POLITECNICO DI TORINO Repository ISTITUZIONALE

Landscape Metrics Integrated in Hydraulic Modeling for River Restoration Planning

Original

Landscape Metrics Integrated in Hydraulic Modeling for River Restoration Planning / Tamagnone, Paolo; Comino, Elena; Rosso, Maurizio. - In: ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING & ASSESSMENT. - ISSN 1420-2026. - ELETTRONICO. - (2020). [10.1007/s10666-020-09693-y]

Availability: This version is available at: 11583/2789436 since: 2020-02-05T11:12:50Z

Publisher: Springer International Publishing

Published DOI:10.1007/s10666-020-09693-y

Terms of use:

This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

Publisher copyright

(Article begins on next page)

Environmental Modeling & Assessment

Landscape metrics integrated in hydraulic modeling for river restoration planning --Manuscript Draft--

Manuscript Number:	ENMO-D-19-00190R2
Full Title:	Landscape metrics integrated in hydraulic modeling for river restoration planning
Article Type:	Original Research
Keywords:	landscape metrics; hydraulic numerical modeling; river restoration; riverine environment; landscape management
Corresponding Author:	Paolo Tamagnone Politecnico di Torino Torino, Piemonte ITALY
Corresponding Author Secondary Information:	
Corresponding Author's Institution:	Politecnico di Torino
Corresponding Author's Secondary Institution:	
First Author:	Paolo Tamagnone
First Author Secondary Information:	
Order of Authors:	Paolo Tamagnone
	Elena Comino
	Maurizio Rosso
Order of Authors Secondary Information:	
Funding Information:	
Abstract:	Engineers have shaped the environment across the centuries in order to improve the quality and safety of human life. The unrestrained invasion of nature led to significant environmental problems, for this reason nowadays engineering projects should be based on ecological concepts to protect our environment. This paper presents an integrated methodology that involves GIS tools, hydraulic numerical models and landscape metrics to investigate ecological consequences caused by river restoration activities. The combined use of these different tools represents a bridge to connect the field of engineering with ecological techniques. The proposed method was tested to predict and assess the influence of a river restoration plan on a reach of the Orco river located in the north-west of Italy. Morphological alterations were simulated to reconnect remnant meanders and provide water to the floodplain, enhancing the ecological value of finarian access the application of the hydraulic model permitted to evaluate
	the distribution of water inside the study area before and after the restoration plan. Thereafter, spatial configuration and temporal dynamics of the landscape structures were quantified using landscape metrics. The increase of patch density (PD) by 9% and edge density (ED) up to 10% highlights that restoration activities lead to a new configuration characterized by a higher level of fragmentation and heterogeneity. The characteristics of versatility, repeatability and the possibility to predict the outcomes of a specific plan make the proposed method a useful tool that could help decision- makers to manage the territory while safeguarding natural ecosystems.

Dear authors,

Thank you for submitting the revised version of your manuscript. You have processed all comments of the reviewer and me. I particularly like the sections you added to the discussion about the expected impact of the changes on animal. Good job.

I now consider your manuscript ready for publication, on the condition that you perform the following seven format/layout changes:

1. All variables in all equations need to be defined and (shortly) described below the equation. Please do this for the variables in equation 1.

The description of variables has been added. To avoid a repetition, the last section "Notation has been removed.

2. In our journal, each displayed mathematical expression needs to be treated as part of an English sentence and end in a comma if the sentence continues (e.g., as in (1)), or in a period if the sentence stops (e.g., as in (2)).

The authors may wish to use the following manuscript as an example of good and consistent formatting of mathematical expressions:

The Strategic Impact of Adaptation in a Transboundary Pollution Dynamic Game B Vardar, G Zaccour Environmental Modeling & Assessment 23 (6), 653-669. Punctuation has been added.

3. The legends of the meshes and graphs in Figure 3 are too small; please enlarge them.

The image has been improved.

4. Line 224: Please change "the previous image" to "Fig. 6", as images might be placed in a different part of the article in the typesetted version. The sentence has been modified.

5. In my opinion, the current Fig. 6 fits better between Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, as Fig. 6 displays the current flow regimes, and Fig. 5 the impacts of this regime on the channel activation for the two scenarios.

The Fig. 6 has been moved before the actual Fig 5, inverting the order of images.

 Please provide the full names of the landscape metrics in the caption of Table 3, such that the table is understandable in isolation.
 Full names of metrics have been added.

7. Line 286: Please only use the word significant if you actually performed a significance test. The word "significant" has been substituted.

16 January 2020

Paolo Tamagnone

Politecnico di Torino, C.so Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129 Torino, Italy

Phone: +39 0110907631

E-mail address: paolo.tamagnone@polito.it

То

Environmental Modeling & Assessment

Dear editors,

I am writing this letter in support to the submission of the last version of my research paper.

The present paper represents the revised version of the manuscript ENMO-D-19-00190R1.

During the submission process, I have also uploaded a file reporting a detailed point-by-point reply to the advisory editor's comments (Decision letter- author's replies).

Sincerely,

Paolo Tamagnone

Click here to view linked References

Authors

Paolo Tamagnone^{1*}, Elena Comino¹, Maurizio Rosso¹

¹Department of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering, Politecnico di Torino, C.so Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129 Torino, Italy

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39 0110907631. E-mail address: paolo.tamagnone@polito.it (P. Tamagnone). *ORCID CODE:

- Paolo Tamagnone: 0000-0002-0485-2169
- Elena Comino: 0000-0002-3289-1800
- Maurizio Rosso: 0000-0001-9504-0512

Title

Landscape metrics integrated in hydraulic modeling for river restoration planning

Abstract

Engineers have shaped the environment across the centuries in order to improve the quality and safety of human life. The unrestrained invasion of nature led to significant environmental problems, for this reason nowadays engineering projects should be based on ecological concepts to protect our environment. This paper presents an integrated methodology that involves GIS tools, hydraulic numerical models and landscape metrics to investigate ecological consequences caused by river restoration activities. The combined use of these different tools represents a bridge to connect the field of engineering with ecological techniques. The proposed method was tested to predict and assess the influence of a river restoration plan on a reach of the Orco river located in the north-west of Italy. Morphological alterations were simulated to reconnect remnant meanders and provide water to the floodplain, enhancing the ecological value of riparian ecosystems. The application of the hydraulic model permitted to evaluate the distribution of water inside the study area before and after the restoration plan. Thereafter, spatial configuration and temporal dynamics of the landscape structures were quantified using landscape metrics. The increase of patch density (PD) by 9% and edge density (ED) up to 10% highlights that restoration activities lead to a new configuration characterized by a higher level of fragmentation and heterogeneity. The characteristics of versatility, repeatability and the possibility to predict the outcomes of a specific plan make the proposed method a useful tool that could help decision-makers to manage the territory while safeguarding natural ecosystems.

Keywords

landscape metrics; hydraulic numerical modeling; river restoration; riverine environment; landscape management

1 1. Introduction

Nowadays there is a deeper sensibility toward natural spaces after many years of uncontrolled use of the territory. Anthropogenic disturbances have altered landscape structure and its ecological processes [1]. In this framework, ecologist and engineers have strived to conserve, defend and restore the "*green*" part of our planet.

6 Focusing on riverine environments, different disciplines were born in past decades trying to 7 connect the world of hydraulics with ecological concepts such as the eco-hydraulics [2-4] and hydroecology [5]. Much effort has been devoted to the research of effective actions with the purpose to 8 9 restore disturbed ecosystems and natural landscapes [6]. To successfully accomplish restoration 10 techniques, it is important to understand the correlation between ecological features, physical factors (such as hydraulic behavior of rivers) and landscape patterns [7-9]. The analysis of the 11 12 relationship between human disturbances and landscape structure is the key to accomplish a 13 suitable landscape planning and management [10]. The management of the landscape structure 14 must begin from the full comprehension of all its features because the landscape should be analyzed 15 as a whole using a holistic approach [11,12].

16 A consolidated technique for the quantification of the main characteristics of a landscape such 17 as structure, function and change is the use of ecological indicators called landscape metrics [13,14]. 18 A large number of metrics have been developed in the past few decades able to assess landscape 19 structure based on categorical maps [7]. Today, the combination of GIS applications and 20 mathematical codes such as FRAGSTATS [15] are widely used in the field of ecological applications. 21 Numerous studies have shown how landscape metrics can provide a large amount of information 22 on landscape composition and configuration [16]. In many cases, landscape metrics are also used to 23 assess how the landscape changes over time under human pressure or to evaluate the effectiveness 24 of conservative plans in protected zones [17-19]. Other studies focused on fluvial landscape 25 configuration and dynamics [20–22].

26 In the framework of the eco-hydraulics a number of studies have used hydraulic modelling to 27 analyze specific ecological aspects such as the determination of the ecological flow (called also instream flow) [23-25] or the evaluation of habitats suitability [26,27]. Meanwhile, a few studies 28 29 have investigated the potential advantages of the synergic application of landscape metrics and 30 hydraulic modeling in suitable environments planning [1]. Entwistle et al. [4] used a 2D hydraulic 31 model and FRAGSTATS to evaluate the ecological value of anabranched channels. Van 32 Nieuwenhuyse et al. [28] has utilized landscape metrics to evaluate the degree of hydrological 33 connectivity among artificial catchments. Rare is the application of both methodology to assess the 34 spatial structure of a hydraulic environment [29] and the lack of spatial analysis from hydraulic 35 assessments was previously highlighted by Newson and Newson [30].

The present paper aims to extend the field of spatial analysis application in riverine environments, introducing a methodology that integrates hydraulic modelling and landscape metrics. The proposed method allows predicting the effects of restoration plans on riverine landscapes quantifying ecological features such as connectivity and heterogeneity. Therefore, it could be a useful tool to provide important information guiding decision-makers in territorial planning.

42 The paper is organized into three main parts:

- 43 1. a brief contextualization describing the study area in which the work was carried out;
- 44 2. the software used are listed and the adopted methodology is described;
- 45 3. the outcomes of the study are presented and discussed, and conclusions are drawn.

46 1.1 The aim of the research

The objective of this work is to introduce an integrated method which has four purposes: (1) linking hydraulic knowledge with ecological analysis, mainly using hydraulic models and landscape metrics; (2) predicting spatial pattern changes and ecological impacts resulting from a river restoration plan; (3) assessing the spatial configuration and temporal dynamics of different landscape structures; (4) giving a useful tool to guide local administrations and landscape planners to choose the most non-invasive plans for territory management.

53 2. Study area

The research is focused on the first lowland part of the Orco river's catchment, located in 54 Piedmont in the north-west of Italy. This part covers approximately 22% of the whole river basin 55 and it is characterized by a hilly and flat landscape. In this area, the Orco river flows 40 Km to 56 57 downstream until his confluence in the Po river and its riverbed shows a sinuous trend with an 58 alternation of braided and meandering channels. The river reach between the villages of Rivarolo 59 Canavese and Lusigliè (TO, Italy) was selected for the implementation of the hydraulic model [31]. The study area of 600 hectares was used to carry out hydraulic and ecological analyses [32] (see Fig. 60 61 1).





From the geomorphological point of view, the chosen reach is slightly carved and its riparian areas are characterized by the presence of secondary forms and relict water paths on the left and steep banks on the right. Indeed, the widespread presence of banks in erosion states the planimetric instability of the river. During flooding events, the river tends to restore the pre-existing braided shape. This phenomenon affects variations of the main flow direction, leading to a wide range of historical mobility of the riverbed [33].

The land cover presents a patchwork structure, typical of the fluvial plains. Agricultural lands dominate the study area, almost 50% is covered by meadow and cultivated fields. Woods cover onefifth of the surveyed area and its forest vegetation is mainly composed by *Robinia pseudoacacia* [34].

74 3. Materials and Methods

This section describes the multidisciplinary method proposed in this work, between hydraulics and landscape ecology, which benefits from the combined use of software with different features. It can be divided into three main steps (see Fig. 2): (1) the construction of a land cover map using the overlapping of different maps and satellite images into the GIS module of SMS-11.1-Surface79 water Modeling System [35]; (2) the implementation of the two-dimensional hydraulic model and

80 hydrodynamic simulations using SMS in the pre and post-processing phases and BASEMENT 2.6-

81 Basic Simulation Environment [36] for the processing step; (3) the manipulation of categorical maps

82 in ArcMap 10.3.1 and calculation of landscape metrics with FRAGSTATS. The current released

83 version (FRAGSTATS v4.2) is an efficient tool able to compute a great number of landscape metrics

84 from a wide variety of image formats [15].



85
86 Fig. 2 Schematization of the methodology: input (orange boxes), GIS elaboration (brown box), hydrological/hydraulic
87 calculation (light blue boxes) and ecological assessment (green box)

88 3.1 Land cover assessment

89 The first main action necessary for all following analyses was the detection of the spatial 90 configuration of the study area. The land cover map was obtained by the combination of spatial 91 information from CORINE Land Cover 2000, Digital Terrain Model DTM with a high resolution (on average 1 point each square meter) realized by Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of 92 the Territory and the Sea during the extraordinary Plan of Environmental Remote Sensing with 93 94 LiDAR scan and upgraded satellite images. The resulting land cover map was divided into seven 95 categories: grassland, wood, river bank, water, factories, urban center and roads (see Fig. 3). The 96 distribution of each land cover class in the study area is shown in Table 1.

97 Table 1 Area, percentage cover and Manning's Roughness Coefficient of each land cover class in the study area

Land cover class	Area [ha]	Percentage cover [%]	Manning's Roughness Coefficient
Grassland	276.2	46.0	0.07
Wood	124.5	20.7	0.08
River bank	33.1	5.5	0.045
Water	41.3	6.9	0.045
Factories	8.9	1.5	0.15
Urban center	112.2	18.7	0.15
Roads	4.0	0.7	0.03
Total	600	100	

98 Then each class was matched with a Manning's Roughness Coefficient which represents the 99 hydraulic resistance offered by each surface to the water flow. The identification of the appropriate 100 roughness coefficient derived from a back-analysis carried out during the calibration of the hydraulic 101 model [37]. The high-resolution data permitted also to consider the shapes and geographical 102 positions of structures within the domain such as bridge piers, levees, and road embankments. All

these data were necessary to build the hydraulic model and accomplish hydrodynamic simulations.

3.2 Hydraulic simulations

104

105 The two-dimensional hydraulic model was implemented to simulate the behavior of the river 106 reach and to estimate the amount of wetted area with specific discharges. Throughout a preliminary 107 hydrologic analysis, we calculated the flow duration curve (FDC) and its characteristic values (Qxx) 108 were extracted. In this paper, the value of Qxx will refer to the amount of discharge that should be 109 present on average at least xx days per year in the analyzed river reach. The FDC was calculated 110 from the elaboration of flow data collected from 2010 to 2016 by a gage station near to the 111 upstream boundary of the hydraulic model domain. Each Qxx value was used as an inner boundary 112 condition for hydrodynamic simulations. Moreover, the duration and timing of each discharge were 113 investigated.

The 2D numerical model is based on the numerical resolution of the Shallow Water Equations. These equations calculate the flow field assuming a hydrostatic distribution of the pressures along the depth and neglecting the vertical component of the flow [38]. The conservative form of the equation system can be written as:

118
$$U_t + \nabla \cdot (F, G) + S = 0,$$
 (1)

where U_t is the derivation with respect to time (t) of the conserved variables vector, F and G are the vectors of fluxes and S is the vector of source terms, in the x and y directions, given by:

121
$$U = \begin{pmatrix} h \\ uh \\ vh \end{pmatrix}, \quad F = \begin{pmatrix} uh \\ u^{2}h + \frac{1}{2}gh^{2} - vh\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \\ uvh - vh\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix},$$
122
$$G = \begin{pmatrix} vh \\ uvh - vh\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \\ v^{2}h + \frac{1}{2}gh^{2} - vh\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix}, \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ gh(S_{fx} - S_{Bx}) \\ gh(S_{fy} - S_{By}) \end{pmatrix}.$$
(2)

where *h* is the water depth (m), *u* and *v* are the cartesian components of the flow velocity vector (m/s), *g* is gravity acceleration (m/s²), *v* is the total viscosity (m²/s), S_f is the friction slope (-) and S_b is the bed slope (-).

126 The land cover map obtained in the previous step was matched with the altimetric data of the 127 DTM to create a computational grid (mesh). This grid represents the mathematical representation of the river topography and the basic geometry of the two-dimensional hydraulic model. Two 128 129 different sets of simulations were carried out: in the first, the river behavior on the actual 130 topography was simulated, this will be called "original" scenario. In the second, the wetted area on a modified computational mesh simulating the river restoration plan was calculated, this will be 131 132 called "modified" scenario. In order to obtain the "modified" scenario, a series of altimetric 133 alterations were applied to modify the original mesh. These alterations were circumscribed along 134 100 m of natural riverbanks digging natural levees for reconnecting remnant meanders with the main channel. These levees were created by the intensive sediment transport of floods over time. 135 136 The alterations of the mesh are displayed in Fig. 3.



137

Fig. 3 Land cover map and morphological alterations. Top: enlargement on the original and modified mesh of the first
 altered site. Bottom: enlargement on the original and modified mesh of the second altered site, and two graphs that
 display the modified profile of the river bank.

1413.3 Calculation of landscape metrics

As output of the hydraulic simulation stage, vector layers were produced from each simulation reporting the total amount of wetted area and its distribution into the study area. They have been edited through GIS tools to create raster files used as FRAGSTATS inputs. The high accuracy of the hydraulic model outcomes permitted to keep a high-resolution during the rasterization of the vector maps. The grain size of 1 m was set up during the rasterization process [39].

Landscape composition and configuration have been evaluated using FRAGSTATS for both cases, 147 "original" and "modified" scenarios. The analyses were carried out with the standard patch neighbor 148 149 8-cell rule option. FRAGSTATS calculates a number of landscape indices but sometimes several of 150 them are redundant, especially when two equivalent landscapes are compared. Thus, in order to 151 choose the most representative indices, metrics that did not show a remarkable variation between 152 the "original" and "modified" landscape (Δ <0.1) have been discarded. Furthermore, a smaller set of 153 seven metrics have been selected according to the most used landscape indices in literature. For a 154 comprehensive characterization of the landscape, we selected metrics belonging to three different 155 metrics categories called Area-Edge, Shape and Aggregation. Each category reveals specific 156 information such as: (I) Area-Edge analyzes the degree of fragmentation, (II) Shape measures the geometry complexity and (III) Aggregation quantifies the landscape configuration, namely the level 157 158 of patch dispersion [7]. The classification and description of each metrics are listed as follows:

159 I. Area-Edge metrics:

- ED: Edge Density equals the sum of the lengths of all edge segments in the landscape, divided
 by the total landscape area;
- 162 2. AREA_AM: Area-weighted Mean patch Area equals the sum, across all patches in the
 163 landscape, of the patch area, multiplied by the proportional abundance of the patch;
- 3. AREA_SD: Standard Deviation in patch Area equals the square root of the sum of the squared
 deviations of each patch size from the mean patch size computed for all patches in the
 landscape, divided by the total number of patches;
- 4. AREA_CV: Coefficient of Variation in patch Area equals the standard deviation divided by the
 mean, multiplied by 100 to convert to a percentage;
- 169 II. Shape metrics:
- 5. SHAPE_AM: Area-weighted Mean Shape index equals the sum, across all patches in the
 landscape, of the patch perimeter divided by the square root of patch area standardized to
 a square, multiplied by the proportional abundance of the patch;

173 III. Aggregation metrics:

- 6. PD: Patch Density equals the number of patches in the landscape divided by total landscapearea;
- 176
 7. ENN_MN: Mean Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance equals the sum, across all patches in
 177 the landscape, of the distance to the nearest neighboring patch of the same type, based on
 178 shortest edge-to-edge distance, divided by the total number of patches.
- 179 The equations and the corresponding terms of these metrics are shown in Table 2.
- 180 Table 2 List of landscape metrics used in the study [15]

Metrics	Equations	Terms
Edge Density (ED)	$ED = {^E/_A}$	Where E is the total length of the edge in landscape and A is total landscape area
Area-weighted Mean patch Area (AREA_AM)	AREA_AM = $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left[a_{ij} \left(\frac{a_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}} \right) \right]$	Where a_{ij} is the area of patch i of the patch type j
Standard Deviation in patch Area (AREA_SD)	AREA_SD = $\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left[a_{ij} - \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}}{N}\right)\right]^2}{N}}$	Where a _{ij} is the area of patch i of the patch type j and N is the total number of patches in the landscape
Coefficient of Variation in patch Area (AREA_CV)	AREA_CV = $\begin{bmatrix} AREA_SD / \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}}_{N} \end{bmatrix} (100)$	Where a _{ij} is the area of patch i of the patch type j and N is the total number of patches in the landscape
Area-weighted Mean Shape index (SHAPE_AM)	AREA_AM = $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left[\left(\frac{0.25 \cdot p_{ij}}{\sqrt{a_{ij}}} \right) \left(\frac{a_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}} \right) \right]$	Where p_{ij} is the perimeter of the patch i of the patch type j and a_{ij} is the area of patch i
Patch Density (PD)	PD = N/A	Where N is the total number of patches in the landscape and A is the total landscape area
Mean Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance (ENN_MN)	$ENN_MN = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} h_{ij}}{N}$	Where h _{ij} is the distance from patch ij to nearest neighboring patch of the same type (class), based on patch edge-to-edge distance, computed from cell center to cell center and N is the

(3)

182 The set of seven ecological metrics was calculated for both "original" and "modified" scenarios 183 and for each Qxx. The difference between the two analyzed cases will be indicated with the 184 parameter Δ , calculated as follows:

185 $\Delta = metrics_{modified \ scenario} - metrics_{original \ scenario}.$

186 4. Results

181

194

187 Results obtained in this study have both hydraulic and ecological nature. Hydraulic outputs 188 represent the input for the ecological analysis. For this reason, results will be described in two 189 different subsections.

190 4.1 Hydraulic outputs

191 The examined FDC represents the relationship between the amount of discharge and its 192 persistence during a mean hydrologic year [40]. The FDC and its characteristic values are shown in 193 Fig. 4.









197 Timing and duration of each analyzed discharge (mean number of days per month in which that amount of 198 Fia. 5 199 discharge flows into the river).

Using these discharges as upstream boundary condition in hydrodynamic simulations, the 200 201 numerical model produces different wetted area maps for both "original" and "modified" 202 configurations. Hydraulic simulations on the "original" mesh depict all the same scenarios in which 203 the total among of water flow only into the main channel (Fig. 6). Whereas, simulations on the "modified" geometry show a different behavior of the river as the flow increases: 204

- 205 if the discharge is less than Q30, the water flows into the main channel and exclusively the 206 little channel in the first modified site is reactivated (Fig. 6, Q60);
- 207 if the discharge is greater than or equal to Q30, the discharge overtops the river bank and 208 starts to flow not only in the original streambed but also through the floodplain bringing 209 water to the riparian ecosystem (Fig. 6, Q30-Q1).



210 211 212

Fig. 6 Hydraulic outcomes for both scenarios with increasing discharge from left to right. The reactivation of the remnant streambeds leads to an increase of the wetted surface of 1.8%, 18.9%, 21.8%, 22.1% and 23.3% respectively 213 for the scenario with Q60, Q30, Q10, Q5 and Q1.

The reactivation of the remnant meanders is strictly connected with the hydrology of the Orco 214 river, which is yearly characterized by two distinct periods of high flow (Fig. 5). The first, in which 215

the discharge grows according to spring rainfalls together with the snow melting in the headwater; the second, characterized by the occurrence of yearly flood events caused by intense autumn rainstorms. This flow pattern leads to the reactivation of the channels for 24 days from April to August, and for 6 days from October to December. June and November show the maximum duration of discharge greater than Q30.

221 The river restoration action is completely respectful of the original ecosystem since the subtracted water flows in the floodplain and then gets back to the river 1 Km downstream. This new 222 223 configuration is also in accordance with the planimetric divagation range (streamway) of the river. 224 Superimposing the wetted surface map of the "modified" scenario over the planimetric variations 225 map of the Orco river, it is clear how the flow retraces the paths of old abandoned riverbeds (Fig. 7). Reconnecting remnant meanders or rebuilding secondary channels are restoration actions 226 227 widely adopted to enhance the ecological value of the riverine ecosystems and recreate the continuum with the floodplain [6,41–44]. 228



229

Fig. 7 Superimposition of the modified wetted surface map over the planimetric variations in the Orco river map
 (realized by Research Institute for the Hydrogeological Protection–Turin section)

232 4.2 Ecological outputs

In order to assess the effects of the restoration plan on the landscape structure and its riverine ecosystem, a series of comparisons were carried out. Firstly, the comparison at the class and landscape level of metrics obtained from both scenarios with Q30 aims to highlight changes in the spatial configuration due to reactivated channels. All outcomes are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3 The group of seven metrics (ED – Edge Density, AREA_AM – Area-weighted Mean patch Area, AREA_SD –
 Standard Deviation in patch Area, AREA_CV – Coefficient of Variation in patch Area, PD – Patch Density, SHAPE_AM –
 Area-weighted Mean Shape index and ENN_MN – Mean Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance) calculated with Q30 for
 both scenarios and their comparison. Factories, urban center and roads classes have been neglected since they have
 not been altered by the restoration plan.

Landscape level							
Metrics	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN
Original scenario	109.0	58.5	21.3	231.1	10.8	2.9	95.3
Modified scenario	119.9	55.2	19.9	235.3	11.8	3.0	84.4
Δ	10.8	-3.3	-1.4	4.2	1.0	0.2	-10.9

Class level								
Original scenario								
Land cover class	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN	
Grassland	73.2	66.2	29.1	168.3	2.7	2.8	11.7	
Wood	60.3	44.8	17.4	209.7	2.5	3.2	29.2	
River bank	18.0	9.6	4.6	138.0	1.7	2.0	53.4	
Water	30.8	37.5	18.1	131.2	0.5	4.7	164.0	
			Modified sc	enario				
Land cover class	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN	
Grassland	73.5	65.9	28.4	174.9	2.8	2.8	12.3	
Wood	70.2	25.6	11.0	177.8	3.2	3.2	26.6	
River bank	17.8	9.7	4.5	150.3	1.8	2.0	44.2	
Water	42.4	45.2	21.7	132.8	0.5	6.8	81.6	
			Δ					
Grassland	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	6.6	0.2	0.0	0.6	
Wood	9.9	-19.1	-6.4	-31.9	0.7	0.1	-2.6	
River bank	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	12.4	0.2	0.0	-9.2	
Water	11.6	7.8	3.7	1.6	0.0	2.1	-82.4	

242 Focusing at the landscape level, the modified landscape shows a slight increase in fragmentation 243 degree. Consistent with observations of Sowińska-Świerkosz and Soszyński [39], alterations caused 244 by the reactivated channels among the floodplain lead to a separation into a larger number of 245 smaller patches increasing the fragmentation degree. This information is justified by the growth of 246 ED and AREA_CV values and in the AREA_AM and AREA_SD decreasing. As reported by McGarigal 247 and Marks [7], the variation of AREA CV and AREA SD means that on the modified study area 248 patches become smaller and their distribution size is farther from the average size than in the 249 original area.

In the context of habitat fragmentation, the grade of patch isolation is calculated with the Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance (ENN) metric [15,45]. The modified area presents a smaller value of ENN_MN, with a decrease of 11.5%. This means that even if the patches are more fragmented, they are less isolated.

254 Another important ecological factor is the landscape complexity. The modified landscape shows 255 a slight increase in the degree of complexity in the planar shape given by the raised value of 256 SHAPE AM. This metrics illustrates how much the patch shape is different from the standard square 257 shape. Generally, natural shapes are not regular, therefore the restored configuration appears to 258 be more akin to a natural environment. The last analyzed ecological metrics was PD. The slight 259 increase of 9% in PD value in the modified landscape, in correlation with ED, means that the 260 modified landscape has a higher level of heterogeneity. Previous studies have confirmed the 261 effectiveness of PD and ED as indicators of the spatial heterogeneity degree in landscapes [32].

Landscape attributes at class level were also analyzed in order to understand in-depth the results of this stage. The most modified land cover classes were wood and water because the reactivated watercourses run across the floodplain covered by wood (Fig. 6). As reported in Table 3, there is a substantial difference in nearest neighbor distance for water patches, from 164 to 81. While the variation of AREA_AM and AREA_CV in wood class caused by the subdivision in more smaller patches shows a remarkable decrease of 40%.

268 In the second stage, since in a natural river the amount of flow varies during the year, the 269 evaluation of dynamics of the landscape structure was carried out tracking the wetted area

270 distribution for the different discharges. Landscape metrics calculated at the landscape level are







Fig. 8 Landscape metrics representing the dynamics of landscape structure in terms of fragmentation (a: Edge Density, b: Area-weighted Mean patch Area, c: Standard Deviation in patch Area, d: Coefficient of Variation in patch 275 Area), complexity (e: Area-weighted Mean Shape index) and configuration (f: Patch Density, g: Mean Euclidean Nearest 276 Neighbor Distance) as the flow increases.

277 For the Q60 both scenarios are very similar, whereas a considerable variation can be noticed for 278 the other discharges. ED value in the modified scenario rises and falls at each increment due to the 279 intermittent ramification of water paths creating isolated wood and river bank patches. SHAPE AM 280 is almost unvaried meaning that neither restoration activity nor increasing discharge do not strongly 281 affect the complexity level of the landscape. However, all metrics show the same trend in both 282 scenarios stating how the restoration action have not changed the response of the riverine 283 landscape to discharge variation. Only for the maximum discharge Q1, the number of patches 284 classified as river bank increase in the original scenarios and decrease in the modified scenario 285 leading to a reversion of the value of the metric (Fig. 8c, d, f, g).

5. Discussion 286

287 The methodology presented in this study is a procedure able to assess the impacts of changes in the 288 spatial structure of riverine landscapes. Different scenarios may be developed according to different strategies to achieve specific objectives [10]. Moreover, it is possible to analyze different landscapes 289 290 to identify needs and lacks in an attempt to apply specific restoration actions aimed at improving 291 ecological conditions [39]. Using a numerical-based approach, a wide range of scenarios can be 292 compared, and the most suitable plan may be chosen by authorities improving the management of 293 the territory.

294 In the studied case a river restoration action was carried out reactivating natural watercourses 295 among the floodplain and its impact on the landscape structure was analyzed. Results obtained in 296 the previous section are metrics used to give a quantification of four fundamental ecological 297 attributes such as fragmentation, isolation, complexity, and heterogeneity. The chosen discharges 298 have permitted to analyze the spatial configuration and dynamics of these components since the 299 hydraulic conditions that reactivate the watercourses are non-stationary. When flow rate in the 300 river is less than Q30, no water flows in the floodplain and the lower level of fragmentation means 301 a higher level of connectivity among the patches with the same class type. For some species such as 302 mammals, this landscape is more hospitable because larger areas offer stable conditions required 303 to host a flourishing population. While, when discharge is greater than the threshold Q30, flow 304 reactivates watercourses watering riparian ecosystems and increasing the degree of fragmentation 305 especially for the wood class. The landscape with a mosaic of varied ecosystems is more attractive 306 for the multi-habitat species [39]. Thus, the higher level of fragmentation does not involve habitat 307 losses or impoverishment of biodiversity but on the contrary, the modified morphology proves to 308 be more suitable for a greater variety of ecosystems [46,47].

309 The edge density is directly correlated to the grade of spatial heterogeneity and fragmentation [7]. The increasing of this metrics means that when water flows into the floodplain a higher amount 310 311 of edges affects the landscape. The increased level of fragmentation and the reduction in patch size 312 could influence the behavior of some animal species, particularly these periodic changes can 313 support, alternately, the growth of species that prefer edge habitats or interior kinds [48]. When 314 discharge periodically increases, the variation of connections between patches with no-water 315 classification may influence the migration of terrestrial species which require connectedness. For 316 instance, the early reactivation of the remnant streambeds coincides with the hedgehog breeding 317 season (species living in the study area, [49]). Thus, the lack of connectivity within the riparian forest 318 could affect the mobility of these animals hindering them reproduction. On the contrary, in the 319 same period, the presence of new wetlands provides an attractive habitat for pond breeding 320 amphibians [50].

321 However, cyclical dry and wet periods raise the production of nutrient matter improving the 322 environmental quality of aquatic biota. The autumnal reactivation will move organic matter that 323 covers the ground, such as leaf litter, enhancing the abundance of detritivorous macroinvertebrates, 324 in particular, shredders such as Ephemeroptera and Plecoptera [51,52]. These organisms will break 325 the coarse particulate organic material up into a finer size feeding the collectors leaving in the river 326 downstream. Since the riparian area is covered by trees, the presence of coarse wood in the 327 reactivated channels provides a favorable habitat for organisms such as biofilm algae which will 328 represent a new source of food for invertebrates such as snails and beetles [53].

The slight increase in shape complexity shows that the applied geomorphological modifications do not produce great variations in landscape structure in both landscape and class level. This demonstrates how the tested river restoration plan is non-invasive towards the patch geometry. Anthropogenic activities in river restoration planning should be as eco-friendly as possible in order to enhance the ecological value of the landscape without leaving human evidence. The monitoring of the complexity degree can be an efficient indicator to assess the interference of human activities in the landscape.

The variation of ENN_MN is concentrated mainly in water patches until Q5 and involves markedly 336 337 river bank class with Q1. It represents a reduction in patch isolation, meaning that the altered 338 landscape configuration has a smaller interpatch distance. Indeed, when water flows through the 339 floodplain, the distribution of wetted surfaces is more homogeneous into the study area. Regarding 340 the wood class, several studies have claimed that patch isolation influences the life of bird 341 communities and the insularity due to fragmented habitats has a negative impact on bird species 342 [54]. In the proposed restoration plan the difference in isolation degree is favorable in most cases. 343 Only the grassland class presents a negligible increase of almost 5%. The modified configuration 344 conduces to a more heterogeneous landscape able to host a proliferation of vast varieties of animal 345 populations, both aquatic and terrestrial species. The level of heterogeneity will change over the year, according to the hydrology of the river, varying ecological processes among landscape pattern[55].

All the above-mentioned considerations derive from the interpretation of the analyzed metrics 348 349 and their values. The quantification of these metrics is strongly conditioned by the parameters 350 selected by the operator. Especially during the rasterization of the vector files, the choice of the cell size could alter the outcome leading to an erroneous division or union of patches. This problem is 351 352 emphasized for landscape metrics based on the size and number of patches [7]. Many studies have 353 shown how grain size affects the outcomes of landscape metrics applications [56-58]. For this 354 reason, we chose a very fine grain size, 1 m, in order to generate a raster file representative of the 355 reality.

Moreover, as stated by Plexida et al. [32], some landscape metrics are influenced by the size of the analyzed domain such as area-edge and shape metrics. The use of a restricted area size could lead to analyze a landscape characterized by a single class, impeding the assessment of ecological attributes of the study area. In addition, whether the restoration plan aims to recover plants and animals, the presented methodology should be applied considering a scale compatible with the species' perception of the environment [59]. For instance, an agricultural field could represent an entire habitat for an insect but, simultaneously, only a single patch for a bird.

363 6. Conclusion

Nowadays an increased sensibility towards environment joins experts, authorities, and researchers in the search for the best solutions for sustainable management of the territory. Multidisciplinary approaches are needed to understand the interactions between natural processes and human activities.

In this paper, a method was proposed that integrates hydraulic and landscape ecological 368 369 knowledge with the purpose of creating a tool able to simulate a river restoration plan and quantify 370 its impact on the landscape structure and its ecosystems. This methodology can predict the 371 achievement of the objectives in landscape planning and evaluate whether the proposed design is 372 suitable and valid in a cost-benefit analysis perspective. The entire procedure is based on geographical information and numerical data. Therefore, it represents a significant advantage 373 374 because required data can be extrapolated from thematic maps or numerical simulation, reducing 375 the necessity of costly on-site surveys.

The feature of reusability of the hydraulic models makes it possible to simulate and compare different landscape scenarios to assess the best solution. This method may be helpful for local administrations to better understand the configuration of their territory and to choose the most suitable plan to restore altered areas. In order to limit overengineering in restoration plans, all actors should keep in mind the capabilities of the ecosystems to self-design and avoid the overengineering.

However, the proposed methodology highlighted two main limitations. Firstly, the choice of the study area extent must be compatible with the available computational power, being it directly related to the accuracy of the hydraulic numerical model. The second issue, the choice and interpretation of landscape metrics are conditioned by the features of the analyzed area.

Future work should test this methodology on a wider range of river restoration plans. The results of this study should encourage all actors to use multidisciplinary approaches in order to design and manage the territory in accordance with the conservation and protection of natural ecosystems.

389 Acknowledgements

390 This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or

391 not-for-profit sectors.

392 Reference

- Paudel, S.; Yuan, F. Assessing landscape changes and dynamics using patch analysis and GIS
 modeling. *Int. J. Appl. Earth Obs. Geoinformation* 2012, *16*, 66–76.
- Lancaster, J.; Downes, B. Linking the hydraulic world of individual organisms to ecological
 processes: putting ecology into ecohydraulics. *River Res. Appl.* 2010, *403*, 385–403.
- Vanzo, D.; Zolezzi, G.; Siviglia, A. Eco-hydraulic modelling of the interactions between
 hydropeaking and river morphology. *Ecohydrology* 2016, *9*, 421–437.
- Entwistle, N.; Heritage, G.; Milan, D. Ecohydraulic modelling of anabranching rivers. *River Res. Appl.* 2019, 353–364.
- 401 5. Dunbar M. C., M.J.; A. Applied hydro-ecological science for the twenty-first century. 2001, 266,
 402 1–17.
- 403 6. Mitsch, W.; Jørgensen, S.E. Ecological Engineering and Ecosystem Restoration; 2004; ISBN 0404 471-33264-X.
- 405 7. McGarigal, K.; Marks, B. FRAGSTAT: Spatial pattern analysis program for quantifying landscape
 406 structure. U. S. Dep. Agric. Pac. Northwest Res. Stn. 1995.
- 407 8. Turner, M.G. Landscape Ecology: The Effect of Pattern on Process. *Annu. Rev. Ecol. Syst.* 1989,
 408 *20*, 171–197.
- 409 9. Leyer, I.; Mosner, E.; Lehmann, B. Managing floodplain-forest restoration in European river
 410 landscapes combining ecological and flood-protection issues. *Ecol. Appl.* 2012, *22*, 240–249.
- 411 10. Botequilha Leitão, A.; Ahern, J. Applying landscape ecological concepts and metrics in
 412 sustainable landscape planning. *Landsc. Urban Plan.* 2002, *59*, 65–93.
- Martín, B.; Ortega, E.; Otero, I.; Arce, R.M. Landscape character assessment with GIS using
 map-based indicators and photographs in the relationship between landscape and roads. *J. Environ. Manage.* 2016, *180*, 324–334.
- 416 12. Venturelli, R.C.; Galli, A. Integrated indicators in environmental planning: Methodological
 417 considerations and applications. *Ecol. Indic.* 2006, *6*, 228–237.
- 418 13. Forman, R.T.T. Some general principles of landscape and regional ecology. *Landsc. Ecol.* 1995,
 419 *10*, 133–142.
- 420 14. Giaouris, E., Chorianopoulos, N., Skandamis, P. y Nychas, G. World's largest Science,
 421 Technology & Medicine Open Access book publisher: *Open Sci. Minds* 2012, 450.
- McGarigal, K., SA Cushman, and E.Ene. FRAGSTATS v4: Spatial Pattern Analysis Program for
 Categorical and Continuous Maps. Computer software program produced by the authors at
 the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Available at the following web site: Available online:
 http://www.umass.edu/landeco/research/fragstats/fragstats.html.
- 426 16. Uuemaa, E.; Mander, Ü.; Marja, R. Trends in the use of landscape spatial metrics as landscape
 427 indicators: A review. *Ecol. Indic.* 2013, *28*, 100–106.
- 428 17. Egbert, S.L.; Park, S.; Price, K.P.; Lee, R.Y.; Wu, J.; Nellis, M.D. Using conservation reserve
 429 program maps derived from satellite imagery to characterize landscape structure. *Comput.*430 *Electron. Agric.* 2003, *37*, 141–156.
- 431 18. Boongaling, C.G.K.; Faustino-Eslava, D. V; Lansigan, F.P. Modeling land use change impacts on
 432 hydrology and the use of landscape metrics as tools for watershed management: The case of
 433 an ungauged catchment in the Philippines. *Land Use Policy* 2018, *72*, 116–128.
- Liu, T.; Yang, X. Monitoring land changes in an urban area using satellite imagery, GIS and
 landscape metrics. *Appl. Geogr.* 2015, *56*, 42–54.

- Yang, X.; Liu, Z. Quantifying landscape pattern and its change in an estuarine watershed using
 satellite imagery and landscape metrics. *Int. J. Remote Sens.* 2005, *26*, 5297–5323.
- 438 21. Dufour, S.; Rinaldi, M.; Piégay, H.; Michalon, A. How do river dynamics and human influences
 439 affect the landscape pattern of fluvial corridors? Lessons from the Magra River, Central440 Northern Italy. *Landsc. Urban Plan.* 2015.
- Thoms, M.C.; Reid, M.; Christianson, K.; Munro, F. Variety is the spice of river life: recognizing
 hydraulic diversity as a tool for managing flows in regulated rivers. *Sediment Dyn. Hydromorphology Fluv. Syst.* 2006, *306*, 169–178.
- Papadonikolaki, G.; Stamou, A.; Dimitriou, E.; Bui, M.-D.; Rutschmann, P. Comparison of two
 habitat modeling approaches for the determination of the ecological flow. *Eur. Water* 2017, *58*, 301–305.
- Li, W.; Chen, Q.; Cai, D.; Li, R. Determination of an appropriate ecological hydrograph for a rare
 fish species using an improved fish habitat suitability model introducing landscape ecology
 index. *Ecol. Model.* 2015, *311*, 31–38.
- 450 25. Stewart, G.; Anderson, R.; Wohl, E. Two-dimensional modelling of habitat suitability as a
 451 function of discharge on two Colorado rivers. *River Res. Appl.* 2005, *21*, 1061–1074.
- 452 26. Wang, F.; Lin, B.; Rauen, W.B. Eco-hydraulics modelling of the ecological water requirement in
 453 an Eco-City. In Proceedings of the XIVth IWRA World Water Congress; Pernambuco, 2011; Vol.
 454 30, p. 328.
- Parasiewicz, P. MesoHABSIM: A concept for application of instream flow models in river
 restoration planning. *Fisheries* 2004, *26*, 6–13.
- Van Nieuwenhuyse, B.H.J.; Antoine, M.; Wyseure, G.; Govers, G. Pattern-process relationships
 in surface hydrology: Hydrological connectivity expressed in landscape metrics. *Hydrol. Process.* 2011, *25*, 3760–3773.
- Wallis, C.; Maddock, I.; Visser, F.; Acreman, M. A framework for evaluating the spatial
 configuration and temporal dynamics of hydraulic patches. *River Res. Appl.* 2012, *28*, 585–593.
- 30. Newson, M.D.; Newson, C.L. Geomorphology, ecology and river channel habitat: mesoscale
 approaches to basin-scale challenges. *Prog. Phys. Geogr. Earth Environ.* 2000, *24*, 195–217.
- Belletti, B.; Rinaldi, M.; Bussettini, M.; Comiti, F.; Gurnell, A.M.; Mao, L.; Nardi, L.; Vezza, P.
 Characterising physical habitats and fluvial hydromorphology: A new system for the survey and
 classification of river geomorphic units. *Geomorphology* 2017, *283*, 143–157.
- Plexida, S.G.; Sfougaris, A.I.; Ispikoudis, I.P.; Papanastasis, V.P. Selecting landscape metrics as
 indicators of spatial heterogeneity-Acomparison among Greek landscapes. *Int. J. Appl. Earth Obs. Geoinformation* 2014, *26*, 26–35.
- 33. Turitto, O.; Audisio, C.; Agangi, A. Il ruolo svolto da piene straordinarie nel rimodellare la geometria di un alveo fluviale. *Il Quat. Ital. J. Quat. Sci.* 2008, *21*, 303–316.
- 472 34. SIFOR sistema informativo forestale regionale Carta forestale aggiornamento 2016 2018.
- 473 35. SMS The Complete Surface-water Solution | Aquaveo.com. Available online:
 474 https://www.aquaveo.com/software/sms-surface-water-modeling-system-introduction.
- 475 36. BASEMENT Basic Simulation Environment | ETH, Zurich. Available online:
 476 http://www.basement.ethz.ch/.
- Tamagnone, P. Numerical models for fixed and mobile bed river systems. Implementations of
 case studies, Politecnico di Torino, 2016.
- Teng, J.; Jakeman, A.J.; Vaze, J.; Croke, B.F.W.; Dutta, D.; Kim, S. Flood inundation modelling: A
 review of methods, recent advances and uncertainty analysis. *Environ. Model. Softw.* 2017, *90*,
 201–216.
- 39. Sowińska-Świerkosz, B.N.; Soszyński, D. Landscape structure versus the effectiveness of nature
 conservation: Roztocze region case study (Poland). *Ecol. Indic.* 2014, *43*, 143–153.
- 484 40. Leboutillier, D.W.; Waylen, P. *Regional variations in flow-duration curves for rivers in British*485 *Columbia, Canada*; 1993; Vol. 14.

- 486 41. Burn, R. Restoring Meanders to Straightened Rivers 2013.
- 487 42. Environment Agency Bringing your rivers back to life. Available online:
 488 https://www.therrc.co.uk/MOT/References/EA_Restoring_Rivers_NLondon.pdf.
- 43. CIRF. La riqualificazione fluviale in Italia. Linee guida, strumenti edesperienze per gestire i corsi
 490 d'acqua e il territorio; Mazzanti Editori, 2006; ISBN 88-88114-66-1.
- 49. River restoration in Europe: practical approaches; Institute for Inland Water Management and
 492 Waste Water Treatment: Lelystad, Netherlands, 2001; ISBN 978-90-369-5377-1.
- 493 45. Leitão, A.B.; Miller, J.; Ahern, J.; McGarigal, K. *Measuring landscapes: A planner's handbook*;
 494 Island press, 2012; ISBN 1597267724.
- 495 46. Whitcomb, R.F.; Robbins, C.S.; Lynch, J.F.; Whitcomb, B.L.; Klimkiewicz, M.K.; Bystrak, D. Effects
 496 of forest fragmentation on avifauna of the eastern deciduous forest. In *Forest Island Dynamics*497 *in Man-Dominated Landscapes*; Burgess, R.L., Sharpe, D.M., Eds.; Springer-Verlag: New York,
 498 1981; pp. 125–205.
- 499 47. Small, M.F.; Hunter, M.L. Forest fragmentation and avian nest predation in forested 500 landscapes. *Oecologia* **1988**, *76*, 62–64.
- 48. Bender, D.; A. Contreras, T.; Fahrig, L. Habitat Loss and Population Decline: A Meta-Analysis of
 the Patch Size Effect; 1998; Vol. 79.
- 49. Rosso, M.; Comino, E.; Ivo, F.; Furio, D. Programma di Gestione dei Sedimenti per il torrente
 Orco 2008.
- 505 50. Dick, D.D.C.; Ayllón, D. FloMan-MF: Floodplain Management for the Moor Frog a simulation
 506 model for amphibian conservation in dynamic wetlands. *Ecol. Model.* 2017, *348*, 110–124.
- 507 51. Laasonen, P.; Muotka, T.; Kivijärvi, I. Recovery of macroinvertebrate communities from stream
 508 habitat restoration. *Aquat. Conserv. Mar. Freshw. Ecosyst.* **1998**, *8*, 101–113.
- 509 52. Nakano, D.; Nagayama, S.; Kawaguchi, Y.; Nakamura, F. River restoration for
 510 macroinvertebrate communities in lowland rivers: insights from restorations of the Shibetsu
 511 River, north Japan. *Landsc. Ecol. Eng.* 2008, *4*, 63–68.
- 512 53. Gregory, S.; Boyer, K.L.; Gurnell, A.M. Ecology and management of wood in world rivers. In
 513 Proceedings of the International Conference of Wood in World Rivers (2000: Corvallis, Or.);
 514 American Fisheries Society, 2003.
- 54. Opdam, P. Metapopulation theory and habitat fragmentation: a review of holarctic breeding
 bird studies. *Landsc. Ecol.* 1991, *5*, 93–106.
- 517 55. Ali, A.; de Bie, C.A.J.M.; Skidmore, A.K.; Scarrott, R.G.; Lymberakis, P. Mapping the
 518 heterogeneity of natural and semi-natural landscapes. *Int. J. Appl. Earth Obs. Geoinformation*519 2014, *26*, 176–183.
- 520 56. Alhamad, M.N.; Alrababah, M.A.; Feagin, R.A.; Gharaibeh, A. Mediterranean drylands: The 521 effect of grain size and domain of scale on landscape metrics. *Ecol. Indic.* **2011**, *11*, 611–621.
- 57. Feng, Y.; Liu, Y. Fractal dimension as an indicator for quantifying the effects of changing spatial
 scales on landscape metrics. *Ecol. Indic.* 2015, *53*, 18–27.
- 524 58. Turner, M.G.; O'Neill, R. V; Gardner, R.H.; Milne, B.T. Effects of changing spatial scale on the 525 analysis of landscape pattern. *Landsc. Ecol.* **1989**, *3*, 153–162.
- 526 59. Wiens, J.A. Population Responses to Patchy Environments. *Annu. Rev. Ecol. Syst.* **1976**, *7*, 81– 527 120.
- 528

Authors

Paolo Tamagnone^{1*}, Elena Comino¹, Maurizio Rosso¹

¹Department of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering, Politecnico di Torino, C.so Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129 Torino, Italy

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39 0110907631. E-mail address: paolo.tamagnone@polito.it (P. Tamagnone). *ORCID CODE:

- Paolo Tamagnone: 0000-0002-0485-2169
- Elena Comino: 0000-0002-3289-1800
- Maurizio Rosso: 0000-0001-9504-0512

Title

Landscape metrics integrated in hydraulic modeling for river restoration planning

Abstract

Engineers have shaped the environment across the centuries in order to improve the quality and safety of human life. The unrestrained invasion of nature led to significant environmental problems, for this reason nowadays engineering projects should be based on ecological concepts to protect our environment. This paper presents an integrated methodology that involves GIS tools, hydraulic numerical models and landscape metrics to investigate ecological consequences caused by river restoration activities. The combined use of these different tools represents a bridge to connect the field of engineering with ecological techniques. The proposed method was tested to predict and assess the influence of a river restoration plan on a reach of the Orco river located in the north-west of Italy. Morphological alterations were simulated to reconnect remnant meanders and provide water to the floodplain, enhancing the ecological value of riparian ecosystems. The application of the hydraulic model permitted to evaluate the distribution of water inside the study area before and after the restoration plan. Thereafter, spatial configuration and temporal dynamics of the landscape structures were quantified using landscape metrics. The increase of patch density (PD) by 9% and edge density (ED) up to 10% highlights that restoration activities lead to a new configuration characterized by a higher level of fragmentation and heterogeneity. The characteristics of versatility, repeatability and the possibility to predict the outcomes of a specific plan make the proposed method a useful tool that could help decision-makers to manage the territory while safeguarding natural ecosystems.

Keywords

landscape metrics; hydraulic numerical modeling; river restoration; riverine environment; landscape management

1 1. Introduction

Nowadays there is a deeper sensibility toward natural spaces after many years of uncontrolled use of the territory. Anthropogenic disturbances have altered landscape structure and its ecological processes [1]. In this framework, ecologist and engineers have strived to conserve, defend and restore the "green" part of our planet.

6 Focusing on riverine environments, different disciplines were born in past decades trying to 7 connect the world of hydraulics with ecological concepts such as the eco-hydraulics [2-4] and hydro-8 ecology [5]. Much effort has been devoted to the research of effective actions with the purpose to 9 restore disturbed ecosystems and natural landscapes [6]. To successfully accomplish restoration techniques, it is important to understand the correlation between ecological features, physical 10 11 factors (such as hydraulic behavior of rivers) and landscape patterns [7-9]. The analysis of the 12 relationship between human disturbances and landscape structure is the key to accomplish a suitable landscape planning and management [10]. The management of the landscape structure 13 14 must begin from the full comprehension of all its features because the landscape should be analyzed 15 as a whole using a holistic approach [11,12].

A consolidated technique for the quantification of the main characteristics of a landscape such 16 17 as structure, function and change is the use of ecological indicators called landscape metrics [13,14]. 18 A large number of metrics have been developed in the past few decades able to assess landscape 19 structure based on categorical maps [7]. Today, the combination of GIS applications and 20 mathematical codes such as FRAGSTATS [15] are widely used in the field of ecological applications. 21 Numerous studies have shown how landscape metrics can provide a large amount of information 22 on landscape composition and configuration [16]. In many cases, landscape metrics are also used to 23 assess how the landscape changes over time under human pressure or to evaluate the effectiveness 24 of conservative plans in protected zones [17-19]. Other studies focused on fluvial landscape 25 configuration and dynamics [20-22].

26 In the framework of the eco-hydraulics a number of studies have used hydraulic modelling to 27 analyze specific ecological aspects such as the determination of the ecological flow (called also 28 instream flow) [23-25] or the evaluation of habitats suitability [26,27]. Meanwhile, a few studies 29 have investigated the potential advantages of the synergic application of landscape metrics and 30 hydraulic modeling in suitable environments planning [1]. Entwistle et al. [4] used a 2D hydraulic 31 model and FRAGSTATS to evaluate the ecological value of anabranched channels. Van 32 Nieuwenhuyse et al. [28] has utilized landscape metrics to evaluate the degree of hydrological 33 connectivity among artificial catchments. Rare is the application of both methodology to assess the spatial structure of a hydraulic environment [29] and the lack of spatial analysis from hydraulic 34 35 assessments was previously highlighted by Newson and Newson [30].

The present paper aims to extend the field of spatial analysis application in riverine environments, introducing a methodology that integrates hydraulic modelling and landscape metrics. The proposed method allows predicting the effects of restoration plans on riverine landscapes quantifying ecological features such as connectivity and heterogeneity. Therefore, it could be a useful tool to provide important information guiding decision-makers in territorial planning.

42 The paper is organized into three main parts:

43

- a brief contextualization describing the study area in which the work was carried out;
- 44 2. the software used are listed and the adopted methodology is described;
- 45 3. the outcomes of the study are presented and discussed, and conclusions are drawn.

1.1 The aim of the research 46

47 The objective of this work is to introduce an integrated method which has four purposes: (1) 48 linking hydraulic knowledge with ecological analysis, mainly using hydraulic models and landscape 49 metrics; (2) predicting spatial pattern changes and ecological impacts resulting from a river 50 restoration plan; (3) assessing the spatial configuration and temporal dynamics of different landscape structures; (4) giving a useful tool to guide local administrations and landscape planners 51 52 to choose the most non-invasive plans for territory management.

2. Study area 53

54 The research is focused on the first lowland part of the Orco river's catchment, located in 55 Piedmont in the north-west of Italy. This part covers approximately 22% of the whole river basin and it is characterized by a hilly and flat landscape. In this area, the Orco river flows 40 Km to 56 57 downstream until his confluence in the Po river and its riverbed shows a sinuous trend with an 58 alternation of braided and meandering channels. The river reach between the villages of Rivarolo 59 Canavese and Lusigliè (TO, Italy) was selected for the implementation of the hydraulic model [31]. The study area of 600 hectares was used to carry out hydraulic and ecological analyses [32] (see Fig. 60 61 1).



62 63 Geographical location of the study area (source of the aerial image: Google Earth®, 2018) Fig. 1

64 From the geomorphological point of view, the chosen reach is slightly carved and its riparian 65 areas are characterized by the presence of secondary forms and relict water paths on the left and 66 steep banks on the right. Indeed, the widespread presence of banks in erosion states the planimetric 67 instability of the river. During significant-flooding events, the river tends to restore the pre-existing 68 braided shape. This phenomenon affects variations of the main flow direction, leading to a wide 69 range of historical mobility of the riverbed [33].

70 The land cover presents a patchwork structure, typical of the fluvial plains. Agricultural lands 71 dominate the study area, almost 50% is covered by meadow and cultivated fields. Woods cover one-72 fifth of the surveyed area and its forest vegetation is mainly composed by Robinia pseudoacacia 73 [34].

Materials and Methods 74

75 This section describes the multidisciplinary method proposed in this work, between hydraulics 76 and landscape ecology, which benefits from the combined use of software with different features. 77 It can be divided into three main steps (see Fig. 2): (1) the construction of a land cover map using 78 the overlapping of different maps and satellite images into the GIS module of SMS-11.1-Surfacewater Modeling System [35]; (2) the implementation of the two-dimensional hydraulic model and

hydrodynamic simulations using SMS in the pre and post-processing phases and BASEMENT 2.6 Basic Simulation Environment [36] for the processing step; (3) the manipulation of categorical maps

82 in ArcMap 10.3.1 and calculation of landscape metrics with FRAGSTATS. The current released

83 version (FRAGSTATS v4.2) is an efficient tool able to compute a great number of landscape metrics

84 from a wide variety of image formats [15].



85
86 Fig. 2 Schematization of the methodology: input (orange boxes), GIS elaboration (brown box), hydrological/hydraulic
87 calculation (light blue boxes) and ecological assessment (green box)

88 3.1 Land cover assessment

The first main action necessary for all following analyses was the detection of the spatial 89 90 configuration of the study area. The land cover map was obtained by the combination of spatial information from CORINE Land Cover 2000, Digital Terrain Model DTM with a high resolution (on 91 92 average 1 point each square meter) realized by Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea during the extraordinary Plan of Environmental Remote Sensing with 93 94 LiDAR scan and upgraded satellite images. The resulting land cover map was divided into seven 95 categories: grassland, wood, river bank, water, factories, urban center and roads (see Fig. 3). The 96 distribution of each land cover class in the study area is shown in Table 1.

97 Table 1 Area, percentage cover and Manning's Roughness Coefficient of each land cover class in the study area

Land cover class	Area [ha]	Percentage cover [%]	Manning's Roughness Coefficient
Grassland	276.2	46.0	0.07
Wood	124.5	20.7	0.08
River bank	33.1	5.5	0.045
Water	41.3	6.9	0.045
Factories	8.9	1.5	0.15
Urban center	112.2	18.7	0.15
Roads	4.0	0.7	0.03
Total	600	100	

98 Then each class was matched with a Manning's Roughness Coefficient which represents the

99 hydraulic resistance offered by each surface to the water flow. The identification of the appropriate

100 roughness coefficient derived from a back-analysis carried out during the calibration of the hydraulic

101 model [37]. The high-resolution data permitted also to consider the shapes and geographical



topography was simulated, this will be called "original" scenario. In the second, the wetted area on a modified computational mesh simulating the river restoration plan was calculated, this will be called "modified" scenario. In order to obtain the "modified" scenario, a series of altimetric alterations were applied to modify the original mesh. These alterations were circumscribed along 100 m of natural riverbanks digging natural levees for reconnecting remnant meanders with the main channel. These levees were created by the intensive sediment transport of floods over time.

140 The alterations of the mesh are displayed in Fig. 3.



Fig. 3 Land cover map and morphological alterations. Top: enlargement on the original and modified mesh of the first
altered site. Bottom: enlargement on the original and modified mesh of the second altered site, and two graphs that
display the modified profile of the river bank.

146 3.3 Calculation of landscape metrics

As output of the hydraulic simulation stage, vector layers were produced from each simulation reporting the total amount of wetted area and its distribution into the study area. They have been edited through GIS tools to create raster files used as FRAGSTATS inputs. The high accuracy of the hydraulic model outcomes permitted to keep a high-resolution during the rasterization of the vector maps. The grain size of 1 m was set up during the rasterization process [39].

152 Landscape composition and configuration have been evaluated using FRAGSTATS for both cases, 153 "original" and "modified" scenarios. The analyses were carried out with the standard patch neighbor 154 8-cell rule option. FRAGSTATS calculates a number of landscape indices but sometimes several of 155 them are redundant, especially when two equivalent landscapes are compared. Thus, in order to 156 choose the most representative indices, metrics that did not show a significant remarkable -variation between the "original" and "modified" landscape (Δ <0.1) have been discarded. Furthermore, a 157 158 smaller set of seven metrics have been selected according to the most used landscape indices in 159 literature. For a comprehensive characterization of the landscape, we selected metrics belonging to 160 three different metrics categories called Area-Edge, Shape and Aggregation. Each category reveals specific information such as: (I) Area-Edge analyzes the degree of fragmentation, (II) Shape 161 162 measures the geometry complexity and (III) Aggregation quantifies the landscape configuration, namely the level of patch dispersion [7]. The classification and description of each metrics are listed 163 164 as follows:

165 I. Area-Edge metrics:

166

167

- ED: Edge Density equals the sum of the lengths of all edge segments in the landscape, divided by the total landscape area;
- 168 2. AREA_AM: Area-weighted Mean patch Area equals the sum, across all patches in the 169 landscape, of the patch area, multiplied by the proportional abundance of the patch;
- AREA_SD: Standard Deviation in patch Area equals the square root of the sum of the squared deviations of each patch size from the mean patch size computed for all patches in the landscape, divided by the total number of patches;
- 4. AREA_CV: Coefficient of Variation in patch Area equals the standard deviation divided by the
 mean, multiplied by 100 to convert to a percentage;
- 175 II. Shape metrics:

176	5. SHAPE_AM: Area-weighted Mean Shape index equals the sum, across all patches in the
177	landscape, of the patch perimeter divided by the square root of patch area standardized to
178	a square, multiplied by the proportional abundance of the patch;

179 III. Aggregation metrics:

- 180 6. PD: Patch Density equals the number of patches in the landscape divided by total landscape181 area;
- 182 7. ENN_MN: Mean Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance equals the sum, across all patches in 183 the landscape, of the distance to the nearest neighboring patch of the same type, based on 184 shortest edge-to-edge distance, divided by the total number of patches.
- 185 The equations and the corresponding terms of these metrics are shown in Table 2.
- 186 Table 2 List of landscape metrics used in the study [15]

Metrics	Equations	Terms

Formatted: English (United States)



The set of seven ecological metrics was calculated for both "original" and "modified" scenarios and for each Qxx. The difference between the two analyzed cases will be indicated with the parameter ΔA , calculated as follows:

191 $\Delta = metrics_{modified \ scenario} - metrics_{original \ scenario}$

192 **4**. Results

193 Results obtained in this study have both hydraulic and ecological nature. Hydraulic outputs 194 represent the input for the ecological analysis. For this reason, results will be described in two 195 different subsections.

196 4.1 Hydraulic outputs

197The examined FDC represents the relationship between the amount of discharge and its198persistence during a mean hydrologic year [40]. The FDC and its characteristic values are shown in199Fig. 4.

_	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
\neg	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
\sum	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
Y //	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
() / Y	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
Ì	Formatted: Font: 16 pt

(3)



Jan Feb Mar

Acr May Jun

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 203 204 Fig. 5 Timing and duration of each analyzed discharge (mean number of days per month in which that amount of 205 discharge flows into the river).

Using these discharges as upstream boundary condition in hydrodynamic simulations, the 206 207 numerical model produces different wetted area maps for both "original" and "modified" 208 configurations. Hydraulic simulations on the "original" mesh depict all the same scenarios in which 209 the total among of water flow only into the main channel (Fig. 6). Whereas, simulations on the 210 "modified" geometry show a different behavior of the river as the flow increases:

211 if the discharge is less than Q30, the water flows into the main channel and exclusively the little channel in the first modified site is reactivated (Fig. 6, Q60); 212

213 . if the discharge is greater than or equal to Q30, the discharge overtops the river bank and 214 starts to flow not only in the original streambed but also through the floodplain bringing water to the riparian ecosystem (Fig. 6, Q30-Q1). 215

10



Fig. 6 Hydraulic outcomes for both scenarios with increasing discharge from left to right. The reactivation of the remnant streambeds leads to an increase of the wetted surface of 1.8%, 18.9%, 21.8%, 22.1% and 23.3% respectively for the scenario with Q60, Q30, Q10, Q5 and Q1.

220 <u>The reactivation of the remnant meanders</u> The duration and timing of the different discharges
 221 are displayed in Fig. 6.



Field Code Changed

222 223

223 Hg.6 Timing and duration of each analyzed disc 224 discharge flows into the river).

As shown by the previous image, is strictly connected with the hydrology of the Orco river, which is yearly characterized by two distinct periods of high flow (Fig. 5). The first, in which the discharge grows according to spring rainfalls together with the snow melting in the headwater; the second, characterized by the occurrence of yearly flood events caused by intense autumn rainstorms. This flow pattern leads to the reactivation of the <u>remnant meanderschannels</u> for 24 days from April to August, and for 6 days from October to December. June and November show the maximum duration of discharge greater than Q30.

The river restoration action is completely respectful of the original ecosystem since the subtracted water flows in the floodplain and then gets back to the river 1 Km downstream. This new configuration is also in accordance with the planimetric divagation range (streamway) of the river. 235 Superimposing the wetted surface map of the "modified" scenario over the planimetric variations

236 map of the Orco river, it is clear how the flow retraces the paths of old abandoned riverbeds (Fig.

237 7). Reconnecting remnant meanders or rebuilding secondary channels are restoration actions

widely adopted to enhance the ecological value of the riverine ecosystems and recreate thecontinuum with the floodplain [6,41–44].



240 241

Fig. 7 Superimposition of the modified wetted surface map over the planimetric variations in the Orco river map
 (realized by Research Institute for the Hydrogeological Protection–Turin section)

243 4.2 Ecological outputs

In order to assess the effects of the restoration plan on the landscape structure and its riverine ecosystem, a series of comparisons were carried out. Firstly, the comparison at the class and landscape level of metrics obtained from both scenarios with Q30 aims to highlight changes in the spatial configuration due to reactivated channels. All outcomes are summarized in Table 3.

 248
 Table 3 The group of seven Ammetrics (ED – Edge Density, AREA AM – Area-weighted Mean patch Area, AREA SD –

 249
 Standard Deviation in patch Area, AREA CV – Coefficient of Variation in patch Area, PD – Patch Density, SHAPE AM –

 250
 Area-weighted Mean Shape index and ENN_MN – Mean Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance) calculated with Q30 for

 251
 both scenarios and their comparison. Factories, urban center and roads classes have been neglected since they have

 252
 not been altered by the restoration plan.

Landscape level							
Metrics	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN
Original scenario	109.0	58.5	21.3	231.1	10.8	2.9	95.3
Modified scenario	119.9	55.2	19.9	235.3	11.8	3.0	84.4
Δ	10.8	-3.3	-1.4	4.2	1.0	0.2	-10.9

Class level							
Original scenario							
Land cover class	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN
Grassland	73.2	66.2	29.1	168.3	2.7	2.8	11.7
Wood	60.3	44.8	17.4	209.7	2.5	3.2	29.2
River bank	18.0	9.6	4.6	138.0	1.7	2.0	53.4
Water	30.8	37.5	18.1	131.2	0.5	4.7	164.0

Modified scenario

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Land cover class	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN
Grassland	73.5	65.9	28.4	174.9	2.8	2.8	12.3
Wood	70.2	25.6	11.0	177.8	3.2	3.2	26.6
River bank	17.8	9.7	4.5	150.3	1.8	2.0	44.2
Water	42.4	45.2	21.7	132.8	0.5	6.8	81.6
			Δ				
Grassland	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	6.6	0.2	0.0	0.6
Wood	9.9	-19.1	-6.4	-31.9	0.7	0.1	-2.6
River bank	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	12.4	0.2	0.0	-9.2
Water	11.6	78	37	16	0.0	21	-82.4

253 Focusing at the landscape level, the modified landscape shows a slight increase in fragmentation 254 degree. Consistent with observations of Sowińska-Świerkosz and Soszyński [39], alterations caused 255 by the reactivated channels among the floodplain lead to a separation into a larger number of 256 smaller patches increasing the fragmentation degree. This information is justified by the growth of 257 ED and AREA_CV values and in the AREA_AM and AREA_SD decreasing. As reported by McGarigal 258 and Marks [7], the variation of AREA_CV and AREA_SD means that on the modified study area 259 patches become smaller and their distribution size is farther from the average size than in the 260 original area.

In the context of habitat fragmentation, the grade of patch isolation is calculated with the Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance (ENN) metric [15,45]. The modified area presents a smaller value of ENN_MN, with a decrease of 11.5%. This means that even if the patches are more fragmented, they are less isolated.

265 Another important ecological factor is the landscape complexity. The modified landscape shows a slight increase in the degree of complexity in the planar shape given by the raised value of 266 267 SHAPE AM. This metrics illustrates how much the patch shape is different from the standard square shape. Generally, natural shapes are not regular, therefore the restored configuration appears to 268 269 be more akin to a natural environment. The last analyzed ecological metrics was PD. The slight 270 increase of 9% in PD value in the modified landscape, in correlation with ED, means that the 271 modified landscape has a higher level of heterogeneity. Previous studies have confirmed the 272 effectiveness of PD and ED as indicators of the spatial heterogeneity degree in landscapes [32].

Landscape attributes at class level were also analyzed in order to understand in-depth the results
 of this stage. The most modified land cover classes were wood and water because the reactivated
 watercourses run across the floodplain covered by wood (Fig. 6). As reported in Table 3, there is a
 significantsubstantial difference in nearest neighbor distance for water patches, from 164 to 81.
 While the variation of AREA_AM and AREA_CV in wood class caused by the subdivision in more
 smaller patches shows a remarkable decrease of 40%.

In the second stage, since in a natural river the amount of flow varies during the year, the evaluation of dynamics of the landscape structure was carried out tracking the wetted area distribution for the different discharges. Landscape metrics calculated at the landscape level are summarized in Fig. 8.



Fig. 8 Landscape metrics representing the dynamics of landscape structure in terms of fragmentation (a: Edge
Density, b: Area-weighted Mean patch Area, c: Standard Deviation in patch Area, d: Coefficient of Variation in patch
Area), complexity (e: Area-weighted Mean Shape index) and configuration (f: Patch Density, g: Mean Euclidean Nearest
Neighbor Distance) as the flow increases.

For the Q60 both scenarios are very similar, whereas a significant considerable variation can be 288 289 noticed for the other discharges. ED value in the modified scenario rises and falls at each increment 290 due to the intermittent ramification of water paths creating isolated wood and river bank patches. 291 SHAPE AM is almost unvaried meaning that neither restoration activity nor increasing discharge do 292 not strongly affect the complexity level of the landscape. However, all metrics show the same trend 293 in both scenarios stating how the restoration action have not changed the response of the riverine 294 landscape to discharge variation. Only for the maximum discharge Q1, the number of patches 295 classified as river bank increase in the original scenarios and decrease in the modified scenario 296 leading to a reversion of the value of the metric (Fig. 8c, d, f, g).

297 5. Discussion

283

The methodology presented in this study is a procedure able to assess the impacts of changes in the spatial structure of riverine landscapes. Different scenarios may be developed according to different strategies to achieve specific objectives [10]. Moreover, it is possible to analyze different landscapes to identify needs and lacks in an attempt to apply specific restoration actions aimed at improving ecological conditions [39]. Using a numerical-based approach, a wide range of scenarios can be compared, and the most suitable plan may be chosen by authorities improving the management of the territory.

305 In the studied case a river restoration action was carried out reactivating natural watercourses 306 among the floodplain and its impact on the landscape structure was analyzed. Results obtained in 307 the previous section are metrics used to give a quantification of four fundamental ecological attributes such as fragmentation, isolation, complexity, and heterogeneity. The chosen discharges 308 309 have permitted to analyze the spatial configuration and dynamics of these components since the hydraulic conditions that reactivate the watercourses are non-stationary. When flow rate in the 310 311 river is less than Q30, no water flows in the floodplain and the lower level of fragmentation means 312 a higher level of connectivity among the patches with the same class type. For some species such as mammals, this landscape is more hospitable because larger areas offer stable conditions required to host a flourishing population. While, when discharge is greater than the threshold Q30, flow reactivates watercourses watering riparian ecosystems and increasing the degree of fragmentation especially for the wood class. The landscape with a mosaic of varied ecosystems is more attractive for the multi-habitat species [39]. Thus, the higher level of fragmentation does not involve habitat losses or impoverishment of biodiversity but on the contrary, the modified morphology proves to be more suitable for a greater variety of ecosystems [46,47].

320 The edge density is directly correlated to the grade of spatial heterogeneity and fragmentation 321 [7]. The increasing of this metrics means that when water flows into the floodplain a higher amount 322 of edges affects the landscape. The increased level of fragmentation and the reduction in patch size 323 could influence the behavior of some animal species, particularly these periodic changes can 324 support, alternately, the growth of species that prefer edge habitats or interior kinds [48]. When 325 discharge periodically increases, the variation of connections between patches with no-water 326 classification may influence the migration of terrestrial species which require connectedness. For 327 instance, the early reactivation of the remnant streambeds coincides with the hedgehog breeding season (species living in the study area, [49]). Thus, the lack of connectivity within the riparian forest 328 329 could affect the mobility of these animals hindering them reproduction. On the contrary, in the 330 same period, the presence of new wetlands provides an attractive habitat for pond breeding 331 amphibians [50].

However, cyclical dry and wet periods raise the production of nutrient matter improving the 332 333 environmental quality of aquatic biota. The autumnal reactivation will move organic matter that 334 covers the ground, such as leaf litter, enhancing the abundance of detritivorous macroinvertebrates, 335 in particular, shredders such as Ephemeroptera and Plecoptera [51,52]. These organisms will break 336 the coarse particulate organic material up into a finer size feeding the collectors leaving in the river 337 downstream. Since the riparian area is covered by trees, the presence of coarse wood in the 338 reactivated channels provides a favorable habitat for organisms such as biofilm algae which will 339 represent a new source of food for invertebrates such as snails and beetles [53].

The slight increase in shape complexity shows that the applied geomorphological modifications do not produce great variations in landscape structure in both landscape and class level. This demonstrates how the tested river restoration plan is non-invasive towards the patch geometry. Anthropogenic activities in river restoration planning should be as eco-friendly as possible in order to enhance the ecological value of the landscape without leaving human evidence. The monitoring of the complexity degree can be an efficient indicator to assess the interference of human activities in the landscape.

347 The variation of ENN MN is concentrated mainly in water patches until Q5 and involves markedly 348 river bank class with Q1. It represents a reduction in patch isolation, meaning that the altered 349 landscape configuration has a smaller interpatch distance. Indeed, when water flows through the 350 floodplain, the distribution of wetted surfaces is more homogeneous into the study area. Regarding the wood class, several studies have claimed that patch isolation influences the life of bird 351 352 communities and the insularity due to fragmented habitats has a negative impact on bird species 353 [54]. In the proposed restoration plan the difference in isolation degree is favorable in most cases. 354 Only the grassland class presents a negligible increase of almost 5%. The modified configuration 355 conduces to a more heterogeneous landscape able to host a proliferation of vast varieties of animal 356 populations, both aquatic and terrestrial species. The level of heterogeneity will change over the 357 year, according to the hydrology of the river, varying ecological processes among landscape pattern 358 [55].

359 All the above-mentioned considerations derive from the interpretation of the analyzed metrics 360 and their values. The quantification of these metrics is strongly conditioned by the parameters 361 selected by the operator. Especially during the rasterization of the vector files, the choice of the cell 362 size could alter the outcome leading to an erroneous division or union of patches. This problem is 363 emphasized for landscape metrics based on the size and number of patches [7]. Many studies have shown how grain size affects the outcomes of landscape metrics applications [56-58]. For this 364 365 reason, we chose a very fine grain size, 1 m, in order to generate a raster file representative of the 366 reality.

Moreover, as stated by Plexida et al. [32], some landscape metrics are influenced by the size of the analyzed domain such as area-edge and shape metrics. The use of a restricted area size could lead to analyze a landscape characterized by a single class, impeding the assessment of ecological attributes of the study area. In addition, whether the restoration plan aims to recover plants and animals, the presented methodology should be applied considering a scale compatible with the species' perception of the environment [59]. For instance, an agricultural field could represent an entire habitat for an insect but, simultaneously, only a single patch for a bird.

374 6. Conclusion

Nowadays an increased sensibility towards environment joins experts, authorities, and researchers in the search for the best solutions for sustainable management of the territory. Multidisciplinary approaches are needed to understand the interactions between natural processes and human activities.

379 In this paper, a method was proposed that integrates hydraulic and landscape ecological 380 knowledge with the purpose of creating a tool able to simulate a river restoration plan and quantify 381 its impact on the landscape structure and its ecosystems. This methodology can predict the 382 achievement of the objectives in landscape planning and evaluate whether the proposed design is suitable and valid in a cost-benefit analysis perspective. The entire procedure is based on 383 384 geographical information and numerical data. Therefore, it represents a significant advantage 385 because required data can be extrapolated from thematic maps or numerical simulation, reducing 386 the necessity of costly on-site surveys.

The feature of reusability of the hydraulic models makes it possible to simulate and compare different landscape scenarios to assess the best solution. This method may be helpful for local administrations to better understand the configuration of their territory and to choose the most suitable plan to restore altered areas. In order to limit overengineering in restoration plans, all actors should keep in mind the capabilities of the ecosystems to self-design and avoid the overengineering.

However, the proposed methodology highlighted two main limitations. Firstly, the choice of the study area extent must be compatible with the available computational power, being it directly related to the accuracy of the hydraulic numerical model. The second issue, the choice and interpretation of landscape metrics are conditioned by the features of the analyzed area.

Future work should test this methodology on a wider range of river restoration plans. The results of this study should encourage all actors to use multidisciplinary approaches in order to design and manage the territory in accordance with the conservation and protection of natural ecosystems.

400 **Notations**

- 403 S: vector of source terms [-]
- 404 h: water depth [m]
- 405 u, v: cartesian components of the flow velocity vector [m/s]
- 406 -g: gravity acceleration $[m/s^2]$
- 407 v: total viscosity [m²/s]
- 408 S_{\neq} : friction slope [-]
- 109 S_h: bed slope []
- 410 -t: time [s]
- 411 -U_z: derivation with respect to variable t of the U vector
- V: Nabla operator 412
- 413 partial differential operator for derivation with respect to variable x
- partial differential operator for derivation with respect to variable y
- 414

Acknowledgements 415

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or 416 not-for-profit sectors. 417

Reference 418

- 419 1. Paudel, S.; Yuan, F. Assessing landscape changes and dynamics using patch analysis and GIS modeling. Int. J. Appl. Earth Obs. Geoinformation 2012, 16, 66–76. 420
- 421 Lancaster, J.; Downes, B. Linking the hydraulic world of individual organisms to ecological 2. 422 processes: putting ecology into ecohydraulics. River Res. Appl. 2010, 403, 385–403.
- Vanzo, D.; Zolezzi, G.; Siviglia, A. Eco-hydraulic modelling of the interactions between 423 3. hydropeaking and river morphology. Ecohydrology 2016, 9, 421–437. 424
- 425 4. Entwistle, N.; Heritage, G.; Milan, D. Ecohydraulic modelling of anabranching rivers. River Res. 426 Appl. 2019, 353–364.
- Dunbar M. C., M.J.; A. Applied hydro-ecological science for the twenty-first century. 2001, 266, 427 5. 428 1 - 17
- 429 6. Mitsch, W.; Jørgensen, S.E. Ecological Engineering and Ecosystem Restoration; 2004; ISBN 0-430 471-33264-X.
- 431 7. McGarigal, K.; Marks, B. FRAGSTAT: Spatial pattern analysis program for quantifying landscape 432 structure. U. S. Dep. Agric. Pac. Northwest Res. Stn. 1995.
- Turner, M.G. Landscape Ecology: The Effect of Pattern on Process. Annu. Rev. Ecol. Syst. 1989, 433 8. 434 20, 171-197.
- Leyer, I.; Mosner, E.; Lehmann, B. Managing floodplain-forest restoration in European river 435 9. landscapes combining ecological and flood-protection issues. Ecol. Appl. 2012, 22, 240–249. 436
- 437 Botequilha Leitão, A.; Ahern, J. Applying landscape ecological concepts and metrics in 10. sustainable landscape planning. Landsc. Urban Plan. 2002, 59, 65–93. 438
- 439 Martín, B.; Ortega, E.; Otero, I.; Arce, R.M. Landscape character assessment with GIS using 11. 440 map-based indicators and photographs in the relationship between landscape and roads. J. 441 Environ. Manage. 2016, 180, 324–334.
- Venturelli, R.C.; Galli, A. Integrated indicators in environmental planning: Methodological 442 12. 443 considerations and applications. Ecol. Indic. 2006, 6, 228–237.
- 444 13. Forman, R.T.T. Some general principles of landscape and regional ecology. Landsc. Ecol. 1995, 10, 133-142. 445
- 446 Giaouris, E., Chorianopoulos, N., Skandamis, P. y Nychas, G. World's largest Science, 14. 447 Technology & Medicine Open Access book publisher: Open Sci. Minds 2012, 450.

- McGarigal, K., SA Cushman, and E.Ene. FRAGSTATS v4: Spatial Pattern Analysis Program for
 Categorical and Continuous Maps. Computer software program produced by the authors at
 the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Available at the following web site: Available online:
 http://www.umass.edu/landeco/research/fragstats/fragstats.html.
- 452 16. Uuemaa, E.; Mander, Ü.; Marja, R. Trends in the use of landscape spatial metrics as landscape
 453 indicators: A review. *Ecol. Indic.* 2013, *28*, 100–106.
- 454 17. Egbert, S.L.; Park, S.; Price, K.P.; Lee, R.Y.; Wu, J.; Nellis, M.D. Using conservation reserve
 455 program maps derived from satellite imagery to characterize landscape structure. *Comput.*456 *Electron. Agric.* 2003, *37*, 141–156.
- Boongaling, C.G.K.; Faustino-Eslava, D. V; Lansigan, F.P. Modeling land use change impacts on
 hydrology and the use of landscape metrics as tools for watershed management: The case of
 an ungauged catchment in the Philippines. *Land Use Policy* 2018, *72*, 116–128.
- Liu, T.; Yang, X. Monitoring land changes in an urban area using satellite imagery, GIS and
 landscape metrics. *Appl. Geogr.* 2015, *56*, 42–54.
- Yang, X.; Liu, Z. Quantifying landscape pattern and its change in an estuarine watershed using
 satellite imagery and landscape metrics. *Int. J. Remote Sens.* 2005, *26*, 5297–5323.
- 464 21. Dufour, S.; Rinaldi, M.; Piégay, H.; Michalon, A. How do river dynamics and human influences
 465 affect the landscape pattern of fluvial corridors? Lessons from the Magra River, Central466 Northern Italy. *Landsc. Urban Plan.* 2015.
- 467 22. Thoms, M.C.; Reid, M.; Christianson, K.; Munro, F. Variety is the spice of river life: recognizing
 468 hydraulic diversity as a tool for managing flows in regulated rivers. *Sediment Dyn.*469 *Hydromorphology Fluv. Syst.* 2006, 306, 169–178.
- Papadonikolaki, G.; Stamou, A.; Dimitriou, E.; Bui, M.-D.; Rutschmann, P. Comparison of two
 habitat modeling approaches for the determination of the ecological flow. *Eur. Water* 2017, *58*, 301–305.
- 473 24. Li, W.; Chen, Q.; Cai, D.; Li, R. Determination of an appropriate ecological hydrograph for a rare
 474 fish species using an improved fish habitat suitability model introducing landscape ecology
 475 index. *Ecol. Model.* 2015, *311*, 31–38.
- 476 25. Stewart, G.; Anderson, R.; Wohl, E. Two-dimensional modelling of habitat suitability as a
 477 function of discharge on two Colorado rivers. *River Res. Appl.* 2005, *21*, 1061–1074.
- 478 26. Wang, F.; Lin, B.; Rauen, W.B. Eco-hydraulics modelling of the ecological water requirement in
 479 an Eco-City. In Proceedings of the XIVth IWRA World Water Congress; Pernambuco, 2011; Vol.
 480 30, p. 328.
- 481 27. Parasiewicz, P. MesoHABSIM: A concept for application of instream flow models in river
 482 restoration planning. *Fisheries* 2004, *26*, 6–13.
- Van Nieuwenhuyse, B.H.J.; Antoine, M.; Wyseure, G.; Govers, G. Pattern-process relationships
 in surface hydrology: Hydrological connectivity expressed in landscape metrics. *Hydrol. Process.* 2011, *25*, 3760–3773.
- Wallis, C.; Maddock, I.; Visser, F.; Acreman, M. A framework for evaluating the spatial configuration and temporal dynamics of hydraulic patches. *River Res. Appl.* 2012, *28*, 585–593.
- Newson, M.D.; Newson, C.L. Geomorphology, ecology and river channel habitat: mesoscale
 approaches to basin-scale challenges. *Prog. Phys. Geogr. Earth Environ.* 2000, *24*, 195–217.
- 490 31. Belletti, B.; Rinaldi, M.; Bussettini, M.; Comiti, F.; Gurnell, A.M.; Mao, L.; Nardi, L.; Vezza, P.
 491 Characterising physical habitats and fluvial hydromorphology: A new system for the survey and
 492 classification of river geomorphic units. *Geomorphology* 2017, *283*, 143–157.
- 493 32. Plexida, S.G.; Sfougaris, A.I.; Ispikoudis, I.P.; Papanastasis, V.P. Selecting landscape metrics as
 494 indicators of spatial heterogeneity-Acomparison among Greek landscapes. *Int. J. Appl. Earth*495 *Obs. Geoinformation* 2014, *26*, 26–35.
- 33. Turitto, O.; Audisio, C.; Agangi, A. Il ruolo svolto da piene straordinarie nel rimodellare la geometria di un alveo fluviale. *Il Quat. Ital. J. Quat. Sci.* 2008, *21*, 303–316.

498 34. SIFOR - sistema informativo forestale regionale Carta forestale – aggiornamento 2016 2018.

- 499 35. SMS The Complete Surface-water Solution | Aquaveo.com. Available online: 500 https://www.aquaveo.com/software/sms-surface-water-modeling-system-introduction.
- 501
 36. BASEMENT Basic Simulation Environment | ETH, Zurich. Available online:

 502
 http://www.basement.ethz.ch/.
- Tamagnone, P. Numerical models for fixed and mobile bed river systems. Implementations of
 case studies, Politecnico di Torino, 2016.
- Teng, J.; Jakeman, A.J.; Vaze, J.; Croke, B.F.W.; Dutta, D.; Kim, S. Flood inundation modelling: A
 review of methods, recent advances and uncertainty analysis. *Environ. Model. Softw.* 2017, *90*,
 201–216.
- Sowińska-Świerkosz, B.N.; Soszyński, D. Landscape structure versus the effectiveness of nature conservation: Roztocze region case study (Poland). *Ecol. Indic.* 2014, *43*, 143–153.
- Leboutillier, D.W.; Waylen, P. *Regional variations in flow-duration curves for rivers in British Columbia, Canada*; 1993; Vol. 14.
- 512 41. Burn, R. Restoring Meanders to Straightened Rivers 2013.
- 513 42. Environment Agency Bringing your rivers back to life. Available online: 514 https://www.therrc.co.uk/MOT/References/EA_Restoring_Rivers_NLondon.pdf.
- 43. CIRF. La riqualificazione fluviale in Italia. Linee guida, strumenti edesperienze per gestire i corsi
 d'acqua e il territorio; Mazzanti Editori, 2006; ISBN 88-88114-66-1.
- 44. River restoration in Europe: practical approaches; Institute for Inland Water Management and
 Waste Water Treatment: Lelystad, Netherlands, 2001; ISBN 978-90-369-5377-1.
- 45. Leitão, A.B.; Miller, J.; Ahern, J.; McGarigal, K. *Measuring landscapes: A planner's handbook*;
 Island press, 2012; ISBN 1597267724.
- 46. Whitcomb, R.F.; Robbins, C.S.; Lynch, J.F.; Whitcomb, B.L.; Klimkiewicz, M.K.; Bystrak, D. Effects
 of forest fragmentation on avifauna of the eastern deciduous forest. In *Forest Island Dynamics in Man-Dominated Landscapes*; Burgess, R.L., Sharpe, D.M., Eds.; Springer-Verlag: New York,
 1981; pp. 125–205.
- 47. Small, M.F.; Hunter, M.L. Forest fragmentation and avian nest predation in forested landscapes. *Oecologia* **1988**, *76*, 62–64.
- 48. Bender, D.; A. Contreras, T.; Fahrig, L. Habitat Loss and Population Decline: A Meta-Analysis of
 the Patch Size Effect; 1998; Vol. 79.
- 49. Rosso, M.; Comino, E.; Ivo, F.; Furio, D. Programma di Gestione dei Sedimenti per il torrente Orco **2008**.
- 531 50. Dick, D.D.C.; Ayllón, D. FloMan-MF: Floodplain Management for the Moor Frog a simulation 532 model for amphibian conservation in dynamic wetlands. *Ecol. Model.* **2017**, *348*, 110–124.
- 533 51. Laasonen, P.; Muotka, T.; Kivijärvi, I. Recovery of macroinvertebrate communities from stream
 534 habitat restoration. *Aquat. Conserv. Mar. Freshw. Ecosyst.* **1998**, *8*, 101–113.
- 535 52. Nakano, D.; Nagayama, S.; Kawaguchi, Y.; Nakamura, F. River restoration for
 536 macroinvertebrate communities in lowland rivers: insights from restorations of the Shibetsu
 537 River, north Japan. *Landsc. Ecol. Eng.* 2008, *4*, 63–68.
- 53. Gregory, S.; Boyer, K.L.; Gurnell, A.M. Ecology and management of wood in world rivers. In
 Proceedings of the International Conference of Wood in World Rivers (2000: Corvallis, Or.);
 American Fisheries Society, 2003.
- 54. Opdam, P. Metapopulation theory and habitat fragmentation: a review of holarctic breeding
 bird studies. *Landsc. Ecol.* 1991, *5*, 93–106.
- 543 55. Ali, A.; de Bie, C.A.J.M.; Skidmore, A.K.; Scarrott, R.G.; Lymberakis, P. Mapping the
 heterogeneity of natural and semi-natural landscapes. *Int. J. Appl. Earth Obs. Geoinformation*2014, 26, 176–183.
- 546 56. Alhamad, M.N.; Alrababah, M.A.; Feagin, R.A.; Gharaibeh, A. Mediterranean drylands: The 547 effect of grain size and domain of scale on landscape metrics. *Ecol. Indic.* **2011**, *11*, 611–621.

- 548 57. Feng, Y.; Liu, Y. Fractal dimension as an indicator for quantifying the effects of changing spatial
 scales on landscape metrics. *Ecol. Indic.* 2015, *53*, 18–27.
- 550 58. Turner, M.G.; O'Neill, R. V; Gardner, R.H.; Milne, B.T. Effects of changing spatial scale on the 551 analysis of landscape pattern. *Landsc. Ecol.* **1989**, *3*, 153–162.
- 552 59. Wiens, J.A. Population Responses to Patchy Environments. *Annu. Rev. Ecol. Syst.* **1976**, *7*, 81– 120.
- 554

Click here to view linked References

The present letter reports feedback given by the advisory editor and the replies of the authors. The advisory editor's comments are written in black and the author's replies are written in blue.

I would like to thank the advisory editor for further precious feedback. The revised version of the draft follows and replies all comments.

Advisory Editor's Comments:

Dear authors,

Thank you for submitting the revised version of your manuscript. You have processed all comments of the reviewer and me. I particularly like the sections you added to the discussion about the expected impact of the changes on animal. Good job.

I now consider your manuscript ready for publication, on the condition that you perform the following seven format/layout changes:

1. All variables in all equations need to be defined and (shortly) described below the equation. Please do this for the variables in equation 1.

The description of variables has been added. To avoid a repetition, the last section "Notation has been removed.

2. In our journal, each displayed mathematical expression needs to be treated as part of an English sentence and end in a comma if the sentence continues (e.g., as in (1)), or in a period if the sentence stops (e.g., as in (2)).

The authors may wish to use the following manuscript as an example of good and consistent formatting of mathematical expressions:

The Strategic Impact of Adaptation in a Transboundary Pollution Dynamic Game B Vardar, G Zaccour Environmental Modeling & Assessment 23 (6), 653-669. Punctuation has been added.

3. The legends of the meshes and graphs in Figure 3 are too small; please enlarge them. The image has been improved.

4. Line 224: Please change "the previous image" to "Fig. 6", as images might be placed in a different part of the article in the typesetted version. The sentence has been modified.

5. In my opinion, the current Fig. 6 fits better between Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, as Fig. 6 displays the current flow regimes, and Fig. 5 the impacts of this regime on the channel activation for the two scenarios. The Fig. 6 has been moved before the actual Fig 5, inverting the order of images.

6. Please provide the full names of the landscape metrics in the caption of Table 3, such that the table is understandable in isolation.

Full names of metrics have been added.

7. Line 286: Please only use the word significant if you actually performed a significance test.

The word "significant" has been substituted.

Best regards, The AE

















Land cover class		Area [ha]	Percentage cover [%]	Manning's Roughness Coefficient
Grassland		276.2	46.0	0.07
Wood		124.5	20.7	0.08
River bank		33.1	5.5	0.045
Water		41.3	6.9	0.045
Factories		8.9	1.5	0.15
Urban center		112.2	18.7	0.15
Roads		4.0	0.7	0.03
	Total	600	100	

Table 1 Areas, percentage cover and Manning's Roughness Coefficient of each land cover class in the study area

Metrics	Equations	Terms
Edge Density (ED)	$ED = {^E/_A}$	Where E is the total length of the edge in landscape and A is total landscape area
Area-weighted Mean patch Area (AREA_AM)	AREA_AM = $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left[a_{ij} \left(\frac{a_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}} \right) \right]$	Where a _{ij} is the area of patch i of the patch type j
Standard Deviation in patch Area (AREA_SD)	AREA_SD = $\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left[a_{ij} - \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}}{N}\right)\right]^2}{N}}$	Where a _{ij} is the area of patch i of the patch type j and N is the total number of patches in the landscape
Coefficient of Variation in patch Area (AREA_CV)	AREA_CV = $\begin{bmatrix} AREA_SD \\ \underline{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}} \end{bmatrix} (100)$	Where a _{ij} is the area of patch i of the patch type j and N is the total number of patches in the landscape
Area-weighted Mean Shape index (SHAPE_AM)	AREA_AM = $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left[\left(\frac{0.25 \cdot p_{ij}}{\sqrt{a_{ij}}} \right) \left(\frac{a_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}} \right) \right]$	Where p_{ij} is the perimeter of the patch i of the patch type j and a_{ij} is the area of patch i
Patch Density (PD)	PD = N/A	Where N is the total number of patches in the landscape and A is the total landscape area
Mean Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance (ENN_MN)	$ENN_MN = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} h_{ij}}{N}$	Where h _{ij} is the distance from patch ij to nearest neighboring patch of the same type (class), based on patch edge-to-edge distance, computed from cell center to cell center and N is the total number of patches in the landscape

Table 3 The group of seven metrics (ED – Edge Density, AREA_AM – Area-weighted Mean patch Area, AREA_SD – Standard Deviation in patch Area, AREA_CV – Coefficient of Variation in patch Area, PD – Patch Density, SHAPE_AM – Area-weighted Mean Shape index and ENN_MN – Mean Euclidean Nearest Neighbor distance) calculated with Q30 for both scenarios and their comparison. Factories, urban center and roads classes have been neglected since they have not been altered by the restoration plan.

Landscape level									
Metrics	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN		
Original scenario	109.0	58.5	21.3	231.1	10.8	2.9	95.3		
Modified scenario	119.9	55.2	19.9	235.3	11.8	3.0	84.4		
Δ	10.8	-3.3	-1.4	4.2	1.0	0.2	-10.9		

Class level								
Original scenario								
Land cover class	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN	
Grassland	73.2	66.2	29.1	168.3	2.7	2.8	11.7	
Wood	60.3	44.8	17.4	209.7	2.5	3.2	29.2	
River bank	18.0	9.6	4.6	138.0	1.7	2.0	53.4	
Water	30.8	37.5	18.1	131.2	0.5	4.7	164.0	

Modified scenario								
Land cover class	ED	AREA_AM	AREA_SD	AREA_CV	PD	SHAPE_AM	ENN_MN	
Grassland	73.5	65.9	28.4	174.9	2.8	2.8	12.3	
Wood	70.2	25.6	11.0	177.8	3.2	3.2	26.6	
River bank	17.8	9.7	4.5	150.3	1.8	2.0	44.2	
Water	42.4	45.2	21.7	132.8	0.5	6.8	81.6	
			Δ					

Grassland	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	6.6	0.2	0.0	0.6
Wood	9.9	-19.1	-6.4	-31.9	0.7	0.1	-2.6
River bank	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	12.4	0.2	0.0	-9.2
Water	11.6	7.8	3.7	1.6	0.0	2.1	-82.4