



European Centre for River Restoration
Secretariat:
Italian Centre for River Restoration
Viale Garibaldi 44/A
30173 Mestre – Venice, ITALY



European Centre for River Restoration

NEWSLETTER – April 2008

Editor: Francesco Pra Levis

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4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RIVER RESTORATION, 16-21 JUNE 2008, Venice-San Servolo Island, Italy



The 4th ECRR conference is approaching and the ECRR website has been updated with many interesting news. Since some weeks the programme and many other documents are available at the page <http://www.ecrr.org/conf08/programme.htm>.

In the next pages we briefly report the most interesting information (please check the website to download the related documentation).

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Frank ALBERT

Rijkswaterstaat Centre for Water Management (The Netherlands)

Date: Wednesday 18 June

Title: Room for the River: The story of a multiple-goal and multiple-actor planning process

Walter BINDER

Bayerisches Landesamt für Wasserwirtschaft (Germany)

Date: Thursday 19 June

Title: River restoration: a european overview on urban rivers



Dietrich BORCHARDT

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ (Germany)

Date: Wednesday 18 June

Title: River restoration and EU environmental objectives

Stuart E. BUNN

Director, Australian Rivers Institute Griffith University (Australia)

Date: Thursday 19 June

Title: Linking science, monitoring and management to improve the health of waterways in South East Queensland, Australia

Gordon GRANT

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station (USA)

Date: Monday 16 June

Title: New science and management challenges in river restoration: dam removal, gravel augmentation, and climate change

Stan GREGORY

Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (USA)

Date: Wednesday 18 June

Title: River Restoration: Erecting Monuments to Our Good Intentions or Restoring Dynamic Riverine Processes in a Changing World

Bruno MERZ

GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam (GERMANY)

Date: Monday 16 June

Title: Flood risk in a changing world

Timothy MOSS

IRS Institut für Regionalentwicklung und Strukturplanung (Germany)

Date: Tuesday 17 June

Title: Decision making for river and floodplain restoration: Coping with complexity

Margaret PALMER

University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (USA)

Date: Tuesday 17 June

Title: Stream Restoration as a Collaborative Activity with Nature

Hervé PIEGAY

Université de Lyon III (France)

Date: Tuesday 17 June

Title: Geomorphic contribution to river restoration planning and monitoring in the hydrographic district of the Rhône : challenging issues

Fred PEARCE

Freelance scientific journalist and author (UK)

Date: Monday 16 June

Title: River management and water supply in a changing climate



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Klement TOCKNER

Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) Berlin (Germany)

Date: Thursday 19 June

Title: The Status of European catchments, and setting priorities for restoration

Maciej ZALEWSKI

University of Lodz Center for ecological studies (Poland)

Date: Thursday 19 June

Title: Ecohydrology as trans-disciplinary tool for river restoration

THEMATIC SESSIONS

Biodiversity and restoration of hydromorphological processes

Chairpersons: B. Gumiero & L. Globevnik

Basin Scale Restoration for fisheries rehabilitation: planning and monitoring

Chairpersons: G. Marmulla, P. Roni

River Restoration and EU Directives

Chairpersons: T. M. Iversen, G. Neveu

Flood Risk and River Restoration

Chairpersons: H. Nijland, U. Menke

Restoration and management of physical processes and sediments

Chairpersons: M. Rinaldi, G. Grant, M. Kondolf, P. Downs, H. Piegay

Evaluating and monitoring success in River Restoration plans/projects

Chairperson: M. Janes

Key issues and challenges in Decision Making Processes to implement River Restoration

Chairperson: A. Nardini

Ecohydrology:

A- Water quality

Chairperson: P. Bakony

B- Environmental flow/hydropower

Chairpersons: B. Maiolini & G. Zolezzi

C- Linking hydrology, geomorphology and ecology

Chairpersons: A. Gurnell, W. Bertoldi

Urban rivers

Chairpersons: J. Jormola

Large dams and River Restoration

Chairpersons: D. G. De Jalón



WORKSHOPS

In the afternoon of the 2nd and 3rd day (17-18 June 2008) workshops will be organized in order to foster the discussion on specific themes. Some of them will have a limited number of participants and an earlier registration will be required.

Tuesday 17 June

WS 4: Assessment of river ecological status: shadows and lights of the WFD

Organized by CIRF (IT)

Leader Bruno Boz

Co-leaders Simone Bizzi, Ileana Schipani

WS 5: Challenges to stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes in river restoration in Europe

Organized by Wetland International

Leader Chirs Baker

Co-leaders Vasily Kostushyn, Gennadiy Marushevsky

WS 8: Ecohydrology: environmental flow and hydropower impacts

Organized by MTSN (IT) – SYKE (FI) – EAWAG (SUI)

Leader Bruno Maiolini

Co-leaders Jukka Jormola, Chris Robinson, Walter Binder



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WS 9: Transboundary cooperation for the Integrated Management of Natural River Corridors in SEE

Organized by UNESCO
Leader Philippe Pypaert

WS 11: Database of River Restoration project

Organized by ECRR - RRC (UK)
Leader Francesco Pra Levis
Co-leaders Martin Janes - Bruna Gumiero

WS 12: Reference River Ecosystems: Historical States, Best Ecological Potential and Management challenges

Organized by BERKLEY UNIV.(USA) – TRENTO UNIV. (IT)
Leaders G. Mathias Kondolf and Guido Zolezzi
Co-leaders Hervé Piegay - Pete Downs - Angela Gurnell - Nicola Surian

Wednesday 18 June

WS 1: Basin Scale Restoration for fisheries rehabilitation: planning and monitoring

Organized by FAO (FIRI) - NOAA (USA)
Leader Phil Roni
Co-leaders Gerd Marmulla

WS 2: River restoration: a measure to deliver EU Directives objectives?

Organized by ECRR - INBO - WWF(Italy)
Leader Bart Fokkens
Co-leaders Gilles Neveu – Nicoletta Toniutti

WS 3: How much sediment is needed for a well functioning river system?

Organized by SEDNET
Leader Sue White
Co-leaders Adrian Collins, ADAS, Peter Nachtnebel, BOKU, Vienna

WS 6: Flood Alleviation Measures and River Restoration – A good and effective duo?

Organized by RWS (NL) - WWF (IT)- UPM (ES) – CIRF (IT)- VITUKI (HR)
Leader Ute Menke
Co-leaders Paolo Negri, Diego García de Jalón, Andrea Goltara, Henk Nijland, Petér Bakonyi

WS 7: Evaluating/monitoring success in RR projects

Organized by CIRF (IT)- EAWAG (SW)
Leader Jenny Mant
Co-leaders Peter Armin

WS 10: Recreational use of watercourses: how to characterize it in order to support participatory decision processes?

Organized by CIRF (IT)
Leader Giancarlo Gusmaroli
Co-leaders Alessandra Melucci



FIELD TRIP

One excursion (included in the participation fee) to some river restoration sites around Venice and Mestre will be made on the first day of the conference (16 June 2008).
An optional post-conference field trip to **Tagliamento** (Italy) and **Drava** (Austria) is foreseen on the days 20-21 June 2008.

To see the maps and to download the documentation, please visit:

<http://www.ecrr.org/conf08/fieldtr.htm>.

PAPERS&POSTER INSTRUCTIONS

All the information and instructions for the papers are contained in the file [ECRR Call for papers \(PDF\)](#). The example format to be followed is the WORD file [Format ECRR proceedings](#). Just cancel the text and re-write using the same layout.

Posters will be displayed from the 16th to the 19th June 2008.

The size of panels is: **185 cm height (from the floor) x 90 cm width**.

Therefore, we suggest to present a poster of 120cm x 90cm size for a better exposure.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “ECOHYDROLOGICAL PROCESSES AND SUSTAINABLE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT” – OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCEPTS FOR WATER HAZARD MITIGATION, AND ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY. 19-23 MAY 2008, Lodz, Poland.

Classic hydro-technical solutions for flood management are focused on runoff acceleration through river regulation combined with water retention in reservoirs. Those hydro-technical solutions during the era of progressing urbanization, deforestation and climatic changes modify the process of infiltration, ground water recharge, biodiversity and biological productivity. Extreme peak flows also enhance transfer of non-point nutrients and pollutants downstream to the catchment by reducing deposition, self-purification and especially biological transformation. The ecohydrology management concept provides an integrative solution framework based on the use of ecosystem properties as management tool.

Floodplain ecosystems, due to their high adaptive capacities, offer great potential to modify hydrological conditions at a watershed or basins scale. Simultaneously they provide resources in a sustainable way (food or bioenergy, fisheries, landscape aesthetics, recreation space) and enhance robustness and the absorbing capacity of the whole river basin. Moreover floodplains are usually one of the most important refuge areas for both water and terrestrial biodiversity, and they improve ecological health and resilience in the river ecosystems and adjacent grounds.

The management of floodplains according to the applied ecohydrology approach should address three major dimensions:

- hazard elimination (based mostly on hydrological expertise);
- water purification (based mostly on ecohydrological expertise);
- biodiversity conservation (based mostly on ecological, ecohydrological and hydrological expertise).

All these problems are unique within each continent, so comparative analysis will be crucial for accelerating progress towards Millennium Development Goals.

ORGANISERS

- European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology under the auspices of UNESCO Polish Academy of Sciences, Lodz, Poland
- Department of Applied Ecology University of Lodz, Poland
- International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management under the auspices of UNESCO. Tsukuba, Japan
- Institute for Water Resources U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USA
- World Meteorological Organisation Suisse
- European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission EIFAC FAO

This conference will bring specialists from various disciplines, contributing to perceiving floodplains as an integrative element of strategies to manage water-related disaster risks and enhance opportunities for sustainable management

AGENDA

Conference sessions will be organized around regional perspectives (Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North and South America). Their aim is to present a range of contrasting philosophies and associated practical approaches appropriate for different parts of the world in relation to the Millennium Development Goals.

Ecohydrology should be a framework for review of recent state of the art in floodplain research, identification of gaps in knowledge and identifying perspectives for new solutions.



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The lectures presented have to reflect different scales of problem solving - ranging from large scale systems (e.g. the Aral Sea, the Danube River basin, the Florida Everglades, the Great Lakes, etc.) to small ones (eg. single watersheds and streams).

GOALS

The basic themes and goals of the Conference are to address the following issues:

What properties of floodplains should be or can be enhanced to alleviate or mitigate flood and drought-related hazards?

What are the existing accepted international, national and scientific rules, regulations and procedures which provide the legal and conceptual bases for ecohydrological management of floodplains and watersheds?

What specific ecohydrological evaluation and management tools are available to achieve the hazard mitigation goals without conflicting with more general ecological sustainability objectives (biodiversity, naturalness, connectivity, sustainable fisheries)?

What are the range of ecosystem services that can be provided by naturally functioning floodplains, and how can these be better evaluated within the context of traditional water resource project evaluation frameworks, which monetize benefits of all water-related services, including environmental services (flood damage reduction, water supply, agricultural irrigation, fisheries, recreation, navigation, hydropower, etc.)?

Case study examples of successful uses of ecohydrological principles to achieve flood and drought hazard mitigation goals.

More information [here](#).

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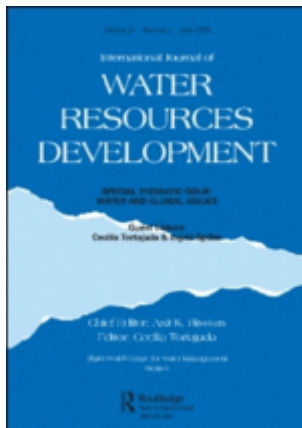
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PUBLICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



Ranked in the Sciences Citation Index

Editor-in-Chief: Professor Asit K. Biswas, President, Third World Centre for Water Management, Mexico

International Journal of Water Resources Development covers all aspects of water development and management in both industrialized and Third World countries. Contents focus on the practical implementation of policies for water resources development, monitoring and evaluation of technical projects, and, to a lesser extent, water resources research. Articles are rigorous and in-depth, and range in approach from applied geographical analysis to the examination of strategic, economic and social issues.

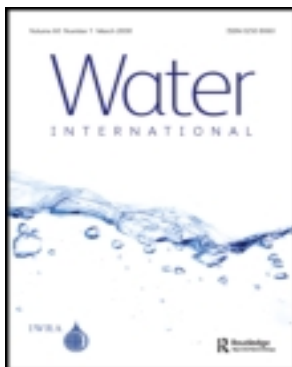
URBAN WATER JOURNAL



Editors-in-Chief: Cedo Maksimovic, Imperial College London, UK & David Butler, University of Exeter, UK

The Urban Water Journal provides a forum for the research and professional communities dealing with water systems in the urban environment, directly contributing to the discussion on sustainable development. Particular emphasis is placed on the analysis of interrelationships and interactions between the individual water systems, urban water bodies (including groundwater) and the environment. The Journal encourages the adoption of an integrated approach to solve the numerous problems associated with sustainable urban water management.

WATER INTERNATIONAL



Water International is the official journal of the [International Water Resources Association \(IWRA\)](#), founded in 1972 to serve as an international gateway to the people, ideas and networks that are critical to the sustainable management of water resources around the world. Its articles, state-of-the-art reviews and technical notes are policy-relevant and aimed at communicating in-depth knowledge to a multidisciplinary and international community. It publishes both individual contributions and sets of papers on cutting edge issues.

"RESTORING FLOODPLAINS IN EUROPE - POLICY CONTEXTS AND PROJECT EXPERIENCES"

Editors T. Moss and J. Monstadt

The book is based on the social science research component of the FP5 project FLOBAR 2 "Floodplain Biodiversity and Restoration 2: Integrated natural science and socio-economic approaches to catchment flow management".

Despite the interest in restoring floodplains, very few schemes for restoring functional floodplains have been put into practice in Europe until now. The book explores the reasons behind this discrepancy between interest and applications with an original and comparative analysis of the institutional drivers and constraints of floodplain restoration in Europe. It explains why so little projects have been successfully implemented, how recent policy shifts are creating new opportunities for floodplain restoration and what lessons for policy development and project management can be drawn from in-depth analysis of past and present schemes.

REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS TO GROUNDWATER

Remote Sensing Applications to Groundwater: This book is written for those who wish to become acquainted with the use of remote sensing for groundwater studies. It is written from the point of view of a hydrogeologist-practitioner. Emphasis is placed on the interpretation of images of diverse geologic terrain in warm climates, and on extraction of hydrogeologic information, for which knowledge of the basics of digital image processing techniques is



required. This manual was devised as a contribution to the TIGER initiative of the European Space Agency.

THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION IS A SHOWCASE OF BIODIVERSITY

The Mediterranean region is a showcase of biodiversity, says MEDSTAT II publication Key data on the wealth and vulnerability of the Mediterranean's biodiversity and on the growth of protected areas designed to reduce the loss of habitat, a key cause of loss of biodiversity, is presented in a new publication prepared by the MEDSTAT II programme.

The Mediterranean region: a showcase of biodiversity, is part of the Eurostat collection "Statistics in focus", that are short topical publications presenting key data and limited analysis on a specific theme. It is available in English, French and Arabic.

The Mediterranean region is regarded as one of planet Earth's 25 hotspots, embracing some of the world's most unique bio-geographical areas and harbouring outstanding biological diversity.

MEDSTAT II, funded by EuropeAid's Regional Programme, aims at strengthening the capacity of the partner countries' National Statistics Institutes and each country's own National Statistical System in order to provide updated, timely, reliable and relevant high-quality statistical data necessary for political decision-making and to ensure good governance.

YOUR GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: REPORTING FROM A CLIMATE PROOF SEMINAR

On February 5th, the Swedish Water House, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), held the seminar, "Adapting to the Inevitable – Challenges in a Water Stressed World: How to Climate Proof Development." The seminar used the recommendations from the 2007/2008 Human Development Report as an entry point to discuss water-related issues that remain central to both climate change adaptation and development

Recent Papers on transboundary aquifers:

["SHARED GROUNDWATER RESOURCES: GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY"](#)

["A GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO ASSESS, EVALUATE & DEVELOP POLICY"](#)

TOP NEWS

Rhine-Meuse (France) Water Information System

With new features and more than 6 million water data made freely available, the new water information system of the Rhine-Meuse opens its doors.

Crucial milestone for Danube's future: Calarasi-Braila navigation project

Work on the Romanian project for improving navigation between Calarasi and Braila is set to begin in April 2008. The project could cut off important migration routes for Danube sturgeon as well as destroy nature areas of European importance. WWF and other organisations have been in dialogue with the Romanian Ministry of Transportation to improve the weak project design and preparation. In January, a step-by-step approach was agreed involving close monitoring and evaluation of impacts before, during and after construction. Whether this measure is acceptable for safeguarding the nature values depends on the final design and implementation of the monitoring programme, which is expected to be published in early March



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[Environmental cartography in real-time](#)

EOLAB (The Earth Observation Laboratory) is a spin-off from the University of Valencia (Spain) with a wide experience in remote sensing techniques. EOLAB fills the existing gap between science and society, favouring the development of applications derived from remote sensing, as well as the access to that kind of information. EOLAB provides global and local services. They can provide environmental cartography in real-time. The information that can be extracted from the region of interest is composed, among others, by fractional vegetation cover, evapotranspiration and water deficit of irrigation crops. The information currently available is obtained from Landsat TM5 data, at a spatial resolution of 30 meters, but other spatial resolutions (MODIS) will be available soon.

[WWF's UN Freshwater Agreements Project-News Update n.03](#)

WWF's UN Freshwater Agreements Project News Update n.03, with information about the WWF's United Nations Freshwater Agreements Project-a global initiative to improve freshwater governance, with focus on three UN international instruments: a) the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses; b) the UN-ILC Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers and Aquifer Systems; and c) the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

[The River Basin Initiative Portal](#)

River Basin Initiative Portal was developed to establish a global network to share information and lessons learned, as well as to link and support activities which uses an integrated approach in managing our biodiversity, wetlands and river basins.

[Contract signed for ESA's Sentinel-3 earth observation satellite](#)

The European Space Agency and Thales Alenia Space today signed a 7305 million contract to provide the first Sentinel-3 earth observation satellite, devoted to oceanography and land-vegetation monitoring, as part of the European GMES programme. As prime contractor, Thales Alenia Space is responsible for the satellite's design, development and integration

[The VidéEau Festival](#)

Organized by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), the VidéEau Festival is an international competition for video clips. It is also part of a project titled "Celebration of Lakes and Rivers" which is a process aimed at raising awareness and involving young people in international citizenship and cooperation for water, both in Quebec and around the world. The 2008 edition invites young people from the ages of 17 to 30 to submit video clips on the theme "Water, People and Sustainable Development" before 15 June 2008. The winners of the competition will be automatically entered into The International Water and Film Events, organized in Istanbul in March 2009 during the 5th World Water Forum.

[A new INBO project on testing performance indicators of integrated water resources management](#)

The International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) and its regional branch in Africa (the African Network of BO - ANBO) proposed to develop and field-test Performance Indicators adapted to the design and monitoring of the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles in African Transboundary basins. The activities have been proposed for the 3 years to pave the way for the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPI).



EVENTS (April 2008 – March 2008)

[The implementation of the Water Framework Directive \(CE2000/60\) in Italy: state of the art on benthic indicators and European experiences](#)

29 April 2008 – Ferrara, ITALY

[Second MEDA Water Regional Event on Local Water Management](#)

28/29/30 April – Marrakech, MOROCCO

[UNESCO ISI workshop on Erosion, Transport and Deposition of Sediments](#)

28/29/30 April – Bern, SWITZERLAND

[6th European Ramsar Regional Meeting](#)

3-7 May – Stockholm, SWEDEN

[IFAT 2008 - 3rd Joint Specialty Conference "Sustainable Water Management in Response to 21st Century Pressures" EWA / WEF / JSWA](#)

5/9 May – Munich, GERMANY

[Biodiversity Research – safeguarding the future](#)

12/16 May – Bonn, GERMANY

[REUSED – 5th European Conference on Contaminated Sediments](#)

14/16 May – London, UK

[International Symposium on Flood Defence](#)

14/16 May – Toronto, CANADA

[Riskbase General Assembly](#)

15-17 May 2008 – Budapest, HUNGARY

[Wetland Management Conference in Sweden](#)

19/20 May – Västerås, SWEDEN

[Biodiversity and rural development](#)

19/21 May – Charbonnières-Les-Bains, Rhône , Rhône Alpes region, FRANCE

[International Conference - Ecohydrological Processes and Sustainable Floodplain Management Opportunities and Concepts for Water Hazard Mitigation, and Ecological and Socioeconomic Sustainability](#)

(Under the auspices of International Hydrological Programme UNESCO)

View the [Leaflet](#)

19/23 May – Lodz, POLAND

[Urban Biodiversity & Design](#)

21/24 May – Erfurt, GERMANY

[Third International Conference On Managing Shared Aquifer Resources In Africa](#)

25/27 May – Tripoli, LYBIA



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[3rd International Conference on Managing Shared Aquifer Resources in Africa](#)

25/27 May – Toronto, CANADA

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[Mayors' Conference: Local Action for Biodiversity](#)

26/28 May – Bonn, GERMANY

[5th International SedNet Conference](#)

27/29 May – Oslo, NORWAY

[The Third International Scientific Conference BALWOIS 2008: Water Observation and Information Systems for Decision Support](#)

27/31 May – Ohrid, MACEDONIA

[Confronting the Water Crisis in the Mediterranean Basin: What role for the European Union?](#)

28-29 May 2008 – Paris, FRANCE



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BECOME A MEMBER!

Joining the ECRR is FREE!

Acting as an international network the ECRR is pleased to get contributions from its members: they are all very welcomed to provide us information on projects, events, news, training courses, etc.

The ECRR newsletter, for example, is thought as a tool (available to all members) for advertising to an international platform the outcomes of the project, important events worldwide, new publications, etc.

As a member of the ECRR, you will:

- keep on receiving a monthly newsletter with the most recent international information related to river restoration (conferences, projects, policy document, funding opportunities...);
- have the opportunity to share your experiences and spread the results of your projects;
- become a part of a network of people and institutions involved in river restoration and sustainable river management at European level, find partners for your project proposals and develop joint activities;

To Become a member of the ECRR fill in the [application form](#) in our website.

For request of information please contact

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