

Wild Rivers

The “Wild Rivers Site” label

*For conservation & sustainable development
of wild rivers in Europe*



The “Wild Rivers” programme : preserving the remaining gems in Europe’s natural landscape

Rivers and streams that have remained untouched and escaped any major changes to their natural shape (flood barriers, embankments, and others modification...) and maintain crystal clear water are extremely rare in France and Europe. They should all be protected. However, the current regulations, mainly those stemming from the European Water Framework Directive, are not sufficient.

To counter the threats to wild rivers, notably from unsustainable hydroelectric power projects, a group was formed in 2008 at the initiative of the WWF and ERN France to launch the Wild Rivers program.

Between 2011 and 2013 an evaluation grid including 9 fields and 47 social-ecological criteria, were prepared by a technical committee composed of experts and scientists working in various institutions and regions.

It also considers the commitment and good governance of local actors.



An innovative tool for “Wild Rivers”, supported by local stakeholders



The label will provide the regions that acquire it with the means to protect and develop their natural sites, while enhancing their image among various stakeholders

The label is awarded on condition that the river passes the Wild River evaluation grid and that a conservation action plan is established over a period of time.

The label is not bound by any legal document . It is a reflection of the desire of local authorities to promote the exemplary work carried out to effectively protect their remarkable river.

The label creates a dynamic between local actors: politicians, residents, farmers and fishermen come together in order to contribute to the development and promotion of the local “river capital”.



2014, La Valserine was the first river to be awarded the label in France

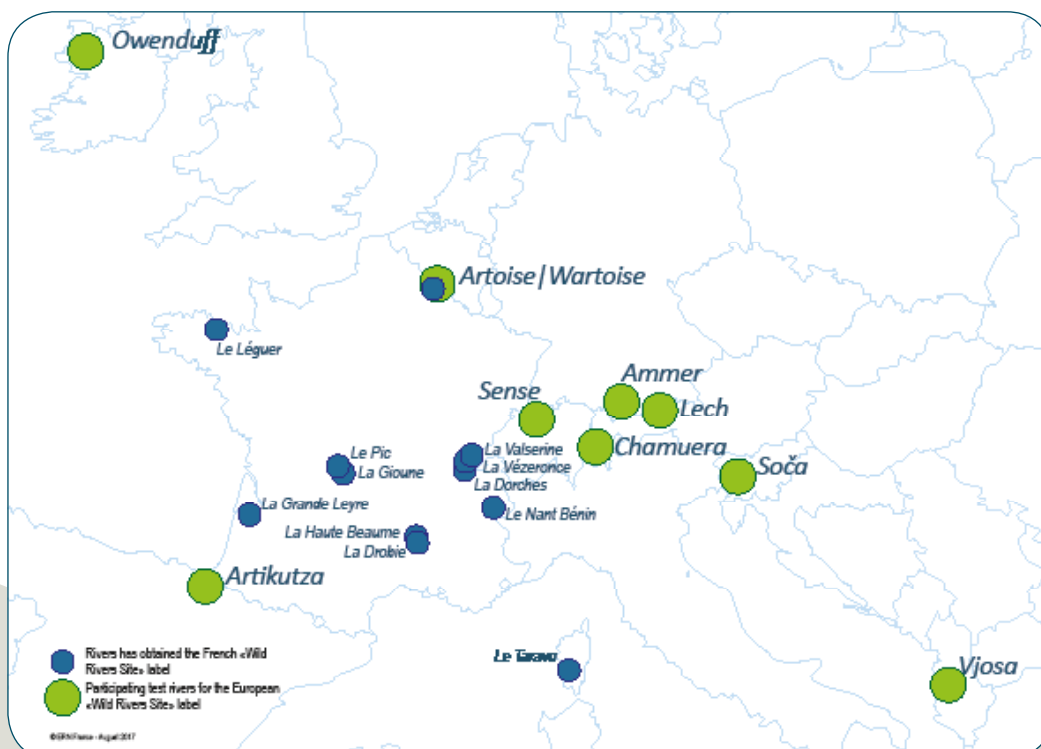
Developing a network of labeled Wild Rivers, in France and Europe



2016, creation of the network of labeled Wild Rivers, in Paris

Created in France in 2016, the aim of the network is to connect all the stakeholders involved in these remarkable regions, to make them exchange their knowledge and experience and form a strong influential group.

Over the two years 2017 and 2018, ERN will be working on new rivers with regional partners to adapt the label to the European scale. The selected test sites are the Soča in Slovenia, the Chamuera in Switzerland, the Ammer in Germany, the Lech in Austria, the Owenduff in Ireland and perhaps some others in Spain, Italy, the Balkans...



The governance of the “Wild Rivers” programme: a collaboration between private and public partners

Wild Rivers programme has two cornerstone elements: the Wild Rivers Fund and the ERN, a certified association under the French Law of 1901, approved for the protection of wilderness areas and a partner of the WWF since 1989.

ERN works with public agencies and manages the Wild Rivers programme, and the Wild Rivers Fund, intended to develop partnerships with businesses and raise private funds.

The cooperation with government bodies is reconized through a framework agreement signed between the Ministry of Ecology, French Agency of Biodiversity, the six water authorities and ERN.



© Iréna Kavčić

For more information :

Contact : ERN - Rivières Sauvages
 8 rue Crozatier - 43000 Le Puy-en-Velay
 France / +33 4 71 05 57 88
wildriverseurope.org
wildalpinerivers.org
wildbalkanrivers.org



© Philippe Boisson

With financial support from:

EFTA (European Fishing Tackle Trade Association) is the first private partner for the construction of this european label / www.efta.com

“Mankind, never forget that a river is life.”
 Bernard Clavel

