

RiverCare Newsletter

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Preface

RiverCare researchers prepare this newsletter twice per year to get you up to speed with our progress! We are now in the third of six-years program (2014-2019). This edition revolves around the topic of the first promotional video: “RiverCare, where multiple actors work together”. We share tips from our experiences in working with scientific and professional communities. The goal is to get the knowledge into the work-practices of the users.

Enjoy this newsletter and join us in the 2017 activities!

RiverCare, where multiple actors work together

Collaboration and interactive communication is essential for our research ([Watch our first video](#) 📺). We work with representatives from universities and knowledge institutes, consultancies, and water management authorities. This is an excellent way of knowledge valorization. To that end, some of the instruments we use are: Knowledge Dissemination days, RiverCare days and user committee meetings. Here some insights and useful tips to plan future activities!

Knowledge dissemination days: Mid-term progress

October 31st and November 1st 2016
at Rijkswaterstaat in Utrecht

By Denie Augustijn and Laura Verbrugge

We organized the knowledge dissemination days ([Fig. 1-1](#)) to exchange knowledge gained by the researchers with the users. In these two days, researchers and supervisors prepared interactive workshops to present their findings so far. After short presentations there was ample time for discussion about the potential use of RiverCare results.

“Excellent presentations. Nice to hear what is being done.”

About 30 participants were present each day among the different type of users ([Fig. 1-2](#)). The days were well received. Participants indicated that they learned something new and that they valued the interaction with the researchers. The implication for the participants’ daily work was not always evident. As we are only halfway the program, we can learn from these days for further dissemination of the RiverCare results.



Fig. 1-1. *Left*) Welcome desk at the venue of the Knowledge dissemination days; *Right*) Wrap up session at the end of a workshop

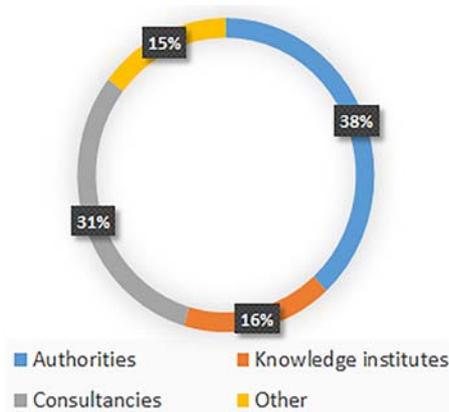


Fig. 1-2. Distribution of participants

“I would have liked to hear more about the end products and the application in river management.”

To conclude, interaction is not a goal in itself. Often a combination of interaction and presentations of new insights seemed to work best.

Tips to improve future knowledge dissemination days are:

- to schedule enough time for interactive elements and sessions;
- to invite more and other potential users; and
- to combine sessions with a field trip or excursion.

RiverCare day on interactive knowledge dissemination

On November 29th 2016, the fourth RiverCare day was held at Radboud University in Nijmegen

By Remon Koopman and Rob Leuven

RiverCare researchers and supervisors meet twice per year in a 'RiverCare day'. The overarching theme of this edition was interactive knowledge dissemination: **How can you get your message across?**

- The day started with short updates on all subprojects, the RiverCare promotion episodes and evaluation of the knowledge dissemination days.
- **Prof. dr. Noelle Aarts (WUR, UVA)** inspired us about dissemination and dialogues between stakeholders and researchers. The take home message was that by listening to stakeholders, you can acknowledge their views.
- In the afternoon, three workshops were organized on different approaches for disseminating knowledge (See **Boxes**).
- An annotated walk around the 'Spiegelwaal' was guided by **Harry Meesters (Rijkswaterstaat)**.
- A new group photo was taken near the inlet work of this side channel of the River Waal (see Fig. 2). The day ended with a joint dinner and the following take home message:

“Critically analyze the information needs and views of your audience before communicating your project results.”



Fig. 2. RiverCare group photo. Special thanks to the photographer William Moore.

User committee meetings

Twice a year 'on location', i.e. at the offices of the users

By Ralph Schielen

STW, the organization which granted RiverCare, requires organizing the User Committees (UC's) to gather and discuss the progress of the research. As there are eight different projects in RiverCare, there are eight UC's. In these committees, the users with cash or in kind contributions to the project are represented, as well as the project leader and the daily supervisors of the researchers. A representative of STW is also always present. Although it is a requirement by STW, it is by no means a burden to organize these meetings.

- The meeting starts with a company presentation, such that researchers get an impression of the kind of work that is done by the company.
- Researchers present their progress (focusing on the application) and users can indicate their needs and expectations.
- In this way, they get added value for their contributions, and can offer dedicated BSc and MSc projects to stimulate the research.

“User committees are the perfect moment to give a state of affairs of the research and to monitor whether the research is still on track.”

How to reach a general public?

Iris Roggema (RU) gave a workshop on getting a message across to the general public using traditional and social media. Tips to improve future communication efforts are:

- Choose your audience narrowcasting instead of broadcasting;
- Show what is new and relate this to everyday life; and
- End with a comprehensive conclusion or goal.

Sustainable DeltaGame

Andrew Warren, Deltares and Hans Middelkoop, (UU) presented this game that enables different stakeholders to better understand water systems and their related restoration and protection measures.

- The decisions on flood protection are a reaction to previous events.
- The most optimal interventions are a combination of measures over time.
- Too long deliberation might mean it is too late to take action.

Serious gaming with EcoSim

Remon Koopman and Frank Collas (RU) introduced EcoSim. It allows policymakers and managers to develop and evaluate river management strategies for natural areas.

- Monitoring is vital to determine the effectiveness of measures;
- Allow for 'trial and error' learning;
- Provide insight in the interaction of multiple measures on target species.

Research Spotlights

Research topics and methods vary significantly across Rivercare. This is due to the multiple disciplines: **river hydraulics and geomorphology**, **ecology** and **environmental management**. To give a project overview, we relate researchers' contact details (i) and their last (submitted) publication, including download link (d) when available. For a more in-depth insight into RiverCare progress refer to the **Book of abstracts** (d) of the Knowledge Dissemination Days.

PROJECT	LAST (SUBMITTED) PUBLICATION
A: Optimizing longitudinal training dam design	
A1. Timo de Ruijsscher (i)	Dune and alternate bar detection in a laboratory flume using a 3D laser scanner. <i>River Flow Conference 2016, St. Louis, USA</i>
A2. Frank Collas (i)	Species sensitivity for assessing effects of river measures on native and non-native mollusc assemblages. <i>2nd meeting of freshwater bivalves 2015, Buffalo, USA</i>
B: Side channels and erosion of natural banks	
B1. Pepijn van Denderen (i)	Characteristics of side channels in the River Ain, France <i>River Flow Conference 2016, St. Louis, USA</i>
B2. Gonzalo Duró (i)	Research on Natural Bank Erosion Processes (d) <i>Book of abstracts NCR-days 2015, Nijmegen, NL</i>
C: Regional River Systems	
C1. Jasper Candel (i)	Holocene lowland stream morphodynamics in a peat-filled valley system (d) <i>Book of abstracts NCR-days 2015, Nijmegen, NL</i>
C2. Tjitske Geertsema (i)	Simultaneous occurrence of discharge peaks in a large river and its lowland tributaries <i>River Flow Conference 2016, St. Louis, USA</i>
D: Sediment nourishment	
D1. Victor Chavarrias (i)	Ill-posedness of the Saint-Venant-Hirano Model. (d) <i>IUGG Conference Mathematical Geophysics, 2016, Paris, FR</i>
D2. Liselot Arkesteijn (i)	Simplified treatment of flow and morphodynamic factor in long-term morphodynamic computations. <i>IUGG Conference Mathematical Geophysics, 2016, Paris, FR</i> (d)
E: Ecosystem services of floodplain monitoring and rehabilitation	
E1. Valesca Harezlak (i)	Floodplain rehabilitation: linking processes to patterns <i>Book of abstracts NCR-days 2015, Nijmegen, NL</i> (d)
E2. Remon Koopman (i)	Suitability of landscape classification systems for quantification of ecosystem services in BIO-SAFE. <i>Book of abstracts NCR-days 2015, Nijmegen, NL</i> (d)
E3. Wimala van Iersel (i)	River floodplain vegetation classification using multi-temporal high-resolution colour infrared UAV imagery. <i>GEOBIA 2016 : Solutions and Synergies.</i> (d)
F: River governance: uncertainties, participation and rehabilitation	
F1. Koen Berends (i)	Sensitivity of model performance to systematic change: an idealized study of river hydraulics <i>Submitted to Journal of Water Resources Research</i>
F2. Laura Verbrugge (i) Wessel Ganzevoort	Implementing participatory monitoring in river management: stakeholders' perspectives and incentives. <i>Journal of Environmental Management (in press).</i> (d)
F3. Jan Fliervoet (i)	Towards a joint maintenance approach for floodplain management in the Netherlands (d) <i>Coauthor of book chapter in "Challenges of Collaboration in Environmental Governance", 2016</i>
Project G: Communication program outcome	
G1. Robert Jan den Haan (i)	Serious gaming environment to collaboratively explore river and floodplain maintenance strategies. <i>Games and learning Alliance conference 2016, Utrecht, NL</i> (d)
G2. Juliette Cortes (i)	Storylines as an alternative method to communicate river research to a multidisciplinary audience. <i>Submitted to IMSCI Conference 2017 : Society, Cybernetics and Informatics</i>
Project H: Self supporting hydrosystems and valorisation	
H1. Menno Straatsma (i)	Optimizing river management: integrated assessment of floodplain interventions (d) <i>Reform Conference 2015, Wageningen, NL</i>
H2-1. Swinda Pfau (i)	A Silver Bullet to Ensure a Sustainable Bioeconomy? (d) <i>Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment, 2015, Brighton, UK</i>
H2-2. Astrid Bout (i)	Value creation in maintenance of river systems <i>Presentation RiverCare dissemination days, 2016, Utrecht</i>
H3. Nick Leung (i)	RiverCare export possibilities <i>Presentation RiverCare dissemination days, 2016, Utrecht</i>

RiverCare mid-term review

By Ralph Schielen and Denie Augustijn

The Knowledge Dissemination Days were combined with the mid term review of RiverCare. For this, an international committee was selected, who were all experts on various elements of river research. Committee members are from Germany, UK, USA and the Netherlands. The committee was asked to evaluate the program up to now. They did this by interviewing the project leaders, a selection of the users and stakeholders and the funding agency STW.

Some general observations and recommendations of the committee were:

- The committee applauds RiverCare for having gotten the program up and running.
- The committee members find the program exciting, but also very ambitious.
- Rivercare should not only focus in scientific output but also on outcome. For example, news-items and activities with schools.
- Merely having meetings with the User Groups twice a year is not sufficient to guarantee usability and engagement. The researchers need to start working with the users, perhaps temporarily at their offices.

Collaborations

with other projects:

- **Langsdammen/WaalSamen Project:** RiverCare projects for monitoring the effects of longitudinal training dams (Project A and F2) are in collaboration with Langsdammen/WaalSamen. As a group, they organized their first meeting last July 7th 2016.
- **NKWK (Nationaal Kennis-en innovatie-programma Water en Klimaat):** In the NKWK framework, Rikswaterstaat, Deltares and RiverCare are working together in developing a share data management strategy for river research data. We are looking at the insights of marine projects to learn from their experiences and nice data management examples.

Outreach

By Koen Berends

“ We have taken cues from Netflix to increase the exposure of our research to water professionals in the Netherlands and abroad.”

RiverCare promotion videos: For an uncluttered overview, we approach RiverCare from four different ‘theatres of research’: the meeting room, the fieldwork, the experimental lab and the virtual lab. Each theater is a video episode released approx. every six months.



Fig. 3.
Closing drinks
Knowledge dissemination days

‘Original’ Premiere: On November 1st the **first video episode** (↓) premiered in the mid-term days (Fig. 3). The video focused on the societal aspects of river research. **Laura Verbrugge (project F2)** told about participatory monitoring, and showed an example how local fishermen reported their catches. **Menno Straatsma (project H1)** demonstrated his “RiverScape” methodology to design interventions while taking into account multiple points of view. Both work towards the goal of working together in river problems and taking the broad view.

Next steps: To increase exposure for all researchers, we work on a new website. Meanwhile, the next video episode will focus on research in the field!

Want to help in dissemination efforts or with visual material for the videos? Email the core-team to secretary@ncr-web.org.

COMING EVENTS 2017

- January 10: **Second Brunings Lecture** Utrecht, (NL).
- January 22-27: **AGU Meetings** San Juan, Puerto Rico, (USA).
- February 1-3: **NCR DAYS 2017**, Wageningen, (NL).
- February 14-15: **NAEM 2017**, Lunteren, The Netherlands
- April 18-21 : **World's Large Rivers Conference**, New Delhi, (India)
- April 23-28: **European Geosciences Union EGU 2017**, Vienna, (Austria)
- Jun 18-23: **HydroEco 2017**, (Birmingham, UK)
- June 19-22: **International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM)**, Umeå, (Sweden)
- June 26-28: **International Symposium on Shallow Flows**, Eindhoven, (NL)
- June 27-29: **Symposium Trait covariation: Structural and functional relationships in plant ecology**, Exeter, (UK)
- July 8-11: **The 11th International Multi-Conference on Society, Cybernetics and Informatics: IMSCI 2017**, Orlando, Florida, (USA)
- July 19-21: **River Basin Management 2017, RBM 2017**, Prague, (Czech Republic)
- September 15-22: **10th Symposium on River, Coastal and Estuarine Morphodynamics RCEM 2017**, (Trento-Padova, Italy)

NCR WEBSITE

NCR website (<http://www.ncr-web.org/>) is being used to communicate the RiverCare activities.

NEXT ISSUE (JUN/2017):

Give us [here](#) your feedback about this Newsletter edition:

Do you have something to contribute to the RiverCare newsletter?

Let us know:
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