

## Green for real? Have you asked the eel?

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**ABSTRACT:** Since the introduction of the water framework directive (WFD) in Norway, this group of Norwegian NGOs has cooperated closely on a wide variety of freshwater conservation and restoration issues. The substantial impact of Norwegian hydropower is one of our main concerns.

The presentation addresses our experience with working for improving the environmental status in hydropower affected rivers. This mainly involves our participation in public processes regarding the review of license terms and making use of the legal toolbox which the Norwegian government claims ensures the implementation of the WFD.

Our main message is that sustainability cannot be reduced to frivolous formalities where the modus operandi, to put it bluntly, is to market itself as green, without requirements for necessary corrective environmental measures and modern environmental terms for operation.

For further reading about the weaknesses we have identified regarding the implementation of the WFD and hydropower affected waterbodies, please see: <https://www.sabima.no/ber-esa-vurdere-norsk-vannkraft/>

We welcome the EU Taxonomy with its Do No Significant Harm-criteria, which are aligned with the recognition of the need to conduct ourselves with regard for addressing the global nature crisis. It is also aligned with Norwegian civil society's political recommendations to meet the Montreal goals, recently published in a joint report<sup>1</sup>, as well as in a report for nature positive business by Sabima and PwC<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *For naturen* (9 June 2023) Report with proposals for political, regulatory and structural changes needed for Norway to reach the goals in the Global Biodiversity Framework, by BirdLife Norway, Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, Future in our hands, Norwegian Friends of the Earth, Sabima, Spire and WWF Norway  
<https://www.sabima.no/arrangement/vi-lanserer-for-naturen/>

<sup>2</sup> *Naturpositiv ledelse - En praktisk veileder til arbeid med naturrisiko i næringslivet* (2023) PwC and Sabima (A practical guide for nature-positive business)  
<https://www.pwc.no/no/nyheter/naturpositiv-ledelse-rapport-digital.pdf>