

5 June 2017 - World Environment Day Action by the Prince's Government

Natural heritage management is one of the main focuses of the environmental policy of the Prince's Government. It is in line with the International Conventions of which Monaco is a party. The Department of the Environment carries out marine and terrestrial inventory and monitoring programmes to assess the diversity of ecosystems, the quality of the environment and the relevance of management measures.

With regard to marine biodiversity, special attention is paid to protected or heritage species, with:

- ✚ Labelling in 2002 (48 markers) of the entire lower limit of the posidonia meadows, making it possible to follow their evolution over the long term
- ✚ More than 15 years' monitoring of the evolution of populations of brown groupers and corbs along the coast of Monaco (193 brown groupers and 25 corbs were identified in 2015)
- ✚ Mapping of fan mussels, which has made it possible to record more than 1,000 individuals and follow the dynamics of this population.

The Principality has also joined the RESPIRE project, a new tool for monitoring the quality of ports in terms of biodiversity and juvenile fish recruitment. In this context, since 2015, the Department of Maritime Affairs has installed more than 40 artificial habitats, known as Biohuts, in the ports of Monaco, with the aim of developing the role of nurseries, and scientific monitoring is undertaken three times a year.

Programmes to protect terrestrial biodiversity also rely on undertaking inventories on a regular basis. The various studies have made it possible to identify the fauna and flora and, in particular, to discover rare species of insects and invertebrates. The Principality is also home to 347 species of plants, including 6 endemic species and 18 with high heritage value. The Department of the Environment is monitoring a particularly rare and endangered species, the Niçois Snowdrop, which can be found on the territory.

The Rock has proved to be the refuge of a pair of peregrine falcons and their offspring. In 2011, three young peregrine falcons were spotted in a hollow overlooking the port of Fontvieille. The peregrine falcon is a protected and "protective" species with regard to certain invasive species. Its reproduction is rare, which demonstrates that this sea cliff offers the necessary conditions for these creatures. This was confirmed a few weeks ago by the birth of two young peregrine falcons in a hollow on the cliffs of the Rock. Ornithological observations in recent weeks have

also made it possible to see the pair of peregrine falcons on the cliff, a grey heron and a kestrel.

In 2015, the discovery of successful nesting of the Mediterranean crested cormorant on the cliff of the Rock was the first official mention of nesting of this species in this part of the Mediterranean coast. In the spring, the Department of the Environment again noted the birth of 6 young Mediterranean crested cormorants on the Rock. The population of crested cormorants on this site is continuing to grow, with at least 15 individuals recorded. The Mediterranean cormorant is protected in the Principality and is relatively uncommon on our coast. These new births confirm the good ecological status and special character of this natural site, which represents an urban nesting site on a maritime cliff that is almost unique of its kind.

To bring young people closer to Nature, the Department of Urban Amenities established a programme in 2011 entitled "Bees, sentinels of the environment." The aim is to raise public awareness of protecting this endangered species. Six beehives were set up and insect hotels were installed in the Principality, reproducing the specific living conditions of certain species, such as wild bees. These programmes are made possible by the eco-management of green spaces and the creation of honey-producing meadows by the Direction of Urban Amenities.

Contact: environnement@gouv.mc

Further Information: www.worldenvironmentday.global/fr/propos/la-journ%C3%A9e-mondiale-de-lenvironnement-quest-ce-que-cest