

Conservation and improvement of aquatic biodiversity in the Muran river basin



Near-natural stretch of the Muran (Photo: E. Hapl)

Background

The Muran river system is located in central Slovakia south of the Lower Tatra. It merits special protection owing to its – in parts – very natural structure, its biodiversity and large number of species protected under the Habitats Directive (e.g. Carpathian brook lamprey (*Eudontomyzon danfordi*) or stone loach (*Barbatula barbatula*). However, there are some stretches where constructions spoil the natural character of the river and permanently interrupt its continuity. Further-more, there was no systematic recording of aquatic biodiversity which might serve as the basis for further protection measures. In cooperation with the chair of animal hygiene, WG fish biology of the TU München, a package of studies and measures was drawn up to advance the conservation and improvement of ecological conditions and biological diversity at the Muran Natura 2000 site.

Project

The advising project aimed to train stakeholders (e.g. biologists, administrative staff, mayors, fishermen and farmers) in the region to facilitate the implementation of successful conservation concepts for the Muran river in the medium and long term. For this purpose information events on options for action in the region had been staged. The focus was on the targets of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), for example sustainable land stewardship, river ecology, species conservation, regulated waste water disposal etc. The project aimed to create stronger awareness of the topic of rivers and ecology at the local level. Targeted action guidelines were developed in coordination with local experts which are to improve habitats at or in the river through implementation measures. German and Slovakian experts were given the opportunity to exchange information on the latest biological research methods during workshops.

- Target country/region: Slovakia
- Duration: 10/2009 - 01/2012
- Beneficiaries: Local administrations, nature conservation experts, fishery experts, water management, river basin administrations, experts for environmental education
- Implementing organisation: Consulting company blue! advancing european projects GbR in cooperation with the Slovakian National Park administration Murànska planina-Non-Investment Fund (MP-NIF)
- Project identification: FKZ 380 01 216