



## PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL OISE-PAYS DE FRANCE

### **Abbeys, forests, domains**

Located south of Oise in Picardie and north-east of Val d'Oise in Île-de-France, 30 km north of Paris and 10 km from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle, the Oise-Pays de France Regional Nature Park is a "green lung" proposing forest continuity through the three important forests of Halatte, Chantilly and Ermenoville. The majesty of foliage, the high concentration of historic religious buildings and the numerous villages of character add to the charm of the gentle valleys of this region.

#### **Challenge:**

Preserving biological corridors and green lung at Northern Paris.

110 000 inhabitants - 59 towns and villages



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## PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL BAIE DE SOMME-PICARDIE MARITIME

### **Project**

### **Good water uses**

The project of "Baie de Somme - Picardie Maritime" Regional Nature Park is concentrated on water use. This territorial aspect is omnipresent: maritime coast, structuring valleys (Somme, Authie, Maye) and an adjacent valleys network. All of these valleys integrate a catchment until the sea.

Maintain remarkable facets of territory (Somme bay, Somme Valley) and involve coherent led actions on the plateau on several levels including territorial planning, agriculture... The project is also linked with another Park, the "Parc naturel marin des estuaires picards et de la mer d'Opale" (natural marine park).

#### **Challenge:**

Protecting the territorial integrity and its natural heritage and gathering the stakeholders.

140 000ha - 136 500 inhabitants  
137 towns and villages



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### **As a reminder, the Regional Nature Parks in France are?**

The Regional Nature Parks, created over 50 years ago, are designed to protect the outstanding natural and cultural heritage of high quality but fragile rural areas. These areas may be threatened by urban sprawl or tourism, or by devitalisation. They are designed to ensure the harmonious economic and social development of their areas by focusing on environmental respect.

The result of local wishes, the Parks bring together villages and small towns that undertake to apply the Park Charter for 15 years. Regional Nature Parks are created following successful proposals made by France's administrative regions. There are 51 of them in France in 2016. The status of "Regional Nature Park" is granted by the State through a decree issued by the Prime Minister.

The 51 Regional Nature Parks in France represent:

4 300 villages and small towns,

24 Regions and 75 Departments,

4 million inhabitants,

15% of the surface area of France (excluding the overseas Departments).

[www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.tm.fr](http://www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.tm.fr)



Région  
Hauts-de-France



## PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DE L'AVESNOIS

### Rural identity and agriculture

The Avesnois Regional Nature Park, in the south of the Department of Nord is marked by agriculture. In the heart of the "bocage" (farmland criss-crossed by hedges and trees), fields and meadows are divided into squares by hedge-rows of trees and shrubs. Landscapes featuring forests, rivers and streams stand out thanks to their significant biological wealth. Bluestone buildings, orchards, and village bandstands all add to the appeal of this area. This rural area is ideal for breeding and making dairy products such as "Maroilles", the only "appellation d'origine contrôlée" (AOP name) cheese in the Nord-Pas de Calais region.

#### Challenge:

Preserving the "bocage" landscape as a source of economic and ecological development.

124,000 hectares – 157,000 inhabitants  
138 towns and villages



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## PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL SCARPE-ESCAUT

### Mining heritage and cross-border partnership

The 1st Regional Nature Park created in France in 1968, is characterised by a rich natural heritage (four national forests, rivers and streams...). A peri-urban area, it features the remnants of the erstwhile mining industry (slagheaps, man-made lakes, headframes) included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The activity of the ancient abbeys, including the one in St-Amand-les-Eaux, shaped the surrounding rural landscapes. This park, together with the neighbouring Plaines de l'Escaut Nature Park (Belgian side), forms Le Hainaut Cross-Border Nature Park.

#### Challenge:

Controlling urban spread to prevent the natural area from losing its appeal and to preserve local resources.

48,500 hectares – 190,000 inhabitants - 55 towns and villages (Cross-border scale: 74,500 hectares – 255,000 inhabitants - 97 towns and villages) - 36 km border with Belgium



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## PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DES CAPS ET MARAIS D'OPALE

### Between the sea and marshland

The Les Caps et Marais d'Opale Regional Nature Park stretches from the "Grand site national des caps Gris-Nez et Blanc-Nez" (Channel and North Sea side) to the "Marais de St. Omer" (marshland) listed as a Biosphere Reserve by Unesco. Further inland, forest blends seamlessly with undulating "bocage" forming a splendid sea of rural greenery. The Artois Hills, an important farming area, gradually decrease in height finishing with gentle slopes leading to the wetlands of the "marais audomarois", the only marshes in France with market gardens.

**Challenge:** Making the local residents eco-citizens and players in their area and consequently guaranteeing the quality of their living environment.

136,500 hectares – 200,000 inhabitants - 154 towns and villages - 50 km of coast.



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