

## Biodiversity for Iren Group

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity defines biodiversity as the variety and variability of living organisms and the ecological systems in which they live. **“Biodiversity underpins resilient nature and human well-being and is the prerequisite for a sustainable prosperity. [...] Pressures on biodiversity are increasing with climate change, population growth and changing trade and consumption patterns in the EU and globally. If not monitored, they will affect our society's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”** Protecting biodiversity, given the continuous deterioration of natural habitats and the threats to certain species, is one of the main aspects of the European Union's environmental policy (Directive no. 79/409/EEC “Birds” and Directive no. 92/43/EEC “Habitat”), which is fully supported by Iren Group. The Group's activities, by their very nature, have a direct or indirect impact on the air, water resources, soil, ecosystems and the species that inhabit them. This is why the Group, aware that the preservation of the natural ecosystem is essential for long-term global sustainability, promotes the sustainable development of its activities.

This policy represents Iren's commitment to the conservation of biodiversity in the areas where it operates and it is based on the adoption of an effective management model, consistent with the National Strategy for Biodiversity<sup>1</sup>, with European strategic objectives (*The European Green Deal* and *EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030*) and with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (*SDGs*).

## Principles and actions

The principles on which the Group's biodiversity policy is based are:

- **conservation** of the biodiversity of ecosystems, in particular for the activities carried out in vulnerable or protected natural areas;
- **monitoring and mitigation of the impacts** of the activities on biodiversity;
- **promotion of environmental improvement** through actions aimed at protecting areas of high ecological value and disseminating a culture of biodiversity;
- **raising awareness and knowledge** about biodiversity, its protection and conservation, encouraging best practice and passing it on internally and externally;
- **collaboration** with local associations and communities in actions and projects designed to increase stakeholders' awareness of the importance of protecting biodiversity.

The Group's biodiversity and ecosystem conservation **strategy** and **commitments** are developed through the following priority lines of action:

- compliance with the rules on the protection of biodiversity:
  - o construction and management of plants, activities and projects in accordance with Italian law and, in particular, with the **Environmental Regulations** (Legislative Decree no. 152/2006 implementing Directive 85/337/EEC), which provide:
    - the integration of environmental aspects in the development of plans and programmes, promoting a sustainable and environmentally compatible approach to the development of the activities such as, among others, electricity and heat production plants, electricity distribution network, gas distribution network, integrated water service and management of the integrated waste cycle;

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<sup>1</sup> The elaboration of a National Strategy for Biodiversity is part of the commitments undertaken by Italy with the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, Rio de Janeiro 1992), which took place with Law no. 124/1994. The three main objectives of the Convention are: the conservation of biological diversity, considered both at the level of gene and species and at the level of community and ecosystem; the durable or sustainable use of its elements; the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the exploitation of genetic resources and the transfer of the related technologies.

- the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**<sup>2</sup> with the aim of identifying and assessing in advance the effects on the environment of certain public or private projects - in their start-up phase or in case of significant changes to existing projects - and of identifying the measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise negative impacts on the environment before they actually occur, analysing the impact in terms of atmospheric emissions, water withdrawals and discharges, waste, noise and odours;
  - the **assessment of impact** (art. 5 of **Presidential Decree (P.D.) 357/97**<sup>3</sup>) for any plan or project that is likely to have a significant effect on a site or on a geographical area proposed as a Nature 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects taking into account the site's conservation objectives.
- promotion of voluntary actions:
- mapping and location of the Group's plants and networks in order to identify the potential interference they generate with the protected areas in which they are located or which are located in their proximity (taking into account the type of area, the flora and fauna present with reference to the species listed on the IUCN Red List and national conservation lists);
  - environmental analysis and assessment of the significance of the impacts that the Group's activities have on the environment and biodiversity, in order to take the necessary measures to minimise them;
  - integration of environmental issues, including those related to biodiversity, into the Group's Integrated Management System (Quality, Environment, Safety - QSA), defining management procedures and standards for monitoring activities to mitigate their impact;
  - adoption of the mitigation hierarchy<sup>4</sup> of impacts on biodiversity, trying to prioritise solutions to avoid and prevent the occurrence of negative impacts on biodiversity;
  - annual public reporting of the actions taken to ensure the conservation of biodiversity in the areas where the Group operates;
  - participation in research projects or studies in collaboration with third parties;
  - promotion of training, education and awareness initiatives, working with associations, local communities and other parties interested in biodiversity issues.

The Chief Executive Officer, Iren SpA

(Mr. Massimiliano Bianco)

Genoa, 19.10.2020



<sup>2</sup> From Legislative Decree no.152/2006 (Environmental Regulations), paragraph as amended by art. 1 of Legislative Decree No. 46 of 2014, Title I, b.

<sup>3</sup> Regulation implementing Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats, and of wild fauna and flora. Text updated and coordinated with P.D. of 12 March 2003 n° 120.

<sup>4</sup> The mitigation hierarchy prioritises avoiding and preventing the occurrence of negative impacts on biodiversity, and only secondarily, where impacts cannot be avoided, identifying solutions to reduce and remediate their effects or to compensate for residual negative impacts.