

FRENCH RIVER BASIN COMMITTEES
governance and participatory implementation of water policy

Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie

LES COMITÉS DE BASSIN

THE DEMOCRACY OF WATER IN THE BASINS

The democracy of water and the participatory development of the strategy for implementing French water policy have been applied in an original manner in the large river basin districts for more than 50 years through **the river basin committees**.

The river basin committees are deliberating bodies that **unite all stakeholders** (local authorities, industries, farmers, the State, consumers, NGOs etc.) from each river basin district (seven in mainland France and five overseas French basins).

River basin committees determine the strategy for the protection of water and aquatic environments for each river basin (the management plans for river basin districts -SDAGE-).

They vote on the water agency's action programme in mainland France and the rate of fees (environmental tax receipts), within the limit of the rates set by law.

Depending on the size of the basin, the total number of representatives in the river basin committee varies from 36 members in Corse to 190 in Loire-Bretagne.

A similar but modified organisation (river basin committee, water office) exists for overseas French basins.

7 basins in mainland France :
Adour-Garonne, Artois-Picardie, Corse, Loire-Bretagne, Rhin-Meuse, Rhône-Mediterranée and Seine-Normandie.

5 overseas French basins :
Guadeloupe, Guyane française, Martinique, Réunion and Mayotte.

river basin committee

> 40% elected government officials
> 40% water users
> 20% State representatives

President elected by and from the board of regional or local authorities, or from qualified persons

> assent regarding the water agency programme and fees

> plans the river basin water management actions within the framework of water management plans on the scale of river basin districts (management plans)

> opinions regarding regulations and projects with a direct effect upon or link to water and aquatic environments

administration board of the French river basin agency

President appointed by decree

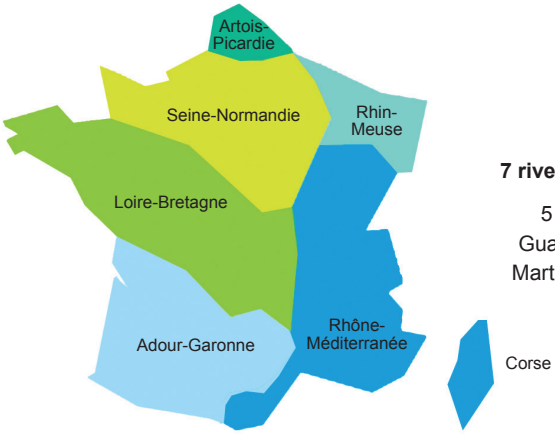
+ administrators designated by and from the members of the river basin committee (elected officials and users)

+ State representatives

+ water agency staff representatives

> determine and administrate the implementation of the intervention programme of the water agency (annual budget vote, fees, financial support)

river basin management in France



7 river basins in mainland France

5 overseas French basins :
Guadeloupe, Guyane française,
Martinique, Réunion and Mayotte

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50 ans AU SERVICE DE L'EAU

50 YEARS OF RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

The 6 river basin agencies are public authorities in charge of implementing water policy at river basin level.
Each agency is controlled by its Basin Committee, composed of water stakeholders (Governement representatives,
Municipalities, Industry, Agriculture, NGOs,…).
Water agencies subsidise water protection operations thanks to fee collected based on water use and pollution ("polluterpays" principle).

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