

Near-natural rivers and floodplains are considered to be one of the most valuable and endangered ecosystems in Europe. They represent hotspots of biodiversity and central axes of an ecological network. The key prerequisite for the functional integrity is the interaction between the surface water, floodplains and groundwater compartments. These are exposed to high levels of anthropogenic pressures and impacts. Efforts are being made at national and international levels to safeguard ecological status and functions.

In the light of the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 9) in Bonn a symposium on biodiversity of surface waters, floodplains and groundwater will be held. At the symposium, the importance of these habitats for the conservation of biological diversity, its assessment and protection will be discussed.

National and international experts in environmental policy and management as well as scientists and stakeholders (e.g. members of NGOs) are invited to discuss recent scientific findings. Recommendations will be worked out, how the media-oriented approaches could be further developed, to learn from each other and to show common implementation strategies. An important part will be the discussion of the parallel implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Habitats Directive (FFH) and the Birds Directive (IBA/SPA) and its synergies.

The conference will take place in the

German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
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Organizer

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn (BfN)
German Federal Environment Agency, Dessau (UBA)

Registration and further information

Secretariat of the Conference, c/o ahu AG, Aachen
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Further Information & hotel reservation

www.bfn.de

www.umweltbundesamt.de/service/termine/termine.php#10

The participation on the symposium is free.
Registration is possible until October 17, 2008

Organisation committee
Dietrich Borhardt (UFZ), Thomas Ehlert (BfN), Andreas Hoffmann (UBA),
Christiane Ilg (UFZ), Uwe Koenzen (Planungsbüro Koenzen), Georg Meiners (ahu AG), Volker Mohaupt (UBA), Bernd Neukirchen (BfN), Mathias Scholz (UFZ), Klaus van de Weyer (lanaplan GbR)

Photo: UFZ



Symposium

Biodiversity of surface waters, floodplains and groundwater

October 29./30. 2008
Bonn, Germany

Conference languages are English and German
with simultaneous translation.





12:00: Arrival and registration, coffee

12:30: Welcome

Fritz Holzwarth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Bonn, Germany

12:45: POLICY NEEDS AND ECOLOGICAL BASIS

EU-Policies for Nature Conservation and Water Management (15 min)

Jorge Romero Rodriguez, European Commission DG Environment, Brussels, Belgium

Integrative Strategies for Nature Conservation (15 min)

Rainer Blanke, Deputy President of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Germany

Integrative Strategies for Environmental Protection (15 min)

Thomas Holzmann, Vice President of the Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Germany

Principles and functional interaction of surface waters, floodplains and groundwater (20 min)

Klement Tockner, Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB), Germany

Discussion (10 min)

14:00: WATER PROTECTION AND NATURE CONSERVATION IN EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES

Austria

The „Integrated River Engineering Project for the Danube East of Vienna“ and its effects on the ecology of the river-floodplain system (15 min)

Mathias Jungwirth, University for Natural Resources & Applied Life Sciences, Vienna

The Netherlands

Nature development and Flood Risk Management combined along the River Rhine (15 min)

Henk Nijland, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Rijkswaterstaat, Arnhem

United Kingdom

From evidence to action: whole catchment approaches to linking flood risk management and WFD measures (15 min)

Nick Hardiman, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Bedfordshire

Denmark

The Houting project in Denmark-combining objectives of the Habitat Directive and Water Framework Directive (15 min)

Jan Steinbring Jensen, Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Copenhagen / Gram

Discussion (20 min)

15:20: Coffee break

16:00: SURFACE WATERS AND BIODIVERSITY

References and assessment of biodiversity (20 min)

Isabel Pardo Gamundi, University of Vigo, Spain

Biological indicators and diversity indices to assess changes on water quality in Portugal (10 min)

Paula Cristina Fernandes Tavares, Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Portugal

Measures for the conservation of biodiversity.

Impact of river restoration on different organism groups (20 min)

Daniel Hering, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Discussion (30 min)

17:20: FLOODPLAINS AND BIODIVERSITY

Driving forces, indicators and life history strategies in floodplains (20 min)

Frank Dziock, TU Berlin, Germany

Biodiversity threads in floodplain forests in Europe: what can we do? (20 min)

Annik Schnitzler, University Paul Verlaine Metz, France

Biodiversity of the Meuse floodplain in respect to restoration plans and measures (20 min)

Kris Van Looy, Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), Brussels, Belgium

Discussion (30 min)

18:50: Conclusions

19:00: End of the first day

Dinner in the foyer of the conference hall

9:00: GROUNDWATER AND BIODIVERSITY

Groundwater and biodiversity (20 min)

Jörg Bork & Hans Jürgen Hahn, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany

Ecological assessment of groundwater ecosystems (20 min)

Christian Griebler, Helmholtz-Centre Munich, Germany

Discussion (20 min)

10:00: ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES

The challenges for the Ecosystem Approach in Wetlands (20 min)

Edward Maltby, University of Liverpool, UK

Discussion (10 min)

10:30: Coffee break

11:00: FINAL PANEL AND PLENARY DISCUSSION

Moderation: Dietrich Borchardt (Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ), Andreas Krug (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation - BfN), Edward Maltby (University of Liverpool)

Three moderated panels with input statements and plenary discussion:

11:00: Assessment methods and their applications

11:40: Measures and instruments

12:20: Legal aspects and administration

Members of panels and impulse statements, among others:

- Jim R. Rouquette, The Open University, UK

- Georg Rast, WWF Germany

- Ala Rotaru, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Republic of Moldova

- Stephan Gunkel, BUND, Germany

13:00: Conclusions and outlook

13:30: End of the symposium