

Content:

WELCOME	1
CONVERGES NEWS	2
CONVERGES EVENTS	2
CONVERGES STSM, Training school / workshops	2
CONVERGES Publications / Science information	2
EXTERNAL ISSUES Publications - calls	2
Upcoming external events	3
Job opportunities	4

WELCOME

To force the knowledge and understanding about the importance of riparian ecosystems and connected vegetation in 2017 a COST “KNOWLEDGE CONVERSION FOR ENHANCING MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS AND SERVICES” (CONVERGES) CA 16208 was established.

Riparian vegetation is an essential component of river systems and controls fluvial functioning. Plants within river corridors reciprocally interact with fluvial processes, for example influencing hydraulic conditions and erosion, transport and deposition of sediments. Research on vegetation and fluvial processes has increased considerably in the last decades, recognizing the role of plants as river system engineers and the importance of riparian vegetation responses to many human disturbances leading river hydromorphological trajectories and ecological status.

To keep our members informed about the recent developments in the area every 2 or 3 months a CONVERGES Newsletter will be distributed among our members. There will be presented last info about the COST Group planed and on-going activities – CONVERGES and WG events, STSM, trainings, scientific developments and publications. In help will be presented also outside the GROUP information – news, publications, connected events and publications, job opportunities.

If you have some information to disseminate – you can send it to Mila Chilikova-Lubomirova (milasemail@yahoo.com).



Riparian wetland at the Storelva River in Southern Norway (credits : P. Zinke)

CONVERGES NEWS

In November, 2 new countries joined the network. Turkey is now represented by Dr. Yaşar Selman Gültekin, Dr. Pınar Gültekin (Duzce University) and Ali KAVGACI, PhD (MC Substitute) in the Management Committee and Netherland by Dr. Ellis Penning and Dr. Mijke van Oorschot (Deltares).

CONVERGES EVENTS

CONVERGES MC MEETING – Save the date!

The next Converges meeting be held in Prague – at 3 and 4 April 2019.

It is working on the agenda. On the two days event will be presented the work of the all CONVERGES Working Groups and additional keynotes. Feel free to comment.



The event will be hosted by the Conference Center “Floret” in Pruhonice village on the edge of Prague (the city center is about 40 minutes by public transport) - <http://www.floret.cz/en/> . For more information about the local organization you can contact to our colleague Pavel Cudlin (cudlin.p@czechglobe.cz)

Converges STSM, Training school, Workshops

There is currently no open call but there is still an available STSM grant, please contact Rob Francis ([robert.francis\[at\]kcl.ac.uk](mailto:robert.francis[at]kcl.ac.uk)).

CONVERGES Publications

The first output of the Action is now online. S Dufour, PM Rodríguez-González and M. Laslier published a paper in *Science of the Total Environment* - "Tracing the scientific trajectory of riparian vegetation studies: Main topics, approaches and needs in a globally changing world".



Science of The Total Environment
Volume 653, 25 February 2019, Pages 1168-1185



Review

Tracing the scientific trajectory of riparian vegetation studies: Main topics, approaches and needs in a globally changing world

Simon Dufour ^{*}, Patricia María Rodríguez-González ^{*}, Marianne Laslier ^{*}

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2018.10.383>

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This review highlights that future challenges in riparian vegetation studies include better knowledge sharing, integration of the social dimension and multiple pressure sources, and consideration of all geographic context.

Full text can be find on:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969718342839?via%3Dihub>

EXTERNAL ISSUES

External Publications - calls



REMOTE SENSING – Open Access Journal:
“Remote Sensing for EU Habitats Directive Application”

This Special Issue is devoted to the links between remote sensing and ecological research communities that are now strengthening with the integration of reference vegetation databases

(European Vegetation Archive, VegFrance, etc.) in remote-sensing-based models (machine learning classification, fuzzy approach, optimal transport approach, time-series classifiers, etc.).

One or more of the topics will be observed:

- Mapping and monitoring of habitat conservation status;
- Integrating satellite data in ecosystem modeling;
- Multiscale analysis (plant species/vegetal associations/habitats/vegetation series);
- Development of vegetation typologies;
- Reproducibility of satellite-based classification models;
- Integrating vegetation reference data in satellite images classification (unbalanced classes, weak sampling, temporal shifts, etc.).

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 30 September 2019.

More on: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/remotesensing/special_issues/EU_Habitats



***Water* – Open Access Journal: “Riparian Vegetation in River Functioning”**

This Special Issue aims to provide an up-dated collection of articles, where scientists, researchers and experts can submit their novel results and innovative approaches dealing with the role of vegetation in river functioning (morphodynamics, water quality, flood management, etc.), riverine landscapes, river hydromorphological assessment and river management. It intends to include studies from different disciplines, since riverine plants taxonomy to riverine plants dynamic modelling; since vegetation as an essential component of fluvial hydromorphological and ecological assessments, having a major role as biological indicator of fluvial process, quality of river physical habitat and ecosystem services, to vegetation as a key component of remote sensing and spatial and temporal analysis of the landscape, or vegetation as a crucial management tool for river restoration and conservation.

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 31 May 2019.

More on: [http://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/River Riparian Vegetation](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/River_Riparian_Vegetation)

COMING EXTERNAL EVENTS



**European Geosciences Union
General Assembly 2019**

Some sessions of interest

- "Hydrochory and biotic transport in streams and open channels" (HS10.9).
- "Anthropogenic activities and continental environment dynamics (ITS5.6/GM6.2/BG1.46/CL2.28/ERE8.8/GI1.9/NH9.28/SSS13.27).
- Fluvial Systems: Dynamics and Interactions Across Scales (GM8.1/HS9.2.8/NH1.15/SSP3.5)
- Hydrogeomorphological and ecohydrological implications of catchment management and river restoration. (GM8.3/BG3.13/HS9.2.11)
- Implementation of the Flood Directive across Europe (NH1.8/HS11.61)
- Remote Sensing for Flood Dynamics Monitoring and Flood Mapping (HS6.3/NH6.19)
- Urban Ecohydrology: understanding urban-natural systems for the design of future cities (ITS6.3/HS10.13/AS4.53/BG1.26)
- Biogeomorphology: conceptualising and quantifying processes, rates and feedbacks (GM5.1/BG3.12/HS9.2.12)
- ...

Deadline for abstract submission: 10 January 2019

See : https://egu2019.eu/abstracts_and_programme/how_to_submit_an_abstract.html

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Funded PhD Assistantships:

- **Natural Flood Management: Optimising design to reduce geomorphic impact**



UNIVERSITY
OF HULL

Organized by University of Hull - Funded PhD with duration 3 years (full-time).

This project will be used to improve the design of leaky dams for natural flood management schemes (working with Forest Research, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and others), both in terms of hydraulic effectiveness/efficiency and biogeomorphological effectiveness. It will use a combination of fieldwork, experiments and numerical modeling to assess the behaviour of leaky dams of different porosities, installation heights and installation angles at different flow rates. Leaky wooden dams are being used as a significant component of many planned and implemented Natural Flood Management schemes.

Application deadline: 23 January 2019. More information you can find on: <https://www.hull.ac.uk/study/pgr/phd/funded/natural-flood-management.aspx>

- **Channel-floodplain interactions during flood events: energy and momentum exchange**



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It is organized by University of Hull – Funded PhD with duration 3 years (full-time).

It is purposing investigation of different hydraulic conditions turbulent flow measurements deployment at the channel-floodplain by novel acoustic and optical instruments – by interface for different relative depths, different vegetation types (e.g. grasses, shrubs, woody seedlings) and spatially heterogeneous roughness ranging from individual elements (individual plants) through to tufts and patches of variable floodplain roughness (heterogeneous vegetation).

Application deadline: 23 January 2019. For more information: <https://www.hull.ac.uk/study/pgr/phd/funded/channel-floodplain-interactions.aspx>

- **Arid-land Riparian Ecology and Ecophysiology at SUNY-ESF**



Stella Lab
Riparian and Stream Ecology at SUNY-ESF Syracuse

Applications from motivated, curious students with ecological research experience are expected. Ideal candidates will have a MS in ecology, environmental science, or a related field; a strong quantitative background;

the ability to work in remote field settings; and interest in riparian forest ecology and tree ecophysiology in dryland regions. Applicants with strong statistical, GIS and writing skills are desired. The position starts in late Spring or Summer 2019, is funded for a minimum of three years, and provides a competitive stipend, tuition and benefits.

More on: <https://www.esf.edu/fnrm/stella/default.htm>



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WG 4 Dissemination and outreach of results and outcomes
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