

# NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR RIVER RESTORATION IN SPAIN: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

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A National Strategy for River Restoration is being implemented by the Spanish Ministry of Environmental Affairs, with the scientific assistance of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. Theoretical concepts from Fluvial Geomorphology and Ecology, together with Water Framework Directive principles and objectives, have been the basis for this Strategy, whose the main objective is to improve the ecological status of rivers, recovering their natural variability and dynamics.

8 stages have been proposed for achieving river restoration goals with public participation and stakeholder agreement:



**1**

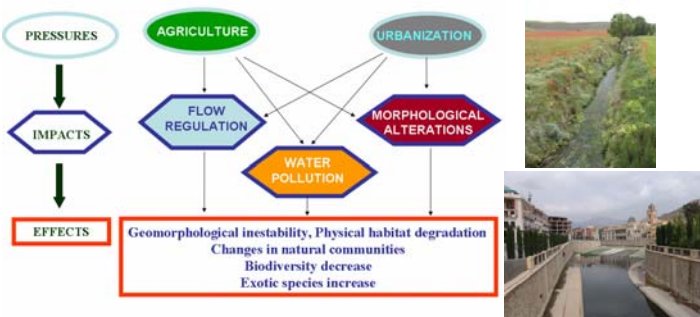
- Reach the good ecological status improving ecological functioning, according to the Water Framework Directive
- Integrate river management and conservation in land-use planning and agriculture, energy and urban development plans
- Promote multidisciplinary approaches in river engineering projects

**2**

- Collaboration with scientific community
- Working groups integrating water-users and stakeholders
- Conferences and public meetings to disseminate concepts and objectives

**3**

- Identification of main pressures and impacts and assessment of their effects on river ecological functioning



**6**

**7**

Defining restoration projects ...

- Restoration projects based on stakeholder complicity and social interest
- Restoration goals derived from reference conditions

Project implementation should include maintenance programmes

Post-project appraisal is necessary to improve future project designs



**8**

Assessing the *global capacity* for river restoration checking:

- The increase of environmental sensitivity in river management, improvement of multidisciplinary approach
- The advances in Stakeholder involvement in river restoration projects (pressures and impacts decrease), and in administrative coordination for soil, water and landscape planning
- The increase of public participation and social confidence on river managers and on river restoration, Increment of Volunteers involvement