Unmanaged forests network in Cévennes National Park: A tool to improve naturalness of managed forests

Parc naturel régional du Luberon – 11 May 2016

Mathieu BACONNET
Parc national des Cévennes

Olivier VINET
Office national des forêts
Current forest cover: 72% (268 000 ha)

Core zone: 61% (57 000 ha)
Peripheral zone: 75% (211 000 ha)
Current forest cover:
- Causse Méjean and Causse Sauveterre: 25%
- Hautes Cévennes (Mont Lozère, Bougès, Aigoual): 60%
- Basses Cévennes: 75%
Ancient forest

Temporal continuity

Age

Species composition

Management

Carte de l’État-Major (1845-1856)
Forest cover evolution in the core zone (1850-2000)

Ancient forests (12 000 ha):
- 12.8% of the core zone surface
- 19.6% of current forests

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1860-1940: Plantations to fight against erosion (RTM) → State forests
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1960-1980: Plantations to impulse forest management (FFN)  
→ Private forests
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1960-1980: Plantations to impulse forest management (FFN) → Private forests

Agriculture decline → Chestnut wood withering → Conifers natural colonization
Public and private properties in Cévennes National Park

Core zone:
- 50% Public / 50% Private
Old growth forest network

Cévennes National Park’s charter aims to strengthen forests naturalness

3 spatial scales:
- Large scale (several hundred ha)
- Forest stand scale (1-7 ha)
- Tree scale

« [...] my instinct is to regard people as being separate from nature » (Peterken, 1996)
Old growth forest network implementation

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Ancient forests (12 000 ha):
12,8 % of the core zone surface
19,6 % of current forests
Unmanaged forests:

- Objective: 9,600 ha (PNC charter) → Public & Private properties

Criteria considered:
- Heritage interest of the forest
- Large surface
- Indigenous species
- Ancient forest
- Production issue limited
Unmanaged forests:

- Objective: 9,600 ha (PNC charter)
- "Hors sylviculture" classification: 1,700 ha (3,500 ha in total)
Unmanaged forests:

- Objective: 9,600 ha (PNC charter)
- "Hors sylviculture" classification: 1,700 ha (3,500 ha in total)
- Forest reserves (RBI): 1,000 ha
Unmanaged forests: (large scale)

- Objective: 9 600 ha (PNC charter)
- « Hors sylviculture » classification: 1 700 ha (3 500 ha in total)
- Forest reserves (RBI): 1 000 ha
- PNC properties: 415 ha
Unmanaged forests: (large scale)

Protection status:
2 400 ha / 9 600 ha
Unmanaged forests: (forest stand scale)

→ Protection status:
  n = 361 senescence islands
  Surface = 1 210 ha
Old growth forest network implementation

Unmanaged forests in private properties?
Old growth forest network implementation

Forêts anciennes - Ilots de sénescence - Arbres remarquables

Unmanaged forests in private properties?
- Negotiation
- Natura 2000 contracts
- Acquisition
Old growth forest network monitoring

Arbres vivants
DBH ≥ 30 cm

Arbres vivants
7,5 ≤ DBH < 30 cm

Arbres morts debout
DBH ≥ 30 cm

Arbres morts debout
7,5 ≤ DBH < 30 cm

Arbres morts sol
Diam(s) ≥ 30 cm

Arbres morts sol
5 ≤ Diam < 30 cm

Regeneration
3 classes semis

Time

PSDRF

Parc national des Cévennes

Réserves Naturelles de France

Office National des Forêts
Localisation des placettes PSDRF - Ilots de sénescence
Localisation des placettes PSDRF - RBI Altier

Sources : IGN SCAN25 2014.FrC
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Old growth forest network monitoring

Partnership PNC-ONF:
- Studies
- Inventories
- Monitoring
Old growth forest network monitoring

Partnership PNC-ONF

- Studies
Old growth forest network monitoring

Partnership PNC-ONF

- Inventories / monitoring
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<th><strong>« Ancient forests » PNC programme (2016-2018)</strong></th>
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