

## #RestoreNature campaign: for an ambitious nature restoration law



*Connection of an estuary on the Lower Havel*

The **Nature Restoration Law** proposed by the European Commission in June 2022, which aims to restore ecosystems for people, the climate and the planet, will be put to a vote in the European Parliament's Environment Committee in May 2023 and is expected to be debated in plenary in June. This legislation will implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy and establish a governance framework for the restoration of vulnerable ecosystems and will contribute to climate change adaptation, food security and the well-being of people and all forms of life on our planet.

The EEB's **#RestoreNature campaign**, which advocates for the adoption of an ambitious law, is supported by the Living Rivers Foundation and the GRÜNE LIGA.

Member States must establish **national restoration plans** that include both area-based restoration targets and indicator-based restoration targets. This should allow the introduction of an integrated approach to restoration at European level.

For more information: <https://grueneliga.de/index.php/en/89-englisch/1281-restorenature-campaign-for-an-ambitious-nature-restoration-law>



### **Open letter on hydropower**

EEB (European Environmental Bureau), Bird Life International, EEA (European Anglers Alliance), Wetlands International and WWF called on EU negotiators on Monday 6 February 2023 to better protect European rivers from hydropower development in the revised Renewable Energy Directive in an open letter also signed by Living Rivers Foundation and GRÜNE LIGA.

The more than 100 NGOs are lobbying the European Parliament and the European Commission to exclude hydropower from eligible areas and to include sustainability criteria that recognise that hydropower has direct impacts on freshwater ecosystems that need to be mitigated.

According to WWF's Living Planet Report 2022, populations of freshwater species have declined sharply worldwide (by 83% since 1970). Within this group of species, monitored migratory fish stocks in Europe are the most affected, with an average decline of around 93%.

Link to the open letter: <https://www.wwf.eu/?8826916/open-letter-hydropower-RED-trilogues>

### **Lake Titicaca is Threatened Lake 2023**

Every year, the Global Nature Fund and the lake network LivingLakes, which they coordinate, award the title "Threatened Lake of the Year". This year, the sad choice fell on Lake Titicaca.

The lake has been under constant stress for years: 2.5 cubic metres of wastewater produced by the Peruvian and Bolivian population flow unfiltered into the lake every second. Many species of fish have already disappeared forever. In addition, there are pesticides from agriculture and heavy metal-contaminated wastewater from partly illegal mining in the region.

Lake Titicaca is part of the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project launched by GNF in August 2022. For five years, 13 organisations from 12 countries will work together in this project: for the conservation and restoration of lakes and wetlands as well as for the protection of the associated biodiversity.

Further information: [https://www.globalnature.org/de/living-lakes-biodiversitaets-undklimaprojekt?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=adminnewsletter&utm\\_content=&utm\\_campaign=](https://www.globalnature.org/de/living-lakes-biodiversitaets-undklimaprojekt?utm_source=email&utm_medium=adminnewsletter&utm_content=&utm_campaign=)

## Become a river rescue activist:in

WWF Germany launched a dismantling competition on 8 February 2023. Within the framework of this competition, owners of or those responsible for weirs (or other barriers) that are no longer needed will be supported with 3 x 30,000 euros each if they want to remove the barriers from the rivers. Applications must be submitted to WWF by 31 May 2023 using a simple form. A jury consisting of river experts from WWF Germany, Austria and Switzerland will decide on the allocation of funds this summer.

The restorations will be financed within the framework of the "Living Rivers" project, which is supported by the German Postcode Lottery.

Further information and application documents at: <https://www.wwf.de/werden-sie-flussbefreier>

## Dates selection

### 14 March 2023, 8:00 p.m., Gasteig HP8: IsarkonzertIn

In cooperation with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and the photographers of the GDT regional group Munich - Southern Bavaria, WWF Germany is organising a **concert evening for the Isar** on 14 March, the International Action Day for Rivers. For this evening, the musicians will choose pieces that reflect the sound of the Isar. The musical river journey will be accompanied by photographs of the Isar's water habitat and its inhabitants. At the end of the evening, the trio "Brustmann, Schäfer, Horn" will perform their new song "Isara rapidus" for the first time, which they have dedicated to the wild Isar landscape.

Information and tickets (25 euros) via Der Zauber der Isar - GasteigMünchen; link to programme flyer: Programmflyer-Isarkonzert.pdf (wwf.de)

### Main FlussFilmFest 2023

In March 2023, the Living Rivers Foundation and its partners Netzwerk Main and Flussparadies Franken e.V. will organise a River Film Festival in 14 different cities along the Main to promote biodiversity and freshwater life. Outdoor and environmental films as well as short films will be shown, followed by a discussion about the problems rivers face in Europe and worldwide.

For more information on the Main River Film Festival 2023, please visit these links:

<https://www.netzwerkmain.de/mainflussfilmfest> and

<https://www.riverfilmfest.eu/main-flussfilmfest>

<https://www.facebook.com/Maininitiative/>

<https://www.instagram.com/netzwerk.main/?hl=de>

Tuesday, 14 March 2023	<b>World Dam Day (International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life)</b> <a href="https://worldday.de/international-day-of-actionagainst-dams-world-dam-day/">https://worldday.de/international-day-of-actionagainst-dams-world-dam-day/</a>
Wednesday, 22 March 2023	<b>World Water Day</b>
14 – 26 March 2023 Cinemas on the Main River	Main FlussFilmFest <a href="http://www.riverfilmfest.eu">www.riverfilmfest.eu</a>

22 March – 24 March 2023 New York, USA	<b>United Nations 2023 Water Conference</b> <a href="https://sdgs.un.org/un-2023-conference-water-action-decade">https://sdgs.un.org/un-2023-conference-water-action-decade</a>
11 October – 12 October 2023 Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad)	<b>Magdeburg Water Protection Seminar 2023</b>

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The responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors.