Danube Lifelines

BOKU
Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management

# Danube I

# Austria

## Assess Nature-based Solutions for connectivity (2 reconnected tributaries, 4 hydropower plants) and >10 habitat restoration measures of 100km Danube River

## Aim:

- Conduct a combined assessment of multiple restoration sites
- Improve habitats and populations of migratory fish in the Austrian Danube and its tributaries
- Evaluate the multifunctionality of a fragmented river system
- Enhance decision-making processes for future restoration efforts

## Output:

- Plan further restoration works to support migratory fish populations and achieve Good Ecological Potential (GEP)
- Evaluate existing restoration actions within a fragmented river system
- Provide guidance for future restoration planning

## Issues to be addressed:

- Improve connectivity within the Danube
- Enhance connections between the Danube mainstem and its tributaries

## Investigation area:

- Austrian Danube from downstream of the city of Melk to the Slovak border (approx. 165 km)
- Includes lower reaches of tributaries
- The section downstream of Vienna is part of a national park

## Implemented Measures:

- Fishways installed at all Danube hydropower plants in the study area
- Tributaries reconnected, serving as key spawning habitats
- Habitat restoration also carried out in the Danube mainstem

## Stakeholders:

- Hydropower, navigation, and fisheries sectors (e.g., Verbund, viadonau, Österreichische Bundesforste)
- Water and river management authorities
- National park authorities
- Involvement of stakeholders from the previous MERI project

## target species



**14** Present species

**4** Missing but expected species

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Anadromous species | ***Acipenseridae*** | |
| | *Huso huso* | |
| | *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii* | |
| | *Acipenser stellatus* | |
| | *Clupeidae* | |
| | *Alosa immaculata* | |
| | *Alosa tanaica* | |
| | ***Salmonidae*** | |
| | *Salmo labrax* | |
| Potamodromous species | ***Acipenseridae*** | |
| | *Acipenser nudiventris* | |
| | *Acipenser ruthenus* | |
| | ***Cyprinidae*** | |
| | *Pelecus cultratus* | |
| | *Vimba vimba* | |
| | *Chondrostoma nasus* | |
| | *Barbus barbus* | |
| | *Rutilus virgo* | |
| | *Leuciscaus aspius* | |
| | *Leuciscus idus* | |
| | *Cyprinus carpio carpio* | |
| | *Ballerus ballerus* | |
| | ***Salmonidae*** | |
| | *Hucho hucho* | |
| | *Thymallus thymallus* | |
| | ***Percidae*** | |
| | *Zingel zingel* | |
| | *Zingel streber* | |
| | *Gymnocephalus schraetser* | |



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