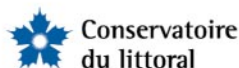


Comments from a site manager:

“Applying EMAS requires rigorous efforts but it helps building organisation proficiency. Environmental liability is an issue that concerns all of us, which has to be considered in depth and over the long term. Moreover, in natural sites, EMAS can be integrated with existing tools.”

JL Lucchesi, Director of the Vigueirat Marshes domain, the first organisation managing a natural site to have integrated EMAS – its visitor reception programme is certified by EMAS.

To learn more about EMAS certification,
download the free presentation guide intended
for organisations managing natural spaces
and tourist sites at once.
www.life-promesse.org



Environmental liability and Sensitive Sites



EMAS Certification



An environmental certification tool designed
for adjusting Environment Protection and
Sensitive Sites Management

Text: CPIE RPA, WWF-France, AMV
Layout: Communication Department WWF-France
Pictures: © Marais du Vigueirat

For further information : www.life-promesse.org

Natural and/or sensitive areas are spaces where a high degree of integrity in terms of biodiversity is required. Such spaces are also appropriate for experimentation such as the combining of biodiversity with energy consumption, waste disposal and water and transportation management. Environmental liability must be hedged on these sites, in particular via certification.

EMAS stands for Environmental Management and Audit Scheme

This European accreditation system involves:

- the defining of a voluntary-based environmental management system built on the continuous improvement of a project.
- a methodological tool to manage the impact of structure related activities such as water management, energy expenditure, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste disposal on a given site.

As with any other certification system, (such as charters and ISO standards) EMAS delivers an environmental management process. The verification system, however, is more exacting which confers on EMAS the proprieties of a more ambitious tool.

EMAS is characterised by:

- its transparency to the public
- an integrated employee approach
- the involving of partners
- indirect impacts appreciation



The EMAS certification process benefits



EMAS delivers:

- **Rigour and Flexibility:** EMAS can be implemented step by step by delimiting a perimeter for activities.
- **Conformity:** the regulatory constraints are respected (fauna and flora protection, pollutant rejections, etc)
- **Management:** EMAS provides an improved management tool.
- **Continuity:** EMAS commits the organisation concerned to keep track of documentation and events with a view to improving long-term site management.
- **Quality:** EMAS certification guarantees environmental standards and integrity in terms of public reception since communication and transparency to the public are included in the process.
- **Governance:** EMAS incites all parties involved to work together and communicate.
- **Anticipation:** EMAS brings measuring tools such as carbon or ecological footprint calculators.
- **Attraction:** Several sites across Europe already use EMAS for the purposes of attracting tourists : as such Mainau Island in Germany and Mount Avic Park in Italy, are EMAS certified.

