



World Wetlands Day

Since 1700, nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have disappeared or had their ecological function degraded by drainage and other uses. Today, on World Wetlands Day, the RAMSAR Convention Secretariat calls for the protection and restoration of wetlands.

<https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>

Lake Malawi is Threatened Lake of the Year 2022

The Living Lakes Network, coordinated by the Global Nature Fund (GNF), today proclaimed Lake Malawi as Threatened Lake of the Year. Lake Malawi is one of the oldest lakes on earth and suffers from massive population growth, overfishing and the effects of climate change. Among the ways listed by the Global Nature Fund and Action for Environmental Sustainability (AfES) Malawi to improve the situation are:

- The restoration of the catchment area, including the promotion of biodiversity-friendly agriculture,
- Reducing fishing pressure on the lake, including through the creation of fishponds,
- The improvement the knowledge of local residents and decision-makers about the unique aquatic ecosystem.

AfES, in cooperation with GNF, implements concrete projects to combat threats at Lake Malawi. For Thies Geertz, project manager at GNF, awareness raising and education of the local people play a central role: *"We want to support the decision makers of responsible authorities, fisheries associations, management committees and village committees in the sustainable use of natural resources. Farmers receive training in biodiversity-friendly agriculture, agroforestry and fishpond management."*

<https://www.globalnature.org>

IGB: Thin ice for lakes worldwide

Warmer lakes are a man-made problem with ecological consequences

As a devastating consequence of climate change, lakes around the world are getting warmer and freezing over fewer days a year. An international research team with Georgiy Kirillin from the IGB was recently able to prove that the changes would not have occurred without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. IGB researcher Stella Berger and an international team have developed the concept of the lake-ice continuum, which describes how different ice cover in lakes can affect basic ecosystem processes or the structure of the food web.

The research team clearly emphasises that these global changes in lake temperatures and ice cover are not due to natural climate fluctuations and can only be explained by massive greenhouse gas emissions since the Industrial Revolution.

Although winter is generally considered a time of relative calm, ecosystem functions are often dynamic during this season. Furthermore, there is increasing evidence that conditions in winter set the stage for conditions in summer and vice versa, and that lakes need to be considered over a complete seasonal continuum. Accordingly, it can be said that ice cover is important for seasonal processes in the lake.

The loss of winter habitats will reduce the diversity and abundance of cold-loving organisms. This phenomenon is already observed in fish, so major changes in winter duration can be expected to alter community composition throughout the year, leading to ecological cascading effects.

<https://www.igb-berlin.de/en/news/thin-ice-lakes-worldwide>

KfW: Withdrawal from dam project

German KfW Bank withdraws from dam project in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A joint press release from EuroNatur, Bankwatch and Riverwatch from the 28th of January 2022 announces that the German Development Bank KfW has confirmed its withdrawal from the dam project in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Accordingly, plans to finance the controversial Janjići hydropower plant on the Bosna River in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been discontinued.

In 2014, a loan agreement for EUR 30 million was signed between KfW and the public energy company Elektroprivreda Bosne i Hercegovine (EPBIH) for the 15.75 MW-Janjići-power plant was signed. This controversial project would include a 16 m high dam and flood a picturesque and ecologically significant section of the river with a series of rapids.

The section of the river upstream of the town of Zenica is protected by the local population as well as fishermen and provides habitat for protected species such as otters and at least 15 fish species of European importance. The hydropower plant would be the first major obstacle to the migration of fish from the Danube via the Sava and Bosna rivers to Sarajevo.

The withdrawal of the German KfW from the project is a promising step and wonderful news for the Bosna River and the people who live along it.

You can find project information on the KfW website at <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/ipfz/Projektdatenbank/Programm-zur-Entwicklung-der-Wasserkraft-I-27390.htm> (in German)

Webdocu wasserstories.de is online

The webdocu "**wasserstories: our future-their reality**" is now online!

This interactive web documentary takes an artistic-critical look at the issues of the water crisis and water privatisation. It is a cooperation project of Caroline Breidenbach, the Foundation for Humanity and Environment and the Weißensee Academy of Fine Arts Berlin.

Three multimedia stories on water privatisation can be viewed at www.wasserstories.de (in German). The stories play with past and future, fiction and reality. Three of our basic needs come under threat, raising the question: Whose reality is it and when does it happen?

You are welcome to share the web documentary on social networks.

The Human Right to Water, Water Grabbing and Protection of Rivers

Online Seminar of the Forum Environment and Development AG Water in cooperation with the Foundation Living Rivers and other partners on 22 February 2022 from 14:00 to 16:00 via Zoom.

Registration:

<https://www.forumue.de/online-seminar-menschenrecht-wasser-wasserraub-und-schutz-der-fluesse-am-22-februar-2022-anmeldung/>

Dates preview 2022 International :

Wednesday, February 2 nd 2022	World Wetlands Day https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/
From the 21 st until the 26 th of March 2022	9th World Water Forum– Water Security for Peace and Development https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en
Tuesday, March 22 nd 2022	World Water Day Motto 2022: Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible; Our Groundwater: the invisible treasure
From the 25 th of April until the 8 th of Mai	UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15
Saturday, Mai 21 st 2022	World Fish Migration Day https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com

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