

ASSEDEV

WHITE PAPER

For a Responsible, Inclusive and Sustainable Ecological Transition

FOUNDING EDITION — VERSION 1.0

October 2026

“Each generation inherits nature and bears the responsibility of passing it on.”

Act for Nature, Serve Generations.

PUBLICATION NOTE

This Founding Edition, Version 1.0, brings together and harmonizes the sixteen substantive chapters of ASSEDEV's White Paper. It translates the association's convictions into a framework for reflection, priorities, proposals, methods and action.

Chapter 7 provides the common methodological reference; Chapter 14 provides the common reference for measurement and evaluation. The five scientific and environmental areas and the three cross-cutting levers are retained in their validated structure.

The public bibliography brings together 110 consolidated references, organized into five areas. The body of the White Paper prioritizes a fluid reading experience: references are used sparingly, while detailed sources are gathered at the end of the document.

The White Paper is neither an exhaustive scientific assessment, nor a fixed programme, nor a substitute for competent institutions, local authorities, professionals or scientific bodies. It is a documented, coherent and evolving framework, intended to be updated when knowledge, territories and projects generate sufficiently robust new lessons.

"ASSEDEV does not simply seek to raise awareness of environmental challenges. It seeks to transform knowledge into action, action into results, and results into a legacy for future generations."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For a Responsible, Inclusive and Sustainable Ecological Transition

ASSEDEV's White Paper translates the association's convictions into a framework for reflection, priorities, proposals and action. It connects knowledge with territorial realities, analysis with experimentation, and action with sufficiently rigorous evaluation to inform future decisions.

For ASSEDEV, the ecological transition cannot be reduced to awareness-raising, the accumulation of initiatives or the uniform application of solutions. It requires understanding problems and their causes, identifying responsibilities, adapting responses to territories, involving the relevant stakeholders and measuring the results achieved.

Responsibility towards future generations is the guiding thread of this approach. Present choices must be assessed not only in light of their immediate effects, but also in terms of their capacity to preserve resources, ecosystems, knowledge and the room for action available to those who come after us.

The White Paper is structured around five priority areas: water, sanitation & pollution; biodiversity & ecosystems; waste & circular economy; climate, energy & resilience; agriculture, agrifood systems & nutrition. Three cross-cutting levers complement them: education, information & citizen engagement; research, innovation, experimentation & knowledge sharing; territorial, national & international cooperation.

This structure is not an automatic catalogue of projects. A priority becomes an action when the problem is sufficiently documented, a territory or target group is identified, ASSEDEV's added value is clear, the relevant stakeholders can be mobilized and a realistic monitoring method exists.

The proposed method follows a progressive logic: observe, understand, consult, experiment, act, measure, learn and, when the results justify it, share or replicate solutions. Evaluation is not a final formality; it should distinguish activity, output, result, possible effect and durability, and then help determine whether an action should be continued, modified, strengthened, expanded or stopped.

Cooperation is central, but it must never dilute responsibilities. Citizens, volunteers, associations, local authorities, public institutions, schools, universities, researchers, experts, businesses and institutions can contribute according to their skills and means, without the association replacing competent authorities or professionals.

Finally, the White Paper is designed as an evolving framework: it should enable ASSEDEV to move from intention to evidence, capitalize on lessons from its projects, and pass on useful methods and results beyond each experiment.

"Does what we do today help preserve or improve the world we will pass on tomorrow?"

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1. FOREWORD

1.1. Why this White Paper

ASSEDEV's White Paper is intended to become a document for reflection, proposals and action. It translates the association's identity, convictions and ambitions into assessments, priorities, proposals and avenues for action that can inform and guide its interventions. It has a specific place among the association's institutional documents: the Statutes define the legal framework; the Internal Rules set out how the association operates; the Manifesto expresses its convictions and commitments; and the White Paper develops the assessment, priorities, proposals and avenues for action. It is neither an exhaustive scientific assessment, nor a fixed programme, nor a substitute for the expertise of institutions, local authorities, professionals or scientific bodies. Its purpose is to provide a documented, coherent and evolving framework that enables ASSEDEV to better understand the issues on which it wishes to act and to determine the conditions for useful action. This edition is organized around five areas: Water, sanitation & pollution; Biodiversity & ecosystems; Waste & circular economy; Climate, energy & resilience; Agriculture, agrifood systems & nutrition. Wherever possible, it distinguishes findings derived from sources, territorial observations, and ASSEDEV's own analyses or proposals.

1.2. Responsibility towards future generations

The responsibility to pass on is the guiding thread of the ASSEDEV project. Decisions made today can have consequences that extend far beyond the duration of a project, a mandate or a generation. Environmental responsibility therefore means considering not only the immediate effects of choices, but also their long-term consequences for resources, ecosystems, vulnerabilities and future capacity to act.

"Each generation inherits nature and bears the responsibility of passing it on."

This responsibility does not mean that we can predict the needs of future generations with certainty. It means that we should avoid unnecessarily reducing their ability to benefit from resources, functioning ecosystems, knowledge and territories capable of adapting.

1.3. ASSEDEV's place in the ecological transition

ASSEDEV seeks to contribute to the ecological transition as an independent actor in awareness-raising, cooperation, advocacy, experimentation, action and knowledge sharing. The association does not intend to replace scientific bodies, public authorities, local authorities, professionals or competent operators. Its contribution is to help bridge knowledge and action, global issues and territorial realities, citizen engagement and institutional responsibilities, experimentation and evaluation, local results and the sharing of lessons learned.

1.4. A pragmatic, inclusive and measurable ecological transition

ASSEDEV advocates an ecological transition that is not limited to intentions or the multiplication of symbolic actions. It seeks to prioritize interventions adapted to territorial realities, proportionate to available resources, developed with the stakeholders concerned and sufficiently documented to allow their results to be assessed. The detailed method is set out in Chapter 7. The evaluation requirement is developed in Chapter 14. From the outset of the White Paper, one

rule remains: an environmental action should not merely be desirable; it should also be understandable, justified, implementable and assessable.

1.5. A living document

The White Paper is not intended to permanently freeze ASSEDEV's positions. Scientific knowledge evolves, territories change, new data emerge and projects generate lessons. It is therefore an evolving framework, intended to be updated when sufficiently robust new elements justify it, while maintaining source traceability and the distinction between facts, observations and proposals.

“ASSEDEV does not simply seek to raise awareness of environmental challenges. It seeks to transform knowledge into action, action into results, and results into a legacy for future generations.”

2. ASSEDEV: IDENTITY, VISION AND PURPOSE

2.1. An association born from a desire to act

ASSEDEV was created from a desire to bring together energy, skills and goodwill in order to act responsibly in the public interest, in service of the environment and present and future generations. Its identity rests on one conviction: environmental protection is more effective when it connects knowledge, citizen engagement, innovation, cooperation and action on the ground.

2.2. Protect, preserve, restore and pass on

Protecting, preserving, restoring and enhancing the environment, biodiversity, natural resources and ecological heritage form the foundation of ASSEDEV's action. This action is not limited to repairing visible degradation. It prioritizes preventing pressures, using resources responsibly and passing on environmental conditions compatible with a dignified and resilient life.

2.3. An integrated vision of environment and development

ASSEDEV considers that environmental issues cannot be separated from social, economic, educational and territorial realities. Water, biodiversity, waste, climate, energy, agriculture, food and mobility are interdependent and should be addressed by seeking complementarities rather than shifting problems from one sector to another.

2.4. Act for Nature, Serve Generations

ASSEDEV's motto expresses the continuity between protecting living systems and responsibility towards people. Acting for nature means preserving the resources and ecosystems on which societies depend; serving generations means assessing choices in light of their present and future effects.

2.5. Public interest and independence

ASSEDEV intends to act in the public interest and preserve its independence of analysis. Its partnerships, funding and positions must remain compatible with its purpose, values and freedom of judgement.

2.6. An interface organization

ASSEDEV positions itself as an interface organization: it can connect citizens, local authorities, researchers, associations, businesses and other stakeholders around documented problems and explicit objectives, without replacing the responsibilities of each actor.

2.7. A coherent documentary identity

The Statutes, Internal Rules, Manifesto and White Paper serve distinct but complementary functions. This documentary architecture is intended to make the association's legal framework, convictions, operations and operational orientations clear and readable.

"ASSEDEV seeks to connect knowledge, responsibility and action so that environmental protection is not merely a stated ambition, but a collective, documented, measurable and transferable approach."

3. OUR ASSESSMENT

Contemporary environmental crises are interconnected. They affect resources, ecosystems, economic activities, health, infrastructure and the capacity of territories to withstand shocks. This interdependence requires a systemic perspective: acting on one problem without considering its causes, actors and interactions can shift impacts rather than reduce them.

3.1. Water, sanitation & pollution

Access to safe water, reliable sanitation and good-quality environments remains a major challenge. Pressures arise in particular from insufficiently treated discharges, diffuse pollution, certain agricultural and industrial practices, poor waste management, excessive withdrawals and inadequate monitoring systems. ASSEDEV adopts an integrated perspective: resource availability, water quality, service performance, pressures, air and soil pollution, and territorial resilience should be considered together when the project warrants it.

Main sources: see Bibliography — Area 1 "Water, sanitation & pollution".

3.2. Biodiversity & ecosystems

Biodiversity is affected by changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species. These pressures alter species, habitats and ecological functions on which food, water, soils, climate regulation and certain livelihoods depend. This assessment leads to prioritizing prevention of degradation and reduction of pressures before restoration, which remains necessary when ecosystems are already degraded.

Main sources: see Bibliography — Area 2 "Biodiversity & ecosystems".

3.3. Waste & circular economy

Waste management cannot be reduced to collection or recycling. Prevention, reuse, repair, the quality of collection and treatment services, material circularity and the reduction of illegal dumping must be addressed together. Clear governance, explicit responsibilities and appropriate measurement systems are essential to distinguish between action taken, service quality and lasting improvement in territorial conditions.

Main sources: see Bibliography — Area 3 "Waste & circular economy".

3.4. Climate, energy & resilience

Climate change is already affecting physical, ecological and human systems. Its consequences are unevenly distributed because they depend on exposure, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities. A coherent strategy must combine mitigation and adaptation: sufficiency, efficiency and decarbonization on the one hand; risk prevention, adaptation of infrastructure, protection of populations and strengthening of response capacities on the other.

Main sources: see Bibliography — Area 4 "Climate, energy & resilience".

3.5. Agriculture, agrifood systems & nutrition

Agricultural and food systems both depend on water, soils, biodiversity and climate and can exert pressures on those same resources. Production, economic viability, food security, nutrition and resilience should be analyzed together. No single model can be applied mechanically to

every territory. Practices should be assessed in their ecological, economic, social and food context.

Main sources: see Bibliography — Area 5 "Agriculture, agrifood systems & nutrition".

3.6. A cross-cutting assessment

Solutions cannot be assessed independently of territories, stakeholders and measurement. A useful action should specify where it applies, which problem it addresses, who holds the necessary responsibilities and how results will be observed.

"The environmental challenge is not simply to multiply actions, but to understand where to act, with whom, on which causes, and how to verify that the results achieved genuinely and sustainably improve the situation."

4. OUR VISION OF THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

4.1. A pragmatic and accessible approach to ecology

ASSEDEV advocates an approach to ecology that connects ambition with real capacity for action. Solutions should be understandable, adapted to context and proportionate to available means.

4.2. Reconciling environment, economy and social justice

The ecological transition should seek to reduce environmental pressures without ignoring social and economic constraints. Costs, benefits and opportunities for action are unevenly distributed; policies and projects should take this into account.

4.3. Territorializing the transition

Environmental challenges are global, but their expression and solutions are territorial. ASSEDEV therefore prioritizes assessments and responses adapted to local realities rather than the automatic application of standardized models.

4.4. Involving stakeholders without diluting responsibilities

Cooperation is essential, but it should clarify who decides, who acts, who finances, who produces data and who reports. Shared responsibility does not mean identical responsibility.

4.5. Prevent before repairing

ASSEDEV prioritizes prevention and reduction of pressures at source whenever possible. Restoration, remediation or treatment remain necessary where degradation already exists, but they should not cause prevention to be overlooked.

4.6. Sufficiency, efficiency and changing practices

Sufficiency and efficiency are cross-cutting principles: use resources better, avoid unnecessary consumption, extend product lifetimes, reduce losses and change practices where they sustain avoidable pressures.

4.7. Linking mitigation, adaptation and resilience

Reducing emissions is not enough to protect territories from risks that are already present or emerging; adapting does not remove the need to reduce the causes of climate change. ASSEDEV advocates a coherent link between mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

4.8. Seek complementarities rather than shift problems

An environmental solution can produce undesirable effects in another area. ASSEDEV therefore seeks to identify co-benefits, trade-offs and risks of shifting impacts.

“For ASSEDEV, succeeding in the ecological transition does not mean applying the same solutions everywhere, but building, with the stakeholders concerned, responses that are adapted, preventive, fair and measurable, capable of preserving resources while sustainably strengthening the resilience of territories and generations.”

5. ASSEDEV'S MAIN PRIORITIES

ASSEDEV's priorities are organized around five scientific and environmental areas, complemented by three cross-cutting levers. This architecture is not a catalogue of automatic projects: it defines the field in which the association seeks to document issues, develop proposals and select appropriate actions.

5.1. Five priority areas

5.1.1. Water, sanitation & pollution

Prevent pollution, improve understanding of pressures, support safe water and sanitation management, and contribute to environmental monitoring where ASSEDEV's action provides identifiable added value.

5.1.2. Biodiversity & ecosystems

Prevent degradation, reduce pressures, protect habitats, restore where necessary, strengthen connectivity and develop proportionate local observation.

5.1.3. Waste & circular economy

Prioritize prevention, reuse and repair, strengthen the quality of collection and treatment, encourage circularity and monitor territorial results.

5.1.4. Climate, energy & resilience

Link sufficiency, efficiency, mobility, energy and emissions reduction with territorial adaptation and stronger resilience.

5.1.5. Agriculture, agrifood systems & nutrition

Connect production, economic viability, environment, food security, nutrition and resilience in contextualized and measurable projects.

5.2. Three cross-cutting levers

5.2.1. Education, information & citizen engagement

Make knowledge accessible, strengthen the capacity to act and involve citizens in observation, understanding and, where relevant, project evaluation.

5.2.2. Research, innovation, experimentation & knowledge sharing

Draw on available sources, seek the necessary expertise, experiment at a controlled scale and share lessons transparently.

5.2.3. Territorial, national & international cooperation

Connect useful skills and stakeholders without diluting responsibilities, and adapt external knowledge or methods to local realities.

5.3. An integrated architecture

The areas are interdependent. Projects may produce cross-cutting effects, but ASSEDEV will only claim an impact when it is genuinely documented.

5.4. From priority to action

A priority becomes a project when a problem is sufficiently documented, a territory or target group is identified, ASSEDEV's added value is clear, the relevant stakeholders can be mobilized and a realistic monitoring method exists.

“ASSEDEV's priorities are not a catalogue of actions to be multiplied, but a framework for deciding where the association can make a useful contribution, with which stakeholders, using which method and with what capacity to demonstrate the results achieved.”

6. OUR PROPOSALS

ASSEDEV's proposals translate the findings and priorities of the White Paper into concrete directions. They are not all already funded or scheduled projects; they form a decision-making framework to be territorialized and tested for feasibility.

1. Prioritize prevention and reduction of pollution at source

Act upstream whenever possible, while retaining treatment, decontamination or remediation options where contamination already exists.

2. Strengthen risk-based water and sanitation management with clear stakeholder responsibilities

Connect access, quality, continuity of service, safe treatment, pressures and monitoring, while clarifying each actor's responsibilities.

3. Avoid and reduce pressures on biodiversity before restoring

Protect habitats and reduce the causes of degradation before treating restoration as a sufficient response.

4. Develop local knowledge, participation and ecological monitoring

Combine territorial observations, appropriate expertise and proportionate citizen participation.

5. Make prevention, reuse and repair the first levels of action on waste

Reduce waste generation before prioritizing recycling or end-of-chain treatment.

6. Make responsibilities in waste management visible and traceable

Clarify the chain of responsibility among producers, citizens, local authorities, operators and associations.

7. Act simultaneously on sufficiency, efficiency and decarbonization

Combine reduced demand, efficient use and changes in energy sources and mobility.

8. Base adaptation on a vulnerability assessment

Identify hazards, exposure, sensitivity and capacities before selecting an adaptation action.

9. Support context-specific agricultural transitions

Avoid one-size-fits-all models and select practices adapted to soils, water, climate, markets and food needs.

10. Evaluate production, economy, environment, food and resilience together

Do not reduce agricultural success to a single dimension such as yield.

11. Make environmental information understandable and accessible

Explain without distorting, contextualize data and make limitations explicit.

12. Make measurement a normal component of action

Define a baseline when necessary, proportionate indicators and monitoring over time.

13. Build cooperation with explicit responsibilities

Specify the objectives, roles, resources, data and reporting arrangements for significant partnerships.

6.14. From the White Paper to the project sheet

When a proposal becomes operational, it should be translated into a project sheet or project file specifying at least: problem, evidence, objective, action, territory and target group, partners, resources, timetable, indicators, risks and sources.

“ASSEDEV does not consider a proposal complete simply because it appears desirable. It must also be documented, adapted to the territory, feasible with the stakeholders concerned and accompanied by a way to verify its results.”

7. ASSEDEV'S APPROACH TO ACTION

This chapter provides the common methodological reference for the White Paper. The other chapters apply this method without redeveloping it in full.

7.1. Diagnose before acting

Understand the problem, its causes, its consequences, the available data and the responses already in place.

7.2. Establish a baseline

Define a T0 baseline when the project aims to measure change.

7.3. Consult and co-design

Involve the people concerned, partners and useful expertise.

7.4. Clarify responsibilities

Distinguish who decides, who acts, who finances, who measures and who reports.

7.5. Prioritize and choose a proportionate action

Select an intervention compatible with the problem, the resources and the level of uncertainty.

7.6. Experiment at a controlled scale

Test before wider deployment when experimentation is relevant.

7.7. Act in a documented manner

Retain the information needed to understand what was actually implemented.

7.8. Measure results, not only activity

Apply the principles detailed in Chapter 14.

7.9. Adjust when results require it

Modify the method or action when data and feedback justify it.

7.10. Share lessons learned

Make methods, results, limitations and conditions for success accessible.

7.11. Scale only what has demonstrated value

Adapt solutions to other contexts without mechanical replication.

7.12. ASSEDEV's common method

Diagnose → T0 → Consult & co-design → Clarify → Prioritize → Experiment → Act → Measure
→ Adjust → Share → Scale

7.13. Link with the Manifesto

The Manifesto expresses the overall philosophy through the sequence: Know → Experiment → Measure → Analyze → Propose → Act → Pass On. The White Paper provides its operational translation.

“ASSEDEV’s method does not consist of acting first and only afterwards looking for ways to justify the action. It consists of understanding, choosing, experimenting, measuring and learning so that action is useful, responsible and transferable.”

8. TERRITORIES AT THE HEART OF ACTION

8.1. Start from the territory, not the solution

ASSEDEV starts from the territorial problem, its stakeholders and its resources before selecting a solution. The same measure can produce different results depending on infrastructure, uses, institutional capacities or local economic conditions.

8.2. Three possible levels of assessment

The assessment may be documentary; documentary and territorial; or documentary and territorial, complemented by an ASSEDEV observation or experiment. The level chosen depends on the project, the available data and the decision to be informed.

8.3. Distinguish general data from territorial reality

National or international data do not automatically describe a local territory. General data provide a framework; territorial data clarify the situation when available.

8.4. Map stakeholders

Before intervening, ASSEDEV seeks to identify local authorities, operators, associations, businesses, experts, landowners, institutions or citizen groups already concerned by the problem.

8.5. Identify resources as well as vulnerabilities

A territorial assessment should not merely list difficulties. It should also identify the skills, initiatives, infrastructure, data and networks on which an action can build.

8.6. Use the territory as a space for controlled experimentation

Pilots make it possible to test a method, coordination mechanism or monitoring system on a small scale before any possible extension.

8.7. ASSEDEV Environmental Alert

The Bertoua project illustrates this logic: citizen reporting, qualification, transmission, intervention, confirmation and follow-up are organized within a pilot area in order to assess coordination and the durability of resolutions, without generalizing the results to the entire city or country.

8.8. ASSEDEV Sustainable Mobility

The Sustainable Mobility programme illustrates a different territorial lever: mobilizing employers and relay actors around the Sustainable Mobility Allowance (FMD), cycling, carpooling and intermodality, while observing the measures actually adopted and changes in practices when the data allow.

8.9. Territorialize agriculture and biodiversity projects as well

Future biodiversity or agriculture projects should begin with the characteristics of sites, uses, stakeholders, water availability, soils, practices and local constraints.

8.10. Cooperate with local stakeholders

ASSEDEV seeks complementarity with local authorities, managers, institutions, associations and economic actors already present in the territory.

8.11. From pilot territory to scaling

Scaling occurs when results, conditions for success and limitations are sufficiently documented. It means adapting, not copying.

8.12. From local action to national and international cooperation

Local experiences can inform broader cooperation when they are properly documented and comparable, but external methods should always be adapted to context.

8.13. Minimum territorial framework

Every ASSEDEV territorial project should be able to specify: territory, problem, available data, stakeholders, resources, proposed action, responsibilities, indicators, limitations and conditions for extension.

“For ASSEDEV, the territory is not simply the place where an action is carried out: it is the scale at which the problem must be understood, stakeholders connected, solutions adapted and results genuinely observed.”

9. CITIZENS AND YOUTH

9.1. Make citizens stakeholders

Citizen participation can help identify problems, express uses and constraints, design certain actions, produce observations, participate in implementation and contribute to evaluation. It should make clear what citizens can genuinely influence.

9.2. Do not place all responsibility on individuals

Individual behaviour is influenced by infrastructure, prices, transport supply, housing, services, food supply and public rules. Informing people about possible actions therefore never removes the need to act on the systems that shape those actions.

9.3. Provide access to reliable and understandable information

ASSEDEV seeks to make knowledge accessible, sourced where necessary, contextualized and clearly distinguished from opinions or positions.

9.4. Make science communication a tool for action

Science communication should help people understand the problem, its causes, uncertainties, stakeholders, levers and evaluation methods, without simplifying to the point of distortion.

9.5. Develop proportionate citizen science

Citizens can contribute simple observations, reports, photographs, locations or protocol-based records. These contributions can enrich local knowledge without automatically becoming specialized expertise.

“Citizen participation can enrich knowledge; it does not automatically turn every observation into scientific expertise.”

9.6. Value volunteering and skills

Volunteering can transmit knowledge, develop skills and support projects. It should not be used to replace necessary professional or regulatory expertise.

9.7. Give younger generations a specific place

Young people are not only the future beneficiaries of present decisions. They can participate today in observation, environmental education, citizen projects and the passing on of knowledge, without being made responsible for solving environmental crises on their own.

9.8. Connect education with concrete action

Educational actions can be linked to biodiversity, waste, mobility, water, food, pollution and climate risks. The objective is not only to teach individual actions, but to understand causes, interdependencies and responsibilities.

9.9. Make citizens part of monitoring

In some projects, citizens can help document changes in practices, the recurrence of a problem, the condition of a site or the durability of an intervention.

9.10. Evaluate engagement as well

The number of participants remains an activity indicator. Where relevant, ASSEDEV also seeks to assess understanding, skills acquired, contributions and whether changes are maintained.

9.11. Inclusive and respectful engagement

Participation should be open without being improvised, accessible without sacrificing rigor, and respectful of equality, non-discrimination, dignity and personal data.

9.12. The place of citizens in the ASSEDEV method

Observe → Understand → Participate → Act → Monitor → Learn → Pass On

“For ASSEDEV, raising awareness is not enough: the challenge is to enable citizens, and especially younger generations, to understand, participate, learn and pass on, without placing on them alone the responsibility for transformations that also require action from institutions, businesses and society as a whole.”

10. BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC ACTORS

Businesses and economic actors directly influence the use of resources, energy, travel, waste, water, biodiversity, production and value chains. Their responsibilities and means differ according to their size, sector and position within economic systems.

10.1. Consider businesses as actors of transformation

Businesses can act on their buildings, processes, purchasing, supply chains, mobility, energy, waste, investments and business continuity. ASSEDEV seeks to identify the levers genuinely available to each partner.

10.2. First encourage reduction of their own impacts

Supporting an environmental action does not replace reducing impacts linked to the activity itself. Prevention and reduction at source remain priorities.

10.3. Develop sufficiency and the circular economy

Reducing unnecessary consumption, extending product life, repairing, reusing, reducing losses, improving design and organizing take-back or recovery are complementary levers.

10.4. Make employee mobility an area for cooperation

ASSEDEV Sustainable Mobility is a first operational translation: the association informs, supports and measures; the employer chooses the schemes; employees retain their choices; local authorities and operators provide the services and infrastructure within their remit.

10.5. Support rather than substitute

ASSEDEV can inform, document, raise awareness, facilitate dialogue, support an experiment and report results, without presenting itself as a consultancy, certification body or regulatory expert where such expertise is required.

10.6. Encourage useful innovation

An innovation is relevant only if it responds to a real problem, provides environmental value, remains feasible and allows its effects to be assessed. Digital tools should remain a means, not an end.

10.7. Take biodiversity dependencies into account

Depending on the sector, businesses may depend on soils, water, ecosystems, pollination or other contributions from nature while also exerting pressures on those same resources. [38]

10.8. Build partnerships around explicit objectives

Significant cooperation should specify the problem, objective, roles, resources, actions, data, indicators and monitoring arrangements.

10.9. Preserve ASSEDEV's independence

A funder or partner should not be able to alter an unfavorable result, prevent publication of an important limitation or improperly present cooperation as a general endorsement of its activities.

10.10. Prevent the risk of environmental endorsement

Working with a company on a defined objective does not mean endorsing all of its activities. This distinction should be stated clearly.

10.11. Measure the changes produced

The number of companies contacted is an activity indicator. ASSEDEV also seeks, where possible, to monitor the measures adopted, their implementation, the people concerned and observable changes.

10.12. Share demonstrated practices

Feedback should describe not only what worked, but also the context, resources, difficulties and conditions for replicability.

10.13. Principles for relations with economic actors

- Cooperate without substituting.
- Reduce own impacts first.
- Prioritize prevention, sufficiency and circularity.
- Support innovations whose usefulness can be demonstrated.
- Define responsibilities clearly.
- Measure changes rather than activities alone.
- Prevent conflicts of interest and preserve freedom of analysis.

“For ASSEDEV, cooperating with economic actors means neither minimizing their impacts nor viewing them solely as a source of funding: it means mobilizing their capacity for action around explicit, measurable environmental objectives compatible with the association’s independence.”

11. RESEARCH, EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE

ASSEDEV considers knowledge a prerequisite for responsible action. Scientific research, institutional data, professional expertise, territorial observations and association-led experiments do not, however, have the same status or scope.

11.1. Make knowledge a lever for action

Knowledge is used to understand a problem, avoid undocumented claims, compare solutions, design projects, choose indicators and interpret results.

11.2. Distinguish types of knowledge

ASSEDEV distinguishes scientific findings, institutional data, professional expertise, ASSEDEV observations and the association's own analysis or proposals.

11.3. Build a reasonable hierarchy of sources

Recognized scientific assessments, research publications, data from competent institutions, standards, methodological frameworks, territorial statistics and specialized studies should be selected according to the question being addressed.

11.4. Prefer original sources where possible

When a figure, definition or method comes directly from a competent institution, ASSEDEV seeks to return to that source rather than relying on a secondary citation, without excluding useful systematic reviews or syntheses.

11.5. Read data critically

All data should be examined in light of their year, scope, method, units, uncertainties and limits of interpretation.

11.6. Do not generalize a local observation

Data produced by a pilot describe the area studied. They only become representative of a broader territory if the method genuinely allows such generalization.

11.7. Do not confuse association-led experimentation with scientific research

A well-documented association-led experiment can be useful without being presented as scientific research. When the level of evidence sought requires a specialized protocol, the relevant expertise should be mobilized.

11.8. Know when to mobilize specialized expertise

ASSEDEV recognizes the limits of its capabilities and seeks appropriate expertise when identification, protocol, interpretation or decision-making exceeds available capacities.

11.9. Gradually build a scientific and technical network

The association aims to develop a network of institutions, researchers and experts who can contribute to review, protocols, indicators or certain evaluations, without claiming to already have a permanent scientific committee unless one is formally established.

11.10. Establish a coherent citation policy

The internal registry codes are replaced in the public edition by a harmonized and numbered bibliographic system.

11.11. Use open data with discernment

Open data should be assessed according to source, date, coverage, method, units, gaps and conditions of reuse.

11.12. Combine scientific and field knowledge

The practical knowledge of residents, farmers, staff, businesses or managers can complement scientific and institutional sources, provided the origin and scope of that knowledge remain traceable.

11.13. Make knowledge accessible without losing precision

Popularization does not mean removing uncertainty, turning correlation into causation or presenting a projection as certainty.

11.14. Organize review of technical content

Documents presenting complex data, significant risks or specialized methods may undergo cross-review or specialist review when necessary and possible.

11.15. Recognize uncertainty and be able to correct

Credibility does not rest on claiming never to be wrong, but on the ability to document, verify, acknowledge limitations and correct when knowledge evolves.

11.16. Documentary doctrine

- **Source important factual claims.**
- **Date and contextualize figures.**
- **Distinguish observation, institutional data, scientific findings and ASSEDEV positions.**
- **Do not generalize beyond the area studied.**
- **State limitations and uncertainties.**
- **Use expertise when necessary.**
- **Make knowledge accessible without distorting it.**

“ASSEDEV does not claim to produce, on its own, all the expertise needed for the ecological transition. It seeks to know where to find knowledge, how to question it, when to seek the necessary expertise and how to turn it into reliable, accessible information that is useful for action.”

12. GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY

The credibility of environmental action depends on how decisions are made, resources mobilized, partners selected, information produced and results made public.

12.1. Preserve the integrity of decision-making

ASSEDEV makes decisions according to its purpose, the available evidence, the public interest and the objectives pursued, without allowing a partner or funder to determine findings, results or proposals in its place.

12.2. Distinguish cooperation from undue influence

“A partnership may contribute to the means of action; it must not buy the outcome of the analysis.”

12.3. Ensure prudent, non-profit-oriented management of resources

Resources should be used consistently with the association's purpose, with attention to the sustainability of costs and actual management capacity.

12.4. Link each source of funding to an identifiable use

ASSEDEV seeks to connect resources mobilized, actions carried out and results achieved.

12.5. Adapt financial transparency

Transparency should make it possible to account for the origin and use of resources in accordance with applicable obligations and commitments, without creating disproportionate administration.

12.6. Identify and manage conflicts of interest

Interests likely to affect the impartiality of a decision should be declared and addressed through appropriate measures: withdrawal from the decision, cross-review, documentation of criteria, or declining the partnership where necessary.

12.7. Evaluate partners beyond the resources they provide

Compatibility with the association's purpose, values, independence, the project and ethical risks should be examined in addition to the resources proposed.

12.8. Clarify who decides

Governance should distinguish who proposes, reviews, advises, decides, implements and reports.

12.9. Distinguish association governance from technical expertise

Institutional authority to decide on behalf of the association does not automatically confer the scientific or technical expertise needed to validate every piece of content.

12.10. Respect equality, non-discrimination and dignity

These principles apply to target groups, volunteers, partnerships, representations of territories and any professional collaborations.

12.11. Protect people and information collected

ASSEDEV seeks to collect only information that is genuinely necessary and to use it within a framework compatible with the stated objective and applicable rules.

12.12. Report limitations and failures as well

Transparency concerns successes, but also delays, limitations, insufficient results, protocol changes or discontinued partnerships.

12.13. Evaluate governance through results

Good governance should contribute to clear responsibilities, coherent use of resources, well-managed partnerships and the capacity to correct actions.

12.14. Include future generations in decision-making

Decisions should be assessed in light of their lasting effects, resources consumed, risks transferred and future capacity to act.

12.15. Proportionate but genuine transparency

The objective is not to produce ever more procedures, but to be able to explain why a decision was taken, by whom, with what resources, for what purpose and with what results.

12.16. Governance principles

- Integrity
- Independence
- Responsibility
- Prudence
- Transparency
- Equity
- Prevention of conflicts of interest
- Evaluation
- Intergenerational responsibility

“For ASSEDEV, the credibility of environmental action depends as much on what is achieved as on how decisions are made, resources used, partnerships governed and results made public.”

13. ACTION PROGRAMME

The action programme connects the orientations of the White Paper with their progressive translation into projects, experiments, publications and partnerships. It does not imply simultaneous intervention in all priority areas. A scientific priority is not automatically a project. A proposal is not automatically a funded action. A pilot project is not automatically a permanent programme.

13.1. Programme progressively

ASSEDEV prioritizes a limited number of sufficiently structured, documented and assessable actions rather than dispersing its resources.

13.2. Three complementary horizons

Horizon	Purpose	Direction
0–12 months	Structure and launch	Consolidate the organization, prepare a small number of pilot projects, map stakeholders and put the first monitoring tools in place.
1–3 years	Consolidate and develop	Stabilize relevant projects, strengthen partnerships and improve the measurement of results.
3–5 years	Scale and sustain	Adapt demonstrated approaches, capitalize on lessons learned and seek conditions for continuity.

13.3. 0–12 months — Structure and launch

The first phase combines internal consolidation, territorial preparation and selective launch of sufficiently mature projects.

13.4. ASSEDEV Sustainable Mobility

This programme constitutes a reference pilot project in France to mobilize employers around the Sustainable Mobility Allowance (FMD), cycling, carpooling and intermodality, while monitoring adopted measures and observable changes.

13.5. ASSEDEV Environmental Alert

The Bertoua pilot makes it possible to test territorial coordination on illegal dumping through reporting, qualification, transmission, intervention, confirmation and follow-up, without generalizing its results beyond the area studied.

13.6. ASSEDEV LAB – Biodiversity & Citizens

The LAB can begin with methodological and partnership preparation for small observation units: sites, landowners, protocol, naturalist expertise and baseline status before any intervention.

13.7. Other areas: prepare before launching

Water and agriculture already have a consolidated documentary framework, but should not be presented as established operational programmes until the territory, problem, partners and resources are sufficiently defined.

13.8. 1–3 years — Consolidate what works

A pilot can be continued, corrected, expanded, transformed into a programme or stopped according to its results, resources and conditions for cooperation.

13.9. Gradually develop thematic programmes

Every new project should be based on a documented problem, an identified territory or target group, identifiable ASSEDEV added value, accessible skills, financial feasibility and a proportionate measurement method.

13.10. 3–5 years — Scale without mechanical replication

Scaling means adapting methods and lessons to new contexts after understanding the results and conditions for success of the initial pilot.

13.11. Build sustainability before expansion

Ownership, responsibilities, recurring costs, maintenance, skills, financing and long-term monitoring should be examined before expansion.

13.12. Connect programmes

Projects may generate co-benefits across climate, water, waste, biodiversity, mobility and agriculture, without claiming undocumented impacts.

13.13. An evolving project portfolio

Orientation to explore → Assessment → Preparation → Pilot → Evaluated project → Consolidated programme → Scaling or closure

13.14. An operational sheet for each project

The White Paper sets the overall direction; the action programme organizes priorities over time; project sheets and files define operational implementation.

13.15. Revise programming based on results

ASSEDEV compares what was planned, carried out, mobilized and achieved in order to adapt its priorities and timetable.

13.16. Summary of the trajectory

- **0–12 months: do little, but structure and measure properly.**
- **1–3 years: consolidate what demonstrates its relevance and progressively develop capacity.**
- **3–5 years: adapt, scale and sustain only approaches that are sufficiently documented.**

“ASSEDEV’s action programme is not intended to announce the greatest possible number of projects. It should enable the association to select, experiment, measure and consolidate the actions in which it can make a real contribution, and then expand only what has demonstrated its usefulness.”

14. MEASURING OUR IMPACT

This chapter provides the common reference for evaluation. Carrying out an action is not enough to demonstrate its usefulness. ASSEDEV seeks to know what changed, why, and whether that change is sustained.

14.1. A common measurement chain

T0 → Activity → Output → Result → Effect / impact → Durability

14.2. Establish a baseline

When a project aims to measure change, ASSEDEV seeks to have a simple, defined and reproducible initial reference.

14.3. Measure less, but measure properly

Each indicator should answer a specific question and, where relevant, be accompanied by its definition, scope, source, baseline value, frequency, target and limitations.

14.4. Do not systematically turn an objective into a number

Complex phenomena often require several complementary indicators and sometimes qualitative data. ASSEDEV avoids artificial single scores.

14.5. Water, sanitation & pollution

Indicator families may cover access and equity, service performance, environmental status, pressures and durability.

14.6. Biodiversity & ecosystems

Monitoring combines the status of species, habitats, pressures, conservation or restoration actions and durability. The number of trees planted or the area committed does not automatically constitute an ecological result.

14.7. Waste & circular economy

Monitoring distinguishes prevention, system performance, circularity and territorial results. For ASSEDEV Environmental Alert, operational indicators include transmission, treatment, resolution, reactivation and lasting resolution.

14.8. Climate, energy & resilience

Monitoring may distinguish emissions, energy, exposure and vulnerability, adaptation, resilience and durability. Estimates of avoided emissions should only be reported if the method and data are sufficiently robust.

14.9. Agriculture, agrifood systems & nutrition

Evaluation may combine production, economy, environment, food security, nutrition and resilience, without reducing sustainability to a single indicator.

Methodological note: the indicator families presented in Sections 14.5 to 14.9 draw on the methodological frameworks and institutional indicators listed in the thematic bibliography of the White Paper.

14.10. Measure social and educational dimensions

The number of participants indicates activity; where relevant, ASSEDEV also seeks to assess understanding, skills, changes in practices and whether change is sustained.

14.11. Evaluate partnerships by more than their number

The quality of cooperation is assessed according to its contribution to the project: expertise, mobilization, financing, data, implementation or continuity.

14.12. Connect resources and results

Evaluation progressively connects resources mobilized, actions carried out and results achieved, without claiming to produce a universal impact-per-euro ratio.

14.13. Set targets where relevant

The indicator, baseline value, target and observed result should be distinguished so that an objective is not presented as an achieved result.

14.14. Define frequency before collecting

Frequency depends on the phenomenon observed and should allow comparisons under sufficiently stable conditions.

14.15. Distinguish ASSEDEV data from official indicators

An exploratory observation or project sample does not automatically constitute an official or representative statistic.

14.16. Publish results with their limitations

ASSEDEV reports small samples, missing data, uncertainties, protocol changes and attribution limitations when these affect interpretation.

14.17. A dashboard specific to each project

Problem → T0 → Objective → Activity → Output → Result → Possible effect → Durability → Lessons

14.18. Measure in order to decide

Evaluation should be able to lead to continuing, modifying, strengthening, expanding or stopping an action.

“For ASSEDEV, measuring impact does not mean accumulating figures to prove that the association is acting. It means producing enough reliable information to know whether an action genuinely changes the situation, understand why, verify whether the result is sustained and decide accordingly.”

15. CALL FOR COOPERATION

Environmental challenges exceed the skills, resources and responsibilities of any single organization. ASSEDEV does not claim to act alone: it seeks to connect willingness, knowledge and capacity for action.

15.1. Cooperate to create real value

Cooperation is useful when it improves understanding, brings expertise, mobilizes a target group, makes action possible, shares data, finances a justified need, improves evaluation or strengthens project continuity.

15.2. Citizens and volunteers

They can contribute to observation, awareness-raising, certain experiments, monitoring and the passing on of knowledge, without assuming the responsibilities of competent authorities or professionals.

15.3. Associations and civil society

Cooperation among associations seeks complementarity: identify existing initiatives, avoid duplication and pool skills when this creates real value.

15.4. Local authorities and public institutions

ASSEDEV can contribute through mobilization, experimentation, data, monitoring and proposals, without replacing public responsibilities.

15.5. Schools and education actors

Educational cooperation can bring environmental issues closer to lived realities and develop the capacity to understand, observe and participate.

15.6. Universities, researchers and experts

These actors can strengthen protocols, review, interpretation and evaluation. ASSEDEV will never present work as scientifically validated unless it has actually benefited from such validation.

15.7. Businesses and economic actors

Cooperation is sought where it concerns verifiable transformations and remains compatible with the association's purpose and independence.

15.8. National, European and international institutions

They can provide data, frameworks, funding, training or lessons from experience. External methods should be adapted to local contexts.

15.9. Explicit responsibilities

Any significant cooperation should clarify the problem, objective, responsibilities, resources, data and reporting arrangements.

“Cooperating does not mean mixing responsibilities; it means articulating them.”

15.10. Cooperation that respects independence

ASSEDEV retains the freedom to report a limitation, publish an unfavorable result, recommend a change, refuse misleading communication or end cooperation that is incompatible with its principles.

15.11. Build learning networks

Projects can generate methods, difficulties, indicators or errors that are useful to others. ASSEDEV cooperates in order to share, but also to learn.

15.12. From one-off partnership to lasting cooperation

The duration of a partnership is not proof of quality. It remains relevant as long as it meets a real need, respects responsibilities and contributes to identifiable results or learning.

15.13. An open but demanding invitation

ASSEDEV seeks collaborations based on a real problem, explicit responsibilities, respect for expertise, a proportionate method, the ability to evaluate results, transparency and independence.

“ASSEDEV calls for cooperation in which each actor contributes what they know, what they can do and what they are responsible for, in order to transform dispersed willingness into coordinated, measurable action that is useful to territories and future generations.”

16. CONCLUSION — THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PASS ON

The ecological transition is not merely a succession of technical measures. It challenges how societies use their resources, organize their territories, produce, consume, travel, protect ecosystems, make decisions and prepare for the future.

16.1. Receive an inheritance, assume a responsibility

We inherit resources, ecosystems, territories, knowledge and infrastructure that we did not create alone. We also inherit the consequences of earlier decisions. In the same way, our choices will have effects that extend beyond our generation.

“Each generation inherits nature and bears the responsibility of passing it on.”

16.2. From knowledge to action

Understand before acting, identify causes, adapt responses, involve stakeholders, experiment when necessary, measure, acknowledge limitations and learn: the White Paper gives this philosophy an operational form.

16.3. Act without claiming to solve everything

ASSEDEV replaces neither scientific research, public authorities, operators nor professionals. Its contribution is to connect knowledge and action, citizens and institutions, local experiences and broader lessons.

16.4. Make every project a source of learning

Every success, limitation or insufficient result can improve a method and prepare the next decision. Evaluation is not only the end of a project; it is a stage in learning.

16.5. From territory to transmission

The value of an action depends less on its size than on its relevance, documentation, evaluation and ability to generate transferable lessons.

16.6. Shared but differentiated responsibility

Citizens, businesses, local authorities, States, researchers and associations have different levers. Shared responsibility does not mean identical responsibility.

16.7. Preserve the capacity to act of those who come after us

Preserving ecosystems, limiting pollution, using resources with restraint, reducing vulnerabilities, passing on knowledge and avoiding the transfer of preventable costs are concrete expressions of intergenerational responsibility.

“Does what we do today help preserve or improve the world we will pass on tomorrow?”

16.8. From intention to evidence

ASSEDEV seeks to bring together convictions, knowledge, proposals, actions, results and transmission. This White Paper provides a framework for observing, acting, measuring, learning and reporting.

“We do not inherit nature in order to use it without limit. We inherit it with the responsibility to preserve it, improve it where we can, and pass it on. ASSEDEV chooses to turn that responsibility into knowledge, cooperation and action.”

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