LJUBLJANICA CONNECTS

LIFE10 NAT/SI/142

Restoration of the Ljubljanica River corridor and improvement of the river's flow regime

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GEATEH
Načrtovanje in izvajanje, d.o.o.

PURGATOR

The Initial Situation

The heavily degraded area of the Ljubljanica River corridor upstream and downstream of the Ljubljana urban area is an important habitat for the fragmented and heavily endangered population of Danube Salmon (*Hucho hucho*), Danube Roach (*Rutilus pigus*) and Striped Chub (*Leuciscus souffia*). Nowadays, the water level upstream of the weir on the Ljubljanica River is too low, therefore during low flow conditions the main Ljubljanica River channel is not connected to its tributaries. This represents a great obstacle for the habitat connectivity along the river reaches which is worsened by the improperly working fish passes.

Danube Salmon

Danube Roach

Striped Chub

The Project Objectives

The main objectives of the project are to restore the biodiversity of the Ljubljanica River corridor and to improve the ecological function of the area. Additionally, the project objective is to promote relatively simple river restoration measures for improving the ecological status of the river. The project also aims to raise the awareness of general public at local and national level which, due to past river management still, consider the Ljubljanica River mainly as a threat rather than a vital element of the environmental quality. The ecohydrological survey will present the foundation working plan preparation, implementation of restoration actions and additional habitat conservation and restoration works.

The Project Actions

The most visible actions on the project are concrete restoration measures: reconstruction of the sill, upgrade of two fish passes of which one is severely damaged and the modernization of barrier's lifting system. Throughout the duration of the project ecohydrological monitoring on 17 newly constructed water stations is performed and discharge is measured with HydroSurveyor system. The impact of the measures is evaluated using the data collected with fish migration monitoring. Fish harvest is performed in cooperation with fishermen, then fish is measured and tagged before released into the water.

Reconstruction of the sill

Fish harvest

Discharge measurements

Old fishpass

Fish measurements

Ecohydrological monitoring

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