



The French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments (Onema)

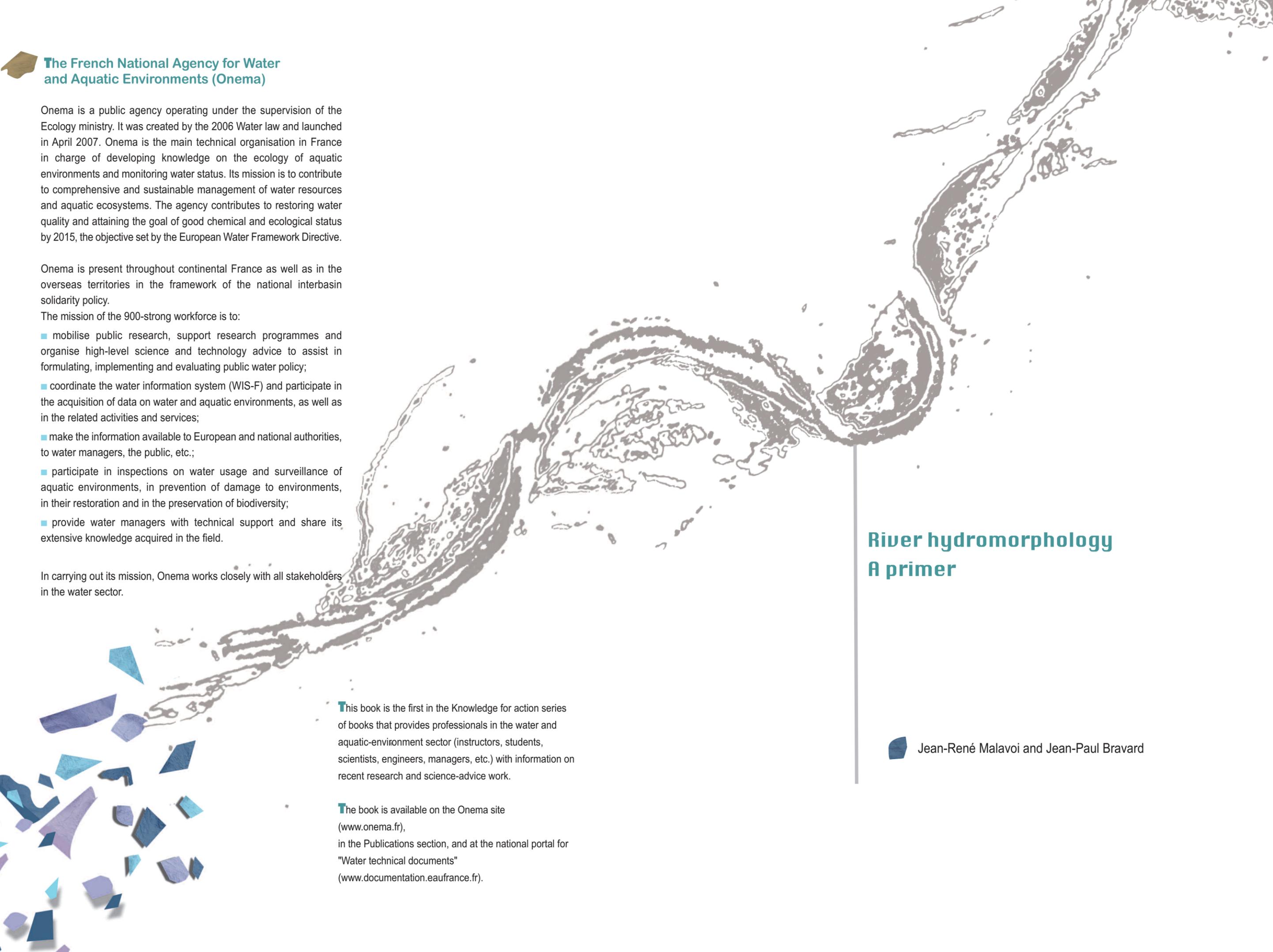
Onema is a public agency operating under the supervision of the Ecology ministry. It was created by the 2006 Water law and launched in April 2007. Onema is the main technical organisation in France in charge of developing knowledge on the ecology of aquatic environments and monitoring water status. Its mission is to contribute to comprehensive and sustainable management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. The agency contributes to restoring water quality and attaining the goal of good chemical and ecological status by 2015, the objective set by the European Water Framework Directive.

Onema is present throughout continental France as well as in the overseas territories in the framework of the national interbasin solidarity policy.

The mission of the 900-strong workforce is to:

- mobilise public research, support research programmes and organise high-level science and technology advice to assist in formulating, implementing and evaluating public water policy;
- coordinate the water information system (WIS-F) and participate in the acquisition of data on water and aquatic environments, as well as in the related activities and services;
- make the information available to European and national authorities, to water managers, the public, etc.;
- participate in inspections on water usage and surveillance of aquatic environments, in prevention of damage to environments, in their restoration and in the preservation of biodiversity;
- provide water managers with technical support and share its extensive knowledge acquired in the field.

In carrying out its mission, Onema works closely with all stakeholders in the water sector.



This book is the first in the Knowledge for action series of books that provides professionals in the water and aquatic-environment sector (instructors, students, scientists, engineers, managers, etc.) with information on recent research and science-advice work.

The book is available on the Onema site (www.onema.fr), in the Publications section, and at the national portal for "Water technical documents" (www.documentation.eaufrance.fr).

River hydromorphology A primer



Jean-René Malavoi and Jean-Paul Bravard