



MedWet

L'initiative pour les zones humides méditerranéennes
The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
مبادرة المناطق الرطبة المتوسطية

Info. MedWet/Com12 – I

MedWet/Com 12 Field visit - 11 February 2016

The Sacy Marshes (Les Marais de Sacy)



The Sacy Marshes (Marais de Sacy) consist of a vast wetland and peat land of great ecological and national heritage interest due to their diversity of flora and fauna. They are bordered by woodlands in the south and meadows in the north consisting of poplar groves, cereal and vegetable fields.

The Marshes are subject to an oceanic climate. The basin where the marshes occur is between 32 and 62 meters altitude, fed mainly by the artesian discharge of groundwater and by its direct catchment area. This hydraulic operation leads to a difference in pH and a diversity of trophic environments between the northern part and the southern part, offering a wealth of notable natural habitats. The marshes are drained at their center by the River Frette, which is channelled to join the River Oise. Changes in seasonal water levels range from approximately 20 to 40 cm.

The activities of the 19th and 20th centuries have formed the current landscape: peat mining, watercress beds, cultivation of vegetables, etc. Nowadays, the main activities that take place in the area are hunting of waterfowl and big game.



Ownership of the land is composed of the following:

- Communal property leased to individuals;
- Property owned by the County Council of the Oise;
- Large private properties in the center;
- And many small private properties at the periphery.



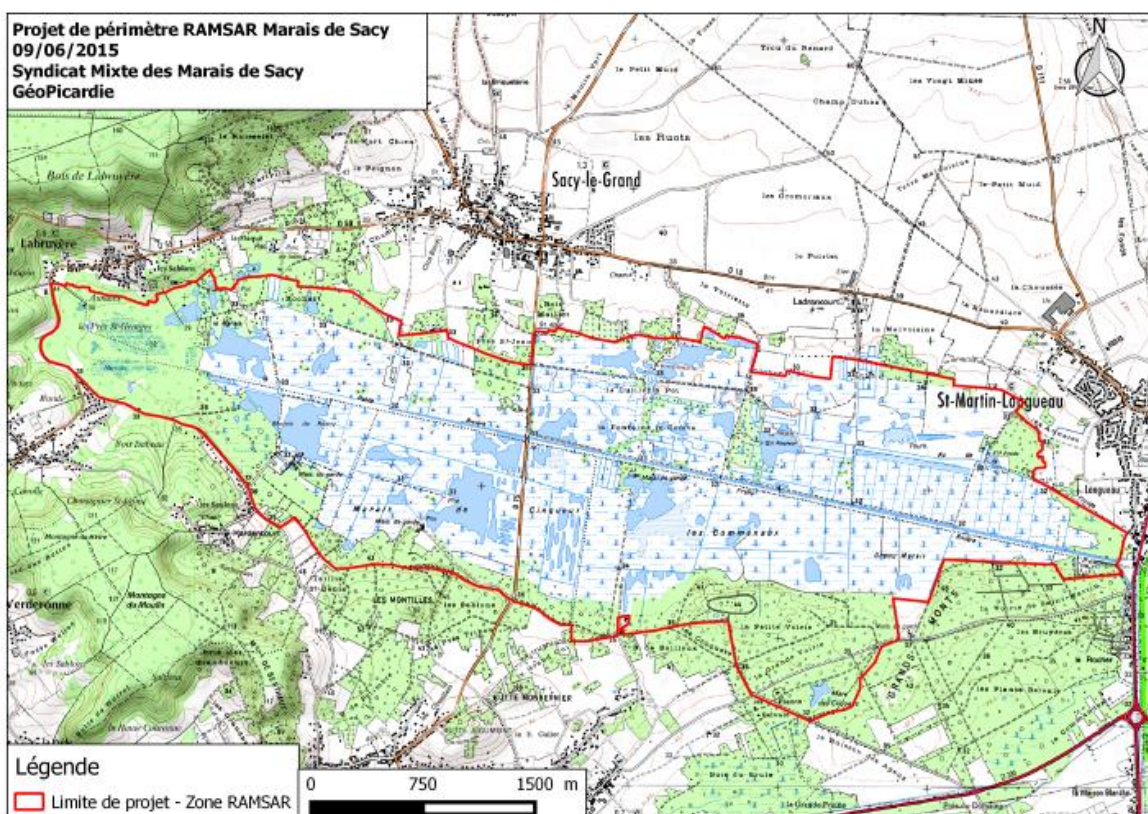


The Sacy Marshes are a Natura 2000 site under the Habitats Directive of the European Union because of the types of natural habitats and wildlife species found in the area – fifteen habitats of community interest and four species of community interest.

The application to register the Sacy Marshes in the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention was filed in August 2015 and is under examination. Obtaining this status would make the Sacy Marshes globally recognized and it would be a source of pride as well as a motive for residents and the local government

to promote the wise use of this wetland. Additional positive benefits would be:

- To make the value of the Sacy Marshes known so as to ensure a sense of ownership in the local people and attract their attention through informational tools like paths and trails;
- To have visibility on the [national portal of wetlands](#) through a dedicated site-specific form;
- To obtain a label of quality which attests to the site's ecological character but also its management and sustainable activities, as well as its cultural heritage;
- To share news and actions undertaken with other members of the Ramsar network;
- To benefit from the experience and contacts of the French network of Ramsar Site Managers coordinated by the [French Ramsar Association](#) in order to capitalize on their lessons learnt (i.e., management techniques), especially during the annual Ramsar Site Managers meeting;
- To be able to contact international sites with similar characteristics and problems;
- To gain an important asset in order to attract technical and financial partners in order to facilitate projects that will be implemented on the site.



Programme

Expected participants: 40

Meeting point and time: 07:50 in front of the Palais de la Porte Dorée

8:00 – Departure from Paris (in front of the Palais de la Porte Dorée)

9:30 – 9:45 – Arrival at the Town Hall of Sacy le Grand

10:00 – Arrival at the Sacy Marshes

Note: All presentations will be simultaneously translated into English, with audio headsets.



First there will be a presentation of the marshes followed by a visit to a wetland buffer (approximately 1 hectare) that was created in 2015 in order to improve water discharge into the marshes and to make an experimental intervention with a herd of water buffaloes that were provided to some owners of the marshes for the maintenance of open spaces; introduction to the Ramsar Site registration project by the Chairman of the Syndicat Mixte.

12:15 – 13:45 Lunch in the Restaurant in Sacy-le-Grand at the invitation of MedWet.

14:00 – Visit to the property of the County Council of the Oise and particularly the visitor centre open to the public as well as the limited access area (wood decked trails), with an explanation by the site managers of the relevant management practices in use (management and grazing practices, the value of different activities such as hunting, etc.).

16:30 – 16:45 – Departure from Sacy le Grand

18:00 – 18:15 – Arrival in Paris (rue du Palais de la Porte Dorée)

Note: Access to the buffer wetland and the marshes requires boots and umbrella and/or waterproof jacket, and binoculars are recommended.

For more information, visit www.syndicatmixtedesmaraisdesacy.sitew.fr/.

