MERLIN INNOVATION AWARDS 2024

MIA 2024
Awards Ceremony
8 February

Meet the Jury Members

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Jury members 2024

Miriam Colls
Freshwater Ecologist

Karolina Lubowiecka
Nature Protection Specialist in the Kampinoski National Park

Silke-Silvia Drexler
Senior Scientist

Albert Scrieciu
Scientific Researcher, Head of Interdisciplinary Research of the Fluvial Environment Department at the National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar)

Andrea Samu
Environmentalist, WWF Hungary team

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Deba River Restoration (Spain)

Innovations to be applied:
▶ a basin-wide restoration action acts simultaneously on ten obstacles in the main river channel (in the MERLIN project).

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Kampinos wetlands (Poland)

Innovations to be applied:
▶ an innovative approach to planning, designing, and implementing measures aimed at naturalising artificial ditches and surrounding wetlands;
▶ monitoring the effects of those activities, conducted in a nature-protected National Park and Natura 2000 site area.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Danube floodplain (Austria)

Innovations to be applied:
▶ use of an integrative and adaptive catalogue of measures;
▶ the realisation of measures of a common river section management plan in terms of ecology and inland navigation to reach a good ecological and good navigation status;
▶ recycling of removed riprap (circular economy);
▶ riverbed widening to counter-act riverbed deepening.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Danube floodplain (Gârla Mare, Romania)

Innovations to be applied:
▶ benefits of reconnecting former/ transformed wetlands back to the natural flood pulse of the Danube to enhance the benefits provided to nature and local communities.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Tisza (Hungary)

Innovations to be applied:
▶ designing and implementing a modern way of traditional floodplain farming;
▶ harmonising irrigation infrastructure with nature-based water retention measures.

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Marie-Isabell Lenz

Research Associate for Nature and Environmental Conservation at the Federal Institute of Hydrology in Koblenz, Germany

Svenja Karnatz

Project Manager at Emschergenossenschaft (EGLV)

Andrea Schneider

Research Associate at University Duisburg-Essen

José Maria Santos

Assistant Professor at the Forest Research Centre (CEF) of the University of Lisboa

Laura Härkönen

Limnologist, Senior Research Scientist at Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)

Yaron Hershkovitz

Managing Director at Tel Aviv University, Israel National Center for Aquatic Ecology

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Germany's Blue Belt (Germany)

Innovations to be applied:

- a combination of complete removal of bank protection and nature-based modification of river banks in a highly frequented waterway.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Emscher catchment (Germany)

Innovations to be applied:

- the innovative large-scale technical solution for mowing high flowering meadows along dikes with collection and use of the cutting material.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Sorraia Floodplain (Portugal)

Innovations to be applied:

- riparian rehabilitation (clearing of sedges and woody debris, bank stabilisation, and removal of exotic woody vegetation);
- removal of exotic invasive plants (water hyacinth, Brazilian milfoil) in rivers and canals;
- creation and maintenance of ecological set-aside areas;
- fish passes in weirs and river crossings.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Komppasuo Peat Extraction Area (Finland)

Innovations to be applied:

- evidence-based results to guide decisions over future land use/ restoration measures in abandoned peat extraction sites;
- scale up goal-oriented planning approach in/to the case study area.

RESTORATION PROJECT:
Tzipori catchment (Israel)

Innovations to be applied:

- ecohydrological restoration;
- watershed partnerships;
- remote sensing;
- continuous water quality monitoring;
- improving wildlife crossing.

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Thank you for participating!

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