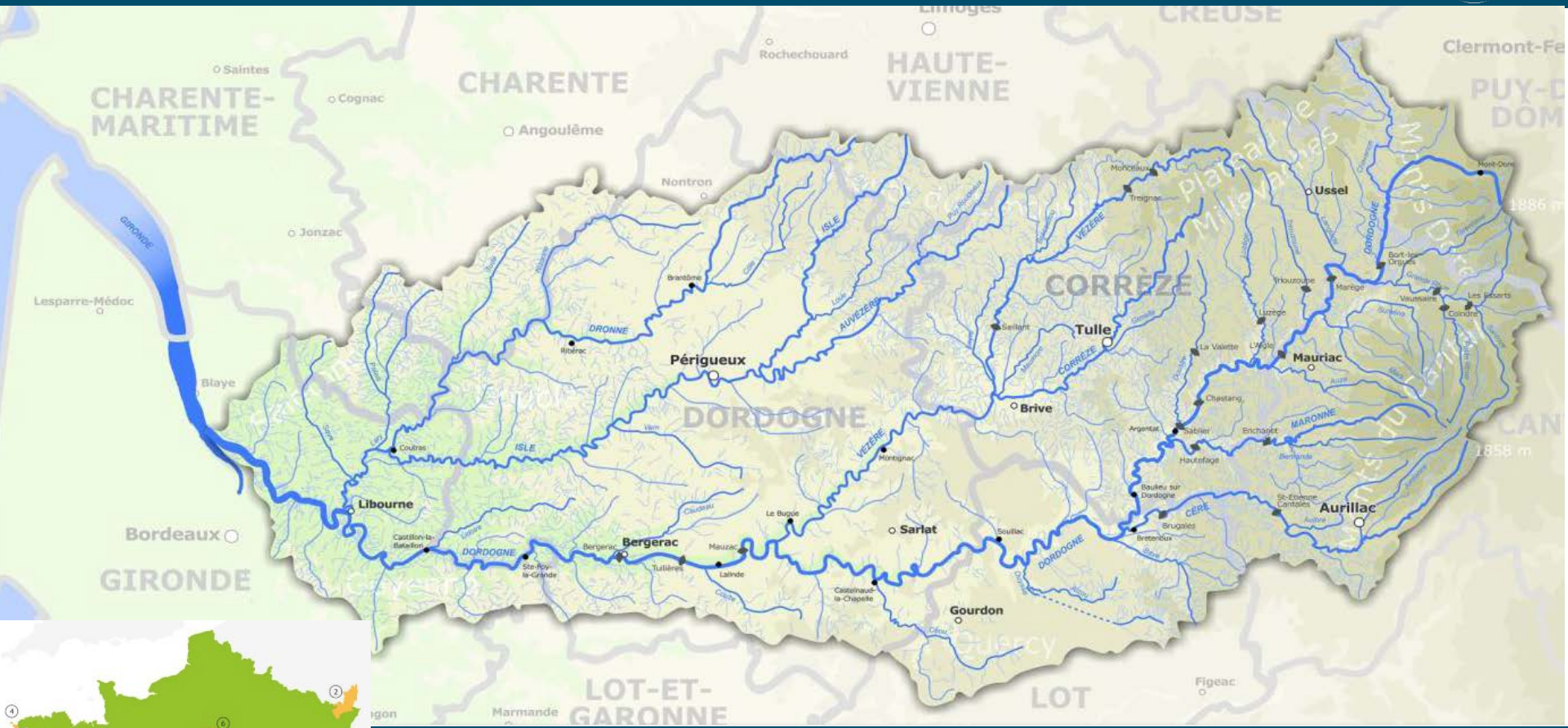
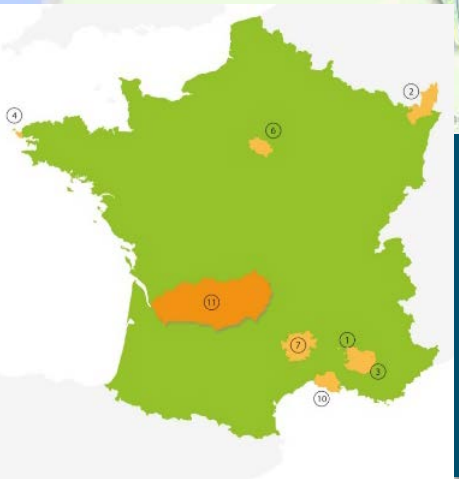
WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES
euromab 2017
building a sustainable future together

EuroMAB 2017 - Workshop
Building a “continental freshwater ecosystem” MAB network
5 April 2017

Dordogne Basin – Main features





25 000 km² , 150 main rivers (>15 km)

1 100 000 inhabitants

1 500 Municipalities, 3 Administrative Regions, 11 Departments

Dordogne Basin – Main features

- Mountains with peatlands
- Karst
- Marine influence (estuary)
- 4 main valleys
  (Dordogne, Vézère, Isle, Dronne)

Dordogne Basin – Main features

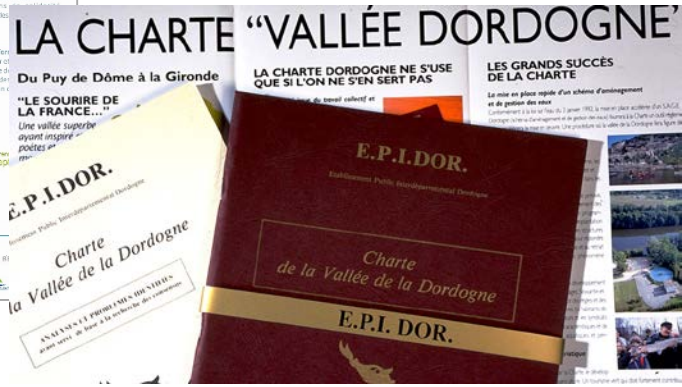
- Low population density
- Few industries
- Hydropower (2nd in France)
- Agriculture
- Tourism

Dordogne Basin – EPIDOR

EPIDOR is an association of regional governments

It was created in 1991
to reconcile different water uses
with available resources and
with conservation of the aquatic environment.

Water uses in the Dordogne basin :
- Drinking water
- Irrigation for agriculture
- Fishing
- Swimming (rivers and lakes)
- Navigation
- Hydropower
- Fish farming
- Industry (forestry, agri-food, quarrying…)
- Aquatic leisure
- Water treatment plants



Dordogne Basin – Main problems encountered

Threats to water quality and diffuse pollution in particular :

- degradation of bathing waters
- eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems
- threats to drinking water and aquatic ecosystems by toxic substances (pesticides)

Loss of natural areas and weakening of biodiversity caused by land uses (agriculture, forestry, urbanisation) and activities affecting water resources (hydroelectricity, water treatment plants… (quality and quantity)

- disappearance of wetlands
- disappearance and exhaustion of fluvial environments and river habitats (oxbows, riverbanks, alluvial forests, riparian forests…
- threatened species (migratory fish, European mink…)

Aggravation caused by excessive exploitation of water resources and climate change.

Dordogne Basin – Strategies and solutions

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Dialogue and consultation
(Charte vallée Dordogne, Etats Généraux, SAGE)

Coordination and organisation
(Flood prevention plans, migratory fish plans)

Programs and contracts
(Enhancement of Hydropower management, public-private partnerships)

Operational works
(Public river management, ecological restoration projects)

Research
(Thesis on the evolution of fluvial morphology, studies on catfish populations, eel migrations, vegetal dynamics…)

Dordogne Basin – Main obstacles

Political:
Complexity of water management
Action of lobbies

Financial:
Complexity of financing solutions (many partners, system of calls for proposals…)
Insufficient resources to act autonomously

Weaknesses of contractual approaches:
Limited commitment of partners
Limited economic capacities

Complexity of Issues:
Issues are complex and interlaced, making it difficult to identify priorities.
Problems with balancing short-term and long-term issues/priorities

Institutional Limitations:
Biosphere Reserves lack institutional recognition and support