

## Annex II

### Template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health

#### Executive summary

*Please provide an overall evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Protocol in your country during the reporting period. Please provide a short description of the main steps taken and highlight important achievements, key challenges, success factors and concrete good practice examples.*

*Suggested length: maximum 2 pages*

Since 2004, every five years, France has drafted a National Environment and Health Plan. These successive plans are part of the public health code and have made it possible to achieve notable progress in reducing the environmental impact on health, better awareness of environmental health at every level of national territory and the development of structured research programmes. The third National Environment and Health Plan (PNSE3) for the 2015-2019 period included important steps in drinking water and sanitation. This allowed us to highlight challenges related to managing water health security as promoted by the World Health Organization, protection for drinking water catchments and preventing pollution of water resources via programmes of action on micropollutants in the water, the national plan of action on non-collective sanitation, reusing treated sewage, preventing legionella and equitable access to water in their different geographical, population, price and social dimensions. The activities included in PNSE3 have been implemented and continued beyond 2019, given their important scope and axes of progress. As a continuation of PNSE3, the new Environment and Health Plan, entitled "One Environment, One Health" (PNSE4) was launched in May 2021.

Adopting Directive 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption into French law will make it possible to strengthen the health security of water intended for human consumption and improve access to drinking water for the population as a whole.

Sectoral plans make up the work of the Ministries of Health and the Environment in areas presenting a challenge in France, such as the National Plan of Action on Non-Collective Sanitation 2014-2021 (PANANC2) or the Government Plan for Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation Services in Overseas Territories 2016-2021 (PEDOM).

Several drinking water quality or water mass quality indicators have been collected through cooperation under the aegis of the National Council for Statistics Information (CNIS) in order to monitor France's progress in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Finally, areas related to water are managed within a well-established governance framework, and national cooperation under the Water Conferences (*Assises de l'Eau*) (2018-2019) highlight the will to bring together public or private stakeholders in the water sector and civil society to discuss important topics related to public water and sanitation services and water resources.

Several drinking water or water body quality indicators were collected following cooperation under the aegis of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) in order to monitor France's progress in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 United Nations Agenda.

#### Part one

##### General aspects

1. Were targets and target dates established in your country in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol?

*Please provide detailed information on the target areas in part two.*

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

*If targets have been revised, please indicate the date of adoption and list the revised target areas. Please provide detailed information in part two.*

2. Were targets and target dates published and, if so, how?

*Please explain whether the targets and target dates were published, made available to the public (e.g., online, official publication, media) and communicated to the secretariat.*

The Joint Protocol secretariat was informed via a letter from the General Director of Health (Ministry of Solidarity and Health) and the Director of Water and Biodiversity (Ministry of the Ecological Transition) on 24 August 2019 of a list of national objectives published since 2013 in the main plans and programmes:

- national health strategy
- instruction from the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Solidarity and Health dated 17 June 2014 on drafting multi-year objectives and means contracts between the government and regional health agencies
- working program from the National Agency for Health Security of the Environment, Food and Labour
- working program from the National Agency for Public Health
- 2016-2026 government plan for the sustainable management of water and sanitation services in Overseas Territories
- National Environment and Health Plan 2015-2019
- national plan of action for non-collective sanitation 2014-2019
- state interministerial territorial programme.

This document summarizes the main objectives of the “water and health” field implemented by various ministries (Ministry of the Ecological Transition, Ministry of Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Overseas Territories) or health agencies.

The National Environment and Health Plan 2015-2019 (PNSE3) was the subject of a press release from the ministries responsible for ecology and health following its presentation at the Council of Ministers on 12 November 2014. The PNSE3 is published online on the following websites:

- Ministry of Health: <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/plan-nationalsante-environnement-pnse-3-2015-2019.html>
- Ministry of Ecology: <http://www.developpementdurable.gouv.fr/Plan-national-sante-environnement,41393.html>

The PNSE3 was adopted at the local level via government instruction dated 27 October 2015 on drafting regional environment health plans.

The new National Environment and Health Plan entitled “One Environment, One Health” (PNSE4) was launched in May 2021 as a continuation of PNSE3. It was the subject of a joint press release from the Ministries of Ecology and Health published on 7 May 2021. The PNSE4 is available online on the websites for both ministries:

(<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/sante-et-environnement/les-plans-nationaux-sante-environnement/article/plan-national-sante-environnement-4-pnse-4-un-environnement-une-sante-2021-2025>;  
<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/environnement-sante-decouvrez-4e-plan-national-sante-environnement>).

3. Has your country established national or local arrangements for coordination between competent authorities for setting targets? If so please describe, including information on which public authority(ies) took the leadership and coordinating role, which public authorities were involved and how coordination was ensured.

The objectives of the National Environment and Health Plans (PNSE) are set by the ministries directly involved (Ministries of Ecology, Health, Research and Labour). The other ministries (Ministries of Agriculture and Industry) are also involved in drafting the plan.

Coordination and management roles are jointly carried out by the Ministries of Ecology and Health. The ministries rely on objective implementation assessment reports from the prior PNSE, conclusions from exchange meetings with local services responsible for regional environment health plans, specific working groups' work, etc. in order to identify the PNSE objectives.

The PNSE is also subject to a public consultation.

National cooperation on water policy is also based on the National Water Committee (CNE). This body is under the Ministry of the Environment and was created in 1964 via the Law on the Regime and Distribution of Waters and Protection against Pollution, in order to examine issues shared by river basins. The role of the CNE was expanded and strengthened by the Law on Water and Aquatic Environments of 30 December 2006.

The CNE was also consulted on the geographical circumstances of basins and groups of basins for national and regional development and water distribution projects, as well as on drafting legislation or regulation on water, strategic guidelines from the French Office on Biodiversity (OFB) and the price of water billed to users and public water and sanitation services.

The CNE is comprised of representatives of the government and public establishments, member of Parliament, members of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, chairs of basin committees and water and biodiversity committees, representatives of territorial collectives including associations of elected officials, representatives of users, chairs of local water commissions and qualified persons.

4. Was a programme of measures or action plan developed to support implementation of the targets? If so, please briefly describe that programme or plan, including how financial implications were taken into account.

Several plans of action were implemented as part of sectoral policies. One example includes the 2016-2026 government plan for sustainable management of water and sanitation services in French Overseas Territories, which was signed in May 2016 by the Ministers of the Environment, Health, and Overseas Territories, with the aim of strengthening public water and sanitation services by establishing progress contracts between the government and local territorial authorities. A pilot committee meets twice per year, and a technical committee meets once per month and brings together ministries as well as government operators which ensure financing for operations.

5. What has been done in your country to ensure public participation in the process of target setting in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, and how was the outcome of public participation taken into account in the final targets set?

The PNSE is the result of cooperation with all stakeholders under the framework of the Environment Health Group.

6. Please provide information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which public authorities had the main responsibilities and what other stakeholders were involved.

This report was drafted by the Ministry of Solidarity and Health General Directorate of Health, with assistance of the Ministry of the Ecological Transition's Directorate of Water and Biodiversity. Epidemiological data stems from information published by the National Agency for Public Health.

7. Please report any particular circumstances that are relevant for understanding the report, including whether there is a federal and/or decentralized decision-making structure.

When it comes to preventing and managing health risks related to water, **the Ministry of Solidarity and Health General Directorate of Health** is responsible for protecting the population's health via various water uses. As part of this endeavour, the General Directorate:

- drafts legislative and regulatory texts in the area of water health security;
- establishes methods for monitoring water health, piloted by the Regional Health Agencies (ARS);
- defines water quality requirements in line with European directives and based on national experts and independent authorities: the National Food, Environment and Labour Health Security Agency (ANSES); National Public Health Agency (ANSP), Nuclear Security Authority (ASN); High Council for Public Health (HCSP) and Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Security (IRSN);

- disseminates instructions to prefectures on risk management in order to ensure the population's health security in different water uses, as implemented by the REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY;
- sets conditions for hydrogeological approval in the area of public sanitation;
- examines some of the applications for approval from water analysis laboratories (radioactivity parameters) in line with ANSES and ASN;
- examines requests for individual authorization of materials in contact with water and the products and proceeds of water treatment in line with expert agencies;
- runs the project management of water environment health information systems (SISE-Eaux, Aqua-SISE, Cart-Eaux) and the use of data stemming from these systems on a national scale;
- drafts national reports and reviews on water quality for the European Commission;
- ensures negotiation on European directives and their adaptation into French law;
- contributes to monitoring the government plan for sustainable management of water and sanitation services in Overseas Territories;
- participates in international projects on the Water and Health Protocol (World Health Organization and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe);
- sits on the National Water Committee (CNE) and Advisory Committee on Price and Quality of Public Water and Sanitation Services (CCPQSPEA);
- finances prevention and communication activities, studies and analysis campaigns by establishing partnerships with public bodies: ANSES, ANSP, Scientific and Technical Water and Environment Association (ASTEE), Scientific and Technical Building Centre (CSTB), etc.;
- participates in national and international standardization campaigns in the area of water, notably in concert with the French Association for Standardization (AFNOR).

At the regional level, the main mission of the 18 **regional health agencies** in the area of water policy includes:

- Examining requests for authorizations, including:
  - authorization for water use intended for human consumption;
  - temporary authorization for water use intended for human consumption from new water resources in case of emergency following the imminent or effective interruption of water distribution (in the case of exceptional climate conditions or accidental pollution of water resources);
  - authorization of water treatment affiliates and treatment products, which must be in line with specific provisions identified by decree of the Ministry of Health under normal or foreseeable conditions of use.
- Implementation of health monitoring:
  - conducting a water sampling and analysis program at different points within water production and distribution facilities;
  - health expertise in analysis results;
  - inspection of water production and distribution facilities;
  - decision-making on administrative measures (authorizations, non-compliance management, etc.);
  - monitoring of surveillance carried out by persons responsible for water production and distribution (PRPDE);
  - information on water quality.

Within the **Ministry of the Environment**, the **Water and Biodiversity Directorate** has a mission to design, assess and implement policies on water, natural spaces, land and marine biodiversity and non-energy mineral resources with an aim of ensuring conservation and balanced use of these resources. The crux of this activity- the Directorate's purpose- consists of researching within this mission the pertinent regionalization and increased cross-cutting nature between various ecological quality components, the development of expertise for the purpose of decision-making, integrating environmental challenges as easily as possible within development or urban planning projects and reconciling daily usage and human use of these territories with the aim of environmental protection and recovering their biodiversity. It involves all of the basic tools of public policies: regulation (Environmental Code and European directives), leadership, cooperation, information, knowledge improvement, etc. Much of the policies pursued are based on public establishments under the aegis of the Directorate- water agencies, national parks, the Coastal Conservatory and the French Office for Biodiversity created on 1 January 2017 via the Law for the Recovery of Biodiversity, Nature and Landscapes of August 2016.

Within the Directorate for Water and Biodiversity, the Subdirectorate for the Protection and Management of Water, Mineral Resources and Aquatic Ecosystems is responsible for drafting and monitoring policies and technical documents related to protecting and managing continental freshwater resources, aquatic environments and non-energy mineral resources. It coordinates the implementation of the Framework Directive

on Water and runs planning and programming policies stemming from the Framework Directive on Water and its daughter directives, as well as directives on water quality. It participates in European and international negotiations on these policies. It ensures the monitoring of public water and sanitation services and the organization of data on the operations of these services and sanitation systems. It coordinates policies for protecting, restoring and the sustainable management of freshwater and wetland ecosystems. It addresses development with an impact on these environments, notably by drafting the policy on protection and restoration of watercourse ecological continuity. To this end, it includes the following policies:

- on the protection of continental surface water and groundwater;
- improving quantitative management of continental surface freshwater and groundwater;
- monitoring and assessing the ecological, chemical and quantitative state of water, notably in the implementation of the Framework Directive on Water;
- preventing and reducing water pollution of any origin, including diffuse or accidental origin, subject to the prerogative of the General Directorate for Risk Prevention involving classified facilities and monitoring chemical products, including agricultural pollution, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture;
- improving the performance of drinking water networks and collective, non-collective and rainwater sanitation systems.

In each department, the **Department Directorate of Territories** (DDT) implements public policies on preserving water resources and aquatic environments:

- water and aquatic environment policing, notably with regard to collective sanitation, the application of sewage sludge, the use of treated wastewater and rainwater discharge;
- implementation of the Framework Directive on Water and the Law on Water and Aquatic Environments;
- Quantitative Water Resource Management;
- Protection of water resources with regard to diffuse pollution (nitrates and phytosanitary).

**Public drinking water service and collective sanitation** is provided by municipalities or inter-municipal groups (such as inter-municipal syndicates or agglomerate communities), to which municipalities may elect to transfer all or some of their corresponding responsibilities and missions. Each municipality or inter-municipal group may choose a public or private operator to entrust with managing this service. As indicated in the Public Health Code and the General Code on Territorial Authorities, operators, mayors or syndicate chairs are first responsible for monitoring and maintaining water quality as well as consumer information.

In each region and department, water services are coordinated by prefectures, under the **Water and Nature Inter-Service Missions** (MISEN). Generally speaking, the MISEN brings together all government services and public establishments, ensuring their missions in the area of water and nature. It coordinates activities related to these services in order to improve the efficacy of administrative activities in various fields: water resources, aquatic environment quality, sanitation, drinking water, flooding risk management, planning documents, environmental protection and biodiversity... The MISEN aims to ensure coherent actions among its members with a general water and aquatic environment management policy in the region or department.



## Part two

### Targets and target dates set and assessment of progress

*For countries that have set or revised targets and target dates, please provide information specifically related to the progress towards achieving them. If you have not set targets in a certain area, please explain why.*

*For countries in the process of setting targets, please provide information on baseline conditions and/or targets considered under the relevant target areas.*

*Suggested length: one page (330 words) per target area.*

#### I. Quality of the drinking water supplied (art. 6, para. 2 (a))

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

The target is to respect provisions in national regulation adopting Council Directive 98/83/CE of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption and Council Directive 2013/51/Euratom of 22 October 2013 setting requirements for health protection of the population regarding radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption.

The National Environment and Health Plan PNSE3 (2015-2019) notably included:

- protect catchments used for drinking water supply from accidental and diffuse pollution;
- monitor emerging priority substances in catchments used for drinking water supply against accidental pollution and pollution;
- promote the implementation of health security plans for drinking water supply;
- draft a national plan of action on micropollutants in water.

The fourth National Environment and Health Plan, “One Environment, One Health”, launched in May 2021, contains an activity on legionella protection: “*Better understand and prevent cases of legionella- Understand the origins of rising cases of legionella detected and propose protection and prevention activities to professionals and the general public*”.

Finally, several national indicators make it possible to monitor the evolution of quality in water intended for human consumption:

- percentage of drinking water distribution units presenting excesses in microbiological quality limits (E. coli and enterococci);
- share of the population supplied with water that did not comply with pesticide parameters at least once over the course of the year;
- share of the population supplied with water that did not comply with nitrate parameters at least once over the course of the year.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

In its previous reports, France described the principles and provisions adopted at the legislative and regulatory levels with regard to drinking water health security and notably authorizations for the extraction and distribution of water intended for human consumption, drinking water health monitoring by regional health agencies and a water quality monitoring system run by authorities responsible for producing or distributing water.

In France, tap water is subject to constant health monitoring, aimed at ensuring health security. This monitoring includes:

- surveillance by persons responsible for water production or distribution (PRPDE): regular verification of measures taken to protect resources used, verification of facilities operation, analyses carried out at different points...;
- health monitoring carried out by REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES in total transparency and independent of the PRPDE.

Health monitoring carried out by REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES includes a water sampling and analyses programme carried out at various points within water production and distribution facilities. Sampling is taken by representatives of accredited laboratories pursuant to the Public Health Code (CSP) for the REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY or directly by the REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY, and then analysed by the accredited laboratories. The frequency of sampling and type of controls are determined by regulation and based on various parameters: resource vulnerability, quantities sampled, and the size of the population served by the production or distribution facility. The REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY may strengthen this monitoring in terms of parameters and frequency, based on the local context and water quality.

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- To this end, the CSP and its implementing decrees identify:
- the frequency of sampling and types of analyses to be carried out:
    - on the resource (at the catchment level) in order to evaluate the water quality prior to any treatment. The frequency of this monitoring will depend on the facilities' output (from once every five years to several times per month);
    - at the point of distribution (leaving the water treatment plant or on the distribution network) in order to ensure high quality water following treatment. The frequency of this monitoring depends on the average daily output or number of persons supplied (from once per year to several times per month);
    - on water taps normally used by consumers, in order to verify compliance with tap water quality standards and identify any degradation in water quality in the plumbing. The frequency of this monitoring varies based on the population supplied by the distribution network (from twice per year to several dozen times per month); note that the parameters analysed at points of distribution are not systematically monitored on water taps, as their concentration does not vary when water is transported to the tap.
  - the list of parameters to be researched. We thus distinguish between the parameters presenting a short-term health risk (for example, microbiological parameters) or long-term health risk (for example, pesticides) and "comfort" parameters (qualifying the organoleptic features of the water distributed to consumers via the tap) or "indicators" that may signal dysfunction within the production facilities.

In all, tap water health monitoring is based on analysis of some 50 parameters. This monitoring may be carried out over several hundred parameters when families of parameters are studied (notably pesticides) or when the REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY conducts additional monitoring.

The methods for managing any excesses with regard to specific parameters have been specified:

- Instruction DGS/EA4/2019/142 of 21 June 2019 on managing health risks in the case of chromium presence in water intended for human consumption;
- Instruction DGS/EA4/2020/177 of 18 December 2020 on managing health risks in case of pesticides and pesticide metabolites present in water intended for human consumption, with the exception of packaged water
- Instruction DGS/EA4/2020/67 of 29 April 2020 amending Instruction DGS/EA4/2012/366 of 18 October 2012 on vinyl chloride in water intended for human consumption.

The entry into force of the adaptation of Directive 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption into French law will lead to major changes in health monitoring of water intended for human consumption. This directive notably updates the provisions related to water quality monitoring and must be adopted by 12 January 2023, with various time frames for its entry into force. Thus, new parameters will be added to the health monitoring process as of 1 January 2026: bisphenol A, chlorates, chlorites, haloacetic acids, microcystin LR, sum of perfluorinated compounds and uranium.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

France has supported the implementation of water sanitation security management plans. This general strategy for prevention and planning promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2004 was included in the future provisions of the new directive 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, adopted in December 2020. A guide for water production and/or distribution stakeholders entitled, “*Initier, mettre en œuvre et faire vivre un PGSSE*” (“Initiating, Implementing, and Maintaining a PGSSE”) was published in March 2021. This guide proposes a pragmatic method and tools to help identify dangers, dangerous events, and risk mitigation measures in order to implement a PGSSE.

A national campaign measuring emerging parameters (pesticides, pesticide metabolites, explosives residues, 1,4 dioxane) in raw water used to produce drinking water and in water provided by a public distribution network was entrusted to the Laboratoire d’Hydrologie de Nancy de l’Anses by the General Directorate for Health in 2020. The final results will be available in late 2022/early 2023.

A national exploratory campaign on the quality of packaged water and measuring for several emerging substances (nearly 150 organic and mineral compounds as well as some unregulated microbiological parameters) was entrusted by the General Directorate for Health to the Laboratoire d’Hydrologie de Nancy de l’Anses. This campaign took place from 2013 to 2015 and concerned all French packaged water subject to sale during this period, as well as some foreign packaged water sold in France. The study report was published in late 2019 (<https://www.anses.fr/fr/system/files/LABORATOIRE2018SA0222Ra.pdf>).

Several different areas in the area of water were impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, and to a lesser extent in 2021: maintaining and organizing water sanitation monitoring during the lockdown period, closing thermal baths, pools, and other public establishments and then supporting them during reopening. The health crisis led to focusing on the following challenges and projects:

- Identifying Covid-19 risks linked to different types of water;
- Drafting and distributing national/international instructions related to water;
- Supporting REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES in implementing their missions in the area of water.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The national dashboard for monitoring the progress of the 17 SDGs includes an indicator (indicator 6.i1) on the populations served by water that is not in compliance due to microbiology parameters and the population served by water that is not in compliance for physical and chemical parameters.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **II. Reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease (art. 6, para. 2 (b))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

In 2020, 2,328 cases of legionella were reported in France by the mandatory reporting system (case reporting rate = 2.0/100,000 inhabitants). This figure is notably lower than that of 2019 (1,816 case; notification rate: 2.7/100,000 inhabitants).

Other incidents of diseases related to water have also been reported, notably cases of acute gastroenteritis stemming from episodic dysfunction of water production facilities (broken pipes, backflow, high levels of turbidity in raw water) or major flooding.

Epidemiological monitoring is provided by the National Agency for Public Health (ANSP).

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

France **strengthened detection of drinking water-related gastroenteritis cases** by developing a signal consultation tool and reporting the results of regional investigations. This tool has been deployed by Santé Publique France to all regional teams since 2019.

The method developed by Santé Publique France makes it possible to automatically detect clustered cases of medicalized gastroenteritis (GEAm = cases of gastroenteritis in which patients either consult a physician or obtain prescriptions for medication reimbursed by health insurance) located in a single water distribution unit, notably based on data from the national system for healthcare data stemming from health insurance (prescriptions content) and the SISE-EAUX database, which collects the results of sanitation monitoring analyses carried out by REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES on water intended for human consumption. For the first time, a detection method makes it possible to address the healthcare impact of infection risk in line with water for human consumption, and in situations in which the number of patients is fairly low on the scale of a geographical area. This change is significant in that outside of a widespread epidemic situation reported, it was hitherto difficult to detect and describe the real health impact as pertains to the microbiological quality of water in France. With regard to a national study on retrospective detection of clusters of GEAm carried out between 2010 and 2017 and prior studies, Santé Publique France estimates that the monitoring programme will make it possible to count between 300 and 550 clusters of GEAm nationally that can plausibly be linked to the water supply. With regard to the new method's ability to detect clusters of GEAm over the entire year and entire territory, this programme includes a water quality epidemiological monitoring system in addition to the existing regulatory programmes (sanitation controls, monitoring, inspections).

With regard to **legionella prevention**, a training has been included in the annual continuing education programme at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes de Santé Publique (School for Higher Studies in Public Health) (EHESP) for the first time in over 10 years.

France has also published several recommendations for risk management related to legionella and legionella prevention (High Council for Public Health, Legionella Risk, Research Guide and Management Support).

While drafting the PNSE4, France took the opportunity to carry out a legionella prevention activity (activity number 12). This activity was part of the continuation of PNSE2 and PNSE3 from the law of 9 August 2004 on the public health policy and government legionella prevention plan (June 2004).

Legionella is a disease mainly related to the microbiological quality of water from sanitary hot water distribution networks, and in 2020, 120 persons died following a legionella infection, and a total of 1,328 cases of legionella were reported. The majority of these cases are sporadic, isolated (non-grouped), and we cannot assume any specific source of exposure. It appears we must continue to understand legionella ecology and identify other sources of exposure and risk. The cold-water distribution network (cold water delivered to taps) seems to be one area to explore.

In order to do that, activity 12 of the PNSE4 aims to obtain scientific elements making it possible to better determine the impact of meteorological factors (integrating information from 2018 to 2021), while also having the elements necessary to understand the occurrence of sporadic legionella cases observed for several years.

As part of the PNSE4, a study will be conducted on legionella by the National Reference Centre (CNR), with support from Santé Publique France and the General Directorate for Health, with the main objective of being able to assess the share of the total number of legionella cases observed that can be attributed to the quality of water distributed to households via water distribution networks.

Household water distribution networks are not currently regulated. Nonetheless, it would be appropriate to have scientific information in order to draft recommendations and prevention campaigns for the general public and sanitary water network design, maintenance and repair professionals.

With regard to **water distribution network protection**, following several years of regulatory work, the decree of 10 September 2021 on the protection of water supply and distribution networks for human consumption against backflow water pollution was published, pursuant to Articles R. 1321-55, R. 1321-57 et R. 1321-61 of the public health code. This decree establishes regulations regarding the design, use, and maintenance of equipment, in order to ensure a separation between distribution networks for drinking water and other building water networks (technical water, rainwater, grey water...).

Between 2013 and 2016, ANSP-Santé Publique France conducted **targeted epidemiological monitoring of liver angiosarcoma cases** at the national level, in order to identify environmental and professional risk factors via early identification of angiosarcoma cases and collecting information on the professional and residential information for reported cases. Given the low number of cases reported, the scope of information from research on environmental exposure stemming from ingesting tap water is limited (see: *Étude de faisabilité du repérage des cas d'angiosarcome du foie en France et de l'évaluation des expositions environnementales au chlorure de vinyle monomère* Santé Publique France, 2017, [www.santepubliquefrance.fr](http://www.santepubliquefrance.fr)).

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

In terms of legionella prevention activities, the years 2020 and 2021 were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This was a unique context involving the lockdown and reopening of public establishments such as tourist lodging (hotels, hostels, campgrounds...). France supported the users and managers of these establishment with issues related to water during reopening and the resumption of normal activities in 2020 and in the spring of 2021.

Several ready-to-use technical data sheets were updated and disseminated:

- The “Reopening Public Establishments and Legionella Prevention” data sheet, with a sheet ready to be distributed to public establishments (May 2021);
- Ready-to-use data sheet to be disseminated for “collective water misting systems” (May 2021);
- Data sheet on “Methods for Reopening Thermal Baths” (May 2021).

National monitoring/inspection guidelines (ONIC) implemented by officers from regional health agencies, healthcare establishments (hospitals, social, and medical-social facilities) and tourist lodging establishments (hotels, hostels, campgrounds...) were renewed in 2021 and 2022.

Finally, efforts to adapt provisions from directive 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption into French law make it possible to ensure drinking water supply networks to the end consumer’s faucet.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The activities listed above will allow us to contribute to commitments 6.1 and 6.3.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

### **III. Access to drinking water (art. 6, para. 2 (c))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

France has committed to the sustainable development goal target 6.1: “by 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.”

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Beyond issues related to drinking water quality requirements, drinking water-related health challenges may also reveal issues related to inequitable access to water due to geographic, price, structural and social reasons, based on the populations and territories studied.

The National Health Strategy (SNS) published via decree on 20 December 2017 notes that in France, **access to water is a fundamental right**. Article L.210 of the Environmental Code stipulates that “*In the framework of laws and regulations, as well as previously-established rights, water use belongs to all, and every physical person has the right to access drinking water for his or her consumption and hygiene, in economic conditions that are acceptable to all.*”

The Ministry of Health published an information note to REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES on 16 December 2016 regarding **disseminating the drinking water and sanitation access equity assessment tool** developed under the Water and Health Protocol (WHO-Europe, CEE-NU), which aims to inform REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES when official Protocol documents are published and on their potential use in line with regional partners. The assessment tool was used in the Ile-de-France region (Paris metropolitan area).

Law number 2020-105 of 10 February 2020 on fighting waste and the circular economy states that all public establishments must include at least one **drinking fountain accessible to the public** beginning on 1 January 2022, as soon as it can be reasonably installed. The drinking fountain shall be connected to the drinking water network once the establishment is connected to such a network (Article L.541-15-10 III of the Environmental Code).

Additionally, restaurants and beverage establishments must inform customers, either on their menu or posted visibly, that they may request drinking water free of charge. These establishments must provide their customers with cool or room temperature drinking water (Article L541-15-10 III of the Environmental Code).

The 2006 Law on Water and Aquatic Environments introduced the principle according to which “*water usage belongs to all, and each physical person has the right to access to drinking water for his or her consumption and hygiene, in economic conditions that are acceptable to all*” into the Environmental Code. In order to ensure the implementation of this principle within the legal framework of action of territorial authorities, an experiment was launched in 2013. The “Brottes” Law allows 50 territorial authorities to use **social pricing schemes and other measures to promote water access**. The territorial authorities were therefore able to implement various forms of assistance, such as allowances or water checks, reimbursement for the price of water service or other measures to cover unpaid bills. They were also able to propose measures to support beneficiaries in terms of administrative procedures or raise awareness on saving water. The experiment concluded on 15 April 2021, eight years after it was launched, and demonstrated the importance of the principle of subsidiarity. Each participating territorial authority was in fact able to draft different measures based on their own features in order to ensure access to water for all, overcoming their own challenges.

Thus, Law number 2019-1461 of 27 December 2019 on participation in local life and the proximity of public activities opened up the **possibility of implementing social pricing schemes or any other measure promoting water access** (Article L2224-12-1-1 of the Environmental Code) to all territorial authorities in France: setting fees considering household size or income, assistance with paying water bills, assistance with water access, support and measures promoting water savings, setting fees based on the quantity of water consumed. In order to support territorial authorities wishing to implement measures promoting water access for all, services of the Ministry of the Ecological Transition developed a water social policy toolbox, based on experience and feedback from the “Brottes” experiment, as well as a series of exchanges with various stakeholders at the local level (territorial authorities, decentralized service, associations, etc.). The toolbox includes a series of data sheets, testimonies, and regularly updated external tools, with the aim of assisting territorial authorities with identifying measures adapted to their own needs and challenges and then implementing them with their partners.

The **government plan of action for sustainable management of drinking water and sanitation services in Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, La Reunion, Mayotte and Saint Martin (PEDOM)** was launched in 2016 for a 10-year period by the Ministry of the Ecological Transition, the Ministry of Overseas Territories and the Ministry of Solidarity and Health. This plan is subject to a Technical Committee, which has held monthly meetings with the Directorate for Water and Biodiversity, the General Directorate for Health, the General Directorate of Overseas Territories, the French Office for Biodiversity and the French Development Agency since 2017, with the aim of supporting territorial authorities in overseas territories in improving the quality of services providing users with access to drinking water, given that these territories are the most impacted in numbers by lack of access to drinking water.

The creation, development, maintenance and management of **encampment areas for Travelers** are the responsibility of public establishments for inter-communal cooperation and with their own tax status (metropolitan areas, urban communities, agglomerations, municipalities). In 2019, French regulation was amended as follows:

- Each permanent reception area has at least one accessible drinking water supply facility and a sewage collection system (decree number 2019-171 of 5 March 2019);
- Each permanent reception area includes at least one sanitary block (including at least one sink, one shower, and two toilet stalls) per site, each of which has easy access to drinking water, allowing individual consumption (decree number 2019-1478 of 26 December 2019).

Finally, equitable access to water and sanitation is one of the important pillars introduced in European Parliament and Council **directive 2020/2184** of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (article 17), which shall be adopted into French law prior to 12 January 2023. Under this framework, reflections are currently being carried out among ministerial services (General Directorate of Health, Directorate of Water and Biodiversity, General Directorate of Overseas Territories, General Directorate of Territorial Authorities, Interministerial Delegation on Housing and Access to Lodging) in order to widely adopt these provisions into French law.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

As part of the **government activities for sustainable management of drinking water and sanitation services in Overseas Territories**, several water and sanitation service providers have engaged in progress contracts in Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana and La Reunion. Since 2021, a specific offer to Overseas Territories territorial authorities facing drinking water distribution challenges was implemented in order to assist them with implementing risk prevention management with regard to their drinking water supply system. Nonetheless, some Overseas Territories continue to face immense challenges with drinking water distribution (building water towers for public water distribution, heightened rates of leakage, draughts). In 2021, 50 million euros were invested in an Overseas Territories recovery plan, permitting the development of a linear 48.27 km drinking water network (source: Ministry of the Ecological Transition).

Beyond amendments to French regulations, several initiatives in improving access to water and sanitation should also be highlighted. For example, the **Résorption-Bidonvilles digital platform**, under the aegis of the Interministerial Delegation on Housing and Access to Lodging (DIHAL) provides stakeholders (government services, territorial authorities, institutional stakeholders, associations) with an information, coordination and a tool for operational monitoring of the saturation in various sites identified. It presents an updated status on the living conditions for each plot of land or squat listed, notably with regard to access to water and sanitation (existing equipment, number, location, security, etc.), which allows decision-makers and operators to assess potential shortcomings and act to address them with the aim of promoting the social inclusion of the residents in question. The platform was designed with a territorial and collaborative approach, and also promotes sharing information and practices directly in the “site journal” or via a directory including the coordinates of all stakeholders and involved partners (<https://resorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr/contact>).

Though at the macro level, it appears that the majority of France’s population has access to improved drinking water supply, not all are able to enjoy the right to water and sanitation:

- from a financial and fee perspective, there is consensus that costs are excessive when water bills exceed three per cent of household income. Some reports have noted that nearly one million households in France have access to water at a price deemed excessive compared to their revenue;
- from a geographical perspective, specific features should be noted in mountain regions or in areas too far from water or sanitation networks;
- from a structural perspective, in Overseas Territories;
- from a population perspective, the right to water is not enjoyed by persons who do not have direct or permanent access to water and sanitation, including the homeless, migrants and persons living in precarious situations.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

#### **IV. Access to sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (d))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

With regard to sanitation, France must comply with the provisions of various European directives, notably European Parliament and Council directive 2000/60/CE of 23 October 2000, establishing the framework for a community water policy, Council directive 91/271/CEE of 21 May 1991 on urban wastewater treatment and directive 86-278 of 12 June 1986 on environmental protection, notably soil, when using sewage sludge in agriculture.

In France, the main challenge is not ensuring access to sanitation, which is enjoyed by nearly the entire population, but ensuring that wastewater collected is treated prior to being discharged, with the exception of unusual situations, and that sanitation systems have the purification equipment necessary to treat the pollutant load in line with requirements set by local authorities, which may not be lower than European regulations.

Sanitation is collective (urban population) or non-collective (rural population).

##### *Collective sanitation*

Urban wastewater from a population concentrated in one zone (an agglomeration) is connected to a public collection network that carries the effluent to a wastewater treatment plant (STEU) to be treated and then discharged into the receiving environment, pursuant to European directive 91/271/CEE.

In France, the homes of over 55 million persons are connected to a collective sanitation system. It is estimated that each year, about three to four per cent of wastewater treatment plants will have to be renewed due to obsolescence or insufficient treatment capacity (the lifespan of a wastewater treatment plan is 30 to 40 years). About 100 wastewater treatment plants belong to sanitation agglomerations of over 2000 and must be rebuilt or rehabilitated each year.

##### *Non-collective sanitation*

Homes not served by a public wastewater collective network must treat their wastewater themselves before it is discharged into the natural environment, by building an individual domestic wastewater treatment facility.

Approximately five million non-collective sanitation systems exist in France, serving 17 per cent of the population, or about 12 million individuals. Of these 12 million persons using non-collective sanitation, it is estimated that 96 per cent have an individual wastewater treatment facility.

Additionally, the National Environment and Health Plan PNSE 3 (2015-2019) set a goal of publishing a **national plan of action on non-collective sanitation**, which was done by the Ministries of the Environment and Health. This plan of action was in force until 2021, and aimed to improve the implementation of ANC regulation, provide more sustainable, reliable and user-friendly facilities, raise awareness about the sector within the industrial world and ensure the professionalization of stakeholders, from design go facility controls. A new plan of action for 2022-2026 will be published soon, and will aim to strengthen support for individuals, territorial authorities and all stakeholders involved while responding to new challenges by 2026. It will be in line with the new European strategy on the circular economy.

The plans of action and related regulations are accessible at:

<http://www.assainissement-non-collectif.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5 of the Protocol).

With regard to encampment areas for Travelers, as noted above, French regulation was amended in 2019:

- Each permanent reception area must include at least one accessible drinking water facility and one wastewater collection facility (decree number 2019-171 of 5 March 2019);
- Each permanent reception area must include at least one sanitation block (including at least one sink, one shower, and two toilet stalls) per site, and each of these must have easily accessible drinking water allowing individual consumption (decree number 2019-1478 of 26 December 2019).

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The activities listed above will allow us to contribute to commitment 6.2.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **V. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for water supply (art. 6, para. 2 (e))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5 of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VI. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (e))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

The minimum targets for urban wastewater treatments are set by European directive 91/271/CEE on urban wastewater treatment. The performance required is notably based on the size of agglomerations and sensitivity of the environment (whether zones are sensitive to eutrophication or not). These provisions have been adopted into the general code for territorial authorities and in the interministerial decree of 21 July 2015. The aim of the Ministry of the Environment is to maintain the compliance rate at wastewater treatment plants, which is currently around 98 per cent, as there is always a two to three per cent non-compliance rate each year, due to the obsolescence of certain facilities. At the end of each year, a list of agglomerations and wastewater treatment plants no longer in compliance or at maximum capacity, or subject to new deadlines in sensitive zones is drafted and published on the national portal for municipal sanitation (<https://www.assainissement.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/PortailAC>).

Reaching high quality water targets set by the Framework Directive on Water (DCE) requires strengthening treatments in several wastewater treatment plants and reducing discharge from collection systems during rainfall. Strengthening treatment for phosphorous or ammonia nitrogen is also planned in new zones sensitive to eutrophication. When required for certain sensitive water uses (bathing, shellfish farming...), urban wastewater collection and treatment must be adapted to these challenges.

With regard to non-collective sanitation facilities (ANC), the goal is to remove any environmental or sanitary impact. All urban wastewater directive deadlines have already been exceeded. If there are any new cases of non-compliance that appear during either dry or rainy weather, the challenge will be to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

In case of non-compliance with provisions on wastewater collection and treatment, several types of regulatory measures can be deployed by the services responsible for water policing: formal notice, providing funds necessary to achieve compliance, unfavourable opinions on urban planning projects and possible court filings, fines and financial restrictions on territorial authorities responsible for the violations, official reports and legal follow-up proceedings by the prosecutor in some cases. Water agencies may also reduce or even cancel fees for water treatment.

Water agencies (in mainland France) and the French Office for Biodiversity and Water Offices (in Overseas Territories) may also provide territorial authorities with financial support in order to improve urban wastewater collection and treatment. In some cases, regions and départements intervene. European funds may also be mobilized, particularly in Overseas Territories.

It is necessary to prevent any new cases of non-compliance. Any new sanitation system declared non-compliant must comply with regulations as soon as possible.

All information on collective sanitation is published on the national portal for municipal sanitation (providing access to this data to over 400 water stakeholders per day): <https://www.assainissement.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/PortailAC/> Disseminating this data also plays an important role in the economy, as it allows companies to organize their market.

With regard to the Framework Directive on Water (DCE), new development and water management master plans (SDAGE) were adopted by basin authorities for each large river basin for the period 2022-2027. These development and water management master plans include measuring programs implemented in order to achieve the targets of the Framework Directive on Water.

Disseminating environmental quality data is a way to better understand the environment and facilitate the adoption of appropriate measures.

With regard to the ANC, a plan of action was implemented in order to promote a general approach.

Since the previous report, the following management measures have been published by the Ministry of the Environment, and, as applicable, the Ministry of Health:

- Technical note of 6 June 2019 on revising sensitive zones in application of directive 91/271/CE of 21 May 1991 on urban wastewater treatment (DERU) and the implementation of provisions from article 5.4 of that directive;
- Information note of 28 December 2019 on the provisions of law number 2019-1461 of 27 December 2019 on participation in local life and proximity to public action, addressing methods for exercising competency related to water, wastewater sanitation and urban rainwater management as well as indemnities from labour union elected officials;
- Ministerial instruction of 2 April 2020 on the management of wastewater treatment plant sludge in continuing sanitation services during the Covid-19 crisis;
- Instruction from 22 April on managing sanitation systems in the framework of continuing sanitation services during the Covid-19 crisis and implementing the provisions of decree number 2020-453 of 21 April 2020 granting an exception to the principle of suspending deadlines during the Covid-19 pandemic health emergency;
- Decree 2020-828 of 30 June 2020 amending the nomenclature and procedure in the area of water police;
- Decree 2020-829 of 30 June 2020 on the contents of the environmental authorization file established by article L. 181-8 of the Environmental Code for collective wastewater treatment systems and non-collective sanitation facilities;
- Order of 31 July 2020 amending the amended decree of 21 July 2015 regarding collective sanitation systems and non-collective sanitation facilities, with the exception of non-collective sanitation facilities receiving a gross organic pollutant load equal or lower than 1.2 kg/j of DBO;
- Order of 15 September 2020 amending the order of 8 January 1998 setting technical requirements applicable to the spreading of sludge on agricultural soil pursuant to decree 97-1133 of 8 December 1997 on the spreading of sludge from wastewater treatment;
- Government instruction of 18 December 2020 on urban wastewater collection and treatment;
- Technical note of 24 March 2022 on researching and reducing micropollutants in raw water and treated water from wastewater treatment plants;
- National Plan of Action 2022-2024 for sustainable management of rainwater.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Our current challenge is verifying whether wastewater is collected and treated prior to heavy rains in order to limit direct discharges of untreated wastewater.

In 2020, France had 21,845 sanitation agglomerations with 22,331 wastewater treatment plants serving the equivalent of about 78.5 million inhabitants, for a total wastewater treatment plant treatment capacity of the equivalent of 105 million inhabitants. There were 3,825 agglomerations of over 2,000 inhabitants, with 4,015 wastewater treatment plants (some agglomerations are composite and include several plants). They represent a pollutant load of the equivalent of 74 million inhabitants.

In June 2020, pursuant to article 17 of the directive of 21 May 1991 on urban wastewater treatment, France reported a list of 275 agglomerations of the equivalent to 2,000 inhabitants or more in which the sanitation systems were non-compliant, at saturation, or subject to the 2017 deadline for sensitive zones.

France is currently involved in litigation regarding the implementation of directive 91/271/CEE on urban wastewater treatment. Of the 364 sanitation agglomerations reported at the beginning of the procedure, approximately 75 per cent are now in compliance with the directive.

With regard to sectoral directives, please see specific chapters of the report. When collections systems or plants have an impact on a bathing or shellfish farming zone, measures should be taken as soon as possible in order to remove that impact. Many coastal area wastewater treatment plants have already implemented a microbiology reduction system, but it is vital that we significantly reduce discharge during heavy rain.

With regard to ANC, the pollution was widespread, and the impact was much more difficult to identify, as the receiving environments (soil or surface environment) have a high degree of self-cleaning capacity with regard to the low pollution pressure.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The activities listed above make it possible to contribute to commitment 6.2. The national dashboard for monitoring progress of the 17 SDGs includes an indicator (indicator 6.i3) on sanitation facility compliance.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VII. Application of recognized good practices to the management of water supply (art. 6, para. 2 (f))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Protecting catchments has been mandatory in France since 1964 following the establishment of protection perimeters via declaration of public interest. Implementing protection perimeters around catchment points is one of the tools used in France to ensure the sanitation quality of water distributed. These perimeters are proposed by a hydrogeologist accredited in public hygiene by the Ministry of Health, and correspond to a zone surrounding catchments, with the objective of ensuring the water's preservation and quality and preventing and reducing the risk of pollution to the water resource. The protection perimeters defined by article L.1321 of the Public Health Code are comprised of three zones:

- the immediate protection perimeter includes the environment close to the point of water catchment. It is determined by the territorial authority, closed, and any activities not related to water production are prohibited here. It aims to prevent the deterioration of facilities and avoid any discharge of pollutants near the catchment;
- the close protection perimeter delineates a sector based on the catchment's "call zone". Within this perimeter, any activity likely to cause pollution is prohibited;

- the far protection perimeter is created if some activities are likely to cause major pollution and when specific requirements aimed at strengthening general regulation appear to significantly reduce health risks. This is the recharge zone at the point of the water catchment, or rather, the entire drainage basin.

The matter of protecting catchments is intimately linked to the recharge zones for water that is withdrawn and vary from a few dozen to several hundred hectares. These areas, which correspond to water catchment zones (surfaces where water infiltrates or runs off, feeding the catchment) are generally more vast than the regulatory protection perimeters mentioned above. Some drinking water catchments with large feed areas may be subject to pollution, especially diffuse pollution that is not considered in the protection perimeters.

In order to protect catchment feed zones, the zones subject to environmental restrictions can be defined by an order from the prefecture (articles L.211-3 of the Environmental Code and article R.114-1 to 114-10 of the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code). As part of this process, the prefecture delineates the protection zone around the catchment feed area and establishes a programme of action to be carried out within this zone by farmers and landowners using the land. Implementation of this programme of action is initially voluntary. If the objectives are not met, the prefecture retains the right to make some measures mandatory.

The catchments most threatened by diffuse pollution from nitrates and pesticides, known as “priority catchments,” are identified in water management development master plans (SDAGE). The list of priority catchments is updated for each basin when these documents are reviewed. Dedicated plans of action are to be implemented in order to protect these “100 priority catchments” from all types of pollution.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

France encourages the implementation of water health security management plans (see Part I). Since 2018, specific training in water health security management plans has been provided by the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique (Higher School of Public Health Studies) in concert with the Ministry of Solidarity and Health, for Regional Health Agency (ARS) staff.

A government instruction on the protection of water resources in priority catchments used for the production of water intended for human consumption was signed by the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture and Health in February 2020. In order to support the stakeholders and government services involved, these three ministries published a series of methodological recommendations in October 2021, organized in thematic data sheets that note the main tools locally available to protect catchments, with a focus on the key points of steps to be taken. These documents are part of the “New Pact to Address Climate Deregulation” issued second series of the Water Conferences (Assises de l’Eau).

Following the outcome of the Water Conferences, several activities were carried out in order to involve stakeholders impacted by recovering the quality of priority drinking water catchments and to mobilize and strengthen the tools available to them. The law of 27 December 2019 on participation in public life and proximity to public action strengthened local authorities’ capacities and legitimacy in acting to preserve water resources, by establishing the local authorities’ pre-emptive right over agricultural areas in drinking water catchment feed areas, and the possibility for drinking water services to conduct a resource protection mission.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

The main activities envisioned by PNSE 3 (2016-2019) were carried out.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VIII. Application of recognized good practice to the management of sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (f))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

See chapters IV and VI of this report.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Different sanitation activities are carried out by the Ministry of the Environment. We can list the following activities:

- Providing water stakeholders and citizens with information on collective sanitation via the national sanitation portal <https://www.assainissement.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/PortailAC/> and the public water and sanitation services observatory (<https://www.services.eaufrance.fr/>);
- Publication and monitoring of national dashboards on the level of sanitation systems' regulatory compliance;
- Decentralized services updating of databases and validating them at the regional and national levels in order to obtain reliable data;
- Publication of documents and technical guides for stakeholders: <https://www.assainissement.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/PortailAC/docs>, <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000044206042> ;
- Carry out trainings for stakeholders and participation by the Ministry of the Environment in colloquia, seminars... in order to communicate regarding this policy;
- Development of a unique national IT platform for exchanging data on collective sanitation (Vers'eau);
- Development of IT tools making it possible to bank regulatory information and self-monitoring on sanitation (data on plans and sludge spreading campaigns and network for raw self-monitored and operational data);
- Publication of a national plan for sustainable management of rainwater, in order to promote comprehensive management (at the source) of rainwater and nature-based techniques (i.e. valleys, trenches, raingardens, etc.). The Ministry of the Environment's policy is aimed at reducing soil impermeabilization so as to promote the infiltration of rainwater;
- Publication of guides and support documents for non-collective sanitation stakeholders on the interministerial portal (<http://www.assainissement-non-collectif.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/spip.php?page=sommaire>);
- Publication of a national plan of action on non-collective sanitation for the period 2014-2021 (currently being updated).

Services from the Water Police, French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), and water agencies and offices are directly involved in these efforts.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **IX. Occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (i))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Directive 91/271/CEE on urban wastewater establishes that all wastewater produced by an agglomeration shall be collected, transported and then treated prior to being discharged into the natural environment. This obligation is repeated in articles R.2224-10 and R.2224-11 of the General Territorial Authorities Code, and in an amended interministerial order of 21 June 2015 on collective sanitation.

During the dry season, necessary activities with regard to the urban wastewater directive have almost been achieved. The European Commission tolerates direct discharge of wastewater during the dry season so long as it makes up less than one per cent of the sanitation agglomeration's gross organic pollutant load, for up to the equivalent of 2,000 inhabitants. This tolerance applies to non-chronic waste that is short-term, has a low flow rate and low frequency, and does not jeopardize compliance with the directive's objective.

With regard to non-collective sanitation (ANC) nearly all households now have a more or less effective individual sanitation system, but four per cent of the total must be renewed each year. According to the public water and sanitation service data observatory (SISPEA), in 2019, the compliance rate for ANC facilities was 58.8%. Priority is given to facilities that are experiencing health or environmental problems.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

See chapters IV-2 and VI-2 of this report.

The authorities are monitoring collection systems and water treatment plants, with the aim of maintaining and verifying efficacy and to monitor the lack of direct discharge of untreated wastewater during the dry season. In case of problems, measures will be taken by the services responsible for ensuring the facilities' compliance. These measures may be coercive, if necessary.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

See chapters IV and VI-3 of this report.

Today, almost no sanitation agglomerations discharge untreated wastewater during the dry season, anymore. Priority is given to ending these situations and reducing the discharge of untreated wastewater during the rainy season.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **X. Occurrence of discharges of untreated storm water overflows from wastewater collection systems (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (ii))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Today, one of the main pillars of our work at the national level in the area of collective sanitation concerns reducing the discharge of untreated wastewater during the rainy season, from both a qualitative and quantitative point of view. The discharge of untreated wastewater during the rainy season causes:

- downgrading of bathing zones and shellfish farming areas, as well as food poisoning of individuals eating seafood from these zones;
- non-compliance with the goals in some Natura 2000 zones, with regard to emblematic species (white-clawed crayfish, freshwater pearl mussel);
- non-compliance with a good ecological and chemical state as set by the Framework Directive on Water for a significant number of bodies of water;
- generalized pollution of our rivers and lakes with pathogenic germs capable of causing public health issues with regard to sailing, reusing river water and river fishing;
- widespread contamination of water courses and oceans by micro and macro waste, leading to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of fish, marine mammals and marine birds. This challenge is directly related to the marine environment strategy directive.

Therefore, it is vital that this challenge, which is an integral part of the urban wastewater directive, is better considered at the global scale.

National regulations have an objective of intercepting and treating wastewater prior to heavy rainfall, corresponding to the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of flows arriving at the treatment plant (known as the benchmark flow rate). If necessary, with regard to the Framework Directive on Water objectives, bolder targets should be set by water police services.

During rainfall, the amended order of 21 July 2015 establishes that compliance by a unitary or mixed party of a collection system shall be evaluated with regard to one of the following options:

- discharge during rainfall represents less than five per cent of the volume of wastewater produced in a specific zone by the collection system, based on a unitary or mixed mode;
- discharge during the rainy season represents less than five per cent of the pollution flows produced by the collection system in question in a specific zone;
- less than 20 days of discharge have been recorded at each storm water drain subject to regulatory self-monitoring.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

In order to assess collection systems' compliance based on one of the above criteria, the amended order of 21 July 2015 establishes that the main storm spill structures within the collection system are subject to monitoring. This monitoring is strengthened when necessitated by environmental or health challenges:

- storm water drains (and pumping station overflows located downstream from a sector served in full or in part by a unitary network) located downstream from a section intended to collect a gross organic pollutant load (CBPO) during the dry season that is greater or equal to 120 kg/j of DBO<sub>5</sub> (unitary or mixed network). This monitoring consists of measuring the daily discharge time and an estimate of the volume discharged;
- this type of storm water drain monitoring may be limited, if decided as such by the prefecture, to storm water drainage systems representing a minimum of 70 per cent of the volume directly discharged into the environment. The authorization order and self-monitoring manual shall indicate that this option is available at the decision of the prefecture.

- the storm water drains (and pumping station overflows located downstream from a sector served in full or in part by a unitary network) located downstream from a section intended to collect a CBPO during the dry season equal or greater than 600 kg/j of DBO<sub>5</sub> and discharging over 10 calendar days per year per five-year average (unitary or mixed network). This monitoring consists of measuring ongoing volumes discharged and an estimate of the pollution flows discharged. The pollutant load discharged into the receiving environment is estimated based on the concentration of raw wastewater measured entering the wastewater treatment plant.
- pumping station overflows in a separate network located downstream from a section intended to collect a CBPO during the dry season equal or greater than 120 kg/j of DBO<sub>5</sub>. This monitoring consists of measuring daily discharge.

Should this monitoring be insufficient or in cases of discharge beyond the established requirements, corrective measures may be taken by the services responsible for ensuring facilities' compliance (cf §VI.2).

Programmes of measures included in the development and water management plans (SDAGE) may also include specific measures.

A national "zero plastic waste in the ocean" plan for the period 2020-2025 includes 35 measures to end plastic waste in the oceans. Several of these measures include waste emissions via sanitation systems.

The Public Health Code prohibits the introduction of solid waste into the wastewater collection system, including after crushing.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

See chapter VI-3.

Progress is estimated based on changes in environment quality. However, by definition, rain is intermittent, and integrator quality parameters (biological indexes, etc.) may be disturbed by one-off phenomena of massive discharge while the physical and chemical quality appears good.

The provisions of the amended order of 21 July 2015 aim to improve the situation and reduce the discharge of untreated wastewater during rainfall. The amended order of 21 July 2015 strengthens the importance placed on managing at the rainwater source with the aim of optimizing and rationalizing sanitation systems operations.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XI. Quality of discharges of wastewater from wastewater treatment installations (art. 6, para. 2 (h))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

See chapter VI-1 of this report.

Minimum treatment performances are laid out in the amended interministerial order of 21 July 2015, which notably adopts directive 91/271/CEE on urban wastewater treatment. The treatment objectives should be reached for a daily incoming volume equal or lower to the benchmark flow rate, corresponding the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of the flows arriving at the wastewater treatment plant, and excluding unusual situations as described in the order of 21 July 2015 (maintenance operations, natural disasters, blackouts, etc.). These minimum performances are strengthened by the local authorities when necessitated due to health or environmental challenges.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

See chapter VI-2 of this report.

In order to meet the target, the wastewater treatment plant directors must monitor their system based on the parameters and at the intervals set forth in national regulation. This monitoring information shall be submitted to the service responsible for monitoring sanitation facilities, based on the sanitation system's compliance or non-compliance.

Additionally, the service responsible for monitoring may carry out on-site monitoring in order to verify compliance with requirements stemming from national regulation.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

See chapter VI -3 of this report.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XII. Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations (art. 6, para. 2 (i))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

There is not quantitative target regarding the reuse of sewage sludge. However, the hierarchy of waste treatment methods entails prioritizing reuse before recycling, and avoiding elimination, in order to economize resources as part of the transition toward a circular economy.

The qualitative target is to ensure the sustainability of wastewater sludge management systems by adapting the regulatory framework to ensure sustainable management of sludge, by improving scientific knowledge in order to anticipate and provide economic and technical support to sludge management system stakeholders in order to assist them in decision-making. This is a national target that is part of the 2012-2018 plan "for a sanitation policy that contributes to aquatic environment quality targets". This target considers the existing will to promote sludge recycling, notably for agricultural use and to limit discharge to a strict minimum.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Sludge spreading practices are regulated by the law on water, which requires systematic declaration to the government representative (prefecture), providing an incidence study and management plans, as well as a traceability study on the plots of land where the sludge is to be applied. Pollutant concentrations (seven metals, three HAP and a total of seven main PCB) contained in the sludge are regulated, monitored and limited. Limit flows are to be provided to the soil in 10 years. The sludge may not be spread until the soil has certain characteristics. National requirements on this practice stem from directive 86/278 on environmental protection, notably soil, when using wastewater sludge in agriculture.

In order to ensure a high level of environmental and health protection, article 86 of law number 2020-105 of 10 February 2020 on fighting waste and the circular economy provides for the revision of regulatory benchmarks on environmental health and safety applicable to sewage sludge, particularly urban and industrial sludge, alone or in mixtures, raw or processed, in order to consider changes in knowledge, notably heavy metals, plastic particles, endocrine disruptors, detergents or pharmaceutical residue such as antibiotics. This revision is currently underway.

Finally, in order to lower the risks of virus spreading, since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, sewage sludge spreading is conditional to prior sanitation or the use of a demonstrably effective treatment against other viruses (order of 30 April 2020 specifying methods for spreading urban wastewater sludge during the Covid-19 period). These provisions are based on different opinions issued on this topic by the National Agency for Environmental, Food and Labour Health Security (ANSES).

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

No target has been set.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

Reusing sludge is a priority but the possibility of reusing it (spreading, composting, methanization) depends on the local context. This is why no national target has been set here.

### **XIII. Quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes (art. 6, para. 2 (i))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

The National Environment and Health Plan PNSE3 (2015-2019) defines two targets regarding the reuse of treated wastewater:

- participate in European efforts to define criteria for the reuse of treated wastewater;
- support experimentation with two demonstration wastewater treatment plant with the reuse of treated wastewater for purposes that are currently unregulated.

The Water Conferences in 2019 highlighted solutions for unconventional water reuse, including for treated wastewater, and set an ambitious national target: to triple the volume of reused unconventional water by 2025.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

The Ministries of Environment, Health and Agriculture published the amended order of 2 August 2010 (amended in 2014) on the **use of water from urban wastewater treatment plants for irrigating crops or green spaces**. The provisions of this order include the reuse of wastewater treated in order to ensure protection for public health and the environment, by protecting persons who work with harvests and consumers of the irrigated products, as well as irrigation professionals and the public using irrigated green spaces and neighbouring areas. It applies to urban wastewater treatment plants and non-collective sanitation installations for the equivalent of over 20 inhabitants. Only the irrigation of crops or green spaces is permitted. Other uses, such as cleaning roadways, are not under the scope of this order. The order also defines use restrictions (whether it is permitted or not based on irrigation methods), distance and terrain, based on the quality of the treated wastewater. It includes a monitoring programme for the quality of treated wastewater and the quality of the soil to be irrigated, as well as the traceability of irrigation operations. Use restrictions are linked to the nature of the plants to be irrigated and associated risks. With regard to green spaces open to the public, irrigation must be carried out outside of times the space is open to the public. Distance restrictions have also been established in order to protect some sensitive activities (bathing, shellfish farming, etc.).

In 2020, European regulation 2020/741 on minimum requirements for water reuse was published. This text includes **the use of treated wastewater solely for agricultural purposes**. Any treated wastewater reuse projects for agricultural irrigation must comply with the provisions of this regulation by 26 June 2023.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Since its prior report, France has published the following regulatory texts:

- order of 25 June 2015 amending the order of 2 August 2010 on the use of treated urban wastewater for the irrigation of crops or green spaces;
- order of 29 January 2019 on experimentation on the use of treated urban wastewater to ensure irrigation and fertilization spray for large crops.

The following texts were published in order to encourage the practice of reusing treated wastewater (beyond agricultural use):

- Decree 2021-807 of 24 June 2021 on the promotion of efficient, economical and sustainable use of water resources pursuant to article L. 211-1 of the Environmental Code;
- Decree 2022-336 of 10 March 2022 on the use and conditions for reuse of treated wastewater.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

#### **XIV. Quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water (art. 6, para. 2 (j))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Protecting catchments has been required in France since 1964 via the creation of protection perimeters following declaration of public utility.

Wastewater quality requirements for the production of drinking water are set by French regulation (Public Health Code and implementing texts) so as to reduce the degree of treatment necessary for drinking water production and thereby comply with the Framework Directive on Water (article 7).

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

With regard to protecting catchments used to supply drinking water, the achievement indicator may be monitored regularly based on data provided by the REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES within the Ministry of Health IT system. In late 2021, the number of catchments protected by declaration of public utility and the implementation of protection perimeters was 27,029, or 82.1 per cent of catchments (87.7 of flows) compared with 24,798 on 1 January 2017, or 74.6 per cent of catchments (82.9 per cent of flows). With the aim of increasing the number of catchments protected with a protection perimeter, French regulation was amended to allow the establishment of a simple, immediate protection perimeter for high quality groundwater catchments, supplying less than 100 m<sup>3</sup>/jour, and to simplify public inquiry in case of minor changes to one or more existing protection perimeters:

- law 2019-774 of 24 July 2019 on the organization and transformation of the health system;
- decree 2020-296 of 23 March 2023 on the simplified public inquiry procedure applicable to minor changes of protection perimeters around catchments for water intended for human consumption;
- order of 6 August 2020 on methods for establishing a simple, immediate protection perimeter for catchments for water intended for human consumption, pursuant to the provisions of article L. 1321 of the Public Health Code.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The national dashboard for monitoring the progress of the 17 SDGs includes an indicator (indicator 6.i2) for surface water and groundwater quality, with regard to ecological or chemical quality.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XV. Quality of waters used for bathing (art. 6, para. 2 (j))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

The target is to comply with provisions of national regulation adapting European Parliament and Council directive 2006/CE of 15 February 2006 on managing the quality of water used for bathing.

Monitoring the quality of water used for bathing is subject to monitoring in over 3,300 freshwater and sea water sites by regional health agencies (ARS). Each year, over 33,000 water samples are taken and studied as part of health monitoring campaigns organized by the regional health agencies. These results allow the health authorities to regularly monitor water quality and prevent pollution likely to present risks to human health. They are also used to assess quality and classify water used for bathing at the end of the season based on criteria set by European directive 2006/7/CE (“excellent”, “good”, “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory”). Classifying waters used for bathing is carried out based on results from studies for microbiological parameters “*Escherichia coli*” and “intestinal enterococci” during the assessment period (generally the last four bathing seasons) and based on a statistical method, with different quality limits for freshwater and sea water. The presence of certain microbiological parameters in the water indicates the strength of contamination of faecal origin based on the concentrations revealed.

These results are published online in real time throughout the bathing season and available on the Ministry of Health website ([baignades.sante.gouv.fr](http://baignades.sante.gouv.fr)) in order to allow vacationers and residents living near bathing zones to be aware of the water sanitation quality. The Ministry of Health also publishes a list and summary each year of bathing water quality for both freshwater and sea water.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

The Ministry of Health has published:

- in July 2020, an instruction to regional health agencies on methods for identifying, managing and classifying bathing waters (instruction DGS/EA4/2020/111 of 2 July 2020), with the aim of specifying methods for identification, health monitoring exercise and classifying bathing waters. Regional health agencies are responsible for implementing these steps beginning with the 2020 bathing season, pursuant to the provisions of European Parliament and Council Directive 2006/7/CE of 15 February 2006 regarding bathing water quality management. This instruction will soon be replaced by a more recent instruction.
- In April 2021, an instruction to regional health agencies regarding the management of cyanobacteria proliferation cases in freshwater bathing and recreational fishing waters (instruction DGS/EA4/EA3/2021/76 of 6 April 2021), which will be implemented by the 2022 bathing season. This instruction reminds the main stakeholders involved in managing cyanobacteria proliferation cases in freshwater, and updates management measures and health recommendations in cases of cyanobacteria proliferation in bathing and recreational fishing waters and provides information on the health risk related to the presence of *Ostreopsis ovata*.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

The quality of bathing water is assessed each year and reported to the European authorities. Conclusions are made public:

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/fr/publications/qualite-des-eaux-de-baignade-9>

According to the latest assessment published by the European Environment Agency in 2020, in France: a total of 77.5 per cent of bathing sites have water quality classified as excellent. These results place France below the European average (82.8 per cent);

- a total of 2.3 per cent of bathing sites have water quality classified as unsatisfactory;
- a total of 95.1 per cent of bathing sites have water that is at least classified as satisfactory. These results place France above the European average (93 per cent).

Over the last several years, the quality of bathing water has remained stable. If we consider a longer period in order to get a better picture of how the situation has evolved, the quality of bathing water has improved between 2013 and 2020:

- the proportion of bathing sites where the water quality is classified as excellent has increased from 72 per cent to 77.5 per cent;
- the proportion of bathing sites where the water quality is unsatisfactory has dropped from 3.7 per cent to 2.3 per cent;
- the proportion of bathing sites where the water quality is at least satisfactory has increased from 90 per cent to 95.1 per cent.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on opening freshwater bathing sites in 2020.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XVI. Quality of waters used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish (art. 6, para. 2 (j))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

N/A

## **I. XVII. Application of recognized good practice in the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing (art. 6, para. 2 (k))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

France published a corpus of regulatory texts on artificial bathing waters in 2019:

- decree 2019-299 of 10 April 2019 on the health security of artificial bathing waters;
- order of 15 April 2019 on the water quality analysis programme and benchmark quality limits for artificial bathing waters;
- order of 15 April 2019 on the content of artificial bathing water declaration files and authorization for water use other than water intended for human consumption for the purposes of an artificial bathing site;
- order of 15 April 2019 on using sanitation facilities and domestic regulation on artificial bathing waters.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

This regulation is recent and has not yet been assessed.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

**XVIII. Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites (art. 6, para. 2 (l))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

N/A

**1. XIX. Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources (art. 6, para. 2 (m))**

2. *For each target set in this area:*

3. 1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
4. 2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
5. 3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
6. 4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
7. 5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

**XX. Additional national or local specific targets**

*In cases where additional targets have been set, for each target:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

N/A

## Part three

### Common indicators<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Quality of the drinking water supplied

##### 1. Context of the data

1. What is the population coverage (in millions or per cent of total national population) of the water supplies reported under sections 2 and 3 below?

*The rationale of this question is to understand the population coverage of the water quality data reported under sections 2 and 3 below.*

*Please describe the type of water supplies for which data is included in the following tables, and the population share covered by these supplies.*

*Please also clarify the source of the water quality data provided (e.g., data from regulatory authorities).*

In France, supplying the population with high quality tap water is a public health challenge and major concern for the authorities. In 2020, tap water production and distribution involved the use of:

- 33,070 groundwater or surface water (river, stream, lake, dam) catchments;
- 17,000 drinking water production plants; treatment is relatively intensive and aims to eliminate biological and chemical agents likely to present a health risk from raw water, while maintaining the quality of water produced during its transportation to the consumer's tap;
- 24,100 distribution networks (all channels and equipment) making it possible to provide the population with water service.

Tap water is subject to regular health monitoring, so as to ensure its quality for the population; water is the most heavily controlled food in France. This includes:

- monitoring by those responsible for water production and distribution (PRPDE): that may include mayors, the presidents of water production or distribution groups or private users who are entrusted with managing water service;
- health monitoring implemented by regional health agencies independently of those responsible for water production and distribution.

Tap water quality is assessed based on quality limitations and benchmarks set by regulations for approximately 60 parameters (bacteriological, physio-chemical and radiological).

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<sup>1</sup> In order to allow an analysis of trends for all Parties under the Protocol, please use wherever possible 2005 — the year of entry into force of the Protocol — as the baseline year.

Regulation sets strict measures in order to preserve the population's health whenever quality limits are exceeded. Without specific instructions from those responsible for water production and distribution, local governments or regional health agencies (or, as applicable, paediatricians), tap water may be consumed without presenting any risk to the population.

2. Please specify from where the water quality samples reported in sections 2 and 3 below are primarily taken (e.g., treatment plant outlet, distribution system or point of consumption).

*The rationale of this question is to understand where the samples were primarily taken from for the water quality data reported in sections 2 and 3 below.*

The frequency of health controls varies based on the volume distributed by production facilities and the number of people supplied by the distribution network. The health monitoring programme is carried out at the level of catchments, treatment plants and consumer taps, and in 2020, that led to over 309,000 water samples taken throughout France, and the collection of over 17.6 million analytical results.

The data below reflects the quality of water distributed in France in 2020 based on parameters and the results of analyses carried out as part of the regional health agencies' health monitoring efforts.

3. In sections 2 and 3 below, the standards for compliance assessment signify the national standards. If national standards for reported parameters deviate from the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline values, please provide information on the standard values.

*The rationale of this question is to understand any possible differences between the national standards for microbiological and chemical water quality parameters and the respective WHO guideline values.<sup>2</sup>*

## 2. Bacteriological quality

4. Please indicate the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). Parties may also report on up to three other priority microbial indicators and/or pathogens that are subject to routine water quality monitoring.

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by "non-centralized versus centralized" water supplies or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the column "area/category" in the table below accordingly.*

*If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

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<sup>2</sup> The latest edition of the WHO *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality* is available at: [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/).

Parameter	Area/category	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
		(2015)	(2017)	(2020)
<i>E. coli</i>	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 2.9%	Total UDI = 1.4%	Total UDI = 0.9%
	Urban	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.3%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.1%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 1.6%
Additional parameter 1:	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 3.1%	Total UDI = 1.2%	Total UDI = 1.0%
Enterococci	Urban	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.2%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.1%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.1%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 1.6%
Additional parameter 2:	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 2.0%		Total UDI = 1.5%
Additional parameter 3:	Urban			
	Rural			

In France, the microbiological quality of water distributed is assessed based on microbiological quality limits for *Escherichia coli* (absence in 100 mL) and enterococci (absence in 100 mL).

Improvements in the microbiological quality of water since 2015 can be linked to better management of facilities and preventive management during the disinfection stage in drinking water production units by those responsible for drinking water production and distribution. This may be the result of greater awareness thanks to the efforts of regional health agencies.

### 3. Chemical quality

5. Please report on the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for chemical water quality with regard to the following parameters:
  - (a) Arsenic;
  - (b) Fluoride;
  - (c) Lead
  - (d) Nitrate.
6. Please also identify up to three additional chemical parameters that are of priority in the national or local context.

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” sanitation systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the column “area/category” in the table below accordingly.*

*If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

Parameter	Area/category	Baseline value (specify year) (2012)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) (2017)	Current value (specify year) (2020)
Arsenic LQ = 10 µg/L	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 3.07%	Total UDI = 0.92%	Total UDI = 0.93%
	Urban	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 1.57%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.11%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.06%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 1.33%
Fluoride LQ = 1.5 mg/L	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 1.49%	Total UDI = 0.58%	Total UDI = 0.55%
	Urban	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.64%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.8%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.21%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 0.73%
Lead LQ = 10 µg/L	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 1.64%	Total UDI = 2.63%	Total UDI = 2.50%
	Urban	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 1.17%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 2.22%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 1.59%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 3.02%
Nitrate LQ = 50 mg/L	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 1.64%	Total UDI = 0.60%	Total UDI = 1.3%
	Urban	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.5%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.11%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.12%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 1.56%
Additional parameter 1: Fer Total	<b>Total</b>	Total UDI = 1.73%	Total UDI = 0.9%	Total UDI = 0.83%
	Urban	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 1.21%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.64%	≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.64%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 1.03%
Additional parameter 2 :	<b>Total</b>			Total UDI = 0.94%
Individual pesticides	<b>Total</b>			Total UDI = 0.12%
	Urban			≥ 5000 inhabitants: 0.12%
	Rural			< 5000 inhabitants: 0.02%
Parameter	<b>Total</b>			Total UDI = 0.02%

**Outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases related to water**

In filling out the below table, please consider the following points:

(a) For reporting outbreaks, please report confirmed water-related outbreaks only (i.e., for which there is epidemiological or microbiological evidence for water-facilitated infection);

(b) For reporting incidents, please report the numbers related to all exposure routes.  
In your response:

(i) Please report cases per 100,000 population;

(ii) Please differentiate between zero incidents (0) and no data available (-).

Please extend the list of water-related diseases, to the extent possible, to cover other relevant pathogens (e.g., enteric viruses, *Giardia intestinalis*, *Vibrio cholerae*).

Please indicate how the information is collected (e.g., event-based or incidence-based surveillance).

Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.

Disease	Incidence rate per 100,000 population (all exposure routes)			Number of outbreaks (confirmed water-born outbreaks)		
	Baseline value (2012)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)	Current value	Baseline value (2012)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)	Current value
Shigellosis	1.06/100,000	1.32/100,000		0	0	-
Enterohaemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> infection (Paediatric HUS)	1.2/100,000	1.4/100,000		0	0	5 cases (*)
Typhoid fever (All of France)	0.19/100,000	0.21/100,000	0,11/100,000 (2020)	0	0	
Typhoid fever (Mayotte)						37 cases in 2020 (cases generally clustered based on sanitation conditions and insufficient drinking water access)
	14/100,000	14/100,000				
Viral hepatitis A	1.6/100,000	5.1/100,000	0.6 / 100 000 in 2020 (**)	0	0	
Legionellosis	2.0/100,000	2.4/100,000	2.0/100,000 in 2020 (***)			
Cryptosporiosis						
Additional disease 1:						
Additional disease 2:						
Additional disease 3:						

Notes :

(\*) Enterohaemorrhagic *e. Coli* infection (paediatric HUS): late July 2020, Santé Publique France identified several cases of paediatric HUS for which bathing in the same lake had been indicated on the data sheet. In all, five cases of HUS were identified as being linked to this alert. All of the children had visited the same beach between 11 and 26 July 2020, and all of the families had reported that the child had ingested either lake water or wet sand. No other common exposure was identified. Environmental investigations made it possible to confirm that quality control samples from the bathing zone were satisfied upstream from the alert. Samples of the water and additional sediments were taken by the regional health agency. Among these samples, one STEC strain and four *e. Coli* O26 strains were isolated. Despite the absence of STEC O26 strains identified in the environmental sampling taken, these results reveal the risk of pollution in bathing zones. The presence of a watercourse near a beach, heavy rain in July upstream from the location of cases exposure and a strong presence of pastures in the département where the lake is located were identified as risk factors in the alert. Following the environmental sampling results, the beach was closed (“Surveillance du syndrome hémolytique et urémique post- diarrhéique chez l'enfant de moins de 15 ans en France en 2020”, (“Monitoring post-diarrheal haemolytic uremic syndrome in children under the age of 15 in France in 2020”) Santé Publique France).

(\*\*) Hepatitis A: 411 cases of hepatitis A reported in 2020 in France, compared with 1,277 cases in 2019. This reduction seems to be in large part related to the significant drop in cases linked to travel abroad due to international travel restrictions during part of the year 2020 and the establishment of preventive measures during the Covid-19 pandemic, which limited hepatitis A's ability to circulate (hand washing, closing schools and restaurants, lockdown, curfews), as well as the drive to vaccinate.

(\*\*\*) Legionella: Changes to the drop in the number of cases between 2019 and 2020 can be noted in the specific context of the Covid-19 pandemic in France and worldwide. Lockdown and preventive measures among the population most likely affected the dynamic of legionella epidemics in national territory. The results of environmental, epidemiological and microbiological research carried out for isolated or clustered cases demonstrate that legionella cases may be linked to contaminated water from sanitation networks.

### III. Access to drinking water

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” water supply systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.*

*If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data with regard to access to drinking water.*

<i>Percentage of population with access to drinking water</i>	<i>Base line value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<b>Total</b>			
Urban			
Rurales			

- Estimates provided by the WHO/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation. *JMP definitions are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.*
- National estimates. *Please specify how “access” is defined and what types of drinking-water supplies are considered in the estimates in your country.*

*In particular, please specify if the above percentage on “access to drinking water” refers to access to (tick all applicable):*

- Improved drinking water sources (as per JMP definition)
- Supplies located on premises
- Supplies available when needed
- Supplies that provide drinking water free from faecal contamination

To date, there is no national consolidation tool for persons without access to water throughout French territory. Existing data on this topic are widely available at the local level or through community partners who intervene on behalf of persons without access to water. According to the data shared by the Water Coalition, there are roughly 300,000 persons without constant and secure access to drinking water and sanitation in France. Persons without a fixed domicile, those in shantytowns, encampments or squats, Travelers or those from non-sedentary communities as well as the populations of Overseas Territories living in substandard housing are those most concerned. Efforts to adapt measures from directive 2020/184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption into French law should make it possible to specify and adjust existing estimates in this area.

#### IV. Access to sanitation

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” sanitation systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.*

*If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data with regard to access to sanitation.*

<i>Percentage of population with access to sanitation</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Values reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<b>Total</b>			
Urbans <input type="checkbox"/>			
Rural			

- Estimates provided by JMP. *JMP definitions are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.*

- National estimates. Please specify how “access” is defined and what types of sanitation facilities are considered in the estimates in your country.

In particular, please specify if the above percentage on “access to sanitation” refers to access to (tick all applicable):

- Improved sanitation facilities (as per JMP definition)
- Facilities not shared with other households
- Facilities from which excreta is safely disposed in situ or treated off site

According to data shared by the Water Coalition, approximately 300,000 persons do not have constant and secure access to sanitation in France, mainly because they do not have housing connected to the sewage network. Persons without a fixed domicile, those living in shantytowns, encampments or squats, Travelers or those living in non-sedentary communities as well as the populations of Overseas Territories living in substandard housing are those most concerned.

## V. Effectiveness of management, protection and use of freshwater resources

### 1. Water quality

1. On the basis of national systems of water classification, please indicate the percentage of water bodies or the percentage of the volume (preferably) of water<sup>3</sup> falling under each defined class (e.g., for European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive<sup>4</sup> classification, the percentage of surface waters of high, good, moderate, poor and bad ecological status, and the percentage of groundwaters/surface waters of good or poor chemical status; for other countries, in classes I, II, III, etc.).

#### (a) For European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive classification

##### (i) Ecological status of surface water bodies

The ecological state of surface bodies of water is reported for 2019. The Framework Directive on Water approach is to assess types of bodies of water: surface bodies of water, groundwater bodies and coastal bodies of water. Surface bodies of water include water plans, as well as canals and watercourses.

Percentage of surface water classified as:	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting period (specify year) (2015)	Current value (specify year) (in % of water bodies) (2019)
High status		2.3	10.0
Good status		26.9	34.0
Moderate status		47.6	3.0
Poor status		11.6	14.0

<sup>3</sup> Please specify.

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) (2015)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year) (in % of bodies of water) (2019)</i>
Bad status		3.6	6.0
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>		404	11,407
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>		435	11,407

i) *Chemical status of surface water bodies*

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) (2015)</i>	<i>Current value (in % of water bodies) (2019)</i>
Good status		84.40	66.9
Poor status		5.10	Have not reached good status = 6.0
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>		389 (water bodies)	Status unknown = 27.1
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>		435 water bodies	11,407 water bodies

ii) *Status of groundwaters*

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) (2015)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year) (in % of groundwaters) (2019)</i>
Good quantitative status		89.40	88.0
Good chemical status		69.10	71.0
Poor quantitative status		10.60	12.0
Poor chemical status		30.90	29.0
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified</b>		645	689
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country</b>		645	689

a) **For other countries**

i) *Surface water status*

<i>Percentage of surface water falling under class<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>
	I	V	
	I		
	I		
	I		

*Value reported in the previous reporting cycle  
(specify year)*

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	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting year (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<i>Percentage of surface waters classified</i>			
V			

**Total number/volume of water bodies classified**

**Total number/volume of water bodies in the country**

<sup>a</sup> Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

ii) *Status of groundwaters*

	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting period (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<i>Percentage of groundwater classified as<sup>a</sup></i>			
I			
II			
III			
IV			
V			

**Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified**

**Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country**

<sup>a</sup> Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

2. Please provide any other information that will help put into context and aid understanding of the information provided above (e.g., coverage of information provided if not related to all water resources, how the quality of waters affects human health).

**2. Water use**

3. Please provide information on the water exploitation index at the national and river basin levels for each sector (agriculture, industry, domestic), i.e., the mean annual abstraction of freshwater by sector divided by the mean annual total renewable freshwater resource at the country level, expressed in percentage terms.

	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting year (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<i>Water exploitation index</i>			
Agriculture		8.6 %	9.3 %
Industry <sup>a</sup> (including cooling water)		76.8 %	57.5 %
Households <sup>b</sup>		14.6 %	16.5 %

<sup>a</sup> Please specify whether the figure includes both water abstraction for manufacturing industry and for energy cooling.

<sup>b</sup> Please specify whether the figure only refers to public water supply systems or also to individual supply systems (e.g., wells).

## **Part four**

### **Water-related disease surveillance and response systems**

1. In accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Protocol:

Has your country established comprehensive water-related disease surveillance and early warning systems according to paragraph 1 (a)?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

Has your country prepared comprehensive national or local contingency plans for responses to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease according to paragraph 1 (b)?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

Do relevant public authorities have the necessary capacity to respond to such outbreaks, incidents or risks in accordance with the relevant contingency plan according to paragraph 1 (c)?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

2. If yes or in progress, please provide summary information about key elements of the water-related disease surveillance and outbreak response systems (e.g., identification of water-related disease outbreaks and incidents, notification, communication to the public, data management and reporting). Please also provide reference to existing national legislation and/or regulations addressing water-related disease surveillance and outbreak response.

3. Please describe what actions have been taken in your country in the past three years to improve and/or sustain water-related disease surveillance, early warning systems and contingency plans, as well as to strengthen the capacity of public authorities to respond to water-related disease outbreaks and incidents, in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Protocol.

## **Part five**

### **Progress achieved in implementing other articles of the Protocol**

Please provide a short description of the status of implementation of articles 9 to 14 of the Protocol, as relevant.

*Suggested length: up to two pages*

## Part six

### Thematic part linked to priority areas of work under the Protocol

1. In the table below, please provide information on the proportion of schools (primary and secondary) and health-care facilities that provide basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

(a) *Basic sanitation service: Improved facilities (according to JMP definition), which are sex-separated and usable at the school or health-care facility;*

(b) *Basic drinking water service: Water from an improved source (according to JMP definition) is available at the school or health-care facility;*

(c) *Basic hygiene service: Handwashing facility with water and soap available to students (schools) or patients and health-care providers (health-care facilities).*

*If the above definitions/categories do not apply in your country, please report for alternative categories for which data are available. In this case, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.*

*Please indicate the source of data. If data is not available, please put (-).*

<i>Institutional setting</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<i>Schools</i>	
Basic sanitation service	
Basic drinking-water service	
Basic hygiene service	
<i>Health-care facilities</i>	
Basic sanitation service	
Basic drinking-water service	
Basic hygiene service	

2. Has the situation of WASH in schools been assessed in your country?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

3. Has the situation of WASH in health-care facilities been assessed in your country?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

4. Do approved policies or programmes include actions (please tick all that apply):

To improve WASH in schools

To improve WASH in health-care facilities

5. If yes, please provide reference to main relevant national policy(ies) or programme(s).

Over the last 10 years, health risks linked to water in healthcare facilities have been subject to monitoring and inspection by regional health agencies, in line with a national guideline for renewed monitoring and control to be carried out each year by the Ministry of Health.

## 2. Safe management of drinking-water supply

6. Is there a national policy or regulation in your country, which requires implementation of risk-based management, such as WHO water safety plans (WSPs), in drinking water supply?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

7. If yes, please provide reference to relevant national policy(ies) or regulatory documentation.

The Public Health Code (CSP) provides for the implementation of ongoing water quality monitoring carried out by the person responsible for water production and distribution (PRPDE), based on identifying dangers in the drinking water supply. This monitoring is in complement to the health monitoring led by regional health agencies, and not limited to solely analytical verification of the water quality, but also includes verification of measures adopted for protecting the resources used, facility operations and a health data sheet containing all information collected via the monitoring. The persons responsible for water production and distribution are also encouraged to implement a quality management system to include the identification of dangers and activities aimed at keeping them under control (water health security management plans). A guide entitled “*Initier, mettre en œuvre et faire vivre un PGSSE*” (“*Starting, implementing, and maintaining a PGSSE*”) for water production and/or distribution stakeholders was published in March 2021. It proposed a pragmatic method and tools for identifying dangers, dangerous events and measures to control risks so as to implement a PGSSE.

Specific training in this area for regional health agency staff was carried out by the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique* (EHESP) (Higher School of Public Health Studies) in concert with the Ministry of Solidarity and Health.

8. In the table below, please provide information on the percentage of the population serviced with drinking-water under a WSP.

*Please indicate the source of data. If data is not available, please put (-).*

Percentage of the population	Current value (specify year)
<b>Total</b>	-

## 3. Equitable access to water and sanitation

9. Has the equity of access to safe drinking-water and sanitation been assessed?

YES  NON  IN PROGRESS

10. Do national policies or programmes include actions to improve equitable access to water and sanitation (please tick all that apply):

- To reduce geographical disparities;
- To ensure access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
- To keep water and sanitation affordable for all

11. If yes, please provide reference to main relevant national policy(ies) and programme(s).

See part 2; chapters III (water) and IV (sanitation).

## Part seven

### Information on the person submitting the report

The following report is submitted on behalf of [FRANCE](#) in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report:

Email: [dgs-ea4@sante.gouv.fr](mailto:dgs-ea4@sante.gouv.fr)

Telephone:

Nom et adresse de l'autorité nationale : [Ministère des solidarités et de la santé, Direction générale de la santé ; 14 avenue Duquesne ; 75350 PARIS 07 SP](#)

Signature : Le Directeur Général de la Santé,

Date : 02 MAI 2022

Professeur Jérôme SALOMON

#### Soumission des rapports

1. Les Parties sont tenues de présenter leur rapport récapitulatif au secrétariat commun en utilisant le présent modèle et en se conformant aux directives adoptées en matière d'établissement de rapports, dans un délai de deux cent dix jours avant la session suivante de la Réunion des Parties. Elles sont encouragées à le faire sans attendre la date limite pour faciliter la préparation des analyses et des synthèses devant être mises à la disposition de la Réunion des Parties.

2. Il est demandé aux Parties de faire parvenir à chacun des deux destinataires ci-dessous un exemplaire original signé par courrier postal, ainsi qu'une copie électronique par courriel. Les copies électroniques seront transmises dans un format lisible par un logiciel de traitement de texte.

#### Secrétariat commun du Protocole sur l'eau et la santé

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