



Workshop

Current Issues of Biodiversity Protection and Participatory Development



18 – 21 April 2012

**Vallée du Drugeon, Haut Doubs
France**

Supported by





Welcome!

Forum Synergies, Global Nature Fund and Fédération des Conservatoires d'Espaces Naturels cordially invite you to the last in a series of five workshops on participatory implementation strategies of environmental policies in lake areas, taking place in Estonia, Poland, Slovenia, Greece and France.

The workshops are meant to empower civil society actors to contribute to participatory sustainable development, and shall yield recommendations to local and EU governments about more participatory ways to implement environmental policies.

Goals and Objectives

The workshops are organised in the framework of the project "Sustainable Development in Lake Areas", which is supported by Fondation de France.

The general objective of the project is to support initiatives in sustainable development by exchange on good practice of participatory implementation and local sustainable development. The exchange shall lead to capacity building of private actors, NGOs and local governments in environmentally sensitive areas.

The thematic workshops will contribute to the development of local democracy and to a more participative management of environmental resources, in order to fill the gap between European citizens and their institutions, and also via feed-back to decision makers to contribute to environmental and rural policies that better meet peoples' need for participation.

The project's objectives are

- ☞ to exchange experiences about different participatory implementation strategies of Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive (WFD) in concerned rural areas
- ☞ to give local actors and authorities better access to practical knowledge about sustainable Natura 2000 and WFD implementation strategies via exchange with successful projects
- ☞ to develop political proposals to regional, state and EU governments to use the existing participatory options that are provided from EU-side in order to support sustainable development in rural areas.

The scientific partnership with University of Marburg / Germany assures that the project integrates political knowledge of integrated water body management.

The specific objectives of the French workshop are outlined below.

Workshop Dates

Lake Võrtsjärv, Estonia	15-18 June 2009
Milicz Ponds, Poland	21-24 October 2009
Triglav National Park, Slovenia	21-25 April 2010
Nestos Delta, Greece	22-26 September 2010
Val de Drugeon, France	18-21 April 2012



Background

Empowerment of Local Actors

Sustainable development depends on actors – actors that are willing to persistently strive for sustainable ways of life in their daily behaviour and take initiative to generate renewable energy, consume locally grown & organic food, use tourism services that save energy and look for ways of a sustainable life style. Since economic regional development is one crucial pillar of sustainability, governments depend on local initiatives of people and civil society organizations to turn the chances of regulative frameworks and accompanying funding policies into practical action. Therefore an exchange about best practice in motivation and integration of local actors is an important contribution to sustainable rural development and the empowerment of civil society. An exchange between old and new EU member state participants seems particularly useful in this respect since it combines long-term knowledge about EU regulation practices with newly emerging civil society movements.

Participatory Processes

The Aarhus convention, signed in 1998 by most European countries, invites authorities to enhance the public participation in decision-making related with environmental issues. The Natura 2000 network (based on the 'Habitat' and the 'Birds' directives) is requesting from national governments to protect species and habitats of common interest by preserving their current existence. It does not specify by which measures and thereby leaves room for participatory implementation. The European Water Framework Directive is requesting from national states to achieve a "good ecological state" for all surface water bodies until 2015. It expects explicitly the implementation of an active public participation. The three directives – and especially the Habitat Directive – are in many cases seen as very critical by farming organisations and local governments who fear economical constraints. On the other hand, at the local level the participatory implementation options frequently are unknown to the relevant actors because of lack of good examples.

Lake Areas

Lakes, river basins and coastal areas are good topics for exchange workshops about participatory implementation strategies because they fall usually under both Natura 2000 and water framework regulation, they give a common thematic focus, are of high public relevance and give room for integrated development approaches. Furthermore there tend to be serious conflicts of interest between different stakeholders, giving need for mediation and participatory conflict solution. More specifically, a common problem of European lakes is eutrophication from agricultural sources. EU regulation (Nitrogen directive) requests farmers since 2000 to restrict fertilization in order to prevent nutrient runoff to ground and surface waters. But there are implementation deficits, and big leftovers from former times pose a question of acceptable cleanup strategies. All this gives reason to look for more participatory implementation.

The Workshop Sites

The project's five partner sites, of which Lake Võrtsjärv, Milicz ponds and Nestos Delta are members of Global Nature Fund's Living Lakes network, show the context of the project in different ways.

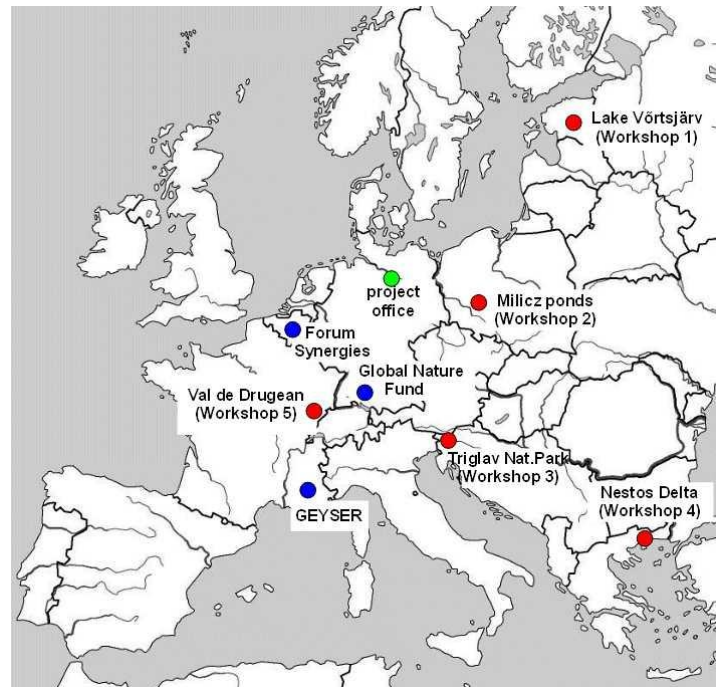
Lake Võrtsjärv near Tartu in Estonia, the biggest inner-Estonian lake, is mainly used by fishermen from the five surrounding villages with some recently evolving soft tourism and recreational activities. Nutrient intakes from the last decades caused heavy mud deposits in the shallow lake, deteriorating the water quality especially in summers with a thread of oxygen crises, and causing a reed belt of more than 100 meters to grow on its shore, preventing inhabitants to access the lake as they used to.

The Milicz ponds near Wrocław in Poland are a great lake area that was created by medieval monks for aquaculture. Nowadays they create an almost natural environment with very large numbers of birds and also plant species on the surrounding wetlands. Several ecological NGOs in the area initiated a powerful LEADER+ process, involving farming, fishery and tourism into habitat improvements and conservation plans.

Lakes Bled and Bohinj are glacial lakes in the Julian Alps in northwestern Slovenia. Lake Bled is a very popular tourist destination. Lake Bohinj (Bohinjsko jezero), the largest permanent lake in Slovenia situated 25 km west of lake Bled in the borders of Triglav National Park, is still quite natural but suffers of increasing pressure from urbanism and tourism. The National Park Administration's has a lot of experiences in sustainable lake management and Alpine land use.

Nestos Delta in north-eastern Greece consists of numerous small lakes and brackish lagoons. Land use pressure and the excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides is causing big problems, and the water quality of the lagoons and lakes deteriorates constantly. The local NGO EPO is working since 1988 for protection, management and sustainable development, collaborating with state services, authorities and other stakeholders.

Vallée du Dugeon: The Dugeon valley in eastern France occupies a glacial basin of approximately 170 km². It is a Natura 2000 and Ramsar area for its wide and diverse wetlands, such as alkaline fens and peat bogs which represent 3,000 ha of the territory. Starting in the 1960s, a dramatic adjustment of the Dugeon bed (the linear stretch was reduced from more than 40km to less than 35), as well as draining works, intensive agricultural practices, conifer tree plantations and various pollutions strongly reduced the quality of the site. Main activities developed from 1993 on were re-meandering of river Dugeon and its tributaries, wetlands restoration and management, and reduction of pollutant flows from domestic and agricultural origin.





Specific objectives of this concluding workshop

After the four preceding workshops in 2009/2010, this concluding event shall open up perspectives for future cooperation alongside follow-up projects.

The workshop centres around issues of sustainable development in wetlands and lake areas, with priority on the following:

1. Ecological and technical issues of habitat restoration in mires, littoral zones and water bodies
2. Development of appropriate rural and eco-tourism strategies in Natura 2000 areas that comply with protection requirements and raise local acceptance
3. Biodiversity and climate change: Afforestation and wetland preservation as carbon sequestration strategies, state of the art in measurement and implication standards, perspectives for future financial rewards in the frame of UN clean development mechanisms (expert input)

Particular awareness is given in all issues to *participatory strategies*, involving stakeholders in efficient ways to raise effectiveness of Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive implementation and developing tangible synergies from NGO – administration – stakeholder cooperation.

Outcomes & Expected Results

- ☞ For NGOs: partnership, project concept and funding perspectives for project applications in one or several of the thematic fields.
- ☞ Mayors / public administration: new insights in best practices of NGO-administration dialogue and in valorisation of protected areas
- ☞ Local hosts: international recognition and increased local acceptance for conservation efforts
- ☞ For all: Capacity building in climate change mitigation, CO₂-sequestration strategies and financing issues

Follow up applications are prepared by groups of participating NGOs. The applications can draw on project concepts that resulted from preceding workshops. Global Nature Fund and Forum Synergies are available to take on legal and administrative functions but initiative and coordination should come from NGO partners.

Project Partners and Target groups

- ☞ NGO representatives who feel that the topic(s) are significant for future strategic and financial development of their organisation
- ☞ Public administration officials (mayors, administration staff in responsible positions)
- ☞ Stakeholder representatives (farmers' associations, forestry administration, tourism businesses)

A balanced mixture of the different target groups is desirable to provide for a fruitful exchange.

Communication, cooperation and participation are at the heart of sustainable development processes and therefore are reflected in a mixed composition of participants and in participatory workshop methodology.

Structure of the Workshop

After arrival of the participants and a welcoming evening, the workshop – slightly different from the preceding ones – proceeds in three steps.

- ☞ In the morning of the first day, thematic inputs prepare the thematic focuses of the workshop, and the host organisation presents the local situation.
- ☞ In the afternoon participants are taken to a field trip to get a more practical feeling about the local situation, and discuss practical issues with local stakeholders.
- ☞ On the basis of these inputs, the second day is fully dedicated to the development of tangible cooperation projects among the participants in thematic areas of interest.

Conference Venue Val de Drugeon

The Workshop will take place in the info centre of the Lac de Remoray nature reserve (photo ->) and on nearby natural sites of the upper plateau in département Doubs. Accommodation will be provided in rustic Hôtel des Deux Lacs** or in Hôtel Le Lac in Malbuisson (single rooms), both in about 5 min distance from Remoray (shuttle provided or organized with participants' vehicles). Field trips will be organised by bus.



Next train station with a TGV stop is Frasné (20 km from Remoray). A shuttle will be organized on arrival and departure days from Frasné to the hotel. Best airports with train connections to Frasné are Paris or, less convenient, Geneva.

Participation Fee

Due to support by our funders, no conference fee will arise, and food and accommodation in double rooms are free. Single rooms are available for an extra charge.

Since the number of possible participants is limited to about 40, please consider your early registration at lakeproject@forum-synergies.eu .



Hosting Organisations, Supporters and Partners

Forum Synergies

Forum Synergies is a European network of practical pioneers in many aspects of sustainable rural development that has gathered rich and varied practical experiences since 1994. Forum Synergies holds contacts to different rural organisations as well as to policy makers on EU level, turning practical experiences into an input for the evolution of EU sustainability policies.

Global Nature Fund (GNF) and Living Lakes Network

GNF was founded in 1998 with the objective to foster the protection of nature and environment as well as animals. GNF's work consists mainly of initiating and implementing nature and environment protection projects to preserve the animal world, the protection of migrating species, their habitat and their migratory routes. In 1998 the Living Lakes network was launched with now 45 partner lakes represented by more than 55 member organisations.

FCEN – Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels

FCEN federates 30 Conservancies, established in nearly all the French regions. Their task is to find the way to improve knowledge, protection, management and public awareness about natural and semi-natural sites of all kinds that are present in the country. They are especially active in implementing measures linked to the Natura 2000 network. FCEN also operates the French Mire Resource Centre (Pôle-relais tourbières) devoted to mires and wetlands, located on the foot of the Jura Mountains, which will be in charge of this event.

Fondation de France

Fondation de France was established in 1969 to encourage the growth of private philanthropy as an intermediary partner. The foundation sets up action programs in many fields: solidarity, the elderly or disabled, and for the benefit of children. Fondation de France also promotes professionalism in the management of the voluntary sector in France and Europe.

GEYSER

GEYSER is a French non-profit association founded in 1983, strengthening innovative social practices in rural areas by expertise, moderation and mediation work.

Draft Programme (note: some speakers yet subject to confirmation)

Wednesday, 18 April 2012

Arrivals

18:00	Arrival of participants
19:00	Check-in and dinner in Hôtel des Deux Lacs, Labergement-Ste Marie
21:00	Open evening

Thursday, 19 April 2012

Workshop Day I:

Welcome, Thematic Inputs, Field Trip to Local Experiences

8:00	Breakfast
9:00	<p>Welcome from the hosts</p> <p>Claude Dussouillez, president, Communauté de communes Frasne-Drugeon (CFD)</p> <p>Laurent Beschet, head, Maison de la réserve de Remoray N.N., Agence de l'eau Rhône, Méditerranée et Corse</p> <p>Christophe Aubert, director, Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Franche-Comté (CEN-FC)</p> <p>Francis Muller, director, French Mire Resource Centre, Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels (FCEN)</p> <p>Christian Bruneel, vice-director, Parc naturel régional du Haut-Jura (t.b.c.)</p> <p>Udo Gattenlöhner, Global Nature Fund</p> <p>Dr. Titus Bahner, Forum Synergies</p>
9:45	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Summary of the preceding workshops ☞ Overview of the programme ☞ Self-presentation of participants <p><i>Titus Bahner (FS), Francis Muller (FCEN), Tillmann Stottele (GNF)</i></p>
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	<p>Thematic Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Geneviève Magnon, senior officer, CFD: <i>Val de Drugeon</i> – habitat restoration, eco-tourism and climate change as current local issues ☞ Gabriel Schwaderer, Euronatur Can Natura 2000 areas benefit from <i>sustainable rural development and</i>

	<p><i>eco-tourism?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Dr. Fatima Laggoun-Défarage (CNRS Orléans) <i>Biodiversity and climate change: Wetland preservation as carbon sequestration strategies</i> ☞ Dr. Tobias Salathé, Regional Coordinator Ramsar Europe, Genève : <i>Wetland habitat restoration - current ecological and technical issues</i> <p><i>Moderation: Titus Bahner (FS)</i></p>
13:00	<p>Lunch at the Hotel</p>
14:30	<p>Field trip: Local experiences with participatory development Bus transfer (15'), walk (45')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Varot watchtower (observatoire du Varot): general view of Drugeon valley and its wetlands meeting representatives of Conseil général (Département Doubs Council): <i>Christian Bouday</i>, vice-president <i>Sébastien Meslin</i>, senior officer discussion on tourism and environmental policy, land planning <i>N.N</i>, local farmer. discussion on working on wetlands. ☞ visit of Frasne mire and its boardwalk, included in a Regional Nature Reserve; discussion with <i>Mrs Françoise Vagneur</i>, Office National des Forêts (National Forest Board), on the question of mires and forest management ☞ short visit of the water cleaning plant at La-Rivière-Drugeon, a new plant cleaning all the waters of the valley; meeting with <i>Jean-Noël Resch</i>, hydrobiologist at CFD: how can the green technologies developed in such a plant improve the situation of a wetland? ☞ Lac de St-Point: reed bed with a trail open to the public, near the lake at Oye-et-Pallet; meeting with <i>Mr Hernandez</i>, mayor of Les Grangettes and president of Syndicat mixte des deux lacs: rural development, tourism... <p><i>guided by Geneviève Magnon (CFD) and Francis Muller (FCEN)</i></p>
20:00	<p>Dinner at the Hotel</p>
21:30	<p>Cultural evening: short films and video documentaries about wetlands (contributions of participants) <i>Venue : amphitheatre of Maison de la Réserve</i></p>

Friday, 20 April 2012

Workshop Day II: Perspectives for Future Cooperation

8:00	Breakfast	
9:00	Shaping Cooperation Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Results from working groups at Slovenia and Greece workshops <i>presented by group speakers</i> ☞ Identifying promising issues of interest and possible cooperation constellations ☞ Deciding on thematic groups <i>Moderation: Titus Bahner (FS), Udo Gattenlöhner (GNF)</i>	
10:30	Coffee Break	
11:00	Group Work <p>2-3 thematic groups work on joint project proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Project focus ☞ Project partners and target groups ☞ Outcomes and expected results ☞ Project activities and financing ☞ Next steps and commitments <i>Moderation: Titus Bahner (FS), Udo Gattenlöhner (GNF)</i>	Perspectives for local communities <p>Discussion group for public administration members and participants not working on project proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Options for local communities to benefit from Natura 2000 ☞ Experiences with stakeholder participation ☞ Demographic change and the challenge of 'new rural settlers' <i>Moderation Tillmann Stottele (GNF), Francis Muller (FCEN)</i>
13:00	Lunch at Visitors Centre <i>Bruno Tissot, curator: Presentation of the Nature Reserve of Remoray</i>	
14:30	Plenary: Interim Reports from Group Work and Discussion <i>opportunity for participants to change groups</i>	
15:00	Group Work (continued)	Discussion Group (continued)
16:00	Coffee Break	
16:30	Presentation of Group Results and Plenary Discussion <i>Moderation: Tillmann Stottele (GNF), Francis Muller (FCEN), Titus Bahner (FS)</i>	
18:00	Outlook on future project cooperation and networking options <i>Moderation: Titus Bahner (FS), Udo Gattenlöhner (GNF)</i>	



19:00	Dinner
20:30	Singing Event Bring and sing your (wetland-related?) songs from your country! <i>Participants (voluntary)</i>
Saturday, 21 April 2012	
Departure	
8:00	Breakfast
from 9:00	Departures



General Information

Time Zone	Central European Time = Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus 1 hour
Weather	The weather in the region is rather unpredictable on the end of April. Be prepared to have as well cold weather with some snow, or rather mild (15-20°C) and sunny days.
Workshop Language	The workshop languages will be English. Some presentations may be done in French and would be translated by the organizers.
Currency	Euro
Communication	The international code for France is +33. Mobile phone networks cover most areas.
Electricity	Voltage is 220 V, Plugs C & F. Information on adapters and plugs is available under http://kropla.com/electric2.htm

Address of Conference Venue

Maison de la réserve

28 rue de Mouthe
25160 Labergement-Sainte-Marie, France
Tel. +33 (0)3 81 65 39 99

Hosts and Conference Team

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