

## NEWS

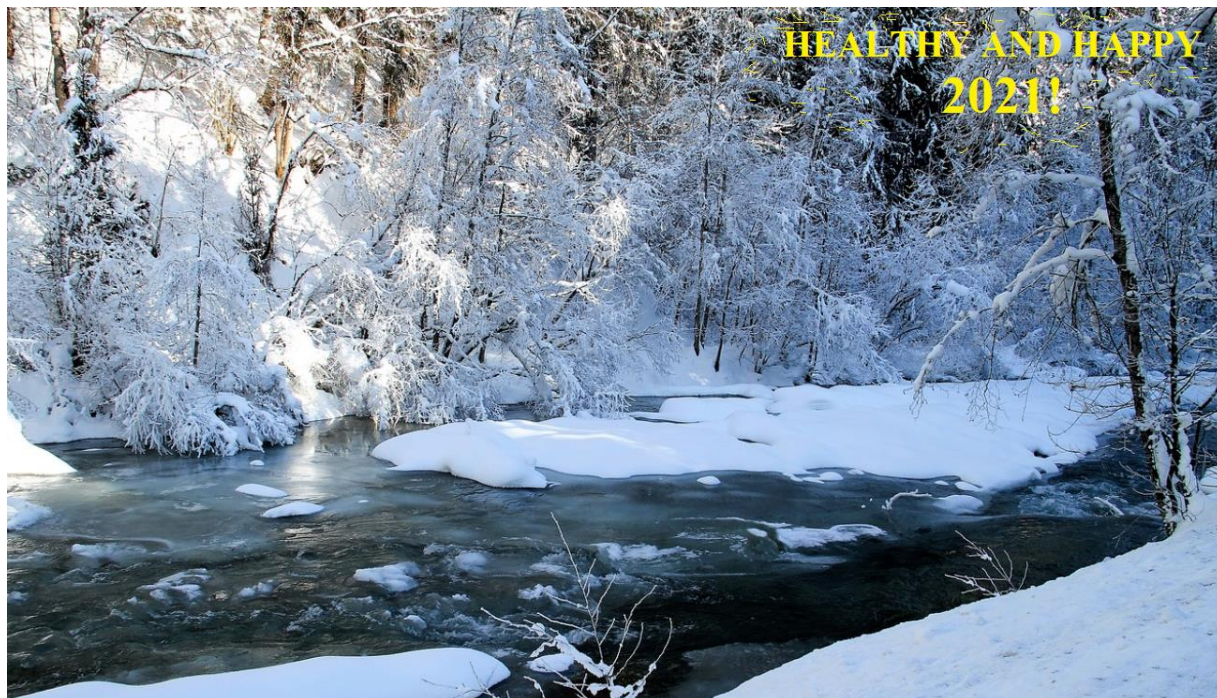
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The coronavirus pandemic still challenge provision of conferences, meetings, trainings and daily life activities. This affects also running the CONVERGES COST Action. Many events are in a process of rethought – to be provided remotely or moved in time in case to find the better way to be effective, to reach the wider auditory of the CONVERGES society and to keep the COST Action alive.

In help the COST Association proposed extension of the current Action Grant Period until 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2021. This is good news for us as we will have six additional months for the scheduled activities, no budget extension. We can continue planning and implementing our activities in a virtual and/or

hybrid manner and why not to hope to return to pre-coronavirus situation.



## LIFE OF THE NETWORK

### CONVERGES Past Events



#### NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN FRANCE DEDICATED TO RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT – OCT. 2020

Two and a half days were proposed in October 2020 in Orléans (France) to encourage exchanges between managers and researchers on the management of riparian zones. Alternating experience feedback, discussion time, workshops and field trips, the event was organised jointly by the Loire Nature Resource Centre, the European network COST Action Converges, and the multidisciplinary BioMareau projects. More on: <https://converges.eu/events/national-event/>

### CONVERGES Coming Events



#### ANNUAL MEETING and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

8 – 9 February 2021, Online

Contact: Ellis Penning ([ellis.penning@deltares.nl](mailto:ellis.penning@deltares.nl)), Simon Dufour ([simon.dufour@univ-rennes2.fr](mailto:simon.dufour@univ-rennes2.fr))



The COST-Converges Training course on using Satellite Images for floodplain monitoring using Google Earth Engine, which will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2021. *Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions this will be an online course.*

Registration will be on the first serve basis, taking the skill filter into account.

Please register via <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8760155896378797840>

For more info: [ellis.penning@deltares.nl](mailto:ellis.penning@deltares.nl)

see : <https://converges.eu/events/training-course-for-using-satellite-images-for-floodplain-monitoring-using-the-google-earth-engine/>



#### FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS – MAY 2021 – BRATISLAVA (SLOVAKIA)

The COST Action CONVERGES is pleased to announce that the first international conference on Riparian Ecosystems Science and Management will be held during spring 2022 in **Bratislava (Slovakia)**.

##### KEY DATES:

- June 2021: Call for abstracts
- 25th October 2021: Abstract submission deadline
- December 2021: Programme and registration open

For contacts: [ripa-1@sciencesconf.org](mailto:ripa-1@sciencesconf.org)

### CONVERGES Publications

#### ecomandanga

DESCUBRIENDO LOS SERVICIOS ECOSISTÉMICOS DE LA VEGETACIÓN DE RIBERA

In Ecomandanga was published a dissemination post in Spanish about the ecosystem services provided by riparian vegetation, inspired in the paper published in Bioscience led by Tenna and our Cost Action. It can be found in

the following link: <https://ecomandanga.org/2020/10/28/descubriendo-los-servicios-ecosistemas-de-la-vegetacion-de-ribera/>



The second **ECRR Technical Newsletter 2** is already available. There is presented the CONVERGES material: How effective have efforts to restore riparian vegetation along rivers been?

More you can find on:

[https://www.ecrr.org/Portals/27/Publications/Technical\\_Newsletter\\_2\\_ -](https://www.ecrr.org/Portals/27/Publications/Technical_Newsletter_2_-_2020_nieuw.pdf)

[\\_2020\\_nieuw.pdf](https://www.ecrr.org/Portals/27/Publications/Technical_Newsletter_2_-_2020_nieuw.pdf)

## **CONVERGES Initiatives**

The Commission asked for some feedbacks about the next Green Deal call notably on the subject “Restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services”. Being that the objective of the call is to develop systemic solutions to maximize synergies among EU priorities, the COST Action CONVERGES suggest to add in the call a specific mention to transitional socio-ecosystems, also called turquoise infrastructures (mainly wetlands, freshwater riparian zones and coastal ecosystems). Transitional socio-ecosystems are worthy of a specific mention in the call because their restoration and conservation represent an effective way, in both monetary and spatial terms, of addressing several Green Deal issues in a synergetic fashion.

See: <https://converges.eu/resources/cost-action-converges-contribution-to-green-deal-call-writing/>

## **EXTERNAL ISSUES**

### **Publication calls**



*water*

**Call: Special Issue “Large Rivers: Ecology and Management in a Changing World”.** Large rivers are unique aquatic ecosystems. They can be found in regions with varied climate and topographic conditions resulting in several large river types reflecting in their geomorphological conditions, channel patterns, physico-chemical

conditions and aquatic and terrestrial biota. Any changes in the catchment are reflected in soil erosion, transfer of substances, biogeochemical cycles, water quality, living organisms, and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. A better understanding of the functioning of large rivers, as well as impacts of key anthropogenic stressors and their effects on aquatic communities and large river ecosystems could lead to sustainable management of these systems for optimal human well-being. This Special Issue focuses on the structure and functioning of large rivers and their catchments, from understanding the natural processes to anthropogenic impacts with an emphasis on sustainable management solutions, including conservation practices.

Special Issue Editors: Gorazd Urbanič & Zlatko Mihaljević

*Deadline for manuscript submission:* 1 June 2021. For more info: [gorazd@urbanzeroinstitute.com](mailto:gorazd@urbanzeroinstitute.com)

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special\\_issues/large\\_rivers\\_ecology\\_management](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/large_rivers_ecology_management)



*forests*

**Call: Special Issue "Riparian Forest Dynamics: Ecological Relations and Species Interactions".** Riparian forests are multifunctional ecotones that generate a large range of goods and services for human well-being and

society. They are both frontier ecosystems and connectors of the upland and the aquatic environment.



This Special Issue will gather selected papers on the dynamics and functioning of riparian forests and its relationships with the aquatic environment and adjacent lands. It is focused on species interactions from the aquatic and riparian communities or from the adjacent ecosystems. Manuscripts revealing the role of riparian forests for the overall improvement of biodiversity and the provision of ecosystems services, especially in highly degraded adjacent ecosystems are welcome.

Guest Editors: Francisca C. Aguiar & Maria Rosário Fernandes

*Deadline for manuscript submission:* 31 April 2021. For more info: [fraguiar@isa.ulisboa.pt](mailto:fraguiar@isa.ulisboa.pt)

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/forests/special\\_issues/Riparian\\_Forests](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/forests/special_issues/Riparian_Forests)



**Call: Special Issue "Sustainable Management of Semi-Aquatic Ecosystems"**, an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development.

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](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/SMSAE)

## COMING EVENTS#



**Virtual vEGU2021 session on Biogeomorphology/Ecogeomorphology: process understanding and their application**

The session covers the large range of biogeomorphic environments and techniques used for investigating such feedbacks.

This year's session particularly focuses on:

- Biogeomorphic processes, rates and feedbacks
- Organism-Habitat interaction
- Biota as ecosystem engineers
- Effects of biogeomorphic interactions on nutrient and pollutant transport
- Biogeomorphology to manage natural hazards

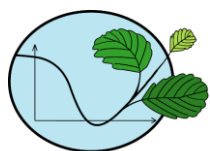
We encourage submissions addressing the challenge of transferring information across scales and findings that are packaged for landscape managers involved in nature-based solutions.

This session focuses on the lessons learned from such approaches: advantages, limitations, best practices, and the future of the discipline of biogeomorphology.

**Abstract submission deadline is the 13.01.2021, 13:00 CET.**

**Details:** <https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU21/session/40266>

## INITIATIVES:



*The team of the project "ALNUS - Screening Alnus glutinosa resistance to an emerging disease under climatic stressors: predicting alder forest resilience across river networks." Invites you to the MID-TERM MEETING titled "RIPARIAN FORESTS: Restoration perspectives under biotic, abiotic and social pressures". This event will take place on **January 20, 2021, 9:00-12:30h Lisbon time**, and will be held in digital format (Zoom*

Platform). The workshop will address the different factors that influence the conservation and recovery of riparian forests in Europe and disseminate results obtained during the first two years of the project. Registration can be done via the link [bit.ly/RiparianForestsWorkshop](https://bit.ly/RiparianForestsWorkshop). For other information, please contact us via the e-mail [alnus.project@gmail.com](mailto:alnus.project@gmail.com)



The new project entitled **Genetic structure of riparian forests plant populations in river networks** emerged as a collaborative initiative among MC Members of the COST CONVERGES action, including Remigiusz Pielech (PI), Patricia María Rodríguez González and Roland Jansson. The project aims *i*) to examine relationships between the physical features of the catchment and river

network and the genetic diversity and structure of plant populations in riparian forests and *ii*) improve our knowledge of the spatial patterns of genetic diversity in river networks.

This project also examines how anthropogenic barriers (dams) influence gene flow and the genetic structure of the populations upstream and downstream of the dams and their reservoirs. The project received funding from the National Science Centre, Poland, and is running 2020-2024. The main study area is the San River catchment, located in southwestern Poland.

For more info: [remekpielech@gmail.com](mailto:remekpielech@gmail.com)

## Dissemination web



**ECOMANDANGA** is an appealing website for scientific findings in ecology that is disseminating among the society in a friendly language (in Spanish).

More you can find on: <https://ecomandanga.org/2020/10/28/descubriendo-los-servicios-ecosistemas-de-la-vegetacion-de-ribera/> and [www.ecomandanga.org](http://www.ecomandanga.org)

## JOB POSITIONS:



**PhD STUDENT** starting in the fall semester 2021 to join the project “Critical Interface Network (CINet) in Intensively Managed Landscapes” in the NSF-supported Critical Zone Collaborative Network (CZCN). We seek applicants with strong field and modeling

skills in fluvial geomorphology or a related area of river science. The student will be part of a multidisciplinary team in governing the dynamics of the critical zone in intensively managed agricultural landscapes of the midwestern United States. The student will be co-supervised by Bruce Rhoads in GIS ([brhoads@illinois.edu](mailto:brhoads@illinois.edu)) and Alison Anders ([amanders@illinois.edu](mailto:amanders@illinois.edu)) in Geology.

Interested individuals should apply to the PhD program in either the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science (deadline Dec. 19, 2020) or the Department of Geology (deadline Jan. 15, 2021).



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

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