Nature sports, leisure activities and regional nature Parks in France:

WHY? WHAT? HOW? PERSPECTIVES?

Olaf HOLM, project manager « tourism & sports »



« NATURE SPORTS », WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT?

Law about sports 2000:

- * All sports practised as an outdoor activity on private and/or public ground (Article 50-1 de la loi du 6 juillet 2000)
- * Nature, agriculture and forested areas
- * Land, underground, water, air

Don't forget:

- * All activities belonging to recreation and competition, to discover natural and cultural heritage, to maintain health for everyone
- * Regional nature Parks : motor sports not in the definition (not to develop, to limit!)



THE REGIONAL NATURE PARKS, DIVERSITY OF LIVING LANDSCAPES

- * 46 regional nature Parks
- * 3706 communities = 3706 mayors
- * 3 habitants
- * 7 ha = 13% of France
- 320 000 companies (7% of societies in France)
- * 5 of 7 Biosphere reserves UNESCO
- * 12% of Parks territories = « Natura 2000 » (national average 8%)
- * 34% of tourist nights in a community being a protected area (2006)
- * 26% of tourists come to practise a nature sport in nature: alpinism, climbing, canyoning, sailing, horse riding, hiking,... (2006)
- * Attractive landscapes where people live, not a museum or a resort!



Les 46 Parcs naturels régionaux représentant plus de 3900 communes, 21 Régions et 69 départements, 3 millions d'habitants et 13% du territoire

NATURE SPORTS AND NATURE PARKS : CONECTED TO THE OBEJCTIFS

5 key objectives of a regional nature Park:

- * To protect natural and cultural heritage
- * To manage and organise, land planning
- * To link social and local development based on its heritage (nature & culture)
- * To welcome, inform and educate habitants and visitors
- * To experiment about the 4 other objectives

To built up a project with local communities to protect, to valorise and to develop = sustainable development



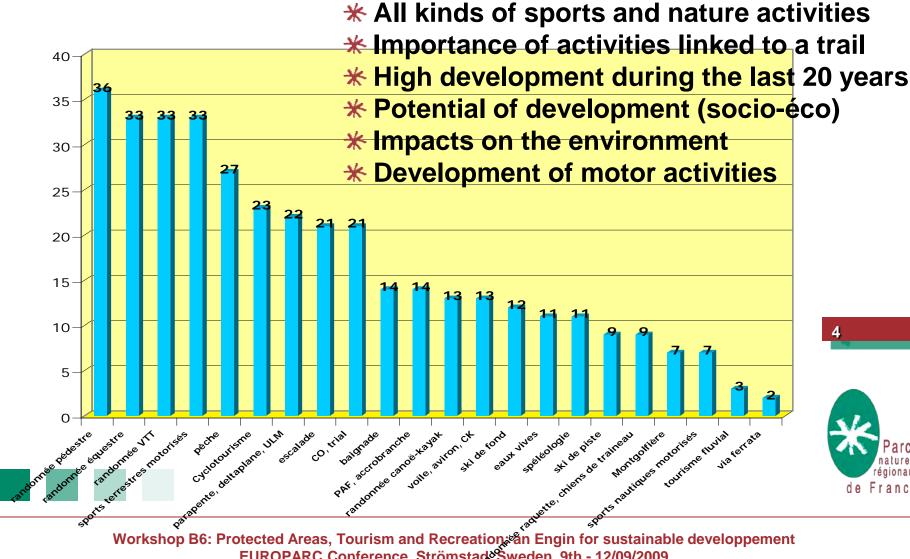






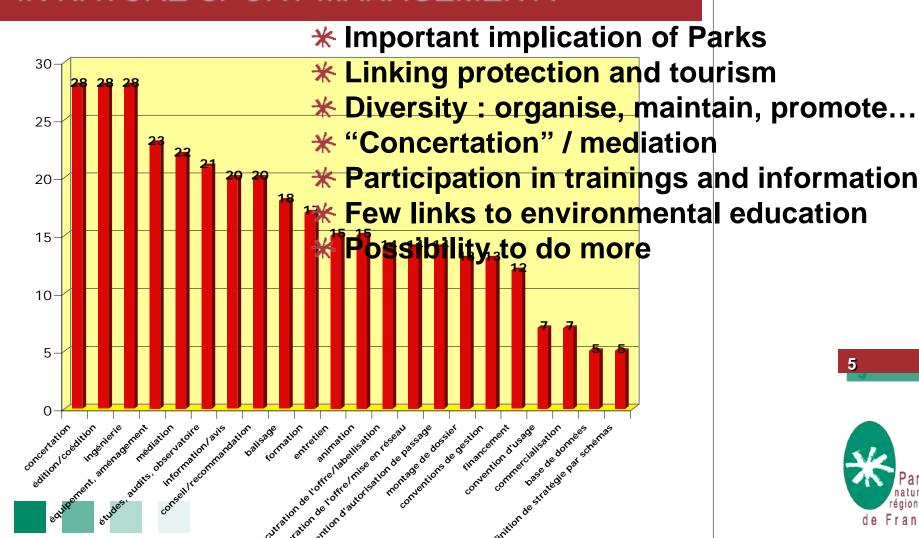


WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES CAN BE FIND IN A REGIONAL PARC?



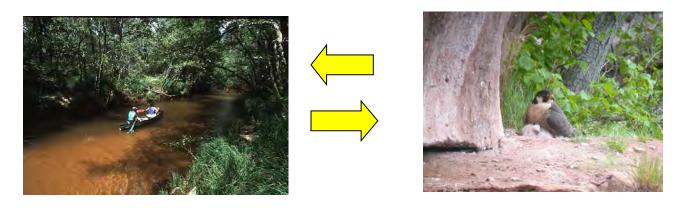


WHAT IS THE ROLE OF NATURE PARKS IN NATURE SPORT MANAGEMENT?





WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES FOR NATURE PARKS TO WORK ABOUT SPORTS?



To develop tourism, outdoor and sport activities in coherence with environmental protection issues: sustainable development of nature sports

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SINCE 2004, AN AMBISSOUS WORKING PLAN FOR AND WITH PARKS

Key objectives

- 1) Better knowledge about nature sports and leisure activities and its positive and negative imp
- 2) Inform and form the network to promote the sustainable development of nature sports
- 3) Create tools based on case studies and experiment
- 4) Promote actions and knowledge of Parks to be recognised as an actor of sustainable development
- 5) Link nature sports and leisure activities to the Euro Charter of Sustainable Tourism
- Enhance partnerships with protected areas, ministries, sport federations to create tools, joint-meetings,

CONFERENCES: Protected Areas, Tourism and Recreation: an Engin for sustainable developp EUROPARC Conference, Strömstad, Sweden, 9th - 12/09/2009



PRATICAL TOOLS FOR MANAGMENT OF NATURE SPORTS

Based on evaluation, monitoring, working groups and pilot projects, examples:

- Guidelines to welcome and evaluate sport events
- Guidelines and statement about motor sports and its « management »
- Experimental studies about the evaluation of social and economic impacts of nature sports
- > Case studies about the environmental impact of activities
- ➤ Working with enterprises by using the brand « Park »
- National working groups : « Ranger = ecogardes », « connecting parks by a trail »









CONECTING PARKS TO A NATIONAL WIDE PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER

NDERSTANDING















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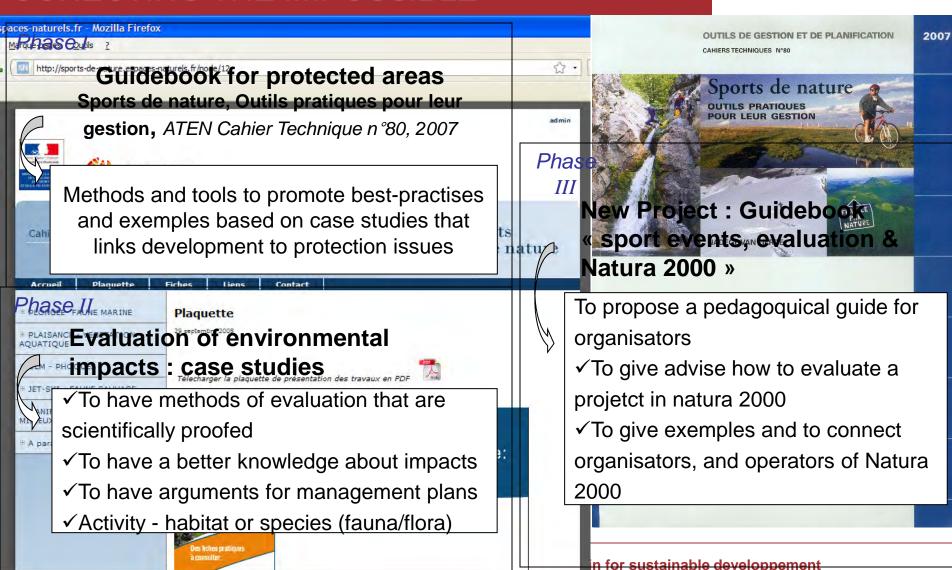


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NETWORKING WITH NETWORKS - CONECTING THE IMPOSSIBLE



)th - 12/09/2009

LINK PROTECTED AREAS, SPORTS, TOURISM, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

Cross different viewpoints to enhance partnerships by exchange of practises for a better understanding

- Rencontres nationales du tourism et loisirs sportivesnational conference of tourism, leisure and sport activities
- Organised by the different sectors concerned by sport activities to enhance, train, develop, understand....
- Regular meeting crossing different actors, stakeholders (700 participants)
- Parks: important role to identify practises, recognised by different "sides"
- > 5th meeting mai 2010: Nantes, focus on water activities
- **6th** meeting 2011: focus on European experiences

















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REGIONAL NATURE PARK OF VERDON

A management plan for nature sports and outdoor activities connected to the sustainable tourism development plan:



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- Consider the importance of outdoor activities linked to nature conversation and tourismedevelopment, team of 5 project managers in the project managers of the project managers of the project of the proj
- Working with rangers to inform, to manage, to be in contact on the field 12
- Develop a offer to discover the Park (brand)
- Organise events to inform the public about impacts, best practises, engagements is a wind days without cars, in condition and esting with control of the condition of the condit

Consulting of local communities in the case of leave the constitution of the case of leave the leave the case of leave the case of leave the case of leave the leave the case of leave the l



Actions ou projets que, éducation à l'environde France

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CONCLUSION: SOME IDEAS....

Needs

- * Lack of research and knowledge: impacts, understand the behaviour of people,
- * Necessary to be faster than the development of new activities (anticipation)
- * Linking social aspects, live quality and educational aspects
- * Work with private and public actors to change from "hard" to "soft" activities

Solutions?

- Exchange best practises and tools on European level
- * Identify European programs and founding
- * Link nature sports to the European Charta of Sustainable Tourism

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