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The Segura River Basin, located in the south east of Spain, is considered to be driest basin in Spain with a mean annual precipitation of 300 mm. This Mediterranean basin has historically experienced significant climatic extremes and water imbalances, going from prolonged droughts to torrential rains and extraordinary flash-floods. This spatial and seasonal variability has for centuries led to efforts to control the river in order to make use of it for human activity. As a result, the Segura River is one of the most regulated rivers in Europe (mainly weirs and dams) where human intervention has significantly altered the water flow regimes throughout the basin, creating severe environmental problems and breaking connectivity.

Its location in the Mediterranean area with an irregular topography and a complex geological history, has determined the presence of a wide variety of water and riparian ecosystems that make the Segura River one of the most diverse rivers of the Iberian Peninsula, hosting several Iberian endemic fishes and a great richness of flora and fauna along the river banks, forming a mosaic of habitats and communities.

INTRODUCTION



MAIN OBJECTIVES

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: 3,424,250 €
DURATION: August 2013-July 2017



The main objective of the project is 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 the area and improving its public use by:

1. Increasing the river ecosystems continuity and permeability in order to restore its natural dynamics and the mobility of the species along the Segura and Moratalla rivers
2. Combating ecosystem degradation and fragmentation to restore their role as ecological corridors
3. Improving the ecological status along both rivers
4. Increasing biodiversity of fluvial and riparian ecosystems
5. Promoting social awareness
6. Disseminating knowledge and transferring the results to the Segura River Basin Management Plan and to other areas with similar environmental problems

MAIN ACTIONS

INCREASE RIVER CONNECTIVITY



Removal of an unused weir located in the Nature 2000 Network



Construction of eight fish passages five of them included in the Natura 2000 Network



Ecological Restoration: Removal of exotic species such as giant reed "Arundo donax" and protection of the native riparian forest

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT AND AWARENES



Creating an Environmental Education program and a Volunteering Program to increase social awareness



Creating a Land Custody Network to involve different stakeholders in the river management

MORE INFORMATION :

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www.facebook.com/segurariverlink
[Twitter.com/SEGURARIVERLINK](https://twitter.com/SEGURARIVERLINK)

MONITORING ACTIVITIES



Operation indicators at fish passage systems



Fish community and populations



Bird community and riverbanks associated fauna



Spatio-temporal dynamics of vegetation communities in the restored areas



Ecological status of water bodies and sediment monitoring in each weir