



Webinar

How and why raising awareness on light pollution in natural parks ?

© Carole Reboul

Agipour'Environnement

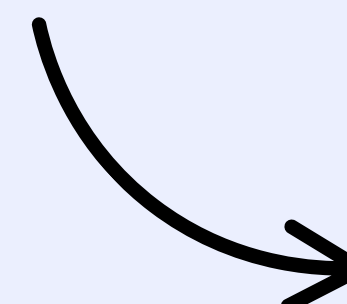


NGO launched in 1998

raises awareness on a wide range of
environmental topics on a national level

around 200 000 supporters/members

completely independant



created "*Le Jour de la* (~~May~~ of
Darkness) in 2008



OUTLINE



WHY : Impacts of light pollution in a few words

HOW : Le Jour de la Nuit - Presentation, global outcomes and perspectives

Case study in "le Gâtinais français" : specificities, implementation and outcomes

Case study in Alpes Azur Mercantour : specificities, implementation and outcomes

Impacts of light pollution



There are five main reasons to implement new mitigation strategies on light :

- 1) *Light pollution keeps increasing*
- 2) *Its impacts on biodiversity are documented*
- 3) *Social and health issues are rising : perturbation of the circadian rhythm, increased risk of cancer, diabetes, depression*
- 3) *Astronomers suffer from light pollution on the ground and in space (satellites)*
- 5) *High energy consumption and could be a waste of money*

Light pollution plays a major part in the extinction of the insects, but often neglected





Positive outcomes

Money and energy saving

Implementation of dark corridors

Land of
astronomy

Peaceful and quiet
nights

Protection of biodiversity

A kick-start and an example
for all stakeholders

Le Jour de la N



A night and a day dedicated to all the aspects of light pollution : astronomy, biodiversity, energy and health.

Promoted by a dozen of national federation from all horizons (*regional natural parks, federation of astronomers, educational network for nature, NGOs, the protection biodiversity, dark sky France...*)

A lot of actors involved, from cities to school, libraries, NGOs...

Various type of events ranging from total extinction to nature walks and artistic workshops and representations .

A gir pour l'Environnement gives all the material needed to every participants (communication material, press relations, national dynamic, advocacy work)





Découvrez ici toutes les animations et extinctions qui se tiendront pour le Jour de la Nuit 2024. Cliquez sur un événement pour avoir toutes les informations.

DÉJA

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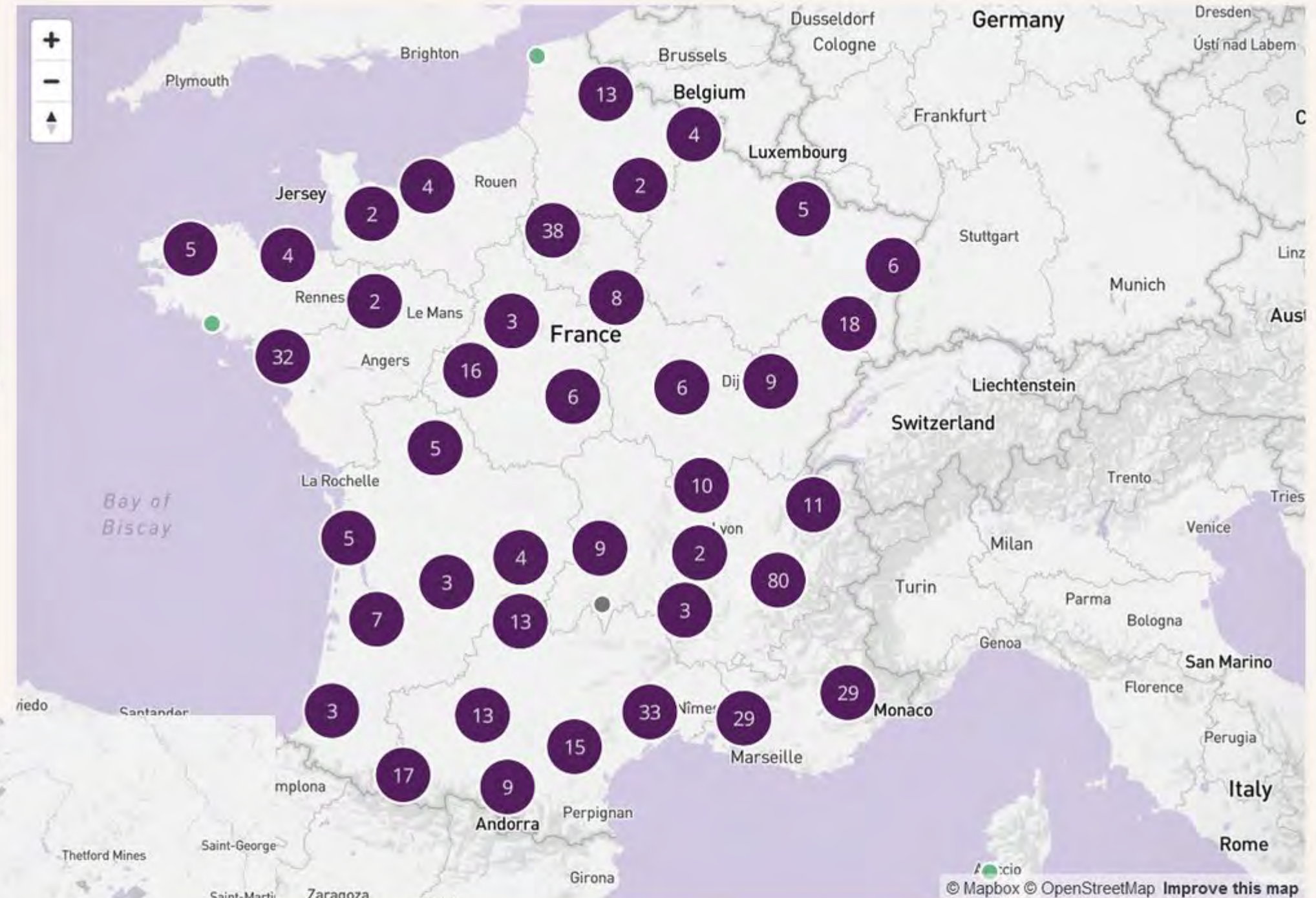
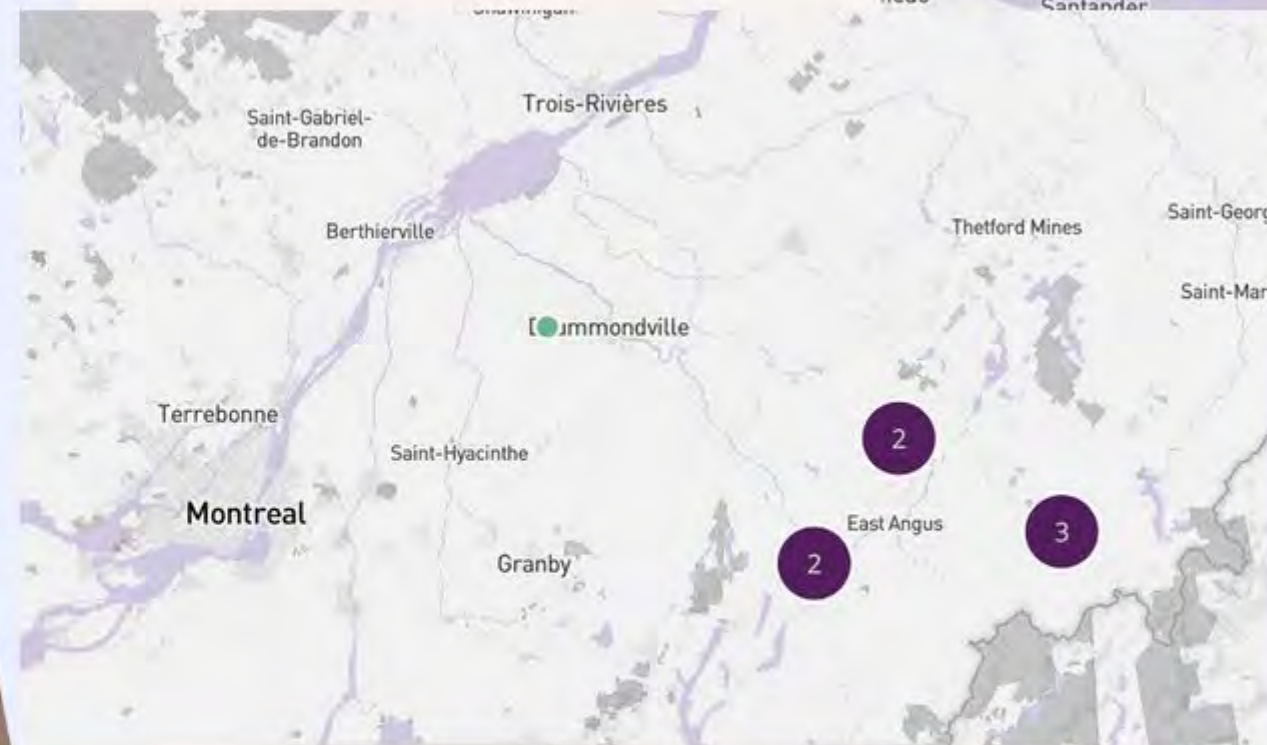
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- Une animation

- Une extinction

- Une animation et une extinction

● Un événement en ligne





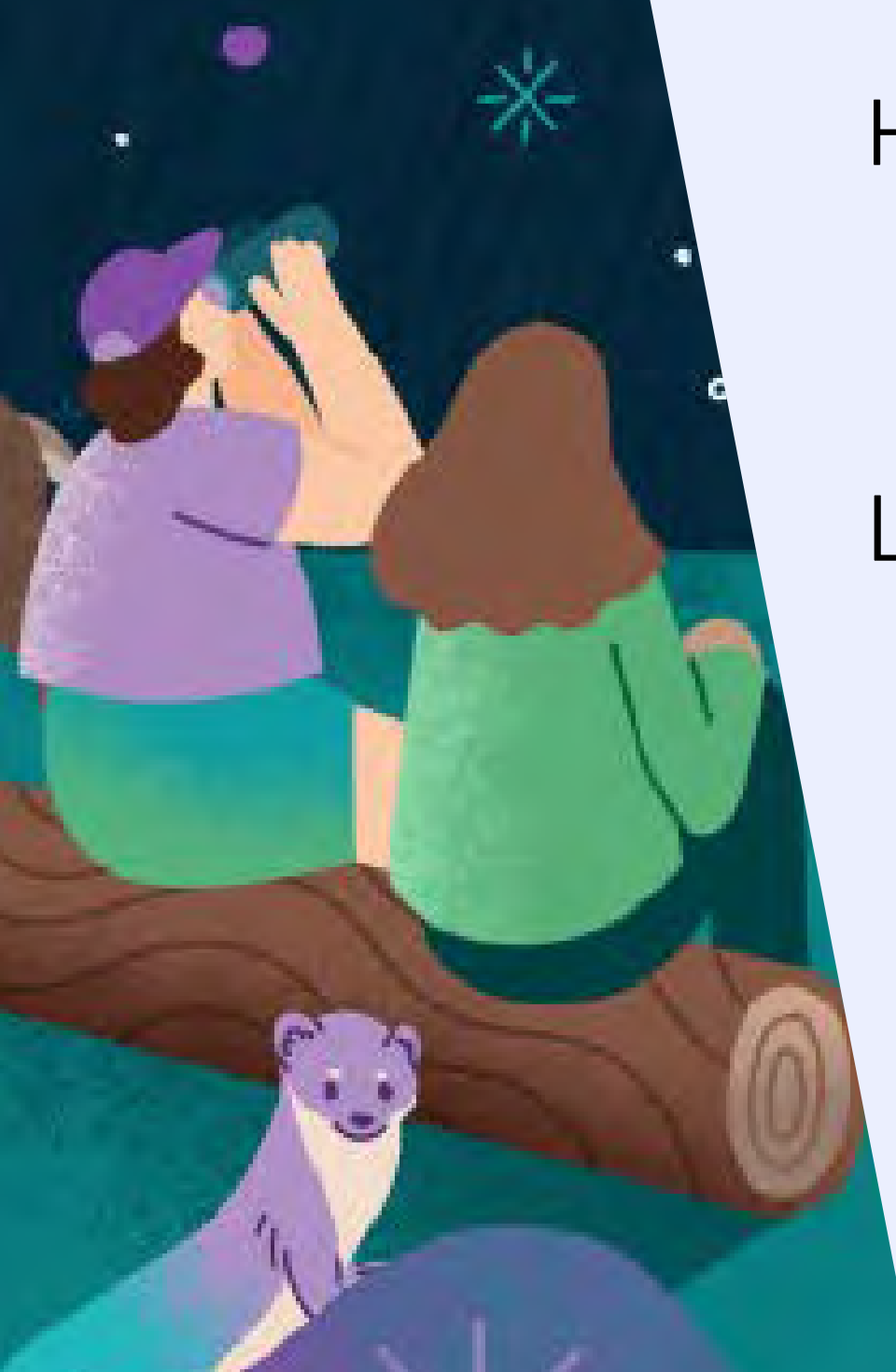
Le Jour de la Nuit

Was on of the milestone in the rise of the light pollution issue among citizens and cities (especially in natural parks), alongside important national initiatives

Has led several territories to promote dark sky and help them to obtain/ consider labels and certifications, renovation of public lights and change of habits

Le Jour de la Nuit is a coordinated movement, go-belt between national and local level : it fosters motivation for various stakeholders to try.

Promotion at a larger scale.



Le Jour de la Nu

Focus on new stakeholders
(shops and citizens)

European level as a new lever : coordination in
order to highlight various national actions

Next edition : October 11, 2025






Case study Natural park “LeGâtinais français”

- Close to Paris
- Biggest city : 15 000 inhabitants
- 100% of their cities do not use public lights at night (72 cities have no public lightning more than 5 hours per night) : only some roads keep lights but these are turned down in the middle of the night)
- Since 2016 : there are no public lights in summer in an increasing number of cities (between 3 and 5 months per year)





“LeGâtinais français” without lights

Why ?

- Representatives worried about the impacts on biodiversity (2002-very wide study on the impact on insects on the territory)
- Pictures of the parks - a protected area- seen from above were a shock
- Secondary consideration : night sky /energy saving/quality of nights
- Representatives very aware about light pollution issues

“LeGâtinais français” without lights How?



- Natural park focuses on the representatives
- A strong incentive : fundings
- Best practices : night walks with representatives and *Le Jour de la Nuit* for citizens.
- Working in partnership with the most motivated representatives and with local actors



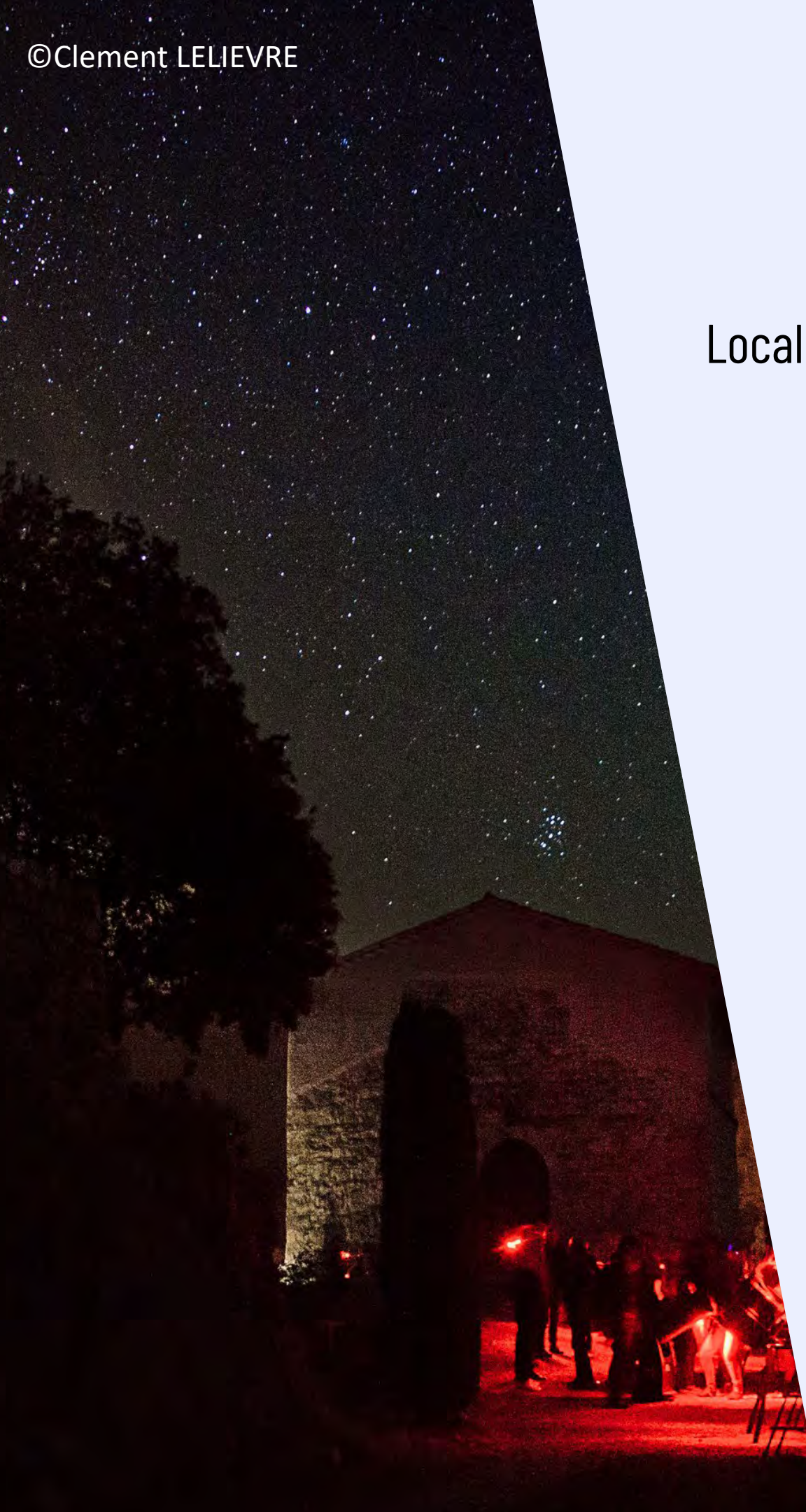
“Le Gâtinais français” without lights Impacts

- Saving money : a 6-hour extinction = 50% reduction on the costs.
- Biodiversity : difficulties to have accurate numbers (multiple factors, very long time) : but citizens feel an improvement and appreciate seeing the dark sky
- More astronomers on the territory
- Satisfaction of citizens (peace, quality of night/sleep/health).
Adaptation to night workers

Case study 2 : Alpes Azur Mercantour



- Certification Dark Sky (with 2 natural parks)
 - Territory : 2500 km²
- very close to Nice (important tourism : source of light pollution)
- a large variety of altitudes and ecosystems



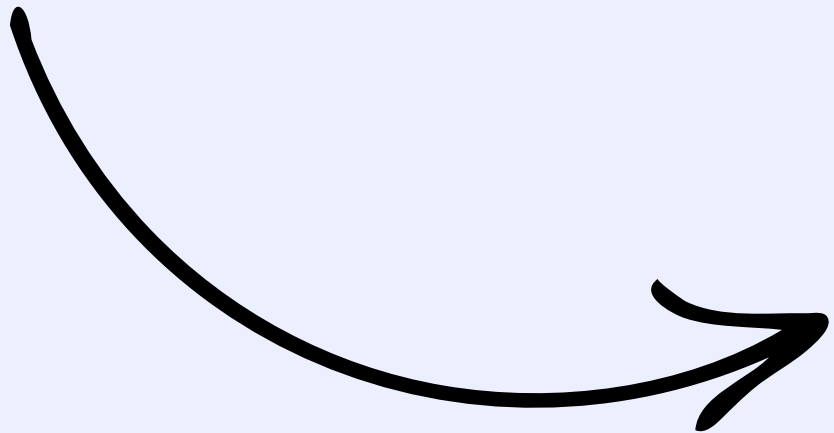
Alpes Azur ~~Mercantour~~ *Why ?*



Local representatives and experts heard about Dark sky initiatives and International dark sky reserves

Upcoming issues with tourism

Strong political will to advocate for a dedicated protected dark area



Mountain territory with a wonderful dark sky heritage

A place where astronomers used to come

30 out of 36 species of bats present in France

Presence of rare fireflies

Alpes Azur Mercantour ?

Strong outreach campaign with events since 2021

School program implemented, activities throughout the academic year

Highlight of their actions : "Month of the night"

+ Formation for professional, meetings with all the stakeholders to further sharing of good practices

Financial help for the renovation of public lightning



Alpes Azur Mercantouracts



75% of their cities switch off lights at night
70% of cities are currently renovating their public lightning

Citizens satisfaction who wish for longer public extinction

Biodiversity : a monitoring has been initiated on bats, moths, fireflies...

Promotion of their work in the neighborhood

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➔ *Contact : Sterenn Poupard*



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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