











Restoring Europe's Rivers

RESTORE Sector Event: Reporting

THEME

Sharing Good Practice

DATE

20th April 2012

LOCATION

Nottingham University

AUDIENCE

Practitioners

LIFE 09INF/UK/000032

The RESTORE project is made possible with the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community



and works in partnership with



Key Issues - impetus for the workshop

- While there are plentiful of manuals and guidance documents for river restoration, there is a lack of practical tools and resources which openly share and disseminate information on river restoration.
- Some of the issues that practitioners in different parts of Europe are facing are common to many other practitioners across Europe and there are currently few opportunities to share experiences.
- While river restoration is being increasingly considered as a measure to remediate degraded watercourses, there is a need for clearer guidance on how to undertake river restoration projects from start to finish given the complexity of biophysical and social factors that play a part.

Background

The workshop was included as part of the programme for the River Restoration Centre's 12th Annual Conference to ensure a captive and diverse audience of practitioners, and stakeholders from across Europe.

The overall aim was to provide a forum for discussion and for user interaction to showcase some of the tools and resources being developed through the RESTORE project, as well as to identify some of the common issues that river restoration practitioners are facing in relation to the RESTORE themes.

The value of the RESTORE project as a mechanism is to communicate information and guidance on river restoration. There were three distinct sessions which each provided a different focus.

- The **themes session** was a mixture of short presentations and more detailed discussion in breakout groups. Practitioners from the member states were asked to discuss what they would like to see on the website in relation to the RESTORE themes.
- The **wiki session** offered participants the opportunity to use the new database management and knowledge tool being developed through RESTORE.
- The 'how-to' session was an open forum to discuss what information is needed to be able to plan, design, construct and monitor river restoration projects.

Sessions

Session 1 Themes

RESTORE has a number of key themes which include;

- Hydropower;
- Spatial Planning;
- Economics;
- Habitat and Biodiversity;
- Land Use Management;
- Flood Risk Management;

Social Benefits.

For the Themes session there were two short presentations from Phillip Weller (*Executive Secretary International Commission for the protection of the Danube River*) and Jukka Jormola (*Finnish Environment Institute* (SYKE)). Phillip Weller's talk covers a number of themes including spatial planning, economics land use management and social benefits. Solutions to the difficulties of cross boarder working were described along with the multi-benefits of restoration work on the Danube which had been achieved. Jukka Jormola gave a talk on hydropower and how river restoration techniques had been applied in a number of case studies to improve fish passage through hydro schemes.

Aims

To present two best practice thematic case studies, which covered most of the RESTORE Themes and to discuss;

- · What information is currently available?
- Does this meet our needs?
- How do opportunities compare across Europe?
- What are the constraints and pitfalls?

To achieve this aim each group were given two possible themes to discuss. Having selected one of the themes they were then asked to give determine what information they would want to see on a website related to that theme. Each group had a different set of themes to ensure that all of them were covered.

Outcomes and Solutions

The workshop highlighted a number of issues that need to be addressed in a range of RESTORE documentation. It has helped to identify which documents/ media pages need to be updated and what information is required in order to address the issues.

- Currently there is a lack of best practice guidance. Solution: Production of the RESTORE Handbook
- Currently there are few case studies available for some themes: Solution: RESTORE wiki
- Lack of supporting information. Solution: RESTORE website will include links to information
 as the Biodiversity Toolkit; Rivers Trusts, Environment Agency's 'Working with Natural
 Processes to Manage Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk' guidance document; the 'Room for the
 River' programme in the Netherlands and the EU-funded (INTERREG IVB NWE) funded
 Adaptive Land use for Flood Alleviation (ALFA) project

Over the course of the RESTORE project, the continued development and implementation of these tools and resources will provide tangible solutions to many of the issues raised in the workshop. This will be evaluated by the RESTORE partnership. In the next section, more detail is provided under each theme regarding specific issues that were discussed in, and following the presentations.

Hvdropower

The delegates asked for a hydropower best practice guidance to cover such issues as:

- What are the different hydropower designs that are available and what type of river are they suitable in?
- What are the cost benefits of hydropower schemes?
- What is the local (Country) position on hydropower i.e. is it suitable, should it be encouraged
- What are the ecological and flow changes that should be considered with any hydropower scheme?
- Who are the key contacts and websites for advice in each country?

A literature review on hydropower will be carried out for the RSETORE project and will be posted on the RESTORE website. This will cover issues such as;

- What type of fish pass is appropriate for the different types of hydropower schemes?
- What are the likely impacts of hydropower schemes on river morphology and ecology?
- What impact do hydropower schemes have on sediment transport?

The hydropower section on the RESTORE website will also have a number of case studies which will be representative of different river types across Europe.

Additionally a sector site visit and workshop is planned for September 2012 which will include a visit to a hydropower scheme.

Spatial Planning

A link to the **Biodiversity Planning Toolkit** will be added to the website and any similar toolkits available in other EU countries. In addition a number of case studies from across Europe will be added to the website. Best practice guidance for each of the member countries will also be included on the website

Economics

Information on cost benefit analysis with respect to river restoration needs to be collated and included in the best practice guidance. In addition any scientific papers or MSc dissertations/PhD thesis will be collated as part of a literature review. This will assist in answering such questions as;

- What are the environmental obligations of river restoration?
- What are the cost benefits of river restoration?
- What are the funding source mechanisms?

Case studies will also provide information and guidance on the benefits for landowners and users and incentives to engage stakeholders.

Habitat and Biodiversity

For the Habitats and Biodiversity theme, the RESTORE website needs to link to information on organisations which are interested in aquatic habitats as well as those that are charged with protecting them such as the Environment Agency, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Rivers Agency and their counterparts across Europe. Case studies, a literature review and best practice guidance will also help to answer questions regarding habitat and biodiversity including:

How to find funding for projects and what attracts funding

- Where to find publications and information on habitat and biodiversity
- Definitions/glossary of key terms
- Guidance on how to prepare good funding bids

At the workshop people also asked for;

- A discussion forum
- Innovation section
- Tiered levels of information
- Lists of specific and appropriate habitat conditions
- Habitat requirements at different life stashes

Land Use Management

The RESTORE website will have links to the Rivers Trust site and in particular links to the Wetted Land: the Assessment, Techniques and Economics of Restoration (WATER) project and the Territories of Rivers Action Plans (TRAP) funded by INTERREG IVC programme together with nine other partners from Finland, Latvia, Ireland, Netherlands, Slovenia, Greece and Romania.

The RESTORE project will also have a number of case studies and best practice guidance notes. The sort of questions these links and notes will answer include;

- How do you persuade landowners to get involved?
- Where do you find information on land ownership?
- Where do you find landuse information?
- What incentives are there for landowners to get involved in river restoration?

Flood Risk Management

Natural flood risk management theme for RESTORE will have links to a number of Europe wide initiatives such as the Environment Agency's 'Working with Natural Processes to Manage Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk' guidance document; the 'Room for the River' programme in the Netherlands and the EU-funded (INTERREG IVB NWE) funded Adaptive Land use for Flood Alleviation (ALFA) project which aims to protect citizens in the North West Europe region against the effects of the risk of flooding due to climate change. These links along with case studies and the best practice guidance will answer a number of issues and questions related to flood risk management including;

- What standards are there for flood risk management?
- What are the benefits of flood risk management?
- What additional benefits can be gained from flood risk management schemes?
- What are the available options for flood risk management?
- Where to find relevant information such as gauged flows and LiDAR data?

There will also be a link to the Environment Agency's 'Multi-coloured Handbook' which relates to the economics of flood risk.

Social Benefits

For the social benefits part of the RESTORE web page there will be information on Best Practice Stakeholder Engagement. Links to angling societies across Europe also need to be included as well as

case studies which highlight the social benefits of river restoration (e.g. Mayes Brook) and Marine Conservation Zones on the JNCC website.

Table of Themes and Information Sources

What	Where	Economics	Hydropower	Flood Risk Management	Habitat and Biodiversity	Social Benefit	Spatial Planning	Land Use Management	
Casa Chudias	Best Practice Guidelines	✓	✓		·	✓	√		
Case Studies		•	•		•	*	•	· ·	
	Literature Review								
Costs	Best Practice Guidelines		✓	✓		√	✓		
	Case Studies								
Appropriate fish passes	Best Practice Guidelines		√						
Local guidelines	Best Practice Guidelines		√						
Literature and	Literature Review	√	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	✓	
publications									
Impacts on Aquatic	Best Practice Guidelines		✓	✓				✓	
Ecology and biodiversity	Literature Review								
Impacts on	Best Practice Guidelines		✓	✓				✓	
hydromorphology	Literature Review								
Legislation	Best Practice Guidelines		✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Literature Review								
Project Examples	Case Studies	√	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	√	
Cost benefits	Best Practice Guidelines	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	✓	
	Case Studies								
Stakeholder	Best Practice Guidelines		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Engagement	Case Studies								

What	Where	Economics	Hydropower	Flood Risk	Habitat and	Social	Spatial	Land Use
				Management	Biodiversity	Benefit	Planning	Management
Funding	Best Practice Guidelines Case Studies	✓	✓	✓	√	√	✓	√

Feedback

Comments from the participants in the Themes part of the RESTORE workshop wrote a range of comments on the feedback forms. These broadly into the following categories;

Usefulness of the Website

- Provide a useful reference tool
- I will be looking at the website soon
- I will use the website to find out more info on my themes
- I Will try and make more use of RESTORE website
- I will use the website to consider a 'Trent day' as part of developing the Trent Valley Way

Networking and Contacts

- The Danube case study, Iron Gate fish pass planning may lead to new contacts
- Better networking
- I can link in my little project with the overall Europe project i.e. every little helps
- I will encourage RESTORE to include suggested planning info pages, will promote it to Local Authorities

Source of information

- Good examples of integrated basin management, links between hydropower and habitat/water quality
- hydropower in river restoration is a new experience for me
- A good reference to seek out case studies
- I now know of more sources of info

Better Understanding of Best Practice River Restoration

- In my project overseeing role I will look more closely at monitoring
- I will think about widerthemes around river restoration, rather than just biodiversity impacts
- I will try to link/consider themes in projects that I deliver
- I will take more regard and broader view of need for community involvement
- I will consider a wider range of themes, this was quite an eye-opening and a useful session the diverse themes
- RESTORE will help inform project planning by encouraging greater breadth of project benefits

Session 2 Wiki tool

Aims

- Introduction to the purpose of the RESTORE wiki
- Demonstration of the wiki by the software developers SFW Ltd, with a guided tutorial for workshop delegates to follow
- Open forum for discussion/ encourage feedback on the wiki to identify possible issues prior to the subsequent launch on the RESTORE website

Outcomes and Solutions

basis.

The wiki session was well received and the audience were very interested in the resource. The key outcomes from the workshop identified a number of questions which may limit the impact that the wiki may have. Solutions to each of these are identified below.

- Only a few people currently know about the wiki's existence. How can the RESTORE partnership be confident that it will be used by practitioners and river project managers?
 Solutions: Identify a time once the wiki is 'live' to do a live webinar to inform more people about the resource. Demonstrate it at other RESTORE events, and to captive audiences.
 Promote the tool widely and through national and international mailing lists and websites.
- While the basis of the wiki where multiple users can add information to the resource was seen as a benefit of the tool by many, there were some concerns raised over what would happen if incorrect information was added.
 Solution: RESTORE Partnership and reviewers will verify and validate content added to the resource. Reviewers will check for any updates to the wiki on a minimum, two-weekly
- Data confidentiality may be an issue in cases where project information should be kept from the public. This was identified to be something that would limit the sharing of information. Solution: Users should not compromise themselves by uploading data or information that is private and confidential. The wiki is a public resource and users are therefore encouraged to upload as much appropriate information as possible. In cases where data cannot be shared, it may be more appropriate to upload a summary report of the findings as this will likely be of more interest to the prospective wiki audience.
- Access to the resource needs to be quick
 Solution: The wiki is easy to access through the RESTORE website. It can be accessed in two mouse clicks from the RESTORE web page, and users will be able to create a desktop shortcut to the wiki home page if they wanted to add it to their desktop for quick access.
- Need to make sure that projects aren't being double entered on the wiki and the RRC's UK
 inventory of projects for example.
 - Solution: Users will be able to view projects already on the wiki in a list-format and using a Google-Earth map so therefore the likelihood of project duplication is low. In instances

where a project is entered multiple times, this will be up to the RESTORE Partnership reviewers to identify. There is then scope to merge two separate project entries into one.

Update – October 2012. The wiki is live and as of 1st October 2012, there were 270 river restoration case studies from over 20 countries. It has been widely promoted at a number of other RESTORE events including a network event in the Czech Republic and at a sector workshop event in Scotland. http://www.restorerivers.eu/CasestudiesWIKI/tabid/2604/Default.aspx

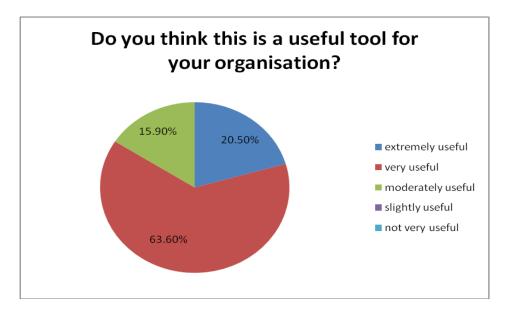
Feedback

Delegates were asked to complete a short SurveyMonkey.com online survey at the end of the wiki user session to provide feedback. Delegates were asked to answer five pre-determined questions.

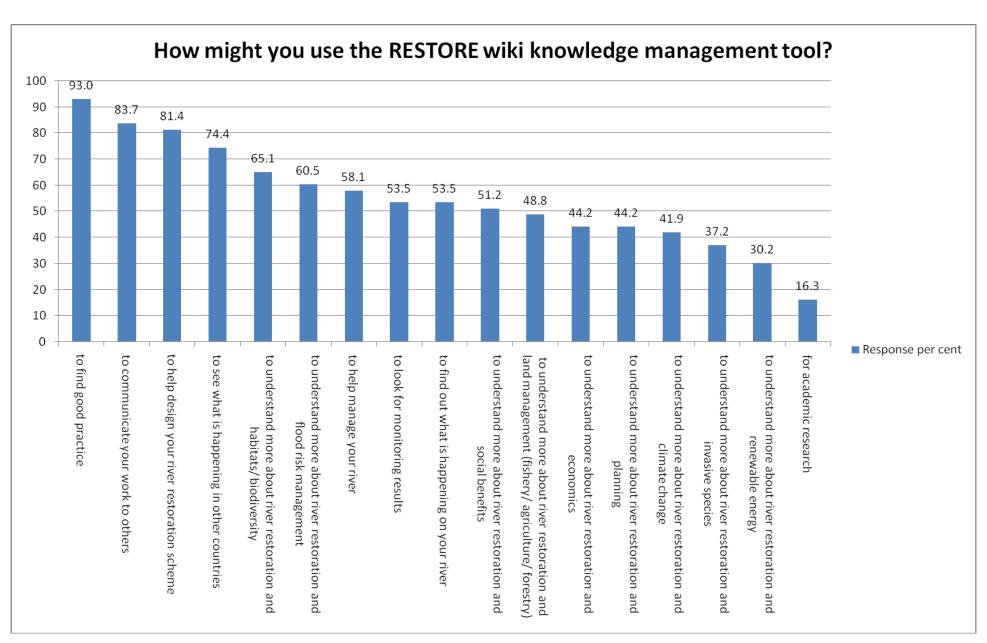
- 1. Do you think this is a useful tool for your organisation?
- 2. How might you use the RESTORE wiki knowledge management tool?
- 3. Do you think the case study data that is to be collected and collated is appropriate for your needs?
- 4. Does the use of the RESTORE wiki knowledge management tool justify uploading your information, or would you rely on others to fill in the information?
- 5. How likely are you to recommend the RESTORE wiki knowledge management tool to others?

Q1. 63.6% of delegates responded that they would find the tool to be 'very useful' for their organisation. A further 20.5% thought it would be 'extremely useful, and the remainder of people (15.9%) thought it to be a moderately useful tool. None of the delegates thought it would be 'slightly useful', or 'not very useful' which is very positive. Comments sighted that the resource would only be as good as the data entered but there was overwhelming support for the tool, given that delegates identified its great potential as:

- a resource in planning new projects;
- a tool to learn from others experiences;
- an inventory of case studies; and
- a resource to share information on river restoration more broadly.

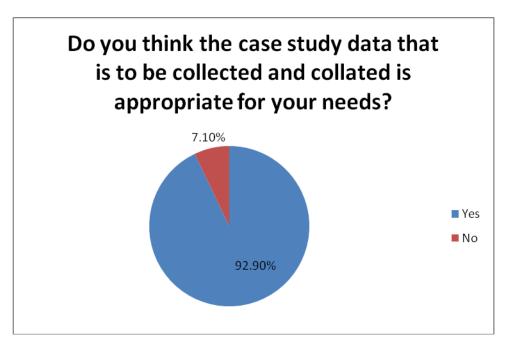


Q2. When asked how they might use the RESTORE wiki tool, the most popular response was to find examples of good practice (93%). Other top answers focused on sharing and communicating your project findings with others around Europe, and that was good to see given the aims of RESTORE. The key themes which delegates suggested they may learn most about were habitats/biodiversity (65%) and flood risk management in relation to river restoration approaches (61%). Others stated that they would find the wiki useful to look at the results of monitoring programmes (54%), and as a tool for academic research (16%).

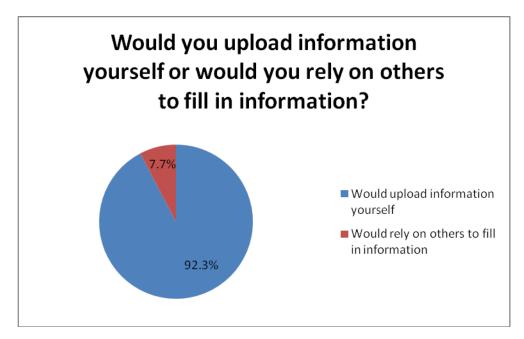


Q3. 93% of people thought that the case study fields would provide data appropriate to their needs.

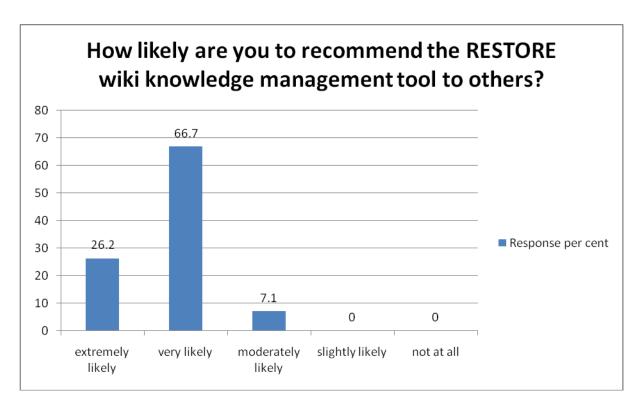
Additional comments suggested that some people were undecided, and that it may be too generic. Some suggested how to make the tool more useful, and several comments focused on the need for as much information on, firstly river restoration design and secondly approaches taken, as possible.



While the additional comments suggest that people realise that it could be time-consuming to enter detailed case studies, they appreciate that the value of the resource will be dependent on this and 92% thought they would be able to upload information themselves rather than relying on others.



Q4. Almost 67% of workshop delegates would 'very likely' recommend the wiki tool to others, and a further 26% would 'extremely likely' recommend it. The remaining 7% of delegates would also 'moderately likely' recommend it. None of the participants said that they would 'slightly likely' or 'not at all' recommend the tool which is very encouraging.



Workshop hard-copy feedback forms also asked a further three questions:

- 1. How will the workshop change your river restoration working practices?
- 2. What new knowledge have you gained from attending the workshop?
- 3. Should the outcomes of this workshop be included in policy?

The answers to these comments on the while were:

How will the workshop change your river restoration working practices?

- Raised awareness of tool
- Good source of case studies to refer to
- Will aid learning about river restoration best practice
- Will improve communication of projects (information sharing)
- A useful source of inspiration when designing projects

What new knowledge have you gained from attending the workshop?

- Where to find information
- Awareness of the tool's existence

Should the outcomes of this workshop be included in policy?

- Yes as a tool to help promote/ lobby about benefits of river restoration to various parties to influence policy implementation
- Yes to inform best practice (refer to data in manuals/ guidance documents)
- No (but maybe Yes later) should wait to see if the resource is used by people/ needs to have a good number of projects on there first

Session 3 How-to do river restoration

Aims

- To discuss what information is needed to be able to plan, design, construct and monitor river restoration projects.
- To inform what information needs to be included on the RESTORE website for this section.
- To understand from the workshop audience, what the most appropriate format this information should take to distinguish it from existing manuals and guidance documents/ tools already available.

Outcomes and Solutions

The 'how to' session demonstrated there is a need for more information on the river restoration process. The key outcomes from the workshop and solutions where required are identified below.

The group responses will inform the content and structure of the 'How to do' river restoration part of the RESTORE website, and the chapter in the RESTORE handbook. Information was collated under the following five headers:

- 1. Why restore? (How to justify river restoration to stakeholders, funders and drivers)
- 2. Setting up your project (Biophysical and social factors to consider)
- 3. Designing and monitoring river restoration (Objective setting, translating concepts into designs, pre-project considerations and common pitfalls, and how to monitor schemes)
- 4. Constructing river restoration (translating design into practice, on-site considerations and materials/techniques)
- 5. Communicating and disseminating river restoration (how to publicise your project, best practice examples).

People would like information on the process required to set up, manage and complete a restoration project. This includes specific aspects to consider, how to monitor the success of your project and examples of issues that others have had, and solutions that others have implemented to overcome these.

Solutions:

The RESTORE wiki will be populated with case studies from across Europe. These will provide examples of successful projects, and the process that was undertaken to help inform others of best practice and how challenges were overcome.

The RESTORE website will have a 'how-to' river restoration page which will provide a clear framework as to the key generic elements of any river restoration project. The resource will act as a 'signpost' to information that will be of interest to a European-wide audience. It will link to other parts of the RESTORE website (wiki tool, themes and publications) where possible to make use of the information already on the site.

The RESTORE handbook will introduce each aspect in more detail. Clear visual aids and illustrations will be a key focus of the handbook to ensure that river restoration can be understood by a wide range of practitioners and others interested in finding out more.

Feedback

The response from the groups to this part of the workshop was excellent. Participants were asked to work in a group to discuss the process of river restoration from project inception to post-project appraisal. Participants were asked to work with people that they didn't necessarily know to try and encourage responses from the group that represented a range of organisations/ interest groups. Responses were typed up and these will help inform a new part of the RESTORE website which will deliver European-wide guidance/ information.

Workshop hard-copy feedback forms also asked a further three questions, although answers often related to the wiki tool specifically rather than the 'how-to' aspect:

- 1. How will the workshop change your river restoration working practices?
- 2. What new knowledge have you gained from attending the workshop?
- 3. Should the outcomes of this workshop be included in policy?

How will the workshop change your river restoration working practices?

• Will use this to research issues and solutions from elsewhere

What new knowledge have you gained from attending the workshop?

• Understanding of wider EU context & range of project experiences

Should the outcomes of this workshop be included in policy?

• Yes – where possible or to inform best practice. People should be directed to this resource.

Other feedback (general)

• Great to discuss shared issues - informative session with great opportunity to network

Three further questions were also asked on the feedback forms:

- Have you gained new contacts, and how will you find them useful?
- Are you willing to disseminate information, how will you do it and to what type of organisation?
- Are there other themes/topics you would like to see presented at RESTORE events?

A majority of workshop participants gained on average between 2-5 contacts, and on the whole they were keen to disseminate what information they had taken on board to colleagues; relevant groups they were members of; and existing contacts that they have in the field who were unable to attend. The following themes/topics were suggested for future RESTORE events:

- Ecosystem services
- Groundwater interactions with river restoration schemes
- Social engagement and citizen science
- Catchment-scale successes in the UK (impact of cumulative projects)
- Common pitfalls/ examples of projects that went wrong and why
- Hydropower
- A 'how-to-do' river restoration workshop
- European-wide approaches and innovations

Attending Session A (Wiki tool demonstration) first

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Matthew Johnson Arup

Attending Session B (Best Practice Workshop) first

Forename	Surname	Organisation	Forename	Surname	Organisation
Rosie	Adams	Environment Agency	Tim	Longstaff	Wandle Trust
Frances	Attwood	Environment Agency	Alex	Lumsdon	Environment Agency
Judith	Bankhead	Rivers Agency	Peter	Lynch	DCAL Inland Fisheries N Ireland
Steve	Betts	Baker Shepherd Gillespie LLP	Ben	Martin	Environment Agency
Sieve	Della	Wessex Water Services	Dominic	Martyn	Environment Agency
Fiona	Bowles	Ltd	Jon	Maskell	Environment Agency
Stephen	Brooks	Natural History Museum	Shona	McConnell	SEPA
Lydia	Burgess- Gamble	Environment Agency	Cormac	Meenehan	Environment Agency
David	Carden	Black & Veatch	Jon	Milliken	WLW Ltd
Andy	Chalmers	Arup	Neil	Monaghan	River Nene Regional Park Community Interest Company
Robin	Chase	Atkins	14011	Worldgridir	Community interest Company
Robert	Clapham	River Restoration Centre	Roland	Moore	DEFRA
Chris	Cookel	Thames Rivers	Mike	Morris	Severn Rivers Trust
Chris	Cockel	Restoration Trust	lan	Morrissey	Atkins
Chris	Coode	Thames21	Louise	Parker	Environment Agency
Tom	Cook	Environment Agency	Andrew	Pepper	ATPEC Ltd
Simon	Curson	Natural England	Tim	Pickering	Environment Agency
Granville	Davies .	Royal Haskoning	Lynn	Puttock	Terraqua Environmental Solutions
lan	Dennis	Royal Haskoning	-		URS Infrastructure & Environment
Bjorn Otto	Donnum	E-CO Energy AS	Victoria	Raiment	UK Ltd
Lesley	Dunne	Halcrow Group Ltd	Lisa	Roberts	Environment Agency
Judy	England	Environment Agency	Dave	Sanderson	Environment Agency
Simon	Evans	Wye & Usk Foundation	Auri	Sarvilinna	Finnish environment Institute SYKE
Mark	Everard	Environment Agency	Lucy	Shuker	Queen Mary, University of London
Clare	Fitzgibbon -	Natural England	Ann	Skinner	Environment Agency
Anna	Fraser	Environment Agency Fisheries Directorate,	Emma	Smith	Halcrow Group Ltd
Karen	Galtress	DEFA	Steve	Smith	Environment Agency
Anne-Marie	Germaine	Universite Paris Ouest Nanterre La Defense	Adrian	Southern	RSPB
	Gifford		Katey	Stephen	Natural England
Jinti Andu	Gill	Natural England Cranfield University	Jenny	Thomas	Natural England
Andy Alison	Graham-Smith	•	Murray	Thompson	Natural History Museum
Gareth	Granam-Smith Greer	Natural England	Sarah	Toogood	Halcrow Group Ltd
		Rivers Agency	Oliver	Tucker	Keystone Environmental Ltd
Sarah	Guest	Environment Agency Penny Anderson	Rogier	Vogelij	Dienst Landelijik Gebied
Gerrard	Hawley	Associates	Geraldene	Wharton	Queen Mary, University of London
Michael	Heath	Thames21	Simon	Whitton	Environment Agency
George	Heritage	JBA Consulting	Daniel	Widdowson	Environment Agency
David	Hicks	Spelthorne Borough Council	Kevin	Wood	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Sadie	Hobson	Natural England	Sarah	Woodcock	East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust
James	Hooker	Environment Agency	Julie	Wozniczka	On Trent & Central Rivers Initiative
Jayne	Hornsby	Land & Water			
Kye	Jerrom	Environment Agency			
James	king	Inland Fisheries Ireland			

		Universite Caen	
Laurent	Lespez	Basse-Normandie	

Dissemination of Event Outcomes

Presentations from the event from Philip Weller (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River) and Jukka Jormola from the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) in the themes session; and from Andy Lawn and Pete Jeans (SFW Ltd) in the wiki database management session are available online.

Outputs were emailed to all attendees of the workshop. Comments were invited and a request made to inform the RESTORE partnership of other people that would be interested in receiving these outputs.

If you have further questions or are interested in the outputs described for this event please contact either the:

RESTORE project manager Toni Scarr

antonia.scarr@environment-agency.gov.uk

West region RESTORE lead organisation, the River Restoration Centre (UK)

rrc@therrc.co.uk



Photograph from the themes workshop during one of the presentations



Users testing the wiki database management tool in the computer room



Groups discussing some of the elements focused on in the 'How-to' session