

French participation in the European Global Gateway strategy in the Indo-Pacific

The European Global Gateway strategy, announced in December 2021, builds on the European Union-Asia connectivity strategy launched in 2018. Its purpose is to propose a partnership framework based on both public and private investments in quality infrastructure and a sustainable finance approach, while fully taking on a geopolitical role with a new innovative and ambitious option for countries in the region.

Under the Global Gateway strategy, the European Union aims to accompany its partners in their digital, energy and ecological transitions in line with the guidelines of the Paris Agreement. The Global Gateway strategy focuses on five thematic priorities: digital technology, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research.

A French contribution focused on the energy transition, biodiversity protection and connectivity

France played a driving role in crafting an ambitious strategy for the European Union in the Indo-Pacific. It contributes actively to the implementation and promotion of the Global Gateway strategy in the Indo-Pacific, particularly regarding the themes of the energy transition, biodiversity and connectivity.

France is committed to many regional projects in support of the energy transition, including the construction of a hydropower plant in Kakono, Tanzania, and the modernization of hydropower plants in Nalubaale-Kiira, Uganda. In addition, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) plays a key role in financing Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) to support partner countries (Vietnam, Indonesia and South Africa) in their pathways to decarbonization, the reduction of coal dependency and the establishment of a just energy transition policy. France is also actively taking part in the Team Europe Initiative, the Green-Blue Alliance for the Pacific, covering 18 countries and territories of the Pacific, which aims to promote sustainable management of natural capital.

When it comes to biodiversity, France initiated the KIWA Initiative, managed by the AFD, aiming to bolster climate resilience of ecosystems, economies and communities of Pacific Islands. It also contributes to the Country Package for Forests, Nature and the Climate for Papua New Guinea, an innovative financing mechanism aiming to raise funds for the conservation and sustainable management of forests. Papua New Guinea, Europe and France are also taking action under the Team Europe "Our Forests, Our Future" Initiative, which aims to reconcile sustainable development and forest management, by mobilizing European expertise to support forward-looking conversation, sustainable development and development of forests.

Under the Global Gateway strategy, France supports new far-reaching structural regional projects to increase connectivity such as the Green Shipping Corridor, focused on the greening of maritime transport (fuels, ships and ports). In addition, France takes part in the Team Europe "Sustainable Connectivity in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations" Initiative, aiming to improve the sustainable connectivity between the EU and ASEAN and within ASEAN, in many sectors (trade, transport, energy, digital technology, and connectivity among peoples).

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In the Indo-Pacific, France and Europe also support cross-cutting projects covering energy, climate, connectivity and biodiversity issues, such as the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) project in India, in which AFD is participating. This programme aims to promote sustainable and innovative solutions to improve the quality of life in Indian villages.