



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019 / Issue 3

BRIEFS

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Good news: The COST Action Converges Activities 2019 - 2020 have been approved. The work and budget plan for the period May 2019 to April 2020 has been validated. There are intended activities for training school, meetings, scientific missions, conference grants, etc. Accounting the importance of our ideas visualization our first video is already available. It briefly represents the CONVERGES essence, ideas and purposes. All the information is presented on our communication channels.

World Environment Day

Raising the global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet on 5 June is celebrated the World Environment Day. The United Nations, aware that the protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue, which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world.

The celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment. The theme for 2019 is "Air pollution". Air pollution may seem complex, but we can all do our part to reduce some of it.

Riparian ecosystems also can contribute to the process.



Source: <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-environment-day-2019/>

LIVE OF THE NETWORK

In the proposal (Dec. 2016) we were 28 countries and 36 proposers. Today (June 2019) we are 36 countries, 99 participants in the Management Committee and 166 registered people to mailing list. In June, new country joined the network. Moldavia is now represented by Veceslav GHENDOV, Nina CIOCÂRLAN, Aliona MIRON, Olga IONITA in the Management Committee, welcome !

September 2019 : The COST Action CONVERGES will chair 2 sessions during the Biennial Symposium of the International Society for River Science (ISRS - Sept. 08th to Sept. 13th 2019 in Vienna, Austria). The theme of the symposium is “Riverine landscapes as coupled socio-ecological systems and the sessions are named “Characterising riparian vegetation status and pressures” and “Riparian ecosystems management and restoration” <http://isrs2019.info/cms/index.php/home-235.html>

CONVERGES EVENTS

CONVERGES MC MEETING

At 3-4 April 2019 in Pruhonice, Cz, was provided the 2019 CONVERGES MC meeting. On the two day event there were open sessions for presentations and discussions about the CONVERGES activities, members materials and working groups progress. 18 speakers present key issues and results, about 16 posters represent various aspects of practical efforts. The friendly place supported the CONVERGES members interaction. Members team was strengthening on the amazing Prague and Pruhonice Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site walks, allowing enjoying the beautiful views and riparian species and all the CONVERGES representatives communication.



COMING EVENTS

MEETING “Riparian vegetation responses to global changes (regulation, climate, land uses, invasion)”, Nov. 2019, Madrid. Contact : Marta González de Tanago, marta.gtanago@upm.es

MEETING “Management, legislation and social awareness of riparian vegetation”, March 2020, Tartu. Contact : Mart Külvik (Mart.Kylvik@emu.ee), Ragnhildur Sigurdardottir (raga@nett.is), Roland Jansson (roland.jansson@umu.se)

ANNUAL MEETING and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, Feb. 2020, Thessaloniki
Contact : Eleni Abraham (eabraham@for.auth.gr), Simon Dufour (simon.dufour@univ-rennes2.fr)

CONVERGES STSM, Training school, Workshops, Conference grants

STSM - GRANT Period 3

A call for applications for STSM grants is open - deadline 30 June 2019.

It is addressed the aims of the CONVERGES programme: to establish a baseline in the state of knowledge regarding riparian vegetation across Europe, coordinate research efforts, foster new collaborations, share new techniques, contribute to knowledge conversion from science to

practitioners and to COST Inclusiveness Target Countries, and to promote practitioners' research interests in the scientific community.

Applications from Early Career Investigators (i.e. An individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate) and those from EU Inclusiveness Target Countries are encouraged.

Contact : Rob Francis - STSM Coordinator; robert.francis@kcl.ac.uk.

TRAINING SCHOOL “Phytocoenological databases and numerical methods to analyse riparian vegetation data”, Oct. 2019, Sofia

Contact : Dejan Mandzukovski (d_mandzukovski@yahoo.com), kiril vasilev (kiril5914@abv.bg) and Marta González de Tanago (marta.gtanago@upm.es)

WORKSHOP Genetic conservation and riparian restoration, 4-5 Sep 2019



The workshop is dedicated to riparian vegetation genetic conservation and restoration measures. The objective of the meeting is to work on the progress about synthesis in two kinds of responses to riparian vegetation degradation: genetic conservation and riparian restoration measures.

Location: at the Singidunum University in Belgrade, Serbia (<http://eng.singidunum.ac.rs>).

Contacts: Jelena Milovanović <jmilovanovic@singidunum.ac.rs> and Roland Jansson <roland.jansson@umu.se>

CONFERENCE GRANTS for Early Carrier Investigators from Inclusiveness Target Countries (oral/poster presentations on the topic of the Action).

Contact: Daniel Bruno Collados (dbrunocollados@um.es)

CONVERGES Publications



REPORT: RIPARIAN ZONE / RIPARIAN VEGETATION DEFINITION: PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is connected to clarification of the elements of the riparian zone and the riparian vegetation of fluvial systems. It is already available on the CONVERGES web:

<https://converges.eu/resources/riparian-zone-riparian-vegetation-definition-principles-and-recommendations/>



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".



PM Rodríguez-González et al., "A spatial stream-network approach assists in managing the remnant genetic diversity of riparian forests", (2019) The conservation of genetic diversity in riparian forests is largely driven by the connectivity between populations along the hydrographic networks. The study, led by a research team from Forest Research Centre, Instituto Superior de Agronomía, has been published 1/05/2019, in the Journal Scientific Reports, Nature group. Link with direct access to the article: <https://rdcu.be/bzLwo>

EXTERNAL ISSUES

External Publications – calls



Water – Open Access Journal:

"Human-Induced Changes to Aquatic Communities: Monitoring and Ecological Restoration"

Freshwater ecosystems have experienced intense, multiple and long-standing human pressures that have caused damage to aquatic and riparian biodiversity and contributed to their being considered one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world. Based on this information, management and restoration actions have been developed to try to reverse this environmental degradation. However, how aquatic communities respond to multiple anthropogenic impacts and especially to restoration actions, are still poorly understood. This Special Issue aims to compile experiences of the biomonitoring of impacted and restored inland water ecosystems around the world to gain insight into human-induced changes to freshwater communities in a framework of global change and identify effective restoration actions to recover them. **Deadline 25 June 2019**

More on: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/human_aquatic_communities



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

FORESTS – Open Access Journal

Special Issue "Spatial and Temporal Patterns and Ecosystem Services of Riparian Forests". A special issue of *Forests* (ISSN 1999-4907), IF 1,956. This special issue belongs to the section "Forest Ecology and Management".

This Special Issue will gather selected papers on the dynamics and functioning of riparian forests as providers of ecosystem services, as well as contributions on their valuation, and on how to best monitor, manage and preserve riparian forests. Original research, theoretical and overview papers are welcome.

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **30 November 2019**



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

CONVERGES STSM Review

STSM title: New methodological approaches to elaborate forest vegetation

STSM start and end date: 03/03/2019 to 17/03/2019

Grantee name: Ali KAVGACI Southwest Anatolia Forest Research Institute, Antalya, Turkey

Host Institute Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

The STSM was carried out in the frame of 3 goals: 1) the stratification of large scale vegetation data (Mediterranean forests of Turkey) and extracting the relevés of riverine and floodplain forests for data analysis, 2) numerical classification and ordination of the data and 3) interpretation of the results and understanding the biological and ecological connection of riverine and floodplain forests with zonal forest vegetation. These studies were carried out by using computer programs, numerical analyze techniques, which are widely used in vegetation ecology studies in the world and: TURBOVEG, JUICE, PC-ORD and CANOCO.

During the studies, special attention was paid to the classification of riverine woodlands in Mediterranean Turkey. For this goal, all relevés collected from the phytosociological studies were subjected to the classification analyses (Figure - Sorensen similarity measure and Flexible Beta (-0.25) in the PC-ORD program) and ordination analyses. In result, 8 different vegetation woodlands from Mediterranean Turkey were described. These vegetation types with their diagnostic species are as follow:

1. *Carex otrubae – Liquidambar orientalis* forests

Diagnostic species: *Carex distachya*, *Carex otrubae*, *Cladium mariscus*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Festuca arundinacea* subsp. *arundinacea*, *Galium rivale*, *Iris xanthospuria*, *Juncus inflexus*, *Juncus sparganiifolius*, *Liquidambar orientalis*, *Mentha suaveolens*, *Myosotis lithospermifolia*, *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, *Poa angustifolia*, *Poa trivialis*, *Polygala monspeliaca*, *Polygonum lapathifolium*, *Rumex tmoleus*, *Rumex tuberosus* subsp. *creticus*, *Samolus valerandi*, *Scirpoides holoschoenus*, *Scrophularia scopolii* var. *scopolii*, *Scrophularia umbrosa*, *Silene lycaonica*, *Smilax aspera*, *Teucrium scordium* subsp. *scordioides*, *Tremastelma palaestinum*, *Trifolium resupinatum* var. *microcephalum*, *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*

2. *Adiantum capillus-veneris - Liquidambar orientalis* forests

Diagnostic species: *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, *Alnus orientalis*, *Arum dioscoridis* var. *dioscoridis*, *Campanula peregrina*, *Epilobium parviflorum*, *Liquidambar orientalis*, *Plantago major*, *Populus nigra* subsp. *caudina*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Schoenus nigricans*

3. *Alnus orientalis - Liquidambar orientalis* forests

Diagnostic species: *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Alnus orientalis*, *Berula erecta*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Carex distans*, *Carex flacca*, *Carex muricata*, *Carex remota*, *Crataegus microphylla*, *Equisetum telmateia*, *Euphorbia stricta*, *Ficus carica*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Galium aparine*, *Hedera helix*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Liquidambar orientalis*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, *Oenanthe silaifolia*, *Periploca graeca*, *Polygonum salicifolium*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Punica granatum*,

Ranunculus constantinopolitanus, *Rumex sanguineus*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Samolus valerandi*, *Senecio aquaticus s. erraticus*, *Smilax excelsa*

4. *Pinus brutia – Platanus orientalis* forests

Diagnostic species: *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Cercis siliquastrum*, *Cistus creticus*, *Crepis sancta*, *Cupressus sempervirens*, *Erica manipuliflora*, *Filago eriocephala*, *Fontanesia philliraeoides*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Pinus brutia*, *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Quercus coccifera*, *Securigera securidaca*, *Thymbra spicata*, *Valerianella vesicaria*, *Veronica arvensis*; *Cardaria draba s. draba*, *Equisetum ramosissimum*

5. *Mentha longifolia - Platanus orientalis* forests

Diagnostic species: *Bromus sterilis*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Mentha longifolia*, *Ostrya carpinifolia*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Vitis vinifera*

6. *Alnus orientalis - Platanus orientalis* forests

Diagnostic species: *Alnus orientalis*, *Arbutus andrachne*, *Avena barbata*, *Cotinus coggygria*, *Gonocytisus pterocladi*, *Mentha x piperita*, *Milium vernale*, *Phragmites australis*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Quercus infectoria*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Rubus discolor*, *Stachys sylvatica*, *Styrax officinalis*, *Torilis arvensis*

7. *Vitex agnus-castus - Nerium oleander* scrublands

Diagnostic species: *Bromus rigidus*, *Cakile maritima*, *Catapodium rigidum*, *Daphne gnidioides*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Euphorbia paralias*, *Juncus acutus*, *Medicago marina*, *Myrtus communis*, *Pancratium maritimum*, *Pseudorlaya pumila*, *Urospermum picroides*, *Vitex agnus-castus*, *Vulpia fasciculata*

8. *Juncus littoralis - Tamarix parviflora* scrublands

Diagnostic species: *Aster tripolium*, *Atriplex hastata*, *Chenopodium murale*, *Conyza canadensis*, *Cynanchum acutum*, *Daucus carota*, *Halimione portulacoides*, *Halocnemum strobilaceum*, *Hordeum marinum*, *Juncus littoralis*, *Juncus maritimus*, *Limonium gmelinii*, *Petrosimonia brachiata*, *Polypogon monspeliensis*, *Tamarix parviflora*.

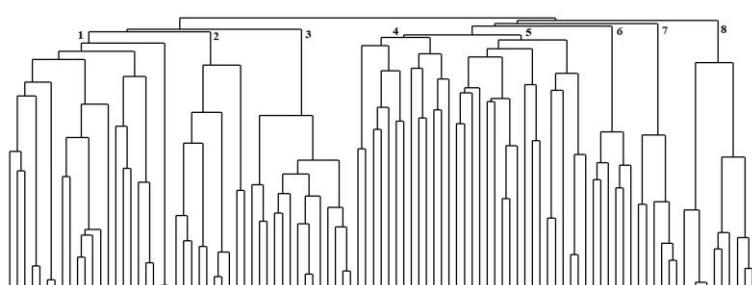


Figure A: Hierarchical diagram of the riverine forests in the Mediterranean Turkey



Figure B Photo from *Alnus orientalis - Platanus orientalis* forests (Aksu river, Burdur – Isparta)



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If you have some information to disseminate – you can send it to:

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