

Restoring Europe's Rivers

RESTORE Events: Reporting

THEME

Restoring Europe's rivers in the context of wider water management objectives

DATE

22nd February 2012

LOCATION

World Trade Centre, Lille, France

AUDIENCE

Policy Makers

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



1. Key issues identified

- Better clarification needed about what the term river restoration constitutes and how it would be beneficial within the water industry
- What templates are used for river restoration, and how do we impart that information.
- There is a need for better economic and social assessment of river restoration: of interest to the water industry as a whole.
- Need to demonstrate the benefits of river restoration at a catchment scale rather than small scale projects.
- How can we encourage people to share information about projects?

2. Background

This workshop was designed to reach a wider audience of water managers and policy makers and highlight the need to consider the benefits of river restoration in the context of catchment-wide watercourse and riparian management. The aim of the workshop was to provide a discussion forum about how this wider water management industry perceives river restoration. The workshop highlighted some of the tools that RESTORE is developing with the intention of ascertaining how these might be of value to the delegates present. The value of the RESTORE project as a mechanism to communicate information and guidance on river restoration and its benefit especially within the context of delivering 2nd and 3rd cycles of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) was outlined.

The PowerPoint presentations associated with this workshop can be found at: http://www.therrc.co.uk/rrc_restore.php

The workshop was incorporated into a 2 day CIWEM conference with the specific view of ensuring that we had the opportunity to engage with an audience that would not necessarily consider river restoration as their main area of work. This had significant benefits for RESTORE in terms of capturing this audience.

3. Findings

3.1 Clarification of the term river restoration for water managers

The workshop highlighted that there is still a lack of understanding about what exactly constitutes river restoration and how it might be beneficial for a wide range of water managers. For example, how might it be beneficial in improving river quality, in situations where water is abstracted, through to situations where flood risk is the overriding concern. It was raised that there were sometimes conflicting messages about river restoration and some definitive information and examples would be helpful.

Follow-up action: Use the RESTORE website to explain how river restoration can be useful to range of water management scenarios. Also need to review how ecosystem services may offer a useful methodology to integrate wider water management especially since water companies are making use of this framework. RESTORE to write a newsletter articles to reflect these issues. RESTORE to ascertain the best people to contribute and ensure this information is disseminated.

RESTORE to follow up on this workshop to ensure that we increase our audience-base for the website. RESTORE to collate contacts as a result of this workshop by liaising with CIWEM.

3.2 Imparting information and templates for river restoration

One question at the workshop was what markers should be used when planning river restoration activities in order to meet the environmental challenges such as dealing with extreme flood and drought events and how to build in climate change resilience into river restoration, since this, it was felt, is not always sufficiently recognised.

Feedback from the workshop suggested that any handbook of examples this should feature key best practice river restoration examples and ensure that these projects make the link with wider river management. These examples need to be clear in their messages and not too overcrowded with information (links to further information preferred). There needs to be an explanation about why individual projects are appropriate for the specific situation and clearly linked to specific river restoration objectives.

Follow-up action: RESTORE is developing a detailed wiki-database knowledge management tool for projects across Europe. Case studies will be collated for a handbook from this database. These case studies need to have clearly defined objectives. RESTORE should explore the issue of climate change and how this might affect river restoration options in the future.

3.3 Economic and social valuation

There was a very clear steer from the workshop that more information was required about the social and economic value of the inclusion of river restoration within the water industry. The ecosystem services approach provides a framework to consider in this context.

Follow-up action: RESTORE will collate any economic/ecosystem guidance that is relevant to assessing river restoration schemes around Europe and links will be included on the RESTORE website. RESTORE to forward the idea of how to develop a framework to evaluate social and economic evaluation.

3.4 Catchment scale planning and implementation

New policies and strategies are beginning to frame river restoration activities at the catchment scale, rather than at the reach-scale. Planning at this scale encourages a more strategic overview and provides an opportunity to link more closely with wider catchment management (including for example, catchment-wide diffuse pollution and chemical-based issues).

Follow-up action: RESTORE will include information on good examples in the handbook. RESTORE will also provide information on the English catchment pilots and Scottish walkover assessments, and learn from lessons abroad in planning and implementing catchment-scale river restoration. There is a RESTORE workshop on planning in the Netherland at the beginning of March. The outputs from this workshop will be available on the RESTORE website.

3.5 Encourage data sharing

In some countries (outside the EU) there are incentives to encourage local communities to engage in river projects through award schemes. Currently, there is no equivalent motivation to promote knowledge share of data and lessons learnt from projects.

Follow-up action: RESTORE in partnership with the International River Foundation will look to launch an annual award for the best restoration project. This should encourage information to be shared and lead to improved communication and dissemination of best-practice case studies.

4. Attendance

36 people attended the RESTORE workshop with representatives from six of the eight RESTORE west region countries.

Participants had varying backgrounds and experience in river restoration. Everyone had different ideas about policy needs and linkages to on the ground delivery but it was a very useful session in gauging different perspectives on river restoration in a variety of water management sectors.

First Name	Surname	Organisation	Country
David	Balmforth	MWH	UK
Jenny	Bashford	NFU	UK
Bruce	Blaine	Peter Brett Associates LLP	UK
Bea	Buyle	Procter and Gamble	Belgium
Charlene	Carayol	Northumbrian Water	UK
Richard	Dannatt	Intertek METOC	UK
Geoff	Darch	ATKINS	UK
Celia	de Lavergne	ASTEER	France
Ilke	Dieltjens	Flemish Environment Agency	Belgium
Tom	Doyle	WRc Plc	UK
Tim	du Feu	Environment Department, States of Jersey	Jersey
Ian	Dudding	Capita Symonds Limited	UK/France
Nick	Elbourne	RESTORE Partnership/River Restoration Centre	UK
Matthew	Elliott	WYG ENGINEERING LTD	UK
Ronnie	Falconer	Jacobs	UK
Elsa	Favrot	GDF Suez, Environment and Climate Strategy and Sustainable Development Division	Belgium
Bastian	Fischer	Oracle Utilities Global Business Unit	France
Jaap	Flikweert	Royal Haskoning	UK
Sarah	France	WRc Plc	UK
Tom	Freyberg	Wwi Magazine	UK

Peter	Gammeltoft	DG ENV. D1 - European Commission	Brussels
Nigel	Goodman	CH2M Hill	UK
Lauren	Goozee	CIWEM	UK
Laura	Grant	CIWEM	UK
Randolf	Hager	SAP AG	Germany
Andrew	Heather	Mott MacDonald	UK
Paul	Horton	CIWEM	UK
Mark	Howorth	WPL Ltd	UK
Anisoara	Irimescu	National Meteorological Administration Romania	Romania
Eilard	Jacobs	Waternet	The Netherlands
Hideyuki	Kanemitsu	Fujitsu	Belgium
Dawn	Keating	CDM	Ireland
Solène	Le Fur	ASTEE	France
Henry	Leveson-Gower	Defra	UK
Jenny	Mant	RESTORE Partnership/River Restoration Centre	UK
Peter	Melville-Shreeve	Pell Frischmann	UK

5. Support for Restoration Practices

There needs to be better understanding of the means by which different water sectors can become involved in river restoration practices. Greater awareness of tools to aid decision-making and the presentation of best practice case studies would help to incorporate river restoration activities in existing water policy to support the delivery of sustainable water management outcomes. Future actions that the RESTORE projects can help to deliver have been identified.

6. Building on Network Capacity

Feedback forms identified that there is a lack of knowledge shared between countries, many of which are addressing similar issues with river systems. There was a general view that we all tend to

be country-centric in terms of how we deliver river restoration practices, and water management policy is fairly sector specific. This workshop provided an opportunity for all participants to learn from what was being done elsewhere. The RESTORE project will be able to consolidate this information and where applicable, will ensure that new information is updated on the project's website, wiki-database and with the case study handbook for all to access.

By connecting the RESTORE workshop to a water management conference enabled new contacts to be made. As a result there was a series of elements to follow up. Of most significance these include the following:

- Follow up the work that is being completed in Ireland to identify who stakeholders are being encouraged to engage in the WFD process.
- Follow up contacts with NFU in the context of CAP reforms and river restoration.
- Collect more information on what the Flemish Environment Agency is carrying out as part of its Scaldwin project.
- Evaluate how we can link more closely with flood risk management and town planners.

7. Promoting Effective Knowledge Transfer

The workshop centred on short presentations with time set aside for thematic discussion in each case following each speaker. The approach to open-up discussion to the floor work effectively as some of the topics of debate raised by the audience needed to be discussed in more detail. Some needed Q&A interaction between the RESTORE facilitators and participants and the output of this was clarity in respect to what could be done moving forward. All debates and in particular the actions associated with each item, will ensure that knowledge will now be transferred to a wider audience through RESTORE dissemination methods. Some of the key elements will also be picked up again in future RESTORE workshops across Europe.

8. Dissemination of Event Outcomes

Outputs were emailed to all attendees of the workshop. Comments were invited and a request made for other people that would be interested in receiving outputs made. If you have further questions or are interested in the outputs described for this event please contact either the:

RESTORE project manager Antonia Scarr

antonia.scarr@environment-agency.gov.uk

River Restoration Centre

rrc@therrc.co.uk

9. Workshop photographs

