

ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE POUR LA PRÉVENTION DES CATASTROPHES NATURELLES (AFPCN)

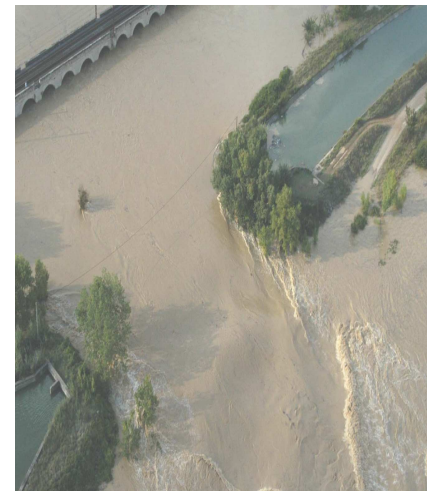
FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR THE REDUCTION OF NATURAL DISASTERS

Presentation

The **French association for the reduction of natural disasters** (AFPCN) was founded in 2001 as the successor to the French Committee for the International decade for natural disaster reduction (IDNDR).

It forms part of the French National platform as operator for the Ecology, the Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Use Planning ministry, and it has close ties with the Interior ministry and the Foreign Affairs ministry.

Set up as an association, it organises meetings and debates on the national, European and international levels between public authorities and members of civil society on the subject of prevention.



Vidourle plain during the floods of 2002.
Source: DDAF30

AFPCN ORGANISATION

The board of directors :

- is chaired by **Christian Kert**, MP and member of the Parliamentary office for the assessment of scientific and technical decisions, assisted by **Marie-France Beauflis**, member of the French Senate and Mayor of Saint Pierre des Corps.

- has established among its members the following executive committee :

Pierre Roussel, executive vice-president,

Laurent Pavard, Director operations

René Feunteun, treasurer,

Brigitte Mazière, former Inspector General in the Ministère de l'Équipement, **Paul-Henri Bourrelier**, former chief engineer École des Mines, **Philippe Boullé**, former director of the IDNDR (United Nations), **François Gérard**, Environment and Sustainable Development general council and **Roland Nussbaum**, Director of the natural risks mission of French insurance companies,

- is assisted a scientific council presided by **Paul-Henri Bourrelier**.

Fields of work and heads of programmes :

Scientific and technical programme, Paul-Henri Bourrelier

DRR Stakeholders programme, Brigitte Mazière

International and European programme, Philippe Boullé and Jean-Baptiste Migraine

Association members :

- 15 public or private organisations including Accor, Water agencies, BRGM, Cemagref, CCR, CSTB, EPA-MA, Ineris, IPGP, LCPC, MRN, ONF, Towns/Districts, etc .

- 120 private individuals (civil society, State and local-government employees, scientists, professionals, etc.).

Ministries providing support to AFPCN :

Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Overseas territories, Agriculture.

A . F . P . C . N .

C/O ENGREF

19 avenue du Maine

75732 Paris cedex 15

Tel : +33 (0)1 45 49 88 36

Fax : +33 (0)1 45 49 88 27

afpcn@engref.fr

www.afpcn.org

AFPCN ACTIVITIES

Activities are carried out by several working groups covering the three programmes which comprise the major issues addressed by the Association.

1. Scientific and technical programme

The Scientific Council is composed of independent French and foreign experts in several disciplines of prevention and risk management, balancing hard and soft science.

Its main objectives are :

- Acquire available up-to-date knowledge and be apprised of current research.
- Set up cooperation arrangements with national or regional French scientific and technical institutions, in particular with partner institutions.
- Organise contacts with experts, civil society and government, notably via conferences and seminars.
- Contribute to positioning AFPCN on the international scene, in particular by active participation in exchanges among national platforms for DRR. Provide support for cooperation action.
- Support other AFPCN activities and projects and issue comments or recommendations.

The Scientific Council is in charge of the scientific and technical programme of AFPCN and coordinates the activities of three following working groups :

Adaptation to climate change	Floods	Risk economics
History and Memory	Early warning and alert monitoring	Feedback and lessons learned

2. DRR Stakeholders programme

The main objectives of the programme are .

- To contribute to the strengthening of links between prevention, landuse and sustainable development policies in France:
 - To acquire knowledge of the different modes of occupation, utilisation and transformation of space at various levels;
 - To mobilize stakeholders with different viewpoints;
- To facilitate exchanges among different actors, at local and national level, on different aspects of prevention as seen within the context of overall land use planning.



This programme draws, in liaison with the Scientific Council, on the support of a permanent group of professionals (urban planners, landscapers, territorial economy experts, jurists, sociologists, geographers, researchers etc) in activities such as :

Associations	Mediation	Links between prevention and civil protection
Education and advocacy	French Antilles	
Training	Research valorization	Vulnerability of lifelines

3. International programme

As an integral part of the French platform for the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction (ISDR), AFPCN pays particular attention to the international aspects of disaster prevention. It works in close collaboration with the French ministries concerned.

AFPCN, together with the German platform (DKKV) and Swiss platform (PLANAT) have established in march 2007 a Network of National Platforms and focal points in Europe for Disaster Risk Reduction. (see page 3-4). This Network is open to all DRR national platforms and focal points UN-ISDR in Europe. Czech Republic and Poland joined the network, chaired by France from July 2009 to June 2011.

Consequently, AFPCN participates in the definition of the French, European and International policies for DRR with three main goals.



Conference in Divonne les Bains in France in December 2007 on :
 “ Prevention and Emergency Response : Two separate worlds in Europe?”

- Develop international contacts to better project French action in the field of prevention and obtain a better understanding of the activities of other countries;
- Cooperate closely with national and regional institutions in Europe to develop shared and collaborative approaches and action for disaster reduction, including common approaches vis a vis the EU Commission;
- Launch thematic exercises on bilateral or regional topics by organising conferences or symposiums in close collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Council. As an illustration, the conference organised in association with the DKKV and PLANAT in Divonne les Bains in France in December 2007 on : “ Prevention and Emergency Response : Two separate worlds in Europe?” and the conference organised with the Ministry of Ecology in november 2008: RisqUE2008 in the context of the UE’s French presidency .

Several publications are available with an English translation, such as the 2006 and 2007 Records publications
However, the text below remains in French as a large number of publications are printed in that language only.

Livre Blanc : s'informer pour réduire les risques naturels, premier trimestre 2005.

Cet ouvrage est le premier, paru en 2005, dans la collection des publications de l'association, au terme d'une démarche interactive de 3 années, orchestrée par l'AFPCN et son association partenaire sur le sujet : l'Association Française pour l'Information géographique (AFIGÉO).

L'originalité de cette démarche est qu'elle a su mobiliser aussi bien des acteurs et organisations représentatives de composantes de la société civile, que des élus et leurs collaborateurs, des administrations nationale, territoriales et locales, qui ont pu en valider les conclusions d'étape.

Avec le « Livre Blanc », l'AFPCN plaide pour l'intérêt collectif qu'il y a de faire avancer, en parallèle, les 16 propositions formulées, en faveur de l'utilisation de l'information géographique pour la prévention et la réduction de la vulnérabilité aux catastrophes naturelles.

Histoire, mémoire et prévention des catastrophes naturelles, novembre 2006.

Cet ouvrage contient les actes des journées « histoire et mémoire » qui se sont déroulées en Ardèche en 2003, en Ariège et dans les Hautes Alpes en 2004. Ces Journées « Ardèche », « Ariège » et « Hautes Alpes » ont permis de croiser les savoirs « scientifiques », des savoirs « professionnels », et des « histoires locales » dans une atmosphère particulièrement constructive. Les éléments rassemblés dans ce volume adoptent des formes diverses selon la nature des matériaux recueillis : documents sonores ou visuels, exposés classiques, ou évocations ; il ne s'agit donc pas d'un compte rendu scientifique, mais la matière en est suffisamment riche pour aider à la prise de conscience de la diversité des positionnements face aux phénomènes exceptionnels.

Annales 2006 : Actes et comptes rendus des manifestations de l'AFPCN, juillet 2008.

Dans les « Annales 2006 », l'AFPCN a rassemblé les actes, comptes rendus et présentations des manifestations qu'elle a organisées tout au long de l'année 2006.

- Les actes de la conférence « Le cyclone Katrina : Quelles leçons pour l'Europe ? » organisée à Paris le 23 février 2006.
- Le compte rendu de la journée d'information et d'échanges avec les associations sur « l'actualité de la politique de prévention des risques » qui s'est tenue à Paris le 15 juin 2006.
- Les présentations et résumés des interventions du séminaire « 1856 : Hier comme aujourd'hui ou demain » sur les crues extrêmes qui ont balayé la France au 19^{ème} siècle, organisé à Paris le 19 octobre 2006.
- Le compte rendu de la réunion d'information et d'échanges sur le thème des « Réserves Communales » créées par la loi de Modernisation de la Sécurité Civile de 2004, qui s'est tenue à Paris le 22 novembre 2006.
- Le compte rendu du séminaire européen qui a permis la création d'un réseau européen de plateformes nationales pour la prévention des catastrophes, qui s'est déroulé à Paris les 7 et 8 décembre 2006.

Adaptation au changement climatique : les risques naturels, juillet 2008.

Que penser du changement climatique, de ses impacts, des risques qui en résultent, des motivations et des méthodes pour s'y adapter ? Au cours de la journée du 6 février 2008, les experts de neuf disciplines en ont débattu et ont envisagé successivement : la validité des modèles climatiques, la pertinence des outils de gestion des risques, les effets hydrologiques de bassin, la dynamique du littoral, la santé, les menaces sur les écosystèmes et les forêts, les leviers économiques, les perceptions sociologiques, les enseignements de l'histoire et de la philosophie.

Annales 2007 : Actes et comptes rendus des manifestations de l'AFPCN, juillet 2009.

Les « Annales 2007 » vous feront découvrir les actes, comptes rendus et présentations des manifestations que l'AFPCN a organisées tout au long de l'année 2007.

- Le 6 mars 2007 : Séminaire sur l'application de l'analyse coûts-bénéfices aux risques naturels, avec les points de vue de partenaires européens.
- Le 20 mars 2007 : Réunion de synthèse des travaux du groupe de travail « Retour d'Expérience ».
- Les 14 et 15 novembre 2007 : Journées « Prévision, vigilance et alerte ».
- Les 5 et 6 décembre 2007 : Séminaire européen « Prévention et secours : deux mondes séparés en Europe ? » organisé avec nos partenaires allemands (DKKV) et suisses (PLANAT).

TEXT OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF NATIONAL PLATFORMS IN EUROPE

“A NETWORK OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL PLATFORMS AND FOCAL POINTS FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION “

The need for a regional network

The increasing number and intensity of disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards calls for additional structures and instruments on disaster risk reduction. Regional networks and platforms have been considered of critical importance to ensure regional coordination and exchanges.

Europe is a hazard prone region as well as comprising a number of major international actors in disaster risk reduction (DRR), in humanitarian assistance and development aid. The European Commission and the Council of Europe are strong political regional structures, which could become major partners and decision-making structures for the implementation of DRR as part of development frameworks and strategies.

Regional activities and good practises in DRR are evident through e.g. the activities of European Commission's Solidarity Fund, the Flood Management Directive and the DIPECHO Programme. In accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), there is increasing integration of DRR into sustainable development programmes and tangible efforts of the Council of Europe through the EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement activities and specialized centres.

The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and more recently the HFA have established at the international level a global approach to DRR in its political, scientific and socio economic dimensions.

National platforms and focal points, as a nationally based backbone of the UN strategy for Disaster Reduction, provide the ideal structure to establish in Europe a regional network which would permit closer cooperation between countries as well as closer interaction with the ISDR movement.

A meeting held in Paris in December 2006, following previous German initiatives with the same objectives, has shown that there was a convergence of views among the participants to the meeting on the urgent need to proceed to initiate a European Network for DRR.

Common Goals

- To facilitate and improve the exchange of information on good practices, the experiences and public policies of each of the members by establishing a more structured approach to issues and problems.
- To support the integration of DRR into all aspects of policy, decision making, private sector and civil society of the national, regional and international level of European countries with the aim to reduce the vulnerability of the society.
- To become a partner to the European Union, the Council of Europe and other relevant international organisations in all aspects related to DRR.
- To provide consolidated, substantive input to the Global Platform starting in June 2007.

Specific objectives

- To facilitate within Europe the contacts and relationship building between national platforms, focal points and experts by e.g. organizing periodical theme based meetings (to be defined case by case), identifying important upcoming topics, developments and political processes of DRR on the regional and international level.
- To formulate substantive proposals after discussions among members, to be submitted to the bodies or authorities of the European Union (EU), Council of Europe (CoE) a.o.
- To represent civil society vis a vis the EU, CoE.
- To provide a European Network for support of DRR efforts in developing countries and countries in transition.
- To support the development of additional National Platforms in Europe and in developing countries for example by twinnings.

Work Plan

Initial elements of the first phase of the network will be among others to:

- Develop a system of information exchange and channelling among the members of the network.
- Establish a system of information flow between UNISDR and the members of the network.
- Prepare a coherent presentation of European National Platforms as an input to the Global Platform meeting.
- To initiate a structured approach to European institutions with regard to DRR matters with the aim to identify synergies for harmonization of DRR efforts across the European countries.
- Build on existing information on European national platforms as part of the UN/ISDR Strengthening the Network of European National Platforms initiative collected by DKKV.
- Examine the possibility of establishing a two to three year programme of seminars to be hosted by one or several of the network's members in the field of technical and scientific issues of importance to European countries, such as Early Warning or adaptation to climate change.

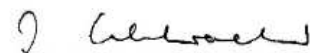
Structure and Organisation

- The network is open to all European National Platforms and Focal points.
- Meetings of the network will be open to interested parties on invitation.
- UNISDR will be the key partner to the network.
- On a voluntary rotating system one of the members will chair the network for a period of 2 years.
- The chair will coordinate the implementation of the work plan and organise and host the annual meeting of the network members.
- Members of the network will be encouraged to provide additional resources to the chair of the network for the execution of the tasks.
- The network will meet once a year to discuss substantive issues of DRR and the upcoming work plans.
- The working language of the network will be English.

Basel, 23.04.2007



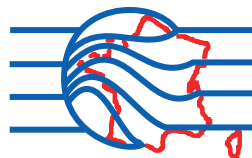
Yves Lebars
Vice President AFPCN



Irmgard Schwaetzer
Chair Person DKKV



Marco Ferrari
Head of Working group International PLANAT
Swiss agency for development and cooperation SDC



Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge e.V.
German Committee for Disaster Reduction
within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)



Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren
Plate-forme nationale «Dangers naturels»
Piazzafurma nazionale «Pericoli naturali»
National Platform for Natural Hazards