

Improving river governance: removal of dams on the Ega river

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Gobierno de Navarra
Departamento de Desarrollo Rural
y Medio Ambiente



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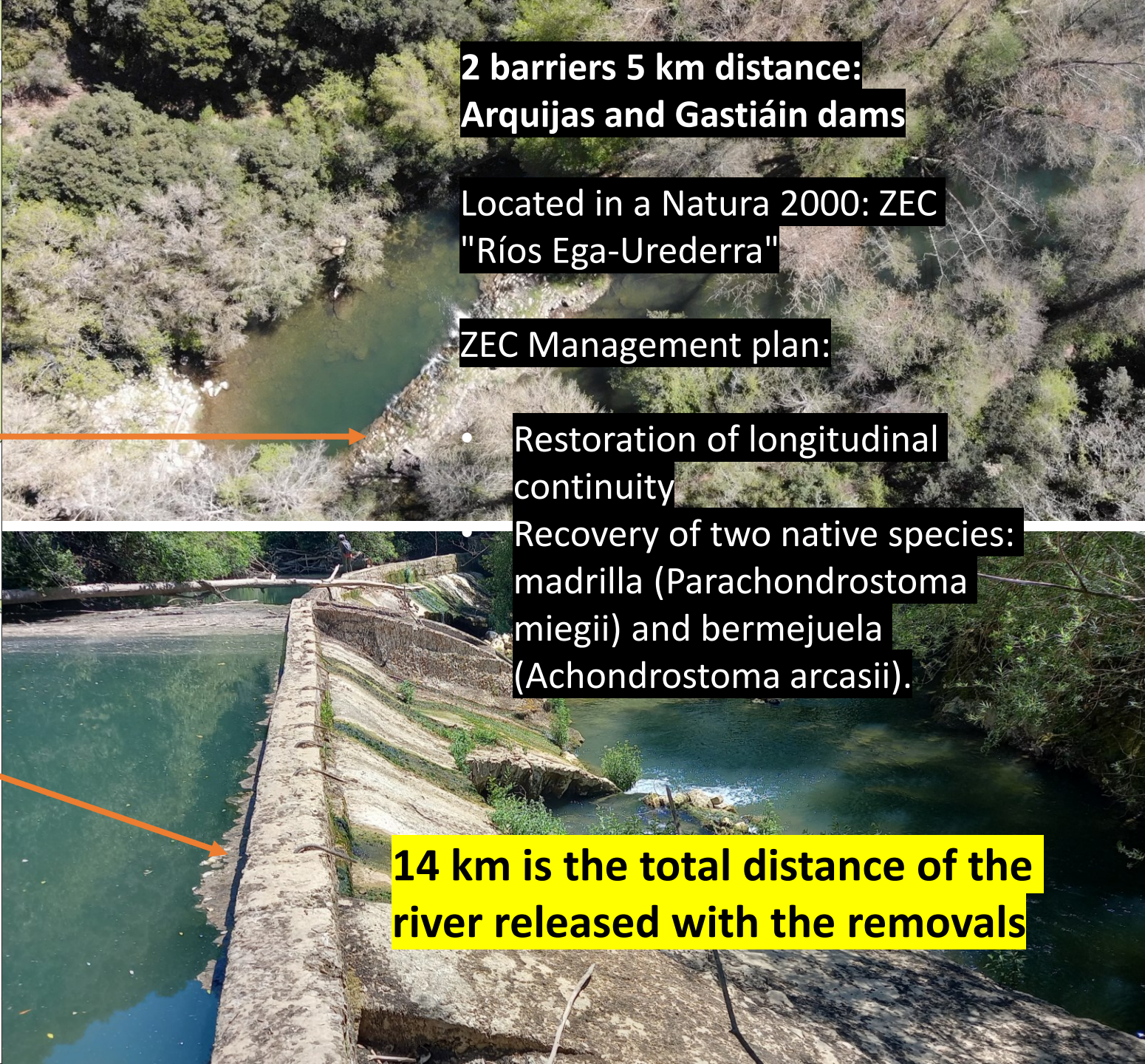
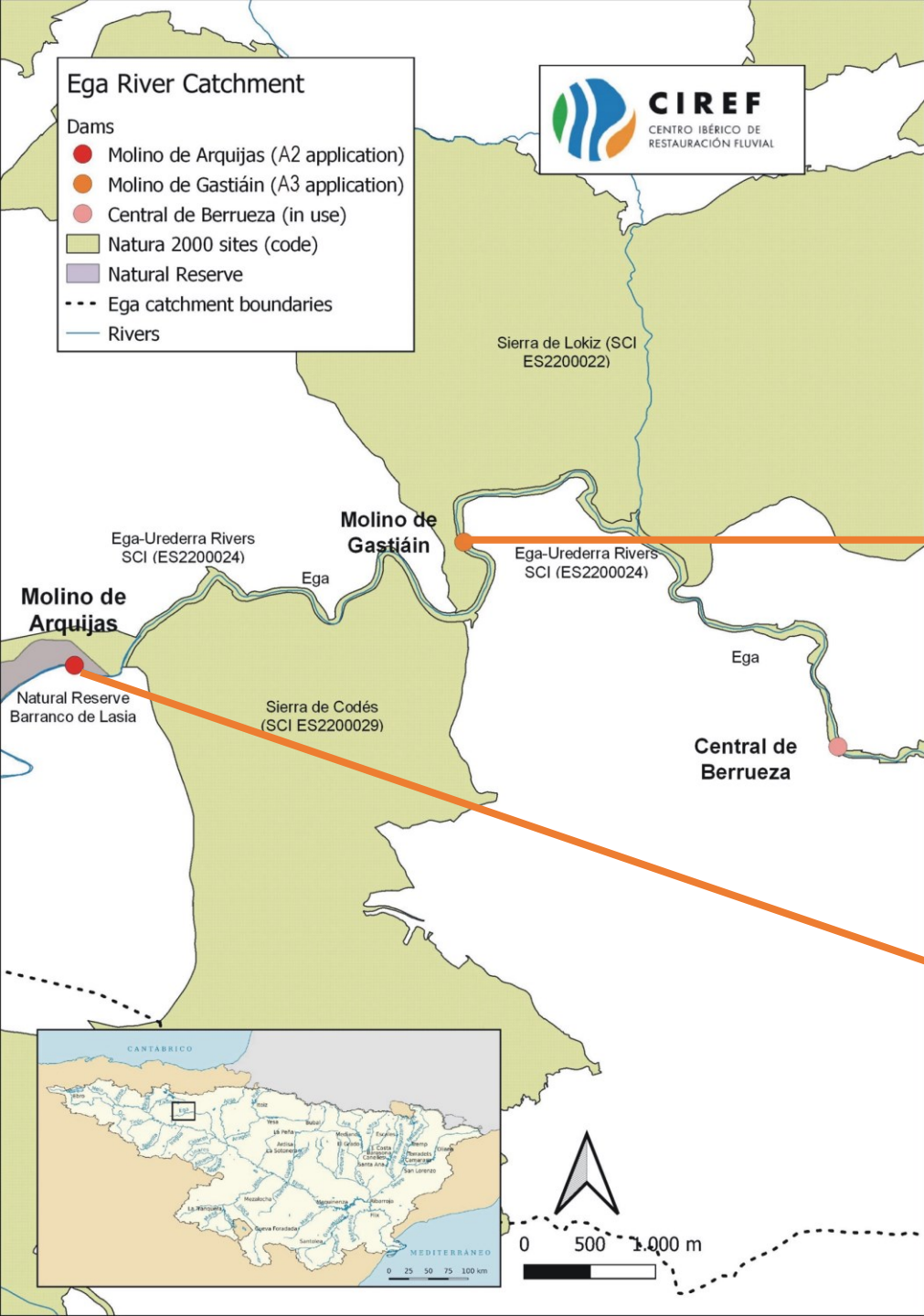
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**OPEN
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PROGRAMME**

CONFEDERACIÓN
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**2 barriers 5 km distance:
Arquijas and Gastiain dams**

**Located in a Natura 2000: ZEC
"Ríos Ega-Urederra"**

ZEC Management plan:

- Restoration of longitudinal continuity
- Recovery of two native species: madrilla (*Parachondrostoma miegii*) and bermejuela (*Achondrostoma arcasii*).

14 km is the total distance of the river released with the removals

Arquijas barrier

ORP - A2 - Preparatory Work

Budget: 22.200 €

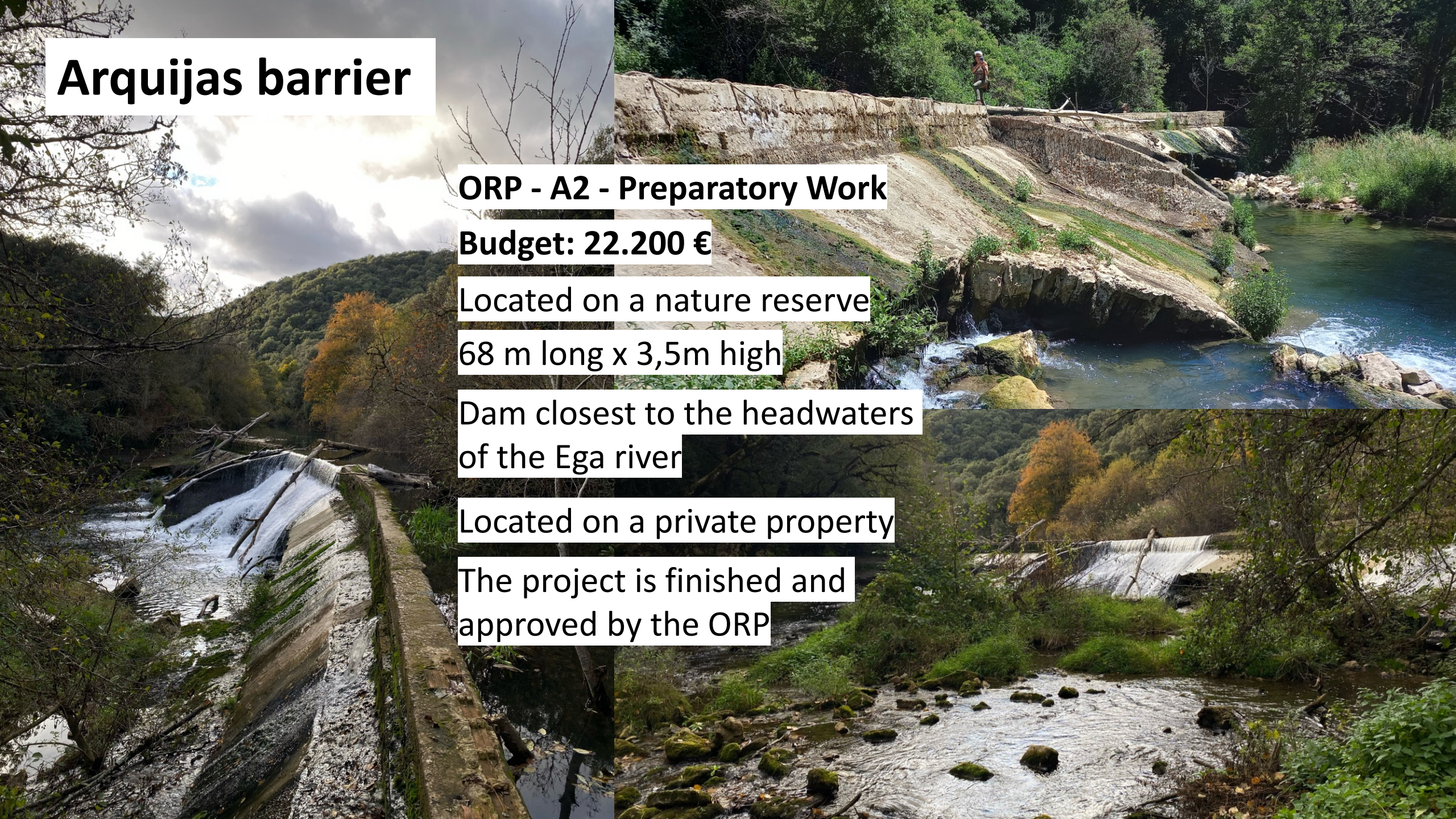
Located on a nature reserve

68 m long x 3,5m high

Dam closest to the headwaters
of the Ega river

Located on a private property

The project is finished and
approved by the ORP



Gastiáin barrier

An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest. A small dam, the Gastiáin barrier, is visible in the middle of the river. A person is kayaking on the river to the left of the dam. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation.

ORP – A3 – Dam removal

Budget: 168.486 €

Located 5 km downstream Arquijas dam, in a municipal border

30 m long x 3,5m high

The dam does not have owners

The preliminary studies were already drafted by a consultant

The demolition has not yet started due to local opposition

Arquijas results

- The project is drafted and will consist of 3 phases

Phase I. Preliminary works where a road to access to the dam will be opened. The vegetal material removed will be used in phase III

Phase II. Removal of the dam and morphological improvements

Phase III. Revegetation and habitat improvement works



① Existing road along the river



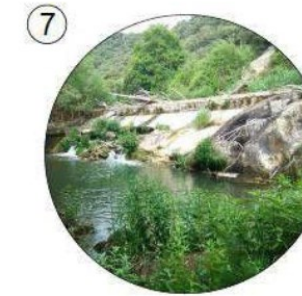
② Stone island with an asbestos cement pipe



③ State of the river upstream of the dam



④ Arquijas Mill building



We have awarded the ORP funds for the demolition of the dam!

Another view of the dam

Access road to the Mill building

Gastiáin results

MEDIO AMBIENTE

El derribo de la presa de Gastiáin se revalorar alternativas

El proyecto, financiado por el programa europeo Open Rivers, no convence a las entidades Zúñiga, Acedo y Gastiáin



Ampliar

The demolition of the dam has met with opposition from the village and the local authority.

We have therefore decided to postpone the demolition for a year

It will take place during this year 2024

Monitoring results Fish community and habitat



Sediments transport



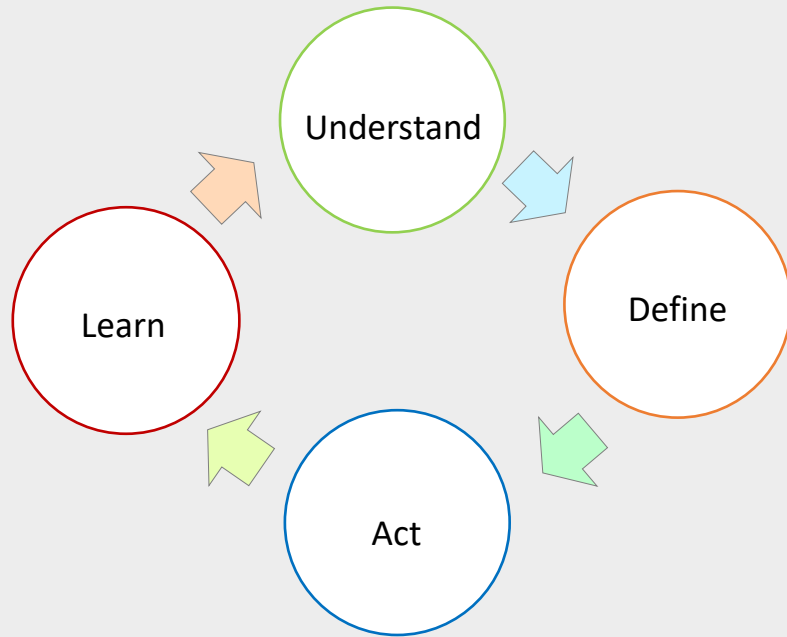
Invertebrate community



Public participation processes: same strategy, completely different results



The methodology used was that of Circular Design



- Four public participation processes were carried out in the towns near both dams.
- The participation of all stakeholders has been sought (landowners, administration, fishermen, conservationists, neighbours)



The participatory processes have been carried out jointly with completely different results.



Communication efforts

Audiovisual contents



Descubre el proyecto Open Rivers Ega del Centro Ibérico de Restauración Fluvial CIREF

¿De qué se trata?

A finales de año 2022, el CIREF se adjudicó dos de las 27 subvenciones del programa Open Rivers, una iniciativa que financia la eliminación de barreras de los ríos en peligro alrededor de Europa.



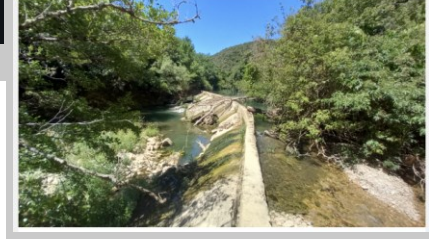
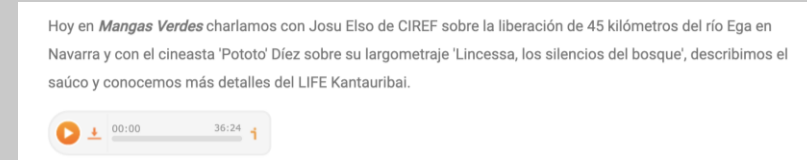
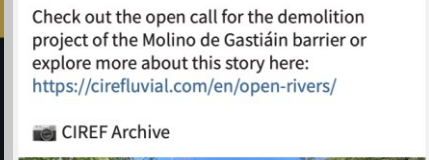
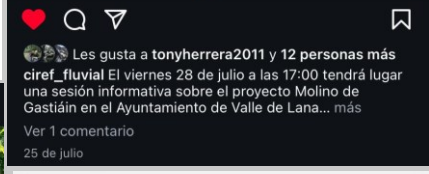
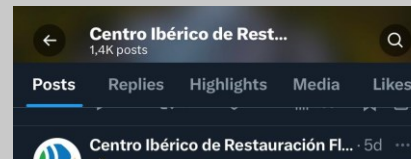
Video about dam demolition

ANTES Y DESPUÉS DEL AZUD
Nuestro tiempo y el tiempo de los ríos



+3.5K views in the first 3 months

Press releases and social networks



Differences between the two processes

Arquijas dam

- There was a high number of participants and from the beginning they were open to listen to us.
- Once the project was explained, they understood the need to carry it out and were in favour.
- They showed interest in contributing to the project with ideas and participating in a plant grid workshop proposed during the civil works.

Gastiáin dam

- From the beginning, they were opposed to dialogue and understanding, despite the fact that the Mayor had given his consent in a letter.
- They claim emotional attachment to the dam and the need for heritage protection.
- There is some political relationship that we have not fully understood.



Context in Spain

Fake news, hoaxes and news against dam removal



España, principal destructor de presas en medio de una sequía meteorológica

Nuestro país fue en 2021 el que más barreras fluviales eliminó en Europa, 108, casi la mitad de los 239 desmantelados en el continente

→ **¿Cuándo acabará la sequía en España?**

Rodrigo Díez Manceñido

Madrid - 20/04/2023 - Actualizada 04:30

La sequía ya afecta a buena parte de España. En varios puntos de la Península no ven llover de forma relevante desde hace **más de 100 días**, lo que ya afecta

Sequía

Marruecos pone en marcha un millonario plan contra la sequía mientras España destruye embalses

El país del norte de África se previene ante la sequía que tiene sus presas en un 24 % de capacidad

Chema Rubio

Madrid - 26/03/2023 - Actualizada 04:30

Los próximos meses serán **secos**. Así lo ha alertado la AEMET que predice que lloverá poco esta primavera y menos aún en los meses de verano lo que llevará a España a ver cómo los embalses se vacían y el agua se tiene



Citizen platform against dam removal



Consequence:

At least 7 demolition stalled or never started due to public pressure and opposition in 2023

Context in Spain – Learnings



- In recent times, and increased by the political situation in Spain, the discourse: NO TO THE DEMOLITION OF DAMS has been installed.
- We need to create a community IN FAVOUR of dam demolition to help us spread the opposite message: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS WILL BRING US HEALTHY RIVERS, RECHARGED AQUIFERS, LESS RISK OF DROUGHT....
- If we want to keep pushing for free flowing rivers, we must put more effort into 360º communication strategies

¡Sólo VOX se opone a la demolición de presas y embalses!



VOX España ✓
530 K suscriptores

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🔗 Compartir

Walking Rivers

*A Day to show the world that rivers are
UNIQUE!*

**Register a route, wear blue and join us!
11th May · All over the world**

Let's walk our rivers together



Thank you!

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