



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 – December 2007

Editor: Francesco Pra Levis

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ECRR CONFERENCE 2008: ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION OPEN!

Since November 2007, the abstract submission and the registration to participate in the ECRR conference 2008 are open.

It is possible to submit your abstract, by filling in the form available at [this page](#).

You will be asked to indicate two favourite sessions, to be chosen between the following:

1. Biodiversity and restoration of hydromorphological processes
2. Basin Scale Restoration for fisheries rehabilitation: planning and monitoring
3. River Restoration and EU Directives
4. Flood Risk and River Restoration
5. Geomorphic processes
 - 5A. Restoration and management of physical processes and sediments
 - 5B. Geomorphic processes: Restoring 'Working Rivers' in Mediterranean Climates: What's their Ecological Potential?
6. Evaluating and monitoring success in River Restoration plans/projects
7. Key issues and challenges in Decision Making Processes to implement River Restoration
8. Ecohydrology
 - 8A. Water quality
 - 8B. Environmental flow/hydropower
9. Urban rivers
10. Large dams and River Restoration
11. Open sessions
 - 11A. Transboundary cooperation
 - 11B. Protected areas
 - 11C. Ecological Network
 - 11D. Protecting natural reference sites
 - 11E. Linking hydrology, geomorphology and ecology within the river corridors

You will also be asked to specify the type of your contribution and to write the abstract (max 2500 characters, spaces included).

Each abstract proposer will be contacted by ECRR Secretary after the 15th February 2008, when the evaluation of all abstracts will be finished.

Please note that the deadline is 15th January 2008.

To register in the ECRR Conference, the form is available at [this page](#).

The fees are different depending on the membership to the Italian Centre for River Restoration (CIRF), which holds the ECRR secretariat and which is currently organising the ECRR conference. Students and participants from NGO can have a reduced fee.

A reduction of 20% is foreseen for participants booking before 15 March 2008.

The fee includes the participation in the ECRR conference, lunches, coffee breaks, excursion of the 1st day and abstract book.



NOT CIRF MEMBER	CIRF MEMBER
<u>Ordinary contribution:</u> € 400,00 or € 320,00 if paid before 15 March 2008 (20% of reduction)	<u>Ordinary contribution:</u> € 380,00 or € 300,00 if paid before 15 March 2008 (20% of reduction)
<u>Reduced contribution (for students/NGO):</u> € 300,00 euro or € 240,00 if paid before 15 March 2008 (20% of reduction)	<u>Reduced contribution (for students/NGO):</u> € 285,00 euro or € 225,00 if paid before 15 March 2008 (20% of reduction)

At the moment of the registration you will be asked to choose if you want to participate in the post conference (facultative) field trip to Tagliamento and Drava river and to the social dinner (that are not included in the fees above).

The deadlines to register in the conference are:

- **15 March 2008:** closing of bookings for "early birds" (-20%)
- **31 May 2008:** closing of bookings

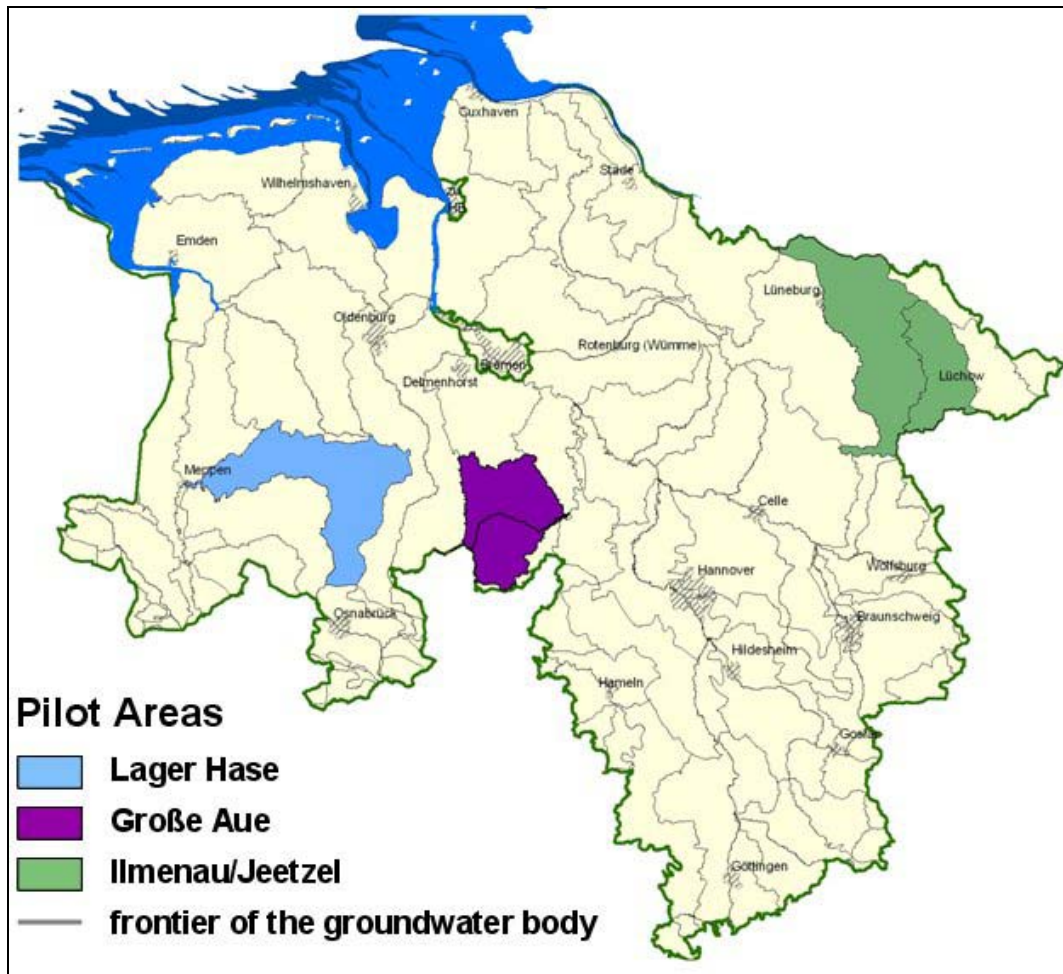
More information on the conference and on the venue (including the accommodation) are available at: <http://www.ecrr.org/conf08/home.htm>.

FROM ECRR DATABASE: WAGRICO PROJECT (WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN COOPERATION WITH AGRICULTURE)

The Water Resources Management in Cooperation with Agriculture (WAgriCo) is a demonstration project in pilot areas showing how cooperation between water resources management and agriculture can be used to reduce diffuse pollution for the sustainable achievement of the environmental objectives for groundwater set out in Article 4 and 7 of the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD).

It is a collaborative project with partnerships in Germany (Lower Saxony) and the United Kingdom. In each country, the partnerships have been established to manage and deliver the project locally. The project is co-funded by the partnerships and by a contribution from the LIFE Financial Instrument of the European Union. Additional co-funding has been made available by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in the UK and Niedersächsisches (Nds. MU) in Lower Saxony for their respective country's partnerships.

The aim of the EU-Life project WAgriCo is to develop a possible suite of measures or solutions which can be implemented in agri-environmental schemes to achieve and/or sustain good water quality, according to the WFD. This project follows on from other successful co-operative work on water protection, such as Lower Saxony's 'Water Protection Areas', which have been running for over 10 years and the work undertaken by the Voluntary Initiative on pesticides in the UK. This efficient cooperation between agriculture and water management provides an excellent pool of information, data and experiences.

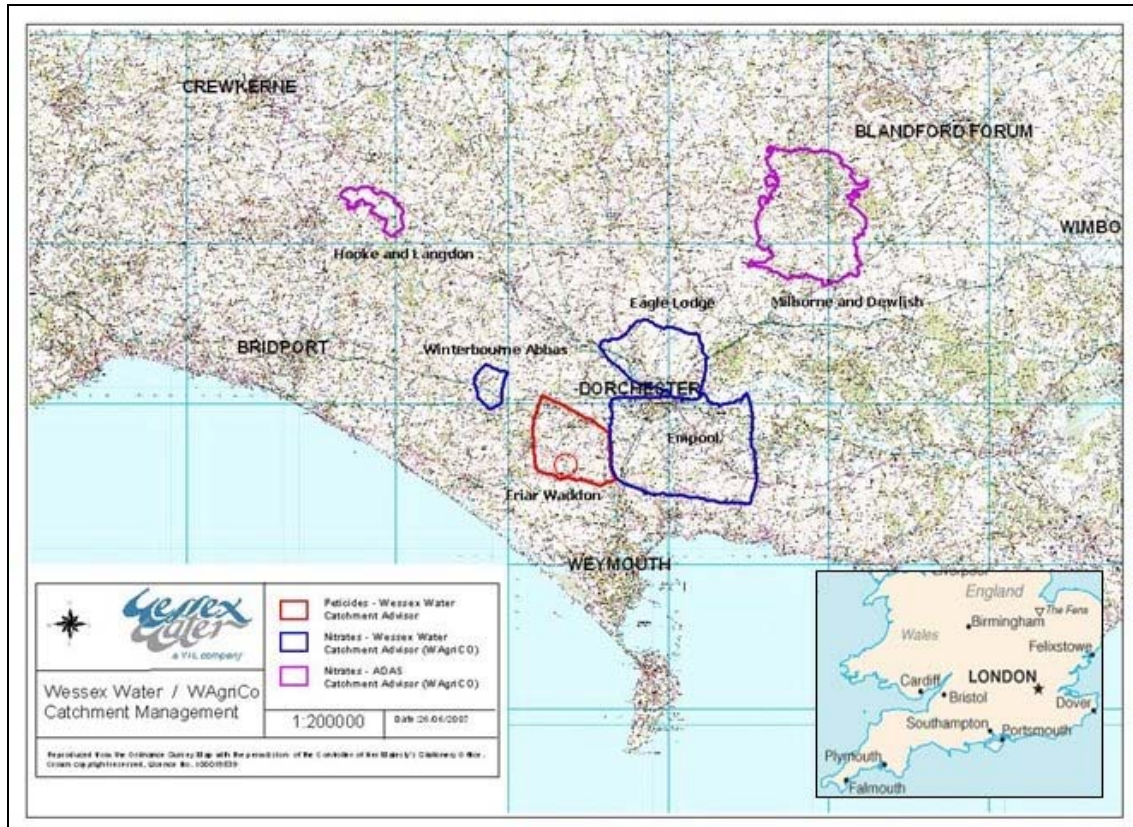


Pilot areas in Lower Saxony (taken from www.wagrigo.org)

The focus here is to demonstrate the large-scale use of enhanced measures and innovative cooperative approaches within pilot areas which represent the natural and agricultural characteristics of the regions as well as the typical impact situations. Five English and German partners cooperate in this project and submit different deliverables and reports. The recent main topics are:

- The development and improvement of measure (What to do?)
- The designation of target areas (Where to start and how to differentiate the target areas according to special scientific questions?)
- Ecological modelling (How to determine effects of the applied measures in soil, seepage water, groundwater, ...)
- Economical modelling (How to compare costs and benefits from farm scale to socio economic considerations?)
- Combine measures with other nature conservation/protection aims and try to enhance ecological benefits (How to use synergies?)
- Education and vocational training for farmers and adviser (How to raise awareness of water protection issues in the agricultural work?)
- The project structure guarantees a permanent lateral and horizontal exchange by working groups within the pilot areas, the expert groups, the two national steering groups and the overarching international steering group. The main focus is the

involvement of farmers, who take part in the development and improvement of measures. Their permanent input of already existing and new experiences ensures the practical application of measures and helps to evaluate the results.



Pilot areas in the United Kingdom (taken from www.wagrico.org)

An innovative approach is the results orientated measure which aims on an improved nitrogen efficiency. The project aims to raise awareness and to tackle the problem at the basis. The improvement of nutrient management on farms as well as developed measures applied on field scale aim to prevent input of diffuse pollution into groundwater and surface waters.

If you require further information about the projects in the Lower Saxony and UK pilot areas use the following links: [Lower Saxony](#) or [United Kingdom](#). Or contact

In Lower Saxony:

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ADVANCED COURSE: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF MEDITERRANEAN RIVERS – 9-14 June 2008, Zaragoza, Spain

Current trends of increasing human population lead to watersheds covered by urbanized zones and intensive farming lands. These and other human pressures have altered watersheds, previously under natural conditions, and the rivers have been affected by a reduction in their biodiversity, losing their natural structure and functions, thus limiting long-term development. The social awareness of this degradation has reached the water legislation, and in Europe, the Water Framework Directive has recently set the objective to achieve good ecological status for all rivers in the EU by 2015.

River restoration is an activity that appears as a response to the continuous degradation of the fluvial ecosystems, with the main objective of recovering lost ecological properties and providing goods and services to society in a sustainable development perspective. Mediterranean regions with drought summers and flash floods have a great demand for water and a long history of flood protection, and therefore their rivers are specially affected by the intensive use of water resources and hydraulic works. This is one reason why river restoration is becoming a challenging issue.

Through a general view of case-studies in various Mediterranean contexts and critical feedbacks on previous experiences, the course aims to (i) improve knowledge in river restoration and more widely on sustainable management and explore alternative solutions to use natural river corridors for providing benefits to society, (ii) contribute to clarify reasons for developing restoration programmes, and (iii) help to implement them according to clear objectives and assess their efficiency.

By the end of the course the participants will:

- Be able to propose different solutions leading degraded rivers to reach a good ecological status in the Mediterranean region.
- Have criteria to select the most appropriate measures for improving ecological integrity and working tools to plan clear action strategies on a national, regional or local scale.
- Gain experiences in the practical design, implementation, funding and monitoring of projects.
- Be aware of the constraints and failures of such procedures.
- Have the opportunity to exchange their own experiences with practitioners and scientists of different disciplines involved in restoration programmes in different regional, social and legal contexts.



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The course will take place at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ) of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), and will be given by well qualified lecturers from universities, government departments, research centres, non-governmental organizations and private consultancies in different countries.

The course will be held over a period of 1 week, from 9 to 14 June 2008, in morning and afternoon sessions.

For more information visit:

<http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/ingles/cursos07-08/restrios-08-pub-ing.htm>

Or contact:

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e-mail: iamz@iamz.ciheam.org

Web: www.iamz.ciheam.org

The deadline for the submission of applications is 17 March 2008.

RIVER RESTORATION SHORTCOURSE – 23-27 June 2008, Provence, France

A 5-day shortcourse emphasizing understanding of geomorphic processes and historical changes in catchment/channel conditions as a basis for selecting restoration priorities and strategies.

The course emphasizes understanding geomorphic process as a sound basis for planning and designing river restoration projects and programs. It covers general principles and case studies from a wide range of environments, with specific applications and field visits to Mediterranean and mountain environments.

The innovative European Union legislation, the Water Framework Directive was based in part on river-basin management practices underway in France since the 1960s. The shortcourse is held near rivers in which managers have undertaken innovative environmental management practices, e.g., to restore sediment loads, provide a “space of liberty” (floodway or channel migration corridor) for rivers, restore former channel habitats, increase minimum discharge downstream of dams, remove dikes and riprap bank protection, and preserve riparian forests. There are tremendous opportunities to learn from comparing experiences implementing the WFD in Europe with the longer and more extensive experience in river restoration in North America, including comprehensive programs to restore more natural flow regimes and sediment loads, such as the Trinity River in California and the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

This course consists of organized lectures, backed by lecture notes, a reference text on measurement and analysis methods in fluvial geomorphology, spreadsheets, and other relevant reading, field trips, exercises, and discussions. The course includes field visits to the Rhone River and several preAlpine tributaries, with spectacular scenery, diverse fluvial environments, a wide range of human impacts over long periods of time, and diversity of recent restoration projects with ongoing monitoring. The course includes workshops on geomorphic river restoration problems faced by participants, who briefly present the problem



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for discussion by instructors and colleagues in a workshop format, for exchanging ideas on analytical approaches and resources. The course is similar in overall structure to a course successfully offered in California since 1995, but adapted to take advantage of excellent field sites in the region and opportunities to gain insights through comparison of European and American approaches to river management and restoration.

Matt Kondolf (University of California Berkeley) and Hervé Piégay (CNRS Lyon) are principal instructors and course coordinators. Other instructors/field trip leaders will include Frederic Liébault (CEMAGREF Grenoble), Anne-Julia Rollet (CRNS Lyon), Jack Schmidt (Utah State University), Scott McBain (McBain & Trush), Mark Tompkins (Ch2MHill), Peter Downs (Stillwater Sciences), Robin Jenkinson (Bonneville Environmental Foundation).

The course is held at Institut Beaumont, a restored 18thC farmhouse situated in a rural valley near Mt Ventoux in northern Provence, near preAlpine tributaries of the Rhone.

For more information: <http://institutbeaumont.com>.

2008 NORTHWEST STREAM RESTORATION DESIGN SYMPOSIUM – 4-7 February 2008, Skamania Lodge, Skamania, Washington, USA

The seventh annual Northwest Stream Restoration Design Symposium will be held February 5th through 7th, 2008 at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. There will also be three concurrent optional pre-symposium workshops on Monday, February 4.

This conference focuses on stream restoration questions of concern to project planners, designers, engineers, biologists, regulators, land managers or owners, and community stewards throughout the Pacific Northwest.

For further information on the Symposium and to register for the event please visit the RRNW website at <http://rrnw.org>.

You will also find a complete program on the Symposium website which outlines the invited speaker topics as well as our 10 topical sessions.

3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CATCHMENT SCIENCE CENTRE: USING RESEARCH TO INFORM INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT – 6th February 2008, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Across the world new initiatives for the joint management of water and land resources are being developed, and the environment is increasingly at the focus of sustainable development. The approaches are sometimes collectively termed Integrated Catchment Management (ICM). In the context of developing ICM for the UK, this 3rd annual conference of the Catchment Science Centre will explore the needs of those sectors of society who use scientific knowledge to develop policies and make decisions, and the role of the research community in fulfilling them. We will focus on the River Don catchment, within the setting of the South Yorkshire Region, as an example of a “typical” English river, to explore how “catchment science” can be developed for the wider benefit of UK stakeholders.



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The conference will begin with the needs, as seen from a spectrum of “catchment managers”, hear about some of the existing work being undertaken at the CSC, and conclude with a facilitated workshop-style discussion on the support that science and academia can provide. The conference will provide stimulating thought for anyone involved in land and water management from both public and private sectors, and academics interested in contributing to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

To download the flyer and the full programme click [here](#).

Registration forms may be downloaded from the Catchment Science Centre website www.shef.ac.uk/csc and returned to Jenny Chambers at the following address, who will be pleased to help you with any questions you may have.

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PUBLICATIONS (find more on the ECRR website!)

[First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region](#)

Our waters: joining hands across borders - First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region has been launched within the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007) and is now available. The publication offers in-depth information on all major surface water bodies in the European and Asian parts of the UNECE region and transboundary aquifers located in South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. It describes the hydrological regime of these water bodies, pressure factors in their basins, their status and transboundary impact, as well as trends, future developments and envisaged management measures. Such data is usually not readily available as it is dispersed over many institutions and an integrated approach to surface water and groundwater management is still in its infancy.

[Participative Planning for Water Reuse Projects – P. Jeffrey and S. Russell](#)

The aim of this handbook is to encourage wider and more informed participation in the planning and management of water recycling projects. The handbook is designed for use by individuals, organisations and communities that wish to plan and manage water recycling projects collaboratively. However, we hope that those involved in other types of projects will also find it useful. These guidelines were produced under the auspices of the AQUAREC project on Integrated Concepts for Reuse of Upgraded Wastewater and are published in English, French and Spanish.

Further information on [EMWIS website](#).

[Integrated Evaluation for Sustainable River Basin Governance](#)

Editors: N. Videira, G. Kallis, P. Antunes and R. Santos



Journal of Flood Risk Management, paper submissions

CIWEM's new journal with Blackwell Publishing, Journal of Flood Risk Management, is open for paper submissions. This online journal will cover all aspects of Flood Risk Management and provide content ranging from leading edge academic papers to the practical implementation of real projects. In this way it will appeal both to academics and practitioners. The journal is supported by Arup, MWH and Royal Haskoning and has already attracted a high level of interest from a number of different communities.

REPORTS

REBECCA Research Project

A recent report from the EU FP6 Research Project REBECCA (Relationships between ecological and chemical status of surface waters) describes statistical methods used for analysis of biological indicators in lakes. Biological indicators are required for assessing ecological status, according to the Water Framework Directive. However, biological data often "misbehave" and pose several methodological challenges: non-linear responses to pressures, complex community responses, and high uncertainty.

Further information on [EMWIS website](#).

Annual Report of the Global Nature Fund

The annual report 2006-2007 of the Global Nature Fund is now available for download at the website.

The Third German-Japanese Workshop on Climate

Discussions in this workshop focussed on policies and corporate strategies to tackle climate change. A wide range of participants from the government, businesses, and academia in Germany and Japan introduced climate efforts taken in both countries. In the panel discussion, panelists discussed corporate strategies from the current and mid-term perspectives toward 2020, comparing existing climate policy trends in Germany and Japan.

TOP NEWS (find more on the ECRR website!)

EU Floods Directive - Directive 2007/60/EC

This Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks (EU Floods Directive) has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (ref L 288/27 dated on 06/11/2007). The purpose of this Directive is to establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community.

France presented the Mediterranean Union project: The creation of a water agency to face pollution of the Mediterranean

France has detailed its Mediterranean Union project to all the member countries of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, at a conference in Lisbon. This project was launched by French President Nicolas Sarkozy since his presidential campaign and he presented it in broad outline, on the occasion of a visit to Morocco.

A portal on Environmental Technologies: Good practice, innovation, research and development

This portal focuses on Environmental Technologies, i.e. on cleaner and resource efficient technologies which can decrease material inputs, reduce energy consumption and emissions,



recover valuable by-products, minimise waste disposal problems or some combination of these (OECD and Eurostat, 1999). They are classified according to the sector of intervention: Pollution management; Resources management; Industry.

EU Water Policy and Dialogue with China launched

On October 17th, during the 3rd IYRF, EU Water Policy and Dialogue with China was launched. Related officials and experts from EU and China exchanged the successful experience of water resources management in Europe and status quo of that in China from decision-making and technique aspects.

EU - EU seeks global roadmap at Bali climate talks

As the UN climate talks get underway in Bali, the EU has put forward an ambitious wish list for the negotiations inspired by the bloc's performance under the Kyoto Protocol. But doubts remain about the level of commitment that can be expected from the world's other large CO₂ emitters.

New Environmental research web site in CORDIS

The main objective of research for the environment under FP7 is to promote sustainable management of both man-made and natural environment and its resources. To this end, increased knowledge on the interaction between the climate, biosphere, ecosystems and human activities is sought and, new environmentally-friendly technologies, tools and services are developed.

Water scarcity and LIFE - Developing good practice in reducing water usage

Water scarcity and droughts concern all EU countries, especially those in the southern Mediterranean region. Climate change is expected to multiply and intensify these occurrences in the future. In the face of these challenges, a number of LIFE projects have worked directly or indirectly to improve the efficiency of water use.

EVENTS (December 2007 – January 2008)

Understanding and Applying Environmental Flows

18/20 December 2007 - Sheperdstown, WV, USA

Water and Environmental Exchange

28 January/1 February 2008, Malaga, SPAIN

Water Loss Seminar and Workshop 2008

30 January/1 February 2008, Marbella, SPAIN



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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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