French Biodiversity Agency

A national focal point for environmental policies

European River Symposium / 2021 May 27th
L’Office français pour la Biodiversité

- Born on January 1st 2020
- Fusion of:
  - ONCFS (1941, 1972, 2000) => hunting and wildlife (birds directive, habitats directive, CITES, etc.)
  - ONEMA (1948, 2006) => water and aquatic environments (framework directive on water, etc.)
  - AAMP (2006) => marine environments (marine framework directive, etc.)
  - ATEN (1997) => environmental training
  - PNF => support national parks
L’Office français pour la Biodiversité

   - Agence des aires marines protégées (AAMP)
     - Établissement public à caractère administratif
     - Loi n° 2006-436 du 14 avril 2006
   - Atelier technique des espaces naturels (ATEN)
     - Groupement d’intérêt public
     - Constitution le 9 février 1997
   - Office national de l’eau et des milieux aquatiques (ONEMA)
     - Établissement public à caractère administratif
     - Loi n° 2006-698 du 26 juillet 2000
   - Parcs nationaux de France (PNF)
     - Établissement public à caractère administratif
     - Loi n° 2006-436 du 14 avril 2006

2. Constitution de l’Office français de la biodiversité (2020)
   - Agence française pour la biodiversité (AFB)
     - Établissement public de l’État
     - Loi n° 2016-1087 du 8 août 2016
     - Opérationnelle au 1er janvier 2017
   - Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (ONCFS)
     - Établissement public à caractère administratif
     - Loi n° 2000-998 du 26 juillet 2000
   - Office français de la biodiversité (OFB)
     - Établissement public de l’État
     - Loi n° 2019-773 du 24 juillet 2019
     - Opérationnel au 1er janvier 2020

Source : C. Le Delliou.
Missions

- knowledge of, research and expertise on species, environments and their uses (IAS)
- policing the environment (incl. Cites) and policing wildlife health
- supporting the implementation of public policies (IPBES, CBD, CMS …)
- managing and assisting the managers of natural areas
- supporting stakeholders and mobilising society
- Hunter education exam
Its main original feature: the intricate connexion between all those tasks at the service of biodiversity.

- Control the infringements to environmental regulations
- Raise awareness, empower the civil society
- Plan and manage
- Knowledge
- Support and assess public policies
2800 agents all over the country

- 2000 agents in the field (1700 environmental inspectors)
- 300 experts, scientists, researchers
Regarding water

- **Support for the implementation of European legislation on water** (including the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive, etc.): assistance with reporting, expertise, support for implementation on the territory (e.g. hydromorphology expertise)

- **Water police**

- **Research and knowledge**: support to innovation, production of reference materials on water, etc. Setting up, coordination and animation of water information systems

- **Monitoring and assessment**

- **Information system and data**

- **Support planning in water districts**

- **Support the implementation of potable water and waste management policies**

- **Internationally**: promotion of French know-how (OiEAU support), contribution to the revision of the international framework
Example of research and development

- Demonstration sites for the restoration of rivers

Purpose: assess the effects of restoration actions on the hydromorphology of rivers and evaluate their impacts

Why?
There is a large diversity of impacts as described by scientific publications due to methodological biases in studies (environmental context not duly taken into account, or lack of long term observations)

What?
- A new network of 50 sites since 2010
- Partnership between water agencies, Irstea, engineering consultancy
- Standardized monitoring for 7 kinds of actions (including deletions of obstacles and meandering)
Example of monitoring and assessment

1200 operations of electric fishing per year

What is it used for?
- evaluation for WFD
- assessment of the impacts of accidental pollutions
- long-term studies (evolution of sex-ratio, presence of pollutants, impacts of climate change...)

300 operations of hydromorphological monitoring per year
Example of Monitoring and assessment

Onde is one of the components of the hydrological monitoring and forecasting system, together with:
- rain forecasts and monitoring (Météo-France)
- water discharge monitoring (MTE)
- groundwater monitoring and forecasts (BRGM)
- state of reservoirs (VNF, EDF)

This enables preventive actions to reduce the use of water in drought periods.

3350 sites for low-water monitoring in summer months.
A information system to unite water data at the national scale, make them available and interoperable, OFB develops standard protocols to define how the data is collected or built, and exchange formats to help them circulate and be re-used.
Example of information systems and data (2)

A national portal to access information and data about water
Example of support the management of aquatic environments and species

Distribution of silver eels

Develop and test new fish passages

Cesmia: an application to declare the catches
About water police

▸ Key figures
   ▶ 20,000 controls per year
   ▶ 27% of the time of the territorial employees (equivalent to 480 full-time)

▸ Priorities (according to the national control strategy)
   ▶ Water pollutions
   ▶ Drought management
   ▶ Ecological continuity
   ▶ Public works in rivers and wetlands
   ▶ Lakes
Challenges for the future

44% of water bodies have at least a good status.

Political objective:
66% of water bodies in good status in 2010.
Challenges for the future

63% of water bodies have a good chemical status.
Challenges for the future

▸ Communicate about the successes of public policies in a context of increasing pressures on the aquatic environments

▸ Improve the connection between aquatic, terrestrial and marine policies

▸ Shared indicators for the state of environments on the littoral

▸ Share the assessment of pressures

▸ Shared reporting and planning periods (WFD, MSFD, ...)

Thanks,
Danke,
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Grazie