

LIFE RESTORE FOR MDD

UNESCO Five-country
Biosphere Reserve
Mura-Drava-Danube

KONJIŠČE 2 RIVERBED WIDENING

The Mura River is an exceptionally important river for nature conservation. It once meandered widely across its floodplain, but today its natural dynamics are limited to floodplain forests directly along the river. Regulation and hydropower plants in the upper reaches have interrupted sediment transport, leading to channel deepening and lower groundwater levels. Consequently, floodplain forests along the riverbanks are under threat.

The Konjišče 2 riverbed widening is being carried out on the right bank of the Mura River near Spodnje Konjišče in the Municipality of Apače. In this area, river regulation works were carried out before 1970, when the main interventions in the river channel took place in the 19th century. In the planned widening area, forest currently grows mainly with some clearings and overgrown grasslands, while agricultural land lies further behind, belonging to individual farms.

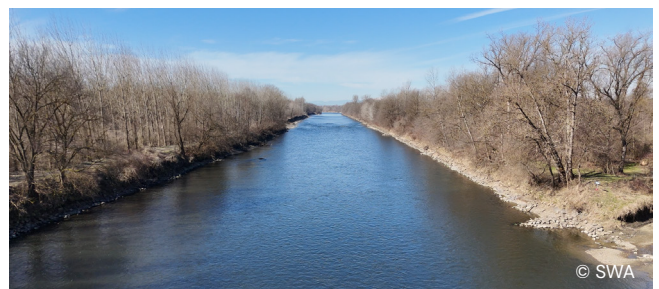
The area included in the implementation of the measure also covers the Natura 2000 sites POV Mura (SI5000010) and POO Mura (SI3000251). Since 2021, the area has also been part of the UNESCO Five-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube.



FACTSHEET

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Planned implementation period: 2025–2026.
- Removal of bank reinforcements and restoration of natural riverbanks along 1,100 m.
- Establishment of a new passive bank protection along 1,284 m, relocation of 100–130 m behind the existing bank.
- Total project implementation area: 13.4 ha.
- Improvement of floodplain forest habitats to 43.4 ha, including softwood and hardwood floodplain forests (habitat types HT 91EO*, HT 91FO).
- Monitoring of measure effectiveness: biotic and abiotic monitoring.



The Mura Riverbed in Konjišče.



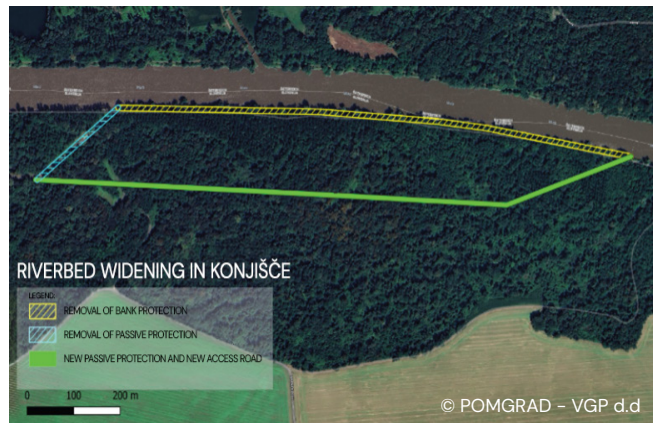
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LIFE RESTORE FOR MDD: THREE RIVERS, FIVE COUNTRIES, ONE PROJECT

In the project “Preserving and restoring floodplain forest habitats along the Mura–Drava–Danube rivers” (LIFE RESTORE for MDD), 17 partners from five countries are involved. Between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2028, various measures will be implemented to improve the condition of floodplain forests along the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers.



Overview of the riverbed widening area.

OVERVIEW OF THE MEASURE

- Estimated value (incl. VAT): 421,507.07 €.
- Objective: Restore the natural river dynamics of the Mura, currently limited by existing bank protection structures.
- Connection with other activities: Upgrade following the implementation of the Konjišče 1 riverbed widening within the Natura Mura project.



Implementation of works – riverbed widening.

POSITIVE EFFECTS OF THE MEASURE

- Increased connectivity of floodplain forests.
- Restoration of natural hydro-morphological processes.
- Establishment and improvement of natural river dynamics.
- Reduction of flood risk.
- Increase in biodiversity.
- Rise in groundwater levels.
- Improvement of drinking water quality.
- Strengthening of cross-border cooperation.
- Increased aesthetic value of the area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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