

**Wetland Technology to Achieve Compliance: Problems and Solutions**  
**24<sup>th</sup> June 2009, WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre**

**Introduction**

The water environment in Europe is in a state of decline. For many years our rivers, lakes, coasts and wetlands have been used as natural sinks - a repository for sewage, slurry, and industrial effluents – in fact almost anything which was either too difficult or too expensive to get rid of in any other way. Water quality is an issue for even the most progressive countries and how do deal with the polluting effect of growth and economic development is an on going problem.

The EU is addressing this problem by introducing what is arguably the most wide reaching legislation since the Common Agricultural Policy. There are 4 main pieces of legislation which directly affect – or will affect - the water environment, they are:

1. The Water Framework Directive – A commitment by EU member states to achieve 'good' water quality status by 2015.
2. The EU Floods Directive – A commitment to assess and manage flood risk.
3. The Nitrates Directive – A commitment to control and manage nutrients in the water environment.
4. The Urban Wastewater Directive – A commitment to protect the water environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban waste water and from certain industrial discharges.

Some of these directives are already in force. Others are coming in the future. All have two things in common - firstly, a requirement for the regulators of member states to take responsibility to set and impose standards designed to halt the decline and improve water quality, and secondly, the need to develop innovative technologies to meet the new standards.

Reed-beds and constructed wetlands offer new solutions to many water quality issues. They are not simply another alternative to an existing technology. Industrial wastewaters, industrial run-off pollution, SUDs, CSO and EO capacity for WwTWs, domestic and agricultural effluents, amongst others, can all be treated using constructed wetlands.

At this seminar we aim to bring together consultants, regulators, designers, researchers, installers and conservationists to explore the use and development of constructed wetlands, building on present experience, to meet and resolve current and future regulatory and water quality issues.

**Venue**

Slimbridge is the headquarters of the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and was the first wetland centre opened by Sir Peter Scott in 1946. Its award-winning visitor centre overlooks 325 hectares of nationally and internationally protected wetlands including a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Ramsar Site and Special Protection Interest (SPA).

## Programme

### **Plenary Session - Update on WFD**

#### **Findings and trials to improve management especially for phosphate control WWT Case Study: Slimbridge South Finger System**

*Charlie Stratford, Elizabeth Palmer-Felgate and Mike Bowers, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)*

### **Point Source Nutrients**

### **Diffuse Nutrients Agriculture**

### **Carbon Accounting**

### **SUDS and storm water reed beds for attenuation**

*Robert Bray, Robert Bray Associates*

### **Wetlands and additional benefits they can bring**

*Matthew Simpson, WWT Consulting*

- integration into the community,
- livelihoods,
- wildlife,
- storm water control

## Delegate Fees

**£195 (+VAT) CWA Members**

**£220 (+VAT) Non CWA Members**

**£100 Students and Academics**