

First contracts for private forests opening to the public

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« Investir dans votre futur »

Programme de coopération transfrontalière 2007-2013 cofinancé par l'Union européenne (Fond Européen de Développement Régional)

Context

- **Forests in the south of Oise submitted to a strong pressure of local populations (around CREIL)**
- **A local policy (Oise) about natural sensitive areas, creating around 3 M€/year**
- **A joint willing from Department and private forests Union to work on the controlled opening of private forests to the public.**

Common objectives

- To better control the public visits in the forest already under pressure
- to emphasize the value of the remarkable natural areas
- To set up some specific arrangements to canalize the public, to develop its awareness concerning sustainable management and to assure its security (game shooting)

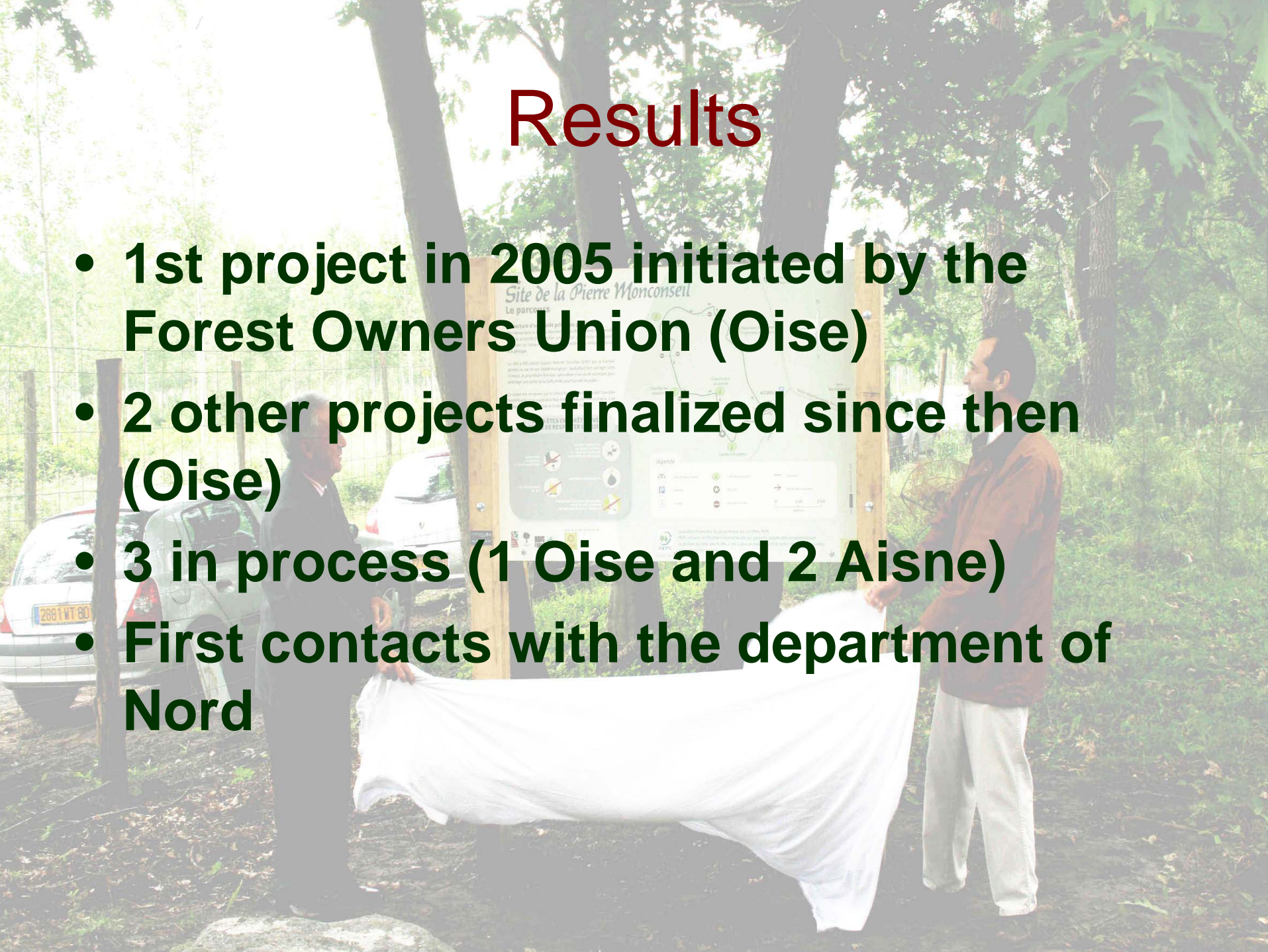


Method

- **A framework official agreement between Department – CRPF - Forest Union**
 - Defines the intentions and modalities of the partnership
 - Gives support to the forest owners
 - Survey of the remarkable areas
 - Setting up the visual signs and the 5 years plan
- **A framework official agreement between the Department and the forest owner**
 - Forest owner's commitments :
 - to restore areas, guarding and monitoring, animation, maintenance, communication, civil liability
 - according to a 5 years plan set up when the agreement is signed
Remettre un compte-rendu à l'issu des 5 ans
 - Department's commitments :
 - To provide its financial support to the operation

Results

- **1st project in 2005 initiated by the Forest Owners Union (Oise)**
- **2 other projects finalized since then (Oise)**
- **3 in process (1 Oise and 2 Aisne)**
- **First contacts with the department of Nord**



Evaluation

- **Contractualization : principles of functioning**
 - Phase 1 : implementation of a 5 years plan for the site. Official agreement Department-CRPF. Implementation CRPF- forest manager and sometimes Regional Conservatory of Natural Areas
 - Phase 2 : Arrangements on the site (information boards, paths...). Official agreement Department-Forest owner. Implementation forest managers + forest works companies
 - Phase 3 :
 - Scientific following up of ecological works by CRPF + implementation of pedagogical animation by CRPF
 - Maintenance of the site by the forest owner (guarding, waste treatment, fallen trees/ risk management); carrying out ecological works

Evaluation

- **Basic principles :**

- The forest owner feels responsible, because he's the kingpin of the work and takes in charge the daily management of the site
- Success is based on the owner's dynamism and on the following up of its project.
- Civil liability aspects have been considered as the site is secured at its opening, and an annual visit is planned for control
- The forest owner is paid for the collective service that he provides
- 200 children per year are allowed to have a pedagogical animation
- The sites are progressively integrated in the local tourism offices information
- The sites are better respected : fires, quads visits and waste volume have strongly decreased ont fortement diminué.
- The sites are daily visited