
Contents

Introduction	xi
Laurent GODET	
Part 1. Defining Baselines	1
Chapter 1. Temporal Baselines: Finding a Tipping Point in the Past	3
Laurent GODET, Simon DUFOUR, Anne-Julia ROLLET and Armelle DECAULNE	
1.1. Preamble	3
1.2. Introduction	4
1.3. Recognition problem: how do we define a new unit of time?	5
1.4. When did we enter the Anthropocene?	8
1.4.1. 50,000 years BP: the end of the Pleistocene and the extinction of megafauna	8
1.4.2. 5–7000 years BP: the Neolithic and the increase of methane and CO ₂	9
1.4.3. 1610: “Columbian exchange”, low CO ₂ level and cooling of the Little Ice Age	10
1.4.4. End of the 18th century: the First Industrial Revolution.	11
1.4.5. The mid-20th century: the great acceleration and the fallout of radionuclides	11
1.5. A temporal baseline on the fringe of the Anthropocene	13
1.6. Conclusion	14

Chapter 2. Spatial Baselines: Is Going Elsewhere Easier Than Going Back in Time?	15
Anne-Julia ROLLET, Simon DUFOUR and Armelle DECAULNE	
2.1. Preamble	15
2.2. Introduction	15
2.3. What is a spatial baseline?	17
2.3.1. In search of naturalness	17
2.3.2. On the basis of which indicators?	19
2.3.3. In search of truly comparable sites	20
2.3.4. A single site or a collection of sites?	22
2.4. Emblematic examples of single- and multi-site spatial baselines	25
2.4.1. The Białowieża Forest, a baseline for European forests?	25
2.4.2. Characterization of the ecological status of rivers in the United States	27
2.5. Conclusion	28
Chapter 3. Mapping What is Left of Nature	31
Laurent GODET and Adrien GUETTÉ	
3.1. Preamble	31
3.2. Introduction	33
3.3. Zoning of spaces of perceived wilderness: the wilderness of some is not that of others.	35
3.4. Locating the last wild spots: where is there any baseline nature left?	37
3.5. Nature areas broken down into facets and gradients: are there tipping points in space?	40
3.6. Anthropization of nature: summarizing the influence of humans in a single index	43
3.7. Anthromes: ending the divide between the natural and the anthropogenic?	46
3.8. Conclusion	47
Chapter 4. The Baseline: A Social Construction	49
Clémence MOREAU, Cécile BARNAUD and Raphaël MATHEVET	
4.1. Introduction	49
4.2. The baseline evolves over time: the shifting baseline syndrome	52
4.3. How is the baseline constructed?	55
4.4. Debating the baseline	58
4.5. Conclusion	60
4.6. Acknowledgments	60

Part 2. Using Baselines to Conserve Nature	61
Chapter 5. Rewilding by the Return of Ghosts of the Past	63
Laurent GODET	
5.1. Preamble	63
5.2. Introduction	65
5.3. Contemporary ecosystems populated by ghosts?	66
5.3.1. Extinctions and disappearances of species	66
5.3.2. Impacts of extinctions and disappearances on ecosystems	71
5.4. Rewilding to repair	74
5.4.1. How far back do we go to rewild?	74
5.4.2. How is rewilding achieved? American, Russian and European trends	77
5.5. Criticisms and controversies around rewilding	81
5.5.1. Ecological criticism	81
5.5.2. Ethical criticism	82
5.5.3. Social criticism	83
5.5.4. Cultural and political criticism	83
5.6. Conclusion	84
Chapter 6. Spontaneous Rewilding through Land Abandonment	87
Adrien GUETTÉ and Jonathan CARRUTHERS-JONES	
6.1. Introduction	87
6.2. Land abandonment: a form of spontaneous rewilding	88
6.2.1. Active versus spontaneous rewilding	89
6.2.2. New open spaces resulting from spontaneous rewilding	90
6.2.3. Encouraged or tolerated spontaneity	92
6.3. Quantifying and mapping spontaneous rewilding areas related to land abandonment	93
6.3.1. Context	93
6.3.2. Material and methods	94
6.3.3. Results	96
6.4. Increasing awareness of rewilding areas	100
6.4.1. Identifying areas of land abandonment before they are urbanized	101
6.4.2. (Re)giving a place to open spaces	103
6.5. Conclusion	105

Chapter 7. Geopropective: Looking for Potential Scenarios	107
Thomas HOUET	
7.1. Introduction	107
7.2. The baseline as a shared and objective knowledge base	109
7.3. The baseline as a way to improve confidence in scenarios.	111
7.4. The baseline for the exploratory evaluation	112
7.5. The baseline as an objective to be reached	113
7.6. Conclusion	114
Chapter 8. The Place of Ecological Knowledge in Policies for Ecological Neutrality: No Net Loss and Biodiversity Offsetting	117
Coralie CALVET	
8.1. Introduction	117
8.2. Global overview of the application of the mitigation hierarchy	119
8.2.1. The success of NNL policies at the international scale: the political promise	119
8.2.2. The application of the mitigation hierarchy in France: a recent regulatory evolution	120
8.2.3. The implementation of NNL policies: a high degree of heterogeneity at the international level.	122
8.2.4. Methods for calculating the ecological equivalence	125
8.3. The question of a baseline in NNL policies: between ecological and socio-economic perspectives	130
8.3.1. Ecological perspectives.	131
8.3.2. Socio-economic perspectives	139
8.4. Implications of NNL policies for biodiversity conservation: ethical and political perspectives	141
8.5. Conclusion	143
Part 3. Examples of the Use of Baselines	145
Chapter 9. The Variability of Baselines Mobilized in Littoral Protected Areas: The Anthropocene as a Dividing Line?	147
Vincent ANDREU-BOUSSUT and Céline CHADENAS	
9.1. Introduction	147
9.2. The prehistoric baselines of paleo-rewilding	150
9.3. The historical baselines of prior states to development intensification	152
9.4. The contemporary baselines as historical hybrids between nature and culture.	154
9.5. The negotiated, controlled and adapted baselines in the Anthropocene.	156

9.6. The baselines of novel ecosystems in free evolution	160
9.7. Conclusion: the Anthropocene at the origin of new baselines for Littoral Protected Areas	162
Chapter 10. Baselines and French Forests	165
Damien MARAGE	
10.1. By way of introduction: "the legendary virgin forest of Doussard"	165
10.2. Forestry "cardiology"; forestry "systoles" and "diastoles"	168
10.2.1. Forest systoles	169
10.2.2. Forest diastoles	170
10.2.3. Phases of silvigenesis: when only certain attributes are retained	171
10.3. The baseline of French forests examined through the lens of historical ecology	173
10.3.1. The vicissitudes of forest cover since the Holocene	173
10.3.2. Baselines: compasses or daymarks?	174
10.4. French forests in the Anthropocene era: chosen or endured states?	177
10.4.1. A state chosen according to a geography of conservation	177
10.4.2. A state undergoing global changes	179
10.5. Baselines and French forests: illustrating our forests together	180
Chapter 11. How Can We Maintain Traditional Agro-Pastoral Landscapes?	183
David MONTEBAULT	
11.1. Introduction	183
11.2. How does an agrarian landscape evolve?	184
11.2.1. Nested subsystems	184
11.2.2. A system in constant evolution	186
11.3. Example of the natural grassland-hedgerows combination	187
11.3.1. Initially, a few hedge fences around the cultivated fields	187
11.3.2. Division of the soil and multiplication of fences	188
11.3.3. Extension of fodder crops	189
11.3.4. The hedge fence loses its usefulness, then becomes a nuisance	191
11.3.5. In the end, which baseline(s) should be retained?	192
11.4. What exactly do the restored spaces represent?	192
11.4.1. A mosaic of spaces	193
11.4.2. Inability to identify a historical baseline	194
11.4.3. So what exactly do these baselines represent?	196
11.5. What to do then with this forgotten or reinvented past?	197
11.5.1. Three possibilities	197
11.5.2. Maintaining an ecological memory at all costs	198

11.5.3. Extending the agricultural memory and accepting the creation of new agro-pastoral landscapes	199
11.6. Conclusion	203
Conclusion	205
Simon DUFOUR, Anne-Julia ROLLET, Armelle DECAULNE and Laurent GODET	
References	211
List of Authors	255
Index	257