

Experience feedbacks

Supporting the implementation of the French ecological network at a local level in Franche Comté

International workshop:
Sharing knowledge for the implementation of ecological corridors within and beyond the Alps

Wednesday 4th November



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Direction Régionale de l'Environnement de Franche-Comté

<http://www.franche-comte.ecologie.gouv.fr>

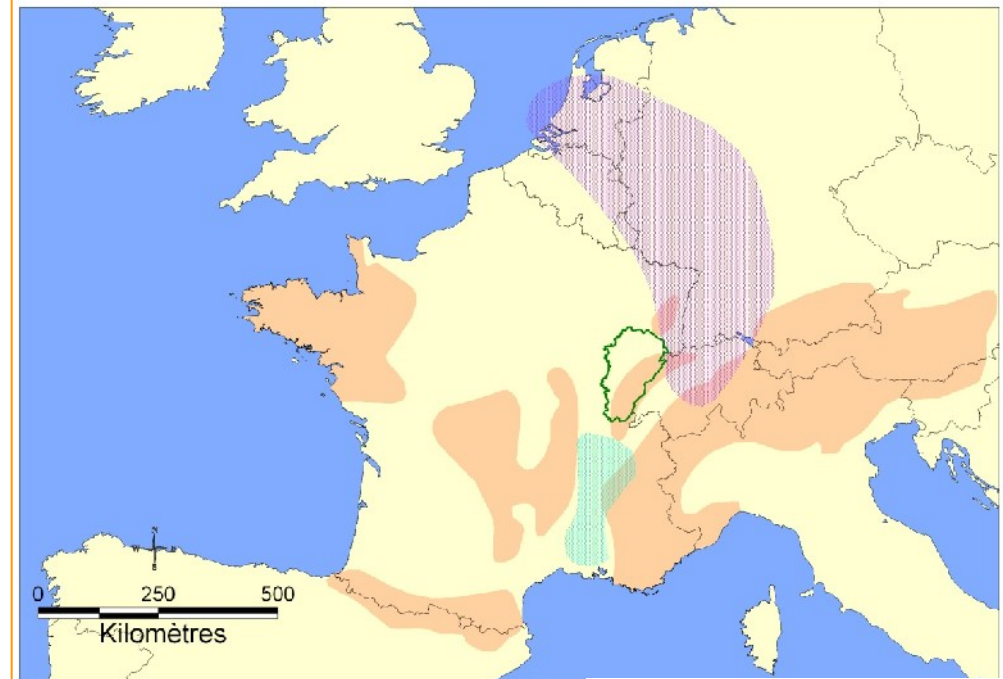
Context/background

- **2002-2007** : methodological experiments to set up the Regional ecological network
- **October 2007** : Grenelle of the Environment : the French Ecological network : **Trame verte et bleue (TVB)**
- **Since 2008** : support to the local implementation of the TVB

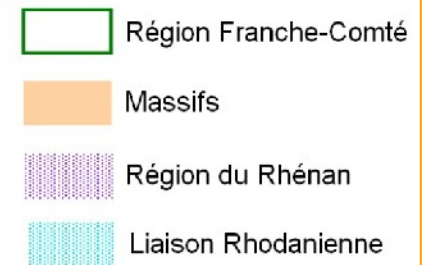


TVB = a land-planning document

Ecological networkd = a technical and scientific diagnosis (along with all its difficulties (target species, scale choices...))



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Franche Comté : a small French administrative region but of great importance for the regional ecological connectivity

Main steps to achieve ground implementation of our local ecological network

- 1 **To mobilize** partners and stake holders
- 2 To set up a **shared methodological framework**
- 3 To establish a shared diagnosis
- 4 To identify priorities and ground actions and projects

Example / experience feedback

The set up of a **local working group on ecological networks and infrastructures** : 26 partners/structures come together to restore the connectivity of the local existing infrastructures

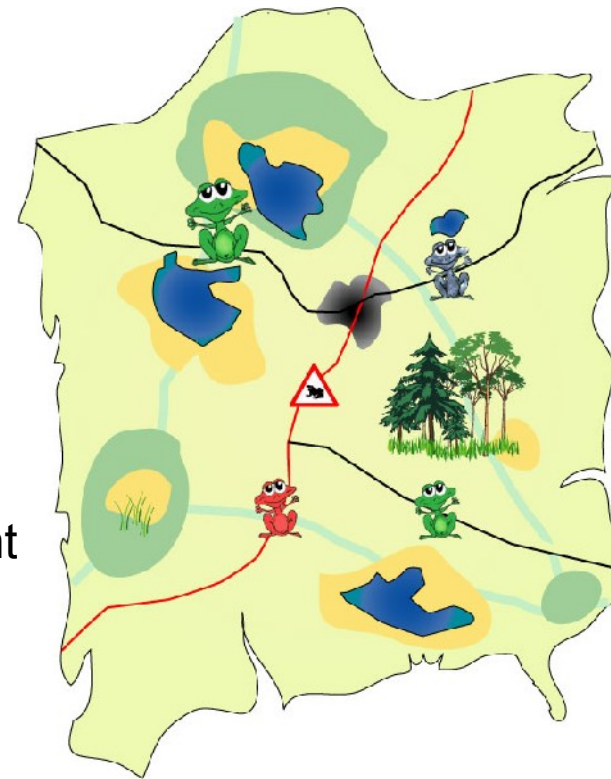
Working group on ecological networks and infrastructures (WG)

Initiated in July, 2008. Set up since January, 2009.

Objective : identify ground actions to restore ecological connectivity on the local infrastructures

26 partners :

- Infrastructures managers (motorway, railway, electrical networks...)
- Local state administrations (environment, agriculture, industry)
- Local Collectivities : région, département
- Nature protection NGOs
- Hunters federation



How does it work?

- C All partners share their knowledges to set up a common diagnosis. Ground actions are then identified and supported by the working group.

C

Step 1 - To mobilize partners and stakeholders

❖ How to convince ?

- Local partners are fed up / suspicious with methodological considerations.
- BUT the ecological network **ground implementation = a very efficient and highly motivating objective** for most partners and stakeholders

❖ How do we work together ?

- Working group, local workshops (limited numbers).
- local ground implementation = mainly technical interlocutors.
- precise schedules / efficient follow up.



Example / experience feedback

WG = The shared objective is to set up an ambitious regional project (supported by the EC?) to improve our existing infrastructures connectivity.

Step 1 - To mobilize partners and stakeholders

❖ Who ?

Our **usual interlocutors** (local services' Environment departments, NGO's...services environnement de collectivités,)

+

Other institutions (infrastructures networks owners and managers..)

How ?

Start with **few but highly reactive and motivated partners**



A large range of stakeholders can be interested and feel concerned about TVB. It is though necessary - for the efficiency of the group - to set a limit to the number of the involved stakeholders.

Example / experience feedback

Our WG grows in number at each meeting : probably convinced by the first achievements of the WG, and though they were invited from the very beginning, some institutions appeared and collaborated only recently

Step 1 - To mobilize partners and stakeholders

❖ Which participants ?

- The manager and decision makers :

Officially motivated by TVB but usually very cautious at the beginning (A need to win back confidence with environmentalists?).

- Ground experts and technicians :

Often interested, curious and constructive to work on the TVB implementation.

The broad range and sphere of activity of the involved participants =

- **A clash of cultures and opinions** sometimes hard to manage properly

BUT ALSO A KEY FACTOR FOR

- **The group credibility and motivation**
- **The efficiency and possibilities of ground implementation of the TVB**

Step 1 - To mobilize partners and stake holders

Example / experience feedback

A rich and efficient melting-pot

WG :

- Enabled to restore and build confidence among the various participants
- The involved structures also had to review their internal organisation and develop new internal working habits (necessary collaboration between Environment and infrastructures departments)
- Enabled a real debate on the necessity of sharing datas and knowledges
- Valorized each participants skills and policies

Step 2 – To set up a shared methodological framework

❖ The rules of the game

A necessary (but not sufficient) condition to mobilization

❖ A shared definition for the key concepts ?

- A simple word or concept = **various interpretations and acceptations**. Everybody comes with different technical background with different realities associated to a same word
- **It is necessary to define with all the partners and stakeholders key concepts** so as to speak the same language

Example / experience feedback

Everybody in the WG came with a different view or definition for describe and identify barriers. Our first work was to settle a common definition.

Step 2 – To set up a shared methodological framework

Methods to identify the stakes and set up a common diagnosis ?

- ❖ **Habitat fragmentation** : barriers, fauna road killing .. are well understood
- ❖ **Working scale** : the scale subsidiarity principle
- ❖ **Target species** :
 - **The whole biodiversity.**
 - **“Ordinary biodiversity”** : a key concept to understand TVB implementation
- ❖ **“The biodiversity reservoir”** : necessarily based upon the legal biodiversity protection tools (parks, reserves...). Other unknown or unprotected territory can be key sectors for TVB.
- ❖ **Corridors** :
 - Very difficult to understand and identify on large territories (for ground technicians and operators)
 - Much easier to define at the project scale, either relying on identified species needs or on “ordinary biodiversity” on the ground knowledges

Step 2 – To set up a shared methodological framework

Example / experience feedback

Target species ?

In principle, the whole biodiversity at stake (consensus).

+

In practice : lack of knowledge and scientific backgrounds to identify corridors for all species (at least at regional level)

=

When implementing TVB, on a project scale, the whole biodiversity must be taken into account

The scientist : a mediator?

Scientists can be key mediators : their independence and knowledge help building trust within the group and confidence into the achieved work (and the associated necessary approximations) .

Géraldine Rogeon, MNHN training-student, was a mediator and a real link between the WG members.

Step 3 – To establish a shared diagnosis

❖ Which knowledge ? Which data ?

- **habitat fragmentation** (barriers, roadkilling, infrastructures equipments..) = **the network owners and managers...**
- **target species** (How many? Where? ...) = **scientists, NGO's**
- « **ordinary biodiversity** » = ? (everybody ?)

❖ To share knowledge and data

- **a necessary but politically very difficult step**
- In addition to political difficulties, **technical difficulties** : data compatibility, accuracy...

❖ Urgent data needs

- “ordinary biodiversity”
- species biology and population dynamics
- Infrastructures equipments and their efficiency (no follow up or monitoring)

Step 3 – To establish a shared diagnosis

Example / experience feedback

To associate the general public ?

- to communicate and inform about ecological network
- to collect data, including on “ordinary biodiversity”.

(We are trying to settle a regional road killing protocol and invite all partners to contribute to “vignature”)

Monitoring : the only way to learn while implementing...

- any implementation should be associated with a reliable monitoring
- the data collected while monitoring should be better valorized

(WG asked us to set up a innovating monitoring on key sectors in the region (to improve our knowledge and test new methods)

Step 4 – To identify priorities and ground actions and projects

- ❖ A **reliable technical diagnosis** is necessary BEFORE any implementation or simplification (land planning document)
- ❖ To priority action : **knowledge**
- ❖ Local stakeholders have **great expectancies in terms of experience feedbacks and methods**

Example / experience feedback

From a technical diagnosis to a land planning document

Local workshop / urban planning / Scot Dole

(carried out in association with CAGD, ENGREF, DIREN) :

- The ecological network and key species still in progress when the workshop started
- The involved interlocutors managed to propose implementation projects but the resulting work program over-simplified the biodiversity stakes to cover mainly « ordinary biodiversity ».

Conclusions

- ❖ **Implementing TVB** = to cross biodiversity conservation with many other policies and priorities.
- ❖ **Great threats** (infrastructures, urban planning...) **but also great opportunities and possible synergies** (landscape protection, public security, ...)
- ❖ To **grow new working habits** is necessary (with new interlocutors but also within our services, with our colleagues)
- ❖ **Tools are needed** to support the TVB implementation (communication, methods including to carry out properly a necessary co-ordination between structures and stakeholders)

When trust is restored or built within a group of stakeholders, implementing TVB can result in better policies coordination and efficiency necessary to protect our threatened biodiversity.

Further information :

Grenelle website

www.legrenelle-environnement.fr/

DIREN Franche Comté website :

www.franche-comte.ecologie.gouv.fr

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Appendix

This experience feedback rely upon various initiatives carried out in Franche Comté in 2008 :

- Infrastructures :

- Working group on ecological networks and infrastructures (WG)
- Case to case studies on new infrastructures projects (LGV Rhin Rhône, Canal Saône Moselle..)

- Urban planning :

- Technical and methodological support to local projects (SCOT Dole, Besancon, Montbéliard)

- Forest management :

- 2 training practices carried out in association with forest managers and other stake holders (biodiversity and forest management)

- Agriculture :

- 1 training practice carried out in association with the Ministry of Agriculture decentralized administration in Jura (39)

