

The **Source to Tap** project focuses on the River Erne and River Derg catchments which straddle the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland and form part of our shared drinking water sources.



source → **to** → **tap**

The project aims to demonstrate how we can reduce the impacts we have on our rivers and lakes. This will create multiple benefits for our sources of drinking water, the wider freshwater environment and the people and wildlife that depend on it. Source to Tap will develop a Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan (SCAMP) which will bring together the knowledge and learning from the project so that we can better protect our precious drinking water sources.

If you would like to learn more or find out how you can get involved in this project visit

www.sourcetotap.eu

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For further information contact:

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Project Partners



The 'Source to Tap' project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



Clean water is essential for the health and wellbeing of our families and for our wildlife. It is essential for jobs, it is essential for tourism, clean water is essential for our future.

Source to Tap is an innovative and exciting cross-border partnership project, which aims to develop sustainable, catchment-scale solutions for the protection of rivers and lakes, which are the sources of our drinking water.

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Water is the most vital element of all natural resources, and is essential to life.

The majority of drinking water, supplied to our taps 365 days a year, originates from rivers and lakes. However, before it can be used, the water undergoes a costly treatment process to remove naturally occurring material, and matter arising from run-off from land use, such as farming, forestry and peatland.

It has been shown that encouraging simple changes in land management practices in the river catchment can prevent pressures on water quality before they arise. This in turn can achieve huge environmental benefits for our rivers and lakes, and the wildlife that depends on them, as well as reducing the cost of supplying clean drinking water to our taps.



The more polluted our rivers are the more challenging it is to supply clean drinking water

A single drop of herbicide can breach the drinking water limit of a small stream for 30km!

Source to Tap is trialling a variety of measures, designed to improve our drinking water sources by reducing the impacts we have on our rivers and lakes through:



Working with schools and the local community to highlight the important connection between our rivers and lakes and what comes out of the tap.



Helping our farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices that help reduce herbicide residue and soil escaping from the land into rivers and lakes, through the implementation of a cross-border Land Incentive Scheme (LIS).



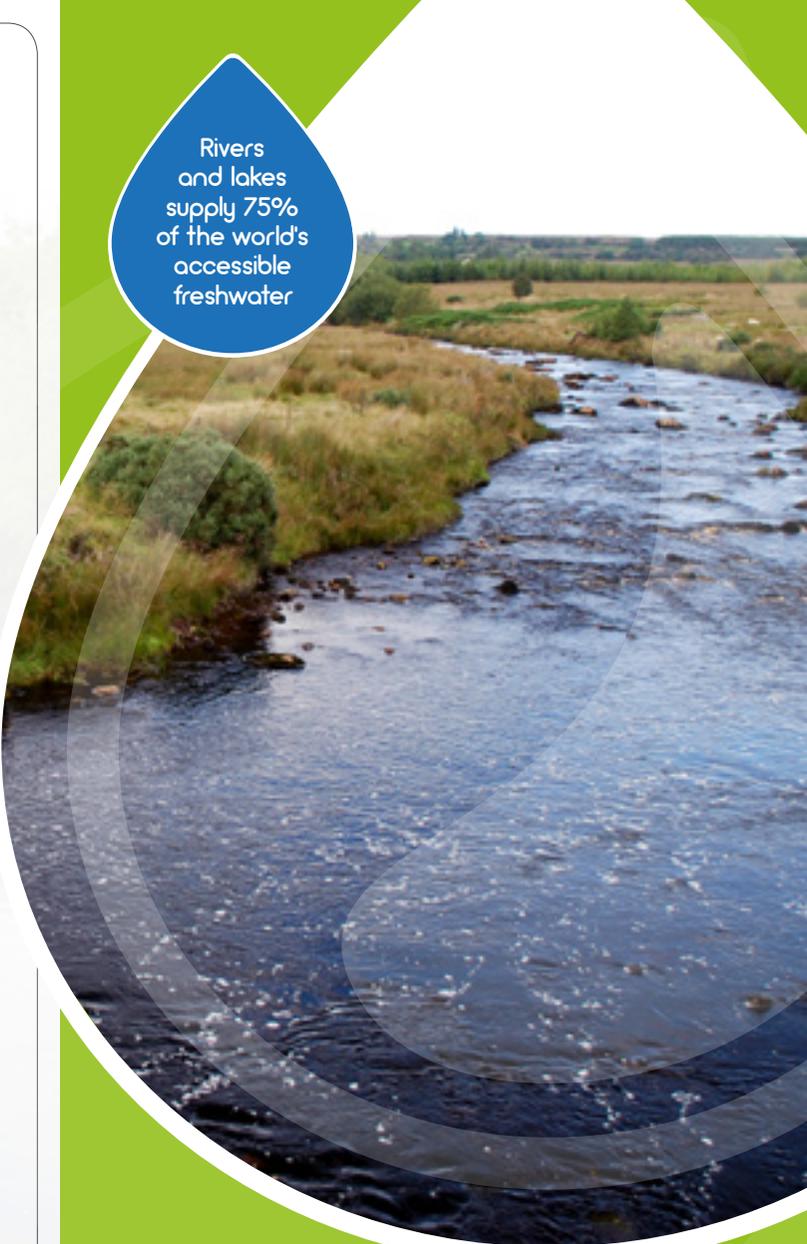
Trialling mitigation measures to reduce soil erosion and sediment run-off to our rivers and lakes from forestry activity.



Restoring an area of previously afforested peatland to improve the health of the bog and reduce soil run-off to rivers and lakes.



Citizen science and volunteering opportunities that encourage people to get involved in protecting and improving our rivers and lakes, that are the sources of our drinking water and home to our precious wildlife.



Rivers and lakes supply 75% of the world's accessible freshwater

Best practice will help form a Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan (known as a SCAMP), so that what is learnt, and is shown to work well, can be replicated in other drinking water source areas in the United Kingdom, Ireland and beyond.