

International Water Management Forum 2007:

River Restoration: Decision Making Process and Success Evaluation

September 4 - 6, 2007, Kartause Ittingen, Warth TG, Switzerland

This year's International Water Management Forum (IWMF) organized by the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag), brings together scientists, stakeholders, NPO representatives, and decision makers with the intention to build a network of experts in the field of sustainable river management and restoration, and to provide a platform for discussion on river restoration in relation to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, flood control, societal decision making, and outcome evaluation.



About the Forum

Restoration of rivers and wetlands has emerged as a worldwide activity as well as a booming enterprise. The number of restoration projects has increased exponentially during the past few years and is expected to rise further. The main goal of restoration is to link the sustainable use of rivers and wetlands with human well-being. Restoration, therefore, plays an increasing role in environmental management and policy decisions. However, without the involvement of stakeholders and without being able to prove their success, there is a great risk that public support for restoration projects will decline, in particular if one considers the magnitude of money involved. Therefore, there exists an urgent need to exchange information on restoration practices and evaluation techniques.

More importantly restoration programs have the potential to support the Convention on Biodiversity, the sustainable flood control programs, as well as to further multiple ecosystem services (e.g. aesthetic value, increase of self-purification capacity, provision of clean drinking water, etc.). Therefore, a key challenge is to increase synergies among those programs currently developed and executed in parallel. In order to meet the goals of the EC Water Framework Directive, i.e. to achieve good ecological status for aquatic ecosystems, restoration will become an especially important tool in the near future.

The scientific program of the forum will be organized around three themes, each constituting a session featuring four or five presentations. The three sessions will focus on river restoration in relation to (i) biodiversity and ecosystem services, (ii) decision making, and (iii) evaluation of success. A significant component of the symposium will be devoted to workshops. The forum includes plenary lectures by invited speakers to identify key issues and to provide a foundation for structured workshops. The results of the workshops and panel discussions will be summarized in publications dealing with global perspectives in river restoration and guidelines for assessing restoration projects. Additionally, the IWMF 2007 is planning to provide a basis for a jointly authored EC-proposal.

Venue

The venue for the meeting, Kartause Ittingen in the Canton of Thurgau, is a restored monastery of European importance, which has been partly converted into a conference facility (<http://www.kartause.ch/>). The forum is limited to 40 people. On Thursday afternoon an excursion to the largest restoration site in Switzerland (River Thur) will be organized.



Date

The meeting runs from Tuesday September 4 to Thursday September 6, 2007.

Contacts

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Registration details and costs will be announced in spring 2007.

Webpage: <http://www.iwmf.eawag.ch/>

IWMF 2007 Organizing Committee

Dr. Simone Langhans (Scientific Manager), Dr. Armin Peter, Prof. Dr. Peter Reichert, Prof. Dr. Klement Tockner

The forum is sponsored by **Swiss Re**

