

DAM REMOVAL

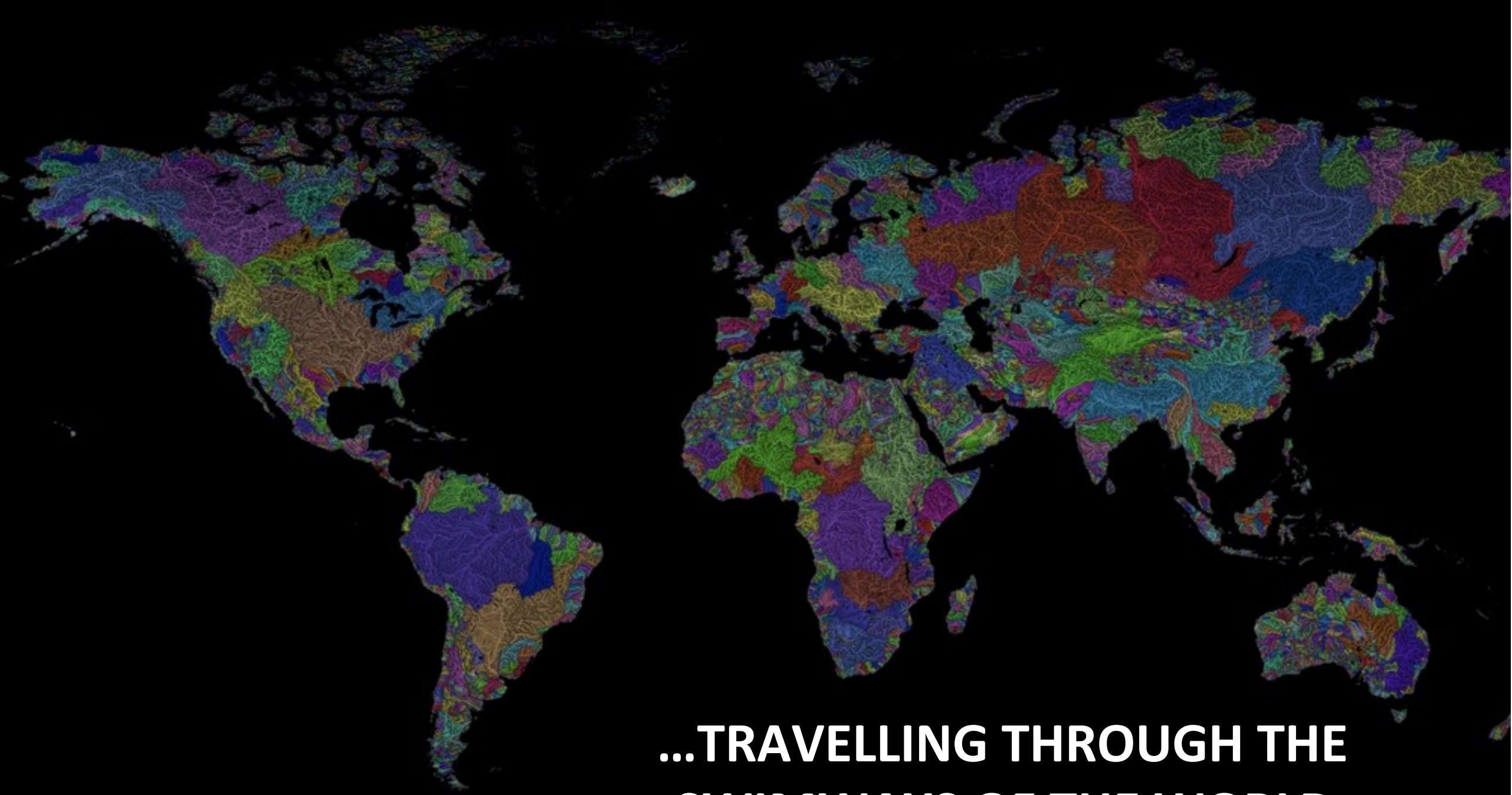
A VIABLE TOOL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Herman Wanningen, World Fish Migration Foundation

NOVEMBER 2023



1.100 AMAZING SPECIES



**...TRAVELLING THROUGH THE
SWIMWAYS OF THE WORLD.**

CONNECTING FISH RIVERS & PEOPLE

 WORLD FISH MIGRATION
FOUNDATION
FOUNDED IN 2014





North America Hub

Europe Hub

Asia Hub

South America Hub

Africa Hub

Oceania Hub



WORLD FISH
MIGRATION DAY

NEXT: MAY 25, 2024



FREE
FLOW

THE FREE FLOW EDITION

CELEBRATED FROM

LOCAL TO GLOBAL

MAY 25, 2024



WORLD FISH
MIGRATION DAY

www.worldfishmigrationday.com

BARRIERS IN RIVERS

DAMS

WEIRS

CULVERTS

SLUICES

RAMPS



OBSOLETE BARRIERS



European Commission's Guidance on Barrier Removal as:
'barriers that no longer fulfil their original purpose or that are no longer needed'.

DAMS CAN FAIL TOO!

NORWAY 2023

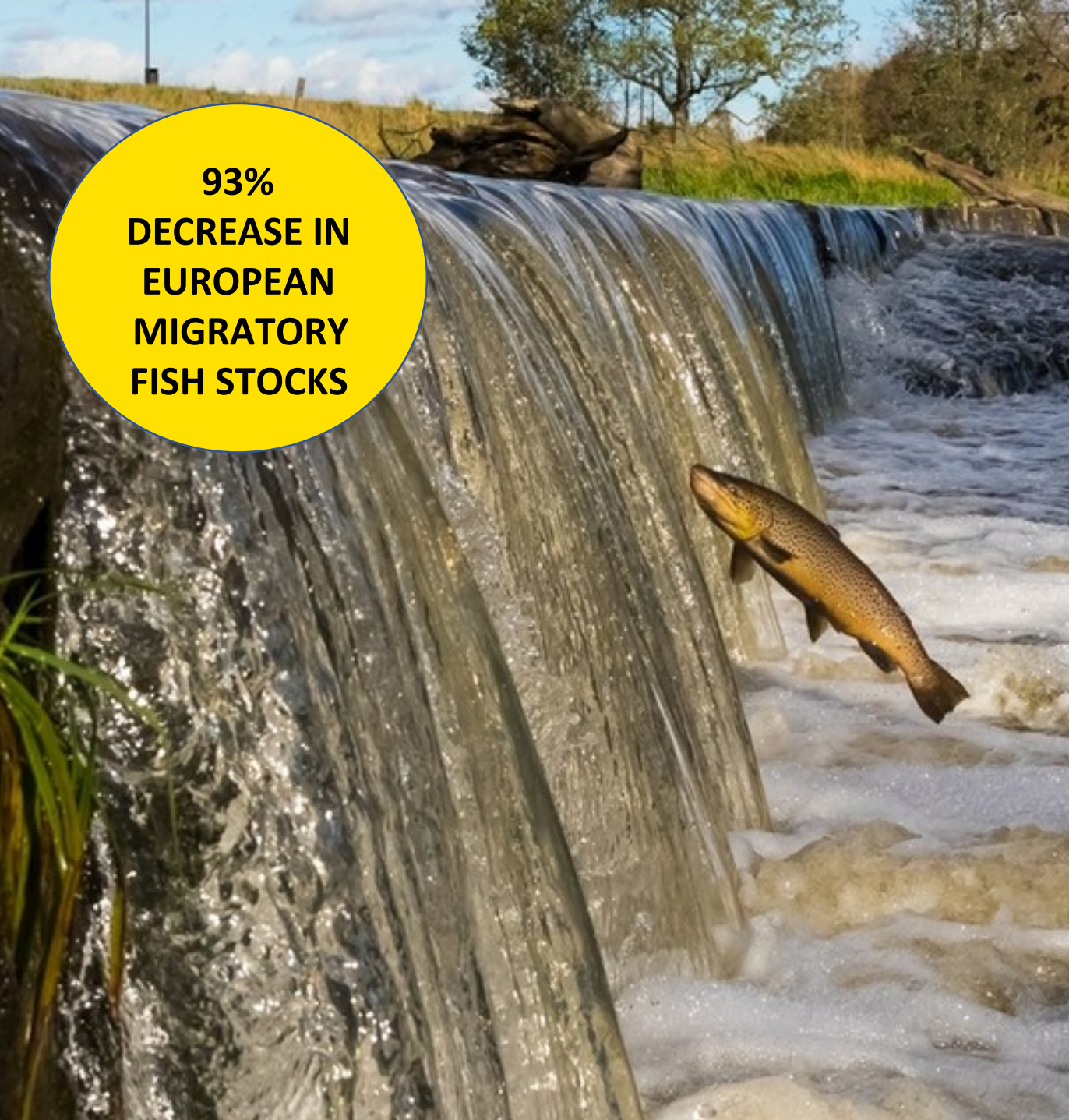


LATVIA 2022



LATVIA 2022





**93%
DECREASE IN
EUROPEAN
MIGRATORY
FISH STOCKS**

THE PROBLEMS

1.100

**FRESHWATER MIGRATORY FISH SPECIES
GLOBALLY ARE BLOCKED BY BARRIERS**

>1,2 MILLION*

**BARRIERS FRAGMENT EUROPEAN
RIVERS**

>150.000*

**BARRIERS IN EUROPE LISTED AS
OBSOLETE**

****(HORIZON 2020 AMBER
EU COMMISSION FUNDED RESEARCH)***

HEADBANGING & NOSE BLEEDS



OTHER PROBLEMS

SEDIMENT PROCESSES ALTERED

ACCUMULATION UPSTREAM

LACK OF SAND & GRAVEL DOWNSTREAM

TRAPPED ORGANIC MATERIAL & NUTRIENTS

WATER QUALITY ISSUES

ALGAE BLOOMS

CHANGE IN WATER VELOCITY

FLOOD RISKS

TEMPERATURE CHANGE

EU POLICIES

NATURA2000 & WFD

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2030

EU NATURE RESTORATION LAW

RESTORING 25.000KM FREE FLOWING RIVERS



THE SOLUTION DAM REMOVAL

STARTING WITH >150.000
OBSOLETE & OLD BARRIERS
IN EUROPE



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE TOGETHER



30.000 HYDROPOWER SITES

>150.000 OLD & OBSOLETE BARRIERS



DAM REMOVAL CONTRIBUTES TO

**REDUCED FLOOD PROTECTION &
SAFETY ISSUES**

IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

**IMPROVED SEDIMENT &
NUTRIENT TRANSPORT**

ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY



**DAM REMOVAL
CONTRIBUTES TO**

RECREATIONAL ECONOMIES

CREATING JOBS

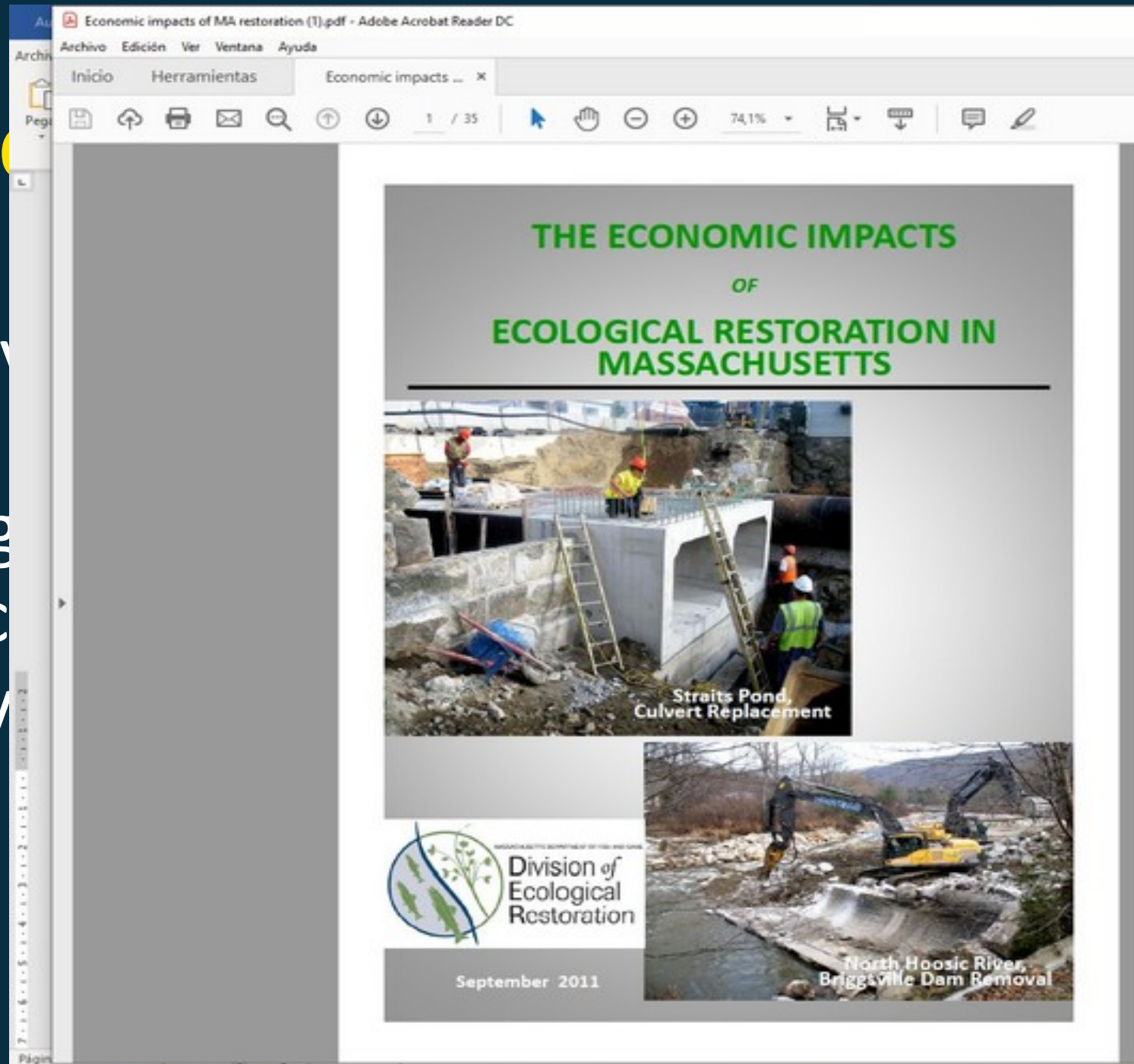
MARINE/INLAND FISHERIES

**PREVENTING MAINTENANCE
COST**

Economic benefits

“Restoration economy

Restoration projects generate
equal to or greater economic
benefits than other types of
projects such as road
and bridge construction”.





OUR MISSION

**MAINSTREAM DAM REMOVAL AS
THE TOOL TO RESTORE RIVERS**



DAM REMOVAL EUROPE

MOVEMENT OF ORGANISATIONS AND
CITIZENS MAINSTREAMING
DAM REMOVAL AS
A RIVER RESTORATION TOOL.

COORDINATED BY WFMF





OUR STRATEGY

**BUILDING A MOVEMENT OF
PROUD RIVER PRACTITIONERS
& ENABLE THEM TO REMOVE
DAMS**

*“I really value your amazing events
and work, and the fantastic
community you have
established for knowledge sharing
and support”.*

Tania White, Environment Agency (UK)

DAM REMOVAL EUROPE

STRATEGY
 **DAM
REMOVAL
EUROPE**
**2020
2030**

SCALING UP!

**WORKING TOGETHER & SHARING
RESOURCES TO RESTORE RIVERS**

>25.000 km FREE FLOWING RIVERS

WWW.DAMREMOVAL.EU

OUR VALUES

Passion

Committed

Positive

Inclusive

Connecting



GROWING MOVEMENT

MAINSTREAMING

SCALING UP

THINK BIG, ACT LOCAL

CREATING THE BIG SHIFT

IT IS JUST BEATIFUL AND FUN!

MAINSTREAMING

DONALD DUCK LOVES TO TAKE DAMS OUT TOO

Inspired by a story from Finland



BEAUTIFUL MACHINERY (SLOVAKIA)





HELPDESK

SHARE RESOURCES & TEMPLATE PROCEDURES

WEBINARS/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

BROAD CASTING LIVE REMOVALS

DAM REMOVAL AWARD

TAILOR MADE COURSES

ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

FREE-FLOW CONFERENCE (2024)





BUILDING PIPELINE DATABASE

UNTIL 2022 MORE THAN >13.000 BARRIERS TRACKED DOWN BY CITIZENS
15% OLD & READY FOR REMOVAL

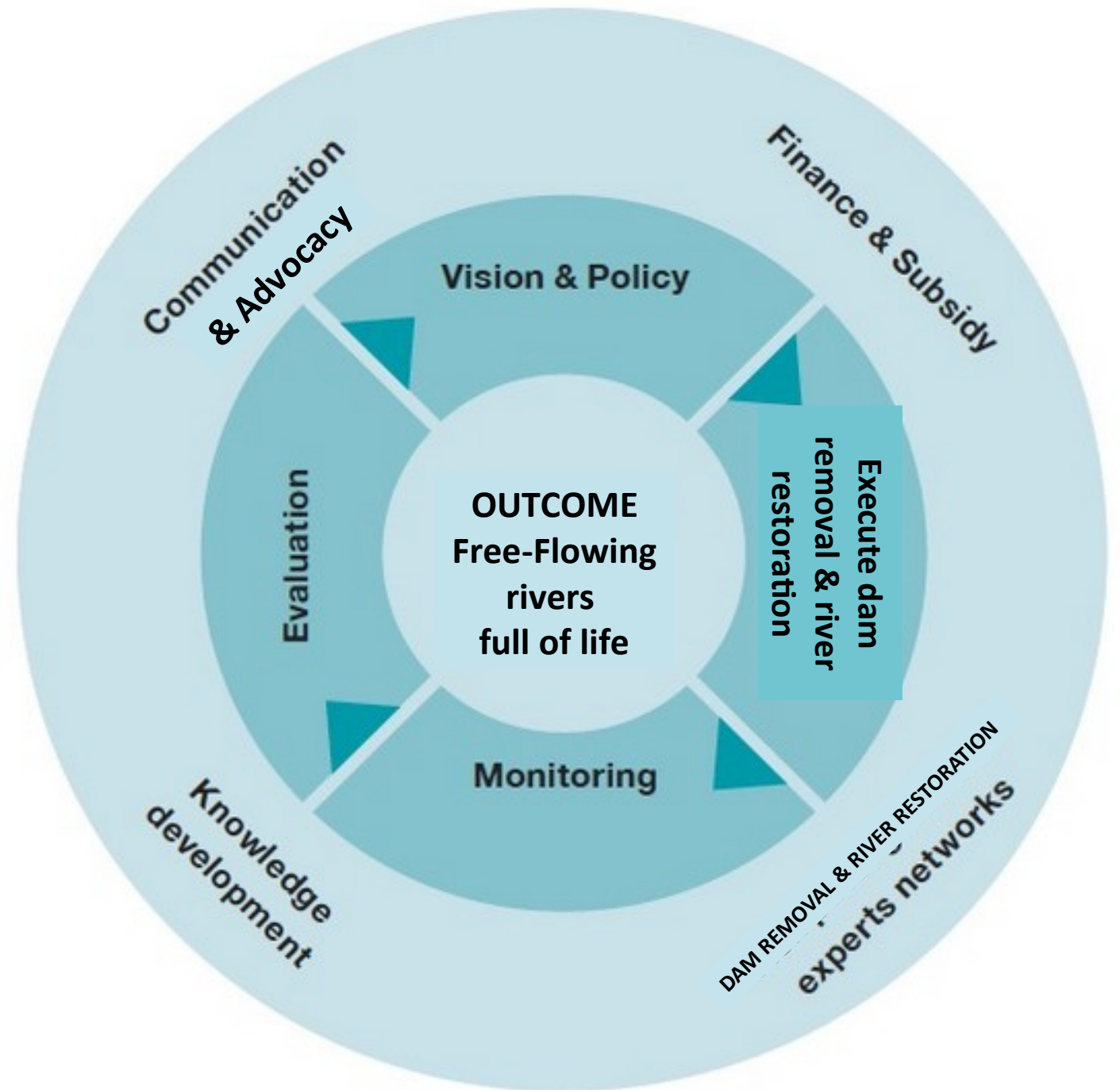
UPSCALING COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

- 1. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL CHANGEMAKERS**
→ Initiate network, select the frontrunners to take action,
- 2. (INTER)NATIONAL SEMINAR/WORKSHOPS**
→ Knowledge impulse, excitement, need for dam removal, roadmap
- 3. SET UP PILOT PROJECTS**
→ Select quick wins, support prioritization, funding & policy process
- 4. REMOVE DAMS BY PRACTITIONERS**
→ Proof that it works, proud practitioners, international showcases
- 5. CELEBRATE TOGETHER**
→ Highlight projects, proud people, recognition, MOVEMENT!

UNDERSTANDING THE POLICY CYCLE

THE KEY TO
SUCCESSFULLY
SCALING UP
DAM REMOVAL

FROM LOCAL TO
INTERNATIONAL





LITHUANIA

DEVELOPING DAM REMOVAL POLICY IN 3 YEARS

**EVERY COUNTRY
NEEDS A
SUCCESS STORY**



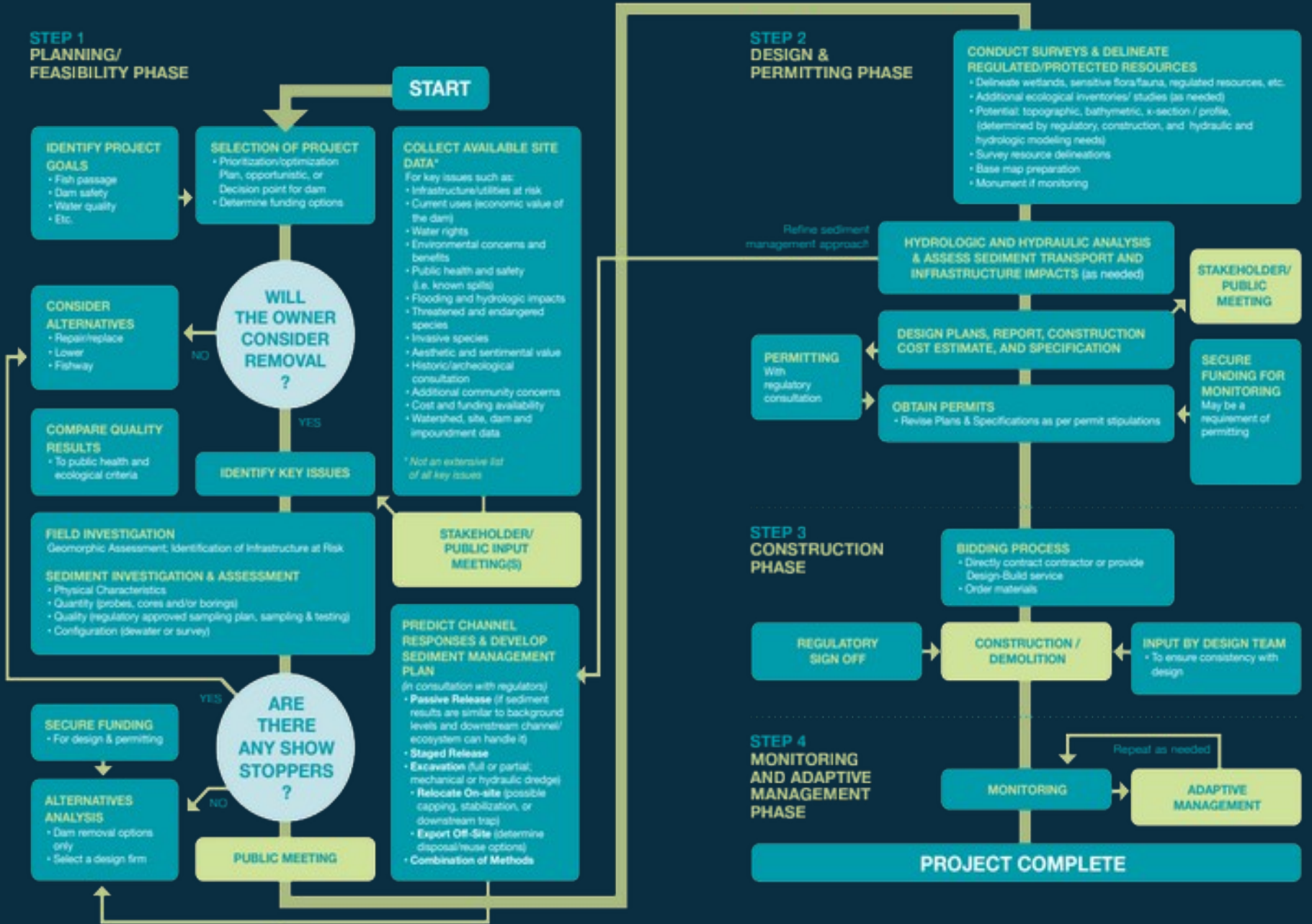
PROVIDING GUIDANCE

STEP BY STEP

by Laura Wildman



From planning to design, execution and management.



GROWING MOVEMENT OF FUNDERS

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY



FUNDING FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES



Estonia - Latvia



Central Baltic Programme



SHARING EUROPEAN SHOWCASES



ESTONIA, PARNU RIVER: 3000KM RESTORED BY EU DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

SELUNE RIVER, FRANCE

80 km opened up – the biggest dam removal in Europe!

LA ROCHE QUI BOIT
SELUNE RIVER
FRANCE



SHOWCASE SPAIN

NATIONAL LAW TO TAKE OLD DAMS OUT





DENMARK

REMEANDERING: YES

DAM REMOVAL: YES

FISHWAYS: NO

COMMUNICATION: NOT MUCH

BRINGING LIFE BACK TO RIVERS

REMOVAL OF WEIR ON THE HUČAVA RIVER

SWEDEN

LEADING COUNTRY

NEW HYDROPOWER STRATEGY

1 BILLION FUND TO RESTRUCTURE

HUNDRED OF REMOVALS (SMALL DAMS)



FINLAND

**NATIONAL POLICY IN PLACE WITH
18 MLN EURO BUDGET**

**HIITOLANJOKI RIVER
3 OLD HYDROPOWER DAMS
2021-2023**

AND MORE TO COME...



A photograph of a dam with water flowing over it, with the text 'HIITOLANJOEN RITAKOSKEN PADON PURKU 2023' and 'REMOVAL OF THE HIITOLANJOKI RITAKOSKI DAM 2023' overlaid in white.

HIITOLANJOEN RITAKOSKEN PADON PURKU 2023
REMOVAL OF THE HIITOLANJOKI RITAKOSKI DAM 2023



LATVIA 2023

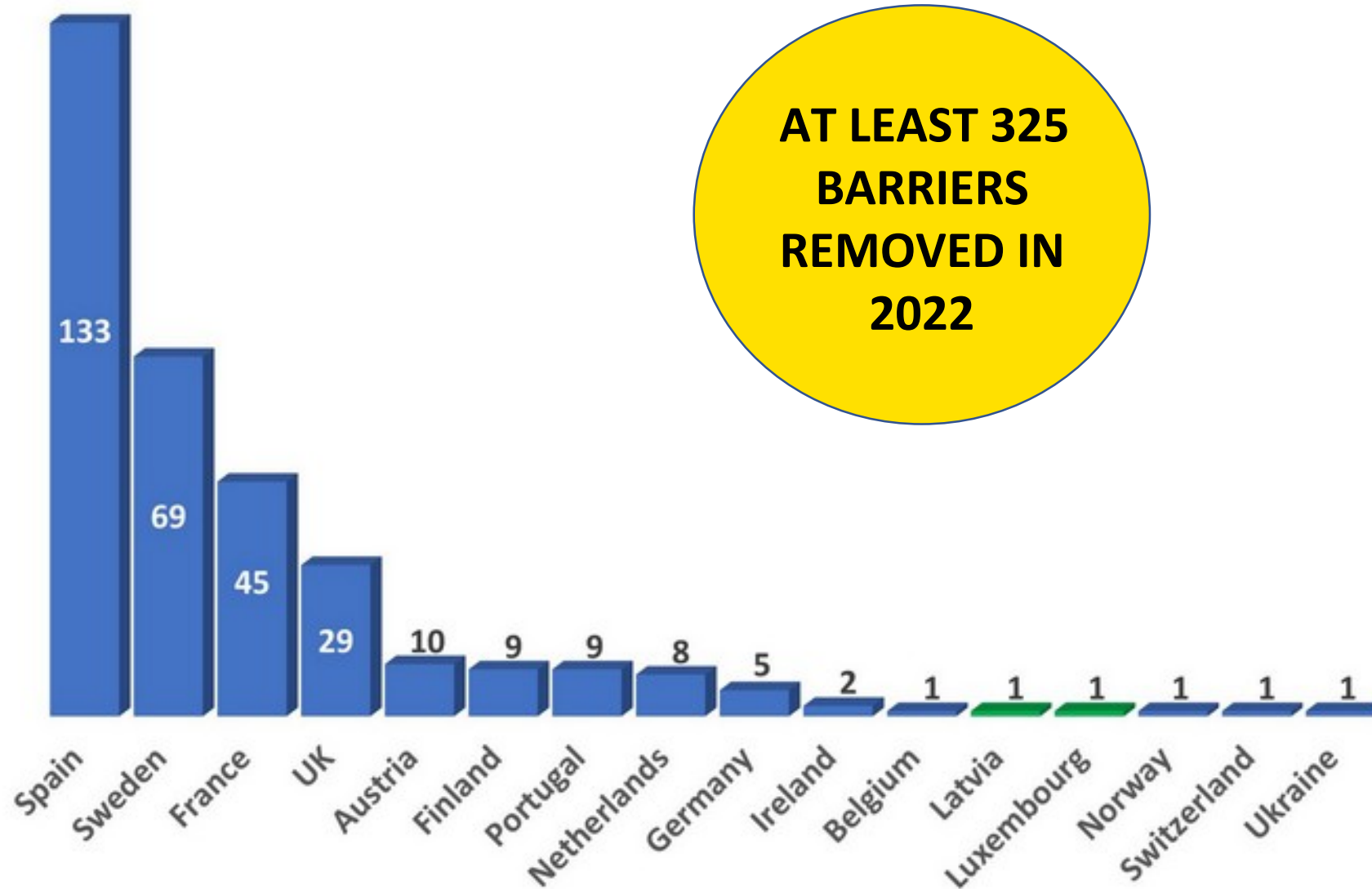
Beja dam
Aluksne River



DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES

STAICELE PAPER FACTORY, LATVIA

EVALUATE PROGRESS



**AT LEAST 325
BARRIERS
REMOVED IN
2022**

**>150.000
OBSOLETE
BARRIERS
TO GO**

**12
BILLION
EURO
VALUE**

BEFORE & AFTER

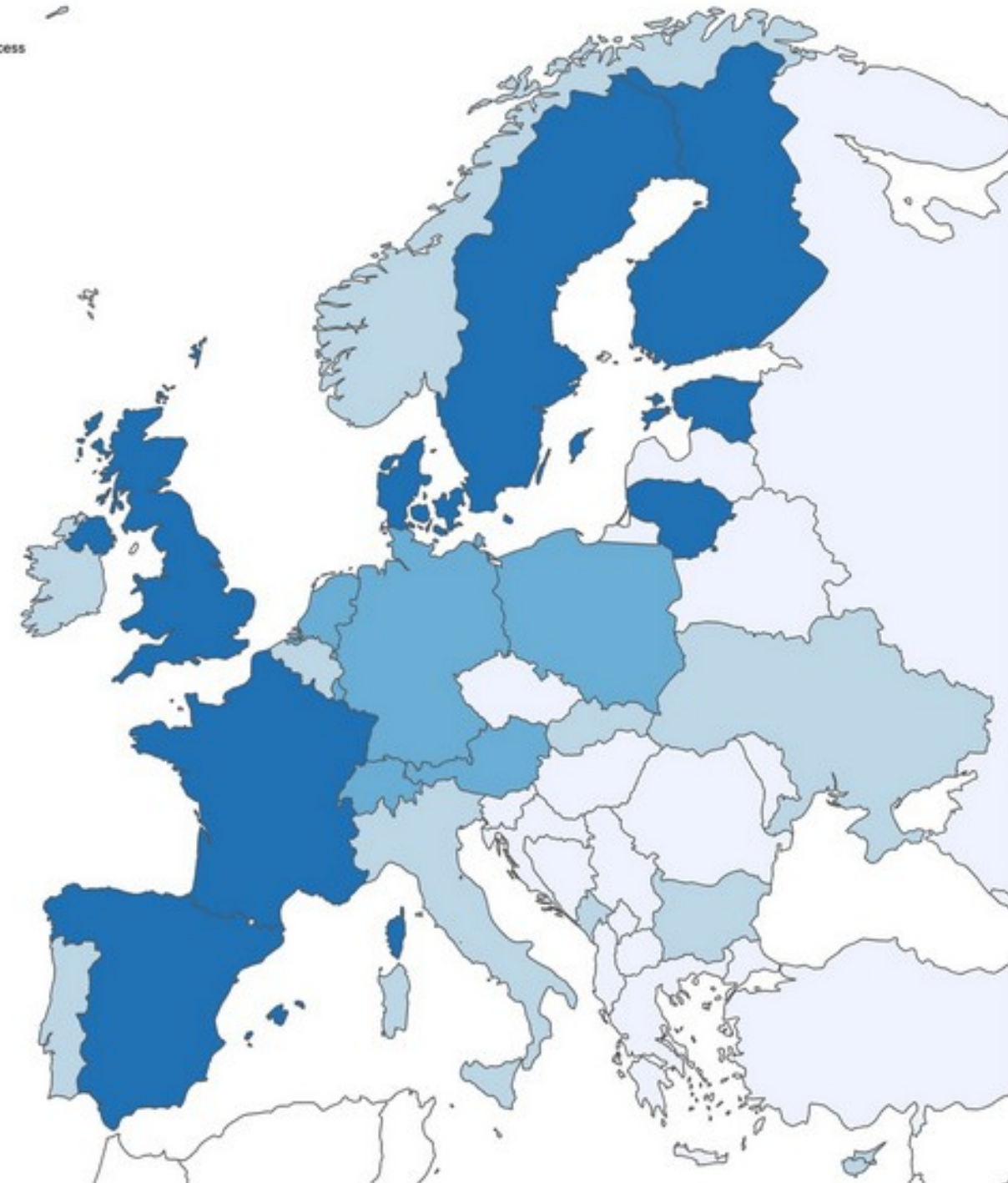


STATUS IMPLEMENTATION DAM REMOVAL

8 COUNTRIES

**IMPLEMENTED DAM REMOVAL AS A RIVER
RESTORATION TOOL**

**WE AIM TO IMPLEMENT IT IN
ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**





Scale Up DR in SE Europe: Scale Up Dam Removal in South-eastern Europe

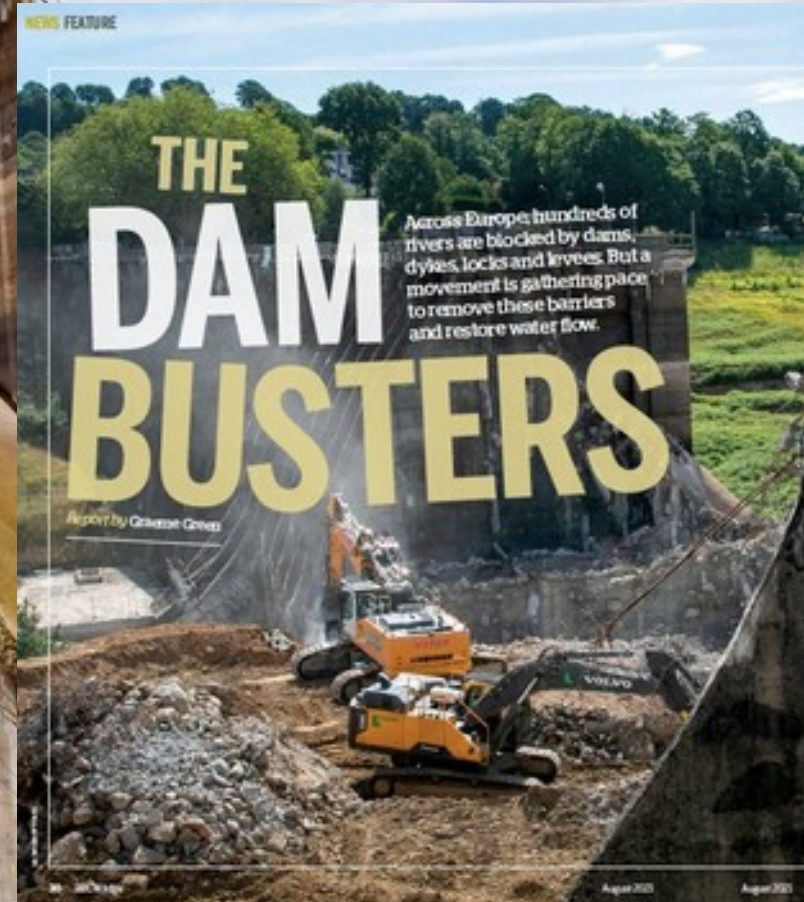
10 November 2023, Romania



INITIATE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ATTENTION

YOU ALL HAVE UNIQUE
STORIES TO TELL

RELATIE OPBOUWEN MET PRACTITIONERS EN TOOLS EN ADVIES GEMEN



Dam fine work! Record number of barrier removals helps restore rivers across Europe

**More than 300 barriers
were taken down last
year, boosting the health
of waterways and the
wildlife they support, say**



Weir today, gone tomorrow: work starts to free Cumbrian river



Norway blows up hydro dam to restore river health and fish stocks

January, 2022

Meet
Tore Solbakken





DAM
REMOVAL
EUROPE



DAM REMOVAL AWARD 2022

Nominate your project
for a chance to win 10.000 €.

More information:
www.damremoval.eu/events





#DAMBUSTERS
premiering this August
on

WaterBear

Directed by Francisco Campos-Lopez

WaterBear Network is an award-winning digital media publisher and interactive streaming network dedicated to our planet.

We are building a digital community *driving global impact* - a place where inspiration meets action.



“The home to curated documentaries about the planet we inhabit.”
— LadBible



“WaterBear has innovated a new standard for the industry.”
— FORBES



“The first environmentally-focused service of its kind”
— VOGUE

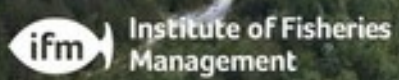
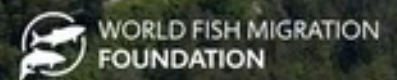


International conference on protecting and restoring free-flowing rivers in Europe

April 15-17, 2024 | Oosterpoort, Groningen, The Netherlands

Freeflowconference.eu

Organized by



Inspiring keynote speakers:
Zeb Hogan
Pao Fernández Garrido
Jeffrey Duda
Gabriel Singer



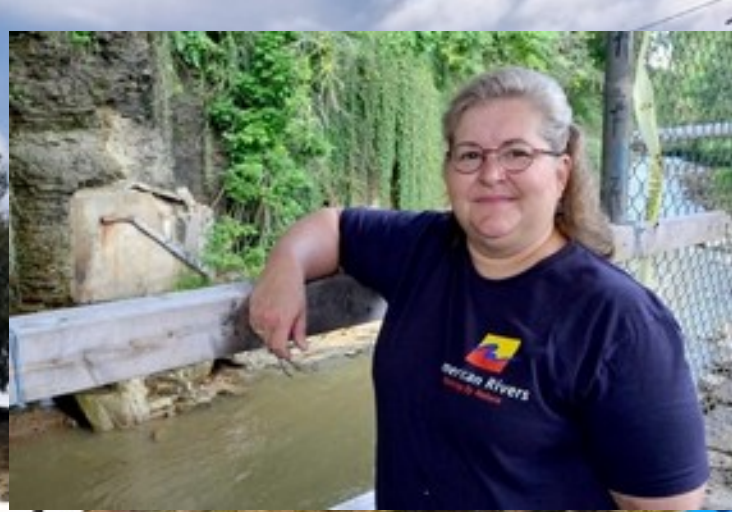
Moderated by
Ella McSweeney

JOIN AND SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

APRIL 15-17, 2024

Supported by





REGISTER FOR THE DAM REMOVAL COURSE



**LED BY TOP EXPERTS FROM THE FIELD
LAURA WILDMAN AND
LISA HOLLINGSWORTH-SEGEDY**

**APRIL 13-14, 2024
IN GRONINGEN,
THE NETHERLANDS**



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I'M DONE HERE!
I RETIRE!

FREE
AT LAST!

DAMSTERDAM

DAM

 DAM
REMOVAL
EUROPE

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