

WFD French monitoring strategy

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Conseil général de l'Environnement
et du Développement durable

<http://www.cgedd.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

Introduction

After 5 years of progressive implementation, the ministry of environment requested the Environment and Sustainable Development Council to audit the first french WFD monitoring program

via an in-depth analysis of its content, organisation and efficiency

in a context of :

- many water bodies in undetermined status
- reduced public resources

to engage in evolutions

in the strategic, technical and organisational fields,

aiming at a better performance of the FWD requirements

for the next cycle (2016-2021).

Process

The in-depth analysis of the first monitoring cycle (targets, methods, results, efficiency, progress...) was

based on the content of the French national framework for implementing the FWD, on EU benchmarking, on a survey and interviews of different national and local actors, on examination of the methods used to collect data and of the use made of collected data for different aims (water bodies classification, local diagnostics, local actions implementation, WFD or other directives, water police ...),

incremented with the results of the mid-term assessment and the french reporting to the EU Commission,,

and a specific focus on 3 of them (Loire-Bretagne, Rhin-Meuse and Rhone-Mediterranée-Corse).

It resulted in several recommandations to improve the monitoring program in a cost effective way for the next review.

Questions

Who is the pilot ?

What are the data we need for the WFD ? What are the best methodologies, standards for sampling, frequencies of monitoring, networks density, sites distribution ?

Who does what ? Who are the operators (public, private) ? How are they coordinated ?

How many people and fundings do we need ? Who pays what ? How to make the best with what we have (people and money) ? What are the side costs of WFD monitoring, the cost of complementary networks ?

What are the main priorities ?

What is the most appropriate scheme for banking, communicating and using the collected data ?

How are the intercalibration, management control and interoperability of data insured ? How can we make the reporting to the EU Commission an easier task ?

First results : monitoring is the cornerstone to implement water policies

- It answers to the need to know better the water and the aquatic environment
- and the pressures
- to take the appropriate measures
- at a relatively modest cost (representing less than 1% of the cost of the measures program 2007-2015, i.e. 30,5 million € compared to 27 billion € for France and its overseas territories)
- (Cost benchmarking : France seems to stand in the second half of Europe)
- **The cost of the new monitoring programs (including the marine environment strategy) should not be underestimated ! The cost of inappropriate measures to reach the good ecological status or the cost of a dispute with the EU Commission would be much more important !**

Towards a reinforced strategic management

Monitoring should not be seen only as a technical question, but as a strategic question, requiring :

- a clear **strategy** in order to comply with the FWD requirements (and in particular with the Blue Print recommendations, Nov. 2012),
- an identified and stable **management of the WFD** (who is the pilot and who does what) with a strong **coordination** of the actors,
- an accurate and strict **definition of the WFD monitoring networks** (objectives, means, methods),
- based on a **good knowledge of the water environment and the pressures, and on the feedback of the first results,**

to implement action (the measures program) in a framework of quality management enhancing the french know-how.

French national water monitoring system

The french monitoring network is based on many historical networks (some dating from the 19th century such as the underground water monitoring network) plus a vast program implemented as soon as 2003 to unify the national water information system (SIE), on a voluntary basis, and finalised in 2010 by the national water data system (SNDE), on a compulsory basis.

At the national level, technical coordination is insured with the help of a government agency, the national water and aquatic environment agency (ONEMA)

At the local level, data production is organised by the water basin agencies (AE) and the regional directions of the ministry in charge of environment (DREAL)

With the help of many other operators

On the basis of protocols set up by the french national reference laboratory (AQUAREF)

+ political bodies (government + stakeholders -national and local -on a water basin basis-)

The results can be found (general and technical information at the basin and water body level) on the internet <http://www.eaufrance.fr>



Recommendations by the CGEDD

Several recommendations were put forward in June 2013 related to :

- Monitoring purpose
- Organisation
- Actors
- Strategy

Monitoring purpose

- **Use monitoring results on water quality to target the actions (pressures and impacts)** = *the outputs of monitoring resulted in acknowledging diffuse pollutions and hydromorphological alterations as priorities for the measures programs in most river basins*
 - **Take benefit of the mid-term assessment** produced by France (feedback)
 - **Review and actualise the initial characterisation of the water bodies** because of the low confidence level of the initial qualifications,
- in order **to define new realistic objectives** to attain the good ecological status of water bodies required by the WFD
- while valuing the water policies with appropriate national indicators

Organisation

- **Secure monitoring management and improve data production and banking system** especially on biological and hydromorphical elements (continuity of historic sets of statistics, referentials, enhanced reliability of data, quality insurance and management control for public and private laboratories and in some cases second checking)
- **Set up adapted, solid and interoperable tools**
- **Start new research programs** to develop, complete and improve methodologies, including new indicators and indicators of trends, in particular in order to enlarge the use of **innovative technologies and modélisation**

Actors

- **Simplify the architecture of the actors networks and enhance coordination,**

in order to improve the ability at defining the right actions needed to answer the problems of potential degrading of the water bodies (dissiminated sources of agricultural pollutions and ecological water networks, for instance)

- **Facilitate access to data and monitoring results** for the local socio-professionnal actors and the general public (indicators, graphical, geographical representation)

Monitoring strategy

The monitoring program revision is due by the end of 2014 and the implementation of the new program shall begin in 2015. To meet the deadline, the details shall be determined by next spring taking into account the main recommendations of the CGEDD

- **a stronger management of the monitoring program (and more generally of the WFD)**
- **a better organisation of monitoring networks** (clarifying the WFC general monitoring network from other specific and additional networks, such as the monitoring networks of other water directives, including the framework directive on the marine environment strategy, and the local monitoring networks, while optimising the different networks)
- **an enhanced reliability of the data-production system**
- **a better use of monitoring results.**

References

Révision de la stratégie de surveillance des eaux en France

Rapport **008376-01** du CGEDD

Juin 2013

http://www.cgedd.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/008376-01_rapport_cle2b164f.pdf

Thank you for your attention

