensitive species, trees that are home to micro-habitats and natural evolution areas are protected and the use of pesticides and mineral oils is restricted in forests. All the massifs held have PEFC Eco certification. La Société Forestière is taking steps to obtain FSC group certification, which will be offered to its clients. The Caisse des Dépôts and CNP Assurances are already committed to obtaining certification for part of their assets.

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⁸ For example, non-sustainable forms of shrimp farming cause mangrove destruction.

⁹ On 31 March 2022.

Financial business areas

The Group expects all the companies it finances or invests in to prefer wood and wood by-products (including paper and cardboard) derived from recycling and/or sustainably managed forests. Companies for which these topics are more important are expected to aim to achieve 100% wood and/or wood by-products from sustainable chains.

Furthermore, projects involving direct investment in new real estate investments by the Caisse des Dépôts Asset Management department must prefer lumber from recycling and/or sustainably managed forests.

C) Combatting the direct exploitation of protected species

Internal operation and operational business areas

The group excludes all trade in animals, plants and all natural products that do not comply with the provisions of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

The La Poste Group is committed to combatting the illegal transport (in Europe and abroad) of wild species as part of the WWF's Logistics & Transport initiative.

Financial business areas

The Group expects the companies that it finances or invests in:to exclude all trade in animals, plants and all natural products that do not comply with the provisions of the CITES.

III- Climate change

Climate change applies **significant and growing pressure** on biodiversity. The ability of some ecosystems and many species to adapt to the rapid changes it induces (extreme weather events, temperature rise, droughts, rising ocean levels, etc.) is very limited.

Ecosystems play an important role in **mitigating** climate change: many natural "carbon sinks" work thanks to the actions of living beings (forests, soils, humid areas, oceans, etc.)? Furthermore, ecosystems play an important role in **adapting** to climate change through the services it provides: for example, vegetation can help to reduce extreme temperatures, notably in cities, and create flood barriers or even limit the impact of droughts. In accordance with its action plan to adapt to climate change, the Group systematically considers resource to nature-based adaptation solutions and seeks to identify their related environmental, social and economic benefits.

The group is particularly mindful of climate change and has its own **thematic policy** as well as **sectoral policies**, notably on **fossil fuels**. This policy has many co-benefits in terms of biodiversity. In fact, the use of fossil fuels, and notably non-conventional fossil fuels:

- Destroys ecosystems: through extraction (for example of vast forests for the production of oil from tar sands), through the construction of pipelines and other major infrastructures.
- Causes high levels of air, soil and water **pollution**, and the **acidification of oceans**, as well as accidental, and sometimes disastrous, pollution.

IV- Pollution

Pollution is thought to kill¹⁰ more than 9 million people worldwide every year. Thus, in addition to the interest of preserving nature, it is important that the CDC group mobilise against various types of pollution due to the magnitude of health issues that it causes.

A) Chemical pollution

By way of example, France has set itself the target of reducing the use of plant protection products by 50% by 2025. European countries will also be required to set themselves the target of achieving a reduction of at least 45%.

In addition to protecting biodiversity, combatting these various types of chemical pollution has significant co-benefits for the preservation of water, air and soil quality, and for the reduction of various health issues.

Internal operation and operational business areas

The Group's entities are committed to:

- gradually decrease residual use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers for the maintenance of their stock of properties, infrastructures and various green spaces until complete elimination of such products.
- systematically promote ecological cleaning methods and products (natural and/or certified) for their maintenance needs.
- prefer products from agroecology and certified products for various purchases in order to reduce the pollution caused by their production and use.

By way of example, CDC Habitat is gradually rolling out a sustainable green space management contract and aims to meet the target of 100% of contracts signed by 2025. This contract, which can be adapted to the sites and is based on the transition from traditional management to differentiated management, notably promotes Zero Phyto (zero plant protection products) and resource preservation (green waste, water).

Forest management

Through its institutional clients' commitments, **La Société Forestière** limits the use of pesticides in forests to a strict minimum: the use of herbicides and fungicides is prohibited and the use of insecticides is restricted to health emergency situations only as a curative solution. It favours the use of biodegradable oils (chain and hydraulic) during forestry operation and work sites and strives to eliminate all use of mineral oil. A recycling policy for special waste (aerosols) is currently being drafted. La Société Forestière is notably performing trials on solutions for alternative marking that have less impact on the environment (other suppliers, ink rollers, alcohol-based solutions) and occasionally uses water-based aerosols when permitted by weather and technical conditions.

¹⁰ Link to the study published in "The Lancet": https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(22)00090-0/fulltext

Financial business areas

As from the end of 2023, financial entities will exclude companies in which over 20% of turnover is generated by the manufacturing or sale of pesticides (herbicides, fungicides and insecticides for agricultural use) from their investments and financing^{11,12}.

The Group encourages the **companies** that it finances or invests in to reduce the use of non eco-friendly **pesticides**, **synthetic fertilizers and maintenance products** in their direct practices and to influence their suppliers to reduce the use of such products throughout their value chain.

The Group encourages companies in the **chemistry sector** to anticipate, support and participate towards reducing the use of **pesticides**, **synthetic pesticides** and **non eco-friendly maintenance products**.

The Group expects **industrial companies** to commit to reducing their chemical or organic pollutant emissions into the water, air or soils, depending on the most important challenges faced by the various business sectors, and by taking account of the ecotoxic impact of the substances emitted or sold.

Furthermore, the Group is continuing its efforts in terms of energy transition and in terms of the strict regulation of investments in **fossil fuels**, the combustion of which is a significant source of pollution.

Lastly, the Group expects **companies that are highly dependent on agriculture** to play a role in the development of agroecological practices (including organic agriculture, agroforestry and soil conservation agriculture) enabling, in particular, to reduce chemical and organic pollution of the soil, air and water caused by "conventional" practices.

B) Plastic pollution

Plastic waste is said to account for 80% of marine waste¹³. The ingestion of plastic by marine life can lead to death, complicate their reproduction or the filter role played by some species.

Plastic waste exacerbates the issue of chemical pollutions, by accumulating it, and promotes various diseases. Lastly, plastic waste also promotes the transportation of invasive alien species.

Furthermore, plastic and microplastics are increasingly found in human food.

Internal operation and operational business areas

The Group's entities are committed to reducing the use of plastics and single-use plastics, and to act in favour of the collection and recycling of plastic. The entities comply with the regulatory constraints applicable to them, notably in France.

La Société Forestière strives to reduce the plastic pollution generated by the protection of tree seedlings against game (installation of temporary fences for plantations, use of natural game repellents, occasional individual sheath recovery projects and trials are currently being carried out on the use of biodegradable sheaths).

¹¹ The refinancing of SFIL's export credits being intended to finance identified projects, the exclusion applies to the finance project.

¹² Excluding CNP Assurances and LBPAM which are currently in the analysis stages on this topic. Excluding Bpifrance which will favour increased shareholder dialogue on this topic.

¹³ Source IUCN: https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/marine-plastic-pollution

Financial business areas

The Group expects the companies that it finances or invests in:to reduce recourse to plastic, ensuring that the alternatives used do not themselves have a significant impact on biodiversity, both in France and abroad, and to promote the collection and recycling of plastic products. In particular, the group encourages multinational companies to eliminate single-use plastics and microplastics, as already targeted by French regulations, in order to extend best practices, including in the other countries in which companies operate.

They also encourage companies in the **textile sector** to reduce the proportion of synthetic fibres used, the wear and washing of which produces microplastics, whilst ensuring that the alternatives used do not themselves have a significant impact on biodiversity.

C) Light pollution

According to researchers¹⁴, "artificial light at night is another important factor [...] of the insect apocalypse". The fight against light pollution offers significant co-benefits in terms of public health, the reduction of disturbances caused by inhabitants and the reduction of energy consumption.

Within the Caisse des Dépôts group, the businesses concerned, notably due to their exploitation of land and/ infrastructures, take account of the light pollution issues resulting from projects developed and/or financed by the group's entities, as well as on companies' sites, in order to reduce it according to regulatory provisions, available technical solutions and identified best practices.

In the context of the Mission économie de la biodiversité (MEB), CDC Biodiversité and its partners have drafted a report providing technical and/or "common sense" recommendations targeting energy and light sobriety with a view to reducing impacts on biodiversity¹⁵.

V- Invasive alien species

Invasive alien species (IAS) are a threat to local species as they monopolize an excessive portion of resources (space, light, food resources, habitat, etc.) that other species need to survive. They can also be direct predators of local species or pose a potential allergenic or allergen threat, including to humans (e.g.: ragweed). In France, the fight against IAS is one of the priorities of the new National Biodiversity Strategy (SNB for its French acronym), and a plan has been set out in this respect.

Internal operation and operational business areas

The Group is committed to not introducing invasive alien species to its operational sites and businesses.

The entities concerned, and for example those operating in the maintenance of green spaces, are also committed to limiting the risk of accidental introduction of invasive alien species during their various projects. They may organise campaigns to eliminate invasive alien species in these spaces, by relying on expert recommendations, including those of the IUCN's French committee¹⁶.

La Société Forestière is particularly mindful of invasive alien species. It focuses its efforts

¹⁴ Source: https://www.geo.fr/environnement/la-pollution-lumineuse-jouerait-un-role-crucial-dans-le- declindes-insectes-198791

¹⁵ https://www.mission-economie-biodiversite.com/publication/eclairage-du-21eme-siecle-et- biodiversite

¹⁶ https://uicn.fr/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/UICN_France_Guide_EEE_LIVRET2_MODIFIE.pdf

on 8 particularly important species in forest environments (notably ragweed, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, etc.) with potentially significant impacts on health or the environment. It records their presence in order to regulate their invasive nature and consider how to actively fight against their spread.

Financial business areas

The Group is committed to not introducing invasive alien species to its real estate assets, infrastructures and green spaces, and to the forests it owns (through La Société Forestière's practices).

The Group encourages the companies it finances or invests in to not introduce invasive alien species to their various sites.

The Group expects **companies in the marine sector** to commit to avoiding and reducing their impact on the transportation of invasive alien species, notably through their ballast water, pursuant to international conventions in force.

VI- Other levers to reduce negative impacts

The group has adopted the following general principles:

- Frugal consumption in favour of a reasoned approach to the use of natural resources, by seeking to minimise artificialised surfaces, energy consumption, natural resource consumption (materials, water, etc.) or the transportation required for the performance of their activities.
- **Circular economy**, by contributing towards and promoting eco-design, the functional economy, reuse, the extension of usage time, and waste prevention, management, sorting and recycling.

Thus, by reducing surfaces and the many inbound flows to meet identical or equivalent needs and functions, by promoting supplies from sustainable chains and/or recycling, by reducing wastage, by seeking solutions to reduce and recycle their own waste or by establishing various partnerships, the group's entities intend to fully shoulder their role in the transition from a linear economy model to a circular model. The environmental benefits of energy sobriety and a circular economy are plentiful and address, among other thing, the five types of pressure exercised by humanity on biodiversity and ecosystems.

Furthermore, as from 2023, the selection of investments submitted to the commitment committee (CDE) will be subject to an ESG analysis based on **an ESG rating grid** to take account of double materiality (impact of the project or company on the environment and on society and vice versa) notably with respect to biodiversity issues. Such an ESG analysis is already applied to all of the Banque des Territoires' investment projects.

Lastly, environmental certifications are often used to better manage the impacts of our activities. For example, the CDC Habitat Group systematically aims to obtain environmental certification for all its new operations. Certifications relating to biodiversity (including Effinature, Biodivercity, profil biodiversité Cerqual) will, in particular, be highlighted on funds with the ISR label.

Increase of direct and indirect positive impacts

The group has identified several means of contributing towards increasing its direct and indirect positive impacts in terms of biodiversity.

I- Investments and financing promoting biodiversity

A) Financing and investment by the Banque des Territoires

Banque des Territoires invests in and finances projects with positive effects on biodiversity preservation (i.e., combatting the artificialisation of soils, renaturalisation, resource preservation, etc.). For the 2020-2024 period, it has allocated a budget of **3 billion euros in financing** (€2.8bn in loans and €200m in equity) for its recovery plan to:

- Renovate water and sanitation supplies and networks, manage aquatic environments and prevent floods (including the unsealing of soils) through the Aqua loan.
- Restore and renaturalise environments, preserve and develop ecological corridors and continuums, nature-based solutions through the Green Recovery loan.
- Prevent the generation of waste, process, recycle and recover waste, reuse and reduce packaging and, more generally, develop a circular economy within regions.
- Pursue the agricultural and food transition within regions.
- Enable land carrying, to avoid artificialisation outside of urban centres
- Redevelop and renaturalise brownfields
- Promote Natural Compensation Sites
- Invest, in two ways, and in coordination with CDC Biodiversité:
 - On an exploratory basis, invest in "carbon cooperatives", the purpose of which is to finance renaturalisation projects (hedges, reforestation, wetlands, peatlands) by selling voluntary carbon credits.

As regards the "Zero Net Artificialisation" scheme, discussions are underway to offer a land carrying instrument to compensation operators to enable them to carry out ecological renaturalisation operations on behalf of public or private developers.

Furthermore, specific Saving Fund financing has been implemented to finance projects relating to the management of urban public lighting.

In addition, a regional engineering offer focusing on realising projects and falling within the Banque des Territoires' triptych value chain, Advise-Finance-Operate, provides a continuum of complementary offers. Thus, for example, the support provided to the projects conducted as part of the Action Cœur de Ville programme eligible for financing through investment or loans (PRU ACV) also includes a specific engineering offer that encourages the implementation of projects to improve the place of nature in cities, which is a key lever for action in local policies on the revitalisation of city centres:

 The SGREEN scheme, which supports cities with the development of an ecological transition roadmap: this scheme provides for a territorial assessment in terms of nature in cities and adjustment to climate change, and identifies possible levers for action.

As of 1 November 2022, 52 cities have benefited from an SGREEN initiative, representing a commitment of around €1.9m.

■ The S'GREEN + scheme, supported by European Union funding through the European Investment Advisory Hub for cities that have already launched discussions on issues pertaining to adjustment to climate change and the revegetation of city centres, and that have already identified one or several projects requiring operational support. This scheme aims to support cities with the implementation of their projects, by providing technical, legal and financial expertise, and by providing support with setting out a detailed action plan.

As of 1 November 2022, 18 cities have benefited from an SGREEN initiative, representing a commitment of around €490m.

B) Nature 2050 programme

Created in 2016 following the COP21 Paris Agreement, the Nature 2050 programme is driven by CDC Biodiversité and Fond Nature 2050. It promotes and finances the implementation of nature-based solutions, with quantifiable and long-term results. A simple commitment: A voluntary contribution of €5 to the Nature 2050 programme equals 1m² of restored nature, monitored until 2050. The projects supported have three goals:

- To protect, manage and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services
- To mitigate the consequences of climate change
- To increase regions' resilience to ensure they are able to tackle climate change

Between its creation in 2016 and the end of 2022, the Nature 2050 programme has supported over 60 projects, for a total collected amount exceeding 11.6 million euros.

The CDC Group is fully committed to financing this programme through its several of its entities: La Caisse des Dépôts, Bpifrance, CDC Habitat, la Compagnie des Alpes, Icade, La Poste, La Banque Postale and Transdev.

C) Group impact accelerator

Banque des Territoires implements a scheme to support the development of new innovative and positive-impact offers by the Caisse des Dépôts Group. The projects supported must contribute towards the Group achieving its priority SDGs, while providing positive-impact solutions for regions. Project leaders are challenged on their project's ambitions and their ability to measure the actual impact of their solution (direct and indirect impact). Impact KPIs are monitored by project leaders and the Accelerator team. Projects supported include: the Wooded city method applied by the Low Carbon Label (La Société Forestière), Solar and green roofs (CDC Biodiversité), Landboost (Egis), Soil.is (Egis), Résilience Verte (CDC Biodiversité, La Société Forestière, Egis, Citadia).

D) Examples of La Poste Group best practices

Through its property company La Poste Immobilier, the La Poste Group has set itself the target of improving biodiversity across its 1,000,000 m² of green spaces, implementing 50 Biodiversity Performance Contracts (BPC) and conducting 200 ecological assessments by 2030.

CNP Assurances' new headquarters located in the Issy Cœur de Ville eco-neighbourhood in Issy les Moulineaux will seek to obtain the BiodiverCity label. This eco-neighbourhood aims to renaturalise 7,000m² of urban forest (345 trees and 470 shrubs planted).

E) STOA has adopted a biodiversity strategy based on 2 pillars

A robust procedure to manage biodiversity-related risks.

STOA aims to ensure that none of its new projects result in a net biodiversity loss for natural habitats, and that they produce a net gain for critical habitats, i.e., co-benefits in terms of biodiversity. Thus, biodiversity risks and the potential for net gains are assessed as from the project evaluation stage. For each project, STOA applies the Avoid, Reduce, Restore and Offset approach (mitigation hierarchy) in the IFC's performance standard 6 depending on the type of habitat impacted.

Avoidance must occur as early as possible in the project's development in order to provide for arrangements that eliminate any identified negative impacts potentially generated by the project.

When avoidance is not possible, STOA will ensure that minimisation measures are properly implemented in order to minimise, insofar as possible, the duration, intensity and/or extent of a project's impacts.

Lastly, ecological compensation is required when the impacts on biodiversity generated by the project cannot be avoided or minimised for natural or critical habitats.

Study on the financing of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) by STOA

In order to sustainably preserve, restore or manage natural ecosystems while providing populations with tangible and long-term benefits (IUCN, 2016), STOA aims to finance one or two pilot NBS projects in 2023 which will specify the conditions for investment in this area. These investments support STOA's Impact and Biodiversity strategy, with its Raison d'être being to "Finance and support the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructures for future generations in Africa, Latin America and Asia".

II- Innovation and schemes promoting biodiversity

A) Examples of schemes and/or innovations led by the CDC Group's entities

- CDC Biodiversité offers various solutions promoting biodiversity. In addition to the abovementioned solutions to measure biodiversity footprints and the Nature 2050 programme, CDC Biodiversité also offers:
- biodiversity performance contracts to the owners and managers of exterior public or private spaces who wish to set out and develop a positive ecological approach to nature in cities.
- the digital tool Agribest, codeveloped with the Cooperation Agricole Ouest, enabling farmers to self-assess their biodiversity practices. This tool will be available in 2023 in the form of an app, and will be widely rolled out across France free of charge, as part of a user ecosystem in development. It can also be used by prescribers (local authorities, cooperatives, unions) to implement regional projects.
- the Hortilio app, codeveloped with Jaya, to support private individual gardeners with best biodiversity practices.
- support to project owners, such as builders, developers or landlords, with the design, building and development of green spaces and the greening of infrastructures for their real estate projects.
- compensation, notably with the first Cossure site, which was the first to receive Natural Compensation Site accreditation by Ministerial Order of 24 April 2020.
- the "Local Biodiversity Index" club: in May 2022, CDC Biodiversité launched its "Local Biodiversity Index" club comprising a dozen private actors from the field of real estate and land development. The aim of the club is to develop a tool to assess the biodiversity gain offered by restoration initiatives and/or initiatives promoting biodiversity implemented on small urban sites as well as larger renaturalised sites. This measure does not substitute compliance with regulatory obligations, and notably the "Avoid, Reduce, Compensate" approach or the submission of an application for an endangered species derogation, but will enable actors to measure the value of their efforts for biodiversity.
 - La Société Forestière has developed a specific offer in addition to its traditional management packages, which aims to support clients towards more determined efforts in favour of biodiversity across their assets. This offer, which must be presented to all institutional owners by 2023, consists of:
 - Improving knowledge of biodiversity potential for their assets (using the IBP and "IBP+" measurement tools);
 - Offer specific silvicultural pathways designed to reduce the potential impacts of forest operations (e.g., protection of soils during forest operations);
 - Carry out initiatives or programmes designed to promote the sustainable establishment of biodiversity in forests (protect trees and environments conducive to biodiversity, establish certain areas as natural evolution areas, monitor nesting boxes, facilitate the observation of birds of prey or Chiroptera for example by naturalists and promote their settlement, inventory and protect certain species in partnership with experts, develop green or blue guides to combat the fragmentation of forest habitats and promote the circulation and genetic diversity of certain species, etc.).
 - Mitigate the footprint of silvicultural operations

Furthermore, La Société Forestière has developed two new low-carbon Label methods that aim to generate new carbon sinks and associated co-benefits (biodiversity, water cycle, etc.) through urban greening or the extension of forest production cycles.

- Thematic financing from the **SFIL/LBP** scheme targeting local authorities and their groupings: launched in 2019, the "green loan" offer takes account of biodiversity issues relating to the management of small and large water cycles through a dedicated theme. This financing offer provides investments for:
 - public water and sanitation services (equipment and infrastructures);
 - leaders of projects relating to rainwater management (equipment, infrastructures, alternative management);
 - leaders of GEMAPI (management of aquatic environments and flood prevention) projects, including those dedicated to protecting and restoring sites, aquatic ecosystems and wetlands."
- EVEN Conseil, an entity of the SCET Group, a CDC subsidiary, supports regions with their consideration of biodiversity issues in their regional policies. The subsidiary provides local authorities with expert engineering and strategic consulting to identify local ecological sensitivities and adapt responses. As such, the subsidiary is involved in the preparation of planning and urban planning documents in order to identify local ecological networks and any related environment fragmentation issues, but especially to consult on the regulatory tools to be used to ensure the judicious protection of ecological wealth. EVEN also works with development actors to support the integration of biodiversity in development projects, notably through the Biodivercity label offered to projects. It also supports many authorities with the development of operational strategies and action plans to green urban centres, with a view to optimising the ecosystem services that nature can provide in cities. Lastly, the SCET also carries out the task of assessing public Biodiversity policies for regions, thereby ensuring their effectiveness..
- Icade, which has set itself the goal of implementing positive biodiversity across 100% of its business parks as from 2022, is also working on various innovations in favour of biodiversity. With partners such as CDC Biodiversité, Icade is experimenting with green solar roofs to analyse the positive externalities (notably for biodiversity) of pairing energy production and greening.
- LBPAM and Tocqueville Finance launched an action fund on the topic of Biodiversity on 22 November. This new fund, Article 9 under SFDR, targets companies that provide solutions to the issue of preserving biodiversity in the fields of agriculture and sustainable food, circular economy, green buildings and environmental services and solutions. CNP Assurances has invested €120m in this fund. The fund is a concrete illustration of the La Banque Postale Group's commitment to biodiversity.

B) Examples of offers and/or innovations promoting biodiversity led by the CDC Group's strategic holdings:

- the CDC Group is a stakeholder of "nouveau **Suez"**, which offers solutions that are directly dedicated to biodiversity: nature-based solutions, plans for the ecological restoration of sites, restoration of natural environments through depollution, optimised management of water resources and smart farming. It should also be noted that, as a major player in the recycling sector, the Suez Group plays a driving role in the circular economy.
- the Caisse des Dépôts is also a stakeholder of engineering group Egis, whose areas of expertise include various aspects that are vital to biodiversity: ecodesign, environmental engineering, waste management, depollution and decontamination of sites and soils or acoustics. The Egis teams have developed two tools promoting biodiversity preservation and restoration. These are SEABOOST, which better reconciles human activity and aquatic biodiversity, and LANDBOOST, which encourages the development of biodiversity in urban regions. Lastly, Soil.is, a start-up company, allows land reclamation in order to increase carbon storage and biodiversity.

III- Influence and partnerships promoting action in favour of biodiversity

A) Partnerships

The entities of the Caisse des Dépôts Group have established various partnerships with a view to addressing biodiversity issues. For example:

- On 23 February 2022, Caisse des Dépôts and the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) entered into a partnership agreement to support the implementation of national biodiversity goals by local authorities and economic actors. The aim is twofold: promote the development of projects that are beneficial for the environment and mobilise public and private actors.
- Banque des Territoires is a long-standing partner of Mouvement Terre de Liens and has invested €6m in its property company. Terre de Liens works to help farmers adopt organic farming methods: thus, no Terre de Liens farms use pesticides or herbicides which are responsible for the significant decline in biodiversity and are harmful to ecosystems. Similarly, 51% of Terre de Liens agricultural land is only used as semi-natural spaces such as grasslands, ponds or hedges which are true havens of biodiversity.
- In 2022, as part of its open innovation initiative, the Banque des Territoires partnered with the public interest design agency Vraiment- Vraiment for an experimental programme on the place assigned to biodiversity in public action: "Administrative Biodiversity". The aim is to help public actors to identify their needs and find concrete means of improving their action on a daily basis in order to preserve biodiversity.

- La Société Forestière is committed to establishing 15 new partnerships with expert organisations on behalf of its clients (including Caisse des Dépôts and CNP Assurances) by 2025, which will allow for the implementation of specific programmes dedicated to the protection of certain species or the restoration of certain habitats, in the long term. Since 2021, 5 partnerships have been entered into or are pending.
- Icade is part of a working group comprised of various actors (ecologists, developers, promoters, architects, etc.) driven by the CSTB, which aims to establish a unique indicator capable of taking account of the biodiversity potential and ecosystem services offered by environments.
- CDC Biodiversité has set up a multi-partner Steering Committee for its Nature 2050 programme. Through it, the French Biodiversity Agency, ADEME, EcoMaires, France Nature Environnement, LPO France, the Nicolas Hulot foundation, the National Museum of Natural History and other science experts help with the strategic development of this programme which aims to develop nature-based solutions combatting climate change (mitigation and adaptation) in France. A partnership has also been entered into with Sorbonne University and the CNRS as part of the Nature 2050 programme, in order to set out and track indicators that monitor and assess ecological restoration in projects supported by Nature 2050.
- The Mission Economie de la Biodiversité (MEB) led by CDC Biodiversité also includes a Guidance Committee, the aim of which is to develop prospective and collective discussions on the major issues linking biodiversity and economy and solutions to preserve biodiversity. Its purpose is to guide the MEB's discussions, as well as to contribute towards its work and bring together several public establishments and associations: Ademe, AFD, ANCT, Banque des Territoires, Cerema, French Foundation for Biodiversity Research, Ifremer, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development, INRAE, Institut CDC pour la Recherche, I4CE, MNHN, CGDD, OFB, Association Orée.
- Some of the Group's entities, notably La Poste Group, contribute towards the international work carried out by the Science Based Targets Network to create an SBT for Nature framework.
- Furthermore, the La Poste Group is a partner of LPO France, notably through long and short-term skill-based sponsorship assignments.

B) Collaborative initiatives

The group's entities are involved in various collaborative initiatives through which they share knowledge, best practices and contribute towards the development of Market practices. Thus, the Group is represented by one or multiple entities in the following initiatives: entreprises engagées pour la nature – act4nature France, Finance for Biodiversity, Entreprises pour l'Environnement, Finance for Tomorrow, France Invest's working group on biodiversity and the FAIRR network.

Moreover, several entities are members of the **Club B4B+** driven by CDC Biodiversité which pursues multiple goals:

- Understanding how biodiversity footprint assessment tools can fuel companies' decisions, investment decisions and external reporting;
- Anticipating financial, regulatory and market changes in terms of reducing biodiversity footprints:
- Ensuring the GBS is adapted to companies' constraints and needs and enabling its implementation through case studies;
- Keeping companies informed regarding biodiversity footprint assessments with the involvement of external experts and regular monitoring of literature;
- Helping to conduct biodiversity footprint assessments through technical support

C) Other levers of influence

- Shareholder dialogue: the dialogue with companies as already mentioned on several occasions in this policy, shareholder commitment is also a lever for the group's financial entities in order to encourage companies in their portfolio to increase their positive impacts on biodiversity.
- **Dialogue with suppliers**: the purchases made by the group's entities are an important lever. By considering biodiversity and environmental issues in their dialogue with suppliers, the group's entities contribute towards changing models beyond their own scope.
- **Dialogue in the Forest-Wood** chain, notably in the context of national and regional consultations driven by La Société Forestière



Contribution to research, training and awareness raising

I- Contributing to research

- Mission Economie et Biodiversité: Caisse des Dépôts and more specifically Banque des Territoires finance the works carried out by the Mission Economie et Biodiversité (MEB) entrusted to CDC Biodiversité. MEB serves the public interest. It aims to disseminate and share work using communication media and various events (Dossiers de la MEB, BIODIV'2050, Les Cahiers de BIODIV'2050 collection, training, conferences, international symposiums, etc.). It addresses topics as diverse as biodiversity in cities, the goal of zero net artificialisation, payments to preserve ecosystem services, the creation of tools to integrate biodiversity risks and opportunities in the financial sector, and the scientific principles of implementing compensation (notably ecological equivalence). These works must be financed in order to push forward on the topic of biodiversity at various economic levels. Over the 2020-2024 period, a total of €7.9m will be assigned to the financing of this programme.
- La **Société Forestière** is involved in R&D projects alongside research organisations (CNPF-IDF, INRAe, FCBA, etc.) in its role as technical expert and provides its clients with forest plots for silvicultural trials, notably relating to climate change.
- Since 2020, the Institut pour la recherche de la Caisse des Dépôts has partnered with Mosaic, a centre for skills in participatory sciences, the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (French National Museum of Natural History) and Sorbonne Université. As a member of the ISEED (Inclusive Science & European Democracies) project, Mosaic is working to develop a new form of citizen participation referred to as SPOT (Sciences Participatives Obscurité & Territoires). This experimental platform has been launched in two areas: the municipalities of Melesse (35) and Libourne (33). The aim is to involve constituents in changes to public urban lighting policies. These two municipalities intend to reduce their lighting, both to cut their energy consumption and to protect nocturnal biodiversity. Urban lighting is a sensitive issue for constituents and finding a balance between total extinction and

unnecessary lighting is no easy feat. This is why these two municipalities have committed to a 3-month trial (from 1 April to 30 June 2022) of this collective decision-making programme, supported by a scientific protocol created by sociology and nature psychology researchers. Inhabitants are invited to follow this protocol on the website, ask questions and make recommendations on the extinction of lights in their city. The data collected will enable local authorities to make decisions relating to lighting and will allow researchers to analyse the potential of this type of platform in involving citizens in local participatory initiatives.

II- Training and raising awareness

A) Staff training

Entities are encouraged to identify which staff require training as a priority as regards biodiversity issues. By way of example,

- in 2021 and 2022, the Caisse des Dépôts' Asset Management Department trained its management on the topic of biodiversity in order to take better account of this subject in its operations and dialogue with companies.
- In June 2022, CNP Assurances trained staff in charge of asset management on biodiversity issues in order to support the inclusion of this topic in investments.
- La Société Forestière trained all its technical staff on sustainable forest management practices, and notably on the inventory of biodiversity potential in 2021
- SFIL rolled out an e-learning module on sustainable development and CSR. It was made freely accessible via the internal training platform for all staff members. This e-learning module includes a section on current major planetary issues (climate change, scarcity of resources, biodiversity loss, pollution and inequalities).
- The CDC Habitat Group has implemented internal training on biodiversity targeting local staff. It is committed to systematically training such staff upon the deployment of the sustainable management of outdoor areas contract. In order to ensure initiatives on new constructions and that rehabilitation projects are rolled out, training needs will be identified for the development and project leadership chains. Lastly, as part of its CSR strategy, the Group will step up its general awareness raising initiatives targeting staff on environmental and biodiversity issues by coordinating annual initiatives.
- STOA rolled out biodiversity training for its staff as early as February 2020 in order to better manage risks through the IFC's performance standard 6.
- Since 2022, Bpifrance has progressively rolled out a programme to train staff on biodiversity issues with a view to enabling its business lines to meet their client's needs in terms of these issues.

B) <u>Training of other actors</u>

- CDC Biodiversité notably trains companies, financial institutions and local authorities on the use of its footprint measurement tool. Training on the topic of biodiversity, and the challenges and solutions to achieve the objectives set out in regulations is also offered to all economic actors.
- Novethic provides thematic training such as training on "biodiversity, natural capital and green finance", "biodiversity risks in finance" and other training modules on the normative and regulatory changes in terms of CSR and green finance which include aspects relating to biodiversity.
- La **Société Forestière** has been involved in training provided by forest engineer schools to students and professionals as part of continuing education (AgroParisTech, Bordeaux Sciences Agro, AgroParisTech Executive) addressing current issues in terms of silvicultural issues, sustainable management certification and ecosystem services (carbon, biodiversity).
- **Bpifrance-université.fr: Bpifrance's** digital learning platform offers over 350 training modules especially designed for entrepreneurs, free of charge. This digital platform helps them to develop their skills on all topics relating to company development and management, as well as on sustainable development and CSR issues. The training catalogue, which already contains several modules on biodiversity, will be progressively expanded in order to better support entrepreneurs' understanding of biodiversity issues related to their activity and their consideration in their business model.

C) Raising awareness:

Awareness-raising initiatives are led by the group's entities, and notably:

- On 7 September 2021, the Caisse des Dépôts Group held its first Journée de la Nature (Nature day). Followed by over 5,000 people online, the event brought together various actors and notably the Caisse des Dépôts Group to discuss key issues and present a plethora of solutions. 4 round tables, 19 workshops and over 40 filmed interviews, along with twenty exposés and other documents were then stored on the event's platform: https://journeedelanature-2021-cdc.fr/
- Novethic is a medium of reference in the field of sustainable development. It decrypts environmental news for audiences with more or less expert knowledge. Biodiversity is one of the key topics it addresses.
- The CDC Habitat Group wishes to encourage and facilitate the deployment of measures to support and raise the awareness of lessees (collective and individual/suburban). To do so, it aims to involve inhabitants in discussions on works to design, develop, manage and appropriate future outdoor areas, and to support and help with experimental projects.

On the occasion of its annual event, **Bpifrance Innovation Génération** BIG, Bpifrance organises workshops and conferences dedicated to biodiversity issues for companies in order to raise awareness among clients and partners. Bpifrance intends to improve **communication initiatives promoting biodiversity** and its significance for companies' sustainability, by supporting and participating in events dedicated to biodiversity (Assises Nationales de la Biodiversité, Forum Biodiversité et Economie, Journée Terres) or events dedicated to CSR in which the bank considers the topic of biodiversity (Produrable for example).