

Restoring Europe's Rivers

RESTORE Bulletin

July 2012

Keeping rivers cool



LiDAR image indicating likely shading from the landscape and existing vegetation

Climate change is one of the factors leading to increased temperatures in many of our water bodies and in recent hot dry summers this has led to some rivers exceeding temperatures that salmon and trout can survive in.

To address this issue the Environment Agency is managing a 4 year project, *Keeping Rivers Cool*, which recommends the use of riparian tree cover to reduce the temperature of rivers and help riverine ecosystems adapt to the impact of climate change.

Four pilot catchments have been identified to implement this work during the first 2 years of the project. The Environment Agency has also created guidance to help riparian managers and owners to follow a consistent approach to creating shade with a mixture of tree planting and fencing. The guidance will be available later this summer.

Although more research is needed into the cooling effects of introducing trees alongside rivers, it is a low-risk and reversible actions and a good start to keeping rivers cool.

The full story can be seen [here](#)

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The Catchment Restoration Fund

The Catchment Restoration Fund has been created by Defra to clean up England's rivers and lakes and encourage wildlife to flourish.

The Environment Agency will be responsible for running the fund, which will provide up to £9.7m each year until 2015 for projects that support this aim, and will ensure that money is given to local groups who can make a real difference.

Dave Baxter, Environment Agency's Head of Catchment Management said, "The CRF is focused on water, but, where possible, connections to a wider range of benefits are being supported. A lot of the projects it funds are about restoring natural connections along rivers by removing barriers, and between the rivers and their landscape by restoring habitats. The fund allows charities to connect local people and business to actions they can take to improve their environment".

We will be guiding applicants to use RESTORE, both as a resource, and as a repository for the experiences and learning each CRF project generates.

For general information about the fund or to discuss potential projects please contact:

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8th European Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration: 8-14th September 2012

Society for Ecological Restoration, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

There is still a little time left to register if you want to find out more about best practice in river restoration. RESTORE will be running a workshop and discussing best practice in river and catchment restoration with practitioners from around Europe.

The main theme of the conference is 'Near-natural restoration', and the aim is to present and discuss restoration ecology as a scientific discipline and in practice. It will cover restoration of a range of habitat types including wetlands, fresh water ecosystems and marine and coastal ecosystems.

Further information is available on the [conference website](#)

Breakfast talk with New London Architecture: 25th October 2012



RESTORE is pleased to be presenting a Breakfast Talk in association with NLA on 25th October 2012 to promote best practice on river restoration.

RESTORE will give a brief overview of the project providing the context of EU directives and their impact on London together with a summary of European, and global, best practice.

The NLA breakfast talks are a very effective way of sharing information with large audiences of built environment professionals, often attracting a full capacity of 200 delegates.

The format is an 8.30am - 9.30am event, with doors opening from 8.00am with an informal breakfast served in the NLA galleries. The talk and presentations will run for 40minutes followed by 20minutes of panel discussion/Q&A.

NLA is located in Central London. For more details about NLA see [link](#)

Registration for this free event will open later this summer.

River restoration in Poland

River restoration practices in Poland were the focus of a 3 day event which took place at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences during June. Field trips to Krakow and rivers around the city of Zakopane and the Tatra Mountains were also held, focusing on the restoration of Polish Carpathian rivers.

Presentations included the design of the erodible river corridor at Raba River, establishing reference conditions for the restoration of mountain rivers at Czarny Dunajec River, and the development of vegetated islands at Bialka River.

The field trips and seminars helped develop contacts and promote the exchange of international best practice, particularly in the areas of sustainable land drainage and flood risk management.



Field seminar by Czarny Dunajec River. Photo by Auri Sarvilinna.

The ECRR and the Finnish Environment Institute are currently helping their Polish counterparts to establish a national river restoration network and further information will be available later this year.

For information about the event please contact Ms Maria Arola: Maria.Arola@ymparisto.fi

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