



International cooperation for Living European Rivers

May 24, 2022





OUTLINE

- ◆ **Vision** Nature-based Solutions for Living European Rivers
- ◆ **Governance** of the LER initiative
- ◆ **Where are we?** Challenges and opportunities
- ◆ **Looking back** How far have we come?
- ◆ **LER catchments** Iconic rivers and other priorities

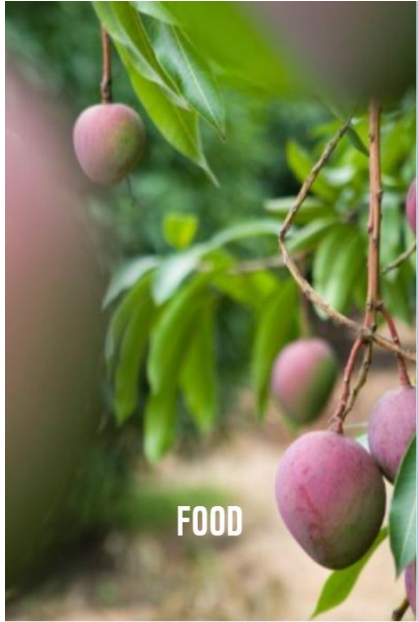


To find out more about our work and how you can get involved, choose your local office below:

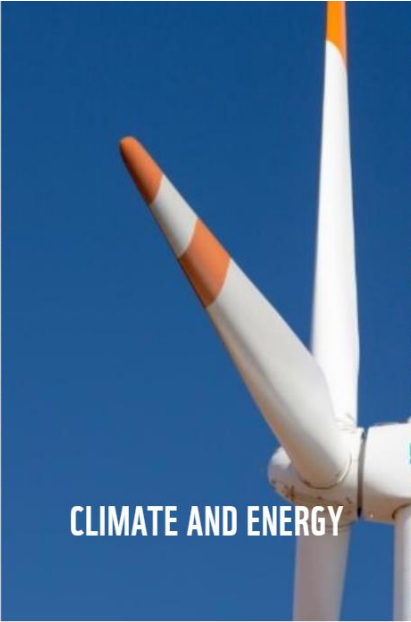




WWF Practices



FOOD



CLIMATE AND ENERGY



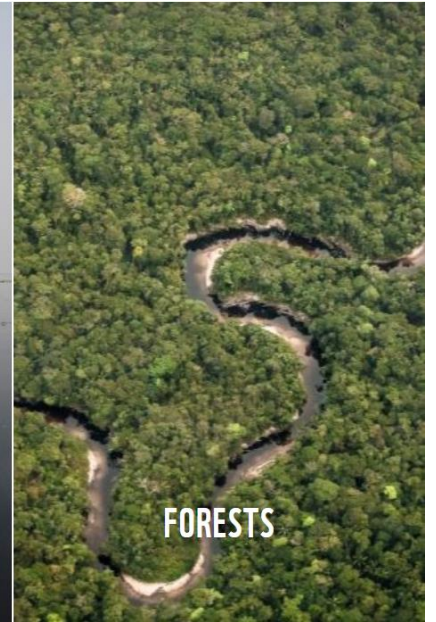
OCEANS



WILDLIFE



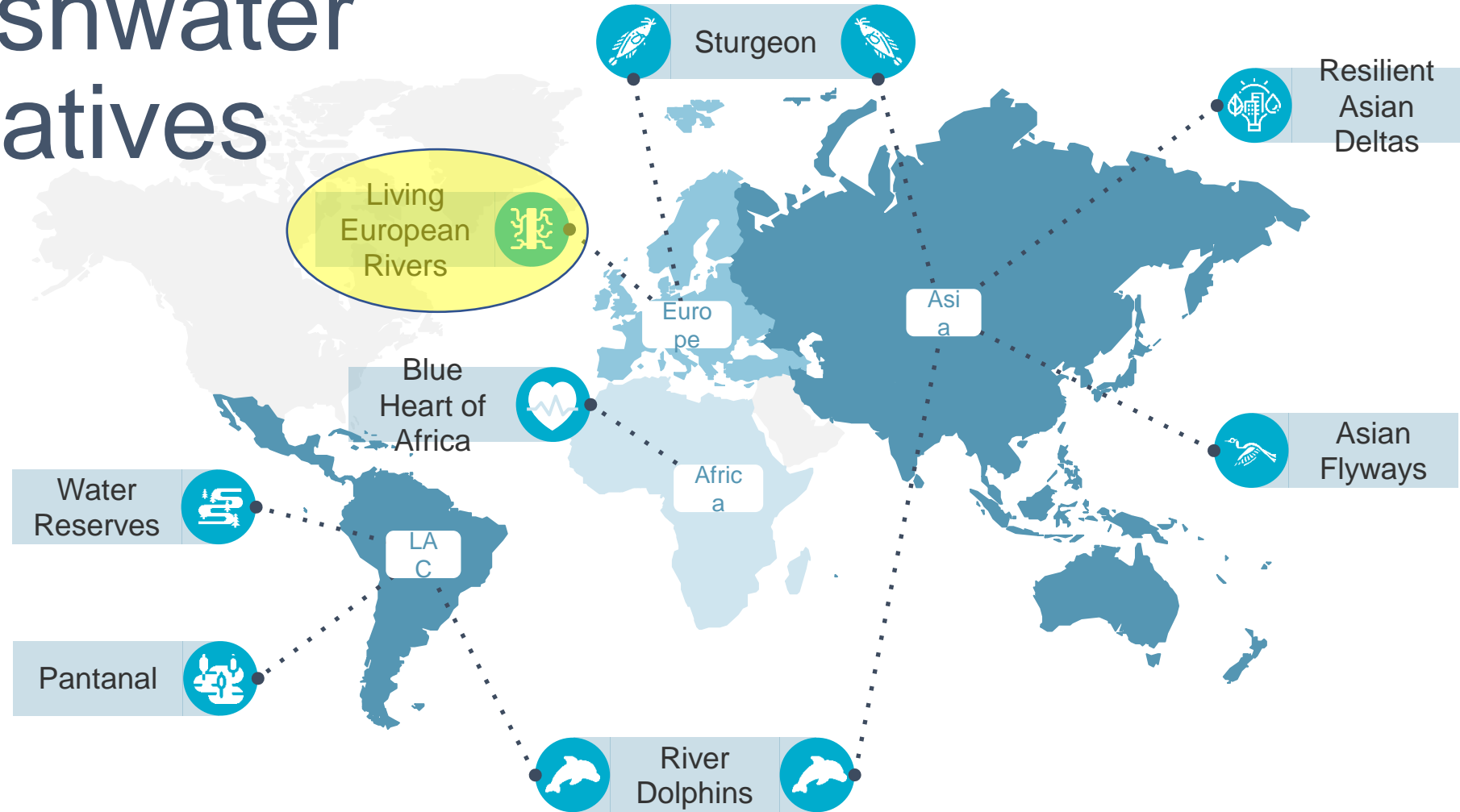
FRESHWATER







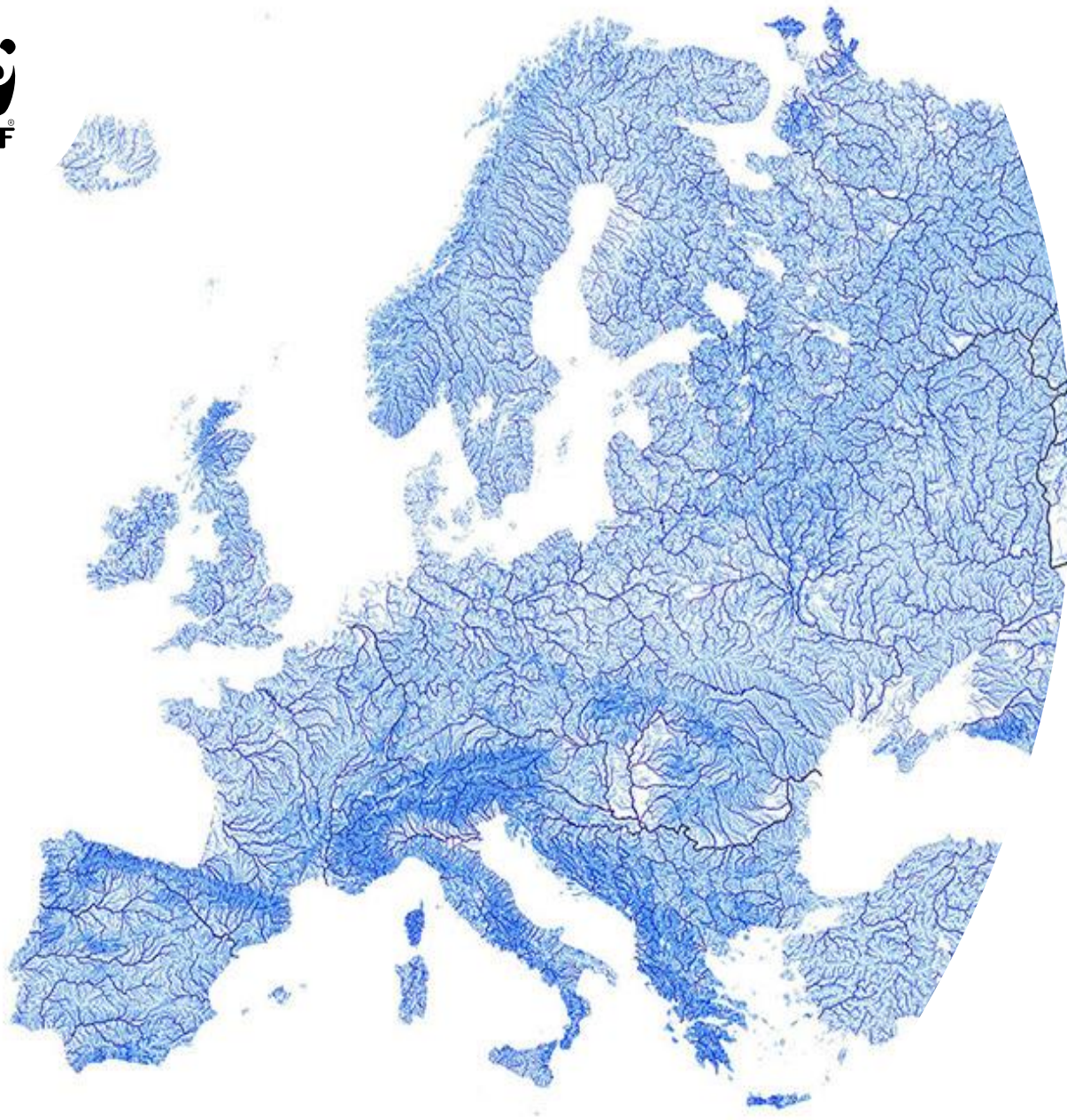
FORESTS



Freshwater Initiatives



-   Iconic Free Flowing Rivers
-   Bankable Water Solutions



Why LER?

Rivers are the veins of Europe

Free-flowing rivers are the
freshwater wilderness

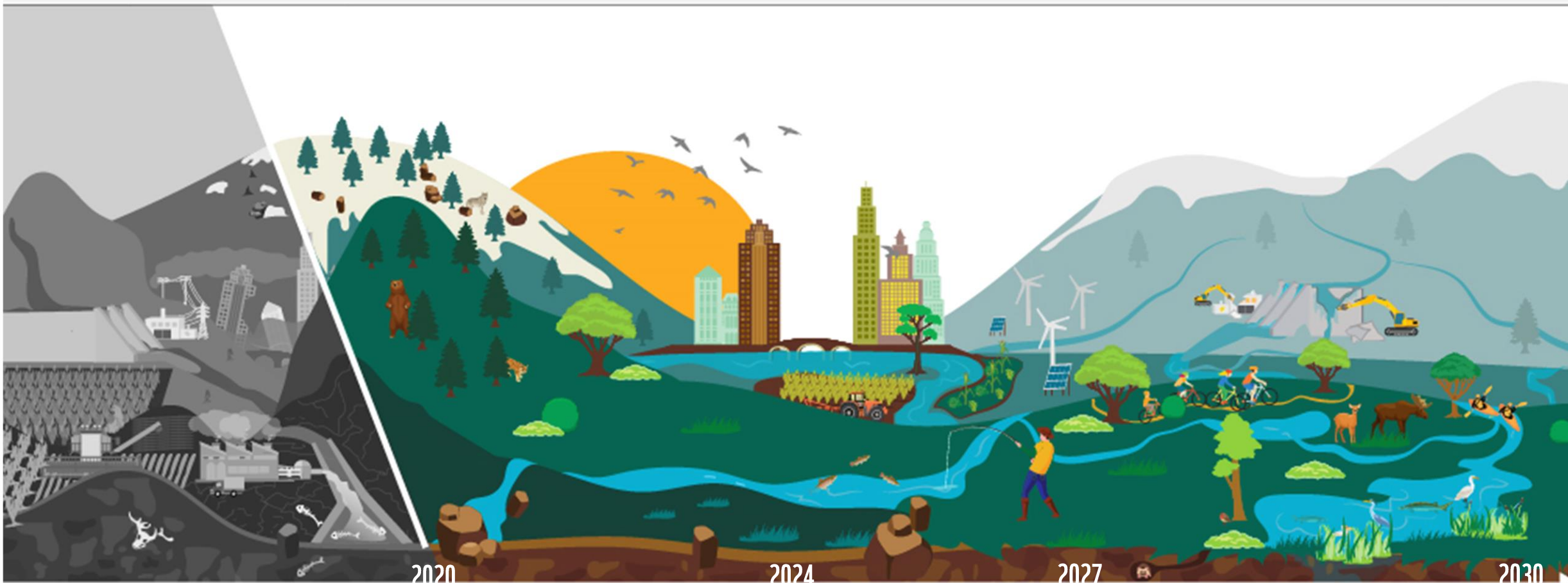






LIVING EUROPEAN RIVERS

for nature, for people



60% EU waters are in bad health

1/3 of freshwater fish face extinction

A Living River flows freely from source to sea, and has room to pulse with the rains and the dry periods, keeping its natural functionality and its resilience to deal with climate change pressures. A Living River is then able to keep and recover its biodiversity and provide a whole range of services to people, from climate change adaptation tools, to food provision, health... or the joy of swimming in its waters.



Where are we? Challenges & Opps

60% of EU rivers in bad status

More than 21 000 hydropower plants + 8785 new planned

90% of river floodplains transformed

Decline of 93% of migratory fish populations since 1970

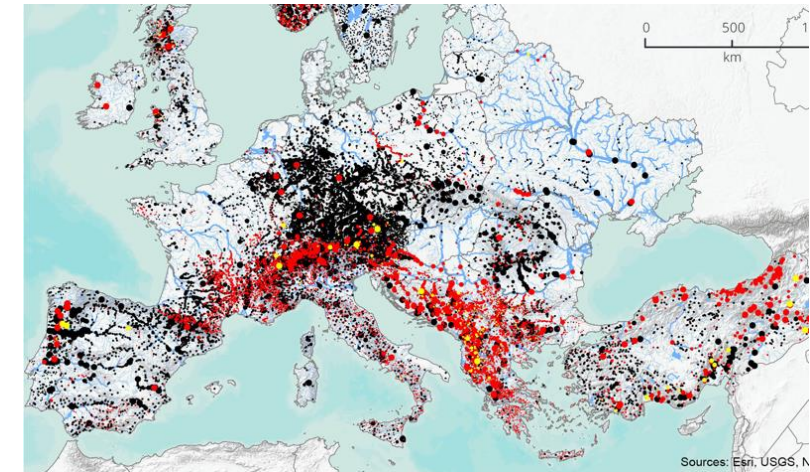
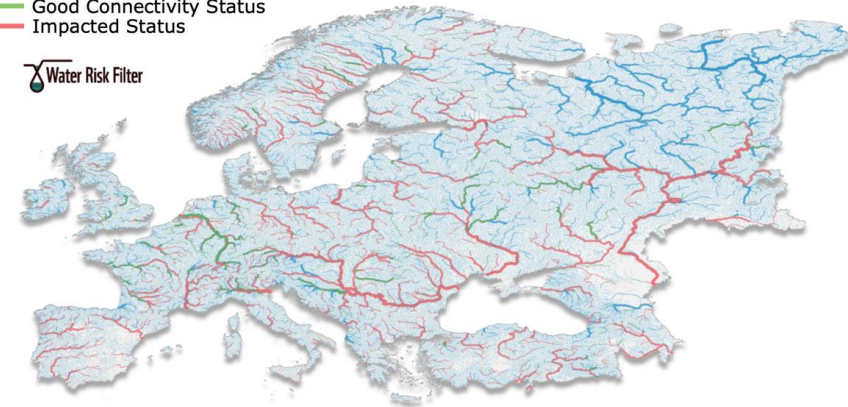
Green Deal

Available funding and ongoing projects; MERLIN, other Horizon projects, Coke partnership with CEE

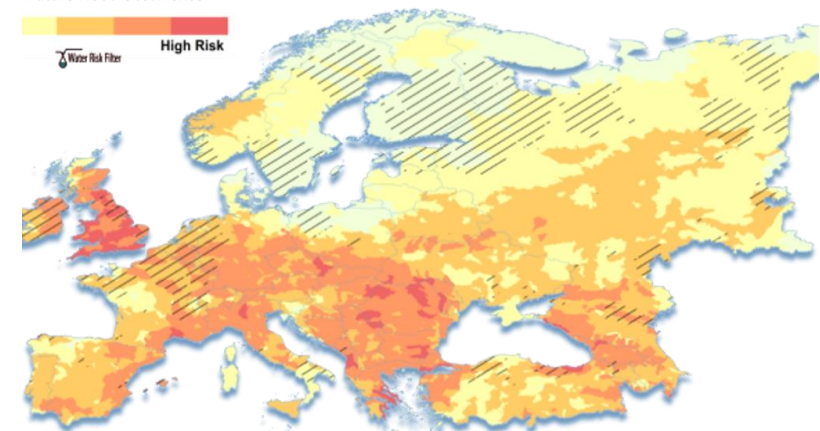
Positive policy discourse

Higher sensitivity due to recent CC effects in Europe

Free Flowing Status
Good Connectivity Status
Impacted Status



Zones of High Risk for Future Flood Occurrence





Iconic rivers and other priority basins of the Living European Rivers Initiative

