

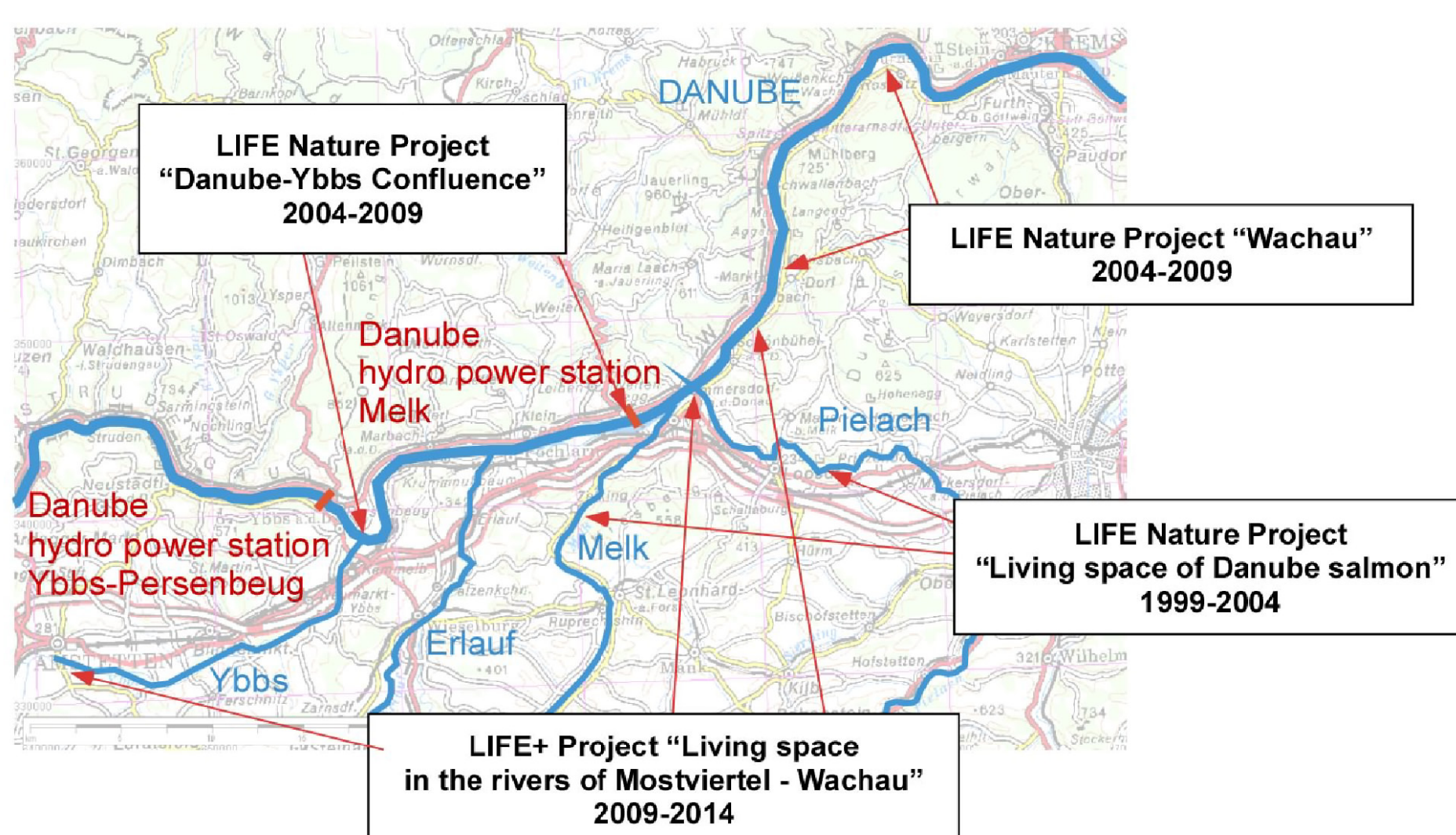
LIVING SPACE IN THE RIVER DANUBE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES IN LOWER AUSTRIA/MOSTVIERTEL

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aerial photography by Markus Haslinger (extremfotos.com)



Connection of the Measures of the 4 LIFE Nature Projects
"Living space of Danube salmon", "Wachau", "Danube-Ybbs Confluence" and
"Living space in the rivers of Mostviertel - Wachau"



Four LIFE+ projects aim at the improvement of river habitats and threatened fish species under the conservational obligation to directive 92/43/EWG in the Danube River and the rivers Pielach, Melk and Ybbs. This is done by great river restoration measures.

The measures took place in a strategic set of 4 LIFE Nature projects to enhance the positive effects on threatened fish species and contribute to the aim "holding the loss of biodiversity". The effective and very successful work by implementing great lateral flowing waters of River Danube is mostly completed.

All historic situations of great lateral systems in the Danube stretch of Wachau were restored.

The lower section of River Pielach, the most efficient spawning area, was improved and sustainable protected. A fish migration facility at Danube Hydro Power station in Melk was built to connect the rivers.

The restoration of River Ybbs takes place around the town of Amstetten, the capital of the district.



LIFE Nature Project "Living space of Danube salmon" (1999-2004 / 3,15 Mio €)

The project is located on two tributaries of the Danube in Lower Austria (rivers Pielach and Melk) that were disconnected from River Danube by weirs and artificial obstacles blocking spawning runs. The objective of the project was to develop, implement and monitor rehabilitation measures, in particular the re-establishment of the river continuum (by fish passes) and the improvement of habitat conditions (channel rehabilitation). The results are the free passage and population extensions within a Danube/tributary river network of 78 km.

www.life-huchen.at



LIFE Nature Project "Wachau" (2004-2009 / 5,2 Mio €)

The objective of the project was to maintain and improve the most endangered river habitats of the Danube river stretch "Wachau", a 33 km long, unblocked and freely-flowing part of the Austrian Danube. As result of the project today there are more than 4 km of lateral flowing waters which were restored and shaped in accordance to historical situations.

www.life-wachau.at



LIFE Nature Project "Danube-Ybbs Confluence" (2004-2009) / 3,15 Mio €

The objective of the project was to interlink the tributaries within the Natura 2000 region "Lower Austrian Alpine Foothills Rivers". The Pielach and Melk rivers flow into the Danube below the Melk power plant and above the Erlauf and Ybbs rivers. The link was realised by constructing a fishway, 2 km in length, at the Melk power station on the Danube where a 12-metre height difference was to overcome. As a result, fish can now pass through the Danube between the power plants at Altenwörth and Ybbs-Persenbeug, a stretch of about 80 km.

In addition the mouth of River Ybbs was restored and today displays a keen diversity of habitat structures including branches separated by islands. The new delta at the mouth now encompasses an enlarged area of about 9 hectares in total.

www.life-donau-ybbs.at



LIFE+ Nature Project "Living space in the rivers of Mostviertel - Wachau" (2009-2014) / 6,7 Mio €

This LIFE Project is still in progress. In the River Danube the restoration work of re-establishment of lateral flowing waters was completed by digging out more than 4 km. Together with the measures of the LIFE project Wachau there are now in total about 10 km lateral flowing waters restored- most of all historic situations. In addition the mouth of River Pielach was shaped as a delta and the possibility of fish migration into an old shallow waterbody near the town of Melk was improved by a fish pass. At River Ybbs restoration work is done at 3 locations near the town of Amstetten by widening the river bed with the aim to create typical gravel bars, gravel island and riparian zones.

www.life-mostviertel-wachau.at

