

# A GREEN RHINE CORRIDOR

## FUTURE PROOFING EUROPE'S LARGEST RIVER FOR PEOPLE, NATURE AND THE ECONOMY

The Rhine: ecological corridor and economic backbone, connecting five European countries to each other and the sea. Host to salmon and beaver, important to industry, agriculture, recreation, housing and transport. Today already a living river

in many ways, but much can be improved. Natural life can be more closely linked to economic life and vice versa – not by accident but as a deliberate choice. Rhine Corridor aims to strengthen and future-proof the significance of the Rhine as a hydrological,

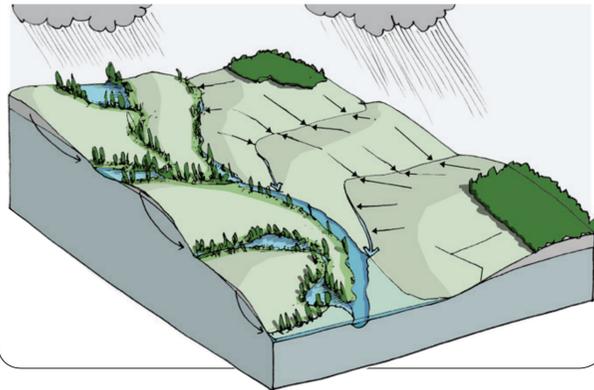
ecological, economic and social backbone of Europe. Rhine Corridor wants to achieve this goal through the restoration of natural processes and by building new, strong and sustainable links between the river, people and economies.

### ACTIVITIES OF RHINE CORRIDOR COALITION

Activities of Rhine Corridor Coalition vary from carrying out concrete projects on fish migration and sponge restoration (natural retention) to a joint lobby in the ICPR network.

#### RESTORATION OF SPONGES

The area on the right is drained. Rainwater is quickly led via ditches into the stream. The area on the left has no ditches. First the water seeps into the ground and, in a slowly moving underground current, makes it to the stream. At the foot of the hill the water surfaces but transport is still slow because of the natural vegetation in marshes and around brooks. This area will store water for a longer period – as a sponge – thereby not only leveling off flood peaks but also continuing to feed water into the stream much longer during dry periods.



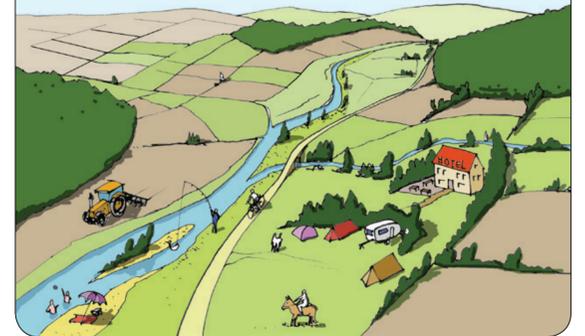
#### IMPROVING FISH MIGRATION

The Rhine basin has been the home for salmon, sturgeon and other migratory fish for a long time. Salmon and sturgeon are ideal flagship species to consider ecological aspects of a river system. Connectivity has been improved, but the work has not been done yet. Pressure is needed to protect and restore the original habitats and to prevent new dams in the salmon rivers. The Green Rhine corridor is setting up a campaign to improve fish migration in the Rhine and its tributaries (upstream and downstream) by finding solutions for key hindrances.



#### NATURE-BASED RECREATION

Conservation and recreation are often perceived as having different interests. Many conservationists are worried that access to nature reserves will lead to disturbance and eventually loss of species. The public at large is sometimes frustrated that they are not allowed to visit natural areas – although these often are created and managed in part with tax payers money. Along the rivers such animosity is generally unnecessary. In fact, tourism and recreation can help “legitimize” and broaden public support for nature conservation and restoration.



#### GREEN RHINE CORRIDOR CITIES

Green Rhine Corridor cities are cool, green and blue. Trees are abundant. The atmosphere is pleasant and the air clean. The river - or at least a side channel - runs through a Rhine Corridor city. That this is possible for some sites shows the winner- concept of an architect combat in Speyer, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany for an old factory site: buildings with integrated protection against flood, a lot of trees and a wide green corridor at the riverbank for recreation.

