



LIFE 18 NAT/FR/000906



**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. Dramard, F. Hélin

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.

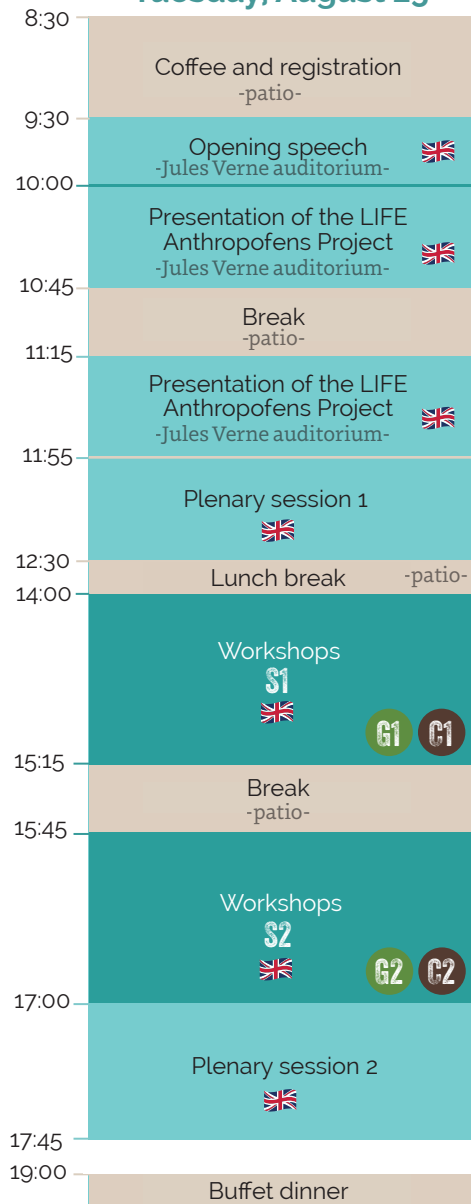
The programme alternates plenary sessions, thematic and participatory workshops, and field visits, providing both practical input and professional exchanges.

Objective: to take a step back, compare practices, and leave with useful insights for future actions.



DAY 1

Tuesday, August 25



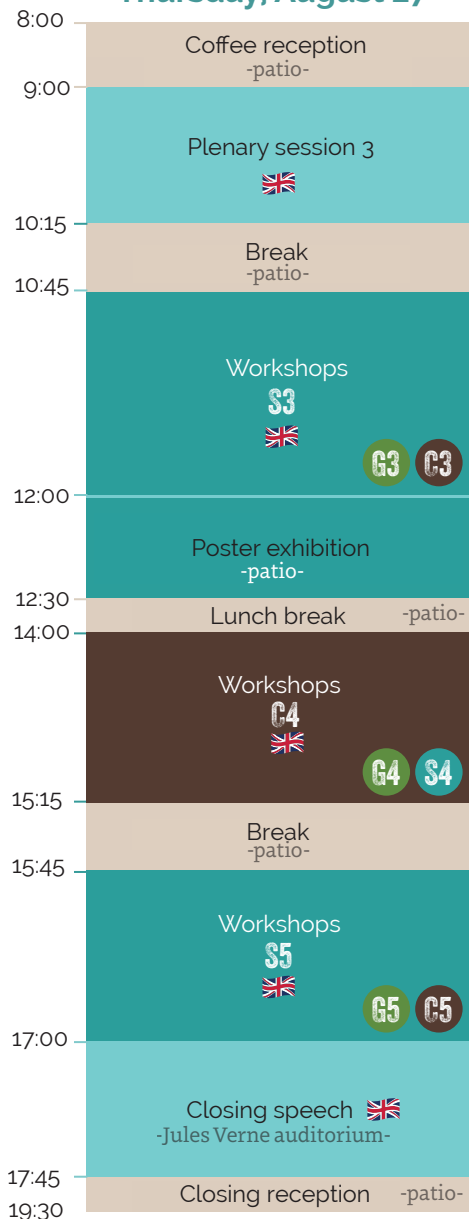
DAY 2

Wednesday, August 26



DAY 3

Thursday, August 27



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





PLENARY 1



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 – 11:55



Session with simultaneous
English interpretation



JULES VERNE AUDITORIUM
2ND FLOOR

What is the relationship between humans and peatlands?

Isobel HARVEY

Isobel Harvey is a second-year doctoral student at the University of Glasgow as part of an AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award between the universities of Glasgow and Stirling and the National Trust for Scotland. Her research focuses on human-environmental relationships in wetlands, using environmental archaeology to examine how human activity shaped and was shaped by the development of peatlands in the Scottish uplands, and how these insights can inform future conservation and land management in the wake of the climate and biodiversity crises.

This presentation will draw upon environmental archaeology, Assemblage Theory and More-Than-Human methodologies to examine the relationship between past and present human activity, climate, ecosystems and landscapes through the case study of peatlands in the Scottish uplands.



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

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 co-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.





PLENARY 3



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 9:00



Session with simultaneous
English interpretation



JULES VERNE AUDITORIUM
2ND FLOOR

Carbon storage in fens in relation to climate change

Rudy van Diggelen - Ph.D. in Ecohydrology and Biodiversity - ECASCO

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.

Boris BRASSEUR - Ph.D. in Quaternary Geology, Associate Professor - University Picardie Jules Verne (Amiens - France)

Since 2020, the University of Picardie Jules Verne has led two geological research projects on the peat deposits of the Somme Valley. The main objective was to reconstruct the local history of the successive environments at the valley floor using fossilized organic debris, its dating, and its spatial distribution. To achieve this, several hundred test pits and core samples were taken to depths of up to 10.5 meters in the Upper and Middle Somme Valley. Nearly 14,000 years of environmental evolution were reconstructed using peat that has accumulated since the end of the last ice age. The peat layers form a sequence extending over more than 3 meters before the influence of agricultural societies becomes apparent. The cultivation of the land and the uses of the valley floor radically halted or altered this accumulation process. Some practices had a negative impact on the fens, while others may have enhanced their development. Since the disappearance of peat leaves few traces, we will explore how to reconstruct the history of the valley floor when the organic peat deposits are no longer present.

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







SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP S1



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 14:00



Session with simultaneous
English interpretation



JULES VERNE AUDITORIUM
2ND FLOOR

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*

SPEAKERS

Arnaud DURANEL
*Ecotelm Environmental
consultancy*

*Understanding and identifying the hydrogeological
functioning of a fen*

Elodie HÉMERY
*Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels Franche-Comté*

Status of Peat Degradation in the Somme and Authie Valleys

Marco COSME
*University Picardie -
Jules Verne*

*The microbiome legacy can influence the global warming
potential of peatland soil*

Nichlas HERMANSEN
Aarhus University

*Risky or Smart Earthworks? Studies of CH₄ Emissions in
topsoil removal experiments of a rewetted peatland*

Carotte de tourbe
©E. Hemery





📍 JULES VERNE AUDITORIUM
2ND FLOOR

🇬🇧 Session with simultaneous
English interpretation



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 15:45

WORKSHOP S2

The Importance of Water Quality for Peatland Restoration

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?

COORDINATORS

Aurélien Thurette
Parc Naturel Régional
Scarpe Escaut

SPEAKERS

Arnaud DURANEL
Ecotelm Environmental
consultancy

*Gaining a Better Understanding of the Mechanisms
Governing Water Quality in the Fen*

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

Restoring Water Quality in the LIFE Anthropofens Project

Bruno LAME
Agence de l'eau Seine
Normandie

*Assessment of pressures and restoration actions at the
watershed scale in fen ecosystems*

Dominik ZAK
Aarhus University

*Rewetted But Not Restored: Biomass Removal To Manage
Nutrient Excess*



SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP S3



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 10:45



Session with simultaneous English interpretation



JULES VERNE AUDITORIUM
2ND FLOOR

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

SPEAKERS

Wout OPDEKAMP
Natagora

Adrien JACOTOT
Sembiose

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

Deployment of a piezometer network to understand the behavior of a site in the Semois Valley

Greenhouse gas monitoring in peatland restoration: instrumentation choices and lessons learned from scientific and operational projects in France

Monitoring and Evaluation of the LIFE Anthropofens restoration success

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP S4

Registration required



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 14:00



MARIO ROOM - 2ND FLOOR

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

SPEAKERS

Matthieu JAMES
Cédric VANAPPELGHEM
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels 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.

COORDINATOR	SPEAKERS	
Raphaël COULOMBEL <i>Conservatoire botanique national des Hauts-de- France</i>	Sandrine GODEFROID <i>Meise Botanic Garden</i>	<i>Plant Translocations in Peatlands and Lowland Marshes: A Large-Scale Analysis</i>
	Raphaël COULOMBEL <i>Conservatoire botanique national des Hauts-de- France</i>	<i>Reintroduction of brown mosses in neutral-alkaline fens in the Hauts-de-France region</i>

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

📍 CPM AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR

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

Sandrine GOUGAUD
*Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels des Hauts-de-
France*

SPEAKERS

Alexis ANDRÉ
*Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels des Hauts-de-
France*

*Reusing Materials from Restoration Projects: The Case of
Belloy-sur-Somme (LIFE Anthropofens)*

Gaëtan RIVIÈRE
*Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels des Hauts-de-
France*

*Lessons Learned from the Reuse of Sediment from Blangy
(LIFE Anthropofens)*

Guillaume LEMOINE
ECT Group

*From Excavated Soil Management to the Creation of Supply
Chains: Lessons Learned from the ECT Group*

📍 MARIO ROOM - 2ND FLOOR



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 15:45

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP G2

Registration required

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

📍 CPM AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR

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*

SPEAKERS

Magali DELANDRE
DDT de l'Oise

Regulations Governing Restoration Work

Kevin GERARD
Sébastien DESCHAMPS
*Syndicat Mixte Oise-
Aronde*

*Restoration work on the «Ru de la Frette» in the Marais
de Sacy*

Pierre DURLET
*Parc naturel régional du
Haut-Jura*

*Hydromorphological Restoration of the Nanchez and
Trémontagne Rivers in Peatland Environments: Lessons
Learned from the LIFE Climat Tourbières du Jura Project*

Stage ATEN Lac des Rouges truites ©F. Muller





MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP G4



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 14:00



Session with simultaneous
English interpretation



JULES VERNE AUDITORIUM
2ND FLOOR

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*

SPEAKERS

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

To Graze a Peatland or Not: A Decision-Making Guide

David ADAM
*Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels des Hauts-de-
France*

*The Reintroduction of Grazing in the Mareuil Caubert
Municipal Marsh (80)*

Jean-Luc MAIRESSE
Natagora

*Management of the Vance Marsh in Haute Semois (Belgium)
Through Mowing: History and Results*

Matthieu LONGUET
Farmer in Liercourt (80)

*Adapting and developing one's farming system to
incorporate peatlands*

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



©P. Duran



📍 CPM AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 15:45

WORKSHOP G5

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.

COORDINATOR

Peter DURAN
*Fédération des
Conservatoires d'espaces
naturels*

SPEAKERS

Yann MATHIAS
*Association des Chambres
d'agriculture de l'Arc Atlan-
tique (AC3A)*

Feasibility of Economic Models for European Peatlands

Raphaël VENDÉ
WWF France

*Carbon Credit and Biodiversity Credit Mechanisms in
European Peatlands*

Gregory BERNARD
*Fédération des
Conservatoires d'espaces
naturels*

The Low-Carbon Label in France

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

Peatlands and the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)



COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP C1



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - 14:00

📍 Q1 AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR

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*

SPEAKERS

Ludivine CARON
*Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels des Hauts-de-
France*

*Digital Perspectives on Peatlands: Five Years of
Experimentation with a Website, Social Media, and Videos*

Clémence LAPPERAND
*Conservatoire
d'espaces naturels de
Franche-Comté*

*Exploring the Jura Peatlands: Diversifying Tools to Reach a
Wider Audience (LIFE Tourbières du Jura)*

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

*Hands-On Learning — Participatory Tools and Public
Engagement*



Bresles - Equipe de tourbières ©Pôle Relais Tourbières



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.

COORDINATOR	SPEAKERS	
Matthieu JAMES Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France	Laetitia DEHAN Eclusier-Vaux mayor	Feedback on the Eclusier Marsh (80)
	Pending	Users as Partners in Peatland Conservation
	Pending	Agricultural Stakeholders Committed to Preserving Peatlands

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





COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP C3



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 - 10:45

📍 Q1 AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR

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

Richard MONNEHAY
*Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels des Hauts-de-
France*

SPEAKERS

Clémence LAPPERAND
*Conservatoire
d'espaces naturels de
Franche-Comté*

*Peatlands and Young Audiences: An Example of a Cultural
Tool for Building Connections (LIFE Tourbières du Jura)*

Aurélien Thurette
*Parc Naturel Régional
Scarpe Escaut*

*Acting... for real: Raising environmental awareness with
humor*

Kevin GÉRARD
*Syndicat Mixte Oise-
Aronde*

*Local roots and tradition: the factors that make the «Festival
des Marais» a must-attend event*

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

*The «Fens Festival»: Defining Ambitions, Attracting Visitors
in New Ways, Measuring Impact*



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.

COORDINATOR

Delphine BACQUAERT
Département de l'Oise

SPEAKERS

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

The «Marisque» trail, a showcase for fens: A trail designed to raise awareness

Delphine BACQUAERT
Département de l'Oise

Clémence LAPPERAND
Julien LANGLADE
Conservatoire
d'espaces naturels de
Franche-Comté

Minimal Impact Development in Peatlands: A Balance Between Environmental Sensitivity and Accessibility (LIFE Tourbières du Jura)

Hélène GALIPOT
Conservatoire d'espaces
naturels des Hauts-de-
France

An alternative to permanent infrastructure in peatlands: temporary and reusable solutions

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

SPEAKER

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



BUS 1: MOREUIL | SACY



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 8:30 - 18:00



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 Anthropo-fens 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 from
the 54 bd de Beauvillé, 80000 AMIENS

BUS 2 : MARCHIENNES | VRED 📅 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 8:30 - 18:00

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 Anthropo-fens project. It hosts fens of exceptional richness, now extremely rare in northern France.

The réserve 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 8:30 - 17:30

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 from
the 54 bd de Beauvillé, 80000 AMIENS

BUS 4 : MORCOURT | ÉCLUSIER-VAUX 🗓️ WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 8:30 - 17:30

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 8:30 - 15:00 🇬🇧 Visit with simultaneous English interpretation

The return bus will stop at the Amiens train station before continuing on to 54 Boulevard de Beauvillé

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 pimperl @B. Gallet



Scorpidium @G. Gaudin



@C. Lambert



@R. Monnehay



la Tourbière de Vred
©B. Boslo

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

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:

life-tourbieres@cen-hautsdefrance.org
03 22 89 63 96

The beneficiary partners of the LIFE Anthropofens project:



Conservatoire du
littoral



Oise
LE DÉPARTEMENT



Syndicat Mixte
Baie de Somme
Grand Littoral Picard



The funding partners of the LIFE Anthropofens project:



Oise
LE DÉPARTEMENT



The institutional supporters of the LIFE Anthropofens project:

