



International conference on protecting and restoring free-flowing rivers in Europe

April 15, 2024

Rollin' Rivers

**PEOPLE,
KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION TO
ENHANCE RIVER RESTORATION
IN PORTUGAL**

Ana Catarina Miranda
Lígia Vaz de Figueiredo
Regina Falcão





RIOS LIVRES **GEOTA**

Promote, Protect and Restore

Rivers

for People and Nature



TEAM

Rios Livres GEOTA



River Ecosystems are between the most biodiverse on our planet and the most intensively affected by human activity.

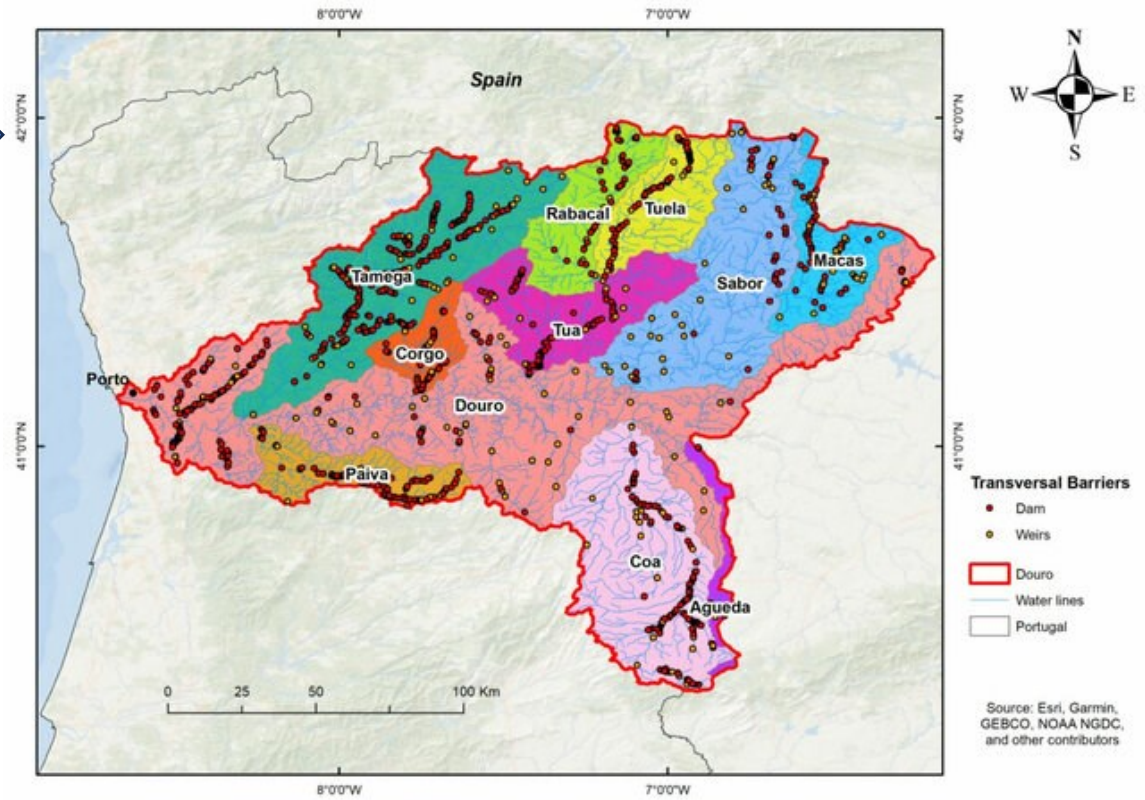
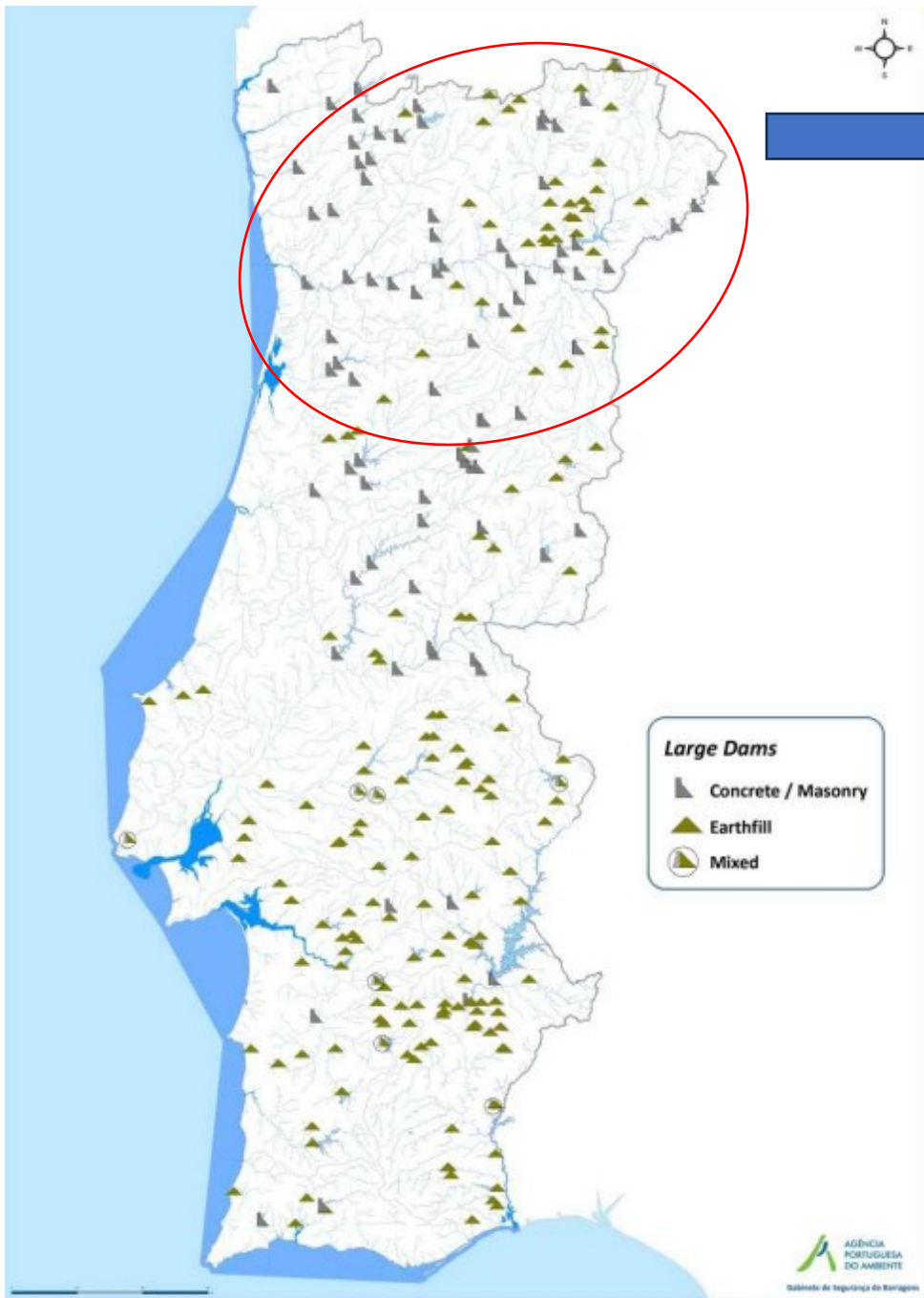


Biodiversity Strategy 2030

Barrier Removal for River Restoration

European Commission
December 2021

In an effort towards climate action, Europe
committed to restore river ecosystems and
improve their connectivity.



Portuguese rivers are highly threatened:

- ~13000 barriers to river connectivity
- Loss of native species
- Spread of invasive species
- Pollution
- Lack of effective legal protection.

Need Action for Rivers while:

- Governmental programmes promote new dams throughout the country
- Barriers to river connectivity are yet to map
- National Programmes for River Restoration and for Barrier Removal are not in place
- Most municipalities are not aware of the good practices for river rehabilitation.





Rollin' Rivers

**PEOPLE,
KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION TO
ENHANCE RIVER RESTORATION
IN PORTUGAL**



Rollin' Rivers

Rehabilitation

Knowledge

Motivation

Governance

Integration

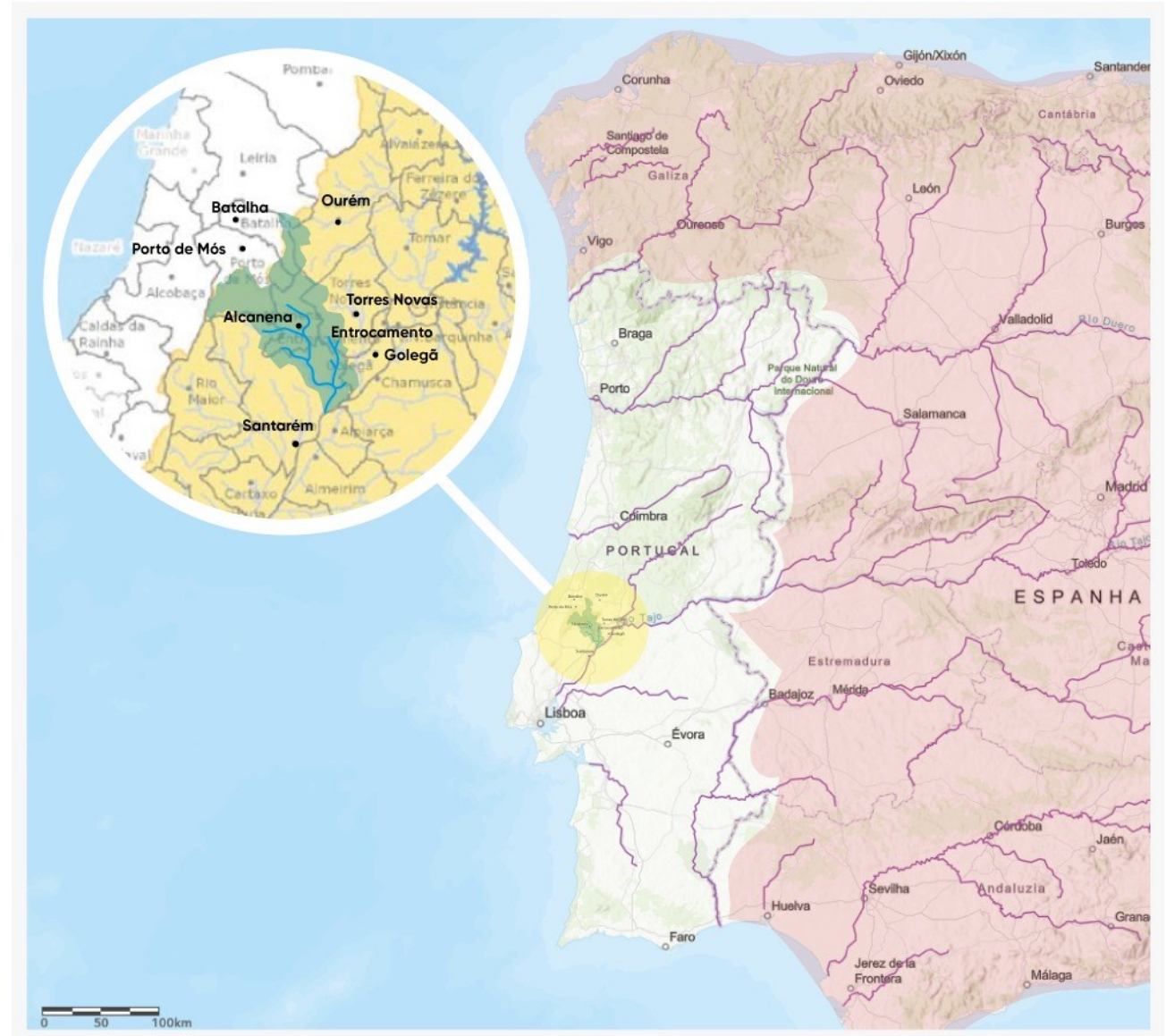




Knowledge

**Increase knowledge on river
connectivity and rehabilitation
potential**

Alviela sub-basin
as laboratory for
studying river
connectivity
rehabilitation
priorities.



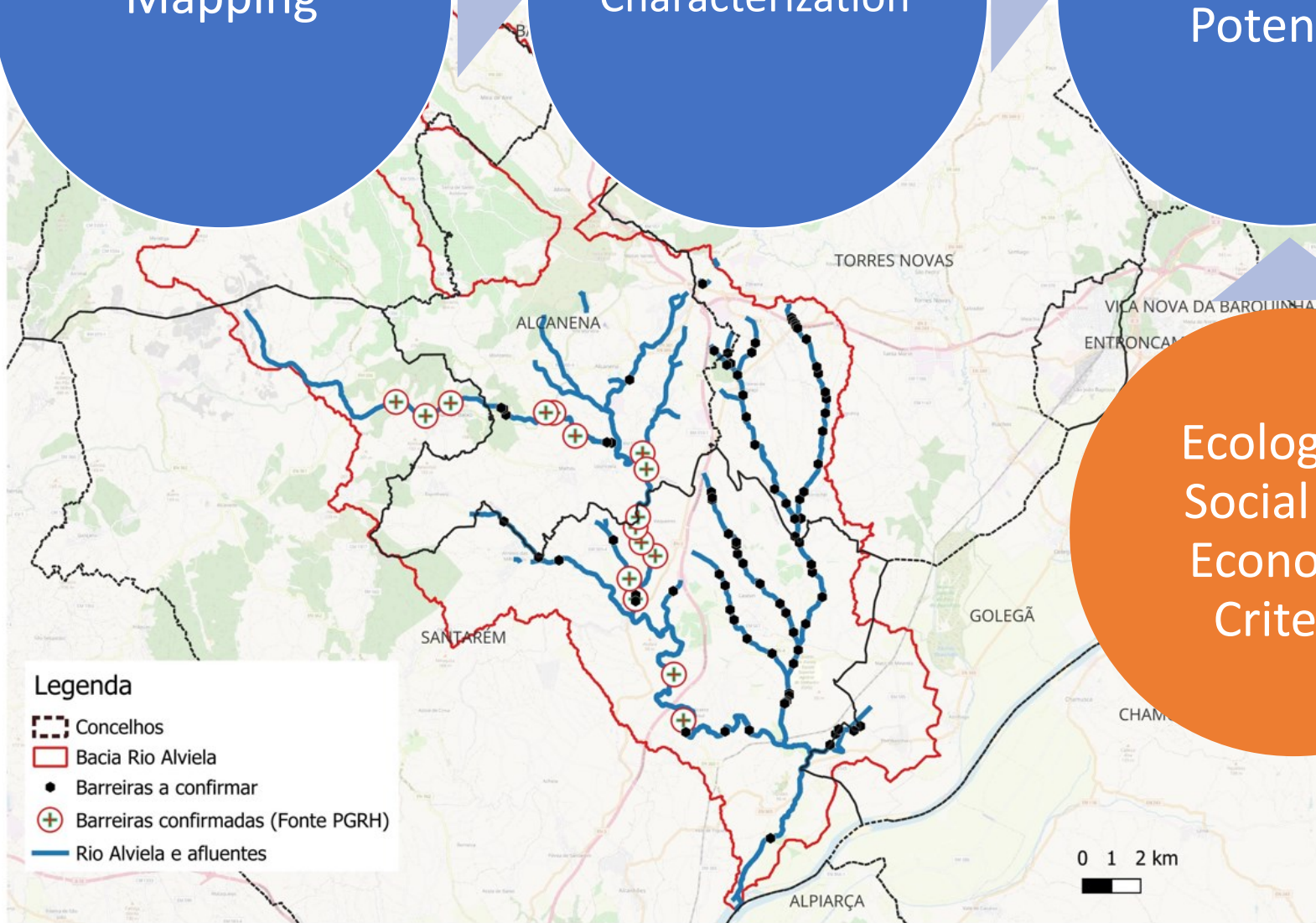
Mapping

Characterization

Removal
Potential

Development of a methodology replicable at the basin level and at national/Iberian levels.

Ecological,
Social and
Economic
Criteria





Motivation

Increase among the actors the knowledge and motivation to act for river ecosystems as a way of climate action.

- **Public participation Process**
- **Lobby and advocacy at the local, regional and national level**
- **Communication Strategy motivating river conservation and rehabilitation**





Integration

Act for rivers in an integrated manner, favouring behavioural changes and river rehabilitation, contributing to climate action.



Population



Municipalities



Water
Management
Bodies



Universities



River
Restoration
Specialists



Media



EnvNGOs



Behavioral
Change

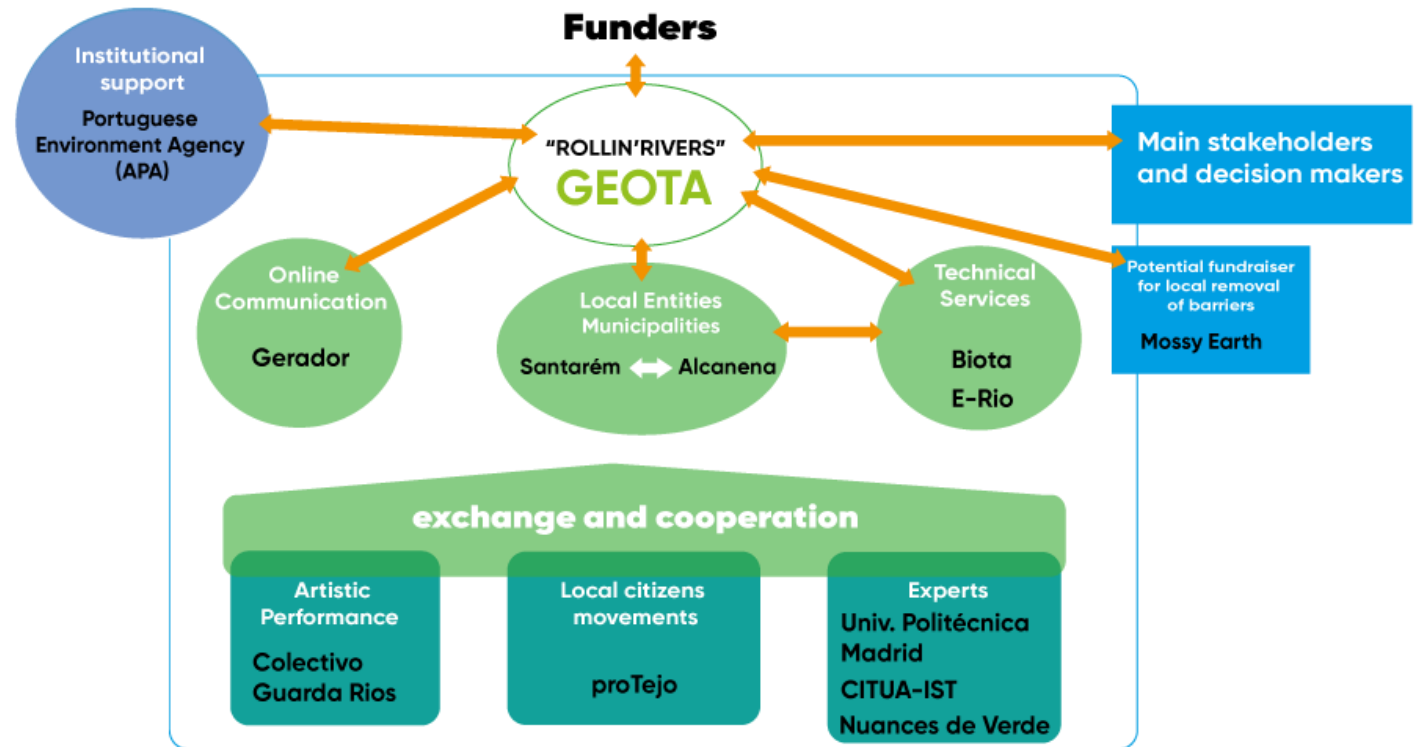
Conservation
and
rehabilitation

Climate
Action



Strategic Partnerships

- Portuguese Environment Agency
- Municipality of Santarém
- Municipality of Alcanena
- Municipality of Torres Novas
- GERADOR Cultural Association
- BIOTA
- E-Rio
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
- Coletivo Guarda Rios
- Nuances de Verde
- ProTejo



Support the creation and improvement of management strategies for river ecosystems, promoting their conservation and rehabilitation, and integrating governamental actors, technical and scientific knowledge and environmental organizations.



Governance



Rehabilitation

Knowledge-based river rehabilitation actions integrating population, municipalities, local movements and water management entities.

- 100 meters of Alviela River
- Recovery of River Connectivity
- Recovery of riparian gallery
- Collaboration between ENGO, Municipalities, Parishes, Media, Portuguese Environment Agency and Population
- First Step for the Implementation, in Portugal, of a National Strategy for the systematic removal of obsolete barriers to river connectivity

River rehabilitation with weir removal



www.rioslivres.geota.pt

Thank you

Ana Catarina Miranda

GEOTA; PPGNC - UFPA

cmiranda@geota.pt

