

Association “Initiatives for the Future of Great Rivers”

Annual report

for 2018

INTERNAL FUNCTIONING of the Association and relations with THIRD PARTIES

Internal functioning:

In 2018, the Association “Initiatives for the Future of Great Rivers” held three Management Board meetings; 2 Ordinary General Assemblies and 1 Extraordinary General Assembly:

- **Management Board meeting of 4 June 2018:** the adoption of the annual report and the financial report for 2017 and the presentation of the accounts closed on 31/12/2017
- **Ordinary General Assembly of 12 June 2018:** approbation of annual report, the financial report for 2017 and the accounts closed on 31/12/2017; acknowledgement of the auditor’s report.
- **Management Board meeting of 25 September 2018,** bearing on the **nomination of two new active members:** Thierry Guimbaud, Managing Director of VNF and Anne-Claire Vial, Chairwoman of Institut du Végétal – Arvalis who joined the Rivers Committee; the adoption of the draft of the Association’s articles of association, the internal rules, the charter of commitment and the scale of subscriptions.

In particular the **modifications of the articles of association** allowed clarifying the categories of members within the Association; henceforth there are three categories: founder members; active members; sponsor members. Regarding the active members, a distinction is made between physical persons and legal persons. The experts gathered in the Rivers Committee are chosen from among the active members of the Association.

The **internal rules** adopted specify and complete the provisions of the articles of association of the Association. A **charter of commitment** was also approved by the Management Board, which recalled the respective obligations and rights of each member.

A **scale of subscriptions** was voted for 2019, established as follows: the Founder Members, the Sponsor Members and the physical persons who are Active Members shall pay a subscription of one hundred euros (€100 €); the legal persons who are Active Members shall pay a subscription of five hundred euros (€500) for 2019.

- **The Ordinary General Assembly of 19 October 2018:** the presentation and acknowledgement of the **Association's strategy formulated for 2018-2020** and the **action plan for 2018/2019**; the presentation and acknowledgement of the categories of members, the scales of subscription for 2019, the internal rules and the charter of commitment.
- **The Extraordinary General Assembly of 19 October 2018:** presentation and approbation of the Association's new articles of association; acknowledgement of the end of Mr Bertrand Porquet's term of office as General Secretary of the Association and as the representative of CNR.
- **Management Board meeting of 10 December 2018,** bearing on, in particular, the appointment of a **new General Secretary of the Association, Aziz Ouaabi**, appointed by Elisabeth Ayrault, Chairwoman and CEO of CNR, as the representative of CNR, founder member.

Relations with third parties:

A **competence sponsorship convention** was signed **between the Association and its founding partner, CNR**, on 23 March 2018. It came into force retroactively on 1 July 2017 for a period of 3 years, thus until 31 December 2019. It provides for the services that CNR proposes for the benefit of the Association.

A **partnership convention** was signed on 29 May 2018 **between the Association and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation**, for a period of one year. The Foundation undertook to give its financial support to the Association. Actions in return for the Foundation's support, including communication and joint actions, are listed in the appendices of the Convention.

Moreover, the Association has laid the foundations of its **sponsorship research strategy** by establishing levels of partnership and actions in return for funds, and by publishing a leaflet for prospection.

Lastly, during the first six months of 2018, **IFGR joined the Partenariat Français pour l'Eau**, the reference platform for French actors in public and private water supply, active internationally.

ACTIONS IN THE GENERAL INTEREST
organised directly by the Association

Sessions / Events:

In 2018, IFGR organised:

- Its **6th international session**, gathering the members of the Rivers Committee in **Dakar and Saint-Louis (Senegal)**, in partnership with the Senegal River Development Organisation (OMVS), a member of the Association. This session, organised from 9 to 13 April, was devoted to navigation: “***Making the River Senegal navigable as an instrument for economic development and integration***”. Several recommendations were made and an operational work group was set up to continue assistance given to OMVS for this project.
- The **7th session** was held at **Toulouse and Bordeaux (France)** from 15 to 19 October, hosted by the Prefecture d’Occitanie and Bordeaux Métropole, and organised in partnership with the Agence de l’eau Adour-Garonne and the Communauté d’Aménagement des Coteaux de Gascogne (CACG). The theme of the works was: “***The resilience of territories to climate change: the example of the Adour-Garonne basin***”. This session was awarded the label “Water Conference” by the French Ministry of Ecological and Social Transition, in the framework of the second section bearing the title: “climate change and water resources: how will the territories, ecosystems and all the actors adapt?”.
- **A day of dialogue on agriculture with CNR**, on 10 December 2018, brought together members of IFGR, professionals, CNR’s Strategy Committee and employees to exchange views on the major challenges facing agriculture due to climate change, the rarefaction of water resources and the growth of the world’s population, and to define the major lines of action possible for CNR in view to aiding the transition of agriculture in the Rhone Valley.

Study trips:

IFGR travelled twice in 2018 to meet the actors of other rivers not represented in its Committee:

- **The Elbe (Germany)** from 11 to 14 February 2018, with the support of the French Embassy in Berlin and the French Consulate of Hamburg: visit to the Port of Hamburg and to HafenCity; visit to Kiel Canal and the GEOMAR research centre; interview with the Ambassador of France in Berlin; conference at the French Institute of Hamburg.
- **The Seine (France)** from 28 to 29 May 2018: visit to the Haropa ports of Le Havre and Rouen; visit to the wastewater treatment plant Seine-Centre of SIAAP and the Cité de l’Eau et de l’Assainissement; meeting with VNF and Seine Grands Lacs.

Communication:

Considerable work was done in 2018 to strengthen the Association’s external communication:

- Distribution of a **newsletter** every 2 months in French and English.
- Updating of the content of the **internet site** and the addition of the heading “Let’s speak river”
- **Social networks**: a page on Linked-in, in addition to Twitter, and a You Tube channel were launched.
- Updating of **IFGR’s presentation brochure** in French and English.
- Production of **three bilingual booklets “report and plea”** for sessions 4,5 and 6.

ACTIONS IN THE GENERAL INTEREST
organized with the Association's partners

Publishing / Communication

IFGR collaborated in a video for the **general public** produced by the Partenariat français pour l'Eau (PFE) and shown at the COP24 in December 2018: ***A world at +4°C: what impact on water resources?***

The Association provided financial support to the publication of the **book *Eaux fortes – L'imaginaire du fleuve*** published by Editions Libel with a preface written by Erik Orsenna and a page presenting IFGR.

Conferences

IFGR participated in two major international conferences on the calendar of actors in water and the climate:

- **The 8th World Water Forum**, organised by the World Water Council and hosted at Brasilia (Brazil) from 18 to 23 March: IFGR side-event on the SUEZ stand, with the presence of two members of the Association; participation in the side-event organized by ITAIPU Binational, a member of IFGR, on the development of a navigable channel on the River Parana.
- **The COP24, Conference of the Parties on the Climate**, organized by the United Nations and held at Katowice (Poland) from 2 to 14 December: participation of IFGR in a side-event of the French Pavilion organized by the PFE to present the issue of deltas confronted by climate change.

Event for the general public

For the third year running, IFGR supported the **travel film and book festival *Quais du Départ***, organized in Lyon at the initiative of François Chazelle, founder of the bookshop Raconte-moi la Terre. It participated in three conferences to present its activities to a wider audience.

OTHER ACTIONS

In view to intensifying its presence in international coalitions dedicated to water and make the voice of rivers heard in debates on water and the climate, IFGR also participated in:

- **The General Assembly of the World Water Council**, of which it is a member, at Marseille, on Friday 30 November 2018;
- **Three work groups of the PFE**: levers to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Objectives (PFE and CNRS); water and climate change; objectives and sustainable development.

In addition, IFGR met several persons at the French Development Agency (AFD) to consider collaborations.

FUNDS RECEIVED

The second call for funds was paid for 2018 by CNR, in conformity with the provisions set out in the financial sponsorship convention established in 2017 intended to finance the association's activities in the general interest. The payment was made in one instalment on 7 February 2018.

Following the signature of the partnership convention, IFGR issued a call for funds on 5 June 2018 from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The payment was made in one instalment on 31 July 2018.

This activity report was approved by deliberation of the General Assembly of 15, April 2019.

Date:

Signature of the Chairman