



PRESS RELEASE

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THE ECOCERT GROUP LAUNCHES ITS NEW CERTIFICATION “BIODIVERSITY COMMITMENT”

Know and reduce your impact on biodiversity

With the rise in damage to biodiversity, it's now urgent that we protect our natural resources and the ecological quality of the local and global ecosystems on which both people and many economic sectors depend. Bringing organisations into balance with their ecosystems ensures both their sustainability and their long-term performance. With this reality in mind, the ECOCERT Group has created the universal “Biodiversity Commitment” certification.

This certification is available for all types of organisations. Six pilot companies – Guerlain, Séché Environnement, Bolloré Logistics, GSM, Veolia and Sanef – have been involved in this process since 2015, with the aim of aligning their economic activities and their responsibilities with respect to living things in all their diversity.

The pilot companies that have been taking part in this process since 2015 share their experiences...

Daniel Baumgarten – Director of Sustainable Development, Séché Environnement

“Séché Environnement is one of the leading French players in the recovery and treatment of all types of waste, including both waste from local authorities and industrial waste. The Group is taking action with respect to the energy and ecological transition that's currently underway, preserving natural resources by recovering value from waste in the form of secondary materials and energy. Séché Environnement wanted to be certified by ECOCERT for both its biodiversity and climate management systems, in recognition of the ways in which these two challenges, climate and biodiversity, are at the core of its business model and its governance structure. These certifications illustrate the Group's efforts to measure its impact in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, the consumption of natural resources, preventing pollution, managing habitats and ecological continuity, and managing invasive species. In addition, they highlight the role of the plan for reducing these pressures as part of a process

of continuous improvement. The actions put in place by Séché Environnement are illustrated, in particular, by the concept of a biodiversity feedback loop with respect to climate change : being part of a circular economy approach to preserving biodiversity leads to positive environmental and climatic effects, and ensures the social and economic development of the areas in which it operates.”

Sandrine Sommer – Director of Sustainable Development, Guerlain

“For Guerlain, natural raw materials have always been a source of inspiration and innovation for our creations. Committing to the protection of biodiversity is about ensuring the sustainability of our creations and our know-how as well as contributing to preserving the Beauty of the World. So it seemed entirely natural for us to be one of the pilot companies for the launch of the Biodiversity Commitment certification.”

Valerie Cauchi – Head of the Environmental Management System, GSM

“Obtaining the Biodiversity Commitment certification is an external recognition based on a credible standard that’s founded on the principles of continuous improvement. This field audit-based certification gives company employees full recognition for their daily actions in support of biodiversity.”

Isabelle Vampouille – Director of CSR/Sustainable Development, Bolloré Logistics

“Bolloré Logistics, part of the Bolloré Group, is among the top 10 global players in transport and logistics. The Biodiversity Commitment certification awarded by ECOCERT Environment validates and rewards the strategy that the CSR/Sustainable Development management team has been putting in place since 2013. The ECOCERT audit was conducted in November 2015 [in France], at the company’s headquarters in Puteaux, a location that defines the company’s global commitment to biodiversity, as well as at its operational sites in Roissy and Nantes, which are already BiodiverCity® certified with respect to sustainable construction. It has made it possible to verify the coherence of the biodiversity management system that has been developed, the concrete steps taken at the sites, together with a number of ongoing projects, such as the construction of a 36,000 m2 greenhub in Le Havre that has integrated biodiversity into its design right from the start. The approval of our biodiversity strategy by a recognised certification entity will make it possible for us to rapidly formalise effective internal processes in order to develop appropriate local actions worldwide and to best meet the expectations of the company’s stakeholders and employees”.



Véronique Dham – Co-founder and President of Gondwana*, a French representative to IPBES - the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (*The Gondwana consulting firm assisted Sanef in preparing for the certification)

“The Biodiversity Commitment certification meets a real need for companies and for everyone involved in biodiversity: being able to promote, internally and externally, a biodiversity management system and specific actions structured around biodiversity. For those who are already on this path, it’s an extra motivation to move forward. For those who are preparing to integrate biodiversity into their activities – products, services, industrial assets or real estate – it’s an additional stimulus to action. Clearly, this standard, which is supported by Gondwana’s teams, is excellent news for biodiversity.”

Frank Derrien – AmplifyNature – Member of the Biodiversity Commitment standard’s technical committee

“AmplifyNature has actively contributed to the Biodiversity Commitment certification standard right from the start. Completing the “water, carbon, biodiversity” commitment loop was the first key factor for us. These three issues are interconnected and have regional artificialisation and climate disruption in common. The second key factor was the idea that the biodiversity management system should apply to the company’s entire value chain, supplier and subcontractor included. AmplifyNature has contributed with its know-how in terms of the global and in-depth identification of companies’ land and the quantitative assessment of its ecological potential.”

Highlights of the “Biodiversity Commitment” standard

ECOCERT Environnement issues the Biodiversity Commitment certification following an annual audit of the organisation, designed to assess the performance of its management system and compliance with the goals.

“This is a voluntary process, included in the CSR strategy or environmental

policy of committed companies, either in connection with their DNA or because of their awareness





of the strong impact of their activities on the environment,” says Laurent Croguennec, CEO of ECOCERT Environnement. “Their aim is prediction and prevention.”

Promoting environmental responsibility and the dynamic of continuous improvement

The Biodiversity Commitment universal certification meets a set of very precise specifications and is defined by 7 characteristics (<http://www.ecocert.com/en/biodiversity-commitment>).

It has been designed to be applicable to all types of organisations (small and large businesses, local governments and communities, regional authorities, natural parks and conservation areas, etc.), whether they operate at the national or international level. The certification takes biodiversity into account throughout the value chain, in areas that are directly or indirectly linked to the organisation. It is designed to raise awareness about the impact of organisations on biodiversity and the ways in which those organisations are themselves dependant on that biodiversity. With the creation of this certification, the goal is to involve economic players in order to connect them with their ecological system by sharing information and capitalising on experience. Biodiversity footprint measurement is at the heart of this process: it focuses on assessing the main pressure factors that are responsible for the erosion of biodiversity. Finally, the certification promotes a dynamic of continuous improvement in terms of biodiversity performance, enabling each organisation to take action on a daily basis to leverage the tools available to reduce its pressure on its ecosystems.

About the ECOCERT Group (www.ecocert.com)

The ECOCERT Group has been committed to the development of organic farming in France and across the world for more than twenty years. It is a global leader in the certification of organic farming and organic cosmetics. With offices in 23 countries, it has an international network of 29 subsidiaries and more than 800 employees. In 2014, the Group generated consolidated turnover of €43 million, with more than 50,000 customers in more than hundred countries.

ECOCERT Environnement, a subsidiary of the Group, is also a recognized player in the certification of environmental management systems and fair trade. It develops demanding standards to encourage economic players across all sectors to adopt more responsible practices.

The Group’s expertise also includes environmental consulting and training. In accordance with its convictions, ECOCERT applies a rigorous environmental policy to all of its activities.

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