

France and Indonesia's partnership in the Indo-Pacific

In 2011, France and Indonesia concluded a strategic partnership that opened the way for enhanced relations. This momentum picked up pace considerably in 2021, on the partnership's tenth anniversary, with the adoption of a 2022-2027 action plan and the establishment of a 2+2 format dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the two countries. While security is a central issue, the cooperation has also expanded to other major fields including the economy, culture, maritime governance, the energy transition and environmental protection.

In May 2025, the French President's state visit to Indonesia, marking the 75th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, confirmed their strategic proximity and turned a new page, with the adoption of a joint "Horizon 2050" statement. This statement shapes the deepening of the bilateral relationship, with three major focuses: a sovereignty partnership, covering international, security, economic and maritime affairs; a partnership on global challenges, including the climate, biodiversity, health and food security; and a partnership on culture and people-to-people exchanges, addressing education, sport and legal and judicial cooperation.

A shared commitment to environmental challenges

Indonesia is a key global player in environmental issues and the world's largest archipelagic State, with great biodiversity reserves. As such, it is an important partner for France in fighting climate change and protecting the environment. France has undertaken to provide €500 million in support, via the Agence Française de Développement (AFD, French Development Agency), under the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) designed to support Indonesia on the path to climate neutrality by 2050. The AFD and France's research bodies are also active in Indonesia in the fields of the blue economy, protection of biodiversity and the fight against pollution.

Both France and Indonesia are strongly committed to multilateralism and also cooperate within regional organizations. For example, the two countries jointly supported the Guidelines on Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing that were adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on 21 May 2025. This France-Indonesia initiative illustrates the two countries' shared commitment to preserving ocean resources.

Fast-growing cooperation in the security and defence fields

In a regional context of growing tensions, France and Indonesia defend a converging vision for the Indo-Pacific, based on strategic autonomy, international law and the rejection of bloc geopolitics. This convergence is conducive to developing ambitious security and defence projects.

The French President's 2025 visit saw the signing of an agreement on the exchange and reciprocal protection of classified and protected information, as well as a letter of intent on the acquisition of additional defence hardware, including Rafale aircraft and Scorpène submarines.

The 2025 joint statement also marks the will of France and Indonesia to step up their partnership and explore new avenues for cooperation in military training, including through exchanges of trainers and the development of teaching of the French language, in accordance with the needs of their respective institutions.

Moreover, the partnership between the two countries includes cooperation on maritime affairs, with a bilateral maritime dialogue since 2021 addressing maritime safety, the fight against piracy and the management of humanitarian crises. Indonesia also takes part in the European Global Ports Safety (GPS) project, to which France is an active contributor.

Encouraging prospects for sustainable development

When it comes to the economy, the French President's visit to Indonesia in May 2025 was an opportunity to conclude several major agreements in the fields of transport, agriculture, critical minerals, forests and energy.

Joint projects are being drawn up, including for decarbonized energy and the mining sector. These initiatives illustrate the great potential of the France-Indonesia economic relationship and their shared ambition to foster sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific.

France also supports the conclusion of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) between the European Union and Indonesia.