Summary of Veolia's commitment application to France's 2015-2018 National Biodiversity Strategy

"Preserve and Restore Biodiversity"
In 2015, Veolia took nine sustainable development commitments of which one specifically concerned biodiversity. Therefore, Veolia is committed to "preserving and restoring biodiversity" and works to both reduce the impact of its activities and those of its customers on nature and to create conditions to help preserve and restore species and their habitats. This commitment is supported at the highest level of the company by its **Chairman and CEO** and Executive Committee members who are each responsible for a commitment.

Our commitment application to the NBS is completely in line with the company's biodiversity initiative. Our commitments are embodied in a **project based on three key areas and thirteen objectives**. Veolia hopes to drive change in biodiversity preservation and restoration, both within the company and outside it, through this initiative.

### Area 1: Better take into account biodiversity issues locally and contribute to the design of innovative solutions inspired by nature

1. **Identify our local biodiversity issues**
   To better identify regional biodiversity issues, an analysis will be performed at both company (country-specific regulations, regional initiative, etc.) and local level to assess the significance of biodiversity issues on the sites we manage and therefore identify the company's sites with significant biodiversity issues.

2. **Establish and implement a Preservation Plan in the seven main countries with biodiversity issues**
   Veolia has identified seven priority countries for actions in favor of biodiversity. They will be required to develop a Preservation Plan and define and manage their own Action Plan facilitating the implementation of the company's initiative.

3. **Develop bio-indicators to measure the quality of biodiversity**
   To complete the monitoring system on its sites, Veolia will introduce two complementary approaches: environmental biomonitoring for which we will develop a toolbox to monitor air quality and an approach based on biodiversity indicators by developing new biodiversity monitoring methodologies.

4. **Measure the impact of our activities on receiving environments**
   We would like to improve our knowledge on the impact of effluent discharge from our activities to better control them. Two research and development studies will be conducted: AQUATOOLBOX testing a "water toolbox" and developing an interpretation guide and REMORA measuring the impact of effluent discharge on an artificial coral reef.
5. **Improve our knowledge of environments to develop solutions based on nature**
Veolia would like to apply ecological engineering principles to its activities. Three projects will be conducted as part of this initiative: a review of green infrastructures and their potential use within the company, an assessment of the benefits of implementing planted discharge areas at the exit of wastewater treatment plants and a revegetation test on a landfill.

**Area 2: Raise awareness, involve more people both internally and externally and promote initiatives put in place in collaboration with local players**

6. **Manage a biodiversity network within the company**
A network of biodiversity officers will be implemented to implement and support the initiative from the head office down to site level. An Intranet platform will be specifically created for discussions and to share best practices. Online training on biodiversity will also be proposed to employees.

7. **Promote and foster biodiversity projects both within the company and with our customers**
Veolia is committed to promoting biodiversity by strengthening its communication actions both within the company and outside it (e.g. World Biodiversity Day) and by encouraging its customers to adopt ecological solutions for treatment processes and site management.

8. **Support initiatives and develop local partnerships**
Veolia wants to work with committed stakeholders which we can support and which can provide us with their expertise in return. Projects will therefore be supported by the Veolia Foundation (such as the three-year Tara Coral project) and partnerships with local structures will be established in the seven priority countries and by sites with significant biodiversity issues.

9. **Contribute to producing and sharing tools and data with our stakeholders**
To go further in sharing knowledge, we propose to provide France’s National Natural History Museum with information on wildlife inventories conducted on our sites. We also wish to participate in creating a new Ecocert "biodiversity commitment" label by proposing a test on a pilot site.

10. **Involve our suppliers and subcontractors**
To raise the awareness of subcontractors on this issue, Veolia would like to include a green space maintenance charter in its contracts in the form of a "Biodiversity Commitment" provision. We would also like to encourage companies to obtain an eco-label guaranteeing the proper management of our spaces. Our objective is therefore to contribute to changing how green areas are managed both within the company and outside it.
Area 3: Deploy initiatives for the ecological management of our clients’ sites and our own

11. Improve our environmental performance to reduce the impact of our processes
Controlling the impact of our processes on biodiversity is based on our Environmental Management System (EMS). By continually improving our environmental performance, in conjunction with our operators, we will reduce our impact on receiving environments. Therefore, Veolia has set itself the objective of implementing its EMS in all of its operations. Each country will be in charge of implementing an annual EMS Action Plan.

12. Support our sites in implementing ecological management
Veolia would like to systematically implement ecological management and development methods on its sites and, in priority, on its sites with significant biodiversity issues for which an objective of 100% of sites performing an analysis and implementing an action plan has been set. Veolia would like to allow other sites to implement actions even if the significance of their biodiversity issues is lower. It develops and proposes support tools for this. Finally, we would like to take biodiversity issues into consideration ahead of new projects.

13. Test the "net positive impact" concept in our activities and include biodiversity issues in our carbon offset projects
We are developing a methodology to implement the NPI concept which will be tested on a pilot site. We will seek to include biodiversity concerns in reforestation projects implemented under carbon offset projects.

By including our commitment to France’s NBS in the company’s project, we were able to mobilise teams and create emulation on the biodiversity initiative and its implementation. The NBS commitment is fully in line with our 2016-2018 Environmental Plan and is based on an action plan implemented at company and country level.

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