

Restoring Europe's Rivers

RESTORE Events: Reporting proforma

Event Name

4th Nordic WFD Conference and Workshop

Event Date

28.-30 September 2011

LIFE 09INF/UK/000032

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Event Details

28.-30.9.2011

Hurdal, Norway

4th Nordic WFD Conference and Workshop. Working Group 1 - Heavily Modified Water Bodies and hydropower. The conference and workshop was the first engagement event of the North Region.

Key Issues from Event

Key issues in the Conference were harmonisation and realization of WFD and River Basin Management Plans in Nordic countries. Discussion, sharing tools and approaches to best fulfil the requirement of WFD. In WG 1 the key issue was to present cases, change the ideas and discuss how the issues between HMWBs and hydropower are dealt with in different Nordic countries.

In terms of RESTORE, our key issues were:

- to introduce the RESTORE project with the Nordic water managers
- to use the network opportunity provided by the conference
- to promote the RESTORE products, such as www-pages, wiki-database and contacts database for tools in implementation of water management plans
- to discuss about the key RESTORE key themes in the North region: common interests in the implementation of water management plans, water power production, its challenges to the river restoration and how to insure the continuity of the rivers in the North

Key Outcomes

The main focus of the Nordic WFD conference was harmonization and cooperation on the implementation of the Water Directive in the Nordic countries. It was concluded that the benefits of sharing experience is valuable, and that there may be a significant mutual gain of collaboration on the development of management tools and sharing reference monitoring network. There will also be useful to have closer cooperation and common positions between the Nordic countries in the European WFD work.

Key outcomes for RESTORE:

WG 1 was concentrating for HMWB's and hydro power. These themes are identified among the most important problems for river restoration in RESTORE's North Region. The key outcomes from the RESTORE point of view were:

- environmentally friendly fish passes are more preferable than technical ones and should be built when possible

- the fish passes should also work as habitats to compensate the loss of the original habitat
- further research and development is needed about the optimal structure for different species

Attendance

There were 98 persons from 47 different organisations and seven different countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Austria and Scotland) attending.

The sectors represented were: policy makers and water managers (ministries and environmental-, fisheries- and energy administration), hydropower companies, universities and research institutes and consultants.

Support for restoration Practices

Event supported European RR practices well, as river restoration is one of the main elements of bringing Water Basin Management Plans into practise. Also as hydro power has a great impact in European rivers, the workshop supported well RESTORES goals about combining hydropower production and the ecological and morphological improvement of rivers affected by hydropower. The possibilities of nature-like fishpasses, and mitigation, compensation and restoration of habitats in constructed rives, were present in many case studies and they were discussed in detail.

Building on Network Capacity

The event provided and excellent opportunity for RR network building, especially in the RESTORE North Region. The participants represented most of the member countries and most of our target groups. The atmosphere was very fruitful for meeting people and discussing the different issues in RR as well as introducing and promoting RESTORE-project to them.

Promoting effective Knowledge Transfer

Especially the workshop was very effective for knowledge transfer about topics relevant to RESTORE. Presentations, discussion and working in smaller groups provided and excellent overview from the Nordic countries, as well as Austria and Scotland, about the problems faced and solutions developed in rivers affected by hydropower. SYKEs presentation "Mitigation, compensation and restoration of habitats in constructed rivers – nature like bypasses" provided RESTORE a chance to demonstrate how the goals of WFD and river restoration/RESTORE fulfill each other.

Dissemination of Event Outcomes

A summary of the achievements of the conference and workshop will be found from the webpages of Norwegian Water Portal www.vannportalen.no/english.

The portal also contains the presentations held in the conference and workshops <http://www.vannportalen.no/ferdigakt.aspx?m=42793&amid=3536072>. RESTORE main target audience will be informed about the event via RESTORE North Region webpages.

Follow Up

The follow up will be done via personal contacts and RESTORE web pages and newsletter.