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Freshwater biodiversity

- *Freshwaters cover less than 1% of the Earth's surface*
- *But contain about 10% of all animal species*
- *And provide habitat for 1/3 of all vertebrate species*
- *Freshwater animals are disappearing at a much faster rate than animals on land or at sea*
- *About 40% of all freshwater fish are imperiled, up from 20% only a few decades ago*
- *River floodplains provide 25% of continental ecosystem services*
- *Freshwaters are often ignored in biodiversity research and conservation*

BioFresh integrates research competencies of European and global partners

- Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries – Forschungsverbund Berlin e.V., Germany
- Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium
- Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Austria
- WorldFish Center (formerly ICLARM), Malaysia
- Institute de Recherche pour le Développement, France
- Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland
- Oxford University, UK
- Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
- Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung, Germany
- University College London, UK
- Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, Switzerland
- Université Claude Bernard - Lyon 1, France
- Université Paul Sabatier - Toulouse 3, France
- Ecologic Institute, Germany
- Commission of the European Communities - Directorate General Joint Research Centre, Italy
- University of Debrecen, Hungary
- Naturhistoriska riksmuseet, Sweden
- Center za kartografijo favne in flore, Slovenia

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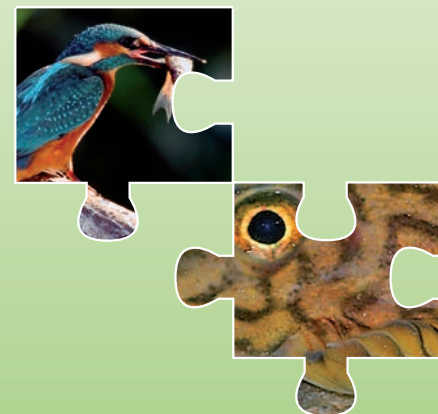
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Putting the pieces together – BioFresh

Biodiversity of Freshwater Ecosystems:
*Status, Trends, Pressures, and
Conservation Priorities*



Photos: Borries, Hartl, Freyhof

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Putting the pieces together – BioFresh

Biodiversity of Freshwater Ecosystems: Status, Trends, Pressures, and Conservation Priorities

Why? *The silent freshwater biodiversity crisis*

Freshwater ecosystems provide a wide range of natural services to billions of people, but few are aware of the ongoing catastrophic decline in freshwater biodiversity that is occurring both locally and globally.

Who? *An international partnership*

BioFresh is an international project funded by the European Union that integrates the knowledge of 19 institutions with world-leading expertise in research, conservation, outreach, and policy-making of freshwater biodiversity.



How? *The BioFresh data portal*

BioFresh will improve our capacity to protect and manage freshwater biodiversity by

- building an information platform as a gateway to scientific research on biodiversity
- providing spatially explicit information on the status and trends of freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems
- raising awareness of the importance of freshwater biodiversity and its role in providing ecosystem services
- predicting future responses of freshwater biodiversity to multiple stressors in the face of global change

Putting the pieces together

A wealth of scientific information exists in widely dispersed and locally managed databases that are not publicly available. What a story they could tell if all the pieces were combined and made easily accessible! BioFresh will bring these data together to develop models that can be used in making better policy and management recommendations for freshwater conservation.

Join the BioFresh network

BioFresh is continually integrating databases on freshwater ecosystems and invites scientists, researcher and students from all over the world to contribute. Increase the visibility of your data and research by linking them to the data portal! Do not hesitate to contact us for more information (freshwaterbiodiversity@igb-berlin.de).

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