

Towards a concerted management of the Mont Saint-Michel Bay: the GECOBAIE programme

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The Mont Saint-Michel Bay

The Mont Saint-Michel Bay is one of the hugest in the world. Its tidal range of more than 15 meters uncovers an intertidal zone of 250 km². Five small coastal streams flow into the bay.

The ecosystem formed by the bay and its watersheds is under the authority of three departments, three regions and two water agencies, Seine-Normandie and Loire-Bretagne.



An "Interbasins" Commission to coordinate water management initiatives

In order to implement a coordinated management of both watersheds and bay, the water agencies Seine-Normandie and Loire-Bretagne created in 1998 a multi watershed commission, the Interbasins Commission. Today, they look to gather favourable conditions for the involvement of local stakeholders and appropriation of this tool, in a context of territorial management at the level of the whole territory. This context constitutes the framework for the GECOBAIE programme.



The GECOBAIE programme

GECOBAIE (towards a concerted management of the Mont St Michel Bay) is a research programme led by Agrocampus Rennes with the support of the water agencies Seine-Normandie and Loire-Bretagne.

Objectives

- To identify and characterize the conditions for the emergence of a participative management
- To define elements for public action in sustainable management of coastal ecosystems
- To develop methods for an aid for stakeholders to concert

Methodology

- 50 semi-directed interviews with stakeholders to:
 - assess social dynamics
Relations between stakeholders, management stakes, perception of the territory...
 - characterize all experiences in concertation on the territory
What is the object of concertation? Who are the stakeholders? What are the difficulties they have met or the results they have obtained?
 - characterize the way a concerted management can be implemented
What are the needs and expectations of stakeholders?
- 30 semi-directed interviews with managers to characterize the use of concertation in coastal zone management tools.

Preliminary results

The preliminary results get organized towards two directions:



Stakeholders of concertation

The main difficulties of integrated coastal zone management projects come from the lack of appropriation and involvement of stakeholders. GECOBAIE has identified with stakeholders their ambitions and the visions (present, future, convergent or divergent) they have of the territory and its stakes.

Territory's perception

- As many descriptions of the bay as stakeholders
From the "small bay of Cancale" to the great bay from Cancale to Granville, everyone describes "its" bay according to its own interests (personal, family, professional...)
- Administrative frontiers are omnipresent
The division between Brittany and Normandy is historical and well established, even in management projects. Some people do not consider the "other side" in their description of the bay.
- No major threatening problem
There is no great problem of pollution (marine, urban or terrestrial) which could make people react.
- No shared perception - No common ambition
People are more in a situation of waiting than in a situation of anticipation.

Experience in concertation

- 40 initiatives of territorial concerted management
These initiatives concern various objects: agriculture, oyster and mussel farming, water management on the five watersheds, restoration of the maritime character of the Mont Saint-Michel...
- As many definitions of "concerted management" as stakeholders
All people do not have the same experience of concertation. Only few of them know the term "concerted management". The others try to define what it means for them: in this case, they define "concerted" or "management" but not both.

Needs and expectations



It is essential for managers to know the experience of stakeholders and to go with them to build a shared ambition.

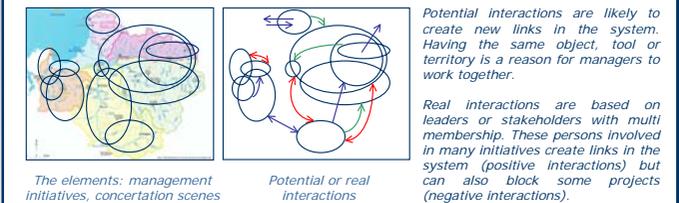
System of concertation

The 40 initiatives of concerted management are not independent. Even if they have different objectives, on different places, with different participants, they are linked by interactions.

A system approach

Research activities on concerted management are usually based on procedures and studies of social dynamics are then limited to these procedures. We propose a territorial approach to concertation, with a focus on local dynamics created about territorial management. What are the scenes of concertation? What are the interactions between these scenes? Can we talk about a concerted management system?

Elements and interactions



Properties

Some properties of such a system have been emphasized: resistances, strengthening the fragmentation, and tendencies, favouring the evolution from a fragmented management to a global management.

Administrative and historical frontiers, political stakes, leaders opposed to a global project are resistances. Positive interactions between managers, multi membership leaders are tendencies.

These tendencies should be a good way to promote integrated coastal zone management, involving all stakeholders and stakes on a pertinent territory.

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