



BioFresh – Key Biodiversity Areas for the EU biodiversity strategy

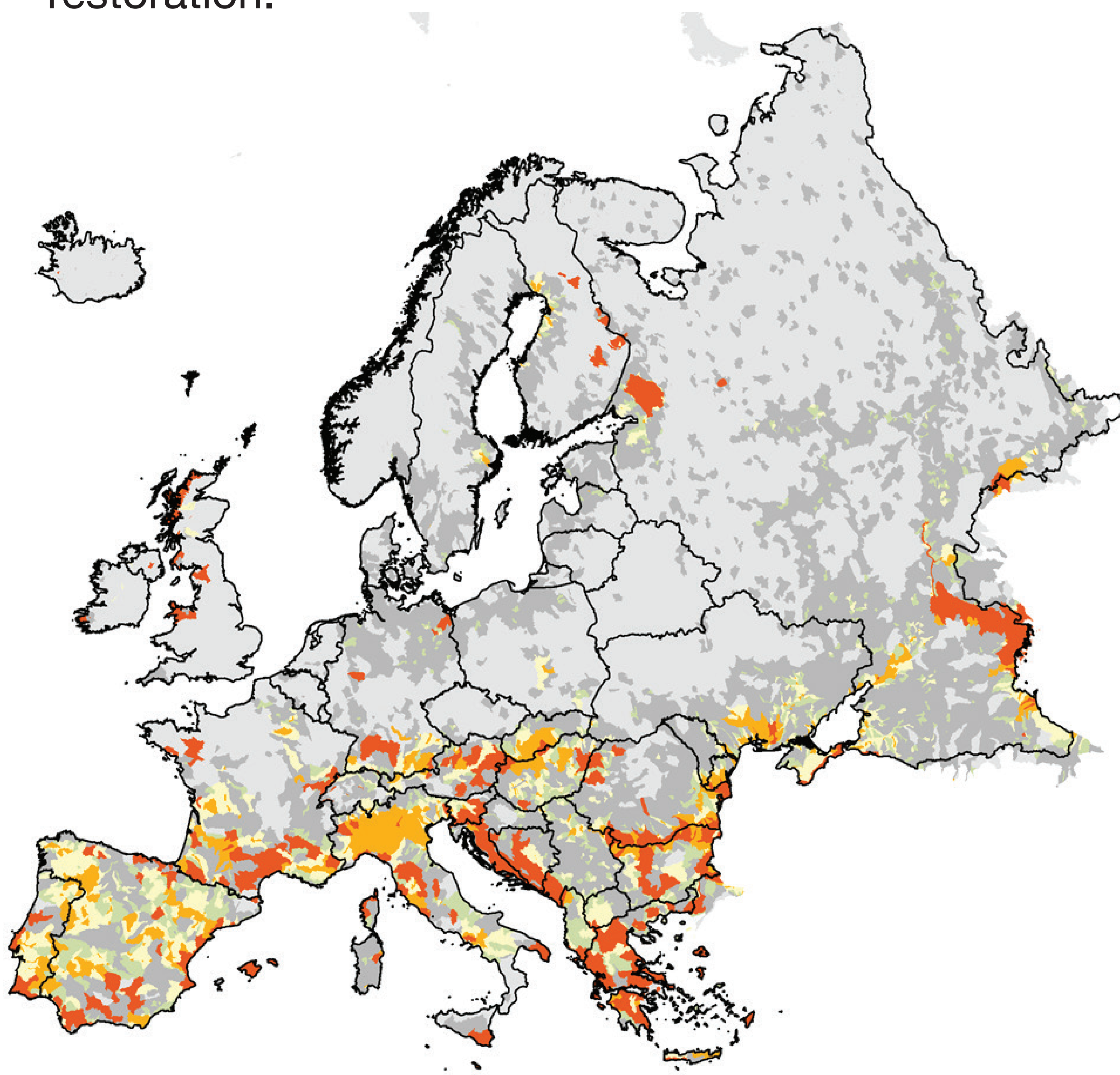
Timo Kaphengst & Jörg Freyhof

Decline of freshwater biodiversity is exceeding that of other systems mainly because human pressures on freshwater ecosystems have increased tremendously over the last century.

Dudgeon et al, 2006

BioFresh's contribution

BioFresh identified the most critical hotspots for freshwater biodiversity conservation - **Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**. These represent the areas where the EU should focus their activities in conservation and restoration.



Top Priority "irreplaceable" KBA catchments in dark orange = 788 catchments

■ 100% ■ 85-99% ■ 50-85% ■ 25-50% ■ 1-25% ■ 0%

You can contribute – get in touch!

There are numerous ways to contribute to the BioFresh network of global freshwater biodiversity and to join in taking freshwater biodiversity science, conservation and management to a new level.

Visit the BioFresh platform: www.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu

Read our blog: biofreshblog.com

Follow us on twitter: [@biofreshproject](https://twitter.com/biofreshproject) [@biofreshdata](https://twitter.com/biofreshdata)

Contact us: freshwaterbiodiversity@igb-berlin.de

BioFresh viewpoint

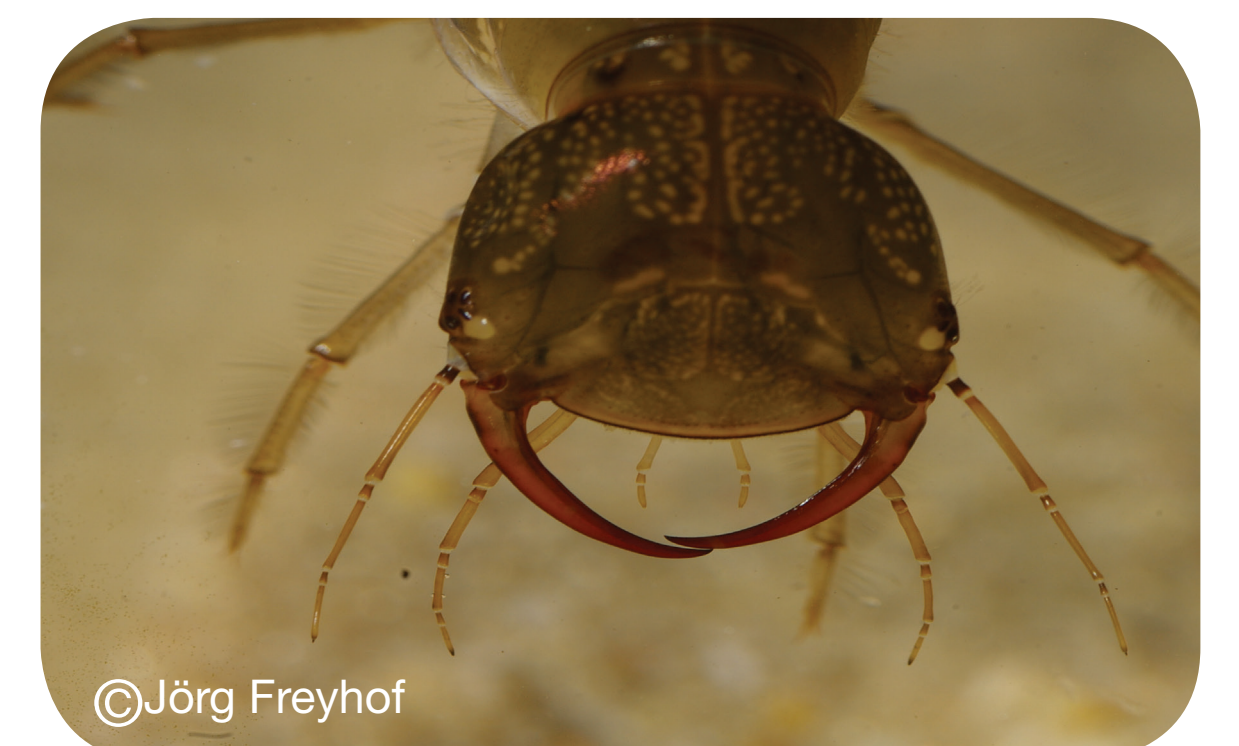
- Freshwater ecosystems provide habitats for an **enormous amount of biodiversity** and are at the same time **not sufficiently protected** from human induced pressures.
- The main drivers causing changes in the EU's freshwater ecosystems and their services are the **expanding modification of rivers for hydropower generation, the massive water abstraction in the Mediterranean and the fast spread of alien species**. These are to some extent a result of misled or incoherent policies.
- **Better policy alignment and priority setting** and the **involvement of regional and local stakeholders** in the creation of water management plans can **alleviate pressures** on freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.

Why freshwater biodiversity?

- Freshwater ecosystems have been severely **neglected in recent conservation activities** and suffer from detrimental developments resulting from **inconsistent policy objectives**.
- There is a **strong need for action both for policy makers, planners and other stakeholders to reverse this alarming trend and to protect freshwater biodiversity in the long-term**.



©Jörg Freyhof



©Jörg Freyhof



©Jörg Freyhof



©Jörg Freyhof

Funded by the EU under FP7
contract no. 226874

