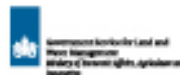


# Taking river restoration forward

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Restoring Europe's Rivers

# Status of river restoration in Europe



- Historically single site, single funder and single policy driven
  - Narrower range of benefits
  - Smaller scale of impact
- More recently increasing landscape scale approaches
  - Multiple benefits
  - Experiences biased to northern and western Europe

# EU Green Infrastructure Communication



- Sustainable growth in Europe
- Solutions for Climate Change and disaster risk reduction
- Natural capital
  - Water
  - Nature Conservation
- EU will
  - develop technical guidance and a strategy
  - Establish research priorities
  - Improve access to finance (EIB)

# EU Water Blueprint Communication

- Water retention zones
  - Mitigate pressure from land and water (flood protection) development
  - Reduce vulnerability to floods and droughts
- Environmental flows
  - Maintain and restore ecosystems and their service provision



- EU will
  - Develop natural water retention measures guidance by 2014
  - Develop ecological flows guidance by 2014
  - Promote implementation in RBMP planning cycle

# Challenges

- Scale, interconnectivity and interdependency
  - need for a minimum consistency
- Integration into policy areas
  - across policy areas (agriculture, aquaculture, energy, transport and disaster management)
- Consistent reliable data
  - Ecosystem data



- Improved knowledge base
  - Valuation
  - Understanding
  - Innovation
- Financial support

# Policy Drivers

**Updated River Basin Management Plans** in 2015 require an integrated approach across policy areas

**Flood risk management plans** to be adopted in 2015

**CAP reform:** Green Pillar I to support Natural Water Retention Measures through ecological focus areas.

**Other EU objectives** -water quality, Natura 2000, energy, transport, biodiversity...



# How to implement?

- Are these the best soft and hard policy drivers?
- What are the priority actions that can make a difference to their implementation? E.g.
  - Influence financing
  - Policy Integration
  - Knowledge development
  - Awareness raising

- What do we want to see? – Need a statement to work from. Use the EU biodiversity strategy figure?
- What are the key opportunities to bring RR into the mainstream
- What are the main challenges /barriers? [Summary from Jenny]
- What needs to happen to overcome them?
- How and by who?
- WFD Blueprint workplan – Natural Water Retention measures



# Overcoming barriers: scaling up

Limited size and scope most single sector objectives, e.g. for species or fisheries.

Smaller scale projects could be even more successful. River restoration needs to:

- Operate at a broader, landscape level
- Take into account and enable synergy between different EU Directives
- Pursue follow-up of good examples; too many places where sectoral approaches are still applied.
- EU LIFE and Interreg. have provided resources, but evaluations, lessons learnt and magnification mechanisms are inadequate.



Examples of EU funded restoration projects:

Count of ProjectName	Programme		Grand Total
	INTERREG	LIFE	
Global objective			
Flood management	20	1	21
Integrated River Basin Management	26	1	27
River & floodplain restoration	17	114	131
Water quality improvement	4	1	5
Species conservation and management	14	55	69
Grand Total	81	172	253

# Monitoring & Evaluation

Lack of evidence base that good ecological status/potential is being achieved.

How to measure multiple benefits achieved by river restoration?

Single measures outcomes – quality and quantity – are easier to measure.



- How to measure ecosystem services?
- How could effective targets be set at the RB level?
- What kinds of incentive approaches might be practical/ effective?
- What kinds of technical guidance are needed?

# Financing

- How to provide cost effective delivery of river restoration projects?
- River restoration mostly seen as 'nice to do' rather than required under many directives.
- Finance for green infrastructure development could come from a number of sources including Interreg, Regional Development Funds, agri-environment, etc.
- Rural development and agri-environment currently not delivering joined-up river and wetland restoration.
- How to make payments and funding 'smarter' in terms of ensuring that payment will help with river and floodplain restoration?
- Are there new solutions that reconcile environmental and economic interests?