
EUROSITE

**Natura 2000 site managers:
their key role, profile and importance for Europe's nature**

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ATEN ?

Atelier technique des espaces naturels

Umbrella group of nature management organisations set up in 1997, mandated by and operating on behalf of the French Ministry in charge of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable development and Sea.

Public-private partnership of 19 Members*: State and Public bodies, Local authorities and grouping, NGOs and private foundation

* MEDDEM, Coastal protection agency, National Parks of France, Marine protected areas agency, National Forests Office, National Hunting and Wildlife Office, National federation of regional natural parks, Rivages de France, Grands sites de France, 3 regions Rhône Alpes, Ile de France and Languedoc-Roussillon, 2 department authorities Drome and Isère, Eden62 (Pas de Calais), French Natural reserves Association and Federation des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, League for the protection of birds, Tour duValat.

Why ? For whom ? And Where ?

Priority objective is to safeguard natural areas and the natural heritage by **networking and capacity building** with the managers and organisations involved in nature protection.

- ★ **Provide services** to its own members, which represent “nature protection professionals”
- ★ **Responds to the needs** of other stakeholders and opinion formers who pursue similar objectives, even beyond the confines of PA

30 people located in Montpellier working in France (mainland & OT), in Europe and worldwide.

Number of people working
for conservation of noteworthy biodiversity*

Structures	Emplois
Parcs nationaux	691
Conservatoire du littoral	132
Parcs naturels régionaux	1500
Conservatoires régionaux des espaces naturels	580
Réserves naturelles	750
Fondation Tour du Valat	50
Rivages de France	570
Agence des aires marines protégées	80
ONCFS	120
ONF	120
Grands sites de France	78
Ligue de protection des oiseaux	135
Total	4806

Natura 2000 (with overlapping)	1000-1500
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*Source ATEN (2009)

Nature protection - protected areas sector

Among green jobs, those related to nature protection - protected areas 5000 people (FR) = 1% environmental sector.

- ★ Various **educational background**
- ★ **Various employers:** Nature conservation and countryside departments and agencies of central government and local authorities, parks or reserves authorities, NGOs
- ★ Various **statuses:** civil servant, private sector, volunteer.
- ★ Very **small job market**
- ★ Very **little mobility**

How ?

- ☆ **Design and offer training:** on the job/ in service. ATEN is one of the main training organisations for managers of natural areas
- ☆ Provide **legal expertise**, up-to-date information and advice
- ☆ **Publish** *Cahiers techniques* collection and *Espaces naturels* and provide **access to documentary resource**
- ☆ **Structure the professional sector** of natural area management In 2000, ATEN has started an analytical approach with ATEN's members including trade unions representatives to develop a common job directory with competence standards not intended to be fixed in time: <http://espacesnaturels.fr/metiers>

How ?

- ★ Draw up **planning and evaluation tools** for the use of natural areas managers
- ★ Facilitate the French **Natura2000** technical exchange network and others Forums as **Marine protected areas managers, IT specialists, GIS specialists and webmasters** of natural areas. Provides the secretariat of a program for nature professionals in the **overseas territories**.
- ★ Expend its activities to the **international** level

For French Natura2000 network 1 site, 1 DOCOB

- ★ **Define competences that are expected** to go with Natura 2000 site designation and management (job descriptions)
- ★ **Be trained:** specific training courses
- ★ **Use common tools:** DOCOB, SUDOCO, websites
- ★ **Know each other:** contact directory
- ★ **Exchange:** Newsletter, Forum, “Technical Information Days”
- ★ **Participate** in European workshops, events, network as Eurosite, Econat, Greenweek, etc.

Innovative capacity building operational scheme

- ★ Identify generic activities carried out by Natura2000 professionals
- ★ Define the standard competences and learning outcomes necessary to do so effectively
- ★ Build a questionnaire on line to assess new training needs:
www.formation.n2000.fr
- ★ Co-construct the training offer with national and local training organisations

European project?

Justification:

- ★ The level and quality of Natura 2000 site management varies greatly among sites
- ★ Need to better define Natura 2000 professional activities and match them to adequate training programs
- ★ Lack of capacity to effectively manage and protect Natura 2000 sites (lack of staff, knowledge, equipment, political commitment, financial resources, etc.)

Source of funding:

- ★ LLP European program Leonardo – Education and training - Transfert of innovation ?
- ★ Life + ?

Objectives

Overall objective is to improve the professionalism of Natura2000 site managers

Operational objectives are to

- ★ Transfer the innovative Natura 2000 training operational scheme developed by ATEN to Eurosite members
- ★ Adapt this scheme to the national context of the partners

Results and target

Expected results:

- ★ Management activities undertaken in the Natura2000 sites are better defined
- ★ Organisations responsible for Natura2000 implementation have the framework (specifications) for the implementation of an adapted training scheme
- ★ The cooperation of European training institutions or organisations are better identified

Target groups: Natura 2000 professionals: employers, employees

Training institutions, National and European institutions

Activities

- ☆ Work- package 1: Project management
- ☆ Work-package 2: Tools and method to be used; adapt the ATEN's Natura2000 training dispositif to the project partners (recipients of the transfer) by adjusting the list of activities, standard competences and learning outcomes to their national contexts
- ☆ Work-package 3: completion of data by each partner. Organise national workshop in each partner country gathering Natura2000 professionals and training institutions
- ☆ Work-package 4: Communication & dissemination to relevant stakeholders

Time frame, budget, partners

Project proposal submitted to Leonardo: February 2011.

Approval of funding: July 2011

Beginning of project: September 2011

End of project: September 2013

Budget maximum: 300,000 euros

Potential partners: Eurosite, ATEN and other members of Eurosite ?