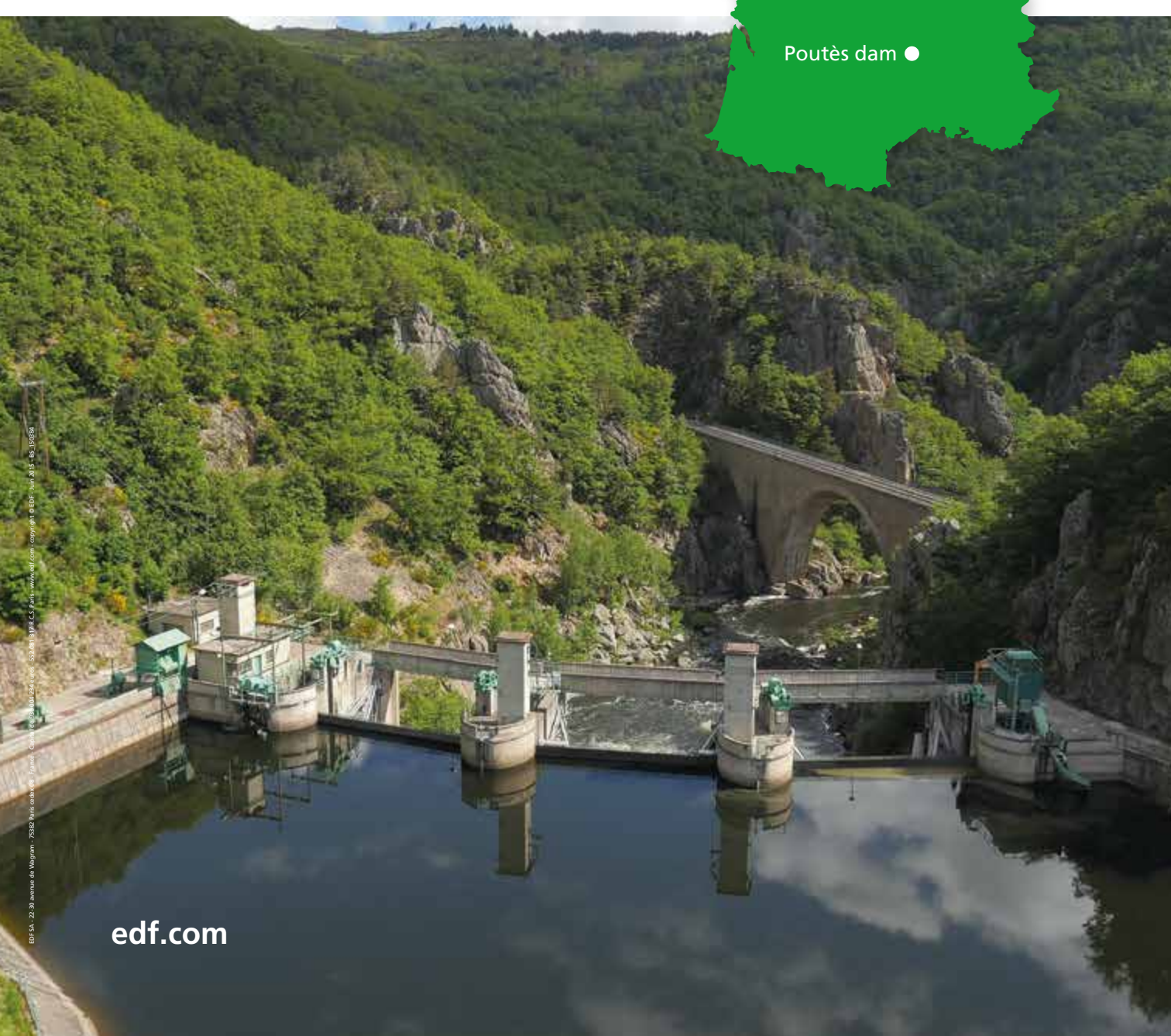
THE POUTÈS DAM

After several years of conflict about salmon restoration, an ambitious project to reconfigure the Poutès dam was launched in 2011.

This project, stemming from the partnership and the consultation between EDF, the environmental protection groups and the elected officials, will allow to balance biodiversity and renewable energy generation challenges. The new Poutès dam will be capable of fading away in case of flood and become transparent to river sediments, allowing free movement of fish, especially salmons.

Since the physical model optimizes the positioning of the various equipment components, it will enable to achieve those objectives. The fish passage efficiency is measured by means of an in-depth study of currents (via measurements such as ADCP or LSPIV). Representativeness constraints have required a minimum building scale (1/13) that gives the physical model a wide functioning range. The model reproduces a 170 m upstream water impoundment and a 50 meter river downstream.

The new Poutès physical model is a design tool for the future layout. The model may be modified partly to optimize the equipment positioning (upstream and downstream fishways, attraction flow valve).



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