

Prioritizing River Bains and Dams for Restoration and Protection

FreeFlow Conference 2024, Groningen, the Netherlands

Purpose: Explore and discuss methods to prioritize connectivity restoration from continental to basin-scale *and to* understand participants needs for prioritization tools/metrics in barrier removal and what gets in the way of progress.

Outcomes:

Understanding connectivity restoration goals at different scales.
Review helpful tools, who is making them,
Techniques experts have or are developing
Better understand how best to share (platforms?),
Best data practices/uses,
Generate ideas for cross-pollination & collaboration to raise all boats.

MentiMeter





Short Presentations on Prioritization Tools, Opportunities, and Troubles

- Prioritizing Basins for Biodiversity & Water Security (Josh)
- Finding ripe barrier removal opportunities (Carlos)
- Optimization tools for maximizing efficiency (Jesse)
- RivConnect intensive assessments of barrier data (Paulo)
- WWF developing country-wide tools in Germany (Ruben)
- Confounding Factors to barrier plans (Geoff)

MENTIMETER QUESTIONS

1. **What's your favorite species of fish?**

2. **What are your primary drivers/goals for barrier removal?** *Rank from highest to lowest priority of the list.*

- Reconnection of river
- Flood risk reduction
- Species or guild habitat needs
- Increase biodiversity
- Fish passage
- Management costs
- Public safety
- **Other***

** If "other", we will discuss and hear your "other" during the session.*

3. **What IS your biggest obstacle to barrier removal?** You can provide up to three words, if you have multiple big obstacles



Discussion: ALL - (30 min)

What scale do they and their partners need prioritization?

(Josh - Show of hands)

What are your most urgent data needs and gaps? (Paulo)

Who needs to have/use a prioritization tool(s)?

(Jesse) e.g. you!, EU, RBM Planners, future river champions?

**What types of collaborations around some key basins /
barriers would help our efforts?** (Carlos)

**What are overall impediments to you or your agencies
using these tools?** (Ruben)

Next steps with brief wrap up discussion (Josh)

