

**MARS  
PROJECT**



Managing Aquatic  
ecosystems and  
water Resources  
under multiple Stress

## The Future of Water Management in Europe: an e-Conference reviewing WFD Implementation

**19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

The aim of this e-Conference is to gather constructive and practical suggestions from the scientific community for the improved monitoring and management of waters across Europe and ideas for more effective implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), scheduled for review in 2019-20.

It is over 15 years since the EU WFD was formally adopted. Since then, Europe has changed. New pressures are recognised, including climate change and associated flood and drought risks, invasive species and a wide-range of emerging pollutants. At the same time new perspectives on environmental management have developed, including payment for ecosystem services, nature-based solutions and circular economies. Given these changes in pressures and policy landscapes, this e-Conference aims to gather scientific opinion on the strengths and weaknesses of current WFD implementation, innovation in monitoring and management and best practice in policy implementation. These opinions will be fed into the consultation process for the review of the WFD.

The eConference will have one key theme per day with four talks across morning and afternoon sessions:

- Tuesday 19th: Monitoring & assessment systems – The good, the bad and the innovative
- Wednesday 20th: Programmes of Measures – How do we best manage multiple stressors?
- Thursday 21st: The Policy Mix – Can we get better integration?

A number of keynote speakers involved in water resources science and river-basin management practice will address these themes during the meeting. The e-Conference format will include live plenary presentations followed by a panel discussion and open online submission of questions to the speakers and panellists. Following this, conference attendees will be invited to complete an online questionnaire on options of improvements in WFD implementation. Questions will address the talk topics.

Presentations will be recorded and will be available on the conference website for at least 1 year after the conference. A synthesis of the e-Conference will also be written up communicating questionnaire results and recommendations from the conference participants on the review of the WFD.

**To register for the e-Conference please email Emma Brodie [embrod@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:embrod@ceh.ac.uk), quoting “MARS eConference” in the subject line.**

You will then receive a registration email detailing how to join the eConference. Registration is free.

The eConference is being organised by the EU MARS project (Managing Aquatic ecosystems and water Resources under multiple Stress) funded under the 7th EU Framework Programme, Theme 6 (Environment including Climate Change), Contract No.: 603378 (<http://www.mars-project.eu>).

### Day Themes & Topics

Talks will review strengths & weaknesses of the WFD, innovations and best practice and importantly recommendations to strengthen implementation. Lead authors and presenters are listed below

All times are Central European Summer Time

### **Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Sep: Monitoring & assessment systems – The good, the bad and the innovative**

10:45 – 11:00 Welcome to eConference & day from Chair

Anne Lyche Solheim (NIVA, Norway)

11:00 – 11:30 Strengths and weaknesses of current assessment systems

Martyn Kelly (Bowburn Consultancy, UK)

11:30 – 12:00 Innovation in Monitoring – Satellites, citizens and sequences

Laurence Carvalho (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, UK)

12:00 – 12:30 Panel Q&A with chair, speakers & guest panellist

Guest panellist: Christine Argillier (Irstea, France)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 14:30 Tracking progress in a one-out-all-out world

Daniel Hering (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

14:30 – 15:00 A new biomonitoring approach to optimize mitigation and recovery

Annette Baattrup-Pedersen (Aarhus University, Denmark)

15:00 – 15:30 Panel Q&A with chair, speakers & guest panellist

Guest panellist: Peter Pollard (SEPA, UK)

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Sep: Programmes of Measures – How do we best manage multiple stressors?**

10:45 – 11:00 Welcome to day from Chair

Ursula Schmedtje (Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Germany)

11:00 – 11:30 Stressor situation in Europe

Lidija Globevnik (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)

11:30 – 12:00 How do we diagnose the cause of degradation under multiple stressors?

Christian Feld (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

12:00 – 12:30 Panel Q&A with chair, speakers & guest panellist

Guest panellist: Dr Jeremy (Jay) Piggott (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 14:30 How multiple stressors are managed under water scarcity? The case of the Ebro River

Sergi Sabater (University of Girona and ICRA, Spain)

14:30 – 15:00 Implementation of Nature-based Solutions to supply multiple benefits

Victor Beumer (Deltares, Netherlands)

15:00 – 15:30 Panel Q&A with chair, speakers & guest panellist

Guest panellist: Teresa Ferreira (Univ. of Lisbon, Portugal)

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Sep: The Policy Mix – Can we get better integration?**

10:45 – 11:00 Welcome to day from Chair

Ana Cristina Cardoso (European Commission Joint Research Centre)

11:00 – 11:30 Integrating ecosystem service concepts into River Basin Management

Bruna Grizzetti (European Commission Joint Research Centre)

11:30 – 12:00 Synergies and conflicts between policies – how do we join up?

Josselin Rouillard (Ecologic, Germany)

12:00 – 12:30 Panel Q&A with chair, speakers & guest panellist

Guest panellist: Angel Borja (AZTI, Spain)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 14:30 Joining up water & agricultural policy

Sindre Langaas (NIVA, Norway)

14:30 – 15:00 Legal Issues for Policy Integration

Sarah Hendry (University of Dundee, UK)

15:00 – 15:30 Panel Q&A with chair, speakers & guest panellist

Guest panellist: Kirsty Blackstock, James Hutton Institute, UK

15:30 – 15:45 Closing remarks to eConference

Sebastian Birk (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany)