



Webinar

Challenges and potentials of river restoration and conservation in Europe in light of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030

Organized by CEEweb for Biodiversity

Co-host: The Nature Conservancy

Date and time: 13 July, 2020 13:30-17:30 CET

The European Commission has published the new EU Biodiversity Strategy which is a major pillar of the EU Green Deal and strategic work until 2030. As a part of the Nature Restoration Plan, the strategy has ambitious targets related to freshwater ecosystems, namely at least 25,000 km of rivers will be restored into free-flowing rivers through the removal of barriers and the restoration of floodplains and wetlands.

The aim of the webinar is to provide an overview of the current conservation and restoration situation of the rivers in Europe, and discuss the future possibilities to strengthen river protection and improve their ecological/conservation status based on the opportunities provided by the new strategy.

Programme

13:30-13:40 Welcome and Introduction

State of play – the conservation and restoration of European rivers

13:40-14:00 River Restoration in America: global lessons for bringing back migratory fish
(*Joshua Royte – The Nature Conservancy*)

14:00-14:20 Open up European rivers (*Pao Fernández Garrido – World Fish Migration Foundation*)

14:20-14:50 Lessons learnt from river restoration – Member State examples

Challenges and potential of river restoration and conservation in Estonia
(*Tanel Ader, Ministry of the Environment*)

Are we ready for the river restoration challenge? – voice from Croatia
(*Aljoša Duplić, Ministry of Environment and Energy*)

14:50-15:10 Rivers are flow! Legal aspects of river protection (*Tobias Schäfer – Living Rivers*)

15:10-15:30 Questions and answers

15:30-15:50 *Coffee break*

What can we capitalize from the opportunities provided by the Strategy?

15:50-16:05 Targets and intersections in the strategy (*Henrik Osterblad – The Nature Conservancy*)

16:05-16:20 How does the new target complement the existing tools? (*Ildikó Varga – CEEweb for Biodiversity*)

16:20-17:30 Discussion (moderation: CEEweb for Biodiversity)

Questions:

1. Is river [habitat] restoration being planned/considered in your country? How governments treating river restoration “obligations” coming from the Strategy? What are the main challenges of river restoration projects have faced?

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2. What policies or existing tools can support the implementation of the targets related to rivers? Who are the key stakeholders? What are some examples of stakeholder involvement on a national level?
 3. How to identify the main targets of river restoration? What we need to protect? How we can define it?
 4. Can be or need to be join river restoration and river protection issues?