NEWSLETTER

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NEWS

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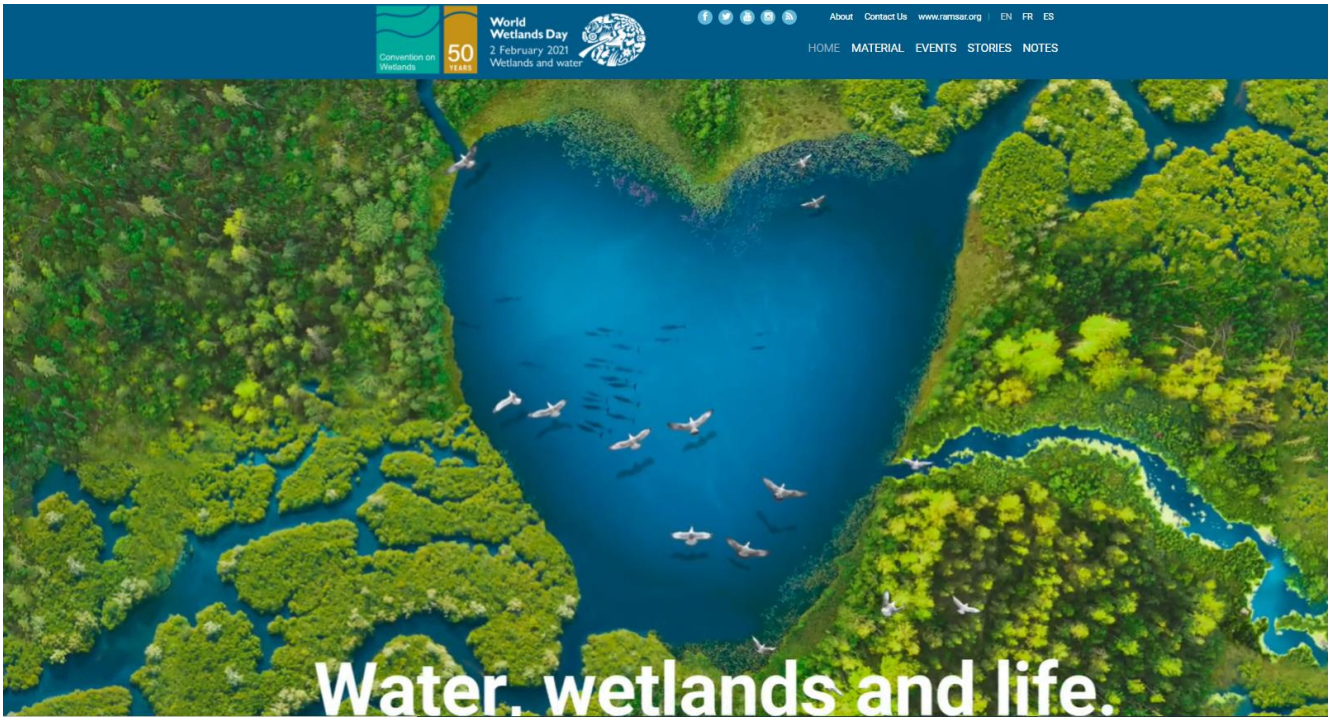
VALUING WATER

This **World Water Day**, 22 March 2021, was about what water means to people, about its true value and how we can better protect this vital resource. More on:
https://www.worldwaterday.org/

But water is crucial also for wetlands: wetlands store and clean water, 40% of the world's species live and breed in wetlands, wetlands are the most valuable ecosystem, they provide many services and more than one billion people rely on them for income, wetlands provide protection from floods and storms. The **World Wetlands Day** was celebrated on 2 Feb. 2021. More on: https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/



LIFE OF THE NETWORK

CONVERGES Past Events

ANNUAL MEETING COST CONVERGES

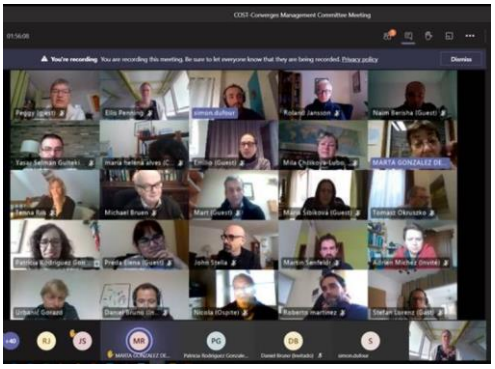
In 2021, the Annual Management Committee meeting of COST CONVERGES – Riparian vegetation science and management was held online and organised by **Deltares** (Delft, the Netherlands) in 8/9th February. This event was coordinated with an international conference, the WG3 workshop, and a Training School (see below).

ONLINE CONFERENCE "RIPARIAN VEGETATION SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT"

*The COST Action CONVERGES organised Monday 8th February 2021 an online conference on the theme "**Riparian vegetation science and management".** Almost 160 participants had the pleasure of listening to lectures by :*

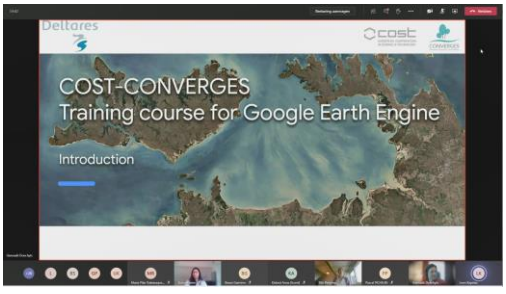
- *Angela Gurnell (Queen Mary University of London)* ***Riparian vegetation research : past, present and future***
- *Matteo Mattiuzzi (JRC)* ***Earth observation for riparian zone survey and management : the Copernicus Land services***
- *and Eva Hernandez (WWF)* ***Living European Rivers Initiative and Nature-based Solutions***

These conferences will soon be online on the website of the COST Action CONVERGES
More on: https://converges.eu/converges/



WG3 WORKSHOP – HOW TO ENHANCE RIPARIAN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ?

A two half days workshop leaded by WG3 was carried out 8th and 9th February, dedicated to discussion about establishing misalignments in riparian knowledge and priorities for knowledge conversion for enhanced management.



TRAINING COURSE FOR USING SATELITE IMAGES FOR FLOODPLAIN MONITORING USING THE GOOGLE EARTH ENGINE (11 - 12 Feb 2021).

The training school was organized by Deltares.
Monitoring the current status of floodplain vegetation and changes therein over time can be challenging and costly due to the vast extend of floodplains in many larger river systems. Satellite images give near real time information on the status

of the dominant vegetation classes within the floodplains and allow for long term time series analysis. More about the course:
https://converges.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COST-Converges-Training-course-Google-Earth-Engine.pdf

An INTERNATIONAL SURVEY was carried out and workshops were organised in various countries in order to gather the vision of the riparian zone managers. Results were use for preparation of report that analyze the results of this work.

CONVERGES Coming Events

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS – 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:

- September 2021: Call for abstracts
- December 2021: Abstract submission deadline
- January 2022: Programme and registration open

For contacts: ripa-1@sciencesconf.org

EUROPEAN RIVER SYMPOSIUM, 26-27 May 2021

The COST Action CONVERGES will be presented by Gorazd Urbanic (WG3 leader) on the European River Symposium 2021. He will chair a session "How to enhance riparian and floodplain vegetation management ? Research, practice and policy".

CONVERGES Publications

Report "MANAGERS' VIEWS ON RIPARIAN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN FRANCE"

An international survey was carried out and workshops were organised in various countries in order to gather the vision of the riparian zone managers. This report presents the results of this work for metropolitan France. More on: https://converges.eu/resources/managers-views-on-riparian-vegetation-management-in-france/

Rodríguez-González, P.M., Colangelo, M., Sánchez-Miranda, Á., Sánchez-Salguero, R., Campelo, F., Rita, A., Gomes Marques, I., Albuquerque, A., Ripullone, F., Camarero, J.J., 2021. Climate, drought and hydrology drive narrow-leaved ash growth dynamics in southern European riparian forests. Forest Ecology and Management 490, 119128.

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0378112721002164
SUMMARY: Fraxinus angustifolia growth was analyzed using dendrochronology in southern european riparian forests. Growth responses were intensified in warmer sites at longer timescales, and tree growth was better coupled with hydrologic regime in sites showing least human alteration. Climate warming coupled with regulation will negatively impact mediterraean narrow-leaved ash riparian forests.

Huylenbroeck, L., Latte, N., Lejeune, P., Georges, B., Claessens, H., & Michez, A. (2021). **What Factors Shape Spatial Distribution of Biomass in Riparian Forests? Insights from a LiDAR Survey over a Large Area**. Forests, 12(3), 371. https://doi.org/10.3390/f12030371 – OPEN ACCESS
LiDAR data were used to map riparian forest biomass across 200 km of rivers in a rural catchment. Biomass distribution was driven primarily by anthropic disturbance rather than geomorphological factors.

EXTERNAL ISSUES

Past Events

The team of the Project ALNUS organized the online Workshop "Riparian Forests - Restoration perspectives under biotic, abiotic and social pressures" on January 20 2021, as part of the Project Mid-Term Meeting, to disseminate the results obtained during the first two years of the project and launch the project website (https://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/proj/alnus/). The workshop featured presentations of three invited speakers including ***Simon Dufour, Roland Jansson*** *and* ***Thomas Jung*** *representing different points of view and experiences about the multiple threats and current challenges for riparian restoration. A participative discussion about the status of riparian forest conservation and the threat of the Phytophthora spread across Europe hydrographic networks closed the workshop. The event was attended by 161 participants of 15 countries, covering diverse profiles, such as public administration representatives from local, basin and national level, private companies, NGOs, students and members of academia; and diverse interests such as riparian ecology, forest pathology, ecological restoration, and alder ecology and management.*

Publication calls

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
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/large_rivers_ecology_management

Special Issue "Ecological Monitoring and Assessment of Freshwater Ecosystems: New Trends and Future Challenges"

We welcome innovative submissions to this Special Issue, which provides a platform to highlight new research findings and significant advances concerning all aspects of bio-assessment and aquatic ecosystems processes. This Special Issue will gather selected papers on the dynamics and functioning of freshwater ecosystems, as well as contributions on monitoring and assessment of ecological quality, biotic metrics/indices, environmental DNA, diversity and functional trait patterns, taxonomic composition, species declines and invasions.
Special Issue Editors: Prof. Dr. Eva Papastergiadou, Dr. Kostas Stefanidis
Submission deadline is 31 December 2021.

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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-Lubomirova, IMech-BAS: milasemail@yahoo.com