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Holcim France's individual commitments to act4nature international

Company overview

Holcim is a global leader in innovative and sustainable construction solutions, committed to creating greener cities, smarter infrastructure and improved living standards worldwide. Our company puts sustainability at the heart of its strategy, aiming to become a "net zero" company (the first in the sector to set ambitious targets recognised by the SBTi). Holcim is also a pioneer in the circular economy and recycling, seeking to build better with less. With 63,000 employees in 60 countries, Holcim is driven by the desire to advance both humanity and the planet through innovative and sustainable construction solutions.

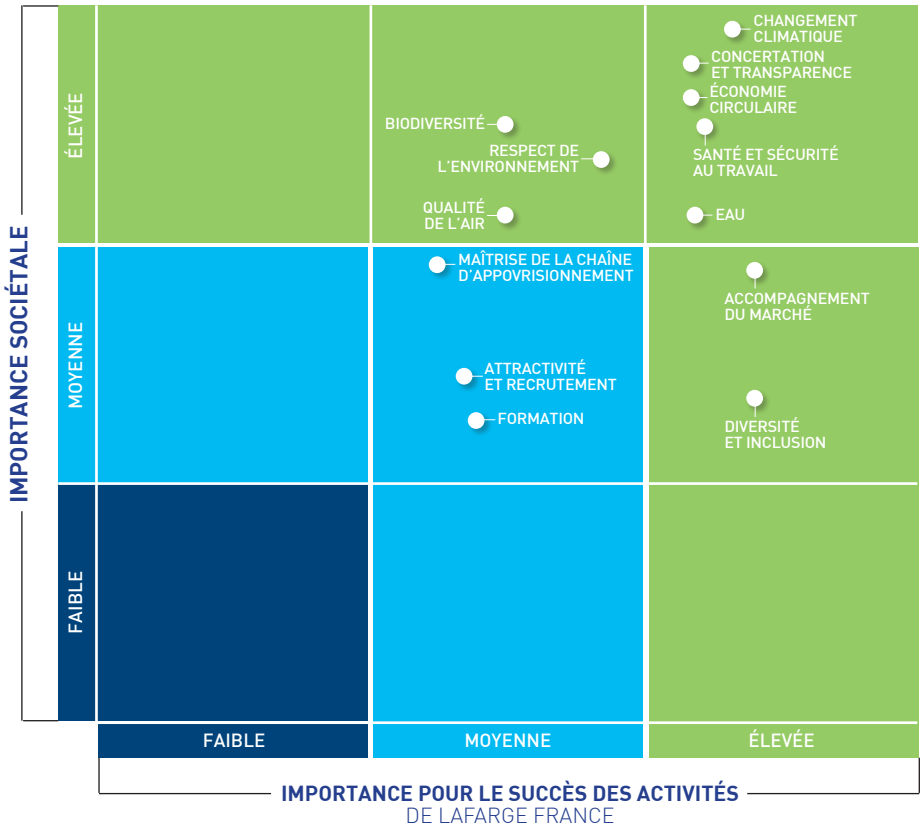
In France, the company has almost 5,000 employees and 500 industrial sites across the country. It offers its expertise and products in 4 sectors activity - cement, aggregates, ready-mix concrete and Solutions & Products - and relies on a portfolio of well-known brands in the construction sector, including Lafarge, PRB and Geocycle. Through its cements and concretes with a reduced carbon footprint, Holcim is committed to improving the environmental performance of construction.

Materiality analysis

According to our materiality analysis (see below, the CSRD double materiality analysis is in progress), biodiversity (excluding water) occupies a position of medium importance for the success of our activities, while having a high societal significance. Although not one of our top five priorities, biodiversity remains a significant issue for Holcim France, closely linked to climate change, the circular economy and sustainable water management.

Our commitments in favour of biodiversity reflect this analysis and are part of a global approach aimed at addressing the main factors in the erosion of biodiversity. They include ambitious initiatives such as the scientific monitoring of the impact of our quarries on biodiversity (BIRS[1] methodology, developed with the IUCN[2]), the promotion of the circular economy, the reduction of our water footprint, and the development of construction solutions that favour biodiversity. These commitments demonstrate our determination to integrate the preservation of ecosystems into our entire value chain, going beyond the simple management of our sites in order to embrace a holistic approach to our impact on nature, consistent with our overall objective of having a net positive impact on biodiversity.

MATRICE DE MATÉRIALITÉ



Links to previous act4nature commitments

Holcim is 1 of 3 companies worldwide to have a validated SBTN target. The company is renewing its commitments for the 3rd time. They have therefore logically evolved, especially as the Holcim Group has presented a "Positive Nature" strategy for 2021, which aims to have a positive impact on water and biodiversity by 2030:

- the inventory, implementation of biodiversity action plans, posters and awareness campaigns have been completed and are therefore not included as such. The biodiversity action plans are currently being closely monitored. The implementation of these plans is part of a long-term approach, involving day-to-day management, regular adjustments and continuous updating to ensure their effectiveness and relevance;
- internal communication and mobilisation actions are being renewed and strengthened (systematisation and change of scale): Holcim implements training and awareness-raising sessions to inform and educate employees about the challenges of biodiversity and their role in preserving the environment. At the same time, internal platforms facilitate the sharing of ideas and local initiatives, enabling everyone to actively contribute to projects that benefit biodiversity. The aim of these actions is to anchor a culture of biodiversity within the company and to inspire a collective movement that can motivate other companies in the sector to adopt similar practices;
- actions relating to governance (transversal task force) have been replaced by more operational commitments (research and innovation).

These commitments have been drawn up by a cross-functional task force[3], which will meet at least once a year to monitor progress and prepare reports.

Holcim takes biodiversity into account from the planning phase of new sites, by applying the ARC sequence (Avoid, Reduce, Compensate), and throughout the life of its sites (prospecting, extraction, rehabilitation). Holcim is committed to implementing biodiversity action plans at all its sensitive sites (around one hundred sites, including all quarry sites - see methodology below). 100% of its quarry sites are redeveloped to create or restore habitats for local species and to use nature-based solutions such as replanting native vegetation and creating wetlands. Holcim is aiming for a net positive impact on biodiversity by 2030, with assessments of all sites in 2024, 2027 and 2030 to demonstrate and optimise the beneficial effects of its commitments.

Individual commitments

Link commun commitments	Commitment	Scope	Indicator	SMART commitment description	Deadline
1	**Operational commitments (knowledge, communication, innovation, etc.)**				
3 5 10	**1.** Demonstrate the positive impact of quarries through the implementation of biodiversity action plans[4] and regular scientific evaluations (BIRS[5])	France	Internal assessment of 100% of our sites[6] by 2024, 2027 and 2030	100% of sites evaluated	End 2030
2 3 5 6 9	**2.** Participate actively in the management of the regional nature reserve Bocage humide des Cailleries (Holcim property located near a former extraction site in the Loire-Atlantique region) in partnership with local NGOs	France	Drawing up and implementing the management plan: - 2024: Building partnerships - 2025: Co-develop a management plan focused on preserving and enhancing biodiversity - 2026-2036: Implementing the actions in the plan, with monitoring of the results and a regular reporting	Drawing up a of management Annual reporting	Until 2036
1 2 4 6	**3.** Contribute to research and innovation programmes (e.g. the NP ISSU[7]) for biodiversity and climate change adaptation	France + innovation centre	Number of research programmes	2 research programmes between now and 2027	End 2027
1 5 6	**4.** Develop constructive solutions (materials and services) to promote biodiversity in construction (urban development, buildings, maritime infrastructures, etc.)	France + innovation centre	Continuing our programme "Climate Innovation resilience": pervious concrete, bioactive concrete, green walls and roofs, protection, coastal...	1 demonstrator with biodiversity monitoring to measure the benefits provided	End 2027
1 to 5 10	**5.** Identify the best biodiversity practices implemented at our quarries in order to encourage the transformation of practices in the sector by disseminating practical and effective solutions	France	Publication of best practice (particularly for redevelopment projects)	Publish a guide containing at least 50 good practices	End 2027
1 2 8 9	**6.** Mobilise employees (all employees, with an emphasis on operational and site management teams) to raise awareness of the general biodiversity issues sector-specific impact	France	Number of internal communication initiatives (talks, "eco-gestures", webinars, nature work camps, conferences, etc.)	12 internal communication initiatives per year	Until 2027
2 7	**7.** External communication to promote our best practices and to gain recognition for the importance of biodiversity in the construction sector (customers, local authorities, etc.)	France	Number of actions (press releases, construction industry meetings, site visits, talks, etc.)	6 actions per year	2027

2 Specific commitments: Address the 5 factors of biodiversity loss					
	2.1 Overexploitation of resources:				
4 5 6	**8.** Promote the circular economy by developing more alternative resources	France	1. % integration of alternative fuels[8] 2. % of recycled materials used in our products (cement, concrete, aggregates)	1. Share of alternative fuels in the energy mix, target of 70% by 2026 and 90% by 2030 2. Increase in the proportion of concrete integrating 20% recycled material by 2030 (vs. 2021) 3. Increase in the proportion of recycled aggregates by more than 50% in 2030 (vs. 2021)	End 2030
4 5 6	**9.** Reduce water withdrawals from our industrial activities by implementing our water policy and action plan, while enhancing biodiversity through resilient land rehabilitation	France	% reduction in water consumption	33% cement, 20% aggregates and 15% concrete, in 2030 vs 2018	End 2030
	2.2 Climate change:				
1 5 6	**10.** Halve CO_2 emissions by 2030 to achieve neutrality by 2050 compared with 2015	France (within the ETS perimeter)	Reduction of CO_2 emissions	47% reduction in CO_2 emissions compared with 2015	End 2030
	2.3 Pollution:				
3 5 10	**11.** Deploy the environmental action plan with 95% compliance per year	France	% compliance with continues improvement environmental plan	95% of compliance per year	Until 2027
	2.4 Invasive alien species:				
3 5	**12.** Implement a monitoring and control program for invasive alien species on 70% of sites with biodiversity concerns[9]	Sites extraction France	% of sites with a species management plan	70% of sites with a biodiversity plan management	End 2030
	2.5 Land artificialisation:				
1 2 4 6	**13.** Research into non-artificializing construction solutions and participation in research programmes (ecological continuity, urban climate adaptation, etc.)	France + innovation centre	Number of innovation and research programmes	1 innovation programme and 2 research programmes by 2027	End 2027

1 Biodiversity Index Reporting System.
2 International Union for Conservation of Nature.
3 The task force brings together the sustainable development department, the environmental managers of the operational activities, the marketing department and the innovation department.
4 Biodiversity action plans have been implemented at all our sites (previous act4nature commitments).
5 Biodiversity Index Reporting System: scientific assessment developed by the IUCN specifically for quarries.
6 Around a hundred quarries in France.
7 National Innovations and Solutions project to combat urban overheating.
8 Fuels derived from waste from other activities, used in cement plants to replace fossil fuels.
9 See the methodology: https://www.lafarge.fr/environnement-et-biodiversite.