

Alliance for Freshwater Life

allianceforfreshwaterlife.org

Vision

A world where people better understand, value, and safeguard freshwater biodiversity.

Mission

To halt and reverse the global decline of freshwater biodiversity through research, data synthesis, conservation, education, outreach, and policy-making.

Challenges:

- *Freshwater ecosystems are among the most complex, dynamic, and diverse on Earth.*
- *Current water- and land-use practices have led to unprecedented rates of decline in freshwater species and ecosystems, and in their genetic and functional diversity.*
- *Global commitments to halt this loss of freshwater biodiversity are not being met.*

Freshwater biodiversity is vital to human life, providing clean water, fisheries, farming, and recreation. Our understanding of global freshwater biodiversity is incomplete, but we know that at least 10% of the world's known species live some or all of their lives in freshwater, including 30% of all vertebrates. One in three freshwater species is threatened, and the current rates of population decline in freshwater species are twice that of marine and terrestrial life. The key causes of these declines are water- and land-use policies that neglect freshwater life and the absence of freshwater biodiversity from the global environment agenda. Urgent action is needed to develop policies and practices that meet human needs and conserve freshwater life.

Who we are:

The Alliance for Freshwater Life (AFL) is an interdisciplinary network of scientists, conservation professionals, educators, policy experts, creative professionals, and engaged citizens, working to improve the conservation and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems and the biodiversity therein. Together we can create a more powerful force for change.

What we are doing:

We are working with governments, civil society, and the private sector to halt and reverse the decline in freshwater biodiversity through efforts in five core areas:

- **Research:** to coordinate and support efforts that examine the status, trends, and drivers of change in freshwater biodiversity.
- **Data and Synthesis:** to compile, manage, synthesize, and provide access to freshwater biodiversity data.
- **Conservation:** to inform, support, connect, and implement freshwater conservation efforts throughout the world.
- **Education and Outreach:** to raise the profile of freshwater biodiversity worldwide through education and public engagement.
- **Policy:** to engage with policy-makers and provide the scientific evidence needed to make informed decisions related to the conservation of freshwater biodiversity.