« The urban transition of a french town in Amazonia: building a shared vision for a sustainable urban development »

« From the thousands villages, to the connected cross-border city »
Presentation outline:

1- Urban issues and scopes for the urban development of Saint Laurent du Maroni

2- Methods and tools for a shared vision

3- First outcomes of the urban workshops
1- Urban issues and scopes for the urban development of Saint Laurent du Maroni

What specificities of the development of the city of St Laurent du Maroni?
A french city, in South America…
...at the border with Suriname, a crossroad of numerous flux...
...facing an important demographic transition
…requiring land resources mobilisation for upgrading policies
2- Methods and tools for a shared vision

In that context, how to mobilize local stakeholders at different scales and across borders, to foster a shared vision for the future urban development?
“Les Ateliers de Cergy” : a tool to produce urban planning solutions...

- A non-governmental organisation created in 1982 in the city of Cergy Pontoise, France;

- A unique method to bring professionnals, local stakeholders and leaders to build a shared vision of their territory.
…bringing numerous leaders and partners across the national borders

- Different nationalities represented in the working teams

- International representatives associated to the discussions
Building a partnership in Saint Laurent with different stakeholders, sharing a common vision…

City Hall’s initiative

Brings relevant stakeholders to the method
Different steps towards building a shared vision...

May 10th – Workshop opening ceremony

May 13th – Open committee for local leaders and partners

May 20th – Final projects presentation and international jury
A pluri-disciplinary method …

PARTICIPANTS PROFILES
11 WOMEN / 10 MEN

- Agronomy, ecology, landscaping
- Architecture, urban planning
- Economy and social sciences
- Mobility, numerical, infrastructures
And an international process...
3- First outcomes of the urban workshops

What are the main issues the Workshops will have to tackle?
Finding and making up a new city model merging public intervention and private initiative…

- Mismatch between demand and supply of urban amenities
- Consequences on urban forms: juxtaposition of different ways of life in different housing markets
- Traditionnal planning tools questioned
- A renewed home-grown economy adapted to local needs to develop and champion
From an fragmented vision towards a connected and multi-scale city …
Issues and themes : the Maroni river

From a city-center turning its back to its riverfront, towards a city connected to the river :

> From North to South : an axis Apatou-Mana
> From East to West : Saint-Laurent – Albina
> Along the river : facilities and publics spaces
Issues and themes: the built environment
Making up new urban forms benefiting from different assets:

> Natural resources and the river, viewed as a potentiality rather than a constraint

> Agriculture, integrated in the city

> Different economic models (individual enterprise vs. State planification), to be combined in upgrading policies
Issues and themes: Infrastructures and facilities

> Adapting mobility infrastructures to increasing needs
> Towards more external connections and better internal organisation
> Connecting the suburbs to facilities through a better connection
> Upgrading existing service facilities and plan future needs
Conclusion

A prospective method to build a long-term partnership for a sustainable urban development:

- At different scales in order to build a common vision of the territory and concrete solutions for urban planning;
- In order to set a shared diagnosis and a sustainable partnership between various local stakeholders;
- Aiming at supporting the changes at work in a developing territory with high potential;
- In a process allowing for suitable decision-making.