

European Centre for River Restoration

NEWSLETTER – February 2009

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

“Urban River Restoration: stakeholder involvement, political decisions, regeneration measures – Experiences from UK and Italy”

Novara, February 18-20th, 2009



Workshop Internazionale / International Workshop

RIQUALIFICAZIONE FLUVIALE IN AMBITO URBANO: IL COINVOLGIMENTO DEI PORTATORI DI INTERESSE, LE POLITICHE DECISIONALI, LE MISURE DI INTERVENTO.
Esperienze inglesi e italiane a confronto

URBAN RIVER RESTORATION: STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT, POLITICAL DECISIONS, REGENERATION MEASURES.
Experiences from UK and Italy

Novara, 18-20 Febbraio 2009 / Novara, February 18-20th, 2009



Centro Italiano per la
Riqualificazione Fluviale



“Urban areas have major influences on stream corridors, modifying deeply their ecological and geomorphological configurations. An adequate enhancement of rivers can bring enormous benefits to urban communities. Acting on the present situation requires clear visions on the multi-services functions of rivers for urban areas, new planning approaches and new decision making processes” [Cirf 2006].

Urban river restoration (URR) is a complex framework where the restoration is the result of a process involving ecological issues as well as social and economic ones. A three days workshop will bring together the experiences from two projects: **URSULA - Urban River corridors and Sustainable Living Agendas**, an ongoing research project in England and the **CONTRAT DE RIVIERE ON THE AGOGNA STREAM**, a

programmatic process promoted by Piemonte Region and developed by Novara Province with CIRF technical support within the Water Protection Plan.

Ursula project aims to identify the social, economic and environmental gains to be made from integrated and innovative interventions in urban river corridors, using the River Don and its tributaries as a case study. The project on the river Agogna, following the experience of the “Contrat de Rivière” in France, is pursuing a participatory planning approach with the local government organizations and stakeholders.

The final product of the project will be an action plan, commonly developed by all the actors, of catchment and urban restoration strategies.

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This workshop aims to focus on the challenges embedded in the concept of the urban river restoration. Discussions will focus on the feasibility of urban river restoration and what seems a paradox in the definition itself – i.e. does restoration relate purely to environmental conditions or does it also entail social and economic functions of urban rivers? The Water Framework Directive (WFD) recently set up general criteria that will drive the policies and management strategies of river restoration experiences in Europe: a critical reflection will be developed to assess the suitability of this framework. An analysis of the criticalities related with the stakeholder involvement together with the challenge to gain the trust of decision makers are important issues that will be faced in the workshop by an exchange of know-how between the Italian and English experiences.

The difficulties to find synergies between restoration measures and other society's priorities, such as flood risk, access and water resources, will be discussed.

OBJECTIVES

1. To Identify main criticalities and opportunities of URR, to explore the social, economic and environmental benefits and costs of urban river restoration and particularly how communities are engaged in this process
2. To exchange experiences and share best practices, political insights and technical know-how on URR, comparing similarities and peculiarities of two different contexts in term of geomorphological, social, cultural and institutional aspects
3. Identifying general principles of an integrated and multi-objectives approach to the management of river corridors in urban context. In particular the followings points will be discussed:
 - a. Analysis of limits and opportunities offered by the application of the WFD paradigm
 - b. Criticalities related with the stakeholder involvement and the challenging task to gain the trust of decision makers.

OUTPUTS

- A position statement on practical and conceptual challenges and opportunities in urban river restoration
- The creation of an international working group on URR to build common initiatives and projects
- Definition and review of URR measures to be developed in the context of "Contrat de Rivière" on the river Agogna
- Raised profile and awareness of participating organisations and their work

SCHEDULE

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON
WEDNESDAY February 18 th , 2009	UK DELEGATION ARRIVAL	OFFICIAL GREETINGS
THURSDAY February 19 th , 2009	FIELD VISIT	WORKSHOP PRELIMINARY SESSION
FRIDAY February 20 th , 2009	WORKSHOP PLENARY SESSION	UK DELEGATION DEPARTURE

Only on the last day, **Friday 20th February 2009**, the workshop is open to the participants.

To join the event, please contact **Giancarlo Gusmaroli**: g.gusmaroli@cirf.org.

For more information about the workshop, please visit: www.cirf.org/eventi/wsno_09.pdf and www.provincia.novara.it/ContrattoFiumeAgogna

TOP NEWS

[Consultations on Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans have started in river basin districts across the EU](#)

By 2015, all water in the European Union should be of good or high quality. Proposals are currently being put forward on how to reach these goals for the rivers, lakes and coasts where you live. The Water Framework Directive gives all interested parties the right to influence the future River Basin Management plans across the EU. This public consultation is taking place now so make sure you are involved. Water is life!

[New plan to save Doñana highlight of global wetlands celebration](#)

Spain's Doñana National Park, a historic wetland now dangerously isolated by strawberry farms, is the centrepiece of today's World Wetlands Day celebrations. World Wetlands Day, held each year on the anniversary of the 1971 signing of the first ever global environmental treaty in the Iranian city of Ramsar, this year has the theme of Upstream, downstream: Wetlands connect us all.

[May 15 is launch day for 2009 call for proposals](#)

DG ENV is planning to launch its 2009 call for proposals for LIFE+ projects on May 15 2009. The 2009 applications package will be made available on that date on the LIFE web site.

GREEN WEEK 2009 *Climate change: act and adapt*



23-26 June 2009, Brussels – Belgium

The 9th edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference event on European environment policy, will take place from 23 to 26 June 2009 in Brussels on the theme of climate change.

2009 is a crucial year in the battle against climate change, with negotiations on a new United Nations agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol due to be concluded at the Copenhagen climate conference in December.

Green Week 2009 will look at what the world must do to bring climate change under control. Under the slogan 'Act and Adapt', the almost 40 Green Week conference sessions will address the climate challenge from different angles: the need to achieve deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions by the middle of the century, the need to 'climate-proof' our economies against the impacts of climate change and the need to address climate change within the wider ecosystem challenge.

Over almost a decade Green Week has developed into an unmissable annual event for anyone involved with protecting the environment. Attracting some 3,000 participants from government, business and industry, non-governmental organisations, academia and the media, Green Week offers a unique opportunity for debate and exchange of experience and best practice.

The 2009 programme and practical information will be available on [this website](#) shortly.

Green Week is open to the public and participation is free of charge for all.

Green Week also has an area for exhibitors. To book a stand please read the [application guidelines](#) and submit a completed [application form](#) by 2 March 2009.

NovCare - Novel methods for subsurface characterization and monitoring: From theory to practice

13-16 May 2009 – Leipzig, Germany

NovCare 2009 will showcase newly developed and refined methods, novel applications of existing methods, and new concepts for subsurface characterization and monitoring. The conference will provide a rare opportunity for researchers and practitioners involved in meeting the field challenges of subsurface characterization and monitoring to exchange ideas and experiences.

Deadlines:

- Deadline for early registration: February 28, 2009
- Deadline for abstract submission: February 28, 2009
- Deadline for company exhibition: March 15, 2009

Further information: <http://www.ufz.de/met/novcare>

Contact: novcare@ufz.de

Place: Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig, Germany

EVENTS

[World Wetlands Day 2009](#)

10 February 2009 – London,
ENGLAND

[Aquaterra 2009](#)

10/12 February –
Amsterdam, THE
NETHERLANDS

[IWRM-Net second trans-European Water research management conference: Bridging the Sci-Pol gap?](#)

11/12 February – Brussels,
BELGIUM

[Conference on Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

11 February 2009 – Brussels,
BELGIUM

[Water Education Workshop](#)

26/27 February 2009 –
Delft, THE
NETHERLANDS

[Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions, International scientific congress on climate change](#)

10/12 March – Copenhagen,
DENMARK

[5th World Water Forum](#)

16/22 March – Istanbul,
TURKEY

RIVERPRIZE 2009 NOW OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS



Australian Government
Water for the Future

Community groups, catchment authorities and individuals working on restoration of rivers, lakes and wetlands across Australia and around the world are invited to submit their applications for International Riverfoundation's prestigious Riverprize now!
Entry to the 2009 Riverprize closes at 5pm AEST on 30 April 2009.

The prize pool was last year valued at A\$500,000. It remains the highest monetary award in river management, but it is the global recognition for excellence in river restoration and the accompanying opportunities for knowledge transfer and expansion of restoration activities through Riverfoundation's unique twinning program (mentoring of other rivers in need) that makes this the most valuable of water prizes worldwide.

Riverprize, now in its 11th year, is a partnership between International Riverfoundation and the International Riversymposium and is awarded annually with a national and international category. The National Riverprize is now funded by an Australian Government grant under its Water for the Future plan.

All international and national finalists are invited to present their projects at the International Riversymposium – the preeminent international conference on freshwater resources management held in Brisbane, Australia, in September each year. Riversymposium attracts more than 600 participants at all levels of river management in government, science, industry, environmental and community groups from over 50 countries.

Australian river and catchment management groups may enter both the national and international categories. International groups are only eligible for the international award. Previous entrants are encouraged to apply again.

Information and nomination guidelines for the 2009 Riverprize are available from International Riverfoundation's website at www.riverfoundation.org.au.

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[Final Conference on River Basin Management: Processes, data, future scenarios](#)
25/27 March – Tübingen,
GERMANY

[Law of Water Management in the Mediterranean – Past, Present, Future](#)
25/29 March – Florence and
Montecatini Terme, ITALY

[Improving the ecological status of fish communities in inland waters - International Symposium and EFI+ Workshop](#)
30 March – 3 April 2009 –
Hull, ENGLAND

SOFTWARE

Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration (IHA): Software for Understanding Hydrologic Changes in Ecologically-Relevant Terms

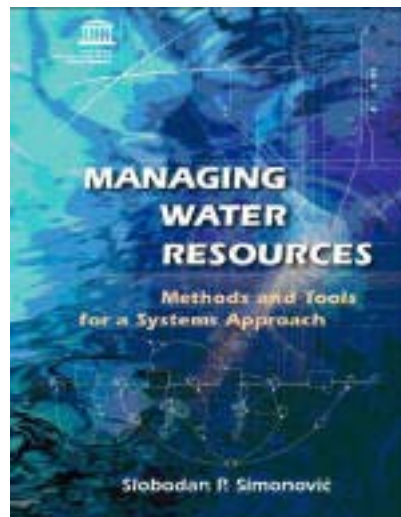
Version 7 Now Available

The Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration (IHA) is a software program that provides useful information for those trying to understand the hydrologic impacts of human activities or trying to develop environmental flow recommendations for water managers. Nearly 2,000 water resource managers, hydrologists, ecologists, researchers and policy makers from around the world have used this program to assess how rivers, lakes, and groundwater basins have been affected by human activities over time, or to evaluate future water management scenarios.

More information [here](#).

PUBLICATION

Managing Water Resources Methods and Tools for a Systems Approach



Author: Slobodan P. Simonovic
December 2008
576 pages
ISBN: 9781844075546

Water resources management is increasingly interdisciplinary and must take into account complex socioeconomic factors and environmental variables. This book describes the 'systems approach' and its application to contemporary water resources management, focusing on three main sets of tools: simulation, optimization and multi-objective analysis. This approach is presented within the context of sustainable planning and development under conditions of uncertainty.

Managing Water Resources introduces system dynamic simulation as a tool for integrated modelling and contains coverage of the use of fuzzy sets for incorporating objective and subjective uncertainties. The book combines theory with many practical examples, as well as including programs and exercises on an accompanying CD-ROM. It composes both an advanced text for students of water resources and civil or environmental engineering and a practical guide for professionals.

Published jointly with UNESCO Publishing

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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