Session 7 - How to enhance riparian and floodplain vegetation management by research, practice and policy?

Chair: PhD Emilio Politti, University of Trento
Gorazd Urbanic, urbanzeroinstitute
Session program

➢ Testimony from a river manager: River Dee, Improving Habitat for Juvenile Salmon (3 min video)
➢ Riparian vegetation, a key asset for Europe: main contributions of riparian vegetation to WFD and Green Deal objectives
➢ Hydrological ecosystem services of riparian forests in the City of Ljubljana
➢ Toward Innovative solutions to improve riparian vegetation management and integration in EU countries
➢ Open discussion and questions-PART 1: about issues and challenges related to riparian vegetation management
➢ Open discussion and questions-PART 2: about possible solutions to improve riparian vegetation management and integration in various frameworks (WFD, Green Deal, etc.)
➢ Conclusions and way forward
Session program

➢ Testimony from a river manager: River Dee, Improving Habitat for Juvenile Salmon (3 min video)
➢ Riparian vegetation, a key asset for Europe: main contributions of riparian vegetation to WFD and Green Deal objectives
➢ Hydrological ecosystem services of riparian forests in Ljubljana
➢ Toward Innovative solutions to improve riparian vegetation management and integration in EU countries
➢ Open discussion and questions-PART 1: about issues and challenges related to riparian vegetation management
➢ Open discussion and questions-PART 2: about possible solutions to improve riparian vegetation management and integration in various frameworks (WFD, Green Deal, etc.)
➢ Conclusions and way forward

Interactive! We’ll want to hear your voice :)

Speaker: Dr. Simon Dufour (et al.), University of Rennes 2
River Dee: improving Habitat for Juvenile Salmon on the River Gairn

➢ Dee District Salmon Fishery Board & River Dee Trust
➢ Habitat restoration for juvenile salmon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wbw4bbzc8KY&t=180s
Presentation 1

Riparian vegetation, a key asset for Europe: main contributions of riparian vegetation to WFD and Green Deal objectives

Dr. Simon Dufour, University of Rennes 2
Presentation 2

Hydrological ecosystem services of riparian forests in the City of Ljubljana

Dr. Urška Vilhar, Gozdarski inštitut Slovenije
Presentation 3

Toward Innovative solutions to improve riparian vegetation management and integration in EU countries

PhD Emilio Politti, University of Trento, department of Civil Mechanical & environmental engineering
Open discussion and questions-PART 1: Issues and challenges related to riparian vegetation management

- Questionnaire (5 mins)
- Discussion
Later we’ll need YOUR help to complete...

1. Identification of issues *(poll + discussion)*

2. **Ranking of issues by workshops participants** *(poll)*

3. Identification of possible solutions (related to issues)

4. Evidence in support to possible solutions

5. Prioritization of solutions by workshops participants *(poll)*
Poll, part 1: ranking the importance of riparian vegetation issues

➢ Google form online survey
➢ Accessible from computer and mobile
➢ Please answer now, it takes a few minutes
➢ Poll will remain open till the end of the week
➢ Wait before filling part 2

https://forms.gle/w45jYsCNcbYVhdCF8
One question to break the ice

➢ Do you see some issue missing?
Issues’ ranking by Converges members

- Riparian vegetation ecological services poorly considered in river status appraisal
- Strong influence of legislation ensuring the protection of the environment
- Riparian vegetation not explicitly mentioned nor required as WFD assessment criteria
- Riparian vegetation neglected by major river-related directives (flood directive, pesticides directive etc.)
- Riparian vegetation not recognized as a forest type on its own
- Inadequate knowledge transfer to assess management practices
- Riparian zones not recognized as composite (socio-ecological, multiple stressors etc.) dynamic systems
- Defined economical vs undefined ecological values ratings
- Difficult attribution of responsibility to damaging entity (i.e. multiple actors, delayed responses)
- Difficult delineation of riparian zone (e.g. temporal, site specific)
- Difficult forecast of bio-geomorphic spatio-temporal dynamics for planning/assessment of responses to pressures
- Restoration failure because of inadequate prioritization
- Lack of adaptive management and review of long term restoration results
- Lack of methods to value/recognize riparian zones
- Inadequate definition or classification
Open discussion and questions-PART 2:
Possible solutions to improve riparian vegetation

➢ Questionnaire (5 mins)

➢ Discussion
Later we’ll need YOUR help to complete...

1. Identification of issues *(poll + discussion)*

2. Ranking of issues by workshops participants *(poll)*

3. Identification of possible solutions *(related to issues)*

4. Evidence in support to possible solutions

5. **Prioritization of solutions by workshops participants**
Poll, part 2: ranking the importance solution for riparian vegetation issues

➢ Google form online survey

➢ Accessible from computer and mobile

➢ Please answer now, it takes a few minutes

➢ Poll will remain open till the end of the week

https://forms.gle/w45jYsCNcbYVhdCF8
(same link as before, just second part of questionnaire)
...and one more for conversion’s sake

Do you see something missing in the second part of the questionnaire?
Solutions’ ranking by Converges members

- Knowledge transfer with sharing practical examples
- Holistic research (economic, environmental, social)
- Interdisciplinary research (promotion of common definition across regions and disciplines)
- Restoration without gardening (i.e., process-based, rivers should do the work)
- Better knowledge of understudied systems
- Education updated with new knowledge about RV
- Advertising good practices - community awareness
- Integration of conservation of genetic diversity in riparian ecosystems
- Open source tools about RV (management, citizen science)
- Conceptual models stating pressure-impact-RV status
- Appropriate communication of challenges and solutions
- Common Agricultural Policy need to be in concordance of the RV protection
- Participation of all stakeholders in RV management
- Concrete pressures with defined objectives (e.g., 100000 km of conserved/rehabilitated riparian zones)
- Identifying the elements of the Legislative Framework
- Communicating funds for management measures
- Responsibility of RV management to managers - pressure with consequences
- Certification/accreditation of managers to support professional development
- Identifying the elements of the institutional/organisational framework
- Detection of bad behaviour and responsibility using satellite surveillance
- Promoting the updating of EU Directives concerning RV protection
- Development of the legislative fluvial corridor concepts encompassing not only flooding
- Required rules of rural and urban planning which assure the maintenance and conservation of RV
- Harmonised EU Directives’ implementations
- Monitoring of riparian zone quality should be mandatory
- Prevention of degradation should be promoted through legislation (e.g., incentives for positive behaviour, penalties for negatives)
- Case studies on degradation activities
- Improved financial support to research of RV
- Employment of scientists to communicate science
- Use of NGOs for translation of scientific language to policy