

Transcript of the Video Stéphane Garnier

The Cévennes Biosphere Reserve has the particularity of being supported by the Cévennes National Park and has existed since 1985.

And indeed, the local authorities have an essential role in the implementation of the management plan which makes the Cévennes a real territorial project that has been co-constructed with all the stakeholders and where the national park is the manager, in which it has an important mission of implementation, but where the majority of the actions that are planned in this real territorial project are made by the public authority. And that's why. Moreover, it is on the basis of this project that the communities decided to join the biosphere reserve by adopting the territory project, and our role as manager of the biosphere reserve is to help the communities implement this project of territory. So, it's really a matter of providing support and advice, of agreeing contracts on very specific subjects, since the member communities have committed themselves to ten very, very specific points which correspond to the different axes of the territorial project. And then, beyond that, we count every three years or so. Other actions more specific to the municipality, which we want to carry out together and which contribute to the territorial project. Concretely, we could talk about the commitment, the modernisation of public lighting. For example, we have decided to apply for the label of international dark-sky reserve so that it will be the driving force for the territory. It engages more players than it is motivating and our action consisted in showing elected officials all the dimensions related to public lighting, i.e. both the energy side, but also the light pollution side and the impact on biodiversity. And for that, we set up training courses for elected officials, training courses for municipal agents and we released funds, notably European, throughout the Occitan region to encourage the modernisation of public lighting around very precise technical specifications that had been shared with the main technical operators of public lighting on our territory.

Another theme that we are working on with the local authorities is the management of public spaces, what we call the differentiated management of public spaces, that is to say bringing more biodiversity into public spaces, that is to say avoiding always chopping down. Also choose species that are resistant and do not require a lot of water.

It also means thinking differently about the management of cemeteries. It also means thinking differently about tree pruning. Put more plants back in the city, especially in relation to the living environment and the effects of global warming, and find and equip communities and train them, especially agents in alternative techniques to all the pesticides that are no longer used at all on our territory. And then, another action as well, which is very mobilizing for the communities. But beyond the inhabitants, it is what we call the class of communal biodiversity. It is a methodology and a national policy in France that is widely relayed in the Cévennes Biosphere Reserve by supporting the municipalities that are project owners and that, for two to three years, will mobilise all the stakeholders in their area to significantly increase their knowledge of communal biodiversity. Moreover, everything that is a field inventory is associated with moments of awareness raising and protocol learning. It is very participative and it is really a work on the sensitivity and sharing of this taste for nature and the discovery of new species. But it is also very concrete since it allows precise mapping of biodiversity to be drawn up, debates or technical committees to be held on the issues specific to the commune and on the actions that can be carried out to make it more attractive for this more welcoming biodiversity, to be more exact, and since there is a real action plan that is implemented, it can be implemented by the community in its management, but also by the citizens. Of course, schools are highly mobilised to contribute to knowledge, awareness and sharing.