LEVERS FOR SUCCESS

TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND PROJECT DESIGN

- **Agricultural management of the site:** The agricultural management of the site was integrated since the start of the project. CDC Biodiversité signed an agreement for the free use of the plots with the farmer owning the neighbouring plots. The farmer thus benefits from an additional area for grazing their horses and contributes to the maintenance and preservation of the site.
- **Site accessibility:** Progress on the Limousin Ponds project has been hampered due to the absence of road connection to the site.

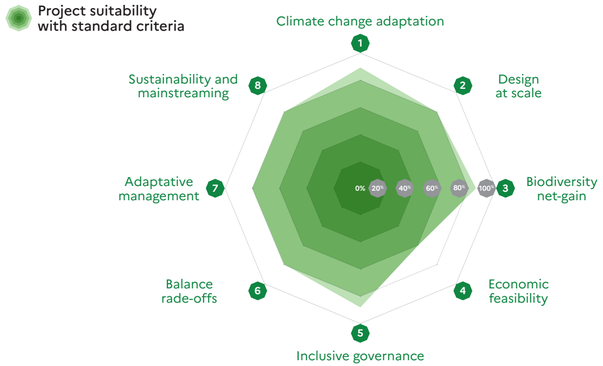
STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENT

- CDC Biodiversité initiated a process of free land transfer to the commune of Bussière-Galant in exchange for its commitment to ensuring the maintenance and management of the restaured site in accordance with the instructions of the management plan. In 2020, a contract establishing a Obligation Réelle Environnementale (ORE), a tool created by the law of the 8th of August 2016 for restoring biodiversity, nature and landscapes, was signed between CDC Biodiversité, the municipality of Bussière-Galant and the Périgord-Limousin RNP.

ACTION MONITORING AND REPLICABILITY

- The Périgord-Limousin Wetland Technical Assistance Unit (CATZH) committed itself to carry out a diagnosis of the site in order to identify and enhance the faunistic, floristic and hydrological values of the site. In parallel, the CATZH carries out technical visits, produces an annual report on the management of the site and provides recommendations for a better understanding of wetlands.
- The financial support of the Nature 2050 programme guarantees project continuation and maintenance in the long term, at least until 2050. The viability of the project is also ensured by land security and the ORE put in place.
- All the actions proposed to keep the site in good condition are included in a management plan drawn up by the RNP. Indicators are used to assess the effectiveness of the actions carried out within the framework of this project.

ASSESMENT ACCORDING TO THE IUCN GLOBAL STANDARD FOR NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Nature 2050 programme webpage: Introduction to the project
  https://www.cdc-biodiversite.fr/realisations/etangs-du-limousin/
- Publication of the Public Territorial Institution of Vienne River Basin (2010): Pond Management: removal, a solution to be considered
  http://www.eptb-vienne.fr/IMG/pdf/Plaquette_Effacement_etang_web-3.pdf

PROJECT LEADER

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DATE

October 2021

FACT FILE EDITOR

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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
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LIMOUSIN PONDS
2017 - 2050


Limousin Ponds
© Périgors-Limousin RNP

FACT FILE

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION
Haute-Vienne (87)

ADAPTATION ISSUES ADDRESSED
Droughts, runoff

AFFECTED HABITAT(S)
Wetlands

TYPE(S) OF NBAS
Restoration of ecosystems
Wetland restoration at the head of a drainage basin

PROJECT LEADER(S) AND ASSOCIATED PARTNER(S)
- **CDC Biodiversité**
  Nature 2050 programme
- Périgord Limousin Regional Natural Park (RNP)
- Adour-Garonne Water Agency

FUNDERS AND BUDGET
- Nature 2050 Programme via CDC Biodiversité
- Adour-Garonne Water Agency

Budget: **111 721 €**

To this is added the cost of perpetuating and monitoring the project until 2050 covered by CDC Biodiversité and Périgord-Limousin RNP

CDC BIODIVERSITÉ

Parc naturel régional Périgord-Limousin

OFB OFFICE FRANÇAIS DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ

CDC BIODIVERSITÉ

artisan
Le climat change, adaptons-nous avec la nature

Photos of the site in 2021 – 2 years after the end of works
© Jean-Christophe DUPUY

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **For climate change adaptation**
  Combat droughts and improve management of rainwater and runoff.
- **For biodiversity**
  Limit the deterioration of pond water quality and pond drainage; recover the natural riverbed by restoring the morphology and re-establishing the ecological continuity of the watercourse.
- **For the local area**
  Strengthen the policy for combating wetland loss.

REGULATORY CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

- Périgord-Limousin NRP Charter (2011–2026)
- Territorial Aquatic Habitats Contract (CTMA)
- Real Environmental Obligation (REO)

CONTEXT AND ISSUES

The Périgord-Limousin NRP features a network of wetlands covering over 4700 hectares. By ensuring the sustainability of water resources, the ecological functions of these areas play a major role in limiting runoff and coping with drought episodes. The preservation and sustainable management of wetlands is a major focus of the Park's charter.

The project concerns a pond of approximately 7,800 m² located in the commune of Bussière-Galant (87) at the heart of the NRP. This pond was used for leisure activities and livestock watering. In December 2013, a breach in the dyke led to complete drainage of the pond. The works to seal the dyke and bring the pond up to standard were too costly and the poor management of the pond caused water quality deterioration, and the owner therefore wanted to remove it. The NRP and CDC Biodiversité were asked to assist the owner in the design and implementation of a project to remove the pond, restore the original wetland and the ecological continuity of the watercourse, which was repositioned in its natural riverbed. The objective of this project is to re-establish the water treatment and regulation functions of the wetland, thus benefiting biodiversity and the economic uses of the area.

ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED

Restoration operations began in November 2018 and will continue until October 2019 over a total surface area of 5.8 hectares. The works were carried out in two phases. The first phase consisted of removing the artificial lake and restoring the valley to its original form by putting it back into its original talweg. The second phase of the operations aimed at restricting the access to the restored plots and to create delimited livestock watering spots to mitigate the impacts on the watercourse while allowing the grass management by grazing.

SCHEDULE

	PROJECT LIFESPAN
2013	Project starts following the breach of the dyke
2018	Acquisition of the land site by CDC Biodiversité Integration into the Nature 2050 programme Start of works Start of monitoring and initial status survey
2019	Temporary leasing agreement for provision of land plots to farmers; Joined the Wetland Technical Assistance Unit (CATZH) run by the RNP End of works Monitoring until 2050
2020	Retrocession of plots to the municipality; Signature of a "obligation réelle environnementale" (ORE) between CDC Biodiversité, the municipality and the RNP Monitoring until 2050
2050	End of the agreement with the Nature 2050 programme

GOVERNANCE ADOPTED

Adour-Garonne Water Agency
Co-funding, support for owners in wetland restoration

CDC Biodiversité (Nature 2050 programme)
Co-funding, land acquisition before retrocession, implementation and monitoring of the project until 2050

Périgord Limousin RNP
Funding, project monitoring until 2050

Wetland Technical Assistance Unit (CATZH)
Facilitation with the owners
(3 or 4 field visits per year)

Limousin Odonatology Society
Monitoring of dragonflies

Site photos in 2018 – the year of the works
© Jean-Christophe DUPUY

PROJECT BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

BENEFITS REGARDING ADAPTATION ISSUES

- Droughts, runoff: Strengthening the natural ecological functioning of the watercourse and the wetland ensures a better support for low water levels in summer and a buffer effect in winter. Treatment quality is improved by the action of the wetland while evaporation of the surface water is reduced.

BENEFITS FOR BIODIVERSITY

- The ecological continuity restored strengthens sedimentary flows and facilitates species movement and fish migration.
- Consolidation of a patchwork of habitats by the removal of the artificial lake, which favours a typical wetland biodiversity, in terms of flora, aquatic fauna (vertebrates and invertebrates) and insects.
- Since 2019, biodiversity monitoring has shown the presence of the European Otter by footprints left near one of the three ponds created. Dragonflies & damselflies, amphibians and even protected species (e.g., the Yellow-Bellied Toad) have also been observed.

OTHER BENEFITS

- Strengthening the national policy for combatting wetland loss.
- Support for setting up a farm.

MONITORING INDICATORS

Climate change adaptation

- Ecosystem trends/maturity: Measurements of organic carbon stock in soil and the natural abundance of Nitrogen-15 in leaves

Biodiversity

- Flora-habitat monitoring: habitat mapping and surveying of heritage species
- Observation of site habitat changes by drone photo-monitoring

Other

- Demonstrative effect of the project by monitoring promotion actions