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E-bulletin

Issue 11

December 2009

www.sniffer.org.uk

SNIFFER would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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.

- [UKCC10b - Assessing the Benefits of Flood Warning: Phase 3](#)
- [WFD35 - Environmental Supporting Conditions for Scottish Wetland: Phase 1](#)
- [WFD95 - A Functional Wetland Typology for Scotland](#)
- [WFD70c – WFDVisual.com: Image Development Phase 2](#)

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

Review of SNIFFER Projects

SNIFFER and SEPA are undertaking a review of some of our recent research projects. Last month we surveyed previous project participants for views on how the outputs of the projects were used and the benefits resulting from this. Thanks to all of you who took time to fill in the survey! The next part of the review involves interviews with some project partners for more in depth information. We hope that the results of this review will help us to improve our service and deliver the most valuable end products to our stakeholders. The report will be published in February 2010.

Preparing Scotland for the impacts of climate change



Evidence indicates that Scotland's climate will get warmer and wetter overall, but with drier summers. This is based on the most recent UK [climate](#) projections known as UKCP09, released earlier this year by Defra. This looming reality was made clear to key public and private sector organisations from across Scotland at events held recently in Edinburgh. The events were organised under the Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SCCIP) by SNIFFER (the Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research) in conjunction with the Meteorological Office, UKCIP (UK climate Impacts Partnership) and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Over 150 participants attended half-day awareness raising sessions and a further 50 attended day-long sessions during 16-20 November. Each session was tailored to specific sectoral interests that included; localities, local authorities and partners; land use, agriculture, forestry and biodiversity; built environment, infrastructure and spatial planning; and; water flooding and drainage.

SCCIP Project Manager Julian Holbrook said "Scotland has already seen climate changes which are borne out in SNIFFER's Scottish Climate Trends Handbook, and from comments made by participants, a step change in public and private sector responses is required to deal with the consequences of a changing climate". SCCIP is a service with a new team in place that is helping organisations to prepare key decision makers for that.

SCCIP and UKCIP will host some further events in the New Year. Details will be available shortly on the [SCCIP website](#).

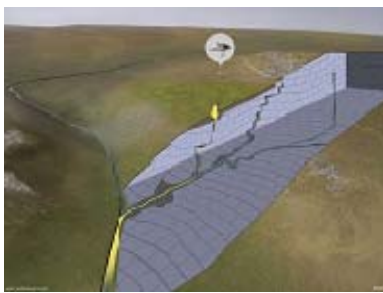
If you like to keep up to date with events and activities regarding climate change adaptation in Scotland, sign up for the SCCIP mailing list [here](#)

For more information see www.sccip.org.uk , www.sniffer.org.uk or contact Julian@sniffer.org.uk .

SNIFFER launches new hydrogeological images on WFDVisual website

WFDVisual has been developed by SNIFFER in partnership with the Environment Agency (England and Wales), the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency (Republic of Ireland) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. It is a collection of images that have been developed to help communicate the complex processes underpinning the water environment and its management under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

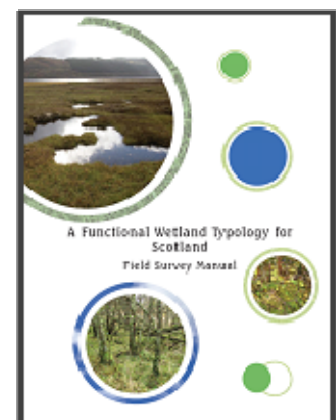
In November 2009, SNIFFER added a brand new suite of images for karst, floodplain, fluvial and coastal settings to WFDVisual. There are over 70 new images grouped together into storyboards to convey some commonly encountered hydrogeological scenarios. The jpeg images, which are accompanied by descriptive text, can be downloaded as a storyboard or individually at www.wfdvisual.com/storyboard/index.html.



SNIFFER publishes a Functional Wetland Typology for Scotland

Wetlands can be sensitive to abstractions, impoundments and pollution discharges, and it is necessary to consider these sensitivities in planning and regulatory decisions. To do this, regulatory staff (who may be non-ecologists) need to be able to identify different wetland types quickly and accurately to provide general risk screening. To assist with this, SNIFFER, in partnership with SEPA, SNH and the Environment Agency, has published a typology to help non-specialists identify Scottish wetlands in the field.

The typology is habitat-based and covers the range of habitats found in Scotland, including a variety of coastal, lowland, upland and montane wetlands. The wetland types are designed to be uniquely identifiable so that choosing between them is as simple as possible for non-specialists. The typology (including survey manual, field sheets and survey form) are available from the [SNIFFER website](http://www.sniffer.org.uk)



Project partners testing the typology and training material during development



Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM-Net) Update December 2009

Second call for proposals. The second IWRM-net joint call, covering water and climate change, water scarcity and drought and environmental economics for water management closed in October this year. Our evaluators will be working over Christmas to review the proposals so that a decision can be made early in the new year and the selected projects aim to start in Autumn 2010.

International workshop on Wetlands. Organised by SNIFFER and hosted the RAMSAR Convention Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland the event brought together 20 experts from across 15 countries. The group identified six priority issues that will be taken forward by the network. IWRM-net partners are now considering collaborative funding opportunities. The issues were; conceptual modelling, governance and management, monitoring, harmonising typologies, optimal monitoring strategies, significant damage and reference conditions, and quantitative and qualitative criteria.

Next Water Era-net: The partners involved in developing a proposal for this Framework Programme 7 call sent out a general invitation for other partners to join the consortium. There are differing levels of involvement that would allow organisations to be observers and input on issues of interest. The proposal will be sent early in January so if you have an interest in the next water eranet please get in touch with Stephen Midgley as soon as possible.

For more information please contact, Stephen Midgley, Stephen@sniffer.org.uk, +44 131 524 0971

NICCIP Service updates



On 03 December over 80 people attended an event in Belfast to better understand the implications of the [UK climate projections](#) and to learn about how the web-based tool can help organisations think about how they should respond to changes in the climate over the next 50 years. The event was organized by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency within the aegis of the Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership (NICCIP) for whom SNIFFER provides the secretariat. Further more in-depth events designed to help practitioners use the online predictions tool will be run early in 2010. For more information about those events or if you would like to sign up for the NICCIP e-newsletter contact Irene@sniffer.org.uk

As a follow up to this event, The Department of the Environment (DOE) in partnership with the NI Climate Change Impacts Partnership (NICCIP) and the UK Climates Impacts Programme (UKCIP) will be holding a UK Climate Projections Awareness Day and four full-day Technical Training Workshops on 12th, 13th and 14th of January in Belfast and Derry. The upcoming events are open to all. It will provide delegates with the information they need to assess the risks climate change poses to their organisations using the latest climate projections UKCP09.

For more information contact irene@sniffer.org or visit the NICCIP webpage <http://www.sniffer.org.uk/ourwork/climate-change/niccip.aspx>

NIEA – Scoping Future Strategic Evidence Needs Workshop

SNIFFER will be hosting a workshop event on behalf of NIEA to Scope Future Strategic Evidence Needs of NIEA on 21st January 2010.

The event will host to 40 representatives from the 3 Directorates within NIEA – Built Heritage, Natural Heritage and Environmental Protection, as well as the NIEA Strategy Unit.

The event will include presentations from all Directorates, and from the Irish EPA on their STRIVE Research Programme. A series of workshops throughout the day will provide creative visions and ideas for candidate evidence themes and objectives within the NIEA.

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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