

CASE Study - SPAIN

Basque Country

REMOVE THE DAMS FREE OUR RIVERS

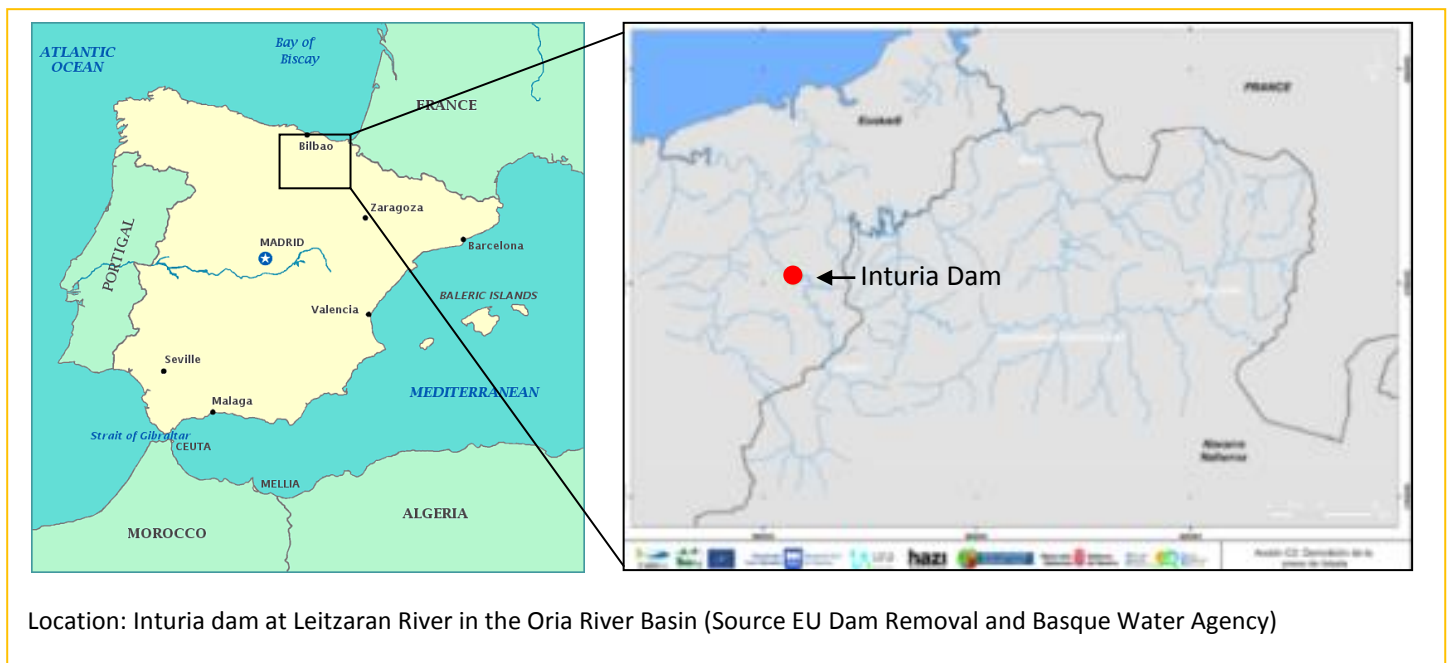
Inturia dam removal in Oria River Basin

In 2001 the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council has implemented an inventory on existing river obstacles such as dams and weirs. The result was: 700 identified obstacles, out of these 510 were not in use. In the period between 1991 – 2016: 30 dams out of these were removed.

The largest dismantled dam was the Inturia dam with 12,5m height. The Inturia dam was located at the Leitzaran River which is part of the Natura 2000 area and catalogued as a protected biotope.

The Inturia dam was constructed in 1913 for hydropower generation and flow regulation in summer. During the dam life span sediments were piling up behind the wall. In the years 1990 the dam was out of use and considered as an industrial ruin. The structure needed to be completely renovated or dismantled. Technical and economical analysis came to the conclusion that demolition was the most economic and best ecological option.

Technical Data	(Source, EU Dam Removal and Basque Water Agency)
Country	Spain/Basque Country
Name of River	Leitzaran River tributary of Oria River -
Name of Dam:	Inturia dam
Year of construction	1913
Year of removal	2013-2016
Cost of removal:	130.000€ (phase 1+2) 50.000€ (phase 3+4)
Type of dam	Flow regulation and reservoir for hydropower
Power capacity	na
Height / Length	12,5m
Volume	na
Freed river km	na
Dam owner:	State owned



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In 2009 the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council drafted the demolition project which was successfully implemented in 4 stages during 2013-2016.

The first and second phase were done from 2013 - 2014 and financed via the GURATRANS (EFA221/11), transboundary project of Spain-France-Andorra Cooperation and co-funded by FEDER, with the collaboration of Navarra, Atlantic Pyrenees and Basque Country entities.

The third and fourth phase were implemented between 2015 - 2016, and were part of the IREKIBAI LIFE project, a collaboration of Gipuzkoa Regional Government, Navarra Regional Government, the Basque Water Agency, GAN (Environmental Management of Navarra) and HAZI.

The demolition works were carried out by the Basque Water Agency. So far fish community has recovered and new spawning area was created. [Watch the removal video](#)

Source of Information and links:

[Basque Water Agency, presentation, European Dam Removal Workshop, Leon, Spain, 2016](#)

Information of the [IREKI Bai EU LIFE project](#) and [Factsheet](#)



Inturia dam before removal © Basque Water Agency)



Leitzaran river after dam removal © Basque Water Agency

4 Phases of
dam removal

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