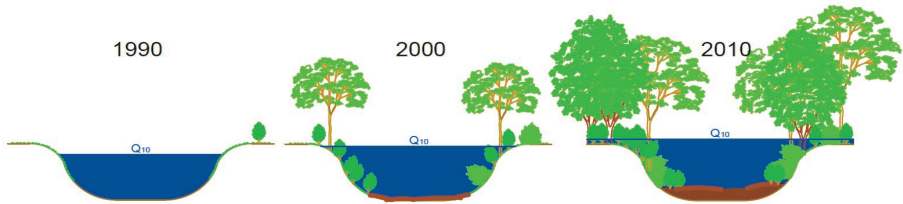


# MORE ROOM FOR WATER



Watercourses are part of the physical environment, the source of life, but also the source of threat. Driven by the need to acquire land for agriculture, urban development and other needs, we confined our rivers and seized their space, leaving little space for the river. This often included, for example, the collection and direction of water to the sewerage.

Twenty years ago, we abandoned the maintenance of river banks in the already confined channels, and, as part of ecologically friendly water management, river channels were allowed to be overgrown with invasive plant species. Today, many river banks are overgrown with bushes and trees, while in smaller canals the water surface is completely covered by vegetation. As a result, the water area was further significantly reduced. When excessive rainfall occurs, the channel cannot accommodate all the water, as there is not enough room, so a river overflows the margins of the customary water area. Overgrowth causes further deposition of sediment, and water will find a new course.



If we do not give more room to water, the water will claim the space anyway, in a place where we want it the least. To address the problem, the Slovenian National Committee for UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) has organised a campaign entitled MORE ROOM FOR WATER.



University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of *Civil and Geodetic Engineering*



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International  
Hydrological  
Programme



It is not only during floods, however, when water needs more room, even though the effects of water damage are the most devastating during floods. Water needs more space to restore the formation of various aquatic habitats that are destroyed due to various economic uses, or flow regime changes.



More room for water is also needed in our living environments to diversify and enrich the places we live in. To be able to ensure this, the areas near the rivers and streams should have been regulated and maintained in people and environment friendly way.



Water needs more room for groundwater recharge and groundwater stock, augmenting surface stream flows through dry periods.

Ultimately, more room is needed for reservoirs for various uses and safe water supply, also during severe droughts.

