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Landkreis Dingolfing-Landau  
(District of Dingolfing-Landau)



Stadt Dingolfing  
(City of Dingolfing)



Stadt Landau an der Isar  
(City of Landau on the Isar)

and the EU support programme LIFE Nature.



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[www.flusserlebnis-isar.de](http://www.flusserlebnis-isar.de)

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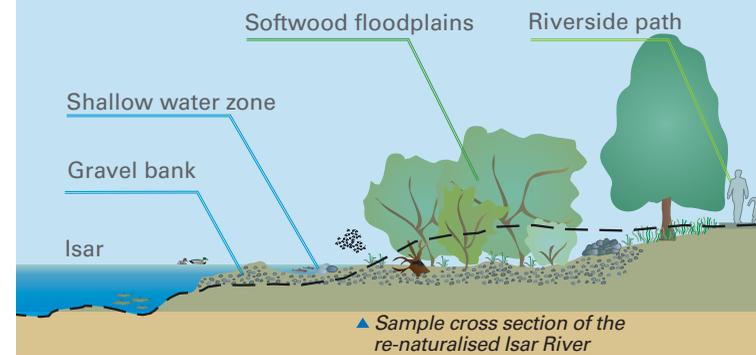
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## Objectives & Measures

### Subject area of water

- Recreation of richly structured embankments
- Development of gravel banks and shallow water zones
- Restoration of undeveloped embankments
- Creation of semi-natural shore and channel structures
- Ecological enhancement of a rubble drain
- Semi-natural design of an existing floodplain channel
- New creation of an Isar branch
- Recreation and optimisation of floodplain waters

### Subject area of wood

- Conversion of thick floodplain shrubs to tiered floodplain forests
- Development and optimisation of hardwood and softwood floodplain forests that are typical for the location
- Recreation of hardwood and softwood floodplain forests
- Rehabilitation of pollard willows

### Subject area of meadows

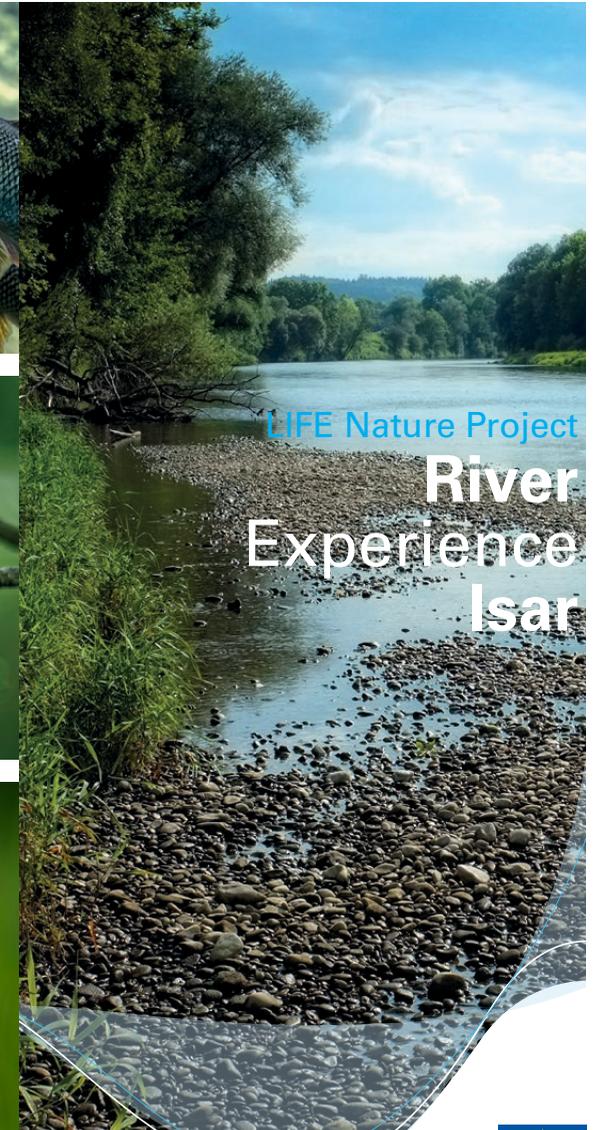
- Development of limestone grassland
- Development of lowland hay meadows
- Floristic enhancement of the meadows

## And the winner is ...

The measures are primarily designed to increase the ecological value of the Isar River and its floodplains in an effort to create natural habitats for species of animals and plants. What is more, the human population will benefit as well, as these measures will afford them a more attractive river landscape and more direct access to the river, allowing them to enjoy the river with all of their senses. Overall, a win-win solution – for man and nature.



Rare species of freshwater fish such as the common barbel, bird species populating floodplain forests such as the collared flycatcher or the flora of the floodplain meadows including such attractive species as the military orchid will benefit tremendously from the LIFE project. ▶



LIFE Nature Project  
**River Experience Isar**



# River Experience Isar – the name says it all!

The Isar River – there is hardly another river that is tied so closely to the history and tradition of Bavaria: it is and will remain *the* river of the Bavarian people.

The Isar has always been considered “torrential”, wild and dangerous. Not surprising – given that its flood waters have always had the capacity to administer sudden hardship and destruction to the nearby population. Since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the Lower Isar has been fortified, straightened, embanked and, finally, converted into a chain of reservoirs, primarily for the purpose of taming its flood

waters, but also in an effort to reclaim land and generate power. Today, the river is only allowed to flow freely in the area immediately below the barrages. The gravel banks and islands, the branches, the bank scars and floodplain waters that used to be typical for this river have disappeared or deteriorated, severely decimating the flora and fauna. The river has turned from a vital line of our homeland to a mere barrier and alien element.

The time has now come to restore the river to its old glory. Together with numerous partners and supporters from the region, the Wasserwirtschaftsamt Landshut and the Regierung von Niederbayern in their capacity as Höhere Naturschutzbehörde have teamed up to restore the Isar River



Flusserlebnis Isar

to a more natural state in the context of the EU-sponsored LIFE project.

**To allow everyone to experience the Isar River with all of their senses and, at the same time, give nature back a piece of river landscape that is alive and vibrant – this is our objective.**

### Project area following the stepping stone principle

Stretching along a length of 295 km, the Isar River is the fourth longest river in Bavaria. The lower reach of the river flows through the cities of Landshut, Dingolfing

ing, Landau on the Isar and Plattling and ends into the Danube River opposite the City of Deggendorf.

The participants in the LIFE project have picked seven sub-territories between Loiching and Ettliling on the lower reach of the Isar River that are supposed to serve as stepping stones that will eventually form the ecological backbone of the river landscape. Together they span an area of approx. 700 ha.



In the territories of Loiching, Dingolfing and Landau I the re-naturalisation of the channelled Isar is put front and centre.

The stepping stones off Mammung and Goblen offer great potential for developing floodplains with original hardwood and softwood floodplains and diverse floodplain waters.

The territories of Landau II and Ettliling see the development of a mosaic that is composed of floodplain forests, blossomy meadows and bodies of standing water that are a common phenomenon in floodplains.



▲ Current state of the fortified and straightened Isar River in Dingolfing

## Facts worth knowing about the project

**Official project title:** Restoration of the river Isar and its floodplains in the region of the lower Isar valley

**Brief title:** River Experience Isar

**Applicant and lead partner:** Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz, first joint LIFE project undertaken by the Naturschutz- und Wasserwirtschaftsverwaltung in Bayern

**Project partners partially co-sponsoring the project:** Bayerischer Naturschutzfonds, Landkreis Dingolfing-Landau, Stadt Dingolfing, Stadt Landau a. d. Isar

**Project management:** Wasserwirtschaftsamt Landshut and the Regional Government of Lower Bavaria in their capacity as Höhere Naturschutzbehörde

**General management and operative execution:** Wasserwirtschaftsamt Landshut supported by external project management services

**Project budget:** approx. EUR 6.4 million, making it the largest LIFE project in Bavaria to date

**EU funding:** The portion of LIFE nature funding that originates from the EU support programme is 60%

**Project duration:** October of 2015 to December of 2022



► Model: Isar re-naturalisation near Landau