

IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL INTEGRAL RISK MANAGEMENT

TEST SITES IN THE FRENCH ALPS

Jean Marc Vengeon¹ and Vincent Boudières²

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the operation “test sites of integral risk management” is to change the way risk (concerning natural hazards) is managed at the local scale in the French Alps. The operation promotes local mobilisation and supports innovative actions for:

- improving coordination of the various institutions (and neighbour municipalities) within a local governance scheme ;
- adopting a global approach that emphasizes the vulnerability analysis (including organisational vulnerability) and the evaluation of needs concerning risk management tools ;
- raising awareness of the population and of the stakeholders.

TEST SITES

The operation started in September 2009 and 4 tests sites are participating, whose sizes vary from 1 single municipality to of 60 municipalities.

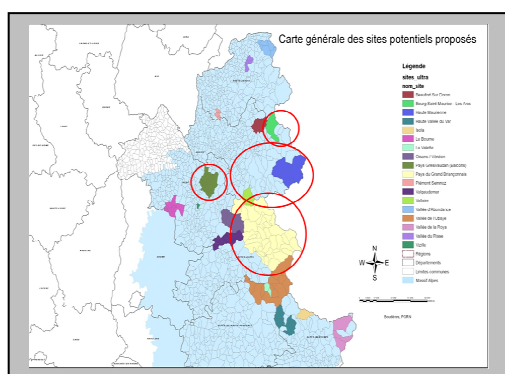


Fig. 1 Map the test sites

Test sites

- 1 Commune de Bourg Saint Maurice les Arcs
(1 municipality)
- 2 Syndicat des Pays de Maurienne
(cluster 59 municipalities)
- 3 Communauté de communes Le Gresivaudan
(cluster 47 municipalities)
- 4 Pays du Grand Briançonnais des Ecrins et du Queyras
(cluster 37 municipalities)

FUNDING AND COORDINATION OF THE OPERATION



Fig. 2 Logos of the operation

The operation “*Sites pilotes de gestion intégrée des risques naturels*” (“*test sites for integral risk management*”) is one action of the french “Comité de Massif des Alpes”. This operation is funded by the “interregional convention of alpine range” (CIMA) signed by regional council Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur, regional council Rhône-Alpes and the French state (DATAR). This operation is co funded by European ERDF funds.

PARN (“Pôle Alpin Risques Naturels”) coordinates the operation (see <http://www.risknat.org/activites/sitespilotes.html>), animates inter sites exchanges and supports the test sites with methodological expertise.

METHODOLOGY AND FIRST ACTIONS

Steps

¹ Dr. Jean Marc Vengeon, Alpine Pole Natural Hazards, France, jean-mar.vengeon@ujf-grenoble.fr

² Dr. Vincent Boudières, Alpine Pole Natural Hazards, France, vincent.boudieres@ujf-grenoble.fr

Each test site starts with a period of self-evaluation with the methodological support of PARN. The objectives of this evaluation are to determine strengths and weaknesses of the local risk management regarding the “risk prevention, and the crisis preparation:

- Available information and tools for risk management ;
- Involvement of the local stakeholders;
- Organisation and coordination at the scale of the test site (e.g. inter municipalities) with local stakeholders and external institutions.

After this first step, the test site is able to build its own strategy for a more efficient integral risk management (reduce vulnerability, increase resilience...) and then asks the “*Comité de Massif des Alpes*” for funds for each action contributing to this strategy.

Examples of actions

Site 1 : risk prevention (communication and special events organization) with focus on local population tourists (ski resort). Development of population’s reaction capacity in case of crisis by its participation to the construction of a vulnerability model of the municipality.

Site 2 : setup of a warning system based on data and information sharing designed to support the decision making for crisis management and to anticipate the resources to be activated (equipment, staff...). That system involves several municipalities and offices municipalities, departmental administration, state, ski resorts, peasants).

Site 3 : Integration and planning of risk management within local development policies and projects (regional “river contract”, development of a territorial GIS...).

Site 4 : Setup of an agreement and action protocol in case of closure of the road in the Clarée valley. Project approach includes both political-technical dialog (state / departmental administration / municipality) and participation of the population (residents and tourism professionals). Animation of workshops and debates, preparation of the “municipal emergency plan”.

PARN coordinates the operation

This coordination includes various aspects:

- methodological support to the test sites for their self evaluation
- exchanges concerning the local strategy and the actions
- organization of pedagogical workshops for the test site staff
- organization of inter sites workshops with European experts of risk management
- organization of an annual meeting for presentation and debate with regional politicians

REFERENCES

Boudières V. (2006) *Réflexion autour de la notion de gouvernance des risques, une application en terme de vulnérabilité des territoires touristiques de montagnes*, Revue de Géographie Alpine : Gouvernance et stations de sports d’hiver, tome 94, 1, 53-64

Boudières V. (2008) *De la gestion des risques aux risques de leur gestion dans les territoires touristiques de montagne - Modalités de gestion du risque d'avalanches dans les Alpes françaises et facteurs de vulnérabilité associés*, thèse de doctorat de Géographie, Cemagref-UJF, 384 pp

Fabiani JL., Theys J., 1987, *La société vulnérable, évaluer et maîtriser les risques*. Paris : Presse de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure. 674 pp.

Gilbert C., 2003, *Limites et ambiguïtés de la territorialisation des risques*, Pouvoirs Locaux, vol I, 56, 48-52

Noiville C., 2003, *Du bon gouvernement des risques*. Paris : PUF. 235 pp.

PGRN (2010) rapport année 1 de coordination de l'opération CIMA POIA « *sites pilotes de gestion intégrée des risques naturels dans les Alpes* », PGRN (commanditaires : Europe, DIACT, régions RA et PACA). <http://www.risknat.org/activites/sitespilotes.html>, 70 pp

KEYWORDS: local governance, integral risk management, organizational vulnerability, test sites, interregional cooperation