



# Bulletin

## International Association for Landscape Ecology

### MEDITERRANEAN RIPARIAN WOODLANDS - AN EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL USE OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOR PLANNING

*an outstanding knowledge transfer<sup>1</sup> of Henri & Odile Décamps<sup>2</sup>; book review by Bulletin Editor F. Kienast*

The recent devastating floods in the Mediterranean region are a clear sign that managers should understand the proper ecological functioning of these watersheds that are influenced by a very special climate. Woodlands and other riparian vegetation play a crucial role in this dynamic ecosystem. But in many cases they are in the hands of private property owners that do not necessarily have adequate knowledge or a proper understanding of how their modifications to the woodlands affect the functioning of watersheds. Thus, successful rehabilitation or restoration of these woodlands, and hence the watersheds, relies on the transfer of research knowledge to landscape planning. This is one of the major purposes of the outstanding book of Henri and Odile Décamps. In six chapters they lead the interested reader through a wealth of knowledge about riparian vegetation. In addition, the book clearly demon-

strates the multidisciplinary knowledge of the authors: 40 out of 120 pages are devoted to understanding the role of landscapes for regional identity, cultural heritage and human well-being! But let's briefly discuss each chapter: The chapter on the Mediterranean context explains how Mediterranean rivers are influenced by a special climate, - summarizing key issues such as hydrological variability, soil erosion and flood control, and how they relate to the successional characteristics of woodlands. The importance of woodlands for the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean as well as for flow dynamics, bank stability, water quality and biodiversity is explained with numerous examples. The filtration and buffer quality of woodlands is large, especially for nitrates dissolved in the water running off the land as well as for phosphorus. Strips of herbaceous plants appear to act as effective filters as far as pesticides such as atrazine and lindane are concerned.



Fig. 1. Run-off from flooding in southern France (Sept. 2002) is evidenced by the streaks of brown-green silt in the waters of the Golfe du Lion on the Mediterranean Sea (picture courtesy of [www.visibleearth.nasa.gov](http://www.visibleearth.nasa.gov))

Fig. 2. The fertile land along the Nile River supports lush green vegetation, amid the desert landscape. At its delta at the Mediterranean Sea, the Nile broadens into a large fan-shaped delta (picture courtesy of [www.visibleearth.nasa.gov](http://www.visibleearth.nasa.gov)).



<sup>1</sup>Series MedWet Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands no. 12. Tour du Valat, Arles. (<http://www.tour-du-valat.com/>)

<sup>2</sup>Address of authors: Henri Décamps, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Toulouse, France, [decamps@ecolog.cnrs.fr](mailto:decamps@ecolog.cnrs.fr); Odile Décamps, Lecturer, Aquatic Plant Ecology

...continued from p. 1 (*Riparian woodlands*)

Like many other landscapes in the world, Mediterranean landscapes are social constructions, expressions of how human beings have interacted with their environment. Henri and Odile Décamps assemble a rich knowledge about the man – woodland interaction through historical time. This integration of humans adds additional value to the biology of the plants described in the book. At this point in the book, the reader is ready to accept the paradigm that biodiversity conservation requires maintaining the rich cultural heritage of a region, including the landscape experience of people. Thus, the last chapters about river restoration read like a conclusion of what was said before. I congratulate the authors for this book!

Impressum: Décamps, H., Décamps, O., 2002: Mediterranean Riparian Woodlands. Series MedWet Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands no. 12. Tour du Valat, Arles. (<http://www.tour-du-valat.com/>)

## CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT IN COLD CLIMATES

A new book of our IALE members U. Mander and P.D. Jenssen: The newest volume in WIT Press's Advances in Ecological Sciences presents 17 up-to-date contributions focusing on the potential, and use of, constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment in cold climate areas. The central issues examined are the long-term experiences of such wetlands, optimum design to improve purification efficiency, the intensity of the critical processes of organic matter mineralization and nutrient retention during winter, and constructed wetland use for multiple purposes. This book is invaluable to researchers, planners, engineers and decision makers in the fields of applied ecology,

ecotechnology, wastewater management, and environmental impact assessment.

Impressum: ISBN: 1-85312-651-9; WIT Press; Series: Advances in Ecological Sciences Vol 11, Published: 2002, Pages: 344pp.

## IALE-INTERNATIONAL STATUTES FOR DOWNLOAD ON THE WEB!

In order to stimulate the set-up of new regional IALE chapters, the most recent IALE statutes (1999) are on the Web in either Word or pdf Format (<http://www.wsl.ch/land/iale/bulletin.htm>, attachment to the Bulletin No. 20.3, July 2002 or directly via ftp: [ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/IALE\\_statutes.pdf](ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/IALE_statutes.pdf) or [ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/IALE\\_statutes.doc](ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/IALE_statutes.doc))

## THIRD ANNUAL MEETING IALE GERMANY, DRESDEN, 26-28 SEPTEMBER 2002

by Rob Jongman

Almost 100 participants were at the German IALE annual meeting September 26-28 2002. Most came from Germany, but also some from Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Poland, Russia and the Netherlands met in Dresden. The consequences of the flooding were still visible in town. I had to change hotel, because the hotel I booked originally was flooded and will reopen around Christmas. Tunnels are still inaccessible and several historical buildings are closed. The congress language was German, which enabled German and central European issues to be discussed in its own context with regional experts and users.

The IALE Bulletin is distributed six times a year to the members of the IALE. The IALE - International Association for LandscapeEcology- was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists, planners and interdisciplinary scientific research. IALE Executive Committee: **President:** Richard J. Hobbs (CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology, Private Bag, P.O., Wembley WA 6014, Australia), tel +61 8 9333 6442 fax +61 8 9333 6444 email [Richard.Hobbs@per.dwe.csiro.au](mailto:Richard.Hobbs@per.dwe.csiro.au); **Past President:** John A. Wiens (USA), email [jaws@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:jaws@lamar.colostate.edu); **Vice Presidents:** Duning Xiao (China), email [Indscp@iae.syb.ac.cn](mailto:Indscp@iae.syb.ac.cn); Kathryn Freemark (Canada), email [kathryn.freemark@ec.gc.ca](mailto:kathryn.freemark@ec.gc.ca); Margareta Ihse (Sweden), email [ihse@natgeo.su.se](mailto:ihse@natgeo.su.se); Francoise Burel (France), email [francoise.burel@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:francoise.burel@univ-rennes1.fr); **Secretary General:** Michael Moss (Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1 Canada), tel +1 519 824-4120 ext.4800 fax +1 519 763-4686 email [mmoss@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mmoss@uoguelph.ca); **Bulletin Editor and Deputy Secretary General:** Felix Kienast (Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, CH-8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland), tel +41 1 739 23 66 fax +41 1 737 40 80 email [felix.kienast@wsl.ch](mailto:felix.kienast@wsl.ch); **Treasurer:** Rob Jongman Alterra, Green World Research, PO Box 47, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, tel +31 317 474626 fax +31 317 41900 email [R.H.G.Jongman@Alterra.wag-ur.nl](mailto:R.H.G.Jongman@Alterra.wag-ur.nl)

IALE on the Internet: IALE International: <http://www.iale.ws>

...continued from p. 2 (IALE Germany)

The meeting was well organised by the Saxon Academy of Sciences (Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften) in collaboration with the Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IÖR) and the Technical University of Dresden and had a set-up in which the session leaders encouraged discussion. There were 8 plenary lectures, 5 workshops with 24 contributions and 29 posters. This indicates an active participation, showing an enthusiastic board and many – both fundamental and applied – interesting projects being presented. The room for the poster session was rather small, but their importance was emphasised by short poster introductions, that were followed by lively discussions.

The theme of this IALE-meeting was 'Landscape evaluation and landscape development'. Most contributions covered research at the regional level within the German speaking countries. The workshop on cultural landscape had an emphasis on urban landscapes and urban fringe landscapes and the use of GIS algorithms and models.

Comparability of field and EOS data and the use of GIS and tools have been discussed. Other workshops included contributions on methods for modelling and regional application of diversity criteria in forests as well as inclusion of aesthetics in holistic approaches towards landscape development. Many presentations introduced landscape change, its analysis and the use of change indicators in praxis. Both issues on water and matter flows as on land use and biodiversity were treated.

In various presentations and discussions monitoring has been introduced as one of the issues for the near future in Europe, while many of the EU-directives require monitoring of policy measures including field research proving success or failure. However, the emphasis was still on analysis of past developments and potential techniques and applications than on its future application and exploitation. My feeling that the great step forward in German landscape ecology must and can be set was confirmed in the discussions. Several older and younger researchers and planners expressed the view that visions for the future and development of scenarios for the support of decision making on land use should be developed. This led to interesting discussions on interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, the future directions in research and its role in society. It is one of the great challenges how science results can be introduced in society and in policy making.

In the last, concluding, plenary session different issues merged from both lectures as from discussions. A long discussion has been held on the value and the application of landscape ecology for practical monitoring for reporting on the European level (EU-directives), on the regional

level and their mutual exchange and co-ordination. It was concluded that monitoring should be well co-ordinated, efficient and goal oriented. A good monitoring system will also be an incentive for new in depth studies on specific themes. The other discussion was on the use of landscape ecological knowledge in nature and landscape management. Here the conclusion on the objectives was not concluded but will be continued in other places.

On the evening of the 26th September the annual meeting of IALE-D took place in the pleasant environment of a local brewery. In this meeting the good atmosphere, informal conversations and scientific discussions formed a pleasant mix with the German punctuality in meeting and democratic procedures. The new board was elected, or actually the present board was asked to continue its good work for another period. The new board consists of Jürgen Breuste, Marion Potschin, Uta Steinhardt, Ralf-Uwe Syrbe, Carl Beierkuhnlein and Franz Dollinger.

It has been decided that next year the annual meeting will be organised in Eberswalde (Land Brandenburg, eastern Germany), and for 2004 a proposal has already been made to meet in Salzburg, Austria. It also has been discussed to organise a joint Dutch-German meeting on border crossing issues such as water systems and cultural landscapes. The Annual Meeting ended on Saturday with two excursions. One excursion went into the Sächsische Schweiz, a National Park including the Elbe river floodplain which was severely damaged by the flooding in August. The other one went to the Oberlausitzer Heide, a lowland region with fishponds in the border region of Germany, Czech Republic and Poland. Here the old Slavonic tribe of the Sorbs still holds its cultural traditions and lives between tension of tradition and the 21st century. Long discussions have been held on the future of both landscape and people, on tradition, the present lignite mining and the expected changes in the European Union..

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT IN THE  
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REPORTS, MEETINGS!**

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**DEADLINE FOR  
THE NEXT BULLETIN IS  
DECEMBER 15, 2002**

## MEETINGS

## IALE WORLD CONGRESS 2003 IN AUSTRALIA: SEND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST!

The conference secretariat (Convention Catalysts Int.) is now open to receive your expression of interest. You can register as follows:

- a) directly via <http://www.iale.ntu.edu.au/registration.html>
- b) via downloaded flier (<http://www.wsl.ch/land/iale/bulletin.htm>, attachment to the Bulletin No. 20.3, July 2002 or directly via ftp: [ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/darwin\\_interest.pdf](ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/darwin_interest.pdf))
- c) send form below to Convention Catalysts Int., GPO Box 2541, Darwin NT 0801, Australia ([convention.catalysts@norgate.com.au](mailto:convention.catalysts@norgate.com.au); Ph: +61 8 8981 1875, Fax: +61 8 8941 1639)

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(Please note that the symposium programs are being developed by the symposium organisers. Only one paper per presenter will be accepted.)

To register your expression of interest and receive further information, please fax, e-mail or mail this form to the conference secretariat:

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## MEETINGS (cont.)

March 24-26, 2003

**State of the Art in Vegetation Monitoring Approaches**, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Birmensdorf.

The aim of the symposium is to portray and link the know-how in different fields involved in environmental monitoring (botany, ecological modeling, statistics). Standards for sampling and storage of data useful in a broad range of long-term vegetation surveys shall be worked out. The contributions shall include methodological aspects (e.g. short and long-term vegetation monitoring, descriptive analysis, environmental modeling) as well as management aspects of monitoring (e.g. development and update of large data bases).

Information and electronic registration are available at: <http://www.wsl.ch/land/monitoring/>

October 24-26, 2002

**Landscape Ecology, Land Use Planning and Nature Conservation**, Évora, Portugal

Organization: Centro Estudos Ecosistemas Mediterrânicos.  
 Information and registration: Teresa Pinto-Correia: [mtpc@uevora.pt](mailto:mtpc@uevora.pt)

April 2-6, 2003

**US-IALE meeting 2003: Beyond Borders - Linking Landscapes**, Banff Centre, Alberta, Canada

The 2003 US-IALE conference will address issues such as the natural essence as residents of landscapes, thereby inspiring solutions that take us beyond borders, toward a balanced sustainable world of energy, matter and information flow.

The 2003 US-IALE conference will also address watersheds and aquatics restoration issues and we are pleased to embrace the International Year of Fresh Water, a United Nations Initiative that will be celebrated throughout 2003 in and around the Mountain Parks.

Tentative Activities include:

- Beyond Borders Workshop
- Experiential Ecology Exercise for Dream Teams Composed of Senior and Junior Scientists
- First Nation Participation
- Environmental Fluxes and Species Movements at Several Scales
- Mini-courses in Biophysics, Complexity and Scaling

Information and registration: [http://www.zoo.utoronto.ca/US-IALE\\_2003/](http://www.zoo.utoronto.ca/US-IALE_2003/)

Travel award available see

<http://www.msu.edu/~riffells/fsta2003.htm>