

# WHY DO WE HAVE TO PROTECT OLD RIVER BEDS?

## Summary

Oxbow lakes are an important part of river valleys which are ecological corridors and place of life for many organisms. Considerable natural, economic and social importance of oxbow lakes was the main incentive to write this article. The authors describe the importance of old river beds based on the literature and their own experience,

with particular emphasis on the sustainability of taxonomic and habitat diversity in river valleys. Acquiring the knowledge about ecological condition of these reservoirs and the extent of their anthropogenic degradation, should help to undertake proper measures in order to restore the natural character of river valleys.