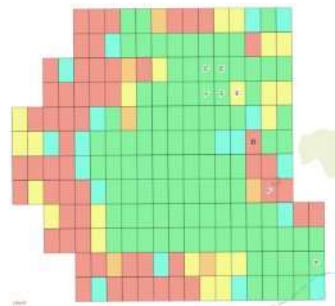




Parc national
du Mercantour



Case study: the contribution of sheep breeders to the conservation of "The Queen of the Alps" (*Eryngium alpinum*) in the Mercantour National Park

11 National Parks in France

11 national parks in France (1963 - 2022)

French national Parks are public institutions under the authority of the Ministry of the Ecological Transition.

National Parks are locally-run with a director and governed by a board of local officials.

They each have a local Charter, drawn up in partnership with local stakeholders, which municipalities may choose to sign.



French national Parks : 2 zones

The core (regulated area)

- . High level of protection
- . Rangers on the field
- . No villages or inhabitants
- . Sheep breeding & tourism authorized
- . Biodiversity monitoring & natural habitats management objectives



The partnership area

- ecological solidarity with the core.
- no special rules from the park
- many projects (*ecotourism, heritage, education*)
- local stakeholders involved for sustainable devel



French National Parks : 3 main missions

● Fighting the loss of biodiversity, protecting and understanding heritage :

- > Fauna, Flora
- > Landscape, Culture
- > Monitoring, Protection

● Welcoming the public and raising awareness :

- > Animations/trainings
- > Park visitors centers
- > Hiking trails

● Working for sustainable development and ecological transition :

- > Tourism
- > Agriculture
- > Local economy





Pour nous contacter :

Parc national du Mercantour

- Direction
23, rue d'Italie, CS 51316
06006 Nice Cedex 1
tél. +33 493 167 888

- Ubaye :
Maison du Parc national
parc de la Sapinière
Bureau du Parc national
Quartier du 11^e BCA
Chemin des casernes
04400 Barcelonnette

- Haut Verdon :
Bureau du Parc national
04260 Allos

- Haut-Var/Cians :
Maison Valbergane
06470 Valberg
Bureau du Parc national
06470 Entraunes

- Tinée :
Maison du Parc national
06660 Saint-Étienne-de-Tinée

- Vésubie
Maison du Parc national
06450 Saint-Martin-Vésubie

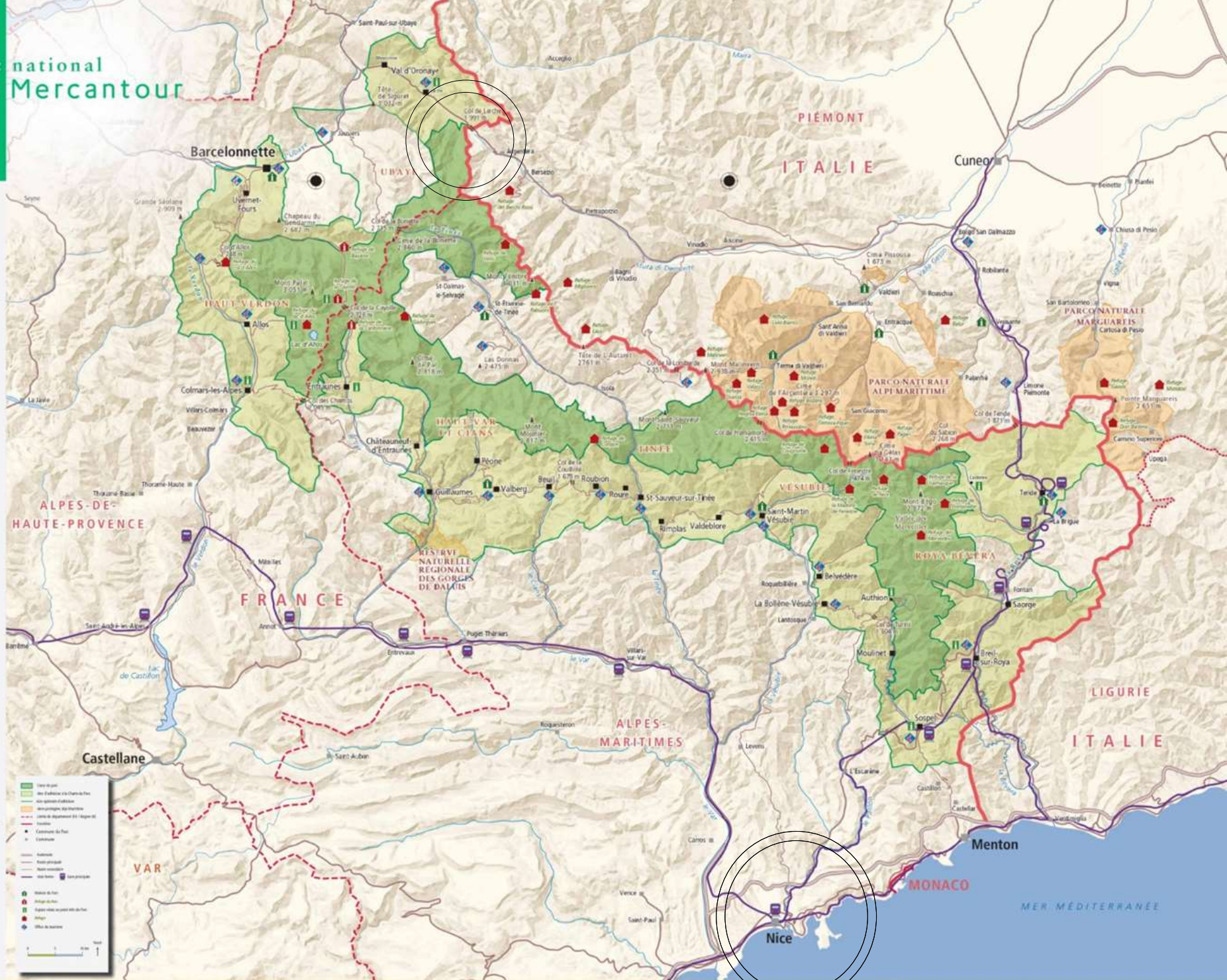
- Roya-Bévère
Maison du Parc national
Office de tourisme
06430 Tende

www.mercantour-parcnational.fr

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime

- Direction
Piazza Regina Elena, 30
12010 Valdieri (CN)
tél. 0039 017 197 397

www.parcoalpiarittime.it



The Mercantour National Park is 46 years old

Carte d'identité du Parc

Créé en 1979

8 vallées

2 départements (Alpes-Maritimes
et Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)

1 801 km² dont 679 km² en zone cœur


23 communes

23 500 habitants

Plus de 2 000 espèces de plantes dont
200 rares et 30 endémiques

Plus de 9 000 espèces animales dont 78 espèces
de mammifères et 199 espèces d'oiseaux

Jumelé avec le Parco naturale Alpi Marittime

- 75 people working
- Summits over 3400 meters
- EDPA in 1993
- Wolf came back in France in 1993
- Border with Italy and twinned with the Alpi Marittime
- 
- 100 000 sheep during summertime
- Increasing tourism attendance in summer and

The Mercantour National Park

a jewel of biodiversity accessible to all

A geological, climatic and landscape crossroad



A remarkable biogeographical location



Abundant and easily observable wildlife



An endemic and rare flora



A thousand-year-old cultural heritage and patrimonial trails

The Mercantour National Park

and its incredible inventory of biodiversity

. The first large-scale All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in Europe !



Cicadetta sibillae, nouvelle espèce de cigale pour la France (Authors: K. Gurcel, un

- . 15 years of inventory
- . 250.000 data acquired
- . 12.000 taxa recorded



Caryocolum dauphini

- . 49 species and 3 subspecies new to science
- . 53 species new for France!

The Mercantour National Park

and its incredible fauna

- . 8 951 animal taxa
- . 78 species of mammals
- . 199 species of birds
- . 25 species of reptiles and amphibians
- . More than 8000 invertebrates
- . Reintroduction / preservation projects



The Mercantour National Park

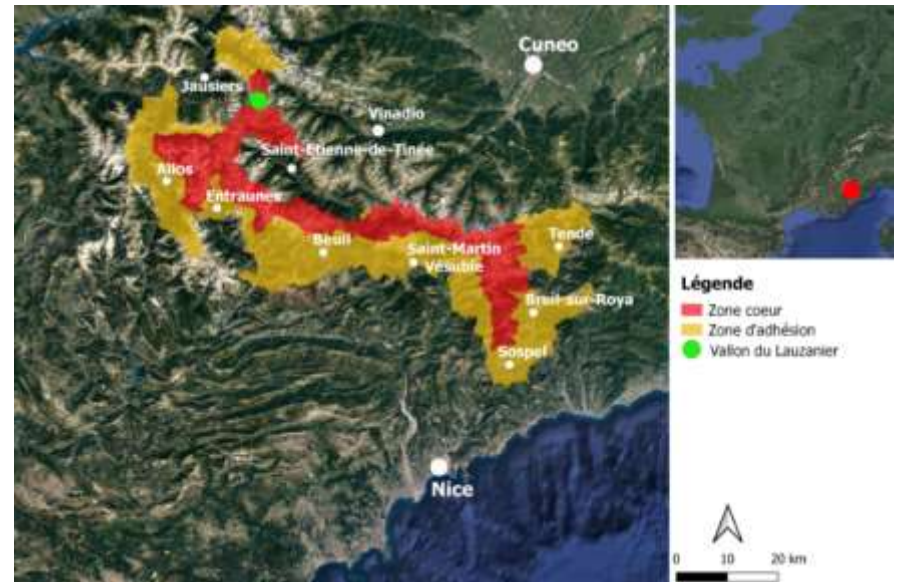
and its incredible flora

- 2.067 plant species (42 % of the French native flora)
-
- Including 200 rare and 30 endemic
- Research and preservation programs



"The Queen of the Alps" (*Eryngium alpinum*)

- The Lauzanier Valley : the only spot of Queen of the Alps in the Mercantour
- The southernmost spot known in the Alps.
- A big conservation issue for the Park



The Lauzanier valley



1984: First conservation measures

- Only 11 plants remaining and coming to bloom in the entire Lauzanier Valley, even though this valley was known as "the blue sea " before World War II due to the species' great abundance.
- First conservation implementation : 2 exclosures around these plants below the current site, and a grazing postponement to September was agreed upon with the shepherd and the rancher.





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- It was the beginning of a long adventure with scientists, shepherds, rangers, owners and local officials...

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qz0Y6SWNGcl>





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Find more on www.mercantour-parcnational.fr



Thanks for your attention !