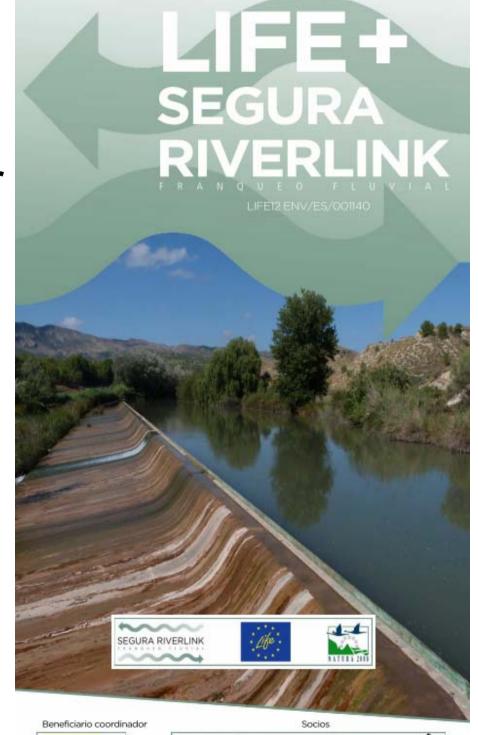


# LIFE Segura-Riverlink: an implementation of a *green* infrastructure approach to recover the longitudinal connectivity in a highly fragmented river basin.

**FJ Oliva-Paterna**<sup>1</sup>, M Torralva<sup>1</sup>, D Verdiell-Cubedo<sup>1</sup>, A Ruiz-Navarro<sup>1</sup>, F Amat-Trigo<sup>1</sup>, J Sánchez-Balibrea<sup>2</sup>, FJ Sanz-Ronda<sup>3</sup>, J García<sup>4</sup>, R Olivo<sup>5</sup>, C Avilés<sup>6</sup>, E Lafuente<sup>6</sup>.

- (1)Dpto. de Zoología y Antropología Física. Universidad de Murcia.
- (2)ANSE. Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste.
- (3)ITAGRA.CT. Centro Tecnológico Agrario y Agroalimentario.
- (4) Dirección General de Medio Ambiente.
- Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia.
- (5) Grupo TYPSA. Murcia.
- (6)(Coord. Beneficiary) Confederación Hidrográfica del Segura.







LIFE Segura-Riverlink: an implementation of a *green* infrastructure approach to recover the longitudinal connectivity in a highly fragmented river basin.

#### **Coordinating beneficiary**



CONFEDERACIÓN HIDROGRÁFICA DEL SEGURA

> COMISARÍA DE AGUAS

#### **Associated**

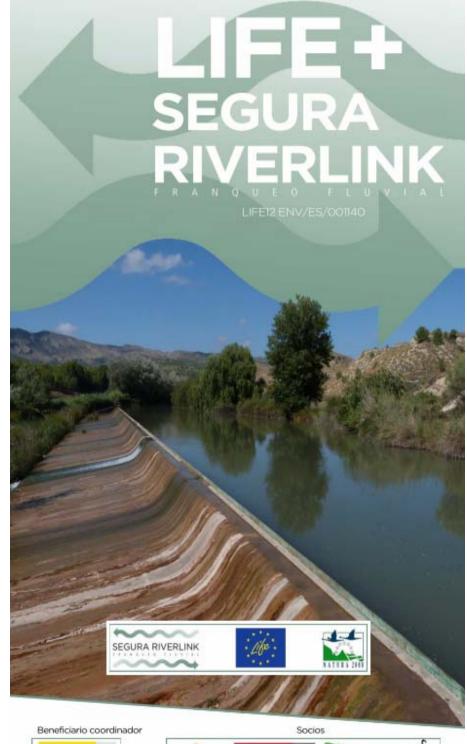






















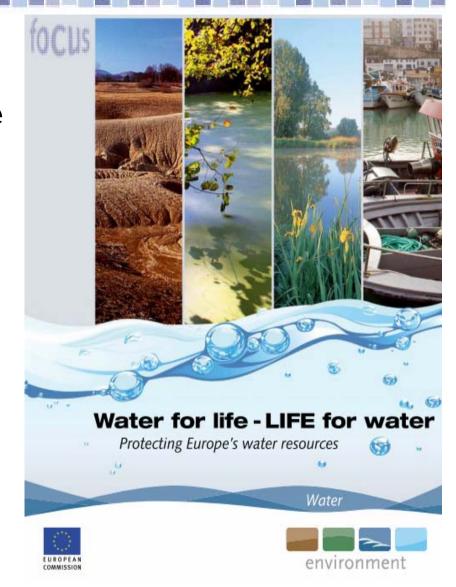
# LIFE + Environment Policy & Governance

 Demonstration project that aims to promote and support the environmental recovery of the Segura River basin.

# **Period**

September 2013 – July 2017
 Total project budget

• 3,424,250 € (49,8% EU)











# LIFE + Environment Policy & Governance

 Demonstration project that aims to promote and support the environmental recovery of the Segura River basin.



© European Union (2013)

**Demonstration projects** put into practice, evaluate and disseminate actions, methodologies or approaches that are new or unknown in the specific context of the project (geographical, ecological, socioeconomic) and that could be applied elsewhere in similar circumstances.

[LIFE 2014-2020 Regulation (EC 1293/2013)]









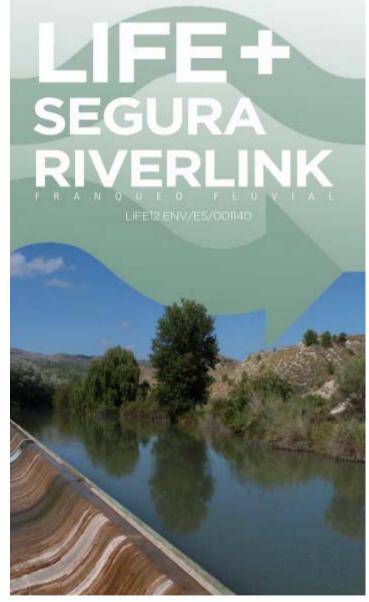
# **Aims**

 To demonstrate and validate management measures for the development of a *Green* Infrastructure approach into the context of a Mediterranean river basin characterized by a high impact in their fluvial connectivity.



Water: River basin management













### **Aims**

 To demonstrate and validate management measures for the development of a *Green* Infrastructure approach into the context of a Mediterranean river basin characterized by a high impact in their fluvial connectivity.



# [ec.europa.eu/environment/life]





Building a

Green

nfrastructure

for Europe

#### Green Infrastructure

What is Green Infrastructure?



Green Infrastructure is addressing the spatial structure of natural other environmental features which enable citizens to benefit from underlying principle of Green Infrastructure is that the same area of multiple benefits if its ecosystems are in a healthy state. Green Ingenerally characterized by a high level of return over time, provide cost-effective alternative or be complementary to 'grey' infrastruc change. It serves the interests of both people and nature.

The Commission has produced a <u>brochure</u> explaining the main issues of Green Infrastructu Green Infrastructure, including relevant studies with best practice examples, can be foun



© European Union (2013)









# State of the art and innovate

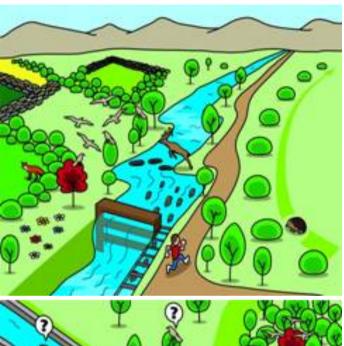
 Green Infrastructure (GI): a smart solution for today's needs...

#### What is a GI?

- A successfully tested tool for providing ecological, economic and social benefits through natural solutions.
- A strategically planned network of natural and non-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystemes services.

[Green infrastructures COM(2013) 249final]

[ec.europa.eu/environment/life]













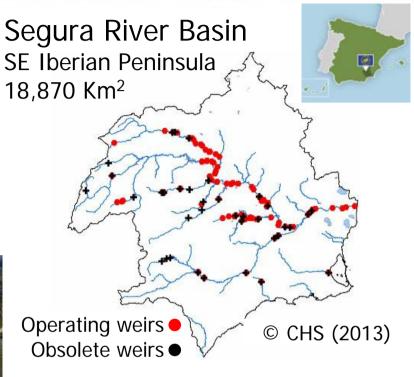
### **Action area**

 Due to the historical pressures the Segura river is one of the most regulated rivers in Europe (more than 90 monitored obstacles)



















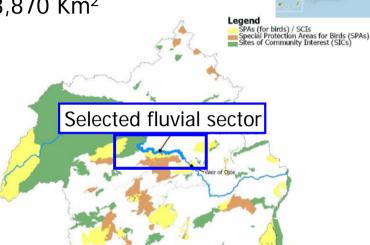




#### **Action area**

- The project will be implemented on selected sites over a 54 km.
- In the Nature 2000 Network areas or linking them.
- Including urban areas as a means of facilitating stakeholder engagement.

Segura River Basin SE Iberian Peninsula 18,870 Km<sup>2</sup>

















#### **Action area**

# A long-term view

- Fish home in good status in...
- The green highway of the Segura River will be free of obstacles in...
- Hydraulic infrastructures renovation.
- No future deterioration in fish migration.
- Achive the maximum ecological potential in heavily modified waters.

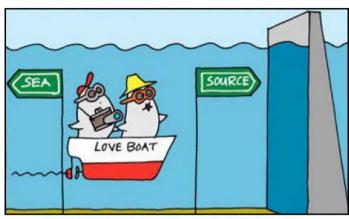
# River Basin Management Plan



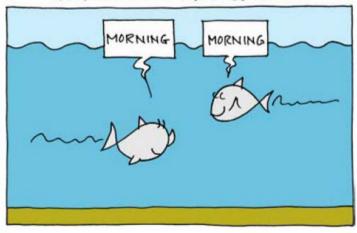
# JORNADAS IBÉRICAS DE ICTIOLOGÍA

#### FROM SEA TO SOURCE

International guidance for the restoration of fish migration highways



THE IDEAL SOLUTION, NO OBSTACLES



[www.fromtheseatosource.com]







# **Increase river connectivity**

- Removal of an unuseful weir.
- Eight fish passages.
- Restoration of riverine vegetation at weir sections.

(January 2014) Moratalla stream















# **Increase river connectivity**

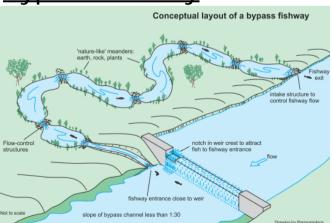
 Of the possible fishway models, three types have been mainly chosen for use in the Segura River - each type being better suited to specific sites.



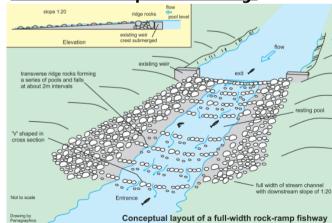




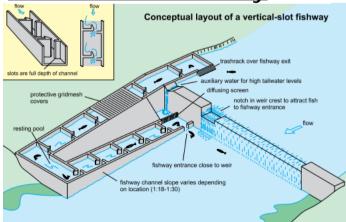
# **Bypass fishway**



# Rock-ramp fishway



## Vertical-slot fishway











# Fluvial stewardship

# Social involvement and awareness

- Land custody network (=fluvial stewardship) to involve stakeholders on the river management.
- Education and volunteering programmes.











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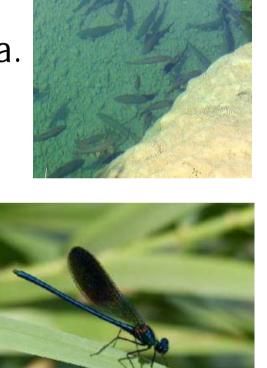




# Monitoring and socio-economic assessment

- Operative indicators at fish passage systems.
- Fish community and populations.
- Bird community and river-bank associated fauna.
- Vegetation communities.
- · Water and sediments.
- Socio-economic assessment.













# Monitoring (fish-species)

# **Indicators**

- (1) Community metrics.
- (2) Population metrics of sentinelindicator species.

# Level of actions

- (1) Regional at the river sector.
- (2) Local at river stretches next to the obstacle.

#### **Assessors**

Dr. Carlos Fernández Delgado

Dr. Pedro M. Leunda Urretabizkaia

Dr. Lluís Zamora Hernández













# Monitoring (species)

Sentinel-fishes

Luciobarbus sclateri

(Southern Iberian barbel)

Gobio Iozanoi

(Pyrenean gudgeon)

Pseudochondrostoma polylepis

(Iberian nase)

Alburnus alburnus

(Bleak)



Cyprinids native to the Iberian Peninsula (except bleak)
Target species (reproductive seasonal movements)







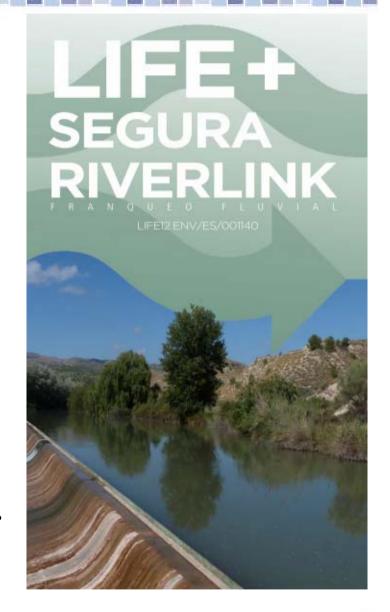


# Added value of the project

**Outcomes** 

The project will...

- Protect local and riverine hábitats.
- Allow fish migration along an important fluvial sector.
- Build a cadre of scientific and social knowledge to improve river management quality and to comply with EU <u>Water Framework Directive</u> and EU <u>Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</u>.







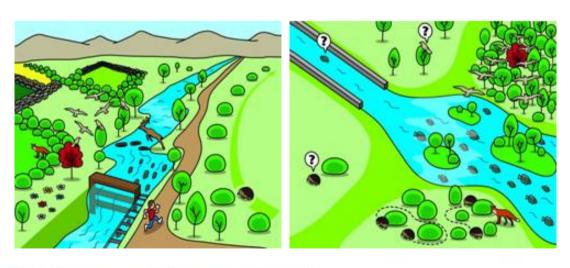


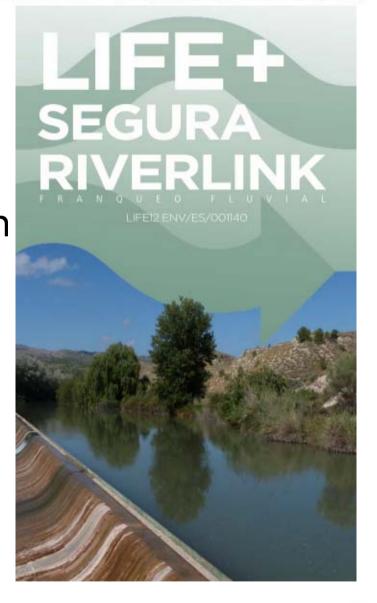
# Added value of the project

**Outcomes** 

The project will...

 Put into practice and evaluate the Green Infrastructure (GI) approach into the context of a Mediterranean river basin management.









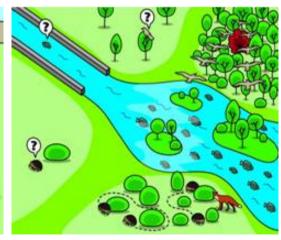


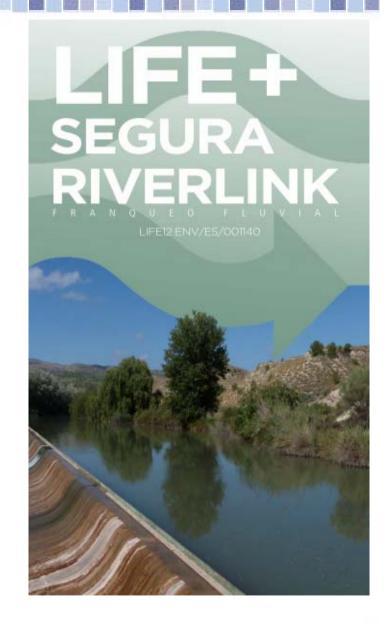




Why not looking for linking the multifunctionality approach of **GI** and fish conservation?













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# Thanks for your attention

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