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Czas na Odrę

Odra #TematRzeka

23.08.2022

Time for change!

The environmental catastrophe on the Oder River has illustrated in an extremely painful way the errors and weaknesses of the water management and environmental protection system in Poland. We demand that from the lesson of this costly crisis systemic conclusions be drawn. An apology from the Prime Minister of RP and symbolic resignations are not enough. It is important that together, with the participation of public debate, use the crisis for needed and real systemic changes!

As Polish environmental organisations active in the coalition [Time for the Oder](#) and the [Coalition Save the Rivers](#)

We demand:

AN IMMEDIATE STOP OF ALL REGULATORY WORK AND PLANS on the Oder.

The prolonged lack of information about the main source of the river's poisoning and experts' opinions about the possible accumulation of multiple causes - including the triggering of pollutants from bottom sediments during the large-scale ongoing regulatory works - point to the urgent need to suspend them. This suspension should last at least until the causes of the disaster are clarified and a full recovery plan for the river's ecosystem is prepared.

URGENT PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A RENATURATION PROGRAMME for the Oder and its Valley. The current ecological disaster on the Oder is not only the most visible dead fish, but also the destruction of many other organisms and the disruption of the river's ecosystem balance. In order to rescue the situation, a programme - developed on the basis of scientific knowledge among experts - is needed to renature the Oder and increase its resilience.

INSPECTING RIVERS INTO A CONSTANT MONITORING NETWORK by installing on all major rivers in Poland automatic stations for the measurement of basic physical and chemical parameters with a data transmission system, which will allow early detection of emerging ecological imbalances.

SYSTEMIC STRENGTHENING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICES. During the environmental catastrophe, Polish services and the system monitoring the quality of the environment, including waters, failed. We would like to remind you that in 2019, the competences to manage waters, including rivers, were taken away from the Ministry of Environment (today: Ministry of Climate and

Environment) and transferred to the Ministry of Infrastructure, which is not able to take care of the state of Polish rivers and waters, as it is focused on the implementation of hydrotechnical and navigation investments. Furthermore, the decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure of 25 June 2021 has led to the abandonment of permanent monitoring of a number of important indicators of the state of the aquatic environment, which has directly contributed to the delay in detecting changes in water parameters indicating the poisoning of the Oder. Continuation of this pathological state will mean further deterioration of the water environment and recurrence of ecological disasters on rivers.

At present, despite the involvement of staff from various institutions, it has still not been possible to clearly identify the original source of the poisoning of the Oder. There are, however, announcements that the Polish Government will allocate considerable funds for artificial restocking of the river with farmed fish and other activities, which, according to the authors, are supposed to erase the memory of the disaster. In the opinion of the Save the Rivers Coalition and the Czas na Odra Coalition, ill-considered stocking will only lead to a worsening of the ecological situation, and thus to a deterioration of the resilience of the Oder River ecosystem to further catastrophic imbalances. In this situation we strongly emphasise:

1. The repair of what has happened cannot consist in stocking with farmed fry, but should consist in creating favourable conditions for the fish that have survived, either because they have exceptionally resistant genotypes or because they have taken refuge in the mouths of the Oder's tributaries, to rebuild their populations. The funds which the Government wishes to allocate to the restoration of biological life in the Oder, and the funds which will be enforced against the perpetrators of the excessive salinity of the water in the Oder and other factors which led to the large-scale catastrophe, should be used to restore and expand the ecological monitoring network and to improve the ecological state of the Oder.
2. Migration barriers in the estuaries of the Oder's tributaries and along their entire course should be removed, as the tributaries provide refuge for fish in the event that conditions in the Oder deteriorate and, above all, are breeding grounds for fish, so their availability is a prerequisite for the maintenance and recovery of populations.
3. The long-term management plans for the Oder river basin should be reviewed, abandoning the ludicrous plans to build a navigation system in competition with that of the Rhine and Danube, in favour of renaturalising the river and the entire catchment area.
4. Either the current damming stages should be dismantled or extensively rebuilt so that electricity production and ludicrous dreams of large-scale freight shipping are not pursued at the expense of water quality, the availability of fish breeding and maturation habitat and

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migration opportunities. The current system of cascading the river stops the flow and turns the river into a series of flowing ponds where the water overheats, over-evaporates and encourages dangerous algal blooms - this needs to be changed.

5. The flood embankments should be rearranged to make an extension of the flood zone for high water events. In the extended flood zone, the river should be allowed to meander freely and form side channels, which promotes biodiversity, fish abundance, river self-purification processes and increases the resilience of the ecosystem to extreme disturbances.
6. Cleanliness standards for wastewater and mine water discharged into rivers should be tightened to prevent future excessive increases in salinity, eutrophication and other factors that promote blooms that are lethal to normal river life.
7. The relevant legislation should be amended, including the Water Law and the regulations issued on its basis, and the obligation of constant monitoring by the relevant services of indicators informing about the deterioration of water condition should be restored.
8. An Environmental Agency should be established, combining the competences of the Environmental Protection Directorate, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate and the competences regarding the protection of the water environment of PGW Wody Polskie, as a control body with the powers of an "environmental police" working 24/7, with a tenure management and with the possibility of disciplining economic, administrative and political entities in defence of the common good, which is clean water and a healthy environment.
9. The principle of renaturalising rivers, clearing migration corridors and restoring good water status should be applied not only to the Oder and its river basin affected by this year's disaster, but also to other rivers in Poland, especially those that have not yet suffered equally profound devastation. This applies, for example, to the Vistula, which, compared to the Oder, retains a greater capacity for self-purification and is thus more resistant to above-normal sewage discharges and catastrophic blooms similar to the current catastrophe on the Oder, as well as to the largest tributaries of the Vistula, the Warta and the rivers of Pomerania, few of which have yet retained anything close to their natural state.

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10. It is imperative that the erroneous decision to subordinate water management to the Ministry of Infrastructure be reversed and that a state of affairs in which the Minister responsible for the environment is responsible for water management as a common good be restored.

The existing crisis situation indicates the need for a significant revision of priorities in water management in Poland and redirecting financial resources towards a people- and nature-friendly, resilient to resistant to climate change and random events. In the wake of the Oder catastrophe, it is necessary to revise the updates to the Water Management Plans in order to implement the programme for the Oder River and the National Surface Water Restoration Programme. Also measures for harmful and unjustified regulatory works (*Annex) should be redirected to the protection of the the river, the restoration of its biological resources and the safety of the inhabitants of the Oder Valley.

The aim of these measures should be to protect people, reduce the threat of floods and droughts, to develop tourism and recreational offerings, and to increase the resilience of the Oder and other rivers to anthropogenic disturbance and the river's ability to clean itself.

Time for the Oder River Coalition

Save the Rivers Coalition

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APPENDIX

Investment plans on the Oder River resulting from current planning and strategic documents on water management

National Navigation Programme to 2030 and Water Scarcity Programme

The recently consulted strategic plans and programmes such as the National Navigation Programme to 2030 and the Water Scarcity Programme should be developed from the outset with priority measures for the restoration of the Oder Valley ecosystems. Therefore, the objectives of the National Shipping Programme to 2030 should be revised and the following investments planned on the Oder should be removed from it without delay:

- Modernisation of the regulatory development on the border Oder - Stage II - cost PLN 556,000,000.
- Construction of a flap weir at the Ujście Nysy water level at km 180.50 of the Oder River together with the accompanying infrastructure - cost PLN 211,000,000

Modernisation of the lock and control room at the Opole barrage with the reconstruction of the avant-garde - cost PLN 200,000,000

Modernisation of the lock and control room at the Nysa Ujście water level, together with reconstruction of the gangway and accompanying facilities - cost PLN 200,000,000

- Modernisation of the Gliwice Canal - navigable route and its coastal insulations - stage I (section V and VI) - cost PLN 104,000,000

The financing of documentation for the following investments on the Oder River should be removed from the Programme for Counteracting Water Scarcity:

- Construction of the Lubiąż barrage on the River Oder in the area of the village of Gliniany - cost PLN 713,300,000.
- Construction of the Ścinawa barrage on the River Oder at a cost of PLN 714,781,805.

“Drought Plan”

Investments concerning the regulation of the Oder River should also be removed from the recently adopted Drought Plan. These investments include:

- Construction of the Lubiąż barrage on the River Oder in the area of the village of Gliniany

Construction of the Ścinawa barrage on the River Oder

Construction of a weir at the Ujście Nysy water level at km 180.50 of the Oder River together with the accompanying infrastructure.

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Flood risk management plan for the Oder river basin district

The Flood Risk Management Plan for the Oder river basin district should also be revised. Provisions concerning plans for the implementation of navigation investments on the Oder River and the regulation of the river should be removed from the document. These include in particular the following investments:

- Construction of the Lubiąż barrage on the Oder River in the area of the village of Gliniany (preparation of documentation) - cost PLN 13.2 million.
- Construction of the Ścinawa barrage on the River Oder (preparation of documentation) - cost PLN 14.8 million.
- 1B.2/1, 1B.2/2, 1B.2/3 Modernisation works on the border Oder: Stage I - Modernisation works on the border Oder to provide winter icebreaking Stage II - Modernisation of regulatory buildings on the border Oder - cost PLN 515.2 million.
- Correction of arches on the channelised Oder River in the section of the Regional Water Management Board in Wrocław from the Malczyce barrage at km 300.00 to the mouth of the Warta River at km 617.60 (preparation of documentation) - cost PLN 3 million.
- Correction of arches on the channelised Oder River on the section of the Regional Water Management Board in Wrocław from the mouth of the Nysa Kłodzka River at km 181.30 to the Malczyce barrage at km 300.00 - cost PLN 3 million.
- Reconstruction of the small sluice in Brzeg with adjustment to the parameters of at least Class IV waterway - cost PLN 30.6 million.

The finances planned for the above investments should be allocated to a specific action programme for the restoration of the Oder.

STOPPING CURRENTLY ONGOING INVESTMENTS ON THE ODER:

- Contract for works 1B.1/1 (a): Rebuilding the regulatory structure of the Oder River - adaptation to Class III waterway, on the section from Ścinawa to the mouth of the Nysa Łużycka River - Stage II.
- Contract 1B.2/1: Modernisation works on the Oder Border, Stage I - Modernisation works to provide winter icebreaking - Part 1.
- Contract 1B.2/2: Modernisation works on the Border Oder, Stage I - Modernisation works to ensure winter icebreaking - Part 2.
- Contract 1B.2/3: Modernisation works on the Border Oder, Stage I - Modernisation works to provide winter icebreaking - Part 3.

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*ZAŁĄCZNIK

Plany inwestycyjne na Odrze wynikające z obecnych dokumentów planistycznych i strategicznych w zakresie gospodarowania wodami

Krajowy Program Żeglugowy do roku 2030 i Program przeciwdziałania niedoborowi wody

Konsultowane niedawno strategiczne plany i programy takie jak Krajowy Program Żeglugowy do roku 2030 i Program przeciwdziałania niedoborowi wody powinny zostać opracowane od początku z uwzględnieniem priorytetowych działań w zakresie odbudowy ekosystemów doliny Odry. W związku z tym należy zrewidować cele Krajowego Programu Żeglugowego do roku 2030, a następujące inwestycje zaplanowane na Odrze powinny zostać z niego bezzwłocznie usunięte:

- Modernizacja zabudowy regulacyjnej na Odrze granicznej – Etap II - koszt 556 000 000 zł
- Budowa jazu klapowego na stopniu wodnym Ujście Nysy w km 180,50 rzeki Odry wraz z infrastrukturą towarzyszącą - koszt 211 000 000 zł
- Modernizacja śluzy oraz sterowni na stopniu wodnym Opole wraz z przebudową awanportów - koszt 200 000 000 zł
- Modernizacja śluzy oraz sterowni na stopniu wodnym Ujście Nysy wraz z przebudową awanportów oraz obiektów towarzyszących - koszt 200 000 000 zł
- Modernizacja Kanału Gliwickiego – szlaku żeglownego i jego ubezpieczeń brzegowych- etap I (sekcja V i VI) - koszt 104 000 000 zł

Z Programu przeciwdziałania niedoborowi wody powinno zostać usunięte finansowanie dokumentacji dla następujących inwestycji na Odrze:

- Budowa stopnia wodnego Lubiąż na rz. Odrze w rejonie wsi Gliniany - koszt 713 300 000 zł
- Budowa stopnia wodnego Ścinawa na rz. Odrze - koszt 714 781 805 zł

Plan Przeciwdziałania Skutkom Suszy

Inwestycje dotyczące regulacji Odry należy też usunąć z przyjętego niedawno Planu Przeciwdziałania Skutkom Suszy. Do inwestycji tych należą:

- Budowa stopnia wodnego Lubiąż na rz. Odrze w rejonie wsi Gliniany
- Budowa stopnia wodnego Ścinawa na rz. Odrze
- Budowa jazu klapowego na stopniu wodnym Ujście Nysy w km 180,50 rzeki Odry wraz z infrastrukturą towarzyszącą

Plan zarządzania ryzykiem powodziowym dla obszaru dorzecza Odry

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Weryfikacji powinny również ulec zapisy Planu zarządzania ryzykiem powodziowym dla obszaru dorzecza Odry. Z dokumentu należy usunąć zapisy dotyczące planów realizacji inwestycji żeglugowych na Odrze i regulacji rzeki. Są to przede wszystkim następujące inwestycje:

- Budowa stopnia wodnego Lubiąż na rz. Odrze w rejonie wsi Gliniany (opracowanie dokumentacji) - koszt 13,2 mln zł.
- Budowa stopnia wodnego Ścinawa na rz. Odrze (opracowanie dokumentacji) - koszt 14,8 mln zł.
- 1B.2/1, 1B.2/2, 1B.2/3 Prace modernizacyjne na Odrze granicznej: Etap I - Prace modernizacyjne na Odrze granicznej w celu zapewnienia zimowego lodołamania Etap II - Modernizacja zabudowy regulacyjnej na Odrze granicznej - koszt 515,2 mln zł.
- Korekta łuków na Odrze skanalizowanej na odcinku RZGW we Wrocławiu od stopnia wodnego Malczyce w km 300,00 do ujścia Warty w km 617,60 (opracowanie dokumentacji) - koszt 3 mln zł.
- Korekta łuków na Odrze skanalizowanej na odcinku RZGW we Wrocławiu od ujścia Nysy Kłodzkiej w km 181,30 do stopnia wodnego Malczyce w km 300,00 - koszt 3 mln zł.
- Przebudowa śluzy małej w Brzegu z dostosowaniem do parametrów min. IV klasy drogi wodnej - koszt 30,6 mln zł.

Finanse zaplanowane na powyższe inwestycje powinny zostać przeznaczone na konkretny program działań w zakresie renaturyzacji Odry.

WSTRZYMANIE OBECNIE TRWAJĄCYCH INWESTYCJI NA ODRZE:

- Kontrakt na roboty 1B.1/1 (a): Odbudowa zabudowy regulacyjnej rzeki Odry - przystosowanie do III klasy drogi wodnej, na odcinku od miejscowości Ścinawa do ujścia Nysy Łużyckiej – Etap II.
- Kontrakt 1B.2/1: Prace modernizacyjne na Odrze granicznej, Etap I – Prace modernizacyjne w celu zapewnienia zimowego lodołamania – Część 1.
- Kontrakt 1B.2/2: Prace modernizacyjne na Odrze granicznej, Etap I – Prace modernizacyjne w celu zapewnienia zimowego lodołamania – Część 2.
- Kontrakt 1B.2/3: Prace modernizacyjne na Odrze granicznej, Etap I – Prace modernizacyjne w celu zapewnienia zimowego lodołamania – Część 3.

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