

RiverCare Newsletter

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Preface

This newsletter edition updates about our last year (2017-2018) activities. The number of publications and efforts for dissemination is growing now that the RiverCare approaches its final two years. The knowledge-base is under construction to give an overview about our work. First results were featured in the national news, one of the researchers defended his PhD and a new project initiative is taken up the RiverCare efforts. We feature our contributions in water-related online platforms and are present at multiple national and international events. Our aim is to increase the reach to the scientific and professional communities.

Working on a communication strategy for reaching beyond

“Under the umbrella of the Netherlands Centre for River studies (NCR), our communication strategy includes multiple channels to communicate our work. Our audience are water professionals that are working or interested in the management of multi-functional rivers.”

Our efforts include but are not limited to attend research conferences (see Fig. 1). We prepare news articles and events for interested professionals and design the following communication tools with input from potential users like you:

- 1) A menu with promotional videos gives a first glance about RiverCare work and links to our knowledge-base.
- 2) The knowledge-base site is under construction to give an overview about what RiverCare is and does. It will ultimately collect feedback about the interest and potential use of our research.
- 3) The Virtual River is a serious game under development where actors can exchange perspectives about the maintenance of some flood river interventions.

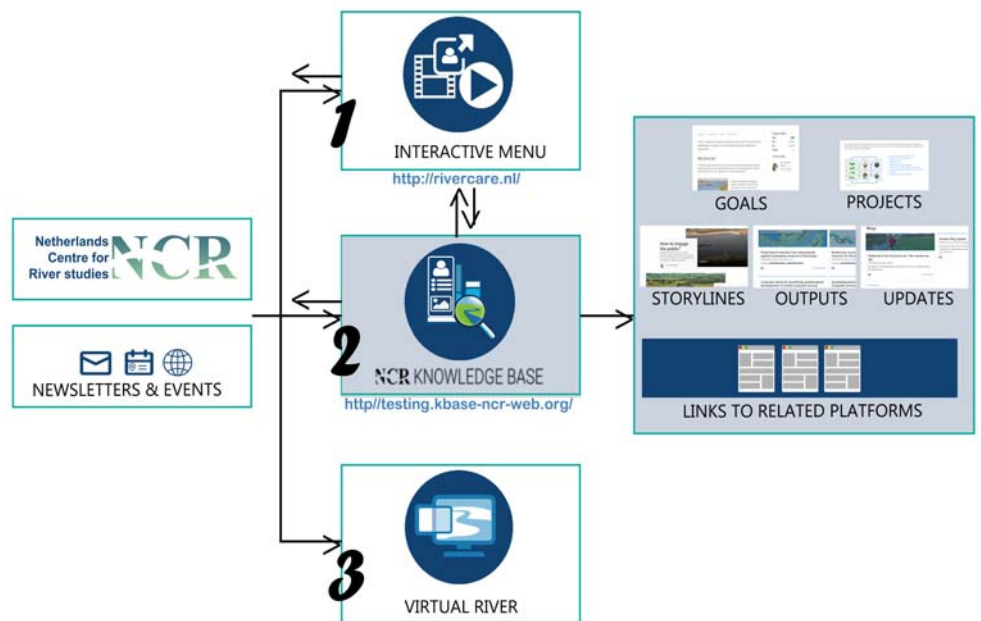


Fig. 1. Overview of the RiverCare communication strategy.

RiverCare menu is available at <http://rivercare.nl>

By Robert-Jan den Haan

Over the last year, we released the first two RiverCare promotional videos and prepared this interactive menu. With this menu (see Fig. 2), we will present all videos and give a quick impression of our research to new interested professionals. The menu and the videos are organised around four research settings. We use each video as setting to present our work while linking to the projects closest in content or scope. [Read more on the process behind](#)

Two videos were released last year and two more will be released within next year.



Fig. 2. Sneak preview of the interactive menu.

The RiverCare knowledge-base is under construction!

By Juliette Cortes

We are currently working on our knowledge-base that can be accessed via <https://kbase.ncr-web.org/rivercare/> where you can (see Fig. 3):

- Get to know about the **RiverCare projects** and related methods.
- Explore the **storylines** about the interventions effects that RiverCare is looking at. The first three storylines are available to make our main publications more accessible.
- Get an overview of RiverCare **outputs** and related data.
- Find all related news and updates about our program.

In addition, our website features online platforms such as **ResearchGate** and **WaterWindow** and **FlowsPlatform**. We contribute to these platforms to reach a wide audience and to link you with other water-related projects in the Netherlands and abroad.

We are testing our website with users of our partner organisations to identify needs for improvement and to better communicate our knowledge. Please explore our content and provide feedback

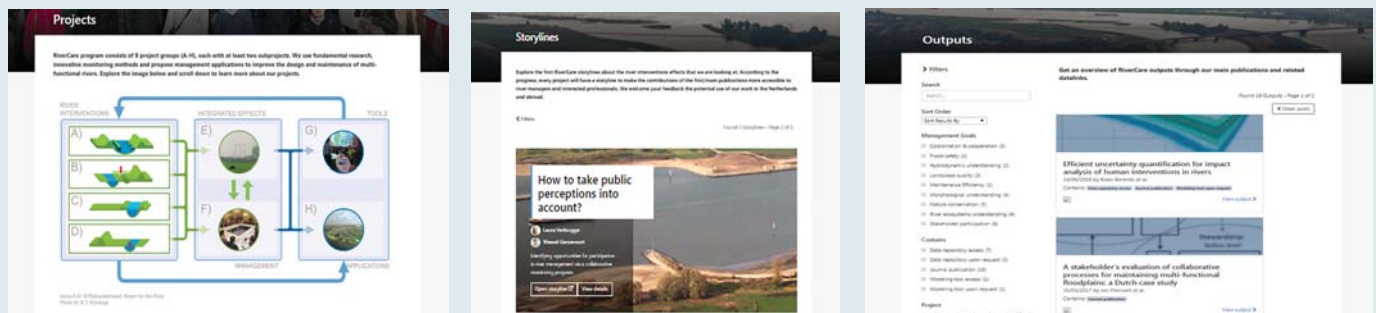


Fig. 4. Snapshots of the RiverCare knowledge-base .

Research Spotlights

We highlight the following RiverCare subprojects whose contribution to river management was featured to the general public. The collaboration subproject deserves special attention as it is the first RiverCare project that finishes the PhD research. Last but not least, the rivers of the future initiative is a project that is taken up the RiverCare contributions.

Biodiversity in the Rhine Delta featured on Dutch national news and TV

By Menno Straatsma

National news featured RiverCare research for **optimising river management**. The research showed that biodiversity recovery was successfully combined with flood risk reduction interventions at the river delta scale in the Netherlands. Between 1997 and 2012 the trend of biodiversity was reversed and the number of species of flora and fauna increased. The national newsletter dedicated one-page to show main results. National TV (see photo) also covered for a wider audience the essence of our contribution. [Read here the full spotlight](#)



Dutch serie “Vroege Vogels” (Early birds) about nature and ecology in the Netherlands

By Remon Koopman

During the 2017 summer and autumn a fish monitoring campaign was performed by experts from Bureau Waardenburg and the RiverCare projects **Ecosystem Services** and **Ecology of longitudinal training dams**. On October/ 2017 the popular Dutch TV-programme “Vroege Vogels” filmed our nightly fish monitoring (see photo) as the series were interested in our research (methods) and type of species we were looking at. [Read more about the TV spotlight](#)



Framing collaborative governance: A PhD journey


By Jan Fliervoet

On the 9th of November/2017, I successfully defended my PhD dissertation (**see photo**). This PhD was indeed an inter-disciplinary journey to understand the framing on the maintenance of Dutch floodplains. Looking back on that journey, I learned how collaboration is framed by Dutch water and nature managers and how to write scientific articles or project proposals. But most of all I enjoyed working with the inter-disciplinary team of RiverCare researchers and users. Thank you all! I am currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Science in Society of the Radboud University and as a project leader for the professorship sustainable water systems at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences. [Read full details of this PhD journey here](#) 



Collaboration with other projects: The rivers of the future initiative is taken up

By Ralph Schielen


Rivers for the future is a research initiative (2017-2020) within the framework of the National Knowledge and Innovation Program on Water and Climate (Dutch abbreviation NKWK). The Rijkswaterstaat Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and the policy department have interest in the long term behavior of our rivers (**see photo**). The general idea is that our rivers, being highly trained and engineered, are far from equilibrium but strive (as dynamical system) to reach a new equilibrium. The question is: what is that? And more important: how does that effect the current sediment budget and sediment balance, which cause already severe bed erosion due to the response on adaptations in the past. [Read a full overview and watch NKWK video here](#) 



RiverCare at the “Future River” conference of the NCR days 2018

[From 8th to 9th of February/ 2018 at Deltares in Delft.](#)

By Koen Berends


The future river theme. What does the future river look like? How will we study, manage and interact with distant fluvial landscapes? These questions formed the eight thematic sessions of the NCR days 2018 (**see photos for snapshots of these days**). RiverCare researchers covered the entire spectrum of the conference, from geomorphodynamic processes to involving citizens with monitoring efforts. In the [book of abstracts](#) , you find the contributions of all researchers to the event.

“RiverCare was present with one third of the contributions. These numbers include several master students who worked on RiverCare projects for their graduation or internship.”



Great speakers inspired the two days event:

- On day 1, Dr. Toon Bosch (Open University) opened the conference by putting a historical context on looking to the future. Dr. Ties Rijcken (Delft University of Technology & Flows) shared an outside view on how to communicate our research.
- On day 2, Paul Kinzel (USGS) showcased progress in the rapidly developing field of remote sensing. Ivo ten Broeke (Rijkswaterstaat, Rhine Commissioner) gave a talk on inland shipping.

These NCR Days were a great success, and we are greatly looking forward to the next edition. [Read the full story about the event here](#) 



Contribution to online platforms and presence at international events

We contribute to online water related platforms to increase the visibility of our work. We also join international conferences in a large group to discuss our work with experts in the field. We also joined international events for practitioners to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Collaborative monitoring of longitudinal training dam effects in the Waal River

Contribution to the FlowsPlatform

By Laura Verbrugge, Frank Collas and Timo de Ruijsscher

Longitudinal training dams are an alternative to river groynes, creating a separated waterway parallel to the main river with calmer conditions for ecology and recreation. When applied along long stretches (**see photo**), this exciting river engineering innovation can lead to a fundamentally different river system. Researchers featured the RiverCare and WaalSamen contribution in the FlowsPlatform that will be soon released as part of their TUDelft DeltaLinks Magazine.

[Read more about our contribution in the FlowsPlatform and explore related water research and reports in the Dutch Delta](#) 



Source: Rijkswaterstaat

Symposium on River, Coastal and Estuarine Morphodynamics (RECM 2017)

By Victor Chavarrias

Seven intrepid RiverCare researchers took part on one of the most important international conferences on river morpho-dynamics. The last september 2017, the RCEM Conference was hold in Trento and Padova, Italy:


- Researchers studying the effects of river interventions (**see photo**) presented their findings of the recently published or soon to be published work.
- They received feedback and joined sessions with some of the the greatest scientist in the field.
- The whole event had an insane amount of interesting research difficult to digest in just a few days if not for the nice wine and fine Italian food.




[Read more about the symposium and explore the links to related outputs](#) 


[Read more about our presence at other events such as the International Water Week in Amsterdam](#) 


Latest events with RiverCare presence

- **Environmental Modelling and Software Conference (iEMs) from June 24th-28th/18 in Colorado, USA** 

Koen Berends researcher in modelling uncertainty is joining this conference to introduce the last published results and next steps for quantifying uncertainty of river interentions more efficiently.

- **RiverCare and PlanSmart Symposium from June 19th-20th in Hannover, Germany** : Researchers working in Ecosystem Services, Governance and Communication joined this event to explore opportunities for collaboration with the Plan Smart project.

- **IAHR European Congress from June 12th-14th/18 in Trento, Italy** : RiverCare coordinators and supervisors were present by organising a session in River basin management and Ecohydraulics. RiverCare researchers, Tijtske and Pepijn presented their progress results in lowland back-water effects and side channels.

- **EGU Conference 2018 from April 8th-13th in Vienna Austria** : Juliette Cortes, researcher on communication joined the event to introduce the progress and methods behind the storylines.


Latest organisation updates

- **Moving from Radboud to Twente University:** From 2018, Laura Verbrugge will continue her RiverCare research on public engagement from the University of Twente in Enschede. This change will not only give continuation to her work but increase the synergy between communication efforts.

Next issue (Dec/2018)

Do you have something to contribute or ask?
Please contact the newsletter editor:
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