



ANP
ASSOCIAÇÃO
NATUREZA
PORTUGAL



ANP em associação com WWF



Environmental protection of water resources

policies and instruments that need to be prioritized

Porto, May 20th 2021

A close-up photograph of a giant panda's face, showing its characteristic black and white fur, dark eye patches, and a black nose. The panda is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

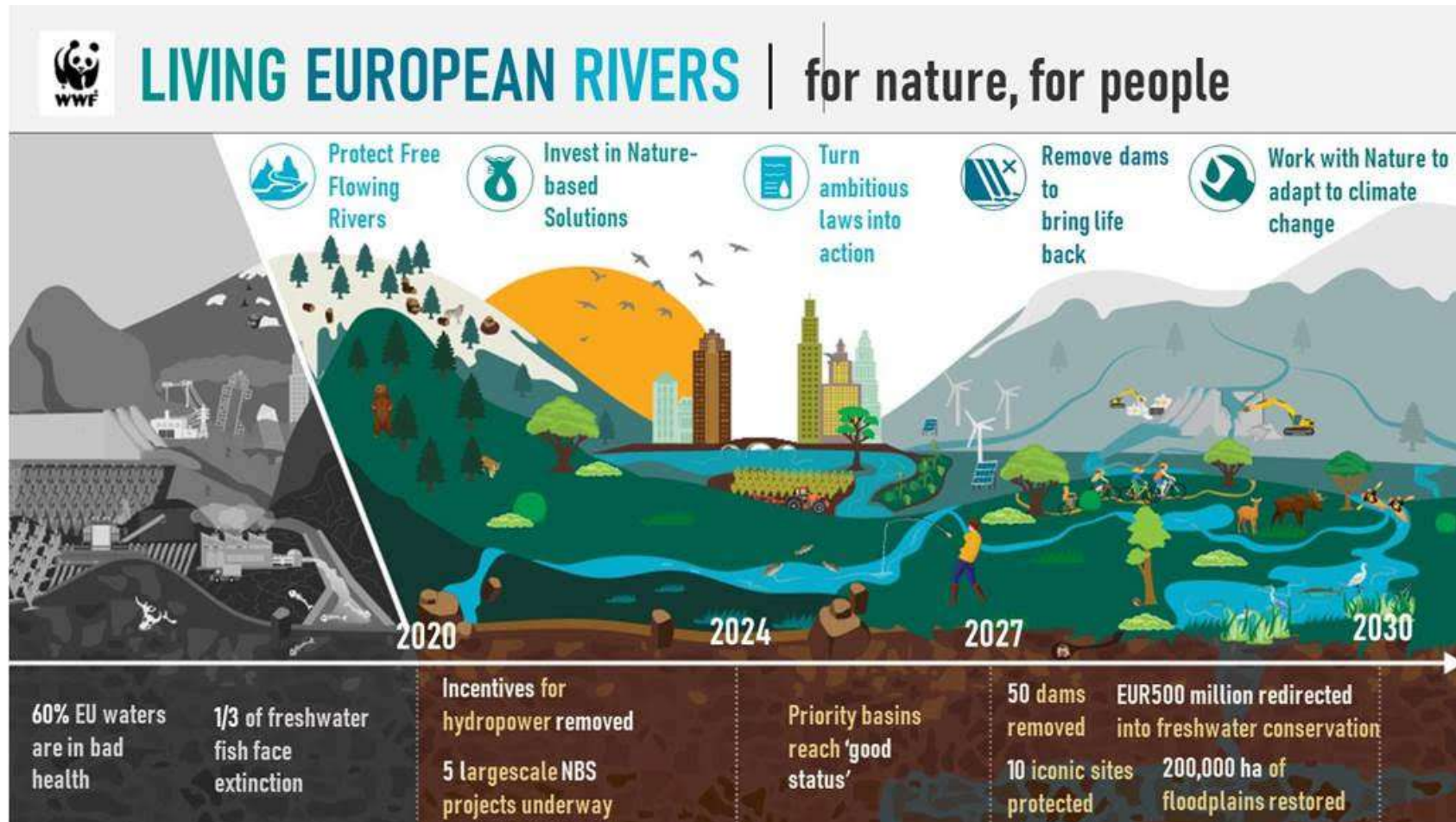
WWF



WWF is one of the world's largest independent non-governmental nature conservation organization, with more than 5 million members globally and active offices in more than 120 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop environmental degradation and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and waste.

WWF approach in Europe



ANP|WWF

ANP|WWF works in association with WWF International and continues the work that has been ongoing in the national territory since 1990 by WWF Mediterranean.

ANP|WWF operates in 6 major practices: oceans and fisheries, forests, wildlife, food, freshwater, climate and energy, through several conservation projects and policy work.

FLORESTAS



ÁGUA DOCE



OCEANOS



ALIMENTAÇÃO



VIDA SELVAGEM



CLIMA E ENERGIA



FRESHWATER CONSERVATION IN PORTUGAL

PRIORITIES

- **Water footprint** reduction and risk management approaches
- **Water Stewardship** initiatives and corporate responsibility
- Dam impact reduction and obsolete **barriers removal**
- **Ecologic restoration** and water cycle improvement

PROJECTS

- *Plantar Água* – restoring post-fire mediterranean forests in the Caldeirão hills (Algarve)
- Reconnecting Iberian Rivers – improving water management and connectivity in transboundary river basins (Douro, Tejo, Guadiana)
- Water Stewardship projects with key water users (Iniciativa Tejo, Coca-Cola, Sumol+Compal, Super Bock Group, Reckitt Benckiser)
- Regional landscape restoration dialogues (Center, Algarve)

FRESHWATER CONSERVATION IN PORTUGAL



Restau
ro
Flores
tal
na Serr
a do
Caldeir
ão



Plantar Água
Restau
ro Flores
tal
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a do
Caldeir
ão

Why?

Healthy freshwater ecosystems:

- are essential for nature, society and economies
- store vast amounts of carbon, making their protection and restoration critical to mitigate climate change

Yet these ecosystems in Europe:

- have been heavily modified for centuries
- are zones of the most intense human activity and home to Europe's highest levels of biodiversity
- are where the biggest decline of species has been detected

As a consequence, only 40% of the EU waters are considered to be healthy.



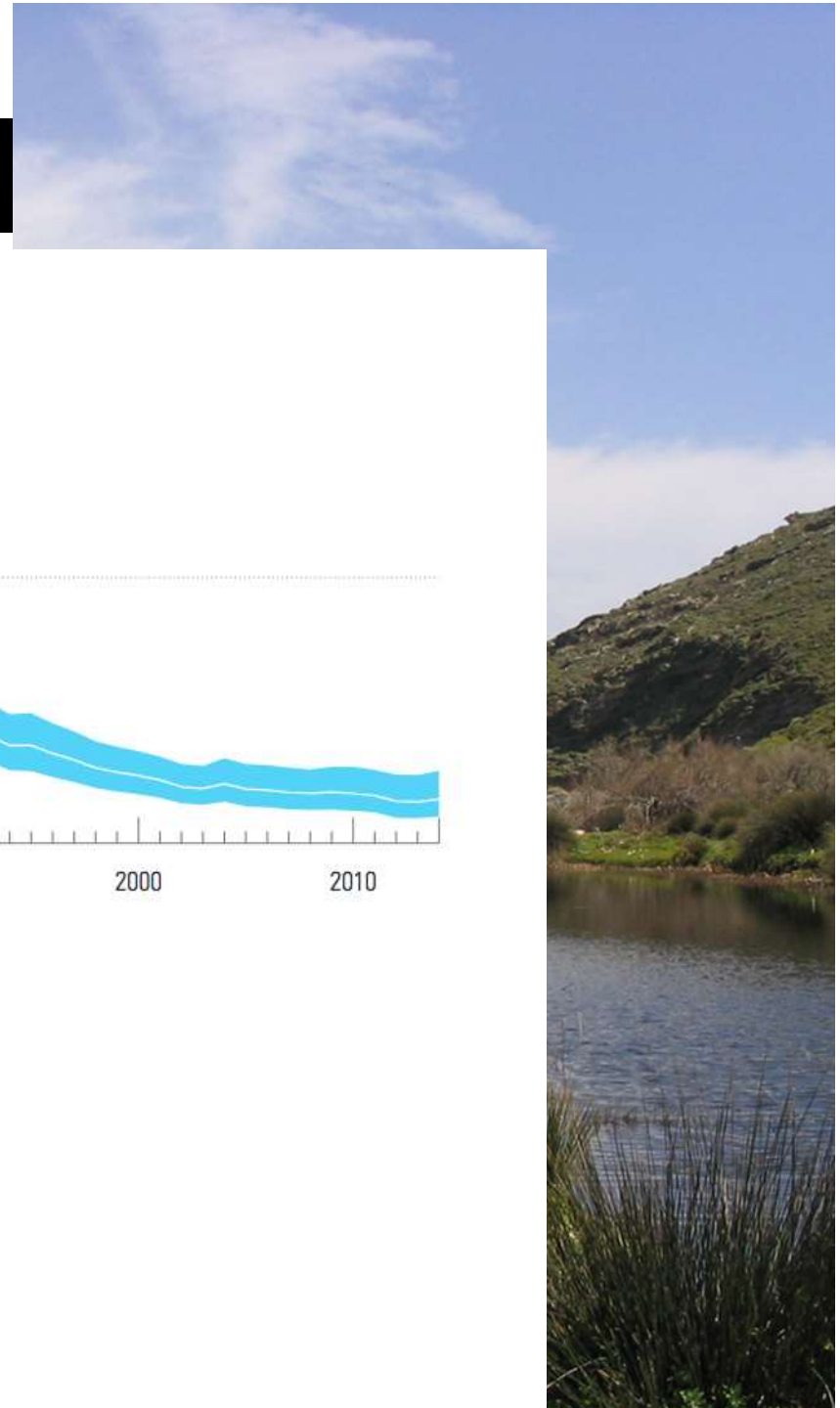
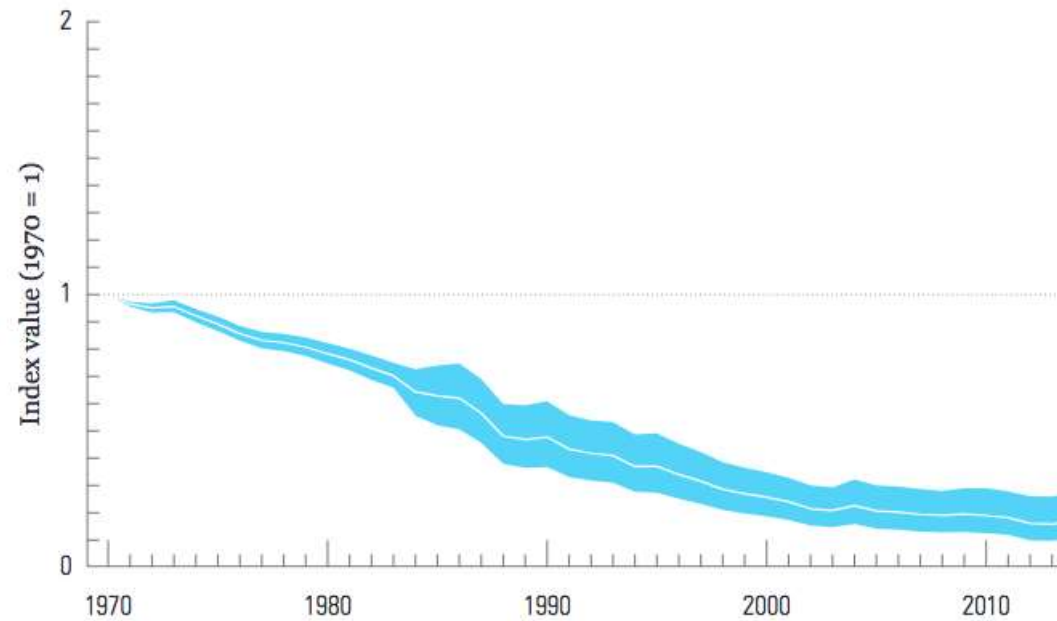
Why?

**Figure 24: The
Freshwater Living
Planet Index:
1970 to 2014**

The average abundance of 3,358 freshwater populations representing 880 species monitored across the globe declined by 83%. The white line shows the index values and the shaded areas represent the statistical certainty surrounding the trend (range -73% to -90%)¹.

Key

-  Freshwater Living Planet Index
-  Confidence limits





Plus... ecosystem services:

“Traditionally, rivers have been valued primarily as water sources for cities, irrigation and hydropower. But they provide a much broader set of services, delivering immense benefits to economies and people, and which include, but exceed, the value of the water that the river carries.

These ‘hidden’ benefits of rivers (freshwater fish stocks, stable deltas, coastal beaches nouriture, fertile floodplains, flood mitigation, etc.) are invariably not understood, recognized, or valued and thus are not a priority for management – **until they are lost.**”

Living Planet Report 2020

Policies to be prioritized

- Embed water **risk management policy** in sectorial users' policies (agriculture, urban supply, hydropower,...)
- Settle on a technical, politically-independent agreement with Spain to run the Albufeira Convention (**shared river basins**)
- Prioritize and quantify **ecological flows** and related ecosystem services* prior to water allocations for diferente users

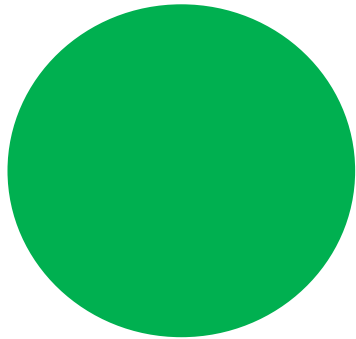


Instruments to be prioritized

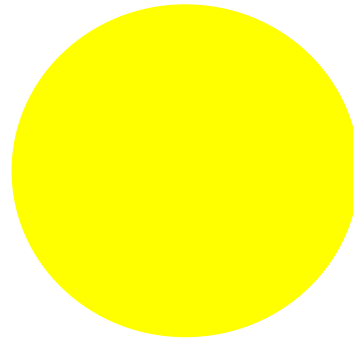
- Water **risk management** tools (insurance schemes, bankable permits,...) embedded in water policies
- Incentives and regulations for **freeing rivers** and improving its connectivity and ecosystem services (obsolete barriers, restoration)
- After huge efforts on sewage treatment*... control **diffuse pollution**, mainly from intensive farming
- **Efficiency**, efficiency, efficiency: wastewater reuse, network losses reduction, progressive tariffs, multiple sources integration, etc.



The Algarve exemple - PREHA

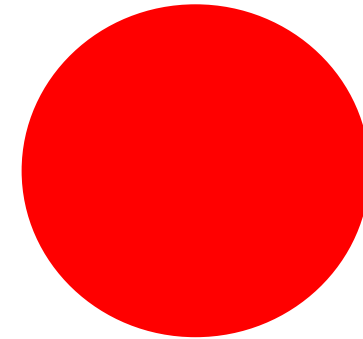


Focus on water use **efficiency** measures (wastewater reuse, network losses reduction, multiple sources integration)



Demand management measures lacking (sub-system restrictions, permits review, water tariffs and penalties*)

Desalination project requires significant EIA mitigation measures



Direct abstraction and water **transfer** from the Guadiana lacks international legality and undermines the water use efficiency focus

Opportunities in the EU arising from...

Green Deal

25.000 km of free-flowing rivers:
Twofold approach on removing obsolete barriers and restoring ecologic connectivity

WFD

Good status of all water bodies up to 2027:
Upgrade the political efforts to reach this goal

Biodiversity Strategy

2030 Biodiversity Strategy:
Promoting the ecologic restoration of degraded ecosystems, and the recovery of affected functions and services

Policy recommendations at EU level:

RBMPlans...

need to include a credible set of measures to significantly improve the status of water bodies, and fully implement the Green Deal goals.

WFD...

needs to improve and broaden (sectors other than urban supply) the implementation of its economic principles.

Connectivity...

needs legally binding and more ambitious targets at national level, through barrier removal and wetland restoration.

OBRIGADO!

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