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A Process-Based Guide to Low-Tech Restoration of Riverine Environments

Structure : Rhône-Alpes-Auvergne River Association (ARRA2)



This pocket guide is designed to assist river professionals and practitioners who wish to incorporate process-based, low-tech regeneration into their river restoration practices. In this approach, the idea is not to attempt to replicate and freeze what a river looks like, but rather to reactivate what a river does—how it behaves—in order to restore a **healthy**, **self-sustaining river ecosystem**.

It is organized into three sections:

- the **principles** and **key concepts for understanding** river environments,
- **guidance** and **steps** for implementing a project to support waterways in reactivating their processes,
- a **detailed description** of the low-tech structures used to mimic two “keystone” processes: the effects of deadwood accumulation and beaver construction activity (*“Wood Structures”* and *“Beaver-Type Structures”*).

It includes a glossary, which reflects the special attention paid to the choice of vocabulary, as well as a list of resources for further reading: recent publications, studies, dedicated websites and platforms...

This is a free adaptation of the Riverscapes Consortium's "Low-tech Process-based Restoration of Riverscapes: Pocket Field Guide" for the French-speaking context, designed to facilitate the understanding and implementation of this approach in Europe.

Since 1999, **the Association Rivière Rhône Alpes Auvergne (ARRA²)** has been coordinating a network of several hundred professionals to **exchange ideas**, **share experiences, and improve technical knowledge** on increasingly complex topics related to **the comprehensive management of aquatic environments and water**.

The association's objective is to **"*promote knowledge and exchange among professionals working in the water sector*."** The real challenge for all members is **improving the condition of aquatic environments**.

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https://www.arraa.org/documents-techniques/guide-de-terrain-regeneration-low-tech-fondee-sur-les-processus