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SUMMARY: Taking into account the mountain forests with a function of protection when mapping natural hazard above roads - an economic approach.

Author: Jérôme Liévois, geologist, ONF/RTM

The Restoration of Mountain Territories department (RTM) of the National Forests Office (ONF) has developed a pragmatic method for mapping forests with a protective role against rock falls. It has been tested in the specific context of the road network of the department of Haute-Savoie (France).

It was assessed that in 40% of the areas concerned by natural hazards, forests can have a protective role, therefore allowing a financial gain in regard to other protection structures, on the long term.

Nevertheless, the management of the forests that is needed to optimize their protective function can conflict with the need of using the road network all year round, and the difficult perception that decision makers have of it.