

The French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments

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 principle 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, the objective set by the European water framework directive. Onema, with a workforce of 900, is present throughout continental France as well as in the overseas territories in the framework of the national interbasin solidarity policy. In carrying out its mission, Onema works closely with all stakeholders in the water sector.

The French committee of the International union for the conservation of nature

The French committee constitutes the network of French organisations and experts working for the IUCN and serves as a knowledge base and platform for discussion on biodiversity issues. This novel partnership comprises two ministries, 13 public organisations, 41 NGOs and over 250 experts grouped in special commissions and topical work groups. The committee addresses biodiversity issues in France and promotes French research and know-how internationally.

The IBMA work group

This book was drafted by the Biological invasions in aquatic environments (IBMA) work group that Onema and Cemagref (now Irstea) launched jointly in 2009. Its mission is to assist all water stakeholders working on the topic of invasive alien species (IAS) by facilitating access to new knowledge on IASs and developing management tools. Since 2014, the work group has been managed by the IUCN French committee and Onema.

This book continues the *Knowledge for action* series that makes new research findings and science-advice work available to professionals in the water and aquatic-environment sector (scientists, engineers, managers, instructors, students, etc.).

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

