



Scouts Jump for their Rivers

?????:Brian Okello

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In the past few years there has been a growing awakening to the need to preserve our environment, our natural habitat. Arguably some of these notions might be attributed to the mainstreaming of climate change and climate-related issues. However, this does not take away from the realization that, as human civilization continues to develop technologically and population growth continues, there is an ever important need to preserve our environment, its resources and ecosystems ? if not for the survival of the human species, then for the betterment of the quality of life of those alive today and those yet to come.

A project that began in 2005 under the European Union's Water Framework Directive (WFD), whose aims are to achieve good status for all rivers and lakes in Europe, has recently been receiving a lot of media attention. The

'Big Jump' as it is aptly named, initiated and coordinated by the European Rivers Network, aims to raise public awareness by allowing everyone to follow the implementation and the progress of the European policy for rivers and wetlands restoration. In action the Big Jump is a big collective jump or dive into a body of water (river or lake), but also it means a 'big' leap forward in respect to water quality. The event this year took place on 11th July at 15.00 GMT+2.



Taking the project to heart, on that day 500 Scouts leapt into the Aegean Sea in Turkey whilst attending the Anatolian International Scout Camp in Mamaris. 'Our camp motto is global warming and Scouts are searching for solutions to save the environment, so the Big Jump project is exactly in tune with our camp motto,' says Hakan So?ukp?nar who participated in this year's Big Jump.

More information:

[The Big Jump](#)