



Atelier technique des ESPACES NATURELS

Le réseau des professionnels de la nature

Training
Jobs
Overseas territories
Marine environments
Publishing
Worldwide
Legal Service
Information technologies
Documentation
Jobs
Worldwide
Publishing
Natura 2000
Europe
Network and events
Jobs
Natura 2000
Information technologies
Training
Jobs





The **Atelier technique des espaces naturels (ATEN)**, is an umbrella organisation **created in 1997** by the French Environment Ministry. In 2010, its charter was extended **until 2017** and enlarged to admit new members.

It brings together **19 bodies*** responsible for nature management and the protection of biodiversity.

Why?

ATEN's priority objective is to **safeguard natural areas and the natural heritage by networking and capacity building** with the managers and organisations involved in nature protection.

Where?

ATEN works above all in **France (mainland and overseas territories)**, but it also carries out consultancy, exchange and representation activities in **Europe** (notably for the implementation of Natura 2000 network) and **worldwide**.

For whom?

ATEN is a public-private partnership whose legal structure (Groupement d'intérêt public) is intended, first and foremost, to provide services to its own members, which employ more than **5000 nature protection professionals**. In addition, ATEN responds to the needs of other stakeholders and opinion formers who pursue similar objectives, even beyond the confines of protected areas.

How?

ATEN's work is based round **4 core sectors of activity:**

- Compiling, structuring and spreading knowledge and methods for the sustainable management of protected areas and the natural heritage, in collaboration with the professional networks.
- Developing tools for planning, concerted management and evaluation to be used by natural protected area managers (direct managers and authorities responsible).
- Facilitating technical networks and enhancing exchanges between them.
- Promoting the professional sector of natural area management.



PROVIDING SERVICES TO ITS MEMBERS

TRAINING

- **ATEN is one of the main training organisations for managers of natural areas**, and must therefore respond to their requirements and their right to receive training throughout their career.

For this reason, our training programmes are not only developed in close collaboration with our member organisations, but also by continuous monitoring of any evolution in the context of natural area management and the jobs involved. Our training catalogue offers more than 120 sessions a year, providing training to more than 1400 trainees.

In addition to the training catalogue, special targeted sessions are organised on an occasional basis to deal with emerging issues or the specific needs of certain members.

ATEN's training offer is structured around 8 subject areas, in function of the skills required for the 23 job-types listed in the jobs directory of natural area managers:

- Administration and management
- Planning and sustainable development
- Communication, public relations and education
- Law and nature policing
- Concerns and thinking of the various stakeholders
- Management of habitats and species
- Security and safety
- Information and communication technology

A large amount of training time is devoted to the management of habitats and species, and also to law and nature policing.

👉 www.espaces-naturels.fr/Formation

JOBS

- **ATEN organises the structure of nature-related professions:**

- **The Jobs for Nature directory** on the ATEN website consists of a complete set of profiles describing the characteristics and development of all the jobs involved. It considerably facilitates network members' human resources management when it comes to writing job descriptions, recruiting new employees, drawing up training plans, etc.
- **The skills dictionary** was compiled in order to:
 - better define nature managers' training needs,
 - identify levels of training and knowledge,
 - obtain detailed knowledge of the skills required in the field and develop a common language concerning them, and classify them by level of responsibility and how often they are required,
 - clarify thinking concerning the strategic skills needed in our networks.
- ATEN assists its members in drawing up standardised training plans.
- Finally, creating links between the various professionals involved in the sector (training of trainers, Natura 2000 networking, etc.).

👉 www.espaces-naturels.fr/Metiers

NATURA 2000

- **Since 2005, ATEN has been charged by the Ecology Ministry with the facilitation of the Natura 2000 technical exchange network.**

Its role is to coordinate the knowledge, savoir-faire and experience of the managers of France's 1747 Natura 2000 sites. Decisions concerning the issues to be addressed by the technical exchange network are steered by a monitoring committee presided by the Ecology Ministry.

ATEN's objectives with regard to this network are as follows:

- to facilitate exchanges between managers, in France and throughout Europe
- to capitalise and disseminate knowledge and experience gained in the field
- to develop management tools and methods
- to train the professionals responsible for Natura 2000 management.

Since 2005, nearly 130 training sessions and 20 seminars or «technical exchange days» have been attended by more than 1000 identified trainees

👉 www.espaces-naturels.fr/Natura-2000



NETWORKS AND EVENTS

Thematic networks

Other thematic professional networks have gradually formed and developed around ATEN: jobs and training, European and international collaboration, overseas territories, marine protected areas, information technology, etc.

→ Focus on the three networks facilitated by ATEN

- **The ICT managers' technical exchange network**, whose objective is to facilitate exchange and building on experience in the field of ICTs. It aims at mutualising ICT tools, contracts and services, and sharing experience in order to improve database consistency.

↳ www.outils-naturalistes.fr

- **The REGEN, Natural Area Managers' Ecoresponsibility Network**, whose goal is to ensure that natural areas are managed in an ecoresponsible way so as to reduce the impact of human activities.

↳ <http://ecoresponsabilite.espaces-naturels.fr>

- **The RESEN, Natural Area Scientists' Network**, whose aim is to enable the heads of natural area managers' networks to keep up with scientific/technical developments and programmes linked to the conservation of natural sites.

Events

ATEN organises an annual encounter, the **Managers' Forum**, for nature protection professionals to compare and capitalise on their experience. It offers talks and debates about a theme directly linked to their concerns, with the aim of providing them with a strategic, scientific and legal framework, tools and examples of initiatives that can easily be transposed to their sites.

↳ <http://forumdesgestionnaires.espaces-naturels.fr>

The **Forum of IT specialists, GIS specialists and webmasters of natural areas** is aimed at ATEN members, Natura 2000 project managers, scientists and other professionals for whom Information and Communication Technologies have become an essential part of their work, and who are interested in new tools.

↳ <http://forum-tic.espaces-naturels.fr>

EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE, OVERSEAS TERRITORIES AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

Beyond the national territory, ATEN is increasingly developing activities on the European and international scale, enabling professionals of all nationalities to benefit from mutual exchange. Every action undertaken by ATEN is coordinated with transversal actions carried out with regard to training and communication, legal support or job profiles.

Europe and worldwide

Nature has no borders, and natural area managers naturally develop collaborations and exchanges with their colleagues in Europe and worldwide.

→ ATEN supports its members through training (European funding applications, use of English, etc.) and financial assistance in setting up projects (Life +).

→ ATEN also directly implements certain programmes, especially concerning its "core issues" (peer to peer exchange on Natura 2000 and economic activities).

↳ www.espaces-naturels.fr/Europe-et-international

Overseas territories

The major part of France's ecological heritage lies in its overseas territories. The professionalisation of its overseas nature managers is a measure of the effectiveness of the protection provided. ATEN therefore facilitates the work of its members involved in the management of natural areas overseas, and, in parallel, provides the secretariat for the TE ME UM (Terres Mers Ultra Marines) programme, whose aim is to facilitate and support the work of nature professionals in the overseas territories.

↳ www.espaces-naturels.fr/Outre-mer

↳ <http://outremer.espaces-naturels.fr>

Marine environments

Since 2009, in partnership with the Marine Protected Areas Agency, ATEN has also facilitated the Forum of Marine Protected Areas, a technical exchange network for the managers of French marine protected areas, both mainland and overseas. Its objective is to enhance exchange and building on experience between project managers and other partners involved in the management of marine and coastal sites.

↳ www.espaces-naturels.fr/Aires-marines-protegees

↳ www.airesmarines.org



LEGAL SERVICE

- **Nature protection**, especially in natural areas, requires the implementation of a highly complex and continually evolving legal framework.
 - ATEN's legal service provides its members with expertise, up-to-date information and advice.
 - It is also involved, together with partners such as the national hunting & wildlife and water agencies, in the training of natural area officers prior to commissioning. It also advises and supports commissioned officers in their nature policing functions.
 - Finally, it can link together the various legal resources of ATEN's member organisations.

👉 www.espaces-naturels.fr/Juridique

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

- **ATEN provides its members with:**
 - a collaborative and nomadic messaging service,
 - an electronic Document Management System (DMS), via a secure server.

It also hosts and creates websites for their use.

It develops specific programmes (planning tool for Natura 2000 site managers, tool for contributors to the periodical *Espaces Naturels*, tool for proposing subjects for the Managers' Forum, calendar of natural area events).

Finally, it assists its members in setting up IT projects.

👉 www.espaces-naturels.fr/Services-TIC

DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLISHING

- **ATEN's document resource centre provides and enhances the information available** concerning issues related to the management of natural areas by gathering together documents testifying to a common fund of professional know-how. ATEN and its network of documentalists provide its members with the following services, based on reliable and continuously updated sources: a library, an online database, a panoramic press review, newsletters, a directory of links, and monitoring of emerging issues.
- **Its publications and information tools** enable the dissemination of the values and savoir-faire of nature professionals to a broad-based readership.
 - The ***Cahiers Techniques*** collection provides practical, specialised thematic documentation both online and in paper format.
 - Aimed at an even broader readership, the quarterly periodical ***Espaces Naturels*** presents, assesses and discusses experiences acquired in the field. It targets the actors and opinion formers working in the management of the natural and cultural heritage, and more generally any reader aware of the issues involved in environment protection (students, elected officials, NGOs, etc.).
- There is also a quarterly **newsletter** which details the training sessions available, announces events and news from the various networks, and provides a press review.



👉 www.espaces-naturels.fr/Documentation

Atelier technique des ESPACES NATURELS

Le réseau des professionnels de la nature

To meet us: 397, rue de las Sorbes, 34060 Montpellier

By mail: Aten, 2, place Viala, 34060 Montpellier

By email: contact@espaces-naturels.fr

Website: www.espaces-naturels.fr

Telephone: +33 (0)4 67 04 30 30

Fax: +33 (0)4 67 52 77 93



Conception graphique : 3BIS Scop, Sandrine Sawczyn
Crédits photos : Aten • Denis Bassargette (Parc national de la Vanoise) •
Arnaud Bouissou, Laurent Mignaux (MEDDTL) • Dédic Bleu Méditerranée (Parc national de Port-Cros) •
Christine Mantecón • Jacques Martin • Philippe Massit (ONCFS) • Luc Patureau (Fotolia) • Laure Vincent

* The Members:

The French Ministry for Ecology, Energy,
Sustainable Development and the Sea (*Meeddm*)

National Parks of France

Agence des Aires Marines Protégées
(marine protected areas),

Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres
(coastal and lakeshore protection)

National Forests Office

Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune sauvage
(hunting and wildlife)

Federation of Regional Natural Parks

Federation of Natural Area Conservatories

French Natural Reserves

The regions: Ile-de-France

Languedoc-Roussillon

Rhône-Alpes

The departments: Drôme

Isère

EDEN 62 (Pas-de-Calais)

Rivages de France (coastal and lakeshore protection)

Grands Sites de France (natural and cultural heritage sites)

Tour du Valat Foundation (research)

League for the Protection of Birds

www.ecologie.gouv.fr

www.parcsnationaux.fr

www.aires-marines.fr

www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr

www.onf.fr

www.oncfs.gouv.fr

www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.tm.fr

www.enf-conservatoires.org

www.reserves-naturelles.org

www.iledefrance.fr

www.laregion.fr

www.rhonealpes.fr

www.ladrome.fr

www.isere.fr

www.eden62.fr

www.rivagesdefrance.org

www.grandsitedefrance.com

www.tourduvalat.org

www.lpo.fr