

World Water Day (22nd of March 2022)

This year the event will focus on **groundwater**. Putting a spotlight on this vital resource is especially important considering the services it provides, whether in agriculture or for the vulnerable populations, its benefits to biodiversity and ecosystems and in its involvement of the climate change adaptation process. The World Water Day 2022 will enhance knowledge exchange and collaboration, therefore raise awareness of the importance of protecting and sustainably using this resource. For more info: www.worldwaterday.org

The European Parliament has published a report entitled “**The Human Right to Drinking Water: Impacts of large-scale agriculture and industry**”, which examines the impact of large-scale agriculture and industry on the fulfilment of the human right to drinking water.

The report can be found at:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2021/653649/EXPO_IDA\(2021\)653649_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2021/653649/EXPO_IDA(2021)653649_EN.pdf)

Joint statement on the revision of the sustainable use of pesticides Directive (SUD)

The current obsolete agricultural model is showing its limits and represents a great deal of costs for the society: estimated at 2,3 billion euros. Agroecology has showed in several studies its benefits for agriculture in both economical and environmental dimensions.

The EU Commission has drafted a proposal for a Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, which seems to not be ambitious enough to meet the objectives of the EU Green Deal, the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity Strategies.

Therefore, NGOs and CSOs are pushing the EU Commission to introduce a proposal that will drive towards agroecological food systems that protect biodiversity, ecosystems and human health. The undersigned organisations have proposed 10 more elements, that must be taken in account in the new proposal.

More info on the Joint Statement on the revision of the Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive (SUD) here: <https://pan-germany.org/download/gemeinsames-statement-zur-revision-der-eu-rahmenrichtlinie-zum-nachhaltigen-pestizideinsatz/>(pdf 536 KB)

Gypsum: Stop overexploitation - promote gypsum recycling

The environmental network GRÜNE LIGA presented the results of a two-year project on natural gypsum mining in Germany in Bad Windsheim in northern Bavaria. Together with representatives of BUND Naturschutz in Bavaria, René Schuster, the national chairman of GRÜNE LIGA, visited the source of the river Aisch, which temporarily dried up as a result of neighbouring gypsum mining. Both associations stress that an expansion of natural gypsum mining must be prevented. To this end, recycling, alternative building materials and a resource-saving construction turnaround must be promoted. There is no basis for excessive designation of new gypsum mining areas in regional planning.

Background:

Large quantities of gypsum are produced in the flue gas desulphurisation plants (FGD) of coal-fired power plants, which have been mandatory since the 1980s.

As a result, gypsum consumption almost doubled from the initial five million tonnes to the current consumption level of about ten million tonnes per year. In the past two years, the GRÜNE LIGA has intensively discussed with important actors whether the coal phase-out must lead to a massive development of new gypsum mines. The 40-page report "Gypsum: Raw Material and Habitat" summarises the results of interviews, expert discussions, excursions and two public conferences with stakeholders from industry, research, administration and civil society. The report was presented for the first time in one of the affected mining regions on 1 March 2022.

The entire press release at:

<https://www.grueneliga.de/index.php/de/themen-projekte/gesteinsabbau/1151-gipsabbau-indeutschland-and-in-bavaria-environmental-associations-demand-abolition-of-gypsum-recycling> (in German)

The report "Gypsum: raw material and habitat":

<https://www.grueneliga.de/index.php/de/30-aktuell/1141-gruene-liga-legt-umfassenden-bericht-zumrohstoff-gypsum-demands-massive-expansion-of-natural-gypsum-mining-not-necessary-federal-government-in-duty> (in German)

#RED4Nature: Change EU policy for renewable energies- Together we can save the climate AND nature!

It is time for the EU to revise the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). This is the opportunity to push for an EU energy policy that excludes environmentally damaging renewables and addresses both climate change and biodiversity loss. The RED defines which forms of renewable energy can be used to achieve the 100% renewable energy target.

The #RED4Nature campaign is a broad advocacy strategy that calls on EU decision-makers to align renewable energy targets with the nature conservation goals of EU environmental legislation and the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy. It proposes an alternative, nature- and climate-friendly energy solution. An appropriate RED should include, among other things, prioritising the use of renewable energy with less impact on biodiversity, modernising and decentralising the energy grid and incentivising building modernisation, as well as improving the electrification of the energy system by upgrading existing infrastructure and extending it to rural areas.

The recently launched #RED4Nature campaign aims to show that there are energy solutions that can address both the climate and environmental crises. In order to put pressure on EU decision-makers to vote in favour of relevant legislative changes to the RED, we need a broad alliance of civil society to support the demands. The aim is to raise visibility around the #RED4Nature proposal and spark a discussion about solutions that work - and what many NGOs are already doing. We are also happy to support events at national level that can extend this message to relevant decision-makers in different EU countries and beyond the Brussels bubble. If you have your own ideas, let us know and write to red4nature@euronatur.org!

Increased cooperation between the Canoe-Associations

Just in time for the new season, the German Canoe Federation (DKV), representing the recreational canoe sport, and the Federal Canoe Association (BV Kanu), representing the commercial canoe providers, have agreed on a far-reaching cooperation regarding training recognition and collaboration. The core element of the cooperation agreement is the full mutual recognition of training levels and training courses. This will enable a greater exchange of knowledge between the associations and improve the utilisation of training courses.

Both associations are very concerned about respectful behaviour in and with nature. After all, it is important to maintain access to the waters for people so that future generations can also experience nature in Germany as intact as possible and be able to move around in it. The DKV and BV Kanu hope that this initiative will lead to a further spread and recognition of the European Paddle Pass EPP-D in Germany.

More at www.bvkanu.de

Water Day: DWA offers "Materials for public relations work" at a special price

This year, the United Nations is once again raising awareness of the importance of water with World Water Day on 22 March. To mark the occasion, municipalities, water associations and other interested parties can obtain the "Materials for Public Relations Work" of the German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste (DWA) at reduced prices for one month. Until 1 April, brochures, flyers, children's information and training materials can be ordered at special rates in the DWA Shop. With the discount offers, the DWA wants to contribute to sensitising the population to the topic of water in its various facets.

This year, the theme of World Water Day is "Groundwater". Groundwater is part of the water cycle and a resource that is essential for survival. Because groundwater is valuable to everyone, DWA invites experts, but also explicitly non-water professionals, to the free web discussion "Our groundwater: the invisible treasure" on International Water Day, 22 March 2022 from 10 am to 12 pm.

More information at: www.dwa.de/oeffentlichkeitsarbeit

If you would like to join the discussion or have any questions, please feel free to use the digital pinboard on Padlet at <https://padlet.com/DWA5/9quyvk83yhwwsvuf> for more information.

9th World Water Forum (21st - 26th of March 2022) in Dakar, Senegal

This aims to catalyze actions to accelerate universal access to water and sanitation. The Forum is connected and linked to global agendas and commitments relating to [SDGs](#), the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), the [Paris Agreement on climate change](#), [Africa's Agenda 2063](#), etc. A High-level session will be organized with the co-hosts, the Netherlands and Tajikistan, to prepare and gather ideas for the event in 2023.

More information are available on the website of the forum: <https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en>



UN 2023 Water Conference: Global online Stakeholder Consultation

In the framework of the next UN Water Conference (22nd - 24th of March 2023) and pursuant to the [resolution 75/212](#) of the General Assembly, the UN General Assembly has called for a Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives

of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028, which will be held in November 2022. The Member States and the various stakeholders must submit proposals on possible themes of Interactives Dialogues (five at all, taking place parallel to the plenary meetings) until the 10th of March 2022.

The global online Consultation form is available here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTBYtQC0gyWHIEXDE2BQRKAYY_vXodGgHbis2PzjPvuA25Qg/viewform

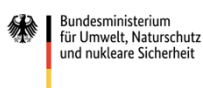
A roadmap to the UN 2023 Water Conference on the midterm review of the UN Water Action Decade is available here: https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Roadmap_to_UN_2023_Water_Conference_17_February_2022.pdf

To receive periodic updates on the preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference, please sign up for the Information mailing list [here](#) : <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccNXMM9HsKN5GgENLVV-AInRUQ1RCSU1NQjFFVFpRSUQ4WTJDT05MWU1JMy4u&wdLOR=cCDB4029A-E4A7-3E4A-A61E-A8913A063CFE>

Dates preview 2022 International :

From the 21 st until the 26 th of March 2022 Damniadio Dakar / Senegal	9th World Water Forum– Water Security for Peace and Development https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en
March 2022 Dakar / Senegal	FAME 2022: Alternative World Water Forum https://www.fame2022.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
Sunday, June 5 th 2022	World Environment Day 2022 https://www.bmu.de/service/veranstaltungen/veranstaltung/internationaler-tag-der-umwelt-weltumweltag
22 nd – 24th March 2022	United Nations 2023 Water Conference https://sdgs.un.org/un-2023-conference-water-action-decade

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The responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors.