

# LIFE ÁGUEDA: insights from an ongoing river restoration





Connected Rivers Lisbon, 19-21 May 2022















Location: Rivers Vouga / Águeda / Alfusqueiro

• Duration: Aug-2017 to Jul.2022

• Budget:

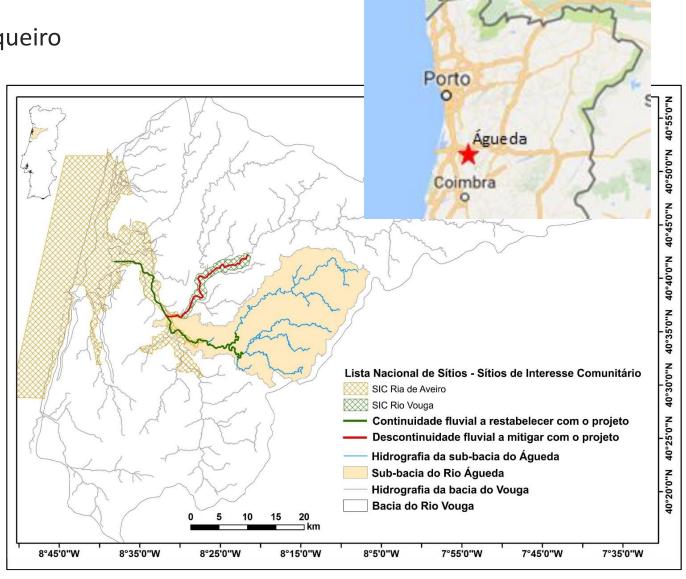
Total: 3 324,804 € (60% EU)

**Co-financing:** 











Coordinating Beneficiary:





University of Évora / MARE

Associated Beneficiaries:



Águeda Municipality (CMA)





Mora Municipality (CMM) / Freshwater Aquarium



• Aqualogus – Engenharia e Ambiente, Lda.



Docapesca – Portos e Lotas, S.A.

















## LIFE Águeda | Objectives and scope

Elimination of hydro-morphological pressures towards the reestablishment of conditions for a good ecological status, as required by the WFD and River Basin Management Plans.

#### **Proposed solutions and key actions:**

- Integration of demonstrative solutions for re-naturalizing river morphology with innovative solutions targeting complimentary issues. e.g.:
  - ➤ Installation of nature-like fish passages;
  - Removal of river barriers and re-naturalization of the river bed;
  - > Translocation program of juvenile European eels;
  - Riparian habitat restoration.
- Recreational and commercial fisheries management
  - Anglers' engagement for fish monitoring (development of a mobile App)
  - Market differentiation and fish valorization (mobile registration and label of origin)
- Stakeholders engagement and compatibility of ecosystem uses





## LIFE Águeda | Diadromous fish – Vouga river basin

#### Petromyzontidae

Petromyzon marinus L. – Sea lamprey (VU)

#### Salmonidae

Salmo trutta trutta (L.) – Sea trout (CR)

#### Clupeidae

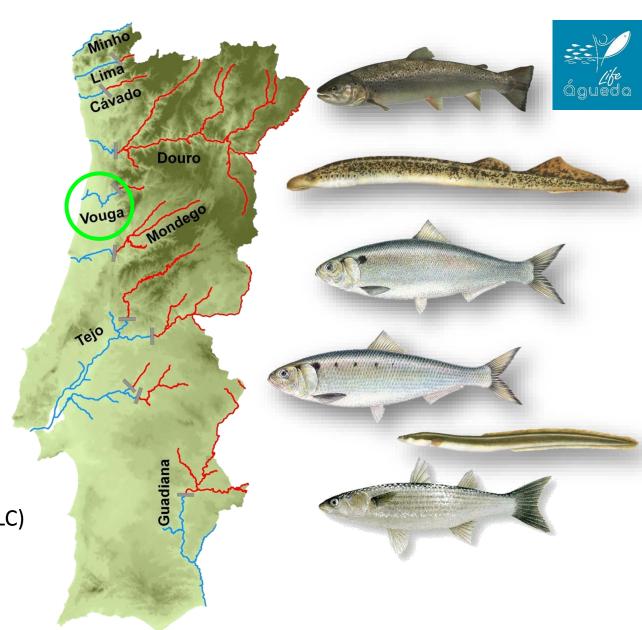
Alosa alosa (L.) – Allis shad (EN) Alosa fallax (Lacépède, 1803) – Twaite shad (V)

#### Anguillidae

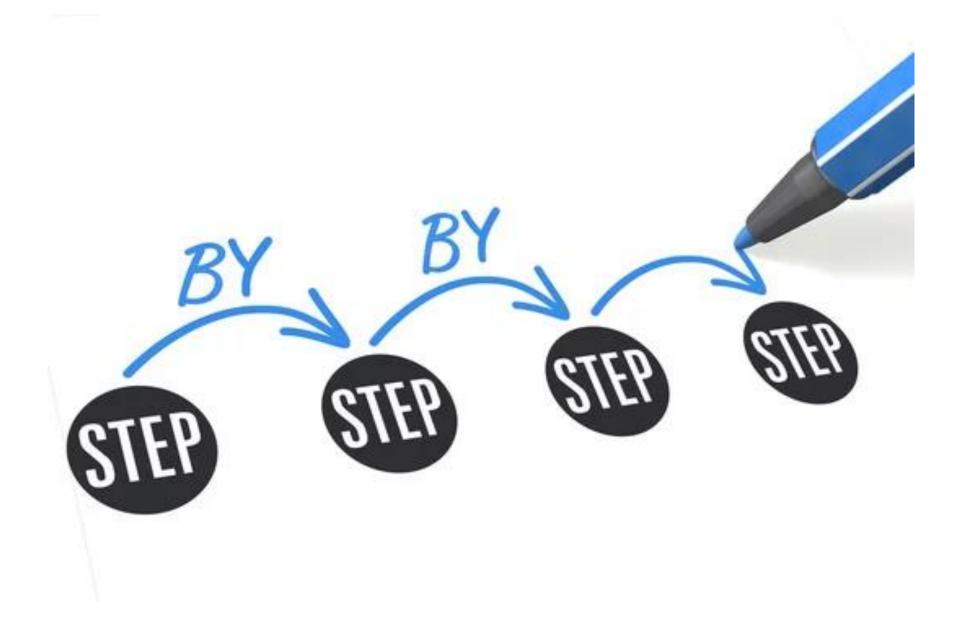
Anguilla anguilla (L.) – European eel (EN)

#### Mugilidae

Chelon ramada (Risso, 1827) – Thin lipped grey mullet (LC)

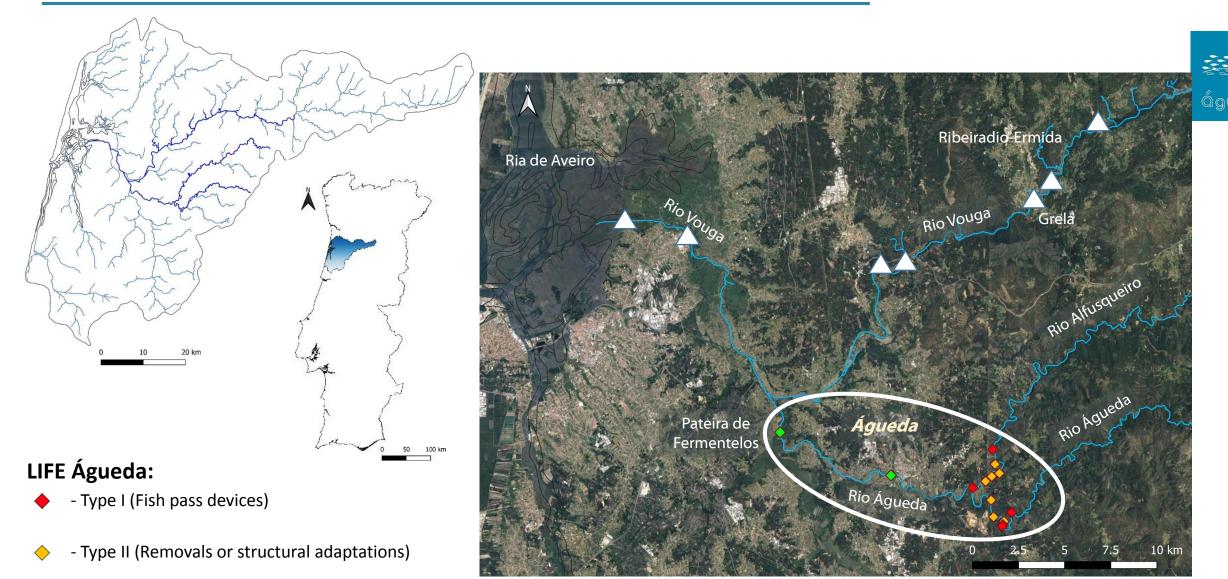


# LIFE Águeda | From the beginning...



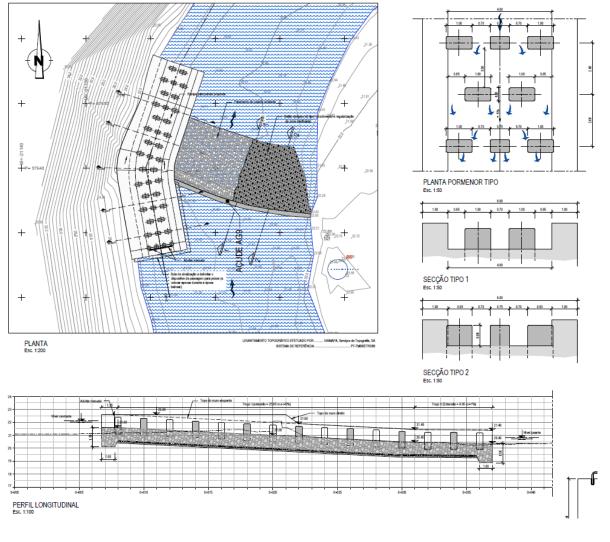


# LIFE Águeda | Identification of the barriers to fish migration



- Type III (Management plan)

# LIFE Águeda | Development of the engineering project



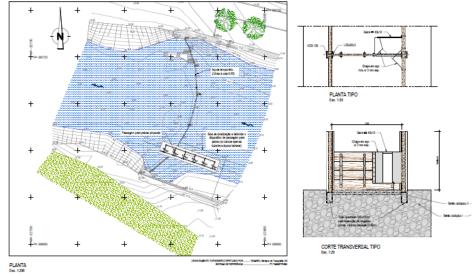
#### **CONSTRUCTION OF 5 FISH PASSES**

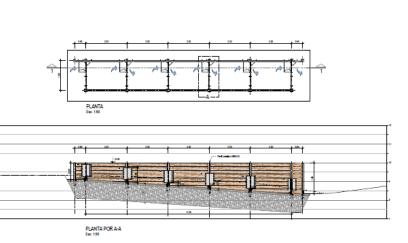


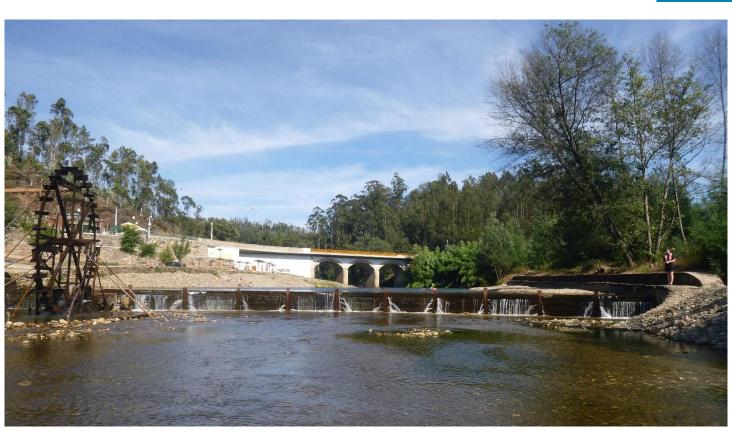


# LIFE Águeda | Development of the engineering project



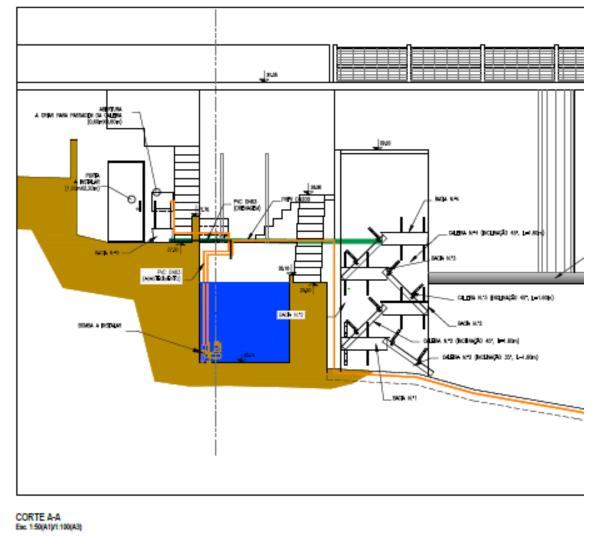






# LIFE Águeda | Development of the engineering project (Eel trap)

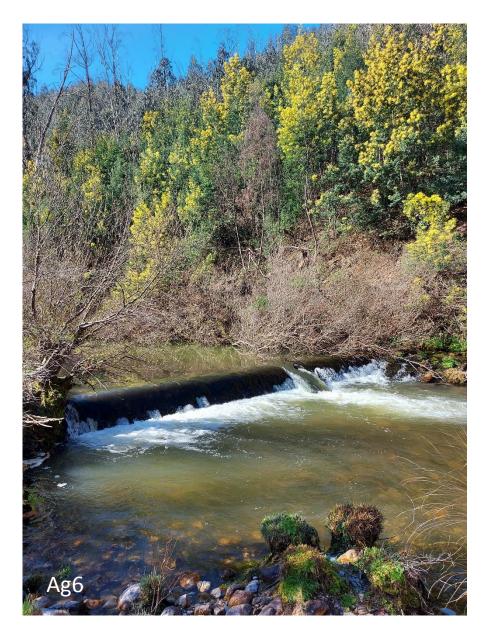








# LIFE Águeda | Identification of the barriers to fish migration







**REMOVAL OF 8 WEIRS** 



### LIFE Águeda | Contact with the owners of the weirs / licensing procedure



- Explaining the project objectives;
- Ancient water mills' weirs (> 100 years old);
- Some legal issues regarding the rightful owners (several heirs);
- Obtaining an approval statement from all the owners;
- Licensing procedure (APA Portuguese Environmental Agency);







# LIFE Águeda | Stakeholders engagement





- Public announcement in plenary meetings;
- Meetings with stakeholders;
- Public tender contract.



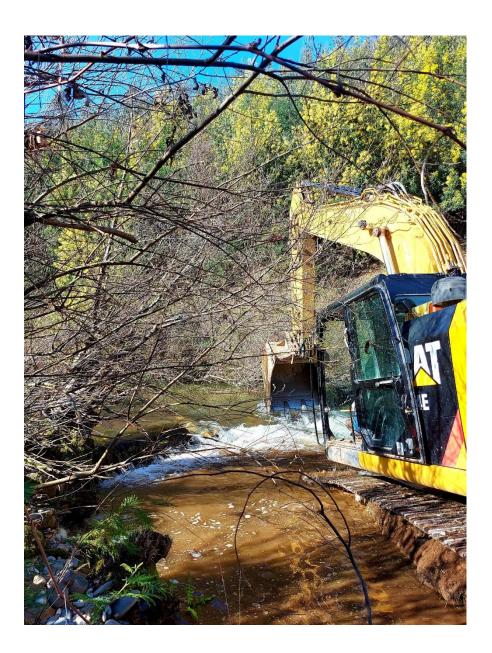




# FINALY AFTER MORE THAN 2 YEARS!!!! Demolition works: < 8h



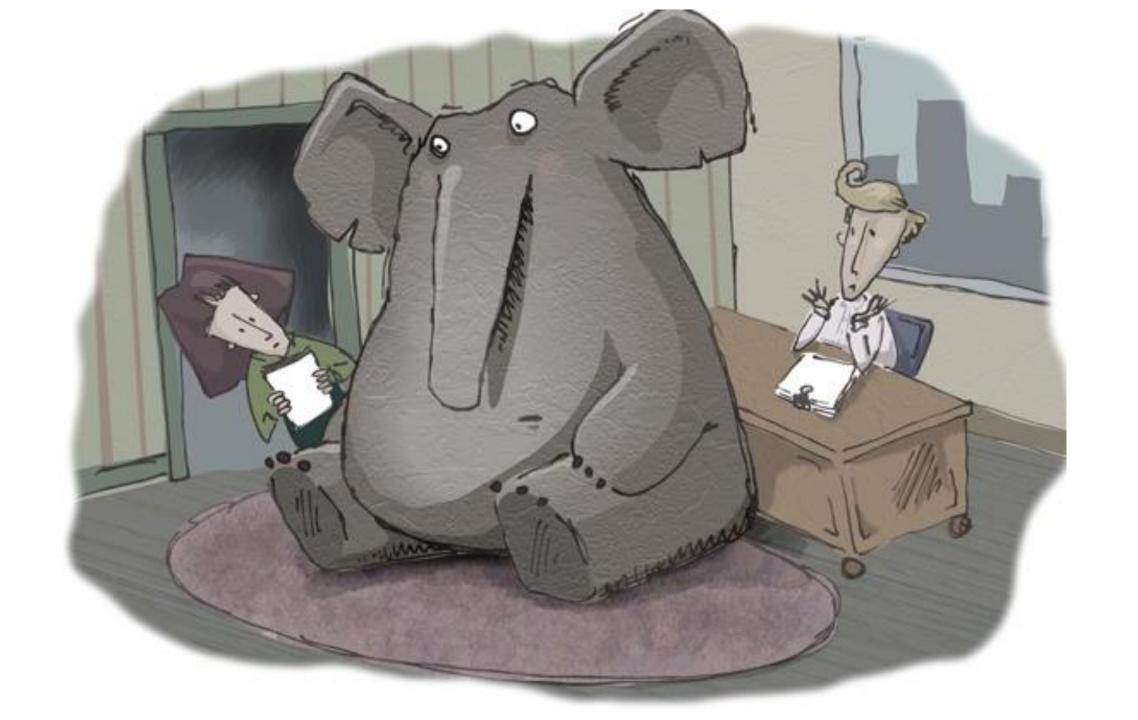




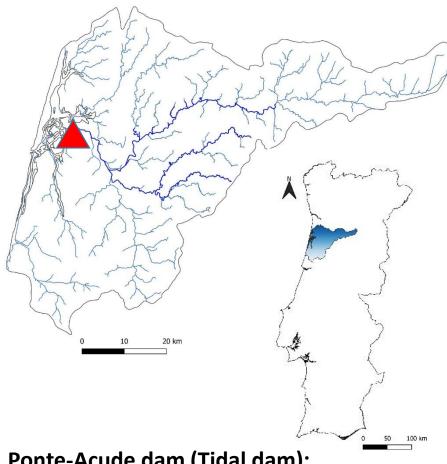
# FINALY AFTER MORE THAN 2 YEARS!!!! Demolition works: < 6h







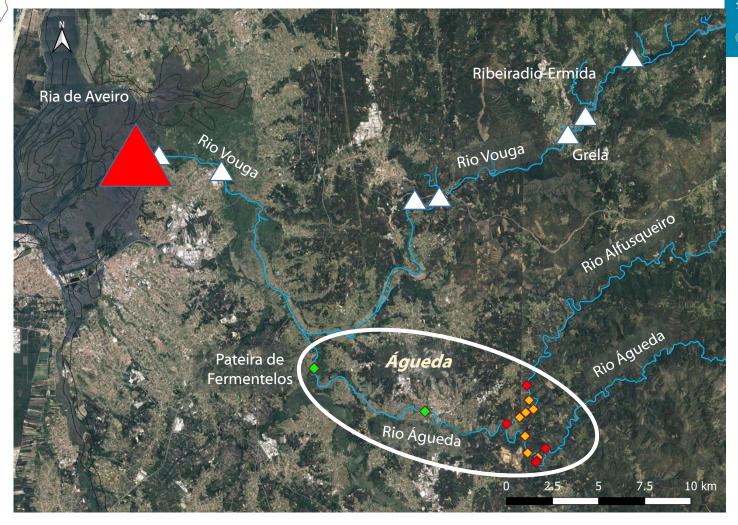
## LIFE Águeda | New project old problems...



Ponte-Açude dam (Tidal dam):

3-m heigth gates closed during flood

between May and October



NO FISH PASS!!!!





# Thanks

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 $\underline{www.life\text{-}agueda.uevora.\rho t}$ 

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