

Conserving biodiversity military lands to protect the national and European heritage



THE BIODIVERSITY OF MILITARY LAND

The project Life Defense Nature 2Mil is:

... an important issue



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Military sites preserved from urbanization and agriculture since the beginning of last century are reservoirs of biodiversity that have become valuable.

Thus, of the 250 000 hectares of Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) property, 42 000 were included in the European network Natura 2000.

Life Defense Nature 2Mil is the first French LIFE project to work on biodiversity military sites.

... ambitious objectives

- > To carry out the restoration and conservation of habitats and sensitive species adapted to the particular uses of these sites.
- > To integrate issues of biodiversity conservation in the management and use of military sites.



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... a partnership to support biodiversity

The selected sites, CEN Rhône-Alpes, CEN Corsica, CEN Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and the Joint Union of the Gardon gorges will lead actions in partnership with military actors.

The CEN Rhône-Alpes will provide overall coordination.



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... four experimental sites

Four remarkable sites were selected in the southeast of France to create a shared dynamic between armies and managers of natural areas nationwide.

PERIOD OF PROJECT

1st October 2012 to 30th September 2016

BUDGET

2 128 061 €

A LIFE + Nature project

LIFE + (Financial Instrument for the Environment) aims to co-finance projects to protect the environment and nature in the European Union. Actions primarily target the Natura 2000 sites and the protection of species and habitats directives "Birds" and / or "Habitats" directives.

Biodiversity or biological diversity is all living species, communities formed by these species, habitats in which they live, not to mention all of their genes.

The Natura network 2000 is a set of European, ground and marine natural sites, identified for the rarity or the fragility of wild animal or vegetable species, and their habitats.

Project implemented by:

Project funded by:





Military sites are little known reservoirs of biodiversity.

The "Life Défense Nature 2mil" aims to restore and conserve the remarkable biodiversity of these sites.

To do this, four experimental sites were chosen in the southeast of France.



CHAMBARAN Rhône-Alpes

Co-management 7th BCA / CEN Rhône-Alpes

On this military camp of intensive training, the 7th Battalion of Alpine Hunters (7th BCA) and the CEN Rhône-Alpes will participate in:

- > The restoration of its numerous rare and protected bodies of water;

- > Improving the hunting ground and breeding of forest bats.

The results will be sustained by the verification of human activities and the definition of best practices implemented by users.



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GARRIGUES Languedoc-Roussillon

Co-management 2nd REI / SMGG

Dedicated to military operational preparation, the camp of Scrublands shelters numerous rare and protected birds of prey and passerines.

The 2nd Foreign Regiment Infantry (2nd REI) and the Joint Union of the Gardon gorges (SMGG) will implement actions to sustain the presence of these birds with in particular:

- > The restoration of dry grasslands and maintenance of pastoralism;

- > The development of potential food supply for the birds on the site.



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MONT-CAUME Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

Co-management MINDEF / CEN PACA

Mount Caume is a former military site used for the protection of the harbor of Toulon. This field is accessible to the public, and subject to damage.



© Didier Mattet

In this hotbed of biodiversity, the aim is:

- > To restore habitat for bats on military structures as well as on dry grasslands;
- > To preserve these environments by channelling public awareness through a process of ecological interpretation and military history.

Finally, this site will help to reflect on the sale of unused military land in an environmental fashion.



ASPRETTO Corse

Co-management Marine Commander in Corsica / CEN Corse

Naval Base Aspretto, the seawall of the port houses is a unique breeding site for the Audouin Gull (60 to 70% of the French population).

In 2010, the seawall and nesting place was damaged due to a storm. It is therefore a question of:

- > The restoration of nesting locations ensuring their long-term protection and the tranquillity of the couples;

- > The enhancement of signage and on site staff information;

- > The performance of scientific monitoring of the species available to the public (webcam).



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A project of National dimension

This project will develop many ways of diffusion and training: guides to good practice, and good conduct, program and training sessions, educational comic posters "Army and Biodiversity"...

These tools will integrate the protection of biodiversity in the daily management of military lands nationwide.

In addition, new agreements between managers of natural areas and military may be considered on the whole national territory ... for the benefit of biodiversity and military activities.

Commitments

- > **Establish a legal basis to commit:**

- the grant back with environmental clauses regarding unused military properties;
- a delegation of environmental management on the properties maintained.

- > **Ensure the consideration of biodiversity issues by the military.**

- > **Integrate the specificities of the intervention on military land by land managers of natural areas.**

- > **Restore habitats** of Community interest such as ponds, dry grasslands ...

- > **Maintain or increase the number of species** of Community interest: the Bonelli eagle, passerines, bats, the Audouin Gull.

- > **Channel or limit public attendance.**

For more information, please visit:

www.lifeterrainsmilitaires.fr

