

# Winter

Edition 5 – Feb 2014

## Duress Gazette

### Half-time!

We are now just over half way through the project and have some exciting developments to share.

Our team meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January welcomed two thirds of our academic board; Alan Hildrew and Alan Jenkins. We were delighted with their positive feedback and also the great comments from the BESS directorate.

We have welcomed several new staff and students over the last few months: Ewa Siwicka in Aberystwyth who will be working with Mike Christie on WP5, Isa-Rita Russo has taken over from Anne-Laure Sauvadet to work on the genetics aspect of WP2 and Ifan Jams who started his PhD with the project in September 2013 investigating conflicting pressures on river ecosystem services.

The EU MARS project on multiple stressors and ecosystem services has now launched, and will have large synergy with DURESS. Details are at <http://www.mars-project.eu/>



Leaf painting for Cardiff PhD student Marian Pye's project

Thanks to a mammoth effort from the Cardiff team, all 8000 samples have now been sorted and identified following last winter's Decomposition experiment. Data are also emerging from the repeat surveys at the Welsh acid waters sites and show intriguing patterns in both chemistry and organisms.

Focus is now turning to this summer's manipulation experiment involving DOC ....

### Channeling our energy...

- This next phase of experiments will use replicate experimental channels to manipulate DOC to mimic land use and climate change effects. Extra funds awarded from BESS have allowed us to scale up the experimental channel infrastructure and extensive work is now underway on site and in production of the channels. There has been close liaison with NRW on ground preparation and work plans.
- Four sites have been chosen in Llyn Brianne for the experimental channel side channels of the rivers.

- We intend to have the channels up and running by March, with data collection starting in the early summer. As well as providing vital data for Duress, these long-term structures will be in place for future use
- Further details, images (and blisters...) to follow.

### **Value added...**

- WP5 – on valuation – is now well underway from Mike Christie and his expanding team.
- Using outputs from work packages 2-4, they will investigate economic (market and non-market) and health benefits (costs) of river ecosystem services, exploring how values vary across space and time while using novel approaches to uncertainty.

### **The long view...**

- On scenarios, Havard and team are producing an illustrative report card to be published later in the year which will detail the work from WP1.
- The scenarios are now being applied in hindcasts and forecasts to data on fish, inverts, birds, water quality and land use to explore how biota might respond to changes in land use and climate change. We will identify catchment attributes which promote stability in biotic structure and organization – in other words resilience to change.

### **Spreading the word**

- We are delighted to have been awarded a further £2000 to create our very own Duress photographic exhibition! It will tour different venues and work places and we think it will be a great way to get the story of Duress across to different audiences. To find out more or to offer high resolution photos which we could use, please get in touch with Jenny.
- The team have been really busy spreading the word about Duress. Some notable presentations – International Association for landscape Ecology Conference (ID and SO), European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Council Conference (HP), Conference of the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change (MB), Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management Conference (ID and SO), British Council meeting on the Ecology of Inland Waters (ID, HF, DP, JG), EU Water Lives Conference (ID)
- Isabelle has been elected to the steering group of the international Ecosystem Services Partnership, and also appointed to the editorial board of the leading ecosystem services journal, the International J of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management
- Welsh speakers – check out our Welsh language video explaining last year's decomposition experiment.
- We are continuing to gain new followers on facebook and twitter – where we've now passed 1000

### **Dates for your Diary...**

BESS will be holding their annual science meeting on the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 and an early careers research meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> both in York.

The next management meeting will be in March.

A full team meeting will be held in late summer.