

## PILOT SITE DESIGN

# CONTENTIN-BESSIN

## NORMANDY, FRANCE



This area located in the Manche department has an area of over 30,000 ha in wetlands (including 8,000 ha of peat meadows) valued mainly by livestock.

The ecological and economic interests of this territory notably justified the creation of the Regional Natural Park of the Cotentin and Bessin Marshes in 1991, as well as the site classified as Natura 2000 and Ramsar.

Today, the traditional extensive agricultural activity of mowing and grazing still allows the maintenance of these vast humid meadows more or less peaty, at the origin of an exceptional concentration, over the seasons, of rare animal and plant communities. and original.

The marsh is used by nearly 1,000 farmers, with grazing and mowing activities on mainly dairy farms. The marsh is also the subject of water level management, and is marked by hunting and tourist discovery activities.

**Size of pilot site:** 30 000 ha

**Peatland type:** Minerotrophic peatland

**Land use:** Grazing and grass harvesting

**Crop type:** Permanent grasslands

**Water level:** Adjustable

**Climate type:** Temperate oceanic climate

**Total annual rainfall:** between 900 millimeters on the coast and 1,100 millimeters inland



## CHALLENGES

The most important challenge is to preserve ecological diversity of wetlands dependent on maintaining water levels and sustainable extensive agriculture.

## GOALS

- Maintain agriculture in marshlands
- Contribution of knowledge on carbon storage, technical and economic data related to agriculture
- Reflection on public and private agri-environmental policies to support these environments

## POSSIBLE BUSINESS MODEL

Monetization of carbon credits through labeling requirements or through contracting with private companies



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## PILOT SITE TIMELINE

### **Spring 2021**

Assessment phase of the carbon footprint of pilot farms in the area  
Development phase of the specificities of marsh systems

### **Autumn 2021**

Economic valuation phase of efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of marsh breeders

### **Spring 2022**

Farmers to farmers transfer phase