

The **Partnership for European Environmental Research** is a network of seven of the largest public environmental research centres in Europe, founded in 2001 with the aim of pursuing a joint scientific strategy to achieve ecological sustainability. Its member Institutes carry out basic and applied research, covering natural to social sciences. PEER integrates knowledge and expertise to support national and European policy makers, industry and society.



WANT TO KNOW MORE? CONTACT US!

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Jean-Marc Bournigal takes over PEER Chairmanship starting from April 2013

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KEY PUBLICATIONS

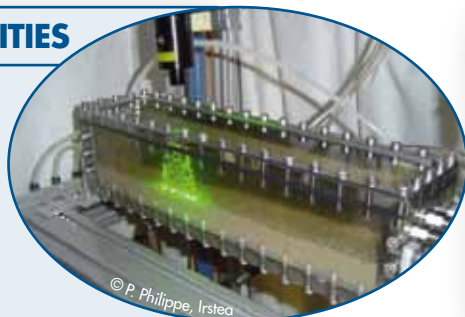
- ▶ PRESS report 'A spatial assessment of ecosystem services in Europe - Methods, case studies and policy analysis - phase 2. Synthesis report', Sept. 2012
- ▶ PRESS report 'A spatial assessment of ecosystem services in Europe - Methods, case studies and policy analysis - phase 2', Sept. 2012

PRESS REVIEW

- ▶ Research Roundtable: Nature's Capital. International Innovation (Oct.2012) Research Media, UK, pp 108-109. ISSN: 2041-4552
- ▶ Partnership for European Environmental Research. International Innovation (Oct. 2012) Research Media, UK, pp 120-122. ISSN: 2041-4552

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Best of laboratories, unique platforms, observatories and large-scale experimental field sites on page 2



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CONFERENCES

Joint session with ALTER-Net on green infrastructure at the EuroScience Open Forum 2012. Details on page 3



© L. Jones-Walters

PEER 2012



Research for a sustainable Europe

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

Dear reader,

The second annual report of the **Partnership for European Environmental Research** provides an overview of the main results we achieved in 2012; namely the conclusion of the ecosystem services study (PRESS) with the publication of a full technical and a summary report, as well as participation in the bi-annual EuroScience Open Forum through a session held in collaboration with ALTER-Net (A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network). Following the renewal of its Framework Agreement last October, PEER has established several development activities. Among these is formulation of a joint agenda on environmental monitoring and data management in Europe. Also, we have started preparing our alignments for Horizon 2020, the new EC Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Since the Partnership has a rotating chairmanship, I take the opportunity to welcome my successor Jean-Marc Bournigal, President of Irstea, who will take over in April 2013.

➡ Lea Kauppi, PEER Chair

'A spatial assessment of ecosystem services in Europe' Synthesis report for policy makers

The PEER Research on EcoSystem Services (PRESS) joint initiative ended in September 2012 with the publication of a Synthesis and a full technical report.

The initiative demonstrates the biophysical and socio-economic value of ecosystem services, which are essential to our well-being since they provide us with food, clean air and fresh water and maintain a habitable biosphere.

Based on pollination, recreation and water purification case studies performed at multiple spatial scales, PRESS uses scenarios to estimate the changes in the flow of ecosystem services and the benefits that could arise as a result of policy changes.

Consequently, it calls for the inclusion of the ecosystem services concept in

decision-making for policies that affect the use or the state of natural resources, in order to allow for a systematic review of their consequences and to prioritise and make the related investments cost-effective. Repeated invitations of the PRESS scientists as experts to advise European environmental policies led DG ENV to express gratitude for supporting the development and implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Also, the publication of several peer-reviewed journal articles as well as follow-up FP7 projects like OpenNESS (Operationalisation of Natural Capital and EcoSystem Services) and MESEU (Mapping and Assessment of ecosystems and their Services) confirm the huge success of the PRESS project.

A REWARDING EXPERIENCE



J. Maes (JRC-IES)

Based on voluntary contributions of motivated researchers, PRESS responded quickly to a growing issue, delivering the same quality results as FP projects. It was worth it!



J. Hauck (UFZ)

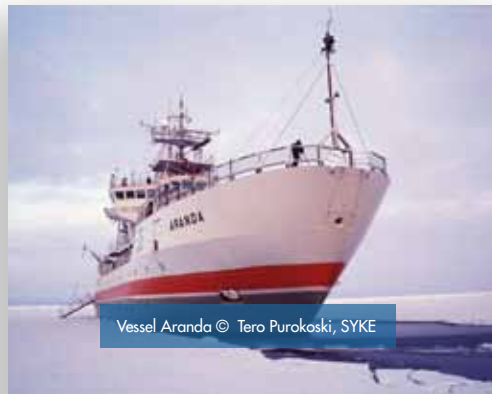
I enjoyed so much working in an international, enthusiastic, flexible and dynamic team! PRESS gave us the possibility to build contacts for the future and open up new cooperation opportunities.

Find all PRESS reports at www.peer.eu



Advanced research facilities and equipment

Being members of the Partnership for European Environmental Research means sharing a vision, missions, ideas, human resources when working on common projects, as well as technical instruments. PEER Institutes manage a series of state of the art facilities such as observational and experimental platforms and all sorts of simulation and visualisation laboratories, sometimes unique in Europe.



Vessel Aranda © Tero Purokoski, SYKE

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2012, the Board of Directors renewed the PEER Framework Agreement at CEH Headquarters in the UK. Originally signed in 2002 in Roskilde, Denmark, and later in 2007, this new engagement confirms the willingness to continue fostering scientific cooperation through a common strategy in environmental research.

Environmental Research Aircraft © Alterra Wageningen UR



Other technical platforms are dedicated to both agro-environmental assessment of spraying technologies and irrigation equipment, and in particular their use in real operating and climate conditions. These activities aim to model the functioning of irrigation machines and systems and simulate their employment in farms and small regions.



Centre for Spreading and the Environment © Irstea

Further major testing facilities concerning ecotechnologies, health, natural hazards and environmental risks may be found at different locations.

The infrastructure includes stations for monitoring land-atmosphere exchange processes, climate change, greenhouse gases and air quality, groundwater-surface interactions, radars and remote sensing machineries; large sites for testing the effects of chemicals, for instance insecticides or fertilisers and different land uses on various types of ecosystems; and for freshwater sampling, soil moisture measurements and vegetation surveys. Some of these are located in the Arctic and represent key tools for studying the impacts of global change on this region, e.g. sophisticated ice-breaking and coastal vessels.



Zackerberg Research Station in Greenland © DCE

Most of the above mentioned instrumentation has recently been made available for use outside the boundaries of the Institutes that own them. From now on, under certain conditions depending on the tool, PEER partners as well as external scientists and institutions can either apply to collaborate on specific projects with our research teams responsible for the platforms or request access to them for their own study purposes.

Interested in finding out about facilities, their technical specifications and the related operational costs? Send an email to info@peer.eu and a PEER scientist will contact you.

Education facilities are also available at PEER centres. For example, the Leur Laboratory for Water and Sediment Dynamics at Alterra, used by researchers for its straight and tilting flumes and the rainfall simulator, has at least three other important functionalities: it allows students to observe both friction and local energy losses, and presents a demonstration flume and orifice to show how these widely used systems work by applying the energy conservation law and the equation for continuity of mass.



Global Change Experimental Facility © UFZ



Artificial streams © Alterra Wageningen UR



A hit at the EuroScience Open Forum 2012

© L. Jones-Walters



Keynote speakers at the green infrastructure session held at the ESOF 2012 conference, 15th July

Events

A successful session on green infrastructure jointly organised by PEER and ALTER-Net (A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network) took place at the EuroScience Open Forum 2012 in Dublin on July 15th.

Europe's largest scientific bi-annual meeting brings together top researchers, business leaders, EU and government officials as well as international scientific media to discuss European science and address all major global scientific challenges, including energy, climate change, environment, food and health. An enthusiastic delegation attended the programme, which included presentations on seas and forests, urban areas and recreational spaces by I. Sousa Pinto (Portuguese Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and

Environmental Research), I. Hanski (Helsinki University), M.L. Paracchini (JRC - IES) and K. Krauze (European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology/UNESCO). The policy-dialogue and lively discussion with the audience, moderated by L. Jones-Walters (European Centre for Nature Conservation) saw S. Pietikäinen (Member of the European Parliament) and S. Colgan (Irish Environmental Protection Agency) giving valuable

insights into different aspects of policy implementation and practical delivery, which stimulated fruitful exchange with the participants.

The conference delineated a picture of the importance of green and blue infrastructure to human health and economic well-being. The speakers agreed on the urgency of getting proper national regulation and European policy in place to bring the concept into operation.

Interview with the Chair of the session

Eeva Furman, PhD (third from left) is the Director of the Centre for Environmental Policy at SYKE. She organised and chaired the session on green infrastructure at the conference, about which she says: 'The ESOF2012 in Dublin was a very inspiring

experience. To be able to hold a session in a forum where more than 10 Nobel laureates are contributing was a great honour. The next one in 2014 in Copenhagen will provide further insights to latest scientific breakthroughs. Warmly recommended'.

WHAT NEXT?

The second PEER international conference 'Science for the Environment,' will take place in Aarhus, Denmark, on the 3rd - 4th October 2013. Three main topics will be addressed: Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Green Economy. Further information and registration at dce-conference.au.dk

STAFF EXCHANGE

International mobility is a key asset to a scientist's CV and helps improve cooperation between research teams. The PEER centres have committed to supporting staff exchange. Ask your Institute's Sherpa!

CHALLENGING CAREERS

Want to work with us? Visit our website to find out about administrative and scientific vacancies open to external candidates at our Institutes:

- ▶ Permanent, medium and short-term contracts
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- ▶ PhD, Post-Doc and Senior grants
- ▶ Internships