Mediterranean ecosystem

Restoration sites

Water interventions for the European eel in Italy and Greece

Concrete interventions directed on the environment and the species are taking place on the Rivers Tresa, Ticino, Panaro, Po, and in the areas of the Po Delta and the Comacchio Valleys. The practice involves three administrative regions – Lombardia, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna – and also the Swiss portion of the Po basin, extended in the Canton Ticino, also being able to count on the financial support of the Cantone for the entire project. The second area involved is located in Greece focused on the territory of the National Park of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, including the Nesto River basin and a lagoon system that represents more than 24% of the lagoons present in Greece. Concrete conservation actions involve the Nesto River and the lagoons.

Goals

The practice's overall objective is to support the biodiversity heritage of the Po River basin through the conservation of one of the most emblematic species for the Po River basin and the National Park of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace: the European eel. The project-specific objectives are operational objectives, designed in response to specific threats.

General information

ITALY GREECE

Organisation
Emilia-Romagna Region

Type of organisation
Local or subnational government, including field extension services

Contact person
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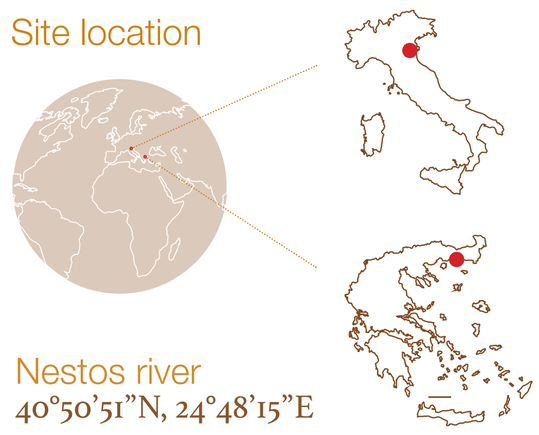
Website
www.regione.emilia-romagna.it

Site location



Po river
44°42'5"N, 7°5'35"E

Nestos river
40°50'51"N, 24°48'15"E

Po basin
71,000 km²

Nestos river
5,184 km²

Ongoing until
2024

Scan the code for full description

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Wetland

"To counteract the dramatic loss of biodiversity we are facing in the last decades we need to make our responses quicker and more effective.

While restoring the European Eel population in our rivers, Lifeel also contributes to the free flowing of rivers as a basic frame for the aquatic biodiversity and resilience.

Integration in policies, collaboration, knowledge are the key features of our project, to help dealing with the climate change impacts while searching for a balance between humanhood and nature.

Alessio Mammi,
Regional Councillor, Emilia-Romagna Region

Type of restoration intervention

- Assisted natural regeneration
- Introduction of wildlife
- Rivers flows restoration / fostering and improve artificial reproduction of endangered species to restock wild populations

Main drivers of degradation

- Infrastructure and industrial development and urbanization
- Science, knowledge and technology
- Institutions and governance
- Drainage (wetlands)
- Reintroduction of stock of endangered species *Anguilla anguilla*)

What is the practice about

- Selection of the best breeders
- Reopening migration routes for eel
- Development of a captive breeding program for eels larvae
- Release of selected silver eels into the wild
- Realization of eels passages for upstream migration of young eels
- Protection of the adult specimens
- Support to the survival of juveniles
- Restore river connectivity for eel
- Raising public and stakeholder awareness

Achievements and impact

- Production of different protocols for selection of best breeders, implying the involvement of fishermen and fish farmers
- Improvement in environmental quality of rivers, in terms of defragmentation and connectivity of rivers in the Po basin

Scan the code for more information about Mediterranean Ecosystem Restoration sites

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

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