

Torino, 22 novembre 2024

### Ecological restoration of the Sélune River (France)

through the removal of two large dams

**Laura Soissons** 

INRAE DECOD, Rennes, France





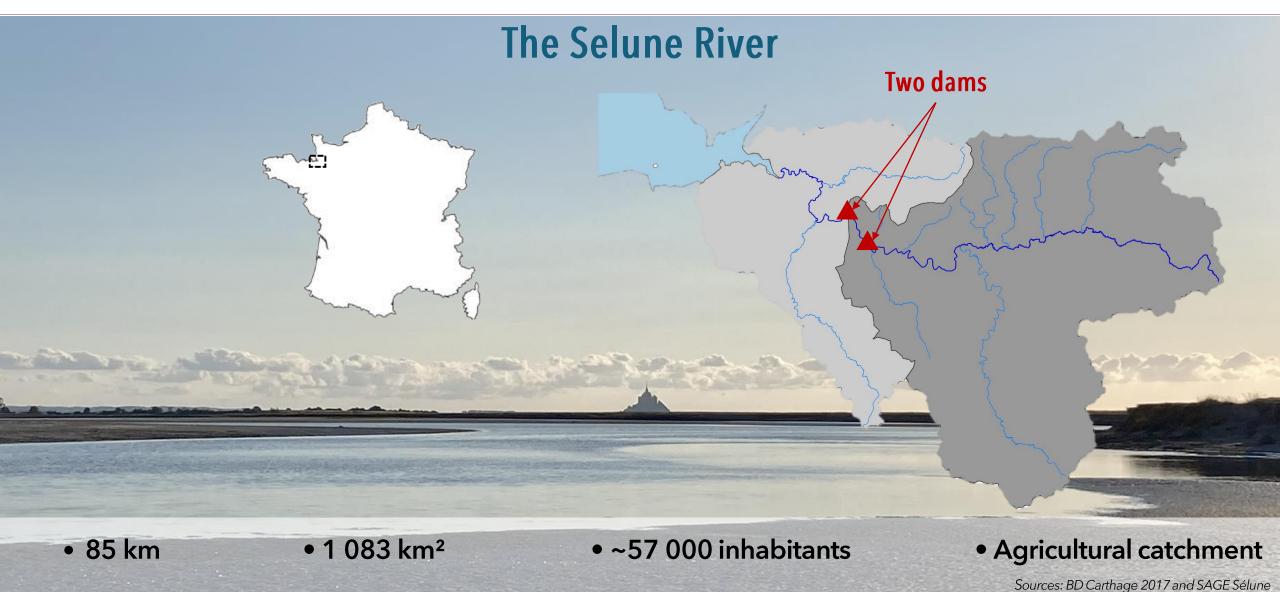
















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## The Sélune and its dams



1919 - 1932 Dam construction



2005 - 2017 Decision phase around dam









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## The Sélune and its dams



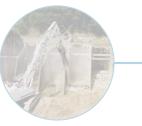
1919 - 1932 Dam construction



2005 - 2017 Decision phase around dam removal



2020 Removal of Vezins dam



2022 Removal of LRQB dam



Today





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## The Sélune and its dams





An interplay of stakeholders around dam removal

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### The Sélune and its dams



1919 - 1932 Dam construction



2005 - 2017 Decision phase around dam removal



2020 Removal of Vezins dam

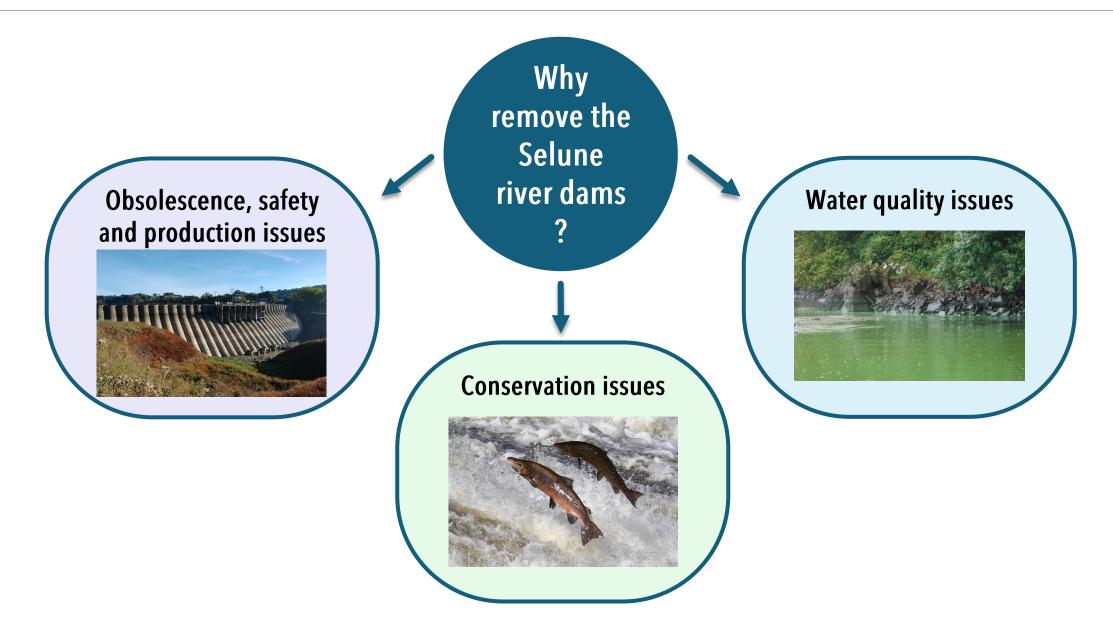


2022 Removal of LRQB dam



A new expertise is required





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The Sélune and its dams



### 14 novembre 2017 : Yes both dams are going to be removed









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## The Sélune and its dams



1919 - 1932 Dam construction



Decision phase around dam removal



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## The Sélune and its dams



1919 - 1932 Dam construction



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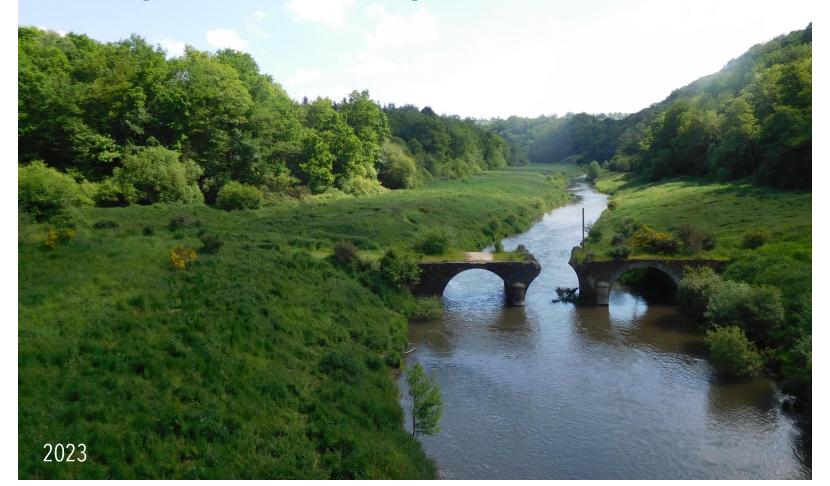
Today





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# How is the Selune River recovering two years after – complete - dam removal?

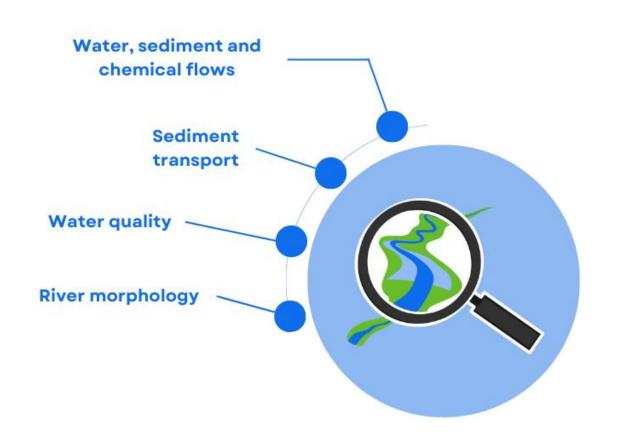


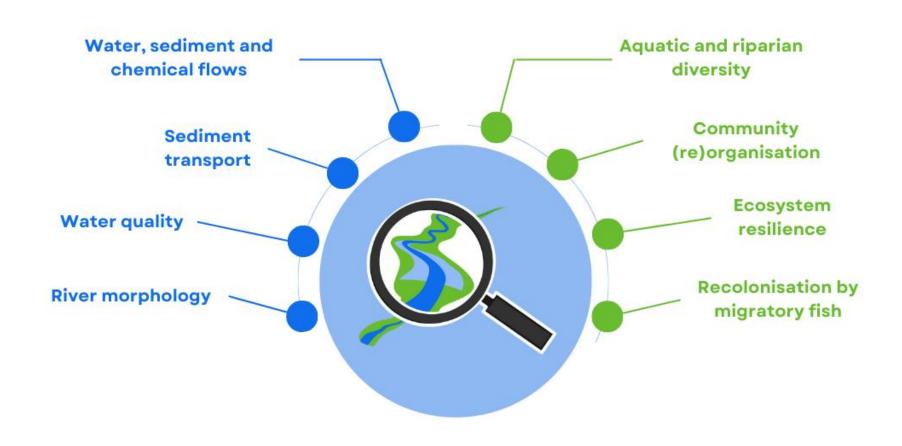
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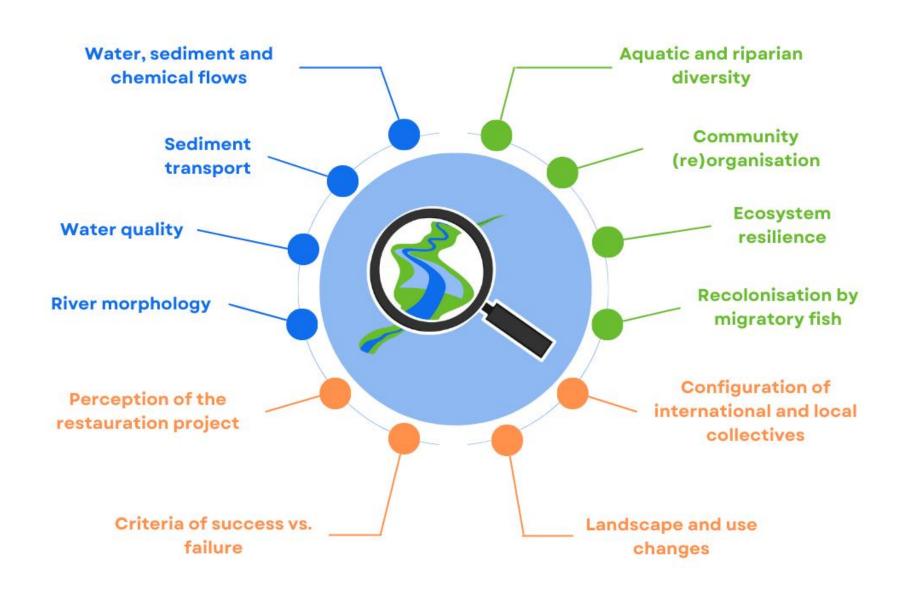
### The Sélune scientific program (2012-2027)

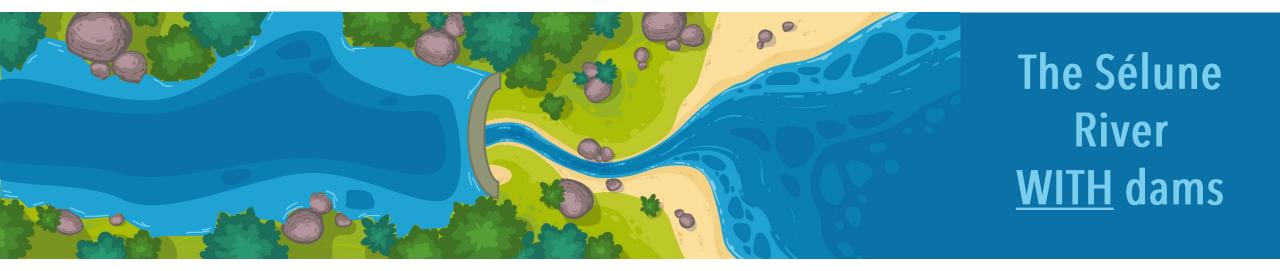
- > Understand the **mechanisms involved** in restoring the Sélune valley
- > Identify the social and ecological strengths and weaknesses associated with the return of a river ecosystem

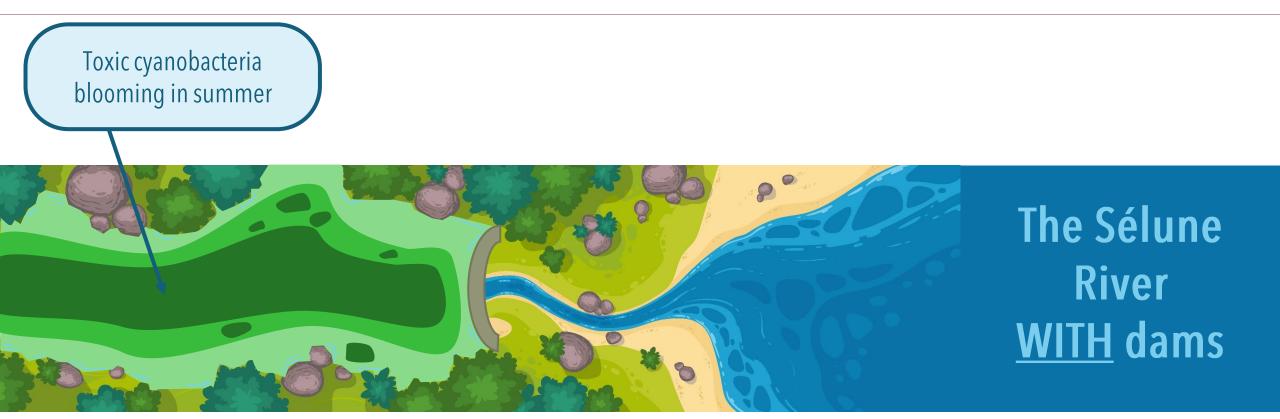












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Toxic cyanobacteria blooming in summer

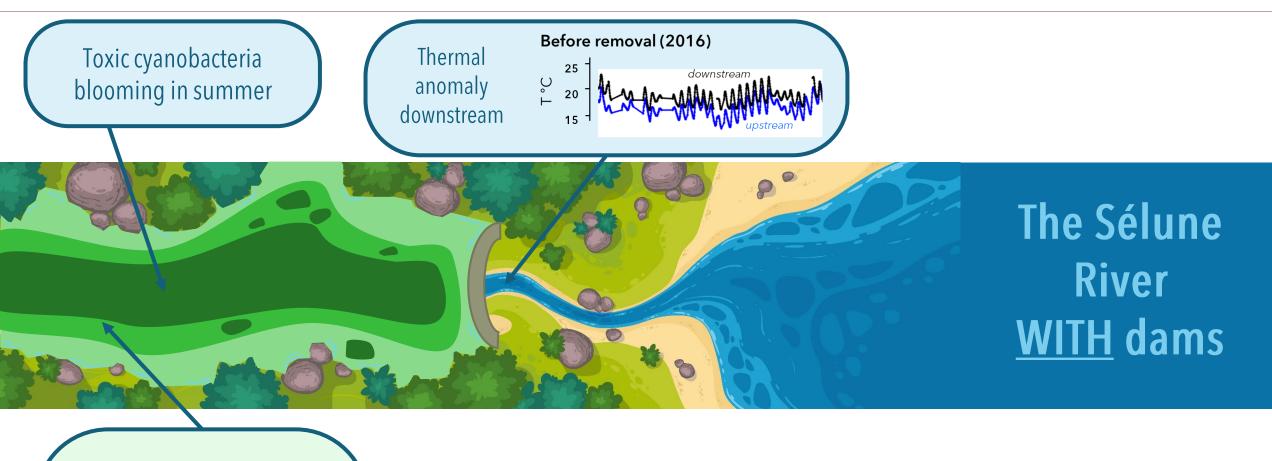


The Sélune River WITH dams

System dominated by invasive species and top predators

**Less resilient** 

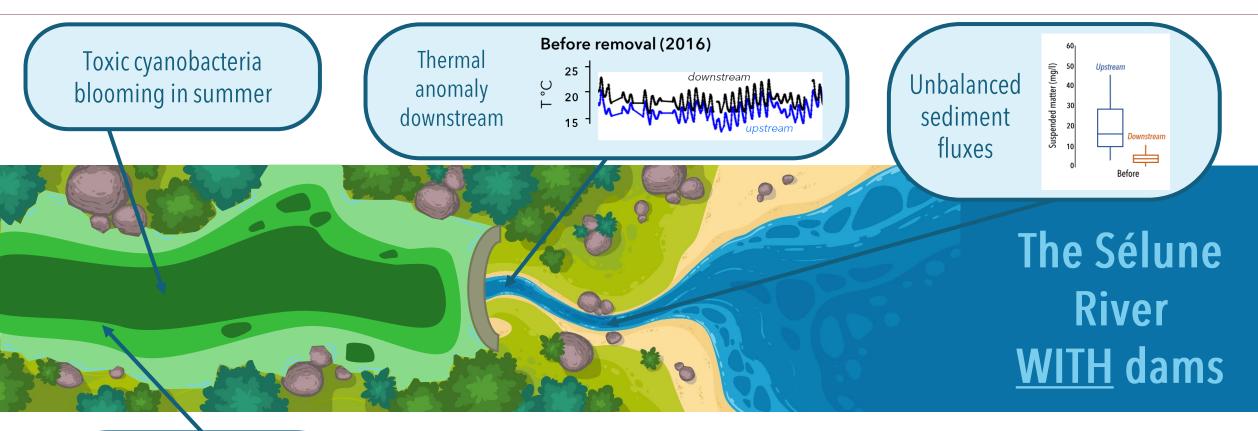
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System dominated by invasive species and top predators

**Less resilient** 

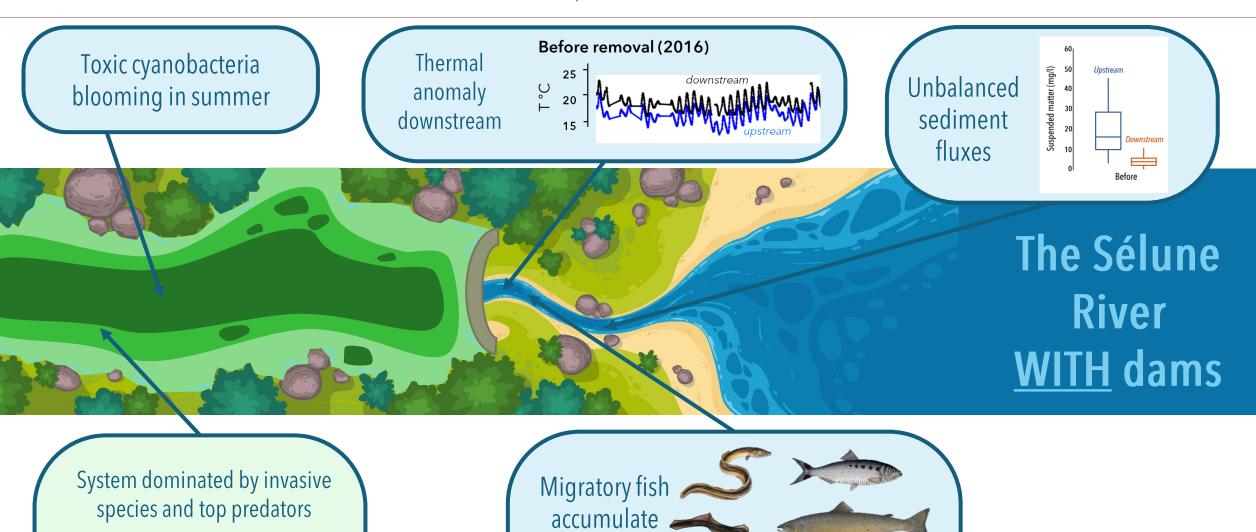
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System dominated by invasive species and top predators

**Less resilient** 

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downstream

Less resilient

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No more toxic cyanobacteria blooms



### The Sélune River WITHOUT dams

A new connection to the ocean = restored energy fluxes?

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Good ecological status

Fast return of sensitive lotic species

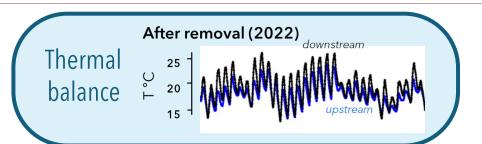
Output

Description:

Ou

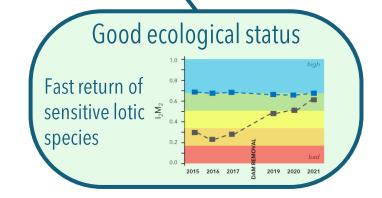
A new connection to the ocean = restored energy fluxes?

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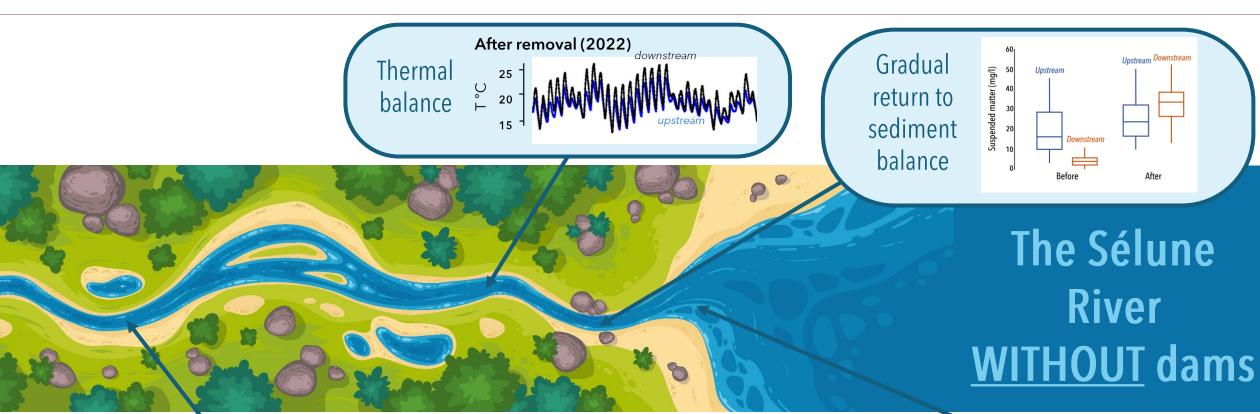


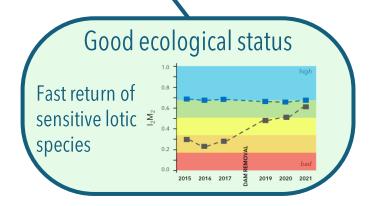
### The Sélune River WITHOUT dams



A new connection to the ocean = restored energy fluxes?

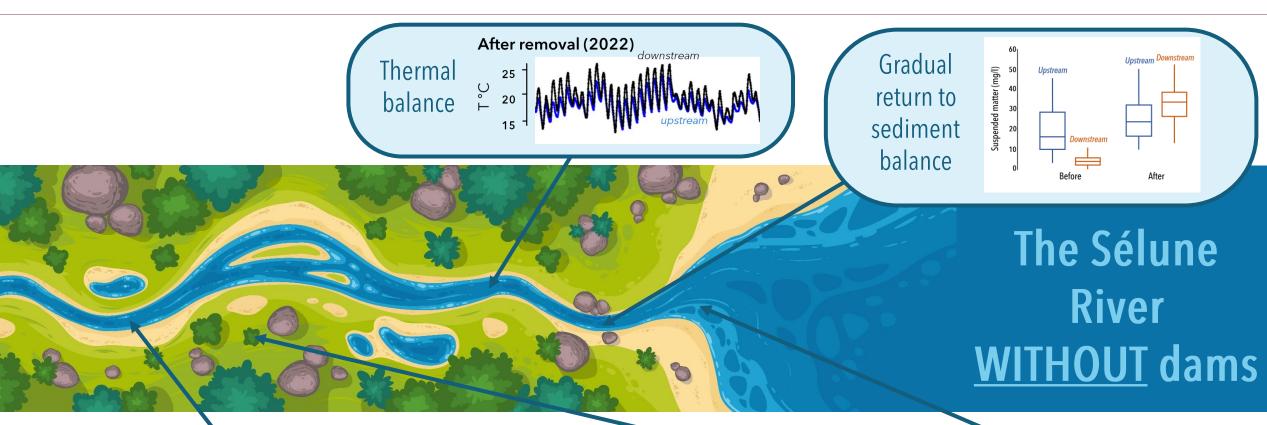
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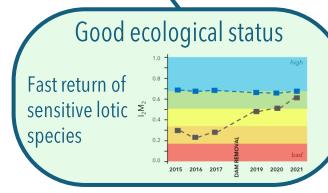




A new connection to the ocean = restored energy fluxes?

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Recolonisation of the new riverbanks by vegetation

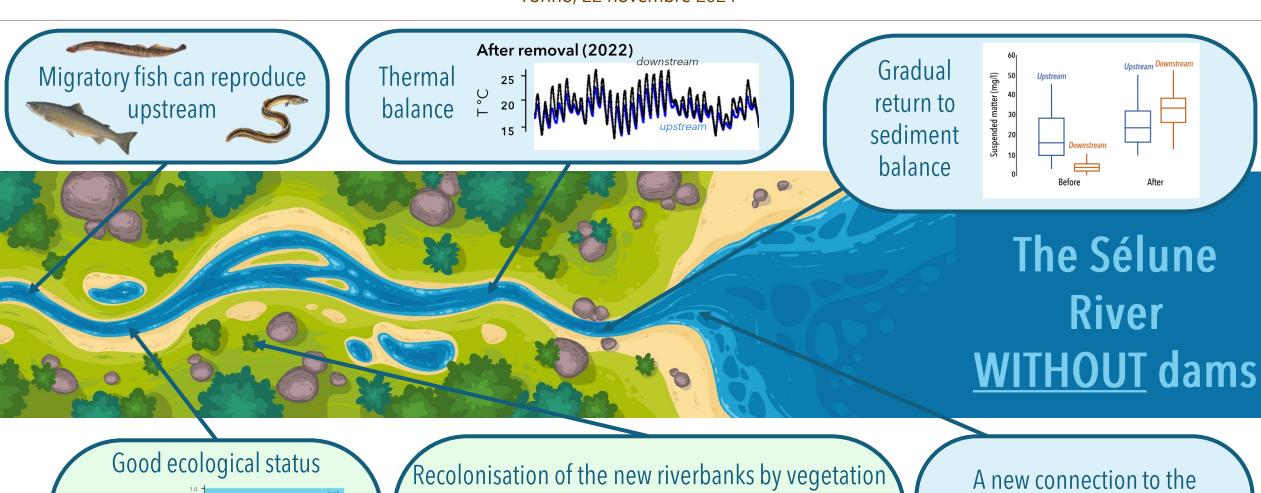
- → High species richness and trees
- → Mosaic of natural habitats
- → Influenced by removal works

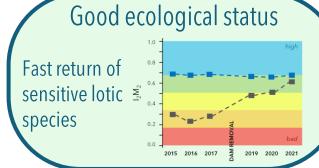
A new connection to the ocean

= restored energy fluxes?

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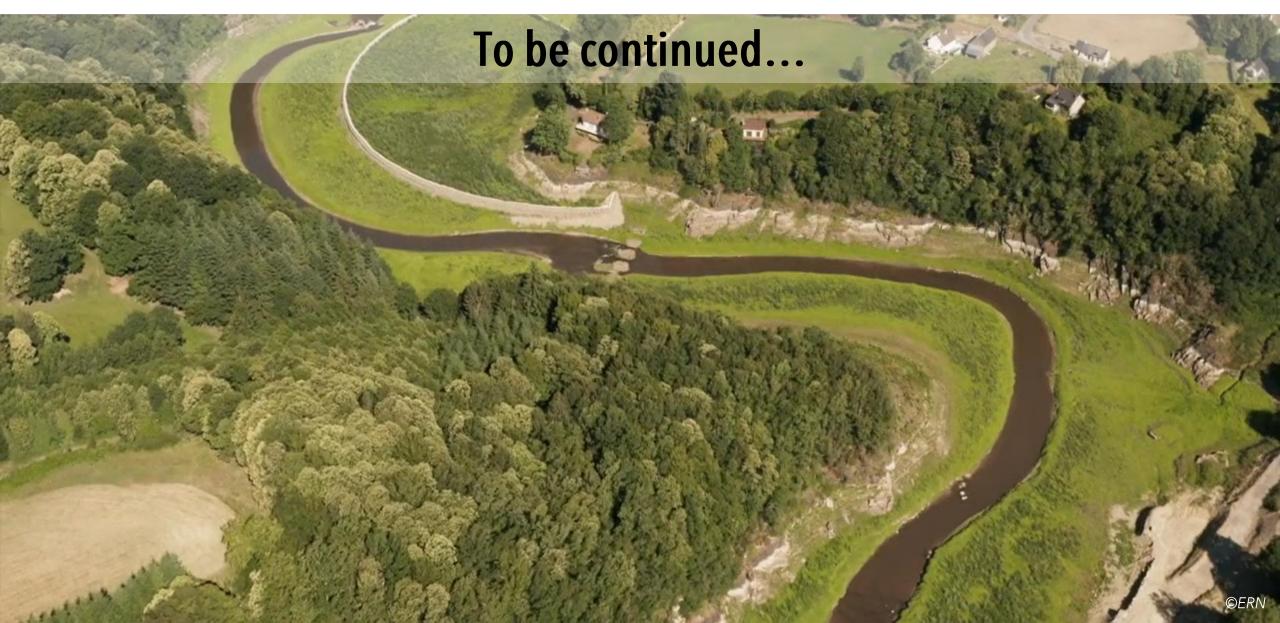


- → High species richness and trees
- → Mosaic of natural habitats
- → Influenced by removal works

A new connection to the ocean

= restored energy fluxes?

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#### **Programme scientifique Sélune**

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