

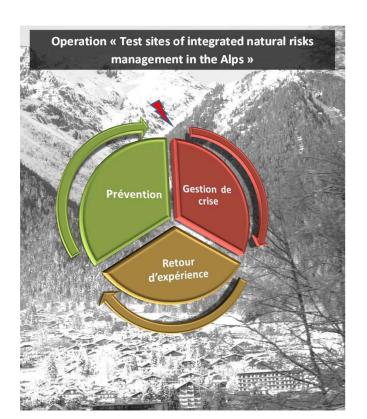
29th session of the EFC Working party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds











Integrated Natural Risk Management in the French Alps: Story of a territorial policy experimentation

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CONTEXT OF NATURAL RISKS IN THE FRENCH ALPS

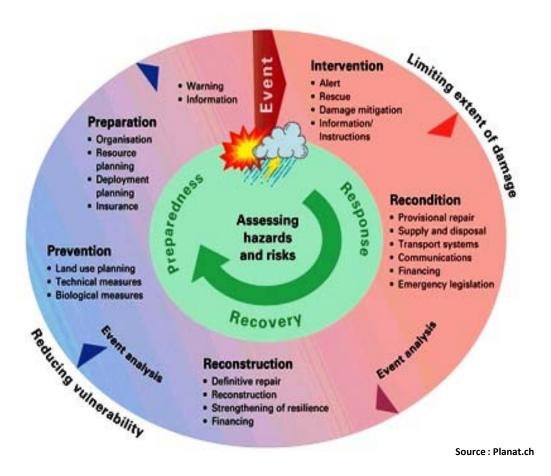
- Environmental context: climatic change and potential impacts on the hazards in term of intensity, and frequencies of their occurrence
- Socio-economic context: economy mainly based on seasonal tourism; increase of population with urbanization mainly in the bottom of the valleys; need of mobility (secured network: road, railway, telecommunication, energy)
- Institutional and political context: decentralization increases towards local risk management collectivities and increasing needs of management tools at the local scale
 - > Increase of vulnerability with hazards in mutation





INTEGRATED NATURAL RISK MANAGEMENT (GIRN)

 A systemic approach based on the cycle of integrated risk management





Issues of GIRN in the French Alps

- ✓ Complete the classical and segmented approach (hazard/protection works) by a new territorial approach (vulnerability / organizational issues / project / risk culture)
- ✓ Overtake the sectorial and punctual approaches (crisis) in order to develop a synergy on the whole management process (prevention, alert, crisis, restoration) in the long term
- ✓ Highlight the practices of the territories and develop better partnerships and
 a better consideration of risk upstream of development projects
- > Encourage an economic and environmental development of the territory by a renewed and innovative way of handling natural hazards
- > Improve the dynamics of governance linked to natural risks in relevant alpines territories based on local innovative project



THE OPERATION « TEST SITES OF INTEGRATED NATURAL RISKS MANAGEMENT IN THE ALPS »

Funding, support and coordination of the operation

- Institutional and funding context: the French "Comité de massif des Alpes" and the CIMA POIA 2007 2013 program:
 - -"Convention interrégional pour le massif des Alpes (CIMA)" : agreement supporting by DATAR for ERDF (FEDER) european funds
- Pronise maiore
 Pronise européen de
 développement régional
- -"Programme Opérationnel Interrégional des Alpes (POIA)" : program supporting by region PACA and region Rhône-Alpes





 Operational context, the PARN: established and coordinates the operation, animates intersites exchanges and supports the test sites with methodological expertise (methods, tools and specific practices)

Whish's the PARN:

- Association since 1988, the members are research organization on natural risk from Rhône-Alpes
- Actor of interface between science decision making technical operations
- ➤ Make link between managers of natural risks in mountain regions and a scientific pole of excellence



Operation aims

- Experiment, innovate and encourage new management uses in innovative integrated actions
- •Set up a **network** of **actors and territories** on Integrated Natural Risk Management in mountains

Methodological approaches

- An approach based on the territories and their good governance: pilot sites and test sites
- A methodological and technical support made by the PARN for each pilot site
- Transversals exchanges at the interregional level: meetings, steering committee
- Actions and actions plans determined by and with local actors: elected representative, managers, association members, etc.
- A financial support (EU and regions) to animate and back the local management strategy







Spreading

- 1 massif: French alps
- 2 regions: RA et PACA,
- 3 departments (73, 38, 05),
- 4 pilots <u>sites</u> with 4 different kind of local support collectivities
- 9 tests sites (experimental actions)
- More than 130 municipalities concerned

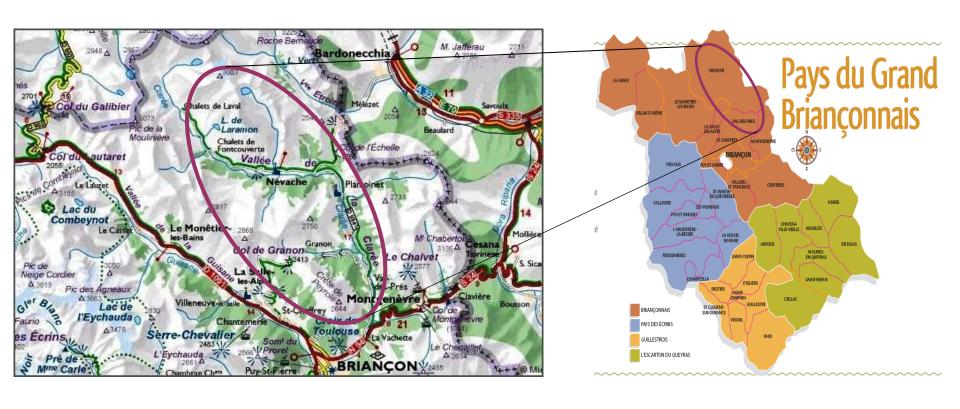
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Themes implemented

- Reduction of the organizational vulnerability by participatory approach
- Intermunicipality preparation to crisis management
- Risk culture, raising awareness towards risks in mountain territories
- Back analysis and political-technical dialogue
- Integrated approach towards environmental issues(water hazards resources climate adaptation) and territorial development (hazards-tourism-environment)



PILOT SITE : PAYS DU GRANDS BRIANÇONNAIS TEST SITE: VALLÉE DE LA CLARÉE





KEY ACTION: ORGANIZATION OF A PARTICIPATIVE WEEK ON NATURAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Context: valley cut off from the department due to artificial or natural avalanche release with road interruption (during 4 days in 2008)







Aims

- Improve **risk culture** of local population and encourage a better acceptation of remoteness situation
- Work on **dialogue with local stakeholders**: local population, technical managers, economic actors and elected representative
- Work on specific methodological approaches: 3 D map, organizational diagnostic, etc.

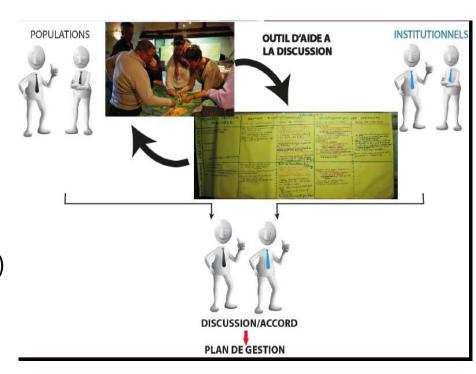


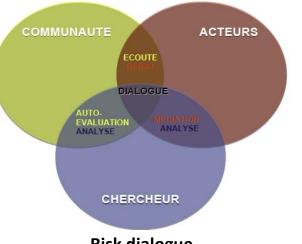
Approaches

- Reflection on the way of adapted the methodology and the themes titles
- Scientific partnership with universities
- Political-technical dialogue (state, departmental administration, municipality)
- Animation of exchanges with the population (residents, children and tourism professionals) based on a "maquette participative"
- Animation of workshops and debates, preparation of the « municipal emergency plan »

Impacts

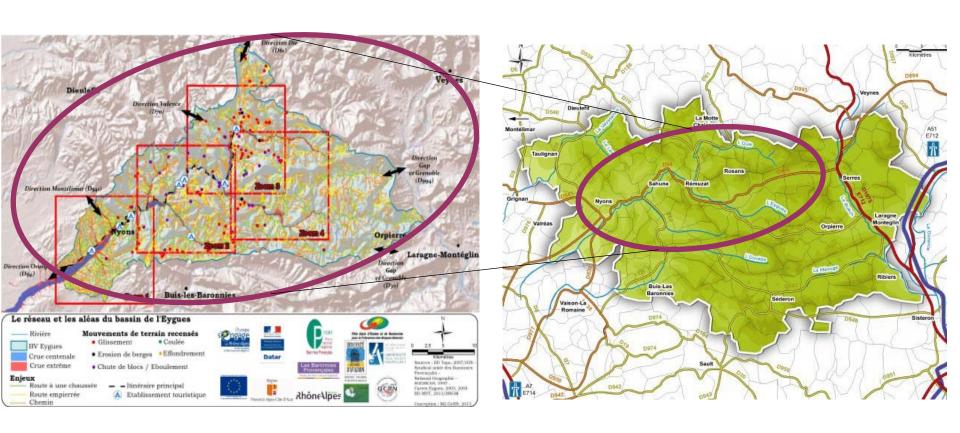
- > Renewal of local risk dialogue with all stakeholders
- > Transferable knowledge in local management tools
- Better **definition and understanding** of local needs
- An important societal mobilization on a complex and contentious topic







PILOT SITE: BARONNIES PROVENÇALES TEST SITE: L'EYGUES AMONT





KEY ACTION: VULNERABILITY DIAGNOSIS OF TOURIST EQUIPMENT AND ROAD NETWORK EXPOSED TO FLOODS AND RISES

Context: tourists installations, mostly camping, and road network, mainly at the bottom of the valley, are exposed to decennial flood and rising risks (also centennial for some of them)









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Aims

- Knowledge input on: installations vulnerability and territory access in case of crises
- Raising awareness of risks for tourists installations' managers and owners
- Submitting recommendations to local actors into improving resilience of tourists activities

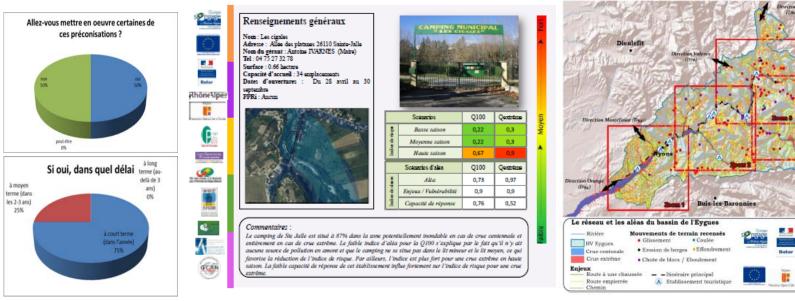


Approaches

- Sensitization of managers and elected representative to the process
- Scientific partnership with universities
- Data collection from institutional bodies, managers and the field (educational training)
- Presentation of findings at the actors involved

Impacts

- > Local actor have well received the technical propositions on vulnerability reduction
- > The results can **enriched** communal safety plans and campsite security
- > This diagnosis is the first step of a dialogue between collectivities, managers and state services





CONCLUSION

Global impacts

- Important to have a physical incarnation of integrated management in the territories
- Implementation of innovative partnerships and involvement of new actors in risk management process
- Development of actions with high diversity of thematic which have encouraged territory innovation
- **Setting up a network** of territorial, regional and interregional actors (different scale) on integrated natural risk management (GIRN)
- GIRN is identified by territorial actors as a reference for "a good way to manage natural risks"

Limiting factors

- Participatory approaches are new in France (top-down vs. bottom-up)
- This kind of process need a high commitment and a lot of involvement
- Need a high innovation process => research as a key actor
- > Importance of operation capitalization for its spreading



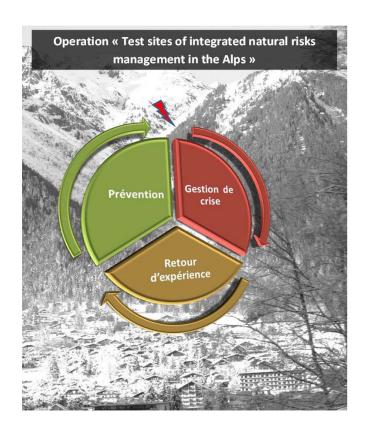
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Thank you

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