


Implementation and maintenance of riparian strips

Goal	Buffering water bodies/streams and provide species-rich habitats
Short description of the measure	<p>Buffer strips should be at least 10 m wide, but may extend on up to 50 m.</p> <p>In general, within (minimum of) 10 m distance to a water body natural vegetation and the development of shrubby structures should be promoted.</p> <p>Alternatively, extensive managed grassland or clover grass can be used.</p> <p>Further management instructions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No use of fertilizer and pesticides ▪ Alternating management, i.e. one year the one side, next year the other <p>OR: one side may remain uncut overall and sides get switched after a few years</p>
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	When to start: with the sowing of crops. It must be implemented latest by 2020
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum width of 10 m ▪ Area must have vegetation which is not at all or extensively managed <p>Positive examples:</p>  <p>Pic. 1: Water stream with riparian strips consisting of trees, bushes and other elements in vineyards in the Douro valley.</p>



Pic. 2: Riparian buffer strip with the required (5 m) distance of management to the stream

Alternatively, extensive managed grassland or clover grass can be used.



Pic. 3: Correctly implemented riparian buffer strip

Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)

For riparian strips, it is prohibited to cut native shrubs and trees. However, good agricultural practice also includes the maintenance of those structures. Regular maintenance also prevents the invasion of problem weeds or harmful insects.

Effects on biodiversity

(ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)



Buffer strips also provide **protection and refuge** for **insects, hare** and partridges during agricultural work on the field.

Riparian strips are **habitats** and wintering grounds for many insects. This vegetation is especially important for the development of many dragonflies and butterflies.

Riparian strips also serve as step stones and **connect open landscapes** for butterflies, grasshoppers and other insects.

Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum width of 10 m Length
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de www4.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/is/255462/?shop=true&shopView=9161

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

Editor: LIFE Food & Biodiversity; Lake Constance Foundation

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