



## Support stream rehabilitation, river restoration

### Expert Facility Activity No. EFS-IL-1

#### SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAM

#### Adopting a Stream, how stakeholders can help in stream restoration and management

16 – 18 January 2018

Tel Aviv - Israel

#### **1. Context**

Within the scope of the Expert Facility (EFS-IL-1) work package (WP1), the EU-funded “Sustainable Water Integrated Management & Horizon 2020 - Support Mechanism (SWIM-H2020 SM)” project is conducting 2-day workshop “Stakeholder involvement in stream restoration and management”. The workshop is organised by LDK, the leading company in the SWIM-H2020 SM consortium, and falls within the framework of the Expert Facility (EF) Work Package 1 (WP1) of the SWIM-H2020 SM; namely under task 1 of Activity No. EFS-IL-1, which aims at supporting the country in its enhancement of the management of the natural water system (rehabilitation and preservation of the resources) through ecosystem approaches in IWRM, thus contributing to the implementation of the “Main Policy Points of the Long Term master Plan for the National Water Sector (LT-MP-NWS).

#### **2. Introduction**

Stream restoration has gained momentum in Israel. Major constraints related to shortages in water and point solution are being solved but diffuse pollution remains a problem. In order to address such problems, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) is now planning to develop a community based program for "adoption of a stream" in order to help keep the stream clean and educate the public about the importance of viable streams. The program will include the following aspects: water quality, flora and ecology, environmental hydrology, agricultural and urban environment and social aspects of the community that lives nearby and will take into consideration the value of the rivers for open-air recreation. The objective is to involve stakeholders in stream restoration, such as in monitoring, clean-up and also in reducing diffuse pollution. It is within this context that the 2 day-workshop is getting organized.

The workshop will focus on stream functions and values and especially on examples of stakeholder involvement in other countries (such as adopting a Stream) and its importance. The workshop will illustrate and discuss these examples and will also be geared towards the formulation of an Action plan for further steps. For this, three streams in the Sharon water management area have been selected.



### **3. Scope and Objective**

The general objective of the workshop is to support the MoEP in its plans to develop a community based program for "adoption of a stream".

The first part of the workshop will inform and inspire local stakeholders and authorities with examples of adopting a stream, in order to give input to a discussion how stakeholder involvement may be initiated locally. It will also discuss the values and functions of stream. Examples focus on the tasks and roles performed by stakeholders and the way in which these are organized. Examples have mainly been taken from other Mediterranean countries especially those that also harbor intermittent streams, which are also common in Israel.

The second part of the workshop is more interactive and will focus on the Poleg, Alexander and Hadera streams that are part of the Sharon water management authority. It will discuss the need and tasks for stakeholder involvement, identify stakeholders, discuss strategies for their involvement and the organizational form of an Adopting a stream program in order to involve them. It will result in the formulation of an Action plan that will describe tasks and responsibilities and first steps for initiating such a program.

### **4. Content**

The workshop will take two days. The first day will have a focus on stream values and functions and examples of stakeholder involvement. The second day will be more interactive, engaging stakeholder in discussions regarding the need and potential for stakeholder involvement.

#### **Day 1 (Tuesday, 16 January 2018)**

- Session 1.1: Stream values and functions:
- Session 1.2: Adopting a stream examples from other countries:

#### **Day 2 (Wednesday, 17 January 2018)**

- Session 2.1: Introduction to the Poleg, Alexander and Hadera streams, management needs and potential stakeholder involvement.
- Session 2.2: Action plan: discussing and identifying the next steps in order to initiate an "Adopting a stream" program in Israel and for selected streams.

### **5. Specific Objectives of the workshop**

Specific objectives of the course include:

- Introduce the relevant stakeholders to the streams' values and functions, the impact of non-point source pollution on the streams.
- Demonstrate examples on the role that the communities can play in maintaining / rehabilitation; based on existing models for "adoption of a stream" applied in different countries; preferably from South Europe.
- Identify jointly with the stakeholders the long, medium and short term objectives of the "Adoption of a stream" program.
- Agree with the stakeholders on the extent to which the relevant actions (needed to enhance and/or monitor water quality, flora and ecology, environmental hydrology, agricultural and urban environment taking into consideration the rivers' value for



open recreation) will be covered in the short, medium and long terms in order to attain healthy/sound environmental status,

- Select the appropriate model for the public involvement in preservation/rehabilitation/monitoring/ development and maintenance of selected streams
- Recommend an Action Plan for implementation.

## **6. Target Audience**

The following target audience has been identified:

- Drainage and stream authorities,
- Local municipal authorities,
- CSOs/NGOs
- Relevant ministries: MoEP, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Parks Authority
- The Society for the Protection of Nature.

The target number of participants in the workshop is up to 35 participants.

## **7. Methodology and Structure of the Workshop**

The workshop is intended to be participatory and interactive, making use of Powerpoint presentations, interactive question & answer sessions, working sessions with maps on the table with a focus on local cases, and field visits. The idea is to look at the three streams as examples that illustrate the kind of problems in which stakeholders may play a role.

Every day will start with a short introduction to the theme and desired output of the day and a summary of the take-away's of the previous day. Upon suggestion of the beneficiary, the daily sessions are scheduled from 9h00am until 16h00pm.

Preparation included a detailed outline of the content of the presentation which was discussed in September with the representatives of the beneficiary. Based on this outline a first set of presentations was set up and discussed with representatives. A final set of presentations will be put up for discussion in the second half of December, and for the project approval at least 2 weeks prior to the workshop. Final review and comments is planned late December. A general summary of the contents will also be made available prior to the workshop which describes the European experience in adopting a stream.

The language of the Workshop will be English, but during the interactive sessions specific discussions will be in Hebrew of which the outcome will be summarized in English.

## **8. Resource Persons**

- Jasper Fiselier, River restoration expert. SWIM-H2020 SM non key expert
- Avi Uzan, Fresh water ecologist (Israel's Nature and Park Authority, NPA)
- Dror Epstein (Sharon water and sewage Authority)
- Yohanan Oron NANA, stakeholder organisation Alexander river



## 9. Outcomes of the Workshop

- Familiarisation of the participants with the stream values and functions and examples of adopting a stream programme from other countries.
- Identification of the potential for stakeholder involvement in stream restoration, taking the Poleg, Alexander and Hadera streams as representative examples.
- Action plan for the initiation of an “Adoption of a stream” programme; describing the general steps (scheme) and tools needed in order to start such a program, including the way it can be organized and financed.

### Provisional Agenda: SWIM-H2020 –EFS-IL1-WP1

#### Day 1 (Tuesday, 17 January 2018)

Time	Description
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome and opening remarks – Deputy Director General, Ministry of Environmental Protection
09:15- 09:30	Welcome & Objectives of the Course Introduction to Day 1
09:30 - 10:15	<u>Stream functioning:</u> Ecological functioning and values
10.15 - 11:00	<u>Use and impacts:</u> Ecosystem services and values Human interventions and impacts
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.30 - 12:30	stream restoration and the NPA's rational - Avi Uzan
12:30 - 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 - 14:45	<u>Examples of adopting a stream:</u> -Examples from Italy, Spain, France -Examples from other countries Q&A 15 min (Plenary).
14:45 - 16:00	<u>How to involve stakeholders and the public</u> -Type of activities - How to involve them and keep them involved Q&A 15 min (Plenary).



**Day 2 (Wednesday, 17 January 2018)**

Time	Description
09:00- 10:00	Field visit – Hefer Lake (10 min from the workshop venue)
10:00-10:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:15 - 10:30	Introduction to Day 2, the desired and expected outcome
10:30-11:30	<u>Stream restoration and stakeholders:</u> -Dror Epstein: introduction to the Poleg, Alexander and Hadera streams -Plenary Discussion, Q&A, identification of the kind of issues faced by stream restoration looking at the maps of the Poleg, Alexander and Hadera streams -Yohanan Oron: NANA, stakeholder involvement on the Alexander river
11:30-12:30	<u>Objectives of stakeholder involvement.</u> Potential stakeholder involvement using the examples of Poleg, Alexander and Hadera.
12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30-14:30	<u>Organisational models:</u> -Possible organisational models for stakeholder involvement -Plenary discussion on possible models for adopting a stream in Israel
14:30-15:30	<u>Preferred organisational set-up</u> Preferred organisational set-up and division of tasks and roles, how to finance such a program e.g.
15:30-16:30	<u>Action plan</u> Action plan for initiating Adopting a stream in different basins defining the next steps (in the short, medium and long term) (plenary).
16:30-17:00	<u>Closing/Wrap up</u>