Connecting protected areas and outdoor sports, working together to face new challenges

FRENCH EXPERIENCE

NEW CHALLENGES
SPORTING EVENTS
SPORT AND ENVIRONMENT
THE FRENCH CONTEXT
ABOUT US
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French National Resource Center of Outdoor Sports
Structure of the sport ministry
National and european missions
Situated in the Ardeche (CREPS Vallon Pont d'Arc)
Created in 2003
Team of 14 employees

http://www.sportsdenature.gouv.fr/
MISSIONS

to support the policy of developing outdoor sports

to provide advice and expertise for all the stakeholders

to drive the national network

to organize trainings

to make studies, publications, tools...
THEMATICS

Access to the areas and sites

Education through outdoor sports

Territorial development

Employment, training, qualification

Safety of participants

Observation of practices and participants
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THE FRENCH CONTEXT

key numbers

PROTECTED AREAS

OUTDOOR SPORTS
PROTECTED AREAS

10 national parks
51 regional parks
8 natural marine parks
167 national reserves
136 regional reserves
1768 Natura 2000 sites
...

+ 20% of land territory in mainland

+ de 26% overseas land territory
KEY NUMBERS

25 millions of participants
2.5 millions members of federations
50 000 outdoor sports professionals
5.6 billion euros of spending on outdoor sport and leisure equipment
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FRENCH EXPERIENCE
SPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

*a long history*

*in 2000 and 2004 specific part for "outdoor sports" in the sport law*
CONSULTATION

The law creates a consultation committee in each department grouping all the stakeholders concerned by outdoor sport and natural areas.
DEVELOPMENT

The law recognizes the important role of outdoor sports for society: education, economy, tourism, health...

They must be developed but controlled to respect environment, properties and others users of nature.
PLANNING

Each local committed (CDES) must develop a specific plan (PDES) for outdoor sport.

Each site is subject to an environmental assessment

About 100 departments there are 61 CDES
Over the last 15 years there has been collaboration between sport and environment institutions (local and national) with:

- Production of guidebooks
- Common seminars
- Common professional training
- Local and national meetings
GUIDEBOOKS

There are many local and national productions build in cooperation between sports and environmental stakeholders.

- good practices
- experiences
- advice
- tools
...
Journée d'échanges techniques
Evaluation d'incidences Natura 2000 et sports de nature

4 décembre 2012 - Paris

Atelier technique des ESPACES NATURELS
La réseau des professionnels de la nature

SEMINARS
To create a common culture
To break the misconceptions
To share experiences
To find solutions
specific training courses for sport and environment officers
TOOLS

There are several tools built together (charts, evaluation grids, maps...)

One of them is SURICATE. SURICATE allows you to report problems encountered during outdoor sport: a mistake with trail markings, a broken sign, pollution, security needs, conflicts with land owners or other participants...
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FRENCH EXPERIENCE
SPORTING EVENTS

We have made progress in the organization of events to address negative impacts and measure positive impacts.

But the sum of events with little or no impact can ultimately have negative effects.

This is the question of carrying capacity of natural areas.
NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Several stages make it possible to limit the negative impacts of the events on the environment. The organizer must:

- respect the regulation
- validate his course with the manager of the protected area
- have the authorization from the authorities

There are lots of tools to help organizers to reduce negative impacts
GUIDE BOOKS

Many territories, parks, reserves have produced guides for the organizers.
DIGITAL TOOLS

Digital technology facilitates the work of organizers and instructor services. The GPS track can be overlaid with environmental areas.

As of this year there is a national platform for sporting events. All services (security, environment, mayor, park, federation...) can consult online and give opinions and recommendations. At the end the authorization is granted or not.
POSITIVE IMPACTS

- social
- economic
- health
- culture, education
...

We can not only see the negative impacts
economic and social effects

PRNSN modeled an evaluation methodology

- To make an assessment of the economic impact of an event
- To quantify financial flows
- To establish a common methodology in order to obtain comparable and appropriate results by the actors

outdoors sports events take an active part in the life of the territories
Health

WHO recommendations:
Adults aged 18–64 should do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity during the week or do at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity.

Outdoor sport events contribute to put people on the move.

How Protected Areas are having an active role in promoting the use of green spaces
We need outdoor sport and outdoor sport events for:

- to improve social sharing and social inclusion
- to save our children from nature-deficit disorder
- to promote nature education
- to improve well-being
- to promote a nature lifestyle
CARRYING CAPACITY

There are three dimensions to the carrying capacity (Jean-Pierre Thibault)

- Economic: the number of participants beyond which the emotion of each person will decrease; and whit it the quality of the tourism economy.
- Social: the number of visitors from which the inhabitants will feel invaded, will change their behavior
- Environmental: the number of visitors from which nature loses diversity and landscape loses singularity.

The increasing number of events in the same area could have impact

This question of carrying capacity or welcoming capacity suppose to have a global vision of the activities in the areas. It’s difficult to target only the outdoor sports event. We have to consider tourism, traditional activities... a new challenge?
CARRYING CAPACITY

There are examples of limitations of events in parks.

Example of the strict regulation of the national park of Ecrins (limitation to 5 sport competitions per year)

What solutions can we find together?
- Defining quotas (which criteria)
- Defining periods
- Limit the capacity or the number of participants
  ...
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NEW CHALLENGES

Limit the negative impacts of outdoor sport

Find a respectful balance for the nature and life of the territories

Fight against increasing sedentariness in Europe

work together
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