



SNIFFER 'e' bulletin

Issue 9 –
March - April 2009

New SNIFFER website now live at
www.sniffer.org.uk

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Since the last e-bulletin, SNIFFER has published new reports that are now available to download from the SNIFFER website. Just click on each title to view these projects.

- [UKPIR14 - Validation of new air biomonitoring techniques for environmental monitoring, assessment and regulation](#)
- [CC08 - Local Climate Change Impact Profile Scotland](#)

Useful links

- [Research Information Service for Flood Risk Management \(RISE\)](#)
- [Water Framework Directive UK TAG](#)
- [WFD Visual](#)
- [WFD Research Database](#)
- [URBAN-NET project](#)
- [Integrated Water Resource Management](#)
- [Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership](#)

SNIFFER FRM CONFERENCE 2009 - Glasgow, 24 & 25 February 2009



SNIFFER held the fourth annual Flood Risk Management Scotland conference in February at the Glasgow City Chambers. This event was supported by the Scottish Government, SEPA, Scottish Water, the SCOTS Group and Scottish Environment Link. 200 delegates attended from government, local government, academia, emergency services and consultancies.

The conference was held over two days and was comprised of 5 panel sessions covering a multitude of flooding risk management topics. Attendees also had an opportunity to attend the White Cart Water Flood Prevention Scheme as an optional field trip.

A full record of the event including presentations, key outcomes and next steps are available on the [RISE website](#)

SESEN Launch Event and SEABS Research Findings

On 09 March at an event in Edinburgh the Scottish Environment Social Evidence Network (SESEN) was officially launched.

SESEN is a Scottish Government initiative to establish, co-ordinate and maintain a network of social science professionals in Scotland. The aim of SESEN is to bring strategic direction to the generation of social and economic research on the environment in Scotland. It provides policy makers with the socio-economic understanding to measure progress towards key policy targets. Particular benefits for this community will stem from improved knowledge transfer, collaborative working, more effective use of evidence and through tackling cross-cutting issues.

To find out more about this initiative please contact Paul Sizeland on sesen@sniffer.org.uk

At the same event, the results of the recently completed Scottish Environment Attitudes and Behaviours Survey (SEABS) were publicised. The aim of the SEABS'08 has been to produce dedicated, sound and up-to-date robust social survey data on environmental attitudes and behaviours, representative of the current views of the Scottish people, and supporting the development and delivery of environmental policy, with a focus on climate change. Questionnaire content included: energy efficiency in the home; travel and transport; eco-friendly purchasing; reduce and reuse; greenspace; wellbeing and includes some specific questions regarding views and knowledge of climate change and actions households might take to help reduce emissions. The survey also examined environmental attitudes and some of the barriers to pro-environmental behaviours.

You can view the survey results [here](#)

URBAN-NET – online database

The URBAN-NET Website has now been re-launched with a new online searchable database of European national and regional urban research programmes.

See <http://www.urban-net.org/search>

IWRM-Net Update

Over 50 delegates from 16 European countries met in February to find out about, and work on, ideas and processes to improve the Science Policy Interface in IWRM and develop the research agenda. The meeting was very successful and for more information please take a look at the [IWRM site](#)

The following key-points were noted:

Science Policy Interface:

- Different European countries have different approaches and different “communities” (scientific, operational, etc) have different languages
- Effective transfer of knowledge involves individuals learning, and is enhanced in a “community of

practice”

- Organisations also have to “learn” and there are processes to enhance organisational learning
- Science-policy interface is not a linear process between supply and demand. There is a need for a different approach to research: co-construction; common objects; common activities
- There is a need for an IWRM community of researchers and river basin managers to take SPI forward

Role of IWRM-NET:

- The IWRM-NET projects of the first call could provide inputs to SPI-CIS (Common Implementation Strategy) mandate; examples of linking science and policy
- SPI should be pushed forward in IWRM-NET second call
- IWRM-NET to ask Water Directors for support through CIS SPI group to develop an IWRM community to promote the human aspects of SPI activities

IWRM research in Europe

- The four IWRM-Net funded projects – FORECASTER, I-FIVE, KNAC and RIPFLOW - are very ambitious in their dissemination aspirations
- IWRM-Net is developing future IWRM research needs in Europe as well as more specific questions and issues for the 2nd IWRM-Net call to be made in July this year. Work is now well underway for the launch of the second call and we have two important meetings coming up.

15th April, Paris.

Final session on the development of the scientific specification for the second call. If you are interested in funding a subject then this is the time to ensure the right specification is presented within the call.

29-30th April,
Vienna

General Assembly and funders meeting where the principles and funding allocation will be agreed. This is the final opportunity to ensure the right processes for managing the call are included.

If you have an interest in attending these meetings then please contact Stephen Midgley on stephen@sniffer.org.uk

SNIFFER-UKTAG Partnership

Since 2003, SNIFFER has worked in partnership with the WFD-UK technical advisory group (UKTAG) to support the identification and prioritisation of research needs and the delivery of research outputs in the areas of:

- River basin characterisation;
- Ecological and morphological classification;
- Programme of measures;
- Environmental standards;

with the key aim of supporting the UK environmental regulators implement the WFD in a transparent and consistent manner across the UK.

A document summarizing this partnership and its achievements over the past 6 years has now been produced. To view this please visit the [SNIFFER website](#)

SNIFFER knowledge-exchange events

Over the past few years, SNIFFER's role has evolved from a focus primarily on research management to become a knowledge broker. We have recently held a number of knowledge exchange events on both ongoing and completed projects.

Two seminars were held in January 2009 to present the findings and draft report to agency staff at NIEA and SEPA for [UKCC20: Targeted Risk Based Approaches to Compliance Assessment](#). The seminars were held in Scotland and Northern Ireland and resulted in considerable conversation regarding the SNIFFER commissioned work. As a result of these seminars, agency staff had the opportunity to delve into the report in more detail and their thoughts and ideas are being incorporated into the final report which will be published this summer.

In February, a seminar was held upon the completion of SNIFFER project [UKLO07: Methods for Estimating Impacts of Rainfall on Bathing Water Quality](#). This was attended by a variety of stakeholders from across the UK and had the aims of raising awareness of the project to a wider audience, and to ensure that hydrologists were equipped with the technical knowledge to roll out this method to Scotland. As a result of this SEPA, the NIEA and the EA are investigating the possible implementation of the method in their areas of jurisdiction.

SNIFFER research in peer-reviewed journal

Results from a research project commissioned by SNIFFER's Environmental Regulation programme (formerly UK programme) has been published in the peer-reviewed journal '**Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers: Water Management.**'

The April 2009 edition published the findings of SNIFFER project UKLO07 that developed a method that uses weather radar to predict bathing water quality.

The table of contents for the journal can be found here: <http://www.atypon-link.com/TELF/toc/wama/162/2>; project outputs can be found on the [SNIFFER website](#)

Established in 1994, SNIFFER is a private company and registered charity dedicated to increasing knowledge to protect the environment and improve quality of life.

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