



**Restoring nature
requires clear
and measurable
targets.**

150+ NGOs CALL ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
TO INCLUDE IN THE UPCOMING EU NATURE
RESTORATION LAW OVERARCHING TARGETS TO
RESTORE AT LEAST 15% OF THE EU'S LAND, RIVER
LENGTH AND SEA AREA BY 2030.

NGO – Coalition calls for clear targets for nature conservation

In a letter to the EU Vice-President Frans Timmermans and the Environment Commissioner Viginijus Sinkevičius, a coalition of 150 NGOs calls for clear measurable and verifiable targets for the EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL) currently being prepared in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. According to this law, at least 15% of the marine area (1,000,000 km²), the land area (650,000 km² including lakes) and 15% of the river length (178,000 km) should be restored across the EU. The letter initiated by WWF and EEB is also supported by GRÜNEN LIGA e.V. and the Living Rivers Foundation.

Direct link to the letter:

https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ngo_restoration_letter_to_european_commission.pdf

Petition: Make the Vjosa the first Wild River National Park in Europe

The Vjosa National Park petition launched by EcoAlbania campaigns for the protection of the Vjosa River and a better future for local communities. Europe's last wild river, which provides a habitat for about 1,100 species, including globally endangered ones, is in danger.

After a decade of efforts to protect the Vjosa, supporters are rallying to call on the Albanian Prime Minister to have the Vjosa declared a national park as soon as possible. The National Park Status is an internationally recognised standard of protection and the only status that can prevent companies and future governments from destroying the free-flowing river and its tributaries. Albania would thus have the first true wild river national park in Europe, attracting an estimated 1.5 million visitors and €10-30 million in revenue each year. An increase in employment, further development of ecotourism and an increase in national and international tourism would be the beneficial consequences.

Sign and share the petition to get more people to join the fight to save Europe's last wild river. As many signatures as possible are needed to present this petition to the Prime Minister of Albania.

Cast your vote now at <https://www.change.org/p/vjosa-national-park-the-only-way-to-save-vjosa?signed=true>

World Fish Migration Day 2022

The Living Rivers Foundation is one of the partners of World Fish Migration Day, which was called by the World Fish Migration Foundation on 21 May 2022.

Partner events can be registered at <https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/>

Call to save migratory freshwater fish to protect biodiversity, food sources and livelihoods

Migratory fish are culturally, economically, and recreationally important. Hundreds of millions of people depend on these species for their livelihoods, food, and economic stability. Migratory fish additionally provide crucial support to river and marine ecosystems.

Without healthy, free flowing rivers, migratory fish cannot complete their life cycles, causing their populations to decline. Barriers such as dams, weirs, and culverts are one of the largest factors impacting this decline. Dam removal is one of the fastest, most effective ways to restore rivers and migratory fish populations!

There is an opportunity to support a global petition calling for the permanent protection of the last remaining free-flowing rivers and the dismantling of non-functional dams, which is also available in German language:

<https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Global-Petition-2.zip>

Spanish coastal lagoon Mar Menor under pressure

The Mar Menor lagoon is a Natura 2000 site, a Ramsar site and a Mediterranean Site of Special Importance under the UN Barcelona Convention. However, all these protective measures are not enough to prevent the massive influx of nutrients from the intensively irrigated soils in the Mar Menor catchment area, the "Campo de Cartagena", which has led to massive eutrophication of the lagoon since 2016.

Background information on the ecological disaster Mar Menor is available at:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337495391_SYNTHESIS_REPORT_ON_THE_CURRENT_STATE_OF_MAR_MENOR_LAGOON_AND_ITS_CAUSES_IN_RELATION_TO_THE_NUTRIENT_CONTENTS

Article in the Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/16/farmers-are-digging-their-own-graves-true-cost-of-growing-food-in-spains-arid-south>

Germany is also supplied with fruits and vegetables from the intensively irrigated land in Campo de Cartagena. In response, the German distribution and supermarket company Aldi has asked its suppliers in Campo de Cartagena for explanations and terminated the agreement with at least one of its suppliers. According to Julia Martínez Fernández from the Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua, this initiative by Aldi has had a positive effect and ensures that more extensive measures to implement a more sustainable agricultural model in the Mar Menor area.

Tesla, the capital city and the water



In an open letter, the Water Board of Berlin-Brandenburg calls on Berlin politicians to take greater responsibility for the increased water consumption in the region associated with the Tesla settlement

and the associated water pollution, which could lead to an impairment of the raw water quality of the Müggelsee pure water reservoir of the Waterwork Friedrichshagen (BWB).

No final approval may be given for Elon Musk's project until the clarification of yet unresolved questions about wastewater and the unfinished Telsas incident report have been clarified, says Ulrike von Wiesenau, press officer for the Berlin/Brandenburg Water Board.

<https://www.pressenza.com/de/2021/12/wassertafel-berlin-brandenburg-tesla-die-hauptstadt-unddas-wasser-die-neue-berliner-regierungskoalition-muss-verantwortung-uebernehmen/>

To the Water Board: <https://wassertafel.org/>

How the Hydropower Industry tries to present itself greener as it actually is

“In the 20th century, there is no place anymore for unsustainable hydropower!” is what we can read in various statements of the International Hydropower Association (IHA), the lobby group of the global hydropower industry, also in the IHA-Policy-Paper entitled "Identifying the Next 850+ Gigawatts" and contains this central assumption: to achieve the 2-degrees target of the Paris Climate Agreement, installed hydropower capacity worldwide would have to be increased to 850 gigawatts; to achieve the 1,5-degree target, a total of 2,500 gigawatts would be needed.

If you take a closer look at these figures, it quickly becomes clear what an ecological and social disaster this would result in. One would have to rebuild 50 times the Chinese Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric power plant on earth, to reach this capacity, with smaller power plants correspondingly more. Such an expansion of hydropower would mean that even the last free-flowing rivers would be blocked by dams - with all the ecological and social consequences such as the resettlement of millions of people, the destruction of ecosystems in rivers and flooded areas, and the blocking of sediment transport.

This and other remarks are contained in the article "Sustainable image problems" by Dr. Thilo F. Papacek (GegenStrömung) in the just published Forum Environment and Development Newsletter:

<https://www.forumue.de/rundbrief-iii-2021-waelder/> (in German)

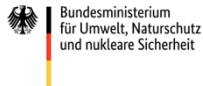
or in English: <https://grueneliga.de/images/PDF-NewsletterENG/Papacek-eng.pdf>

Dates preview 2022 International :

Wednesday, February 2 nd 2022	World Wetlands Day https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/
From the 21 st until the 26 th of March 2022	9th World Water Forum– Water Security for Peace and Development https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en
Tuesday, March 22 nd 2022	World Water Day Motto 2022: Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible; Our Groundwater: the invisible treasure
From the 25 th of April until the 8 th of Mai	UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15

Saturday, Mai 21 st 2022	World Fish Migration Day https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com

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