



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020 / Issue 6

BRIEFS

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WORLD WETLANDS DAY, 2 February 2020 was dedicated to Wetlands and Biodiversity. It is important to remind the important role of wetlands. They are rich with biodiversity and a habitat for a dense variety of plants and animal species, absorb and store water, remove pollutants, help to create conditions for life, food production, recreation, etc. As loss of wetlands is equal to loss of biodiversity an important issue is to highlight wetland biodiversity, its status, to reverse its loss.

The International day of energy efficiency, 5 March 2020, encourages for more sustainable society and renewable energy sources. It is an opportunity to inspire people to support the environment, to become more energy efficient, to be more environmentally friendly, to reduce waste and provide wise resources management.

WORLD WATER DAY, 22 March 2020, was dedicated to Water and Climate Change. Climate changes increases variability in the water cycle, including extreme weather events, reducing the predictability of water availability, affecting water quality and threatening sustainable development and biodiversity worldwide (UN, 2020). As a result in many cases serious negative impacts on humans and biodiversity occur. To mitigate this there is a strong need of sustainable, affordable and scalable water solutions and responsible view focusing on the holistic approach for action and measures obtaining.

Presented days accent on fundamental aspects connected also to the riparian ecosystems. They were celebrated worldwide. But due to the critical situation with the coronavirus pandemic some were celebrated remotely. In this regard many changes in all planed events also occur.



LIFE OF THE NETWORK



ANNUAL MEETING and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, 12-13 Feb. 2020, Thessaloniki

The 2020 annual meeting of the COST Action CONVERGES was provided in the ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF TESSALONIKI. On the meeting was presented and discussed advances of the all working groups, members presented key investigations in the area. With quorum was discussed current and initiated work for the Grant Period 3, new COST CONVERGES candidates – already members: Moldavia, Cyprus, initiated events.

For more info: <https://converges.eu/events/2020-annual-meeting-in-thessaloniki-12-13th-february-2020/>



MEETING “Riparian vegetation responses to global changes (regulation, climate, land uses, invasion)”, 29-30 Jan 2020, Madrid.

At the Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería de Montes, Forestal y del Medio Natural was provided a workshop of WG1, organized by Marta González de Tanago, Main goal was discussing the responses of riparian vegetation to global changes, the general perspective, Vegetation responses to flow regime alterations, Vegetation responses to climate change and other pressures and Aspects of assessing riparian vegetation responses to global changes.

For more: <https://converges.eu/events/workshop-riparian-vegetation-responses-to-global-changes-madrid-january-2020/>

CONVERGES Publications



Special Issue "Riparian Vegetation and River Functioning" (ISSN 2073-4441) is now ONLINE. It belongs to the section “Hydrology” and is dedicated to:

- Modelling Climate Change’s Impact on the Hydrology of Natura 2000 Wetland Habitats in the Vistula and Odra River Basins in Poland
- Changes in Vegetation and Geomorphological Condition 10 Years after Riparian Restoration
- Mapping Riparian Vegetation Functions Using 3D Bispectral LiDAR Data
- Model-Based Analysis of Macrophytes Role in the Flow Distribution in the Anastomosing River System

See: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/River_Riparian_Vegetation

Riparian vegetation restoration: Does social perception reflect ecological value?

Pedro Arsénio et al. published a paper in River Research and Applications: They notably discuss why clear identification of

relevant stakeholder groups (those interested in or directly affected by restoration), effective communication, and stakeholder engagement are essential for assuring the success of river restoration projects. See at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/rra.3514>



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/>



It is translated in Albanian, Czech, Finnish, French, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Serbian, Slovakian, Turkish languages.

See on: <https://converges.eu/resources-archive/>



REPORT: USING REMOTE SENSING TO CHARACTERIZE RIPARIAN VEGETATION: A REVIEW OF AVAILABLE TOOLS AND PRESPECTIVES FOR MANAGERS

The objectives of this review is to provide an overview of the use of remote sensing in riparian vegetation studies and to discuss the transferability of remote sensing tools from scientists to managers. It is already available on the CONVERGES web:

https://converges.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Review_remote_sensing_tools.pdf

CONVERGES VIDEOS

To promote the CONVERGES activities several videos was produced.



COST ACTION CONVERGES PRESENTATION

Why a COST Action about riparian vegetation ? What are the goals of the COST Action CONVERGES ? How it works ? Answers on this questions and more can see on:

<https://converges.eu/resources/cost-action-converges-presentation/>



BEING INVOLVED IN THE COST ACTION CONVERGES, A TESTIMONY FROM JEAN PHILIPPE UGILLE (BELGIUM): In March 2019 J. P. Ugille did a STSM at the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Portugal) about "Potential of Copernicus data to assess European riparian zones integrity with landscape metrics" See:

<https://converges.eu/resources/being-involved-in-the-cost-converges-action-a-testimony-from-jean-philippe-ugille-belgium/>



BEING INVOLVED IN THE COST ACTION CONVERGES, A TESTIMONY FROM MARIA SIBIKOVA (SLOVAKIA). In February 2019, Maria did a Short Term Scientific Mission at the at the Czech University of Life Sciences (Czech Republic) to work on the standardization and preliminary analysis of updated riparian forests data from south-east Europe. See:

<https://converges.eu/resources/being-involved-in-the-cost-action-converges-a-testimony-from-maria-sibikova-slovakia/>



BEING INVOLVED IN THE COST ACTION CONVERGES, A TESTIMONY FROM RENATA KJUSHTEREVSKA (NORTH MACEDONIA). In January 2019, Renata did a Short Term Scientific Mission at the Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia) dedicated to methods used for data elaboration in vegetation science. See: <https://converges.eu/resources/being-involved-in-the-cost-action-converges-a-testimony-from-renata-kjushterevska-north-macedonia/>

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CONVERGES INITIATIVES

CONVERGES ID CARD

IMAGINE: Integrative Management of Green Infrastructures Multifunctionality, Ecosystem Integrity and Ecosystem Services: from assessment to technological services
Horizon Europe 2019-2024
Project website: imagine-project.eu

Main objectives of the project

Using multifunctionality assessment as a tool to identify the best practices for the development of green infrastructure (GI) and its services, the project aims to develop a methodology for the assessment of GI and its services, and to develop a methodology for the assessment of GI and its services, and to develop a methodology for the assessment of GI and its services.

Key research topics of IMAGINE

Development of a methodology for the assessment of GI and its services, and to develop a methodology for the assessment of GI and its services, and to develop a methodology for the assessment of GI and its services.



For us all, it would be useful to have a better idea of the projects in which the other participants of CONVERGES network have been or are involved in. This would foreseeably facilitate contacts and potential synergies within the action. The objective of the „Project ID card“ is to enable COST Action members to exchange information on their experience and background of recent or ongoing research and development projects. The „Project ID card“ is a communication tool

which provides on one sheet/slide the most important facts about the project content and contacts for further details. It is expected each of the Action participant to exhibit one or several project ID cards. The cards will be available on the private part of the CONVERGES web site for the action members.

Please do send them to Mila Chilikova-Lubomirova: milasemail@yahoo.com

EXTERNAL ISSUES

Coming Events



The 12th European Conference on Ecological Restoration SERE2020, will be held this year in Alicante, Spain, between August 31 and September 4 2020 (<https://sere2020.org/>). The event will discuss challenges facing ecological restoration in post-2020 Europe, and particularly, how can ecological restoration promote the recovery of damaged, degraded and destroyed socio-ecological systems in these critical times.

There will be two special events on riparian vegetation:

- Symposium: "Restoring continuity and barriers removal in rivers: complexity of managing Ecological Restoration projects" (open to voluntary abstracts submission, until 17 April 2020, but check website for potential updates"
- Worskhop: "Socio-ecological restoration of riparian vegetation by integrating biotic and abiotic pressures"

Publication calls



Call: Special Issue "Sustainable Management of Semi-Aquatic Ecosystems",

an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development, MDPI. IF 2,592
Semi-aquatic ecosystems are unique as they are ecotones that have

characteristics of both the adjacent aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem. As ecotones or transition zones, these ecosystems have ecological and biophysical gradients. These areas face constant pressure due to many anthropogenic factors and, especially, agriculture and urbanization. Many of the ecosystems have been cleared for agricultural activities while most of the most population lives in or along riparian areas, wetlands and deltas. Their restoration and conservation is a priority worldwide since they are essential for human well-being.

Deadline for manuscript submission: 15 March 2021. For more info:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/SMSAE

Dissemination web



The RIVEAL (Riparian forest Values and Ecosystem services in uncertain freshwater futures and Altered Landscapes) website is a dissemination tool. Rivers, riverine ecosystems and humans concur for space, water and energy. Riparian forests are multifunctional ecotones that generate a range of goods and services to human well-being and society, collectively called Ecosystem Services, ES. RIVEAL aims to quantify key-ES of riparian forests, and predict the gains/losses of ES under diverse climatic,

land use and water management scenarios in the Portuguese fluvial landscapes.

Find it here: <https://www.riveal.pt>

INITIATIVES:



i-CONN Network: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN) on "Interdisciplinary connectivity: Understanding and managing complex systems using Connectivity Science" is

now recruiting 15 PhD students. Especially ESRs 8 might be esp. interesting for riparian scientists "Changing connectivity properties impacting resilience in riverine landscapes as socio-ecological systems (BOKU, Austria)". See also: <http://iconn.network/>



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COST CONVERGES
simon.dufour@univ-rennes2.fr
<http://converges.eu/>

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

WG 4 Dissemination and outreach of results and outcomes
Team leader: Mila Chilikova-Lubomirovaq IMech-BAS: milasemail@yahoo.com