



Interview with Sébastien Moncorps, Director of the French Committee of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)



- **What is the role of the French Committee of IUCN?**

The French Committee of IUCN works for the conservation of nature and the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources, in accordance with the mission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the global level. To do this, we mobilize the 62 French organizations that are members of the IUCN as well as a network of more than 250 experts. France is the second country, after the USA, with the largest number of IUCN members in the world. Our programs are dedicated to biodiversity policies, species, protected areas, ecosystems, environmental education, overseas and international cooperation. Thanks to the expertise of our network, the French Committee of IUCN draws up assessments, makes recommendations and manages projects to improve policies, knowledge, the commitment of stakeholders and the implementation of actions in favor of biodiversity conservation.

- **Why a partnership between the French Committee of the IUCN and ENGIE? What are the mutual contributions?**

The partnership between the French Committee of the IUCN and ENGIE exists since 2008 (GDF Suez at the time). It was born from a will of the company to commit itself in a more important, strategic and sustainable way in favor of biodiversity and from the will of the French Committee of the IUCN to involve more the voluntary companies, like ENGIE, on the stakes of biodiversity. Our partnership is structured in 3 axes. In the first one, we bring our expertise to strengthen the integration of biodiversity in ENGIE's strategy and activities. In the second one, we work together on common issues (ecological compensation, biodiversity reporting, employee awareness...) with our other partner companies, our members and our experts, within our "Business & Biodiversity" working group. Finally, in the third axis, ENGIE supports, in the form of sponsorship, our actions to carry out the Red List of threatened species in France and to mobilize local communities on biodiversity. It is also important to mention that our partnership has been enlarged and strengthened with the involvement of Storengy and that we are also exchanging together on the consideration of biodiversity in the development of renewable energies.

- **What are the main biodiversity issues for a company?**

Companies have a major role to play in reducing their impacts on biodiversity, but also beyond, by contributing more actively to the protection and restoration of ecosystems. The challenges vary according to the company's activities and can be numerous. That is why it is important, at the beginning, to realize an inventory of the impacts and dependences of the company with regard to the biodiversity. For ENGIE, this concerns the territorial scope of its facilities (industrial sites, including power plants and gas storage sites, gas transport pipelines, dams, wind or solar farms), the impact of their operation and the dependence on natural resources such as water or biomass. The analysis must be carried out on the entire value chain, including supplies. This diagnosis allows us to adopt a long-term strategy, implemented with action plans that are regularly updated and evaluated. This is what

we have been doing together since 2010 by supporting ENGIE in the development and deployment of its biodiversity policy. To be effective in the implementation, it is important to have an internal approach, involving different employees and different businesses within the group, and an external approach, of dialogue and collaboration with different stakeholders. Biodiversity issues are also regulatory, as regulations are changing regularly in response to the continuing decline in biodiversity, and reputational, as the subject is increasingly present in public opinion.

• **In 2021 the IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place, what are the expected results of this congress?**

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the main event on biodiversity with the UN COP Biodiversity. It is scheduled from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille and will bring together IUCN member organizations (210 States and public agencies, 1200 NGOs) and its experts (17,000), as well as companies, local authorities, scientific institutions, UN agencies and representatives of indigenous peoples. The objective is to strengthen the international mobilization on biodiversity which is still disappearing at an alarming rate. The first part of the congress, the Forum, will allow to share experiences and solutions to better protect biodiversity, and the second part, the General Assembly, will finalize the adoption of 128 recommendations calling for a much more determined and ambitious action on many issues of biodiversity, whether terrestrial, aquatic or marine. This will be the high point of the mobilization before the time of the political decision, because the COP 15 Biodiversity of the UN will follow right after in China where 196 States will adopt the new global strategy for biodiversity until 2030.