

NEWSLETTER

ECRR



European Centre for River Restoration

From the editors

WEB-site

An ECRR WEB-site is now available at the URL-address: www.ecrr.org

At this address you will find information on the ECRR.

The WEB-site is still under construction and not fully developed.

Newsletter at the WEB-site

As it is now possible to download the ECRR newsletters from the

ECRR home page on the Internet, it is the intention primarily to publish future newsletters on the Internet instead of mailing paper copies to all members.

This will keep down expenses that could be used for other purposes promoting the cause of river restoration.

Please fill out the information slip at the end of this newsletter, and indicate whether:

- you do not have access to the Internet and/or prefer to have the newsletter forwarded as a paper copy;
- you do have access to the Internet and want to be notified by e-mail when a newsletter has been published on the Internet;
- you will keep an eye on the ECRR URL-address yourself and will therefore neither receive a paper copy of the newsletter nor an E-mail announcing new issues.

European Centre for River Restoration

ECRR Constituting meeting

An official constituting meeting of the ECRR was held in Silkeborg, Denmark in March 1999.

53 people from 22 countries attended the meeting.

At the meeting a network of institutions and persons working with restoration of rivers was set up and a managing board for the ECRR was established.

Programme

At the meeting a number of speakers informed about different subjects relevant for the ECRR.

Asger M. Olsen from EU's DG-XI presented the Water Framework Directive and its relevance to river restoration and vice-versa.

Jane Madgwick from WWF-International talked about living rivers – past experience and future goals.

Giustino Mezzalana from CIRF, Italy, argued for the need for a national Italian Centre for River Restoration.

Henk Zingstra from Wetlands International talked about integrated wetland and river management activities in Central Europe.

Nigel Holmes from the RRC, UK, gave suggestions to the key objectives of the ECRR, its actions to date, and its key goals. He also gave a draft outline of future action plans, dates, targets, approaches etc. for general discussion.

Marita Cals from RIZA announced the coming international conference on river restoration to be held in Wageningen, The Netherlands May 2000 (see later in this newsletter for more information on the conference).

Furthermore, a great deal of the programme was devoted to general discussions on the ECRR, its objectives and goals, its network and its funding. The meeting also appointed a management board and a secretariat for the coming three years.

Objectives and goals

The following objectives and goals were agreed upon at the constituting meeting:

Overall objectives

To support the development of river restoration as an integral part of sustainable water management in as many European countries as possible.

Goals for the ECRR are:

- To encourage more river restoration;
- To gain greater benefits from river restoration projects;
- To increase the cost-benefit of river restoration works;
- To obtain greater biodiversity, and better water quality and flood management;
- To improve confidence in promoting and implementing river restoration;

- To bring about changes in policy and practice on river restoration to reflect the needs of the 21st Century - including having river restoration accepted as an integral part of sustainable water management.
- To improve European access to, and exchange of information from worldwide experience in river restoration.

ECRR will support the development of river restoration as an integral part of sustainable water management throughout Europe ensuring that projects will be more cost effective, more likely to succeed, and will encompass multifunctional objectives. It will also encourage the application of river restoration technology to routine management activities to promote sustainable and wise economic 'use' of rivers.

Other key-objectives are:

- Exchange information and bring people into contact with each other - Networking of people and sharing of expertise;
- Increase the knowledge of the existence of river restoration and its technology and applications;
- Enable wider (Europe-wide) and more efficient dissemination of information relating to river restoration projects, techniques etc.;
- Facilitate better use of knowledge, techniques, and people;
- Improve cost effectiveness and integrate aspirations on river restoration

The ECRR promote river restoration in the public awareness and influence interest in river restoration nationally and internationally.

Network

It was stressed that the ECRR is a network, in which all members have the opportunity and responsibility to make the centre work. Members should build up national networks. A close contact between members, both nationally and internationally, should be encouraged for the exchange of information.

Funding

The operational development of the ECRR requires external funding. Recently EU's LIFE-programme has granted funds for the running of the ECRR secretariat.

Support from COST programmes will also be sought.

It should be noted that at present the ECRR cannot fund national centres and these should continuously seek funding from national sources.

Management board

A managing board and a secretariat was appointed for the next three years at the constituting meeting. The management board consists of the following seven representatives:

- Torben Moth Iversen (chairman), NERI, DK;
- Bart Fokkens, RIZA, NL;
- Nigel Holmes, RRC and EA, UK;
- Heinz Patt, DVWK, DE
- Petru Serban, Romanian Waters, RO;
- Javier Cachón de Mesa, CEDEX, ES;
- Nadezhda Prokhorova, RosNIIVKh, RS.

Jane Madgwick from WWF-International and Henk Zingstra from Wetlands International have been invited to attend board meetings as observers.

The board is responsible for the general management and organisation of the ECRR - e.g. proposals of structure and working practices, arrangements of meetings and conferences, etc. The activities of the board should be concentrated on organisational and co-ordinating aspects.

Secretariat

The management board has elected a secretariat that represents the ECRR externally and functions as the international contact centre. The Danish NERI was elected for secretariat function for the next three years.

ECRR conference

River Restoration 2000 – Practical Approaches

The second conference on river restoration arranged by the ECRR will be held from 15-19 May 2000. The conference named '**River Restoration 2000 - Practical Approaches**', is organised by Rijkswaterstaat RIZA and will be held in the Netherlands at an inspiring location with a view over the river Rhine.

The programme

The aims of the conference are:

- to have an inspiring, motivating and innovative conference on river restoration;
- to guarantee appropriate exchange of know-how and to contribute to the networking function of the ECRR;
- to identify common issues for river restoration in various regions of Europe.

In a varied programme, with time for field trips and bilateral discussions, practical approaches to river restoration in Southern, Northern, Western and Eastern Europe will be discussed. The programme aims at achieving a mixture of presentations, workshops and discussions.

The workshops will be very interactive, bring different disciplines

together and offer opportunities to present experiences and case studies. Keynote lectures, poster sessions, information and demonstration market and field trips will support the discussions either in plenary or in workshops.

The conclusions and recommendations from theme discussions will be used as input for the discussion on what the ECRR should focus on, so that the Centre can best meet all needs.

Who can participate?

The conference is intended for those who are involved in the field of management, research and communication on river restoration. They may be members of ECRR, planning authorities, research institutes, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The ECRR feel that it is important that participants can communicate intensively and exchange information. Participation in the conference will therefore be on invitation only and the number of participants will be limited to approximately 100.

The participants of the conference must fulfil at least two of the following criteria:

- have an overview of the field of river restoration for their country and/or on the level of entire river basins;
- be practically involved in the planning of river restoration;
- have a network function in the field of river restoration.

Timetable

Invitation letters will be sent out in September 1999. Participants are invited to submit a title and an abstract for presentation by 15 October 1999.

All participants are invited to bring material regarding river restoration and their river systems and country for the conference. Other than oral and poster presentation promotion and education tools, computer models, demonstration videos, brochures etc. could be presented. The papers will be available to the participants at the start of the conference.

The papers, together with the conclusions and recommendations, will be included in the proceedings of the conference. The proceedings will be published in May 2001.

For more information, please e-mail Marita Cals: m.cals@riza.rws.minvenw.nl

Viewpoint

The UK River Restoration Centre - an example of an existing Network

Nigel Holmes & Nick Haycock, Managing Director & Chairman of RRC, UK

The UK River Restoration Centre (RRC) is a non-profit making organisation established to enable people to benefit from the developing expertise in river restoration in the UK. RRC has developed through a partnership with many government and private sector organisations who

wish to shape the future of river restoration by learning from the experiences gained from UK projects in the last ten years. RRC has been an active supporter of the European Centre for River Restoration since it aspires to share experiences throughout the whole of the Continent.

Mission

A large variety of organisations contribute project information to RRC in order to share this with others but also to learn from other organisations as well. This process enables RRC to fulfil its mission statement: 'Through its own proactive

activities RRC will influence future policy and practice so that river restoration measures become an integral part of sustainable and cost-effective management in degraded UK river catchments'. Participating organisations include:

- public sector organisations and government agencies;
- consultants;
- private sector interests, e.g., water suppliers and mineral operators;
- land managers, e.g., farmers and estate managers;
- river users, e.g., angling and amenity societies;
- voluntary conservation bodies - national and local;
- research and education establishments.

Project information

RRC 'members' have access to comprehensive and up to date project information. RRC manages this unique database and provides details of river restoration schemes across the UK. Through the expertise of its staff and network of technical advisors members can obtain site-specific advice to resolve problems.

Equally, advisors can generate "vision plans" that review site specific information in order to provide groups with a clearer understanding of the potential habitats that could exist within their river and floodplain environment. This is essential to ensure effective use of the limited resources available for river restoration and to maximise the habitat restoration potential of any works.

Network

The success of RRC is dependent not only on funding organisations, but also on the active participation of its members and technical advisors.

Through this mix of organisations and individuals the Centre is able to effectively share information throughout the UK. Members that subscribe to RRC are encouraged to be part of the Network. This exists to provide members with:

- a close sense of ownership and involvement with RRC;
- opportunities to influence the strategy and work programme of RRC;
- access to other members with similar interests.

UK's focal point

RRC is now in the position of being the UK's focal point for not only sharing past experiences in river restoration, but also has a role in identifying future priorities in terms of which rivers could be restored as well as directing public awareness campaigns. RRC continues to develop a range of materials on river restoration, ranging from videos, manuals on restoration techniques through to professional training seminars and workshops.

The UK RRC has grown up very fast and there is always the need to include more people in the network in order to evolve and improve RRC's understanding of river restoration techniques. The enthusiasm of these members is critical to the Centre's growth and success, sharing information effectively with members becomes a key task for Centre staff to ensure a continuing role for RRC in the UK.

RRC Web Site:
www.qest.demon.co.uk/rrc/rrc.htm

A Russian Centre for River Restoration – Why not?

Nadezhda Prokhorova & Timur Pavluk, Russian Research Institute for Integrated Water Management and Protection (RosNIIVKh), Yekaterinburg, Russia

The constituting meeting of the European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) was held on 25-26 March in the city of Silkeborg (Denmark). 53 representatives from 22 European countries took part in the meeting.

The ECRR foundation was officially announced at the meeting, and presentations on particular topics were presented.

During the second day the management board was elected. Nadezhda Prokhorova from RosNIIVKh became its member as a representative of the former Soviet Union countries.

Ms Prokhorova suggested establishing a regional centre for river

restoration at first in Russia and later on within the CIS countries. The participants of the meeting supported the idea enthusiastically.

Within the project on the National Water Policy Concept for Sustainable Water Use in the Russian Federation, the principle of permanent and continuous minimization of all hazardous impacts on water bodies was declared.

This principle can be implemented due to solving a number of problems for the Russian water resources restoration; these problems are to be formulated in the target programme on the Restoration, Conservation and Rational Water Use in Russia.

The ECRR constituting meeting is over, but the seeds of hope, planted by the creative and friendly atmosphere within the walls of the Danish Environmental Research Institute will soon bring in results in many countries of Europe.

We suggest the establishment of an Association for River Restoration in Russia which could meet the demands and tasks of the ECRR and contribute to the increased efficiency of integrated planning for river catchment restoration and widen the contacts of Russian scientists in the field of water bodies rehabilitation.

Towards a strategy for river restoration?

Mark Diamond and Elaine Fisher, Environment Agency, Warrington, UK

The purpose of this item is to provoke discussion of potential strategies for river restoration. For the sake of brevity we have avoided defining many of the terms used, although we understand that they are open to wide interpretation.

It is often said that river restoration should be undertaken at the catchment scale or at least in the context of considerations that scale. At the inaugural meeting of the ECRR it was clear that in general "river restoration" projects currently take place at the reach scale. Why is this so?

Perhaps two of the key reasons are firstly, a lack of understanding of processes at a catchment scale and secondly, the relative ease with which support can be acquired for short-term reach scale "demonstration projects".

If we wish to undertake catchment scale restoration and are driven to undertake reach scale improvements then we need to ensure that the reach scale improvements are

undertaken to support catchment scale objectives.

To achieve this we suggest a simple strategy that can be improved incrementally as knowledge emerges. The proposed strategy has the following five components:

1. The development of a systematic approach to catchment analysis to identify and prioritise where improved management should be applied.
2. A goal to restore the function and form of the remaining less disturbed fragments of river systems that harbour habitats and species of high conservation value.
3. A goal to rehabilitate urban rivers using best practice (with respect to sustainable development) to improve quality of life.
4. The adoption of an adaptive management approach to gain a better understanding. Adaptive management involves monitoring the outcomes of management actions and, where necessary,

taking corrective actions to achieve the desired outcomes.

5. Partnership with the local community who are ultimately responsible for the success of river restoration.

The proposed strategy can be divided into the general elements (1, 4 & 5) and the goals (2 & 3). We recognise that at this stage the goals are quite narrow in their focus. Also there could be more emphasis given to ensuring the general protection of the river from further deterioration.

We would welcome any comments on this proposed strategy and suggestions for improvements. Contributions should be sent to: mark.diamond@environment-agency.gov.uk As the strategy develops further articles will be submitted to this publication with credit given for all contributions.

(Readers are encouraged to express their viewpoints in this space. Viewpoints should be concisely written in English (max. 1 page).

Projects

Sponsoring for brook rehabilitation

– The Edmund Siemers-Trust and the project 'Este-Wümme'

Ludwig Tent, Edmund Siemers-Stiftung, Buchenweg 11, D - 21255 Tostedt, Germany

By the end of the European Year for Nature Conservation 1995 the Edmund Siemers-Trust, Hamburg, Germany, had been formed. One of its tasks is the support of nature conservation and environmental protection.

After an assessment of the target catchments it has become clear that the cause for continuing species reduction and production suppression in running waters is the poor morphological status of the brooks. Inappropriate land use practices in relation to soil characteristics and river maintenance are the main problems to be solved. A natural

productive salmonid population with typical plant and animal species too is the goal to be achieved.

In a first phase till the year 2011 the project "Este - Wümme" will be the centre of activities. The heath brooks Seeve, Este, Oste and Wümme in Lower Saxony, Germany, shall be developed to become an ecological backbone in the southern area of the "Metropolregion Hamburg". Thus across the watersheds of these brooks the catchments of the rivers Elbe and Weser will gradually have habitat restored so that the rivers can again act as a network corridor for isolated populations (e.g.

otters, fish) to mix. In the headwaters brought to a first stage of an ecological network with segregated populations of organisms, e.g. the otter, being able to reconnect.

The need for such a project is documented in the brochure "Unsere Heidebäche brauchen Hilfe" (1998). The Edmund Siemers -Stiftung will seek to bring together the experiences of science and fieldwork via the ECRR.

(Everybody has the opportunity to have restoration projects presented in this space. The presentation should be concisely (max. 1 page) written in English.)

Conferences

The Centre has received information about the following international conferences with relevance for river restoration. Further information can be obtained by writing to the e-mail addresses provided.

4th International conference on diffuse pollution

Bangkok, Thailand 16-20 January 2000
The main idea of this IAWQ conference will cover causes, impact, prevention and abatement of diffuse pollution in urban, rural and specific areas. The focus will be on the problem of diffuse pollution and low technology solutions that are effective and affordable for both developed and developing countries.
E-mail: ldd@mozart.inet.co.th

Biological problems in large rivers

University of Cologne, Germany 4-8 April 2000
The main topics of the conference will be: Dynamic changes in the benthic fauna; Ecology of the river fishes.

Further information: Dr. Armin Kureck or Prof. Hartmut Arndt
E-mail: akureck@biolan.uni-koeln.de or: harndt@biolan.uni-koeln.de

River restoration 2000 – Practical approaches

RIZA - Wageningen, The Netherlands 15-19 May 2000
The conference is the second conference on river restoration arranged by the ECRR. Further information in this newsletter.
E-mail: M.Cals@riza.rws.minvenw.nl

4th International Congress & Technical Exhibition: Water: Ecology and Technology (ECWATECH-2000)

Moscow, Russia 29 May – 2 June 2000
The topics of the congress include: Water resources; water supply; water dispersal and wastewater treatment; ecological monitoring of water bodies. The conference also includes a technical exhibition.
Further information:
E-mail: sibico.int@g23.relcom.ru
URL: www.relcom.ru/ecwatech

Watershed 2000

Vancouver, Canada 9-12 July 2000
E-mail: msc@wef.org

Wetlands for the 21st century

Québec City, Canada 6-12 August 2000
Themes include sustainability of wetland and biological resources, wetland restoration technology and more.
E-mail: cqvb@cqvb.qc.ca
URL: www.cqvb.qc.ca/wetland2000/

Agricultural effects on ground and surface waters

Wageningen, The Netherlands 1-4 October 2000
Further information:
J.H.A.M. Steenvoorden.
E-mail: j.h.a.m.steenvoorden@sc.dlo.nl
URL: www.sc.dlo.nl

Publications and videos

The Centre has received information about the following publications with relevance for river restoration.

Bakker, C., Noordhuis, R. & Prins, K.H. (Eds.) (1998):
Biological monitoring of national freshwaters: Water system report Rhine 1995. – RIZA report no. 98.047. Lelystad, The Netherlands.

Chernyaev, A.M., Dalkov, M.P., Prokhorova, N.B. et al. (1999):
Russia: Water Management.
The book deals with organisational, technological problems of the present Russian water management.

Darby, S. & Simon, A. (Eds.) (1999):
Incised river channels: Processes, forms, engineering, and management. – Wiley & Sons Chichester, UK. 456 pp.
More information at URL:
catalog.wiley.com/remsrch.cgi

The Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group (1998):
Stream corridor restoration – Principles, processes, and practices. – Soil and Water Conservation Society, Iowa, USA.

Grabs, W. (Ed.) (1997):
Impact of climate change on hydrological regimes and water resources management in the Rhine basin. ISBN 90-70980-26-6. CHR-report 1-16.
English, German and Dutch brochures available at CHR-secretariat, RIZA, the Netherlands.

Hey, D.L. & Philippi, N.S. (1999):
A Case for Wetland Restoration. – Wiley & Sons Chichester, UK.
More information at URL:
catalog.wiley.com/remsrch.cgi

Middelkoop, H. & van Haselen C.O.G. (Eds.) (1999):
Twice a River. Rhine and Meuse in the Netherlands. – RIZA report no. 99.003. Arnhem, The Netherlands.

Schoor, M.M. & Sorber, A.M. (1999):
Morphology, Naturally. ISBN 9036952735, Arnhem: RIZA, the Netherlands.

Vivash, R. (1999):
Manual of river restoration techniques. – The River Restoration Centre, Arca Press, Ltd., Bedford, UK.
The manual provides details of the techniques used on the LIFE funded RRP demonstration sites on the Cole and Skerne. Bound as a loose-leaf file it is intended to issue additional case studies from the RRC network. Price: £16.

de Waal, L.C., Large, A. & Wade, M. (Eds.) (1998):
Rehabilitation of rivers: Principles and implementation. – Wiley & Sons Chichester, UK.
More information at URL:
catalog.wiley.com/remsrch.cgi

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c/o National Environmental Research Institute
Vejlssøvej 25
P.O.Box 314
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Denmark

Fax: +45 89 20 14 14
E-mail: ECRR@dmu.dk

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