

PLACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY IN TERRITORIAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND INTERSECTORAL POLICIES

GOAL

The study aims to characterize the link between conservation of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change in framework and planning documents, from the European scale to the local scale. It is about **understanding the current place of protected areas** in these documents and policies and **how their adaptation plans can be integrated**. This study was entrusted by [Reserves Naturelles de France](#) to [ACTeon environnement](#) in 2019, as part of the [LIFE Natur'Adapt project](#).

CONTENT

The first part of the study aims to analyze **how protected areas are present in documents** dealing with either adaptation to climate change or protection of biodiversity. The second part is devoted to the **roles that can be played by nature in adapting to climate change**, and the added value brought by protected areas. Finally, the last part suggests avenues for reflection on **how protected areas could be better integrated** into adaptation policies.

METHOD

The study, carried out in 2019 and 2020, is based on: the analysis of around twenty planning **documents**, at international, national, regional and local scales; interviews conducted with around twenty national **experts** and field workers; and finally on a **workshop** which made it possible to share findings and refine the conclusions.

MAIN RESULTS

The link between nature protection and adaptation to climate change is **rarely explicit** among the documents analyzed. In the most recent documents, some actions to preserve biodiversity (restoration of ecosystems, preservation of ecological continuities, land use

management, etc.) are beginning to be identified as having a role to play for adaptation to climate change. However, **protected areas are not directly mentioned** as a solution.

The interviewed experts identify several functions for which protected areas could have added value for adapting to climate change: **refuge area** for species; producing **knowledge**; strengthening the overall **resilience** of territories; contribution to self-purification and **water** storage, to flood **risk** reduction and local **cooling**...

PERSPECTIVES

In order to give more visibility to these protected areas and their managers, several leads can be followed:

- **The production of knowledge** on the impacts of climate change on protected areas and adjacent territories;
- **The promotion of the societal benefits** that nature protection can offer (by relying, for example, on ecosystem services or solutions based on nature), including a reflection on the means that could be allocated to them for their contribution to resilience of territories;
- **The development of a common pitch** on the role that can be played by protected areas in the adaptation of territories;
- **The creation of a sharing network** at large scales (European or even global).

Finally, a work must be carried out on the **size** of the protected areas, their **location** and their **connectivity** so that they can fully support the adaptation of nature to climate change (refuge areas, migration, etc.).

Link to the study (in French):

<https://naturadapt.com/groups/communaute/documents/182/get>