

BACKGROUND BRIEFING AND ARGUMENTATION DOCUMENT

(translated from French version)



EcoLaVersoix
ASSOCIATION DE PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ

Landfill site project for Type A landfill for excavated material and Type B landfill (non-recoverable mineral and slightly polluted excavated materials), at the « Tattes-de-Bogis » Commugny and Chavannes-de-Bogis communes, Vaud

ENVIRONMENTAL ARGUMENTS

1. The sectoral plan for controlled landfills, Vaud (Le Plan des décharges (PSD) vaudois)

The Tattes-de-Bogis landfill is listed in the sectoral plan for controlled landfills (PSD – June 2024 edition) under number 1-101 and is also listed as one of the priority sites in the Cantonal waste management plan (Plan cantonal Vaudois de gestion des déchets – PGD – October 2020).

Located in an agricultural zone, between the Chemin du Pont de Grilly, the Route Cantonale de la Branvaude (Cantonal road between Chavannes-des-Bois and Chavannes-de-Bogis) and the Domaine de Péguey, it is intended to provide permanent storage for around 1'723'000 m³ of waste (including top soil, according to the latest data provided). This will include type A unpolluted excavated material and type B slightly polluted excavated material and non-recoverable mineral materials from deconstruction, which could include asbestos-based waste, vitrified residues, lead and antimony residues, over a period of 10 years.

The sectoral plan for controlled landfills (PSD) states that, in terms of constraints, it is necessary to "take account of the Cantonal ecological network (réseau écologique cantonal - REC): in an area of priority biological interest (territoire d'intérêt biologique prioritaire - TIBP), in areas of superior biological interest (territoire d'intérêt biologique - TIBS) and in a zone providing a wildlife corridor of supra-regional or regional importance". In addition, the plan states: "Coordination with the contract for the Vesancy-Versoix wildlife corridors".

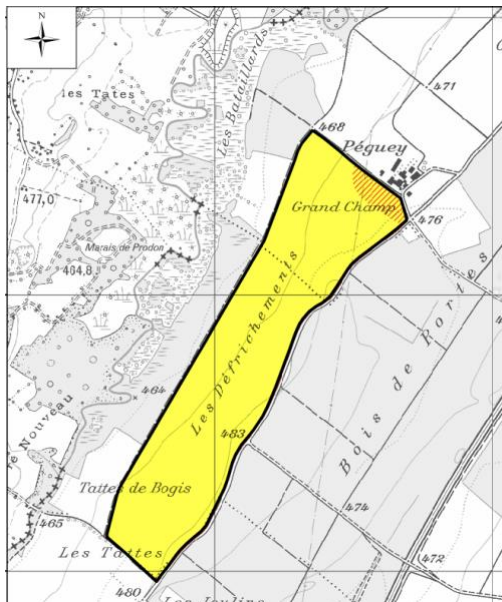


Figure 1 : 1-101 : Tattes-de-Bogis/ PSDC from 2016 edition on p. 62-63
https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/themes/environnement/dechet/light.pdf

2. Cantonal Ecological Network - Réseau écologique cantonal (REC)

The Cantonal Ecological Network (REC) contributes to the national biodiversity strategy by identifying, at a regional level, the main routes used by wildlife at inter-cantonal and supra-regional level.

Provided for in sheet E22 of the Cantonal Master Plan, the Cantonal Ecological Network (REC), "highlights the importance of connections between biotope habitats. Indeed, to ensure the long-term survival of a species, it is essential that its habitats are connected to one another, so that re-colonisation can take place in the event of a local extinction event and in order that genetic exchange remains possible". The Cantonal Ecological Network (REC), is made up of areas of priority biological interest (TIBP), of areas of superior biological interest (TIBS) and wildlife corridors that provide a safe passage between these different areas.

Les Tattes-de-Bogis is located in a zone that provides a supra-regional biological connection between the area of priority biological interest (TIBP) of the Versoix marshes and the area of superior biological interest (TIBS) of the Bois de Portes, underlying the need for " the supra-regional nature of the zone to be strengthened".

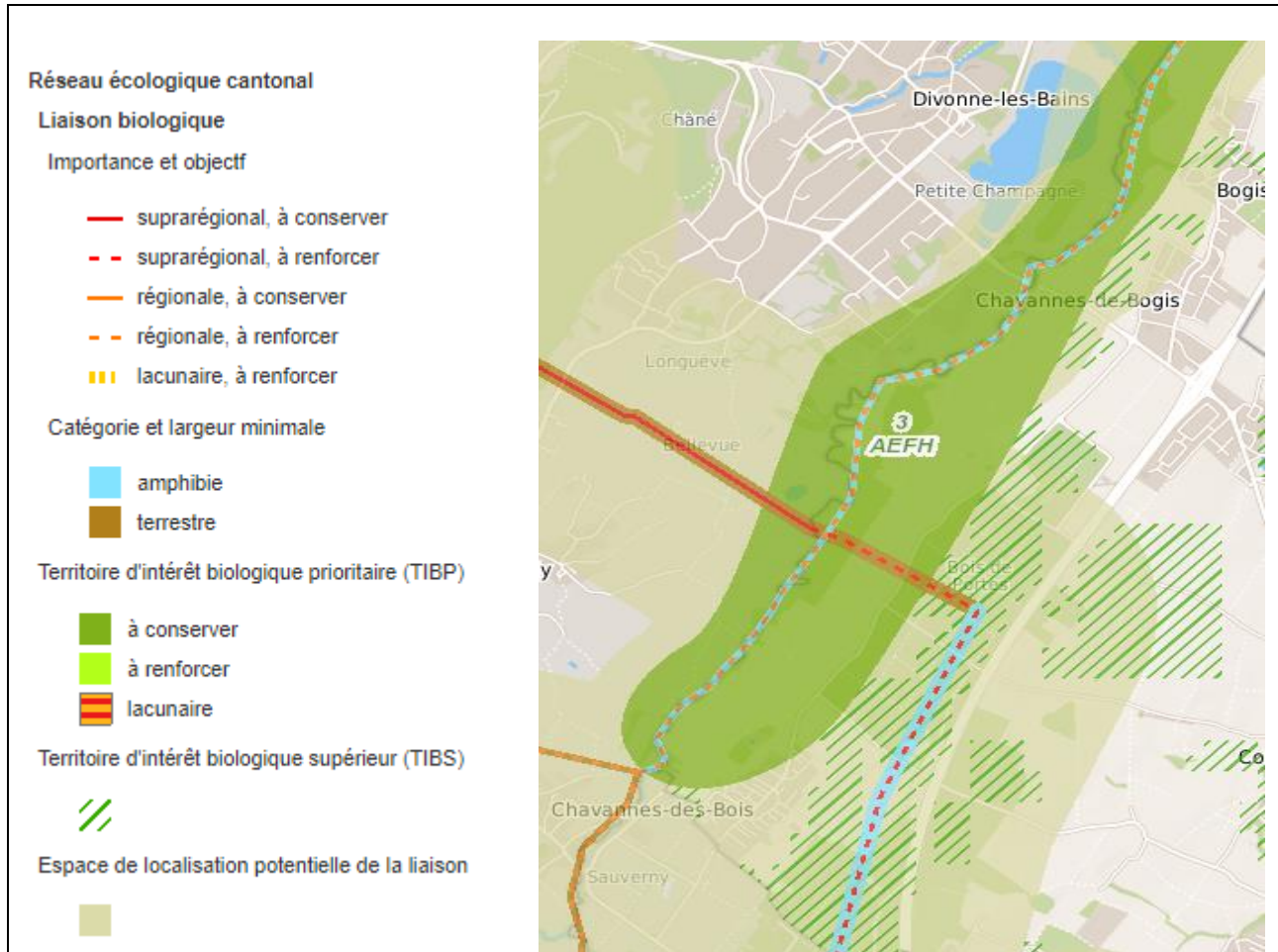


Figure 2 Extract from the Cantonal Ecological Network (REC), biological link

https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/themes/territoire/amenagement/PDCn/Contenu_detaille/E2_2_Reseau_ecologique_cantonal.pdf

The Tattes-de-Bogis probably constitutes the most important wildlife corridor in the Vesancy-Versoix "Wildlife Corridors Contract".

Natural wildlife corridors are strips of land that act as pathways for animals to travel between areas of fragmented habitat. Wildlife corridors provide the space animals need to migrate to find food and water and reproduce so that they can thrive in their natural environments.

All the large animals, particularly the red deer, found in both the Bois de Portes and the woods around Versoix (GE) have no choice but to pass through the Tattes-de-Bogis on their way down from the Jura. **This is the main crossing point for red deer during their seasonal migrations.** The animals descend from the Jura via the Arbère corridor (Divonne-les-Bains) in France, before crossing the Versoix river and Grand Bataillard marshes. At night, they cross the Tattes-de-Bogis agricultural zone towards the Bois-de-Portes before reaching the Versoix woods along the Creuson.

The Tattes-de-Bogis agricultural zone is also a nesting area for priority bird species such as the Skylark, the Quail and the Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius Collurio*).

This supra-regional wildlife corridor has been clearly identified for many years. Although the Tattes-de-Bogis zone is already considered to have been "disrupted" by the dense traffic on the route de la Branvaude, it is nonetheless essential for maintaining biodiversity in the Versoix-Terre-Sainte region, and **any further damage to this strip of native habitat must be avoided.**

3. Derisory ecological compensation measures

Wildlife corridors play an essential role, particularly in low-lying areas where humans increasingly encroach on the animals' domains. The natural habitats of wild animals are increasingly fragmented and **only the maintenance of sufficient connectivity between dispersed animal populations can ensure the biological exchanges that are essential for maintaining biodiversity.**

The wildlife corridors can be established and developed through the cultivation of natural vegetation such as trees, shrubs or other herbaceous cover. For each corridor, there is the central transit corridor and two lateral strips that act as buffer zones. These are essential to prevent the encroachment of human activities close by from disturbing the wildlife's domain - which could in turn compromise its functioning.

Specific recommendations have been formulated to achieve the specific objectives of wildlife corridors. In the central zone, for example, a minimum of 30% of the shrub layer should comprise well-structured woody elements.

Despite the acknowledged importance of the Tattes-de-Bogis supra-regional wildlife corridor, the developers of the landfill project have provided very few ecological compensatory measure guarantees other than those provided for amphibians.

In fact, despite the fact that the current wildlife corridor across the Tattes-de-Bogis between the Marais de la Versoix (TIBP =Territory of Priority Biological Interest) and the Bois de Portes (TIBS - Territory of Superior Biological Interest) is almost 1,600 metres wide, only two intermittent hedgerows of 6 m wide framed by two lateral buffer strips of the same size are planned at this stage. A number of channels for amphibians would also have to be dug in alignment with the hedgerows.

It is clear that if a landfill site were to be built on the Tattes-de-Bogis in the centre of this wildlife corridor of supra-regional importance, the functionality of the corridor would not be guaranteed by only two 18m-wide corridors with intermittent hedgerows (including the buffer strips).

The total width of the wildlife corridor is dependent on its degree of importance (local, regional supra-regional).

Liaison d'importance	Largeur du couloir central		Largeur des bandes latérales		Largeur totale	
	minimum	recommandé	minimum	recommandé	minimum	recommandé
locale	10	15	2 x 10	2 x 20	30	55
régionale	20	50	2 x 10	2 x 50	40	150
suprarégionale	60	100	2 x 20	2 x 150	100	400

Figure 3 : Sizing of wildlife corridors according to their degree of importance (metres); according to local regional and supra-regional splits, and based on the central corridor and the width of lateral bands adjacent to the corridors – with the total wildlife corridor width (right-hand column)

In addition, as the landfill project is due to be in operation for 10 years, there is a significant risk that such a long period of interruption for wild animals could bring the vital biological exchanges between the two key areas on either side of the wildlife corridor into jeopardy, with a permanent and negative impact on biodiversity.

Wildlife Reserve No. 23

The entire area within the boundary of the Chemin du Pont de Grilly, the Route de la Branvaude, the Route de Divonne and the Versoix river, which includes the Tattes-de-Bogis, is part of Wildlife Reserve No. 23 (Réserve de faune no. 23). Dogs must be kept on a lead, hunting is strictly regulated and traffic is prohibited for non-agricultural vehicles.

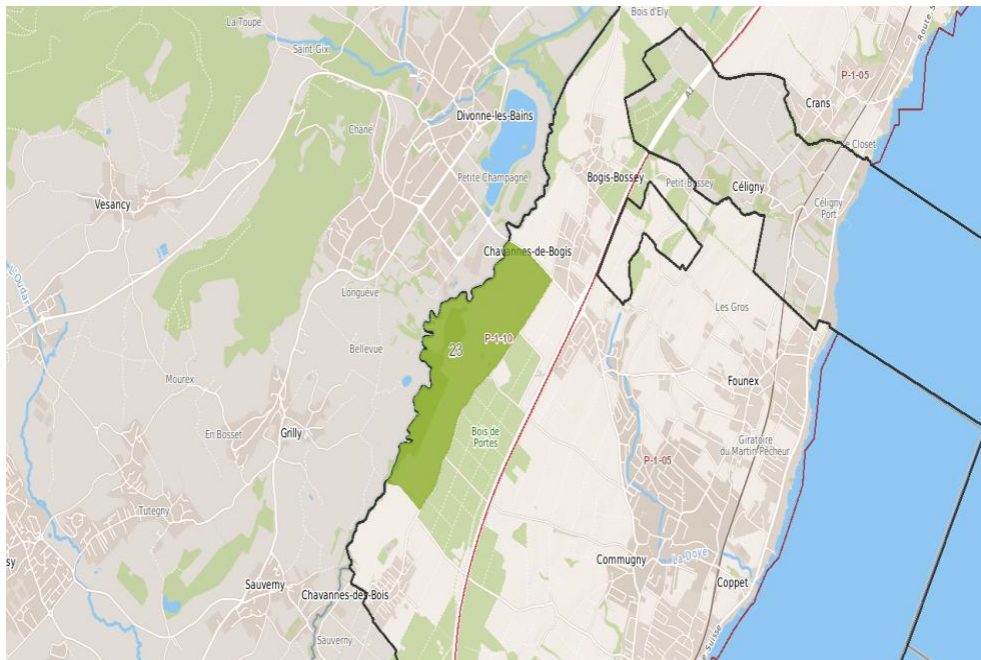


Figure 4 : Map of Wildlife reserve no. 23

https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/themes/environnement/faune_nature/fichiers_pdf/REC/Rapport_REC_VD.pdf

4. Neighbouring biological sites included in several Swiss Federal inventories

As well as being located in an integral part of a supra-regional wildlife corridor, the Tattes-de-Bogis is located between two sites that are featured in several Swiss Federal inventories.

Firstly, the Marais de la Versoix marshlands, which stretch from the Pont de Grilly (bridge) to the Swiss/French border crossing at Chavannes-de-Bogis: there is an inventory listing in the Federal inventory (number 118) for the "Grand Bataillard alluvial zone of national importance". Covering an area of over 59 hectares, it is the **last major wetland** in the western part of Lake Geneva.

Further upstream, near the Péguey farm, there is a Federal inventory listing (number 1467) for the Marais du Grand Bataillard which comprises "low marshes of national importance" and inventory listing (number 225) in the Federal inventory of "amphibian breeding sites of national importance".

On the other side of the Route de la Branvaude, the Bois de Portes is listed under Federal inventory listing (number 224) for "amphibian breeding sites of national importance".

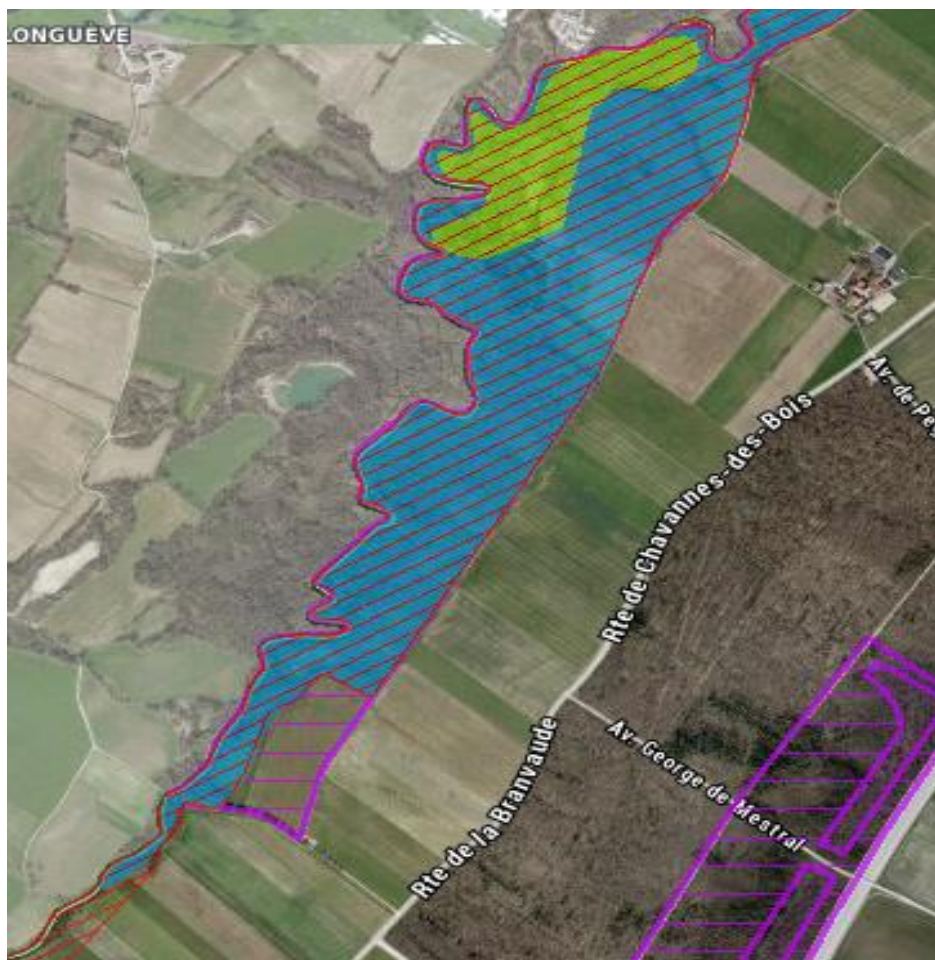


Figure 5 : Alluvial zone (in blue) and low marsh (in green) of Grand-Bataillard
Breeding sites for amphibians (in violet)

Finally, the entire area from the Moulin de Grilly (Chavannes-des-Bois) to Bogis-Bossey, including the alluvial marshland complex of the Marais de la Versoix, is included in the Federal Inventory of Landscapes, Sites and Natural Monuments of National Importance (IFP) (see page 6).

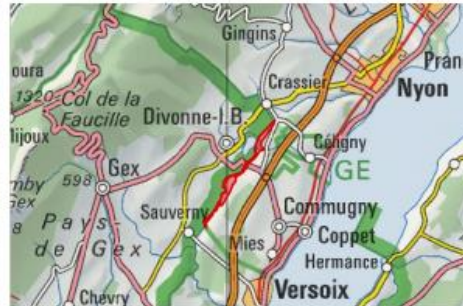


IFP 1207 Marais de la haute Versoix

Canton	Communes	Surface
Vaud	Bogis-Bossey, Chavannes-de-Bogis, Chavannes-des-Bois, Commugny	117 ha



La Versoix et ses rives aux Bataillards



IFP 1207 Marais de la haute Versoix



Les méandres de la Versoix et l'aulnaie marécageuse à laïche



La Versoix et son cordon boisé



Grand marais le long du chemin du Pont-de-Grilly

Figure 6 : IFP 1207 : Upper Versoix marshes

5. Cross-border action plan for the Agile Frog and the Yellow-bellied Sounder (Vesancy-Versoix Wildlife Corridors Contract)

As part of the Vesancy-Versoix Corridor Contract, the Canton of Vaud's Directorate-General for the Environment (DGE-VD), the State of Geneva's Directorate-General for Nature and Landscape (DGNP-GE) and the Pays de Gex Community of Municipalities (CCPG) in France launched a cross-border action plan to help the Agile Frog and the Yellow-bellied Sounder, two priority forest species of amphibians in Europe and Switzerland.

The main objective of this action plan was to re-establish a continuum of Agile Frog and Yellow-bellied Sounder populations between the Versoix and Boiron (Nyon) rivers.

The Grand Bataillard breeding site for amphibians is of national importance, as well as the Bois de Portes site, were at the heart of the project due to the dynamics of their populations, and the Tattes-de-Bogis is one of the preferred recolonisation routes identified in the Vesancy-Versoix Corridor Contract.

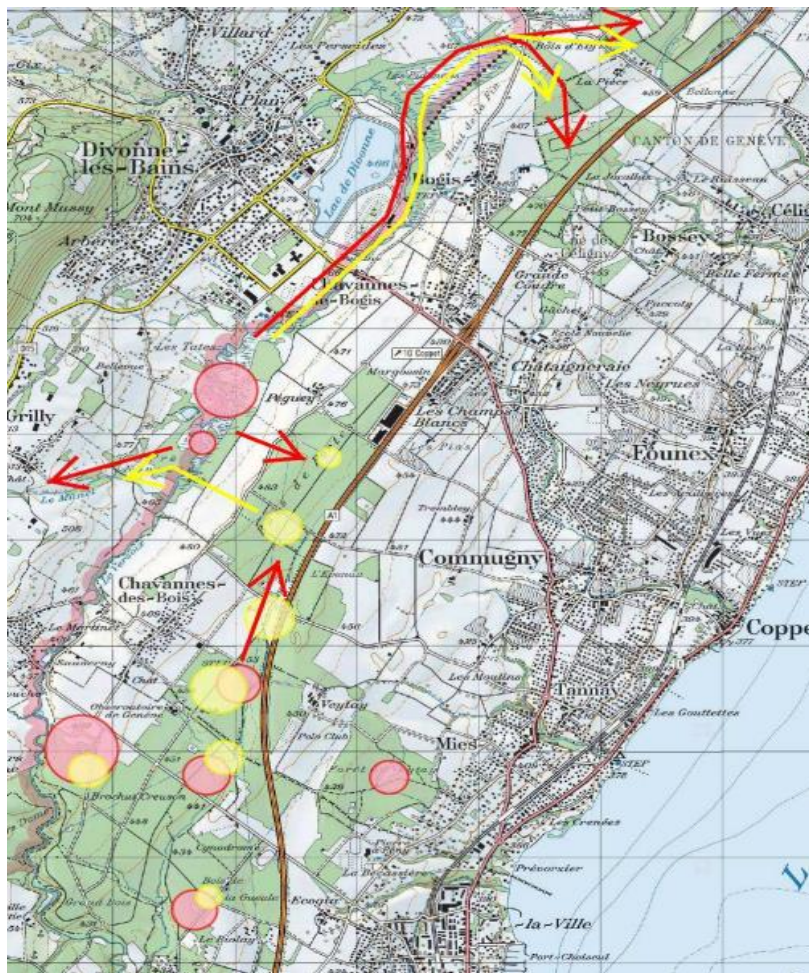


Figure 7 : Recolonisation principle for the Agile Frog (red) and the Yellow-bellied Sounder (yellow).
The circles indicate recent populations and the arrows indicate preferential recolonisation routes.

6. Surface water drainage at Tattes-de-Bogis

The route de la Branvaude Cantonal road that connects Chavannes-des-Bois to Chavannes-de-Bogis is at an altitude of around 481-483 m. The Versoix marshes (Marais de la Versoix) are at an altitude of around 465 m. This implies a 16-18 m gradient meaning that run-off from the entire agricultural zone will flow directly into the marshes and into the Versoix river itself.

Some of the drainage systems are 'open' and collect not only surface water from the agricultural area but also water from the Route de la Branvaude.



Figure 8 : This figure shows the Grand Bataillard marsh area of national importance; the location of the river "La Versoix" and the location of the water drainage sites at the level of the Peguey Farm.

If we accept that lightly polluted type B materials (which do include asbestos) can be deposited on the Tattes-de-Bogis, we accept the possibility that this pollution could end up in the Versoix river via run-off water.

7. There are other less environmentally damaging alternatives

The Sectoral Plan for Controlled Landfills (Le Plan sectoriel des décharges contrôlées - PSDC) lists other landfill site options in Canton Vaud, which are much more suited to a landfill project of this size and scale.

LEGAL ARGUMENTS (translated from the French, please refer to the French edition)

8. Natural Heritage and Landscape Protection Act (LPrPNP) of 30.08.22
Article 47 Wildlife corridors
Paragraph 1. The Canton shall ensure the territorial protection and maintenance of wildlife corridors of supra-regional and regional importance.
Paragraph 2. It shall ensure the restoration of wildlife corridors of supra-regional and regional importance that have been disturbed or interrupted by cantonal roads. It shall finance this within five years of the entry into force of this law.
Paragraph 3. The communes shall ensure that disturbed or interrupted wildlife corridors of local importance are re-established.
9. Regulations implementing the law of 28.02.89 on wildlife (RLFaune)
Article 2 Tranquility of wildlife
Paragraph 1. It is forbidden to disturb wildlife in any way whatsoever.
10. Federal Court ruling of 07.11.2023 (1C 327/2022, 1C 331/2022)
Important ruling which states that the interest in preserving intact a protected landscape of national interest prevails in this case over the public interest in disposing of waste.

ARGUMENTS RELATED TO MOBILITY AND ROAD TRAFFIC

11. Significant increase in lorry traffic generated by landfill operations
According to the project promoters, operation of the landfill will generate traffic of 75 lorries per day (150 trips per day) between 07:00-12:00 and 13:00-17:00, i.e. 9 lorries per hour in each direction.

According to figures provided by the Government authority for mobility and roads (Direction générale de la mobilité et des routes -DGMR), current traffic on the Route de la Branvaude (RC 7) comprises 11,250 vehicles per day, including 250 heavy goods vehicles. **The Tattes-de-Bogis landfill could therefore generate a 30% increase in traffic from heavy trucks** between Chavannes-des-Bois and Chavannes-de-Bogis.
12. The project to upgrade the route de la Branvaude has been referred back to the Cantonal State Council (Conseil d'Etat) due to the inadequacy of environmental measures that would protect wildlife and promote soft mobility (non-motorised means). On 6 February 2024, the members of the Vaud Grand Council (Grand Conseil Vaudois) decided to refer the project to upgrade the Route de la Branvaude (RC7) back to the State Council (Conseil d'Etat) because of the inadequacies of proposed environmental measures to protect wildlife – despite the fact that this stretch of road has been identified as the main cause of disruption to the supra-regional wildlife corridor. This decision is clearly indicative that MPs in Vaud attach an importance to the viability of wildlife corridors.

<https://sieldocs.vd.ch/ecm/app18/service/siel/getContent?ID=2215411>

Références : Plan Directeur Cantonal (PDCn) 2022, Mesure E22 Réseau écologique cantonal (REC) ; Holzang et al. Les Corridors faunistiques en Suisse, Cahier de l'environnement no. 326, 2001 ; Contrat corridors Vesancy-Versoix 2014, Cahier no. 13-63.

CALL TO ACTION: **EcoLaVersoix** is a not-for-profit association of volunteers committed to preserving our common environmental and historical heritage. Vaud Canton is not keeping the general public informed about this landfill project and we need your support.

Please help us, consider becoming a member of the association, spread the word and play a key role in stopping this landfill project: our website in French/ English: www.EcoLaVersoix.ch

Facebook / Instagram : www.facebook.com/EcoLaVersoix/ <https://www.instagram.com/ecolaversoix/>