



## European Centre for River Restoration

# COOPERATION ON RIVER RESTORATION

Bart Fokkens

Chairman

Presented by Harald Leummens  
UNDP/GEF “Reducing transboundary degradation in the Kura-Aras river basin”

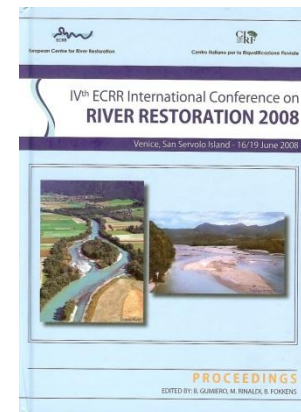
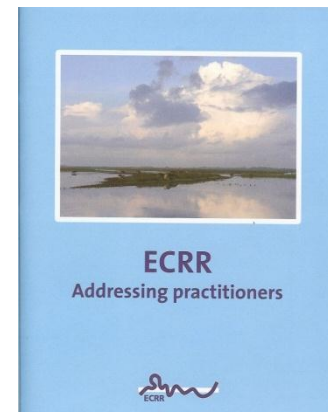


# ECRR ESSENTIALS

- Connecting people (500+)
- Disseminate information
- Best practice knowledge sharing
- Networking – National Centers
- Website: [www.ecrr.org](http://www.ecrr.org)
- Newsletters (electronic)
- Conferences (Venice 2008)
- Seminars, workshops, training
- Projects (EU Life+)



**BASICS OF ECOLOGICAL RIVER RESTORATION:**  
Essential tool to implement “Good Ecological Status”  
An operational introductory e Learning course



Restoring Europe's Rivers



# ECRR VISION on River Restoration

**Ecological** River Restoration is an integral part of sustainable water management

	Early generation scheme (before 1990)	New generation scheme (after 1990)
Objectives	Limited objectives (main focus on nature conservation)	Multiple objectives/benefits for different stakeholder groups
Spatial scope	Limited spatial scope/ site orientation	Broad spatial scope/catchment orientation
Temporal scope	Immediate interventions	Long term vision/strategy
Stakeholders	Limited number of stakeholders	Strong partnerships and participation
Policy fields	Primarily single-sector orientation	Interpolicy linkage/ high public profile
Instruments	Limited instruments	Instrument mix
Management	Simple	Complex



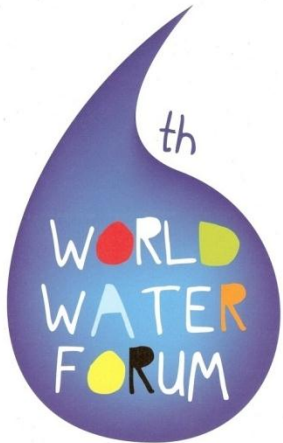
# GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RIVER RESTORATION

- Dynamic characteristics of rivers - work with the river, not against it
- Adapting human needs to natural river systems
- Definition of reference conditions
- Hydrologic connectivity
- Public involvement, social processes and interactions important with increased scale
- Multi-criteria analysis, cost benefit analysis and economic evaluation
- Adequate (long-term) multi-level monitoring



# ECRR and WWF6 PROCESS

JANUARY 17/18 2011 • 1<sup>st</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT  
WORLD WATER FORUM • MARCH 12/17 2012



MARSEILLE, FRANCE '12

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

**Specific European Region  
Priority Target Coordinator**

**Develop know-how on River Restoration  
and Water Ecosystem Conservation**

***2012 – 2015 At least 3 river basin plans include best practice (ecological, hydro-morphological, socio-economical) river restoration measures and strategic land use and land banking plans.***

***2012 - 2015 Delivered field visits, study tours, seminars and conferences for communication and information on new knowledge, know how and capacity development.***



## Commitment: Arpa River basin

- Transboundary basin with unique cultural heritage, important fauna and flora species
- Water management is priority given seasonal water deficit, and impact of climate change
- Seasonal floods, droughts
- Increased competition for water resources: irrigation (200,000 ha), drinking-household,
- On going plans for hydropower expansion





# River basin planning commitment

UNDP/GEF

Reducing Transboundary Degradation  
in the Kura-Aras River Basin



## Pilot basin – Arpa River:

- **Demonstration project on linking aquatic ecology (bio-monitoring, rapid ecological assessment) with environmental flow and water quality;**
- **Development of integrated river basin management (IRBM) plan**





# River restoration commitment

- Ecology under stress - Need to improve habitat quality, protect water quality, water ecological services;
- On-going expansion of hydropower development (12 operational HPPs, 30 in the process of construction);
- Impact of climate change;

## Directions

- Incorporate river restoration practices in the Arpa IRBM plan;
- Awareness raising and capacity development for the planning and implementation of river restoration;
- Development of practical pilot projects







**THANK YOU !**

**[WWW.ECRR.ORG](http://WWW.ECRR.ORG)**