

WETNET PROJECT
Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands

WP 2 - Communication

Activity 2.7 – External event report

Project Partner: Italian Centre for River Restoration (CIRF)

Date: January, 15th – 17th 2018

Deliverable 2.7.1 - Event Report

Managing multiple stress for multiple benefits in aquatic ecosystems

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1 Event Details

Title:

Managing multiple stress for multiple benefits in aquatic ecosystems

Type:

Conference

Date:

15-17/01/2018

Location:

Brussel (Belgium)

Programme:

See link below and annex 1.

Link:

http://www.contrattidifiume.it/it/news_eventi/news/Verso-IXI-Tavolo-Nazionale-Levoluzione-dei-Contratti-di-fiume-nei-territori-a-seguito-del-loro-riconoscimento-nel-Codice-dellAmbiente/

Audience:

Around 150 water scientists, managers and policy-makers convened in the time-honoured halls of the Museum of Natural Sciences, Brussels.

WetNet participation:

- Giancarlo Gusmaroli (Italian Centre for River Restoration)

2 Description of the Event

The EU FP7 MARS Project – “Managing multiple stress for multiple benefits in aquatic ecosystems” – celebrated its final conference in Brussels last month.

The event concluded four years of in-depth research by MARS scientists on multi-stressor effects on European surface and ground waters, highlighting the implications for Water Framework Directive (WFD) related management.

3 Relevance for the WetNet Project and the MED territory

Four key messages were reported at the conference:

- Message 1: Mitigating pressure-effects on aquatic ecosystems requires an understanding of multi-stressor impacts.
- Message 2: Environmental ‘noise’ can obscure evidence from multi-stressor/impact relationships in river basins. Experiments can help unravel multi-stressor interactions and impacts.
- Message 3: Multi-stressor interactions are common in rivers and lakes across Europe and need to be considered in River Basin Management. Interactions are highly context-specific, requiring targeted, localised research to inform management.
- Message 4: River Basin Management in Europe will benefit from (more) data-driven analyses, modelling and interpretations which are tailor-made for the river basin to be managed.

REPORT:

http://www.mars-project.eu/files/download/final_conference/mars_final_conference_circular.pdf

4 Concluding Remarks

The scientific description of the WetNet pilot areas where the Wetland Contract will be tested might consider the outcome of this event (see report above) as a relevant reference.

5 Photo Gallery



ANNEX 1 - Event Programme

MARS final conference, January 16-17 2018, Brussels



Schedule

Tuesday, January 16

Scientific event

Forenoon session: Summary of MARS results

Chair: *Anne Lyrche Solheim* (NIVA, NO)

- 09:00 – 09:30 **Introductory keynote: Complex to understand, but simple to manage:
The role of multiple stressors for assessing and restoring Europe's waters**
Daniel Hering (UDE, DE)
- 09:30 – 10:20 **Multiple stressors at the European scale:
Discovering patterns across the continent**
– incl. short presentations on selected key outcomes
Ana Cristina Cardoso (JRC, EC) & *Yiannis Panagopoulos* (NTUA, GR) and collaborators
- 10:20 – 10:50 Coffee break
- 10:50 – 11:40 **Multiple stressors at water body scale:
The MARS experimental studies** – incl. short presentations on selected key outcomes
Erik Jeppesen (AU, DK) & *Stefan Schmutz* (BOKU, AT) and collaborators
- 11:40 – 12:30 **Multiple stressors at the river basin scale:
The 16 case-study catchments** – incl. short presentations on selected key outcomes
Teresa Ferreira (ULisboa, PT) and collaborators
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break
- Afternoon session: Synthesis and outlook
- Chair: *Ana Cristina Cardoso* (JRC, EC)
- 14:00 – 14:20 **Synthesis: Stressors, scenarios and water management**
Laurence Carvalho (CEH, UK)
- 14:20 – 14:40 **Scenarios and models: The science behind the MARS tools**
Markus Venohr (IGB, DE) & *Christian Feld* (UDE, DE)
- 14:40 – 15:00 **What did we learn from MARS? Key findings of the project**
Sebastian Birk (UDE, DE)
- 15:00 – 15:20 **MARS and multiple stressors: what next for freshwater research and management?**
Steve Ormerod (CU, UK)
- 15:20 – 15:40 **Multiple stressors: the need for generality in a context-dependent world**
Ian Donohue (TCID, IE)
- 15:40 – 16:20 Coffee break

- 16:20 – 17:30 **World-Café – Applied aquatic multi-stressor research:**
What can we recommend to river basin management?
 All conference participants
- 19:00 – 22:00 Joint dinner on the museum's balcony (incl. poster session at 20:30)

Wednesday, January 17 Management & policy event

Forenoon session: The operational level –
 MARS outcomes relevant for river basin management

Chair: *Sebastian Birk* (UDE, DE)

- 09:00 – 09:30 **Introductory keynote: The results of MARS and its implications for the water management and research agendas**
Daniel Hering (UDE, DE)
- 09:30 – 10:00 **The suite of MARS tools in support of river basin management**
Markus Venohr (IGB, DE) & *Tom Buijse* (DELTAWARE, NL)
- 10:00 – 10:30 **The missing link: Merging evidence with Bayesian networks**
Christian Feld (UDE, DE) & *Gerben van Geest* (DELTAWARE, NL)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 11:30 **The MARS Guidance: How to deal with multi-stressors in river basin management?**
Anne Lyche Solheim (NIVA, NO) & *Rafaela Schinegger* (BOKU, AT)
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Integrating ecosystem services into river basin management**
Bruna Grizzetti (JRC, IT)
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Key-recommendations for river basin management under water scarcity and toxic stressors** (contributions of the projects GLOBAQUA and SOLUTIONS)
Damia Barcelo (ICRA, ES) & *Werner Brack* (UFZ, DE)
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

Afternoon session: The policy level – Implementing the WFD

Chair: *Lidija Globevnik* (UL, SI)

- 14:00 – 14:20 **Reflections on the 2nd river basin management cycle**
Lourdes Alvarells (EC)
- 14:20 – 14:40 **Options for improved WFD implementation using instruments of the current and future CAP**
Gerard Shortle (EC)

- 14:40 – 15:00 **Understanding multiple pressures and effects on environmental status to support management under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
Angel Borja (AZTI, ES)
- 15:00 – 15:20 **How to improve River Basin Management using integration of various policies?**
Kirsty Blackstock (JHI, UK)
- 15:20 – 15:50 Coffee break
- 15:50 – 16:10 **Towards an integrative water resource management in a bio-economy context**
Per Stålnacke (NIBIO, NO)
- 16:10 – 16:30 **The Future of Water Management in Europe: Outcomes of the MARS e-Conference reviewing WFD implementation**
Laurence Carvalho (CEH, UK)
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Panel discussion: Managing multiple stress for multiple benefits in aquatic ecosystems**
All speakers of the afternoon session, Moderator: *Stefan Schmutz (BOKU, AT)*
- 17:30 – 17:45 **Closing remarks**
Daniel Hering (UDE, DE)