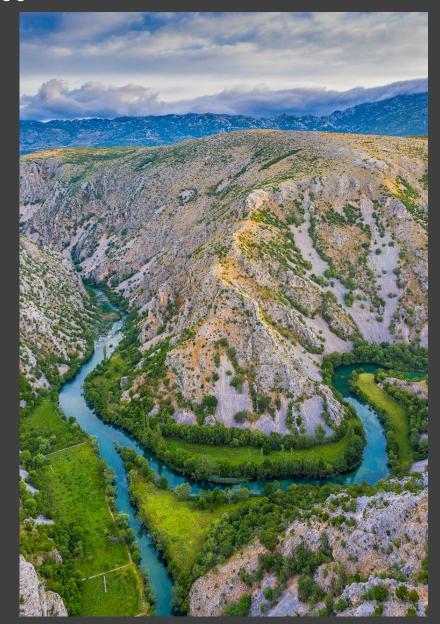# Policy opportunities for [river] restoration

Historic backdrop – the "super" 2020:

"There has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now."

"This year, the 196 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will negotiate a new global framework to safeguard all life on Earth. And there's more..."

"The Biodiversity Strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet."

Convention on Biological Diversity

- Currently working towards the new "Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF)

- The proposed language has introduced Freshwater and elevated it to the level of terrestrial and marine "realms"

- Freshwater is not only recognised in the "protection" targets, but also in the "restoration" target.

- Once endorsed by the Conference of the Parties – it will be mandatory to implement through the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans by all 196 signatory Parties

    ....AND report back!

The EU context

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

- A very progressive piece of Strategy – covers both EU and global agendas

General BDS freshwater related commitments:

- **30% protection** of land / sea by 2030 AND 10% strict protection (indirect)

- **At least 25,000 km of rivers will be restored into free-flowing rivers by 2030** through the removal of primarily obsolete barriers and the restoration of floodplains and wetlands.
  - ➢ Technical guidance to the Member States to identify sites and help mobilise funding

- **Nature Restoration Law** (June)

What's next?

➢ **"Pledging process"** – identification of the areas to be included in the 30X30 "target"

➢ **Nature Restoration Law**
  ➢ Publication of the proposal
  ➢ Co-decision process - > Approval

➢ **Preparation of National Restoration Plans**
  ➢ Coordination across basins(?)

➢ *Mobilisation of resources*

➢ **Implementation / reporting**

➢ **[Mid-term review of the Strategy]**

2030: the 27 MSs has restored more than 25K rivers to free flowing status!

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