

European Centre for River Restoration

NEWSLETTER – October 2008

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ECRR SEMINAR

"Ecological River Restoration in South European Countries"

Madrid, Spain – 14/15 November 2008

The European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) is an European network whose mission is to enhance and promote river restoration and sustainable river management throughout Europe, disseminating river restoration information and fostering the establishment of national river restoration networks in as many European countries as possible. The ECRR organizes the seminar "Ecological River Restoration in South European Countries", that will take place in Madrid, Spain, on 13-14 November 2008.



VENUE

Escuela de Ingenieros de Montes (UPM),
Ciudad Universitaria, E-28040 Madrid
(Spain)

Metro station (underground): Ciudad
Universitaria & Metropolitano in line 6
(circular).

Telephone: +34-91-3366385

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E-mail: diego.gjalon@upm.es



REGISTRATION

People willing to participate in the workshop
are invited to send an email to
info@ecrr.org.

There are no charges for the inscription
(excursion is included), but all attendants
will cover their travel and living expenses.

The number of participants will be maximum
60 people.

PARTNER

The seminar is organized in cooperation
with: Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione
Fluviale (CIRF); Rijkswaterstaat – National
Centre for Water Management, The
Netherlands; Technical University of Madrid
(UPM); Ministry of Environment, Agriculture
& Sea.

The event will focus on river basin
management and river restoration
experiences carried out in Mediterranean
Rivers, in order to share knowledge and
concepts, approaches, methods and
strategies on river restoration and to foster
networking associating subjects working in
river restoration within the frame of ECRR.
Restoring Mediterranean rivers is different
from other rivers, as deals with specific
problems. Among these, contrasting flow
regimes, with summer drought and extreme
floods in fall and winter, and a great water
demand for irrigation, are the most
remarkable.

TOP NEWS

[Spain: The confederations of the Cantabrian and Júcar will be the first to have mapped their flood areas](#)

The Cantabrian and Júcar confederations in Spain will be the first to locate their flood areas, as in September 2008 the Ministry of Environment and Rural & Maritim Affairs (MARM) will conduct of its mapping, scheduled within the National Mapping System for flood zones.

[Realising water quality standards in river basins](#)

Across Europe EU member states and local authorities are required to develop river basin water management plans. A key element of the basin plans is a programme of measures (POM) for each river basin district. The POM outlines the most cost effective management measures and their application to meet the objectives of good ecological status. The measures shall remedy conflicts between economic benefits from water use and associated pollution. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) states that POM must be implemented by 2012.

[Draft flood guidelines published](#)

Building developments on floodplains could come to an end if draft planning guidelines published today are approved. The draft guidelines, which have been published for public consultation, are designed to ensure a more systematic approach "to fully incorporate

DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE SEMINAR

Day 1 – Friday 14 November 2008: Seminar

9.00	Opening and overview of ECRR, Bart Fokkens, Rijkswaterstaat – National Centre for Water Management, The Netherlands
9.15	Welcome, Diego Garcia de Jalon, Technical University of Madrid - UPM, Spain
9.30	Spanish Strategy for River Restoration, by Marta Morón, Water General Director, Spanish Ministry of Agriculture & Environment
10.00	Case studies from Catalunya by Lluís Goded: "River restoration projects"
10.30	Case study from Andalucía by Javier Serrano, Conferación Hidrográfica del Guadalquivir: "River restoration on the river Guadiamar"
11.00	Coffee break
11.30	Case study from Portugal: different approaches for different problems by Rui Cortes Tras os Montes e Alto Douro University
12.00	A Plan for renovating the lower Reno river (Emilia Romagna, Italy) by Andrea Nardini CIRF
12.30	Restoration of Rivers in Mediterranean countries. Case study from France
13.00	Presentation by Lidia Arenillas Confederación Hidrográfica del Tajo: "Dam removal in river Manzanares– facts and conclusions for river restoration concepts"
13.30	Lunch
15.30	Restoration of Rivers in Mediterranean countries. Case study from Croatia
16.00	Case study from Navarra by Josu Elso. Remeandering River Arga: "Restoration practice in Ebro River Basin - LIFE Project"
16.15	Discussion about further international cooperation in river restoration and the role of ECRR in this
16.30	Conclusion of the Seminar
18.30	Constitutional Meeting of the Iberian Centre for River Restoration
18.30	Departure for the field trip to Arga

Day 2 – Saturday 15 November 2008: Field Trip

20.00	Arrival in Madrid from the Field Trip
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flood risk assessment and management into the planning system”.

Recent flood chaos - time for action!

Serious flooding has blighted yet another "summer". With recent flooding causing chaos all over the UK it's time for government, local authorities and water companies to come together to create a framework for effective flood risk management.

Held in November, The Future of Flood Management conference gathers together a pan-industry line-up of experts to discuss the industry's response to the Pitt Review, the critical legislative changes, and what's been learnt from last summer's floods.

The role of LIFE in nature restoration

The protection and improvement of biodiversity is essential if Europe is to enjoy a prosperous and sustainable future. Restoring and upgrading the ecology of degraded habitats will need to play a key part in any future policy.

Within the European Union, the Natura 2000 network is the cornerstone of biodiversity policy. To restore, maintain and improve the status of the species and habitats in the network is a major challenge, particularly in the face of increasing pressures, such as climate change.

LIFE has made an important contribution to ecological restoration and conservation within the Natura 2000 network.

EUROPEAN GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE 2008

Paris, UNESCO headquarters, 13-15 November 2008

Since 2002, the European Commission leads a groundwater experts group (Working Group C – WGC) composed of Member States and stakeholders representatives, the main aims and objectives of which are to ensure exchanges in support of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) and of the new Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC (GWD).

The autumn 2008 plenary session of WGC, organised under the auspices of the French EU Presidency, coincides with important milestones of the WFD and of the GWD. Firstly, Member States will have to establish groundwater bodies threshold values by the end of 2008. Secondly, they will have to publish river basin management plans (RBMP) by the end of 2009, including a first assessment of the groundwater bodies “good chemical and quantitative status and a programme of measures to reach the WFD objectives.

In addition, all activities and all technical guidance documents published under WGC activities raised important lacks of knowledge (chemical and quantitative relationships with surface water and terrestrial ecosystems, pollutants transfer and time scale, cost-efficiency assessment, climate change,...). This represents a real limit for an efficient implementation of the WFD and of the GWD. Hence, communication and interfaces between science and policy remains a priority for a successful implementation of the WFD/GWD.

In this context, the Paris 2008 Groundwater conference aims to bring together different communities involved in the implementation of the WFD/GWD (national and European policy makers, scientists and stakeholders) as well as experts interested by groundwater integrated management issues. This conference will constitute a forum to share experiences about groundwater integrated management and good status assessment on the eve of the River Basin Management Plans publication.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

Experts from administrative bodies (governmental and local authorities), stakeholder representatives and scientific community

Conference Language

Official languages of the conference are English and French. Simultaneous translations will be provided during the conference



VENUE

The venue for the conference will be the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. UNESCO has 2 sites. This meeting will be held at UNESCO Fontenoy (see map below). To facilitate your access, you can prepare your own route map on www.ratp.fr.

UNESCO Building
Place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris
France

Metro stations
Cambronne (L6),
Séгур (L10) or
Ecole Militaire (L8)

For more information visit :
www.groundwater2008paris.fr/home_en.htm

[Follow-up of the event
"EUROPEAN WATER
RESEARCH DAY" at
the EXPO ZARAGOZA
2008](#)

The event organised by the EC Directorate General for Research was mainly dedicated to present past, on-going and future EU-funded water research activities. The book of abstracts is available [here](#).

The detailed programme of the event and the electronic versions of the presentations are available in [PDF format](#).

The web version of the event's videos are archived on:
<http://webcast.ec.europa.eu>

[New NGO report says more
concrete is no solution for
Europe's rivers](#)

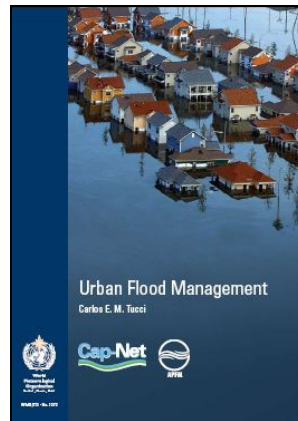
A new study published by environmental groups European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and WWF reports that the major causes of Europe's poor water quality are at risk of being totally ignored.

[New EU-SMAP website](#)

The website of the EU programme SMAP (Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme) has been updated

More news are available in the [news section](#) of the ECRR website.

Urban Flood Management



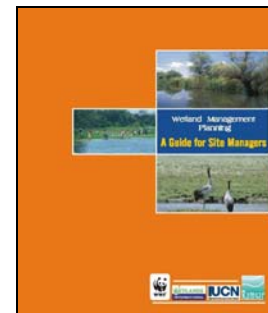
This is a book aimed at decision-makers and professionals working in the field of the urban environment as administrators, legislators, engineers, architects, geologists, biologists and others. The book aims to present a comprehensive view of the management of urban rainwater, which also includes urban drainage and river flooding in cities.

The text is broad and tackles a number of economic, social, environmental and climatic situations, it does not address all the issues of the topic, but it does show how to include innovative solutions based on fundamental principles of sustainable development. The book is only available on CD and forms the basis of a training package currently being developed.

Wetlands Management Guide

Four international organizations with a long record of water conservation have partnered to produce a comprehensive reference for water and wetland managers.

With input from several experts around the world, the "Wetland Management Planning - a Guide for Site Managers" deals with several pragmatic aspects: building trust, participation, and capacity; assessing wetlands values; setting achievable objectives and much more.



Journal of Flood Risk Management: Second Issue now online



Journal of Flood Risk Management provides an international platform for knowledge sharing in all areas related to flood risk. Its explicit aim is to disseminate ideas across the range of disciplines where flood related research is carried out and it provides content ranging from leading edge academic papers to applied content with the practitioner in mind.

The second issue of the Journal of Flood Risk Management is now available online. Articles published in the journal will be freely available to download throughout 2008 and can be accessed via the journal website.

EVENTS

[Barcelona Process: a Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water](#)

28-29 October 2008 – Dead Sea, JORDAN

[Symposium: "Biodiversity of surface waters, floodplains and groundwater"](#)

29-30 October 2008 – Bonn, GERMANY

[Final Conference of the SPI-Water project: Managing water related information in support](#)

30-31 October 2008 – Brussels, BELGIUM

[FloodFighters 2008](#)

3 November 2008 – United Kingdom University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK

[The Future of Flood Management](#)

4 November 2008 – London, UK

[4th EWA Brussels Conference on the Economic Aspects of the Water Framework Directive](#)

4 November 2008 – Brussels, BELGIUM

[4th EWA Brussels Conference on the Economic Aspects of the Water Framework Directive](#)

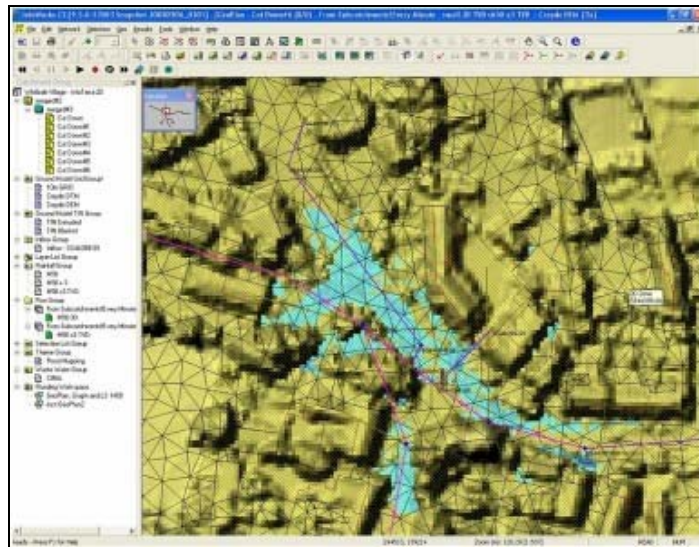
6/8 November 2008 – Plant City, Florida, USA

[Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation](#)

11/14 November 2008 – Lake Louise, Alberta, USA

New software available

Wallingford Software has simultaneously released version 9.5 of all six of its core software solutions: InfoWorks CS (collection systems), SD (storm drainage), WS (water supply and distribution) RS (river systems), FloodWorks and InfoNet.



Building on the 2D functionality introduced in v9.0 into InfoWorks CS, SD and RS, v9.5 features an array of enhancements including the introduction of new 2D objects (initial condition polygons, outfalls, gullies, point inflows and boundary conditions), multiple improvements to results analysis and export, and the introduction of new ground model modification tools. Very significantly, 2D models in InfoWorks CS, SD and RS can now be run within FloodWorks, Wallingford Software's real time flood forecasting and warning system, bringing enhanced modeling of flows through complex river and drainage networks, and for overland flooding simulations.

As users have grown in their need to analyse data in unique and diverse ways, so SQL queries have featured more prominently in Wallingford Software's development programme. Version 9.5 sees the expansion of SQL functionality across all its software applications to further equip users with the data query capabilities they need.

Due to its affordability, intuitive design and wealth of up-to-date and high-resolution geospatial data, Google Earth has become a popular method of displaying and distributing model results and network data, particularly dynamic flood inundation maps.

V9.5 of InfoWorks, FloodWorks and InfoNet sees improvements to the data export options to Google Earth. These include improvements in export options (layers, objects, names, descriptions, results) and flexibility in the way that users can access network data files for use with the Google Earth interface (.KMZ, .KML, PNG and .ZIP files).

Version 9.5 also features many innovations specific to each individual software application:

- InfoWorks CS/SD v9.5 introduces both new functionality and a wide range of usability improvements to aid productivity.
- InfoWorks WS v9.5 includes a new Set Area Codes tool that allows area codes to be set for objects in selected sub-networks of the network.
- InfoWorks RS v9.5 offers substantial enhancements to both its 1D and 2D modeling functionality.
- FloodWorks v9.5 provides a variety of improvements to aid user productivity.
- InfoNet v9.5 features a new scheduling tool to aid operational planning, budget forecasting and crew scheduling.

To read more about the software click [here](#).



[2nd European Groundwater Conference](#)

13 November 2008 –
UNESCO headquarters in
Paris, FRANCE

[2nd European Groundwater Conference](#)

13/15 November 2008 –
Paris, FRANCE

[SEMINAR "Ecological River Restoration in South European Countries"](#)

14/15 November 2008 –
Madrid, SPAIN

[International Conference on Hydrology and Climate Change in Mountainous Areas](#)

15/17 November 2008 –
Sobam, NEPAL

[Adaptive Integrated Water Resources Management under Uncertainty - Results from the NeWater Project](#)

17/19 November 2008 –
Seville, SPAIN

[Two day river restoration courses](#)

18/19 November 2008 –
Silsoe, Bedfordshire,
ENGLAND

[World Biodiversity Congress](#)

20/22 November 2008 –
Chiang Mai, Thailand Century
Foundation, INDIA

[Water scarcity and management under Mediterranean climate](#)

24 - 25 November 2008 –
Girona, SPAIN

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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