

CIL&B

Club Infrastructures
Linéaires et Biodiversité

Joint corporate commitment to biodiversity



Numerous crossing structures are
set up to restore existing biological
corridors over the rail network.

SAINT-SAUVAND FOREST (VIENNE)

LISEA, PASCAL LE DOUARE



Employees move an
osprey nest installed
on an electric pylon
to a nearby location in
order to secure the nest.

LOIR-ET-CHER RTE

Created in 2011, the Linear Infrastructure and Biodiversity Club (CILB) brings together ten major french infrastructure operators: **ASFA**, **EDF Hydro**, **Eiffage Concessions**, **Enedis**, **GRTgaz**, **LISEA**, **SNCF Réseau**, **RTE**, **Teréga** and **VNF**.



Linear infrastructure operators face similar biodiversity issues. Hence the advantage in working together. The CILB is an informal club set up to exchange best practices, feedback and know-how among its members. It deals with current issues and provides a point of contact for its institutional partners.

As the operator of the national road network, the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition is involved in the CILB's work.





Polygala comosa was discovered in 2012 in the right-of-way of a power line in the Île-de-France region, when it was thought to have disappeared since the 1960s.

RTE

Enhancing knowledge, listing and protecting species

The CILB partners with numerous organisations which promote biodiversity.

Inventories are drawn up from the design stage throughout the entirety of the networks' service life. Sometimes, they lead to discoveries of species that were hitherto not listed in the field of study, and help to enhance knowledge of their biology and their movement. The CILB has signed conventions and agreements covering data exchanges with bodies such as the French Museum of natural history (MNHN), the Regional Conservatories of natural areas (CRENs), the National botanical Conservatory (CBN), the Bird protection society (LPO) and local associations. The CILB is a major contributor to the national repository of Biodiversity data (DepoBio) and its evolution. DepoBio is aimed at enriching the national inventory of natural heritage.



The discovery of a thick shelled river mussel by SNCF Réseau during an inventory was transmitted to the CNPN in order to better map the french presence of this protected species.

SAINT-JULIEN-LES-VILLAS (AUBE)

SNCF RÉSEAU

The CILB also participates in the Strategic Orientation Committee of the FRB (Foundation for Research on Biodiversity). In collaboration with the FRB and Ittecop (Transport Infrastructures, Ecosystems and Landscapes), the Club implements research programs. Twenty-nine projects confronting the technical challenges of infrastructures and their interfaces with territories, ecosystems and landscapes have been supported since 2014. A new cycle is underway (from 2021 to 2024).

In 2016, the CILB joined the Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE), a European organization whose purpose is the integration of linear infrastructures into their environment. Member of the IENE Governance Board, the CILB regularly presents its projects at conferences.

Plants are held in place by a coco fibre net in order to restore the bank of a canal and preserve the riverbank biotope.

VNF



A sensitive area is protected during works on the railway.

SNCF RÉSEAU



Sharing best practices in ecological engineering

LIMITING THE EFFECTS OF FRAGMENTATION

Although they have a small footprint, linear infrastructures lead to territorial fragmentation that can affect ecosystems. In order to restore biological corridors, the CILB promotes the exchange of know-how on crossing structures to improve their performance.



A fish ladder ensures that fish securely bypass a dam on the Rhine.

EDF, RÉA,
XAVIER POPY

CREATING AREAS THAT ENCOURAGE DIVERSIFICATION OF SPECIES

The CILB encourages ecological engineering techniques to restore, renaturalize or maintain environments favourable to biodiversity along infrastructures. CILB companies contribute to the operation and financing of the OFB's ecological engineering resource centre. They work to limit the fragmentation of the French "green and blue framework" and, where necessary, to strengthen this framework.

ENSURING THAT SITES STAY GREEN

Before commencing engineering work, a description of the initial condition of the environment is established. This allows the identification of natural habitats and lists the species present in order to avoid certain areas and to take measures to reduce the impact in the project area. This may involve: transferring individuals, adapting work schedules to avoid periods of sensitivity, limiting light pollution...



A viaduct helps preserve ecological continuity and remarkable natural environments under the railway.
HIGH-SPEED RAILWAY
LINE BRITTANY/
PAYS DE LA LOIRE,
ARGENTRE
(MAYENNE)
EIFFAGE, GAIL ARNAUD

A botanist studies the contribution of gas easement strips to the preservation of natural heritage and to ecological continuity on a regional scale.
VALLÉE DE LA BASSÉE
(SEINE-ET-MARNE)
GRT GAZ, D. COULIER

SUSTAINABLE NETWORK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

A working group was created within the CILB to discuss alternative techniques to the use of phytosanitary products for the maintenance of networks and their rights-of-way.

Maintenance under eco-pasturage. This ecological technique consists of turning sheep out to graze, watched over by a shepherd.

CANAL D'AIRE
(NORD-PAS-
DE-CALAIS)

VNF, PHILÉAS FOTOS



ANIMAL CROSSINGS ON THE MOTORWAY NETWORK

Elementary school students plant trees on this crossing structure that aims to restore a wildlife corridor between France and Switzerland.

ARENTHON
(HAUTE-SAVOIE)
CAPTEURS DE RÊVES

Monitoring amphibians in a pond allows companies to assess the use of crossing structures by small fauna.

BOUCAUD
(PUY-DE-DÔME)
VINCI AUTOROUTES, DAVID PINOLI



Participating in the governance of biodiversity

The CILB sits on the National Committee for Biodiversity (CNB) where it is represented in various specialised commissions. It thus contributes to the preparation of pieces of legislation. It has also been a member of the steering committee of the French Office for Biodiversity. Its members are involved in actions and partnerships with various organisations such as the “Resource Centres”, the “Végétal local” brand or the Marine Protected Areas. They act at a local level and take part in regional committees and regional biodiversity agencies.

Raising awareness among staff

Members of the CILB raise awareness among their employees on biodiversity issues so that operational actions and decisions are better suited to their environmental context. Different actions are implemented depending on the company: training courses, awareness-raising actions during the European Week for Sustainable Development or during the “Fête de la Nature” (French Festival of Nature), competitions on the theme of biodiversity. These events receive coverage by internal communication services.



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