



AFD AND

# The Protection of Biodiversity in China



**€326 million**  
for biodiversity

**12**  
projects to protect and  
develop biodiversity

Over **60 000**  
hectares protected

China has adopted an ambitious strategy and action plan to preserve its biodiversity. AFD is supporting this policy by funding sustainable development and ecological transition programs for territories through loans, developing innovative solutions and mobilizing French expertise. These cooperative projects allow for the protection and promotion of ecosystems with a view to the sustainable management of global public goods.

# OUR ACTION IN China

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## Protecting and restoring ecosystems

China hosts 10% of the world's wetlands. These account for 55% of the country's ecosystems and are home to over 11,000 plant and animal species. Faced with strong anthropic pressure, these wetlands have been deteriorating and disappearing at a worrying pace. AFD is supporting the Chinese authorities in the ecological restoration of four wetlands of major importance for biodiversity in the provinces of Liaoning, Shanxi and Hunan.

For example, we have supported **an ambitious ecological restoration program for Lake Wolong** which, thanks to the work of four consortiums between French and Chinese companies, has become a major habitat for migratory birds in the East Asia-Australia corridor in the past four years.

In these projects, we mobilize **French expertise in ecological engineering**, allowing us to employ innovative solutions:

- the Changyuan River Restoration Project on the Loess Plateau, for example, promotes **nature-based solutions** (filtering garden, riverbank renaturalization) to restore essential ecological heritage in one of the world's driest regions;
- the Lake Maoli Ecological Restoration Project uses environmental management and **water resource planning at the watershed level** to restore the key ecosystems that this important wetland offers for its inhabitants and wildlife.

AFD has also supported Chinese public policies in sustainable forest management by funding three forestry projects that aim to reconcile sustainable rural development, the protection of ecosystems and the renewal of exploitable resources. In Anhui province, we are supporting a project for the protection of forest biodiversity in the heart of the Dabieshan Massif, which is home to some of the oldest plant species in the world and a rare level of biodiversity.

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## Supporting the reform of protected areas

The articulation between the protection of exceptional natural heritage and its economic and social promotion is one of the major challenges facing China today.

We are supporting several projects for the creation and strengthening of protected areas which are based on the French territorial approach and aim to combine biodiversity conservation, maintaining economic attractiveness thanks in particular to green tourism, and promoting participatory territorial management.

AFD is supporting the local authorities of Xianju district, in the south-east of Zhejiang province, in the implementation of a **"pilot" project in the framework of national park reform**, aiming to protect, restore and develop Xianju's exceptional natural and cultural heritage. Particular attention is being paid to the park's governance system: a partnership with the Ballons des Vosges Regional Nature Park has been established.

In Guangxi, AFD is funding the protection and development of the natural and cultural heritage of the municipality of Hezhou. Finally, we are supporting a territorial development project in the city of Fengxiang (Shaanxi province), which is home to a wealth of archaeological and natural heritage.

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## Promoting a transversal and innovative approach to biodiversity among Chinese institutions

Launched in 2020, the China Biodiversity Facility, subsidized by the European Union and implemented by AFD, will contribute to funding 8 to 10 innovative projects for the protection of biodiversity, applying and promoting European and international expertise and standards. These projects will cover the **themes of protected areas, oceans, ecological restoration and urban biodiversity**, and will benefit from further funding to make use of innovative approaches.

These projects will aim to protect China's natural capital and rich biodiversity in the long term while contributing to its efforts to combat climate change and its effects, seeking convergence between these two key agendas of sustainable development.

The China Biodiversity Facility also aims to boost the public policy dialogue that has been underway for several years between Europe, France and China on the protection of biodiversity and natural capital.