The Rhone Basin Long Term Environment Research (a scientific label of the CNRS) comprises Observatory or Experimental Sites. It is the support of research programs that provide elements of knowledge to stakeholders and to public decision-makers, in the field of sustainable management of rivers and watersheds. It aims to provide decision makers with a methodology to evaluate the effects of watershed rehabilitation or restoration on river hydrosystems, in terms of biodiversity, sustainability (lasting effects), ecological services and potential uses.

The Rhone-Alps Group of Research on the Infrastructures and Water is a non-profit organisation created in 1985. Its aim is to contribute to the co-ordination of supply and demand of research in the field of urban water management. Its scope of activities includes the organisation of interdisciplinary working groups with partners and scientists of complementary qualifications, and the synthesis and dissemination of knowledge in this field. The organisation of the Novatech conferences is an example of such activities.

Between Durance and Rhone
A look at ecological restoration projects

Technical tour (Friday 26th June)
Aim of the tour

This full day technical tour, which is part of the I.S.Rivers conference, aims at:
- Raising awareness of participants to the various restoration issues of the Durance and the Rhone, incl. meetings on site with stakeholders of these restoration projects;
- Discovering emblematic restoration works carried out on the Durance and the Rhone.

Audience

This full day tour is for I.S.Rivers delegates, whether they are scientists, river managers, consultants, residents or other varied users.

Official languages

English and French are the two official languages. Simultaneous translation will be provided during this technical tour.

Practical information

Meeting point at the Part-Dieu railway station

Programme

07.00 Meeting point at the Part-Dieu railway station
08.06 Departure from Lyon Part-Dieu by train
09.31 Arrival at Aix TGV

09.45 - 10.30 Travel to La Roque d’Anthéron (by coach)

10.30 - 11.30 The restoration of the Durance river in La Roque-d’Anthéron
The SMAVD (the joint syndicate for the Durance Valley planning) started an ambitious policy in the 90s to recover the Durance alluvial space, implying notably to push back some structures that were much too far into the river. The SMAVD proposes to discover a restored area in La Roque-d’Anthéron: the live bed has won back more than 45% of its width, and besides its advantages with regards to morphology and flood flow improvement, this development is also very positive on an ecological aspect, for typical habitats of braided rivers.

11.30 - 12.40 Travel to Sauveterre (by coach)

12.40 - 14.30 Sauveterre: its dam and high level fishway
The National Company of the Rhone (CNR) and the Rhone Mediterranean Migratory Fishes Association propose to explore a hydroelectric development and the high level fishway of the Sauveterre dam that will soon allow to facilitate the river recolonisation (and its affluents) by migratory fishes.

14.30 - 15.15 Travel to Pont Saint Esprit (by coach)

15.15 - 17.00 Between Donzère, Mondragon and Pont-Saint-Esprit: complementary actions to open the Rhone’s arms
The dismantling of the Girardon dike fields in Pont-Saint-Esprit was experimented in 2009. This experience shows that it is possible to give a dynamics back to the river, enabling to fight against the aggravation of the rising river water levels and to provide sediments to the river in order to encourage new types of alluvial ecosystems. The next works scheduled will be the river former channels restoration in the area of the old Rhone, from Donzere to Mondragon, in 2016. Discover the issues and realities of these restorations via the presentations of the CNR, ZABR scientists and territory stakeholders.

19.00 Back to the Part-Dieu railway station (by coach)