



The project is a contribution to the European Union's Water Framework Directive, which, since 2000, has introduced a Community basis for the protection of water.

**The major stakes:**  
to reach a good ecological status for water masses by 2015 (surface water, groundwater and coastal water).

**And in particular:**

- To achieve a good ecological and chemical status of natural superficial water and artificial or altered superficial water.
- To preserve or improve the quality of groundwater.
- To suppress the discharge of «priority hazardous» substances within the next 20 years.
- Not to cause further damage.

## Project INTERREG III A



CITÉ ADMINISTRATIVE

14 rue du Maréchal Juin - 67084 Strasbourg Cedex - www.onf.fr  
Contact : Pierre Geldreich - Tél. 03 88 76 82 57 - Fax 03 88 76 81 49  
email : pierre.geldreich@onf.fr



Contact : Gerhard Schaber-Schoor  
Tél. 0761 - 401867 - email : gerhard.schaber-schoor@forst.bwl.de



Office des Forêts - République et canton du Jura (CH)  
Contact: Michel Monnin  
Tél. 0041-32-420-48-32 - email : michel.monin@jura.ch



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# A cross-border project for the protection of water in forest lands

By its very nature, the forest influences the quality of water. It minimises the effects of flooding and limits soil erosion.

But intensive forestry development and management may damage aquatic environments and associated humid habitats.

Hence a project for more appropriate management.



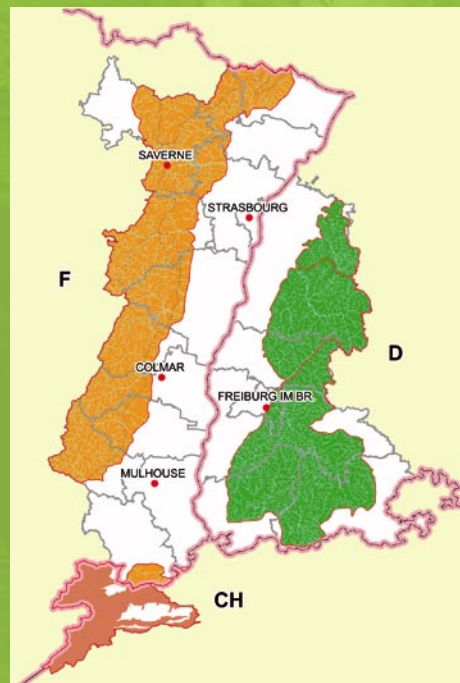
## PROJECTS

This cross-border project involves the Vosges, the Black Forest and the Swiss Jura, which have a dense hydrographic network covering extensive forest lands.

Entitled «**optimisation of the role of the forest in the protection of water courses and humid zones**», it is part of the INTERREG IIIA programme.

It is piloted by ONF Alsace in partnership with the Forestry Research Centre of Freiburg and the Swiss Jura Forestry Commission.

### Study sector



## AIMS

### I To draw up an inventory of the current situation

To gain greater insight into aquatic environments in these forests, a full inventory of the streams and humid zones shall be conducted. This will be backed by an analysis of the biological and physico-chemical quality of certain water courses.

### II To gain greater insight for better management

Training for foresters shall be developed. Courses will include the ecology of water courses and associated humid environments, and notably the impact of forests on the quality factor.

### III To provide adequate tools

To promote a forest management that respects aquatic environments, technical and financial tools will be proposed for the measures required to restore water courses and humid zones.

*Training and exchanges for an appropriate forest management.*

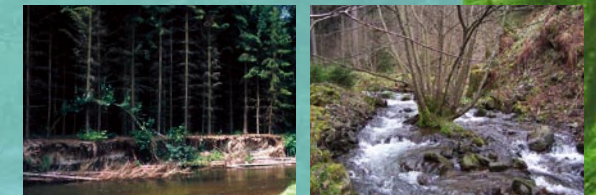


## ACTIONS

### I RESTORATION MEASURES AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS :

- Fostering awareness and training foresters to respect water resources in forestry.
- Restoring riverside woods by gradually transforming conifer plantations.
- Restoring the biological continuity of water courses through modifying structures that form a barrier to aquatic fauna.
- Restoring the functionality of humid zones
- Defining a reference in terms of biological and physico-chemical quality for water in forest streams.
- Proposing technical itineraries in woodlands to improve the quality of the water.
- Proposing a financial assessment of the restoration measures required.

This cross-border project brings together managers and researchers to study water courses and ordinary humid environments in forests in the middle mountain ranges of the middle Rhine basin.



*The aim is to convert conifer plantations that harm the aquatic environments and introduce appropriate species.*



*The biological continuity of streams can be broken. Structures that form a barrier to aquatic fauna must be modified.*



*Aquatic fauna – an indicator of the quality of our streams*