

Restoring Europe's Rivers

River restoration best practices:

Important tools to enhance river management

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1. Environmental conditions in European rivers

- **Widespread decline in river ecosystems** across Europe
- **< 20%** of European rivers in their natural physical state
- Threat to biodiversity
- Threat to quality of life
- Loss of the ecosystem services that have (potential) value
- Threat to traditional land-use systems and livelihood of local communities



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2. River restoration

- Restoring the natural state and functioning of the river and the riverine environment
- A large variety of management activities including reconnecting river channels and their floodplain





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3. Status of river restoration in Europe

- Historically single site, single funder and single policy driven
 - Narrower range of benefits
 - Smaller scale of impact
- Increasing range of relevant EU policy drivers, e.g.
 - Water framework Directive
 - Flood Risk Management Directive
 - Habitats and Birds Directive
- More recently increasing landscape scale approaches
 - Multiple benefits
 - Experiences biased to northern and western sub-regions



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4. Consensus on river restoration best practices as a means to support delivery of European policy goals

Problems

- Limited awareness of planners and practitioners
- Insufficient access to best practice
- Geographical variation in understanding and capacity

The RESTORE project and the 6th World Water Forum process will seek to tackle these problems.

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5. Solutions

Support policy makers and practitioners to make more informed decisions

- (i) Consensus on river restoration best practice
- (ii) Communication of information to key target groups
- (iii) Stimulate integrated catchment approaches



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Please contact us about your:

- River restoration needs
- Experiences of river restoration

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