

Cohabiter avec la nature ! A transboundary brochure

In 2015, Appalachian Corridor partnered with WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) on developing a landowner tool to protect habitats. The guidebook “Cohabiter avec la nature!” was developed in French to provide guidance on wildlife-friendly residential development and land-use planning in the Appalachians of Southern Quebec, thus extending the reach of the original brochure northwards into Canada.

The guidebook is a translation and adaptation of WCS's graphically rich handbook, titled “Make Room for Wildlife” that was published in 2013. The contents introduce concepts to landowners such as potential use of their property by animals as habitat or as a travel corridor, understanding a residence’s “wildlife shadow,” and taking wildlife into account at the local planning level. The original guide was informed by science conducted by WCS in the Adirondacks, and the adaptation takes into account specific aspects of the Quebec local and regional planning context.

Mélanie Lelièvre, Appalachian Corridor’s Executive Director, who initiated the partnership and the implementation of this project in Quebec said, “The original brochure really grabbed our attention. It highlights the concept of fragmentation in a concise and efficient way, while offering practical solutions to avoid it. Municipalities and developers need to be aware of these issues and this document fills a gap. We are delighted with its translation and adaptation to the Quebec context and thank WCS for a fruitful collaboration.”

Between June 2015 and August 2016, 200 copies of the “Cohabiter avec la nature!” brochure were printed and distributed to landowners, town planners and conservation advocates. Its content was presented to twelve local municipalities, two Regional County Municipalities (RCMs), targeted audiences including conservation partners, urban planners and developers, and the general public. Promising discussions are ongoing with several of these municipalities regarding foreseeable adaptations to their regulations.

Over the coming year, Appalachian Corridor plans to present the important concept of planning wisely and in harmony with nature to another eight municipalities and one RCM. In addition, the organization came up with the concept of enthusing local citizens to send purpose-made postcards stating “Je veux cohabiter avec la nature!” (I want to make room for wildlife!) to their municipality. The aim is to demonstrate to local towns that their citizens take their natural environment seriously and require their elected representatives to adopt planning policies that take wildlife, natural habitats and landscapes into account.



For more information on this story, contact Appalachian Corridor at 450-297-1145.

To download a copy of the “Cohabiter avec la nature!” brochure, click [here](#).

Appalachian Corridor

Appalachian Corridor, founded in 2002, is a not-for-profit conservation organization working to protect natural areas and biodiversity in the Appalachians of Southern Quebec (Canada). More than 12,600 ha (31,135 acres) are currently protected in perpetuity on private land throughout Appalachian Corridor's territory of action, owing to the collaboration of private landowners, Nature Conservancy Canada as well as our Affiliate Members (15 local conservation groups).

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