

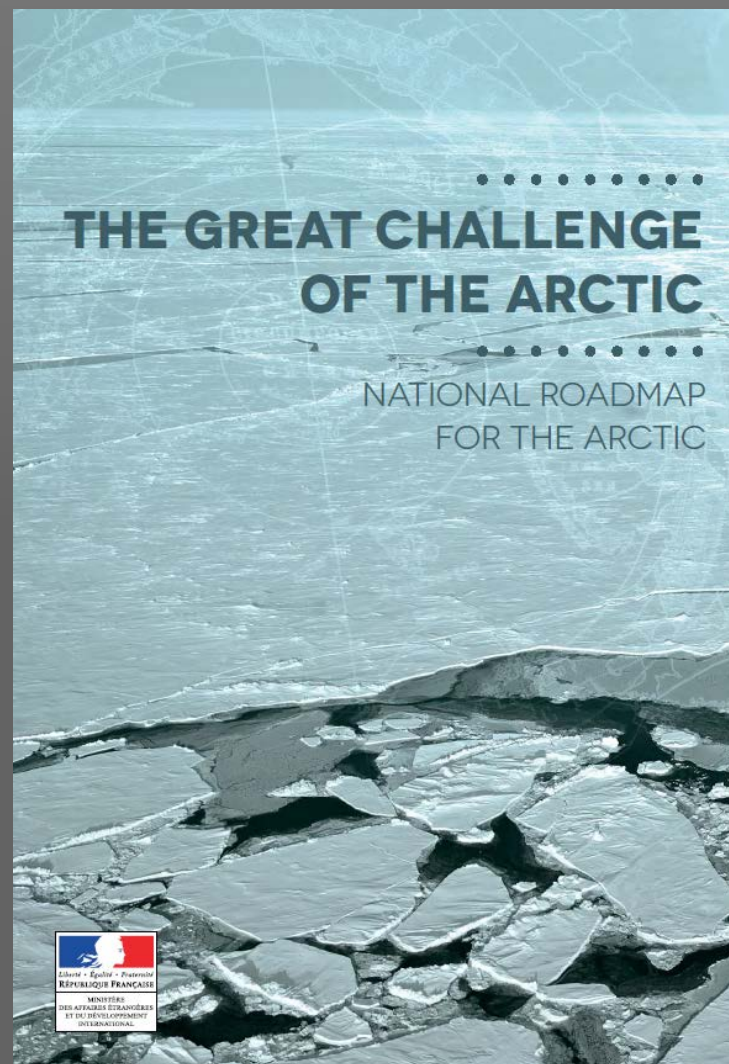


Forum of Arctic Research Operators

A French roadmap for the Arctic

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Four main areas of work:

- Identifying France's interests (economic, defence, scientific, influence, etc.) in the Arctic;
- Enhancing the legitimacy of France in Arctic affairs and forums;
- Working to balance national interest and the general interest in the governance of the Arctic Ocean;
- Promoting a high level of protection for this unique and fragile marine environment

Seven themes:

1. Scientific research and academic cooperation in the Arctic
2. France's economic interests and opportunities in the Arctic
3. Arctic marine environment protection policy
4. France's defence and security interests in the Arctic
5. France's presence in international forums
6. The European Union and the Arctic Region
7. Balancing national interests and global common interest in the Arctic

1. FRANCE'S MAIN SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS IN THE ARCTIC

The long-range planning exercise for the Arctic initiative identified **10 major scientific priorities**:

1. Arctic and global atmospheric variability: amplification, linkages and impacts;
2. Water cycle and land ice;
3. The changing ocean: physical features and marine ecosystems;
4. Geodynamics and resources;
5. Permafrost dynamics in the context of climate warming;
6. Arctic terrestrial ecosystem dynamics in the context of climate warming;
7. Indigenous societies and global change;
8. Building an integrated programme on the land-sea continuum in the Arctic;
9. Pollution: source, cycles and impacts;
10. Sustainable development in the Arctic: impacts, implementation and governance.

- **Build up France's scientific role in the Arctic Council working groups and task forces**, by bringing in French human and social science specialists in particular.
- **Ensure that France participates fully in international scientific organisations**, such as the International Arctic Science Committee and its working groups.
- **Develop the European aspects** (cooperation between Arctic and non-Arctic European Union countries) of French scientific research on the Arctic, as part of the European Union research and innovation programme (Horizon 2020), and at the institutional level, through the **European Polar Board** (EPB) and its initiatives (e.g. the **EU-PolarNet project**).

RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESEARCH

- **Develop and enhance partnerships** with scientific organisations from the Arctic Ocean coastal states.
- **Promote France's scientific expertise in human and social sciences** and the teaching of Arctic languages in France to the Arctic states.
- **Develop research contracts with businesses** that may be interested by economic opportunities in the Arctic (transport, aerospace, shipping, energy, mineral resources, insurance, communications, health).

All of these initiatives require development of French Arctic research with strong institutional and scientific support

2. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ARCTIC

- Mineral resources
- Transportation
- Infrastructures
- Satellite surveillance
- Fisheries

Ensure that France's industrial projects mainstream environmental protection concerns and local and indigenous community participation, in line with corporate social responsibility.

3. DEFENCE AND SECURITY ISSUES

At this point, France's main interests in the Arctic primarily concern its economy, security and the environment, rather than military and defence issues.

4. PROTECTING THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

- Maritime safety
- Mining
- Protection of biodiversity and conservation of environment
- Fisheries

5. FRANCE'S PRESENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ON THE ARCTIC

- *Arctic Council*
- *Other technical forums (International Maritime Organization, Arctic Security Forces Roundtable, International Organization for Standardization, etc.)*

6. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE ARCTIC REGION

France is in favour of establishing an integrated European policy for the Arctic which strengthens the legitimacy of European action there, with a view to obtaining permanent observer status in the Arctic Council and improving the coordination of many European programmes.

7. NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THE COMMON INTEREST IN THE ARCTIC REGION

This item can be summarized by the following words of President Hollande:

“France will do everything that it can, here in the Far North of the planet, to take action, mobilise its researchers and its businesses, to enable us to preserve this part of the world, which is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful.”



“France will never think that the Arctic Ocean can be treated like any other ocean in terms of the level of environmental precautions. We are calling for implementation of special, more stringent environmental safety standards in the Arctic where French operators are present.”

François Hollande, President of the French Republic
Arctic Circle, Reykjavik, Iceland, 16 October 2015

The French roadmap for the Arctic is downloadable at:

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/frna_-_eng_-interne_-_prepa_-_17-06-pm-bd-pdf_cle02695b.pdf



Thank you for your attention