

EUROPARC Seminar dialogue

**Climate change adaptation and the
management of natural heritage
site, regional parks and forest**

Brussels Case study

16 November 2022

CC/NATURA 2000 – THE CASE OF THE SONIAN FOREST

- 4383 ha (only 38% bxl)
- Manage by 3 régions
- Natura 2000 site
- 2500 ha of beech forest (Habitat 9120)
- Peri-urban forest
- Regional natural heritage site and for some brussels parts (61ha) UNESCO Sites (old beech forest of the Atlantic Region)
- Decline of the beech forest (up to 90% expected to 2100) following study (2015)
- Natural regeneration of the forest since 2005



CC/NATURA 2000 – LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SONIAN FOREST

- Accurate monitoring of what is happening in terms of adaptability of natural sites (phenotypic/genotypic, etc.)
- CC adaptation measures should match and be easily integrated with ongoing multifunctional long-term management plan (2019 – 2043)
- A need to go faster to integrate adaptation measures in N2000 management plans
- How to deal with the introduction or arrival of more adapted species (indigenous or not) in current management plan – Example of the ongoing plantation of sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) + better knowledge of the potential of adaptation of those species

CC/NATURA 2000 – LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SONIAN FOREST

- What are the best forest management practices? Is the current « futaie irrégulière » the best way to make our forest adaptative?
- Some contradictory measures between UNESCO Site (buffer zone) and Natura 2000 management plan
- Better regulate the huge expansion of human activities and pressure to avoid cocktail effect including soil compaction, noise disturbance, fire risk, etc.). Lack of knowledge of what is acceptable or not + boost citizens awareness and education.

CC/NATURA 2000 – THE CASE OF REGIONAL N2000&NATURAL HERITAGE PERI-URBAN PARCS

- Act as climate buffer (interdependance area)
- Very important power of reconnexion – green and blue network
- Ongoing study (ERU URBANISM) : “Studying the compatibility of heritage and nature protection regimes for the implementation of nature-based solutions in the framework of urban plans and climate change adaptation strategies”



CC/NATURA 2000 – FIRST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERI-URBAN PARK

- A need to take strong adaptation measures in interdependence areas (buffer zone and reconnecting areas) both in protected or not protected areas
- Strengthen the legal constraint in favor of nature = include a reason for “biodiversity emergency” favorable to “climate emergency”
- Bring regulatory value to natural networks. From a voluntary Brussels Ecological network to mandatory actions
- Management practices (period of reference and historical management practices) should evolve and be more CC adaptative



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