



CONVERGENCE . ANIMAUX . POLITIQUE

**ACTIVITY REPORT : 7TH YEAR OF
POLITICAL ACTIONS FOR ANIMALS**

Juillet 2024

Editorial

A Year Marked by Instability

This parliamentary year begins with a great deal of uncertainty. As I write these lines, we still do not know which coalition will be able to form a government, and more importantly, which configuration will enable a future government to survive a vote of no confidence from opposing factions, and therefore to last. Moreover, it is highly likely that another dissolution will occur within a year, reshuffling the cards once again.

However, we could make the best of the current situation. In a context where no coherent political party holds an absolute majority, it will be very difficult for any of them to expect to pass politically-motivated or divisive bills. **This could provide us with an opportunity to put to the agenda texts favourable to the animal condition,** which, in theory at least, are not the prerogative of any single political party. While it may seem difficult to hope to pass ambitious legislation on an entire aspect of animal exploitation this year, we could **multiply short texts, focusing on one or more specific measures.** In this way, we can continue what we have successfully achieved for the past seven years, namely **establishing animal welfare as a political issue that fully deserves its place** in legislative assemblies, while hoping to achieve victories that will lead to concrete improvements in animal welfare and protection.

To begin with, we fully intend to follow up on several actions initiated during the past year: after securing **the vote on an amendment** in 2023 regarding trophy hunting, and coming very close to debating a draft law, **we will resubmit this now-lapsed text at the start of the new session following the dissolution of the Assembly.** We will also keep supporting the senators who have submitted **a text regarding the presence of minors under the age of 16 at bullfights** as this text is not impacted by the dissolution. Finally, the significant work of drafting amendments that we have undertaken with our partner NGOs on **the new agricultural policy will not have been in vain**, as we will be able to use this foundation as soon as a new bill is introduced to address the agricultural crisis, which has left a strong impression on policymakers and demands a response.

The uncertain context will require us to be very attentive to slight signals and to demonstrate our capacity for anticipation and adaptation. **We are ready to meet this challenge with you !**

Melvin Josse, Founder and Director of Convergence Animaux Politique



What is CAP ?

Since 2017, our non-profit organization has made it its mission to **integrate animal protection into the law through effective and coordinated political action**. Our mission revolves around four main areas of action:



Mobilize and raise the awareness of all political decision-makers in favor of the animal cause. Our advocacy efforts aim to identify and create legislative opportunities by fostering collaboration between NGOs and political decision-makers.



Support and coordinate our 25 partner NGOs in their advocacy strategies, promoting the emergence of collective actions and the formulation of common, coherent, and impactful political demands.



Establish and strengthen connections between political and non-governmental actors. Over the past years, we have built a network of political allies who are receptive to the concerns of NGOs. We create opportunities for regular meetings and exchanges.



Inform citizens and foster public debate on these issues.



“As an NGO, we really need to meet with MPs to propose new bills, vote on them, advocate for our demands in the political debate, and question the government. Politicians, on the other hand, need arguments and our expertise. CAP provides us with the approach to engage with these politicians, exchange ideas with them, and also offers us many tools and opportunities. It provides a framework, such as during CAP meetings, where we can effectively have discussions with them.”

Sophie Maffre-Baugé - President of COLBAC (partner NGO)

Our values

These values guide our actions. We share them with all our supporters and partners to build lasting and aligned relationships.

Independence

We are politically independent and not affiliated with any party or political movement. We believe this independence is essential to convince and mobilize all political actors.

Effectiveness

Above all, we believe in collective effectiveness. Our approach aims to strengthen cooperation between political and associative actors to achieve concrete results. To do so, we strive for professionalism and rigor and develop solid political expertise to promote the adoption of new laws. This way, we can have a significant impact on the lives of millions of animals.

Pragmatism

For us, pragmatism is a prerequisite for effectiveness. We advocate for demands that can be heard by political actors and firmly believe in the utility of taking "small steps" to build more ambitious policies in the long term.

Kindness

Our advocacy work is not about coercion but about persuasion. We are committed to being honest, empathetic, and educational towards all our interlocutors.

Respect

We place great importance on maintaining respectful relationships with all our interlocutors, including our opponents. Likewise, respecting democratic institutions is a fundamental part of our values. We ensure that our actions and discourse uphold dignity and human rights.

What we advocate for

CAP does not have political demands of its own, it carries those of its partner NGOs, covering all issues related to animal protection:

-  Livestock farming and food
-  Wild animals and biodiversity
-  Animal testing
-  Companion animals
-  Captivity and bullfighting
-  Education, law and governance

Our expertise lies in our advocacy strategy for defending these claims, based on our knowledge of the institutional environment and our relationship-building work.



L'équipe CAP



Melvin Josse
Executive Director



Milton Federici
Public Affairs Officer



Hugo Marro-Menotti
Advocacy and Legal Affairs Officer



Charlotte Clabaut
Finance and Development Officer



Juliette Parade
Operations and Engagement Officer



Our 7th year in key figures



25

Partner NGOs



47

Meetings with MPs
and ministries



9

Bills supported



36

Questions to
the government



97

Amendments tabled



2

Events

A look back at our 8 most impactful actions of the year :

1. Trophy hunting of endangered species : a review by the National assembly and a ministerial meeting
2. Three bills to ban bullfighting for minors under the age of 16 submitted to the Senate
3. Finance Bill 2024 : PLF 2024: 3 million euros granted for cat neutering
4. 53 animal protection NGOs gathered in Paris for the ICAP, our first international seminar
5. A CAP meeting between NGOs and Members of Parliament on wildlife and biodiversity protection
6. European elections 2024 : a successful engagement campaign
7. Effective collaboration with parliamentary study groups dedicated to animal protection
8. 47 amendments submitted to the draft law on French agricultural policy

1. Trophy hunting of endangered species : a review by the National assembly and a ministerial meeting

Together with our NGO partner HSI / Europe, we have managed to get a bill to ban the import and export of hunting trophies from endangered species such as the African elephant, the leopard, the hippopotamus, the black rhinoceros and the cheetah onto the Assembly's agenda. The bill, drafted in conjunction with deputy Sandra Regol (ECO), has been co-signed by 24 deputies, including Corinne Vignon (RE). The bill was adopted in committee on 24 January 2024. It also received the backing of the French committee of the IUCN, a key scientific institution. As the legislative process was interrupted before the bill could be debated in Parliament, we launched a petition to engage public opinion.

On 23 May, CAP and HSI / Europe were received by the office of the Secretary of State for Biodiversity to discuss this key issue. In the face of the 6th mass extinction of species, there is an urgent need for a debate in Parliament on this issue. Following the dissolution of the National Assembly, we will have to reintroduce this text, but the progress made so far gives us a solid basis for the future.

Meeting with HSI/Europe and MP Sandra Regol



2. Three bills to ban bullfighting for minors under the age of 16 submitted to the Senate

This year was also marked by preparatory work for the campaign against bullfighting to return to the political and media stage, this time from the perspective of child protection. We supported the submission of 3 bills in the Senate aimed at banning bullfighting for minors under the age of 16 by senators Samantha Cazebonne (RE), Arnaud Bazin (LR) and Raymonde Poncet-Monge (ECO).

These three texts have since been merged and we intervened for the final text to be co-signed by as many senators as possible. We are now working with the senators and our NGO partners, such as COLBAC and FLAC, to ensure that it is included on the Senate agenda in the near future.

3. Finance Bill 2024 : PLF 2024: 3 million euros granted for cat neutering

As part of the 2024 Finance Law, CAP worked with member of Parliament Corinne Vignon to obtain funding to help local authorities neuter cats. The amendment tabled in the National Assembly on behalf of APRAD was taken up by the government and kept until the end of the legislative process, despite several appeals to Article 49.3 of the Constitution. CAP has thus obtained an allowance of €3 million for 2024.

4. 53 animal protection NGOs gathered in Paris for the ICAP, our first international seminar

On 7 and 8 March 2024, Convergence Animaux Politique brought together 53 animal protection NGOs from 11 European countries (Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, ...) for the first edition of the International Conference for Animals in Politics (ICAP). Amongst the participants were the NGOs Four Paws, Humane Society International / Europe, ProVeg, Anima International and Gaïa.

The opening conference on Thursday 7 March, devoted to the governance of the animal condition across Europe, put into perspective the solutions implemented in Belgium, Germany, Austria and Italy in the presence of representatives of the Walloon minister and the German federal commissioner for animal welfare.

On Friday 8 March, NGOs met for conferences and workshops to discuss their political strategies and encourage the emergence of new areas of transnational cooperation. **This unprecedented event is intended to be the starting point for closer cooperation between animal protection NGOs, beyond national borders and beyond the European level.**

5. A CAP meeting between NGOs and Members of Parliament on wildlife and biodiversity protection

The CAP meeting on 25 October 2023 brought together around thirty members of parliament, staff and local elected representatives. The event opened the debate on more sustainable and responsible wildlife management, with two round tables focusing on hunting practices and societal expectations, as well as policy proposals to counter the collapse of biodiversity. These discussions helped to inform decision-makers about concrete actions to be taken, drawing on the expertise of NGOs.



6. European elections 2024 : a successful engagement campaign

For the European elections in June 2024, CAP has reactivated the Animal Commitment campaign, which brings together 29 NGOs. This time, the campaign has been run in partnership with Eurogroup for Animals, with the aim of bringing a manifesto of 33 measures to France, to be defended throughout the European Union, in order to engage the candidates.

Despite the agricultural crisis, which weighed heavily on the political debates around animal welfare, we have managed to get the main political forces on the left-wing to recommit to the manifesto, and even to engage Renaissance, which did not follow up in 2022. In the end, out of 81 French candidates elected, 41 committed to the manifesto.

In view of the new overall political balance established within the European Parliament, these allies will be needed more than ever to defend what has been achieved and obtain further progress on animal welfare. In addition, the commitments made as part of this campaign will support our advocacy efforts at national level.

Lastly, following the dissolution of the French National Assembly after the European elections, we mobilised 26 Animal Commitment NGOs to issue a statement calling on politicians and voters to take into account the animal condition for the legislative elections.

7. Effective collaboration with parliamentary study groups dedicated to animal protection

Once again this year, we have had constructive collaborations with Corinne Vignon MP and Arnaud Bazin Senator, respectively chair of the 'animal condition and welfare' study group and chair of the 'animal and society' section.

Here are some key actions that were carried out thanks to their support:

- Corinne Vignon MP sent letters signed by 16 MPs to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Education, calling for the application of the article on raising awareness of the need to respect companion animals, obtained as part of law no. 2021-1539.
- The publication of a petition, initiated by CAP, was signed by nearly 70 members of parliament and 35 organisations, calling for the proposed law banning coercive training collars to be placed on the Senate agenda.
- The submission and adoption of amendments was aimed at tackling zoo-pornographic images and zoophilic classified ads, at the request of our NGO partner Animal Cross, as part of the review of the bill to 'secure and regulate the digital space'.

8. 47 amendments submitted to the bill on French agricultural policy

Since January 2023, CAP has been working to include measures to promote the transition to agri-food and animal welfare in the draft law on agricultural policy. We took part in the Ministry's working groups with 3 of our NGO partners, and succeeded in obtaining a halt to support or a moratorium on cages in May 2023. When the text was reviewed by the National Assembly in May 2024, CAP coordinated with 12 partner NGOs to analyze the content of the law and propose amendments. In total, we succeeded in having 47 amendments submitted.



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& D'AVENIR
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Convergence Animaux Politique



Your donations make our action

These advancements would not have been possible without the support of our patrons. Thank you to all those who stand by our side !

Why support Convergence Animaux Politique?

In recent years, animal cause has become a significant societal issue. Since 2017, **CAP has achieved concrete political progress**, including the adoption of the Law against animal cruelty in 2021. **Our approach promotes cooperation** among NGOs and strengthens the collective effectiveness of the movement. **Our strategy has proven its efficiency** and provides the potential for even more significant advancements in the years to come to integrate the protection of animals and their environment into the law.

CAP has been recommended by Effective Altruism France: "CAP has achieved results, and their approach fills a gap in the movement. The issue of animal protection is now given much greater consideration by policymakers since the creation of CAP."

Our nonprofit organization is approved by 1% for the Planet, an international network that brings together actors in environmental philanthropy

Our actions align with **the following Sustainable Development Goals** :



OBJECTIFS  **DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**

How to support us?

Various types of patronage can be considered. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further: contact@convergence-animaux-politique.fr



Our Partner NGOs





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Do not throw on public roads.