

Approach to coastal management in a changing climate in France, actions of adaptation and retreat actions in process

Martin RENARD | GIP Littoral Nouvelle-Aquitaine



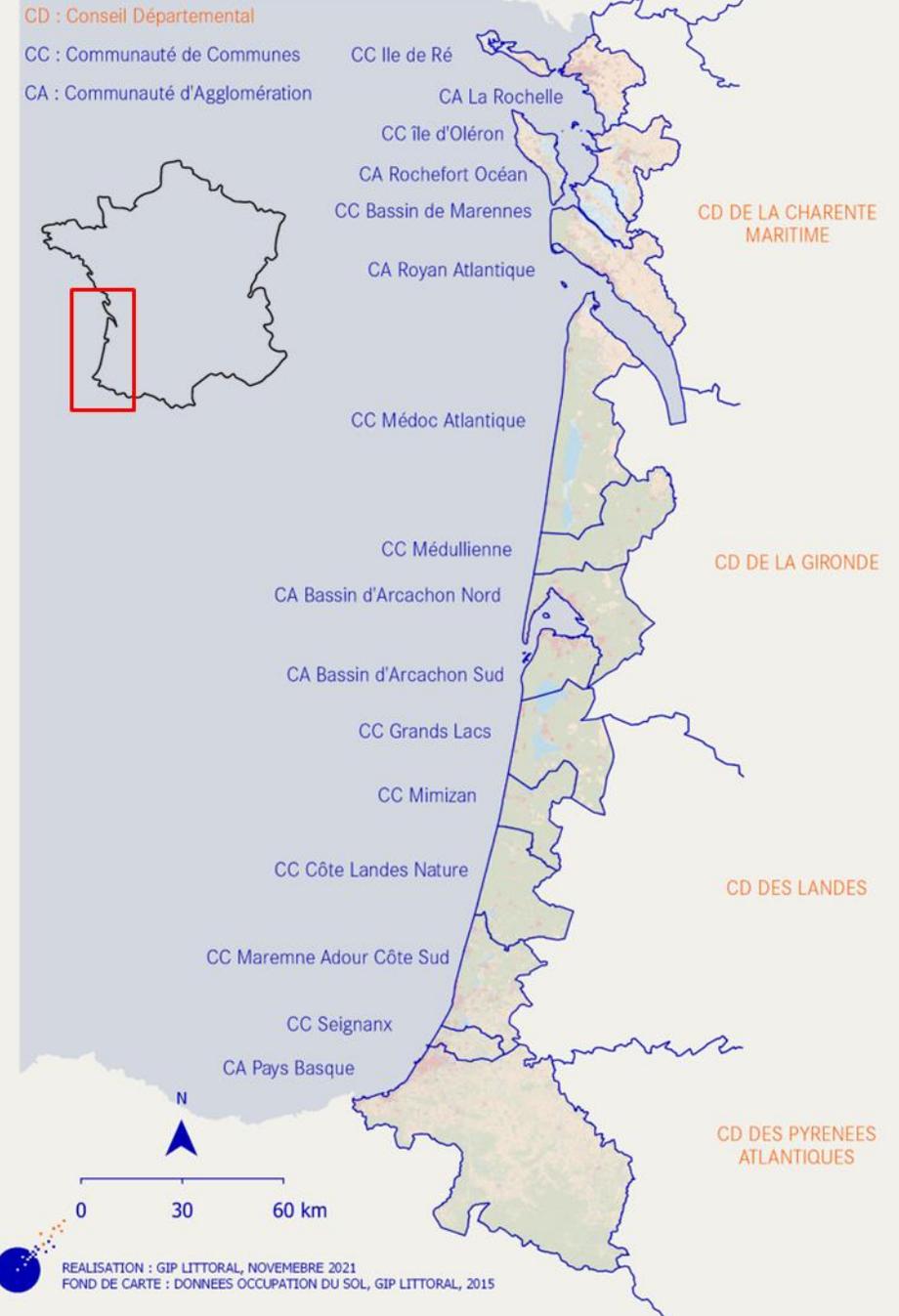
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— GIP Littoral Nouvelle-Aquitaine —

- Public Group of Interest, **managing the shoreline and public policies of the New Aquitaine Region**, a consortium gathering the State, the New Aquitaine Regional Council, the 4 coastal departments and coastal intercommunalities
- A tool for reflection, coordination and support for the **preservation, development and management of coastal areas**
- Helps to **reinforce the coherence of local action programs and partnerships** in the context of a shared strategy named : **Littoral 2030 : Succeed the shoreline transition in New Aquitaine**
- **4 main challenges** : Attractiveness and mobility, preservation of natural areas, sustainable tourism development and coastal risks management
- Provides all members of the consortium with **expertise, technical support and networking on shoreline issues**

ETAT + CONSEIL REGIONAL DE NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE



— Assets threatened by coastal erosion in 2050 —

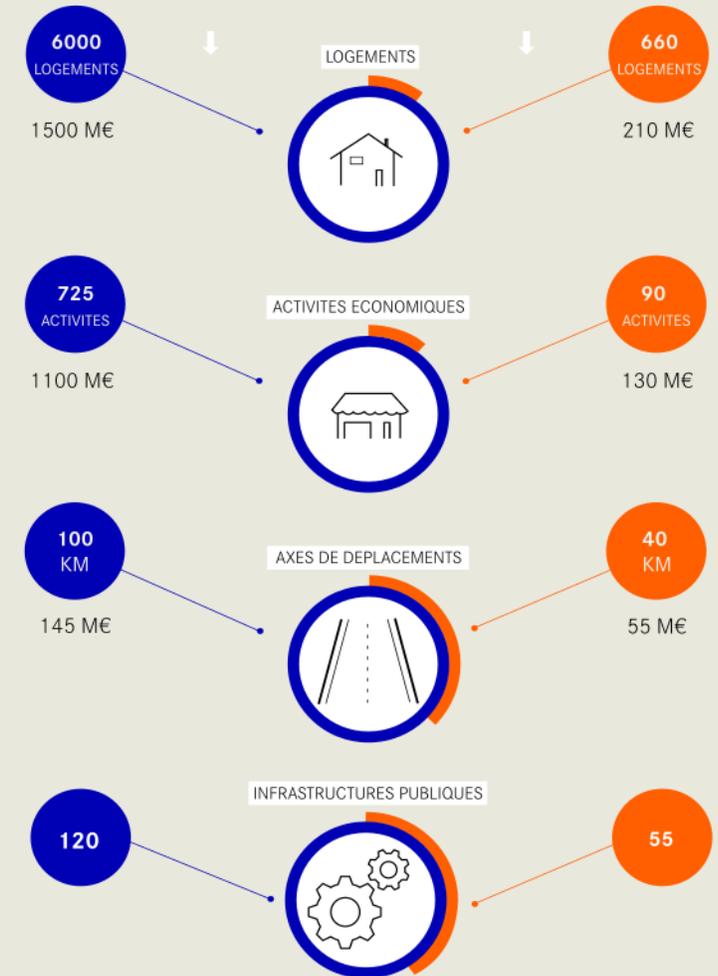
- The number and value of assets have been evaluated with and without taking into consideration coastal defence structures.
- By 2050, without any defence structures, threatened assets are numbered up to more than **6000 houses**, valued at 1.5 billion euros, and also **725 economic activities**, valued at 1.1 billion euros.
- The average rate of coastal erosion on the sandy coast is estimated between **1.7 and 2.5 metres per year** (50 metres by 2050).



« Le Signal », a building evacuated in 2014 due to coastal erosion risk, acquired at 70% of its value in 2022 by the State and demolished in 2023 to restore the dune. To avoid setting a precedent, the Parliament used a specific line in a Finance Bill.

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SANS PRISE EN COMPTE DES OUVRAGES
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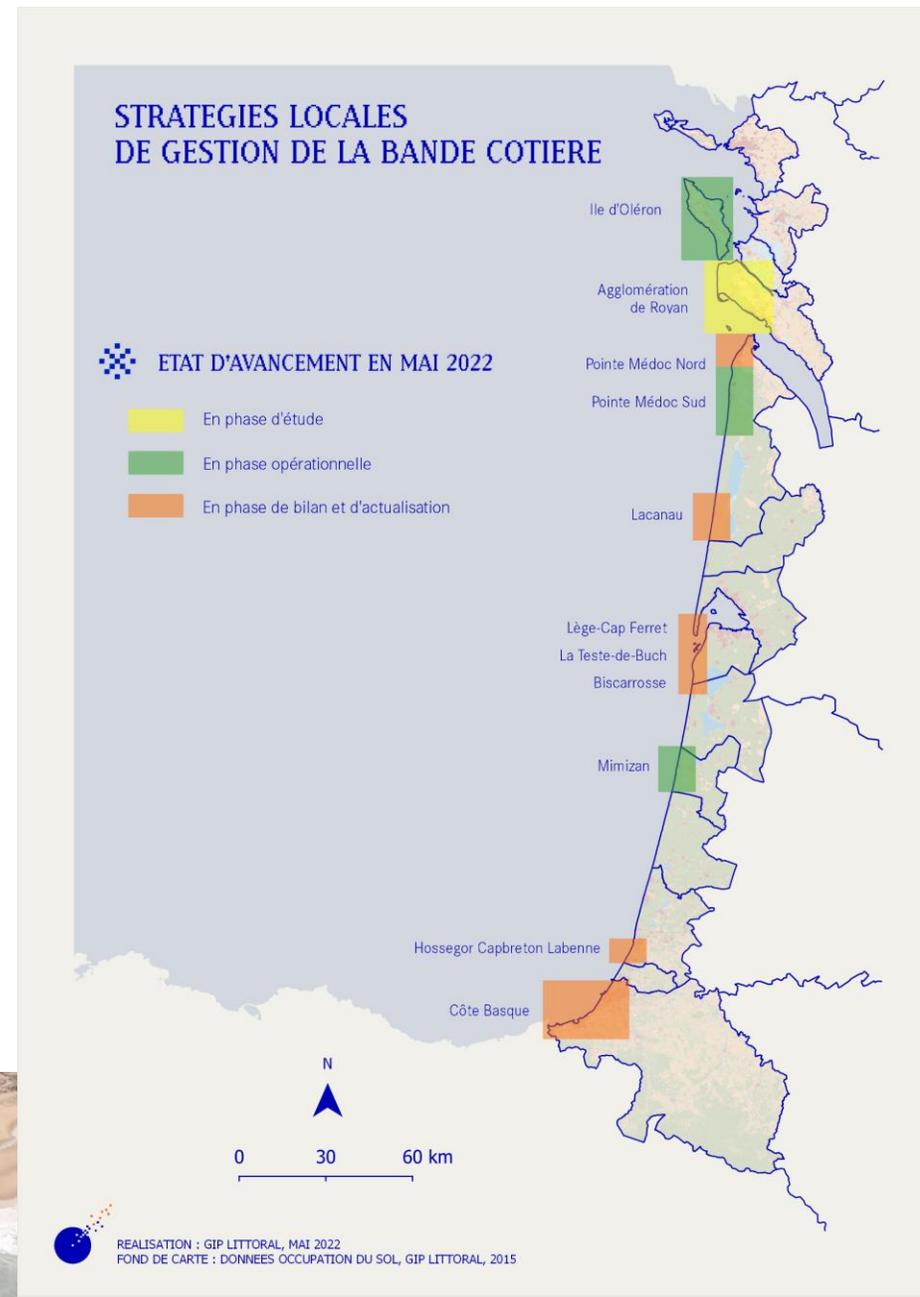


Réalisation : GIP Littoral, avril 2022
Source : données DV3F et MAJIC III, DGFiP 2020 ; PCI VECTEUR 2021 ; BD TOPO, IGN 2020 ; aléa érosion côtière OCNA 2021

Avertissement :
Données produites dans le cadre de l'étude de sensibilité à l'érosion côtière du littoral de Nouvelle-Aquitaine. Données produites pour une analyse à l'échelle régionale, pour toute interprétation, consulter les limites d'utilisation au sein du rapport du GIP Littoral, avril 2022

— Integrated coastal area management —

- Since 2016, **9 local strategies** for the areas most at risk. They necessarily study different coastal management scenarios (limited intervention, coastal defenses, beach nourishment, managed retreat) compared through economic analysis in order to make the most appropriate choices.
- The study results in a **long-term risk management and adaptation action program**, avoiding the risk of any emergency action to take place
- The application of these strategies are required for obtaining public funding (Regional Council, State, European funds, etc.).
- Among the various coastal management scenarios , some cities have decided to **experiment managed retreat** : Biscarrosse, Lacanau, Saint-Jean-de-Luz...



— Focus on Biscarrosse's local strategy —

- 2018 – the choice of a **soft management scenario** through beach nourishment on a short term scale, and then the choice of retreat management of the frontline assets (14 flats and 1 hotel), with a **clear intention in public policy not to deploy coastal defences**.
- 2019 - **First unsuccessful negotiation attempts with private owners:**
 - No public funding for compensation
 - Relocation solutions did not interest the owners
 - Expert battle between geometers over building stability
 - Legal arguments with the owners about evacuation orders issued by the town hall
- 2020 – In the same time, the town hall worked on a long-term sustainable development approach for its resort, with an **urban plan including the renaturing of the seafront**.
- 2021 - Publication of the Climate & Resilience Act with new tools for the preventive acquisition of threatened assets and **discussions on a national fund to facilitate asset acquisition**.
- 2022 - The city of Biscarrosse is selected for a **Partnership Development Project (PDP) with the State**. The aim is to benefit from State funds to facilitate managed retreat.

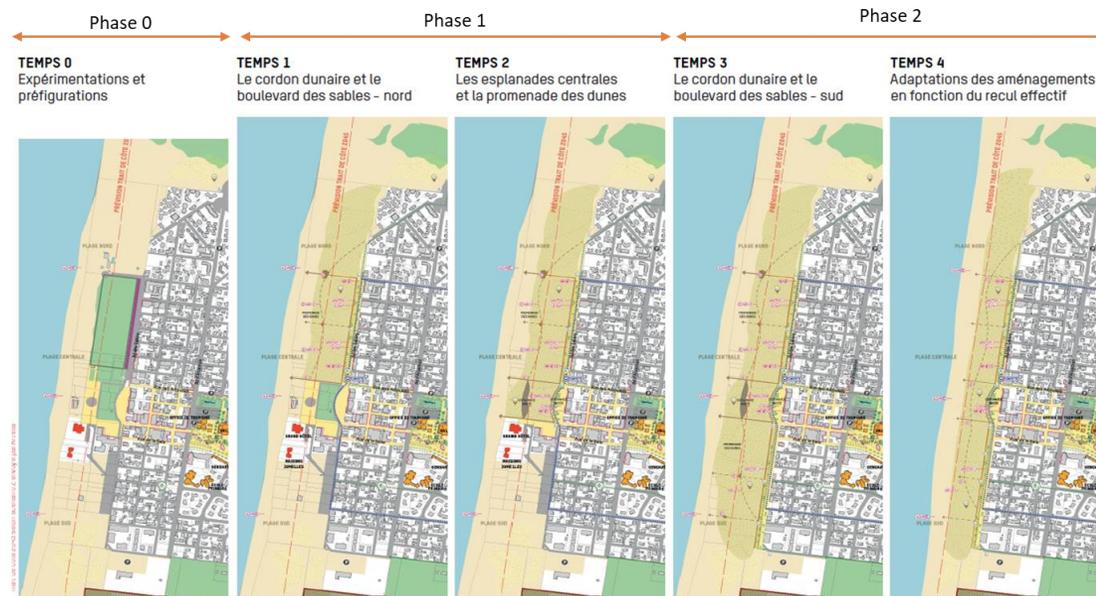


— Focus on Biscarrosse's local strategy —

The **tools of the Climate and Resilience Act** (April 2021) :

- Specific acquisitions rights linked to coastal erosion
- A new method for valuing assets over a 30 years erosion risk projection
- Creation of a Real Coastal Erosion Adaptation Lease (BRAEC)
- Increased powers for land institutions
- Exemption from the Shoreline Act (1986) for discontinuous building for relocation (under conditions)

2024 – Regarding those new tools and the PDP, the aim is to find an agreement with the owners, to ensure the demolition and renaturing of the sea front and to carry out the relocation operations.



Fundings

Local Strategy (2022-2027) : 3.8M€ (FEDER, State, Region, Department, Intercommunity and town hall)

PDP (2024 -2027) : 7M€ (discussion in process with financial stakeholders and does not include acquisition)

— Lacanau, a new sea front —

Current situation



Short term project



- A short term managed retreat program of the parking areas, the first aid post and the public surf house (only public assets).
- Reorganisation of road traffic and pedestrianisation of the resort.
- Reinforcing coastal defences by 2050 and conducting a parallel operational study on the managed retreat of the sea front (more than 1000 private assets valued at 300M€).
- PDP Fundings : 17M€ (50% State, 20% Town hall, 30% Région/Department...)

— Saint Jean de Luz, restoring natural dynamics

Current situation



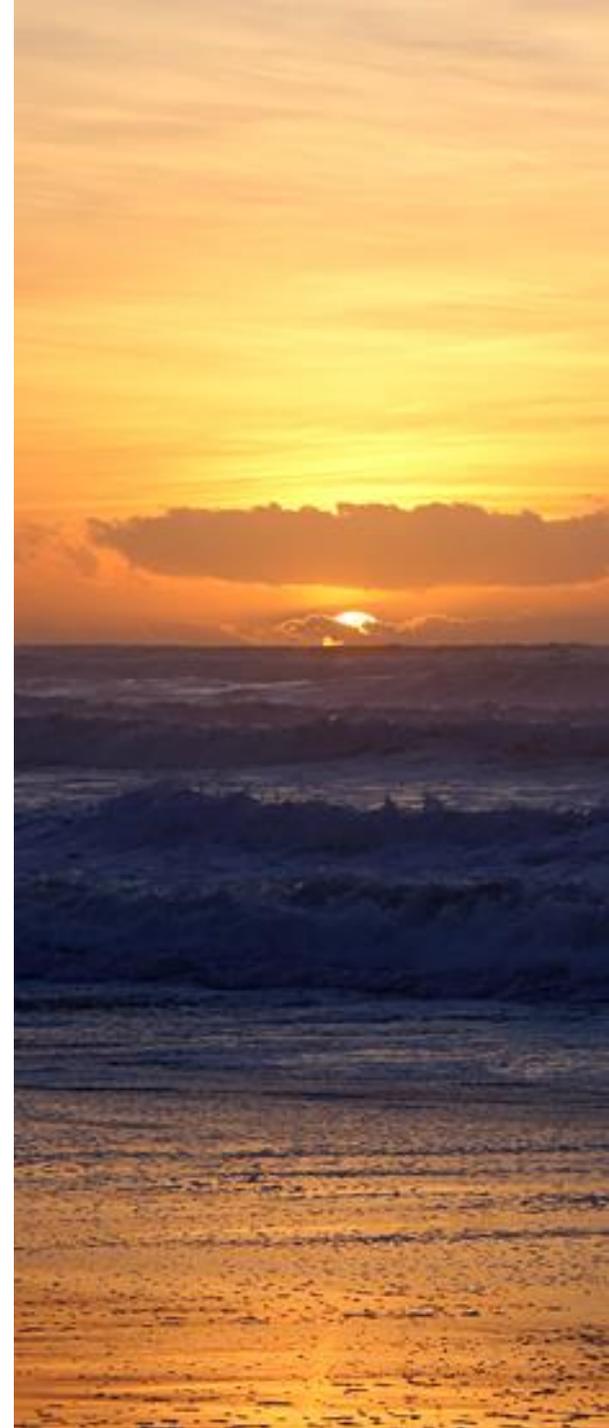
Long term project



- A managed retreat policy for the camp sites and the parking areas towards the backshore
- Remove the coastal defense and restore the natural dynamic of the beach
- Develop access to the beach via soft paths (priority to pedestrians and bicycles)
- PDP Fundings : 6,3M€ (50% State, 20% Intercommunality, 12% Town hall 18% others...)

— Focus on fundings —

- Among all the different scenarios in local strategies, managed retreat is the most expensive on a short-term scale, but is also the only sustainable long-term solution. The main difficulty being the acquisition cost of private assets.
- At a national scale, with the actual market price (without taking account of the risk), the preventive acquisition of endangered assets represents several billion euros.
- The question is, are public policies ready or able to spend this amount to develop a sustainable coastal management policy....
- Nowadays, public policies agree to finance coastal defences (under certain conditions), beach nourishment or land restoration, but do not wish to finance the acquisition of endangered assets at the full market price.
- This is why the Climate and Resilience Act provides new tools as a specific Lease or a new method for valuing assets regarding the risk, but those new tools haven't been tested yet. At the same time, there are parliamentary discussions on a new tax on the acquisition of property in coastal areas to supply a national managed retreat fund, and a mission to analyze possible sources of funding at national level by the Ministry of Ecology (conclusions in 2024).



Thanks for your attention

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