



5th International Conference of the
GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS

CITIES OF WATER
Peace and Prosperity through
Water Sustainability Education

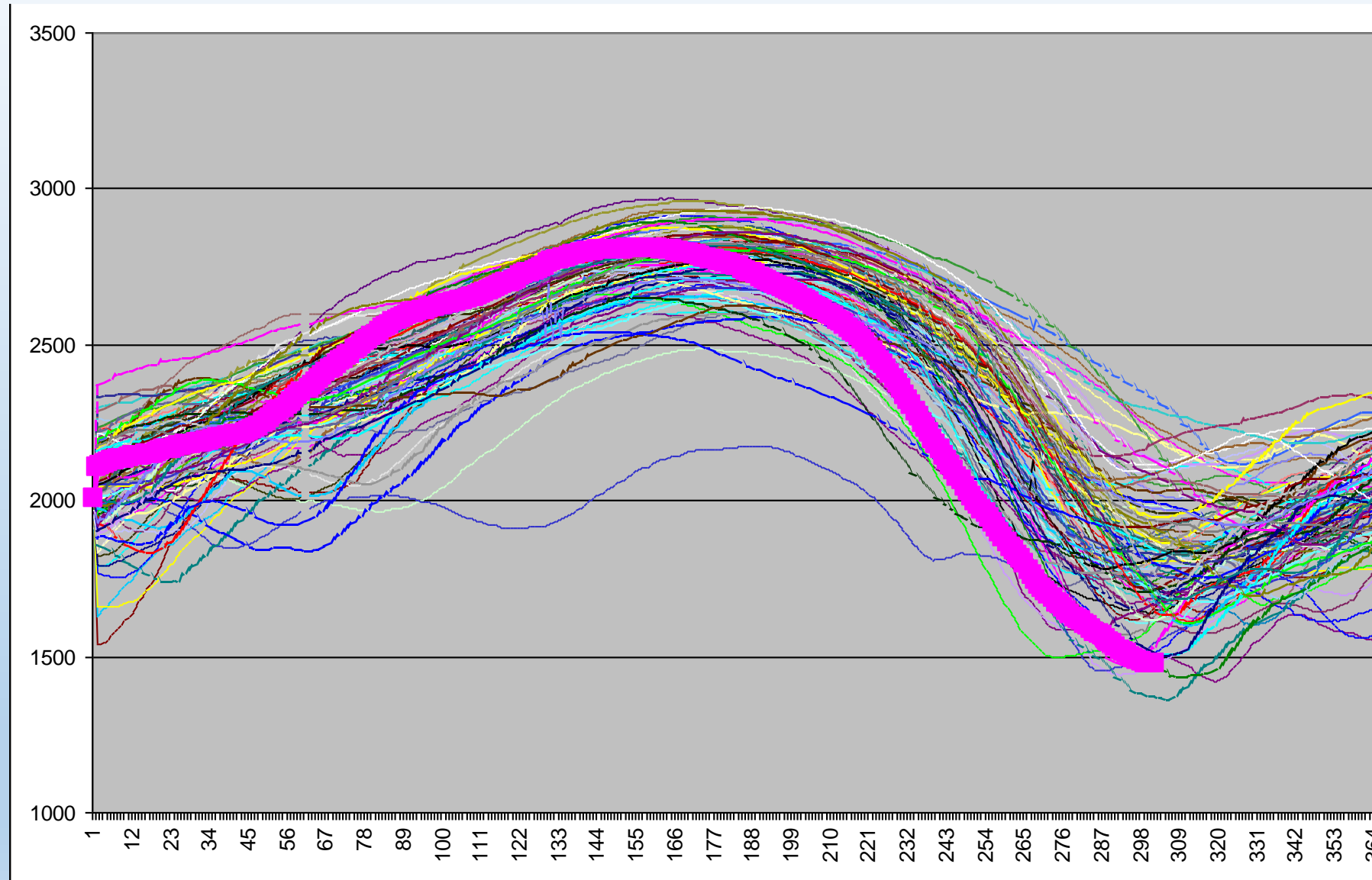
9 - 11 October 2024
PORTO, PORTUGAL
Pestana Douro - Palácio Do Freixo

River Culture: life *is* a dance to the rhythm of the waters

Karl Matthias Wantzen



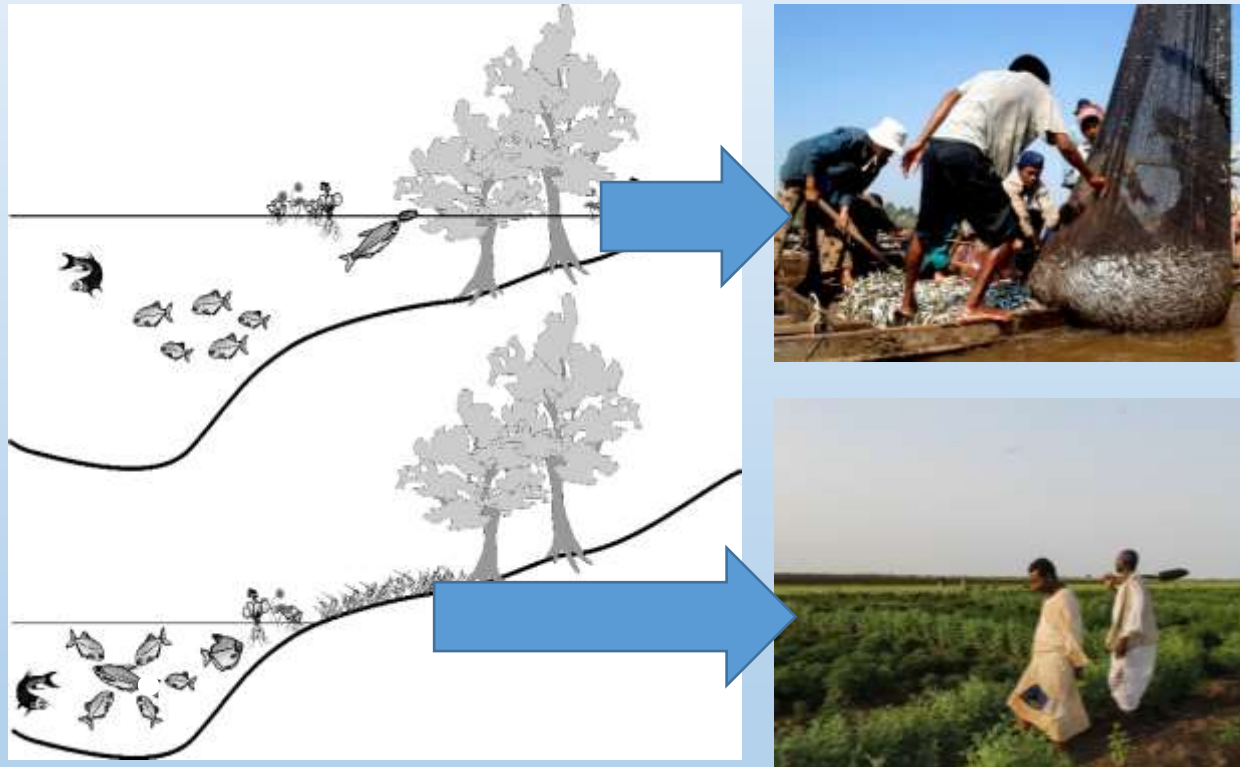
All natural water bodies display *pulsing hydrological rhythms*



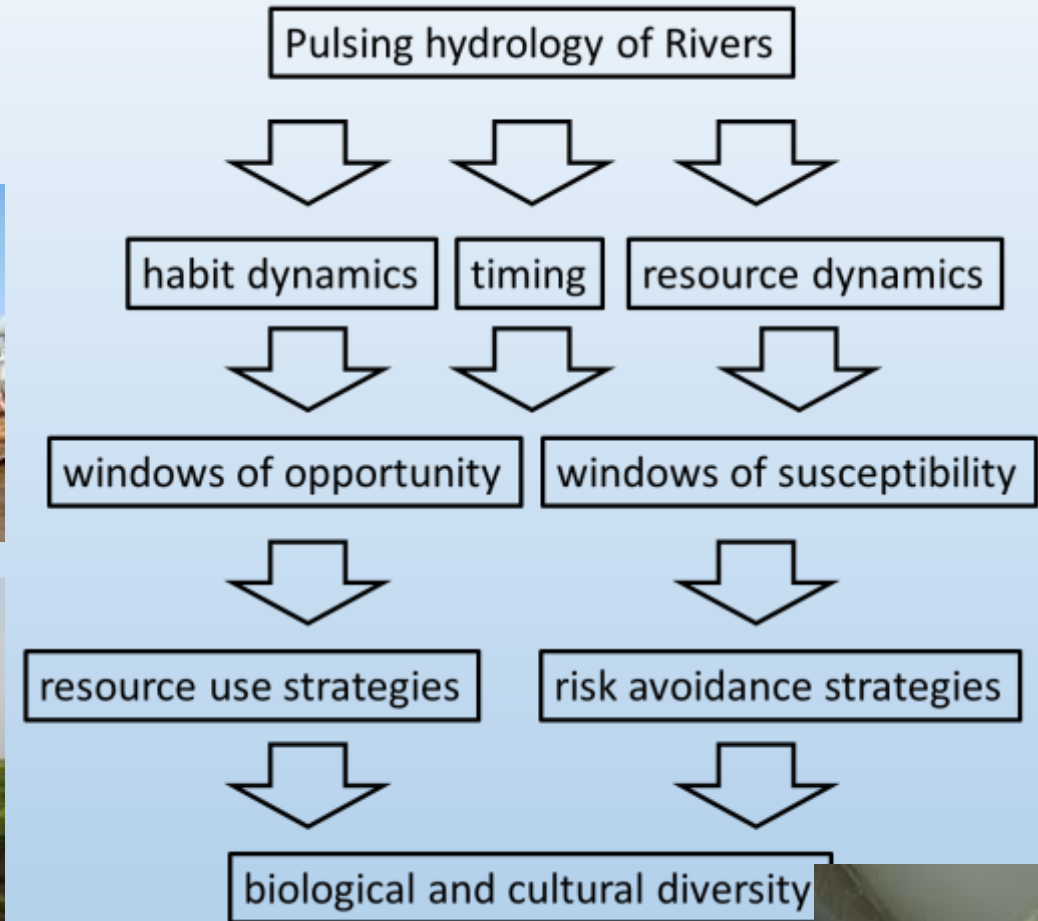
100 year record of the R. Negro (Port Authorities of Manaus)



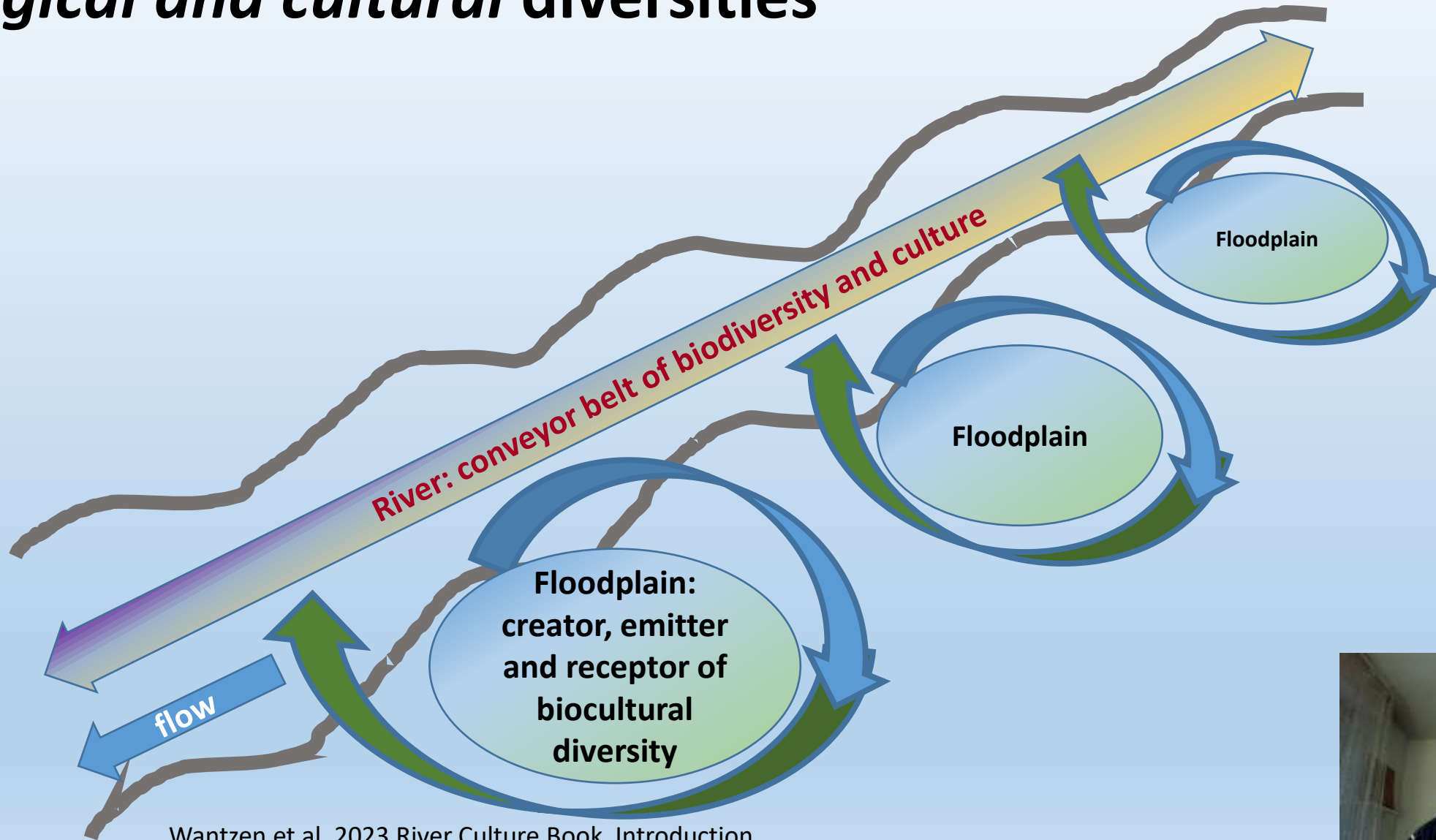
Rivers **create** and **select** *biological and cultural diversities*



Wantzen et al. 2016 River Culture Concept



Floodplains **create**, rivers **disperse** *biological and cultural diversities*



Wantzen et al. 2023 River Culture Book, Introduction





Reset values in river ecosystem management



Political management at the river basin scale

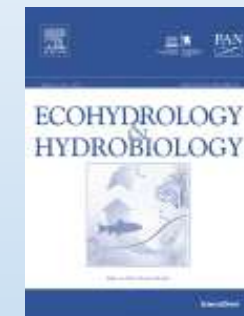
Adapt human activities to the rhythm of the river



River Culture Concept (2016): *learn from the river to live with the river*

Ecosystem-scale bionics: Copy biotic strategies

Transform traditional / cultural uses into modern management



Wantzen et al. 2016



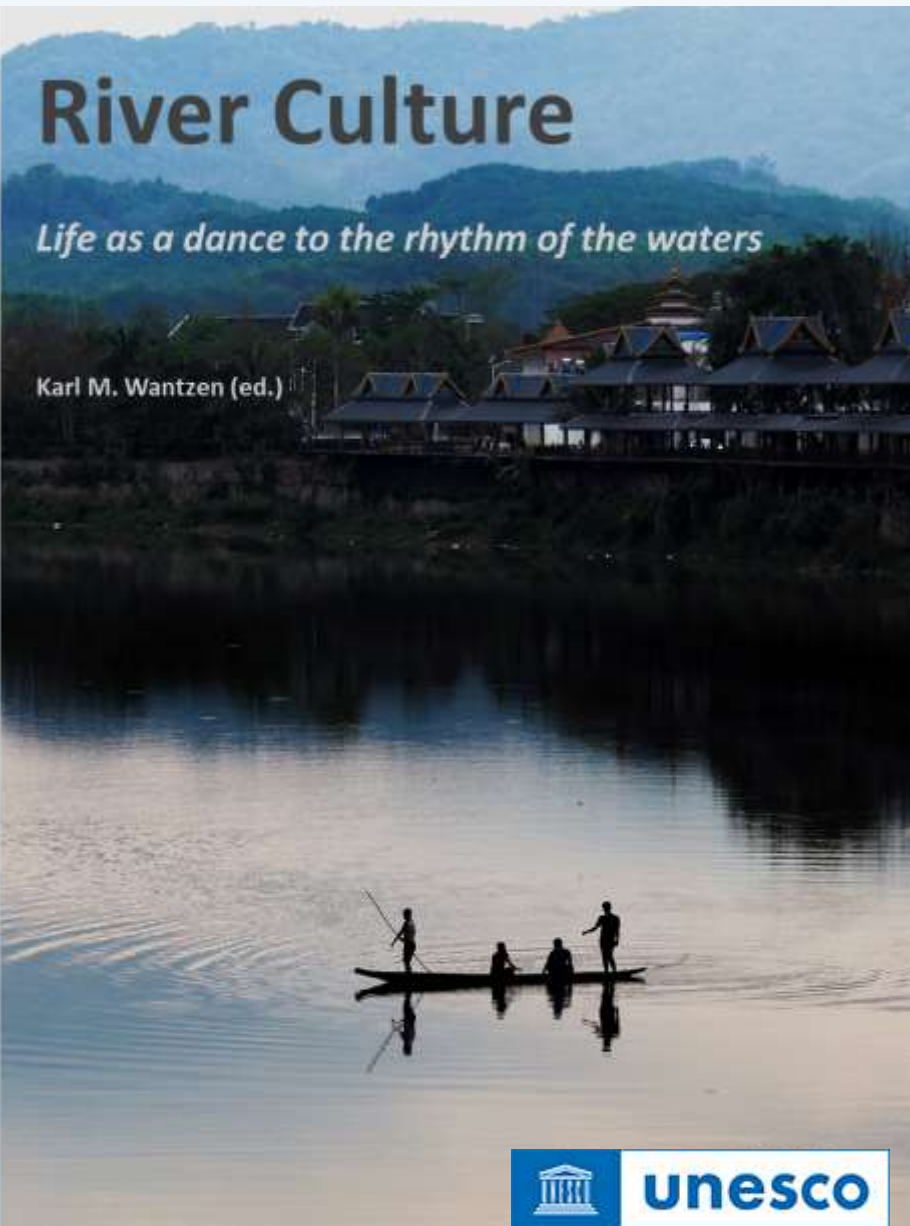
How the book on River Culture developed



map: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:World_location_map_\(equirectangular_180\).svg#file](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:World_location_map_(equirectangular_180).svg#file)

Karl M. Wantzen (UNESCO CHAIR Rivers and Heritage/ River Culture)





A book on *River Culture* at the global scale: Transfer of biotic adaptive strategies, traditional ecological knowledge and innovative solutions into a sustainable riverscape management

- **125 authors**
- **36 chapters, ca. 900 pages**
- **Biocultural diversity: 29 case studies from 4 continents**
- **Riverscape management in the Anthropocene**
- **Comparative analysis of project motivation and of implementation strategies**



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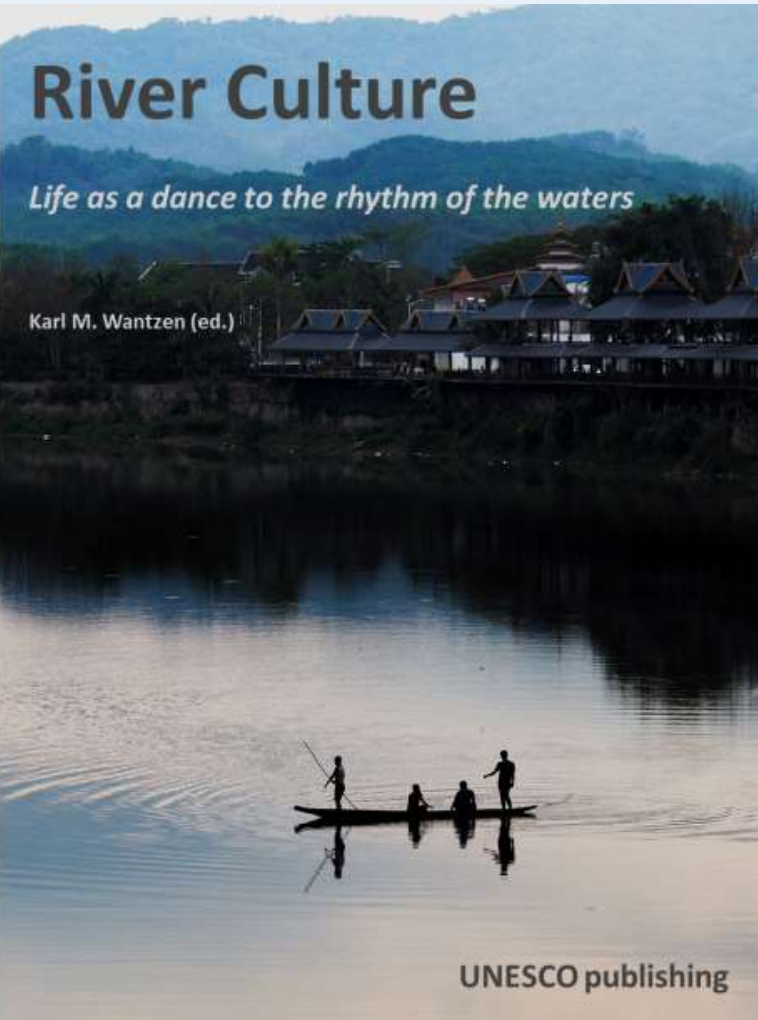
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Global River Culture - Lessons from the book



- Similar drivers, but different dynamics of deterioration of River Culture
- Tipping points are approaching fast
- Intergenerational and transboundary, cultural disruptions
- NO return to "*good old times*", but cultural use forms may receive new functions (→ translational research)
- Nature-based solutions + sustainable innovations
- River awareness helps bending the curve (local actions)
- Climate change: an efficient driver for action
- Good governance is needed for the *entire* river



River Culture

Life as a dance
to the rhythm of the waters

Karl M. Wantzen (ed.)

Do you want to know more?

Flash your free book copy!



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