

# LIFE GoodWater IP International conference

## Waterside – A Space for Water, Land and People

### Interactions: Practices and Challenges in River Basin Management

October 8–9, 2025

#### Aim of the conference:

To foster the exchange of knowledge and experience for developing management measures in the interaction zones between water, terrestrial ecosystems, and human activities. By exploring the dynamics of diverse waterside environments, the conference seeks to identify improved management approaches, practices, and governance solutions for effective river basin management.

#### Potential themes of the thematic sessions

##### Forestland – water ecosystem interactions

The interface between forests and water is vital for maintaining healthy ecosystems. These zones act as natural filters, regulating the flow of nutrients, sediments, and carbon, while enhancing water quality. They also support rich biodiversity by providing complex habitats and movement corridors for species. Additionally, forest stands offer economic and social values, highlighting the need for sustainable management.

##### Water banks – people interactions

River and lake banks are vital interfaces where human activities—such as angling, tourism, and recreation—interact with freshwater ecosystems. These areas provide social and economic benefits through leisure, cultural value, and local livelihoods. Effective management requires balancing public access with ecosystem protection, supported by sustainable tourism, community involvement, and spatial planning.

##### Riparian sanctuaries – habitat for protected species

Riparian areas provide critical habitats for protected species by preserving water quality, offering sanctuaries, nursery, and spawning grounds, and maintaining habitat connectivity. These zones support biodiversity and ecological resilience, making their conservation essential for protecting vulnerable and already threatened water-dependent species.

**Language:** English

**Format:** in-person

**Participation fee:** Free

**Please note that accommodation and travel costs are not covered.**

Participants are invited to submit a summary of their experiences and approaches to ensure exchange of best practices. Please contact Ms. Kristīna Veidemane (Environmental expert at Baltic Environmental Forum–Latvia) at [kristina.veidemane@bef.lv](mailto:kristina.veidemane@bef.lv) if you would like to present your experience on managing interactions within the waterside!

**October 8, 2025** | Study trip to Tukums (Kurzeme region/ the North-western part of Latvia)

**October 9, 2025** | Plenary Session & Thematic Sessions (Riga, Latvia)

##### Farmland – water ecosystem interactions

The interface between agricultural land and aquatic ecosystems significantly influences environmental quality. Farmland runoff often carries nutrients, sediments, and agrochemicals into waterbodies, leading to pollution and ecosystem degradation. However, edge zones can support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services, especially when managed with buffers, constructed wetlands, or conservation tillage. Improving the management of these transitional areas is key to enhancing water quality and sustainable agriculture.

##### Floodplain – people interaction

Floodplains are dynamic zones where natural processes and human activities intersect, carrying both environmental and societal significance. They supply essential ecosystem services—like flood control and nutrient cycling. Land use changes, infrastructure development, and climate variability have increased flood risks. Understanding people's behaviour within floodplains is key to developing adaptive, risk-aware land and water management strategies.

##### Energy production – impacts of water use

Energy production not only provides economic value but also impacts water and riverbank ecosystems through altered flows and infrastructure barriers. These effects accelerate coastal erosion, cause habitat degradation, and hinder fish migration. Balancing energy needs with maintaining ecological flows, protecting water habitats, and conserving riparian zones is crucial for sustaining good ecological status.

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