

**EVENT**

**Rivers as Lifelines: Restoration & Protection of Freshwater in Europe**

At the occasion of EU Green Week and World Fish Migration Day 2020

Date: October 2020, Thursday 15th10.30-15.45 CET

Venue: Online

Organising Partners: The Nature Conservancy Europe (TNC) and Wetlands International Europe

Moderator: Chris Baker, Programme Head Water Resources at Wetlands International

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| 10.30 | **Welcome** |
|  | **The Current Situation for Freshwater in Europe** |
| 10.30-11.00  | Rivers in Europe Today: The Situation  | **Yurena Lorenzo** - Wetlands International **Pär Holmgren** - European Parliament Representative **Hans Stielstra** - European Commission (DG ENV)  |
|  | **Free-flowing Life-Lines for All - River Conservation** |
| 11.00-11.15  | The Main Pressures on Freshwater Ecosystems & Water Quality  | **Eef Silver** - Wetlands International  |
| 11.15-11.30 | Why Protect and Restore Rivers & Why Now? Natural, Economic, Social Benefits & Policy Context | **Henrik Österblad** - TNC |
| 11.30-11.45 | *Coffee break*  |
|  | **A Legal Framework in Place – Water Framework Directive & National Law: Achieving Good Ecological Status by 2027 - through Protect and Restore** |
| 11.45–12.15  | Legal Basis and Rationale for supporting River Restoration and Protection  | **Hans Stielstra** - European Commission (DG ENV) **Eef Silver** - Wetlands International  |
| 12.15–12.45 | Panel Discussion **–** River Conservation in Member States: Effective Restoration & Protection to date, Successful legal frameworks for River Conservation at National Level  | **Saija Koljonen (FI)** **Daniel Rojšek (SI)** **Corinne Belveze (FR)****Fernando Magdaleno (ES)**- Member State Representatives |
| 12.45-13.45 | *Lunch break* |
|  | **The Tools for River Conservation – Funding, Designations & Definitions**  |
| 13.45–14.00 | The Money Flow: Financing Restoration  | **Wouter Helmer & Helena Newell** - Rewilding Europe  |
| 14.00-14.15 | Durable River Protection Designations & the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act | **Tara Moberg** - TNC  |
|  | **Zooming in: Lessons learned in the Western Balkans current evolving restoration and protection**  |
| 14.15-14.30  | The Western Balkans – Pristine Rivers, Abundance and Threats  | **Irma Popović Dujmović** - WWF Adria   |
| 14.30-14.45 | *Tea break*   |
|  | **The Outlook & Challenges ahead**  |
| 14.45-15.00 | Panel discussion: The Green Deal & Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and views from the region | **Madalina Ivanica** - European Commission (DG ENV)**Neven Trenc** - Croatian Ministry for Sustainable Development, [Institute for Nature Protection](https://www.researchgate.net/institution/State_Institute_for_Nature_Protection-Croatia)**Irma Popović Dujmović** - WWF Adria  |
|  | **Scaling up: Europe** |
| 15.00-15.15 | EP Resolution on the Water Framework Directive | **Claire Baffert** - Living Rivers Europe NGO coalition |
| 15.15-15.45 | Practical and Legislative Outlook to Conserve and Restore Rivers – summary from the discussions Closing Statements | **Marianne Kleiberg** – TNC**Chris Baker** – Wetlands International |