

## Placing people and nature first in decision-making

**Towards a better future for biodiversity and people: Modelling Nature Futures** is an article written by Kim et al. in 2023 and published in *Global Environmental Change*. Its authors introduce a new tool – **Nature Futures Framework (NFF)** – which enable us to explore future favourable scenarios for both nature and people. Three key points in it have caught the attention of “La Fabrique Écologique”.

**#1** According to the IPBES, a UN-backed agency, current policies will not be enough to face the dramatic loss of worldwide biodiversity. To really solve this issue, we have to reweave the bond between nature and people, through a change in our norms, beliefs and behaviours. The Nature Futures Framework (NFF) is a tool to design local, regional and national scenarios where the human-nature relationship is the cornerstone of governance.

The NFF is based on three core principles: *Nature for Nature* (NN), promoting biodiversity for itself and highlighting species diversity, habitats and natural processes; *Nature for Society* (NS), promoting benefits that nature provides to society, such as natural resources; *Nature as Culture* (NC), acknowledging the deep links between human societies, their cultures, their traditions and beliefs, and nature. These three principles are intertwined. And each benefits from progress made in the other two.

**#2** The Nature Futures Framework, thanks to its integrated approach, would be useful to guide public policies. Decision-makers operating with this system in mind will involve scientists, local stakeholders and knowledge holders. Through workshops and community consultations, one could cocreate scenarios that integrate the three principles – NN, NS and NC – and better fit to local contexts. This inclusive and participative approach is essential to the whole decision process. Decision-makers can use scenarios thus designed in order to guide the strategies for biodiversity

protection (preservation plans, ecological restoration and rewilding policies) and ensure that the latter are attuned to the communities who interact daily with these ecosystems.

**#3** Already applied in several places around the world with different backgrounds, the NFF has also been used to create scenarios during the first IPBES workshop with young people. This framework has also helped to build strategies for national parks and other protected areas, while taking into account conservation needs for critical habitats (NN), promoting sustainable means in the agriculture (NS) and respectful of the traditional habits on agricultural land management (NC). The NFF likewise fosters nature-based solutions, such as restoring mangroves to protect coasts and to help with local food sourcing. Again, these solutions are built upon the NN-NS-NC trio.

### Biodiversity in France

In France, biodiversity is strongly endangered, with roughly a third of plant and animal species classified as threatened or close to threatened, according to the IUCN. Adopted in 2023, the *Stratégie Nationale Biodiversité 2030* (SNB) aims at reversing this trend. Its four pillars are: lowering pressure on biodiversity, restoring degraded ecosystems, mobilizing all stakeholders and ensuring availability of required means.

Although ambitious, the SNB is facing challenges. Among those are efforts coordination and management of the growing impacts of urbanization, intensive agriculture and climate change.

### Pauline Bureau's opinion, vice-chair at LFE

*The measures we take to protect biodiversity are shaped by the way we think of it. And the NFF allows us to think more exhaustively – to go beyond the idea that this is just a list of rare and diverse species that we should protect behind glass like we would with a coin collection.*