



FORESTS FOR WATER

Demonstration of opportunities on forest land to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The project aims to demonstrate how forestry in Europe could assist in the achievement of the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. The demonstrations reflect a range of EU conditions incl. Västerbotten and Småland in Sweden, Région Rhône-Alpes in France and selected experiences in the United Kingdom. They take place at five levels, i.e. European level, national level, river basin district level, watershed level and local watershed level. The project started on first of September 2003 and runs to February 28th 2007.



Forest authorities are co-operating with the water authorities, the forest owners and their associations, forest companies, NGO's and the authorities for regional and local environment are these levels. Skogsstyrelsen (Swedish Forest Agency), Sweden is the beneficiary for the project. Office National des Forêts, Région Rhône-Alpes is the French co-ordinating Agency while the Forestry Commission is the UK partner.



Further information: www.svo.se/life

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The demonstration

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The demonstrations show new ways of cooperating on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The actions are adapted to what is needed at each spatial scale and in different national contexts. They include:

- A European Expert Advisory Group supporting the WFD implementation in forests.
- Stakeholders in public participation at national, river basin district, watershed and local watershed levels.
- Moving from current towards good status in surface waters and ground waters, including actions that directly influence water quality and reviews of the state of the art on how forestry can contribute.
- Monitoring effects of actions and WFD implementation, as well as investigations of how monitoring partnerships could be developed.
- Forest design planning according to spatial scales, including adaptation of forest planning at the local level and strategies for flood prevention and overall water quality at the watershed level.
- Management in riparian zones, including developing and demonstrating best practices such as buffer strips and habitat restoration.
- Management outside riparian zones including risk management of hill slope forests and restoration of wetlands.
- Capacity-building for the future implementation of the WFD.

Forthcoming events

Concluding Workshop in Sweden 2006

Project organisation

The role of forestry as well as the perspectives on the relation between forests and water differ between the participating countries. This implies different conditions for working towards the implementation of the WFD. The Swedish actions take place in Småland, mainly in the Emån watershed, and in Västerbotten, primarily in the watershed of Öreälven. The French actions take place in the watersheds of Ouvèze (Ardèche), Arve (close to Bonneville), Arly (Cohennoz), and Drôme. The project will also draw on the experiences of on-going and future UK projects at the local level.

Swedish partners are the Swedish Forest Agency, the Department of Environmental Assessment at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, WWF Sweden, the County Administrations of Västerbotten and Jönköping and the Forest Research Institute of Sweden. French partners include Office National des Forêts, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Délégation Rhône-Alpes, Région Rhône-Alpes, Communauté de Communes du Val de Drôme, l'Union Régionale des Associations des Communes Forestières de Rhône-Alpes, le Syndicat Intercommunal de l'Ouvèze and le Syndicat Mixte d'Aménagement de l'Arve et de ses abords. The water authorities (Water Agency and Ministry of Environment) are co-financiers and will be actively involved in the national/regional participatory groups. Further organisations that may be involved in the French component are organisations of forest owners or local municipalities and NGO:s supporting the project. The UK partner is the Forestry Commission, especially its forest research unit.

Project manager

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