

Key messages for COP17 on biodiversity

The French Solid Waste Partnership (FSWP) call for the integration of waste management into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

17% of household waste worldwide is not collected¹, and 38% is poorly managed – of which **13% ends up in landfills that do not comply²** with Environmentally Sound Management (ESM)³. Waste managed in a manner that does not comply with ESM pollutes soil, water and air, degrades habitats and poisons wildlife. The FSWP calls on countries to integrate waste management into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in order to preserve biodiversity and reduce pollution and resource extraction, whilst safeguarding health, the climate, resilience and jobs, thereby contributing to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The FSWP calls for the following actions:

A LONG-TERM TRANSITION

Preventing waste generation

Prevention, particularly through the circular economy, is the primary lever to protect biodiversity: it decouples value creation from resource extraction and thereby reduces pressure on ecosystems, while strengthening economic resilience, health, the well-being of the living, human dignity and access to decent living conditions. To achieve this decoupling, we must transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy, as defined by the ISO 59004:2024 standard, which sets out 13 actions⁴ in an ordered manner, including eco-design (durable, repairable and recyclable products), reuse and the maximisation of the use of resources already extracted. This implies a shift towards sustainable models of production, consumption and usage⁵.

URGENT ACTIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF SOIL, AIR AND WATER

Expand universal waste collection everywhere and for everyone

Ensure a regular collection service covering the whole territory to prevent the dumping and leakage of waste that pollutes soil and water.

End mismanagement of waste to protect the immediate environment

Close illegal dumpsites and landfills that do not comply with ESM (no monitoring or treatment of leachate – polluting liquids from waste) and end open burning (no monitoring or treatment of fumes releasing pollutants, toxins and greenhouse gases), while offering local communities a safe alternative.

¹Cook, E. et al. (2026). What a Waste 3.0. Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management towards Circularity until 2050 [online]. World Bank Group. Available at: www.worldbank.org/en/publication/what-a-waste

² Ibid.

³ Article 2(8) of the Basel Convention: 'taking all practicable measures to ensure that hazardous or other waste is managed in such a way as to protect human health and the environment from any adverse effects that may result from such waste'.

⁴ The 13 actions are as follows: refuse, rethink, circular procurement, reduce, repair, reuse, refurbish/recondition, remanufacture, repurpose, cascade, recycle, recover energy, and reclaim from landfill sites. Derived from the 10R principle, this standard is presented in this presentation: https://www.pfd-fswp.fr/IMG/pdf/2025_circular_economy_presentation_en.pdf

⁵ See <https://www.pfd-fswp.fr/economie-circulaire>



ACTIONS TO ENSURE ESM OF WASTE AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT DURING THE TRANSITION TO CIRCULARITY

Material and energy recovery

Prioritize environmental protection in recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion and energy recovery initiatives, in line with the waste hierarchy (after prevention and reuse) and where conditions allow, to reduce pressure on natural resources and dependence on fossil fuels and virgin materials.

Improving landfills

Move to 100% engineered landfills, improve operating practices⁶ and divert recyclable waste away from landfill. Even if reduced through prevention, landfilling will remain essential for non-recoverable waste.

IMPROVING GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS THROUGH 4 ENABLERS:

- **Regulation, public policy and planning** (frameworks, objectives, national and local plans)
- **Inclusion of all stakeholders** (public and private, formal and informal sectors)
- **Sustainable financing** (stable and viable funding to cover the ongoing cost of services)
- **Evaluation, reporting, verification and traceability** (measuring, monitoring and reporting)

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION TO ENABLE LOCAL ACTION

These key messages are in line with the Position put forward by the Global Push initiative⁷, which aims to bring together stakeholders in the resources and waste sectors around three common objectives:

- (1) Extending municipal solid waste collection to everyone and end uncontrolled dumping and burning; and progressively implementing waste recovery and treatment systems in accordance with Environmentally Sound Management (ESM);
- (2) Implementing the actions of circular economy, and taking steps to transition towards sustainable models of production, consumption and usage;
- (3) Improving governance systems, including the four enablers described above.

The waste prevention and management actions set out above to protect biodiversity directly reflect these objectives. The Position is voluntary and entails no obligations: each country may endorse it at its own pace to affirm its support for the proposed vision and its willingness to move in this direction. As the aim of the Global Push initiative is to establish well-informed international frameworks on waste prevention and management to facilitate projects that contribute to sustainable development as a whole, the FSWP stands ready to discuss this with you.

⁶ Lair, A. et al. (2024). Enhancing landfill efficiency to drive greenhouse gas reduction: A comprehensive study on best practices and policy recommendations. Waste Management & Research. Vol. 42(10). <https://www.pfd-fswp.fr/enhancing-landfill-efficiency-to-drive-green-house-gas-reduction>

⁷ For further information on the initiative, see: <https://www.pfd-fswp.fr/l-initiative-global-push>