THE NATURAL HERITAGE DEPARTMENT
- SPN -

Inventory - Manage - Analyze - Share

MUSÉUM
NATIONAL
D'HISTOIRE
NATURELLE

The **SPN** in figures

75 people, 11 of whom are "shared" among different research departments of the Museum

More than **50** studies or assessments conducted each year

27 chapters of the National Red List written in collaboration with the IUCN (including 14 in overseas France), more than 3,950 species assessed

60 partnerships with naturalist networks

+ 900 CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) notices every year made by the scientific authority

8 data acquisition and management applications at a national level

12 national inventories, led or co-led, in progress

+ 200 speeches during seminars or symposiums every year

About **20** presentations during global meetings every year

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO **CONSERVATION** OF NATURE

The assessment mission of the Museum
The assessment is the statutory mission of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and is based on the principles of sustainable development and nature conservation. It is designed to provide scientific support to French and international players, both public or private, in order to develop nature conservation policies, to characterize the conservation status of species, habitats and ecosystems, to develop indicators and to assess the impact of new projects or activities.
The first characteristic of this mission is the need to combine scientific precision and the understanding of enquirer problematics. Thanks to its ability to combine these two requirements, the Museum is at the heart of the national plan and the international networks of knowledge about nature.
Coordinated by the Executive Director in charge of sustainable development, nature conservation and the assessment, this mission is led by the Natural Heritage Department (SPN) and the research teams.

Objective
Through its study and assessment activity on French biodiversity (fauna, flora and habitat) and geodiversity (earth, sea, mainland and overseas), the SPN's objective is to help the decision-makers and the public to better know our natural heritage in order to, eventually, favor its conservation.

Challenges
In a context where deteriorations of biodiversity are often linked to a lack of knowledge, the SPN is faced with challenges:
▪ bringing together numerous players, naturalists and researchers
▪ integrating scattered and heterogeneous knowledge
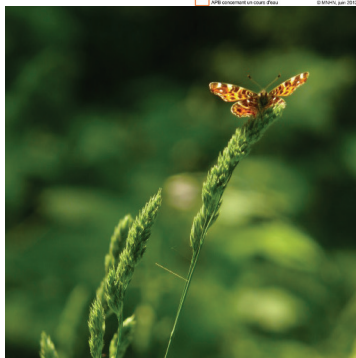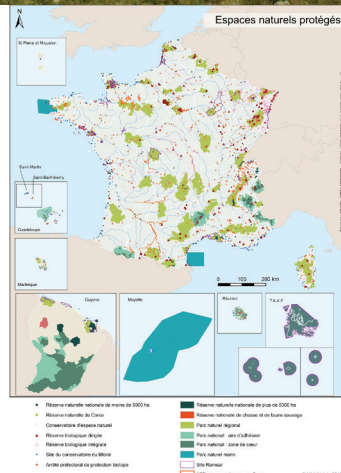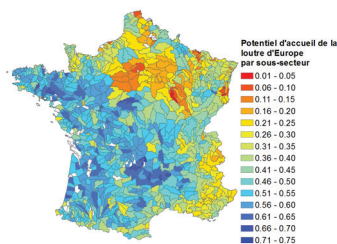▪ providing operational solutions in order to enable accessibility

Missions
The SPN puts its plan into action through three missions:
▪ summarize and share information on natural heritage
▪ lead and accompany important programs in a scientific way
▪ assess the state of nature

To find out more, visit spn.mnhn.fr

SCIENCE WITHIN
CONSERVATION POLICIES

Potentiel d'accueil de la
loutre d'Europe
par sous-secteur

Espaces naturels protégés

Four fields of intervention...

Design tools and define methods
The SPN develops information collection, management and sharing tools regarding natural heritage (taxonomic registers, habitats and areas, protocols, software, etc.) and makes it available to the scientific community, naturalists and managers of natural areas.

Lead player networks
The SPN leads and coordinates information collection networks as part of the French natural heritage inventory. It relies on a large network of partners (experts, managers, associations, etc.) in order to carry out its missions.

Produce reference data
The SPN manages the National Inventory of Natural Heritage (INPN) and the related databases. In it, information is gathered, saved and available for synthesis and analysis operations.

Sharing knowledge
The SPN shares knowledge related to the national natural heritage to make it available to everybody under different adapted forms (publication, downloads, web service, maps, websites, etc.).

To manage national programs

The SPN supports national and international public policies on biodiversity conservation. It manages the scientific follow-up, methodology and validation of important national programs.

To support conservation policies

The SPN accompanies partners in the management of scientific knowledge and promotion of data that lead to recommendations in favor of biodiversity. The SPN helps French or international players, public or private, and supports their policies on nature conservation.

EXAMPLES OF SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO **IMPORTANT NATIONAL PROGRAMS**

National inventories

Since 1979, upon the request of the Ministry of Ecology, the National Museum of Natural History has been collecting and organizing data on fauna and flora in metropolitan France and overseas France. The SPN organizes and shares the data as part of the National Inventory of Natural Heritage and through various Atlas editions.

National taxonomic register (TAXREF)

The SPN develops this register that lists scientific and vernacular names of all the living beings reported in France. Thanks to the use of common standards and in connection with European and international registers, TAXREF is the tool necessary to manage national naturalist information.

National Red List

Since 2007, the SPN and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have been in partnership to create the national Red list of threatened species in France. They also participate in support project for the elaboration of regional lists, in collaboration with the Federation of National Botanical Conservatories (FCBN) and France Nature Environment (FNE).

Natura 2000 and conservation status

This European Network of ecologic sites for the conservation of habitats and species currently covers 12% of the national territory. The SPN has to validate, manage and share information on French sites (land and sea). It is also in charge of the periodic review on the state of habitats and targeted species.

Natural Area of Ecological, Faunistic and Floristic Interest (ZNIEFF)

For 30 years, the SPN has been defining the methodological framework in order to ensure the national consistency of this program. It ensures the validation and provision of all the information on areas with a remarkable biological heritage, in the ocean as well as on land.

Trame verte et bleue (TVB): project for an ecological network in France

Coming from the «Grenelle de l'Environnement», this program develops an ecological network integrated into a town and country planning. The SPN contributes to its implementation and the definition of national consistency criteria for programs made at a regional level.

Assess aquatic and wet environments

The SPN uses its expertise, particularly in partnership with the French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments (ONEMA), to define biological indicators for water quality in overseas departments and to assess the functions of wet areas.

French Nature and Landscapes Information System (SINP) and National Biodiversity Observatory (ONB)

The SPN represents the NMNH in work groups to implement the French Nature and Landscape Information System (SINP). It develops indicators for the National Biodiversity Observatory and manages the technical and scientific secretaryship of the SINP-ONB.

THE NATIONAL INVENTORY OF **NATURAL HERITAGE** (INPN)

A partnership tool supporting knowledge and sharing

The INPN is the national reference on information about biodiversity; It provides a vast inventory program for managing and sharing information on marine and land plant and animal species (extinct and living), natural habitats, protected species and geologic heritage, mainland or overseas. It is the result of continuous work that combines the government, scientists, naturalists and the environmental protection associations in order to compose an overview on natural heritage in France. In 2013, it became the national platform of the French Nature and Landscape Information System (SINP).

Pooling

The INPN allows for the pooling of data from mainland and overseas at a national level; the data had previously been scattered across the territory. It makes them workable for the assessment and creation of conservation strategies. The INPN also puts together international data related to French natural heritage.

Structure

In order to manage and simplify access to this source of information, the INPN unifies the data using taxonomic, geographic and administrative registers. This way, everybody can access the information on protected areas, species, and habitats including protection status, conservation status and distribution.

Share

Since 2005, the INPN website has shared information on French natural heritage. There, Internet users can find complete and synthetic sheets on mainland and overseas species.

THE INPN **IN FIGURES**

+ 14 million pieces of data shared

+ 4,000,000 pieces of municipal synthesis data

+ 3,200,000 pieces of synthesis data in mesh 10 x 10 kilometers

+ 145,000 species and 370,000 synonyms

+ 26,000 mainland species with at least one occurrence piece of data

+ 18,000 ZNIEFF contours and associated descriptions

+ 2,850 protected area contours and associated descriptions

+ 1,750 Natura 2000 area contours and associated descriptions

+ 20 registers and similarities of marine and terrestrial habitats

+ 2,400 archaeological sites

+ 110,000 connections per month

+ 6.5 millions pages viewed per year

To find out more, visit inpn.mnhn.fr

The **SPN**

MANAGEMENT

| Scientific Steering Committee | Management and Secretary |

8 **thematic** divisions

Species
Assessment, inventory, action plan, Red List, invasive species, etc.

Areas
Natura 2000, ZNIEFF, protected areas base, wet areas, geology, etc.

Information system
Applications, database, GIS, logistics, web, etc.

Knowledge
Habitat cartography, CarNET B, INPN/SINP, etc.

Conservation
Natura 2000 assessment, TVB, etc.

Marine
Methodologies, habitat assessments, IFRECOR (French Coral Reef Initiative), etc.

TAXREF
Taxonomic register, knowledge bases

CITES
Scientific authorities CITES

SOME **KEY DATES**

1979 First chair of ecology at the Museum and creation of the Fauna and Flora Secretary (SFF) that has now become the Natural Heritage Department.

1994 Nomination of the Museum as a National reference center for nature.

1995 Creation of the Natural Heritage Department (SPN) and the Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity Management (IEGB).

2002 The article L. 411-5 of the Environment Code gives the Museum the scientific responsibility for the Natural heritage inventory.

2002 Creation of the Ecology and Biodiversity Management Department. The SPN is then unified to the Inventory and Biodiversity Monitoring Unit.

2003 Launching of the National Inventory of Natural Heritage (INPN) program.

2005 Launching of the INPN Internet site.

2010 Transformation of the SPN into a common department in the Museum and unification of the Executive Director in charge of sustainable development, nature conservation and assessment with the Director in charge of the research, assessment and validation (DIREV).

2011 Creation of a Scientific Steering Committee.

2012 Creation of the INPN policy committee in order to fully combine ministries, network heads and national associations in the future evolution of the program.

2013 The INPN becomes the SINP national platform.

DEPARTMENT **ORGANIZATION**

The Natural Heritage Department
It is based on a team composed of about 75 people, naturalist experts, project managers, geomaticians and IT technicians who work in multidisciplinary teams combining assessment, research and development. The organization of the department in several thematic divisions enables an important reactivity and adaptation of work methods to challenges.
The missions are funded by the Ministry of Ecology, other ministries and public facilities as well as some private partnerships.
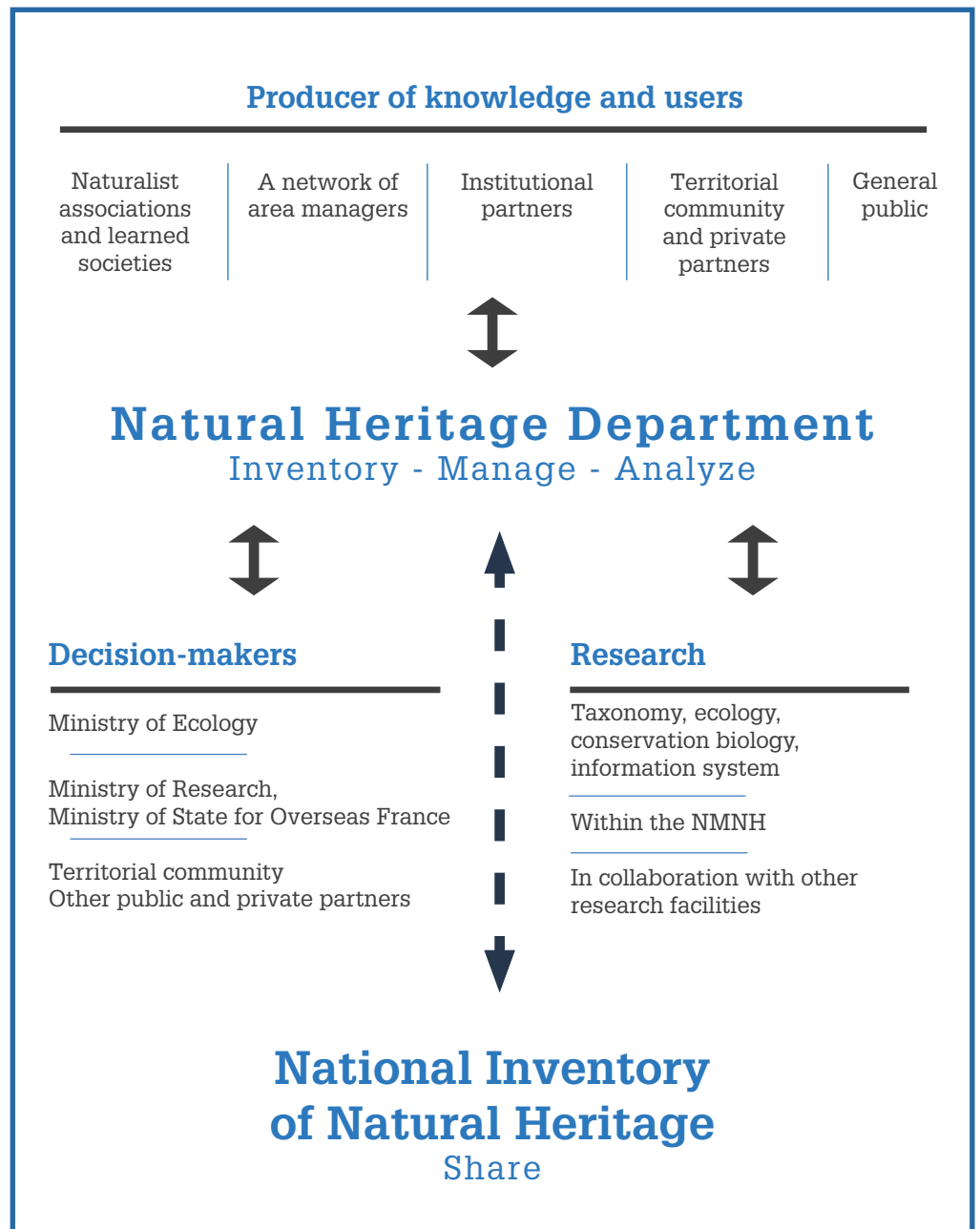
A Scientific Steering Committee
Combining facility researchers, it accompanies the SPN on a scientific level and favors a close cooperation with the research teams.

A **COLLECTIVE** CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE

The SPN works with all the biodiversity players and provides tools for the naturalist community.
It is positioned this way in order to search for concrete solutions to decision-makers' questions and acts as an intermediary between the research and naturalist world. Positioned to face national and international challenges, the SPN develops tools that it implements at the local and regional level.

Producer of knowledge and users

Naturalist associations and learned societies	A network of area managers	Institutional partners	Territorial community and private partners	General public

Natural Heritage Department
Inventory - Manage - Analyze

Decision-makers

Ministry of Ecology

Ministry of Research,
Ministry of State for Overseas France

Territorial community
Other public and private partners

Research

Taxonomy, ecology, conservation biology, information system

Within the NMNH

In collaboration with other research facilities

National Inventory of Natural Heritage
Share

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