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LIFE ANTHROPOFENS

Coordinated by
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels
des Hauts-de-France

PROGRAMME

Final conference
LIFE Anthropofens

Restoration of alkaline fens in Northern France and Belgium

25-28 AUGUST 2026

Amiens (France)

Photos : J. Hummel, V. Dromard, F. Hélin

EDITORIAL

As the LIFE Anthropofens project comes to an end, this conference marks the culmination of a remarkable collective adventure.

This project represents, above all, an exceptional mobilisation: nine beneficiary organisations and numerous local stakeholders joined forces to restore more than 480 hectares of alkaline fens through ambitious restoration works.

Beyond the hectares restored, this project has also generated new knowledge, strengthened skills, shared experiences, and increased awareness—forming a lasting legacy.

These four days provide a unique opportunity to share our feedback, successes, and also the challenges we encountered, so that others can draw inspiration, replicate, and build upon them for the preservation of peatlands.

Although the project is ending, our commitment continues. More than a conclusion, this is the continuation of a collective dynamic dedicated to fens conservation.

Christophe Lépine
President of the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France
President of the Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels

...DID YOU SAY 'LIFE'?

WHAT IS A LIFE PROJECT?

The LIFE programme (Financial Instrument for the Environment) is a funding instrument of the European Commission created in 1992 to support environmental and climate projects.
More than 5,000 projects have benefited from it across Europe.
Among the different programme types, LIFE "Nature and Biodiversity" projects specifically contribute to the implementation of the Birds Directive (1979) and the Habitats Directive (1992), supporting the Natura 2000 network.

LIFE ANTHROPOFENS: AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT

The LIFE Anthropofens project ran for 7 years, with a budget exceeding €18 million dedicated to restoring 480 hectares of alkaline fens in Northern France and Belgium.

The project is structured around several major objectives:

- Restore ecosystems and their functioning,
- Improve fens water supply (quantity and quality),
- Preserve habitats and diverse fens landscapes,
- Better understand fens functioning,
- Share knowledge with fens stakeholders,
- Raise awareness and involve local managers and users in peatland and fens conservation.

More information: life-anthropofens.fr

THE FINAL CONFERENCE

These four days provide a key opportunity to review seven years of actions for fens—restoration works, scientific monitoring, partnerships, and awareness-raising—while comparing these experiences with perspectives from other regions and contexts.
The programme alternates plenary sessions, thematic and participatory workshops, and field visits, providing both practical input and professional exchanges.
Objective: to take a step back, compare practices, and leave with useful insights for future actions.

DAY 1
Tuesday, August 25

8:30 — Coffee and registration

9:30 — Opening speech

10:00 — Presentation of the LIFE Anthropofens Project

10:45 — Break

11:15 — Plenary session 1

12:30 — Lunch break

14:00 — Workshops S1 (G1 C1)

15:15 — Break

15:45 — Workshops S2 (G2 C2)

17:00 — Plenary session 2

17:45

19:30 — Buffet dinner

DAY 2
Wednesday, August 26

9:00

Field visits

1 : MOREUIL | SACY

2 : MARCHIENNES VRED

3 : BELLOY | MAYE

4 : MORCOURT | ECLUSIER-VAUX

17:45

DAY 3

Thursday, August 27

9:00 Coffee reception

Plenary session 3

10:15 Break

10:45 Workshops S3 — G3 C3

12:00 Poster exhibition

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 Workshops C4 — G4 S4

15:15 Break

15:45 Workshops S5 — G5 C5

17:00 Closing speech

17:45

19:30 Closing reception

ONE CONFERENCE, THREE TRACKS

- SCIENTIFIC TRACK
- MANAGEMENT TRACK
- COMMUNICATION TRACK

PLEASE NOTE:

While the workshops are open to all, the **participatory workshops** and **field visits** require **prior registration**.

LANGUAGES:

Plenaries and selected workshops are offered with simultaneous English interpretation.

DAY 4

Friday, August 28

9:00

5 : VILLIERS

Field visit

15:00

PLENARIES

PLENARY 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 – 11:00 *Session with simultaneous English interpretation*

What is the relationship between humans and peatlands?

Long feared, exploited, and sometimes forgotten, peatlands are now receiving renewed attention.

This opening session explores how societies relate to these environments through interdisciplinary perspectives—history, sociology, philosophy.

How have peatlands been perceived, used, and transformed over time?

What values do we assign to them today?

By stepping back from a management perspective, we will also explore how peatlands shape us—our knowledge, practices, and relationship with living systems.

Atelier tourbage à la RNN de l'étang Saint-Ladre à Boves (80) ©C. Couteaux

Fen Restoration in Canada: Searching for the Winning Recipe

Kathy POULIOT & Line ROCHEFORT

Kathy Pouliot began working in the field of peatland restoration 15 years ago as a research assistant with the Peatland Ecology Research Group (Groupe de recherche en écologie des tourbières / GRET; Université Laval, Québec, Canada). She is currently a research professional at GRET, where she participates in the planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of research projects on peatland restoration.
Her Master's thesis in Plant Biology, supervised by Line Rochefort, focused on Sphagnum-dominated peatlands disturbed by the creation of access paths for human activities. Since then, she has developed her expertise in peatland restoration through numerous projects conducted by the research group across Canada.

The Peatland Ecology Research Group (Groupe de recherche en écologie des tourbières - GRET) has been developing knowledge on Canadian peatlands for over 30 years and conducts applied research projects aimed at restoring the ecological functions of degraded peatlands. The Moss Layer Transfer Method (MLTM), developed to restore Sphagnum bogs, has proven effective in promoting the return of peatland vegetation and restoring carbon sequestration functions within a short-term horizon (10–15 years). While the "recipe" for bog restoration is being refined, the approach for fen restoration is still under development.

After extraction practices cease, how can typical fen plant communities be re-established? Can brown moss introduction be applied in the same way as Sphagnum? How can site conditions be improved to ensure the survival of fen diaspores and promote colonization? Will successful fen restoration result in a single approach, or rather a "recipe book" of methods?

Come and discover Canadian experiences in fen restoration.


Kathy Pouliot et Line Rochefort

PLENARY 3

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 9:00 *Session with simultaneous English interpretation*

Carbon storage in fens in relation to climate change

How does an fen develop and function? What role does water play in its structure, vegetation, and carbon storage capacity? How does water circulate within the fen—where does it come from, where does it go, and what are the consequences of its annual variations?

Eco-hydrological studies reveal the key mechanisms governing these ecosystems: water circulation, nutrient fluxes, and the production and decomposition of organic matter. They help us understand how fens respond to disturbances and environmental changes.

Beyond pure scientific observation, these studies inform long-term restoration and conservation strategies, providing the tools needed to protect and sustainably manage these unique and essential ecosystems.

Anciennes fosses de tourbage - étang du Métro, marais de Sacy
©N. Abot

Paysage de la Haute Somme, Frise
©R. Coulombel

SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP S1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 14:00 — *Session with simultaneous English interpretation*

Preserving Peat: Acting on the Factors Influencing Degradation

Peat forms the foundation of peatlands. It results from a long process of accumulation of plant material that is not fully decomposed due to the permanently wet conditions of the environment. Through the peatland's hydrological functioning during its accumulation, peat contains different organisms (macro-remains) that reflect past dynamics while influencing the current state of the peatlands.

This session aims to present the formation of fens, particularly their peat, assess their current condition, and identify the processes that lead to the degradation of peat, and more broadly, of the fens themselves.

COORDINATOR

Adrien BERQUER
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

Carotte de tourbe
©E. Hemery

WORKSHOP S2

Session with simultaneous English interpretation — TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 15:45

COORDINATORS

Adrien BERQUER
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

Aurélien Thurette
Parc Naturel Régional Scarpe Escaut

What levers can be used to restore good water quality?

When a peatland is degraded, its restoration often involves heavy interventions such as deforestation, mowing, or topsoil removal. These measures address the consequences of degradation but not its underlying causes. That is why the LIFE Anthropofens project has developed, alongside operational actions, a functional diagnostic component on several fens, including the Vred site.

For fens, water quality and quantity are inseparable for maintaining their balance. Indeed, water quality analyses reveal the presence of certain pollutants (phosphates, ammonium, sulfates) with concentrations often exceeding levels compatible with a good conservation status.

To act effectively, it is necessary to combine targeted local solutions with global actions at the catchment scale, particularly limiting nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

What concrete solutions can be implemented?

At what scale should interventions take place to be truly effective?

How can water quality be sustainably ensured in the context of climate change?

WORKSHOP S3

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 10:45 *Session with simultaneous English interpretation*

Equipment and Long-Term Monitoring

Equipping fens and monitoring parameters is a necessary prerequisite for understanding the functioning of a site. Measuring water levels, hydrochemistry, soil properties, and biodiversity allows us to assess the conservation status at a given moment, while long-term monitoring can reveal trajectories of fen evolution.

These parameters, as indicators, highlight dysfunctions in the fen that can be addressed through adaptive management and restoration actions. They also help answer key questions for management or restoration planning:

To what level should water levels be raised? At what depth should mowing or cutting be carried out? Is it feasible to implement mowing or grazing?

COORDINATORS

Adrien BERQUER
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

Wout OPDEKAMP
Natagora

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP S4

Registration required

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 14:00

Developing and Sharing Common Indicators to Support Decision-Making: The Case of Peatlands

The development and use of indicators has become essential for assessing the status of our peatlands at different scales (species, sites, catchments, etc.). It is a complex but necessary topic to support decision-making and ensure that everyone—technicians, policymakers, and stakeholders—speaks the same language.

First, presentations will be made to explain why and how to implement common indicators. A concrete case study will be presented regarding management committees addressing the scarcity of water resources in the Somme region. A selection of existing indicators and their limitations will also be discussed.

In a second phase, participants will engage in group discussions and work sessions to address questions on the topic and propose a common set of indicators for our fens.

COORDINATOR

Benjamin BLONDEL
Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme - Grand Littoral Picard

Session with simultaneous English interpretation

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 15:45

WORKSHOP S5

COORDINATOR

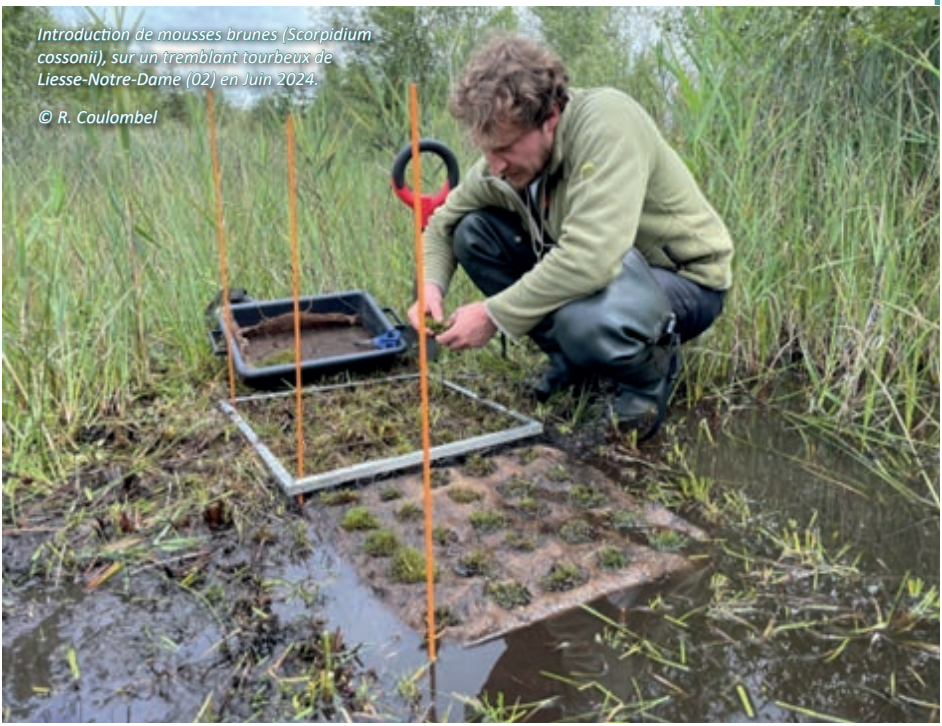
Raphaël COULOMBEL
Conservatoire botanique national des Hauts-de-France

Transplantations, reinforcements, and species reintroductions in neutral-alkaline fens

This workshop will focus on the reintroductions and population reinforcements of threatened species typical of fens, including programs for vascular plants and bryophytes. After discussing the framework for preliminary considerations before such interventions, ethical questions will be addressed, particularly in the current context of biodiversity loss linked to climate change.

Several case studies from France and Belgium will be presented, highlighting both successes and failures, and specifying the parameters that most significantly influenced the outcomes at the sites concerned.

Examples of restoration of Natura 2000 habitat types of Community interest (7140 and 6410), through seeding or species reintroductions, will also be presented, drawing on the preliminary results of the LIFE Anthropofens project.



Introduction de mousses brunes (Scorpidium cossonii), sur un tremblant tourbeux de Liesse-Notre-Dame (02) en Juin 2024.

© R. Coulombel

MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP G1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 14:00

Ecological Peatland Restoration Works: How to Optimize Construction Waste Management?

Restoration works in peatlands generate large volumes of vegetal and organic materials (wood, grasses, peat, mud, etc.), the management of which presents a technical, logistical, and financial challenge. Should these materials be exported? By what means and at what cost? Can they be left on site without compromising the ecological objectives? These questions consistently arise during the planning and implementation of restoration projects.

This workshop will explore these issues using case studies from the LIFE Anthropofens project, illustrating the variety of situations encountered in the field. It will also open a discussion on two key dimensions guiding operational choices:Assessing carbon impacts related to the removal of construction waste and exploring opportunities for reuse or valorization of soils and extracted materials.

This is an opportunity to identify realistic and sustainable strategies to improve the management of waste generated by restoration works on peatland.

COORDINATOR

Jérémy HUMMEL
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

Utilisation des terres d'étrépage pour rehausser le fond de l'étang - Belloy-sur-Somme
©A. André

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP G2

Registration required

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 15:45

COORDINATOR

Peter DURAN
Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels

Managing Restored Peatlands: What Paths After Rewetting?

Once hydrological restoration is complete, the central question becomes medium- and long-term management. This workshop will explore three complementary approaches:

- Conservation management, aimed at guiding restoration trajectories through targeted actions such as managing vegetation dynamics and maintaining favorable water levels.
- Productive use in water-saturated areas (paludiculture), which seeks to reconcile the maintenance of high water levels with sustainable economic valorization.
- Passive management, allowing ecological dynamics to unfold freely in order to observe the peatlands' self-regeneration capacity.

How should approaches be chosen and prioritized, and at what scale? Alternating thematic presentations and discussion sessions, this workshop will provide a space for collective reflection on possible trajectories for restored peatlands, while addressing cross-cutting issues such as adaptive management, monitoring methods, and continuous adjustment in response to climatic, ecological, and socio-economic uncertainties.

WORKSHOP G3

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 10:45

The role of watercourses in peatlands

"A watercourse is a flow of running water in a naturally formed channel, fed by a spring, with a flow sufficient for most of the year."

Fens are permanently water-saturated environments, which limits plant degradation. Fed by groundwater upwellings that create spring zones, these ecosystems host complex and dynamic hydrographic networks unique to peatlands. However, French regulations distinguish between terrestrial and aquatic environments, complicating management tasks.

This workshop will examine how these channels, whether natural or anthropogenic, influence the hydrological functioning of peatlands. Using examples from hydrological restoration works, we will discuss the complexity of interventions in peatland environments, the importance of understanding the site's hydrology, and how to reconcile peatland conservation with aquatic corridors in the context of climate change.

COORDINATORS

Kevin GERARD
Sébastien DESCHAMPS
Syndicat Mixte Oise-Aronde

Stage ATEN Lac des Rouges truites ©F. Muller

WORKSHOP G4

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 14:00 *Session avec traduction simultanée en anglais*

Grazing in peatlands: how effective is it for ecological health and what role in agricultural use?

Grazing is a key management tool for the conservation of natural sites, helping to maintain open areas of fens, especially where hydrological conditions are altered. However, its implementation in peatland environments raises practical questions: In which contexts is grazing appropriate? Which practices should be prioritized? How can ecological objectives be reconciled with the economic viability of farms?

Drawing on experiences from the LIFE Anthropofens project and the insights of managers and farmers, this workshop will bring together different perspectives to identify the conditions for successful grazing, as well as critical considerations for implementing grazing in peatlands.

COORDINATOR

Matthieu FRANQUIN
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

Deux Hensons pâturant à Belloy-sur-Somme ©P. Fichaux

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 15:45

WORKSHOP G5

COORDINATOR

Peter DURAN
Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels

Economic Models for Peatlands: Reconciling Ecology and Revenue

Peatlands provide valuable ecosystem services, but can they also generate sustainable income? This workshop explores three main approaches to economic valorization:

- Goods-based models, including agricultural activities in water-saturated areas (paludiculture) for biomass supply, growing substrates, fodder, and human food.
- Ecosystem services-based models, focusing on regulating and supporting services, such as carbon, water, or biodiversity credits and payments for ecosystem services (PES).
- Territorial identity-based models, highlighting landscapes, tourism, "nature experience" activities.

Structured presentations and discussion sessions will allow participants to examine the balance between economic viability, ecological integrity, and scalability, as well as the compatibility of different approaches. Financing and governance issues will be addressed as cross-cutting themes.

The workshop provides a space to reflect on the central question: Can peatlands generate revenue while protecting the features that make them remarkable?

WORKSHOP C1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 14:00

How to Raise Awareness About Peatlands? (Social Media / Citizen Science / Tools)

How can we tell the story of a peatland to inspire people to discover and protect it? This workshop explores the keys to effective outreach: explaining their functioning, vital water needs, and extreme fragility. Is it essential to be on-site to convey these issues?

We will examine a range of tools, both in situ—such as participatory photographic observatories and educational water-level monitoring—and ex situ, including social media, videos, and motion design.

The goal is to identify the most appropriate approaches for different audiences and to consider methods for measuring the impact of these outreach efforts.

COORDINATOR

Isabelle GUILBERT
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

Bresles - Equipe de tourbières ©Pôle Relais Tourbières

COORDINATOR

Matthieu JAMES
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

How to Engage Stakeholders in Peatland Conservation?

In Northern France and Belgium, fens have been occupied by human activities since the Paleolithic (14,000 BP). Initially used by nomadic hunter-gatherer populations for food resources, agriculture began to develop with Neolithic sedentary communities (6,000 BP), and from the Middle Ages (700 BP), peat extraction became widespread until it ceased in the 20th century. Over time, fens were modified to allow access and exploitation.

Whether within or near fens, urban development, new energy sources, and changes in agricultural practices have had—and continue to have—significant impacts on their condition and restoration potential. Today, fens are still used for a few activities, mainly livestock grazing and hunting.

Although they are part of the local heritage and residents often feel a special attachment, balancing territorial development, the needs of different uses, and conservation goals can be challenging.

This workshop will explore how to reconcile territorial interests with peatland preservation, how to mobilize stakeholders for their protection, and the roles users can play in conservation efforts.

Chantier avec des bénévoles -Coupe de rejets sur la RNN de la Tourbière de Marchiennes
© A. Lasselin

WORKSHOP C3

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 10:45

Cultural Events: A Lever to Raise Awareness About Peatlands

Raising awareness about the fragility of peatlands is never simple. Talking about nature is equally challenging. How can we capture attention? How can we spark curiosity about topics often seen as too technical or unappealing?

Initiatives are multiplying, and combining themes—nature, culture, history—has proven an effective way to engage audiences who are not familiar with these issues. What is the right approach: a single memorable event, regular programming, or the element of surprise? And how can we attract visitors to often remote locations?

This workshop will explore these strategies, examine their strengths and limitations, and open avenues for better promoting and protecting peatlands.

COORDINATOR

Isabelle GUILBERT
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France

Session with simultaneous English interpretation

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 14:00

WORKSHOP C4

COORDINATOR

Delphine BACQUAERT
Département de l'Oise

Managing peatlands: creating sustainable visitor facilities in fragile environments

Ensuring that visitors are informed, engaged, and welcomed while preserving natural sites and supporting sustainable local economies is a major challenge—peatlands are no exception. Yet providing public access in these environments is far from straightforward. Fragile, hard-to-access, and often hazardous sites require specific and costly infrastructure.

The LIFE Anthropofens project has implemented such infrastructure to safely welcome visitors, raising numerous questions: How can local residents understand and connect with these hard-to-access areas? Is public awareness necessarily dependent on direct access to the heart of peatlands? How can multiple uses coexist—visitor experiences, outdoor recreation, grazing, scientific observation, and habitat/species management—on sites with highly variable annual water levels?

Can these areas be open to the public, and under what conditions? How can we best highlight the many aspects of these often-overlooked sites: history, archaeology, geology, biodiversity, past agricultural and industrial uses, and social/cultural practices?

Visitor presence in peatlands is both a key issue and a concern. How can sustainable management be implemented with the support of local stakeholders?

This workshop will also present case studies of exceptional infrastructure projects, showcasing innovative technical solutions and preliminary planning that helped minimize carbon footprints.

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP C5

Registration required

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 15:45

Ecosystem services in peatlands: a powerful engagement tool or a path toward utilitarian management?

Ecosystem services allow us to describe the interactions between humans and the ecosystems around them. They are powerful communication tools to raise awareness among different audiences about the importance of protecting these ecosystems.

Although rarely used by managers in the past, some ecosystem services are now being leveraged to finance restoration actions. This raises important questions about the benefits and limitations of the concept, particularly our tendency to assign value to the services provided by nature.

COORDINATOR

Sarah LEVRAULT
Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme - Grand Littoral Picard

BUS 1 : MOREUIL | SACY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 9:00 - 17:45 *Visit with simultaneous English interpretation*

#fen circuit #weir installation #BACI monitoring
#cladium #water quality #river restoration #ecosystem services

©R. Monnehay

©C. Chombart

MARAIS DE GÉNONVILLE

The «marais de Génonville» is managed by the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France, owned by the municipality of Moreuil, and protected under a prefectural biotope protection order. This fen meander in the Avre valley, designated as a Ramsar site, was historically excavated for peat extraction and later used for recreational fishing. It hosts an fen fed by springs from the chalk aquifer.

Despite partial protection from agricultural runoff thanks to the «larris» (calcareous slope) and extensive grazing, declining water levels and deteriorating water quality have led to significant scrub encroachment. The LIFE Anthropofens project therefore enabled the installation of weirs to control water levels on the site, as well as scrub clearance and topsoil removal to eliminate the superficial layer of mineralised, eutrophic peat.

PROPRIÉTÉS DÉPARTEMENTALES DES MARAIS DE SACY

The «marais de Sacy», designated as a Ramsar site, host some of the largest areas of Cladium fens in France. Weakened by repeated summer droughts, the fen has benefited from stump removal operations carried out by the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France, as well as hydrological restoration through the reduction of the central drainage ditch («La Frette») by the Syndicat Mixte Oise-Aronde.

The restored plots, owned by the Oise Department, have also been equipped with a boardwalk, information panels, and a birdwatching hide for public access. This visit will therefore cover the specific hydrological functioning of the «marais de Sacy», as considered in the restoration process, the analysis of Cladium vegetation, and the challenges of developing visitor facilities.

©B. Couvreur

©R. Monnehay

The buses will depart from and return next to the Quai de l'Innovation, on Parmentier Square.

BUS 2 : MARCHIENNES | VRED

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 9:00 - 17:45

Embark on an immersion into the wetlands of the Scarpe and Escaut valleys, designated as Ramsar sites, with two stops: Marchiennes and Vred. Both sites are surrounded by ditches, some arranged in a "fishbone" pattern, remnants of former developments by large monastic abbeys. The ditches were originally created for fish farming, while the strips of land (locally called "lègres") were used for market gardening, crop cultivation, or harvesting reeds for thatched roofs.

#grazing #observation tower #ecosystem services #land acquisition #dolomedes #rana arvalis

RÉSERVE NATURELLE NATIONALE DE LA TOURBIÈRE ALCALINE DE MARCHIENNES

The Marchiennes fen covers over 30 hectares, most of which were acquired thanks to the LIFE Anthropofens project. It hosts fens of exceptional richness, now extremely rare in northern France.

The reserve is home to a remarkable number of heritage species: the elusive Moor Frog (*Rana arvalis*), the impressive semi-aquatic Marsh Spider (*Dolomedes plantarius*), emblematic of fens, and the Marsh Pea (*Lathyrus palustris*).

©S. Dhote

©B. Bosilo

RNR DE LA TOURBIÈRE DE VRED

The route continues to Vred, where the fen is part of the alluvial system of the lower Scarpe and the network of wetlands in the valley. The currently disrupted hydrological functioning highlights the complexity of conserving these sensitive habitats and the need to carry out eco-hydrological studies.

An observation tower, installed as part of the fen trail, provides an exceptional viewpoint over the entire landscape.

BUS 3 : BELLOY | MAYE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 9:00 - 17:45

This day will offer an opportunity to explore the two Ramsar sites of the Somme: the "Marais et tourbières des vallées de la Somme et de l'Avre" and the "Baie de Somme."

#reintroduction #topsoil removal #grazing #perched stream #shallow areas #greenhouse gases (GHG)

MARAIS DE BELLOY-SUR-SOMME

The morning will be dedicated to a visit to the Belloy-sur-Somme fen, in the heart of the Somme valley. This area hosts extensive fens, heavily modified by successive hydraulic works, which have altered their natural functioning and weakened peat stocks.

As part of the LIFE Anthropofens project, significant restoration works have been carried out to restore the site's functioning closer to its natural state. Clearing, stump removal, and topsoil removal operations have been conducted over several hectares. Weirs have been installed and drains blocked to better control water levels and keep the peat saturated throughout the year.
Experimental actions, including pond bed elevation and reintroducing "engineer" plant species along the edges, complement these measures. Greenhouse gas monitoring is also conducted to assess the impact of the works on carbon storage.

©G. Meire

©C. Chombart

MARAIS DE LA MAYE

Afternoon: the Maye fens – located in the back-barrier coastal marshes, where you will discover a small perched coastal river flowing into the «Baie de Somme». This particular hydrological configuration makes water and wetland management especially strategic. On a site that has recently undergone restoration works, you will observe a mosaic of reedbeds, wet meadows, and ponds, shaped both by grazing activities and peat extraction.

The buses will depart from and return next to the Quai de l'Innovation, on Parmentier Square.

BUS 4 : MORCOURT | ÉCLUSIER-VAUX

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 9:00 - 17:45

Set out to explore the Upper Somme, at the Ramsar site «Marais et tourbières des vallées de la Somme et de l'Avre," and its breathtaking landscapes.

#hydrology #grazing #peat #paleoenvironments #water quality #topsoil removal

TOURBIÈRE DE MORCOURT

The morning starts at Morcourt, where over 26 hectares of fens have been restored through topsoil removal, drain blocking, and ditch filling. Part of the site has been developed with the "fen trail," allowing the general public to immerse themselves in these fragile habitats and discover the richness of their biodiversity. A true transformation for this site!

©T. Rigaux

©F. Hélin

©R. Monnehay

©D. Maréchal

LARRIS D'ÉCLUSIER

In the afternoon, we head to the «site d'Éclusier», slightly upstream on the Somme. The valley, cut into the limestone plateau, forms wide meanders with spectacular curves. The "larris," limestone slopes framing the valley floor, are equipped with viewing platforms offering stunning views over this mosaic of habitats.

You will also learn about the works carried out on the small islands as part of the LIFE Anthropofens project. This visit will be an opportunity to share experiences of consultation between managers, users, and local authorities around a common goal: protecting and enhancing these exceptional environments.

BUS 5 : VILLIERS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 9:00 - 15:00

Visit with simultaneous English interpretation

MARAIS DE VILLIERS

Come and explore the «Marais de Villiers», located in the southwest of Pas-de-Calais, in the commune of Saint-Josse-sur-Mer. This site is part of a large complex of back-barrier coastal marshes stretching from the Canche estuary to the «Baie de Somme». It is particularly part of the Balançon marsh complex, alongside the Cucq and Merlimont marshes.

Covering 20 hectares, this area represents one of the major sectors of oligotrophic fen in Hauts-de-France and features two distinct landscapes. In the north, a grazed area where moisture-loving vegetation coexists with small peat patches. In the south, a wilder fen with trembling trees, reedbeds, pools, and ditches, offering ever-changing landscapes throughout the seasons. Managed since 1999, the site maintains a rich mosaic of open habitats thanks to grazing, mowing, and mulching. The site hosts flora and fauna typical of well-preserved lowland fen and of high European interest. Notable species include the Aquatic Warbler (Locustella luscinioides), the Reed Bunting (Emberiza schoeniclus), Loesel's Twayblade (Liparis loeselii), Round-sedge (Carex orbicularis), and Marsh Clubmoss (Comarum palustre). Other more cryptic species, such as certain aquatic beetles, craneflies, and the remarkable spider Larinia jeskovi, also find refuge here. In total, no fewer than 852 faunal species and 398 plant species have been recorded on the site.

As part of the LIFE Anthropofens project, the «Marais de Villiers» has been designated a Special Conservation Area under the Natura 2000 network, demonstrating its ecological importance at the European level.

Self-proclaimed "the most beautiful natural site in Hauts-de-France" by a perfectly non-objective panel, Villiers Marsh is a visit not to be missed... at least to form your own opinion!

Schoenus nigricans ©G. Gaudin

Bog pimpernel ©B. Gallet

Scorpidium ©G. Gaudin

©R. Monnehay

©C. Lambert

la Tourbière de Vred
©B. Bosilo

INFO & CONTACT

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT:

Quai de l'innovation
93 rue du Hocquet | 80000 Amiens
Located 1h30 from Lille / 2h from Paris

TO REGISTER:

here

ACCESS

- 10-minute walk from Amiens train station
- Paid parking "St Leu Cathédrale," 5 minutes away

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU CAN CONTACT US AT:

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03 22 89 63 96

The beneficiary partners of the LIFE Anthropofens project:

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