

IUCN Red List of Ecosystems in France: a new mission launched by the IUCN French Committee

What is the responsibility of France for the conservation of ecosystems ?



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France is one of the 18 megadiverse countries in the world and the only one comprising 5 of the 34 world biodiversity hotspots owing to its Mediterranean area and overseas territories. France also holds over 8 million hectares of tropical forests and the second largest territorial waters that comprise 10% of coral reefs and lagoons of the world. Metropolitan France is also characterised by a high species and ecosystem diversity thanks to its various geological and climate conditions: 4 of the 6 biogeographical regions of Western Europe are found in the country, which is located at the European “ecological crossroads”. Consequently, France has a big responsibility for ecosystem conservation.

What are the issues on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems in France ?



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In 2012, the French Committee of IUCN realized a first series of case studies on metropolitan French wetlands in partnership with the *Fondation de la Tour du Valat*. This project aimed to develop an objective risk assessment of wetland ecosystems across the country by gathering the most recent data and best information available to apply the criteria and threshold of the IUCN Red List Ecosystem concept.

This allowed us to :

1. Highlight the factors threatening these ecosystems
2. Identify data gaps and additional studies to launch
3. Define the extinction risk of each ecosystem studied
4. Mobilize French expertise to complement a set of case studies initiated globally
5. Propose amendments to the thresholds and criteria defined at international level

The IUCN French Committee wishes to develop new case studies in 2013, focusing on specific forest and marine ecosystems in French metropolitan and overseas territories. These studies will be conducted in partnership with organizations and scientists having expertise on these ecosystems.



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The ultimate goal is to produce recommendations to guide public policies in order to protect French ecosystems at all spatial scales and political levels.

This objective and scientifically based work will provide a strong awareness raising tool for decision makers on the importance of protecting ecosystem in France.

For more information:

<http://www.iucn.fr/La-Liste-rouge-des-ecosystemes.html>

http://www.tourduvalat.org/actualites/projets/vers_la_liste_rouge_des_ecosystemes_de_l_iucn