

2026, a summer that opens a new era in France?

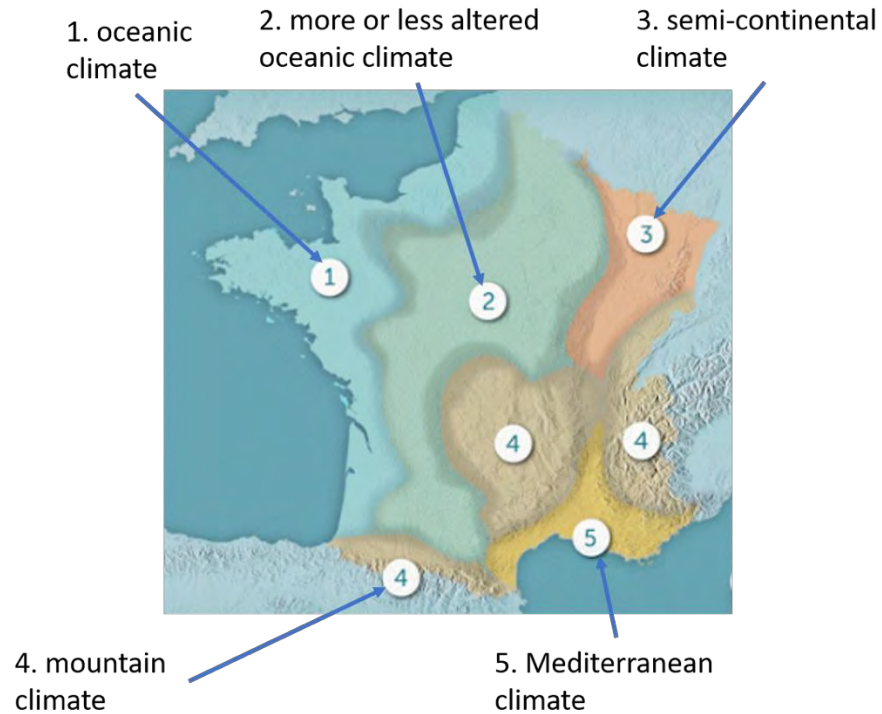
National Delegation for Natural hazards

ONF – National Forest office (France)



23/09/2026

Provisional report 2026 : 3rd most devastating year of the last 50 years

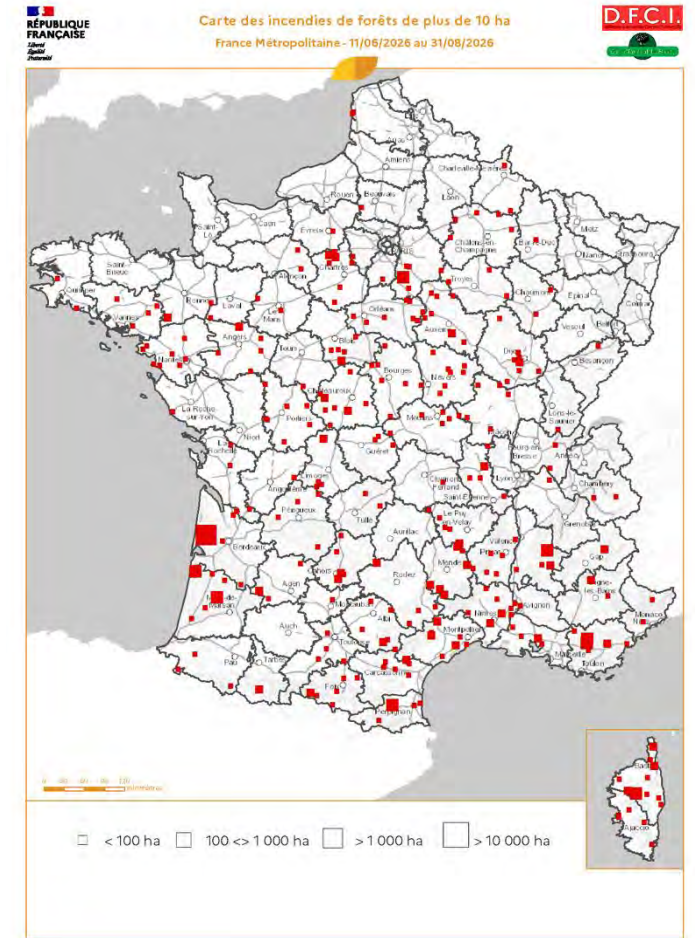


2026 confirms:

- Extension and intensification of risk
- The crucial issue of interfaces, brush clearing, etc.

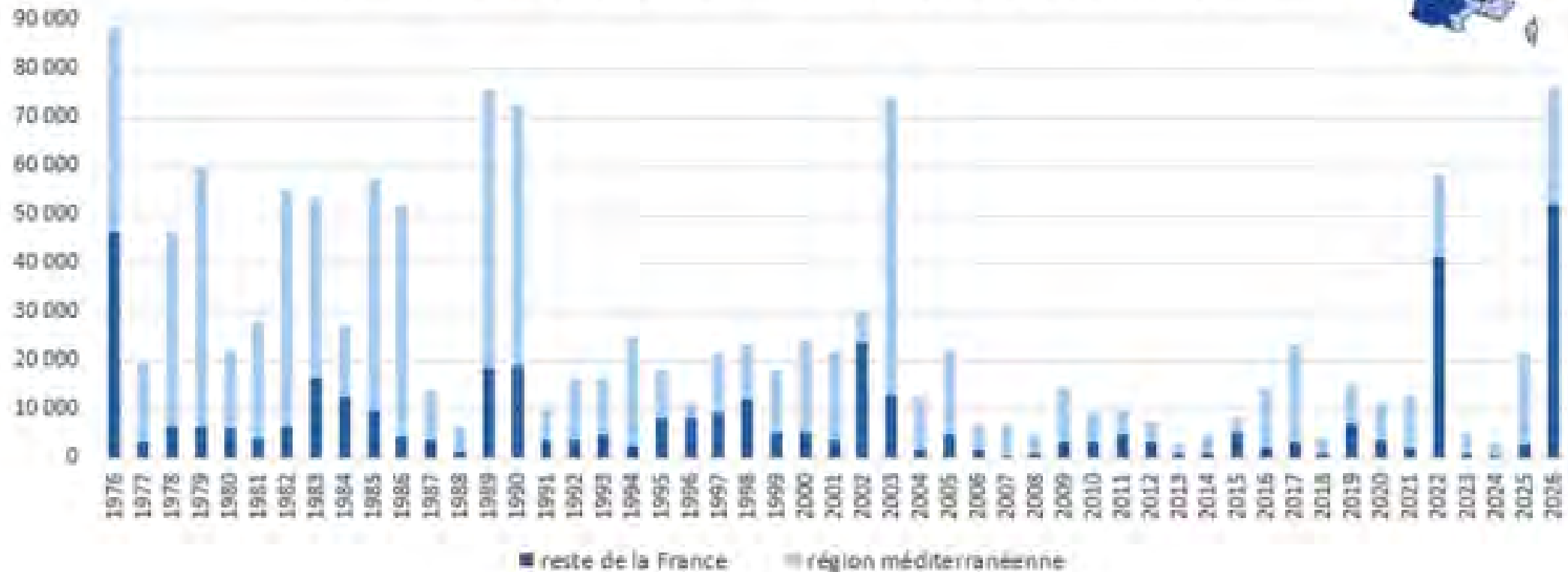
But 2026 brings new challenges:
on hazards, risk culture

Similar observation in the
Overseas Territories: La Réunion,
Mayotte, Martinique,
Guadeloupe



Provisional report 2026 : 76 000 ha of forest burned down until now

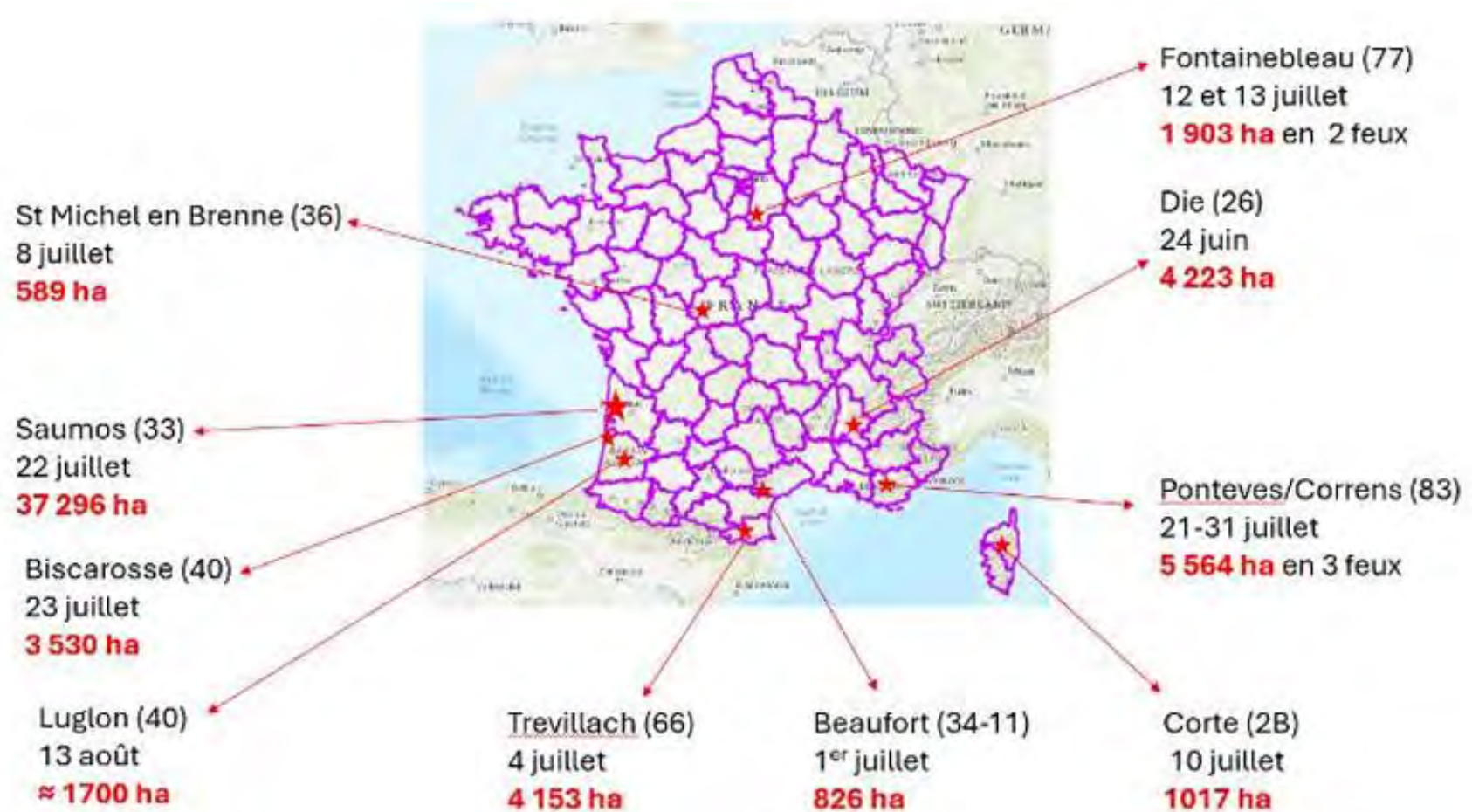
Evolution des surfaces annuelles incendiées
en France - feux de forêt uniquement - 1976 à 2026 (provisoire à fin août)



Provisional report 2026:

More frequent, intense and severe fires: 8 fires > 1000ha

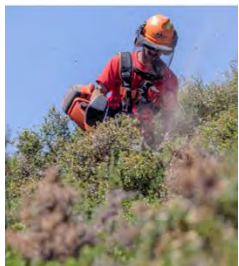
Large fires (>500ha) in the summer of 2026



A French strategy based on prevention

ONF mobilised as part of missions of general interest

Throughout the year:



Forest Fire Protection
Equipment Maintenance



Control of legal obligations to
clear brush



Support for State services

As of August 26, 2026

- Surveillance and intervention patrols
 - 9044 patrols
 - 163 decisive interventions / 461
- Surveillance and control patrols
 - 3832 patrols
 - 6935 Controls
 - 1497 procedures
 - 2467 terminations of infringement

During the summer season:



Risk prediction



Patrols: surveillance and intervention
on emerging fires + surveillance and
control



Expertise, support for rescue operations and
investigation of the circumstances and causes
of fires



Feedbacks participation +
mountain risk study (RTM)



Post-fire

Methodology and typology of ONF actions

The general objective is to support natural dynamics in order to reconstitute forests that are more resilient, more diversified and better adapted to future climatic conditions; to sustainably restore all the ecological, economic and social services they provide to society.



Phase 1: Securing

- Mapping of fires of more than 20ha (contours, severity, etc.), Research into the causes of fires
- Removal of burnt and dangerous wood, securing access and paths
- Exploitation of burned wood (safety + recovery)
- Prevention of erosion and rockfall



Phase 2: Monitoring and feedback

- Feedback on fire developments, buildings, legal obligation to clear brush
- Monitoring of stands (mortality, regeneration, etc.)
- Assessment of the damage: forestry, forestry fire protection, reception and road facilities, cultural,
- Pest and disease surveillance, health monitoring
- Ecological studies and monitoring



Phase 3 : Reconstitution

- Forest stands / silvicultural strategy
- Forestry, plantations, enrichment, protection (game)
- Ecological engineering works / wetland restoration
- Reinforcement / restoration of forest fires equipment



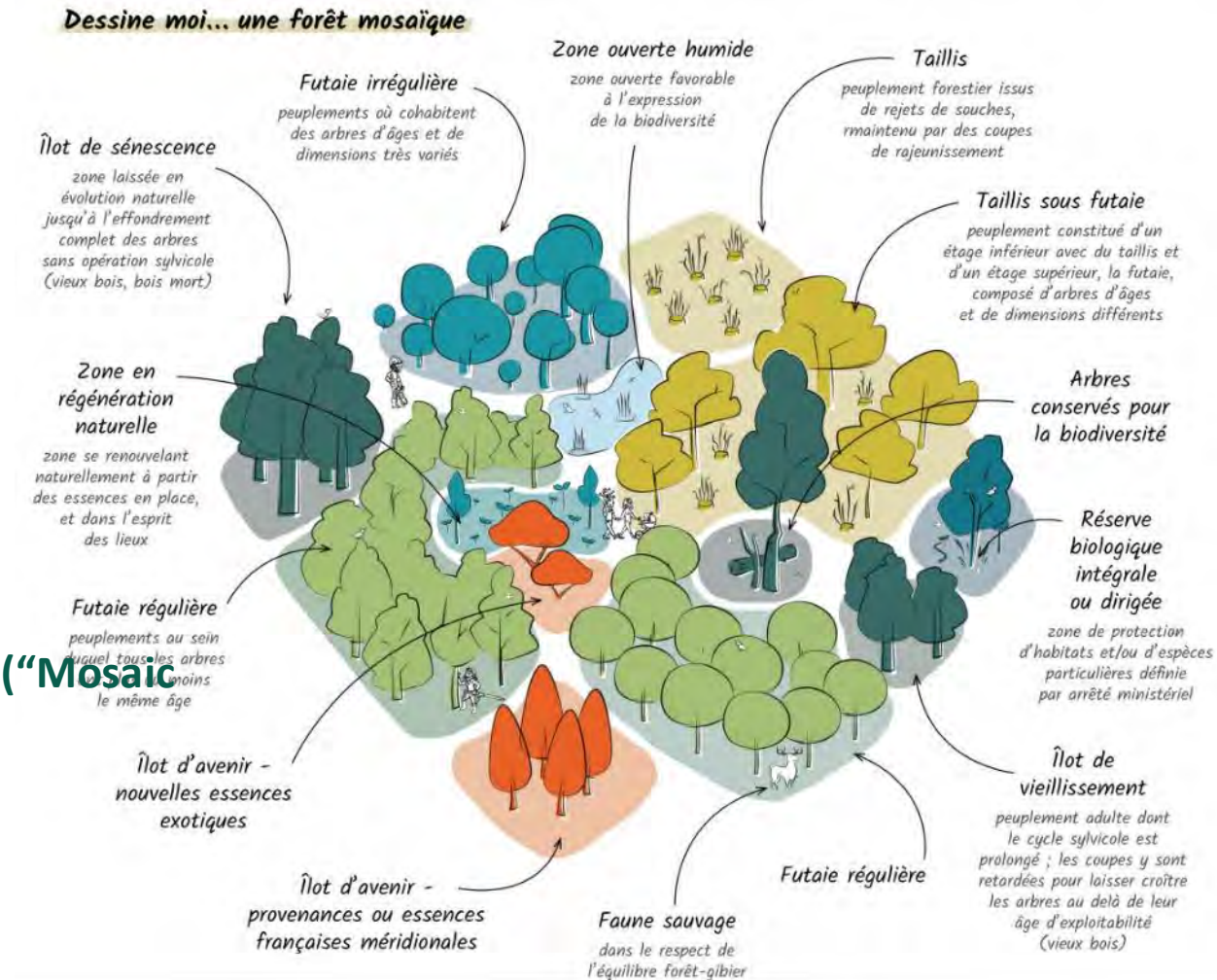
First conclusions : a need for active and adaptive forest management

2026 confirms the trends seen in 2022 :

- Geographical extension of forest fire risk
- Intensification of fires
- Intensification of fire rhythm / simultaneity
- Consequences: on hazards in the mountains, loss of biodiversity, etc.

Consequences for forest management : greater diversification ("Mosaic forest")

- Forest management modes (regular, irregular)
- Stands (different ages)
- Species (resistant and resilient)
- Landscapes (diversity of density, wetlands, fuel cuts)





Office National des Forêts

Merci pour votre attention.