



KNOWLEDGE CONVERSION FOR ENHANCING  
MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN RIPARIAN  
ECOSYSTEMS AND SERVICES COST CONVERGES



**WG 2 Workshop “Visualisation of European responses to  
riparian vegetation degradation” *Belgrade, Serbia*  
September 04<sup>th</sup> -05<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Minutes**

## INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the meeting was done by Jelena, and brief reminder was done by Patricia and Roland regarding:

Progress since the last meeting:

1. Patricia – Made a brief scoping on the Action Time schedule, namely on the fact that WG3 relies on results from WG1 and WG2. Introduced main goals of the three working groups: 1st group is assessing the situation, the WG2 is working on restoration measures and 3rd WG3 is going to deal with the integration process, i.e. identifying misalignments and defining research and management priorities. Also, did a brief on goals progress for genetic conservation sub-group and quick literature review.
2. Roland - Explained three key points in the project with focus on WG2 goals knowledge, management practices and tools, and social responses (institutions, stakeholders, etc.). Also, did a brief on goals progress for restoration sub-group since the last meeting.

## SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – FIRST DAY

### Presentations of participants and joint discussion

The first day of the WG2 workshop on September 4<sup>th</sup> started with Marc Villar's presentation about “National programme on conservation of genetic resources of *Populus nigra* in France: results of 15 years of in situ and ex-situ programmes”.

This presentation was followed by a talk on “Hydrologic alternation and riparian vegetation in Spain: Riparian corridor restoration and flood policy in Scotland” by Roberto Martinez.

Tzvetan Zlatanov and Georgi Hinkov were then presenting their research on “Main threats to riparian forests in Bulgaria and restoration measures”.

Afterward, Seppo Hellsten did the presentation on “Environmental flow and riparian vegetation - examples from hydropower rivers of Finland.

Following next was Eva Papastergiadou with a presentation on “Riparian Landscape Dynamics and Ecosystem services in Mediterranean River of western Greece”.

Also, everybody had a chance to see a presentation from Antonis Kavvadias’s STSM trip to Marrocco. His presentation was about research that he did on environmental pressures in north Marocco.

The first day was concluded with quick discussions in break-out groups: restoration group and genetic conservation group. Both groups had a chance to discuss the issues and plan for a 2nd working day.

## GENETIC CONSERVATION GROUP: DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:

**Chair:** Patricia Rodríguez González

**Minutes:** Patricia Rodríguez González

**Attendants:** Patricia Rodríguez González, Jelena Milovanović, Marc Villar, Georgi Hinkov, Remigiusz Pielech, Filip Alimpić

### Notes:

There was a discussion on the progress of results – Discuss the type of paper and Planning of tasks. The group performed a brainstorming on potential approach for a scientific paper addressing the status and needs on Conservation of Genetic Resources in Riparian Ecosystems in Europe.

The discussion addressed 4 issues:

### 1. General issues related with Genetic diversity and Riparian systems:

- herbaceous vs woody genetic information. Most information, if exists, it is restricted to trees
- what is a riparian species? This can change across countries, check species listed by experts
- Relevance of considering an Ecosystemic Approach in the Conservation of Genetic Resources in Riparian Systems

### 2. General potential scope for a paper:

- 1-Introduction on the importance of riparian ecosystems /update from Riparia and subsequent papers
- 2-Conservation of riparian ecosystem / N2000 network and others
- 3-Genetic conservation of some spp is it occurring or not / Assess this information from Questionnaire – current status section
- 4-Research priorities / management priorities / Assess this information from Questionnaire
- 5-Idea of Best practices conservation project at the National Level / Assess this information from Questionnaire

### 3. Approach proposed to extract information from Questionnaires

Filip will explore potential software to perform \*word analysis, especially for open questions

- Scientific findings / Classical Lit review
- Management progress / Policy review \*From Biodiv – Water –Forestry and see where RV is mentioned / Contact legislation group / Simon to see if they have reviewed the European level

### *4. Discussion on the key issues required to design a Genetic Conservation Plan*

- Intersectoral cooperation and coordination among institutions /Example forestry vs water resources management
- Incorporation of recommendations on origin of plant material (coverage of species that are currently not registered or out of the laws?
- Protected Areas role in genetic resources conservation
- National scale network of Conservation Unit for Riparian ecosystems does it integrate Genetic Resources conservation?
- specific GCU created for key species?
- Certification / future work to labelling system to protect riparian vegetation diversity (possibilities of inclusion in Forest Certification process?

## RIPARIAN RESTORATION SUBGROUP: DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:

**Chair:** Roland Jansson

**Minutes:** Roberto Martinez

**Attendants:** Eva Papastergiadou, Tzvetan Zlatanov, Seppo Hellsten, Antonis Kavvadias, Eleni Abraham

**Notes:**

Roland has put together some slides to guide the discussion. The restoration subgroup agrees to discuss the following items next day.

1. Review the table on restoration measures produced by Roland and amended by others.
2. Talk about the best practice for riparian restoration, we agree that the social element must be added in the discussion, mention to mitigations of flood risk, the inclusion of experiences in other countries (the USA... etc. not only Europe), we agree to exclude Deltas from this work. We have some discussion about peatland restoration (we recognize that in some countries this could be considered as riparian restoration, in others, it might not be the case).
3. We need to create a simplified table for item 2 above.
4. How to extract information from papers and record it.
5. Synthesize and to do a manuscript
6. We agree to replace Geography in relation to the restoration projects by something closer to river type and energy, similar to see action 1. We could add something like biogeographical regions to put it into context.
7. We agree to do some testing of the instructions to complete the information table before sharing with others. This will be discussed.

*Actions 1:* Roberto Martinez to circulate the report on Energy-Pressures-River type by SEPA to allocate measures for restoration. This report is being reviewed internally at SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency). There will be new pressures that people could consider as this report is focused in Scotland, but the same principles would apply.

**SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> – SECOND DAY**

The day started with breaking-out into two working groups: restoration and genetic conservation.

**RIPARIAN RESTORATION GROUP: DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

**Chair:** Roland Jansson

**Minutes:** Roberto Martinez

**Attendants:** Eva Papastergiadou, Tzvetan Zlatanov, Seppo Hellsten, Antonis Kavvadias

**Notes:**

We agree that people should keep uploading papers.

**-/-**

We agree to include grey literature (reports, etc) related to riparian restoration. This will likely be in local languages. Many restoration works have not been published, this could add value to the work.

*Actions 2:* All to add more restoration projects mainly from grey literature and reports etc.

We quickly review the “box folder” with all papers and excel files.

*Action 3:* Roland to send the link to the “Box-Folder” to Eva and Tzvetan, they don’t have the link. (other members could request this link).

-2-

We review the table with restoration measures and we discuss several fields. Roland update the fields and the last version of this document should be in the Box Folder. More changes were made in this table later.

-3-

We complete the table of best practice guidance (principles):

Time for recovery could be assessed in RBMP cycles (6 years), or decades, etc

We could include cases of GES and GEP, we duplicate the best practice table to compare methods. We complete a table with new fields. We discuss and complete the table with the different elements.

The idea is to use this table as a checklist when reading the papers.

*Action 4:* Roland to describe the cells to tick the boxes. I.e. to make this understandable for everyone who wasn’t in this meeting. Action on Roland to create that excel file to tick boxes.

We discuss the idea of including bad practice cases. The tick boxes above would identify this. A new column has been added to highlight and comment when this happens, i.e. the principles have not been considered. E.g. social failure removing weirs with attractive for communities because they like the water tables, meandering rivers that are not active meandering in ref condition (lack of understanding of the processes).

-4-

We work on the restoration measures spreadsheet to agree on how to record info. This table has been updated in the box folder:

In the definition of variables. We create a new column C to explain how to complete each element of the table. Some rows have been modified or removed.

We create a new tab with pressures.

We create a new tab with river types.

*Action 4:* RM to review the list of pressures against the IUCN list.

GENETIC CONSERVATION SUBGROUP HAD THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:

**Chair:** Patricia Rodríguez González

**Minutes:** Patricia Rodríguez González

**Attendants:** Patricia Rodríguez González, Jelena Milovanović, Marc Villar, Georgi Hinkov, Remigiusz Pielech, Filip Alimpić

**Notes:**

The group was discussing the countries which should be contacted until September 20th, 2019. Following countries were assigned to the attendees:

- Finland - **Seppo**
- Scandinavian countries – **Roland**
- Turkey, Ukrania, Moldova, Romenia – **Georgi**
- Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Russia – **Patricia**
- Slovakia, Ukrania, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, Hungary – **Remek**
- Belgium, Italy, Austria, UK, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland – **Marc**
- Greece, Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, Slovakia, Russia, Hungary - **Jelena**

Also, there was extended the discussion about the extent of the literature review and skeleton of the publication.

This was followed by a topic involving intranetwork collaboration, and two main points were made:

- Ask WG2 legislation group about EU level consideration of RV – Patricia asks SD
- Ask WG2 Restoration group about what info are them collecting on the topic

## MEETING CONCLUSIONS

Both groups report together on work progressed over the two days.

Roland summarised the discussion in the restoration group. The group recognizes the importance on be prepared to interact with WG3. WG3 will start working in Oct 2019. We should plan our working bearing in mind this link. Timeline to show how to input WG3 over time.

*Action 5:* RJ to do the first contact in Sept/Oct 2019.

The group to review paper of interest “Ecological restoration across the Mediterranean basin...”

*Action 6:* Patricia to add the paper in the box (Nunes et al 2016).

Patricia Rodriguez reports on the discussion in the genetic group. Tasks and dates have been allocated to produce a paper on October 2020.

*Action 7:* Marc Villar: to check Flobar Project report (EU project) on floodplain forests (The Flooded Forest: guidance for policymakers and river managers in Europe on the restoration of floodplain forests; <https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/flobar2/>).

Work was done today in the restoration group – Outputs

- 1- Set a list of actions in yellow
- 2- Draft version of the best restoration practice table
- 3- New version of the table with restoration measures
- 4- Instructions to extract info from papers
- 5- Time line
- 6- Task allocation

## TIMELINE AND TASKS:

### I.SUBGROUP RIPARIAN RESTORATION:

Roland will circulate how to proceed with the first round of papers to test the procedure. Roland will also contact WG3 in September and October 2019. The next meeting in Thessaloniki will also provide time to discuss together.

1. The new version of the table based on discussions at this meeting. DONE. Other members of COST action to review.
2. *September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019* - Instructions on extracting information from individual papers/reports.
3. Test phase: Try going through a few papers each.
4. *October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019* - Skype meeting to discuss issues.
5. *November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019* - Papers in Box folder divided up among us and information extracted and entered into excel sheet.
6. *December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019* - Information summarized and analyzed.
7. *January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020* - Summary reviewed and discussed by the group.
8. *April 2020* - The first draft of manuscript and interaction with WG3
9. *May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020* - Draft reviewed by group

### II.SUBGROUP GENETIC CONSERVATION:

Deadlines for the working group were established in the following manner:

1. *September 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019* - during the meeting in Belgrade the GC group discussed outline for the publication.
2. *September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019* - By this date, all additional interviews should be collected + Geographic Coverage – distributed countries to be addressed among the participants and other collaborators
3. *September/October 2019* - Review of Scientific Literature and policy on Riparian conservation status should be done.

- a. For the Lit Review, Includes using search terms restricted to “conservation”, “management of genetic resources” and “riparian”.
  - b. For the Policyt review: Includes communicate with Legislation subgroup
- 4. *November 1st, 2019* - November 30th, 2019 – STSM of Filip Alimpić will take place when all data should be collected from interviews
  - a. Data analysis of interviews/word analysis will be done with text analysis tools.
  - b. Main findings will be highlighted and the initial draft will be ready.
- 5. *November 30th, 2019* - Deadline to contact potential contributors.
- 6. *January 15th, 2020* – Output (report/ms) for next MC meeting in Thessaloniki – ready to input for WG3
- 7. Deadline to send contribution as a co-author is to be decided by the core group.
- 8. *October 15th, 2020* - Paper submission