

BREAK FREE



The publication "BREAK FREE - Restoring river biodiversity through dam removal" describes the life cycle of migratory fish and the devastating effects of dams on migratory fish and aquatic biodiversity, using the example of the Mekong River. The construction of dams and intensive use for agriculture can even lead to rivers not reaching the sea at all, but drying up on the way, as is the case with the Colorado River. A number of dam projects are also under discussion in the EU, including in northern Italy. On the other hand, there are impressive examples in the USA that show how effective the removal of dams is for biotopes and the restoration of ecosystems. In Europe, there are also such examples: in France, where two large dams on the Sélune River have just been removed, and in Finland, where the removal of dams and weirs

is now common practice.

The publication is now available in [German](#). ([English](#) and [French](#)).

Initiatives for free-flowing rivers in Europe



The WFD Info 36 - Newsletter "Initiatives for free-flowing rivers in Europe" tells a short story about the protection of free-flowing rivers and presents current developments on the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Nature Restoration Law and the Renewable Energy Directive REDIII and REDIV in the context of water protection.

[To download the publication \(PDF 781KB\).](#)

IGB comments on the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030

The Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) has analysed and commented on the draft update of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 as part of the consultation process. The IGB emphasises the role of inland waters as hotspots of biodiversity, which are among the most threatened ecosystems both in Germany and worldwide: "Nowhere else do researchers document so many extinct species." Particularly in water and water policy, there is a very strong implementation deficit in inland waters, as has been the case for years with the European Water Framework Directive (WFD). According to the IGB, the focus for alien species should be on invasive species, taking into account their distribution and abundance. The researchers deplore the poor provision of biodiversity data by public institutions and suggest a number of improvements in the indicators for assessing inland water biodiversity, such as the WFD

data on fish monitoring, the Red List of Amphibians, the functional connectivity of inland waters and sediment transport: <https://www.igb-berlin.de/en/news/igb-gives-feedback-national-biodiversity-strategy-2030>

Oder: Environmental associations file lawsuit against the state government

An alliance of seven environmental associations has filed a lawsuit against the state government and its Oder River Management Plan and the accompanying programme of measures. BUND Brandenburg is leading the lawsuit, demanding an effective water protection plan for the Oder region by 2027. Experts, scientists and activists from BUND, WWF Germany, DUH (Deutsche Umwelthilfe), Heinz-Sielmann-Stiftung and the citizens' initiative SaveOderDie are urging the federal government to assume its responsibility and finally implement the WFD.

More on the complaint here: <https://www.euronatur.org/unsere-themen/aktuell/massnahmen-an-der-oder-voellig-unzureichend-klage-gegen-landesregierung>

Background information IGB policy brief on the Oder: <https://repository.publisso.de/resource/frl:6399513>

EU Parliamentary Session "The Water Crisis in Europe"

MEPs called for increased action to conserve and protect water resources in the face of water scarcity, droughts and floods and their impact on food security. Proposals ranged from the creation of blue-green infrastructure in urban areas to the adaptation of plant varieties in agriculture. For more on this topic, see <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/06/16/water-crisis-europe-braces-for-another-summer-of-extreme-weather.html>

Excerpts from the debate can be found here: https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/video/the-water-crisis-in-europe-extracts-from-the-debate_I242466

United for Rivers - new initiative in Southeast Europe

On 13 June 2023, the initiative "United for Rivers" was launched by the Nature Conservancy and six partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Environmental Centre of Banja Luka, Association Dinarica, Youth ClubNovi Val), Croatia, Montenegro (Eco-Team), Northern Macedonia (Eko-vest) and Serbia (Ecological Association Rzav). This regional initiative is dedicated to the protection of 13 rivers with a length of 400 km. The region is home to some of the last free-flowing rivers on the European continent. United for Rivers aims to provide sustainable and long-term protection for the rivers, contributing to several European and international commitments.

Further information: https://unitedforrivers.org/en/news/regional_initiative_aims_to_protect_up_to_400_kilometres_of_river

Paris Climate Finance Summit

On 22 and 23 June 2023, the Climate Finance Summit took place in Paris. The aim of this summit was to establish a new global financing pact to combat climate change. However, current efforts fall far short of the needs of developing countries, which require an estimated \$2.4 trillion per year to reduce their emissions and cope with the impacts of climate change. French President Emmanuel Macron called for global taxes to be levied on shipping, aviation and possibly assets to fund climate action. More on the Paris climate finance summit here: <https://www.politico.eu/article/paris-new-global-financing-pact-summit-macron-climate/>

and here: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/23/paris-climate-finance-summit-fails-to-deliver-debt-forgiveness-plan>

Report on the Dialogue Event + CleanUp Berlin on the Landwehr Canal



In the late afternoon of 12 July 23, after a short welcome and thematic introduction to cigarette butts and nicotine, we set out from Urbanhafen to clean the Landwehrkanal of rubbish. We were a group of 40 people, organisers and helpers. On the water, we were on our way with 25 kayak boat places and nets/grabs provided by the CleanRiver Project. 3 people even brought their own boat or SUP to help. The 2nd group collected litter on the banks of the Landwehr Canal with a special focus on cigarette butts, which have a high potential of polluting the water. After 2.5 hours of collecting rubbish, we arrived at the Dreiländereck in the glistening evening sun, dewed all the boats on the water for a group photo and were very happy about our results. Afterwards we returned to the starting point, cleaned our boats and sifted through the rubbish. The wildest objects were pulled out of the water. An umbrella, a pair of completely intact jeans that had probably just fallen into the water, a Hungarian-German dictionary still written in old High German, PC screens, a CD cover book with various CDs, pillows, bottles, shoes and all kinds of plastic. And a winner was chosen for the best found object. The PC screens and the CD coverbook won, no wonder with all the good music on the CDs. All in all, we collected about 1,000 litres of rubbish. A complete success.

Afterwards, the Landwehrkanal could definitely breathe a little easier. We had fun together and cleaned up Berlin's waters in a meaningful way. Thank you Clean River Project and GRÜNE LIGA / Wassernetz Berlin for the great event. I will be back. Great that there will be the next Clean Up soon.

Christina Wilde

Dates preview 2023 International :

<p>August 2023 at the City Hall Berlin-Treptow</p>	<p>5 years of the Blue Community Berlin An exhibition about our water: a life resource and a human right www.bluecommunityberlin.de</p>

Saturday, 9 September 2023 11 am at the IGB , Berlin Müggelseedamm 310	Open Day at IGB in Berlin
Saturday, 9 September 2023 11:00 – 18:00 RAW Gelände Berlin	Berlin Climate Day Around 100 exhibitors as well as numerous lectures and workshops on the RAW grounds. Berliner Wasserbetriebe will be there with their rainwater experimentation stand. http://newsletter.bwb.de/ov?mailing=5FYUO8IQACUYWR&m2u=5G22QNUI-5FYUO8IQ-10FPH8
Wednesday, 13 September 2023 09:30 – 16:00 Senat for Environment, Mobility, Consumer and Climate Protection (Brunnenstr. 111, 13355 – Berlin) Also online	Impact of climate change on water availability: Status quo, future development and options for action. The results of the WAD Climate project provide an overview of current water availability and water use in Germany and highlight their future development under the influence of climate change. The investigations focused in particular on groundwater resources. WADKlima Final Conference. Please register by 31 August 2023 via the following link: https://forms.ecologic.eu/de/WADKlim-Abschlusskonferenz
Friday, 15 September 2023 15:00 Berlin Rummelsburger Bucht	<u>Sponge City Tour</u> through the Berlin district of Rummelsburger Bucht. What was created there at the end of the 1990s is now a model for the entire sponge capital. Register now at: http://newsletter.bwb.de/ov?mailing=5FYUO8IQACUYWR&m2u=5G22QNUI-5FYUO8IQ-10FPH8
15 and 16 September 2023 Berlin	World Cleanup Day in Berlin https://wir-berlin.org/aktionstag-2023/ Registration under: https://wir-berlin.org/aktionstag-2023/#Anmeldung
26 – 28 September 2023 Wissenschaftszentrum Bonn Ahrstrasse 45	5th European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change Riverine and Coastal Wetlands Lectures, parallel workshops, poster exhibition, excursion. Participation fee: 65,- €. https://bioclim2023.adelphi.de/
Thursday, 28 September 2023 10:00 – 13:00 LfULG - Technical College for Horticulture Söbrigener Straße 3a 01326 Dresden Pillnitz Videoconference	Saxon Water Forum 2023 Consequences of climate change for water and soil, dry period 2014-2020, water balance, low water situation and material pollution. Registration until 21.09. : https://mitdenken.sachsen.de/-4DTaTN7P

11 – 12 October 2023 Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad)	Magdeburg Water Protection Seminar 2023 https://www.poh.cz/magdeburky-seminar-o-ochrane-vod-2023-magdeburger-gewasserschutzseminar-2023/ds-1188/p1=3768
17 October 2023 4 pm – 5:30 pm	Online-Dialogue "90 minutes in conversation with experts" Registration at: www.undekade-restoration.de/online-dialogue
Friday, 17 November 2023 1 pm – 4:30 pm Online	Near-natural water balance and nature-based solutions - thinking about the landscape from the water perspective Water Protection Forum of the Environmental Associations on the Water Framework Directive
Following	Movie evening of the Living Rivers Foundation
15 – 17 April 2024 Oosterpoort, Groningen The Netherlands	Free Flow 2024 International Conference on protecting and restoring free-flowing rivers in Europe. Call for Abstracts– Oral and Poster Presentations is open until October 13, 2023. Organised by World Fish Migration Foundation and Institute for Fisheries Management. https://freeflowconference.eu/

Wassernetz Berlin is coming up with a series of dialogue events and workshops as well as practical upgrading measures:

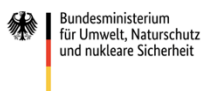
21 August ~ Dialogue at the Ruhleben sewage treatment plant on the Stadtspreewald

[30 August ~ Dialogue at the Bäke](#)

[23 September ~ Home River Bio Blitz on the Panke \(Karower Teiche\)](#)

Detailed event information at: <https://wassernetz-berlin.de/>

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