

Preface



The IWA Task Group on Mainstreaming Wetland Technology

The IWA Task Group (TG) on Mainstreaming the Use of Treatment Wetlands was initiated in 2013 by Gabriela Dotro, Günter Langergraber (at that time Secretary of the IWA Wetland Systems Specialist Group) and Fabio Masi (at that time Chair of the IWA Wetland Systems Specialist Group). Initial discussions showed that the topic of treatment wetlands was not well covered in traditional wastewater treatment courses and that there was a lack of proper teaching material on treatment wetlands. The main objectives of the Wetlands TG were defined as:

1. Updating and enhancing of the *IWA Scientific and Technical Report (STR) on Wetland Technology* that had been published in 2000;
2. Developing a new textbook on wetland technology for the “Biological Wastewater Treatment in Warm Climate Regions” series; and
3. Organising workshops to increase collaboration with closely related IWA groups.

Already in the proposal stage, the aim was to publish the work of the Wetlands TG as Open Access material.

The TG was approved by IWA’s Strategic Council at their meeting prior to the IWA World Water Congress 2014 in Lisbon and given a starting date of 1 July 2015.

Activities

The first meeting of the Wetlands TG took place in September 2015 in York, UK. During that first meeting, we decided to first focus our work on the textbook and only after finishing it would we start on the STR.

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For the preparation of the textbook, we held three working meetings (December 2015 in Vienna, Austria; March 2016 in Lisbon, Portugal; and July 2016 in Leipzig, Germany) and had a final draft version ready for review at the IWA Wetland Systems conference in October 2016 in Gdansk, Poland. After review from 10 wetland experts and revision, we published the textbook as an Open Access e-Book in 2017:

Dotro, G., Langergraber, G., Molle, P., Nivala, J., Puigagut, J., Stein, O.R. and von Sperling, M. (2017). Treatment Wetlands. *Biological Wastewater Treatment Series, Volume 7*, IWA Publishing, London, UK, 172p. eISBN: 9781780408774. Available for download at <https://www.iwapublishing.com/open-access-ebooks/3567>.

The target audience for the textbook is bachelor-level students with basic knowledge of biological wastewater treatment, as well as practitioners seeking general information on the use of treatment wetlands. The chapters focus on the main types of treatment wetlands for domestic wastewater applications. In addition to the e-Book, the Wetlands TG was involved in organising the following workshop:

“Role of nature-based systems in decentralised approaches for linking sanitation to energy and food security” at the 2nd IWA Resource Recovery Conference held in New York City in August 2017.

As an outcome of the workshop the following mini review was published:

Langergraber, G. and Masi, F. (2018). Treatment wetlands in decentralised approaches for linking sanitation to energy and food security. *Water Science and Technology* **77**, 859–860. <https://iwaponline.com/wst/article/77/4/859-860/39083>.

The Scientific and Technical Report

The work on the STR started with a survey among the Wetland Systems SG members (about 140 SG members took part in the survey). In February 2018, a three-day workshop with approximately 20 participants was organised at BOKU University Vienna in Austria to kick off the STR work. During the workshop the main structure of the book and responsibilities for chapters were defined.

The main outcomes were that the textbook should be the basis of the STR, and that the content of the STR should include useful information for practitioners and researchers aiming to design treatment wetlands.

After the IWA Wetland Systems conference in October 2018 in Valencia, Spain, a meeting on the STR was organised in which the status of the work was reviewed and responsibilities for the remaining work were refined.

The editors had the task to compile the new *Scientific and Technical Report on Wetland Technology*. The STR includes contributions from more than 50 wetland colleagues from academia and practice. The editors are very thankful for all the enthusiasm and effort put into this work and we hope that the STR will be a useful addition to the treatment wetland literature.

We hope you will enjoy this *Scientific and Technical Report on Wetland Technology*.

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