



LIFE Project Number  
**LIFE09 INF/UK/000032**

**FINAL Report**  
**Covering the project activities from 30/09/10 to 31/12/2013**

Reporting Date  
**31/03/2014**

**RESTORE - Rivers Engaging, Supporting and Transferring  
knOwledge for Restoration in Europe**

Project Data

<b>Project location</b>	United Kingdom, Bristol.
<b>Project start date:</b>	30/09/2010
<b>Project end date:</b>	30/09/2013 <b>Extension date:</b> 31/12/2013
<b>Total Project duration (in months)</b>	39 months (including <b>Extension of 3 months</b> )
<b>Total budget</b>	€ 1 794 567
<b>Total eligible budget</b>	€ 872 753
<b>EU contribution:</b>	€ 872 753
<b>(%) of total costs</b>	48.63%
<b>(%) of eligible costs</b>	48.63%

Beneficiary Data

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## List of abbreviations

CIRF Italian Centre for River Restoration (Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale)

CIREF Iberian centre for river restoration (Centro Ibérico de Restauración Fluvial)

Defra Department for environment, food and rural affairs (UK)

DLG Government Service for Land and Water Management (Netherlands)

EA Environment Agency

EC European Commission

ECRR European Centre for River Restoration

EU European Union

IZVRS Inštitut za vode Republike Slovenije

MTA main target audience

NIHWM National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management (Romania)

NGO non-governmental organisations

PCP Project communications plan

RBMP River Basin Management Plan

RCP Regional communications plan

RR River Restoration

SYKE Finnish Environment Institute (Suomen Ympäristökeskus)

WFD Water Framework Directive

WI Wetlands International

## 2. Executive Summary

The RESTORE project ran between 2010 and 2013. It launched with six European partners working to share and promote information on the best and most effective means of carrying out river restoration in Europe.

The overall mission of RESTORE was to: *encourage the restoration of European rivers towards a more natural state. This delivers increased ecological quality, flood risk reduction, and social & economic benefits.*

### Why restore our Rivers?

Human society and development have dramatically changed the way land is used. Rivers have been straightened and culverted to make maximum use of land for housing, industry, infrastructure and agriculture. These changes have often created problems related to flood management, drainage, waste, wildlife and a lack of good recreational space.

But it is possible to halt the damage being done to the water environment and bring rivers back to life. River restoration can act as a catalyst to transform cities, towns and

rural landscapes into truly living environments, helping to re-establish connections between rivers and communities and helping people see the benefits that rivers provide.

With vision and skill degraded rivers can be transformed from polluted, lifeless, concrete channels into vibrant ecosystems providing people and the environment with water, food, wildlife, energy, transport, recreational space, riparian forests, natural floodplains, purification systems and even ways of combating the impacts of climate change.

The activities of RESTORE have helped share this approach to river restoration. The project aimed; to bring people together by establishing networks through its website, events and conferences; to identify the barriers and opportunities for river restoration and; to give professionals the information they needed to restore rivers and, in doing so, achieve a variety of environmental, economic and social objectives.

Research carried out prior to RESTORE had shown that the main problem faced by river restoration professionals is often not a lack of expertise but a lack of access to shared experiences and knowledge. To address this issue RESTORE worked to share and promote information on the best and most effective means of carrying out river restoration in Europe.

RESTORE's legacy will continue to deliver knowledge and broaden networks in order to increase the practice and implementation of river restoration in Europe.

## **Project Objectives**

### ***RESTORE actions can be split across four objectives:***

- *Support river restoration practices across Europe*
- *Build up existing river restoration network capacity*
- *Promote effective river restoration knowledge transfer*
- *Establish long term river restoration knowledge sharing*

**RESTORE's Key message** was to share knowledge and promote best practice on river restoration. The partnership encouraged the restoration of European rivers towards a more natural state for increased ecological quality, flood risk reduction, and social and economic benefits.

*We explained and raised awareness of good practice river restoration and how it can:*

- *meet the targets of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Birds and Habitats Directives.*
- *mitigate the impacts of hydropower in line with the EU Renewable Energy Sources Directive.*
- *contribute to wider economic and environmental benefits and ecosystem goods and services .*
- *mitigate against the effects of climate change on river habitats.*

## **Administration**

The delivery of RESTORE was managed by the Environment Agency as co-ordinating beneficiary. We split our work into different regions across Europe. The River Restoration Centre (RRC) led for Western Region. SYKE (Finnish Environment Institute) led the Northern European countries. Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale (CIRF) coordinated work across Southern Europe. Dienst landelijk Gebied (DLG) were the information manager and subcontracted RESTORE work across Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. Additionally, Wetlands International provided communication expertise to the project and managed the RESTORE website.

The European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) has acted as an advisor to the project. The organisations involved in this network came up with the idea for RESTORE and will continue to play an important role in RESTORE's after LIFE+ plan. The ECRR chair Bart Fokkens provided an advisory role at a number of our board meeting and at key monthly teleconferences. RESTORE has ensured continuity through cooperation with the ECRR. The ECRR is a European network consisting of national centres and individual members bound by their mission to enhance and promote river restoration throughout Europe. From January 2014 ECRR has taken over hosting the RESTORE website and the RiverWiki is now managed by the River Restoration Centre on behalf of the ECRR. The ECRR secretariat sits in DLG until the end of this year. They are planning to establish the ECRR formally as association in June.

The ECRR membership was approached last year to support the RiverWiki within their own countries. The RESTORE website is now being managed through ECRR. This will ensure that there is up to date information alongside the information on the RESTORE project.

## **Key deliverables**

RESTORE had 27 actions tackling the four objectives. These were split into a number of the LIFE+ action categories: Project Management, Preparatory actions, Awareness Raising Campaign actions, Monitoring of Project Impact actions, Communication and dissemination includes actions F1, F2, F3 and F4.

## **Preparatory actions**

Early RESTORE progress collated Europe-wide, national and basin information on issues that prevent or aid successful river restoration. We identified river restoration networks and reviewed case studies to identify good practice. This information was used to develop our communication plans and enabled us to identify the target audiences for our key messages.

Through this work we found a similar set of barriers to river restoration across countries one of which being the lack of accessible evidence. In some Members States there was a lack of political will to implement effective national policies to facilitate river restoration. In a few specific countries bribery and corruption was raised as a key barrier. We found a lack of engagement with land use planning, architects and developers. Other issues included a lack of funding, inflexible legislation, a need to purchase land, lack of stakeholder input and competing water uses. In particular most countries were finding the promotion of hydropower schemes which require weirs or dams a hurdle to restoring natural processes.

We collected projects which have overcome these constraints. These provided **lessons** which can demonstrate the types of **opportunities** for river restoration. These may have wider applicability across Europe and included:

- The use of land banks and land exchange mechanisms (e.g. Netherlands and Denmark)
- Raising funds through improved benefits and costs evidence (e.g. ecosystems services, Mayes Brook UK)
- Improved predication of adverse impacts of development (e.g. The Dutch Water Test)
- More integrated spatial planning (e.g. Room for the River Programme, Netherlands)
- Catchment coordinators to address diffuse pollution issues (e.g. Scotland)
- Stakeholder partnering (e.g. Rivers Trusts in the UK)
- Large scale connectivity and fish pass programmes (Austria; Finland)

Many barriers can be overcome through effective participation of stakeholders and by adopting effective approaches to implementation. In general project management and coordination skills of individuals are central to the successful delivery of a restoration scheme.

## **Networking and Marketing**

This project has delivered all the objectives set out in the initial bid and has been able to increase the impact beyond that initial set out. Over the period of the RESTORE project we held 38 workshops, site visits and conferences. These engaged over 2,000 people ranging from policy makers, river basin managers and various other sectors (e.g. planners, landscape architects, contractors, consultants, flood risk engineers, government officials, politicians, scientists etc.). Each event was written up and evaluated thus allowing us to draw conclusions from each event and add to the overall knowledge.

Our final international RESTORE conference was fully subscribed and attended by over 320 participants, including high level policy makers such as the EU Environment Commissioner and Water Director, and the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency. The RESTORE project and its outcomes and findings, website and RiverWiki were prominently featured throughout the conference. The enthusiasm for the conference in raising the profile of river restoration in Europe, in conjunction with the inaugural European Riverprize, has created interest in making the Riverprize and/or conference an annual event. The International River Foundation established a European Riverprize the award was also sponsored by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and Coca-Cola Europe. Combining this event with the ECRR and the European Riverprize greatly increased the reach of our impact.

Another key additional benefit has been our attendance at other organisation's events. This meant that we have presented to over 5,000 people specifically through RESTORE and via representation at other organisation's events.

Our final survey found most people had become better engaged in river restoration since the RESTORE project. Other feedback we have received has endorsed our approach and given us the information we needed to shape future events.

## **Knowledge transfer**

Part of the RESTORE project addressed the gap in accessible information via an online RiverWiki database of case-studies highlighting lessons learnt and best practice examples which will continue to operate beyond the life of the project and be accessible to a wide audience.

We worked with users to develop the RiverWiki. This has created a tool slightly different to that first envisaged. However, it now better meets the needs of the user and we have received a large amount of praise. The use of agile development is important to ensure the flexibility to meet users' needs. Agile development is a method based on iterative and incremental development, where requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration and through continuous feedback from many different people. This promotes adaptive planning, evolutionary development and delivery and encourages rapid and flexible response to change. It is a conceptual framework that promotes foreseen tight iterations throughout the development cycle it is particularly used to develop new IT software.

RESTORE has used its website, a monthly bulletin, the press, and social media as channels to promote itself and exchange knowledge about river restoration with its target audience.

Overall, we have found it easiest to share information about river restoration through public sector bulletins, conservation, non-governmental organisations and environmental trade press. Public sectors are eager to make links with similar organisations and to share information particularly when it relates to changes in government policy, such as Water Framework Directive (WFD) and river basin management plans

## **Establish Long-term after Life+ sharing actions**

We have established a network of contacts and organisations around Europe. This network is important to the continued implementation of RESTORE actions and communication tools. The links of the lead organisations to the European Centre of River Restoration (ECRR) is key to the outputs from RESTORE continuing into the future.

We have developed a plan setting out who and how the website, RiverWiki and publications will be managed. By creating tools that are being used and are valuable this has ensured organisations want to manage the outputs in the future.

We will also continue to disseminate our Layman's report '*River restoration in Europe: the art of the possible*'. This agenda setting document can continue to be disseminated to the RESTORE target audiences.

## **Dissemination**

The reach of the project went beyond that originally envisaged. We also used additional means of communication including social media. In particular we had success working and raising awareness with the planning and development sector, establishing River Prizes in Finland and England and working with politicians in Italy

The aim of the project was to address the need to share best practices. Throughout the lifespan of the project strong networks across Europe have been developed and these will remain essential mechanisms to ensure information continues to be disseminated after the project life. Our contacts have grown to over 9,500 people during the project. In order to share this learning across European countries we have used different tools to communicate with different target audiences. Through 38 RESTORE events and 29 other organisation's events the project has created a forum to discuss river restoration and identified the needs of different networks and the barriers to implementation. Our messages have been disseminated monthly through a bulletin, regularly through Twitter and LinkedIn. We have used press releases and written specific articles to communicate with particular sectors. Our *Rivers by Design* handbook is being used to influence the development sector, by highlighting the benefits of river restoration. As a project we have provided input into consultations such as the European Commission's Blueprint for Water. In addition the RiverWiki provides a forum for growing database of case studies from 31 different European countries. All this information is promoted through the RESTORE website which has become a hub of river restoration information in Europe.

## **Evaluation**

We were successful in reaching a wider audience with some of the articles that we publish or helped to publish. We had a few articles that reached millions of people such as our RiverWiki launch and Fred Pearce (freelance science writer) wrote an article on our final conference for Yale Environment 360 (which has a potential readership of 10 million unique readers per month).

We also appeared on BBC breakfast news which attracts audiences of up to 1.8 million people. Although reaching a wider public audience is important, we focused much of our communication on providing information to practitioners and influencing sectors and policy makers that were not aware of, or needed more information on, the benefits of river restoration such as Slovenian practitioners who have been lacking easily accessible information including case study examples, and Italian professionals who are eager for more in depth knowledge.

Our final survey showed that 95% of 54 respondents found our website useful or very useful. The continuing increase of registered users (over 300) and visits in particular to the RiverWiki highlights the benefits of accessible information. We have run a number of training events about the benefits of the RiverWiki and how to add information to it. This has resulted in an increase in usage following our events and feedback from these events has been positive and constructive. If we had further time we would look to add more information on the projects and develop the river restoration measures. We are hoping that projects such as the Natural Water Retention Measures EC project will lead to further development of the RiverWiki. This project has been tasked with collating a database of natural water retention measures, many of these will already be held with the RiverWiki. It is crucial that we work with new initiatives to develop the RiverWiki and ensure that proliferations of different databases are not created.



Language is a key barrier to communicating information. As we covered 21 countries in our project this encompasses a large number of different languages. To alleviate this we added a Google translate tool on to the website and RiverWiki. We have also added documents in different languages such as Dutch, French, Finnish and Italian to our publications directory. Users can then filter their search for the languages that they require. Currently however we have many more publications in English than any other language. The automatic translation tools are working well for the languages that are widely spoken, however they do not work as well for languages with a more restricted coverage. As we have utilised open source software, as this translation tool improves it will automatically be updated onto our sites. We hope that this technology will improve the translation for all languages in the future.

The prolongation to 31st December 2013 gave us, an opportunity to disseminate the outputs of the project to our main target audience. We have created a webpage with links to all the information from our conference. It also allowed us to include the outputs of the conference in our Layman's report. We felt this time has enabled us to better embed the finding from RESTORE and ensure the long-term future of the project.

### **Long-term benefits**

- Increased partner understanding of river restoration taking account of the changing climate.
- Provide accessible river restoration monitoring techniques for river managers
- Enable local groups to deliver beneficial schemes
- Better environmental outcomes
- Increase knowledge and data availability
- Increase knowledge within hard to reach sectors of the value of river restoration
- Improved cross border working.

Our benefits realisation work increased our understanding of how RESTORE fitted in with the long-term goals to increase understanding and promote the standard use of working with natural processes in water management.

Within RESTORE partner organisations we will continue to use the outputs from RESTORE and the momentum initiated through the project. A number of doors have been opened to hard to reach sectors and the RESTORE partners will continue to work with these new networks. Our links with other national centres, the FP7 REFORM project and the ECRR will keep these benefits alive. We also looked to the future when we developed our tools. This means that for example the RiverWiki was built using open source software; this software will be updated by other users of the software we will automatically then be able to update our own systems. The work we are delivering through RESTORE has also been embedded within the normal work of the partner organisations. This is important to the long-term benefits of work arising from a time limited project.

### **Financial**

The project has performed well financially and the overall cost of the project has out turned at 97% of the approved budget.

There is a €129k under spend for external assistance mainly on project management (A1) and engagement events (C3-C4) and also an under spend of €75k on Staff exchanges. These under spends were anticipated after the Mid Term report was produced in 2012 and were considered as part of budget review in early 2013. As part of this review it was agreed that the project could use these savings to pay for the significantly larger than originally anticipated International Conference (€94k). It also made it possible for all the beneficiaries to claim the full 7% overheads allowable (an extra €65k). A more detailed commentary is included in section 6.

### 3. Introduction

The RESTORE project ran between 2010 and 2013. It launched with six European partners and the objective of making connections between river restoration professionals in Europe and joining existing national efforts on river restoration. The project has shared information on the best and most effective ways to deliver River restoration. We found the lack of readily available information on past experiences and technical information was causing river restoration professionals a problem.

We encouraged river restoration in Europe through increasing communication, dissemination and education. We published articles, disseminated a bulletin, used social media, published a best practice handbook, developed a website and RiverWiki database with accessible information, held events and field trips.

We identified a need to work with all sectors and not just those directly involved in water management. We needed to ensure we developed better links between planning, development, architecture and agriculture sectors. During the project this meant that we worked with planners to produce the '*Rivers by Design*' best practice handbook and worked with initiatives such as catchment sensitive farming in the UK.

At the start of the project a key issue was the problem of being able to share knowledge within a fragmented approach to knowledge sharing across Europe.

To address this we:

- Created a European repository of easily accessible information that people can assess and add their own river restoration projects – through our website and RiverWiki.
- Developed a knowledge transfer system tailored to the needs of the different sectors. We delivered many different events, workshops, field trips and online videos all with different target audiences in mind.
- Established long-term knowledge sharing arrangement. It was imperative to us that the outcomes of the project would be delivered in a way that could continue to be transferred and maintained beyond the formal close of the project. In order to achieve this we worked with the European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) and other lead national organisations. By ensuring that the tools we have produced are relevant this will mean the work we have already started will continue to be developed.
- We have illustrated the value of river restoration to sectors such as developers, agriculture and hydropower by discussing the social and economic value of a healthy ecosystem. River restoration can significantly

increase the services provided by that water environment, these are too often neglected by decision makers, such as flood control, groundwater recharge, pollution removal, recreational opportunities and increased property values due to the increasing demand for more natural surroundings.

## 4. Administrative part

### 4.1. Description of the management system

The delivery of RESTORE was managed by the Environment Agency as co-ordinating beneficiary. We split our work across Europe into different regions. The RRC led for the Western Region. SYKE led the Northern European countries. CIRF coordinated work across Southern Europe. DLG was the information manager and subcontracted RESTORE work across Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. Wetlands International provided communication expertise to the project and managed the RESTORE website.

The focus for overall project management has been to provide support for delivering the actions. This included ensuring that each deliverable had the right level of project management. We designed standard templates for all the RESTORE activities and reporting, including a common approach to planning and monitoring RESTORE events.

We used Microsoft project management systems to track actions, a risk register and an environmental audit, alongside the Environment Agency IBIS system to manage the funding (this is based on oracle software). We used a benefits realisation process as part of the project. This approach allowed us to develop the RESTORE project's objectives and align these with our different organisation's objectives. The benefits realisation approach enabled us to deliver, shape and direct the RESTORE programme and to inform decision-making along the way. We planned for and achieved benefits by translating our business objectives into identifiable, measurable benefits that we could track and measure. This gave us the evidence needed to keep the focus of deliverables within the project on achieving the overall objectives. In a three year project it is important to have some flexibility to changing circumstances and knowledge. This adaptability and trust within the partnership has allowed us to deliver the objectives of each deliverable in the best manner as we progressed through the project. For example delivering our international conference in collaboration with the European Centre for River Restoration, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and Identifying, monitoring and measuring benefits has been fundamental to the successful delivery of the RESTORE programme and project management.

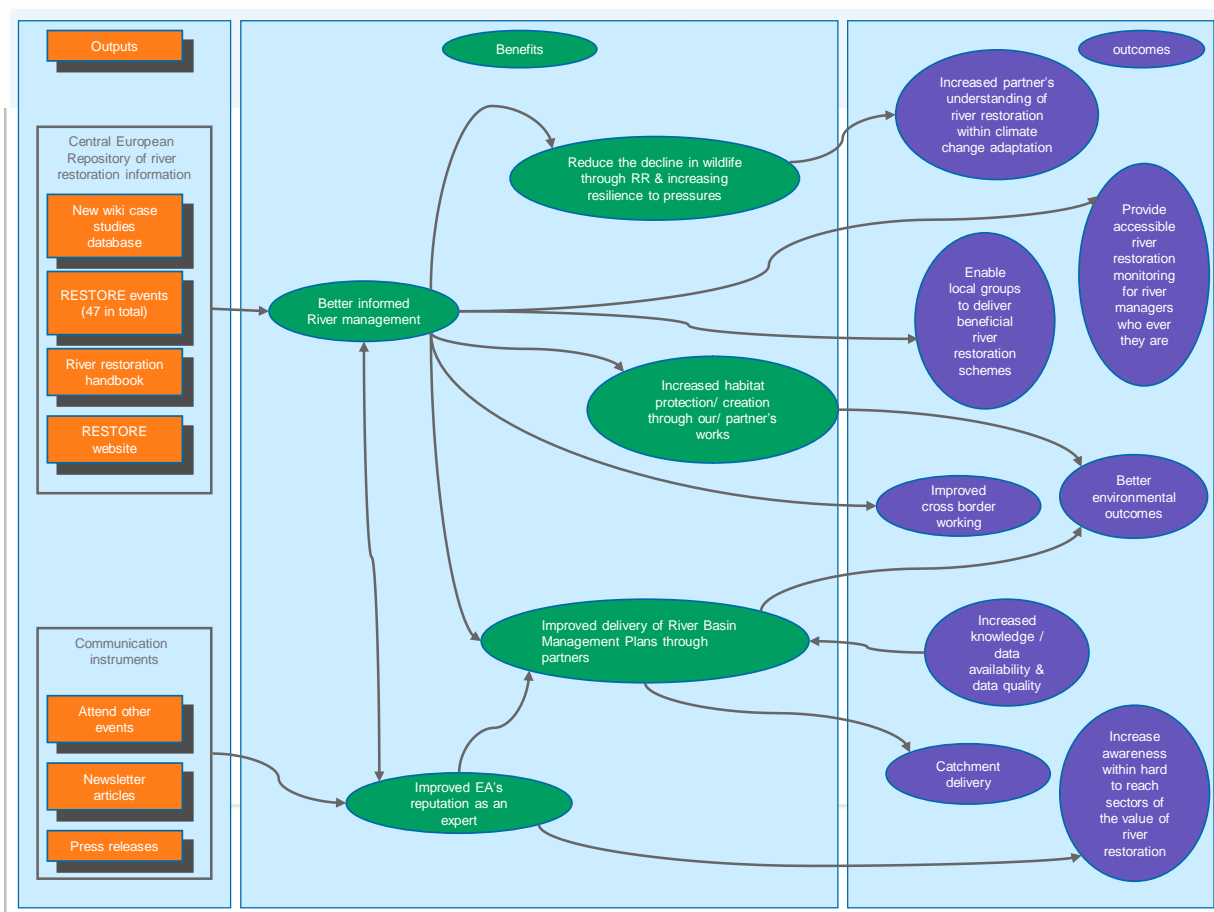


Figure 1 RESTORE road map developed through our benefits realization workshop. The orange boxes show the outputs from the RESTORE project. The green circles are benefits that we are looking to realise through these outputs. The purple circles represent the outcomes that would then be achievable.

Recruitment of staff and subcontractors was undertaken using clear and simple job descriptions and personnel specifications. We undertook the design of some external marketing material within the Environment Agency. This included a logo, project information boards, standard PowerPoint and project reports. We contracted external assistance during the project. These contractors were used to design the project website and to design and host our RiverWiki.

We have also procured designers for the '*Rivers by Design*' handbook. Design and updates for *Rivers by Design* was carried out by Plus One Design, and editorial work was assisted by Tracy Eustice of Paul Eustice Design. Both were contracted through the Environment Agency list of approved contractors. The Layman's Report was translated into Dutch, Finnish, French and Italian by K-International which is the approved Environment Agency translation company. As discussed at the joint mission with the Commission on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012 (and subsequently accepted in principle in the Commission's letter of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013) the RRC used 'Rhoda and Robert Burns' to provide artwork, layout, and production for new case studies for an update of the River Restoration Manual used to support our training course event in Utrecht in the Netherlands.

We used board meetings to discuss and analyse how far we had achieved the aims of RESTORE at specific periods and then to set priorities and targets for the coming year.

We also used a more targeted approach by using advisory groups to help steer specific projects such as the *Rivers by Design* guide and the RiverWiki.

We held monthly management teleconferences to discuss what each partner had delivered and what was coming up in the next month. We also used monthly 'theme of the month' teleconferences to help us review our monitoring, communications, dissemination and further develop the topics on the website.

The European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) has acted as an advisor to the project. As part of the project management document we agreed a ways of working with the ECRR. We also agreed terms of reference for the advisory board. Our ways of working included the following actions on the ECRR:

- The ECRR shall act as an advisor to RESTORE.
- The ECRR will keep up to date with the RESTORE project. They will be invited to attend RESTORE monthly telecons and can propose agenda items.
- We will ask for agenda items when the ECRR have their board meetings.
- We will propose additional members for the ECRR board to increase their expertise.
- We will have separate newsletters but will raise the profile of each other within our own publicity.
- We will inform each other of events that we are undertaking
- We will design our website and outputs so that the ECRR can adopt our outputs in the long-term.
- We view the ECRR as part of the after LIFE of RESTORE

The Environment Agency also held fortnightly teleconferences between LIFE+ project managers or lead contacts across the organisation, external funding, legal and the finance team manager. These were held throughout the RESTORE project and enabled us to ensure lessons were learnt from other LIFE+ projects to ensure we developed a consistent approach to these projects. There were also quarterly high level meetings chaired by a project executive. These provided leadership and steer to the Environment Agency's involvement in the LIFE+ programme.

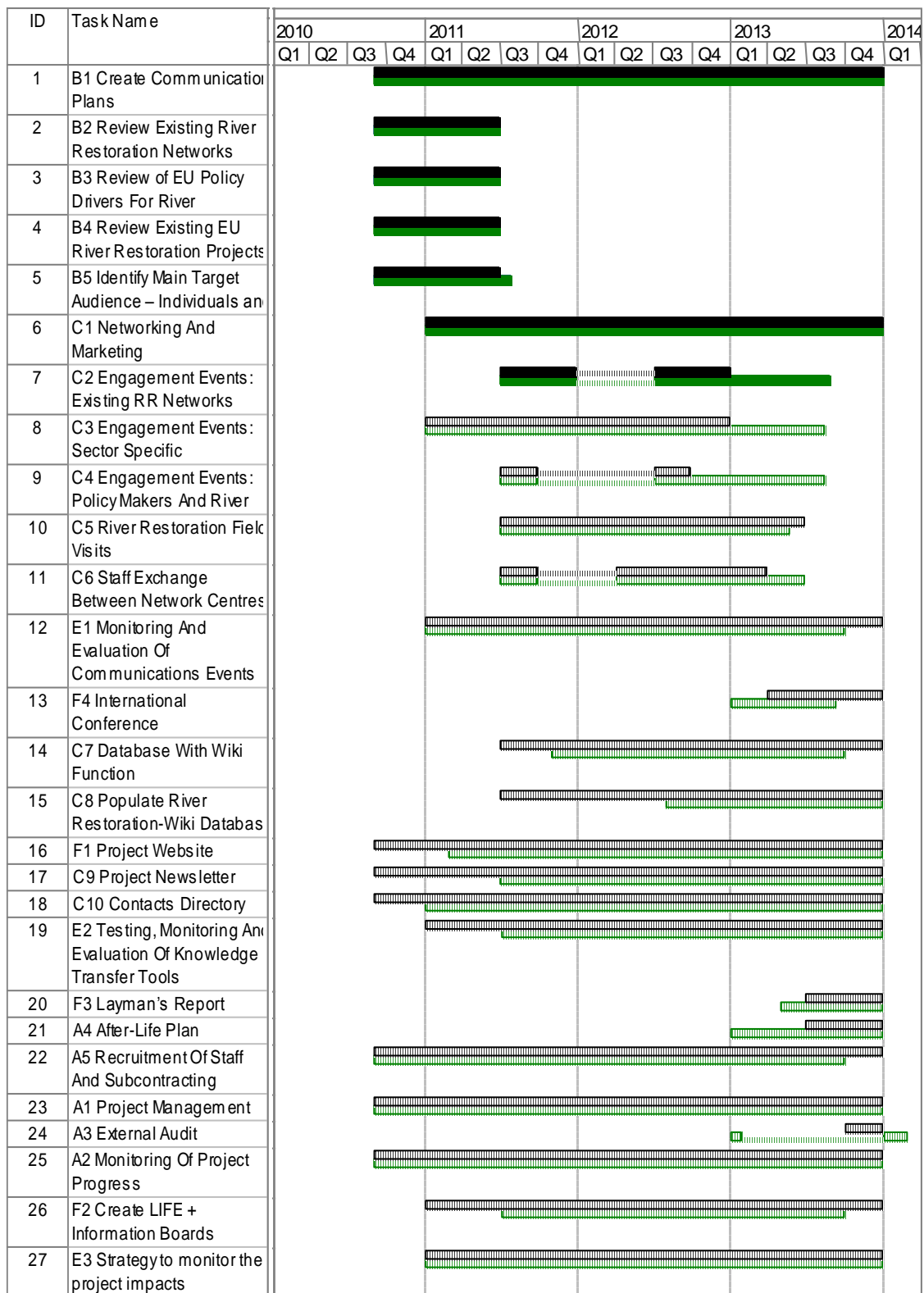


Figure 2 Gantt chart of deliverables

All actions have now been delivered

## Organigramme of the project team and the project management structure

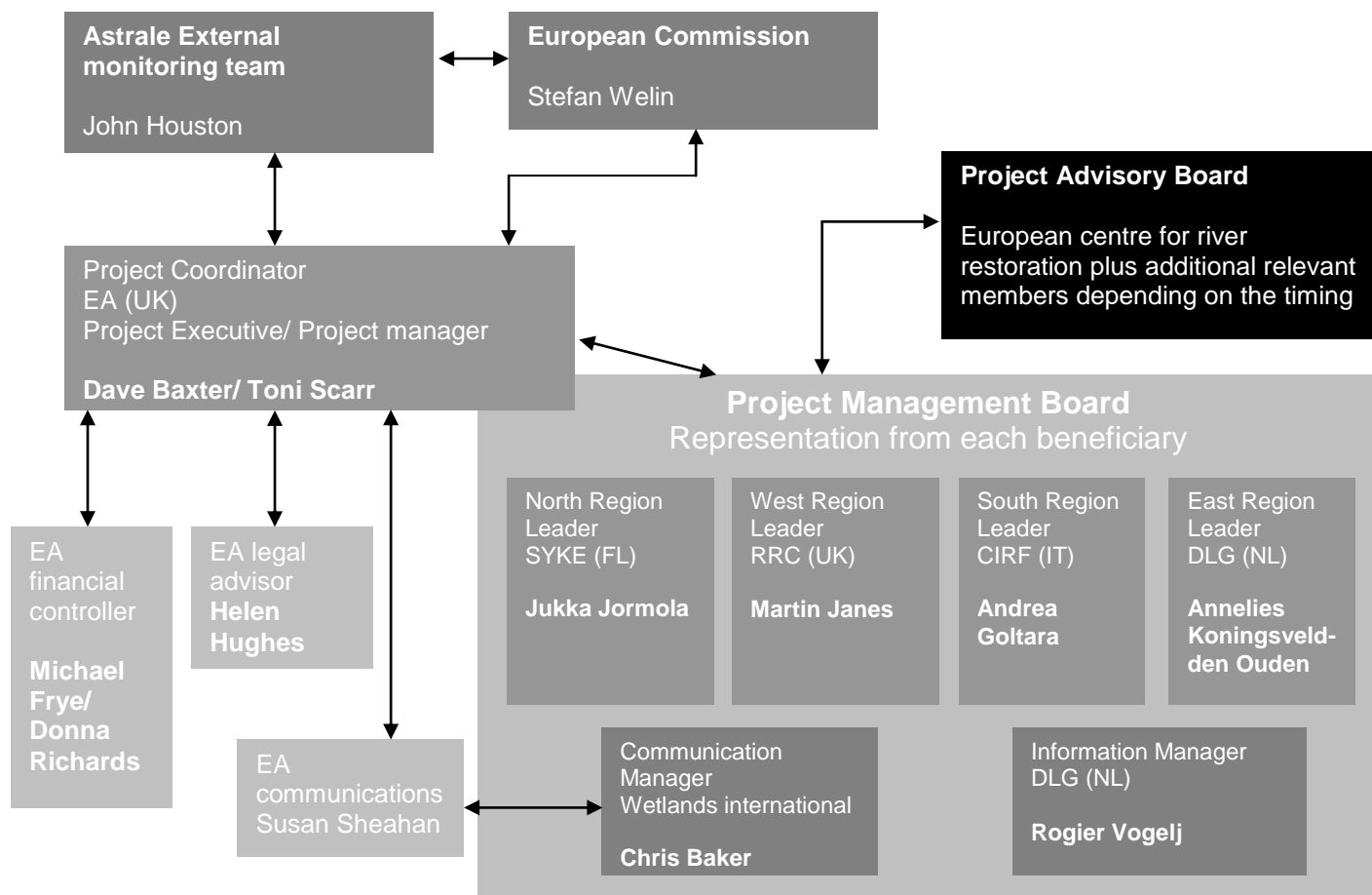


Figure 3 RESTORE staff structure

### 4.1.1 Modification

In order to fully disseminate results from our international conference which was held in September 2013, we requested a three month prolongation to the end of 2013. We held the international conference alongside the European Centre for River Restoration conference on river restoration and the International River Foundation's first River Prize. This collaboration made it a very significant European event with over 300 participants, which greatly expanded our audience and communications reach.

Following the event we disseminated the results through press releases, a River Talk interview series, articles, special bulletin, social media and a specific page on our website making all the products from the conference freely downloadable.

Our partnership agreement was submitted as part of our inception report.

### 4.2 Evaluation of the management system

a) The process

The management system was developed using precedent, experience and advice from colleagues and the experience of the partners. Key features of the management system included communication (monthly management meetings by telephone conference helped us keep on top of any issues as they arose). The project covered 21 European countries and had 6 project partners. This meant that, where possible, we organised meetings alongside other events. Holding face to face meeting provided a forum for discussion and decision making. The monthly teleconference allowed us to update each other and discuss any emerging issues.

We also needed to work across organisations and manage different financial, internal governance and procurement systems. Procedures were established, based on previous experience with managing externally funded projects, and captured in a Quick Guide for internal use, documenting areas such as ensuring our project number was on all receipts and how documents should be saved. We also had a partnership agreement signed by all the partners which set out each organisations desire to enter into the RESTORE project, their agreement with the objectives of the project and which actions that they agreed to deliver.

An internal audit of project management was conducted by the Environment Agency in February 2012 and reported positively and identified our benefits realisation work as best practise.

b) Actions in particular associated with Eastern Europe and the RiverWiki database were delayed from the original timeline. Changes in the UK government leading to restrictions in public procurement and restructuring in the EA, delayed recruitment and tendering for the RiverWiki database. We gain exemptions for RESTORE's work from the UK government apart from the external RESTORE website which was procured through the RRC. DLG as associated beneficiary started the preliminary actions for Eastern Europe and subcontracted the rest of the eastern European tasks to the Romanian National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management. There was no impact on the longer term products, although we managed some short term deliverable delays e.g. eastern region communication plan delivery.

c) We encountered challenges in encouraging attendance at events requiring international travel at a time of financial austerity, budget cuts and restrictions. We also needed to work hard during the project to identify all relevant contact and projects in all twenty-one countries, with differing political and language structures. We managed these risks through funding some of the speakers to attend the events which helped us to increase the countries represented. This also made the event much more attractive to people outside the host country. We also held workshops at a time and location where our target audience had already funded a trip for another event. We used our bulletin and events to increase our contacts database. These actions enabled us to target countries where we had few contacts prior to the project. We also used contacts on the EU LIFE+ website to target project managers listed as managing water related projects.



- d) We could not have delivered RESTORE as single organisation. Working as a partnership allowed us to use different partners' strengths, knowledge, contacts and local knowledge. It also helped us manage workloads around partnerships' other commitments. We found **partnership working** needed clarity of purpose, openness, trust, shared goals and **values**, and regular communication.
- e) We found the relationship with our external monitor at Astrale was an important aspect of the project. The level of interaction, including face to face meetings, emails and phone calls enabled us to spot issues early and provide the level of information needed for the regulator reporting to the Environment Commission. They also provided us their full understanding of the common provisions; and we benefited from their close working relationship with the commission. We have found this a very positive relationship during the project.

## 5. Technical part

There are a total of twenty-seven actions; which have been split into a number of LIFE+ action categories.

A: Project Management includes actions A4, A5, A1, A3 and A2

B: Preparatory actions includes B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5

C: Awareness Raising Campaign actions C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9 and C10

E: Monitoring of Project Impact actions includes E1, E2 and E3

F: Communication and dissemination includes actions F1, F2, F3 and F4

The RESTORE project is organised more by objectives and we would request that we report using these logical blocks. This also fits with our approach within our application document.

Objective 1 was to **support river restoration practices across Europe**. There are five actions that address objective 1. These can be categorised as B: Preparatory Actions: B1-B5

### 5.1 Action B1 create communication plans

Deliverables	delivered	previously reported	annex
1 Project Communications Plan	1	inception	7.2
1 Europe Communications Strategy	1	inception	7.2
4 x Regional Communications Strategies	4	Inception (Eastern was in the progress report)	7.2

This action included six deliverables the project communication plan, European communication plan and four regional communication plans. All of these deliverables have been completed. Since the inception report we have updated all the plans and by their nature these plans are "living documents" which were updated at significant, rather than in an arbitrarily, points to feed into activities each quarter.

The Project Communications Plan defined the overarching communication aims and objectives of the entire project. It was a guide for how to promote RESTORE to stakeholders and engage them in our work. The Project Communications Plan covered 21 European Member States and served as a basis for the four Regional

Communication Strategies. The European Communications Strategy set the strategy for how to address the European target audiences not specifically covered by the Regional partners. The European Communications Strategy thus dealt with target audiences in European Member States that the regional RESTORE partners could not give the maximum level of attention.

The regional communication plans set out how the lead regional partners would employ the project communication strategy, on which this plan is based, to carry out the tasks identified in the RESTORE project. These are specific to the different countries within each region. This work was important to identify our main target audiences for disseminating information. It also enabled us to target different audiences with different messages tailored to their needs.

Updates have been made to these documents within the period of the project where necessary. We have also put together short communications plans, as and when they are necessary, such as that for the RiverWiki and '*Rivers by Design*'.

## 5.2 Action B2 Review Existing River Restoration Networks

Deliverables	delivered	previously reported	Annex
4 River Restoration network reports	4 regional reports combined in one database	Inception report. Now live as an <a href="#">interactive map</a> and on the country pages of the RiverWiki	7.2 – summary report
1 networks outside Europe	1 added to the database	Inception report. Now live as an <a href="#">interactive map</a> and on the country pages of the RiverWiki	7.2– summary report

This action consists of compiling a review of river restoration networks within Europe and outside Europe. The output was initially five excel spreadsheets that had the table structure as presented in our inception report. This information is now presented on the RESTORE website as an [interactive map](#). A summary report including a screen grab of the combined databases have been included within annex 7.2. As part of the RiverWiki we also included a section for each country where people can add organisations involved in river restoration ([Welsh organisations](#)). In future this will allow the lists to remain up to date and for people using our RiverWiki to know who they need to contact in a particular country.

This list of networks served as an important basis for the communication activities of RESTORE. It did this by enabling us to target our communications to key organisations and networks. There are still significant differences between countries and some still do not have a network devoted to river restoration. In such situations we identified events where RESTORE could participate and through this mechanism help support the development of a national centre for river restoration (e.g. Poland). Where there was an existing river restoration network, this organisation played an important role as the national contact point for RESTORE.

As part of the After LIFE+ plan for RESTORE we needed to ensure that the tools we developed are embraced and continued into the future. As part of this we identified 24

key networks for particular attention. We have communicated directly with these networks offering support and encouraging engagement in our events and communication tools. This has led to support of the RiverWiki and increased attendance at our events. In particular we worked with these organisations prior to our final conference. With over half attending the conference and we also asked them for their input into the themes we discussed at the conference.

*Table 1 Networks identified for particular attention from RESTORE*

AEMS-Ríos con Vida	Global Water Partnership	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
Atlantic Salmon Trust	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	European Water Resources Association
European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations	International Network of Basin Organisations	Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels
European Union of Water Management Associations	Office national de l'eau et des milieux aquatiques	Finnish Watercourse Restoration Network
European Rivers Network	ONEMA - French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environment	Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland
European Water Association	UNIPESCA	Society of Ecological Restoration
Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto	Wild Trout Trust	SINTEF
The Ramsar Convention on wetlands	WWF	The Rivers Trust

We have also added a section onto the River Wiki for identifying organisations involved in river restoration. This will help us identify any additional organisations of which we are not aware. This is an example of a list of organisation for England:

[http://riverwiki.restorerivers.eu/wiki/index.php?title=Country\\_info%3AEngland\\_-\\_organisations](http://riverwiki.restorerivers.eu/wiki/index.php?title=Country_info%3AEngland_-_organisations).

### 5.3 Action B3 Review of EU Policy Drivers for River Restoration

This is a comprehensive review of the state of existing river restoration policy and planning. The report includes a summary highlighting the opportunities and barriers to delivering river restoration. The report can be found on the project site <http://www.restorerivers.eu/materials>. This was initially reported within our inception report in June 2011.

The review highlighted that despite efforts and EU policy to protect habitats, over the past decade there has been a continued deterioration of and threat to valuable habitats. This is not necessarily due to how this legislation is implemented in EU Member States; rather it is a reflection of the difficulties of overcoming one or more of the obstacles to implementation. Although there are ongoing calls for policy change, the findings of this review indicate that there are institutional structures and learning lessons which can be transferred from one Member State to another.

We used this information within our reports, our talks at conferences and to shape our communications. The report had a very good understanding of Northern and Western countries. We used the information from these countries at our C2 Network engagement event in Ljubljana and developed our understanding of obstacles within Croatia and Slovenia which were not so well covered through the report.

We have added a more attractive front cover to ensure its use as a standalone document (see Annex 7.2). We first provided this report in the inception report sent in June 2011.

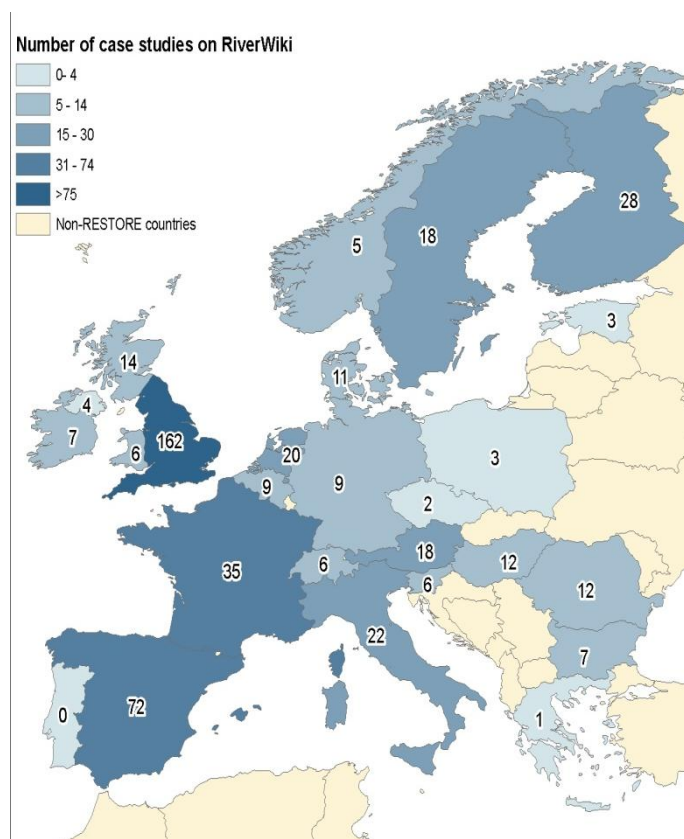
#### 5.4 Action B4 Review Existing EU River Restoration Projects

Deliverables	delivered	previously reported
4 x RR review documents	4	Inception report (just northern, southern and western regions); progress report (all regions including the project database we used to upload all these projects onto the RiverWiki)

We have been collecting river restoration projects and now have **530** uploaded from **31** countries onto the River Wiki. Although the partners have a large number of case studies we have concentrated on uploading good examples of river restoration and those where we have supplementary information and monitoring. The partners collected a large number of case studies for our initial review of river restoration projects undertaken for the Inception report. Our major sources of information on projects were the RRC database of UK project, the Danish river restoration database and ONEMA's database of French case studies. We also used case studies from the ECRR database, FORECASTER database, EU LIFE databases, large-scale integrated projects such as URBEM and Ireland's EREP. We went through proceedings from conferences, undertook literature reviews, and a couple of large consulting firms also provided us with case studies.

In terms of the types of projects that we discovered, there were a large proportion of over-arching multi-site programmes, with the national databases containing much more information on smaller-scale works. Overall, an extremely wide range of types of intervention and measures implementation was covered. We did find it helpful, in terms of finding out more information on a project, that nearly all project records have identified a point of contact for further information, at least in terms of the organisation(s) responsible.

An up to date view of the distribution of projects can be viewed within our [River Wiki](http://riverwiki.restorerivers.eu/)  
<http://riverwiki.restorerivers.eu/>



*Figure 4 numbers of case studies per RESTORE country from December 2013*

## 5.5 Action B5 Identify Main Target Audience (MTA) – Individuals and Organisations

This action was developed alongside the communications plans. The engagement strategies are included and reported within the communication strategies (B1).

These reports were originally reported within the inception report for all regions apart from Eastern region which was submitted in the progress report. The reports looked at how to engage and evaluate communication with the main target audience and stakeholders in a particular RESTORE regions and countries. This information was used to target our communications.

An overarching understanding of the central elements of the main target audiences was also included within the project communication plan. This interpolated the information gathered from the regional communication strategies. It summarised how to engage and evaluate communication with the RESTORE main target audience and the other stakeholders.

**Objective 2: was networking and capacity building.** There were 8 actions associated with this objective. These can be categorised as:

C: Awareness raising campaign actions: C1-C6

E: Monitoring of project impact: action E1

F: Communication and dissemination: actions F4

## 5.6 C1 Networking and Marketing

RESTORE's awareness raising campaign was focused on the need to communicate existing knowledge about river restoration, and is centred on the website (Action F1) as the main repository of this knowledge. Our main method of sharing information was initially through our website and bulletins, particularly within the public sector and the environmental press. However, as our experience in disseminating information increased, and we received feedback from our users we increasingly made use of social media to draw our audience to the website, to develop new knowledge and to engage in a wider discussion. The website and press articles are effective means of spreading information; however social media gave our audience an additional and effective communication channel, with positive reinforcement, where they were able to communicate and which, in turn, encouraged them to use the website and RiverWiki.

It was therefore essential that our communications strategy has a strong emphasis on driving our audience to the website in order to:

1. Increase their understanding about river restoration and
2. Develop new knowledge.

However, during the course of the project we also increased our presence and reached a bigger audience by developing a larger social media strategy incorporating Twitter and LinkedIn which enabled us to converse on networking sites and forums where audiences were already active.

### Specific actions

The actions within C1 were a best practice techniques booklet and secondly, the dissemination of press releases summarising the work of RESTORE for the trade press, websites and newsletters.

5.6.1 The best practice booklet was produced as ***Rivers by Design*** which comprises 44 pages with 8 case studies and a general introduction, links and information on design processes.

The **planned output** was for a promotional booklet setting out best case studies to take to events to promote river restoration and the RESTORE project with a print run of 400 copies. This target has been exceeded and since the project modification we have updated the '***Rivers by Design***' best practice techniques handbook. We also ran a reprint as all the previous copies had been distributed and we were still getting requests for further copies.

**Achieved output:** 750 copies of the handbook have been published and a freely downloadable copy is available on our website.

To date (January 2014) we have had 2405 downloads of the handbook.

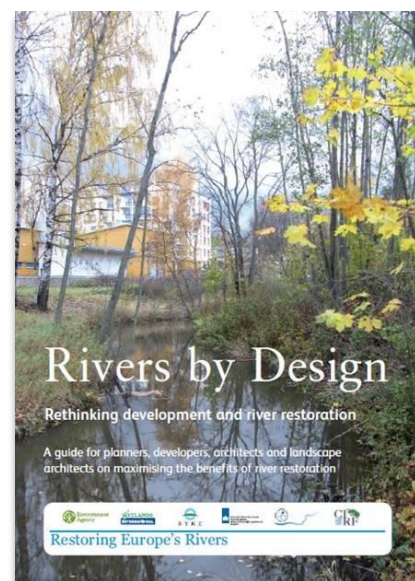


Figure 5 Rivers by Design



The main target audience for the handbook was the land-use development sector (developers, planners, architects and landscape architects) to ensure they gained a better understanding of and subsequent support of river restoration in Europe. The planning and development sectors are critical to delivering river restoration since our towns and cities are the largest contributors to change in the environment, including its degradation and affecting the impacts of climate change. Good urban design can drastically increase the inclusion of river restoration in development.

Our intention was to provide a handbook providing a practical and easy summary of our approach to river restoration. Using a series of case studies we explained our objectives, why they are important and how to get the best results in river restoration.

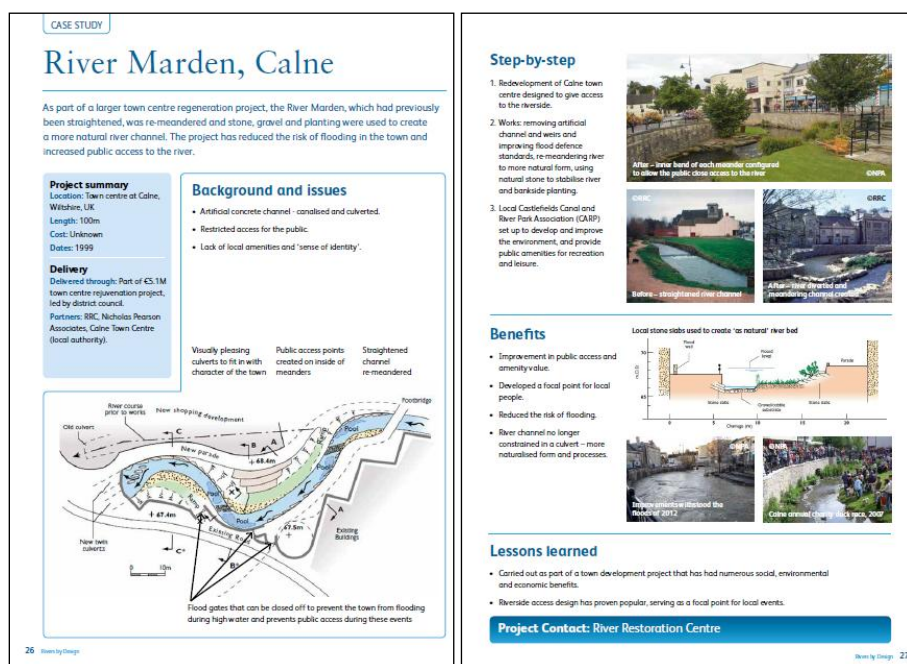


Figure 6 Case study in Rivers by Design

The handbook can also be used as a teaching tool for planners and aims to encourage its readers to adopt its recommendations. We wanted to give our target audience enough information, knowledge and tools to enable people who are not river restoration practitioners to support this approach.

A key objective was to develop the handbook together with our MTA so we could provide material of direct use to them and that was not already available. The handbook was coordinated by the Environment Agency with support from all the partners. It was developed by the EA and the RRC. An external advisory group of river restoration professionals and planners commented and advised on the content throughout its development. As a result it was decided that the handbook should interpret case studies and highlight the importance of best practice associated with each RESTORE theme for effective river restoration. Basic technical information was provided through links to our website.

The handbook was finished and uploaded on our website in April 2013 and was updated to take the findings of the European River Restoration Conference into account in

December 2013. It is free to download from our website and has been published in hard format for distribution at events including the ERCC.

The handbook was publicised onto our website and at RESTORE events, on Twitter, LinkedIn and several online river restoration, planning and development communities, via internal and external bulletins and articles in magazines.

### **Impact of handbook**

*“Rivers by Design fits well with the work the TCPA are looking at in terms of green and blue infrastructure in both new build and existing/ restoration” (Michael Chang, Planning Policy Offer at the Town and Country Planning Association)*

There is little information for a broad European audience on river restoration aimed at the development sector. We initially printed 350 copies of the handbook but relied on the material being available from the website for the majority of readers. The hard copies were distributed to our partners to give out at events, they were also given to local planning authorities in the UK, and were distributed at two events in the UK aimed at the planning and development sectors.

The handbook has proved invaluable in raising the profile of RESTORE as well as offering clear guidance for the development sector and government institutions. By working with the development sector to produce it we ensured that we had targeted information that has enabled readers to make the best choices to maximise long term results that support river restoration.

### **5.6.2 Press releases**

Our press releases summarised the work of RESTORE and were submitted to the environmental press and were shared with our audience via our website.

A list of the all the press releases are contained in Annex 7.2 together with a list of articles published. The links for all these press releases and articles are also given in the annex. A selection of these press releases and articles have been printed in full in Annex 7.2 and give an insight into the range of coverage RESTORE achieved. Further information on articles published by each region is contained in section 5.18.2.

Our communications strategy originally planned for a total of 80 press releases and we have been successful in more than doubling that target. As a result RESTORE has maintained an excellent online and published presence which has increased traffic to our website, encouraged users to upload case studies onto the RiverWiki, and helped ensure the success of the ERRC.

We made a targeted approach with press releases which was particularly successful in Slovenia, Romania, Austria and Finland. Specific issues such as the RiverWiki launch and the ERRC produced most coverage, and they were also covered by a wider variety of online and printed journals. For instance in the UK the RiverWiki was publicised in computer and technical journals as well as environmental outlets. For our international conference Wetlands International created specific press invitations and sent these out to 300+ media contacts.



We also maintained our strategy by using our events as the basis for stories and we found that targeting specific newsletters/ journals and writing short articles as well as our own bulletin gives us a wider readership. The [LIFE programme reports](#) were useful for publicising our project, and related schemes such as [REFORM](#) were helpful in sharing our message.

The majority of articles have been published in the West Area which may be to do with a more developed environmental press sector. For instance in the UK, the [Association of Drainage Authorities](#) and [Managing Water](#) magazines and the newsletters of REFORM and Catchment Sensitive Farming have all taken substantial articles from RESTORE about the handbook and the development of the project.

We have had items produced in external newsletters, targeting environment authorities and water managers on a regular basis. We were also able to target our main target audience through a collaborative event with New London Architecture (NLQ), resulting in two substantial articles in NLQ magazine which has a large influential readership covering influential professionals in the development sector (an essential part of our main target audience). However, each region contributed to publicising RESTORE through articles and these are further explored in section 5.18.2.

## 5.7 RESTORE Events

The project held 38 events which was one more than planned in the initial bid. They were held in 22 different countries. The event synthesis report in Annex 7.2 provides detailed outputs from all the events held during the project. An overview of all the events is provided below in table 2. I have only given a more detailed account of those events that have been held since the mid-term report. All pre-event plans and reports have been submitted. However where these reports have previously been submitted we have included the annex from the previous report. We have also included in table 2 the report where the event's post event report was submitted.

*Table 2 all RESTORE events*

Event and proposed timings	Proposed events from the bid document	Delivered events	The progress report that contains the event's summary report	RESTORE Partner
2 Network events - Q4 2011 & Q4 2012	2 x network events	1) Slovenia Q4 2011 2) Czech Republic – Q3 2012 3) England – Q4 2012 4) Belgium – Q1 2013 5) England – Q3 2013	1) mid-term report 2) final report 3) final report 4) final report 5) final report	EA
15 Sector events - Q2 2011 to Q4 2012.	6 x sector events	1) England – Q3 2011 2) Netherlands – Q1 2012 3) England – Q2 2012 4) Denmark - Q2 2012 5) Scotland – Q3 2012 6) Netherlands– Q2 2013	1) progress report 2) mid-term report 3) mid-term report 4) final report 5) final report 6) final report	RRC
	6 x sector events	1) Finland – Q2 2011 2) Finland – Q2 2012 3) Sweden – Q4 2012 4) Finland– Q2 2013 5) Switzerland - Q2 2013 6) Finland – Q3 2013	1) inception report 2) mid-term report 3) final report 4) final report 5) final report 6) final report	SYKE
	2 x sector events	1) Spain – Q4 2011 2) Italy/ Austria – Q4 2011	1) progress report 2) progress report	CIRF
	1 x sector events	1) Romania – Q2 2012	1) mid-term report	DLG
11 Policy events - Q3 2011 & Q3 2012	4 x policy events	1) France - Q4 2011 2) France – Q1 2012 3) Ireland - Q2 2013 4) Belgium – Q2 2013	1) mid-term report 2) mid-term report 3) final report 4) final report	RRC
	4 x policy events	1) Norway – Q3 2011 2) Finland – Q1 2012 3) Iceland – Q3 2012 4) Finland – Q3 2013	1) progress report 2) mid-term report 3) final report 4) final report	SYKE
	2 x policy events	1) Italy - Q4 2012 2) Italy - Q1 2013	1) final report 2) final report	CIRF
	1 x policy events	1) Bulgaria – Q4 2012	1) final report	DLG
4 field visits (Q3 2011 – Q2 2013)	4 x RR field visit events	1) Switzerland - Q2 2012 2) Poland - Q2 2012 3) Romania – Q2 2012 4) France - Q3 2012 5) Germany - Q2 2013	1) mid-term report 2) mid-term report 3) mid-term report 4) final report 5) final report	SYKE, RRC, CIRF, DLG
4 network exchange (Q2 2012 – Q2 2013)	4 x RR network exchange visits	1) Netherlands– Q2 2013	final report	SYKE, RRC, CIRF, DLG
international conference (Q4 2013)	1 x international conference	1) Austria - Q3 2013	final report	EA

### 5.7.1 C2 Engagement Events: River Restoration Networks

The project delivered five network events within the project budget. The objectives and focus of the events varied.

The initial network event allowed us to plan and shape the subsequent events. Across the different events we targeted specific audiences to strengthen river restoration networks across Europe. The first event in Ljubljana (reported in full in the Progress Report) allowed us to improve our understanding of policy obstacles in Southern Europe and discuss the needs for our RiverWiki. A significant finding was the importance of publicising RESTORE to the community as none of the delegates questioned appeared to have knowledge of the existing FORECASTER knowledge management system. By working with the FP7 REFORM project we could ensure that we get an improved profile for the two systems. Also by providing links between the systems and producing complementary systems we would provide tools of benefit to a wider number of people. The event also extended our network into river managers in Croatia which was valuable as we did not have events planned there. The events following this first successful event were targeted to focus on one particular network or sector.

As part of our communications plan we looked at different networks that would be helpful to target with a specific event. This led to specific events to work with the planning sector and holding a workshop within the European Conference on Ecological Restoration (ECER) international event.

#### **5.7.1.1 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic- sharing good practice in river restoration workshop at the 8th European Conference on Ecological Restoration**

*'Sharing good practice in river restoration'*, this workshop was held at the same time as a wider ECER conference. This enabled us to work and communicate with scientists involved in restoring rivers. Prior to the workshop we visited a couple of examples of river restoration in the Czech Republic. This would allow us to visit and find out information on these examples of Czech river restoration. Through this event we gained contacts in the Czech Republic and now have example case studies uploaded on to the RiverWiki.

#### **5.7.1.2 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012, London, UK- Restoring London's River**

A press release by the New London Architecture (NLA) following this event highlighted some of the key findings from the event:

***The effective restoration of London's rivers can provide improved natural habitats for wildlife and a better space for human recreation. Designed imaginatively, they can also even help to reduce crime and the fear of crime and contribute to a higher quality of life for all.***

This event was held as a 'breakfast talk' on 25th October 2012 allowing people to attend the event before work. It was a collaborative event with the New London Architecture and was held at the Building Centre in central London. The NLA is the premier independent forum for debate and an information resource about what's happening in architecture, planning, development and construction.

The event was full to capacity with over 220 people attending. Altogether 350 people had registered their interest. The list of attendees represented a cross-section of professions: architects, engineers, landscape architects, sustainable development, town planning, urban design, transport planning, research, management, law. This sector would have been difficult to attract if the event had simply been a RESTORE event run

by the Environment Agency; by involving the NLA we were able to communicate with their established network.

The main participatory method at the event was through the 20 minute panel discussion following the presentations. The audience were eager to know about:

- Costs of river restoration: how is this to be funded, need for examples showing comparative costs of maintaining traditional structures versus river restoration
- Wider issues of water quality and pollution
- Deculverting smaller rivers
- Sustainable drainage systems and the Thames super sewer
- Long term maintenance costs

The event began with a question: **Do you think you should be involved in river restoration?** About half the audience thought they should be involved. At the end of the event the question was asked again and the response was clearly more positive with around 80% of the audience saying yes.

The question was intended to prompt the audience to widen their understanding of who might be involved in delivering river restoration. The talks highlighted to the sector the important benefits to their schemes of improving the water environment through their work.

The event was communicated to the participants and a wider audience by the NLA who publicised the event on their website and through an article in their quarterly magazine which is distributed to 5,000 senior figures in London property and development. The NLA also sent out material provided by RESTORE, about the website the RiverWiki and individual case studies, to all 350 people who had expressed an interest in the event.



*Figure 7 Toni Scarr presenting at the NLA breakfast talk: photo by Ruth Hanniffy*

#### **5.7.1.3 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013, Brussels, Belgium - The benefits of restoring natural processes**

*We need to rethink our relationship with rivers.* This was the main discussion at this event. It was aimed at planners and developers within Brussels and the attendees of the REFORM practitioner workshop. The event was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

As part of the seminar two professionals, Yves Herbert principal designer at Joining Nature and Cities and Martine LeJeune of RIOU/ AMICE, spoke about the role urban regeneration and development is playing in deliver river restoration projects. We learnt about cross boarder collaboration on the Meuse from Katia Nagels, who works for the *Agency for Nature and Forests*. In particular they discussed projects in Park Deule and in the Belgian Ardennes.

The talk finished by showing how the RESTORE [Website](#) and [RiverWiki](#) is a repository of information about river restoration.

We also communicated the event to a wider audience by raising its profile through social media and uploading a recording of the event onto [YouTube](#) .

#### **5.7.1.4 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013, London, UK – Tidal Thames boat trip – The River as generator of development**

The event was a network engagement event directed at London's planning, building, development and architecture sectors. This was the second event that we held in conjunction with New London Architecture. The boat trip took place on the River Thames, on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013. We had an invited audience of over 70 delegates from these areas; mainly project managers and heads of planning who are able to influence the direction of development in London and the UK at a very high level. The event was tailored to show them how river restoration, fisheries and biodiversity should be at the heart of development along the river.

During the trip we built in time for discussion with the delegates and we found that river restoration knowledge amongst the audience to be quite low. Despite the fact that our audience comprised heads of department and experienced professionals in the design and planning sectors in London, many had not considered the importance of considering rivers and waterways in their designs. Additionally, they had not come across a 'water first' type approach in their projects and for many of them the event was their first introduction to river restoration.

The event helped to raise knowledge and understanding of the key measures of good restoration practice. We also helped establish new links between our delegates and introduced them to the RESTORE tools: including the RiverWiki and our website. Since our target audience were senior professionals we hoped to influence future design and policy in London and for this information to be disseminated to a large sector of the London building and design community.

Many participants also wanted further workshops on river restoration covering a spread evenly distributed issues including information on master planning, intertidal issues, restoration techniques, reed beds and planning restrictions.

#### **5.7.2 C3 Engagement Events: Sector specific**

The project plan was for 15 events (see table 2 for full list of RESTORE events). There are pre-event plans and post event reports for all the policy events see annex 7.2. There have been 6 sector events held since the mid-term report. All pre-event plans and reports have been submitted. However where these reports have previously been



submitted we have included the annex from the previous report. We have also included in table 2 the report where the event's post event report was submitted.

## **Western region**

### **5.7.2.1 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Dunkeld, Scotland - Improving morphology and fish passage in high energy rivers', The Birnam Institute,**

This event focused on the impact of barriers (to sediment, flow and fish) on high energy river systems, and the benefits of implementing natural fish passage, including discussion about what barriers fish can really pass. It aimed to discuss current best practice for fish passage, and identify how the RESTORE partnership can disseminate this information to policy makers, river basin managers and other key stakeholders in Europe. The event was attended by around 70 delegates. The key issues that they raised included:

- Perceived lack of confidence regarding high energy rivers
- Lack of awareness about current best practice for fish passage and hydropower
- How can we encourage people to share information about projects?
- What tools are available to assess fish 'passability'?

The information from this event was then consolidated and where applicable updated on the project's website, RiverWiki and with the case study handbook. As there were also two RESTORE regions attending the event were also able to share and discuss the knowledge between Western and Northern Europe.



*Figure 8 A photo from the RRC of the field trip element of the event. This location is a good example of how encouraging natural processes has led to the movement of sediment across the River Tummel creating a diverse range of habitats and flows*

#### **5.7.2.2 25-26<sup>th</sup> June 2013, Utrecht, The Netherlands - River Restoration Training Course and Restoration Centre Staff Knowledge Exchange.**

This event was a combination of the staff knowledge exchange and a training course. This training course provided a forum for staff from river restoration centres across Europe to exchange knowledge and experiences. This is further reported within 5.17 action C6.

Across Europe, there is a very limited provision of courses on how to undertake best practice in river restoration and sustainable river management, including input from river restoration experts who are leading the way in terms of research and on-the-ground project implementation. The training element was therefore extremely useful, especially to participants with limited knowledge. The course was filled up almost immediately, which also clearly demonstrates the need for river restoration training courses.

The course aimed to focus on the importance of understanding natural river processes when designing river restoration projects for ecological and habitat benefits. We invited staff from some of the network centres around the RESTORE regions to this Western Region's training event. This allowed us to build technical expertise, discuss operational strategies with start-up centres and combine the results from 2.5 years of the RESTORE project.

The two day event combined a mix of 'classroom' based activities and site visits. The course material was based on the presentations given, together with the RRC [Manual of River Restoration Techniques](#), the [Practical Guidance on Monitoring](#) and the RiverWiki.

As a result of this course, RESTORE/RRC was subsequently invited to Norway to an event to disseminate information on river restoration and how to set up and manage a national river restoration centre. During the project extension period discussions were held between the centres on the possibilities to give similar training courses in their respective countries. It was recognised that it is of major importance to continue the relations built up between these centres through the RESTORE project.

#### **Northern region**

#### **5.7.2.3 2nd November 2012, Southern Sweden - Best practices in environmentally friendly land drainage, connectivity for migrating fish and restoration of stream water habitats 29<sup>th</sup> October.**

The aim of the event was to discuss and find solutions to common river restoration problems in all North Region's member countries. These include both environmentally sound land drainage in agricultural areas and methods to combine hydro power production and fish populations.

River restoration know-how in Sweden proved to be very high and they have many good examples of newly completed case studies addressing hydro power impacts and environmentally sound drainage. We saw one example of dredging with two-stage profile and a narrow low flow channel.

The Swedish national river restoration network has helped to contribute to the level of understanding of the key measures and good restoration practices. The cooperation

between the regional and municipality level authorities is good enough to spread the best river restoration practices from regional authorities onward to local level. During the event it was discussed that this approach is something which other countries, could learn from.

It was especially impressive to see how the Swedes have been able to realise these river restoration projects despite resistance from hydro power companies. Having legislation and adequate public money that support this work was an important factor.

When Swedish court decide to order the power company to build a fishway, they also dictate which type of fishway needs to be built. The power company and the regional authority are also able to agree conditions to ensure a constant water flow in the new fishway. In this way it ensures that all environmental benefits from the fishway are achieved. The state however currently compensates the power company for the loss of flow needed for the fishway. There are ongoing discussions to change this arrangement.

A significant difference between Finland and Sweden is the environmental flow in the fishway. This means that the normal practise in Sweden is for the regional authority to pay a one-off compensation to the power companies to allow for this low water flow within the fishway. This compensation is necessary as the power companies already hold the environment permit to abstract the whole water flow to use for power production. The payment ensures a change to the power company's licence committing them to an agreed flow of water into the fishway. In addition, there is usually an agreement put in place that the flow taken will change with the seasons so that habitat and fish migration is not negatively impacted. Because this arrangement costs the state a lot of money, instead of the power company, which financially benefits from the power plant, there are ongoing discussions in Sweden to change this arrangement. In future the Finnish authorities would like the courts to make the power company pay for the environmental flow as well.

There were participants from all the RESTORE countries in northern regions at this event. Participants learnt new restoration methods and techniques and saw their implementation in practice. The role of fishways and especially nature like by-pass channels is significant in southern Sweden, they are no longer building hard engineered technical fish bypasses as their use is more limited. The participants saw numerous good case studies sites during the event, including newly finished sites. To view these go to our RiverWiki pages for Sweden.

#### **5.7.2.4 24-25<sup>th</sup> April 2013, Finland - Discussion about the RESTORE topics including hydropower with the Finnish Migratory Fish Forum.**

The event offered an important discussion platform for hydropower producers, fish researchers and authorities about how the negative ecological effects of hydropower could be reduced in Finland. Project partner SYKE used examples collected from previous RESTORE events from other parts of Europe, to show how to build and the benefits of nature-like bypass channels and compensative reproduction areas.

Prior to this event, in Finland, there had been no real discussions between the sectors outlined above on environmental flow and how this should be taken into account, when defining how to regulate river flows. Commonly only the benefits of regulation for energy production have been stressed by power companies. Recent examples of



increased environmental flows in new permits were discussed and seen during an excursion.

This event provided a good example of the trust that can start to be built through discussion between industry, regulators and authorities. Environmental flow will be an important topic balancing the impacts of water uses and the wildlife that it supports.

#### **5.7.2.5 21-25th May 2013, München and Basel area, Germany- Switzerland - Restoration of River Dynamics and Continuity in Heavily Modified Rivers**

During the event we got a comprehensive picture of how the dichotomy, in Germany and Switzerland, between the needs for hydropower production and the movement of fauna through their rivers had been resolved. As expected, the selected sites were model examples of how the negative effect of hydropower production can be reduced.

On the River Isar, many river restoration projects have been designed mainly with the focus on flood risk management. During our excursion in Bavaria we visited three sites on the River Isar, Mühlthal in the upper Isar, a section in the city of Munich, and Hangenham near Freising. Our guides were Walter Binder, the former leading river restoration expert in the Bavarian environment authorities and Nivedita Mahida and Matthias Junge from the Bavarian State Office for Water Management Munich.

The second part of the event was organized in the valley of River Rhine in Germany and in Switzerland. The course of the River Rhine between Germany and Switzerland is cut with several power plant dams. The migration route for the Rhine salmon is not yet complete between Strasbourg and Basel but above Basel several fish passes and bypass channels have been accomplished to restore the conditions to allow local fish movement. At the main stem of River Rhine we saw hydropower plants Rheinfelden, Wyhlen, Ryburg-Schwörstadt and Albruck-Dogern. We received a highly informative guide of the power plant sites by Dr. Dipl. Ing. Rolf-Jürgen Gebler, the designer from the fish passes and compensation habitats. In Switzerland we visited three river restoration sites near hydropower plants: Ruppoldingen and Ruppereswil at River Aare and Wettingen at River Limmat, which are both tributaries of the River Rhine. Mr. Urs Hoffstetter from the power company Alpiq was our guide in Ruppoldingen and Mr. Bruno Schelbert in Ruppereswil.

The legislation in Switzerland appears to be driving change to improve the balance between hydropower and the local environment. As Switzerland is not part of the European Union, the Water Framework Directive is not binding there, but their own corresponding legislation is even more demanding in terms of measures to reduce impacts of hydropower. The Swiss federal level Water Protection Law (GSchG 1991) demands a minimum flow discharge which has to be maintained in the river when it is used for hydropower production.

In Switzerland the Federal Act on River Engineering of 1991 and its associated decree of 1999 have prepared the ground for moving toward preventative and sustainable flood risk management. Additionally the Floodplain Decree of 1992 on the conservation of floodplains of national importance stipulates that remaining floodplain areas must be preserved in an undiminished condition and that natural dynamics of bedload and water regime must be restored.

In terms of RESTORE, our key outcomes and finding were:

- To see restoration cases, where erosion and sedimentation processes can be allowed in rivers with multiple use for recreation
- To discuss with key river restoration experts and hydropower producers how environmental flow and nature-like bypass channels could be taken more into consideration in regulated rivers.
- To get acquainted key river restoration experts and hydropower producers for post-RESTORE cooperation.
- To find out more about German and Swiss river restoration cases, in order to upload them on to the RiverWiki.
- To promote RESTORE products, such as www-pages and RiverWiki.

#### **5.7.2.6 14 -16<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Lahti and Helsinki, Finland - A two-day excursion.**

We visited a number of restoration cases in Lahti and Helsinki Metropolitan area as part of this event. This event was attended by water managers, river basin planners and practitioners, universities, research institutes and NGO's. This included 96 people attending the one-day conference reported in 5.7.3.4.

Around Helsinki we saw solutions of how to use blue and green infrastructure in agricultural and urban areas by combining the river restoration with stormwater and flood risk management as well as providing recreation areas. A number of the schemes had been delivered by volunteers with guidance from the authorities.



*Figure 9 The Longinoja Brook restoration project near Helsinki*

There were 155 people on the excursion in the Lahti Region and 17 also visited the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. The sectors represented by the participants were: water managers, river basin planners and practitioners. During the event experts from Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, UK and Poland were able to get acquainted. New connections for further cooperation and knowledge sharing was made possible, to solve similar problems in different countries.

***Key points from the event, we need:***

- to increase awareness of river restoration. In particular there needs to be further awareness raising of the benefits of dredging in an environmentally sound manner and ecological fish passes in Finland.
- a joint discussion on the common hindrances and solutions for river restorations in Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway and Poland.
- to further improve networking to generate possibilities for future transnational cooperation between the North Region member countries.
- to get acquainted with Finnish river restoration sites focusing on agriculture and fisheries.

***What RESTORE has done to address these points:***

- taken the first steps to create a national river restoration network in Estonia.
- Increased the knowledge of river restoration and all its benefits in Poland and provided support to develop a national centre.
- Built and established network capacity in Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway and Poland. New connections for further cooperation and knowledge sharing have been made possible.
- Presented case studies of environmentally friendly dredging to be initiated in Sweden
- Transnational exchange of river restoration expertise.

### **5.7.3 Action C4 Engagement Events: Policy Makers and River Basin Managers**

The project plan was to hold 11 events (see table 2 for full list of events). There are pre-event plans and post event reports for all the policy events see annex 7.2. There have been 2 policy events held since the progress report.

#### **Southern region**

##### **5.7.3.1 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November 2012, Bolzano, Italy - 2° Convegno italiano sulla riqualificazione fluviale**

An interesting range of perspectives was provided from regional and basin authorities, local administrations, consultants and some researchers attending this event. The format was a half day seminar, within the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Italian Conference on river restoration. There were 107 people from Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Brazil and Bolivia in attendance. Lourdes Alvarelllos from DG Environment was particularly relevant, since the official view of the EC on the issues under discussion could be provided.

Outcomes from the event included:

- increased knowledge by project participants, especially Italian, of management alternatives, research needs, technical approaches in relation to planning and management of river restoration measures within River Basin Management Plans.
- increased knowledge of river restoration as a key tool to jointly reach the goals of the Water Framework and Floods Directives.
- increased knowledge of possible solutions in order to overcome main barriers for a wider inclusion of river restoration in River Basin Management Plans.

The timing of this event to help support countries to meet the first WFD targets was timely. It allowed discussion between river basin managers and policy makers as to how we might reach these targets. This will help us to understand what the main barriers are, but also the best ways to aid implementation of river restoration measures at a basin scale.

**5.7.3.2 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, Torino, Italy - Policy seminar on “risk management, maintenance of the territory and river restoration: how to overcome ambiguities and implement key actions for Italy”**



*Figure 10 Photo from the archive of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano - Hydraulic Works Department. The photo shows flood flows in the Passirio River, near Merano, Italy (1987)*

There was good attendance at the seminar: 5 national politicians from 3 different parties participated in the moderated debate; almost 150 people attended the event, from different sectors, but with a majority of public officers. The wider public was also reached through an article in national press and on the internet.

Key points:

- Compared to other EU and Mediterranean countries tangible restoration measures are still extremely rare in Italy since river restoration and related issues have never become part of the political agenda.

- It is a priority for us to increase our efforts in interacting with politicians, in order to raise their awareness on the strategic role that river restoration can play, and on the ecosystem services that it can provide.
- In early 2013 national elections are foreseen and a major turnover is expected in the Parliament: it is an important opportunity to highlight river restoration to national parties and the Government.

The main outcomes of the seminar:

- The event provided an opportunity to influence candidates to the Italian parliament (some of which have subsequently been elected). These politicians from across the political parties left with an understanding of the benefits of river restoration (e.g. flood risk management and climate change adaption).
- The seminar provided people with clarity on the legislative actions that are needed to be enacted to deliver river restoration measures in Italy.
- The attention in the national press provided the general public with increased visibility/awareness of river restoration as a strategic set of measures for Italy.

This workshop provided the groundwork needed for a change in legislation. The change to the 2013 national budget law, gave priority (for the first time in Italy) to river restoration measures over more traditional flood defence works.

## **Northern region**

### **5.7.3.3 25-28<sup>th</sup> September, Reykjavik, Iceland - 5<sup>th</sup> Nordic Water Manager's meeting Seminar and Workshop.**

The seminar was focused on WFD and its implementation in the Nordic countries. One of the main tools for implementation is restoring watercourses including rivers and brooks. The event brought together 77 water managers from Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Scotland, Ireland, Italy and Finland to discuss implementation of WFD in Nordic countries. The key issue was to define the guidelines of River Basin Management Plans and what measures should be used to achieve the good ecological state/potential. The workshops run by SYKE as part of the RESTORE project promoted river restoration as an important measure within water management plans. These workshops allowed us to promote RESTORE tools such as the RiverWiki and website. We also promoted and discussed new river restoration techniques.

#### ***Key points we need to take away:***

- There is a need to discuss the implementation of WFD in Nordic countries.
- We need better understanding of how compensative habitats, bypass channels and agriculture environmentally friendly drainage practices can reduction the adverse impacts of agriculture on the water bodies and draining to the Baltic Sea.
- We need to know more about financing and prioritising measures to execute river restoration.
- We need more knowledge on marine and coastal issues, effectiveness of measures, pollution, including the measures of agriculture and land drainage, hydropower, bypasses and compensation

#### ***Outcomes from the event***

- The ideas promoted by RESTORE, were noted in the conference resolutions and will influence the further goals of the Nordic WFD work.

- To prevent the impacts agriculture, 2-stage profiles in streams and ditches was noted as one of the basic methods for phosphorus reduction.
- For heavily modified water bodies, the need to take the maximum ecological potential MEP as a goal was agreed as a new approach when possible.
- habitat compensation, instead of fish juvenile stocking, was recognized as a new policy to be promoted in Baltic Sea area.
- The Polish attendees feedback that they had an increased knowledge of river restoration and all its benefits.
- We gained the relevant contacts to exporting river restoration know how to Poland

#### **5.7.3.4 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Lahti, Finland - Seminar about river restoration and environmental river engineering in Nordic countries.**

During the seminar we got a comprehensive picture of what are the key challenges and interest in Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway and Poland. There was discussion of the achievement and conclusions from RESTORE. As part of the after-LIFE+ plan for RESTORE we also launched the future plans for river restoration in Finland. There was also the first River Restoration prize awarded in Finland.

The size of the event with 96 people attending and even more joining the field trips is testament to SYKE's leadership in this field. The RESTORE project has initiated close collaboration in the Nordic regions which is planned to continue into the future. Through SYKE's events there is an increased awareness of river restoration and in particular the benefits of ecological dredging and ecological fish passes in Finland. Better understanding of the impact of dredging and hydropower enabling fish pass design and dredging to be more ecologically minded. Following a RESTORE event there was the first case studies of environmentally friendly dredging initiated in Sweden. They have launched a Finnish National river restoration network. First steps taken in creating a national river restoration network in Estonia. Increased knowledge of river restoration and all its benefits in Poland and support has been provided to develop a national centre.

#### **Western Region**

#### **5.7.3.5 9-10<sup>th</sup> April 2013, Dublin, Ireland - Exploring the synergy between EU Directives to achieve best practice river restoration and management**

This event brought together policy makers and river basin managers to explore how a better synergy between the various directives and legislation can help to drive best practice river restoration and management for the benefit of people, species and the wider environment in the context of catchment planning.

This workshop provided a unique possibility for water managers from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to come together and, in a very positive and proactive approach, discuss management of cross-border restoration projects and common concerns on how to meet the requirements of river related EU directives.

A number of issues were discussed which are listed below:  
Working with **natural processes** within flood risk management.

Stop working in **isolation** and try to link between different parts of the same organisation as well as between organisations.

Better stakeholder **engagement and education** at 'welly boot' level.

Ensuring that all parts of the river system – from **source to sea** and estuarine areas – are included in a catchment based approach.

- **Multi-benefit schemes** have the possibility to tick boxes for several directives

The **Ecosystem Services** concept needs to be translated into a useful tool through integration in national legislation.

Existing data, which can be used to understand **processes and pressures** in the catchment, needs to more readily available.

Large **gap** between science, policy and implementation.

Two key issues stood out from the event as being particularly important to achieving better synergy between European Directives. Firstly, the need for more integrated communication and collaboration between relevant authorities, and secondly, more funding available for multi-benefit projects.

#### **5.7.3.6 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, Scheldt River, Belgium - Debating the challenges of river restoration**

This trip was designed to discuss the finding from the RESTORE project. The event highlighted the need for more integrated policy. The outputs from this workshop were presented in at the Vienna conference. As part of the event there was also a strong call for more guidance and tools especially in the context of showing all stakeholders that there are benefits for the economy, society and ecology.

There were 23 attendees at this event.

#### **Key points from the event**

- State of the art knowledge and partnerships are needed to develop hydropower while improving the ecological status of rivers
- Small hydropower schemes are a growing issue that is problematic under WFD
- As a matter of urgency there is a need to provide guidance to Member States about the connections between different policies.
- Need to change from hard flood defences to providing more funds for green infrastructure. Guidance needed on this element.

Part of the debate included '**Better rivers call for**':

- A **collation of evidence** to demonstrate achievements of river restoration.
- **Economic assessments** that lead to delivery.
- Greater European level **policy integration** that accounts for catchment approaches.
- Better **links between water and land management** such as climate change adaptation/mitigation and EU rural funds.



## Eastern region

### 5.7.3.7 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2012, Ruse, Bulgaria - River Restoration – an important activity in water management field

The event was a mixture of presentations and round table discussion. National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management (NIHWM) introduced the event, river restoration and the RESTORE-project. This was followed by several presentations on river restoration in Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. A presentation on *Strategies to reach policymakers in East European Region; Experiences in the Meander Project in Croatia* opened the round table discussion. The event was attended by 16 People from Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia and the Netherlands. They were a mix of policy makers, scientists and river basin planners.

Some of the outcomes included:

- Knowledge sharing and networking.
- Methods and means to influence the policy makers in order to accept and put into practice river restoration in balancing the needs for flood protection, hydropower plants, etc.
- Knowledge how to develop a strategy to reach policymakers in East European Region.

### 5.7.4 C5 River Restoration Field Visits

#### 5.7.4.1 11<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> October Loire Valley, France - Removal of water level management structures and river restoration

Over the two days, different approaches to overcoming barriers were visited. On-site discussions focused on the challenges facing organisations aiming to deliver multi-objective projects, and on technicalities relating to the delivery of the schemes visited. The Loire valley draining an area of 2350km<sup>2</sup> comprises main rivers and secondary networks of channels more than 2000km in length. Sites were visited on three rivers in the Sèvre Nantaise basin on the Rivers Ouine, Sèvre and Moine:

- On the River Ouine, structures have been removed as they significantly impacted morphology and fisheries. A variety of restoration measures (bank re-profiling and diversification of bed substrate) were trialled to assess their benefit.
- On the River Sèvre, water level management structures built to control water level, had led to fish passage issues and bed scour and associated erosion. An ox-bow lake was reconnected to bypass the structure and a shallow lake has been constructed to enhance fish spawning. A natural bypass channel was also visited close to the River Sèvre site.
- On the River Moine, a valve was opened on a permanent basis to trial the impact this would have on morphology and fish. The pilot was so successful that six structures have been subsequently removed through Cholet. This has improved connectivity with the floodplain.

A programme of these types of activities called “Le SAGE” was implemented in France in relation to the river basin management planning cycle. While the consultation and delivery cycle took ten years from start to finish, work on the ground has generally been



well received and good relations have been developed between the partners involved. On the whole, riparian owners were involved in schemes; however it was in rural areas that there was the strongest opposition with urban dwellers more accepting.

Twelve people attended the site visit with representatives from France, the UK and Switzerland.

#### **5.7.4.2 22<sup>nd</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Munich, Germany - Restoration of River Dynamics and Continuity in Heavily Modified Rivers**

This field trip ran consecutively with a Northern region sector event to allow participants to visit sites in Germany and Switzerland. The field trip visited the River Isar in Munich, this is an inspirational project and highlights what can be achieved even in the centre of a major Europe city. The Isar Plan has enhanced ecological and fluvial processes through the city, and improved fish passage whilst at the same time providing new recreation areas along the banks. Sites upstream and downstream of Munich were also visited to see where alluvial forests and the natural floodplain have been re-connected.

This example showed participants how works to the river could provide new recreation areas, as well as reducing flood risk and benefiting the ecology. The original approach at this location had been to concrete the river however local residents refused to allow the project to be built. This example shows how working with natural processes and consideration of all the different uses of a river through a very urban location can result in a much more beneficial outcome. The original design using concrete would only have delivered the flood risk benefits.

The field trip involved 28 participants from the UK, Germany, Belgium, Poland, the Netherlands, Estonia, Norway, Finland, Romania and Sweden.

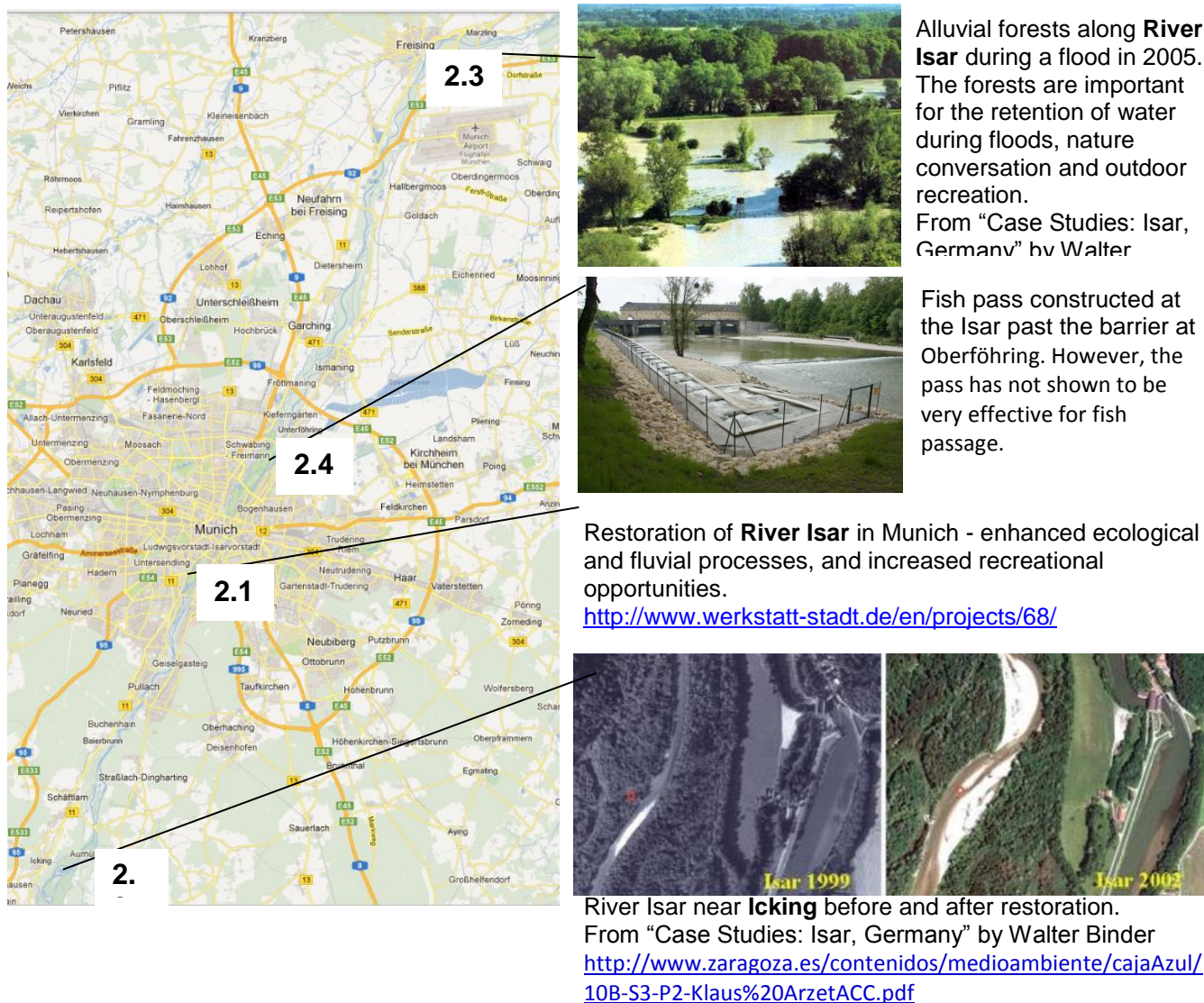


Figure 11 Overview map of restoration sites visited

## 5.8 E1 Monitoring and Evaluation of Communications Events

There were a large number of events and each has a project report and was monitored using standard templates. As requested in the Commission's letter of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 we have included in Annex 7.2 a synthesis report of the outputs from all the events.

We designed a standard template to ensure that we received feedback from the events. These questionnaires included feedback on the messages that we were discussing as well as the manner and organisation of the event. This allowed us to improve and tailor different event as the project progressed. In a few cases the standard questionnaire was not appropriate so other types of feedback were undertaken. For example at the sharing good practice event in Nottingham we uploaded questions electronically to gain feedback during the workshop sessions to help us design the RiverWiki.

We discussed recent events during our project teleconferences to enable sharing across the project. Later on in the project we also combined some of our regional events e.g.

visit to the Isar river and Swiss hydropower plants. We also attended each other's events. For example, Jukka Jormola of SYKE spoke at our 'improving morphology and fish passage in high energy rivers' event in Scotland to allow understanding from our Northern region events to be shared with Western region countries.

The network events delivered on the objectives set out in the project bid. The initial event allowed us to find out about policy drivers and river restoration projects within Southern and Eastern Europe. We targeted these countries to improve the coverage of actions B3 (review of EU policy drivers for river restoration) and B4 (review existing EU river restoration projects). The subsequent events were tailored to particular audiences including developers, architects and scientists.

The sector specific events engaged a far larger audience than predicted at the start of the project. At some events the discussion included knowledge sharing between different practitioners, at others there was discussion about particular issues such as hydropower and delivering good ecological status for the Water Framework Directive. We delivered all the planned events and as listed in the regional key outcome we went beyond our expected results of communicating and promoting the role of river restoration to specific sectors.

In line with the project bid we held a series of events aimed at policy makers and river basin managers. Again we had a larger attendance than the average of 10 people at the events. In line with the bid, and as set out in the synthesis report, we saw a strengthening of our network through these events. In particular following the work we were asked to input into the EC blueprint to safeguard Europe's Waters. We were also asked to speak at a number of other events including, Green Week, The Norwegian River Restoration Conference, the Swedish Limnology Conference, to name a few.

We held a number of field trips and also found a site visit as part of some of the other events, such as the International Conference, provided the practical demonstration of river restoration. We received feedback from most attendees that site visits are the most valuable element of events. As a result we used field trips within more events. At the end of the project we also joined a fieldtrip from Northern and Western region to Germany and Switzerland. This allowed people from both regions to share ideas, it also enabled people to see sites in two countries during one event. We received positive feedback from a number of attendees, a number of them signed up for our training event on the strength of the event.

Our training event in Utrecht delivered the objectives of the C6 (staff exchange between network centres) as well as delivering a sector event. In particular this event was very oversubscribed and highlighted the lack of training workshops currently available.

The international conference succeeded in communicating with a wide audience around Europe. Combining our event with the European River Restoration Centre and Europe *Riverprize* gave the RESTORE project a very prestigious status. The attendance of over 300 people, including the EU Environment Commissioner and several international ambassadors, was the icing on the cake. It very successfully delivered our objectives of:

- *Supporting river restoration practices across Europe*
- *Build up existing river restoration network capacity*

- *Promote effective river restoration knowledge transfer*
- *Establish long term river restoration knowledge sharing*

All the event reports have been uploaded on to the website and there is a whole page listing the event outputs including reports, videos and photos.

We held and attended a great number of events and these should be seen in combination. Each event had a slightly different slant and audience and they all delivered outcomes, however momentum was built by being able to carry-out such a large number of events. Some of our understanding has been reinforced and there are sectors that still need to be influenced such as energy and architecture. To do this we need to further improve our communication of the economic and social benefits of river restoration. We have identified actions that we would like to have delivered if RESTORE had continued in our synthesis report in annex 7.2. These include technical actions such as linking climate change to river restoration, policy actions including improving the links between environmental policy for water, flood risk and renewable energy. Policy changes to for example the CAP reforms RESTORE was not in a position to influence directly but we did use our evidence to comment on the Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources. Given more time we would have liked to have more influence on upcoming European policy and directives. We have also found there was still work to be done to improve people's access to information and in particular multi-lingual information.

### **5.8.1 Western region**

Over the period of the RESTORE project the RRC completed 10 workshops and 2 site visits which collectively engaged over 500 people ranging from policy makers, river basin manager and various sectors (e.g. planners, landscape architects, contractors, consultants, flood risk engineers, government officials, scientists etc.).

The events varied over the period leading to a range of different outputs. In terms of attendance some of the biggest events included those held alongside the annual River Restoration Conference. However in terms of outputs in some cases the targeting of an smaller audience was important to deliver the objectives set out in the pre-event plan.

Key findings outputs:

- Information from the events has been used to develop the RESTORE wiki and website. The events also used many case studies to help stakeholders understand the benefits of river restoration in the context for ecological gain where this information exists. This information is now available through the '*rivers by design*' handbook and on the RiverWiki.
- RESTORE has been instrumental in introducing the river prize to Europe which should help promote the cause of river restoration and increase public engagement. The first prize to coincide with end of RESTORE conference in 2013.

- There are many specific examples of outputs from event including for example within England the Environment Agency made aware of outputs from this workshop and this was fed into the decision making process of identify next round of river contractor framework agreements.
- A recurring theme in many of the workshops was how to make Common Agricultural Policy reforms 'smarter' in terms of ensuring that payment will help with river and floodplain restoration.
- We need to continue to improve how we measure and monitor the benefits of river restoration.

The detail of the outputs and key finding are within the synthesis report annexed in 7.2 to this report.

### **5.8.2 Northern region**

There were 11 events including field trips, seminars and conferences. The attendance at these events has grown during the project and SYKE is now seen as a key communication organisation within Nordic countries. They have found following RESTORE that there is an increase in co-operation between river restoration organisations in different countries and those working at different levels within their organisations.

SYKE found the events enabled them to raise awareness of Nordic counties the benefits of providing fish passes that are designed to provide both habitats and enable all fish populations to move around the river system. They also found that they could discuss and promote more ecological sensitive dredging.

The Finnish National river restoration network was launched and a new Finnish River Prize awarded. As part of this RESTORE now links to a new web portal on the restoration of water bodies (in Finnish, Swedish and English)

We found out about new projects through the events, such as the first case studies of environmentally friendly dredging to be initiated in Sweden. There were also case studies of urban river restoration in Norway.

During the project and through our events we have seen river restoration networks develop in Poland, Estonia and Norway. In Poland through creating the right contacts and sharing knowledge, we have seen an increase in understanding of the benefits of river restoration. In Estonia we have had seen improved communication between river managers and stakeholders. Syke plan to continue to support the establishment of a network to Estonia. They now have good contacts but they are not linked to one another. Norway has been delivering large river restoration schemes and due to increasing communication and knowledge we have seen an increase in environmental awareness of the importance of smaller watercourses and urban catchments.

### **5.8.3 Eastern region**

There were only 3 events held in this region. Two were in Iasi in Romania and one in Ruse in Bulgaria. Our Romanian partners did however attend a number of the network events and the international conference.

The Iasi event was a very important knowledge sharing event. All the river basin managers from around Romania attended. This had not previously been possible and it enabled the different river basin's to share their obstacles and discuss delivery of the Water Framework Directive. The technical knowledge within the audience was good, however sharing good examples from other countries around Europe was highlighted as a key manner to influence their local politicians. The site visit also provided RESTORE with a good example of working with many local landowners to gain agreement to restore the river and its floodplain. This example was used within our '*Rivers by Design*' publication.

From the policy event attendees took home with them methods to influence policy makers of the benefits of river restoration and how to develop strategic thinking to link water management across different sectors. Only by considering our energy needs, flood risk management and the environment is it possible to balance the different uses of the river.

#### **5.8.4 Southern region**

During the RESTORE project CIRF held 6 events which were 4 workshops and 2 study trips. The workshops tackled key issues in the Mediterranean region such as management and restoration of rivers suffering from sediment deficiency. They also discussed developing synergies between river restoration and flood risk management in the typically hydromorphologically active Alpine and Mediterranean rivers. These events allowed us to share recent best practices from other European countries and moved the agenda of 'working with natural processes' on in Italy, consolidating the role of CIRF as technical reference in river restoration and sustainable basin management in Italy. They have also identified future work to share specific scientific/technical information.

The tight collaboration with other national organisations, such as CIREF (the Iberian River Restoration Centre) in Spain and ONEMA in France improved the connections and the level of technical exchange between reference subjects on river restoration in Southern Europe.

The field trips to countries outside the Southern region were particularly important, since they allowed us to demonstrate and discuss benefits and key technical issues of restoration measures based on tangible examples. Examples of river restoration involving a wide array of public and private actors are extremely scarce in countries like Italy or Slovenia.

The networks that have been developed or improved during RESTORE will be an effective interface for national centres to share knowledge. The RiverWiki is providing a database of information across the region. Much of this information has not historically been accessible.

These events have moved the agenda of 'working with natural processes' forwards in Italy. The networks that have been developed during RESTORE will be an effective interface for national centres to share knowledge. The RiverWiki is providing a database of information across the region. Much of this information has not historically been accessible.

Output from RESTORE Italian policy event:

Our event in Torino, Italy was attended by 150 people and included among the speakers 5 national politicians from 3 different parties.

The discussion has contributed to develop a proposal included in the recently approved National Budget Law for 2014: in the budget line for flood risk management it was highlighted (for the first time in Italy) that priority has to be given to 'measures aiming at reducing flood risk **AND at the same time at fulfilling Water Framework Directive (and biodiversity) goals**'.

## 5.9 F4 International Conference

RESTORE's final conference was fully subscribed; bringing together over 300 participants from 35 nations. The RESTORE project and its outcomes and findings, website and RiverWiki were prominently featured throughout the conference. The enthusiasm for the conference in raising the profile of river restoration in Europe, in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> European RiverPrize, has created interest in making the RiverPrize and/or conference an annual event.

The event enabled restoration professionals to contribute their experiences, share their knowledge and make connections in order to advance the science, policy and practice of European river restoration.

Keynote presentations addressed the state of rivers across Europe, the science of river ecosystem restoration, practical aspects of river restoration in national policy contexts and a look to the future. The European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik, and the director of the European Environment Agency, Hans Bruyninckx, among other keynote speakers, underlined the strategic importance of river landscapes for sustainable development in Europe.

The programme included more than 100 presentations and covered 15 themes. The event also celebrated the first ever European RiverPrize, awarded by the International River Foundation. The conference was co-organised with the European Centre for River Restoration.





*Figure 12 The conference pictured by Quatschdronaut. A useful tool to disseminate the discussion and findings from the conference through a picture rather than words.*

In 12 smaller workshops, the participants addressed themes such as the enhancement of multi-use landscapes, cost-effective solutions for river management, water uses and environmental flows, sustainable flood risk management and others. About 70 poster presentations were exhibited to add substance to the debates in the working sessions. Generally there was discussion that integrated river basin planning and management is crucial for the restoration of these wetland ecosystems, in order to maintain their ecosystem services.

The community of practice established by five European river basins during the conference will stimulate larger scale river restoration through the development and sharing of best practices and knowledge, and may lead to the participation of additional river basins in the future.

The conference fostered a participatory approach and a stronger role for practitioners and organisations involved in delivering restoration. Seminars and networking events enabled participants to share knowledge and best practices and to learn about tools such as the RiverWiki and the RESTORE website. The field trips were also a practical way to visit and discuss the realities of river restoration using real sites and hydropower plants.

The conference was recorded on film, photographs, tweets, emails and news items. All of this material, including presentations and posters and a video of each session and keynote speech, is archived on the RESTORE website. These materials are a substantial repository of information that will continue to draw viewers to the site and extend the reach of the conference far beyond its participants.

**Event webpage:** <http://www.restorerivers.eu/errc2013>

A full report is contained within Annex 7.2

Objective 3: **effective river restoration knowledge transfer**. There are six actions that address objective 3. These can be categorised as below:

- B: Preparatory actions: C7, F1,
- C: Awareness raising campaign actions: C1-C6
- E: Monitoring of project impact: action E2-3
- F: Communication and dissemination: actions F4

We broke down the target of 90,000 persons to be engaged by the project. As part of our monitoring we monitored the website, readership of published articles, number of people at conference and RESTORE events.

It is possible there will be a certain amount of double counting in this target e.g. it will be difficult to prevent the double counting of people who visited our website as well as attended our events.

## 5.10 Action C7 Database with Wiki Function & Action C8 Populate River Restoration-Wiki Database

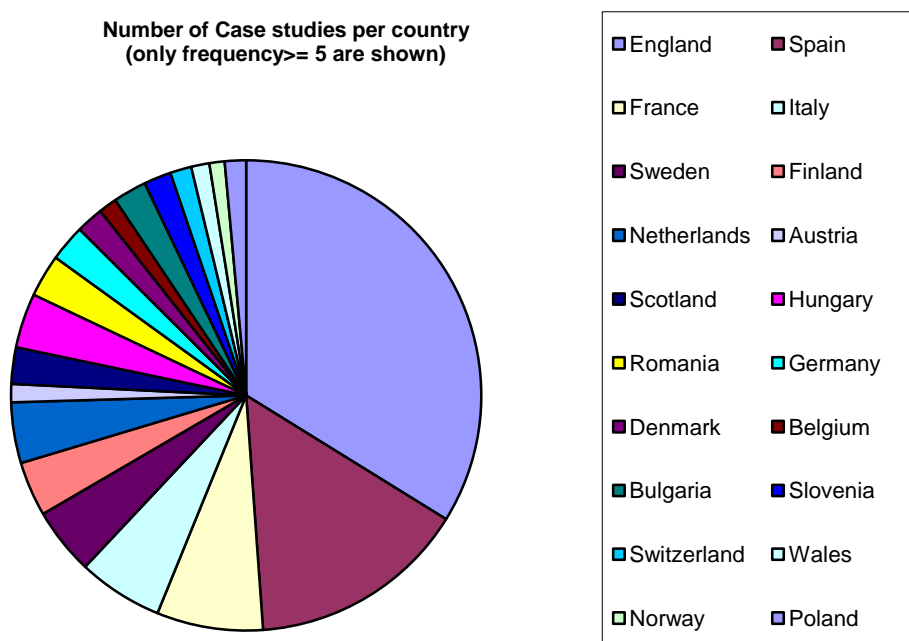


Figure 13 over 500 case studies per 31 countries on the RiverWiki

**Riverwiki** is an accessible tool, sharing knowledge and the collation of information about river restoration from countries across Europe. It is an interactive source of information which works in a similar way to Wikipedia.

Riverwiki was built using Open Source technology, to be used by European government agencies, engineers, ecologists, planners and other parties involved in restoring rivers. It is designed to encourage users to share information about river restoration and to comment on the uploaded projects. In this way it allows ideas for best practice on river restoration to emerge and be shared. This will support RESTORE's network of professionals.

It creates a community of professionals which is important when looking at catchment based issues. Countries that do not currently have access to cutting edge techniques

can now access this information from their desks. We have not found any other public body in the UK that has used Wiki type technology. The key difference with this technology is that it allows others to upload their own information. This enables different sectors and any-one with an interest in rivers the freedom to share their experiences. The tool also includes unusually semantic aspects allowing much better use of the submitted data. It allows searching and queries to be run on the information so the wiki can also act as a database.

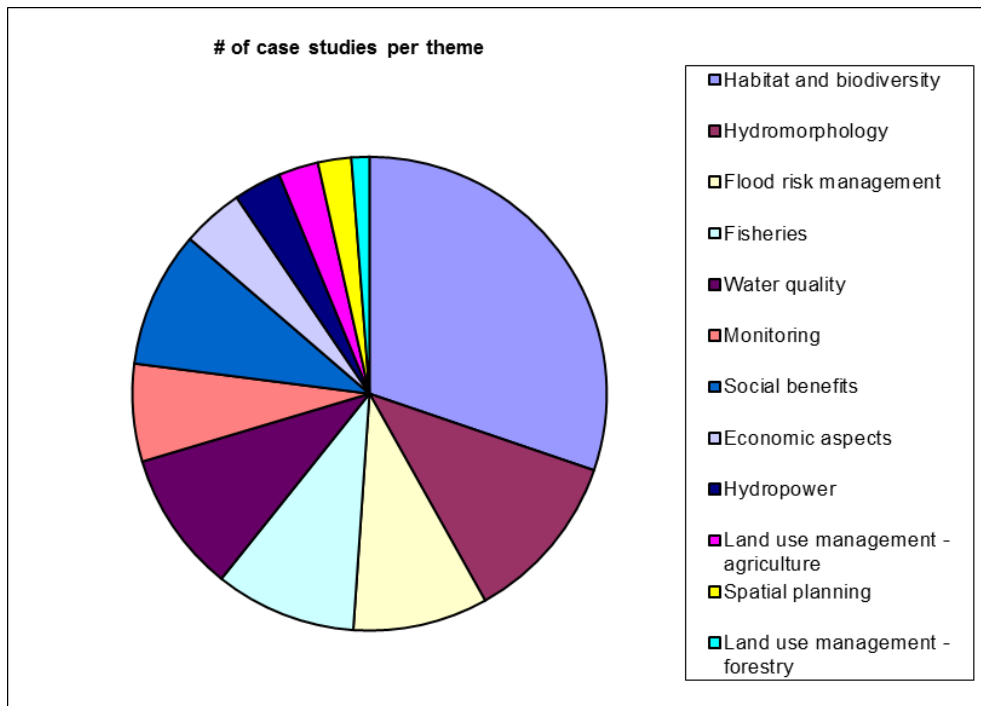
We also have to write all the legal protection for the database. We could not find any similar systems with terms of uses.

We involved a wide advisory group as part of an agile development to shape the RiverWiki. This was difficult in terms of managing the information produced and integrating sometimes conflicting messages. However, by engaging a variety of organisations across Europe we benefited from a large number of different customer view points. It also meant that the tool we developed is of real benefit to our very wide audience since they had shaped the information it provided. We have also been able to gain agreements with a number of partners to share management of the tool going forward.

Developing the tool over two stages has also meant that we have been able to improve the system. Only once the system was online and being used were some improvement identified. We also needed to improve the security of the system. We carried out penetration testing post development however we still needed to develop further security to secure the system once the system was live.

In January 2014 we had 245 users on the RiverWiki. The total views on the RiverWiki are 755,861 and the most popular page is the main page which has had 82,641 views.

In January 2014 there were 504 case studies uploaded, there were also country pages, regional pages, definitions and 8,928 pages have been written on the RiverWiki. The number of case studies is still increasing and in March 2014 we had 530 case studies.



*Figure 14 number of case studies relating to the different RESTORE themes.*

We split our website into the different themes. At our events people have asked for information on particular themes, we have added these themes to the RiverWiki so people can easily find case studies related to those themes.

Habitat and biodiversity was still the most commonly mentioned theme (345 case studies). Surprisingly we got less than 50 case studies relating to hydropower. This was a theme where people have been asking for good examples. If we had more time we would go back to the people who attended our events focused on hydropower to get information on projects from them to upload onto the RiverWiki.

At the end of the project we are working with the Natural Water Retention Measures EC project to further develop the RiverWiki. This project is collating a database of natural water retention measures, many of these will already be held with the RiverWiki. It is hoped that this project can extend the focus of the RiverWiki. It is crucial that people do not have to upload projects to numerous different databases. Where there are project links with REFORM's Forecaster wiki we have included links between the two tools. The two tools support very different types of information. Forecaster is about freshwater rivers and highlights the science behind some of the measures undertaken at some sites. The RESTORE RiverWiki is a repository of information on case studies within the whole river including all waters covered by the Water Framework Directive. We have included links to FORECASTER for the particular examples where people can find more information.

When we launched the RiverWiki development our press release was disseminated by a number of different website with combined circulation of over 6,244,886. This is an underestimate as a number of the website's readership was unavailable.

## 5.11 Action F1 Project Website

The website is at the heart of the RESTORE project: [www.restorerivers.eu](http://www.restorerivers.eu), it was launched in 2010 and has been updated continuously since then. Everything about RESTORE's strategy drives viewers to the website to learn more about river restoration and engage and contribute their ideas, case studies and comments.

The website is written in English but contains a Google translate button to enable viewers to access the material in various languages. Within the website there is a project Home page, six sub pages for the RiverWiki, News and Events, Publications, About, River Restoration, and Network Map. There are also five main thematic sections: How to do river restoration, Economics, Hydropower, Habitats and biodiversity, and Flood risk management. These sections are further broken down so that users are able to explore the following sections:

- [What is river restoration?](#)
- [How to do river restoration](#)
- [Why restore rivers?](#)
- [Meeting EU directives](#)
- [Regional and national policies](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Flood risk management](#) (including sections on healthy catchments – managing for flood risk and WFD)
- [Habitats and biodiversity](#)
- [Hydropower](#)
- [Agriculture and Forestry](#)
- [Social benefits of river restoration](#)
- [Spatial planning](#)
- [Fisheries](#)
- [Urban River Restoration](#)

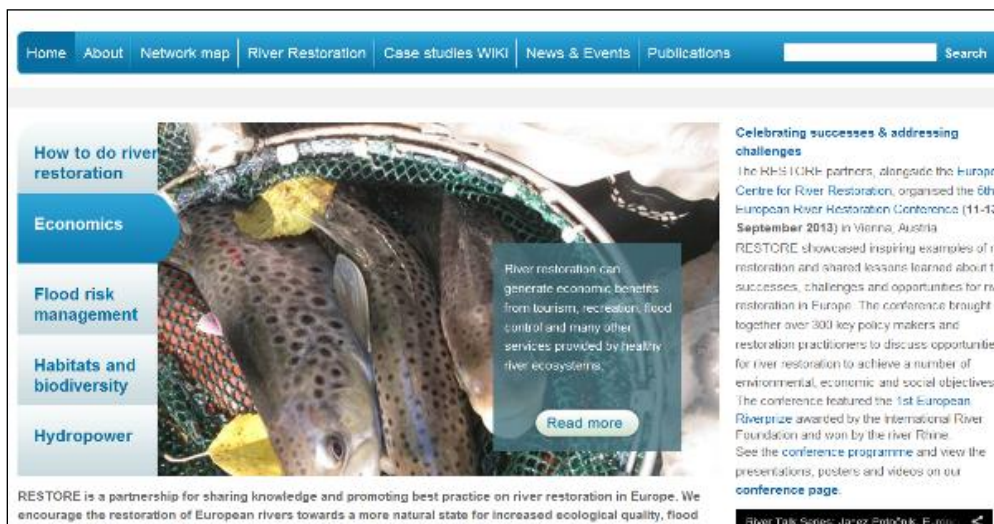


Figure 15 RESTORE project website

Since January 2014 the European River Restoration Centre are managing the website. The information on RESTORE will remain on the website for at least 5 years. They have also agreed to keep the rest of the website up to date and will run it as their own website.

## Effectiveness and reach of website

The target for website usage was 5,000 hits per month.

Section 5.14 E2 gives figures for the website usage based on Google Analytics carried out over the project period. However, our broad findings were that website usage increased steadily over the course of the project, reaching their highest point during and after the international conference (European River Restoration Conference period). Our users were mainly from the UK and the United States with significant numbers from the Netherlands and Italy. The most frequently visited page, after the '*Home*' page, was '*How to Do River Restoration*'.

The popularity of the website in the UK is possibly due to the well established river restoration sectors in these countries. That the website is in English is also likely to be a significant factor.

The most popular page has been '*How to do river restoration*' which bears out the initial research of the project that information about river restoration needs to be more easily available. It is also significant that the Economics pages and items about river restoration costs are also frequently visited, reflecting the priorities and requirements of this sector.

## How did we encourage use of the website?

Our communication strategy focused on 3 areas:

- Improving the content and design – best practice information repository
- Use of social media – in a feedback loop (Action C.1)
- Articles and press releases to raise awareness of site

Content is key to the website and it includes words, photographs, maps and video presentations and it has been developed in connection to carrying out other actions. For example the monthly newsletter (Action C.9) is uploaded onto the website and this is linked to our Twitter page (Action C.1) and LinkedIn posts (C.1). We have carefully targeted information throughout the project as a result of feedback from our events, theme of the month telecons and Google Analytics. For instance the *How to do River Restoration* is the website's most popular page and we have updated and enlarged this section as a result of feedback, carefully linking it to other resources on the website such as our handbook *Rivers by Design* and the RiverWiki.

The website was refined during the project under the direction of the Theme of the Month teleconferences by adding content and improving the look of all the theme pages. For instance considerable work was done, on developing the '*How to Do River Restoration*' pages since this was highlighted by Google Analytics and from event feedback as being the most useful of the theme pages.

Existing features and modules on the website were also developed such as introducing a Google Translate to enable non-native English speakers to have greater access to information and resources. Other activities to improve the website and its reach included publishing videos on YouTube on the website by adding them to the database. For



instance the news section was updated with the Brussels presentation on river restoration

[Click here for link](#)

## Using Social media

RESTORE has increasingly used social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube) to drive viewers to the website (Action C.1) For instance *Rivers by Design* was published online, it was also Tweeted and advertised via LinkedIn and various professional magazines, newsletters and bulletins. All of these tools directed the viewer back to the website.

## Using news items, articles and press releases

There is a fuller discussion of articles, press releases and bulletins in Action C9. However, the broad aim in relation to the website was to use established communications channels such as magazines, e-newsletters and newspapers to raise the highlight the website and drive our audience there. We had consistent success using this strategy For instance the Environment Agency e-bulletins are sent out to over 11,000 staff and we used this as a means of highlighting the content of the website, the launch of the RiverWiki and the publication of *Rivers by Design*.

## 5.12 Action C9 Project Newsletter

### RESTORE Bulletin (project newsletter)

**Planned output:** an online quarterly newsletter available in English containing articles on river restoration projects across Europe and beyond.

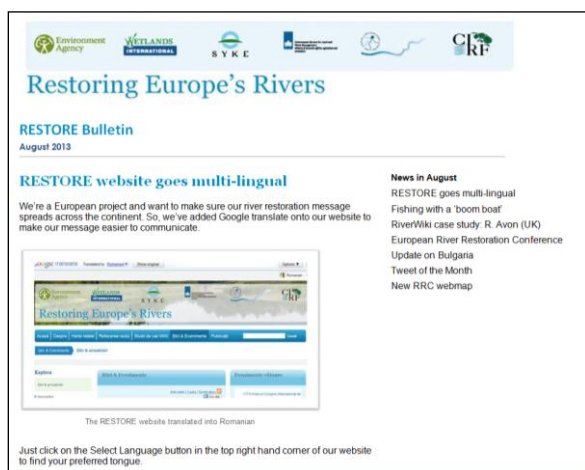


Figure 16 example of RESTORE bulletin

### Target achieved:

We published 17 monthly bulletins between June 2012 and October 2013. This included a special October edition about RESTORE's International Conference held in Vienna in September 2013. The bulletin was collated, edited and shared with RESTORE's partners by the Environment Agency and uploaded onto the project website. The RESTORE partners sent the bulletin to their contacts within the contacts directory (Action C10) and we also notified our audience via Twitter when it was published.



Following positive feedback from our two bespoke newsletters we developed a monthly email bulletin for our main target audience enabling them to keep up to date with river restoration news, guidance, research and events, and for us to quickly share our outputs and findings from our events.

The items are produced by all the partners and we highlighted links to the website and the RiverWiki with featured case studies. We also had a Tweet of the Month to encourage Twitter usage and general items about river restoration.

### **Effectiveness and reach of bulletin**

The newsletter has been produced at the end of each month and was distributed to each partner who then disseminated out to through their contacts list (Action C10). As a result the newsletter has had a considerable reach having been sent to European universities, NGO's, research bodies and other interested parties. The numbers of organisations that the newsletter has been sent to is contained in table 3 (below).

The bulletin has been an extremely useful marketing tool for RESTORE, enabling us to maintain contact with our audience and acting as a regular reminder about our website and RiverWiki and events. Our partners have found it equally useful since it offers them a platform to publicise events and research and to reach a wider audience than would normally be available to them on a consistent basis.

Audience: number of institutions, individuals bulletin was sent to

*Table 3 dissemination of the RESTORE bulletin*

Organisation	Number of people/organisations (universities, NGOs, research bodies) bulletin is distributed to electronically
CIRF	4892
RRC	4350
SYKE	221
DLG	22

### **5.13 Action C10 Contacts Directory**

We have a contact excel spread sheet for each region, with over 10,000 contacts between all the partners. These spread sheets were created at the start of the project to make initial contact with everyone listed to inform them about the project, and to find out what they would like to see achieved. The publishing of our bulletin and our events has helped to increase the contacts within our directory. All attendees to our events have been added into our contacts directory.

We have many more contacts than the 400 target and increased the directory throughout the project. For example in Western region we had 702 contacts by the Inception Report in June 2011 and 4350 people by the end of the project. Each regional communications assistant kept these directories up to date. These are kept securely within each region and are used, for example, for our monthly Bulletin, invites for events etc. We do not hold these directories centrally as this would not comply with data security.

Table 4 numbers of contacts in our contacts directories

Region	Number of different countries	Final number
Western region	13	4,350
Northern Region	10	284
Eastern region	4	22
Southern Region	6	4892
Total		9548

The Contacts Directory has the following fields:

- Contact name (Title, Surname, Forename)
- Contact details (Email address, Telephone (home and mobile), Fax, Contact work address, City, County, Postal code, Country, RESTORE region)
- Work details (Organisation, Title, Specialism, and Sector)
- RESTORE main target audience
- When the contact has been mailed by RRC (Subject of email; Month, Year)
- Events that the contact has attended
- Feedback from the contact (used infrequently)
- Source of information on contact
- Any additional information (relating to contact, organisation or more general)

## 5.14 E2 Testing, Monitoring and Evaluation of Knowledge Transfer Tools

### Website monitoring

Wetlands International and DLG monitored the website and the RiverWiki on a quarterly basis using Google Analytics.

The main RESTORE website went live on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The pages on the Environment Agency website have remained live and active however we have directed people to the main RESTORE site since November 2011.

The planned website output was for:

- 9000 unique visitors
- 30,000 page hits per annum
- 5,000 visitors per month

### Total number of visitors to the website by year

2011 (8 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	1, 137
2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	11,745
2013 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	26,081

### Targets and achieved numbers

#### Unique visitors

Target: 9000 per annum – target achieved

2011 (8 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	Not given
2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	7,358
2013 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	17,788

The range of material, which has been carefully targeted to our target audience has enabled us to increase and maintain the powerful online presence of the project, and the website now receives nearly 18,000 unique visitors per year, which is double its original target.

#### Visits to website

Target: Average number of 5000 visitors per month – target not achieved but increasingly significantly in last 6 months.

- Visits to website during last 6 months of project (period leading up to and following ERRC)

Jul – Sep 2013	2,139
Oct – Dec 2013	3,029

As mentioned in previous reports we felt that 5,000 visitors per month was a high figure. As well as visitors to the RiverWiki we did have 969,689 views of the pages. There were 1,000 unique visitors to the RiverWiki each month at the end of September 2013.

#### Unique visitors to the RiverWiki

Oct – Dec 2012	765
Jan – March 2013	2534
April – June 2013	2800
July –September 2013	3018

*Table 5 Total unique visits to the website and RiverWiki*

Quarter	Website – average monthly visits	River Wiki – average monthly unique visits	Total
2011 (8 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	582	-	582
2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	978	255	1233
2013 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	2,173	928	3101
Oct – Dec 2013	3, 029	1006 (July to September statistic)	4035

#### Page hits per annum

Target: 30,000 per annum – target achieved

2011 (8 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	Not given
2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	40,688
2013 (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	69,350

- Page hits during last 6 months of project (period leading up to and following our international conference)

Jul – Sep 2013	16,773
Oct – Dec 2013	23,890

The increase in visits to the website has continued throughout the project as we carried out events, conferences, talks and raised our profile through news items and social media. The continued improvement of the website has also been reflected in an increased audience. For instance using Google Analytics we were aware that most viewers were looking for information about how to do river restoration, and in response this section of the website was significantly improved. The introduction of the RiverWiki and the uploading of all material relating to the ERRC have been important drivers of the website's usefulness and importance within the river restoration community. Agreements with the ECRR and in particular DLG, RRC and the EA through our After-LIFE+ plan (annex 7.3.2) will ensure the future development of these sites.

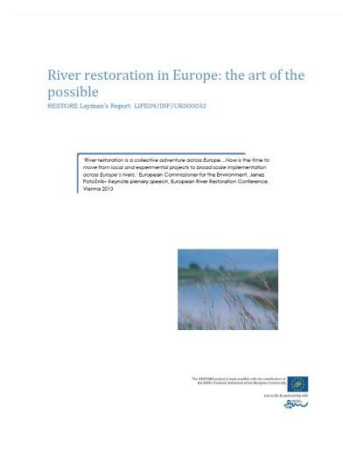
The continued use of the website and wiki are being encouraged and developed through the continuing work with national centres such as OENEMA, SYKE, Environment Agency and WI. We continue to see additions to the case studies on the wiki which is indicative that the RESTORE website and wiki are now established as important repositories of information for practitioners.

#### **Objective 4: LONG TERM RIVER RESTORATION KNOWLEDGE SHARING - AFTER LIFE+ (2013)**

There are two actions that address objective 4. These can be categorised as Awareness raising campaign actions: F3 and Project Management actions: A4.

##### **5.15 Action F3 Layman's Report**

A layman's report is a key requirement of all LIFE+ funded projects. However, the findings over the project period meant that the RESTORE partners felt it was essential to produce more than a descriptive report detailing the outcomes of the project. Our objective in writing [\*\*River restoration in Europe: the art of the possible\*\*](#), was to generate an agenda setting document highlighting the achievements of RESTORE, while also looking beyond the project and stressing the key policy and technical challenges that still need to be overcome to take river restoration forward.



*Figure 17 Layman's report*

The report linked the key themes needed to address river restoration which run through RESTORE's website with the outcomes of our international conference. In particular we have addressed the project scope and objectives, the impact that RESTORE has had and the key findings from the international conference, events, discussions and feedback. Several suggestions were also made about maintaining and building on RESTORE's achievements which will be vital in maintaining river restoration networks.

This approach enabled us to write a report providing a direction for future activities in the hope that these will be taken up by policy makers and river basin managers.

The report has amply illustrated that RESTORE's communication networks have been vital in fostering and maintaining the growth in knowledge and practice in river restoration and water management. Moreover there is a continuing need to share practical knowledge and experience. A key finding in the report is that river restoration needs to move towards to large scale implementation. There are many pressures on the environment but multi benefits of restoring natural processes if the work is planned at a large scale. We can only then start looking at river restoration as part of plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation. RESTORE is an ideal candidate to take this work forward via the forthcoming LIFE Integrated Projects scheme which will focus on larger and more strategic projects related to the Birds and Habitats Directive, and WFD.

The report is available in electronic format and has been shared through our website and through our partner's websites. It has also been publicised on internal and external newsletters and social media. The report is in English has also been translated into Finnish, French, Dutch and Italian and is available to download from the RESTORE website.

## 5.16 Action A4 After-LIFE+ Plan

Our objectives were to ensure that the information service we have been providing can continue to support river restoration practice across Europe. As part of this objective we have been increasing the network capacity so that the outputs can continue to be managed and provide a permanent information service to support river restoration practice across Europe.

The after-LIFE plan highlights both legal requirements and partner ambition following the end of the project. We have worked closely with the ECRR during the project who acted as our advisory body. They attended part of a number of project boards and monthly teleconferences. We also used other bodies as advisors during the project. These relationships such as that with the New London Architecture will enable the RRC and the EA to influence the planning sector into the future.

During RESTORE we approached 25 networks for special attention. These organisations will be important to future momentum. They will maintain a flow of new case studies to be inputted into the RiverWiki. It will not be sufficient to rely on the RESTORE project partners alone. The national centres of the ECRR have been approached to play a role in this.

We have also continued to work with FP7 EU project REFORM. REFORM is a 4-yr large integrated research project addressing the challenges to reach the Water Framework Directive ecological objectives for rivers as required by the EU. They held a workshop in Vienna during our final conference. The RESTORE partners are all members of REFORM and will continue to feed the RESTORE tools into this project until it finishes in October 2015. The finding from REFORM will also be shared with the ECRR who plan to showcase them on our website. The ECRR will run our website in the future.

The RESTORE website will continue to be hosted by Wetlands International until there is agreement from the future secretariat of ECRR. The RiverWiki will continue to be hosted by funding from the Environment Agency through SFW (through IPL). The RRC will take over coordination of the RiverWiki. Regular inventories and analysis of the content of the wiki will be needed this will be undertaken by the RRC. The day to day running of the RiverWiki will however continue to be undertaken across the partnership. This will include working with RESTORE countries to ensure that they continue to upload their project information onto the site. The ECRR membership have all been approached to support the RiverWiki within their own countries.

## 5.17 Action C6 Staff Exchange Between Network Centres

This was held as part of a Sector event on the 26-27<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The event was attended by 33 people. As accepted by the Commission in its letter of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 we felt that the objectives could be met by inviting a number of staff exchange persons to join a RESTORE event. By spending time during the event sharing knowledge and explaining how the centres operate, we could meet the objective of capacity building for the benefit of the European network of river restoration centres. This was the most cost effective way of giving more people an opportunity to network and learn from each other's experiences.

We invited staff from some of the network centres around the RESTORE regions including the 24 networks we have identified for particular support to this Western Region's training event. This approach allowed us to build technical expertise, discuss operational strategies with start-up centres and combine the results from 2.5 years of the RESTORE project.

Overall feedback from the events was very positive. Specifically, the participants appreciated:

- The opportunity to network with river restoration professionals from across Europe.
- The opportunity to share experiences, this was highlighted as a significant benefit of attending the course.
- The group exercises and tasks undertaken in the classroom and on site.
- The field site visits, which provided an opportunity to see projects undertaken in the Netherlands.

### **Objective 5: EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING**

There are four actions that address objective 5. These can be categorised as Project Management actions: A5, A1, A3 and A2

## 5.18 Action A5 Recruitment of Staff and Subcontracting Personnel

All recruitment and subcontracting has been done in a transparent and effective manner. A number of staff already successfully competitively recruited to work within organisations have been recruited to work on the RESTORE project e.g. Jenny Mant from the RRC. They have received letters recruiting them which are held within the RESTORE project files. Some positions like the EA communication advisor and project manager were put out to competitive interviews. All contracts below the EU limits have

been undertaken in accordance with the beneficiary organisation's procurement policy. We have procured a number of the deliverables this includes for example the River Wiki was tendered through "Buying Solutions" a UK Government Framework. We have also procured "Plus One Design" designers and editorial work by Tracy Eustice of "Paul Eustice Design" for the '*Rivers by Design*' handbook.

## 5.19 Action A1 Project Management

Microsoft project manager software was used to track the project actions. We also have a risk register to ensure all risks are logged and dealt with according to their risk. We have established quarterly reporting by the partners and have provided a template for this reporting.

Along with regular dialogue this information has been the basis for gathering information from the project partners on progress to feed into this report. Due to timing we have combined this mid-term report with the second progress report.

## 5.20 Action A3 External Audit

We undertook part one of the final audit following submission of the mid-term report, part two is submitted in section 8. These audits were undertaken by the EA's external auditors (Francis Clark) with whom we have a framework contract in place. The EA has undertaken an internal audit and an environmental audit. Our internal audit found the project to be running smoothly and just gave some advice as requested on undertaking a benefits realisation process. Our Environmental audit was previously reported in the midterm report. It found in general, RESTORE demonstrated good practice in managing its environmental impact. In all cases the findings were acceptable. Printing is minimised wherever possible and train travel was the most common means of transport.

Francis Clark LLP is the nominated accountants to be used by the Environment Agency, and can be contacted, if necessary at:

Francis Clark LLP  
Vantage Point  
Woodwater Park  
Pynes Hill  
Exeter  
EX2 5FD

## 5.21 Action A2 Monitoring Of Project Progress

This action delivered everything set out in the project bid, see annex 7.4 for the tables of on deliverables and project milestones.

## 5.22 Dissemination actions

The aim behind the dissemination activities was to provide a permanent service to support river restoration practice across Europe. Our dissemination activities during the



project have enabled us to get to the position where our website, RiverWiki and handbooks will support the networks we have met and communicate with into the future.

### 5.22.1 Objectives

The aim of the project was to address a lack of opportunity to share best practices. At the start of the project it had been identified that river restoration was being hindered not by a lack of expertise but by a lack of opportunity to share this expertise. The project has developed strong networks across Europe. Our contacts have grown to 9,548 people during the project. In order to share this learning across European countries we have used different tools to communicate with different target audiences. We have RiverWiki a growing database of case studies from 31 different countries. Through our events and attending other organisation's events the project has created a forum to discuss river restoration, identified the needs of different networks and the barriers to implementation. Our messages have been disseminated monthly through a bulletin, regularly through twitter and LinkedIn. We have used press releases and written specific articles to communicate with particular sectors. Our *Rivers by Design* handbook is being used to influence the development sector, by highlighting the benefits of river restoration. All this information is promoted through the RESTORE hub which we are promoting as a hub of river restoration information in Europe.

### 5.22.2 Press overview

We published many more articles than originally planned. We tailored the dissemination depending on the target audience. For instance we had significant coverage for the launch of the RiverWiki which was covered not only by the environmental press but was picked up by technical magazines (see Annex 7.2 for links), and also for [Fred Pearce's](#) (a keynote speaker at the ECRR) article on the international conference which was published in Yale University's 360 magazine, which has a worldwide readership of over 10 million unique readers per month.

[http://e360.yale.edu/feature/a\\_successful\\_push\\_to\\_restore\\_europes\\_long-abused\\_rivers/2718/](http://e360.yale.edu/feature/a_successful_push_to_restore_europes_long-abused_rivers/2718/)

RESTORE's press coverage was also boosted in the UK when Toni Scarr (Environment Agency) gave an interview on BBC Breakfast television show about how restoring urban rivers can transform green spaces for communities and wildlife. The potential audience for this item was 1.8m viewers.

Not surprisingly given the success of our international conference, the most successful news items were related to the conference. For instance the conference programme download was the most successful of RESTORE's own generated items.

The majority of our articles were written for specific magazines or journals, this ensured that we reached a professional audience as well as the general public.

*Table 6 planned and published articles*

<b>Planned output</b>	20 press releases (with regional translations the total will be 80 press releases)
<b>Total output achieved</b> (figures broken down below)	249

Output achieved – broken down by type	
News items/articles	152
Press releases	24
External newsletters	23
RRC bulletins	25
RESTORE bulletins	18
ERRC bulletins	7

The breakdown of these figures also indicated that our readership is looking for good quality information on policy updates and topically related items such as the Olympics. We also found that items relating to the cost of restoration projects were consistently popular.

*Table7 Breakdown of news items: 10 most popular items on the RESTORE website*

News item	Number of viewers on RESTORE website
The final conference programme download	8257
Links between WFD and Natura 2000	5167
Keeping rivers cool	5110
Completion of Olympics environmental works secures green legacy	4852
8 <sup>th</sup> symposium for European Freshwater	1757
BBC Countryfile: Restoring the R. Wiggles	1684
Free field visit in Munich	1275
RiverWiki relaunch	1180
The Amice project and costing the impact of future floods	937
Does putting a price on rivers diminish us all?	872

### 5.22.3 Videos

We created a RESTORE [YouTube](#) channel which has been view 2,386 times. We utilised this for a number of events. We have uploaded our Belgium network lunchtime seminar, and the Finnish event in May 2012 produced a video of the river works undertaken as part of the event. We also filmed short interviews such as Nivedita Mahita talking about the inspiring restoration of the River Isar running through Munich. The River Talk series which has received hundreds of views included interviews with six people including Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment to discuss the EU's commitment to rivers, how river restoration can help meet the goal of good ecological status of Europe's rivers.

### 5.22.4 Social media

RESTORE found real value in using social media technologies and tools to share our news and information. Over the 3 year project period there has been an increasing use of social media to expand public and private dialogue and it was essential that RESTORE use these tools to expand our audience and to increase our presence as an information sharing organisation.

LinkedIn and Twitter have greatly increased the potential for our audience to gain a better understanding of river restoration. Because of their collaborative nature they

encourage dialogue and feedback. They also generate more website traffic and Twitter in particular is becoming the quickest way of developing our audience and sharing our message.

## Twitter

Twitter is linked to C1: Network and Marketing strategy. Our Twitter audience includes organisations and individuals mainly from the water management and environmental sectors.

### Statistics (January 2013 - January 2014):

934 followers (the average number of followers on Twitter is 208).

391 Tweets



Figure 18 RESTORE twitter page

We have been using Twitter since January 2013 and it is ideal for engaging with our audience in real time and keeping a consistent flow of content to them and for spreading news. Tweets are monitored daily for changes and active followers. This Twitter account will be maintained by the Environment Agency in future. It has proved invaluable for directing people to our website, sharing information and links, and for publicising our events. During the ERRC we used Twitter daily and kept our audience informed of the conference activities and interesting quotes from our speakers.

The collaborative nature of Twitter has allowed us to connect and exchange information for instance by making requests for people to volunteer for our advisory board (on our guide *Rivers by Design*). It also helps us promote news and events such as the ERRC where we used Twitter on a daily basis to inform our audience about conference activities, news and data, and to reach those who had been unable to attend the conference. This helped develop a conference community and widened the readership of the website.

We see Twitter as a serious tool for sharing RESTORE's outputs alongside our website and RiverWiki. It allows us to collaborate and talk to our audience in a more direct manner, and it has helped increase traffic to the website. Retweets of our Tweets are particularly helpful in raising our profile and credibility.

## Who is looking at RESTORE's Tweets?

Statistics relating to Twitter are monitored through a [Bitly](#) account and Tweetreach. These programmes give us a basic information such as the number of clicks on a Tweet, where the link was shared (through Twitter, LinkedIn, Other) and the geographical distribution of readers. For example the statistics relating to the RESTORE survey asking Twitter users for their feedback on the project, Tweeted on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013, showed we had 15 clicks mainly from users in the UK and North America.

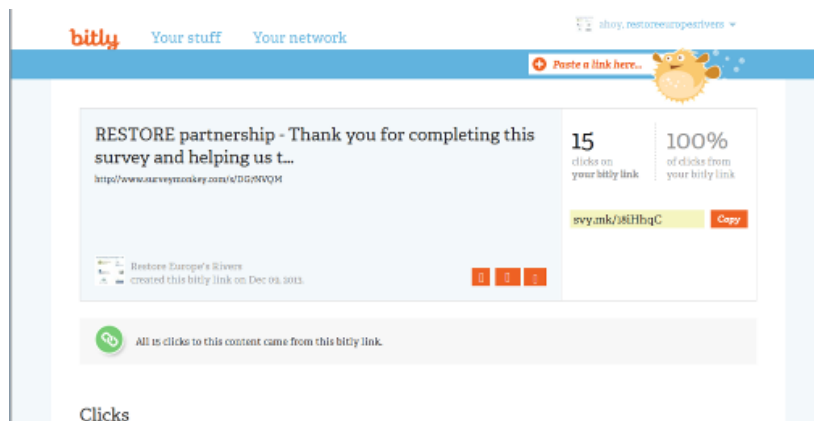


Figure 19 RESTORE's bitly page

## LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a business focused networking tool. As such it has built our credibility and raised awareness of our organisation, as well as being a useful way of promoting events, updating publications, connecting with other river restoration networks and sharing out outputs. For instance we have used LinkedIn to promote events such as the ERRC, promote our publications such as *Rivers by Design* and the Layman's Report, and publicise our search for Advisory Board Members for our handbook in 2012.

RESTORE's [LinkedIn](#) site currently has 272 members (February 2014). It comprises river restoration professionals and a wide range of professionals including the catchment management, geography, GIS and teaching sectors.

According to Google Analytics we have a referral rate to the RESTORE website of between 8.5% and 12% (approximately) from LinkedIn, which has helped significantly in building traffic to the site. For instance, according to Google Analytics data Q3 2013, LinkedIn is the third most likely source of viewers to the website.

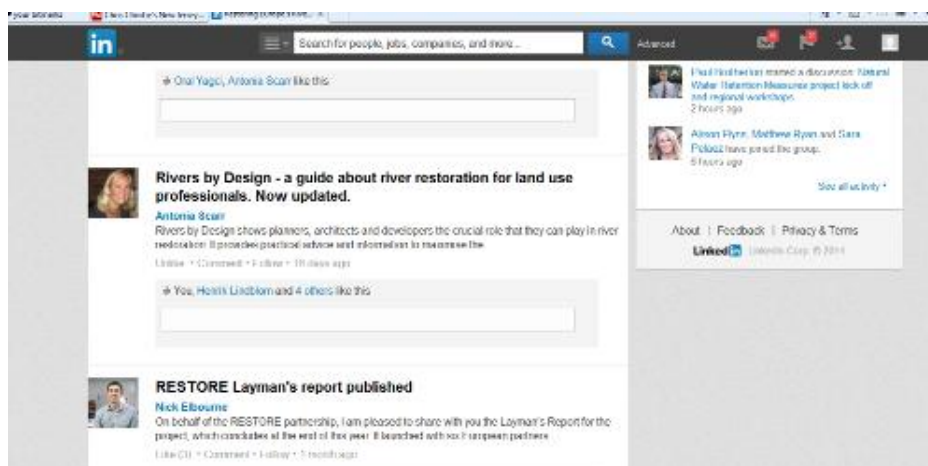


Figure 20 RESTORE's LinkedIn group

## Slide Share

We have used this tool to share the presentations from our events. We hold presentation on the project and when we have been given permission the presentations of speakers from our events. The most popular talk has been viewed 2442 times and the least 137 times.

## 5.23 Evaluation of Project Implementation

The number and range of RESTORE activities mean that a wide range of communications techniques were used. We have delivered the objectives set out in the original bid and also managed to add extra value by the flexibility we have been granted during the project.

Some of the key learning points are covered in the descriptions of the Actions earlier in the report. We found engaging certain countries such as Greece and Germany, proved more difficult than we had anticipated. We targeted Greece at the international conference and we heard from a couple projects that are being carried out in Greece. We did manage to have one speaker from Greece and this project is now on the RiverWiki. In Germany we also held a field trip in Munich and on the Rhine. We have shared their inspiring work in Munich at many other RESTORE events. This case study is discussed in our 'River by Design' booklet. A filmed video from our field visit showing the enthusiasm of Nivedita Mahida about restoring the Isar in central Munich has inspired many others when we have shown it at other RESTORE events. We addressed some of these issues by holding events within that country and improving our links. We found great enthusiasm in other countries such as Poland, Czech Republic and Slovenia and a desire to create national centres for river restoration.

We also used digital and online engagement, forums, communities and other 'virtual' communication environments worked well where we used them. Since the bid social media has developed and it was important that we used these tools where relevant. It also can take considerable time to develop relationships and built trust with some stakeholders. The measureable changes within the RESTORE timeframe therefore are not easy to accurately record. It is however important that changes are measured in the future and the after-LIFE of RESTORE is implemented across the partnership.

Work is being used outside the project, for example Scottish National Heritage is leading a report with IUCN on the status of River Restoration in the UK. The outputs of RESTORE are one of the main information sources for this work.

The project has produced or undertaken all the deliverables set out in the project bid, see annex 7.4.

### **5.23.1 Final survey results**

We asked people on our contacts directory to respond to an online survey. We also advertised it on social media. We put the survey online to make it easier to disseminate and our experience of responses from these types of surveys has been good. We received 54 responses to our survey, from 23 different countries around Europe.

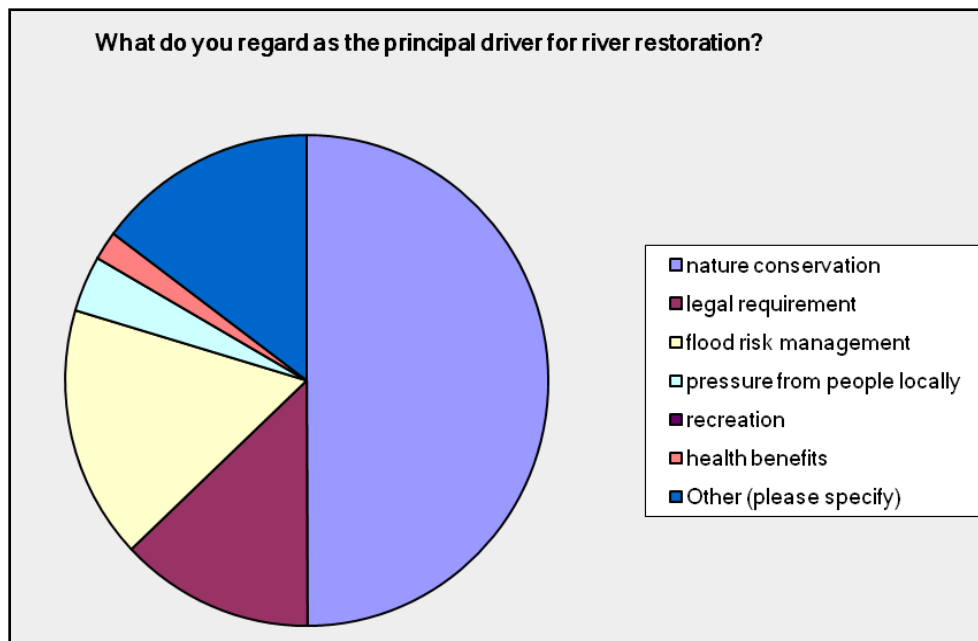
We would suggest that the members of the RESTORE partnership are approached, the 26 networks listed in table 1 and the example below of people or organisations are approach in 5-10 years. Contact details are held within the contact directories:

- Global Water Partnership, Sweden
- National Institut of Hydrology and Water Management, Romania
- ONEMA, France
- Ministry of Environmental and Nature protection, Croatia
- Norwegian Environment Agency
- European Centre for River Restoration
- E-CO, Norway
- ICDPR, Austria
- WWF
- Estonian Marine Institute

We asked ten questions. These questions could be updated and repeated in future. Questions one, two and three told us about who they were, what sector they worked for and what was their specialism. We found a good mix of responders. However the biggest group of responders were more people with an ecological background and working for the public sector/ government. There were also quite a few people from non-Governmental organisations, consultants, private sector and researches. People's specialism also included management, engineering, landscape architecture, economics, planning, water resources and hydro/geomorphology.

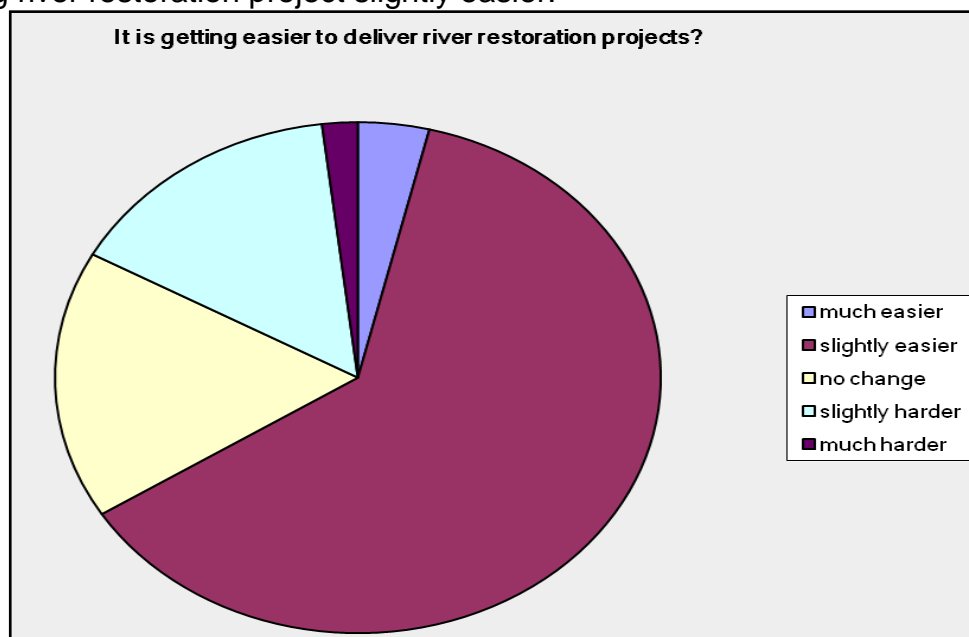
We asked people what they thought were the principle drivers of river restoration to see if there had been any change from the start of the project. Our responses are shown in the figure below, but 50% of people thought nature conservation was still the principle driver. This maybe a reflection of the fact that most responders were ecology specialists, however this opinion does also reflect the finding from our surveys for the policy report and those were we have asked a similar question at RESTORE events.





*Figure 21 pie chart showing what responders to our final questionnaire thought were the principle drivers of river restoration*

We found that people are mostly finding that it is getting easier to deliver river restoration projects. With only one responder finding that it is getting harder. We use further questions to explore whether RESTORE has been part of helping to make delivering river restoration project slightly easier.



*Figure 22 pie chart showing if people think it s getting easier to deliver river restoration projects*

We questioned people about our website and 100% of people found the website either very useful or quite useful. Following discussion with other projects including the RSPB we tailored questions within our questionnaires to allow people to rate our products. This type of question gave us more quantifiable information.



We also asked what they found useful and what additional information would be helpful. This included:

*'One of the best I've seen. I particularly like the interactive content and easy access of the site. It's very user friendly and inclusive. Most importantly documents can be downloaded FREE! Well done'*

*'very good structure. Easy to find good information.'*

*'The website is actually set out very well, it's easy to navigate and there are lots of useful topics and links. I like the ranged of topics especially the social side and the economic side - these appear to be some of the main drivers for getting buy in at the moment.'*

*'River wiki, Rivers by Design guidance doc, outputs from events and conferences (especially Vienna conference- videos and power points really useful).'*

95% of people found the RiverWiki very useful or quite useful. Only 5% found it slightly useful.

*I learned about River Restoration cases I have never heard about before. I have used this information to have a look at the wiki as well and to upload their cases. Furthermore I used the information for some presentations*

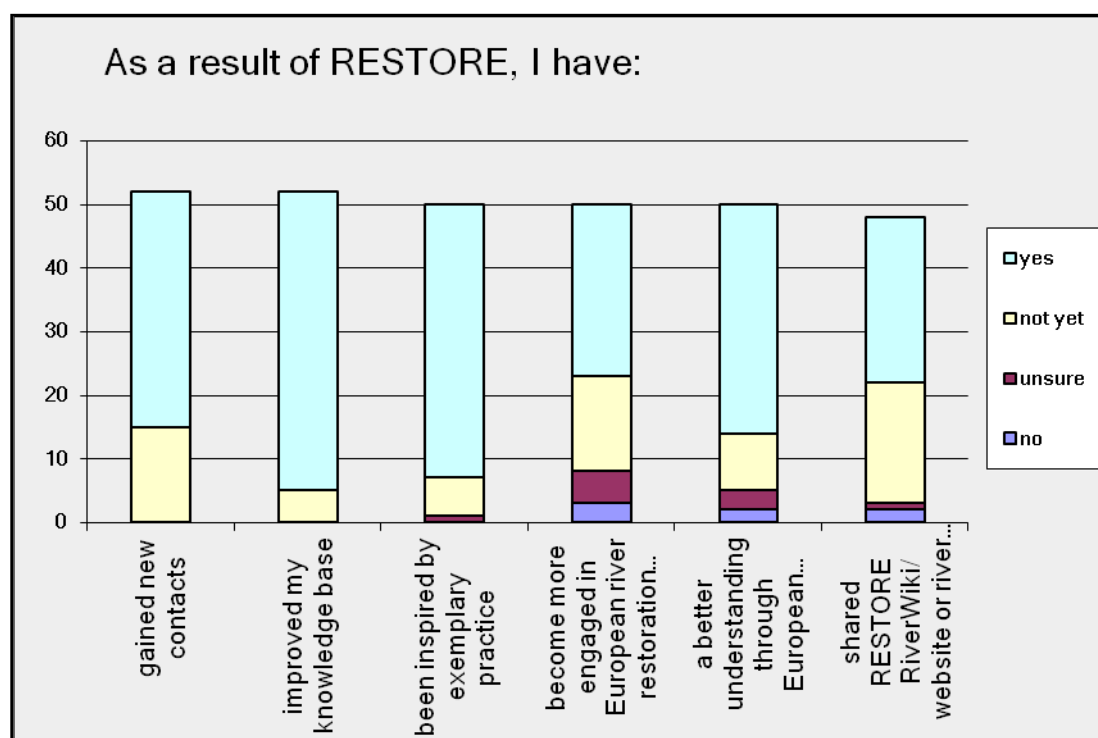


Figure 23 results from our final questionnaire asking what benefits people have gained from RESTORE

We also received direct comments:

as a result of RESTORE, I have been:

*'stimulated to do something in river restoration direction in my job and region'*

*'The inspiration from RESTORE, ECRR (and the RRC in UK) has made us set up a national network'*

We asked people what communication tools worked best: Bulletin, events, field trips, website, RiverWiki, Twitter, LinkedIn, conferences, workshops, articles.....

The conferences and fieldtrips were the most popular followed by the RiverWiki and website.

Our last question asked: *What suggestions did people have for the follow up to RESTORE? Or recommendations for the future?* Most of the feedback was to support the project continuing into the future. In particular people wanted to see the events continue and the on line resources.

## 5.24 Analysis of long-term benefits

The RESTORE project's impact will continue after the finish of the project. Much of our communication work is not easy to measure in quantifiable terms. However, we were prepared that some of these attitude changes take longer than the timescales of a three year project. For our events however we did see in some stakeholders some of the immediate impacts from the project. In particular where the stakeholders had had limited contact with the environment sector such as the building and development sector, we found in the questionnaires an immediate increase in their understanding of the benefits to their work of working with natural processes.

RESTORE has ensured continuity through cooperation with the European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR). The ECRR is a European network consisting of national centres and individual members bound by their mission to enhance and promote river restoration throughout Europe. From January 2014 ECRR has taken over hosting the RESTORE website and the RiverWiki is now managed by the River Restoration Centre on behalf of the ECRR.

The ECRR secretariat will remain with DLG until the end of this year. They are planning to establish the ECRR formally as association in June. They are also planning another conference in late October. This will be organised with the SEE River project, the International River Foundation, Coca Cola. The European Environment Agency and EC are also helping to support the event. They are also currently looking for grants for future funding to develop the RiverWiki.

To highlight this we have included the benefits identified by the European Centre for River Restoration and sent to RESTORE as feedback:

#### *Benefits for ECRR from the RESTORE project*

RESTORE has contributed to the ECRR's work and objectives in many ways, and to great extent. The RiverWiki knowledge management tool is an enduring repository of river restoration projects, and it is being utilised more and more by many river restoration practitioners and others throughout Europe. Merging the RESTORE and the ECRR websites after the end of the project has supplied ECRR with a website that offered and offers the growing number of users an updated and greatly expanded version of ECRR's publication webpage, and has more elaborate and current information about a range of different themes related to river restoration, a 'how to do river restoration' guide, and more.

The capacity and communication power supplied by RESTORE contributed greatly to the success of several events, the 5th European River Restoration Conference in particular. Specific events that were organised by, and together with, RESTORE have helped to establish relations with key organisations in new countries, resulting in the establishment of the Norwegian, Polish and Slovenian ECRR National Centres.

RESTORE activities have also played a key role in closer cooperation between a number of other key organisations, such as the EC DG Environment, the Environment Agency (UK) and ONEMA (France), some of which were already part of the ECRR network, some others that are new partners to the ECRR.

Overall, RESTORE has made a key contribution to ECRR's objectives of exchanging knowledge about river restoration, disseminating best practices and mainstreaming river restoration. This contributed also to an approximately 50% growth of ECRR members during the RESTORE project period.

The general conclusion is that the RESTORE project contributed to strengthening and extending the ECRR Network and to more and better cooperation, both within the network and with the outside world.

The RESTORE project was delivered as part of a partnership. This allowed us to deliver each partners objectives together. The added value of joining each organisation different expertise and networking contacts meant we reached audiences that were beyond what one organisation could do on their own. It is difficult to measure but we also found there are benefits to being accredited through the LIFE+ programme. We felt that it gave additional weight to our work.

#### **5.20.1 Long term indicators of the project success.**

We have used questionnaires during the project to assess the immediate impact from events. Interviews and follow up questionnaires have also helped us to analysis the impact from our project.

We would encourage our final survey to be repeated following the end of the project. We have included a list of the questions within annex 7.2. This would allow similar questions to be asked.

The contacts directory should also be used to identify people to target or a wider survey could be sent to the whole contacts directory. It would also be useful to interview the 24 networks that we identified within the project. This could be carried out in a similar manner to the telephone interview we held to develop our communication plans. We have not listed individuals or emails addresses as a current contact would need to be identified as part of organising the questionnaire.

Our monitoring roadmap below, shows the outputs and indicators used within the project. We would suggest that the project partners measure the benefits over the next five years and identify how far we move towards our identified outcomes.

These indicators should include delivery of projects and improvement of good ecological status. During the timescales of the project it was not possible to measure on the ground successes, however as we move into the after-life of the project measures could be used to see if attitudes are continuing to change and if water status is improving.

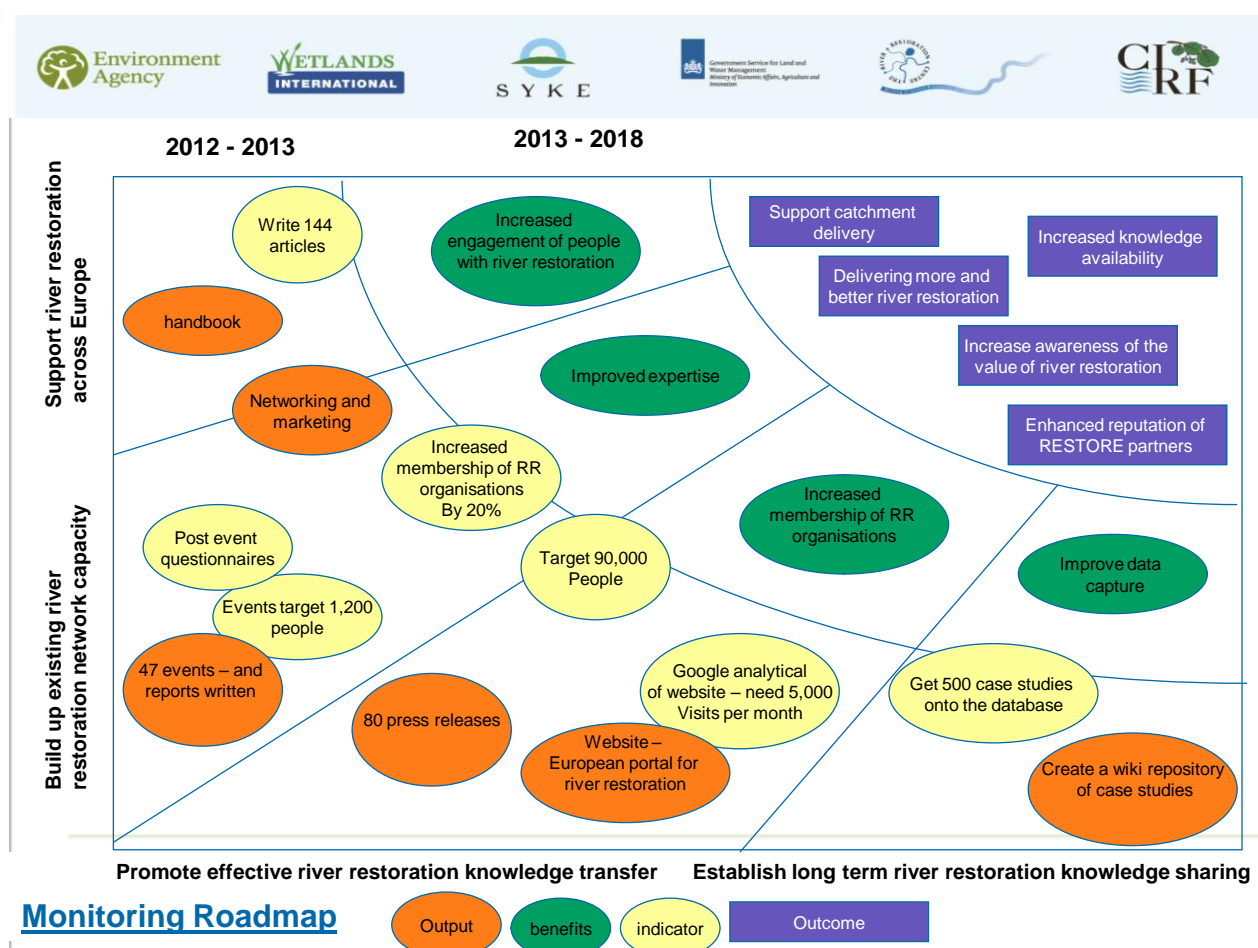


Figure 24 RESTORE benefits realisation monitoring roadmap

#### 5.4.1 Replicability,

- We would not have been able to deliver this project if it was not as part of a EU LIFE+ programme. The funding and good reputation of the LIFE+ programme made this project financially possible as well as giving us access to a wider network including European policy makers.
- Across member states in Europe there are a number of different challenges and opportunities for river restoration. RESTORE brings together several of these key themes on its website with the best available knowledge, case studies and links to additional resources. Our project website has become a central repository of European information on river restoration. The European Centre for River Restoration will adopt the site and continue developing it in the future.
- RESTORE has supported the launch of two River Prizes in Europe. One in Finland and one in England. These both celebrate working with natural processes and delivery of river restoration.
- Our monitoring of the project communication tools during the project has allowed us to tailor the information we disseminate. The RESTORE web pages *How to do river restoration* provide RESTORE's over-arching approach to river restoration and offers step by step guidance on planning, designing, constructing and monitoring a restoration project. This is the most frequently visited section of our website which indicates the need amongst practitioners for reliable and easily accessible information on working with natural riverine processes. As a partnership we have spent the most amount of time developing these high usage pages and reacting to feedback we received during our events.
- The RESTORE project outputs is helping EU member states deliver European legislation and in particular the EU Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive. The networks RESTORE established, which have improved the practice of river restoration and increased understanding about integrating river restoration into national and European policy, are critical to developing and sharing knowledge.
- During the project we found many European countries were finding similar obstacles to delivery of Water Framework Directive objectives. Establishing good networks across Europe to help member states to develop and deliver their updates to their River Basin Management Plans. These were discussed at events and workshops and networks have been established to allow these conversations to continue. For example France and England are looking at their monitoring together and identifying how to better achieve Good Ecological Potential within Heavily Modified Water Bodies.
- We have looked at the public commitments to invest in river restoration across countries. We receive mixed reports of countries investing in this work. It was not possible to determine if there have been changes to these commitments within all countries. However within countries that partners are based we have recorded changes. In Italy the changes in the national budget law for 2014 (mentioned as part of our policy event in Bolzano section 5.7.3.1), indicate a shift towards a more natural approach to river management, although the law will need time to produce tangible effects. The UK government for example has been investing in river restoration through the Catchment Restoration Fund. This is a fund of up to

£28 million, providing between £8 million and £10 million for three years ending in 2015.

- The project has provided us with a strategic understanding of the current state of river restoration, both in terms of schemes and technical details, but also how river restoration is used in planning and policy. This has highlighted where river restoration is being under used, or used inappropriately. A IUCN report on river restoration in the UK is being written by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency using RESTORE information.
- The project has enabled us to raise general awareness of the benefits of river restoration and in particular allowed us to work with hard to reach sector such as the planning and development sector. RESTORE created a range of tools and held events to promote best practice in river restoration including a handbook '*Rivers by Design*' aimed at the planning and development sector.

### **5.20.2 Best Practice lessons**

- Using a benefits realisation process enabled us to align project objectives with all the different partner's organisational objectives. This type of management process would be useful to use within other LIFE+ projects.
- To develop our RiverWiki and Handbooks we use end users to feed directly into the process. Their input gave us ideas and clear focus for what the end product needed to look like. To ensure that we had feedback from different end users around Europe we ran a number of 'live meetings' that people could use a free phone number to dial into the workshop and look at the draft product on their computer screen. We held these workshops at three points as we developed the RiverWiki. For the handbook we used planners and developers to help write the information within the guide.
- Working with other organisations to hold a large event like our final international conference increased the reach of our message. The diversity of attendance was increased and the number of different countries interested in the event also hugely increased. Using social media techniques such as live twitter feeds made the event come alive for others not at the conference. The conference posters proved also to be a good way to disseminate the message and summarise the conference.

### **5.20.3 Innovation and demonstration value**

- We did not find other public bodies that had developed technology like the [RiverWiki](#) to share its information using an open editable 'Wikipedia for river restoration' approach. The RiverWiki benefits for the collaborative approach to collecting information. This means that people working on a project from different organisations can share information. It also gives the ability for any person or organisation to upload their project. If one country or organisation had to upload all this information it would not be possible. There are now 9,158 pages on the RiverWiki.

- The development of the terms of reference and the legal protection for the RiverWiki are all unique. This is something that other projects could utilise, understanding that these terms and conditions are yet to be tested in a court.

## 6. Comments on the financial report

### 6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

All costs incurred have been converted from sterling to Euros (where appropriate) at the annual exchange rate as stipulated in the Common Provisions;

Euro to Sterling:

2010 – 0.8914

2011 – 0.8613

2012 – 0.8351

2013 – 0.8140

2014 – 0.8282

The Environment Agency and RRC recovery it's VAT on purchases and therefore they have claimed the cost of invoices exclusive of VAT. The remaining associated beneficiaries are unable to reclaim VAT on purchases and therefore claim the gross invoice amounts. VAT authority letters (or equivalent) have been provided and are included in the annexes of this report.

The Environment Agency's National External Funding Governance Team have carried out assurance tests to ensure the figures reported below are eligible and an external audit has been conducted by Francis Clark in Jan - Feb 2014 (see section 6.4)

The final costs incurred are detailed in the Tables below.

*Table 8 Cost by category*

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED				
Cost category		Budget according to the grant agreement*	Costs incurred within the project duration	%**
1	Personnel	1,090,825	1,094,382	100%
2	Travel	112,000	114,466	102%
3	External assistance	542,201	413,068	76%
4	Durables: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost	0	0	0%
	- Infrastructure sub-tot.	0	0	0%
	- Equipment sub-tot.	0	0	0%
	- Prototypes sub-tot.	0	0	0%
5	Consumables	480	6,616	1378%
6	Other costs	0	2,937	0%
7	Overheads	49,061	114,203	233%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,794,567</b>	<b>1,745,673</b>	<b>97%</b>

**Personnel costs:** 100% of the original personnel budget has been spent. The EA, SYKE & DLG are public bodies and it has been noted on the personnel section of the cost statements whether employees are permanent or temporary to check for 2% rule compliance.

Annual hours/days worked have come from actual total productive hours taken from time recording records. On the few occasions this information was not complete the default value of 1720 hours has been used.

**Travel & Subsistence costs:-** 102% of the original budget has been spent. Forecasted travel & subsistence cost savings at the Mid Term stage of the project were used by beneficiaries to attend the international conference in Vienna.

**External Assistance costs:-** 76% of the original external assistance budget has been spent. The bulk of this under spend is €27k on A1 (Project Management) due to not using 'Project Initiation and Mobilisation' in original budget and €87k less on activities C3 & C4 (Engagement Events) due to only needing to use 35% of the original budget.

**Consumable costs:-** The project has spent €6,616 on consumables against an original budget of €480. €2,228 of this was spent on the International Conference.

**Other costs:** The project has spent €2,937 on other costs against an original budget of €NIL.

**Overheads costs:** Due to the project delivery costs being under the original budget the Co-ordinating and Associated Beneficiaries have been able to claim the full 7% allowable for overheads instead of 2.81% in the original budget.

## 6.2 Accounting system

### 6.2.1 Brief presentation of the accounting system(s) employed and the code(s) identifying the project costs in the analytical accounting system

The coordinating beneficiary, the Environment Agency (EA), operates with annual approved budgets for each financial year ended 31st March. Planned income and expenditure is budgeted and monitored against various headings, for example: personnel, travel and subsistence, external contracts/assistance. Budgets are also approved for ongoing commitments to fund projects through to completion in future years.

The EA uses an Oracle integrated accounting system. This is used to manage an annual budget of £1.25 billion.

This system allows the EA to code transactions across several headings and, as is required in externally funded programmes, it can record and report against the project budget categories and project actions. Additionally, it records relevant project manpower in this system by way of an integrated time recording process and these figures are used to populate the RESTORE project timesheets that will be supplied to the Commission. RESTORE has been set up as an individual project in the accounting system with its own unique project code. Regular reports are run against this project



code and are used as a key management tool in assessing progress and monitoring the project's finances.

The associate beneficiaries all have similar accounting systems in place and all have unique cost centres for capturing the project costs.

All beneficiaries are aware of their duty to retain these records for the required period after final payment of EC funding is received.

### **6.2.2 Brief presentation of the procedure of approving costs**

For the coordinating beneficiary, the Environment Agency (EA), project managers approach their local procurement team with information about the type of work they want completed. The procurement team will then advise if they have an existing national framework contract or whether a competitive tendering process will need to be set up. Once a procurement method has been selected the relevant suppliers will be approached with a tender specification. Suppliers will be asked to reply by a certain deadline with either a completed tender or a nil return. The submitted tenders are evaluated by a panel of assessors, who will score the tenders on price and quality (which are weighed accordingly). The highest scoring supplier will usually be selected and informed that they have been successful and issued with a contract award letter. A purchase order will be subsequently be raised by a member of the project team. This will be then be approved by a member of the procurement team and then (usually) by an executive manager with the appropriate FSoD (Financial Scheme of Delegation) sign off.

The associate beneficiaries all have their own procedures in place for approving costs and letting contracts.

### **6.2.3 The type of time recording system used, i.e. electronic or manually completed timesheets**

All RESTORE beneficiaries record their time against the project electronically and then complete EU timesheet template for each month manually.

### **6.2.4 Brief presentation of the registration, submission and approval procedure/routines of the time registration system**

The original timesheet is normally signed a couple of weeks after the month end and counter signed by the Line Manager or project manager. Timesheets are then sent through to the co-ordinating beneficiary for collating and recording onto the expenditure summary for each partner.

### **6.2.5 Brief explanation how it is ensured that invoices contain a clear reference to the LIFE+ project showing how invoices are marked in order to show the link to the LIFE+ project**

Partners are advised to inform contractors or suppliers to include the name of the project on their invoices, correspondence. The Environment Agency has an official RESTORE stamp to use on correspondence without the reference number shown on it.

### 6.3. Partnership arrangements

As co-ordinating beneficiary, the Environment Agency receives the grant payments paid by the Commission. These are held in a specific EURO bank account for the RESTORE project and are then distributed to beneficiaries in accordance with the conditions agreed in the partnership agreement. The associate beneficiaries have received their pre-financing and Mid Term payments equating to 70% of their total project costs to date. The final payment will be distributed to associate beneficiaries when it has been received from the Commission after this Final Report has been approved and processed.

The financial reporting is implemented by the coordinating beneficiary on behalf of the associated beneficiaries with their co-operation and regular contact.

### 6.4. Auditor Data

Francis Clark LLP is the nominated accountant appointed by the Environment Agency, and can be contracted, if necessary at:

Francis Clark LLP,  
Vantage Point,  
Woodwater Park,  
Pynes Hill,  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 5FD  
England

Auditor Registration number C002495545

### 6.5 Summary of costs per action

*Table 9 allocation of the costs incurred per action*

Action no.	Short name of action	1. Personnel	2. Travel and subsistence	3. External assistance	6. Consumables	7. Other costs	TOTAL
A1	Project Management	203,693	12,351	2,528	880	407	219,860
A2	Monitoring Of Project Progress	70,789	755	3,252	-	-	74,795
A3	External Audit	4,778	-	5,623	-	-	10,401
A4	After-Life Plan	4,782	-	-	-	-	4,782
A5	Recruitment Of Staff And Subcontracting Personnel	11,763	1,162	-	-	-	12,925
B1	Create Communications Plans	36,674	112	5,541	-	-	42,327
B2	Review Existing River Restoration Networks	18,697	-	4,101	-	-	22,798

B3	Review of EU Policy Drivers For River Restoration	12,731	-	11,472	-	-	24,203
B4	Review Existing EU River Restoration Projects	16,258	-	5,231	-	-	21,489
B5	Identify Main Target Audience – Individuals And Organisations	15,928	-	4,250	-	-	20,179
C1	Networking And Marketing (incl. notice boards)	79,262	6,059	11,020	48	120	96,510
C2	Engagement Events: Existing RR Networks	48,484	18,592	22,401	1,468	-	90,944
C3	Engagement Events : Sector Specific	113,461	26,813	32,509	1,958	123	174,865
C4	Engagement Events: Policy Makers And River Basin Managers	83,788	10,319	14,953	-	1,993	111,054
C5	River Restoration Field Visits	32,672	11,611	5,099	25	20	49,427
C6	Staff Exchange Between Network Centres	133	855	1,345	-	-	2,333
C7	Database With Wiki Function	54,807	347	222,979	-	-	278,133
C8	Populate River Restoration-Wiki Database	47,515	143	13,942	-	-	61,600
C9	Project Newsletter	25,178	-	-	-	-	25,178
C10	Contacts Directory	7,335	847	-	-	-	8,181
E1	Monitoring And Evaluation Of Communications Events	21,935	-	2,905	-	-	24,840
E2	Testing, Monitoring And Evaluation Of Knowledge Transfer Tools	4,367	-	2,905	-	-	7,273
E3	Create a strategy to monitor the impact of the project	125	-	-	-	-	125
F1	Project Website	82,050	-	12,202	-	-	94,252
F2	Creation of LIFE+ Information Boards	438	-	3,137	-	-	3,575
F3	Layman's Report	12,204	-	2,646	-	-	14,850
F4	International Conference	84,535	24,500	23,023	2,238	275	134,571
Over-heads							114,203
	TOTAL	1,094,382	114,466	413,068	6,616	2,937	1,745,673

### **Cost by action:**

**A1-A5 Project Management** 5% (€15k) over budget but includes costs for 3 months project extension to 31 Dec 2013

**B1- B5 Comms Plan & Review Existing Networks** Final spend on these actions was 58% of budget. (see technical part 5.1 – 5.5)

**C1-C5 Networking & Engagement** Final spend on these actions was 92% of budget (see Technical part 5.6-5.9 & 4.1.2)

**C6 Staff exchanges** As highlighted in the modification request letter in May 2013 spend on this action has been minimal and is only 3% of original budget (see Technical part 5.19)

**C7-C8 Wiki** Final spend is 11% (€33k) over budget as savings on other actions were used to make improvements to the Wiki system in 2013. (see Technical part 5.12)

**C9-C10 Newsletter & Directory** Final spend on these actions was 46% of budget (see Technical part 5.14-5.15)

**E1-E3 Monitoring** Final spend on these actions was 43% of budget (see Technical part 5.1 & 5.16)

**F1 Website** Final spend is 78% (€41k) over budget. Savings on other actions were used to make ongoing website improvements and keep it up to date. The website is important as it hosts the Wiki database. (see Technical part 5.13)

**F2-F3 Info Boards & Layman's Report** Final spend 29% over (€4k) partly due to translation into other EU languages.

**F4 International Conference** As mentioned in the section 5 of this report the International conference in Vienna was very successful. It was a much high profile and more far reaching event than originally planned. This is reflected in the final spend, which is 132% (€94k) over budget (see Technical part 5.11)

The table below shows that the bulk of the addition expenditure was in Personnel for preparation work and actual attendance (across all beneficiaries) and in External Assistance (co-ordinating beneficiary only) for use of a larger venue than originally anticipated in the original budget.

/

Table 10 International Conference by beneficiary

Beneficiary	1. Personnel	2. Travel and subsistence	3. External assistance	6. Consumables	7. Other costs	TOTAL	Original Budget
EA	21,259	4,499	20,160	2,189	-	48,107	24,791
RRC	12,488	4,113	-	-	-	16,601	5,250
CIRF	3,500	2,251	300	-	275	6,326	670
SYKE	14,607	5,794	-	-	-	20,401	2,500
WI	17,983	4,208	1,513	49	-	23,752	3,600
DLG	14,699	3,635	1,050	-	-	19,384	3,675
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84,535</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>23,023</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>134,571</b>	<b>40,486</b>
Original Budget	9,891	20,595	10,000	-	-	40,486	

## 7. Annexes

### 7.1 Administrative annexes

**Quick Guide for internal use** – is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_Quick Guide\_final report'

### 7.2 Technical annexes

- **B1 Create communication plans** – including all the projects communication plans – is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_B1communication plans\_final report'
- **B2: Review Existing River Restoration Network** – summary report of how the 5 databases were collected. 'RESTORE\_B2 Network review\_final report'
- **B3 Review of Policy Drivers for River Restoration plans** – is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_B3 review of policy drivers\_final report'
- **C1 Networking and Marketing – press releases** is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_C1 press\_final report'
- **C2-6 & F4 event plans and reports** - is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_C2-6 & F4 events\_final report'
- **C2-C5: event plans and reports from the midterm report** - 'RESTORE\_C2-5 events\_final\_midterm.pdf'
- **C2-C5: event plans and reports from the progress report** - 'RESTORE\_C1\_Final\_progress.pdf'
- **C3: sector event report from the inception report** – 'RESTORE\_C3\_Final\_inception.pdf'
- **E1: Monitoring and Evaluation of Communication Events** - is supplied as a separate document. 'RESTORE\_E1 events\_final report.pdf'

- **Final Questionnaire** - is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_ Questionnaire\_final report'

### 7.3 Dissemination annexes

7.3.1 **F3 Layman's report** – *River restoration in Europe: the art of the possible* is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_ F3 layman's\_final report.pdf'.

7.3.2 **A4 After-LIFE Communication plan** - is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_ A4 AfterLIFE\_final report.pdf'.

7.3.3 '**Rivers By Design**'- is supplied as a separate document 'RESTORE\_ C1 Rivers by Design\_final report.pdf'.

### 7.4 Final table of indicators

#### OUTCOMES

*Table 11 Part 1 - Preparatory actions*

Types of preparatory actions	No.	Incurred cost (€)
Plans of project measures (B1, B5)		41,342
Action plans (B1)		21,164
Existing awareness raising measures (C2, C3, C4)		21,703
Inventories & Studies (B2,B3,B4)		68,490
Ex ante monitoring (E1, E2, A2)		37,587
Ex post monitoring		0
Permit procedures		0
Other (please specify)		0
Total	0	190,286

#### OUTCOMES

##### Part 2 - Concrete actions

*Table 1 2 - Awareness raising campaigns Summary table*

Targeted towards	No. of campaigns	No. of persons reached	Incurred cost (€)
Students			
Companies			
General public	1		134,571
Specialised public	37		503,429
Institutional staff			
Others (please specify)			
Total	38	0	638,000

Table 13 OUTPUTS INDICATORS										
Types of preparatory actions				No.		Delivered				
Plans of project measures (B1, B5)				9		9 (4 x regional communications plan; 1 x project main target audience; 4x regional main target audience)				
Action plans (B1)				2		1x project communications plan; 1 x Europe communications plan				
Inventories & Studies (B2,B3,B4)				4		1x RR networks outside Europe; 4x RR European regional networks; 1x policy review document; 4x EU regional RR project review documents				
Ex ante monitoring (E1, E2, A2)				6		38 x event report; 7 x management board meetings; monthly timesheets; quarterly progress reports; 1x inception report; 1x progress report; 1x Mid-term report; 1x modification; 1x final report				
Awareness-raising campaigns Targeted towards				No. of campaigns		No. of persons reached				Delivered
General public				1		200				1 campaign to 320
Specialised public (C2, C3, C4)				28		1000				31 campaigns to 1994
Workshops, seminars and conferences Target audience:		General public			Specialised audience (e.g. decision-makers)			Very specialised audience (e.g. experts, academics)		Delivered
Number of participants:		Local/Regional	National	EU/International	Local/Regional	National	EU/International	Local/Regional	National	EU/International
0-25 participants						26				2
More than 100 participants				1			1			
Type of media and other communication and dissemination work			No.	Delivered		Type of publication		No. published	No. of copies	Languages
Project website: average number of visitors per month			5000 <sup>1</sup>	4035		Layman's report		1	80	4
Press releases made by the project			80 <sup>2</sup>	141		Brochures/handbook		1	400 / online	1
Internet article			144	165		Posters		12	1 / online	1
Project notice boards			12	14						
Other (Best Practice handbooks (online))			1	1						

<sup>1</sup> As highlighted in our mid-term report this number is still considered high. However in the last 3 months of the project we were attracting monthly 3,029 users to our website and 1006 users to our RiverWiki

<sup>2</sup> This includes articles for professional journals, bulletins, newsletters, environmental and other trade publications, press releases and other appropriate locations for our main target audience. In line with the original bid sets out for action C1.

**Table 14 Deliverables**

<b>Name of the Deliverable</b>	<b>Action code</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1 x Project Communications Plan	B1	Q4 2010 and Q1 2011 & Updated throughout project	Completed and updated - submitted
1 x Europe Communications Strategy (ECS)	B1	Q4 2010 & Q1 2011	Completed and updated - submitted
1 x Region Communications Strategy (RCS)	B1 (B5)	Q4 2010 and Q1 2011 & Updated throughout project	Completed and updated - submitted
4x RR networks directories – within EU	B2 (C10)	Q4 2010 to Q2 2011	Completed and updated - submitted
1x RR networks directory – outside EU	B2	Q4 2010 to Q2 2011	Completed and updated after international conference submit - submitted
1x Existing EU RR policy and planning document	B3	Q4 2010 to Q2 2011	Completed and added to by the Slovenian network event - submitted
4x Existing EU RR projects review documents	B4	Q4 2010 to Q2 2011	Completed and updated on the RiverWiki - submitted
4x MTA Engagement Strategies	B5 (B1)	Q4 2010 to Q2 2011	Completed (contained within the communication strategies)
1 x RR best practice Online Handbook	C1	Q4 2011 to Q3 2013	Completed and updated
400 hard copies of RR Best Practice Handbook	C1 (F4)	Q4 2013 (revised to Q3 2013)	Completed 700 printed submit hard copy - submitted
80 x Press releases	C1	Q1 2011 to Q4 2013	We have written 141 press releases and articles. We have also made 165 Weblogs. - submitted
1x Archive of press releases (available online)	C1	Q1 2011 to Q4 2013	The more recent press releases are available on our website
8 x Information Boards (2 per region)	C2	Q2 2011 to Q3 2011	Completed (2 additional made for eastern region). An extra sign is displayed at the Environment Agency's Head Office
4 x Information Boards for International Conference	F2 (F4)	Q4 2013	We took the information board from all our regions to the event
2 x Network pre-event plans	C2	Q4 2011 & Q4 2012	Completed for 5 events - submitted
2 x Existing RR Network events held & Summary Reports produced	C2 (E1)	Q4 2011 & Q4 2012	Completed for 5 events - submitted
15 x Sector Specific Engagement pre-event plans	C3	Q1 2011 to Q4 2012	Completed - submitted
15 x Sector Specific Engagement events held & Summary Reports produced.	C3 (E1)	Q2 2011 to Q4 2012	Completed - submitted
6 x Policy Makers & River Basin Managers pre-event plans	C4	Q3 2011	Completed - submitted
6 x Policy Makers & River Basin Managers engagement events held & Summary Reports produced	C4 (E1)	Q3 2011	Completed - submitted
5 x Policy Makers & River Basin Managers pre-event plans	C4	Q3 2012	Completed - submitted
5 x Policy Makers & River Basin Managers engagement events held & Summary Reports produced	C4 (E1)	Q3 2012	Completed - submitted
4 x Field Visit pre-event plans produced	C5	Q3 2011 to Q2 2013	Completed – for 5 trips - submitted
4 x Field Visits held & Summary Reports produced	C5 (E1)	Q3 2011 to Q2 2013	Completed – for 5 trips - submitted
1 x Exchange Visit Application Form & Guidelines produced	C6	Q3 2011	Objectives completed through sector event



Name of the Deliverable	Action code	Deadline	Outcome
4x Exchange visits held & Summary Reports produced	C6 (E1)	Q2 2012 to Q2 2013	Objectives completed through sector event - submitted
28 x Post event Summary Reports	E1 (C2, C3, C4, C9)	Q4 2011 to Q4 2013	Completed 30 reports on our website - submitted
8 x Field Visit and Exchange Visit Summary Reports produced	E1 (C5, C6)	Q3 2011 to Q3 2013	Completed s- submitted
26 x Post event questionnaires completed & returned	E1 (C5, C6, C9)	Q2 2011 to Q3 2013	Completed - submitted
1 x International Conference pre-event plan (incl. programme)	F4	Q2 2013	Complete - submitted
4 x International Conference advertisement on region home pages	F4 (F1, C10)	Q3 2013	completed – advert on RESTORE WebPages, social media and a linked website for the conference has been developed by DLG
4 x International Conference invitation sent via email by each region	F4	Q3 2013	Completed including to the 24 networks
1 x International Conference archive (online)	F4 (F1)	Q3 2013 (revised timescale)	Completed – there is a page dedicated to the event on our website. This hosts photos, video interview, videos of the sessions, reports, posters and power point presentations from the conference.
1 x International Conference Summary Report (incl. presentations, discussions, posters)	F4 (F1, F3)	Q3 2013 (revised timescale)	Completed - submitted
1x blank database proforma created	C7	Q3 2011	Completed
1x database completion instructions issued	C8	Q2 2012 (revised timescale)	Completed
500 x database Case Studies uploaded	C8	Q3 2011 to Q4 2013	Completed
1 x Wiki dictionary of relevant terms created	C8	Q3 2011	Completed
1 x website usage report	F1	Q3 2013 (revised timescale)	Completed
144 x Weblog news articles	C9	Q4 2010 to Q4 2013	Completed 165 Weblogs on the website and 2 newsletters and monthly bulletins published – bulletins submitted
12 x Website, Newsletter, FTP and Wiki database usage quarterly reports	E2	Q1 2011 to Q4 2013	Complete - These form part of our quarterly reports. The website reports are from November 2011 and the Wiki from August 2012 when they went live.
1 x Layman's report collated	F3	Q3 2013	completed
80 copies x Layman's report printed (plus PDF copies x 4)	F3	Q4 2013	Completed - submitted
1x After LIFE+ plan collated	A4	Q3 2013	completed
80 copies x After LIFE+ plan printed (plus PDF copies x 4)	A4	Q4 2013	completed- submitted
1x strategy to monitor the impact of the project	E3	Q4 2013	completed- submitted

**Table 15 MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT**

Name of the Milestone	Action code	Deadline	Update
Recruitment of Project Coordinator	A5	Q4 2010	Toni Scarr (EA)
Recruitment of Financial Assistant	A5	Q4 2010	Michael Frye / Donna Richards (EA)
Recruitment of Project Assistant	A5	Q4 2010	Susan Sheahan (EA)
Recruitment of Communications Advisor	A5	Q4 2010	

Recruitment of Communications Manager	A5	Q4 2010	Chris Baker (WI)
Recruitment of Information Manager	A5	Q4 2010	Rogier Vogelij (DLG)
Recruitment of Region Managers (4 No)	A5	Q4 2010	Martin Janes (RRC), Jukka Jormola (SYKE), Andrea Goltara (CIRF) & Annelies Koningsveld-den Ouden (DLG)
Recruitment of Management Assistant (4 No)	A5	Q4 2010	Marco Monaci, (CIRF) Nick Elbourne RRC), Rogier Vogelij (DLG), Pinja Kasvio (SYKE)
Recruitment of Regional Communications Assistants (4 No)	A5	Q4 2010	Jenny Mant (RRC), Auri Sarvilinna (SYKE), Ricardo Sedola (CIRF), Rogier Vogelij (DLG)
Selection of external Website contractor	A5	Q4 2010	Version 1 live, Version 2 live
Selection of external <i>Wiki</i> database contractor	A5	Q4 2010	Completed - SFW (subcontracted by IPL)
Internal project monitoring protocol established	A3	Q4 2010	Done
Selection of external audit contractor	A5	Q2 2013	Francis Clarke
Selection of external marketing material contractors (ongoing throughout project)	A5	Q4 2010 - Q4 2013	A number of contractors were used during the project
2 x Network events	C2	Q4 2011 & Q4 2012	four delivered
15 x Sector Specific events	C3	Q2 2011 to Q4 2012	15 x delivered
11x Policy and planning events	C4	Q3 2011 & Q3 2012	11 x delivered
4 x Field visit events	C5	Q3 2011 & Q2 2013	5 x delivered
4x Staff Exchange Visits	C6	Q2 2012 - Q2 2013	Delivered alongside a sector event
6x Management Board meetings.	A1	Q4 2010, Q2 2011, Q1 2012, Q3 2012, Q2 2013 & Q4 2013	Q4 2010, Q2 2011, Q4 2011, Q2 2012, Q2 2013, Q3 2013,
Quarterly timesheets submitted	A1	Q2 2011 - Q4 2013	delivered
Quarterly activity reports submitted	A1	Q2 2011 - Q4 2013	delivered
Invoice activity reports submitted	A1	Q2 2011 - Q4 2013	delivered
Final activity reports submitted	A1 (1,2,3)	Q4 2013	delivered
International Conference	F4	Q4 2013	delivered
External audit	A3	Q4 2013	delivered
Final project beneficiary report	A1	Q4 2013	delivered

This is a full list of personnel as a number of the posts have been split across personnel to maximise expertise in putting into the project. They all have separate letters of appointment.

**EA:**

Project Executive: David Baxter

Project Coordinator: Toni Scarr

Financial Assistant: Donna Richards, Michael Frye

Legal support: Helen Hughes

Procurement/ CIS: Simon Williams, Pamela Khanom

Project assistant/ Communications Advisor: Susan Sheahan

Other support: Ruth Hanniffy.

**RRC:**

Regional manager: Martin Janes

Communications assistant: Jenny Mant (Communications and Events Manager), Di Hammond (Senior Restoration Projects Adviser), Nick Elbourne (Information and Communication Officer), Ulrika Åberg (Project Advisor), Ian Brown (Project Advisor), Anna Gee (Information and events) and Victoria West (Information and events).

**CIRF:**

Regional manager: Andrea Goltara

Communications assistant: Ricardo Sedola (contractor), Giuliano Trentini, Andrea Nardini, Bruno Boz, Giancarlo Gusmaroli.

Management assistant: Simone Bizzi, Marco Monaci, Mauro Lafratta

**SYKE:**

Regional manager: Jukka Jormola

Communications assistant: Pinja Kasvio (main), Auri Sarvilinna, Liisa Maaria Hämäläinen, Katri Haatainen, Ulla Sonck,

Management assistant: Arola Maria (main), Markku Maunula (water resources), Antton Keto (policy), Mika Marttunen (water utilisation), Lasse Jarvenpaa (database), Outi Laamanen (database).

**DLG:**

Information manager: Annelies Koningsveld-den Ouden

Management assistant: Rogier Vogelijn (main), Caroline Schrandt (eastern europe), Christina Oosterhoff (Water Management Advisor), Peter Cornelis Van der Molen (Biodiversity), Bertram de Rooij (Landscape Architect), Anthony Geensen (hydrogeologist)

**WI:**

Communications Manager: Chris Baker and Romana Gaspirc

Communication Assistance: Paul Brotherton (communications officer), Vera Coelho, Alizia Kamani

Finance Officer: Danielle Bollebakker

Table 16 all events attended

Event	RESTORE event /other	Region	location	Pre-Plan prepared	Date of meeting	Numbers attending	Report completed	notes
River Restoration Centre Annual Network Conference	Other	Western	Nottingham, UK	n/a	14/04/2011	180	n/a	RESTORE project launched - key note speech given and RESTORE posters displayed
Sector Specific Event on agriculture, environmentally sound drainage and river restoration	RESTORE Sector event	Northern	Finland		18-19th May 2011	~12	yes	The visit of the Swedish delegation to Finland. Workshop at SYKE on environmentally friendly drainage, river restorations in Finland and the aims of the RESTORE project. The 2-day visit also included field trips to restored stream sites in Southern Finland. Participants included river basin planners and managers, farmers and researchers.
British Hydrological Society conference - Hydroecological tools for river basin planning	Other	Western	Birmingham, UK	n/a	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	67	n/a	presentation on RESTORE and poster
River Restoration Design and Construction	RESTORE Sector event	Western	New forest, UK	yes	13 - 14th of July 2011	~20	yes	
River Basin Managers Delivering WFD GEP and renewable energy. Scandinavian River basin planners and water managers Hurdalsjøen, Norway 29.-30 September 2011	RESTORE Policy event	Northern	Hurdalsjøen, Norway	yes	29.-30 September 2011	98	yes	RESTORE project - 4th Nordic WFD Conference and Workshop. ? follow up on website?
Presentation at Danube hydro-morphological workforce group in Vienna	Other	Western	Vienna, Austria	n/a	6th October, 2011		n/a	RESTORE project was asked to give a presentation
Institute of fisheries management	Other	Western	Oxford, UK	n/a	18th October, 2011	~100	n/a	
Houting	Other	Western	Tønder in Denmark	n/a	3rd-5th October 2011	90	n/a	RESTORE delivered the key note presentation - produced an article for our newsletter - this has also been reported in the life November newsletter

World Water Forum - INBO	Other	Europe	Porto, Portugal	n/a	27-30th September 2011	~150	n/a	Two talks given by RESTORE (Jukka Jormola, Toni Scarr and Chris Baker) and we ran a workshop. One on Hydro power and one on river restoration best practice and the RESTORE project. It also allowed us to discuss the planning for the large network event in Slovenia.
Benefits and costs of River Restoration: Evaluation approaches and experiences	RESTORE sector event	Southern	Leon, Spain	yes	18th October, 2011	28	yes	RESTORE workshop held as part of the RESTAURARIOS event organised by the CIREF (Centro Ibérico de Restauración de Ríos)
Incised rivers	RESTORE Sector event	Southern	Italy and Austria	yes	October 25-28, 2011	34	yes	
Slovenia	RESTORE network event	Europe	Slovenia	yes	16 - 18th November 2011	125	yes	
Paris	RESTORE Policy event	Western	Paris, France	yes	29th November, 2011	18	yes	
Dutch Platform restore Rivers and streams	Other	Western	Wageningen – University, The Netherlands	n/a	14 Dec 2011	120	n/a	On the “formation” event of that platform took place at. Participants from all kinds of (non) governmental organisations, knowledge institutes and small and nation-wide organisations of practitioners - RESTORE was introduced by DLG.
The opening seminar of the Finnish watercourse restoration network. One day seminar targeted to all stakeholders around restoration of watercourses	RESTORE policy event	Northern	Finland	yes	26/01/2012	134 persons from 57 different organisations attending.	yes	
Policy and River Basin Management event	RESTORE policy event	Western	Lille, France	yes	22nd February 2012	36 from 6 countries	yes	Specific RESTORE Workshop at the CIWEM conference in - Benefits of restoring rivers for multi-functional water management
Integrating river restoration into special planning: delivering multiple	RESTORE sector	Western	Arnhem, The Netherlands	yes	8-9th March 2012	30 from 5 countries	yes	conflicts between landownership, planning and usage

benefits	event							
World Water Forum	Other	International	Marseille, France	N/A	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	100	N/A	ECRR and RESTORE presentations
RESTORE Workshop as part of the River Restoration Centre's Annual Conference, to be held in Nottingham, UK.	RESTORE sector event	Western	Nottingham, UK	yes	19th April, 2012	164	yes	Day 2 will be a RESTORE workshop. We will also use this to test the WIKI tool.
Seminar IASI Romania May 2012 - event	RESTORE sector event	Eastern	The Prut – Barlad River Basin Authority, IASI, ROMANIA	yes	9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	26	yes	We received press coverage
Field visit - Ciobarcu Wetland in the valley of the Jijia River tributary of the Prut River	RESTORE field trip	Eastern	The Prut – Barlad River Basin Authority, IASI, ROMANIA	yes	9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	26	yes	We received press coverage
FIELD TRIP River Restoration in Switzerland	RESTORE field trip	Southern	Switzerland	yes	21-23 May 2012	57	yes	Educational tour?
Green Week	Other	International	Brussels, Belgium	N/A	Weds May 23.	60	N/A	RESTORE presentation
River restoration workshop at Longinoja Brook	RESTORE sector event	Northern region	Helsinki, Finland	yes	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	25	yes	
Checking the most problematic rivers of the country and advising the Polish RBM's and practitioners how to combine the goals of WFD and the Floods directive and how to execute river restorations in a manner that provides means to achieve those goals.	RESTORE field trip	Northern	Poland	yes	11-15 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	18 seminar & 12 field visit	yes	
RESTORE workshop - Monitoring effectiveness of river restoration and building the evidence base and field trip to Skjern River site	RESTORE sector event	Western	Denmark	yes	17th - 21st June 2012	14	yes	RESTORE Workshop as part of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) Wetland restoration challenges and opportunities conference
IS rivers - Integrative sciences and sustainable development of RIVERS	Other	Southern	Lyon, France	N/a	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2012		N/A	Poster presentation

8 <sup>th</sup> European Conference on ecological restoration	RESTORE network event	Network - Eastern	Czech Republic	Yes	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	~20	yes	Side workshop during this event
River restoration and weir removal	Other	Western	Vienna, Austria	N/a	17-21st September 2012	300	N/A	Jukka attending 9th international symposium on eco-hydraulics
RESTORE sector event	RESTORE sector event	Western	Scotland	Yes	25 <sup>th</sup> September	~ 100	Yes	
4th Nordic WFD Conference and Workshop	RESTORE policy event	Northern	Iceland	Yes	25.-27. September 2012	77	Yes	
International Conference, "Hydrological Hazards and Associated Risks Management", Bucharest,	Other		Romania	N/A	8 -10 October 2012			Poster presentation, using the poster presented at the NIHWM
10th "ECO – ENVIRONMENT Exhibition-Practices and experiences in environment protection" Arad - Romania	Other		Romania	N/A	10-12 October 2012,			Poster displayed "River Restoration Experience in Central and East Europe - RESTORE PROJECT".
visit Loire valley	RESTORE field trip	Western	France	Yes	11-12th October 2012	12	Yes	Press reports
Vattendagarna 2012	Other	Northern	Sweden	N/A	23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	250	Yes	Talks given by Toni Scarr and Jukka Jormola
RESTORE project river restoration & NLA breakfast talks	RESTORE network event	Network	London	Yes	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	~ 200	Yes	disseminating information to built environment professionals
Best practices in RR, connectivity for migrating fish, restoration of stream water habitats and environmentally friendly land drainage.	RESTORE sector event	Northern	Sweden	Yes	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct - 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2012	27	Yes	5 day field excursion in Sweden. Target audience: practitioners and river basin planners in Finland and other member countries.
RESTORE workshop: River Restoration in the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in Europe - as a side event of the 2nd Italian Conference on river restoration	RESTORE policy event	Southern Region	Bolzano, Italy	Yes	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	107	Yes	Side event as part of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Italian conference on RR.
Eastern Event.	RESTORE policy event	Eastern	Bulgaria	yes	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	16	Yes	River Restoration and important activity in the field of water management



Restaurering av vassdrag	Other	Northern	Trondheim, Norway	N/A	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2012	~40	N/A	Talks given by Toni Scarr and Jukka Jormola
Rivers trust conference – Living North seas	Other	Western	Newcastle, UK	N/A	13 - 15 November 2012	250	N/A	Martin Janes presented the River Wiki
risk management, maintenance of the territory and river restoration: how to overcome ambiguities and implement key actions for Italy	RESTORE policy event	Southern	Italy	yes	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2013	~150	Yes	
REFORM conference	Other		Brussels	N/A	26-27 <sup>th</sup> February	~80	N/A	Presenting RESTORE
Lunch-time Brussels conference	RESTORE network event		Brussels	yes	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	35	Yes	Discussing the ' <i>Rivers by Design</i> ' guidance
Evidence Conference	Other	Western	Bristol	N/A	26-27 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	150	N/A	Toni Scarr and Susan Sheahan attend a day each of this conference. They presented the River Wiki, poster and stand to Environment Agency colleagues.
Delivering cross boundary catchment scale river restoration	RESTORE policy event	Western	Ireland	draft	9-10 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	16	Yes	Exploring the synergy between EU Directives to achieve best practice river restoration and management
Hydropower – Finnish migratory fish forum	RESTORE sector event	Northern	Joensuu, Finland	yes	24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	16	Yes	The unofficial association includes stakeholders from Nordic electricity companies, regional fish authorities and the Finnish Game and Fisheries Institute.
RiverWiki training live meeting	Other	Western	on line - live meeting	N/A	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	30	N/A	Ran training online on the RiverWiki and RESTORE website
RRC conference	Other	Western	Northamptonshire, UK	N/A	30 <sup>th</sup> April – 1 <sup>st</sup> May	320	N/A	EA chief executive speak including the RESTORE project, posters and RiverWIKI display
RESTORE Field Visit	RESTORE field trip	Western	Germany	yes	22-23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2013	32	done	Visit the Isar in Munich
RESTORE sector event	RESTORE sector event	Northern	Germany / Switzerland	yes	23-25 <sup>th</sup> May	32	done	Visit hydropower plants with mitigation in Switzerland and Germany
Training Course: River restoration planning and design	RESTORE sector/ staff exchange	Western	Utrecht, Netherlands	yes	25-6 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	39	done	Look to join with the staff exchange

	event							
Workshop: The stakeholder view: how policy supports river restoration implementation	RESTORE policy event	Western	Belgium	yes	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	14	yes	Feeding back results to policy makers from the other 11 Western Region events.
8 <sup>th</sup> Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences –  400 delegates from 36 European and non-European countries. Many parallel sessions were organised during the Symposium, including a two-day special session on 'LIFE for freshwater ecosystems: challenges and achievements of an EU funding instrument'.	Other	western	Münster, Germany	N/A	1-5 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	400+	N/A	Simona from the EC communications team presented the RESTORE project, within a speech on 'LIFE Nature for freshwater ecosystems: examples and best practices on the restoration of running waters'.  This was an opportunity to get the public to know not only about good results achieved and best practices applied by LIFE Nature projects, but also to inform them about RESTORE.
Bite size learning – RESTORE and REFORM	Other	Western	On line –live meeting	N/A	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	15	N/A	Training run on the RiverWiki, RESTORE website and the outputs from the REFORM website.
River restoration workshop - impacts and benefits of delivering weir removal work including site visit	Other	western	Manchester, UK	N/A	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	30	N/A	The RESTORE RiverWiki was showcased by Di Hammond at the RRC. Booklets and leaflets were given out to the audience. Our bulletin featured an article on the event.
Closing seminar of North Region	RESTORE policy event	Northern	Lahti, Finland	y	14 august 2013	136	done	
<a href="#">Closing seminar of North Region/RESTORE followed by an excursion</a>	RESTORE sector event	Northern	Lahti & Helsinki Finland	y	15-16 <sup>th</sup> August 2013	20	done	
<a href="#">NLA and RESTORE Afternoon Boat Trip on the Thames</a>	RESTORE network event		London, UK	y	28 <sup>th</sup> August	80	done	
International conference	RESTORE international event		Vienna, Austria	y	11-13 <sup>th</sup> September	320	done	
Working with Natural Processes Workshop	other	western	Sheffield, UK	n/a	24 <sup>th</sup> September	85		Input from our events into the Working with Natural Processes research framework to identify research priorities which will help Flood and

								Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Authorities to deliver sustainable flood risk management/ river restoration programme.
REFORM workshop in the Czech republic. Martin from the RRC has been asked to play a part in the REFORM board as part of this event.	Other		Czech Republic	N/A	30th September – 3th October 2013		n/a	We would like to use this to input finding from the international conference. It is also important that we steer the REFORM project to ensure that the outputs are usable by the stakeholders that we have been speaking to over the last couple of years. We want to ensure that we pass onto these projects where RESTORE managed to get to, what was outside the scope but still is needed and how REFORM can use this info.
River Restoration/ Wetland workshop in York,	Other		York, UK	N/A	1st – 2nd October 2103		n/a	The RRC was asked to attend and speak. This was as a direct result of the RESTORE workshop in Denmark and the RRC conference & RESTORE workshop which followed.
CIEEM Annual Conference - Building the Knowledge Base	Other	Western	Southampton, UK	N/A	6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	220	n/a	Toni Scarr and Martin Janes discussed the finding from around Europe and also the outputs from RESTORE– It was a great opportunity to highlight the RiverWiki and website and promote the benefits of working across Europe.
EUROPE-INBO 2013" - 11th International Conference On the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive	Other	Eastern	Plovdiv Bulgaria	N/A	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	100 (approx.)	n/a	Toni Scarr attended this event to give a talk on the findings of RESTORE. As part of the event she also acted as a rapporteur and workshop facilitator. This event was important to discuss RESTORE output and finding with a French speaking audience. It also facilitated discussion with the natural water retention measures project.
Bite Size learning – River Restoration part 2	Other	Western	On line – live meeting	N/A	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	50	N/A	Live meeting training on the RiverWiki and RESTORE website. Run by the EA and RRC.

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## 8. Financial report and annexes

Paper copies of the following have been provided:

- This covering note
- Signed Standard Payment Request
- Signed Beneficiary's Certificate for coordinating beneficiary
- Signed Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project
- 5 Signed Beneficiary's Certificate for associated beneficiaries
- Signed Audit Report
- 4 VAT letters

Electronic copies of the following have been provided:

This covering note

Folder 1

- Standard Payment Request & Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project
- Signed Beneficiary's Certificate for coordinating beneficiary
- Consolidation worksheet with 2% rule check and costs by action by partner
- Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project

Folder 2

- Cost statements for all beneficiaries
- Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project
- 5 Signed Beneficiary's Certificate for associated beneficiaries

Folder 3

- Tables 6.1, 6.5 & 6.6 included in main final report document

Folder 4

- Signed Audit Report

Folder 5

- Mid term response note and evidence requested

*Please note some files may have a password which is 'Restore'*