

Wetlands Solutions *for the Future*

Learning from ALFAwetlands and
REWET Projects

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The (successful) story of a restored floodplain - a case study from the Morava river in Austria

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supported by Jurrien Westerhoff (WWF), Günther Schattauer (viadonau)



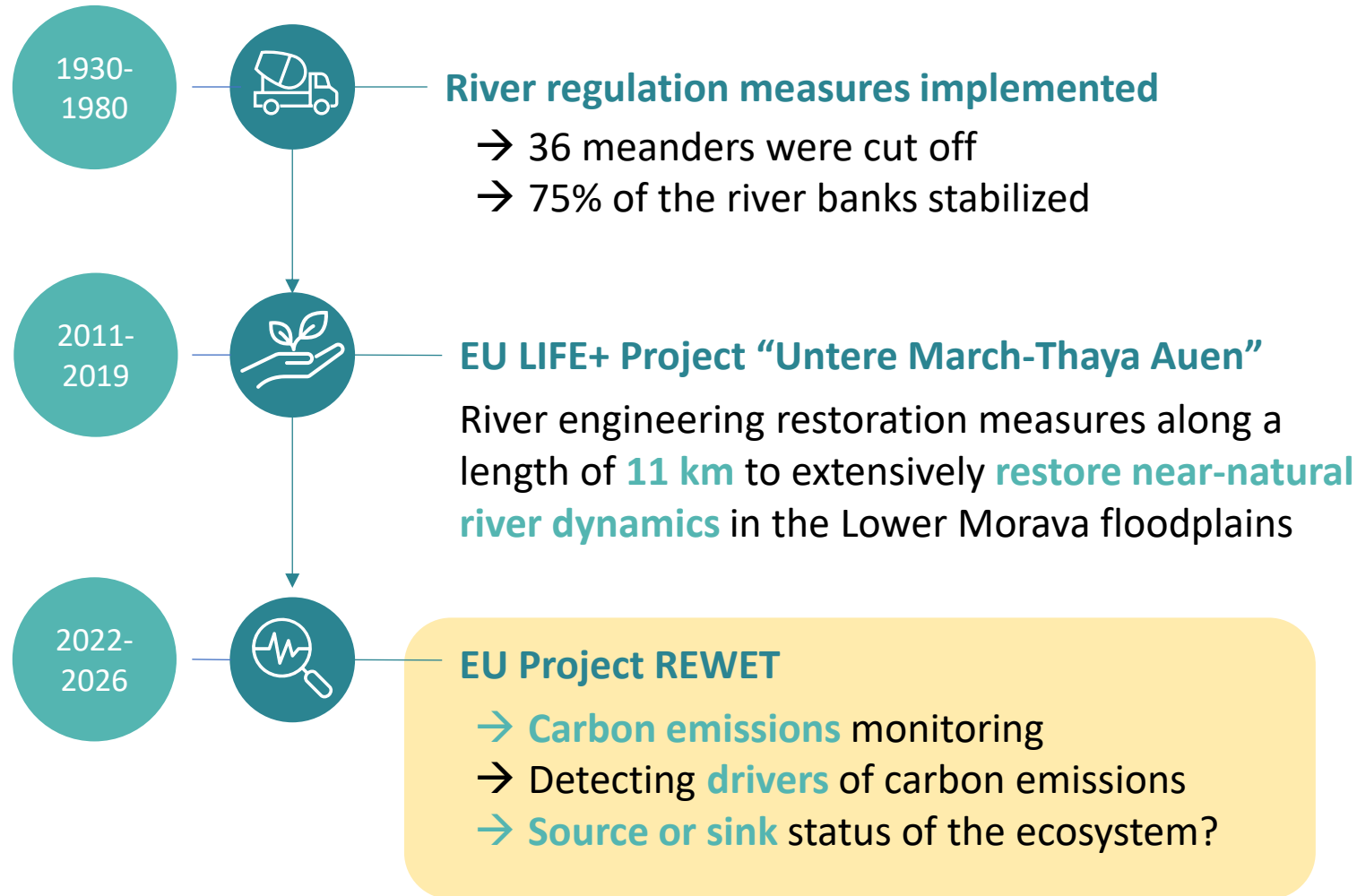
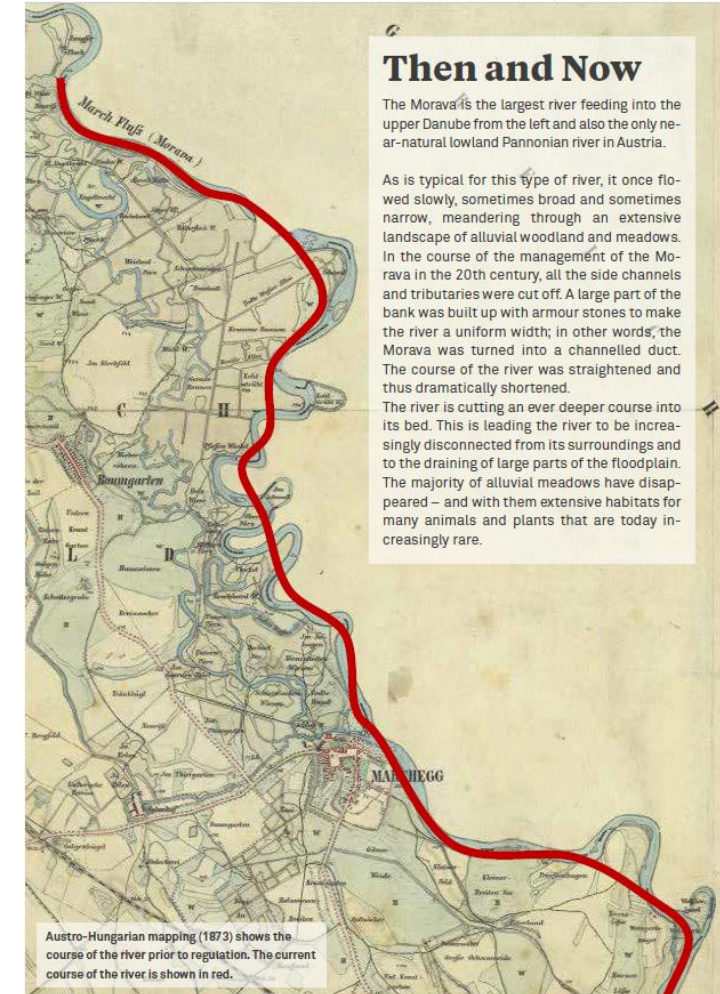
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Where are we? | The Morava River floodplains (REWET OL#2)



Regulation & Restoration has a history



Source: life-march.at

REWET: From restoration to **ecosystem understanding**



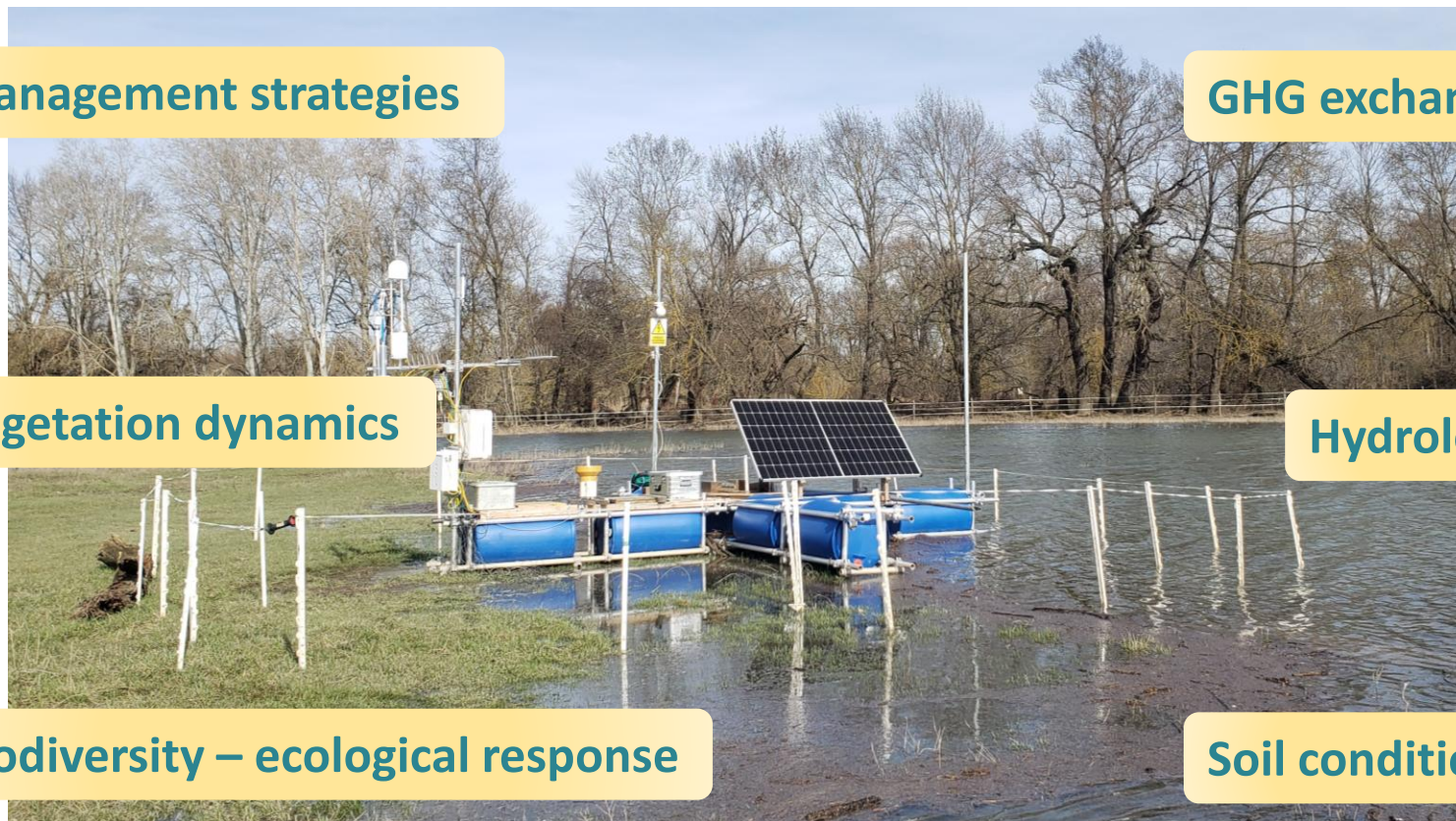
Management strategies



Vegetation dynamics



Biodiversity – ecological response



GHG exchange



Hydrology



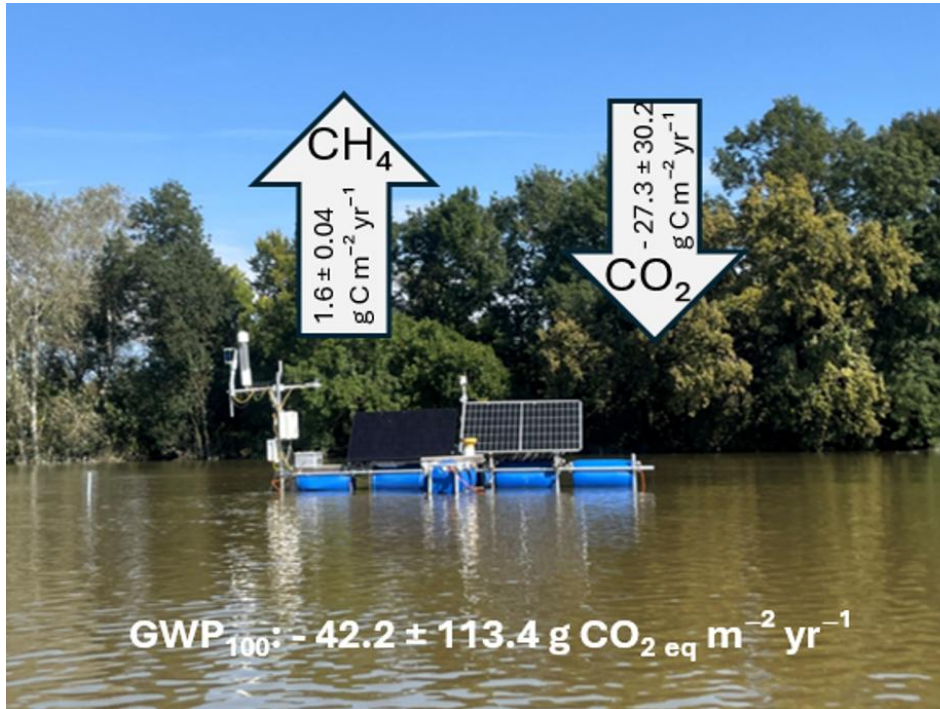
Soil conditions



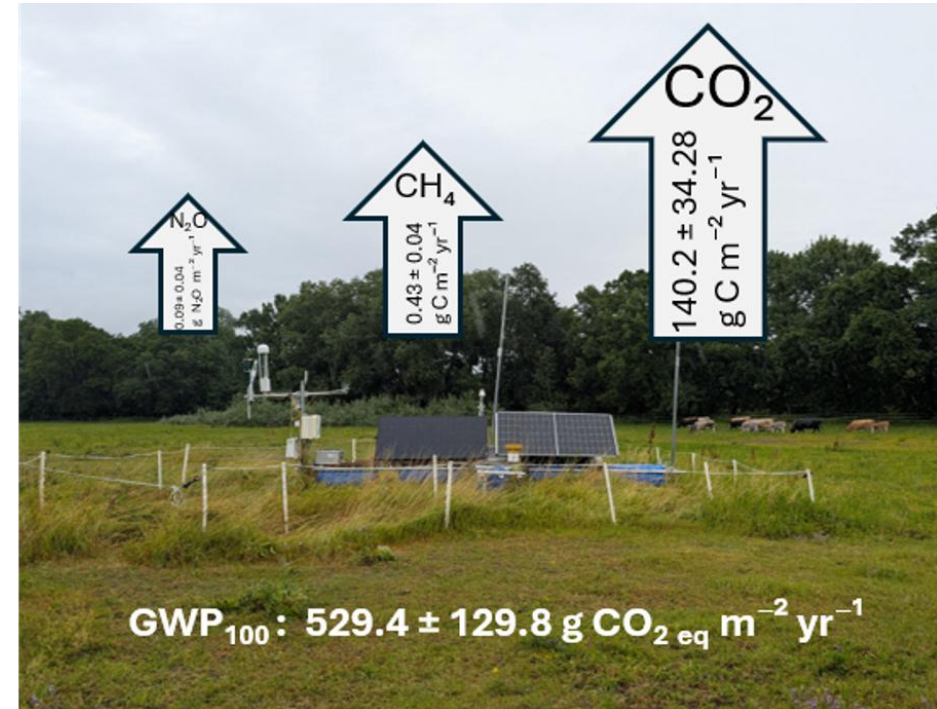
REWET allowed us to observe how these processes interact in a restored floodplain.

REWET – Why wetlands matter?

2024: floodplain grassland → C sink



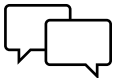
2025: dry conditions changed the system → C source



Wetland restoration should not be evaluated only by what we restore,
but by how the ecosystem functions afterwards.

REWET – Lessons for restoration

→ What we can learn from the March-Thaya floodplains?

- 1  **Restoration needs time.**
- 2  **Restoration needs evidence.**
- 3  **Climate benefits are dynamic.**
- 4  **Monitoring feed back into management.**

THANK YOU

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