



2023 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand

3–6 October 2023

ASFA/2023/12

Project proposal: European inland waters

FAO ASFA Secretariat Trust Fund project proposal

Project title: European Inland Waters - \$15,000.00

Aims and outputs:

This project will aim to collate resources related to European Inland Waters and make them available on OpenASFA. As a result of the project, a network of governmental, research, regulatory and academic institutions who work on European inland waters will be formed who will advise on best practice in sharing of research, including the terminologies used to index resource which will include improved coverage of this topic on the ASFA thesaurus.

The outputs will be:

- a collection of OpenASFA records related to European inland waters. These records will be a mix of harvested and manually created records, meaning the project will test, and likely lead to improvements of, the workflow for harvesting and publishing records from repositories.
- a catalogue of resources related to European inland waters (e.g. repositories, directory of research institutions, programmes and projects);
- improved coverage of freshwater and inland waters areas on the ASFA thesaurus;
- a report summarizing the available resources with recommendations for continuing to build on the OpenASFA collection.

Timeline

The project will be conducted in phases:

1. January 2024 – March 2024: Identification of institutions. The ASFA Secretariat will issue a call to institutions who produce research related to European inland waters and are willing to contribute to the project. Institutions will be asked to commit to contributing to the OpenASFA collection by either allowing their repository to be harvested or creating manual records. Optional areas to contribute to are improvements to the ASFA thesaurus, catalogue of resources and report writing.
2. April 2024 – June 2024: Creation of OpenASFA collection. The ASFA Secretariat will work with selected institutions to build the OpenASFA collection on European inland waters. This will involve training sessions for those creating manual records and technical support to those institutions whose repositories will be harvested. Whilst records are being created, the ASFA secretariat will ask for feedback on keywords in the ASFA thesaurus and aim to create additional keywords as necessary. Assistance on translating the ASFA thesaurus into other European languages will also be sought.
3. July – August 2024: Quality control. The ASFA Secretariat will take a brief period of time to perform quality control on the OpenASFA collection to ensure relevancy and accuracy, as well as

improvements to harvested records. Following this period the full collection will be made available on OpenASFA search interface on FAO website.

4. September – December 2024: Catalogue and Report. When the OpenASFA collection is finalized, a catalogue of resources which contributed to the project will be compiled, consisting of the institutions, repositories and other information systems that form the OpenASFA collection. A brief project report summarizing the collection and making recommendations for maintaining it will be written by the ASFA Secretariat and published by FAO.

Justification: Whilst the ASFA European regional network is one of the most active in terms of records, it has one of the lowest percentage of active partners. Inland areas of Europe are particularly underrepresented. At the same time, European inland waters face several threats from climate change, pollution, habitat loss/degradation, biodiversity loss and invasive species. It is hoped that this project will lead to new institutions joining the ASFA partnership, as well as creating a collection of mainly grey literature covering European inland waters.

Participants: Participation will be open to ASFA and non-ASFA institutions in Europe who produce research. Interested institutions are invited to contact the Secretariat who will ensure they are kept up to date with the project.

Administration: The ASFA Secretariat will administer this project and act as focal point for participating institutions throughout. Institutions will be expected to contribute initially on a voluntary basis with up to \$15,000 reserved for payments to up to 10 individuals able to contribute significant time in the manual creation of OpenASFA records or the editing of harvested records.