

WWF8 - CITIZENS PROCESS

Patrick LECANTE

President of the Water and Biodiversity Committee of French Guiana

Mayor of the Municipality of
Montsinery-Tonnegrade

French Guiana is a French overseas territory in South America and a department since 1945, which applies European regulations.

One of the main characteristics of the territory is the cultural and ethnic diversity of populations with a strong demographic dynamic that generates significant challenges in terms of access to essential services, economic development, or social cohesion.

Because water management concerns a wide variety of subject (public health, economic development, regional planning, environment, ethics ...), it's mobilizing all water stakeholders (private, public and citizens).

In 1992 the Water Law institutionalized this approach with the establishment of the Guiana Basin Committee.

A veritable local water parliament, the Guiana Watershed Committee, which since 2017 has become the Water and Biodiversity Committee, is composed of representatives of the national administration, representatives of local communities, socio-professionals and representatives users.

The development of a planning instrument such as the Master Plan for Water Management makes it possible to involve citizens in the decision-making process.

At the local level, as for example in the Montsinéry-Tonnegrade commune, the increasing demand for public participation from the population in water management and spatial planning and the necessary transversality of reflection and action between the various actors of the territory lead to thinking differently decision-making processes by disseminating information on water, strengthening the dialogue between water stakeholders, establishing mutual trust between the various partners.