Normatys
SHAPING STANDARDS

10 rue du Lieutenant Parayre
Espace Wagner, Bâtiment A2
13290 Aix-en-Provence
normatys.org

OpenNAT
LE BILAN NATURE DES PROJETS

OpenNAT and biodiversity credits: press kit

NORMATYS · 25 October 2026. NORMATYS designs and publishes environmental certification standards, including Effinature, and publishes the open OpenNAT method.

At a glance

- OpenNAT measures, in square metres of habitat equivalent over 50 years, the nature a construction project consumes on its site and through its materials. Text and tables under CC BY 4.0, open-source calculation engine (AGPL-3.0).
- OpenNAT Credits defines credits for a measured, prudent and lasting nature gain. The method is before the Biodiversity Standard Council: no credit is issued until it is approved.
- The OpenNAT maintenance contribution has been in force since 25 October 2026: a company funds the ecological upkeep of green spaces it does not own, after each successful Effinature HVE control.
- No regulatory compensation, no neutrality, no investment product: NORMATYS publishes rules, keeps a public registry and holds no credits.

Context: biodiversity credits without common rules

Biodiversity credits, or nature credits, are units that fund the restoration or preservation of a natural habitat. The market is young and its methods differ: some credit avoided loss without a shared measure of the threat, others allow credits to be resold, few publish their calculations. In France, the green industry act of 23 October 2023 created state-approved nature compensation, restoration and renaturation sites (articles L163-1 et seq. of the Environmental Code), known as France Crédits Biodiversité sites. OpenNAT stays outside that regime: its schemes are voluntary and satisfy no obligation.

Real estate is where OpenNAT works. Residential gardens, office surroundings and neighbourhood parks are the nature people see every day. Their value depends less on planting than on upkeep, year after year: that is what OpenNAT schemes measure and fund.

Société par actions simplifiée au capital de 1 000 €
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Société du groupe NORMAXIS

Our position

Principle	OpenNAT rule
Measure a gain	A credit rewards a nature gain measured by the OpenNAT engine, beyond what the site would have become without the project and beyond what regulation already requires (additionality is calculated, not declared).
Prudence	The gain retained is the 10th percentile of 1,000 uncertainty draws, not the central value; a common reserve of 20 to 40 % of each issuance covers losses.
Observed before issuance	A credit is issued only for a gain achieved and observed by survey; expected gain stays as forecast units, which cannot be transferred or retired.
Duration	Gain maintained for 50 years, secured by a real environmental obligation and a funded management plan.
No avoided loss	Protecting a threatened site earns no credit, for lack of a shared measure of the threat.
Own use	A credit is acquired for its buyer's own use, then retired; it cannot be resold in version 1.
Honest use	A retired credit supports a quantified contribution to the restoration of an identified site, never a claim of neutrality, compensation or overall positive impact.
Separation of roles	NORMATYS writes the method, a third-party verifier verifies, the registry issues; none of them holds credits or is paid on credit price or volume.
Openness	Method, sourced tables and engine are public; every convention is written and numbered; the engine is checked against an independent calculation notebook.

Three schemes, three statuses

Scheme	Purpose	Status on 25 October 2026
OpenNAT 1	Measurement of the nature consumed by a project (Cnat on site, Inat through materials and works, Bnat biotope coefficient)	Method and engine published; before the Biodiversity Standard Council
OpenNAT Credits, version 1	Nature gain credits: 1 credit = 1,000 m²HE·year of creditable gain, roughly 20 m² of reference ecosystem in full integrity for 50 years	Before the Biodiversity Standard Council; no credit issued
Maintenance contribution, version 1	Funding of the verified ecological upkeep of Effinature-certified developments: EUR 1.50 excl. VAT per m² per year, paid after each successful Effinature HVE control	In force; registry terms and contract templates published

In real estate

A development certified Effinature at design stage is followed under Effinature HVE: its ecological management is checked on site every two years by an independent certification body. The maintenance contribution relies on that control alone. It is open to any owner who maintains these spaces: co-ownerships, property companies, funds, social landlords, local authorities, developers. Money never passes through NORMATYS: the contributor pays a co-ownership's contractors, a company on invoice, or a local authority under a sponsorship agreement. The owner remains free to choose its certification body and its ecologist.

Key figures

Figure	What it refers to
191	habitat types described by the method, with their condition grids
50	years of calculation horizon and crediting period
1,000	draws per calculation to quantify uncertainty
73	validation cases reproduced by the engine and by an independent calculation notebook
20-40	per cent of each credit issuance paid into the common reserve
1.50	euro excl. VAT per m² per year: published price of the maintenance contribution

Who does what

- NORMATYS publishes the OpenNAT methods, keeps the registry and publishes its rules; it carries out no certification, audit or conformity assessment activity.
- The Biodiversity Standard Council, scientific and technical committee of the NORMATYS standards, approves their versions.
- IRICE, a certification body, applies Effinature and Effinature HVE and publishes the online OpenNAT calculation tool; it issues no credits and does not keep the registry. The Effinature HVE addendum is open to any certification body on the same terms.
- NORMAXIS, the group of which NORMATYS and IRICE are separate companies, holds the trademarks.

Timeline

Date	Step
18 and 19 October 2026	OpenNAT 1 method, tables and engine published in open access
24 October 2026	OpenNAT Credits method, version 1, submitted to the Biodiversity Standard Council
25 October 2026	Maintenance contribution in force; Effinature HVE addendum open to any certification body
Next council meeting	Review of the OpenNAT 1 and OpenNAT Credits methods

Resources

- Biodiversity credits, the NORMATYS position: normatys.org/en/biodiversity-credits
- Maintenance contribution, rules and contract templates: normatys.org/en/maintenance-contribution
- Method, tables and engine: github.com/normaxis-group/opennat
- Online calculation tool: opennat.irice-certification.com

Press contact: NORMATYS, Espace Wagner, Bâtiment A2, 10 rue du Lieutenant Parayre, 13290 Aix-en-Provence, France, cedric.plantaz@normatys.org. The French version of the methods and contracts is the authoritative one.

OpenNAT schemes are voluntary and separate from the approved nature compensation, restoration and renaturation sites known as France Crédits Biodiversité sites (articles L163-1 et seq. of the French Environmental Code). They cannot satisfy a compensation obligation.