

Restoring Europe's Rivers

RESTORE

Linking Wetland, floodplain and river restoration

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The RESTORE project is made possible with the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community



and works in partnership with



Our floodplains and wetlands

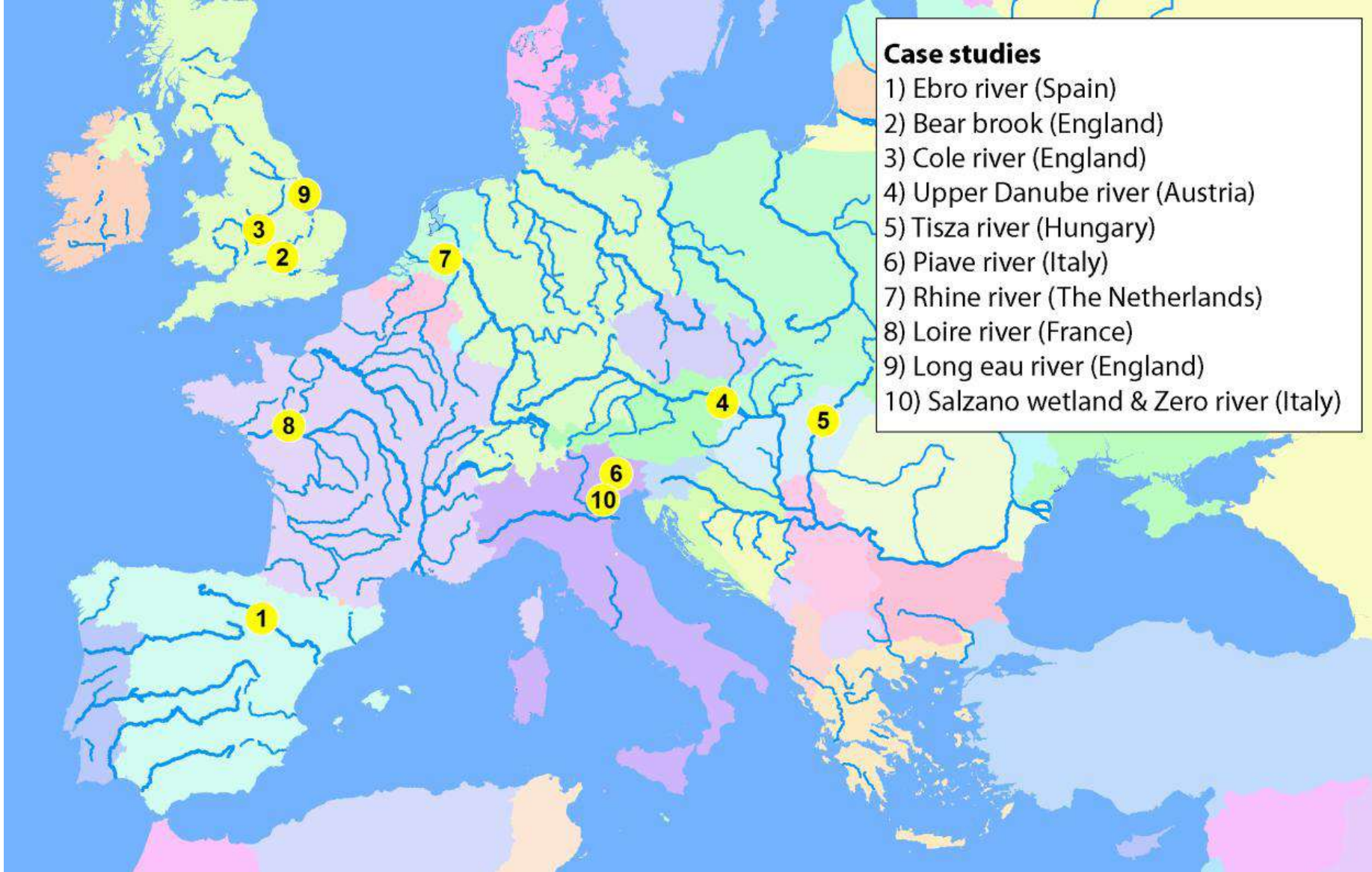
- ⇒ *Heavily impacted and disconnected from the river corridor*
- ⇒ *95% floodplains in Europe and 50% wetlands = agricultural or urbanised.*
- ⇒ *In some cases only groundwater connectivity*
- ⇒ *Hydro- morphological processes that drive habitat heterogeneity lost*



A functioning floodplain today?

- ➔ *Restore lateral hydro-morphological connectivity to increase the resilience of a fragile system and connect the wetland fringe riparian land and channel habitats*
- ➔ *Naturally functioning floodplain wetlands*
- ➔ *Natural flood management*
- ➔ *A natural resource (fertile for agriculture and ecosystems)*
- ➔ *Increase resilience for species and nutrients reduction*





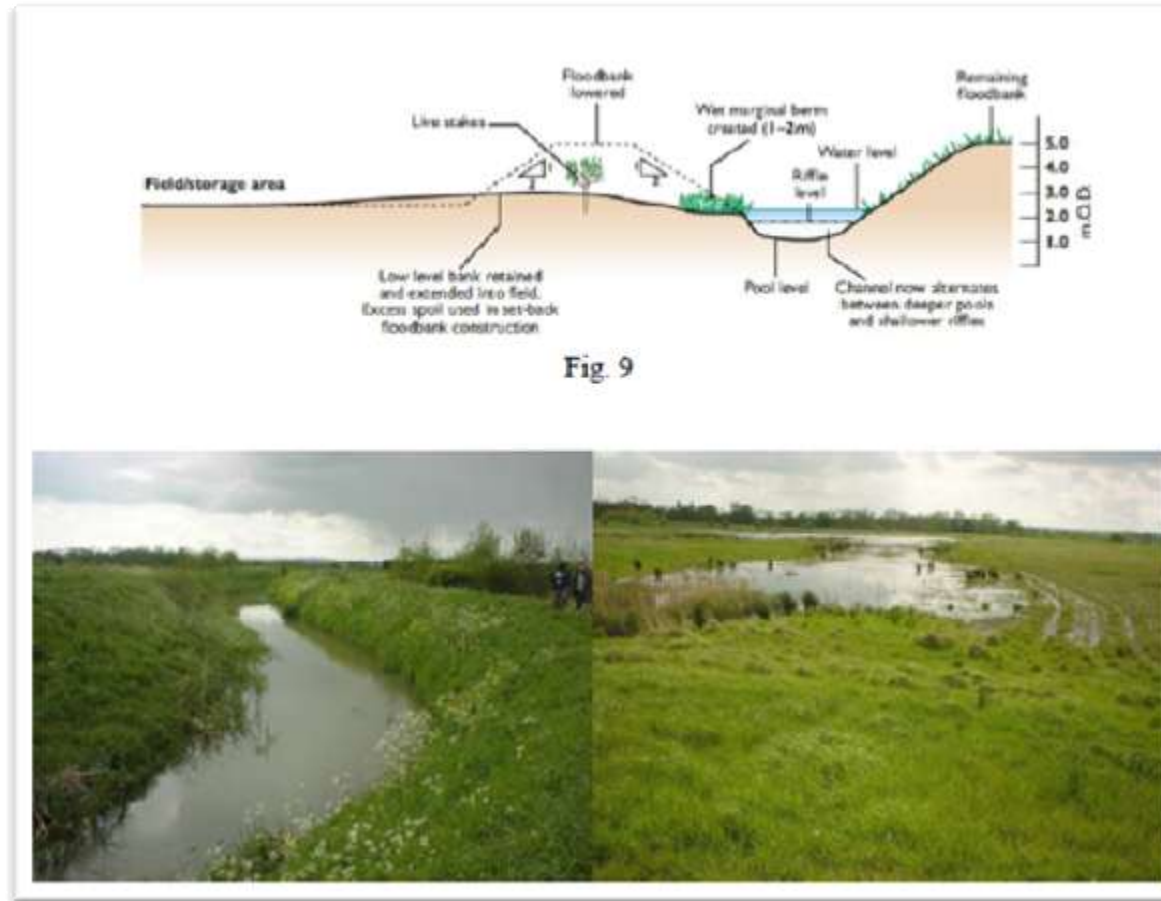
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Case study 1 – Long Eau, UK

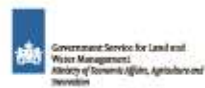
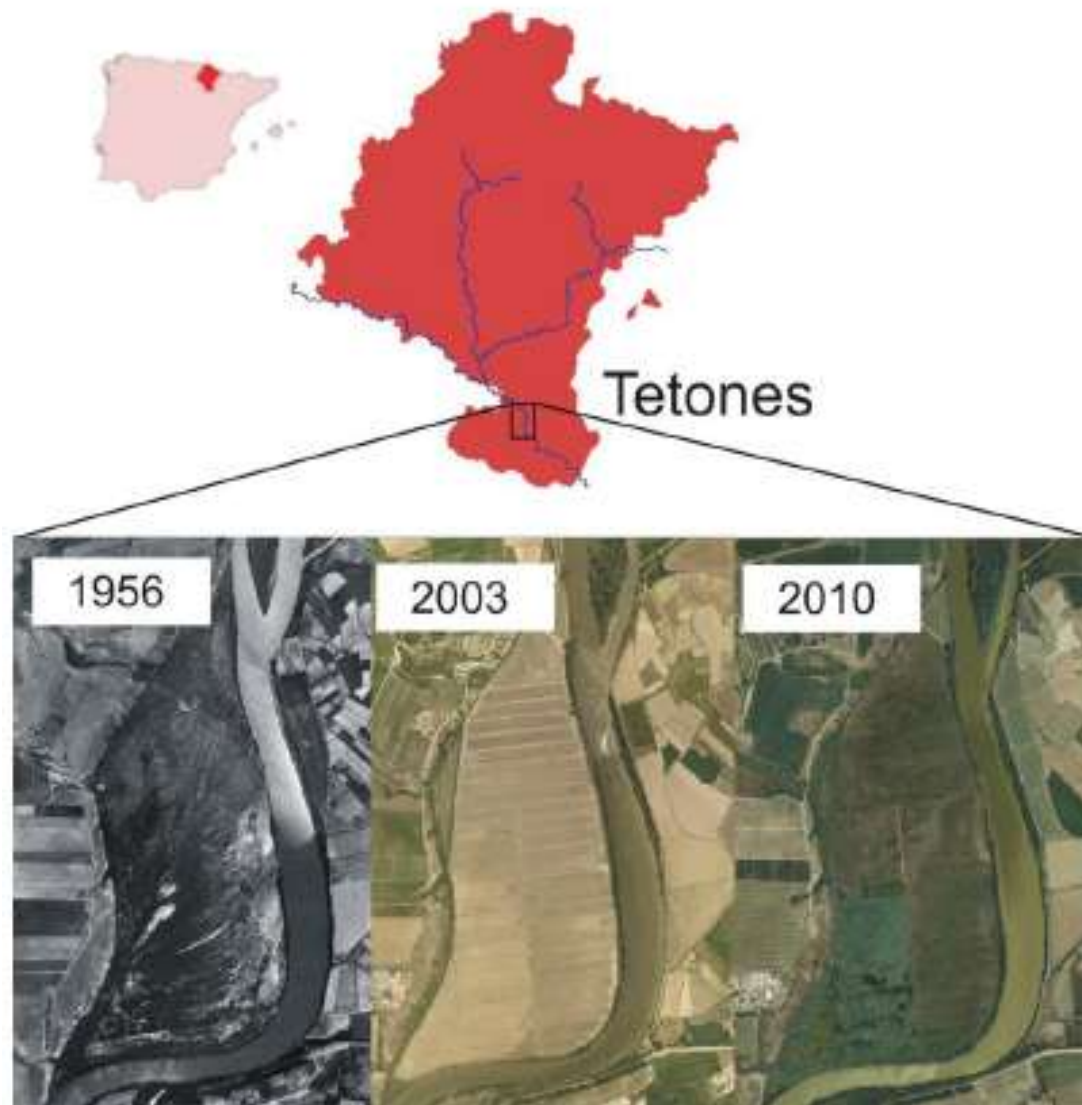
- ➔ *Small catchment ; haven for wetland birds; abstraction; degradation but still flooded*
- ➔ *Restoration = 10 year stewardship scheme; improved habitat and reduced flooding elsewhere*



Case study 2 – Ebro, N Spain

- ➔ *Degradation through ‘management’ in 1970s = intensive agriculture (rice); reservoir and embankments; disconnection of secondary channels; ground water decline; salinity; channel down cutting and unexpected erosion*
- ➔ *Restoration in 2006 after agreement with the municipality and regional government to change agricultural thinking.*
- ➔ *Result = better water and biological resource*





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An ecosystem services framework?

- ➔ *Need to increase the synergy between society, agricultural and bio-diversity.*
- ➔ *Not always joined up?*
- ➔ *Are we missing a trick?*
- ➔ *What mechanisms to achieve this? E.g. links between EU policy (WFD, floods directive and delivery on the ground at the local level)*



Purpose of workshop – pt 1

- ➔ *A. Can we achieve better joined up thinking about wetlands and river restoration and if so how?*
- ➔ *B. What are the main obstacles ?*
- ➔ *C. What can be done to achieve better synergy?*
- ➔ *D. Have we enough evidence of success? If yes do you have good examples of river and floodplain restoration with multiple benefits?*

RESTORE - will act as forum to disseminate and proactively take forward workshop discussions.



Purpose of workshop – pt 2

- ➔ *Linking current policy to potential opportunity*
 - ➔ *A. What lessons can be learnt from different countries?*
 - ➔ *B. How can European and regional policy influence decision making?*
 - ➔ *C. What changes in policy could help allow for better connection between rivers and floodplains or is it all set in place?*
 - ➔ *D. How can the RESTORE project help ... Key messages to disseminate and to who?*

