

Wetland International and the Greifswald Moor Centrum call for more ambitious goals for moor protection in the Nature Restoration Law

Among the central concerns of Wetland International and the Greifswald Moor Centrum are to make rewetting a condition of any peatland restoration, to refrain from draining peatlands, to restore peatlands on agricultural land as well as in forests and other non-urban areas, and to introduce mandatory monitoring. Currently, the EU is the world's second largest emitter of climate gases from peatlands.

The policy brief **Higher ambition for Peatlands in the EU Nature Restoration Law Proposal** can be found here: <https://europe.wetlands.org/download/6860/%20>

EU Soil Health Law - Soil health - Protecting, sustainably managing and restoring EU soils

The EU has announced a proposal for a soil health law as part of the EU Soil Strategy 2030. This soil health law aims to:

- define the conditions for healthy soil
- set out options for soil monitoring; and
- set rules that promote sustainable soil use and remediation.

The public consultation on the EU Soil Health Law will run until 24 October 2022. You can give your feedback at the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/haveyour-say/initiatives/13350-Soil-health-protecting-sustainably-managing-and-restoring-EU-soils_en

The problem of soil dehydration is more topical than ever. Soil moisture and green water are essential factors for ecosystems and human life. Green water is one of the planet's limits, which has already been exceeded, according to a study published in April 2022.

For more information on the concept of planetary boundaries, visit the Stockholm Resilience Centre website at the following link: <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/the-nine-planetaryboundaries.html>

Berlin Water Master Plan

On 27 September 2022, the Berlin State Senate presented the 1st report on the Water Master Plan to the House of Deputies. The focus of the master plan is on the challenges posed by the declining inflow of the Spree and Havel rivers due to climate change and mining, by trends of decreasing groundwater recharge, by demographic developments and by necessary additional water protection requirements. The results of the sub-projects on water supply and uses, on proportions of treated wastewater in the water bodies and on groundwater balance considerations and are examined above all for associated risks with regard to drinking water supply. Possible measures and options for action are presented in concrete terms in the form of measure checklists.

Berliner Wasserbetriebe and SenUMVK (Senate for Environment, Mobility, Consumer and Protection of the Climate) are also examining various options for action to reduce the demand for drinking water in a sensible and sustainable manner. In addition to investments, measures are also required to counteract the forecast increase in drinking water demand as part of a water-saving strategy and to reduce peak demand.

The 1st report on the Water Master Plan is published here:

<https://www.parlament-berlin.de/ados/19/IIIPlen/vorgang/d19-0544.pdf>

DWA Position Paper "Environmentally Friendly Agriculture »

In its Position Paper « Environmentally Friendly Agriculture », the DWA calls for the development of measures and concepts for resource- and water-conserving agriculture, increasing the efficiency of irrigation techniques, reducing water consumption and avoiding water use conflicts.

The DWA calls for the expansion of organic farming and the halving of pesticide use by 2030. A primary goal of future agricultural policy should be land-based animal husbandry, which must involve a significant reduction in farm nutrient surpluses. According to the DWA, this means setting the nitrogen balance surplus at 60 kg N/ha as a 3-year average value in the Material Flow Balance Ordinance, i.e. more than halving it. The DWA assumes that an improvement in water quality and quantity cannot be achieved without close cooperation with the agricultural sector.

The DWA position paper can be found at the following link:

https://de.dwa.de/files/_media/content/01_DIE_DWA/Politikinformation/Positionpapers/Positionpaper_Environmentally_friendly_agriculture_2022.pdf

Position paper on the Action Plan for Water Efficient Nutrient Management

Water Europe published a position paper on the Action Plan for Water Efficient Nutrient Management in September 2022, which aims to better manage the nutrient cycle by reusing and recovering nutrients: <https://watereurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/WE-Position-Paper-Nutrient-Management-Action-Plan.pdf>

Read more about the EU Commission's "Nutrients - Action Plan for Better Management" here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12899-Nutrientsaction-plan-for-better-management_en

Restoration of wetlands through the reintroduction of beavers in England and the USA

Beavers are now being reintroduced by scientists in England and the US as "nature's engineers" to help restore wetlands. Because beaver dams create mini-reservoirs that keep water on the ground longer, they can mitigate both droughts and regional flooding. As these phenomena become more frequent and extreme due to climate change, beavers seem to be a good nature-based solution to rewetting wetlands. By slowing down runoff, the microorganisms in the wetlands also have time to break down pollutants. Beaver dams enhance the normal filtering function of wetlands by trapping silt so that there can be 90% less sediment in the water downstream. Such water purification leads to healthier habitats downstream, and fewer costly treatment plants are needed to provide drinking water for people.

Compared to the cost of man-made wetlands (estimated at between €10,000 and €100,000 per hectare), beavers create and maintain them for free. For more information on wetland restoration by beavers, click here: https://www.nawm.org/pdf_lib/beaver_supporting_1.pdf#page=5

For more information on the maintenance of a wetland by beavers in Devon (UK) despite the drought in summer 2022, see here: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-62662909>

PFAs detected in rainwater worldwide

A study by Ian Cousins (Stockholm University) and Martin Scheringer (ETH Zurich) published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology in August 2022 shows that PFAs (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl compounds) have been found in rainwater worldwide, even in remote areas such as Tibet and Antarctica. PFAs are used in Teflon, outdoor clothing or packaging, among other things. They are called "eternal chemicals" because of their longevity in organisms and ecosystems. They are dangerous to animal health because they cause cancer, impair biological development and immunity, interfere with reproduction and especially attack the liver of mammals.

The researchers searched worldwide for 10 years for 4 of the best known PFAs (PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS and PFNA) in rainwater as well as in soil and surface water. The PFA concentrations found in rainwater exceed the limits of many drinking water guidelines worldwide, raising the question of the usability of rainwater for watering plants or for other domestic purposes. Scientists even assume that a planetary limit has been exceeded due to PFAs.

You can find more about PFAs in a publication by the Federal Environment Agency here: https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/2546/publikationen/uba_sp_pfas_web_0.pdf.

Read more about the study "Outside the Safe Operating Space of a New Planetary Boundary for PFAs substances" (Cousins et al., 2022) here: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.2c02765>

Patagonia - Yvon Chouinard donates the profits of his company to save the planet

In September 2022, Yvan Chouinard, owner of the outdoor fashion brand Patagonia and former mountaineer, made a far-reaching decision for his company. Instead of keeping the profits for himself and his family, the billionaire decided to donate any profits not reinvested in the company to the only shareholder he has now: Earth. 2% of all shares and decision-making powers were transferred to a foundation, and 98% of the rest will go to a non-profit organisation called the Holdfast Collective. Their mission is to fight environmental crises, protect nature and biodiversity and support thriving communities.

This is an impressive example of ecological corporate governance. Even the advertising on the website asks customers to think twice before buying to make sure they only buy what they really need.

Action Network Small Water Bodies - Dialogue Events in Berlin

Within the framework of the Action Network Small Water Bodies, two dialogue events will take place in September 2022. As many small and large water bodies in Berlin are in a poor condition, the network wants to promote measures to restore and protect them. <https://bln-berlin.de/aktionsnetz-kleingewaesser/>

Dialogue event Amphibians in the Körner Pond on 21 October 2022 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Meeting place: Opposite Kohlisstraße 25, 12623 Berlin; 4:00 p.m.

Originally created as a rainwater retention basin, the Körner Teich is visited for local recreation. However, very few people know about the amphibians that live there. After a strong increase in the population in the first few years, a downward trend can now be clearly seen.

We will discuss the causes and learn a lot about the way of life and the demands of amphibians on their habitat. Finally, we will also discuss what measures could be taken to better protect the amphibians.

Registration at lvberlin@nabu-berlin.de or by phone at 030/98608370. Anyone who would like to help carry the animals across the street in the future is also welcome to register.

To the flyer: http://bln-berlin.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Ko%CC%88rnerreich_mailanhang.pdf

Advance notice: 1st Main FlussFilmFest in March 2023

www.mainflussfilmfest.de
14. - 26. März 2023



gefördert durch



in Zusammenarbeit mit



Stand: 20.09.2022
Der Main fließt in Bayern durch
11 Landkreise und 4 kreisfreie Städte.
Er ist damit gemeinsamer Lebensraum von 2,5 Mio Menschen
und ein einzigartiges europäisches Naturerbe.

Flussparadies
Franken e.V.

In 2023, for the very first time, a river film festival will take place on the Main. And not just in one city but in several cinemas along the course of the river from its source to its mouth. In this way, it will become clear that the Main River connects people over 500 km and is our common responsibility.

The 1st Main FlussFilmFest will be organised in March 2023 by Flussparadies Franken e.V. and Netzwerk Main in cooperation with the Living Rivers Foundation and other partners. The opening will take place in Bayreuth on 14 March 23, the International Day of Action against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life (World Dam Day). The event will conclude with a matinee in Frankfurt am Main on 26 March. An international selection of environmental and outdoor short films.

Let's celebrate free rivers, clean water and freshwater life! More about the programmes and locations coming soon on : <https://www.riverfilmfest.eu> and www.netzwerkmain.de
And: www.facebook.com/Maininitiative/ , www.instagram.com/netzwerk.main/?hl=de

Dates preview 2022 International :

Friday, 21 October 2022 Naturerlebnishof Uferloos, Kienitz	Active together for the Oder https://saveoder.org/
Monday, 24 October 2022 (Online)	UN-Water Conference 2023 – Stakeholder Consultation https://sdgs.un.org/events/stakeholder-consultation-preparation-united-nations-conference-midterm-comprehensive-review
Tuesday, 25 October 2022 (Online)	UN- Water Conference 2023 – Preparatory Meeting https://sdgs.un.org/events/preparatory-meeting-united-nations-conference-midterm-comprehensive-review-implementation
Friday, 28 October 2022 (online)	Water protection forum of the environmental associations with river film event (Advance notice)
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
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
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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The responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors.