

Éditorial

Les actions de l'ONCFS à l'international : une contribution à la gestion du capital naturel mondial



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Les pays signataires de la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CDB) se sont fixés, fin 2002, au Sommet de la Terre à Johannesburg, l'objectif de diminuer significativement la perte de biodiversité d'ici à 2010. Cet engagement n'ayant été que partiellement tenu, de nouveaux objectifs ont été définis en 2010 à Nagoya et les Parties prenantes ont adopté un Plan stratégique pour la biodiversité pour la période 2011-2020. Reconnaisant un besoin urgent d'agir, l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies a également déclaré 2011-2020 la Décennie de la planète pour la biodiversité.

Fort d'une vision partagée et de vingt objectifs ambitieux, le Plan stratégique pour la biodiversité 2011-2020 n'aura d'efficacité que s'il sert de cadre à la mise en place d'objectifs nationaux et régionaux, favorise la mise en œuvre cohérente des trois objectifs de la Convention sur la diversité biologique : conservation de la diversité biologique, utilisation durable de ses éléments – dont la chasse fait partie – et partage équitable des avantages découlant de l'exploitation des ressources génétiques. Pour sa part, la France a adopté une Stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité (SNB), renouvelée pour la période 2011-2020, constituant l'outil de mise en œuvre dans notre pays de la Convention et de son plan stratégique. Cette stratégie s'articule avec la stratégie européenne pour la biodiversité et les directives européennes, « Habitats » et « Oiseaux » notamment.

Fort de ses compétences très complémentaires en matière de police, de recherche, de conseil et de développement, l'ONCFS inscrit son action au cœur de la Stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité, à travers son contrat d'objectifs avec l'État. L'Établissement a l'ambition d'être, grâce à son organisation territoriale lui permettant d'intervenir au plus près des enjeux de terrain, l'un des établissements publics de référence en matière de gestion durable de la faune sauvage et de ses habitats, en travaillant à la sauvegarde de toute la biodiversité, remarquable ou ordinaire, protégée ou chassable.

Dans la mise en œuvre de son contrat d'objectifs 2012-2014, et dans la réalisation de chacune de ses missions, l'ONCFS intègre pleinement le fait que les politiques publiques environnementales de notre pays ne peuvent se conduire dans les seules limites de nos frontières. La faune sauvage bien entendu ne les connaît pas ! Ces politiques résultent d'ailleurs pour un grand nombre d'entre elles de déclinaisons de décisions supranationales, d'engagements internationaux ou européens notamment. C'est pourquoi l'Établissement, à chaque fois qu'il est nécessaire, déploie son action à l'international, tant en matière d'études et de recherche que d'appui technique à ses autorités de tutelle.

Dans ce contexte, il m'est apparu naturel et utile de faire à nouveau un point sur le volet international des actions conduites par l'ONCFS. Ces actions concernent les trois principaux domaines de son champ de compétence, à savoir la recherche pour une meilleure gestion des espèces et des espaces, la gestion durable du capital cynégétique et la police de la nature. Elles constituent par ailleurs une excellente manière, non seulement de valoriser l'expertise de l'Établissement en dehors de nos frontières, mais aussi de la conforter et de la développer au contact de celle acquise par d'autres pays, organismes et établissements avec lesquels nous agissons.

Les collaborations internationales de l'ONCFS permettent indubitablement à des projets importants d'aboutir. Les articles que vous allez parcourir dans cette revue en témoignent et je souhaite que vous preniez plaisir à les lire. Que nos partenaires en soient ici remerciés, tout comme les équipes de l'Office qui œuvrent dans chacun des projets internationaux, ayant bien compris le rôle primordial que l'action collective pouvait avoir pour faire progresser l'œuvre globale de sauvegarde de la biodiversité planétaire. ■

Foreword

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ONCFS, an expertise committed to international

Science is a vehicle for dialogue between States and contributes to the development of their relations. Scientific analysis is also essential for a non-controversial decision, whatever the discussion fora and especially those relating to particularly complex area of biodiversity. Scientific instrument influencing government decisions under the Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides a good example. Therefore the birth of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-systemic services (IPBES) is particularly welcome; it is an international instrument of scientific experts on biodiversity whose creation was promoted by France in 2007 at the Conference held at UNESCO in Paris.

Complex and distant world of negotiations, the international sphere often appears to us through barbaric abbreviations, abstract acronyms, texts sometimes difficult to understand. But don't be mistaken: behind the diplomatic high scale exercises which often generate our impatience hides the future of our nature, closer to our daily lives and passions.

In a context more and more critical for nature and in a world of globalized trade, ONCFS must therefore develop an international action to help meet the challenge of sustainable biodiversity conservation at relevant levels. It is through entire continents or even the planet itself that management issues of wildlife and associated habitats must be apprehended today.

Given the general awareness on the degradation of our environment, ONCFS, in its own domains, is actively involved in scientific research on biodiversity, focusing on wildlife, bringing its very specific knowledge and know-how. Its work contributes to the image of France abroad in scientific and technological fields.

In terms of studies and research, of regional and trans-boundary cooperation, or technical support, the international action of ONCFS spreads over a vast territory: Eastern and Northern European continent, sub – Saharan Africa, through the Mediterranean and overseas regions.

Under the contract of 2012-2014 objectives, missions abroad also concern many areas: exemplary management of remarkable spaces for a hunting management of excellence (Label ELO), studies and research on ungulates and the damage they cause, water birds and other terrestrial migratory species such as woodcocks and snipes, sea turtles in overseas regions; not mentioning cross-border species as some large European predators or species at risk such as the grouse. The Office Wildlife Health Unit is particularly active in international networks especially with regard to avian influenza, swine fever or tuberculosis.

In 2012, no fewer than 100 officers of the Office conducted 74 scientific missions and training in 24 different countries. These missions applied to overseas are of particular importance when it comes to contributing to the discovery of new heritages as Amazon. In line with the strategy of the European Union, they also cover the rising theme of invasive alien species detrimental to natural biodiversity. Many of our researchers are recognized experts in the field of wild fauna, frequently called upon to represent France in international bodies and

their associated technical groups. International conventions on biodiversity, numerous and often highly specialized, can not be implemented without the intervention of these experts, who actively contribute to the implementation of the commitments of our country particularly in the areas:

- Intra-community regulation: Birds Directive and its ORNIS committee,

- conventions providing a legal framework for the protection of species and natural areas (Bonn convention on Migratory Species and AEWA agreement on migratory waterbirds from Africa and Eurasia, Ramsar convention on wetlands).

Beyond the main business of studies and research, training programs organized by ONCFS, given its recognized expertise, enable the development of common methodologies with our partner countries, useful for reliable monitoring of wild fauna, especially regarding migratory waterbirds. This is largely due to these programs that the Technical Monitoring Unit (TSU) of the African Initiative developed by countries, which are party to the agreement on migratory birds, could be created. ONCFS is an active partner beside the Foundation La Tour du Valat and French and Senegalese Ministries of Ecology. Senegal has agreed to host the Secretariat of the TSU in Dakar.

Expertise in anti-poaching police or on the implementation of the convention of Washington on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is also one of the strong domains of the Office, often envied by our neighbors who benefit regularly from training courses. ONCFS Mobile Brigade specialized for CITES, in relation with many field officers of the Office, is a significant contribution of France to the reduction of wildlife traffic, according to this Convention.

While the needs of our ministries increase as described in documents such as the National Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2020), or for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "Protecting Biodiversity", and in a context of constrained resources, ONCFS, while pursuing its international commitment, under its contract of objectives, needs to strengthen its interfaces with external technical partners and to continue to identify new cooperation for better shared effort.

Following the example of the presentation made by several officers on the results of their work at the 8th Conference of the International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB), ONCFS will gain to further improve communication on the results of its studies and expertise abroad through documentation, training and conferences. It is also for this purpose that ONCFS agreed to take over the organization in 2017 of the 10th conference of this international association of researchers on wildlife and game.

All the team who participated in the preparation of this issue "Special International" of Wild Fauna" hopes that through reading various articles, each acquire a better knowledge of the presence of the ONCFS in the international fora and take better awareness of its determination to continue its work. With all its partners, ONCFS is fully consistent with the goal set by the President of the Republic during the first environmental conference in 2012: "Make France the Nation of environmental excellence." ■