



Municipal Biodiversity Atlas

Atlas de la biodiversité communale. ABC

France, national scale – status: ongoing

Abstract: The Municipal Biodiversity Atlas. Atlas de la biodiversité communale (ABC) is an initiative of the French Ministry in charge of Ecology, to mobilise local authorities and communities to set up inventories of habitats and species for a better appreciation and protection of their local biodiversity. Financed and co-ordinated by the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), the ABC initiative offers to support local authorities in creating their biodiversity atlas through launching successive Calls for Projects at national level. The initiative is embedded in the National Biodiversity Strategy and existing regional biodiversity strategies.

Keywords:

Biodiversity knowledge
Public participation
Voluntary mobilisation
Local dialogue
Local knowledge
Land use planning



Case study country
(Map created with mapchart.net)

Objectives of measure and challenges addressed

The ABC process instils a real dynamic in favour of the recognition and appreciation of local biodiversity, improving both, scientific knowledge and mobilisation of people.

This initiative has three main objectives:

- Better perception of local biodiversity and issues of its conservation.
- Mobilisation and ownership by local community
- Integration of biodiversity conservation issues into local policies.

Description of measure

Each year, the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) is launching a Call for Projects. Pre-selected by the OFB's regional offices and their partners, projects are selected by local, regional and national committees.

In order to meet the objectives, the ABC gives rise to

- Mobilisation of local actors,
- Field inventories during which observation and monitoring data on species and/or habitats are produced,



Transformative Change for Nature

Illustrative Examples from the ENCA Network

- Maps of biodiversity issues that can be taken into account or integrated into land use development projects,
- Publications, reports or appendices relating to the implementation of the ABC and the resulting (new) perspectives.

Based on these inventories, the ABC will highlight different levels of biodiversity issues, and therefore identify priorities for action, in order to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity.

People will be made aware of the fact that the quality of the environment in a given area is an asset for the quality of life for its inhabitants, but also for its attractiveness.

After the inventory phase, a draft ABC is set up, which will allow to define a local plan of action. Ideally, the final version should be drawn up in consultation with the inhabitants and all the local stakeholders (nature protection associations, users of nature, especially hunters and fishermen, research consultancies or ecological engineering companies, natural area managers, etc.).



How does this measure contribute to transformative change for nature?

The ABC initiative represents a real strategic tool for local actions as a first step towards the commitment of local authorities and citizens in favour of biodiversity.

The ABC initiative is also an opportunity to integrate biodiversity protection issues into local planning projects, and to identify actions according to the ABC results. For example: habitat restoration, educational areas, protected areas, differentiated green spaces management, participatory sciences, etc.).

Organisations involved

Directions régionales de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement (DREAL/DRIEE), Muséum national d'histoire naturelle (MNHN), France Nature Environnement (FNE), Conservatoires botaniques nationaux (CBN), Centres permanents d'Initiation à l'Environnement (CPIE), Association Humanité et Biodiversité, Vivarmor Nature, Association des Maires de France, Régions de France et les services chargés de l'environnement au sein des conseils régionaux, Ecomaires, Fonds de Dotation pour la Biodiversité, Ligue de Protection des Oiseaux (LPO), parcs nationaux de France, parcs naturels régionaux.

Stakeholder involvement and community engagement

Transformative Change for Nature

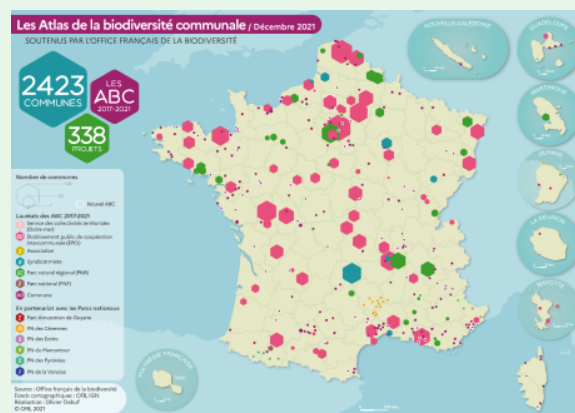
Illustrative Examples from the ENCA Network

All citizens and stakeholders such as councilors, staff of local authorities, schoolchildren, students, farmers, foresters, businesses, non-governmental associations, etc.

Local knowledge holders are invited to share their experiences. Nature conservation organizations will be addressed specifically as part of the public participation process.

Outcomes to date

Through its funding mechanism, the OFB has already enabled the implementation of 391 ABC projects in Metropolitan France and its Overseas Territories, covering nearly 2,856 municipalities (January 2023).



Review of projects supported by OFB (2017-2021)

On-going or future monitoring

On-going

Conflict potentials / trade-offs

Nothing to report

Costs and resource needs

The average cost of an ABC conducted over 2 to 3 years is estimated at 38,000 euros. Costs and duration vary according to the surface area, the degree of exhaustiveness required and the ecological complexity of the territory.

Financing sources, mechanisms and instruments

€250,000€ is the maximum funding per grant for projects submitted under the 2022 OFB Call for Projects.

The maximum funding rate is 80% of eligible expenditure. In the case of a multi-partner project, all partners must provide co-financing. In addition, the search for co-financing from other sources (such as regional or sub-regional authorities) is highly encouraged.

Nature of eligible expenditure :

- staff salary costs (excluding salaries and social charges of permanent staff of public bodies, municipalities and inter-municipal structures, which may be included in the financial contribution of the project promoter, but are not eligible for financing by OFB);



Transformative Change for Nature

Illustrative Examples from the ENCA Network

- investment expenditure depending on its nature;
- management costs (up to a maximum);
- travel costs directly related to the implementation of the project;
- other costs directly related to the implementation of the project.

On-going or future maintenance and management

ABC 2023 call for projects: <https://www.ofb.gouv.fr/actualites/appel-projets-atlas-de-la-biodiversite-communale-2023>

Lesson learnt and recommendations

An evaluation of the ABC initiative, with lessons learnt and recommendations has just started in 2023 and will last for 3 years. The first pilot evaluation, financed by EU regional development fund ERDF, takes place in Brittany, France.

Transferability of solutions, results and experiences

The implementation of the ABC initiative has already gathered valuable knowledge and experiences on how to effectively scale up ecological restoration, nature based solutions for climate adaptation and biodiversity protection. This initiative is likely to be transferable to other countries in the EU and worldwide.

Lead contact(s)

Sébastien Flores. Head of Actors and Citizens Unit. French Biodiversity Agency. OFB.

Publications and weblinks

Webpage:

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/atlas-biodiversite-communale>

<https://www.ofb.gouv.fr/les-atlas-de-la-biodiversite-communale>

Flyer:

<https://www.ofb.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Fichiers/Plaquettes%20et%20rapports%20institut/plaquette-abc2023.pdf>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW0hvDxOdAU>

Portal (Hub)

<https://abc.naturefrance.fr/>

Guidelines

https://abc.naturefrance.fr/sites/default/files/2022-04/OFB_Guide_ABC_2022_2.pdf

Data protocoles :

<https://inpn.mnhn.fr/programme/donnees-observations-especes/references/qualite>

Authors and acknowledgements



Transformative Change for Nature

Illustrative Examples from the ENCA Network

Naïk FAUCON. naik.faucon@ofb.gouv.fr

Olivier MUSARD. olivier.musard@ofb.gouv.fr

Servane BOURGEAULT. servane.bourgeault@ofb.gouv.fr

Imprint: This factsheet was published in 2023 by the European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA Network) as an illustrative example for transformative change for nature.

Transformative change is defined as "a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values", in accordance with the Global Biodiversity Assessment by IPBES (2019).

For more information, see: <https://www.encanetwork.eu/interestgroups>