

## ACTIVITY REPORT: SPANISH RIVER RESTORATION SEMINAR

Arévalo, Spain, 28- 29 November 2024

### CIREF RIVER RESTORATION SEMINAR:

The river restoration seminar was held in the city of Arévalo on 28 and 29 November 2024 and was attended by 46 people. The event was supported by Wetlands International Europe through the EU LIFE programme and the Water Authority of the Duero Basin (Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero) which, through its Life IP-Duero project, was able to co-finance the event. Below we explain the different sections of the seminar.

Publication of the seminar on the CIREF website (public access):

<https://cirefluvial.com/event/jornadas-sobre-ecosistemas-fluviales/>



Fig. 1: Seminar poster

## Programme of the seminar

### Thursday 28 November

<b>10:30 - 11:00</b>	<b>Accreditation and welcome coffee break</b>
<b>11:00 - 11:15</b>	Presentation of the conference
<b>11:15 - 12:00</b>	Francisca Segura Beltrán (University of Valencia): 'The thin red line': ephemeral rivers and sand rivers, dynamics of restoration
<b>12:00 - 12:45</b>	Francisco Durán Vian (Fundación Biodiversidad): Paradigmatic examples of the situation of temporary urban rivers and how to move towards river-city reconciliation
<b>12:45 - 13:30</b>	Pilar Valbuena Pérez (FAO): 'I don't know how I'm going to tell you': the challenges of science communication
<b>13:30 - 15:00</b>	Lunch break
<b>15:00 - 16:00</b>	Carlos Marcos Primo (Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero): 'The forgotten rivers': life IP Duero
<b>16:00 - 17:00</b>	Round table with all participants and speakers
<b>17:00 - 17:30</b>	Coffee break
<b>17:30 - 18:00</b>	Instructions for the field visit
<b>18:00 - 19:30</b>	CIREF Assembly and renewal of the Board of Directors. *Parallel screening of the documentary 'The wild forest of Pardomino'.
<b>19:30 - 20:00</b>	Cocktail
<b>20:00 - 21:30</b>	Tour of the city of Arévalo and guided visit to the exhibition: 'Rain does not come from the sky' in the Collegium creation space.

### Friday 29th November

<b>9:30 - 14:00</b>	<b>Field trip visiting the Life IP-Duero actions: removal of dams and weirs, flood prevention works, recovery of old branches, wetlands recovery, etc.</b>
<b>14:00 - 16:00</b>	Lunch break



Fig. 2: Photos of the seminar and speakers

## Presentations and speakers

The seminar focused on the challenges related to temporary rivers and the communication of technicians towards civil society, with high-level speakers from the University of Valencia, the FAO, the Biodiversity Foundation and the water authority of the Duero River basin.

A brief of the presentations is explained below:

### Presentation Nº1

**Title:** 'The thin red line': ephemeral rivers and sand rivers, dynamics of restoration

**Name of the speaker and affiliation:** Dra. Francisca Segura Beltrán, University of Valencia

**Go to the presentation:** [F.Segura\\_AREVALO.pdf](#)

It was explained what ephemeral rivers are, the location of this type of watercourse, hydrology (causes of intermittent flow, the genesis of the flow, the characteristics of floods or 'flash floods'), geomorphology, diagnostic methods, particularities of ephemeral rivers, hydrological connectivity and considerations on river restoration of these watercourses.

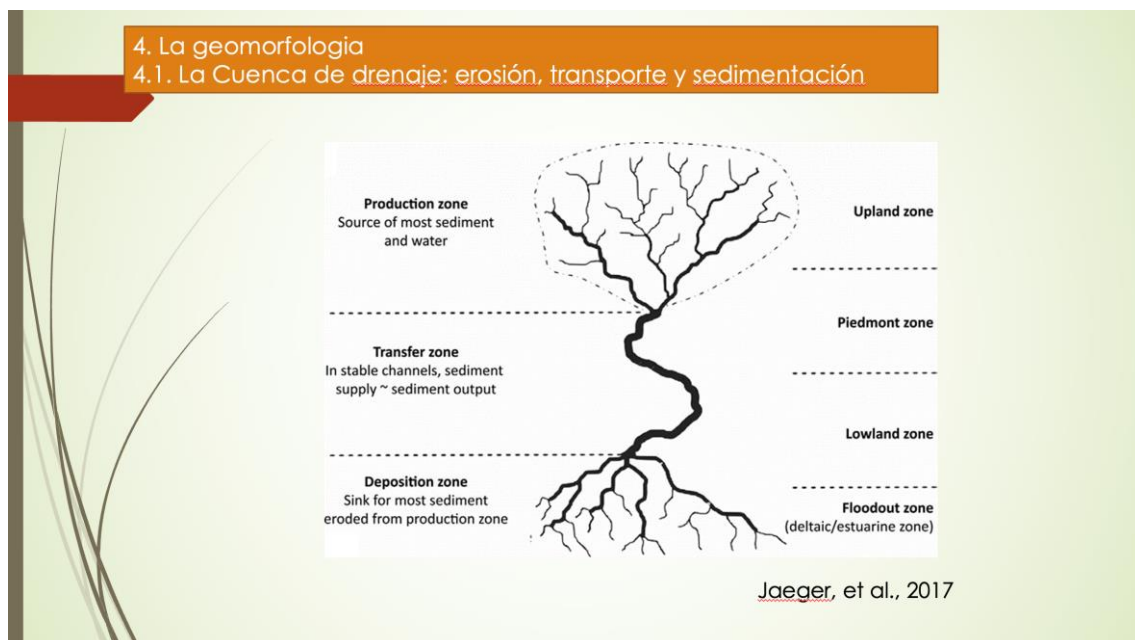


Fig. 3: Slide of the presentation nº1

## Presentation Nº2

**Title:** Paradigmatic examples of the situation of temporary urban rivers and how to move towards river-city reconciliation

**Name of the speaker and affiliation:** Francisco Durán Vian, Biodiversity Foundation

**Go to the presentation:** [F.Duran\\_ARÉVALO.pdf](#)

The presentation explained the mission and lines of action of the Biodiversity Foundation in terms of river restoration in Spain, the calls for renaturation and restoration in urban areas, the current projects and their beneficiaries, the challenges in river-city integration and the paradigmatic example of the city against its river: the Zapardiel in Medina del Campo and its attempts to integrate it into the city and improve its ecological state.



Fig. 4: Slide of the presentation nº2



### Presentation Nº3

**Title:** 'I don't know how I'm going to tell you': the challenges of science communication

**Name of the speaker and affiliation:** Pilar Valbuena Pérez, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The presentation was online from FAO offices in Rome. The challenges of science communication were explained, as well as some recommendations on how to approach it in a better way by identifying the target audience and the channel through which the message is to be transmitted. In addition to the importance of carrying out a proper evaluation of each of the actions carried out in this field.



Fig. 5: Photo of the presentation nº3

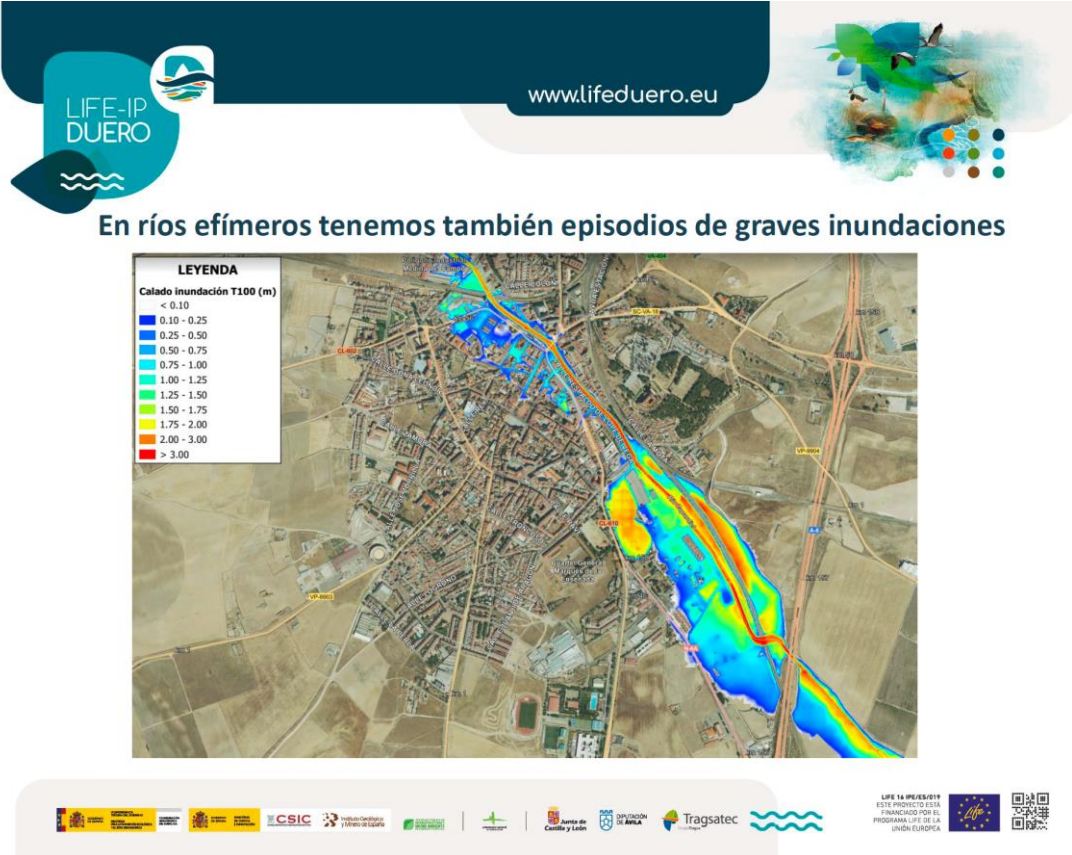
## Presentation Nº4

**Title:** 'The forgotten rivers': life IP Duero

**Name of the speaker and affiliation:** Carlos Marcos Primo, Duero Water Basin Authority (CHD)

**Go to the presentation:** [C.Marcos AREVALO.pdf](https://www.lifeduero.eu)

Carlos Marcos' presentation explained what we are talking about when we speak of “forgotten rivers”. They are rivers that are little appreciated due to their temporary nature and that have been greatly altered and transformed. They are misunderstood and unknown rivers. From this explanation, the Life IP-Duero project and its restoration actions were explained, which we visited the following day during the field trip.



The slide features a header with the LIFE-IP DUERO logo, the website [www.lifeduero.eu](http://www.lifeduero.eu), and a decorative graphic of a river and birds. The main title is "En ríos efímeros tenemos también episodios de graves inundaciones". Below this is a flood risk map of a town, overlaid with a color-coded legend for "Calado inundación T100 (m)". The legend ranges from blue (< 0.10) to red (> 3.00). The map shows the town and surrounding areas, with the river Duero flowing through it. The flood risk is highest (red and orange) along the river and in some urban areas, and lowest (blue) in rural areas. At the bottom of the slide, there are logos for various partners and funding sources, including the Spanish government, CSIC, Tragsatec, and the LIFE program.

**LIFE-IP DUERO**  
[www.lifeduero.eu](http://www.lifeduero.eu)

**En ríos efímeros tenemos también episodios de graves inundaciones**

**LEYENDA**  
Calado inundación T100 (m)

< 0.10
0.10 - 0.25
0.25 - 0.50
0.50 - 0.75
0.75 - 1.00
1.00 - 1.25
1.25 - 1.50
1.50 - 1.75
1.75 - 2.00
2.00 - 3.00
> 3.00

Logos at the bottom: Spanish government, CSIC, Tragsatec, LIFE program, and others.

Fig. 6: Slide of the presentation nº4

## Field visit

The field visit took place during the morning of Friday 29th where the works related to the Life IP-Duero Project (<https://www.lifeduero.eu/>) were visited. A project focused on the restoration of temporary rivers in the area, with a special effort to encourage public participation with the participation of mayors, farmers, general public, among others.



Fig. 7: Field visit to the Duero Life-IP project



This seminar was funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA.

Neither the European Union nor CINEA can be held responsible for them.