



NEWSLETTER

European Centre for River Restoration



WWF 3 – session organizers & speakers of March 20-21, Shiga



Katsura River near Kyoto

Experiences of the World Water Forum 3 in Japan

An Asian River Restoration Centre – constituted during WWF3

By Ute Menke, European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR@ecrr.org)

ECRR was invited by the Japanese Foundation for Riverfront Improvement and Restoration (Tokyo, Japan) to take part in two sessions during the World Water Forum 3 in Shiga, 20 and 21 March, 2003. The session was titled “**Restoration by Eco-Compatible and Management in a River Basin**”.

On Thursday, 20 March, a panel discussion was held concerning the need of the establishment of an Asian River Restoration Centre. The keynote speeches were held by Dr. Tamai (Kanazawa University, Japan) and Dr. Parish (Global Environment Centre, Malaysia). Mrs. Kurenai Kanda, a famous Japanese storyteller, presented the “Guidelines of river restoration” to the public in a very lively manner. Mr. Matsuda, the director of the Riverfront Centre, emphasized once more the importance of global networks to exchange

experiences and to share and develop practical approaches for river management together.

The panel members were mainly coming from Japan, but representing different organisations as universities, foundations, local & regional governments and ministries. The public was very interested in how river restoration is carried out in Europe although the Japanese rivers are not comparable concerning their discharge and river profile with the (large) lowland rivers in Europe.

The establishment of an Asian River Restoration Centre is of great importance for the region. The Centre can play a key role in disseminating information on river restoration and to encourage Governments, NGOs, the private sector, academia, local communities and other stakeholders in the East Asia region to work

together to protect and restore river systems for the benefit of present and future generations.

On Friday, 21 March, case studies on river restoration were presented from W-Europe, Malaysia, Korea, China and Japan. The case studies formed a good basis for the later discussion on the "guidelines" which should be practicable on a global scale. Some definitions (e.g. value of cultural landscapes) seemed to be quite disputable. The text of the presented guidelines will be published on the short-term on the website (www.rfc.or.jp). The case studies pointed out very clear that some densely populated countries as Malaysia are just starting with restoration measures as public campaigns to clean up the rivers and riverside. Everywhere, there exists a high pressure on rivers due to urban & rural development, extended industries, shipping, water extraction, hydropower, recreation and last not but least nature.

But river management measures are changing due to the bad experiences that were made in a lot of countries. The philosophy is now to conserve as much natural areas as possible and to carry out so-called *no regret measures* in restoration projects to ensure the sustainable development.

A field trip of the organizers was held on Tuesday, 18 March to the Katsura river, Biwa Lake and surrounding. Along the Katsura river near Kyoto, a water treatment installation in the underground of a floodplain was visited (about 50 km upstream of Osaka). Sewage water is going directly to the sea through a pipeline because the river water is of high quality ("drinking water") and the treated water is of a minor quality.



Amagase dam (see photo above), a so-called multipurpose dam in the upstream part of the Uji river was visited. The dam was constructed in 1964 to fulfil the purpose of flood control, hydroelectric power generation and domestic water supply. The water managing institute aside of Lake Biwa 'Aqua-Biwa' was introduced. The

institute is carrying out the monitoring activities in the area of the biggest and the eldest freshwater lake in Japan with 53 fish species. Lake Biwa is fed by 120 rivers. The Seta River Weir is controlling the outflow from Lake Biwa. 1,4 million people are living around the lake and 69% of the household wastewater is treated. In the eastern part of the lake, an experimental centre has been set up for the treatment of the polluted Hayama river water coming from the agricultural fields. Different experiments have been set up here, e.g. basin with watercress, reed, etc.



Left: untreated water

Right: purified water



Watercress experiment

Shiga Prince Hotel

The programme ended with a visit to the Lake Biwa Museum, which was opened in 1996 and attracts more than 500,000 visitors per year (top year 1997± 980,000 visitors). The exhibition is excellent, the museum is studying the relationship between humans and the lake, past and present biology and geology of lakes. The Lake Biwa Museum is a research institute, a cultural centre and a life-long study facility, as well as a centre of interaction and information. A staff of 60 people is running the business with a floor area of 24,000 square metres (www.lbm.go.jp).

WWF 3 impressions from CIRF

Italy: CIRF/Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale

By *Andrea Nardini* – Technical Director of the Italian Center for River Restoration (CIRF, www.cirf.org)
Erich Trevisiol – Member of CIRF Steering Committee and professor at IUAV, Università di Venezia

CIRF's main messages at WWF 3

1) Preserving or restoring rivers serves environmental objectives (nature conservation, landscape, etc.) but not only this. It is also a prerequisite to achieve socio-economic objectives (hydraulic safety, water availability, etc.). In particular, river restoration is a key element to implement sustainable strategies of water management. Therefore, it should not be considered only a priority-2 issue, after main problems have been solved; it rather is a central element of an integrated strategy.

2) To restore rivers without just doing an "aesthetic make-up", we need to significantly modify the equilibrium between man and the territory, i.e. land-use. This implies making important decisions and touching heavy interests. It is necessary then to improve decision making processes by merging the need for high technical and scientific standards in the management of resources with high levels of participatory democracy. This is why we need to face and manage conflicts. It is a key factor that decision and policy makers recognize the importance of such changes, but it is not enough: they should also learn how to deal with participatory processes.

Official Report & Presentations

CIRF prepared a policy document (it can be downloaded from the Forum website, day March 21, session IWRM-22, Shiga, related data)

All presentations by our speakers are downloadable from CIRF website (www.cirf.org, section Forum WWF3).

It was worth participating because CIRF was able to:

- Acquire a broad perspective on what is going around the world about river restoration.
- Insert a message in the official declarations, particularly at the Italian level.
- Define and propose an Action plan: we could not do it at the global level (that was really hard), but we could insert a couple of concrete proposals within the official document of the Italian Ministries.
- Make others know CIRF exists.

Post-Kyoto

- CIRF will continue its interaction at the official level trying to promote the implementation of concrete actions concerning cooperation, water and rivers. In particular Ríos Hermanos, one of the two actions proposed, concerns a programme to be launched to approach case studies of potential conflict to be transformed in opportunities of cooperation around the management of rivers, twinning cases from the South of the world with cases in "developed countries".
- CIRF will try to foster collaboration and partnership with similar organizations abroad.
- Soon, we will produce a CD with a full report (in Italian) on the event.

Hen Gerritse reports about INTERREG IIIB

Contact : INTERREG III B NWE Secretariat, Les Caryatides, 5ème étage ; 24, Boulevard Carnot, F- 59800 LILLE ; Tel +33(0) 3 20 78 55 08 ; Fax: +33(0) 20 55 65 95 ; Email: robin@nweurope.org

The INTERREG IIIB North-West Europe programme was officially launched in April 2002 and there have been two rounds of applications so far. Hen Gerritse, head of the Project Development unit at the NWE Secretariat reports on the first funding to EU transnational territorial development projects.



Hen Gerritse hen@nweurope.org

1) If you had to sum up the past year, how would you assess the success of the North-West Europe programme (number and quality of projects approved, percentage of funds so far committed, etc.)?

Last year, we conditionally approved 14 projects (33% of applications submitted). Many project applications took on board the new IIIB requirements regarding concrete implementation but they lacked a truly transnational flavour and style of working. The previous programme INTERREG IIC NWMA (North West Metropolitan Area) was a fairly small, transnational experiment. Consequently, what was deemed acceptable under IIC is not necessarily sufficient now. INTERREG IIIB NWE has indeed moved on and 'grown up'; the funds available are obviously much higher. It should be clear to all involved in the programme that the future of transnational programmes depends to a large extent on what we can achieve together in North-West Europe and in other similar programmes.

Transnationality is a hard concept to get across because it requires a lot of strategic thinking and in some cases a greater involvement of national authorities. Applicants must bear in mind that there has to be a transnational added-value behind their request for funding to put a project together. To get project promoters on the right track, we invested a great deal of time assisting them and explaining thoroughly what we meant by tangible results, transnationality, innovative action, common benefits, good value for money. In the end, the message seemed to come across and as a result, applications improved dramatically. The N+ 2 rule aside, we need to commit 300 million euros before the end of 2006, which means approximately 50 million euros per year. For the year 2002, we committed 47 million euros, so we proved that we can deliver. As for forecasts for this year's two calls, because we know we've got off on the right foot, we expect there to be many transnational projects and a commitment of another 100 million euros.

2) Is a specific priority or measure attracting more projects than others? If so, did you take any steps to have a more balanced amount of good quality projects per priority?

Yes definitely. Priority 3 on the sustainable management of water resources and the prevention of flood damage is very popular; then comes priority 4 on environment and cultural heritage. Priorities 1 on urban affairs and 2 on transport and ICT's are less popular. As regards priority 5 on maritime activities, despite what has been happening in the news, there has been relatively little interest so far. Of course, we took some proactive steps by organising thematic

workshops where we brought together the key players (technical experts, policy-makers, regional representatives, practitioners) to discuss the potential and scope for the rapid development of transnational co-operation projects. Events in the news plus external factors have also had an impact on our strategy. Recent incidents regarding the Prestige oil spill and traffic accidents in the NWE sea regions gave a greater sense of urgency to the need for joint actions to be taken. For that reason, we organised a thematic workshop on maritime activities in Liverpool on 13-14th March aimed at generating new transnational cooperation projects that enhance maritime activities and promote territorial integration across seas. The workshop triggered the development of about 10 new projects.

3) Transnational co-operation is rewarding but also challenging. So, why get involved?

Well, I see three main reasons to take an active role in transnational co-operation. Firstly, there are issues that by their very nature simply can not be tackled satisfactorily at national level. Just to take the example of the River Rhine, we need to take measures upstream to avoid river problems downstream. The Dutch can't keep building higher and higher dykes indefinitely. Measures need to be taken in the neighboring country, Germany, to give more space to rivers as a retention measure so that a significant impact may be felt in the River Rhine in the Netherlands. Many examples in the fields of the development of transport and ecological infrastructure show that the NWE regions really need to work hand-in-hand to create win-win situations. The second obviously being of a financial nature. For projects addressing transnational issues, an ERDF grant can be secured by the relevant partners if for their part, they can secure match funding. INTERREG IIIB NWE has a total budget for 2000-2006 of approx. €330m.

And thirdly, transnational co-operation brings tremendous benefits to a local administration in terms of best practices, know-how, access to European networks and markets.

4) In transnational fields per excellence such as water management, transport, or fight against pollution, have you noticed any positive change in the public perception of transnational cooperation?

Very often yet, I regret that transnational co-operation is seen as a luxury activity. This explains why it is so hard to sell, but I believe this short-term thinking will not endure. At our level, how can we modestly change mind-sets bit by bit? The best way to do that is to develop good quality projects with concrete impacts in various regions

of the NWE area to convince decision-makers that we are not a programme dealing with a huge number of academic studies that will end up collecting dust on a shelf. Our primary mission is to help develop good projects that answer to a real need in terms of territorial development.

5) The NWE programme works on the principle of match-funding. At a time of economic downturn, it is often hard to persuade authorities to open their purse to co-finance transnational projects. How do you envisage tackling this issue?

Indeed, but as I have just said the only way out is the development of quality projects with concrete added value. Secondly, we need to use the right instruments to sell it and that's the challenging task of our communication and publicity unit. It is very important to raise public awareness about the added value of transnational co-operation because so much remains to be done. Just ask the man in the street what he thinks about the EU, and he will most likely answer: bureaucracy, useless expenses with no immediate concrete benefits for him/her.

6) How many priority 3 projects have you funded over the past year? What's the total ERDF amount committed on these projects?

As I said earlier this priority is very popular; out of the 14 projects approved following the two calls for proposals last year, 6 projects concerned this priority for a total ERDF amount of 17, 6 million euros.

7) From the total budget of 330 million euros, 77.03 million euros have been allocated to priority three for the whole duration of the programme (2002-2008). Is this amount not insignificant when compared to the enormity of the work needed to be carried out in this field especially after the flooding which severely affected Germany, Austria and Czech Republic last summer?

If we look at the money allocated per priority, water management ranks second out of 5 in terms of fund allocation; this shows very clearly that member states took this priority very seriously. The first priority is obviously to deal with urban issues given that the NWE is a very metropolitan area. Now, 77.03 million euros is certainly not enough to tackle flooding issues completely but more can always be done at member state level.

8) What were the concrete outcomes of the Wageningen thematic seminar on priority three? Do you plan to organize any event on this field in the coming months?

This seminar was very successful because it focused on concrete development projects and brought about very concrete outputs. Two projects are subsequently submitted at the third call in April 2003. As regards your second question, yes definitely, if there is a real need, such as some under spending for priority three, we will organize this type of events. Moreover, we can always build upon the outcomes of the previous IRMA programme (INTERREG Rhine-Meuse Activities) which dealt completely with water management issues, to evaluate which projects could be developed into follow-ups.

JAF: Joint Approach for Flooding

The recent floods in central Europe illustrate the imperative with which common action must be promoted. In the project **Joint Approach for Managing Flooding (JAF)** five partner regions from the Netherlands, the UK and Germany will work together over four and a half years to examine the delicate balance between water systems, nature/climate and the environment. The **objective** is to develop a joint approach to manage flooding, in particular in catchment areas at particular risk from heavy rainfall. The partnership will endeavour to achieve its goals by improving spatial planning to promote multifunctional land use, restoring rivers to enhance water storage capacity, implementing new technologies to link groundwater and surface water management, and increase public awareness and support for innovative policy solutions. The project is **transnational** in that, horizontally, there is a joint strategy process, whereby all partners are involved in a concrete transfer of best practice in executing their various demonstration activities and investments. New technologies and policy approaches are tested across the partnership, and thus, a wide geographical area. The outcomes may differ among partners, leading in turn to refinements to the common strategy and greater institutional learning.

News from projects

If you like to introduce *your* restoration or conservation project, please contact the secretariat. No news this time. Who has interesting running projects?? Please contact: ecrr@ecrr.org

Guidance on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive

By Jens M. Andersen, National Environmental Research Institute/NERI, Denmark, jea@dmu.dk

By the EU member states agreement in 2002 on the Water Framework Directive an important political European decision-making process phase ended. However, it became soon clear that the successful implementation of the Directive is, at the least, equally as challenging and ambitious for all countries, institutions and stakeholders involved.

Implementing the WFD is the full responsibility of the individual Member State, but there has been a broad consensus amongst the Member States that joint efforts should be made to

- develop a common understanding and approaches;
- elaborate informal technical guidance including best practice examples;
- share experiences and resources;
- avoid duplication of efforts;
- limit the risk of bad application.

To undertake this task 10 working groups and 3 Expert Advisory Fora (Priority Substances, Ground Water and Reporting) were established in 2001 under the EU Water Directors.

Working groups (WG)

The tasks of the ten working groups were to provide a general, but not legally binding, guidance on the WFD implementation within the following themes:

- Analysis of pressures and impacts
- Heavily modified water bodies
- Reference conditions in inland waters
- Typology, reference conditions and classification of transitional and coastal waters
- Intercalibration
- Economic analysis in the context of the Water Framework Directive
- Monitoring of surface and groundwater
- Tools for assessments of groundwater trends
- Best practices in river basin planning

The Guidance Documents produced by the WGs are now published and available together with a description of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) under: :

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/implementation.html>

Revised structure of the EU guidance work

After finalising the WG Guidance Documents the Water Directors decided on their meeting in Copenhagen November 2002 to reduce the number of working groups considerably by grouping most of the issues together. The new group structure intends to streamline the work and to address the inter-linkages between various activities in a better, more flexible way.

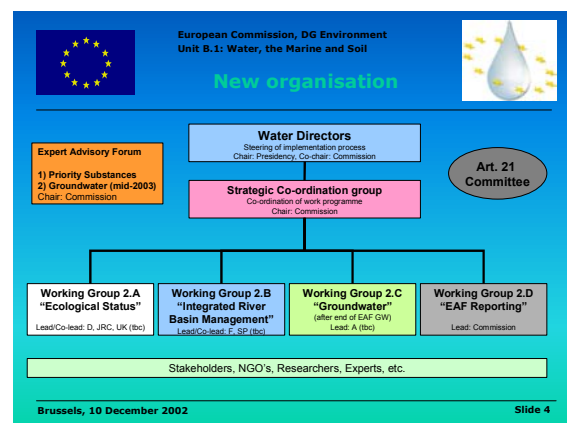
It was agreed to set up four new Working Groups :

- “Ecological Status” (WG 2.A)
- “Integrated River Basin Management” (WG 2.B)
- “Groundwater” (WG 2.C)
- “Reporting” (WG 2.D)

“Drafting groups” or ad-hoc expert groups will support the new working groups in practical terms. Individual members or small numbers of experts that are being mandated by the Working Group will carry out i.e. the actual preparation of documents in relation to the various technical issues.

In order to ensure that such “drafting groups” do not develop to be more permanent working groups the “drafting groups” are limited in scope and time.

The revised structure of the EU guidance work is illustrated in the figure below.



Notes from the web

Organisational news from NERI in Denmark

By March 1st. the Dept. of Streams and Riparian Areas and the Dept. of Freshwater Ecology are merged. The employees in the Fiord research group though are transferred to the Dept. of Marine Ecology. We are working on altering the descriptions of the two departments to reflect the new organization.

Department of Freshwater Ecology

Director of Research Department: Kurt Nielsen, M.Sc.

Activities: Investigation of biological, physical and chemical conditions in watercourses and riparian areas and investigation of relationships between nutrient turnover and biological structure in freshwater lakes and brackish lakes, including development of restoration methods Coordination of NERI's activities in relation to the National Focal Points for Freshwater Data, Agricultural Catchment Data and Hydrometric Data; coordination of remote sensing and GIS activities, including development of an Area Information System (AIS), and participation in European Centre for River Restoration. More information:

http://www.dmu.dk/1_om_dmu/2_afdelinger/3_fev_o/default_en.asp

Thames 21 in U.K.

Thames21 is a joint initiative between ENCAMS (previously Tidy Britain Group), the Port of London Authority (PLA), the Environment Agency, British Waterways, Thames Water and the Corporation of London, to address poor local environmental quality on the Thames, its tributaries and the canals throughout London. It was launched officially by Michael Meacher MP in 1998. It continues and enhances the work of ThamesClean (established 1994) and the PLA's Debris Clearance Operation (collecting up to 1,000 tonnes of litter each year from the Thames). The tidal Thames is now the cleanest metropolitan estuary in Europe and supports 119 species of fish and 350 species of invertebrate. However, it is blighted by thousands of tonnes of litter which is blown, thrown and washed into it. This litter and the high sediment levels in the water lead many Londoners and visitors to believe that the Thames is in fact a dirty, polluted open sewer. The river also exports litter to the marine environment

where it pollutes beaches and kills marine wildlife around the world, making this more than just a local aesthetic problem. More information:

<http://www.thames21.org.uk/thames21.html>

CROATIAN AND BIH NGO'S TOGETHER AGAINST NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP IN UNA RIVER



Croatia & BiH [Zeleni Forum] - **“Kaos” from Hrvatska Kostajnica (Croatia) and “Unski smaragdi” from Bihać (BiH)** are running public campaign against **the first Croatian nuclear waste dump** that, according to plans of Croatian government, should be built on the Trgovska gora in the region of Una river. Una is a boundary river between Croatia and northwest Bosnia, and a planned dump site is situated only a few kilometres from Bosnian border.

Croatian government proposed several locations for the dump. Due to a strong lobbying in the Croatian parliament all proposed locations except the Trgovska gora were rejected. “Kaos”, the most developed NGO from the Una river region, is trying to educate local people and raise their awareness on the planned nuclear waste dump. Together with “Unski smaragdi”, environmental NGO from Bihać (Bosnia), they organise round tables inviting experts and politicians, public gatherings, and contact local and national media in order to raise attention on the issue.

<http://www.see-environment.info/index.shtml?x=161>

Citizens Guide to the WCD available at IRN

The International Rivers Network (IRN) has completed a new guide (English, French, Spanish) on how people can use the World Commission on Dams (WCD) report in their

struggles for justice and human rights. This 59-page booklet provides background on the formation of the WCD, a detailed summary of the WCD's findings and recommendations, and responses from NGOs, institutions and governments to the report. Most importantly, the guide provides suggestions for how activists can use the report to stop destructive development projects and promote better alternatives.

(<http://www.irn.org/wcd/>)

Vision for the Ukrainian Danube Delta launched

On March 21, World Water Day, local support was pledged for implementing the WWF Vision for the Ukrainian Danube Delta - bringing the long-term conservation of Europe's second largest delta one step closer.

The pledge was made at the end of the official launch event for the Vision in Odessa, Ukraine - the capital city for the region and home to the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta. The event was attended by representatives from key interests in the region, such as water management, forestry, fishery and environmental organizations, Danube biosphere reserve and tour operators as well as the representatives of the WWF Partners for Wetlands Programme and International Danube-Carpathian Programme.

"The vision document is the first attempt in Ukraine to address a wetland region based on taking into account not just nature conservation, but also the economic interests of a large region," commented a local stakeholder. More information at:

<http://www.partnersforwetlands.org/news/news-may2003-05.html>

Species loss in wetlands

This year World Environment Day is focusing on water — the source of which is wetlands, rivers, and lakes. Alarming, of all the world's major habitat types, these freshwater ecosystems have undergone the most catastrophic decline in recent years. Information derived from: WWF,

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/freshwater/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=7343

Website of Romanian Centre for River Restoration (<http://www.rowater.ro/RCRRSite/RCRR.html>)

The RCRR has now information in English language available about the Green Corridor of the Danube and other restoration projects (e.g. Danube Delta). Background, activities and agreements can be found. If you want to carry out a project or have questions about ongoing projects, please do not hesitate to contact the National Centre.

European Environment Agency has published: "Europe's water: An indicator-based assessment- Summary"

This summary presents the main findings and key messages from the upcoming report Europe's water - an indicator-based assessment, which assesses the quality and quantity of Europe's water resources. The report seeks to answer a number of questions formulated to assess whether the broad objectives and targets of EU water policy are being achieved and to indicate where policy gaps may occur. Download available at: <http://www.eea.eu.int/>

Polish Rivers - Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)

Because of its size, diversity of animal and plant habitats as well as its rich selection of species found here, Poland plays an important role in the preservation of biological diversity in the region of the Baltic Sea. The drainage basin takes up almost the whole area of the country. 90% of the territory of Poland is located within the boundaries of the Vistula and Odra river basins.

In order to protect Polish rivers more effectively and not to allow any further degradation of the Baltic Sea waters, a project called "Polish Rivers" was initiated by WWF in Poland in 2002. As effective protection and conservation of these valuable water ecosystems and natural sections of rivers is not possible without a comprehensive action, the undertaking targets not only parts of valleys but the whole river drainage basin areas of the Vistula and Odra rivers.

More info at: http://www.wwf.pl/woda_en.php

Conferences

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

Sixth International River Management Symposium Urban Rivers:

Balancing the expectations

2-5 September, 2003

Brisbane, Australia

Contact: Dr Selina Ward

Centre for Marine Studies, University of Queensland

St Lucia 4072 Qld

Australia

Tel: +61 7 3346 9576

Fax +61 7 33654755

email s.ward@marine.uq.edu.au

The *Riversymposium* aims to make a difference to the declining state of rivers and waterways globally. It is an interactive forum focusing world attention on the many pressing crises that our rivers are facing and the critical importance of healthy waterways and sound management practices to the sustainability of our most precious and finite resource. The *Riversymposium* brings together world authorities to share world's best practice in river management issues including river ecology, land use planning, community partnerships, institutional arrangements, economics, coastal systems, engineering and technology. The *Riversymposium* takes a unique, holistic approach to the many facets of river management and attracts speakers from around the world to share their experiences, skills and knowledge. Several Case Studies shall be presented from North America, Middle East, Europe, Asia, Africa, China and Australia. Keynote presentation from Prof Peter Cullen, Dr Judy Meyer (USA), Dr Yu Xiubo (China), Dr Peter Moyle (USA) and Aviva Imhof (USA).

Riversymposium takes place within *Riverfestival*, Brisbane's largest celebratory event: delegates are able to access *Riverfestival* events during *Riversymposium*.
<http://www.riverfestival.com.au/symposium>

International Conference on River/Catchment Dynamics: Natural Processes and Human Impacts, Solsona, Catalonia, Spain 15-20 May, 2004

Contact: Ramon J. Batalla, Ph.D.

Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences

University of Lleida

Av. Alcalde Rovira Roure, 191

E-25198 Lleida (Catalonia, Spain)

Tel. +34 973702676

Fax. +34 973702613

rbatalla@macs.udl.es

For more information, [click here](#) ✎



3rd ECRR International Conference on River Restoration in Europe (Zagreb, Croatia, 17-21 May 2004)

The European Centre for River Restoration, ECRR (www.ecrr.org) and Croatian Waters (www.voda.hr) invite participation by river scientists, landscape architects, managers, policy makers and all practitioners involved in river restoration.

Topics of the 3rd conference are:

- River restoration as a part of integrated water management
- Technical solutions in river restoration for reconciling possible conflicts in river basins
- Public awareness and support in river restoration
- Experience and possibilities of river restoration in countries in transition

The 1st Announcement and Invitation will be send to you by the mid of September.

You will find detailed information about the aims of the conference, participants, fee, and the deadlines on the web soon.

ECWATECH 2004 summary

6th International Trade Fair and Congress "Water: Ecology and Technology"

1-4 June 2004

Convention and Exhibition Center "Gostiny Dvor", Moscow, Russia

Topics and Events:

Water resources protection; Drinking and industrial water purification, water treatment for the energy sector; Water supply; Local water purification; Bottling and bottled waters; Desalination; Water disposal; Engineering network; Hydraulic structures; Ground water prospecting and extraction; Water amelioration; Water metering, regulation devices and equipment; Water emergencies; Waterworks construction, reconstruction and operation.

Participants: Decision-makers of the water industry, federal ministries and agencies, regional and local

authorities, municipal infrastructure companies, utilities, operators, commercial and public water customers, research and consulting companies.

Contact:

SIBICO International Ltd.,
P.O. box 173, Moscow, 107078, Russia
Tel.: +7 (095) 975 51 04, 975 13 64, 207 63 76
Fax.: +7 (095) 975 34 23, 207 63 10
e-mail: ecwatech@sibico.com
Internet: www.ecwatech.com

1st announcement of the workshop Marine Sandwave and River Dune Dynamics (MARID) from 1-2 April 2004

Location: University of Twente in Enschede (the Netherlands).

It is organized by both the French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOM) and the University of Twente, following up the Marine Sandwave Dynamics workshop organized in Lille (France), 2000.

The primary goal of the workshop is to bring together researchers and users in the field of marine sandwave and river dune dynamics. From data acquisition to users and modellers, our intention is to present various aspects dealing with this subject.

September 1, 2003 Deadline for preliminary registration
December 15, 2003 Deadline for submission of full papers
February 14, 2004 Deadline for reduced registration fee
April 1-2, 2004 Workshop

For more information, please find as the first circular on the website www.marid2004.utwente.nl. To receive further information about MARID, we kindly ask you to fill in the form "Pre-registration" which can be found at the MARID website.

7th INTECOL 2004 Registration Open 25 - 31 July 2004, organized by Utrecht University

International Wetlands Conference in the city of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

This Conference will be organized under the auspices of the International Association of Ecology (INTECOL) under the title "Wetland Science and Water Resources Management".

The Conference will have an interdisciplinary character and focus on all branches of Wetland Science, Conservation and Management. It will be a follow-up to previous INTECOL Wetland Conferences in Delhi (1980), Trebon(1984), Rennes (1988), Columbus OH (1992), Perth (1996) and Quebec (2000).

The Conference programme will encompass a large number of invited symposia and contributed papers and posters sessions. 16 of the 32 symposia have already been composed and are announced in detail on the web site. There is also information on the venue, on hotel accommodation, mid-conference and post-conference excursions.

Please visit the web site and bookmark it: www.bio.uu.nl/INTECOL



5th International Symposium on ECOHYDRAULICS Madrid, Spain, September 12-17, 2004

The International Association of Hydraulic Research and the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid will host an international congress on Ecohydraulics, and invite participation by river scientists and water managers.

Ecohydraulic is a scientific field that has been developed in the ecotone between Hydraulic and Ecology, with a marked environmental and applied character.

The **restoration of aquatic habitats** will be the main focus of the 5th Symposium.

Organization: Dr Diego García de Jalón
ecohydraulics@montes.upm.es
Secretariat: ecohydraulics@tileasa.es

You can find all the information about this international event in the following websites:

www.montes.upm.es/congresos/ecohydraulics
www.tileasa.es/ecohydraulics

The deadline for preregistration and submitting abstracts will be extended to **November 15, 2003**. We look forward to receive your registration and abstracts.



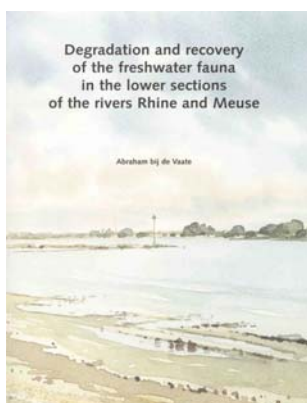
9th International Symposium on River Sedimentation, October 18-21 2004, Yichang, China Website: www.irtces.org/issahu/9ISRS.htm

Publications and videos

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

Bij de Vaate, A., 2003, Degradation and recovery of the freshwater fauna in the lower sections of the rivers Rhine and Meuse.- Thesis, Wageningen University.

200 pages with numerous figures, colour plates and tables. ISBN 90-5808-844-8. Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Institute of communities.



Abstract

Exponential increase of anthropogenic stress in European rivers, like Rhine and Meuse, started several centuries ago when inhabitants of floodplains used them for an increasing number of purposes. Step by step, the river basins lost their naturalness and ecological integrity. Usually, river regulation was a first step. Floodplains in the lower parts were narrowed by the construction of levees and dikes for land reclamation and to protect inhabitants against floods. River channels were shortened and normalised for discharge improvement, canalised for the purpose of navigation and regulated by weirs and sluices for water resource control and flood defence. Later on, rivers were also used for the downstream transport of wastes and wastewater from the urban environment. River pollution became particularly manifest following the industrial revolution in Europe.

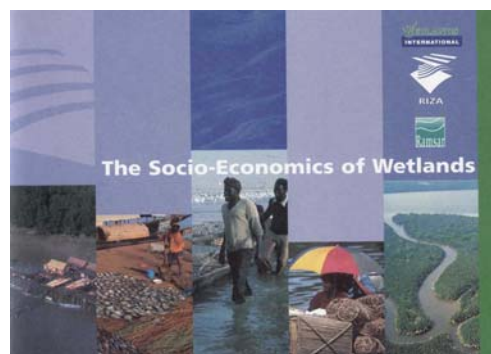
The implementation of national laws against pollution and protection of the environment, and the establishment of the International Commission for the protection of the River Rhine marked a turning point in river pollution. This thesis focuses on ecosystem changes over the resulting period of improving water quality in both rivers Rhine and Meuse. In the chapters, the author is dealing with macroinvertebrate communities, possibilities for ecological recovery, the zebra mussel as an Ponto-Caspian invader, recolonization by migrating fish species e.g. Atlantic salmon and

sea trout. In the last chapter the possibilities and the endpoints of river ecological restoration are discussed.

More information about Wageningen University at: www.wur.nl or contact the author by e-mail: B.bdVaate@riza.rws.minvenw.nl

The Socio-economics of wetlands, 2002, by Stuip, M.A.M., Baker, C.J. & Oosterberg, W.

34 pages, ISBN 90-5882- 014-9, Global Series 14. The booklet is published by Wetlands International and RIZA.



It gives a brief introduction to the social and economic values of wetlands (so not only rivers!!!). It has been written mainly for the benefit of managers, planners and decision-makers in government agencies in developing countries.

For more information on other activities please contact: Wetlands International, www.wetlands.org or RIZA-WATC, www.riza.nl.

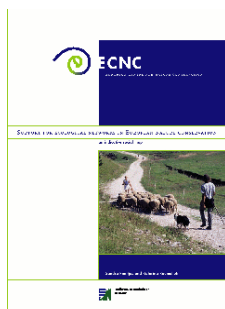
Support for Ecological Networks in European Nature Conservation: an indicative social map

Sandra Rientjes and Katerina Roumelioti - Tilburg, European Centre for Nature Conservation, 2003. - (ECNC Technical report series)

ISBN: 90-7672-15-5; download available at <http://www.ecnc.nl/>

ECNC has published a report indicating what nature conservationists in Europe think about ecological networks. The report is based on a study carried out with the support of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts for the Implementation of the Pan-European Ecological

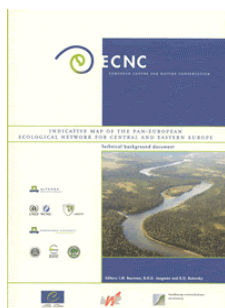
Network and the Netherlands Ministry of ANF. Although the main aim was to identify possible causes for lack of involvement in and support for the PEEN initiative, the study also took into account the topic of ecological networks in general. Whatever doubts exist concerning the validity, practical relevance or feasibility of ecological networks in general will affect the opinions people hold on the concept of a Pan-European Ecological Network.



The report is based on information gathered via interviews with individuals involved in the development of the PEEN concept, and a survey among conservation ecologists and policy makers in 31 countries. It gives an impression of what European nature conservationists think about - e.g. - the relevance of ecological networks at different levels of geographical scale, the validity of ecological corridors, the feasibility of developing ecological networks in specific countries, problems experienced during the development of ecological networks, the reactions of different stakeholder groups, the relationship between PEEN and Natura 2000.

Indicative Map of the Pan-European Ecological Network for Central and Eastern Europe, 2003, edited by I.M. Bouwma, R.H.J. Jongman & R.O. Butovsky, ISBN 90-76762-14-7

ECNC, European Centre for Nature Conservation, download from: www.ecnc.nl



The brochure presents the outcome of the international project. The map, on a scale of 1:5,000,000, shows the location of areas of European biodiversity conservation concern and possibilities for increasing ecological connectivity.

The map is meant to be a powerful communication instrument by:

- Providing inspiration for countries in CEE to increase co-operation on conserving core areas of a transboundary character. Jewels of European Nature are highlighted once more, but also the need for those areas to be incorporated into larger areas. To ensure the connectivity of core areas in Europe, we need to develop joint strategies.
- Safeguarding nature in Europe means integration in other sectors, as co-operation with farmers, foresters, the tourist industry, water managers, road planners and financial investors.
- The map will support the development of the network and will avoid activities that could jeopardize the ecological integrity.



Stand der Revitalisierungen in den Auengebieten von nationaler Bedeutung/ L'état des revitalisations dans les zones alluviales d'importance nationale/ State-of-the-art of revitalization of floodplains of national importance in Switzerland

(Published in German and French language by the Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft, BUWAL)

Due to the human impact on rivers, an inventory of floodplains in Switzerland showed that 59% of the objects contain buildings and 38% are affected by river regulations. The discharge was reduced from 0 up to 60% of the natural discharge in 25% of the inventoried objects. The aim of the "revitalization" of floodplains is to restore the dynamic processes in those areas. An inventory took place through the national and regional offices. The results show that between 1998 and 2001 the number of running or finished projects was increased from 16 to 43. In 2001, 55 revitalization projects were planned. Recently, the water management in rivers has undergone a change. Of course, safety still comes first but giving more room to the river or combination with biodiversity measures are common practises.

For more information please contact:
 Services conseil Zones alluviales, Christian Roulier,
 e-mail: [scza@bluewin.ch/](mailto:scza@bluewin.ch)
 Auenberatungsstelle, Stephan Lussi,
 e-mail: auenberatung@naturaqua.ch