

Paris, July 8th, 2020

**Preserving biodiversity:
SUEZ strengthens its commitments within
“Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature/Act4Nature France” initiative**

SUEZ Group signs a series of commitments as part of the “Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature/Act4Nature France” initiative led by the Office Français de la Biodiversité (French biodiversity agency), with support from the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition.

As a leader in environmental services, SUEZ unveiled its Purpose in May 2020, with a specific focus on “investing in preserving and restoring natural capital, and consequently the future of biodiversity, both at sea and on land.”

To realize this ambition, at the end of May 2020, SUEZ strengthened its commitment to preserving biodiversity by participating in the “Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature/Act4nature France” initiative. In addition to the ten shared principles, the Group has set out 13 objectives, supported by indicators with dates and figures. The goal is to provide focus for its strategy and value proposition as regards the challenge of biodiversity. In particular, this focus involves:

- assessing the biodiversity footprint of SUEZ’s activities and incorporating biodiversity into company decision-making processes, including executive compensation;
- promoting nature-based solutions, land restoration and nature-based approaches in cities, while continuing to drive innovative solutions for oceans and coastlines;
- pursuing a collaborative approach through partnerships, improving on-site biodiversity knowledge, and raising stakeholder awareness of biodiversity challenges.

Jean-Marc Boursier, Senior Executive VP Group in charge of the France Region and Group Chief Operating Officer, commented: *“The health crisis has served as a big wake-up call to the challenges of preserving biodiversity and natural capital. Both are fundamental elements of our Purpose and SUEZ’s sustainable development roadmap. Water, soil, and air are key parts of our environment that ensure our future. SUEZ’s involvement in the “Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature/Act4Nature France” initiative is an opportunity to take an ambitious and strategic stance, making biodiversity preservation the central focus of our activities. To this end, our commitments will be tangible as they aim to measure our impact, assess biodiversity in our value chain and promote circular economy solutions that promote biodiversity.”*

First concrete actions following EEN/Act4Nature France commitments

In that respect, SUEZ launched on February 17, 2020, a new call for projects, “Acting for Natural Capital”, aiming at identifying technical, digital, and societal innovation projects contributing to preserving the environment and natural capital. The 2020 edition was named: “Acting for natural capital: biodiversity and solutions based on nature.” More than 40 project applications submitted by start-ups, social and inclusive economy organizations, research laboratories, etc., were reviewed. On June 30th, ten were presented to a

jury chaired by Gilles Bœuf, a respected biologist and former President of the French National Museum of Natural History. This jury was made up of members of the SUEZ Management Committee and external experts: Hélène Leriche, Head of Biodiversity and Economy at the Orée association and Ciprian Ionescu, Head of Natural Capital at WWF France.

Three projects have been selected and will be officially recognized during the French National Conference on Biodiversity, which will take place from October 6th through October 8th. €100,000 in funding will be shared between the three winning projects over a three-year period. Each winning project will be sponsored by a member of the jury. As a skills sponsorship provider, SUEZ employees will also use their expertise and scientific guidance to support the winners.

2020 awardees

- **“Technical and digital innovation” category:** INRAE¹ with the ReVers project (REVitalisation of vineyard soils by inoculation of earthworms).
- **“Societal innovation” category:** the Halage association with the Fleurs d'Halage project. This project aims to develop the production of cut flowers in short circuits as an economic, ecological and responsible activity on former industrial wastelands in the Seine-Saint-Denis region (France), while enabling people far from employment to train for new jobs.
- **Jury’s choice award (tied projects):** G-Addiction association and its escape game on the preservation of biodiversity and the BioLit project led by *Planète mer* association. The latter is based on a mobile application whose objective is to share observations of coastal fauna and flora in order to better understand and protect coastal ecosystems, and to animate a community of observers to exchange and facilitate the transfer of know-how on the coast.

The 2020 program reflects the Group’s ambition to work with all stakeholders to preserve and restore the fundamental elements of our environment. The Group’s “Shaping SUEZ 2030” strategic plan showcases its ambitions; the Group is focused on moving its business portfolio towards “100% sustainable” solutions in order to positively impact the environment and natural capital.

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About SUEZ:

Since the end of the 19th century, SUEZ has built expertise aimed at helping people to constantly improve their quality of life by protecting their health and supporting economic growth. With an active presence on five continents, SUEZ and its 90,000 employees strive to preserve our environment’s natural capital: water, soil, and air. SUEZ provides innovative and resilient solutions in water management, waste recovery, site remediation and air treatment, optimizing municipalities’ and industries’ resource management through “smart” cities and improving their environmental and economic performance. The Group delivers sanitation services to 64 million people and produces 7.1 billion m³ of drinking water. SUEZ is also a contributor to economic growth, with more than 200,000 jobs created directly and indirectly on an annual basis, and a provider of new resources, with 4.2 million tons of secondary raw materials produced. By 2030, the Group is targeting 100% sustainable solutions, with a positive impact on our environment, health and climate. SUEZ generated total revenue of €18.0 billion in 2019.

Find out more about the SUEZ Group
on the [website](#) & on social media



¹ The National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment