

Risk analysis of levee systems Analyse de risque des systèmes d'endiguement

Use of the results of the analysis for risk mitigation on the Authion levee system Exploitation des résultats de l'analyse pour la réduction du risque sur le système d'endiguement de l'Authion



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Photo : DREAL CVL/DET

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1- Caractéristiques du système d'endiguement issues de l'analyse de risque (EDD)

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2- Réduction du risque par des mesures de gestion

3- Risk mitigation through functional and structural improvements of the levee

3- Réduction du risque par des améliorations fonctionnelles et structurelles de la digue



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1- Characteristics of the levee system from the risk analysis (hazard study)

1- Caractéristiques du système d'endiguement issues de l'analyse de risque (EDD)

System composition Composition du système
Safety / protection / overflow levels Niveaux de sûreté / de

protection / de surverse

Performance of the levee system during a flood Fonctionnement en cas de crue

Severity of consequences associated with a system failure Gravité des conséquences

associées à la défaillance du système

2- Risk mitigation through management measures

2- Réduction du risque par des mesures de gestion

At the levee system level A l'échelle des digues du

système

At the territory level A l'échelle du territoire

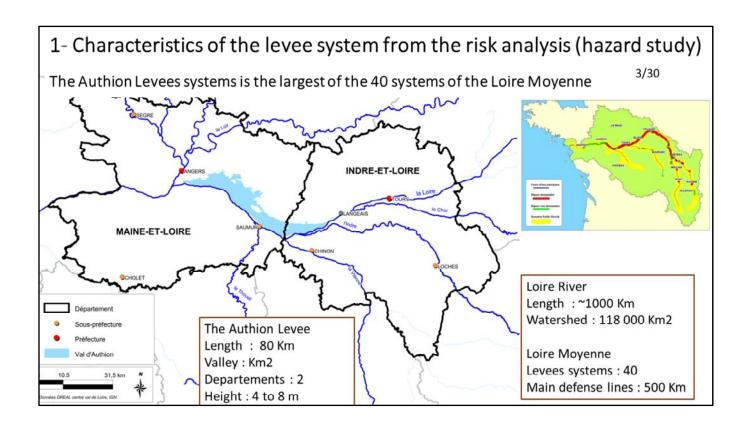
3- Risk reduction through functional and structural improvements of the levee

3- Réduction du risque par des améliorations fonctionnelles et structurelles de la digue Drafting and implementation of a project to improve the reliability of the levee Elaboration et mise en œuvre d'un projet de fiabilisation

Examples of layer reliability works

Examples of levee reliability works Exemples d'opération de fiabilisation

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Loire river

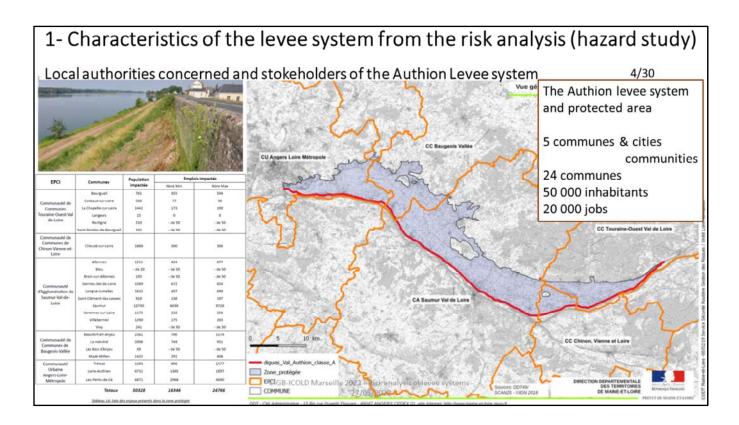
The Loire is the longest river in France. It measures more than 1000 km from its source at 1400 m altitude in the mountains of the Massif Central to the Atlantic Ocean. Its watershed covers 117 800 km².

The Middle Loire is a part of the Loire River which extends over 450 km from the confluence of the Loire and the Allier after Nevers to the confluence of the Maine and the Loire at Angers.

The Middle Loire is characterised by an almost continuous Meta system of levees designed to protect the floodplain (from 2 to 12 km wide) from the river's floods.

The Meta levee system of the Loire Moyenne

The Meta levee system of the middle Loire has about 500 km of levees forming the main line of defence againts flooding. The main line of defence consists of 40 levee systems. The Authion levee system is the largest.



The Authion Levee system

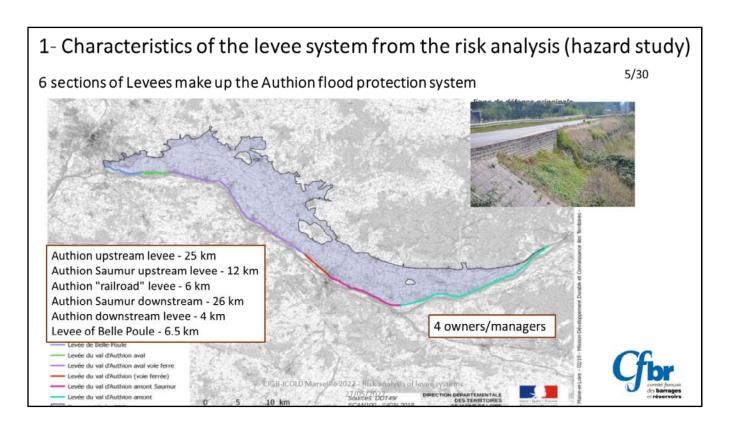
The Authion levee system includes a main line of flood defence of about 80 km protecting a unique floodplain of about 400 km².

The system is made up of very old works which have been built and rebuilt, by successive elevations and enlargements, since the Middle Age.

The levees near Angers are first mentionned in 779 in a manuscrit from the time of King Charlemagne.

The average height of the levee is over 4.60 m and the maximum height is over 7.40 m (height above ground level on the valley side)

Population and local authorities: 24 communes/municipalities, over 50,000 inhabitants and about 20,000 employees



System composition

The flood protection system is composed of the following 6 sections of levee:

Authion upstream levee - 25 km

Authion Saumur upstream levee - 12 km

Authion "railroad" levee - 6 km

Authion Saumur downstream - 26 km

Authion downstream levee - 4 km

Levee of Belle Poule - 6.5 km

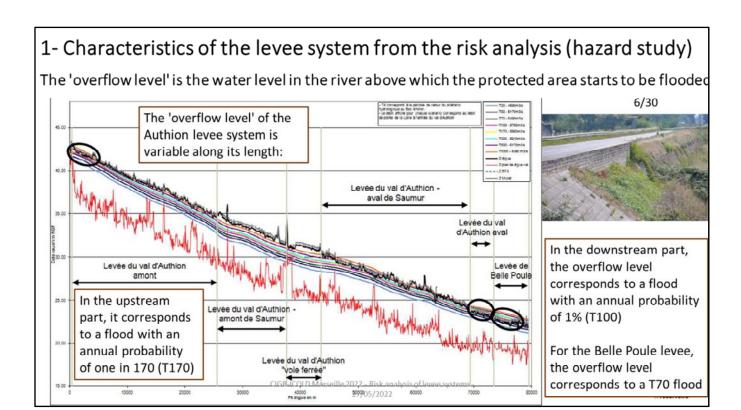
The first five sections are commonly associated to define what is often called the Great Levee of the Authion.

The sections "Authion upstream levee" are property of the State and managed by the technical services of the prefecture of Indre-et-Loire located in Tours (DDT37).

The sections " Authion Saumur upstream levee ", " Authion Saumur downstream " and "Authion downstream levee " are owned by the State and managed by the technical services of the Prefecture of Maine-et-Loire located in Angers (DDT49)

The section "Authion 'railroad' levee " is owned by Réseau Ferré de France (SNCF) but is not managed as a dike.

The "Levee of Belle Poule" section is owned by several local authorities and managed by the Syndicat Mixte pour le Développement Agricole de la Vallée de l'Authion (SYDEVA).

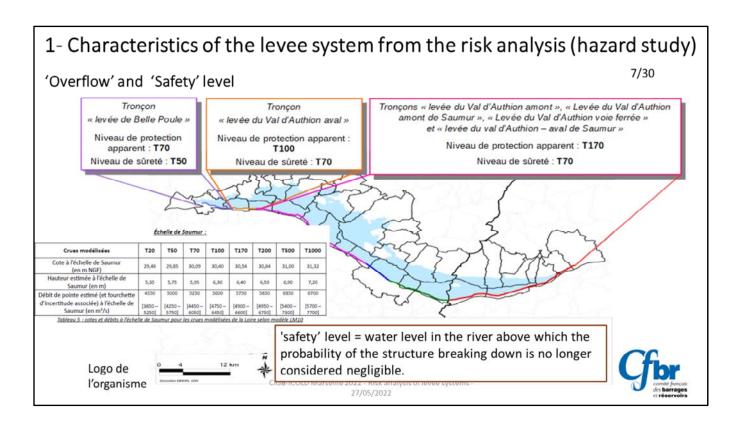


Overflow / Safety / Protection levels

The 'overflow level' is the water level in the river above which the protected area starts to be flooded without prior breach of the levee, by overflow above the top of the levee or by a spillway.

The hazard study showed that the 'overflow level' of the Authion levee system is variable along its length:

- In the upstream part, it corresponds to a flood with a return period of 170 years (this means an annual probability of one in 170)
- In the downstream part, after the town of La Bohalle, the overflow level corresponds to a flood of return period 100 years (this means an annual probability of one in 100)
- For the Belle Poule levee, the overflow level corresponds to a 70-year return period flood (this means an annual probability of one in 70)



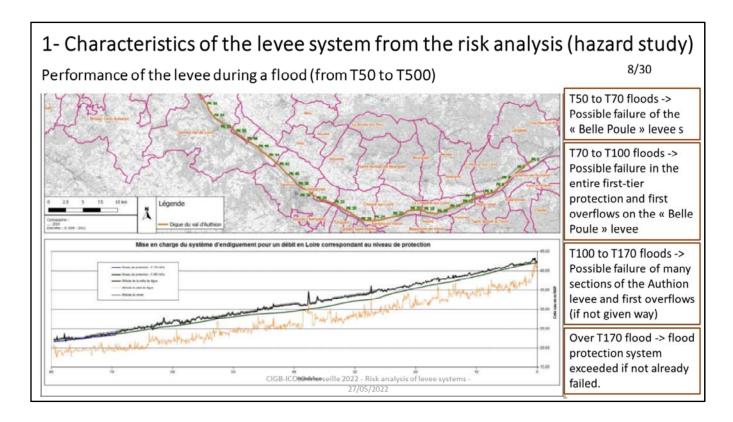
Overflow / Safety / Protection levels

However, the levee system is likely to break down through internal erosion before the water from the Loire reaches the crest of the dike. This is why the level of protection must be determined according to the 'safety level' of the levee.

The 'safety level' is defined as the water level in the river above which the probability of the structure breaking down is no longer considered negligible.

In the upstream and downstream part of the Authion levee, the safety level corresponds to a flood with a 70-year return period (this means an annual probability of one in 70). For the Belle Poule levee, the safety level corresponds to a 50-year return period flood (this means an annual probability of one in 50).

In a perfectly reliable levee system, the safety level is greater than or equal to the protection level. This means that failure before overtopping is unlikely. Under French law, the protection level is chosen by the levee system manager. For the Authion levee system the protection levels are the same as the safety levels.



Performance of the levee system during a flood

The functional and structural analyses in the Hazard Study allow us to imagine the expected performance of the system during a flood.

For water heights lower than those of a T50 flood (height at the Saumur Bridge scale H = 5.75 m, peak flow Qp = 5,000 m3/s), the levee system protects the entire Authion valley.

For water heights between those of the T50 and T70 floods (height at the Saumur Bridge scale H = 5.95 m, peak flow Qp = 5,250 m3/s), the "Belle Poule levee" section could fail and give way, without overflowing the structures. The sectors of La Daguenière and Les Ponts-de-Cé, are the sectors that stand out as being the most fragile due to the height of the load on the structures, the presence of vegetation and/or the presence of pipes in the dike body.

For water heights between those of the T70 and T100 floods (height at the Saumur Bridge scale H = 6.30 m, peak flow Qp = 5,600 m3/s), the entire first third protection system of the Authion valley could fail. The first overflows would be observed on the "Belle Poule levee" section, if it wouldn't have broken before, but without any

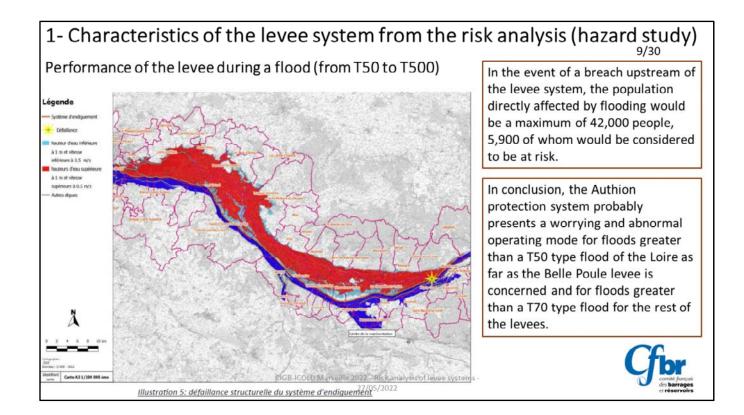
consequences due to the slopes on the valley side being very favourable to flows.

The most fragile sectors are those subject to the highest hydraulic loads, due to the presence of depressions on the valley side (old erosion pits for example) or those which suffer from the presence of disorders such as pipes in the lower part, vegetation or embedded buildings.

For water heights between those of the T100 and T170 floods (height at the Saumur Bridge scale H = 6.40 m, peak flow Qp = 5,750 m3/s), beyond the overflow areas on the "Belle Poule levee" section which will be more obvious, the first overflows could be observed on the "Authion valley levee" section if these sections have not already given way.

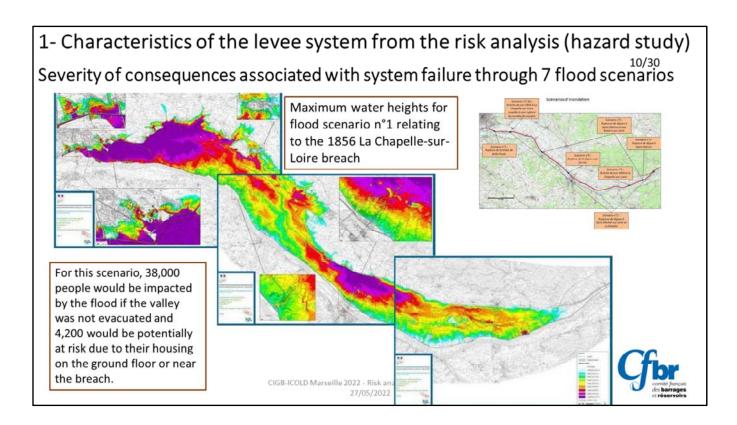
For water heights above that of the T170 flood (height at the Saumur Bridge scale H = 6.40 m, peak flow Qpointe = 5,750 m3/s), the top of the upstream end of the flood protection system could be exceeded if it has not already failed.

In conclusion, the protection system constituted by the Loire levees in the Authion valley would probably present, today, a worrying and abnormal operating mode for floods greater than a T50 type flood of the Loire as far as the Belle Poule levee is concerned and for floods greater than a T70 type flood for the rest of the system.



Performance of the levee system during a flood

In the event of a breach upstream of the levee system, the population directly affected by flooding would be a maximum of 42,000 people, 5,900 of whom would be considered to be at risk.



Severity of consequences associated with system failure

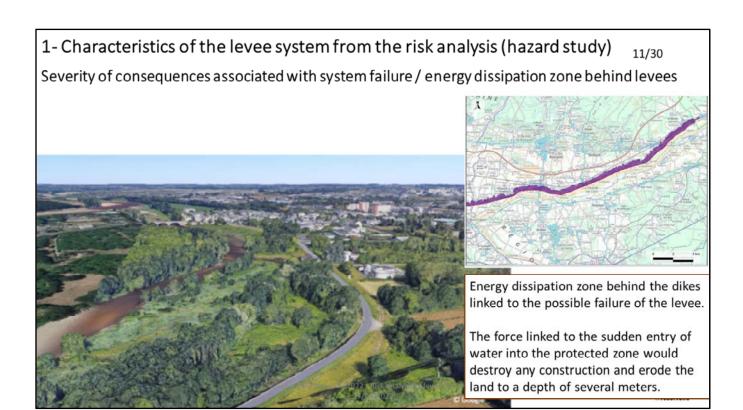
The Hazard study evaluates the severity of the flood risk in the valley, through 7 flood scenarios that have been simulated with different cases of levee breaches via two-dimensional hydraulic modelling tools. These scenarios are intended to approach the severity (i.e. number of people affected by the flood) and then the criticality (i.e. severity combined with the probability of the levee breaking).

The 3 Maps of maximum water heights for flood scenario n°1 relate to the 1856 La Chapelle-sur-Loire breach.

For this scenario, 38,000 people would be impacted by the flood if the valley was not evacuated and 4,200 would be potentially at risk due to their housing on the ground floor or near the breach.

In terms of severity, the scenario's consequences are described as "catastrophic" and present an intolerable risk in the context of a modern society.

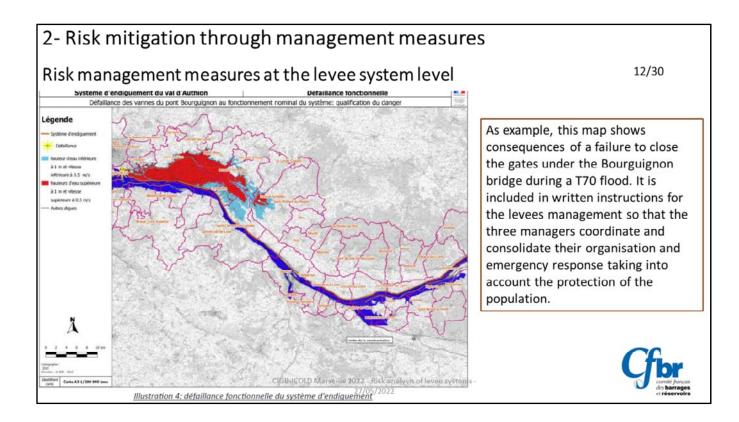
Furthermore, due to the "perched" nature of the Loire in relation to the Authion valley, another consequence of the water entering the valley would be the change in the bed of the Loire, also known as defluviation.



Severity of risk associated with system failure

The analysis of the erosion pits created by the historical breaches leads to the consideration of an energy dissipation zone behind the dikes linked to the possible failure of the protection works. In this zone, the force linked to the sudden entry of water into the protected zone would destroy any construction and erode the land to a depth of several metres.

In this study based on the observations made on the Loire, the extent of this danger zone linked to the dissipation of energy behind the breach is proposed to be one hundred times the difference between the apparent protection level and the level of the ground in the valley.



2- Risk mitigation through management measures

Following the risk analysis, a plan of risk mitigation measures was drawn up. This plan contains the emergency measures required by regulations and other measures to improve management procedures.

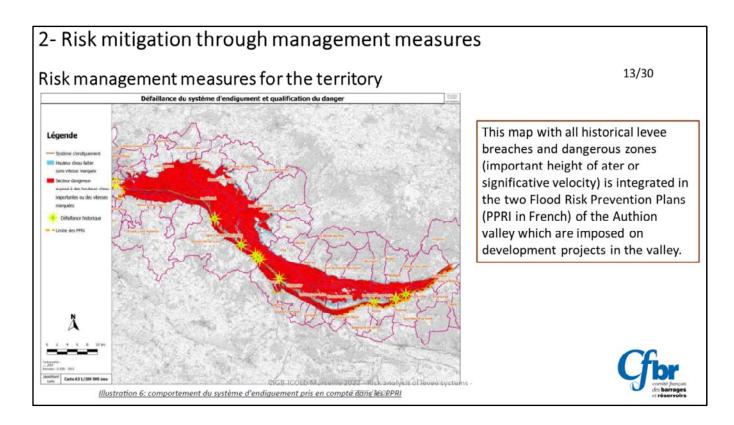
It includes:

- measures for managing the structure, which aim in particular to consolidate the organisation for maintaining the service and for emergency intervention in the event of flooding
- risk management measures scale that take into account the protection of the population
- structural and functional improvements
- improvement of knowledge of structures and phenomena (hydrological, related to breach formation, etc.).

Risk management measures at the levee system level

For example

- Coordination between the three managers for the entire Loire flood protection system
- Definition and prioritisation of monitoring actions for structures during flood periods in the levees manager written instructions
- Establishment of a response capacity for emergency repairs



2- Risk mitigation through management measures

Risk management measures for the territory

Integration of knowledge from the hazard study:

- in the two Flood Risk Prevention Plans (PPRI in French) of the Authion valley which are imposed on development projects in the area;
- for the determination of alert thresholds triggering the safety or evacuation of people
- for the drafting of the Communal Protection Plans (PCS in French) of the 24 municipalities and towns of the Authion valley.

3- Risk mitigation through functional and structural improvements of the levee

Définitions

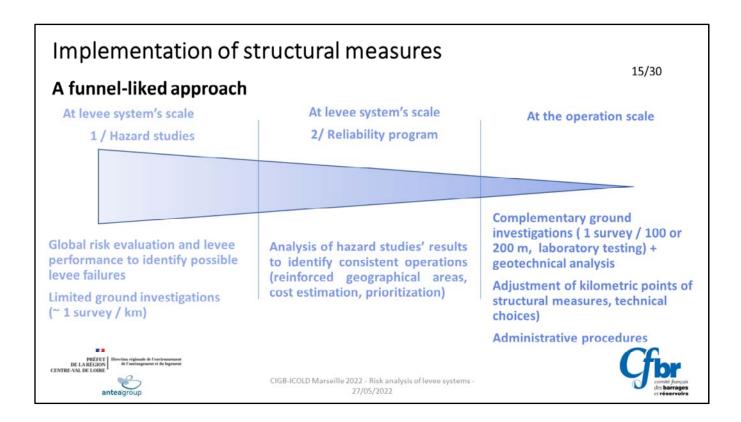
Structural measures: reinforcement of Authion's levee in order to reach the desired safety level (i.e. mainly levee's crest)

Functional measures: once the structural measures are implemented, overflow management and no levee failure / breach for return period flood which leads to water level higher than the top of the levee





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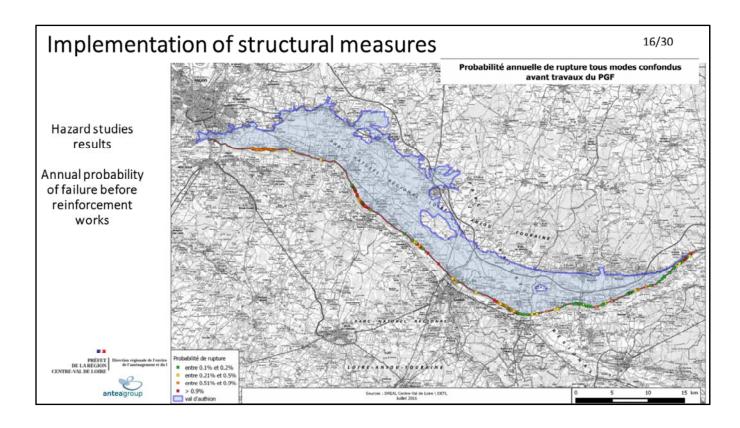
A funnel-liked approach.

1/ Hazard studies. Global assessment of Authion's levee. Few / simple calculations to provide a first approach of the performance of the levee. Authion's levee = "old levee", made with different materials, subject to different reinforcements, etc.

2/ Reliability program usually based on ground investigations performed for hazard studies. Valorization of hazard studies' results to identify consistent operations (clustering approach)

Enable to present the reliability program to the stakeholders (future levee's managers, etc.)

3 / At the operation scale: Complementary ground investigations (1 survey / 100 or 200 m) + laboratory testing (index and mechanical properties, erodibility, permeability) to acquire further geotechnical data on the levee itself and the foundation + geotechnical calculation to assess the behavior of the levee under different failure modes (internal erosion / seepage, etc.).



Map which precise the annual probability of failure before reinforcement works using a specific tool developed in the middle Loire catchment. Annual probability for all the possible failure modes considering: overflowing, internal erosion, external erosion, foundation breakdown, etc.

Implementation of structural measures

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Reliability program for Authion's area (2 French "departements")

- Valorization of all historic data (former reinforcements, historic behavior during past floods)
- Definition of reinforcement measures to face the different possible failure modes, to facilitate access and maintenance of the levee
- · Cost estimation of the different works
- Operation phases taking into account geographic criteria, methodologies and technical solutions.
- Assessment of operational constraints (property issues, required administrative procedures, required ground investigations, etc.)





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Multiple technical solutions were identified		Récapitu	Operations' Name	Operations' location is dans le dépa	Type of reinforcement urtement du Maine-e	Length	Costs of works
Failure mode	Technical solutions	N° de l'opération	Dénomination des opérations	Localisation des opérations	Descriptif des actions	Linéaire de l'opération	Estimation des travaux
Overflowing	not planned at the moment	1	Étanchéification de la digue à Varennes-sur- Loire	Varennes-sur- Loire	Écrans étanches	4 060 m	4 500 000 €
Internal Erosion	 Reduction of levee's slope on the protected side Cut off barrier (soil mixing) 	2	Tranche 1 Épaississement de la digue à Varennes-sur-Loire Tranche 2	Varennes-sur- Loire	Reprise du talus côté val	2 360 m	2 000 000 €
External Erosion	Protection of levee's toe with a service way made with rip rap	3	Épaississement de la digue à Saint-Martin-de- la-Place	Saint-Martin-de-la- Place	Reprise du talus côté val	1 655 m	1 300 000 €
10 V1 10	material	4	Étanchéification de la digue – Les-Rosiers-sur- Loire	Les-Rosiers-sur- Loire	Écrans étanches	3 780 m	3 900 000 €
Foundation breakdown	Relief well system	5	Étanchéification et Épais- sissement de la digue La Bohalle – La Dague-	La Bohalle La Daguenière	Écrans étanches Reprise du talus côté val	1 990 m	2 100 000 €
Serviceability	Service route with a road structure ("all weather" available)	6	nière Accessibilité à l'ouvrage Saumur – Saint-Martin- de-la-Place	Saumur Saint-Martin-de-la- Place	Création de chemin de service côté val	4 600 m	1 500 000 €
			Total	pération travaux		15 300	0 000 €

Multiples reinforcement works are possible for a given failure mode (to be noted that a levee segment often suffers from different failure modes)

Non-exhaustive list:

Technical solutions for **overflowing**: raise the level of levee's crest, spillways, overflow resistant profile (armourstone revetment, reinforced mattresses, gabions, flexible concrete block revetments), etc.

Technical solutions for **internal erosion**: cut off barriers, drainage of the levee (on the protected side / "downstream" side with internal drains, toe drain, ...), impervious layer on the river's side, crossing network treatment

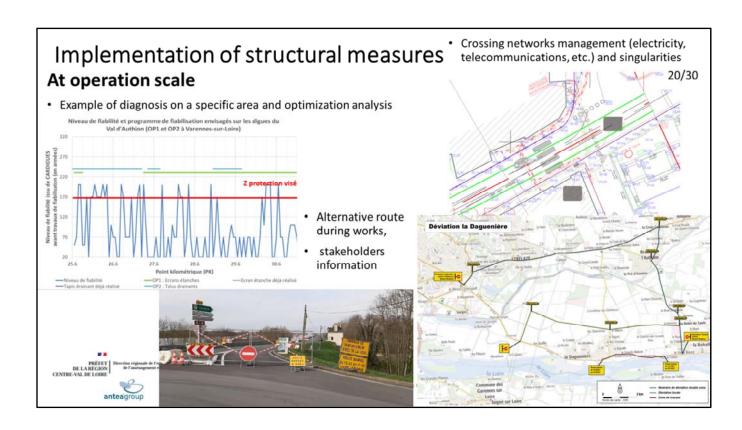
Technical solutions for **the stability**: stabilizing berms, decrease of levee's slope Technical solutions for **external erosion**: armourstone revetment, natural techniques,

Technical solutions for the foundation breakdown: relief well system

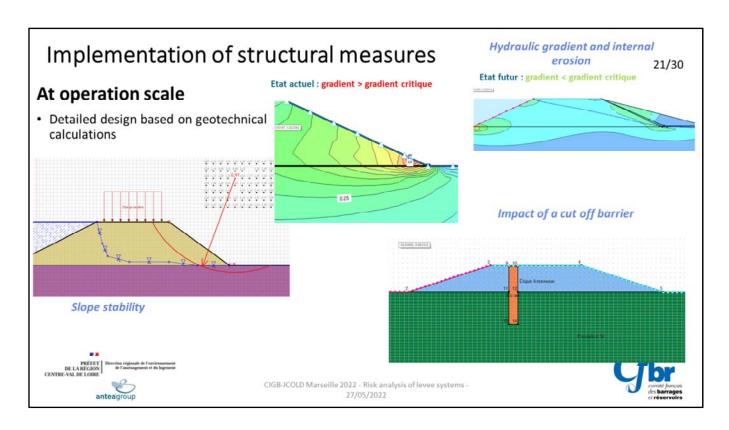
Technical solutions for **serviceability**: service route with a "road structure"

19/30 Implementation of structural measures Tous les 100 ml au niveau de la zone de confortement par écran étanche et sur SONDAGE CAROTTE At operation scale A définir sur site en fonction des découvertes géologiques pour essais mécaniques et essais de perméabilité en laboratoire Undisturbed PRELEVEMENT INTACT sampling Tous les 100 ml (en alternance avec les sondages au pénétromètre) pour identification et pour caractérisation des matériaux réalisé en quinconce avec les carottés · Geotechnical investigations and Borehole laboratory testing program Static Tous les 100 ml (en alternance avec les sondages tarières) pour identification et pour caractérisation des matériaux réalisé en quinconce avec les carottés PENETROMETRE STATIQUE penetrometer PRELEVEMENT EN VRAC A chaque changement de faciès GRANULOMETRIE A chaque prélèvement Laboratory TENEUR EN EAU A chaque prélèvement characterization Un par formation et par sondage Un par formation et par sondage C'/ф' Par formation et par sondage · Asbestos analysis on the road surface layer · HET (Hole Erosion Test) · Organic matter rate · Design study to precise the cement proportion CIGB-ICOLD Marseille 2022 - Risk analysis of levee systems 27/05/2022

Implementation of structural measures required a series of investigations during detailed design but also often during civil works to face unexpected issues

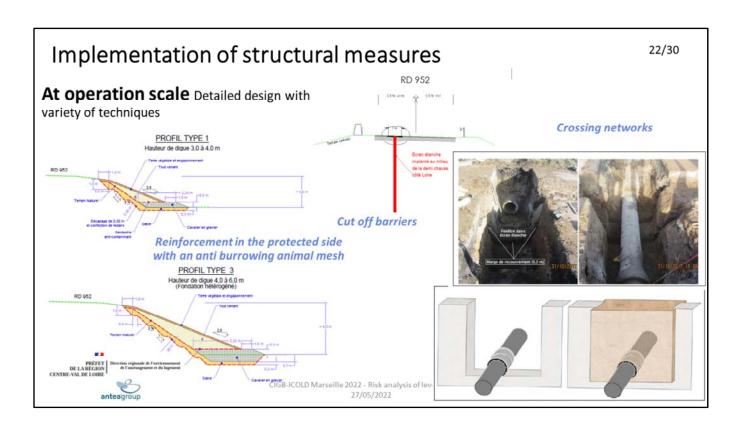


Multiples elements have to be considered and not only technical issues: networks managers (electricity, telecom, drinking water system, sewage system, etc.), removal waste, access for emergency services, local authorities, etc.



Multiple calculations are required on different levee's segments to design and optimize reinforcements (slope stability, hydraulic gradient, foundation breakdown, etc.). Thanks to the geotechnical linear profile / model, it is possible to extrapolate results everywhere

Uncertainties must be considered (geotechnical parameters, flood water level)

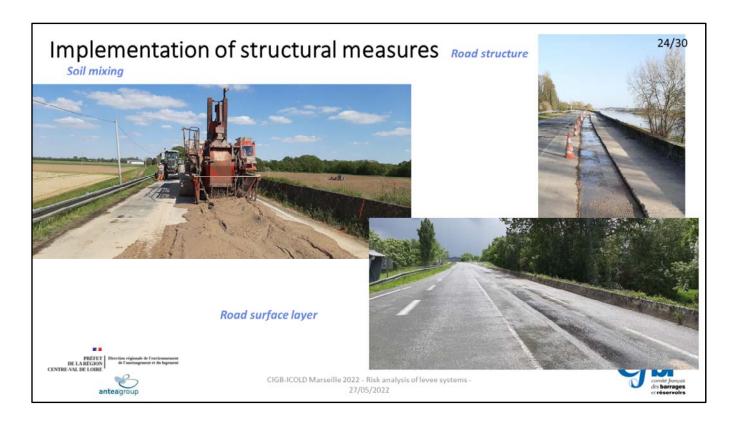


Multiple techniques exist. They have to fit to the diagnostic. They can answer to different given failure modes (for example internal erosion and stability on the protected side). For crossing network, reinforcement works have to take into account different items: network depth, pipe material, network type, etc.



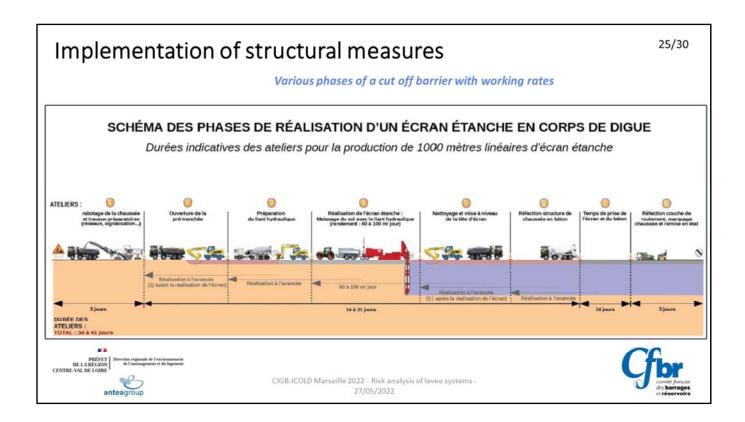
Different steps of the realization of a cut off barrier (trechmix):

- Road marking,
- Pavement planning,
- Pre trench using sometimes specific tool (hydraulic hammer for example)
- Addition of cement in the pre trench (sometimes other hydraulic blinders are required, following the results of the mix deign testing for example limestone in case of a high rate of organic matter)



Different steps of the realization of a cut off barrier (trechmix) :

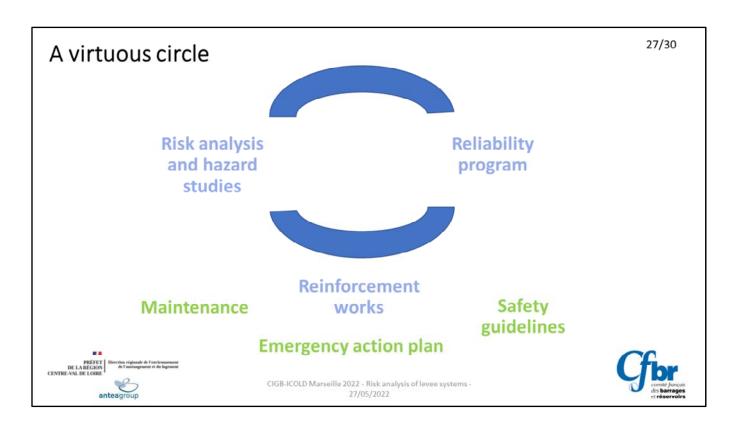
- Trench mix: mix cement and other hydraulic blinders with water and levee materials
- Road structure rehabilitation
- Road surface layer rehabilitation including markings



The drawing precises the different steps of a cut off barrier and the duration of each phase. Specific constraints can reduce the scale of the production (cross section networks, cement setting difficulties, etc.)



In 2021, two operations on the Authion levee are realized on the Maine-et-Loire Department. They enable to reach the desired safety level on these segments (a 170 years flood return period) but other segments have to be done!



It is necessary to update frequently the risk analysis and to valorize feedback. In France, at least each 10 years for levees which protects more than 30 000 inhabitants. In addition to reinforcement, other tools are available and complementary:

- maintenance,
- safety guidelines,
- networks management,
- public and stakeholders' communication

Functional measures

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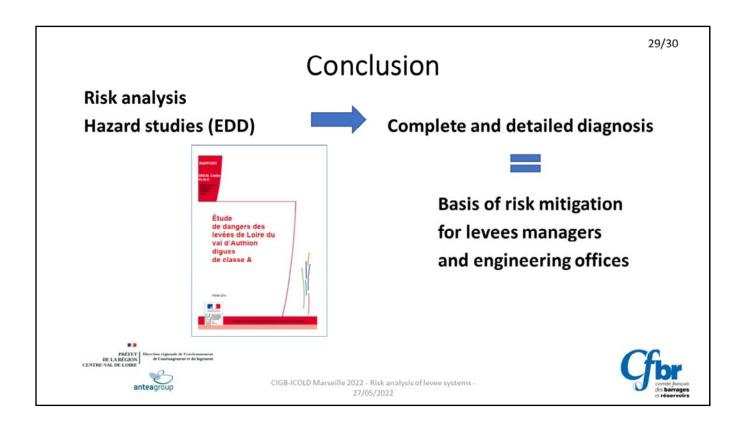
For Authion's levee, functional measures consist in, once the structural measures are implemented,

- Data acquisition and complementary studies (hydrology, climate change, etc.)
- Overflow management in conjunction with local authorities and stakeholders





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In conclusion, risk analysis as used in hazard studies (EDD in French) provides a complete diagnosis of the levee system.

This detailed diagnosis allows the manager to improve the management procedures of his levees in order to mitigate the risk.

This diagnosis is also the basis of the design work for the engineering office for structural improvement works on levees.

Thanks for your attention

The 1866's flood caused 88 breaches in the Loire levees and destroyed many buildings and transport infrastructures. Levee's breach in Saumur (middle of the Authion levee system) and flooding of Saumur station.









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