

TUTORIAL

## **3. OSM MAPPING FROM YOUR COMPUTER**

### **3.4 CHECKING THE OVERALL MAPPING CONSISTENCY**



This publication is supported by the French Development Agency (AFD). Nevertheless, the ideas and opinions presented in this document do not necessarily represent those of AFD.

This tutorial is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons [Attribution – ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)



## 3. OSM MAPPING FROM YOUR COMPUTER

### 3.4 CHECKING THE OVERALL MAPPING CONSISTENCY

#### 3.4.5 STEP 4: THE RIVER SYSTEM

Although there may be streams in the area, they are not always required to be mapped in the mapathons. Even if this data is not requested in the project instructions, **you can add the most important rivers (only) during the global validation**. On the other hand, if the route of the waterways is requested in the instructions, then the entire network must be reviewed in detail.

##### i. OSM definition

[Tag waterway=\*]

- The Waterway tag is used to designate rivers and other waterways. In Missing Maps projects, we most often use **waterway=river** and **waterway=stream**, but there are many tags like **waterway=drain** or **waterway=channel** that we sometimes encounter.
- Please refer to the OSM wiki page for more details on tags, their definition and when they are used.
- There are also additional tags to qualify these streams such as **intermittent=yes**, **seasonal=wet season/dry season**, which can sometimes be added even from imagery and without field knowledge.
- This level of detail is never asked during mapathons, the global validation is a good time to add this information.
- You can apply **filters** to only see the water network.

##### ii. The different steps of the water system verification

###### • Simplify the network

Like for the road network, you should not hesitate to simplify the geometry of the data in OSM. You can reduce the number of points per segment with a simple **"Shift+y"**. It is also easy to get lost in the mapping of the many small tributaries/branches, again feel free to simplify and limit the level of detail when the stream becomes really narrow (unless specified in the project instructions).

###### • Hierarchizing the network

This is not always relevant depending on the area, but in some areas the water network is abundant and needs to be prioritized. Compared to the road network, there are far fewer possible levels of classification, so the classification is simpler. The objective is always to identify the main and structuring waterways and to differentiate them from other smaller, less important waterways.

- **Improve network consistency**
  - Make sure all streams are well connected.
  - Merge the different segments that make up the same stream.
- **Check the quality of stream and road/path intersections.**

**This is probably the most important check**, as it can have a very strong impact on the people on the ground. It is important to identify whether or not the stream is crossable. It is therefore necessary to be very vigilant and observe the imagery in detail in order to identify whether or not there is a way to cross the watercourse. In order to map bridges, fords and culverts, see 3.2.3 Mapping the main features with iD Editor and 3.2.4. Mapping the main features with JOSM.