ECOGICAL RESTORATION

Russenski Lom river restoration project, Bulgaria

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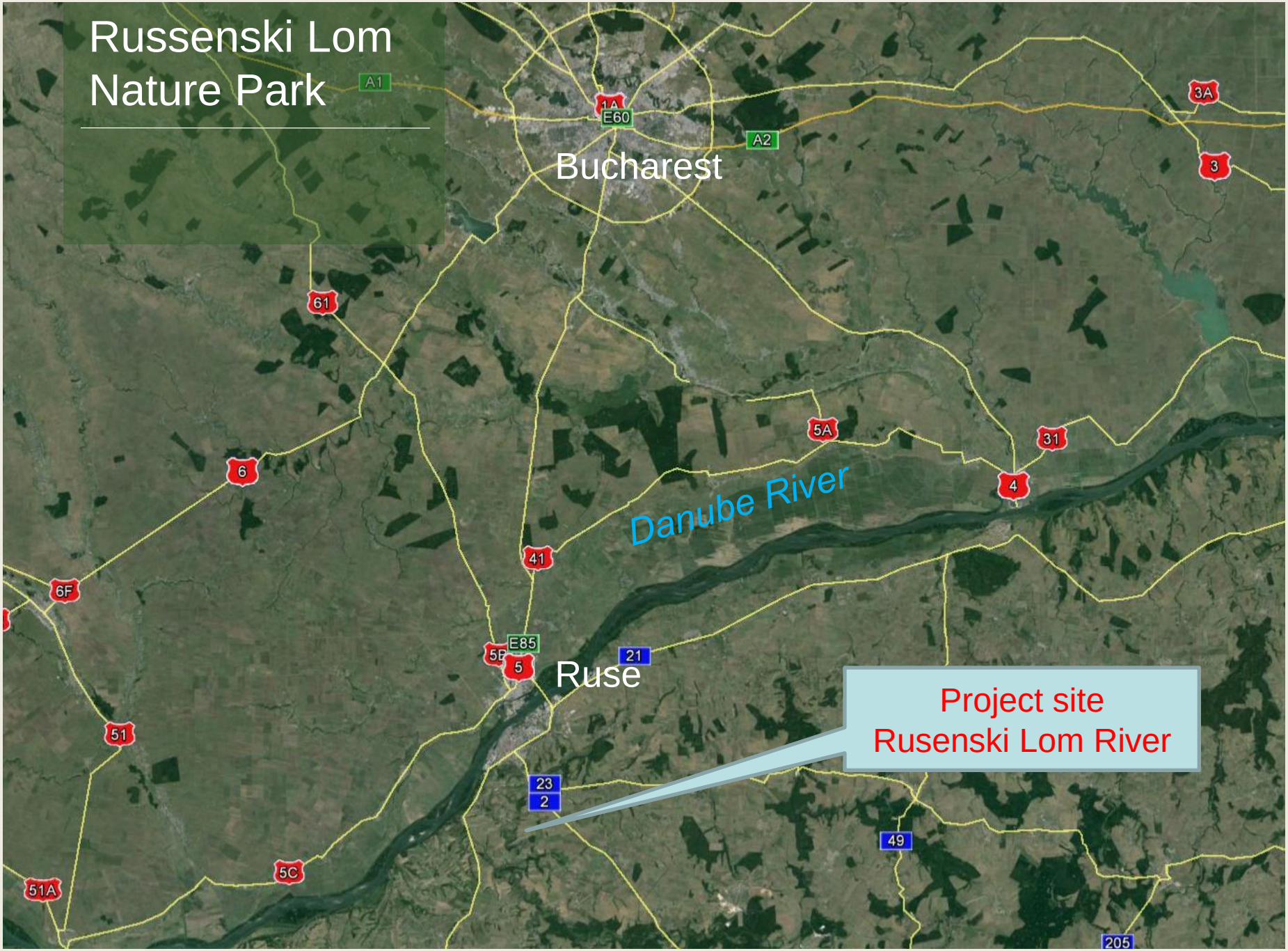
Facts
about floodplain restoration in Bulgaria

The first attempts to restore the natural state of rivers in Bulgaria where sustained by:

- changing environmental perceptions (ecological awareness and science)
- understanding of natural river services for society (benefits, resources, ES)
- aknowledge that most of the natural disasters are actually induced by human activity (people)

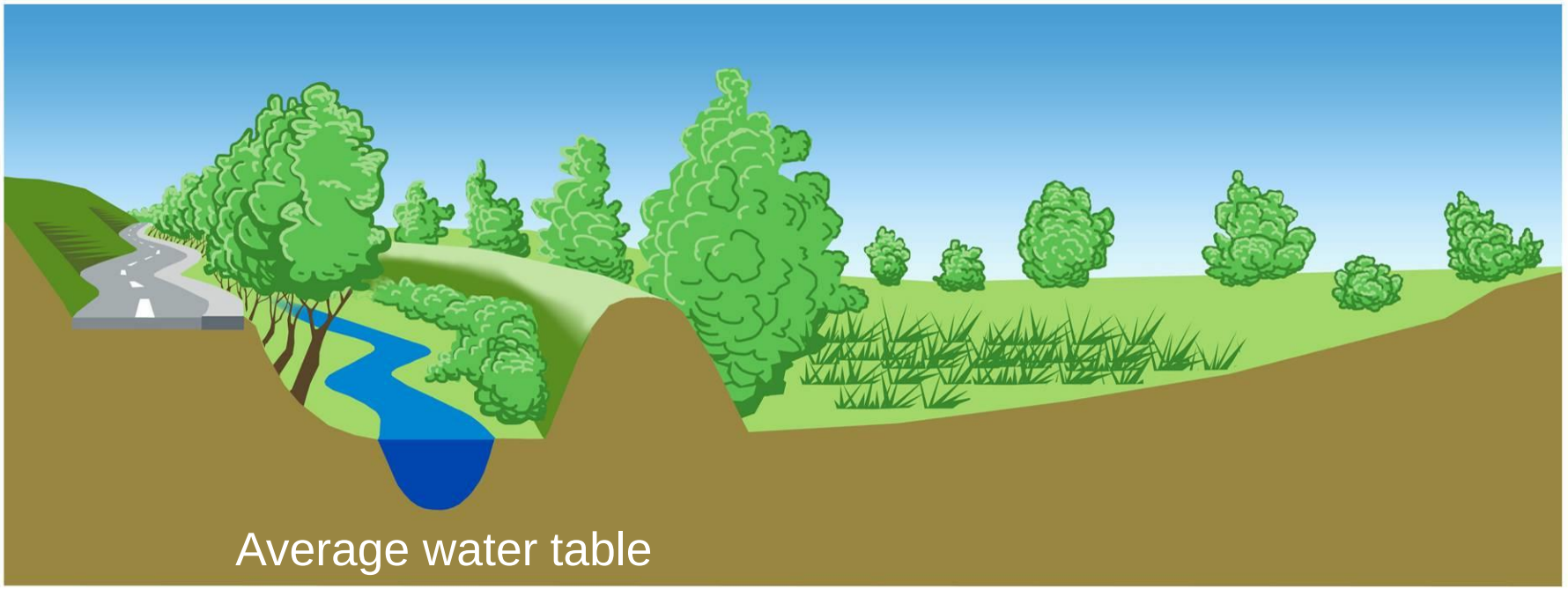

Russenski Lom
Nature Park
Bucharest
Danube River
Ruse
Project site
Rusenski Lom River
A1
E60
A2
3A
3
61
6
5A
31
4
41
6F
E85
5
21
51
23
2
49
5C
51A
205

Ivanovo Rock Monasteries

UNESCO World Heritage Site

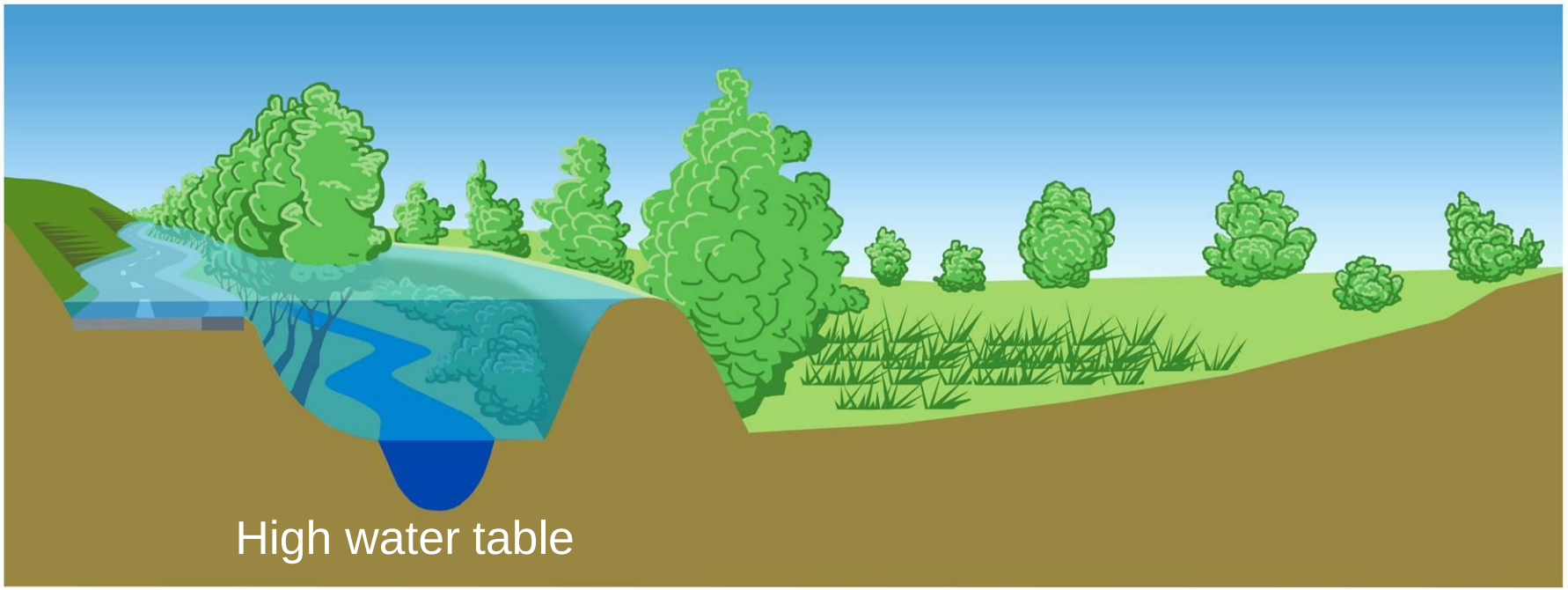
The problems in Russenski Lom river

- almost completely diverted and embanked
- the asphalt road to the monasteries is atop of the river protection dyke



The problems in Russenski Lom river

- high waters floods the road frequently restricting the access to the monasteries and damaging the infrastructure
- when the water overflows the dyke it can not longer go back into the river

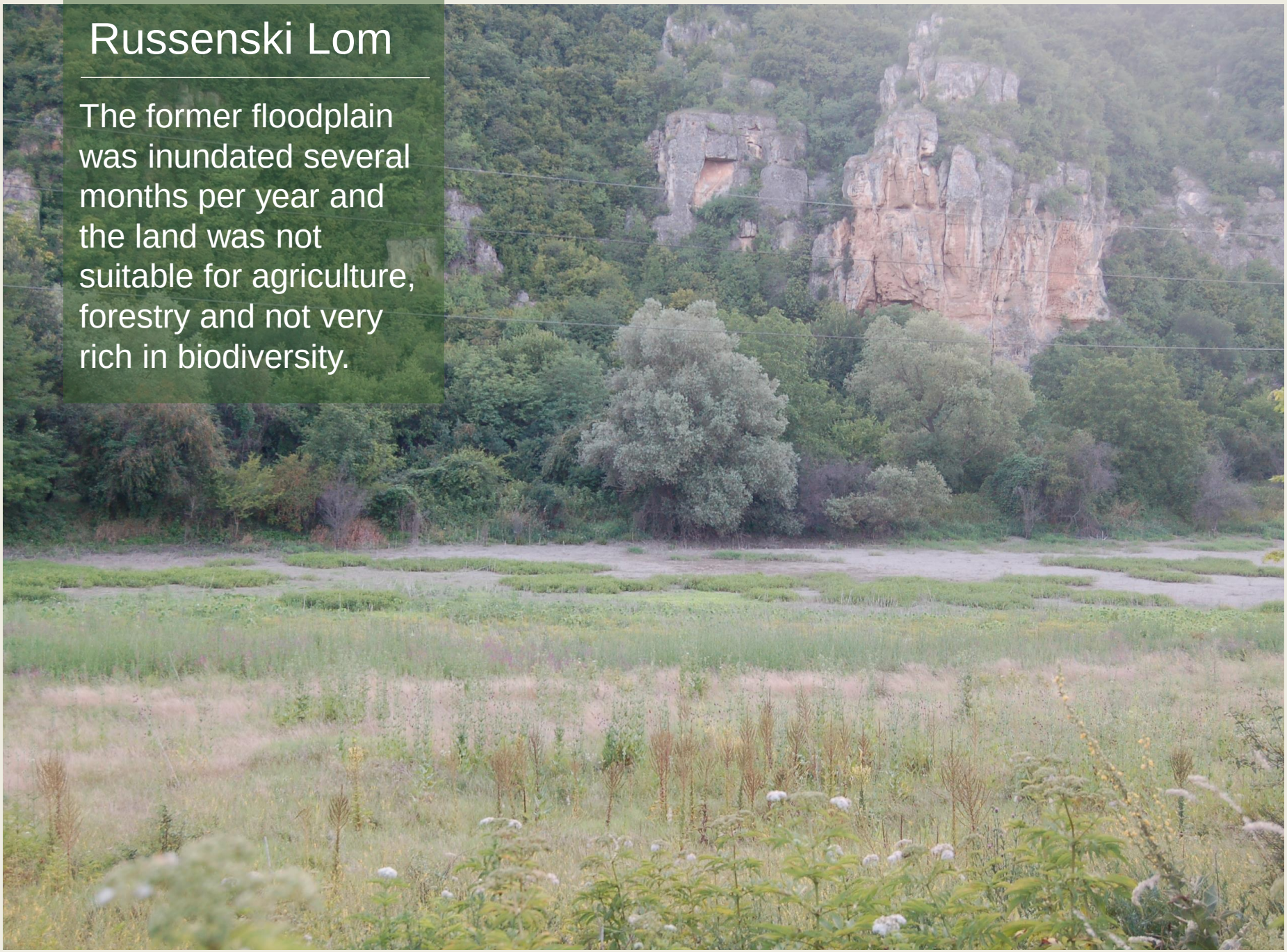


Russenski Lom

Embankment of the river section near Ivanovo Rock Monasteries was unsuccessful due to frequent flooding and high groundwater table.

Russenski Lom

The former floodplain was inundated several months per year and the land was not suitable for agriculture, forestry and not very rich in biodiversity.

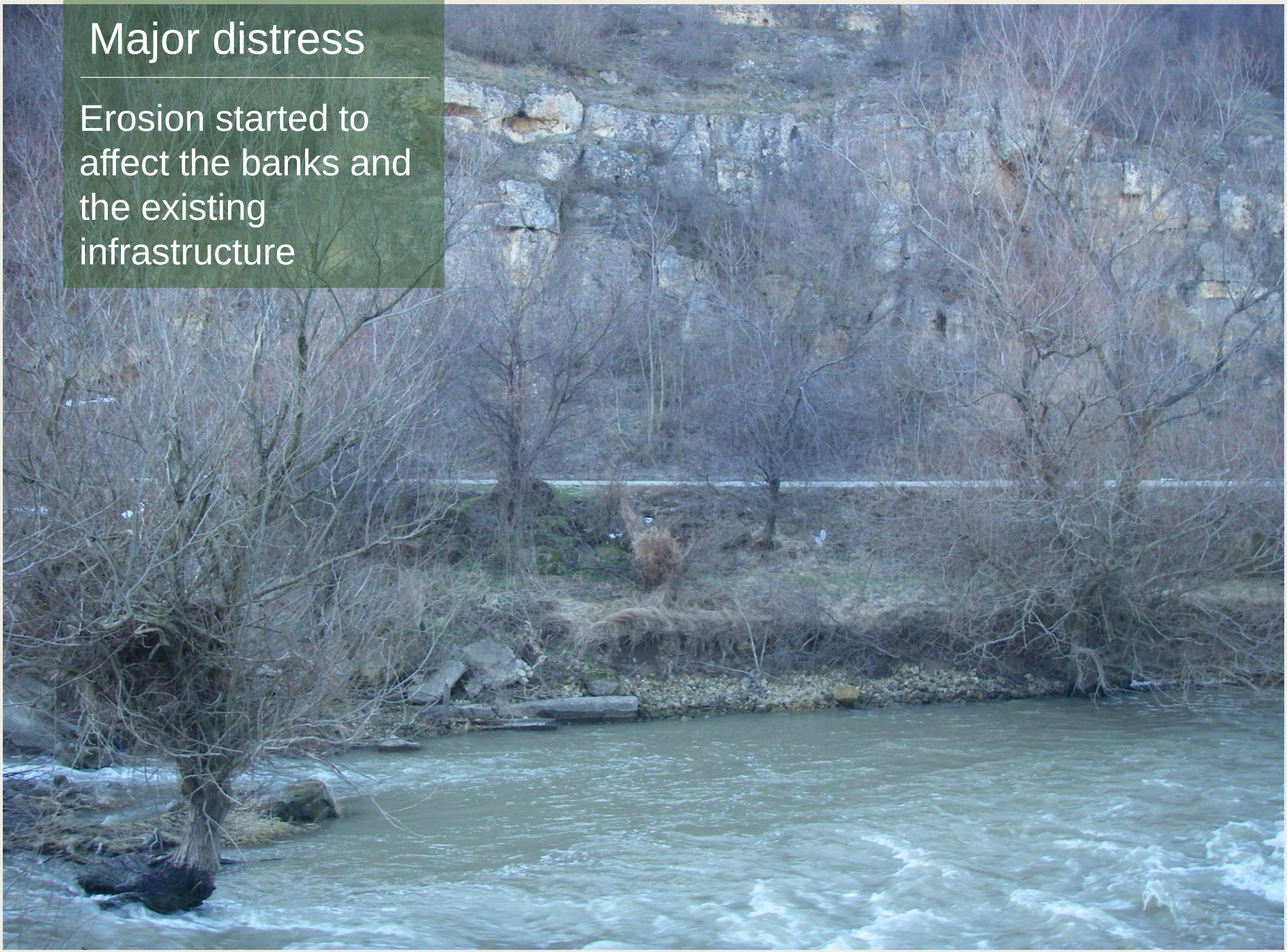


Major distress

The 2006 floods washed away the access infrastructure

Major distress

Erosion started to affect the banks and the existing infrastructure

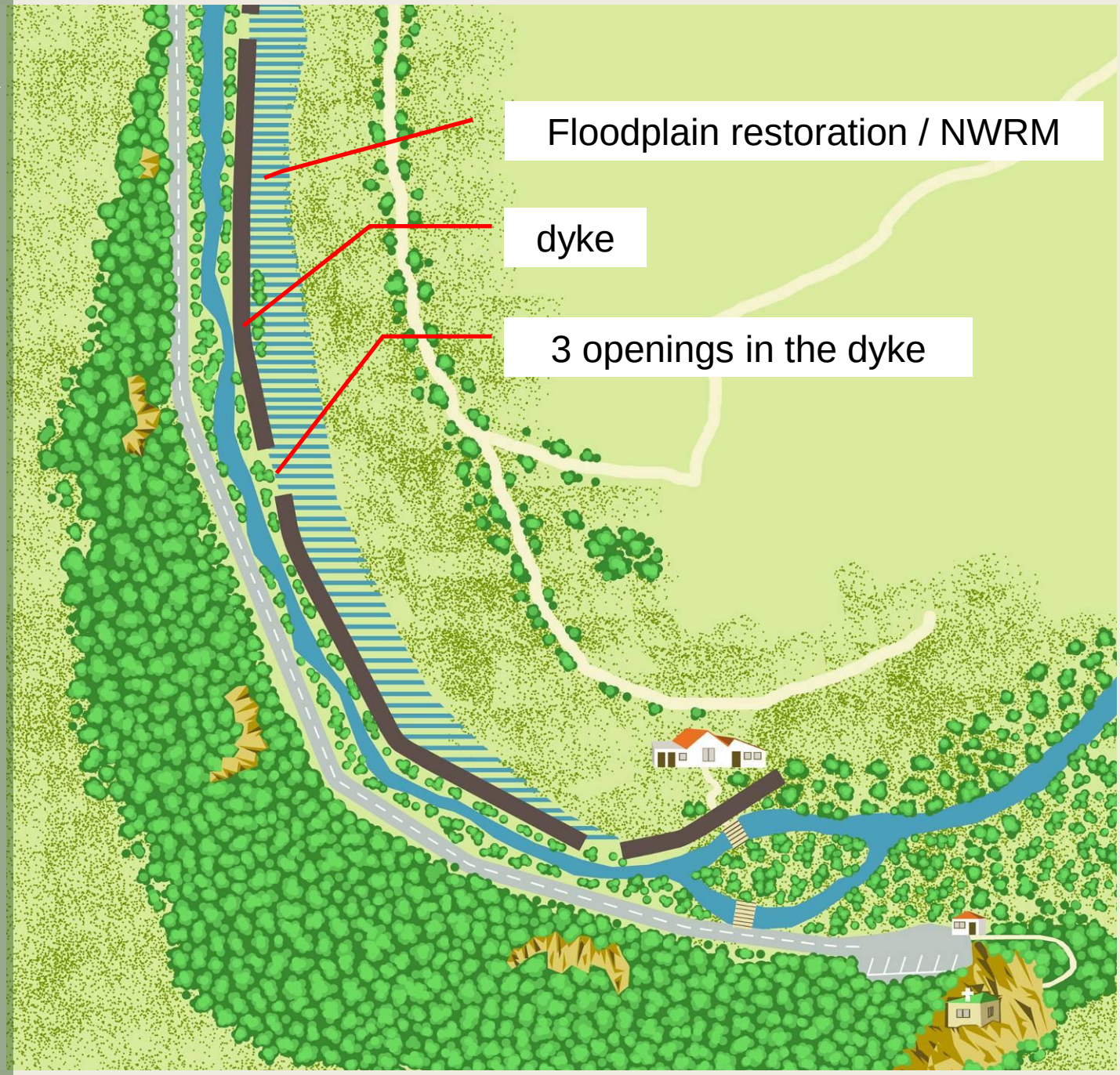


The solutions

To reduce the impact of floods on the local tourism infrastructure and access road.

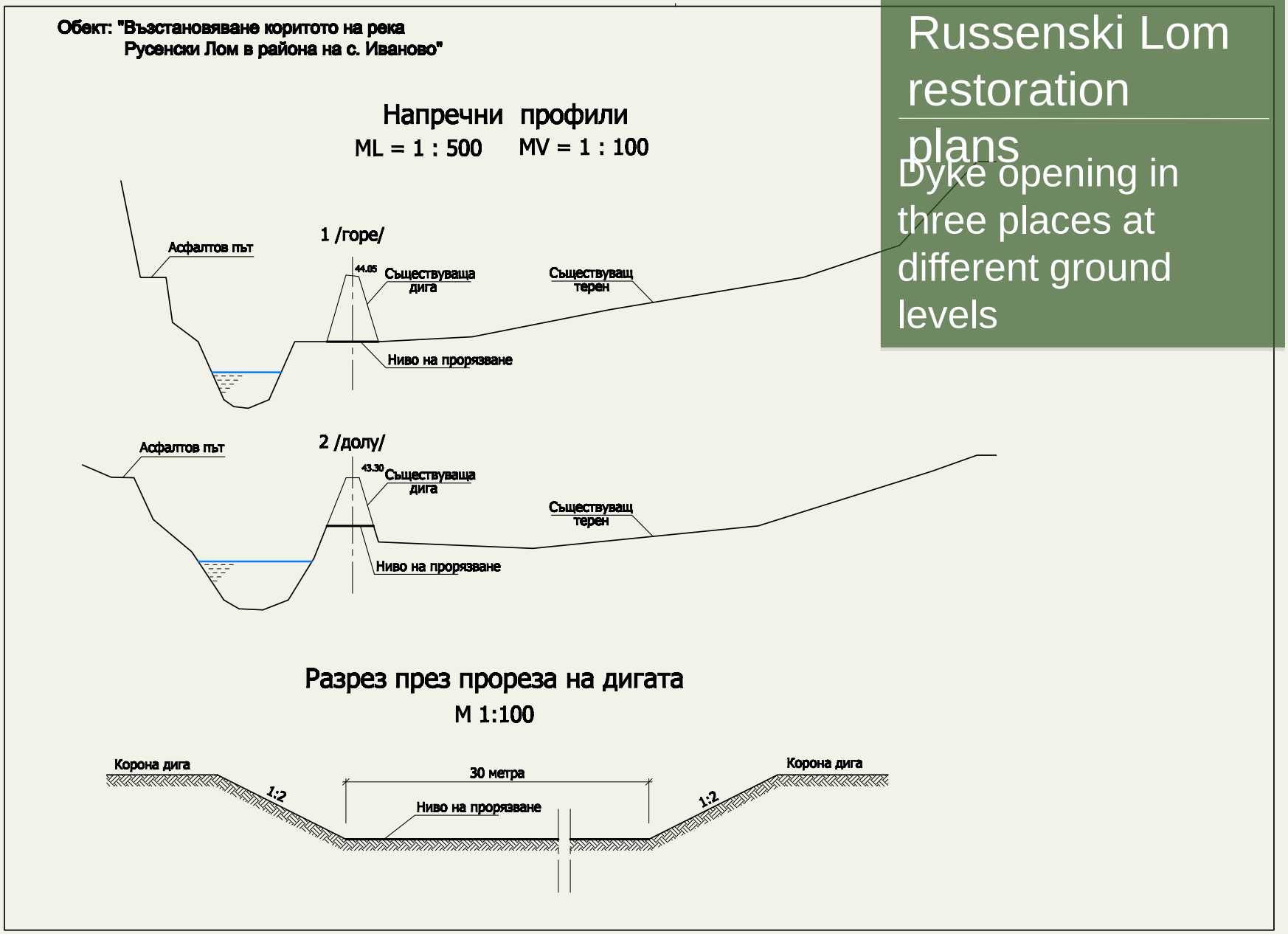
More space to the river – more safety for the people.

The water itself suggested the solution to the problem.



Russenski Lom restoration plans

Dyke opening in three places at different ground levels

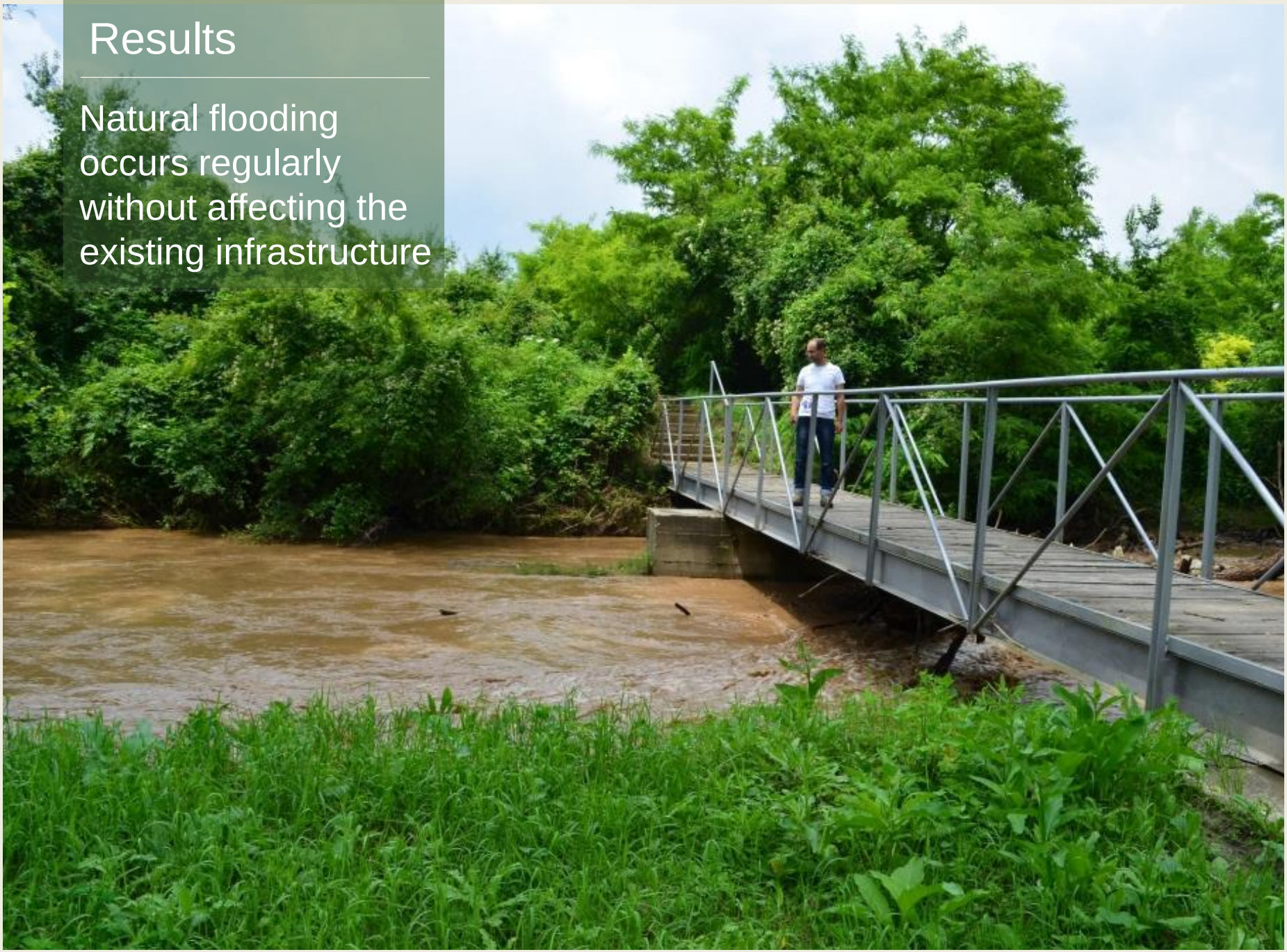


Actions

Very often restoration and NWRM are simple and fast to do but hard to agree.

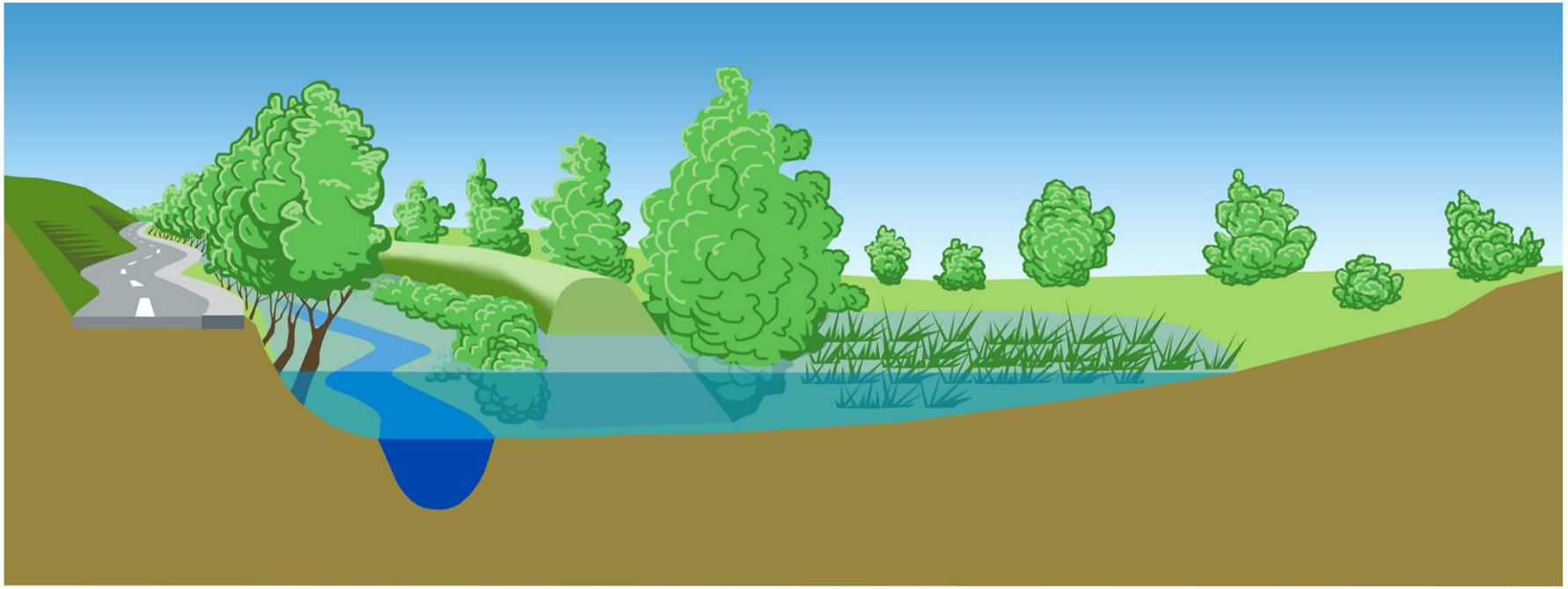
Results

Natural flooding occurs regularly without affecting the existing infrastructure



Results

- natural water retention capacity increased by up to 100,000 cubic meters during high floods.
- the water now floods the former historical floodplain areas.
- biodiversity increased



How to mobilize and convince partners of other sectors to take part in a restoration project and NWRMs?

How to communicate to the river basin managers, policy makers, decision makers on various benefits of river restoration approaches and NWRMs?

Is seeing, believing?

Thank you for your attention

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