What is a LIFE programme?

LIFE (Financial Instrument for the Environment) aims to co-finance innovative environment and climate projects in the European Union. The climate actions target climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Raising awareness and providing information for better protection

Throughout the programme, awareness-raising actions are proposed to involve local inhabitants and elected officials in the preservation of peatlands: festivals, development of trails, exhibitions, on-site information panels, work site visits, public meetings, school events, educational tools, etc.

Meetings and training sessions for European nature managers, professionals in the field of animation and agricultural high schools are also organised to share the experience acquired by the programme team.

Life Climat tourbières du Jura

THE PROGRAMME IN A FEW WORDS

NAME: LIFE Climat Jura peatlands

CODE NAME: LIFE RestituO

MISSION: to rehabilitate 70 peatlands and limit the impact of their degradation on climate change

DURATION: 7 years (from September 2022 to August 2029)

TOTAL BUDGET: €12.5 million

LOCATION: Jura massif of the Franche-Comté region

COORDINATING BENEFICIARY: Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Franche-Comté

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARIES: EPAGE Haut-Doubs Haute-Loue, Parc naturel régional du Haut-Jura, EPAGE Doubs Dessoubre and Association des amis de la Réserve naturelle du lac de Remoray

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: European Union, Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, Ministry of Ecological Transition, ADEME Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region, Doubs and Jura Departments.

LIFE Climat Jura peatlands

LIFE 21-CCM-FR-004238-LIFE RestituO

Coordinating beneficiary

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Funders

Life

agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse – établissement public de l'État

Ministère de la Transition écologique – Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité

ADEME – Agence de la transition écologique

Région Bourgogne Franche Comté

Doubs le Département

jura le département

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Follow the news of the programme
www.life-climat-tourbieres-jura.fr

Life Climat tourbières du Jura

Conserving water and carbon in the peatlands of the Jura Mountains

A European programme to limit the impact of degraded peatlands on climate change

7 years to continue “repairing” the peatlands

Building on the experience gained during the LIFE Jura peatlands program, which ran from 2014 to 2021, the new LIFE Climat programme for peatlands in the Jura, which will run for seven years, is even more ambitious. It mobilises significant resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the degradation of the peatlands in the Jura region.

Degraded and endangered environments

Considered in the past by man as unproductive, unhealthy and even dangerous areas, the peatlands have been damaged by human activities in recent centuries:

- small-scale, but systematic extraction of peat for domestic heating on all the peatlands of the massif between the 18th and mid-20th centuries;
- drainage and rectification of watercourses in an attempt to transform them into productive land;
- filling in, planting, fertilising, creating water bodies, dumping rubbish, etc.

In recent decades, the effects of climate change and atmospheric pollution have also been added to the mix, particularly affecting these environments already weakened by past degradation.

Almost all of the peatlands in the Franche-Comté region have been degraded, to varying degrees, by human activities.

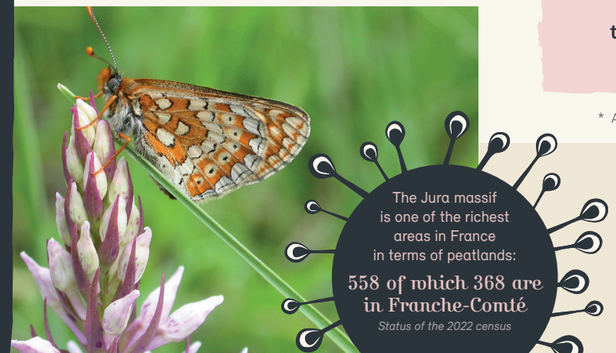
Why intervene? To restore the ecological, heritage and economic role of these environments!

The ecological rehabilitation work carried out during this programme will make it possible to improve the functioning of degraded peatlands and increase their resilience to climate change. These environments will thus be able to fully play their multiple functions.

Peatlands, powerful carbon traps

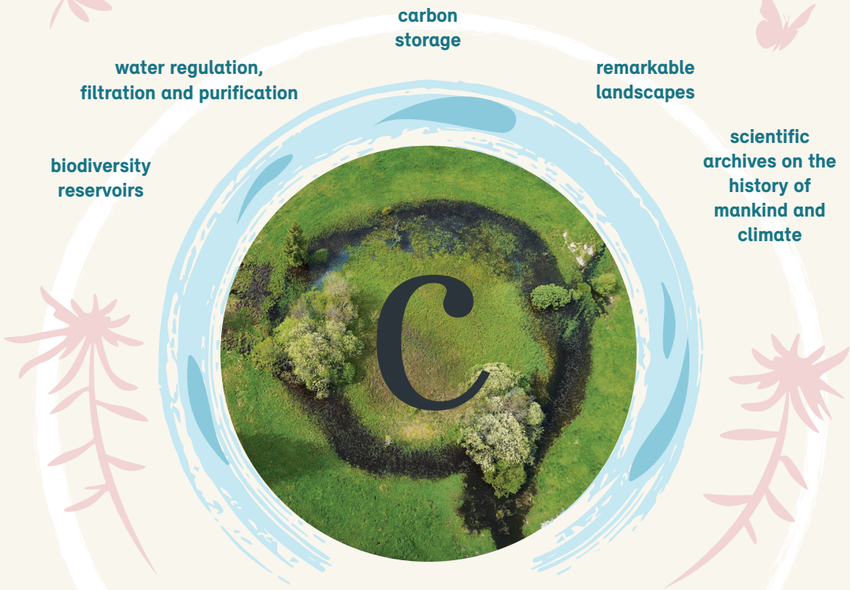
Peatlands account for 3% of the world's land area but contain 30% of all the world's carbon trapped in soils.

When they function properly, they slowly accumulate and fix carbon over time. But when they are degraded, they quickly release the carbon stored for thousands of years into the atmosphere as greenhouse gases. They then contribute to climate change.



The Jura massif is one of the richest areas in France in terms of peatlands:
558 of which 368 are in Franche-Comté
Status of the 2022 census

The services provided by peatlands



Peatlands have been accumulating carbon for more than 6000 years in the Jura Mountains. A dysfunctional peatland can emit up to 30 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent* per hectare per year, which corresponds to a car journey of 155,000 km, or about four times around the Earth.

The carbon flow released by degraded peatlands today represents nearly 5% of man-made greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

* A unit that allows us to compare the warming power of greenhouse gases (CO_2, methane, nitrous oxide, etc.)

7 years to act

70 peatlands
to be rehabilitated

500 ha and 60 municipalities
concerned

27 ha of former extraction
to be regenerated

18 km of watercourses
to be restored

36 km of drainage ditches
to be neutralized

Studies prior to work

In order to effectively and sustainably rehabilitate such environments, precise knowledge of the context and the causes of the dysfunction of each site is necessary. Furthermore, as management or restoration actions can only be carried out with the agreement of the owners of the plots concerned, land management work is carried out throughout the programme.

Work to keep water and carbon in the peatlands

Adapted to each site, depending on its hydrological supply and the disturbances identified, the work aims in particular to raise and stabilise the level of the water table. This maintains water saturation allowing the peatlands to regenerate and thus avoids releasing carbon into the atmosphere.

Monitoring of the impact of the work on the environment is planned throughout the programme (measurement of greenhouse gas emissions, changes in vegetation and animal species, etc.).

Committed actors

Conservatoire d’espaces naturels de Franche-Comté
Interventions on 15 peatlands

EPAGE Haut-Doubs Haute-Loue
Interventions on 20 peatlands

Parc naturel régional du Haut-Jura
Interventions on 26 peatlands

EPAGE Doubs Dessoubre
Interventions on 4 peatlands

Association des amis de la Réserve naturelle du lac de Remoray
Interventions on 5 peatlands