

The following years we continue the restoration in this catchment thanks to new LIFE-projects: LIFE Grote Netewoud and LIFE Most-Keiheuvel. Objectives are the restoration of the typical lowland streams along 1 km and fish migration restoration. The last objective is a true challenge. Discharge can be very low and some typical fish species (brook lamprey, spined loach) can take only small steps. The T0 monitoring in the LIFE-project Most-Keiheuvel already indicated a big weir is a barrier for a rheophilic species as the common dace.

#### Presenting Author Bio:

In 1998 Bianca Veraart graduated in Biology, specialization hydro-ecology, at the University of Antwerp. Between 1998 and 2002 she worked as a researcher for the Ecosystem Management Research Group at the University of Antwerp, collaborating in different projects related to ecology and river systems and supporting students. In 2002 she started at the governmental organization province of Antwerpen.

As a project manager of the department integrated water management she became a specialist in stream restoration and fish migration.

#### **Cipriber project: Actions towards the protection and conservation of Iberian cyprinids of community interest**

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Abstract Body:

In recent years many studies have pointed out a decline in the populations of some threatened fish species in Duero and Tagus basins as well as an increase in distribution of invasive species. Mostly, this is due to river habitat deterioration by existing pressures over the river courses.

In order to protect and provide the basis for the recovery of these populations, the Duero Basin Authority as coordinating partner, and with the collaboration of the Tagus Basin Authority, the Department of Development and Environment of the Junta de Castilla y León (the regional government) and Natural Heritage of Castilla y León Foundation has promoted a project that has been selected in the 2013 call for the LIFE program.

The target species are endemic native cyprinids of Community interest (Sarda, Alagon stone loach, Duero nase, etc...) located in SCIs in the western of the Salamanca province (Spain).

This presentation sets out the targets and action lines of the project, among which demolition of obsolete dams and new fish pass passages on weirs in use are basic tools to achieve river habitat conditions that allow a better distribution and population status. Removing existing pressures in water courses and restoring habitat will allow to progress towards good environmental status. The river restoration appears, therefore, as essential instrument to achieve an improvement of biodiversity.

Other important objectives are the development of a breeding protocol to offset the current regression status, improve the scientific and technical knowledge on these species and define a fish and water management program.

The project also has an important content of dissemination, communication and public participation as key elements to address some actions for longitudinal continuity recovery as dam removal, since some groups such as councilors, anglers, etc. are still reluctant to this kind of measures.

#### **LIFE+ SEGURA RIVERLINK, implementing a green infrastructure approach**

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Abstract Body:

The Segura River, located in southeastern Spain, is one of the most regulated rivers in Europe, creating severe environmental problems and breaking connectivity. The LIFE + SEGURA RIVERLINK project, co-financed by the LIFE Program, aims to promote and support the environmental recovery of the Segura River Basin by improving and strengthening the connectivity between natural ecosystems, promoting the conservation of an area with an exceptional environmental value and improving its public use.

The main actions include the removal of an unused weir and the construction of eight fish passages, being this a pilot experience in the Segura River Basin and a still uncommon practice in Mediterranean areas. To support these actions, ecological restorations will be implemented in each demonstration site.

The target specie of the project is the *Luciobarbus sclateri* (Southern Iberian barbel), Iberian endemism and the only autochthonous specie in the project. The rest of sentinel species are *Pseudochondrostoma polylepis* (Iberian nase), *Gobio lozanoi* (Pyrenean gudgeon) and *Alburnus alburnus* (Bleak). Monitoring activities will assess the performance of these actions with the hope of validating the Green Infrastructure approach in river basin management and its possible extension to the official River Basin Management Plan of the Segura River Basin.

The project also includes the creation of a Land Stewardship Network that seeks to involve different stakeholders in the river management as well as an Environmental Educational Program and a Volunteering Program to promote environmental awareness in society. This project will protect local aquatic and riverine habitats, allow fish migration along an important

sector of the Segura River, improve ecosystem services, build a cadre of scientific and social knowledge to improve river management quality and help local and regional governments to comply with EU Water Framework Directive and facilitate the implementation and enforcement of EU policy and legislation on biodiversity conservation.

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