

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Ensuring protection and restoration of Inland Waters

Key messages

- Explicit inclusion of **inland water ecosystems** in Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) goals, targets, and indicators is required to restore and safeguard these most threatened and least protected ecosystems and biodiversity on the planet.
- Goal A must ensure that the ecological integrity, area, connectivity and resilience of natural terrestrial, **inland water**, coastal and marine ecosystems increase by 2030 and are fully restored by 2050.
- Target 1 must ensure that “all terrestrial, **inland water**, coastal and marine areas” are included within biodiversity-inclusive participatory spatial planning or other effective management processes.
- Target 2 must include numerical ecosystem-specific objectives for progress to be measured against and to avoid inland water ecosystems being neglected within an overall percentage for terrestrial ecosystems. For **inland water ecosystems** this should be at least **350 million hectares** and **300,000 km of rivers** under restoration by 2030.
- Target 3 needs to ensure that at least 30 per cent, globally, of terrestrial, **inland water**, coastal and marine areas, respectively, are conserved.
- **Inland water ecosystems** are key to climate mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction and their improved condition is necessary to provide vital connectivity between all ecosystems through their physical, chemical and ecological processes.