



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 – October 2007

Editor: Francesco Pra Levis

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IWMF 2007

RIVER RESTORATION – DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND SUCCESS EVALUATION
September 4-6, 2007 - Kartause Ittingen, Warth TG, Switzerland

Forty-six selected participants attended the forum organized by EAWAG. During the three mornings 13 plenary lectures were held by invited speakers to identify key issues and to provide a foundation for structured workshops. The lectures were divided in three themes:

1. Restoration, biodiversity, and ecosystem services
2. Restoration and decision making and
3. Evaluation of success.

The idea was to bring together scientists, stakeholders, NPO representatives, and decision makers with the aim to build a network of experts in sustainable river management and restoration. For this reason all afternoons were devoted to workshops and discussion that arise from the plenary lectures.

The most important challenge was to increase synergies among

- biodiversity conservation
- ecosystem service
- flood control
- decision making process
- outcome evaluation within the River Restoration projects.

Jenny Mant (from RRC-UK), one of the invited speakers, explained the role, the activities and the main targets of ECRR. Moreover, the organizers gave to Bruna Gumiero, member of the ECRR Management Board and President of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the 4th ECRR International Conference, the chance to underline two of the main ECRR activities: the gathering of river restoration projects in order to build a database and the next 4th Conference on River Restoration that will be held in Venice, on 16-21 June 2008.

An other invited speakers, Massimo Rinaldi who is also a member of the Scientific and Technical Committee, gave a very interesting lecture on "Restoring Geomorphic Processes: approaches, Success, Monitoring, Modelling".

PROGRAM

Tuesday, 4 September 2007

8:45 Welcome: Janet Hering, Director Eawag, CH SR

Theme 1: Restoration, biodiversity, and ecosystem services

(Chair: Klement Tockner)

9:00 Klement Tockner, Eawag, CH: Introduction to Theme 1

9:45 Edward Maltby, University of Liverpool, UK

10:45 Jenny Mant, River Restoration Center, UK

11:30 Anantha Duraiappa, UNEP, EAK

12:15 Mark Smith, IUCN, CH

14:30-17:00 Workshops to theme 1

20:00-22:00 Summary / Panel discussion



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Wednesday, 5 September 2007

8:15 Julian Randall, Euresearch Head Office, CH

Theme 2: Restoration and decision making process

(Chair: Peter Reichert)

9:00 Peter Reichert, Eawag, CH: Introduction to Theme 2

9:45 Keigo Nakamura, Public Works Research Institute, J

10:45 Tim McDaniels, University of British Columbia, CDN

11:30 Maciej Zalewski, UNESCO, PL SR

14:00-17:00 Workshops to themes 2 and 3 SR/GR

17:00-18:30 Summary / Panel discussion SR

Thursday, 6 September 2007

Theme 3: Evaluation of success

(Chair: Armin Peter)

8:15 Armin Peter, Eawag, CH: Introduction to Theme 3

9:00 Massimo Rinaldi, University of Florence, I

9:45 Margaret Palmer, University of Maryland, USA

10:45 Stephan Müller, Federal Office for the Environment, CH SR

11:30 Helmut Blöch, European Commission, B SR

14:00 Excursion to the Thur River

Under the following link: http://www.iwmf.eawag.ch/2007/downloads/index_EN you can find PDF versions of presentations, notes from the workshops, and media releases.

eFLOWNET HAS LAUNCHED ITS WEBSITE



eFlowNet is an independent network founded by a group of individuals from the various organisations:

- Swedish Water House
- Delft Hydraulics
- The Nature Conservancy
- International Water Management Institute - IWMI
- DHI Group
- The World Conservation Union – IUCN
- Global Water for Sustainability
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

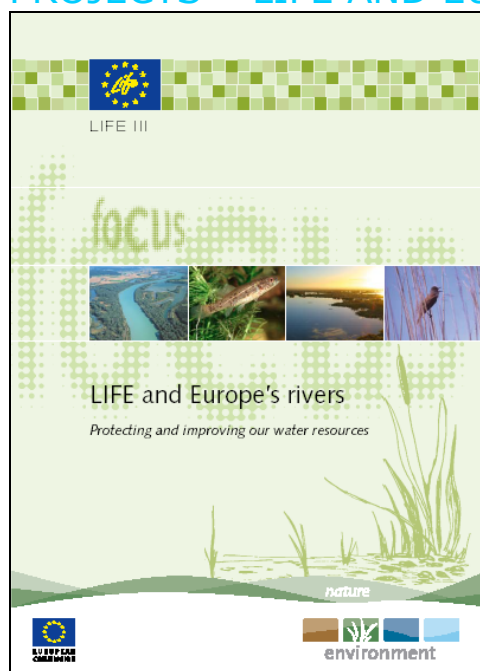
The overall goal of the network is to integrate Environmental Flows into standard practices for the management and use of river basins. In order to do so, our goals are to:

- facilitate communication, capacity building and education to expand the recognition and adoption of eFlows globally;
- lift the eFlows concept out of technocratic and academic circles and make it accessible to managers in river basins, policy makers, NGOs, governmental and international agencies, local communities and the wider public;
- bridge the gap between science, policy and implementation by encouraging a broad dialogue on putting eFlows into practise.

Environmental Flows (eFlows) refer to water provided within a river, wetland or coastal zone to maintain ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people.

The website www.eflonet.org is an open portal for anyone interested in accessing, sharing or discussing information on eFlows

FOCUS ON: THE NEW LIFE BROCHURE ON RIVER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS – LIFE AND EUROPE'S RIVERS



Already advertised in the issue of August of the ECRR Newsletter, the new LIFE Brochure "LIFE and Europe's rivers - protecting and improving our water resources" analyzes the environmental problems related to Europe's rivers and presents an interesting summary of different projects on rivers, carried out through LIFE financial programme, and related to the following topics:

- LIFE and integrated river basin management
- Protecting riverine habitats and species
- Heavily modified rivers: rural and urban solutions
- Monitoring the status of EU rivers
- Improving the status of Europe's rivers
- Reconnecting rivers and floodplains
- Stakeholder participation

Further projects focusing on rivers are listed in the table in the end of the publication, completing the overview on LIFE projects.

LIFE and Europe's rivers starts with the following foreword by Peter Gammeltoft, Head of Unit – Protection of Water and Marine Environment, European Commission, DG Environment.

"As sources of water and means of transportation, Europe's rivers have been crucial for many human settlements. Industries have developed by rivers for the easy shipping of manufactured products and the importing of goods and materials. Economic activities, however, have placed a heavy burden on many rivers, which have also been used as natural sewers.



But in the last twenty years, initiatives to clean up Europe's rivers and reduce the amount of industrial waste and sewage being discharged into rivers have had a marked impact. Today, rivers are not only sources of water, energy production, irrigation and transportation, they are once again becoming recreational sites, used for bathing, sailing and fishing.

As part of the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD) which was adopted in December 2000, the European Commission has set an ambitious target of achieving good ecological status for all Europe's rivers by 2015. While significant progress towards this goal has already been made, much more work remains to be done. The impact of human activities continues to threaten the ecology of rivers in many areas of Europe.

The main tool to achieve WFD objectives will be the river basin management plans, the first of which should be published by December 2009. In case of river basins encompassing more than one country, the WFD requires Member States to coordinate their plans. For those river basins shared with third countries, Member States should encourage transboundary cooperation with non-EU countries.

The Commission's environment and nature project funding programme, LIFE, offers an excellent opportunity for drawing up and implementing such river basin management plans. The examples featured in this brochure form an overview of how LIFE co-funded projects have helped Member States meet the requirements of the WFD. Projects have helped to implement the directive by testing, validating and demonstrating procedures and approaches that aid the management and sharing of information and the development of guidance on technical issues. As well as having a long-lasting local legacy, ensuring sustainable management practices, many of the LIFE projects have also advanced innovative tools and technologies that enable better river basin management. Other projects have demonstrated how river basin management plans that involve the local community can boost a sense of ownership and responsibility for river cleanliness among local residents.

LIFE-Environment and LIFE-Nature projects have also targeted other issues included in the WFD, such as flood protection and groundwater, or they have focused on issues detailed in other European Directives, such as nitrates, birds, habitats, urban wastewater treatment and drinking water. This brochure presents a selection of the more than 150 river projects have received LIFE co-funding".

"LIFE and Europe's rivers - protecting and improving our water resources" is downloadable [here](#).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS (find more on the ECRR website!)

Anssi Eloranta, member of the ECRR, informs about the following two brand-new publications dealing with river restoration:

Evaluation of the socio-economic influences of the river restoration in Central Finland

Finnish pilot work related to river restoration.

NorWat Good Practice Manual

Savolainen, V. (ed.). 2007. Good Practices in Northern Watercourses – Community Development, River Restoration and Environmental Education. Publication of Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences 73.

Mediterranean Water Scarcity and Drought report

Technical Report on water scarcity and drought management in the Mediterranean and the Water Framework Directive.



TOP NEWS (find more on the ECRR website!)

European Parliament and Council reach agreement on the new Floods Directive

On 18/9/2007 the Council finally adopted [a Directive](#) of the European parliament and of the Council on the assessment and management of flood risks. Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive requires Member States to first carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones they would then need to draw up flood risk maps by 2013 and establish flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness by 2015. All assessments, maps and plans prepared shall be made available to the public.

Summer floods to cost £3bn

The insurance industry needs to improve its risk assessment after taking a £3bn hit following the summer floods while business must take responsibility for its contribution to climate change, according to industry experts.

SWEDEN – New version of Water Evaluation And Planning system

WEAP ("Water Evaluation And Planning" system) is a user-friendly software tool that takes an integrated approach to water resources planning.

EVENTS (October 2007 – November 2007)

The sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"

10/12 October 2007 – Belgrade, SERBIA

La gestion physique des cours d'eau: bilan d'une décennie d'ingénierie écologique

10/12 October 2007 – Namur, BELGIUM

First Conference - European Sustainable Water Goals (ESWG): 2007-2010

10/12 October 2007 – Belluno, ITALY

Third international yellow river forum on sustainable water resources management and delta ecosystem maintenance

16/19 October 2007 – Dongying City, Shandong Province, CHINA

23rd Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water Analysis

15 October 2007 – Amherst, Massachusetts, USA

For information contact dleonard@schoolph.umass.edu

Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Workshop

15/19 October 2007 – Porto, PORTUGAL

3rd International Yellow River Forum

16/19 October 2007 – Dongying, CHINA

Tenth Inter-regional Conference on Water and Environment ENVIROWAT2007

17 October 2007 – New Delhi, INDIA

Procedes d'épuration plantes de macrophytes: nouveautes et retours d'experienç

18 October 2007 – Limoges, FRANCE



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Management plans for Ramsar Sites in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

18/22 October 2007 – Putbus, GERMANY

Stream Ecosystem Restoration Training Series - Blending Stream Ecology, Hydraulic Engineering & Fluvial Geomorphology for Successful Stream Restoration

22/26 October 2007 – Dublin, OHIO

Third Southeast Asia Water Forum

22/26 October 2007 – Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

Restauración de Ríos (2nd International Seminar on River Restoration)

23/24 October 2007 – Madrid, SPAIN

The 14th Annual Conference of the California Society for Ecological Restoration

23/26 October 2007 – San Diego, California, USA

Joint UNECE, UNDP and OSCE workshops on river basin organizations, water governance and regional networking.

23/26 October 2007 – Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN

Aquaculture Europe 2007

24/27 October 2007 - Istanbul, TURKEY

AGRI OUTLOOK 2007

25/26 October 2007 - Pretoria, Gauteng, SOUTH AFRICA

34th Annual Conference on Ecosystem Restoration and Creation

1/2 November 2007 – Plant City, Florida, USA

UNESCO IHP-HELP Symposium: "HELP in Action". Local Solutions to Global Water Problems. Lessons from the South

4/9 November 2007 – Gauteng, SOUTH AFRICA

3rd EWA Conference on European Water Management and Climate Change

5 November 2007 – Brussels, BELGIUM

EUROPE-INBO 2007

8/10 November 2007 – Rome, ITALY

II International Congress SmallWat07

11/15 November 2007 – Sevilla, SPAIN

19th Annual Symposium of the Wildlife Habitat Council

12/13 November 2007 – Baltimore, Maryland, USA

International conference on "Risk Assessment in European River Basins - State of the Art and Future Challenges"

12/14 November 2007 – Leipzig, GERMANY

AWRA 43rd annual water resources conference

12-15 November 2007 – Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA



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[CAIWA 2007](#)

12-15 November 2007 - Basel, SWITZERLAND

[Water Management through Forest Management](#)

12/16 November 2007 – Beijing, CHINA

[L'utilisation des eaux de pluie nouveutes et retours d'experience](#)

13 November 2007 - Paris, FRANCE

[SUDSnet National Conference](#)

14 November 2007 - Coventry University, UK

[Symposium: Reintroduction of Atlantic salmon in rivers - a new approach](#)

27/29 November 2007 – Maastricht, THE NETHERLANDS

[1st World Aqua Congress](#)

28/30 November 2007 – New Delhi, INDIA

[AWRA 43rd annual water resources conference](#)

27/29 November 2007 – Maastricht, THE NETHERLANDS



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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

European Centre for River Restoration
C/o Centro Italiano per la Riquilificazione Fluviale
Viale Garibaldi 44/A
30173 Mestre – Venezia, ITALY
Tel/fax: +39 041615410
e-mail: info@ecrr.org