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# Water resilience: introduction and French perspectives

**Mr. Cyrille Barnérias**

*Director of the International and European Affairs Directorate at the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB)*



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# What is water resilience?



**Water resilience** is the capacity of water systems to **adapt to future pressures** stemming from climate change, biodiversity loss, and other threats, and **recover from disruptions**.

- Both our **capacity to guarantee access to water** as a resource and our **risk-preparedness**.
- Local and international issue : importance of **transboundary cooperation**.
- Improving water management is central: **reducing water use** and **boosting water efficiency**.
- Good governance, promoting innovation and Nature-based Solutions will play a key role.

# A new agency in France and the French overseas territories

The French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) was created to meet the challenge of **protecting** and **restoring** water and biodiversity in **France** and **its overseas territories**.

- Created on **January 1st, 2020**
- Under the supervision of the **ministers** for **the environment** and **agriculture**

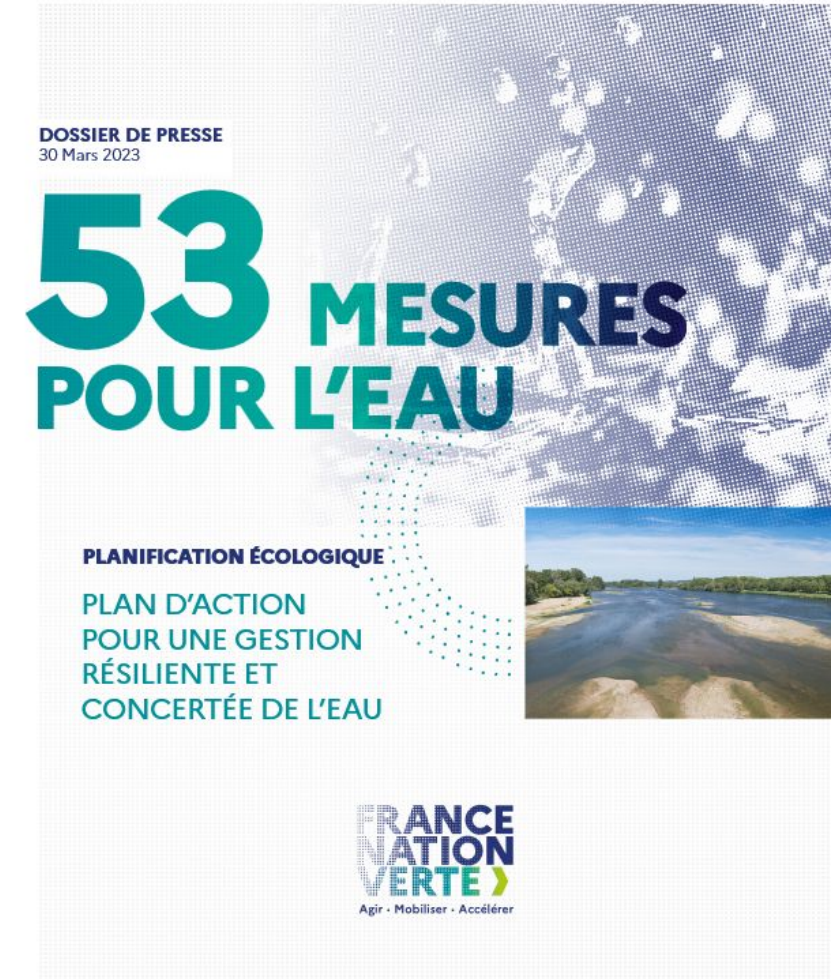
## The OFB's 5 main missions – over land, sea and freshwater



- **Knowledge, Research, Expertise** about species and their habitats
- Environmental **law enforcement** and wildlife health **policing**
- Supporting the implementation of **public policies**
- Management of **protected areas**
- **Mobilizing civil society**

# Focus on Water Resilience in France

- Relevant French legislation : « **Plan Eau** »
  - 3 challenges : **water efficiency, optimising availability and preserving quality.**
  - **53 measures** for resilient and coordinated water management.
- Highlights the importance of multiple **key levers** to drive water resilience:
  - **IWRM** : integrated water resource management combined with a strong emphasis on water efficiency and reasonable use.
  - **Governance** involving local and territorial actors.
  - The use of **Nature-based Solutions (NbS).**



# Interlinkages between Water Resilience and Biodiversity

- **Measure 30** of the water plan: **links between ecosystems resilience and water resilience**
  - 70 flagship NbS projects for drought mitigation measures.
  - 10 NbS projects overseas
  - OFB: member of the selection jury for pilot sites.
- Restoration and renaturation of water courses: coordination of the River Restoration resource centre
  - EU objective on Free Flowing Rivers.



# Focus on the LIFE Artisan

## National action

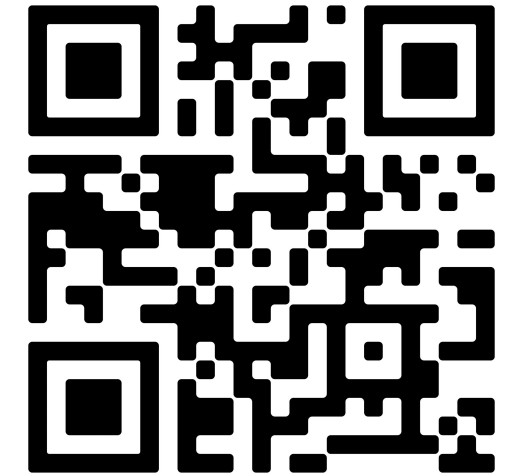
- Stakeholder support
- Resource center: guidelines, toolbox for decision makers, case-studies

## Regional Action

- Regional adaptation strategies
- Stakeholders network with regional focal points

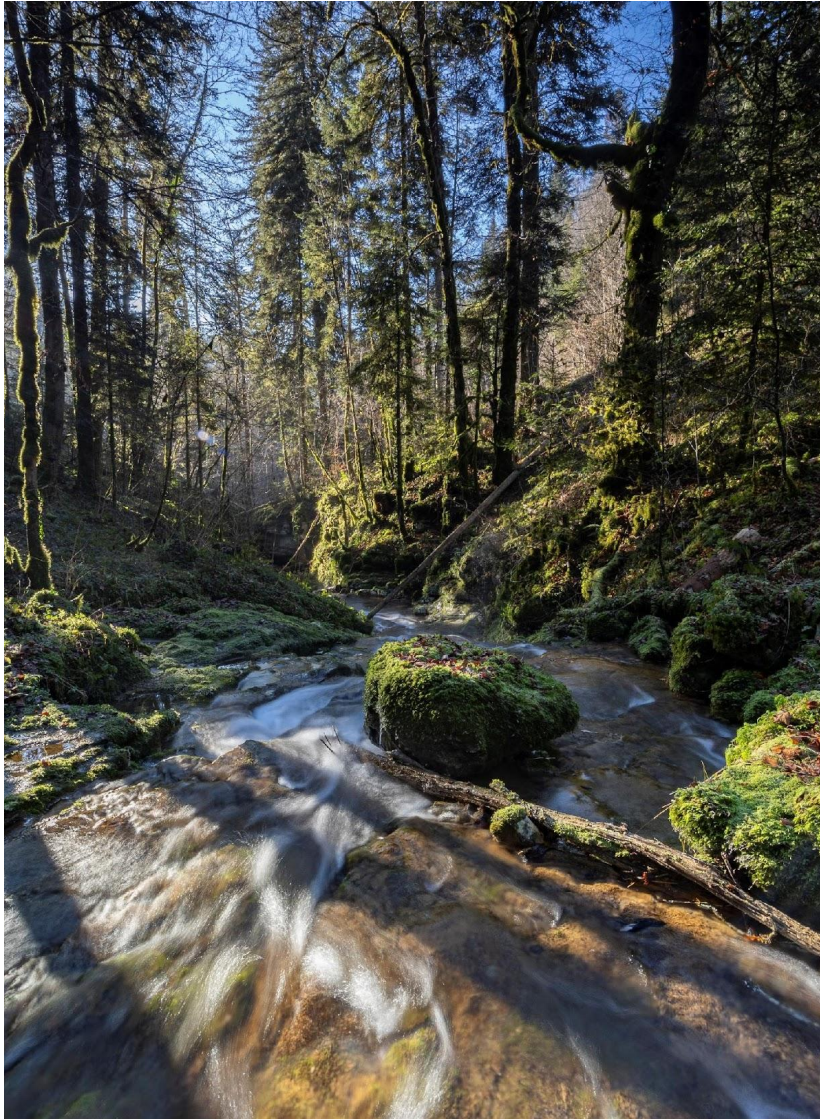


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# Conclusion



- The links between ecosystems and water resilience are clear, both in terms of quantity and quality.
- We have the technical tools, but we encounter implementation difficulties (legal, organisational, regulatory and political challenges).
- **There can be no water security without ecological security.**
  - Neither technology nor nature alone can solve today's problems.
  - We must combine the two for greater resilience.
  - We need innovative governance models combining NbS solutions and innovative technology.

# Thank you for your attention

