

# **EUROPARC Conference 2014**

## **Reconciling agriculture and biodiversity in the French Regional Nature Parks : The « Flowering meadows contest »**

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Commission « Biodiversity and land management »**



# **Reconciling agriculture and biodiversity in the French Regional Nature Parks, The « Flowering Meadows contest »**

- 1 – What do the french Regional Nature Parks do  
in terms of agriculture and biodiversity ?**
- 2 – The « Flowering meadows contest » : the  
Massif des Bauges experience ; the national contest**
- 3 – Conditions of success, conclusions**

50 Regional  
nature Parks

8.5 M Ha  
15% of France

3.9 M inhabitants



## **A regional nature Park :**

- a fragile rural area, a remarkable heritage,**
- organised around a project designed to ensure the protection of its heritage with respect to its management, and its economic and social development.**

## **What for ?**

- 1) Protect its heritage**
- 2) Implement economic and social development**
- 3) Participate in the spatial planning of its area**
- 4) Welcome and inform the public**
- 5) Carry out experiences**



# Ecological diversity





# Agricultural diversity



# What the RNP do in terms of agriculture / biodiversity

- **Protect agricultural land**
- **Conduct agri-environmental programs**
- **Support quality productions**
- **Promote short supply chains**
- **Support agri-tourism projects**
- **Transverse : pedagogy, research programs...**



# Connecting conservation and agricultural activities for a sustainable development : The “flowering meadows” experience Or the Flower’s Power





# RNP Bauges Massif : location



**850 km<sup>2</sup>**

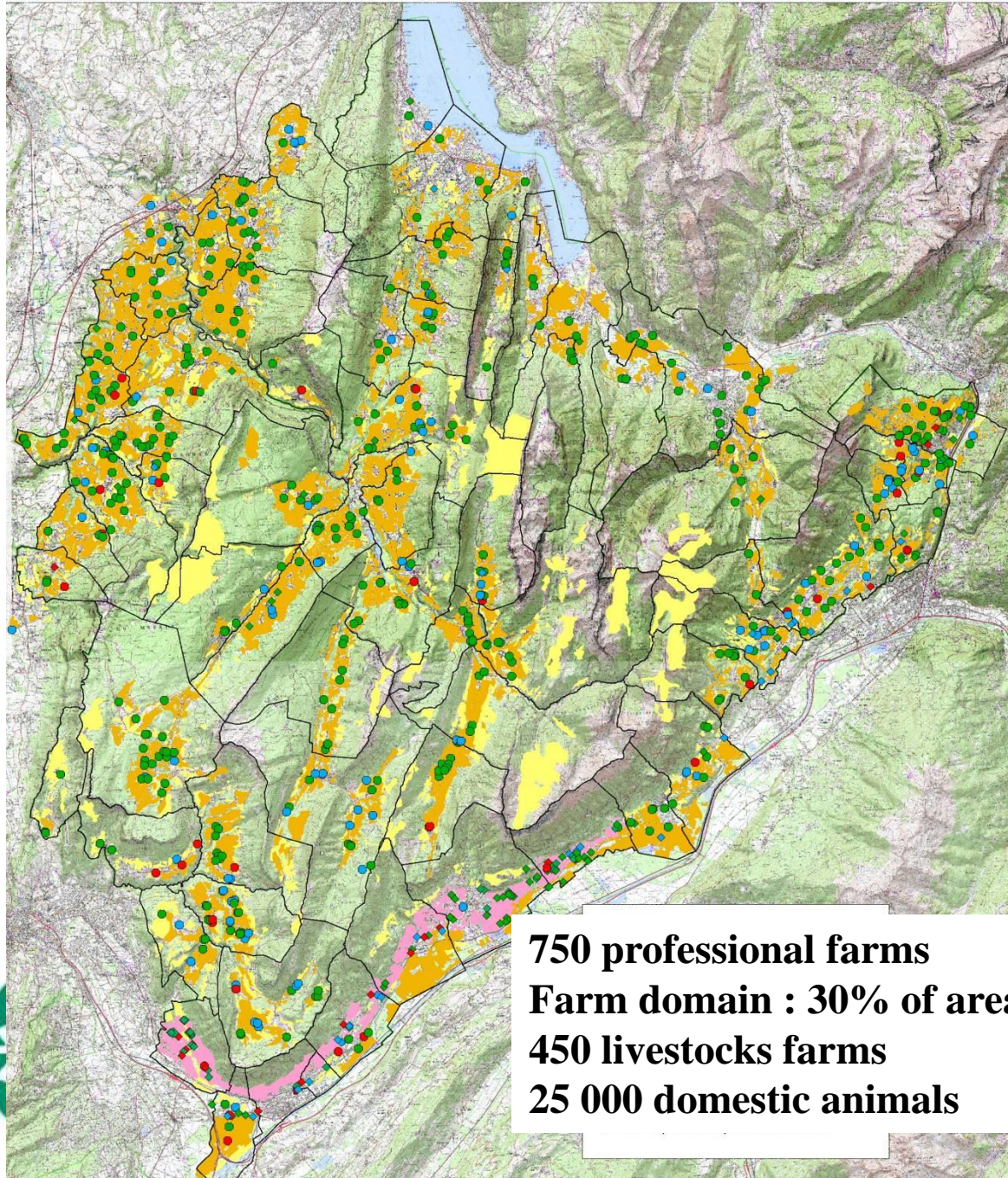
**300 m to 2200 m high**

**70 000 inhabitants**

**450 000 inhabitants in the 6 gateway towns**



# Bauges Massif Agriculture



**750 professional farms**  
**Farm domain : 30% of area**  
**450 livestock farms**  
**25 000 domestic animals**



# Grasslands : a natural and cultural heritage

Abandon



Parc  
naturel  
régional  
du Massif  
des Bauges

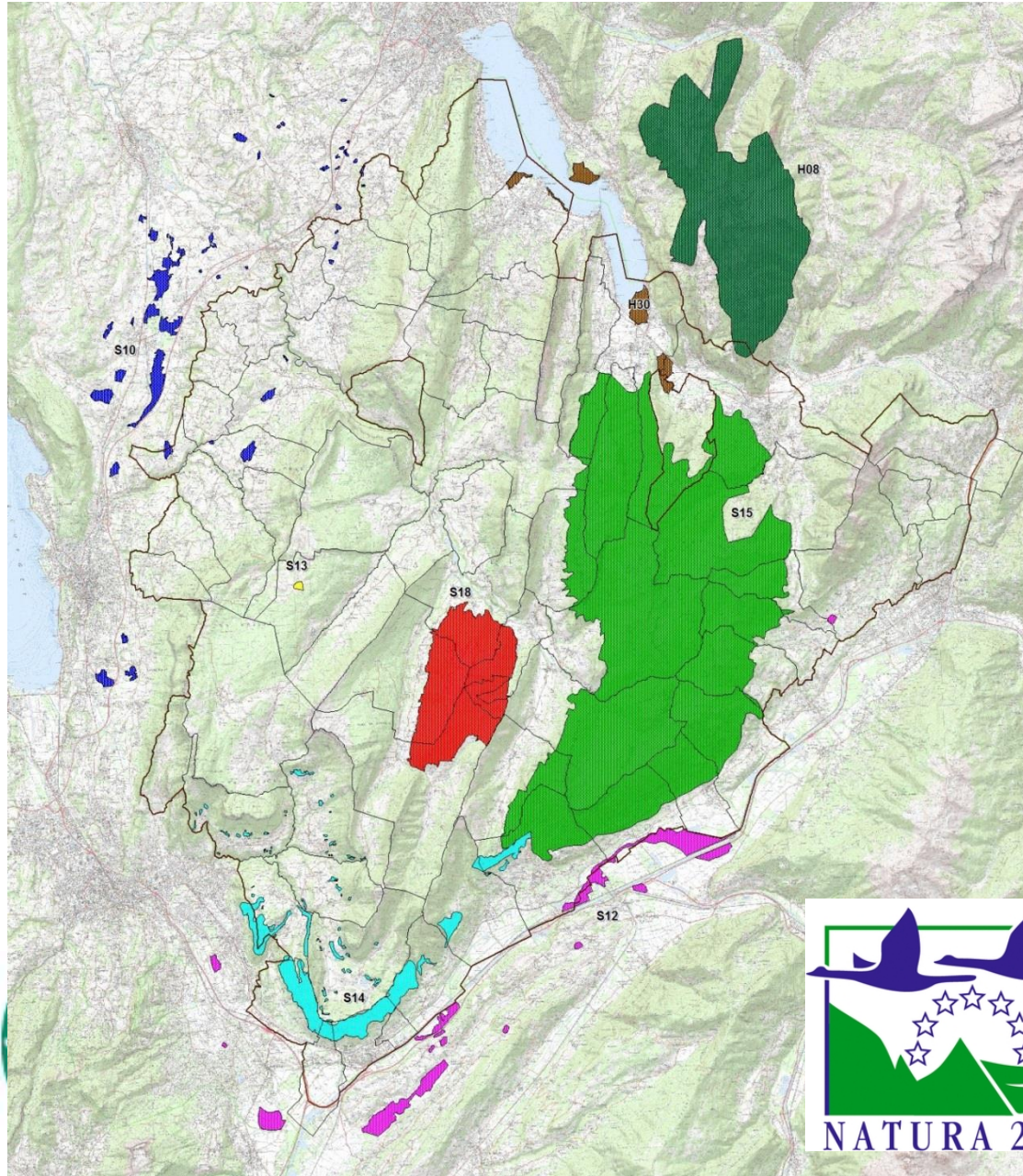


Parcs  
naturels  
régionaux  
de France





# Implementation of Habitat Directive



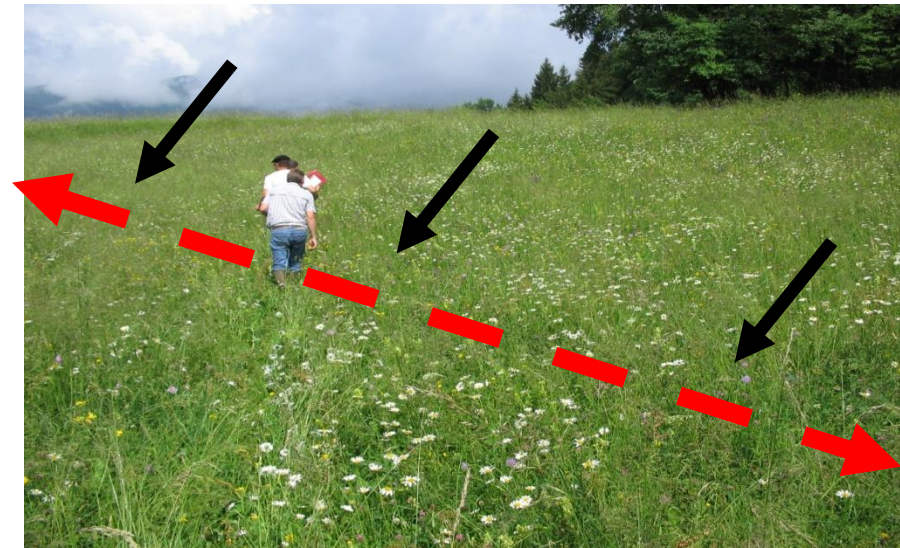
**2500 ha grassland**  
**5 years**  
**9 farmers**  
**5 ha**

**Dead end !**



# Reconciling conservation and agricultural knowledge

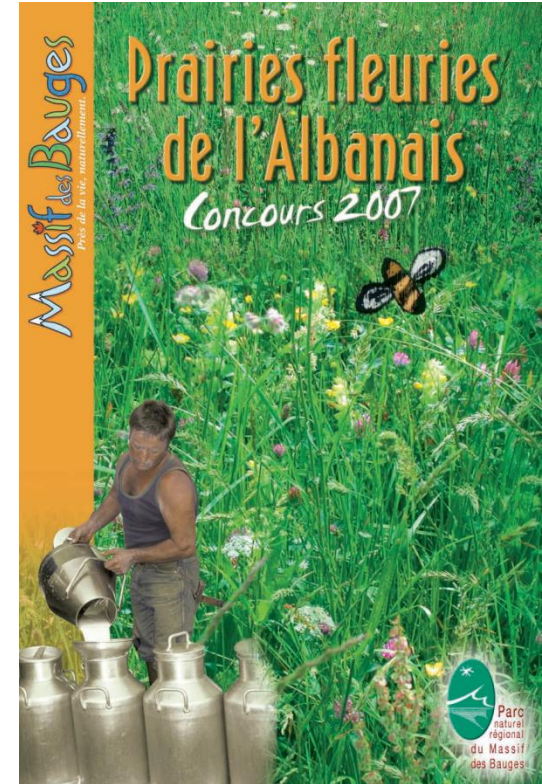
## Shared approach Research



**A new agri-ecological norm**



# The Flowering Meadows contest

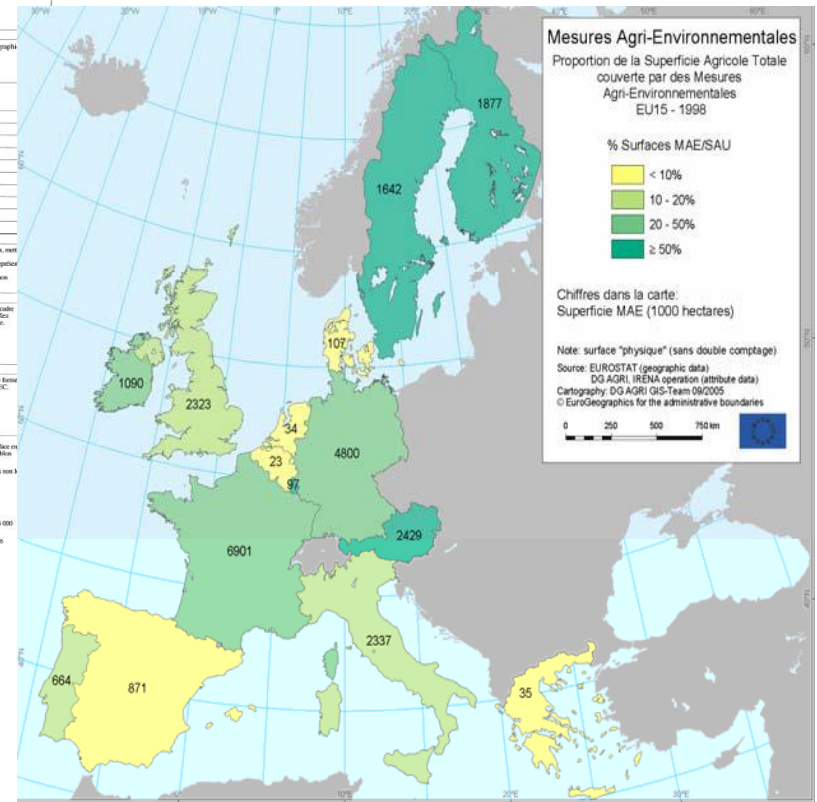
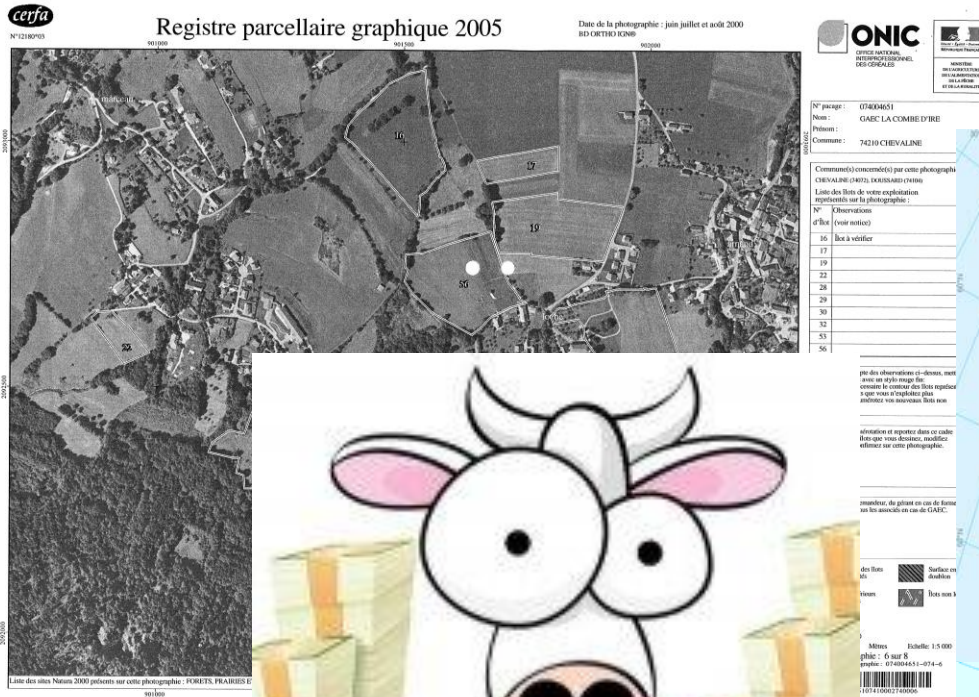


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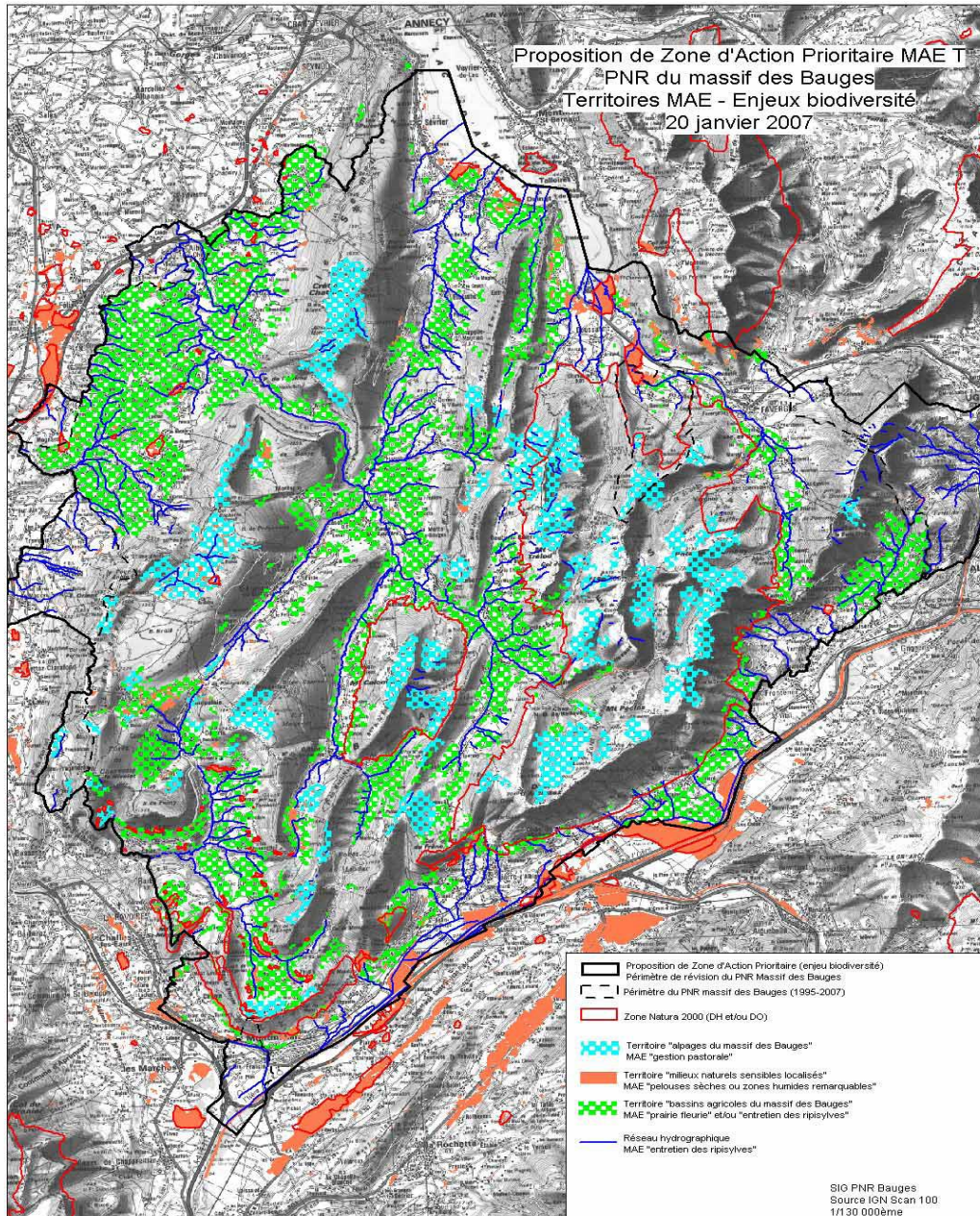


# European Agriculture and Rural Development Policy





# Flowering Meadows mesure areas



**3 years**

**3000 ha  
under contracts**



# Promotion of local products

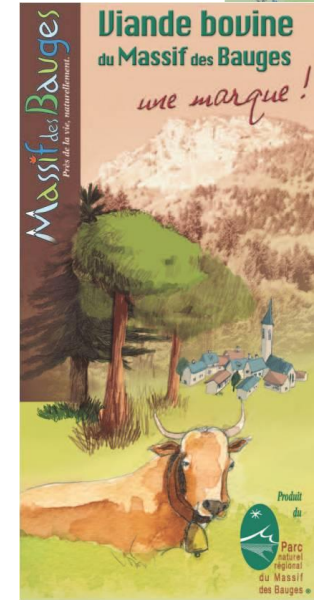
High quality products

Trademarks

Tastes



## Flowering meadows products from the Bauges Massif





# Local and national contests

## Flowering meadows 2010 / 2014



Brenne



Massif central



Lorraine



Vosges



Alpes



Pyrénées

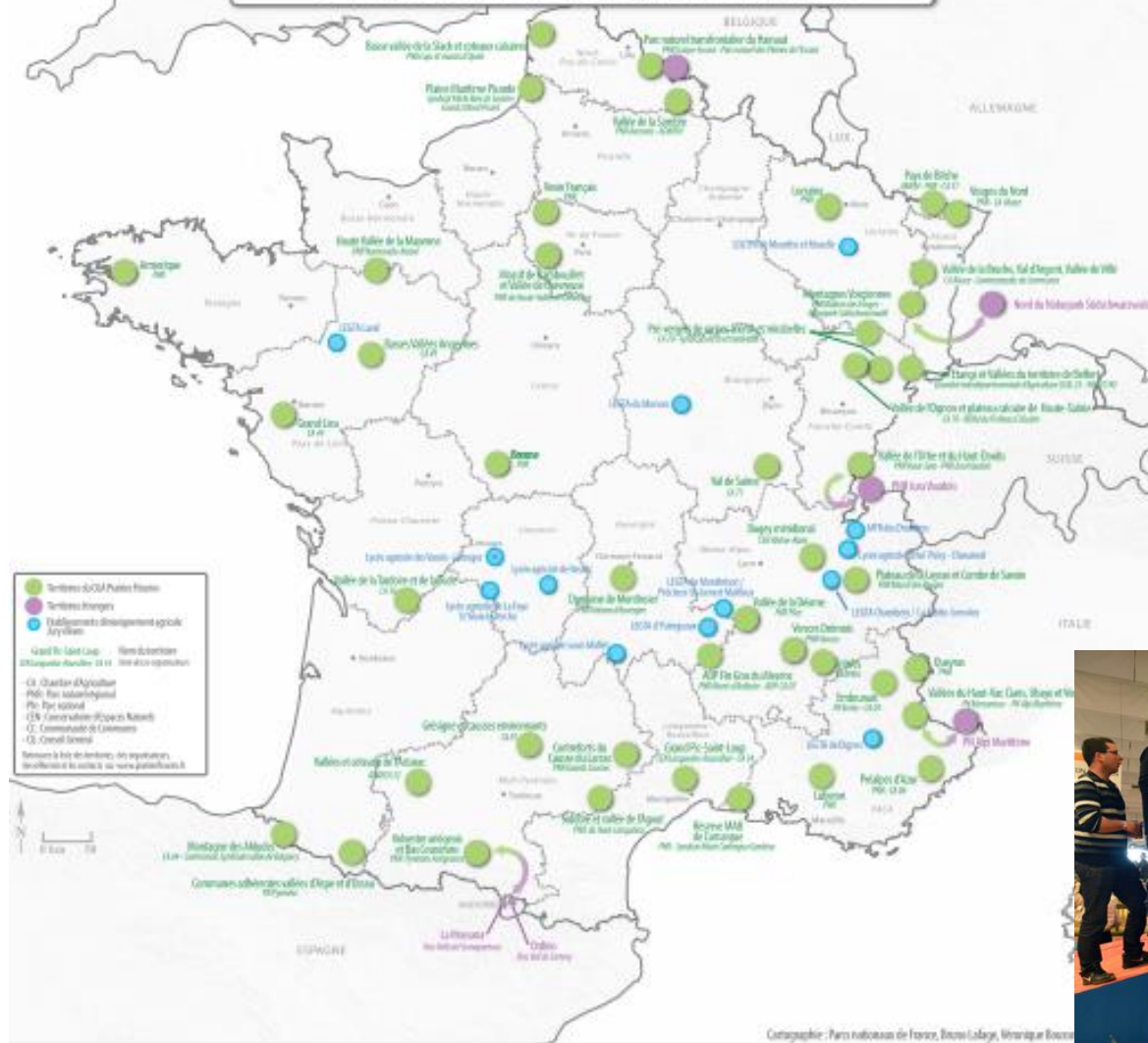


Cévennes



Camargue

# TERRITOIRES ET ORGANISATEURS LOCAUX ENGAGÉS DANS LE CONCOURS GÉNÉRAL AGRICOLE DES PRAIRIES FLEURIES 2014 LYCÉES AGRICOLES ENGAGÉS DANS LE JURY ÉLÈVES



Parc  
naturel  
régional  
du Massif  
des Bauges



Parcs  
naturels  
régionaux  
de France



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# The conditions of success 1/2

- Recognition of the ecological **and** agricultural values of land
- Definition of objectives having an ecological **and** agricultural meaning
- A new agri-environmental contract, based on the ability to achieve the desired outcome
- The use of an excellency contest



# The conditions of success 2/2

- PA's teams : nature managers ?
  - ✓ Pluridisciplinarity
  - ✓ Agriculture project manager
- Governance
  - ✓ How farmers are involved in PA's projects ? Confidence ?
- Knowledge and know how
  - ✓ Agriculture economy and techniques
  - ✓ CAP good knowing and lobbying

# Viewpoints : on the Bauges farmers' side

## Before :

- « *The Park's ecofreaks piss us off with their lovely flowers »*
- « *Our meadows are not a museum ! »*

## After :

- « *We only had professional farmers in this contest, no part time ones »*
- « *We were not calling them « Flowering meadows » but we were doing just that »*
- « *Our work is really recognized for once. It's very important for us to show we aren't « big polluters ! »*
- « *The good farmer will be rewarded and the bad one won't be. Until now, you could do a terrible job and still be OK as long as you were doing your paper work »*



# Final conclusions

- **Ecological issues : think « obligation of results » rather than « obligation of means »**
- **Work on the agricultural economy and his links with territorial development**
- **Test methods and actions that highlight the benefits and ecosystem services provided by agriculture**

*Let hundred of flowers bloom !  
Welcome in our natural Parks to  
taste our products, enjoy our  
landscapes and biodiversity and  
meet the farmers !  
Thanks for your attention*



<http://prairiesfleuries.espaces-naturels.fr>