

Russian Center of River Restoration – Network organisation based on the progressive development of the Russian Research Institute for Integrated Water Management and Protection (Federal State Unitary Enterprise RosNIIVH)

History

The first steps in creating a professional association of Russian Center for River Restoration have been made in 1998 by RosNIIVH Institute, when it became a member of the ECRR during the primary installation conference in Denmark. Since then, the Institute is the leading Russian organization in matters of river restoration, which has the scientific and material resources, and has developed a network of branches (affiliates). However, the Institute does not coordinate the work of non-governmental network organization "Russian Rivers Network," but often serves as a center of expertise, when it comes to principles, technologies and methods of use of any rehabilitation measures to conserve and restore aquatic ecosystems.

Development.

By now the Russian Federation has no concrete plans for the establishment of a developed national river restoration center, able to take the initiative to coordinate the activities of various environmental organizations concerning the restoration, rehabilitation and management of water bodies in river basins. On the basis of the regional environmental centers and associations various projects were initiated and still under implementation, such as "Help the River" (Nizhny Novgorod), "Protection of Rivers," (Novosibirsk), "White River" (Ufa). Many of them are members of the voluntary association of environmental organizations, called the Russian Rivers Network



(Nizhny Novgorod). The Russian Rivers Network welcomes equal partnership and action in defense of rivers. Thus, the RosNIIVH Institute functions as a center for exchange of experience and expertise in the field of restoration of aquatic ecosystems, participating in the implementation of scientific and applied projects throughout Russia. Nevertheless, the main task of the Institute is the scientific and methodological support of activities and decisions of the Water Agency of the Russian Federation.

Tasks

- 1) In terms of activities in the field of river restoration the Institute does not have a special structure for the organization of river restoration activities at the national level, as long as there is no concept for further development in this direction. But fortunately, the first steps to create a network of partners in the restoration of aquatic ecosystems are already being made for many years. This means that RosNIIVH is an institution in the classic sense, the main task of it is to conduct research and implement innovative solutions in the field of water resource management.
- 2) Relationships with partner organizations are realized through permanent cooperation, by the website of the Institute www.wrm.ru, through the issue of the journal "Water Economy of Russia", by biannual organizing of International Conference "Clean Water", and partnerships in the implementation of major

Federal Projects.

A non-governmental network organization "Russian Rivers Network," has its own website at www.pomreke.ru. This is a community of like-minded enthusiasts for the protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. "Russian Rivers Network" is an informal network, where members pay no dues. Profit is not the purpose of the existence of this organization. In the case of RosNIIVH profit is a necessary condition for a successful functioning of the organization.

Cooperation and results.

In implementing its mission RosNIIVH collaborates with many organizations, like the ECRR, IAWA, IEPA, World Water Forum, Aquatech (Moscow), Aquaterra (S-Petersburg). Cooperation is focused on submission of materials for conferences, seminars, thematic sessions etc. Membership of the RosNIIVH Institute of the ECRR helps to maintain the staff having a high level through a continuous exchange of information, knowledge and new technologies in the field of protection and restoration of water resources. Completed results of the RosNIIVH Institute activities for the protection and restoration of water resources cannot be submitted, because many of the projects are in the process of implementation, or in the planning phase.

Author: Timur Pavluc: Russian Research Institute for Integrated Water Management and Protection

