PILOT SITE DESIGN

COTENTIN-BESSIN

NORMANDY, FRANCE

This area located in the Manche department has an area of over 30,000 ha in wetlands (including 8,000 ha of peat meadows) valued mainly by livestock.

The ecological and economic interests of this territory notably justified the creation of the Regional Natural Park of the Cotentin and Bessin Marshes in 1991, as well as the site classified as Natura 2000 and Ramsar.

Today, the traditional extensive agricultural activity of mowing and grazing still allows the maintenance of these vast humid meadows more or less peaty, at the origin of an exceptional concentration, over the seasons, of rare animal and plant communities. and original.

The marsh is used by nearly 1,000 farmers, with grazing and mowing activities on mainly dairy farms.
The marsh is also the subject of water level management, and is marked by hunting and tourist discovery activities.

Size of pilot site: 30 000 ha

Peatland type: Minerotrophic peatland

Land use: Grazing and grass harvesting

Crop type: Permanent grasslands

Water level: Adjustable

Climate type: Temperate oceanic climate

Total annual rainfall: Between 900 milimeters on the coast and 1,100 millimeters inland

CHALLENGES

The most important challenge is to preserve ecological diversity of wetlands dependent on maintaining water levels and sustainable extensive agriculture.

GOALS

- Maintain agriculture in marshlands
- Contribution of knowledge on carbon storage, technical and economic data related to agriculture
- Reflection on public and private agri-environmental policies to support these environments

POSSIBLE BUSINESS MODEL

Monetisation of carbon credits through labeling requirements or through contracting with private companies

PILOT SITE TIMELINE

Spring 2021
Assessment phase of the carbon footprint of pilot farms in the area
Development phase of the specificities of marsh systems

Autumn 2021
Economic valuation phase of efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of marsh breeders

Spring 2022
Farmers to farmers transfer phase