

**First steps in restoring  
longitudinal connectivity on  
Vâlsan River - home of  
critically endangered fish  
species – Asprete  
*Romanichthys valsanicola***

**Mircea Mărginean**

**Fauna  
& Flora**  
Saving Nature Together





## **OUR MISSION**

**We work closely with local conservation partners around the world to save nature, together.**

**We harness this collective expertise to inspire positive change globally.**

# HOW WE WORK

**1. We Work in Partnerships.**

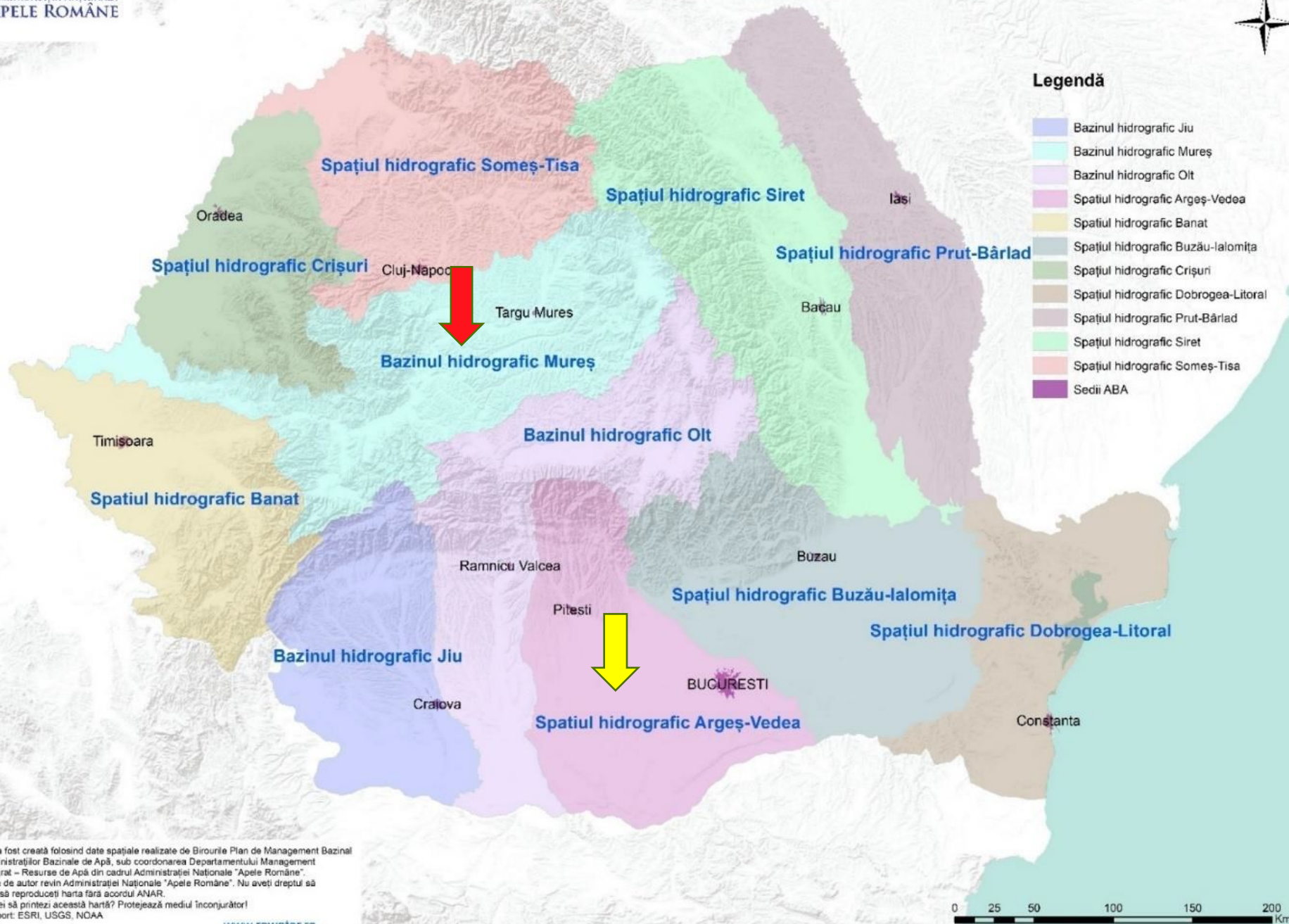
**2. We seek to enhance well-being.**



# Fauna & Flora in Romania

- **Ecological Connectivity**
- **Facilitating Coexistence**
- **Wildlife Crime**
- **Sustainable Livelihoods**
- **High Nature Value Farmland**
- **Freshwater**





# Freshwater Programme

Scaling up DR  
in Romania

Mureș  
watershed

Argeș  
watershed

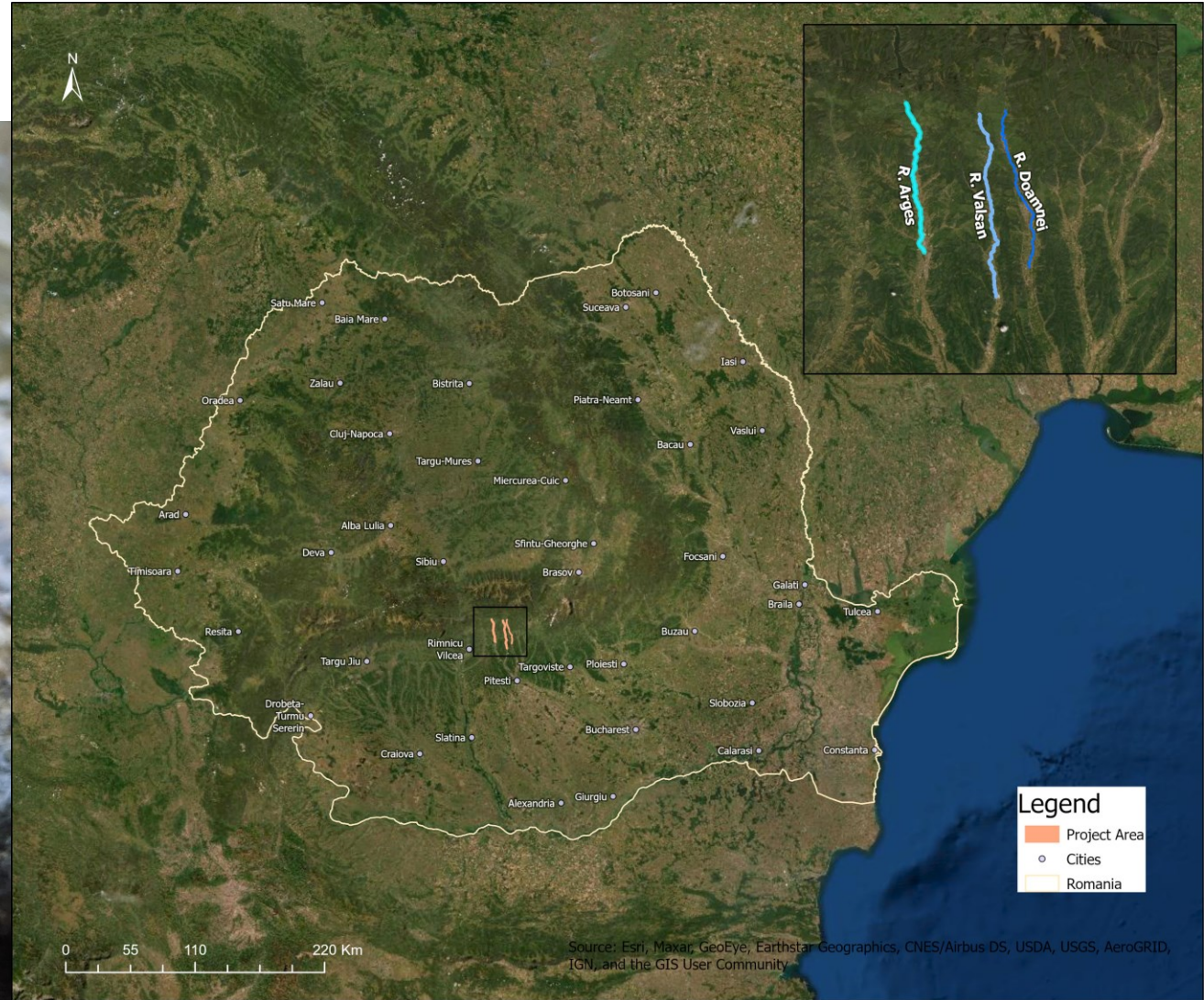
# Asprete Lives Project



## *Romanichthys valsanicola* – IUCN Critically Endangered



Photo: Andrei Togor, Marcus Drimbea, Alex Găvan Foundation



# Argeş Watershed – Vâlsan River Asprete conservation



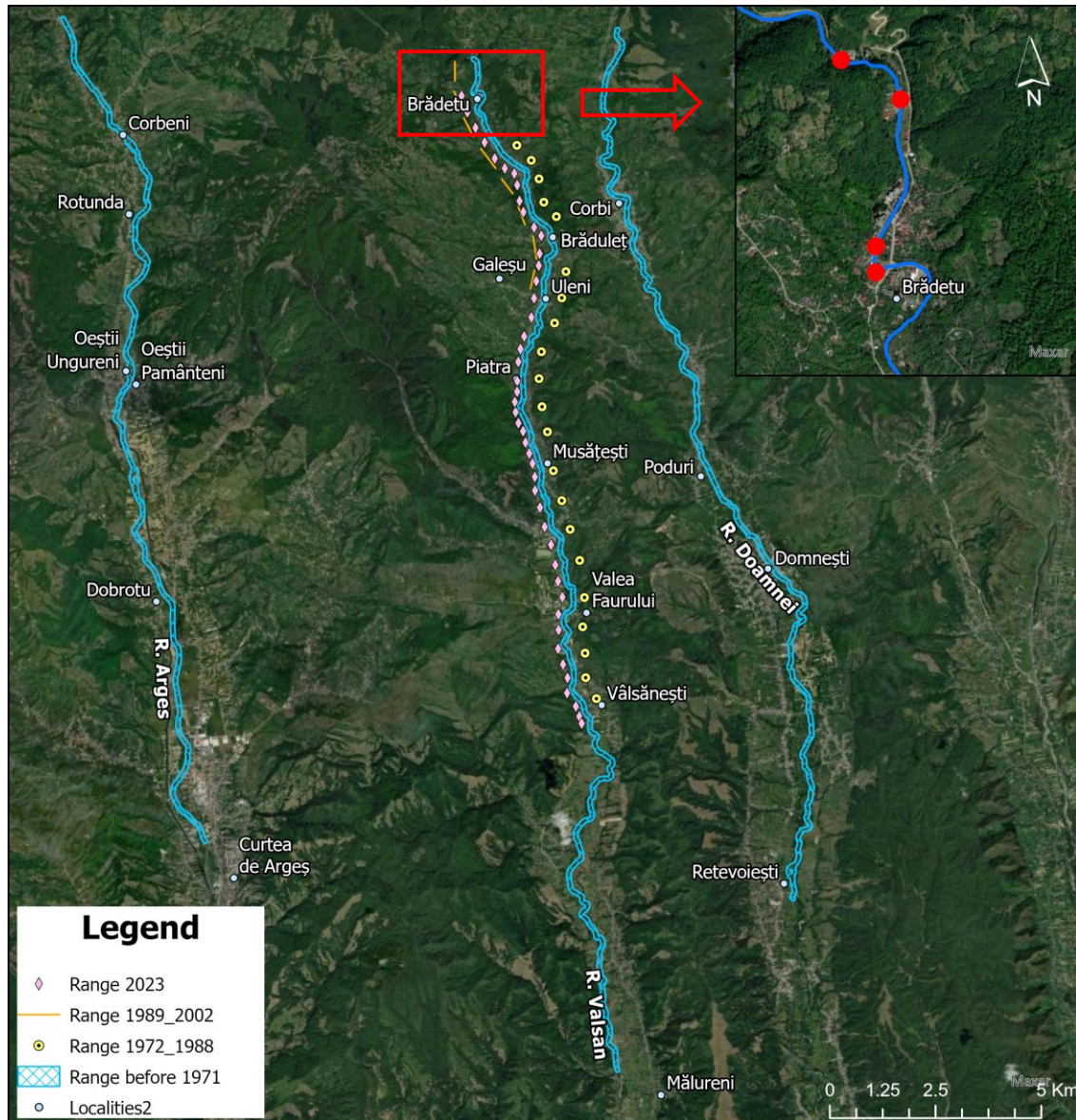
**2024**

- 153 individuals in 16 km of river.
- 12 other fish species – 5 EU protected.
- Water studies: physico-chemical parameters, pollutants, microplastic, ecological flow + prey availability.
- Ecological reconstruction plan.
- **Feasibility Study, EIA, SEA.**



# Open Rivers Project

## A2. Preparatory work







## Water catchment



## River crossing

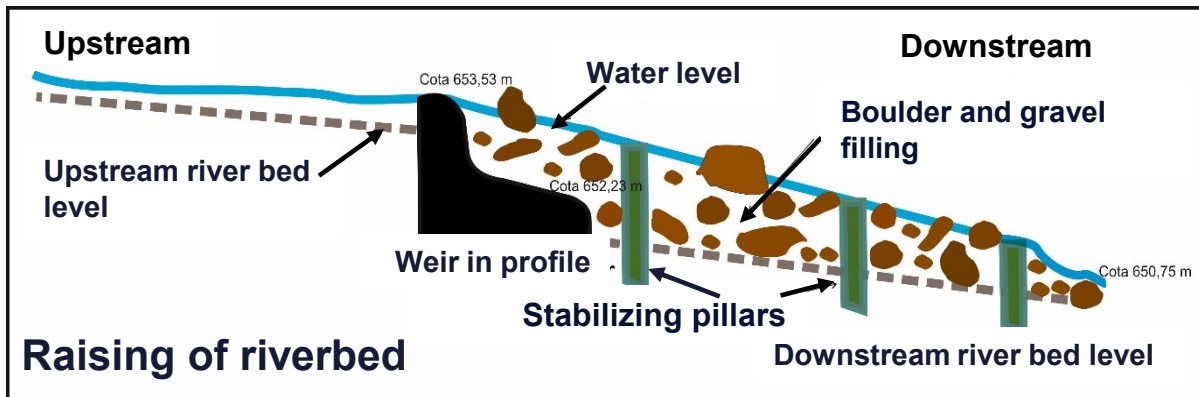
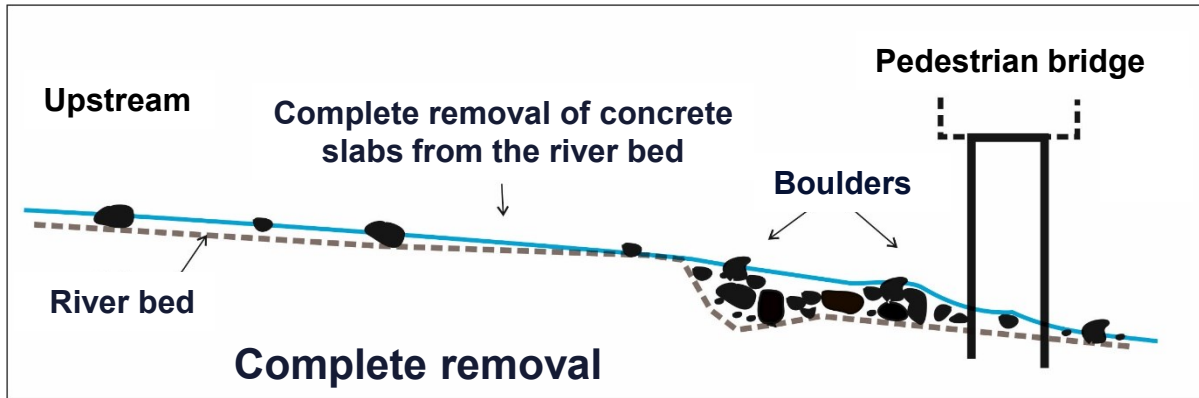
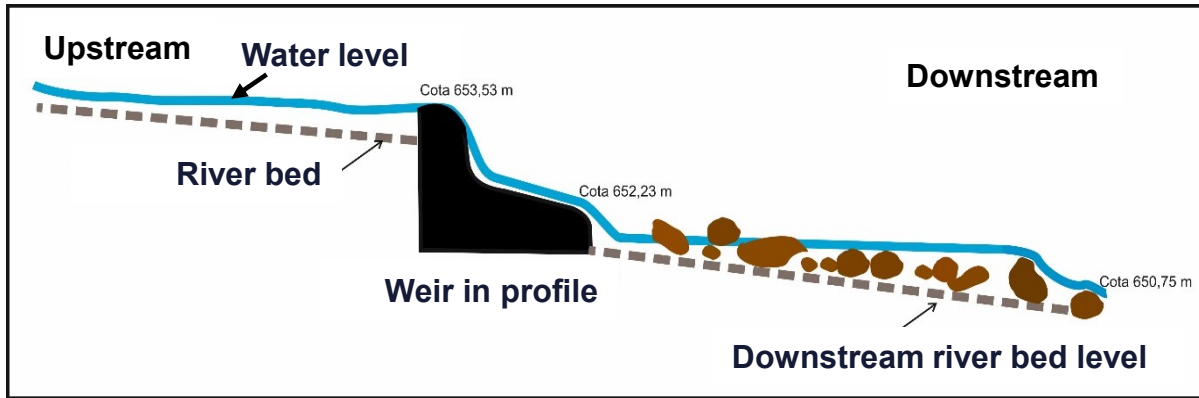
## Challenges

- Stopping the water supply to a part of the village.
- Constraints in funding for mitigation measures.
- Temporary stoppage of the sewage system.
- Affecting relations with the locals - obstacle provides access to households.



## Sewage pipe protection

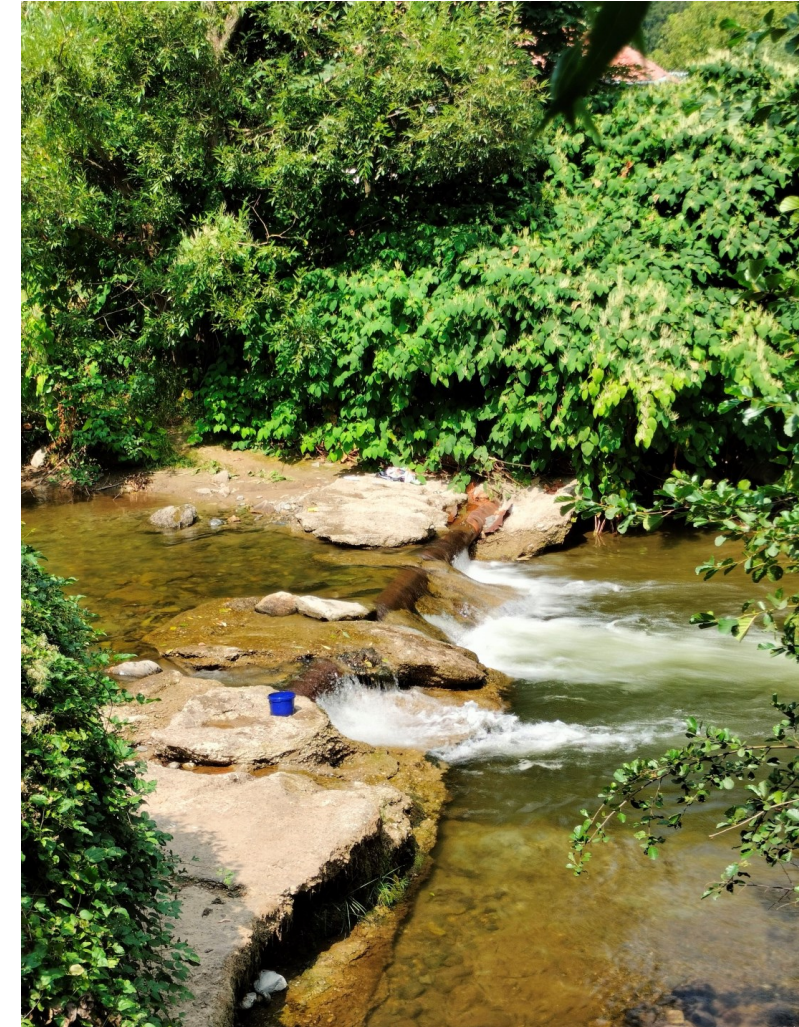
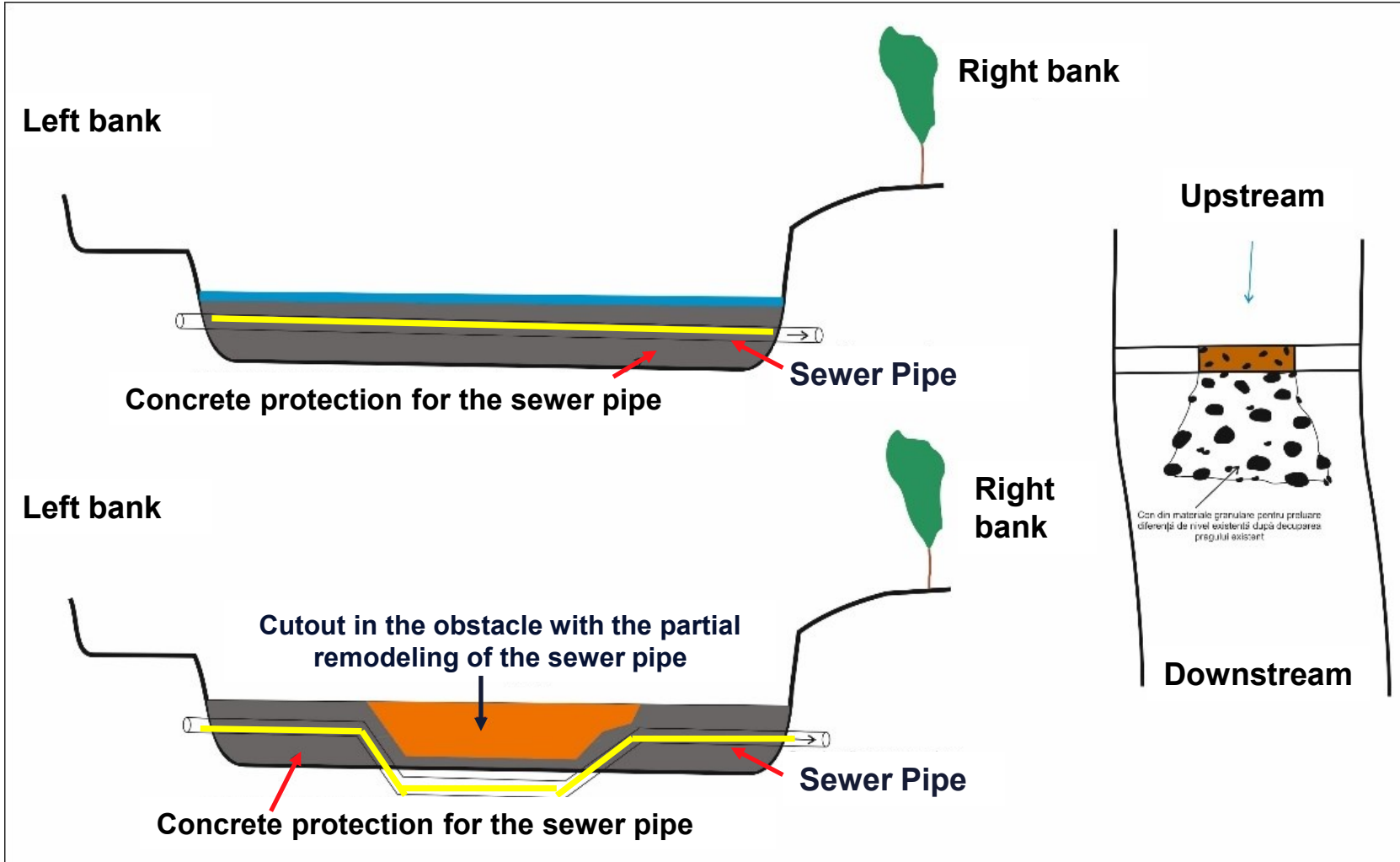




## Possible solutions?



# Possible solutions?



**Partial removal of the obstacle and remodeling of the sewer pipe below the level of the riverbed.**

# Acknowledgments

## Asprete Team

**Alex Găvan**

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**Daniel Diaconu**

**Alex Nicoară**



*Thank you!*

