



Battle for WB rivers

**Saving the last free flowing rivers in the Europe
from hydropower development**

European Rivers Summit 2021, Nov 2021, Lisabon



Contents

Global challenge

WWF Adria aim

How we do it

Mayor achievements

Achievements in total



The global challenge



Water is life.



Freshwater ecosystems are in crisis



Changes in land and sea use,
including habitat loss and degradation



Species overexploitation



Invasive species and disease



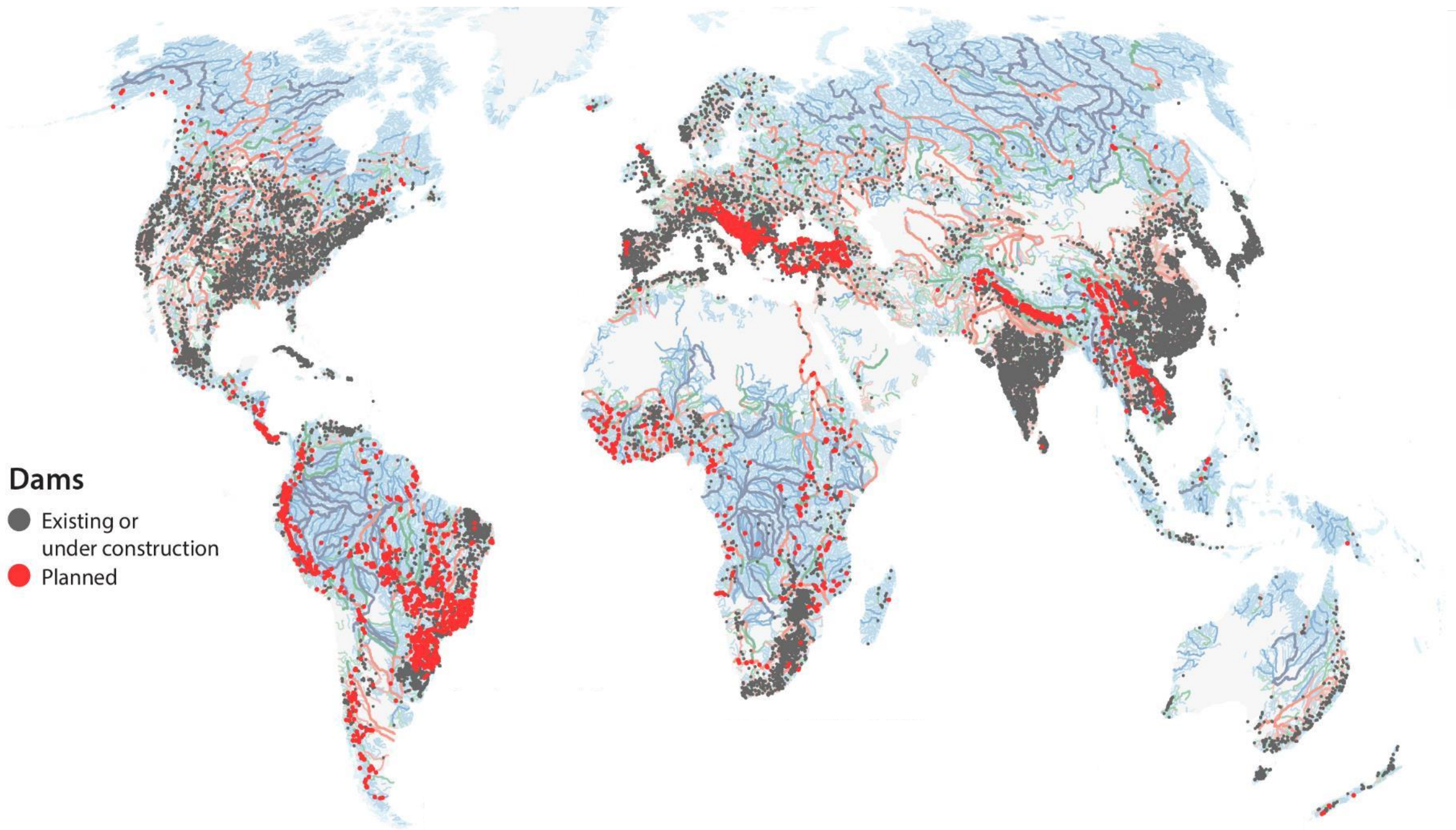
Pollution



Climate change

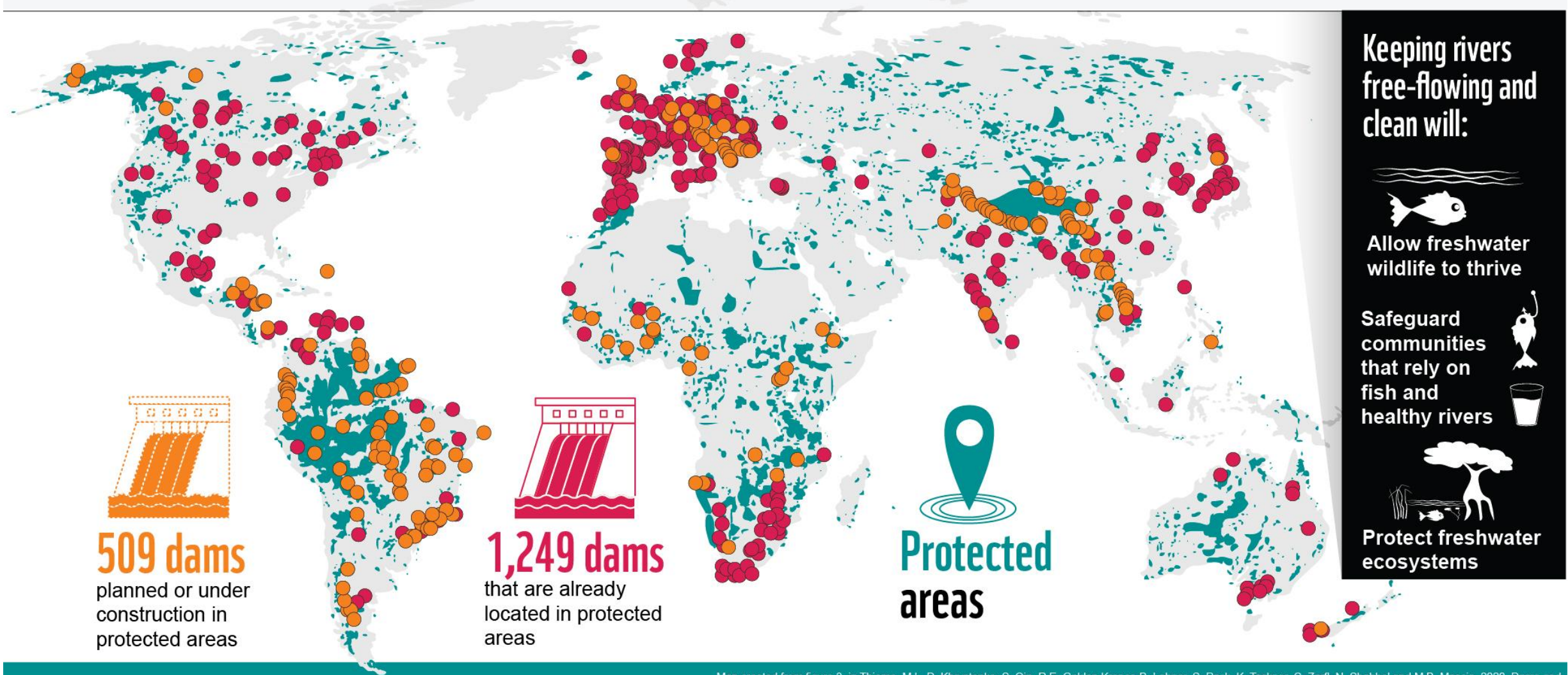
Dams

- Existing or under construction
- Planned



Over 500 dams are planned or under construction in protected areas

The wrong dam in the wrong place can change how a river flows and cause blockages. Species that move to find food, reproduce, or seek new habitat as the seasons change—such as salmon and river dolphins—can no longer do so. This threatens important freshwater ecosystems and people and wildlife who depend on them for survival.



Map created from figure 3. in Thieme, M.L., D. Khrystenko, S. Qin, R.E. Golden Kroner, B. Lehner, S. Pack, K. Tockner, C. Zarfl, N. Shahbol and M.B. Mascia. 2020. Dams and protected areas: Quantifying the spatial and temporal extent of global dam construction within protected areas. Conservation Letters, <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12719>

**WWF Adria aim:
Conservation of free
flowing rivers in Western
Balkans (Croatia, Bosnia
and Herzegovina,
Montenegro, Serbia,
Albania)**



How we do it



- Change of RES and relevant legislation
- Law suits against bad HP
- Supporting local initiatives against HP development
- Commenting relevant physical plans, EIAs and similar
- Collecting proofs on negative impacts of HP
- Lobbying and advocacy on national and EU level
- Advocacy campaigns
- Media work
- Lobbying for restorations of HP affected wetlands
- Durable river protection initiative

Mayor achievements



Bosnia and Herzegovina

- CSOs Declaration adopted by the Parliaments of FBiH and RS – **changes of RES legislation**
- Direct support of campaigns on Buna and Bunica, Neretvica, Kruščica
- River protection initiatives – Cvrcka, Orlija, Buna&Bunica
- New Law on Environmental Protection (in RS 2020; in FBiH 2021)
- Prepared new Law on Nature Protection in FBiH
- CSOs work on preparation of Shadow report on Chapter 27



Mayor achievements



Montenegro

- Subsidies for sHPPs abandoned (for all RES)
- Ombudsman opinion in case of Bare Kraljske – human rights violations proofed
- Protection of Lower Zeta in 2019 - support
- Protection of Ćehotina river in the pipeline
- E-flow regulation set up
- Initiated protection of Bistrice river
- 1st dam removal in WB – Vezišnica river
- **PERMANENT BAN ON ISSUING THE CONCESSIONS FOR sHPPs**



@Chip Caroon/TNC

Mayor achievements



Albania

- High court decision - **2 HP on Valbona were shut down last week**
- The license of the company building HPP in Zall Gjocaj is removed, so at the moment also hydropower there is shut down
- National conference was delivered on consequences of 15 years of HHP in Albania from legal, economic, social and environmental angles in collaboration with Euronatur and EcoAlbania



Achievements in total



- More than 130 sHPPs canceled, directly or indirectly
- Started initiatives for protection up to 200 km of rivers in next 3 years
- Rised awareness on sHP as not a green source of energy (800+ different articles, reportages and publications in local, national and international media, 12mil + people reached, 250k video views, 1,2 mio people engaged)
- Attention and changes in subsidies for sHPPs in 3 out of 5 target governments
- WB rivers on a global map for durable river protections



Next steps



Battle continues on all levels:

Legal

Policy

Communication

Advocacy

Durable protection





Thanks for your attention



Working to sustain the natural
world for the benefit of people
and wildlife.

together possible™

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