

Proposal for a Directive amending the Water Framework Directive, Groundwater Directive and Environmental Quality Standards Directive: Zero pollution as a target:

On 26 October 2022, the EU Commission presented new rules for air and water pollution under the Zero Pollution target by 2050. The Zero Pollution package includes the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) and the updated list of surface and groundwater pollutants.

Read more about the EU Commission's position on achieving the zero pollution targets of the European Green Deal here: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_6278.

The draft Urban Wastewater Directive includes, among other things:

- requirements for large wastewater treatment plants to upgrade to advanced treatment to remove micropollutants and for all plants treating more than 10,000 litres of wastewater in areas with risks to human health or the environment
- the introduction of extended producer responsibility, requiring the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries to contribute to the costs of upgrading wastewater treatment plants to advanced treatment
- an obligation to remove nutrients for large wastewater treatment plants and for all plants with a capacity of more than 10,000 litres in eutrophication risk areas.

Proposal to revise the priority substances for surface and groundwater:

- The list of priority substances for surface water has been extended to include PFA (as a group) and 24 other substances, including several pharmaceuticals and pesticides, including glyphosate.
- The list for groundwater was extended to include two pharmaceuticals, a threshold value for a group of pharmaceutical active substances, a broader range of pesticide degradation products and PFA (as a group).
- The groundwater watch list should be mandatory and not only advisory.

EEB calls on the EU Parliament and Member States to strengthen the Commission's proposal, to adopt more binding legislation and to implement the polluter pays principle.

The EEB press release on the goals of a pollution-free and toxic-free environment can be found here: <https://eeb.org/european-commission-makes-steps-to-tackle-water-pollution-but-falls-short-onchemical-mixtures/>

The draft directive amending the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive from 26 October 2022 is available here: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-amending-water-directives_en

Manifesto for an urgent ban on PFAS #BanPFAS

PFAS are one of the most persistent man-made chemicals, commonly referred to as "forever chemicals". Traces of PFAS have been found in the most remote regions of the world (e.g. Tibet) and in rainwater, and accumulate in all environments. They are responsible for numerous physiological (cancers, etc.) and developmental (deformities, etc.) disorders in animals and humans.

Therefore, several organisations have written a manifesto for the urgent ban of PFAS. They call on EU Member States and the Commission to adopt a ban on all PFAS in consumer products by 2025 and a complete ban by 2030. The European civil society organisations also call on EU governments to develop an effective plan to decontaminate the soil and drinking water of affected communities and to allocate sufficient funds for clean-up projects.

You can support and sign the manifesto by sending an email to sign@banpfasmanifesto.org
The full manifesto is available here: <https://banpfasmanifesto.org/en/#id.mzfocov7gzi3>
You can also share the manifesto on your social media with the hashtag #BanPFAS.

CIS document on "Integrated sediment management - guidelines and good practices in the context of the Water Framework Directive".

This guidance document on integrated sediment management in the context of the Water Framework Directive aims to highlight the key role of sediments in achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

It also provides guidance and best practices for integrated management of sediments. Sediments are of great importance in the fight against eutrophication, erosion of riverbanks and the supply of nutrients to aquatic plants and animals. The mishandling of sediments, especially on non-free-flowing rivers, mainly due to weirs, is one of the main problems in trying to restore river ecosystems. In some cases, sediments are also contaminated with lead, mercury and other substances.

The link to the CIS document prepared by the ECOSTAT, Floods and Chemicals Working Groups can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/facts_figures/guidance_docs_en.htm

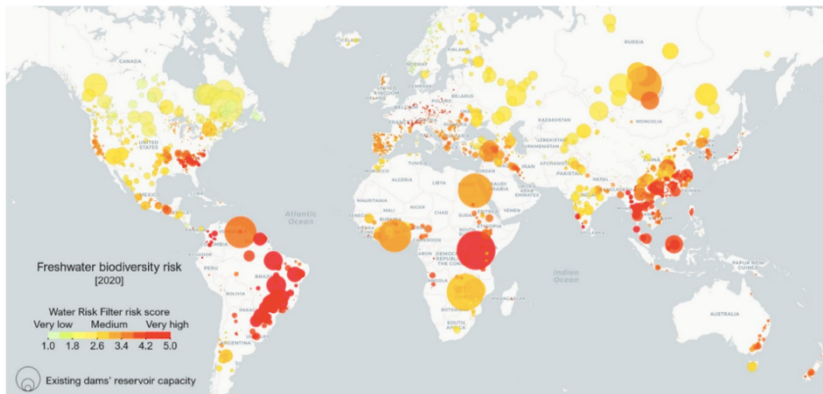
Groundwater-Atlas Germany by CORREKTIV

The CORREKTIV climate team: <https://correctiv.org>, composed by Annika Joeres, Gesa Steeger, Katarina Huth, Max Donheiser and Simon Wörpel, has developed a groundwater atlas for Germany. For this purpose, measured data from 6,700 monitoring sites over the last three decades were used. Overall, groundwater levels have fallen more than they have risen over the last 32 years. For the team, industry and the drinking water supply are among the main causes of this groundwater shortage. Some regions, such as: North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Brandenburg, Saarland and Baden-Württemberg are more affected than others.

The CORREKTIV analysis shows that groundwater levels fell to their lowest level since 1990 during the droughts between 2018 and 2021. With regard to the tense situation of groundwater in Germany, this atlas could help to identify the causes and create the tools for better integrated water resource management in Germany.

You can find the atlas and more information about the groundwater situation in your region here: <https://correctiv.org/aktuelles/kampf-um-wasser/2022/10/25/klimawandel-grundwasser-indeutschland-sinkt/>

"Using the WWF Water Risk Filter to Screen Existing and Projected Hydropower Projects for Climate and Biodiversity Risks" (Jeffrey J. Opperman et al., 2022) - Water Risk Filter from WWF



In a study published by WWF in January 2022, 2,488 existing (E) and 3,700 planned dams (P) are examined using the Water Risk Filter (WRF) and a geospatial analysis. The study of biodiversity and hydrological risks (water scarcity and flooding), considering three climate change

scenarios, made it possible to create a forecast scenario for the year 2050.

Regarding the **risk of water scarcity**, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the planned and existing dams are located in river basins that will most likely be at medium to very high risk. These levels will increase by 2050 due to climate change (at least 20% of increase). Looking at **flood risk**, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dams (75% for E; 83% for P) are located in river basins where there is a medium to very high flood risk. By 2050, this flood risk for dams in the river basins with the highest flood risk could increase almost twenty times (from 2% to 36%). Furthermore, 76% of existing dams are located in river basins with high or very high biodiversity. For planned dams, the proportion is as high as 93%.

The study shows that $\frac{1}{4}$ of hydropower infrastructures are obsolete or will be obsolete in the next few years, especially in Latin America, Africa and South Asia. The highest risks to freshwater biodiversity for existing dams are also observed in these same regions of the world. The interaction of water scarcity and freshwater biodiversity risk by 2050 results in a pessimistic scenario with high scarcity risk for these regions. For the planned dams, the highest biodiversity risk is in Central West Africa (Angola, Gabon), closely followed by Latin America and South Asia.

The entire study can be found at the following link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/14/5/721>

Learn more about WWF's Water Risk Filter Tool here: <https://waterriskfilter.org>

European Rivers Summit 2022

More than 150 European and international river activists met at the 3rd European Rivers Summit, which took place in Brussels from 29 September to 1 October 2022. In addition to numerous presentations, also by biologists, lawyers and water sports enthusiasts, there were many opportunities for exchange.

On 29 September, the world premiere of the film "DamBusters - the start of the Riverlution" took place. For the film by director Francisco Campos-Lopez Benyunes, Pao Fernandez (World Fish Migration Foundation - WFMF) travelled to 5 countries in Europe and met pioneers of the dam removal movement. DamBusters was produced by Herman Wannigen (World Fish Migration Foundation) and others. The Living Rivers Foundation was one of the supporters of

the European Rivers Summit. By raising our voices together and promoting transboundary cooperation, we aim to strengthen the movement to protect freshwater wildlife populations and safeguard vulnerable populations.

The presentations and further information as well as the pictures and results of the summit can be found here: <https://riverssummit.org>

The EU Parliament adopts an urgent resolution against mega oil and gas TotalEnergies' mega oil and gas projects in Uganda and Tanzania.

On 15 September 2022, the EU Parliament adopted an emergency resolution against TotalEnergies' oil and gas projects being developed in Uganda and Tanzania. TotalEnergies, a French multinational energy company, wants to build a 1,445 km heated pipeline from Lake Albert in western Uganda through Tanzania to the Indian Ocean, which would make it the longest heated pipeline in the world. EACOP stands for "East African Crude Oil Pipeline" and is to be connected to the Tilenga project being built in Uganda.

More than 400 wells are to be drilled from December on, including 132 in the Murchison Falls protected area. The two projects could emit up to 34 million tonnes of CO2 per year, more than 30 times the current annual emissions of Uganda and Tanzania combined. In addition, EACOP's offshore facilities are to be built in an area with a high risk of tsunamis. Apart from the threat to water resources and biodiversity, around 100,000 people will be dispossessed. Civil society organisations and human rights defenders have been persecuted and intimidated. The resolution adopted by the EU Parliament speaks of "human rights violations", "intimidation attempts", "judicial harassment" and "immense risks and impacts on local communities, the environment and the climate". The resolution, while not legally binding, is politically significant and could lead to further action in the coming weeks and months. The Uganda-European Union Business Forum will take place on 26-27 October 2022, where these projects could be further addressed.

The resolution of the EU Parliament can be found at the following link: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0321_EN.pdf

Mobile phone clip competition " I love my Main ", in the framework of the Main FlussFilmFest 2023

www.mainflussfilmfest.de
14. - 26. März 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 12 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>

Within this framework, we will also organise a competition for people under 27 years old. The aim of the competition is to get young people more involved in such discussions. By recording small video clips with their smartphones or amateur cameras (no longer than 1,5 minutes) and showing the diversity of life, colours and textures of the Main, young people will help us to highlight the fundamental role of rivers in our lives. In February 2023, the public will vote for their favourite videos and then a jury of professionals (cinema professionals, scientists, etc.) will choose among all, 5 winning videos. The winners will be rewarded with prizes ranging from cinema vouchers to vouchers for sports activities.

Information and rules on how to enter the competition can be found here (after the presentation of the Main River Filmfest 2023), please follow the rules and prepare the application forms: <https://www.riverfilmfest.eu/main-flussfilmfest>

Participants can send their work to athenais.georges@grueneliga-berlin.de between 15/11/2022 and 31/01/2023. You can also contact athenais.georges@grueneliga-berlin.de for any other questions.

Get out your phones and cameras! We look forward to discovering your works and your relationship with this beautiful river!

The 1st Main FlussFilmFest on social media:

Let's celebrate free rivers, clean water and freshwater life! More about the programmes and locations of the 1st Main FlussFilmFest can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/Maininitiative/> and: <https://www.instagram.com/netzwerk.main/?hl=de>

Dates preview 2022 International :

Thursday, 3 November 2022 19:30, Patagonia Store Berlo, (Münzstr. 10)	Movie evening: Vjosa National Park – a new age of river protection ? With Besjana Guri from EcoAlbania and the Living Rivers Foundation Registration; https://vjosanationalpark.splashthat.com
Tuesday, 8 November 2022 Vivaqua, Brussels or Online	17th EWA Hybrid Brussels Conference 2022 https://www.ewa-online.eu/calendar-detail/events/Brussels_Conf.html
Thursday, 15 November 2022 (online)	Current aspects of watercourse development and nature conservation https://eva.dwa.de/details.php?.id=5363&lv=1
Thursday, 15 November 2022	9th Water Dialogue https://eva.dwa.de/details.php?.id=5363&lv=1
15 November – 17 November 2022 Sendai, Japan or Online	7th JSWA/EWA/WEF Specialty Joint Conference: "Resilience of Water Service" https://www.ewa-online.eu/calendar-detail/events/the-7thjswaewawef-specialty-joint-conference-resilience-of-water-service.html

Monday, 21 November 2022 17:00 – 19:30 Neues Maxim Landshuter Allee 33, Munich	German premiere: DamBusters - The Start of the Riverlution Filmmaker Francisco Campos-Lopez accompanies Spanish river engineer Pao Fernandez Garrido on her journey to deconstruction projects in France, Spain, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland. She talks to committed "river heroes" who are campaigning for free-flowing rivers across Europe. Let us be inspired by these experiences to bring more life back to the rivers in Germany. https://www.dambusters.net/ Tickets: 10 euros, bookable at the cinema "Neues Maxim" https://neues-maxim.de/
Tuesday, 22 November 2022 10:00 – 16:30 Architekturforum TU Berlin Am Ernst-Reuter-Platz Strasse des 17. Juni 1952	Exploiting the potential of greywater recycling in housing construction Expert presentations, visits, discussion. Registration: https://events.tu-berlin.de/de/events/018419f3-ac2d-7e92-af8d-7b44b6758492/apply or by e-mail to: kubus@zewk.tu-berlin.de
5 – 17 Dec. 2022 Montréal, Canada	UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15
6 – 8 December 2022 Paris, France	UN- Water Summit for Groundwater https://www.un-igrac.org/agenda/un-water-summit-groundwater
Thursday, 19 January 2023 Friday, 20 January 2023 Berlin	Lakes Conference and Network Meeting Living Lakes Germany
Tuesday, 14 March 2023	World Dam Day (International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life) https://worldday.de/international-day-of-actionagainst-dams-world-dam-day/
Wednesday, 22 March 2023	World Water Day
14 – 26 March 2023 Cinemas on the Main River	Main FlussFilmFest www.riverfilmfest.eu
22 March – 24 March 2023	United Nations 2023 Water Conference https://sdgs.un.org/un-2023-conference-water-action-decade
11 October – 12 October 2023 Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad)	Magdeburg Water Protection Seminar 2023

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Phone : +49 30 / 40 39 35 30 Fax: 20 44 468 E-mail: wasser@grueneliga.de; Internet: <http://www.wrrl-info.de>

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