



**RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE**

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THE FRENCH BIODIVERSITY AGENCY

and its role in restoring free flowing rivers

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Sébastien Lamy / OFB

Some obstacles to Free Flowing Rivers...

Acceptance

- Lack of public support and understanding
- Different users, different perceptions of what the river should look like

Implementation

- Lack of references and previous experiences
- Uncertainty

Scaling-up

- Unique and place-specific challenges
- Lack of stakeholders trust and interactions

Some obstacles to Free Flowing Rivers... and some solutions !

Acceptance

- Lack of public support and understanding
 - > **Outreach and public participation**
- Different users, different perceptions of what the river should look like
 - > **Stakeholders consultation and mobilization, diagnostic phase**

Implementation

- Lack of references and previous experiences
 - > **Knowledge sharing and evidence base building**
- Uncertainty
 - > **Knowledge sharing and evidence base building, diagnostic phase**

Scaling-up

- Unique and place-specific challenges
 - > **Expertise and stakeholder mobilization, diagnostic phase**
- Lack of stakeholders trust and interactions
 - > **Stakeholders mobilization**



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The OFB's 5 main missions

All of which can be
mobilized to restore
Free Flowing Rivers !



The OFB's 5 main missions

- Support for public policies

2030 National Biodiversity Plan
National Nature Restoration Plan

Translating EU legislation into French
law and objectives, such as the NRL
and the 25,000 Km of FFR



The OFB's 5 main missions

- Support for public policies
- Knowledge, Research, Expertise

Act as a technical expert to the
Ministries

Need for expertise on habitats,
species and ecosystems to restore
Need for data and information systems
to monitor impact on ecosystems and
water flows

Demonstrate efficiency



The OFB's 5 main missions

- Support for public policies
- Knowledge, Research, Expertise
- Management of protected areas

Protected areas as a way to encourage the restoration of ecological continuity

Promote dialogue between actors (farms, fisheries, general public)

Improve awareness raising



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The OFB's 5 main missions

- Support for public policies
- Knowledge, Research, Expertise
- Management of protected areas
- Mobilizing society

Whole of society approach
(companies, associations, local
authorities, youth)
Ressource centres on specific issues
and ecosystems



The OFB's 5 main missions

- Support for public policies
- Knowledge, Research, Expertise
- Management of protected areas
- Mobilizing society
- Law enforcement and wildlife health

Providing administrative authorisations ex ante, technical diagnosis and recommendations
Observing works on the ground, checking for ecosystem damage
Important monitoring potential



Zoom on... the French national river restoration centre

- Fostering a river restoration stakeholders community
 - Sharing expertise, methodologies, legislative news, good practices and recommendations
 - Allowing similar actors to share experiences
 - Different actors can learn from each other
-
- Case studies and guidelines database
 - Ultimately, looking to bridge the gap to other communities of practice.



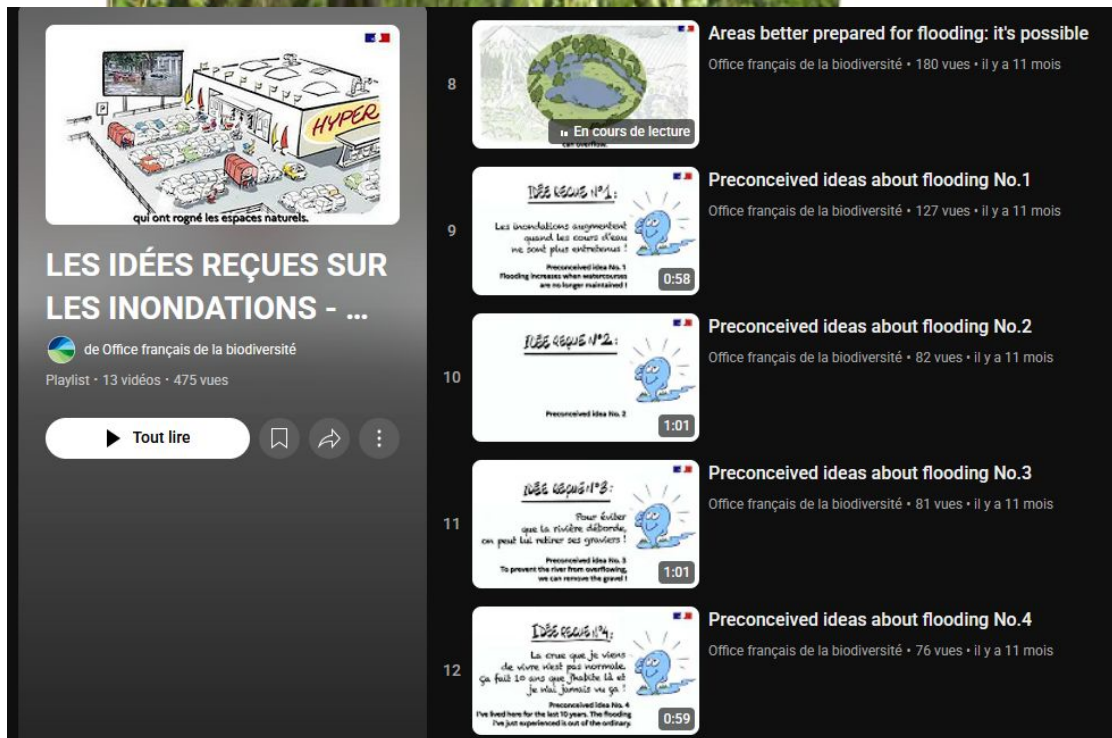
Towards the restoration of watercourses and aquatic environments

80 examples of river hydromorphology restoration projects



- **Emphasis on knowledge sharing, awareness-raising, and evidence base building**

- > Sharing knowledge and experience between stakeholders
- > Outreach to general audiences on the importance of FFR, wetlands, and ecological continuity



LES IDÉES REÇUES SUR LES INONDATIONS - ...

de Office français de la biodiversité

Playlist • 13 vidéos • 475 vues

Tout lire

8 **Areas better prepared for flooding: it's possible**
Office français de la biodiversité • 180 vues • il y a 11 mois

9 **Preconceived ideas about flooding No.1**
Office français de la biodiversité • 127 vues • il y a 11 mois

10 **Preconceived ideas about flooding No.2**
Office français de la biodiversité • 82 vues • il y a 11 mois

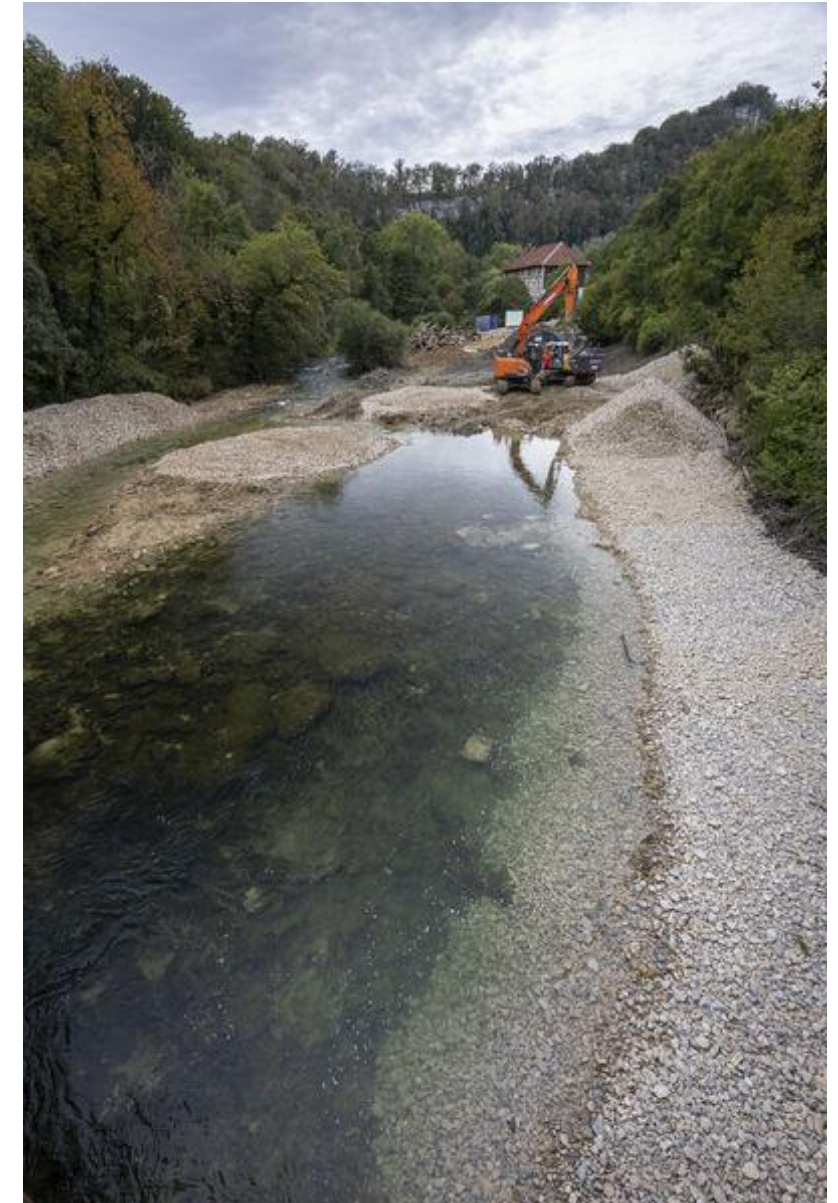
11 **Preconceived ideas about flooding No.3**
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12 **Preconceived ideas about flooding No.4**
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In short...

- Restoring FFR needs to be a concerted effort, which means working with and **mobilizing many stakeholders** and garnering public support through **outreach, participation and clear communication**.
- The **diagnostic phase** is paramount to anticipate and avoid problems downstream: a good diagnosis **reduces uncertainty, builds trust between stakeholders**, and strengthen project outcomes.
- There is a need for frequent interaction and **knowledge sharing** between actors of the river restoration community, to **reduce uncertainty, grow the evidence base, and improve implementation**.



Thank you for your attention!

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