



# BIODIV'2050

No. 1 - May 2013

## MISSION ÉCONOMIE DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ





## EDITORIAL

**H**umanity has long prospered by running down the planet's natural capital. Can it now invent new ways of developing the economy both for and from biodiversity and find sufficient scientific, technical and financial resources to preserve and repair ecosystems? The aim of Caisse des Dépôts' Mission Économie de la Biodiversité, which was launched in 2012, is to investigate the relationship between economics and biodiversity and come up with concrete responses to such questions.

It is part of Caisse des Dépôts' drive to promote biodiversity which has already resulted in the creation of CDC Biodiversité, the signature of the Natural Capital Declaration at Rio+20, and a commitment to France's National Biodiversity Strategy.

The Mission Économie de la Biodiversité has a fact-finding and research and development brief. It is funded by Caisse des Dépôts and is part of CDC Biodiversité. It has a world class Scientific Committee and welcomes cooperation and partnership arrangements with other research bodies. The fruits of its labours will be widely circulated to the men and women who seek answers to these types of questions and the Unit will focus on the best ways of devising concrete, applicable initiatives and solutions, with particular emphasis on biodiversity offset projects, payment for ecosystem services and positive biodiversity outcomes.

This newsletter is one means of circulating this information. We have called it Biodiv'2050 and this time horizon is important for two reasons. First, in order to get a temporal perspective because, where natural spaces are concerned, the impacts of our work would generally be measured in decades, e.g., planting a forest, preventing erosion of unstable land, re-establishment of natural successional trends, etc. Second, because studies carried out by the IPCC and the French agronomics institute

(INRA) point to 2050 as a turning point in the relationship between climate change and natural spaces. The second-half of the twenty-first century would appear to herald the dawn of a new environment to which present-day ecosystems are ill-adapted. This gives us a rough idea of how much time we have to put our house in order and prepare insofar as possible for this adaptation. We are open – as of now - to any ideas or proposals related to the Unit's brief or scope of activities.

LAURENT PIERMONT  
Chairman, CDC Biodiversité

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PHOTO CREDITS: **iStock**

