



PRESS RELEASE

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Meenbog landslide impact on INTERREG VA project

Source to Tap is a €4.9m funded project which is led by NI Water in partnership with Irish Water, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, East Border Region, Ulster University and The Rivers Trust, to trial sustainable catchment management solutions to improve raw water quality in the Derg and Erne catchments. The Project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, match-funded by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland, the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in Ireland, and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The Meenbog landslide will have a significant impact on the Source to Tap project which has been ongoing in the area since 2017. The €4.9m INTERREG VA funded project on the Erne and Derg, was designed to pilot sustainable catchment management activities to improve raw water abstracted for drinking water quality.

NI Water Project Manager, Source to Tap, Diane Foster, explains:

“This incident has caused tonnes and tonnes of sediment from a landslide to enter the rivers we have been working with local landowners and stakeholders to improve. Any improvements in terms of reductions on colour and turbidity results from the installation of measures by farmers will be unlikely to be evident in the monitoring results due to the huge amounts of sediment from the landslide.

“The INTERREG partners and the local community, particularly local farmers, have all worked so hard on this project - it is devastating that their efforts won't now be captured in the way we originally planned.

“However, it is vital to continue with the work we were doing, as the improvements to date were extremely positive and we were confident of some excellent results. We must remember that the project initiative will have benefits long into the future, and not just over the next few years.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
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“This environmental disaster is a timely reminder of how intertwined our systems are and how we must all act as guardians to protect our peatland and rivers.”

NI Water moved quickly to reassure the public water quality has not been impacted as significant actions were taken by staff to protect the Derg Water Treatment Works at the time of the incident by utilising an alternative supply.

Further information on the INTERREG project can be found at <https://www.sourcetotap.eu/>

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Notes to editor:

- Source to Tap (the Project) is a €4.9 million collaborative, cross-border project, which aims to deliver a Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan (SCAMP) for the protection of source drinking water catchments.
- The Project is led by Northern Ireland Water and delivered in partnership with Irish Water, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, East Border Region, Ulster University and The Rivers Trust.
- The Project is funded by the European Union’s INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) with support from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in Ireland.

(Total project value €4.9 million; €4.2 million through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through INTERREG VA and €0.7 million match funding through DAERA and DHLGH).
- The Project will run for 5 years – 2017-2021. They will also work with volunteers and provide training opportunities for land managers/farms/businesses, which will help the project to deliver its objectives of improving freshwater quality.



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PRESS QUERIES – Please e-mail the NI Water Press Office - press.office@niwater.com



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