

March 21, 2022

400+ organizations call for urgent action to save migratory freshwater fish to protect biodiversity, food sources, and livelihoods

Dear CBD Secretariat,

We hereby present you our petition, showcasing a worldwide urgency to take swift political action to create and implement an emergency recovery plan to restore and protect our freshwater fish populations ecosystems. The petition was signed by 402 organizations from over 86 countries!

In July 2020 World Fish Migration Foundation and partners released the first [Living Planet Index for Migratory Freshwater Fish species](#). This report concluded that the migratory fish populations that support river and marine ecosystems have declined on average by 76% of their former diversity and abundance. Hundreds of millions of people depend on these species for their livelihoods, for food and economic stability.

One of the biggest impacts are the countless infrastructure developments and activities that are currently exhausting the world's river resources, driving high levels of decline and extinction of freshwater species. There are millions of dams, weirs, sluices, and culverts fragmenting our waterways and blocking migration routes.

Yet, there is still time to act to restore migratory freshwater fish populations. By removing in-stream barriers and restoring rivers to a free-flowing state, fish and many other species will flourish. In Europe alone, there are at least 100,000 obsolete barriers obstructing important migratory routes. It is time to remove these and the many others around the world for the benefit of nature and people.

Citizens around the world are taking action on this issue as shown on [World Fish Migration Day](#). We expect action from governments and call on them to commit to protect communities, economies, and biodiversity by restoring migratory fish populations to healthy, sustainable levels.

Call to Action:

We challenge the leaders of the world to take swift political action to create and implement an emergency recovery plan to restore and protect our freshwater fish populations with the following two priority actions:

- 1. Permanently protect all remaining free-flowing rivers;**
- 2. Remove obsolete river barriers: prioritizing high impacting barriers to restore river connectivity**

We, [World Fish Migration Foundation](#), and 402 organizations from over 86 countries, sign this letter pledge to lead by example and act jointly to care for, restore, and fight to bring freshwater ecosystems back to life. We implore all global politicians and policy makers to do the same and take action before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,



Herman Wanningen, Director
The World Fish Migration Foundation
And our 400+ supporting organizations:

This petition was signed by:

Institute of Fisheries Management	UK
Biodiversity Conservation & Fisheries Research Center (BCFRC)	Bangladesh
Downeast Salmon Federation	USA
Taylor Environmental	South Africa
Projeto Piabanha – Associação dos Pescadores	Brazil
Groupe de recherche et d'action pour le bien-etre au Benin	Benin
Reaching Rivers	South Africa
Institute for ichthyological and ecological research, REVIVO	Slovenia
Aqua Crisius Angling Association	Romania
Beneath British Waters	UK
EnviRoss CC, South Africa	South Africa
Rushing Rivers Institute	Poland
SHOAL	UK
Friends of the Nation	Ghana
Ticino Park	Italy
Stichting Goede Vissers (Good Fishers Foundation)	Netherlands
G.R.A.I.A. srl - Gestione Ricerca Ambientale Ittica Acque	Italy
Department of Water & Sanitation	South Africa
WWF Romania	Romania
Action pour la Conservation de la Biodiversité en Côte d'Ivoire	Ivory Coast
Centre de Recherche pour la Gestion de la Biodiversité (CRGB)	Benin
Myanmar Programme of Fauna & Flora Internationa	Myanmar
Institut Supérieur de Pêche et d'Aquaculture	Tunisia
State Regional Centre of Sturgeon Gene pool Conservation "Kubanbioresursi"	Russia
Mikolji Corp	Venezuela
Center for the Study of Mediterranean Rivers – University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia	Spain
IUCN WCPA Freshwater Specialist Group	UK
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology, The Federal University of Technology	Nigeria
ANRS Regional Livestock Resources Production Promotion Agency Burea	Ethiopia
Cercle de Recherche pour l'Identification et la Promotion des Alternatives du Développement Durable-CRIPPAD ONG	Benin
CACEH- Cameroon Association for Community and Environmental Health	Cameroon
Riverwatch	Austria
Finnish Freshwater Foundation	Finland
Foret pour le development integral	Democratic republic of Congo
International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development	Cameroon
WPE Cameroon-Wild Planet Eco-project	Cameroon
Mahseer Trust	UK
National Park of Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Migradour	France
Freshwater Fish Specialist Group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission	
ONG SYNERGIE Environnement	Mali
GREEN HORIZON Cameroon	Cameroon
Bega Poieni Fishing Association	Romania
Asociata pescarolor sportivi braila	Romania
Regional Ecology Center Bacău	Romania
Ecotop Foundation for Culture and Environmental Education	Romania
Foundation Conservation Carpathia	Romania
Fly fishing Club Sibiu Association	Romania
Eco-Civica Foundation	Romania
Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association	Romania

“Save the Prut” Association	Romania
Propark Foundation for Protected Areas	Romania
Association for Administration of Ses Mountain Protected Area	Romania
Romanian Orithological Society Association	Romania
ACCENT GeoEcological Organization	Romania
Association for the Biological Diversity Conservation (ACDB)	Romania
A.P.A. - Asociația Pescari Amărășten	Romania
Severn Rivers Trust	UK
Organisation Ecotouristique du Lac Oguemoué	Gabon
Estonian SportFishing Federation	Estonia
ONG Agir en Faveur de l’Environnement (ONG AFE)	Mauritania
ONG Les Amis de la Terre-Togo	Togo
Association Green Project	Romania
ÖKF FishLife	Austria
BROZ- Bratislavske Regionalne Ochránárske Zdruzenie	Slovakia
Universidad de La Salle- Bogotá	Colombia
Amis de l’Afrique Francophone- Benin	Benin
Centre de Recherches Océanologiques, Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)	Ivory Coast
Insitut of Rural development	Burkina Faso
Iberian Society of Ichthyology (SIBIC)	Spain
Association le pêcheur pour le developpement et l’environnement	Tunisia
Benin Environment and Education Society ONG	Benin
Alliance of Human Rights and Environmental Defenders in Chad.	Chad
PEOPLE EARTHWISE (PEW)	Cameroon
Makerere University, Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences	Uganda
Friends of the Mahoning River	USA
European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA)	Belgium
European Anglers Alliance (EAA)	Belgium
Institut de Recherches Halieutiques et Océanologiques du Bénin	Benin
MARE-Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre	Portugal
BOKU	Austria
Balkanka Association	Bulgaria
University of Évora	Portugal
Conservation Action Practitioners (CAP)	Rwanda
Fish Ecology Lab – Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG)	Brazil
Ghent University	Belgium
Alleanza Pescatori Ricreativi	Italy
ONG Palmeirinha	Guinea-Bissau
Dakar Oceanium	Senegal
Fish &Go	Hungary
Alliance for Freshwater Life (AFL)	Germany
The Rivers Trust	UK
Wetlands International European Associatio	Europe
Association ARDH pour la protection de la nature	Algeria
Solidarité pour le Développement et la Protection de l’Environnement	Democratic republic of Congo
WWF Adria	Croatia
Bureau for fish-ecological studies	Germany
Communauté d’Agglomération Mont Saint Michel Normandie	France
Finnish Federation for Recreational Fishing (FFRF)	Finland
Lake Vörtsjärve Fisheries Development Agency	Estonia
I AM HYDRO GmbH	Iceland
Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) National Focal Point for	
Georgia Black Sea Commission	Georgia
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
Cocordinamento Nazionale Tutela Fiumi Free Rivers Italia	Italy
Kreisfischereiverein e.v. Düren	Germany
Salmon Watch Ireland	Ireland

NABU-Koordinationsstelle Rhein	Germany
Association for marine Aquaculture (GMA Büsum) and BioServe	Germany
Exploration Subaquatique Sciences Image Sensibilisation (E3SI)	France
CIRF – Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale	Italy
ECO-TIRAS International Association of River Keepers	Moldova
Profish Technology	Belgium
Pisces - Consultoria e Serviços Ambientais Ltda.	Brazil
Bornholm Archaeological Research Center	Denmark
NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) e.V.	Germany
OAK consultants	Netherlands
European Centre for River Registration	Netherlands
ERN France- European Rivers Network	France
Thelma Biotel AS	Norway
VBC Roerdal	Netherlands
Association Local Group Fisheries "Dunarea Dolj"	Romania
National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa",	Romania
Lašišos Dienoraštis	Lithuania
Älvräddarnas Samorganisation	Sweden
Swiss Competence Center for Fisheries	Switzerland
Tees Rivers Trust	UK
The Wild Trout Trust	UK
FUNDACIO CATALUNYA LA PEDRERA	Spain
International Association for Danube Research	Romania
EGUZKI TALDE EKOLOGISTA	Spain
Associacion Sediments	Spain
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Rzek Iny I Gowienicy	Poland
Fundación Escalera para Peces Migratorios	Spain
AEMS-Ríos con Vida	Spain
Laboratorio de Ecología Fluvial, Universidad del País Vasco	Spain
Sorelló, estudis al medi aquàtic	Spain
Associació la Sorellona	Spain
Bicho Producciones	Spain
Norfolk Rivers Trust	UK
Salmon and Trout Conservation Cymru	UK
Odessa State Environmental University	Ukraine
Saint-Petersburg State Forest Technical University	Russia
Bangladesh Technical Education Board	Bangladesh
Gruppo Italiano Amici Della Natura	Italy
Ribble Rivers Trust	UK
Laboratorio de Hidrobiología. Dpto Zoología, Genética y Antropología	Spain
Física. Fac. Biología de la Universidad de Santiago de Compostela,	Spain
Ekolur Asesoría Ambiental S.L.L.	Ukraine
Associations Ukranian Regions "EU strategy for Danube Region"	Spain
Grupo de Investigación Aphanius; University of Cordoba	Sweden
Vattenvårdsingenjör och Fiskevårdare	UK
RSK Biocensus Ltd	Slovakia
The Slovak Ichthyological Society	Slovakia
Comenius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences	Ukraine
LLC "ECONAD SYSTEMS"	Spain
GUADALICTIO S.L.	Chile
Ciudadana Ríos del Maipo	Sweden
Coalition Clean Baltic	Portugal
Azorean Biodiversity Group	Portugal
SOS Salvem o Surf	Germany
World Sturgeon Conservation Society e.V.	France
Le Chant des Rivières	Spain
FUNDACIÓN NUEVA CULTURA DEL AGUA	

North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society	USA
Rokafly-Flyfishing	Serbia
American Rivers	USA
Société Française d'Ichtyologie (SFI)	France
Danube delta national Institute for Research and Development	Romania
Actions pour le Developpement et la Citoyenneté (ADC)	Democratic republic of Congo
Vitalis Venezuela	Venezuela
ONGVitalis Latinoamérica	Mexico
Wetlands International LAC / Fundación Humedales	Argentina
CoopeSolidar R.L	Costa Rica
Trent Rivers Trust	UK
Mingara, Asociación para el Desarrollo Sustentable	Paraguay
Natuurpunt	Belgium
Fisheries Protection Association	Denmark
Oslo Wetland Center	Norway
Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, Lake Nakuru Environmental Education Centre	Kenya
Snowchange Cooperative	Finland
Nature Conservation Society-Myanmar	Myanmar
International Crane Foundation	USA
Amigos del Río San Rodrigo, A.C.	Mexico
BirdProtection Macedonia and Macedonian Ramsar Committee	Macedonia
Eventur Fishing	Poland
Dansk Amatørfiskerforening	Denmark
Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd	Tanzania
Văcărești Natural Park Association	Romania
Alleco Ltd.	Finland
Society to Save the Sturgeon	Germany
Conservation Action Trust	India
Royal Botanical Gardens	Canada
Flying Pangolin Film	Germany
Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà	Spain
Fisheries Research Institute (F.R.I)	Greece
Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)	Myanmar
Krasnoyarsk regional environmental organization PLOTINA	Russia
Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition	Russia
Colonia de Pescadores Z-21 of São Fidélis	Brazil
Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura	Italy
Kl.Π.Η. (Citizens movement of Ilioupolis)	Greece
The Environment Protection Club of Latvia	Latvia
Save the Tigris	Iran
Humat Dijlah (Tigris river protectors association)	Iraq
Sociedade Brasileira de Ictiologia (SBI)	Brazil
University of New England	USA
Environmental Science & Policy Program at William & Mary	USA
Save the Rivers Coalition	Poland
EuroNatur	English
Instituto de Investigación para la Gestión Integrada de Zonas Costeras	Spain
Tour du Valat	France
Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece	Greece
proTEJO – Movement for Tagus	Portugal
Initiative “Mesochora - Acheloos SOS”	Greece
Associação Natureza Portugal - WWF Portugal	Portugal
Plataforma contra la especulación urbanística y ambiental de Candeleda	Spain
Comissao de Luta Anti-Poluicao do Alviela (CLAPA)	Portugal
Plataforma de Toledo en Defensa del Tajo	Spain
Associação de Defesa do Património (COREMA)	Portugal

Pindos Perivallontiki	Greece
Deutscher Angelfischerverband	Germany
Mongolian Sustainable Development	Mongolia
Centre d'Appui au Développement Rural et à la Sécurité Alimentaire, CADERSA-RDC	
Department of Ecological Researches, Kraków	Democratic republic of Congo
Ab Ovo Association	Poland
BirdlifeBelarus	Poland
Chronmy Mokradia (CMOK)	Poland
Dziedzictwo Przyrodnicze / Natural Heritage Foundation	Poland
Fundacja Dziko	Poland
Fundacja Ekorozwoju (FER)	Poland
Fundacja Wyspa	Poland
Glowacz	Poland
Gornoslaskie Towarzystwo Przyrodnicze / Upper Silesian Nature Society	Poland
Fundacja Promocji Relcveacji (KIM)	Poland
Klub Przyjaciol Dunajca	Poland
Małopolska Ornithological Society (Mto)	Poland
Stowarzyszenie Niezależnych Inicjatyw Nasza Natura	Poland
Fundacja Nasza Ziemia	Poland
Obie Strony Miasta	Poland
The Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife Poland)	Poland
Fonudation Psubraty	Poland
Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra"	Poland
RECYKLING REJS	Poland
Fundacja Strefa Zieleni / Green Zone Foundation	Poland
Towarzystwo Badań i Ochrony	
Przyrody / Wildlife Research and Conservation Society	Poland
Friends of Ina and Gowienica Rivers Association	Poland
Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciol Rzeki (KWISY)	Poland
TPR Tanew	Poland
Volans	Poland
Wolna Wisla Torun	Poland
Zielone Wiadomosci / Green News Magazine & Fundacja Zielone Swiatlo / Green Light Foundation	Poland
Zielony Instytut / Green Institute	Poland
Danish Sport Fishing Association / Danmarks Sportsfiskerforbund	Denmark
Sportsfiskerforeningen Håbet	Denmark
Nyborg Sportsfiskerforening	Denmark
Balkan River Defence	Slovenia
Horsens og Omegns Sportsfiskerforening / Angling Club of Horsens and Environs	Denmark
Verband Hessischer Fischer e.V.	Germany
Union des FDAAPPMA du Bassin Loire-Bretagne (UFBLB)	France
Rheinischer Fischereiverband von 1880 e.V.	Germany
Landesfischereiverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.	Germany
Sportsfiskerforeningen Storstrømmen	Denmark
Korsør Lystfiskerforening	Denmark
Slovene dragonfly society	Slovenia
Capena	France
Faaborg Sportsfiskerklub	Denmark
Landesfischereiverband Westfalen und Lippe e. V.	Germany
Fischereiverband Nordrhein-Westfalen e. V.	Germany
Landesfischereiverband Weser-Ems	Germany
Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)	Greece
CIREF	Spain
Austrian Biologist Association (ABA)	Austria

Asociación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza y los Recursos de Extremadura (ADENEX)	Spain
Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza (APGVN)	Portugal
Associação Portuguesa dos Recursos Hídricos / Portuguese Water Resources Association	Portugal
Associação Portuguesa de Educação Ambiental (ASPEA) /Portuguese Association of Environmental Education	Portugal
Associação Barreiro - Património, Memória e Futuro	Portugal
Associação Voluntariado e Ação Social do Entroncamento (AVASOCIAL)	Portugal
ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA PARA A CONSERVAÇÃO DA BIODIVERSIDADE (FAPAS)	Portugal
Rede Inducar	Portugal
Município de Vila Nova da Barquinha	Portugal
Movimento de Cidadania, “No Coração da Cidade - Santarém”	Portugal
Unione Nazionale Pescatori a Mosca (UNPEM)	Italy
Leeway Collective, Institute for promotion and protection of aquatic ecosystems	Slovenia
Eko Krog	Slovenia
Club pesca a mosca Brescia	Italy
Fishing Zealand	Denmark
Sportvisserij Limburg	Netherlands
Club Nautico International Hemingway de Cuba	Cuba
Sportvisserij Nederland	Netherlands
Management Authority of Schinias – Marathon National Park, Mount. Hymettus and Southeast Attica	Greece
Associação Vamos Salvar o Jamor	Portugal
Associação Campo Aberto	Portugal
Junta de Freguesia de Camarate, Unhos e Apelação	Portugal
Câmara Municipal de Ferreira do Zêzere	Portugal
Municipio de Vila Franca de Xira	Portugal
Red Ciudadana para una Nueva Cultura del Agua en el Tajo/Tejo y sus Ríos (Red del Tajo/ReddedoTejo)	Spain
Sociedade Portuguesa de Ecologia	Portugal
The Rivers Trusts of Wales / Afonydd Cymru	UK
ASOCIACIÓN DE NATURALISTAS DEL SURESTE (ANSE)	Spain
Ostersjolaxalvar	Sweden
PHYNATURA A.C.	Mexico
ECTAGONO. Ríos Tánago.	Mexico
Cátedra de la Paz AC	Venezuela
Foro Ambiental Córdoba	Argentina
Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (Fundeps)	Argentina
Eco House Global	Argentina
Pro Eco Azuero	Panamá
Barnstable Clean Water Coalition	USA
Department of Biosciences, Durham University	UK
FishTec, The Fisheries Secretariat	Sweden
ECOPORE (Ação Ecológica Guaporé)	Brazil
Ibunam - Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Mexico
Federazione Italiana Pesca Sportiva e Attività Subacquee	Italy
Senger Communicatie	Netherlands
Aquaculture & Fisheries Group of Wageningen University	Netherlands
Institut d'Ecologia Aquàtica	Spain
A Rocha International	UK
Asociación Ibérica de Limnología (AIL)	Spain
NQ Dry Tropics	Australia
Fundación Neotropical Cuencas	Colombia
Museo de la Naturaleza Valle del Alberche	Spain
Federación Española de Pesca y Casting	Spain
Bluefields Indian & Caribbean University	Nicaragua

Synchronicity Earth	UK
Milwaukee Riverkeeper	USA
RAVON Foundation	Netherlands
Asociación Colombiana de Ictiólogos	Colombia
Rede Pantanal	Brazil
Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de l'environnement	Mali
BELLEN Consulting	Mali
Earth Trive Balkans	Region in Europe and Mediterranean Countries
Fundación COASTMAN Ecuador	Ecuador
Forêts Communautaire pour le Développement Rural en abrégé FOCODER	Democratic republic of Congo
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement	Ivory Coast
Institute REVIVO	Slovenia
Nature Tropicale ONG (Bénin)	Benin
association Zoolandia	Congo
Organización Pro Ambiente Sustentable	Puerto Rico
Association BAYIRI	Burkina Faso
River Ocean Cleanup	Cambodia
Grüne Liga e.V.	Germany
Wolne Rzeki	Poland
Living Rivers Foundation	Germany
Fundación Natura Bolivia	Bolivia
Limnosa Sachverständigenbüro	Germany
Río Mapacho Waterkeeper	Peru
Estonian Water Association	Estonia
Friends of the Baltic	Russia
Mazowiecko-Świętokrzyskie Towarzystwo Ornitologiczne	Poland
Łowca Obcych	Poland
Department of Ecological Researches-ZBE	Poland
Deutsche Umwelthilfe	Germany
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development	Uganda
Board of Directors, Fly Fishers International	USA
Fario e.V.	Germany
FliegenFischen Mag	Germany
Bretagne Grands Migrateurs	France
Organisation pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (OPED)	Cameroon
Peconic Baykeeper	USA
Tunisian society for sustainable Fisheries	Tunisia
Paul C. Standley Herbarium - Universidad Zamorano	USA
The Federation of Icelandic River Owners	Iceland
Slatinka Association (Slovakia)	Slovakia
Lake Kamnarok Kenya	Kenya
Círculo de Políticas Ambientales	Argentina
Civil Initiative for Ecosocial Society and Development of Zasavje_Slovenia	Slovenia
Snorkel Michigan and Freshwater Discovery	USA
Za Savo	Slovenia
Friends of the Earth Hungary	Hungary
Parcs nationaux de l'Upemba et des Virunga	Democratic republic of Congo
Ecologistas en Acción Tierra de Barros	Spain
Maine Rivers	USA
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay	USA
Research Institute of Nature and Forest (INBO, Belgium)	Belgium
Villa Agroecológica Tierra del Sol – San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya, Oaxaca	Mexico
In the Loop Magazine, Cast Away Media	Denmark
Phynatura AC	Venezuela
Balaton Limnological Research Institute	Hungary
CEEweb for Biodiversity	Hungary

Community Action for Nature Conservation
Fundación la Tortuga
Mingara. Asociación para el Desarrollo Sustentable. Paraguay
Eguzki ekologista Taldea
Larecoturh
Association Milvus Group
Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters- Unifersity
of South Bohemia
Grupo Altía, I.A.P.
College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan
Snorkel Canada ~ Freshwater Discoveries ~
Danube Sturgeon Task Force
Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia
Fundación Humedales
Društvo za preučevanje rib Slovenije (DPRS)
Asociación Civil Jugando en la Naturaleza (DE.LA.NA.)
Far Western University, Mahendranagar, Nepal
National Institute of Technology Calicut -NITC
WWF Germany
Upių atkūrimo centras
Rivers and Forest Alliance
Fundación Proyecto Ecológico Chiriboga

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Lithuania
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Ecuador