Networking Synthesis Report

Covering the networking activities from 01/08/2017[1] to 31/07/2022

Reporting Date[2]

12 to 17/05/2019

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym

Unlocking the Severn LIFE - LIFE - Shad Severn: Conservation and restoration of twaite shad in the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000219)

data of visited project

Project location:	West Midlands (United Kingdom) – River Severn
Project start date:	11/07/2016
Project end date:	30/09/2021

data of beneficiary

Name Beneficiary:	UK Environment Agency / Canal & River Trust / Severn Rivers Trust
Contact person:	Mr. Charles Crundwell
Postal address:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	charles.crundwell@environment-agency.gov.uk
Project Website:	https://www.unlockingthesevern.co.uk/

[1] Project start date

[2] Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LIFE Águeda teams of **UNIVERSITY OF ÉVORA/MARE** (UÉ/MARE) and **AQUALOGUS** visited the project "Unlocking the Severn LIFE - LIFE - Shad Severn" (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000219) from **13 to 17 of May 2019**. This project aims to improve access to two main rivers of the UK for the twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*), by re-establishing 253 km of the former natural range of the species in the rivers Severn and Teme (one of the Severn's tributaries), allowing the shads to reach their former spawning grounds. The project actions involve the removal of seven barriers to the upstream migration in river Severn, benefiting not only the shads, but other species, like trout, salmon, barbel, chub or eel. The barrier removal and fish pass construction are accompanied by citizen science with several outreach initiatives. A viewing gallery is also to be installed in one of the fish passes, as well as several education, dissemination, and volunteering activities that will accompany the project's development.

The main actions of LIFE – Shad Severn target the problem of river discontinuity and its impacts on migratory fish life cycle, an issue directly addressed by LIFE Águeda in actions B1 and B2. Networking between the two projects created the opportunity to discuss differences and similarities in the solutions adopted in each situation. UÉ/MARE and AQUALOGUS shared experience obtained in fish pass building in River Mondego, covering answers for problems expected to occur depending on the measures to be chosen. That same experience was, naturally, the basis for the optimized solutions presented in **LIFE Águeda**. Monitoring plans and methodologies, and dissemination activities, were also presented and discussed during this visit to LIFE -Shad Severn.

2. NETWORKIG PROGRAM

UÉ/MARE team was represented by Pedro R. Almeida, Sílvia Pedro, Catarina Mateus and Ana Belo, and accompanied all visiting days. Aqualogus team was represented by Pedro Marques and Fábio Santos, who joined the project visit on the 14th and 15th of May, with the programme for these two days focusing on the fish pass projects and weir removal/lowering solutions.

Networking visit programme is presented in Table 1, with description of sites visited and teams/project partners contacted in each day.

Table 1 - Networking visit program

Day	Activity
13/5	Visit to Tewkesbury office to see monitoring at Upper Lode and Maisemore, meet tagging team (HIFI – Hull International Fisheries Institute, BU – Bournemouth University) and see NFS (National Fisheries Service) staff and boat active tracking. Possible down to Maisemore and citizen science
14/5	Walk to Diglis Island - overview of Unlocking the Severn project before showing the lock island education centre and design for Diglis weir fish pass and construction timetable. Run through viewing gallery proposal, with activity plan if available.
15/5	Visit to fish pass sites on the River Severn. Meet at Diglis Island, then to Lincomb weir, Holt weir and Bevere weir. Move to river Teme sites at Powick and Knightwick to explain shad monitoring
16/5	Visit monitoring sites at Tewkesbury, to see citizen science and tagging if unsuccessful on Monday. Activity Plan photo competition also at site. Visit to Severn Rivers Trust office at Martley for a series of presentation on Unlocking the Severn and for MARE-UÉ to share their projects presentations.
17/5	Lead Canal & Rivers Trust & Environment Agency Visit to Severn Estuary, see Severn Bore (tide wave) or weir flooded out, West bank and bridge East bank visit Sharpness and Gloucester docks for historical context of the project

3. NETWORKING OUTPUTS

3.1. CONTACTS

People Contacted and role in the project:

- **Mike Morris**, Director of **Severn Rivers Trust (SRT)**. First contact to visit the project.
- **Charles Crundwell**, Senior Technical Specialist Fisheries at **Environment Agency (EA)**; responsible for the project visit organization and calendarization. Coordinates monitoring actions.
- **Andy Don**, works for the **Environment Agency** and specialises in eel passage and eel protection at pumping stations
- **Jon Bolland**, works at **Hull International Fisheries Institute (HIFI)** and is contracted to undertake the tagging of the shad under Home Office Licence
- **Peter Davies**, PhD student at **Bournemouth University (BU)** studying the behaviour of shad in freshwater
- **Richard Harrison**, work for **Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT)** and is project manager for the fish build at Diglis Weir
- **David Clarke** works for the **EA** in-house project management delivery team (NCPMS). He is the Project Executive on the builds on the river Teme at Powick Weir (removal/lowering) and Knightwick (rock ramp)
- **Richard Leigh**, the fish pass build contract (Kier) employed by the **CRT** to deliver the fish pass builds at Diglis and Bevere Weir in 2019
- **Alex Ball**, Works for **CRT** in delivering the Activity Plan for the Unlocking the Severn Project
- **Paul Kelly**, Works for **CRT** and is project Manager for the fish pass build at Bevere Weir (column pass)

- **Paul Herickx** works for the **EA** in-house project management delivery team (NCPMS). He is the Project Manager on the builds on the river Teme at Powick Weir (removal/lowering) and Knightwick (rock ramp)
- **Thomas Goyon**, student with **SRT** undertaking a Master degree on shad movement passed Powick weir and spawning
- **Emma Washburn**, works for the **National Fisheries Service of the Environment Agency (NFS-EA)** undertaking SEN standard on Fish Passage studies
- **Adrian Fewings**, works for the **NFS-EA** and is Technical Advisor to the Environment agency National Fish Pass Advisory Panel
- **Alice Fallon**, Works for **SRT** and delivers the Activity Plan and School and Educational programmes for the Unlocking the Severn Project
- **Tim Thorpe**, Volunteer Officer, works for **SRT**, delivering the citizen science programme
- **Jason Leach**, Works for **CRT** and is Project Manager for the whole Unlocking the Severn Project

Table 2 - People contacted during the networking visit, with entity to which they belong and email addresses

ENTITY	CONTACT NAME	EMAIL	TEL
SRT	Mike Morris	mike@severnriverstrust.com	
Environment Agency (EA)	Charles Crundwell	charles.crundwell@environment-agency.gov.uk	
EA	Andy Don	andy.don@environment-agency.gov.uk	
Hull International Fisheries Institute (HIFI)	Jon Bolland	J.Bolland@hull.ac.uk	
Bournemouth University	Peter Davies	pdavies1@bournemouth.ac.uk	
Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT)	Richard Harrison	Richard.Harrison@canalrivertrust.org.uk	
EA	David Clarke	david.clarke@environment-agency.gov.uk	
CRT/Kier	Richard Leigh	Richard.Leigh@kier.co.uk	
CRT	Alex Ball	Alex.Ball@canalrivertrust.org.uk	
CRT	Paul Kelly	Paul.Kelly@canalrivertrust.org.uk	
EA	Paul Herickx	Paul.Herickx@environment-agency.gov.uk	
Severn Rivers Trust (SRT)	Thomas Goyon	tgoyon@severnriverstrust.com	
National Fisheries Service - EA	Emma Washburn	emma.washburn@environment-agency.gov.uk	
NFS-EA	Adrian Fewings	adrian.fewings@environment-agency.gov.uk	
SRT	Alice Fallon	Alice.Fallon@severnriverstrust.com	
SRT	Tim Thorpe	Tim.Thorpe@severnriverstrust.com	
CRT	Jason Leach	Jason.Leach@canalrivertrust.org.uk	

3.2. REPLICATION/TRANSFER

LIFE Águeda and LIFE-Shad Severn aim to eliminate barriers in important rivers for migratory species, by either partially or completely removing those barriers, or by mitigating their effects with installation of fish passes. The two projects foresee different monitoring approaches, and networking between the two will be carried on throughout the duration of both projects, both in person and through videoconference and email exchange. Researchers from LIFE-Shad Severn are willing to visit LIFE Águeda during 2020 to follow up on the development of the proposed solutions.

ANNEX - PHOTOS

<table>
<tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr>
<tr><td>Meeting at Maisemore weir with tagging team (NW Gloucester), 13.05.19</td><td>Shad capture at Maisemore weir, 13.05.19</td></tr>
<tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr>
<tr><td>Shad spawning site, Wainlode (Glocester), with EA, 13.05.19</td><td>Overview of Unlocking the Severn project, Diglis Island, CRT office (Worcester), 14.05.19</td></tr>
<tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr>
<tr><td>Walk to view Diglis island education centre plans and discuss design for Diglis weir fish pass, 14.05.19</td><td>Outreach discussion: viewing gallery proposal and activity plan with CRT team, Diglis Island, 14.05.19</td></tr>
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Lincomb weir, River Severn, 15.05.19	Lincomb weir, River Severn, 15.05.19
Holt weir, River Severn, 15.05.19	Holt weir, River Severn, 15.05.19
Bevere weir, River Severn, 15.05.19	Bevere weir, River Severn, 15.05.19
Powik weir, River Teme, 15.05.19	Powik weir monitoring, River Teme, 15.05.19

Knightwick weir, River Teme, 15.05.19	Knightwick weir, River Teme, 15.05.19
Upper Lode weir (Tewkesbury), 16.05.19	Upper Lode weir (Tewkesbury), 16.05.19
Presentations on Unlocking the Severn, SRT office (Martley), 16.05.19	LIFE Agueda presentation, SRT office (Martley), 16.05.19
Visit to Severn Estuary, 17.05.19	Visit to Lydney Harbour, Severn Estuary, 17.05.19

Eel pass at Lydney Harbour, 17.05.19	SRT office, Gloucester docks, 17.05.19

ANNEX - COMMUNICATION

Facebook posts:

https://www.facebook.com/LIFE.AGUEDA/posts/434316267145995
https://www.facebook.com/LIFE.AGUEDA/posts/434724947105127
https://www.facebook.com/LIFE.AGUEDA/posts/437795390131416
https://www.facebook.com/LIFE.AGUEDA/posts/437633256814296

Tweeter:

https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyMids/status/1130872160409538561
https://twitter.com/sypetra/status/1128604524061634561
https://twitter.com/CatarinaPMateus/status/1128351712257937413
https://twitter.com/CatarinaPMateus/status/1127999129936977920

LIFE-Águeda Website:

http://life-agueda.uevora.pt/noticias.php#
http://life-agueda.uevora.pt/en/noticias.php#

LIFE Águeda's Powerpoint Presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1spKfi1gd1oBmpPGaiqvdYdUtbaL8QRW1/view?usp=sharing