

Declaration of the World Water Forum from Dakar:

The 9th World Water Forum took place in Dakar, Senegal from the 21st to the 26th of March 2022. The results were summarized in the final declaration “Blue Deal for water security and sanitation for peace and development”. In it, the different stakeholders highlight the necessity to recognise access to water as a human right. The international community should therefore guarantee an access to water and sanitation for all, ensure the availability of the resources and resilience through the achievement of the Sustainable Goals Development (especially SDG 6), ensure adequate funding, ensure inclusive water governance and enhance cooperation. Thus in order to tackle climate change, reverse the biodiversity loss and protect vulnerable populations such as women, young people and rural populations.

You can find the entire Dakar Declaration here:
<https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en/practical-information/dakar-declaration>

UN-Conference on Restoring freshwater ecosystems

On the World Water Day 2022, the UN held a Conference on the restoration of freshwater ecosystems. As part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the webinar focuses on existing work on freshwater ecosystem restoration and monitoring.

A focus on wetlands and peatlands had been made, as they are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store. Their restoration is an efficient tool to tackle climate change. The importance of freshwater ecosystems in inland fish and fisheries has also been highlighted and have shown strong positive impacts in achieving the SDGs (such as SDG 2, 6, 13, 14, 15) by 2030. The main issue in managing and protecting freshwater ecosystems is the deficiency of available data.

Monitoring through the indicators of the SDG 6 and especially through the app “Freshwater ecosystems Explorer” SDG 661 is a huge opportunity to fill data gaps and to ensure the protection, management and restoration of these ecosystems by the different stakeholders.

The different participants of the webinar emphasised the fact that SDG6 need a more transdisciplinary approach, as it is currently dominated by scientists. It should include other disciplines such as economic, biology, social sciences and so on.

You can find the programme and the participants following this link:
https://www.unwater.org/app/uploads/2022/03/Concept-Note_WorldWaterDay_Webinar_FreshwaterRestoration.pdf

UN-World Water Development Report 2022 « Groundwater: Making the invisible visible”

On the 21st of March 2022 was launched by UNESCO the latest edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report “Groundwater: Making the invisible visible”. Groundwater accounts for 99% of all liquid freshwater on Earth. Surface water scarcity is a phenomenon spreading over the world, therefore this invisible natural resource can no longer be overlooked.

According to the report, it is mandatory that the States commit themselves to developing adequate, effective and sustainable groundwater management and governance policies in order to address current and future water crises throughout the globe.

The report highlights three axes of development: collect data, strengthen environmental regulations and reinforce human, material and financial resources.

You can find the whole Report following this link:
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380721>

You can find an executive summary here:
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380726>

European Groundwater Memorandum to secure the quality and quantity of drinking water for future generations

The present European Groundwater Memorandum formulates five key requirements for the protection of naturally formed groundwater resources and thus complements the European River Memorandum (ERM) aiming at the protection of the surface water bodies. Around 170 water suppliers, representing the water protection and drinking water interests of 188 million of people in the catchment areas of the rivers Rhine, Ruhr, Danube, Elbe, Meuse and Scheldt in 18 riparian states have collaborated. The five key requirements include:

- naturally available groundwater: sufficient quantities and good quality;
- the preservation of groundwater (from anthropogenic and geogenic pollution) as a precious common resource;
- the priority use must be given to public drinking water by binding legislation;
- a “zero-pollution” protection goal should be established with intervention values and intervention measures;
- the cooperation between the different stakeholders and users such as polluters, water suppliers, states and individuals: precautionary and polluter-pays principles; transparent and available data collection and monitoring.

You can find the entire Groundwater Memorandum following this link:

www.grueneliga.de/images/PDF-NewsletterENG/europeangroundwatermemorandum_2022_en.pdf

Environmental associations win in court: Jänschwalde opencast lignite mine must be stopped

The German environmental organisations Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) and the Grüne Liga have succeeded in stopping the open-cast lignite mine in Jänschwalde. The Cottbus Administrative Court ruled in favour of the environmental organisations on 17 March 2022 and suspended the main operating plan for the opencast lignite mine. The reason is that for years the open-cast mining company LEAG has been pumping out drastically more groundwater than permitted by the water law.

In 2020, 42 million cubic metres of water could have been withdrawn. In fact, however, LEAG actually pumped out 114.06 million cubic metres. In total, about 240 million cubic metres more groundwater have been extracted in Jänschwalde since 2017 than permitted by water law. This corresponds to six times the volume of the Müggelsee lake in Berlin.

The court grants LEAG a time buffer of just under two months until 14 May 22 to take the safeguards necessary to stop opencast mining. From 15 May onwards, the excavators will have to stand still.

More information here: <https://grueneliga.de/index.php/en/89-englisch/1161-environmental-associations-win-in-court-jaenschwalde-opencast-lignite-mine-must-be-stopped>

Coal.Water.Money

How to deal with the water problems of lignite mining in Lusatia?

In June 2021, the environmental group Cottbus Grüne Liga submitted a 100-pages-opinion on lignite-influenced water management in the Elbe catchment. In the publication « Coal.Water.Money », the most important contexts and demands concerning the management plan and the programme of measures for the Elbe have now been compiled for a wider readership and supplemented by some current developments.

The author of the paper, René Schuster, contradicts claims that an early coal phase-out would aggravate the water problem. René Schuster also explains that major deficits in the transparency of decision-making processes were identified: “In water management, the lignite companies LMBV and LEAG have very exclusive access to the decision-making bodies. The vast majority of other water users and affected parties have to fight for every piece of information”.

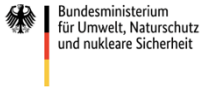
For more information: <https://grueneliga.de/index.php/en/water1/publications/1160-gruene-liga-publishes-background-information-and-positions-on-the-consequences-of-lignite-mining-on-the-water-balance>

The **update of the "International River Basin Management Plan for the Elbe River Basin District"** (Part A) for the period 2022 -2027 was published on 22.03.2022 on the website of the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River (ICPE) and is available at <https://www.ikse-mkol.org/publikationen/wasserrahmenrichtlinie/1>

Dates preview 2022 International :

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| 25 April – 8 May 2022 Kunming, China | UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15 |
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| Samstag, 21 May 2022 | World Fish Migration Day https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com |
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| Sonntag, 5 June 2022 | World Environment Day 2022 https://www.bmu.de/service/veranstaltungen/veranstaltung/internationaler-tag-der-umwelt-weltumwelttag |
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| 23 August – 1 September 2022 Stockholm, Sweden | World Water Week 2022 https://www.worldwaterweek.org |
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| 6 December – 8 December 2022 Paris, France | UN- Water Summit for Groundwater https://www.un-igrac.org/agenda/un-water-summit-groundwater |
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| Wednesday, 22 March 2023 | World Water Day |
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| 22 March – 24 March 2023 | United Nations 2023 Water Conference https://sdgs.un.org/un-2023-conference-water-action-decade |
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**Umwelt
Bundesamt**

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