

The importance of sediment for biodiversity

Special Session at 7th International SedNet Event
Thursday, 7 April 2011, Venice, Italy

Reporter: **Jos Brils**, Deltares, jos.brils@deltares.nl

Session objective

Further underpinning of the importance of sediment for biodiversity

This may enable more and better attention to sediment management by policy making and management

Session outline

- Invited key-notes:
 - Fresh water sediments and biodiversity
Alan Covich, University of Georgia, USA
 - Biodiversity and sedimentary habitats in critical transitional zones: the Venice lagoon as example
Davide Tagliapietra & Stefano Guerzoni ISMAR-CNR, Italy
 - Physical and biogeochemical processes as building blocks for maintaining sediment biodiversity in coastal environments
Kate Spencer, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom
- Discussion, moderated by:
Adriaan Slob, TNO, the Netherlands

Discussion

- Is sediment indeed of crucial importance for biodiversity?
Yes it is!
- Can a 'white paper' help to increase awareness to this issue?
Yes it can, but make it broader: link sediment, ecosystem functioning, ESS and biodiversity!
Audience: river-basin managers
- Suggestions for the white paper:
 - Producers:
Large group of experts, global, aiming at consolidated knowledge
 - Outline
Small core group will come up with this: key-note speakers & reporter (Alan, Davide, Kate & Jos), within ca. 3 months
 - Proposed role of SedNet?
Coordinate the effort

Needs river-basin managers:

Clear advice and guidance by scientists

- How to deal with sediments?
- What is good environmental status?
- What is relevant to measure?
“do we have to manage all these small creatures? This scares us?”
- What instruments to use?
-

And: please convince all the stakeholders, not only us as managers

Other key-messages from discussion

- Go for adaptive management: 'learning by doing' (long term experiments are needed to look for rates of change!)
- Go for better 'branding': what do restored sites do for us humans. Making use of 'charismatic species' may also help here
- We need to better understand the relationships between biodiversity loss, ecosystem functioning (a.o. relationship between species) and ESS?