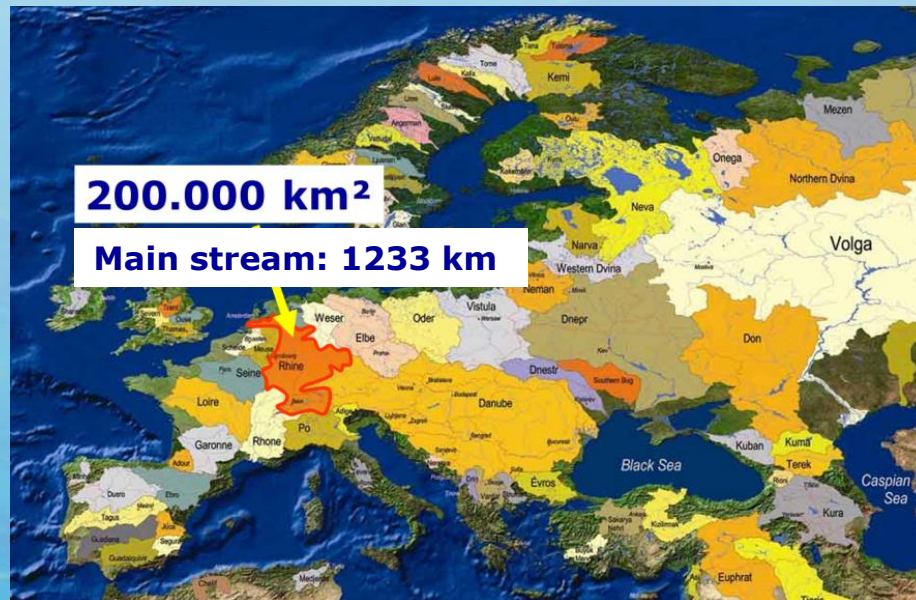


# Session III: Environmental status of floodplains and trends

## Case study: Flood action programme and role of floodplains in a large river basin



Internationale  
Kommission zum  
Schutz des Rheins

Commission  
Internationale  
pour la Protection  
du Rhin

Internationale  
Commissie ter  
Bescherming  
van de Rijn

International  
Commission  
for the  
Protection of  
the Rhine

**Adrian Schmid-Breton (ICPR – Coblenz)**  
*Scientific assistant*

**EEA Expert Workshop: "Environmental effect of floods and flood protection measures, 28-29 May 2015, Copenhagen"**

# Facts about the Rhine basin



## 9 states

Italy, Austria,  
Liechtenstein,  
**Switzerland,**  
**France,**  
**Germany,**  
Belgium,  
**Luxemburg, the**  
**Netherlands**

## Inhabitants

58 Mio. (5,5 million  
people in area with  
flood depth > 2 m)

## The river Rhine basin (extreme flood areas)



**Lower and Middle  
Rhine** (*floods mainly  
in winter/spring*)

**Upper, High and  
Alpine Rhine**  
(*floods mainly end of  
the spring/summer*)



# Our vision: the ideal river and a balance between uses and protection



**The ideal river**

The central graphic is a grid of eight illustrations, each with a caption below it, showing different ways a river can be used. The illustrations are arranged in two columns of four. The left column shows: 1. A river flowing through a natural landscape with trees and hills, captioned '... for nature protection'. 2. A river flowing through a rural landscape with a fence and cows, captioned '... for agriculture'. 3. A wide river flowing through a flat, green landscape, captioned '... for drainage'. 4. A river with several boats, captioned '... for navigation'. The right column shows: 1. A river flowing through an urban area with a park and a person on a boat, captioned '... for local recreation'. 2. A river flowing through a city with a bridge and cars, captioned '... for economy'. 3. A river flowing through a dam structure, captioned '... for power generation'. 4. A river flowing into a pipe that leads to a tap, captioned '... for drinking water uses'.

## Co-ordinating functions!

### Ongoing process:

- **Hydro-power and river continuity**
- **Flood protection and habitat development**
- **Navigation and more natural embankments**

# The ICPR programme „Rhine 2020“:



- Since 2000, general targets of **sustainable development along the Rhine**
- **Focus:** improvement of the Rhine ecosystem, flood prevention and protection and chemical water quality (the River Basin Management Plans are prolonging this programme)

It **includes the Action Plan on Floods** since 1998 (the Flood risk management plan is prolonging this plan).

When it comes to **ecology**, these are the main aspects of the Programme Rhine 2020:

- Ecological Improvement
- Reactivation of floodplains
- Reconnection of oxbow lakes and backwaters of the Rhine
- Increase structural diversity on the banks of the Rhine and its branches
- Restoration of river continuity
- Alien plant and animal species in the Rhine

# Alluvial areas are essential for the Rhine ecosystem, but also for man.

## Different gains of alluvial areas/floodplains:

- Filtering and cleaning water,
- Recharging groundwater,
- Protection against lapping of waves and erosion,
- Water retention, reduction of water levels,
- Habitat connectivity
- Essential for biodiversity
- Reproduction aquatic species
- Recreation and economy (tourism, jobs, reduction damage ...)
- Climate change mitigation



# **The status of floodplains along the Rhine**

# Man made flood risk increase/ecosystem degradation : The loss of flood plains

**1838**



**1872**

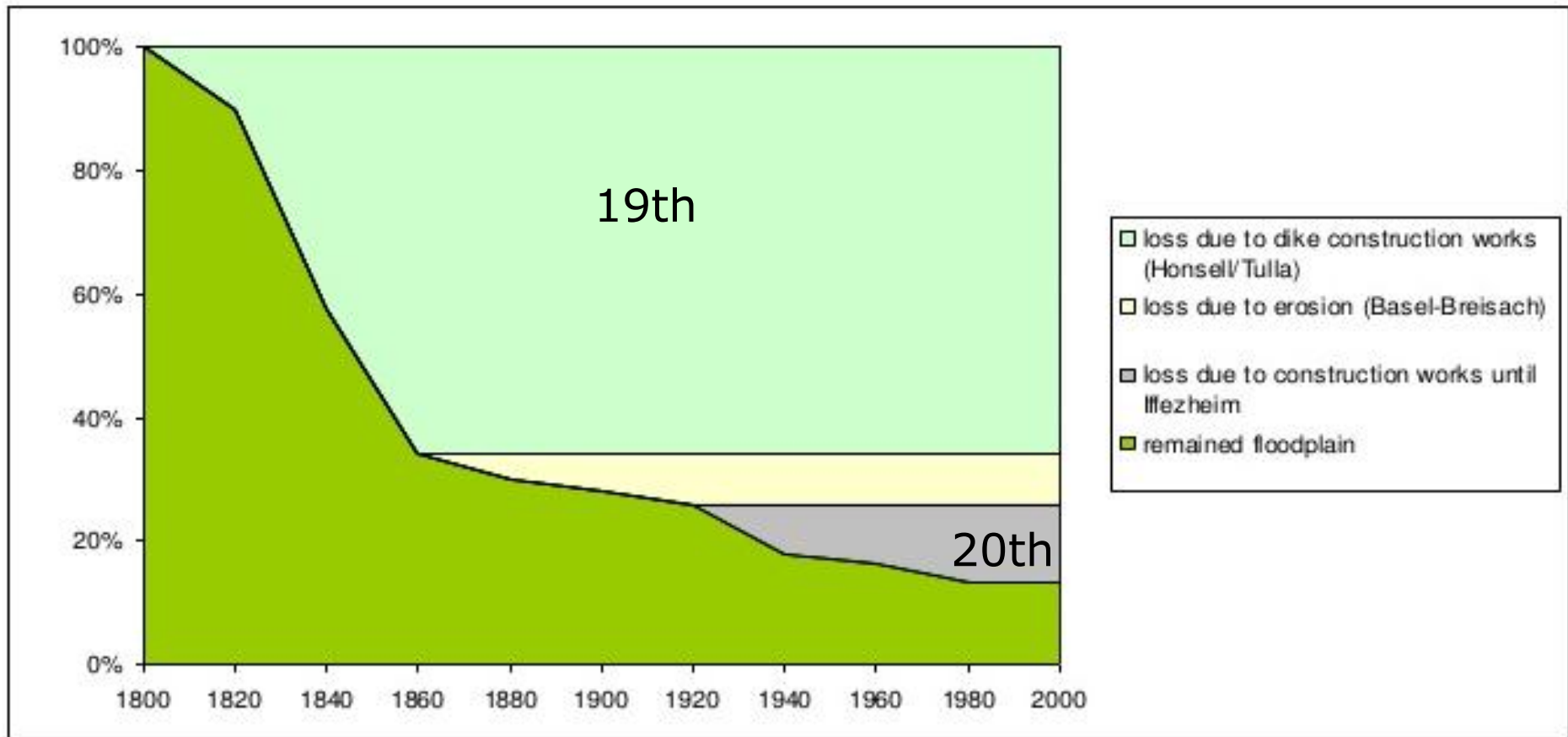


**1980**



**Upper Rhine**





→ 85% lost on the formal 8000 km<sup>2</sup> flood plains



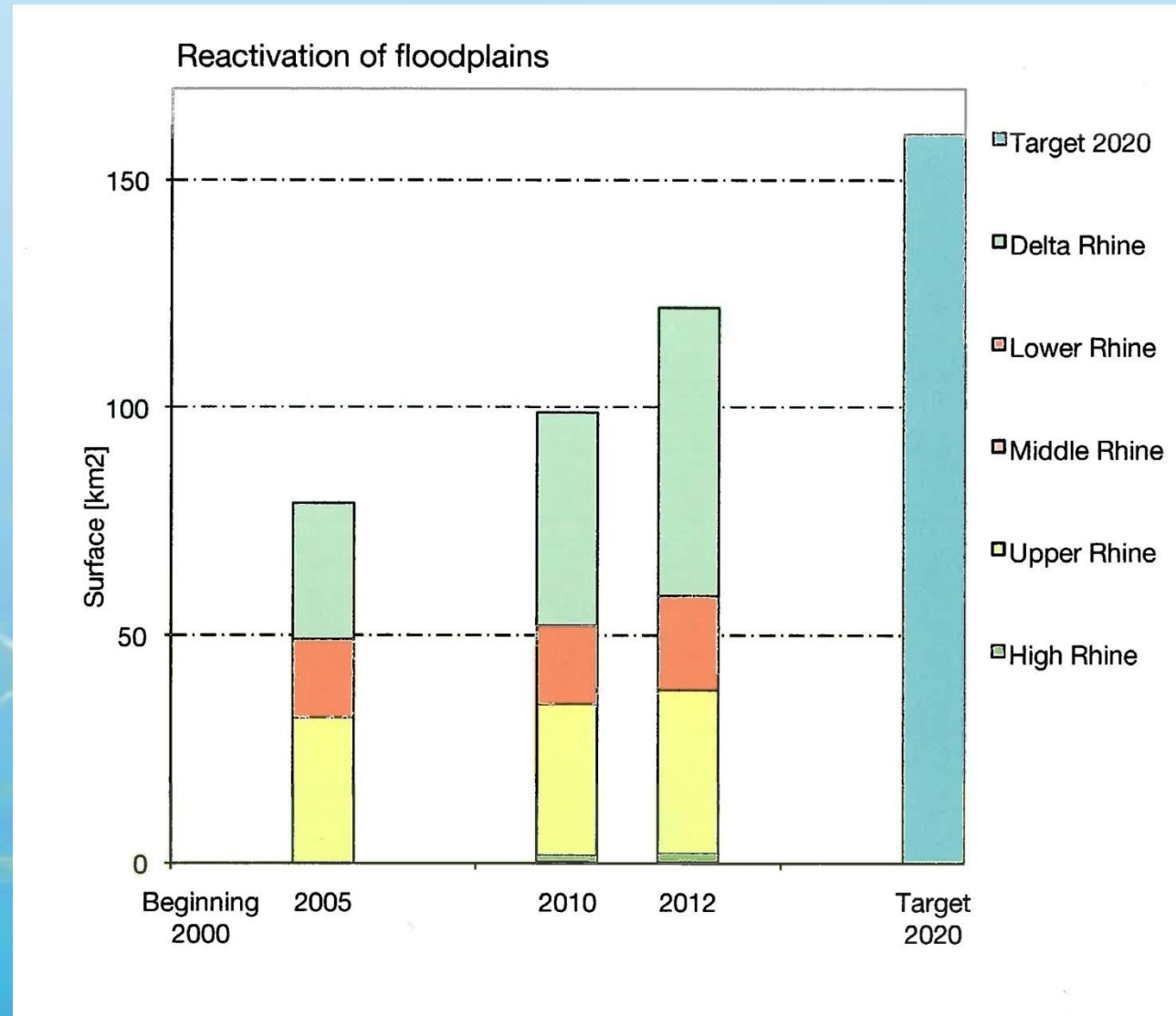
**Blick vom Isteiner Klotz rheinaufwärts gegen Basel (um 1820). Am südlichen Oberrhein hat sich der Fluss in zahlreiche Verästelungen aufgespalten (Furkationsaue).**



**Der gleiche Ort 200 Jahre später.**

# Implementation Rhine 2020 betw. 2000-2012

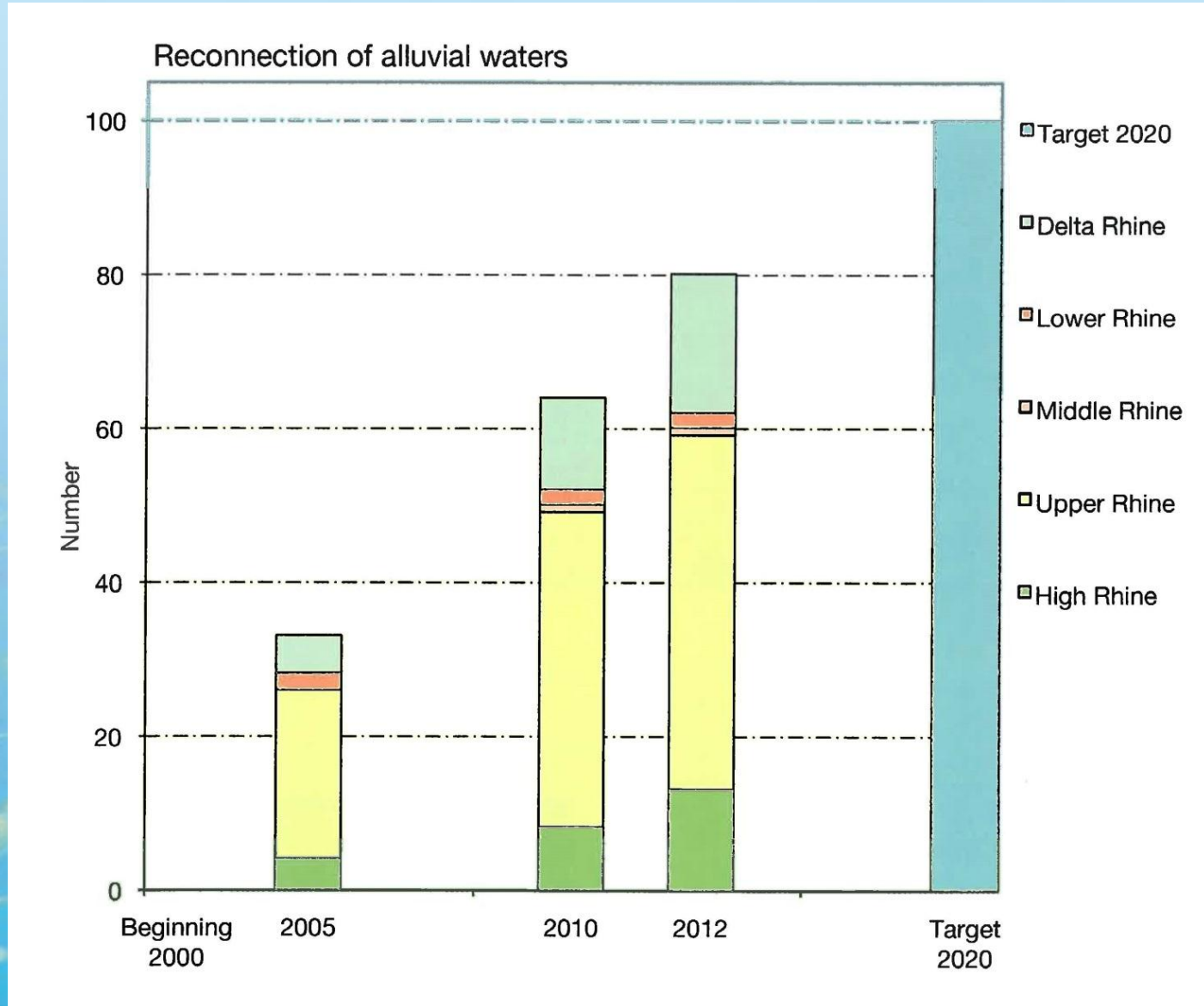
## REACTIVATION OF FLOODPLAINS



**122 km<sup>2</sup> reactivated; target of 160 km<sup>2</sup> by 2020 may be achieved**

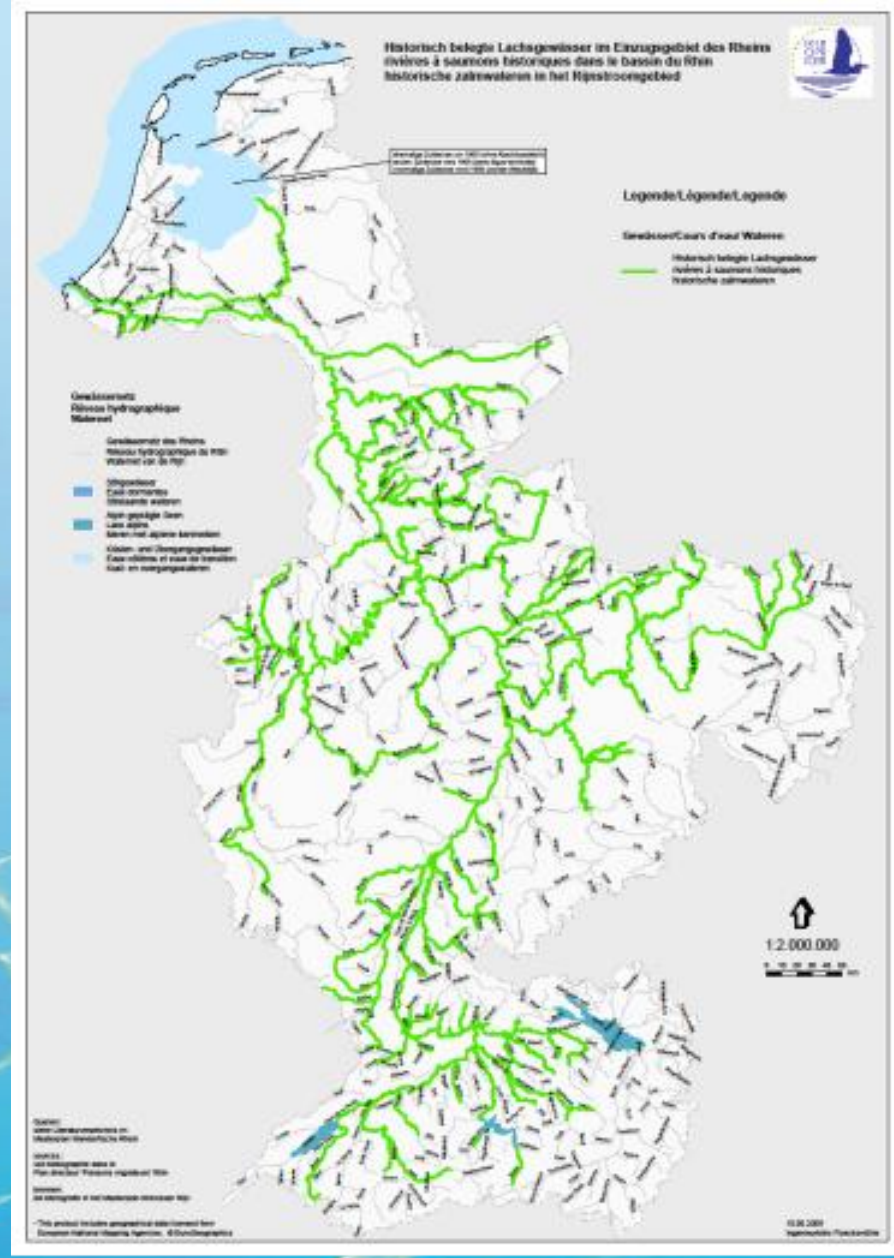
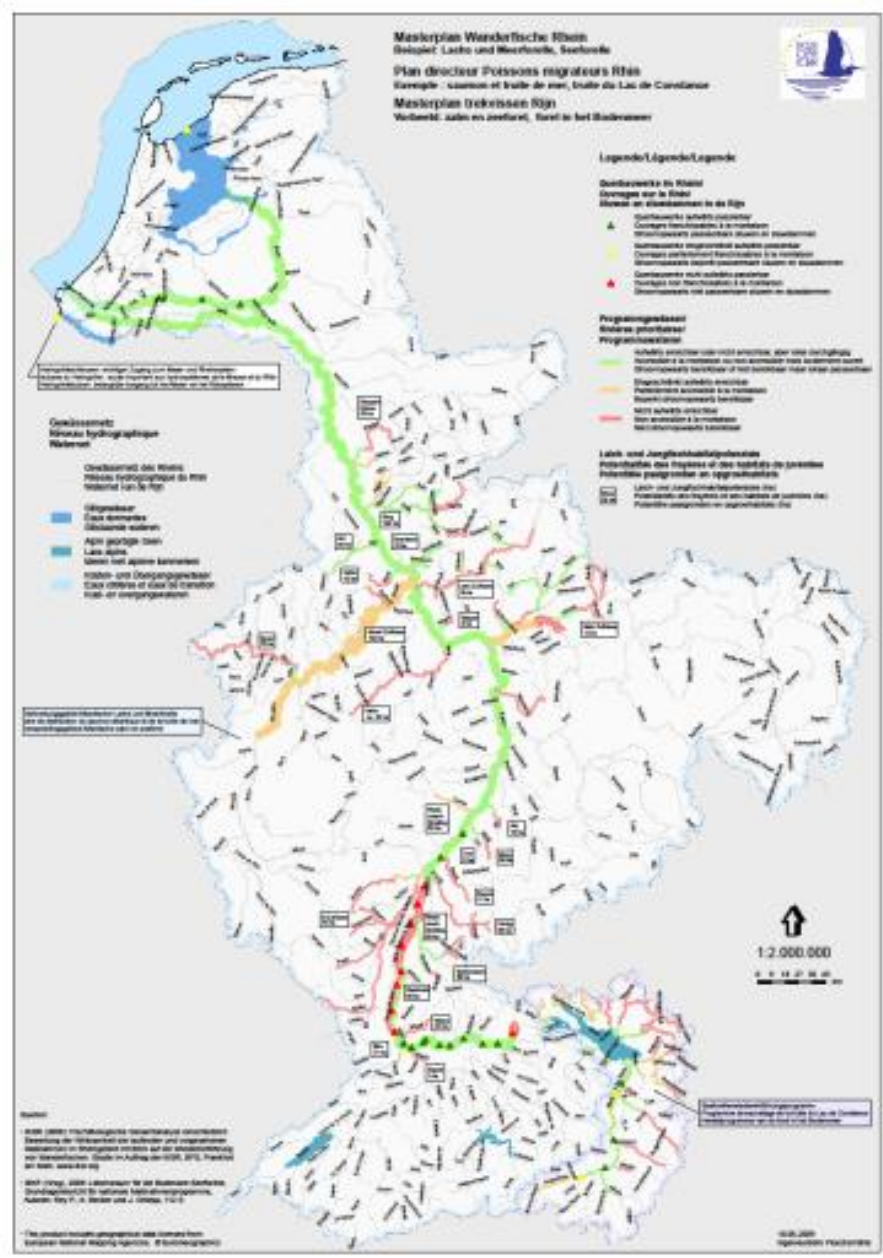


# RECONNECTION OF ALLUVIAL WATERS



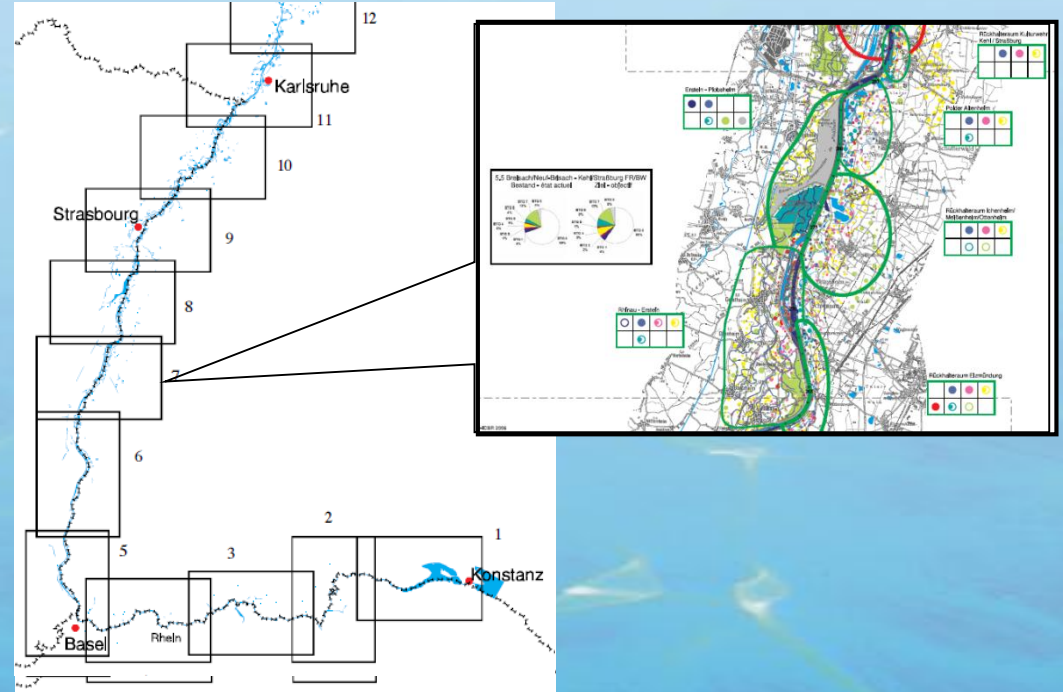
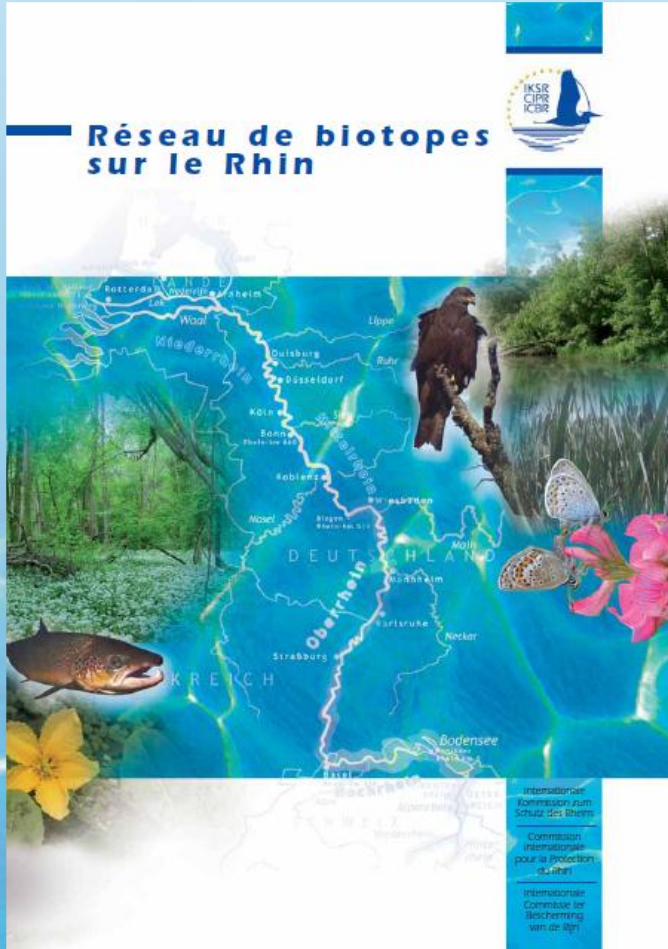
**80 arms have been reconnected; target of 100 by 2020 may be achieved**

# RIVER CONTINUITY



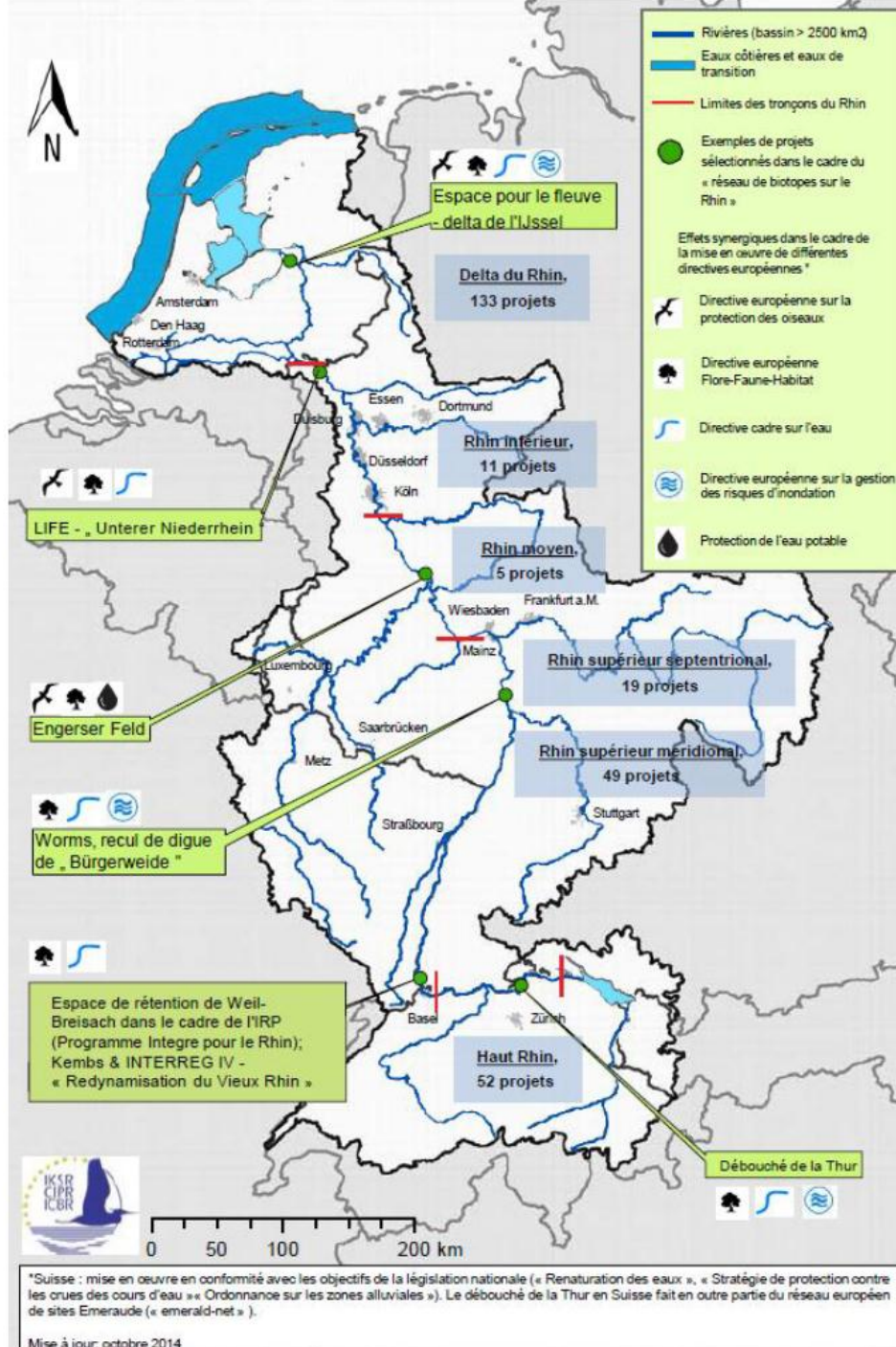


# HABITAT PATCH NETWORK



A lot of (new) Birds and Habitat protected areas  
A new methodology has to be developed to look at the connectivity





\*Suisse : mise en œuvre en conformité avec les objectifs de la législation nationale (« Renaturation des eaux », « Stratégie de protection contre les crues des cours d'eau », « Ordonnance sur les zones alluviales »). Le débouché de la Thur en Suisse fait en outre partie du réseau européen de sites Emerald (« emerald-net »).

# **From the Flood Action Plan to the 1st Flood risk management plan for the International Rhine Basin District....**



# What has the ICPR done in the past?

## Rhine Ministers' Conference

Jan. 1998 → **The Action Plan on Floods (1998-2020)**

### 4 ambitious objectives:

(1) Reduce flood damage risks by 25 % by 2020 —

(2) Reduction of flood levels by up to 70 cm by 2020 (V)

(3) Increasing flood awareness by drafting and spreading flood risk maps for 100 % of flood hazard areas V

(4) Improve the flood forecasting system - Prolong forecasting periods by 100 % by 2005 V





# The new draft of the Flood risk management plan for the river Rhine basin

**Flood risk management plan  
for the international river  
basin district Rhine,  
level A**

***Status: Draft, Dec. 2014***



Internationale  
Kommission zum  
Schutz des Rheins

Commission  
Internationale  
pour la Protection  
du Rhin

Internationale  
Commissie ter  
Bescherming  
van de Rijn



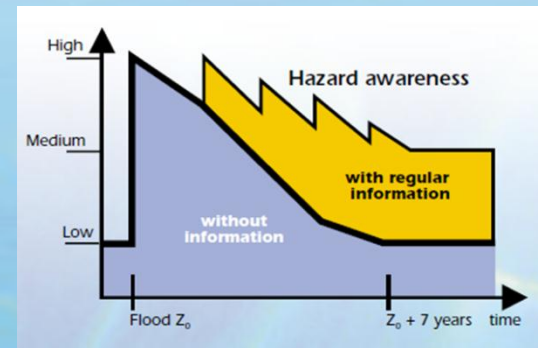
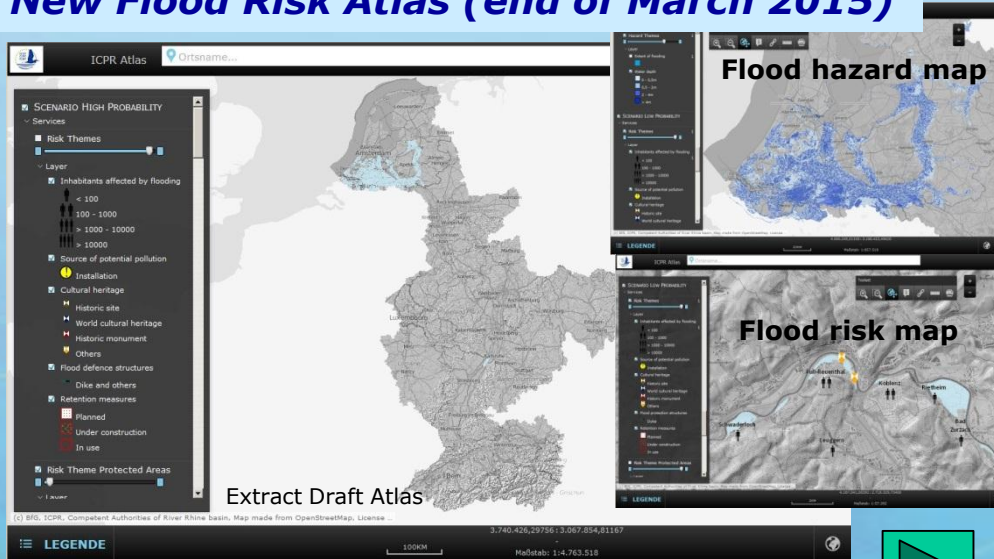
**Since December 22th 2014:**  
available for public information  
and consultation on [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)

Finalized and available in English  
by **December 22th 2015.**

# Common concrete measures: Improvement of information exchange and access

## Risk knowledge and awareness

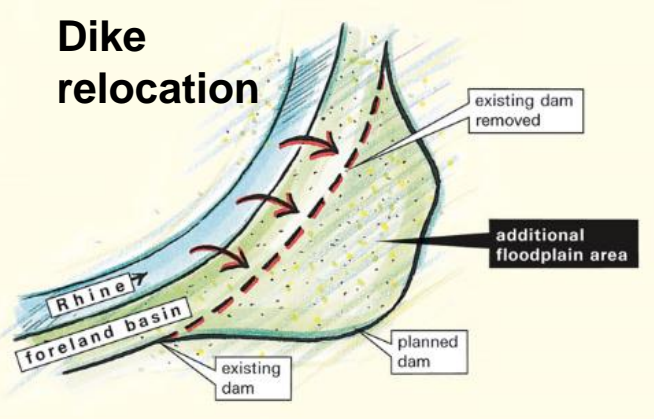
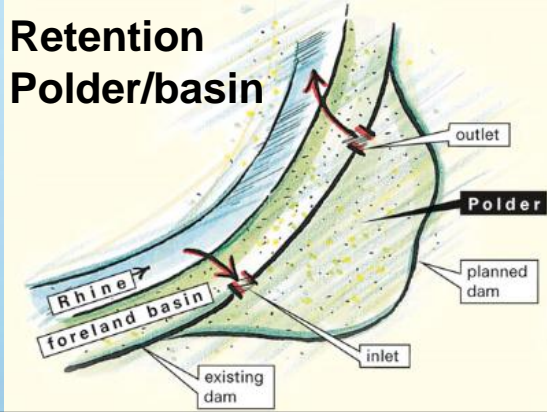
### New Flood Risk Atlas (end of March 2015)



→ The new atlas (soon available on [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)) is showing amongst flood levels the water related birds and habitat protected areas, the drinking water protected areas and the industrial installations (IPPC, SEVESO).



# Common concrete measures: Realization of water level reduction measures



**Retention basin Erstein**



# Realization of water level reduction measures

## Maatregelen voor de retentie van hoogwater in de hoofdstroom van de Rijn

Stand van de uitvoering van de maatregelen

- Afgerond
- In uitvoering / in planning

Wateren

- Rivieren
- Kust- en overgangswateren

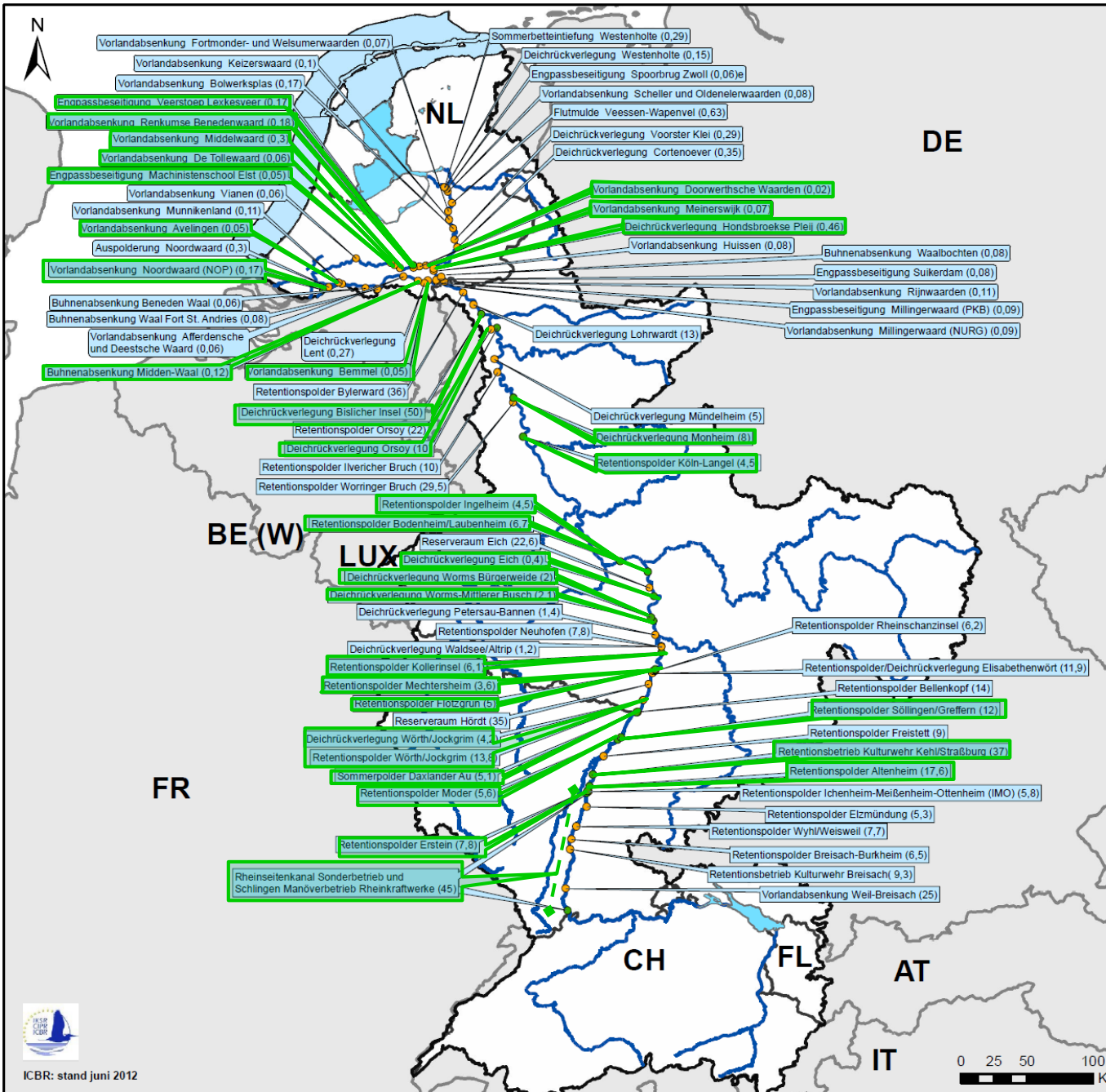
Toelichting bij de cijfers

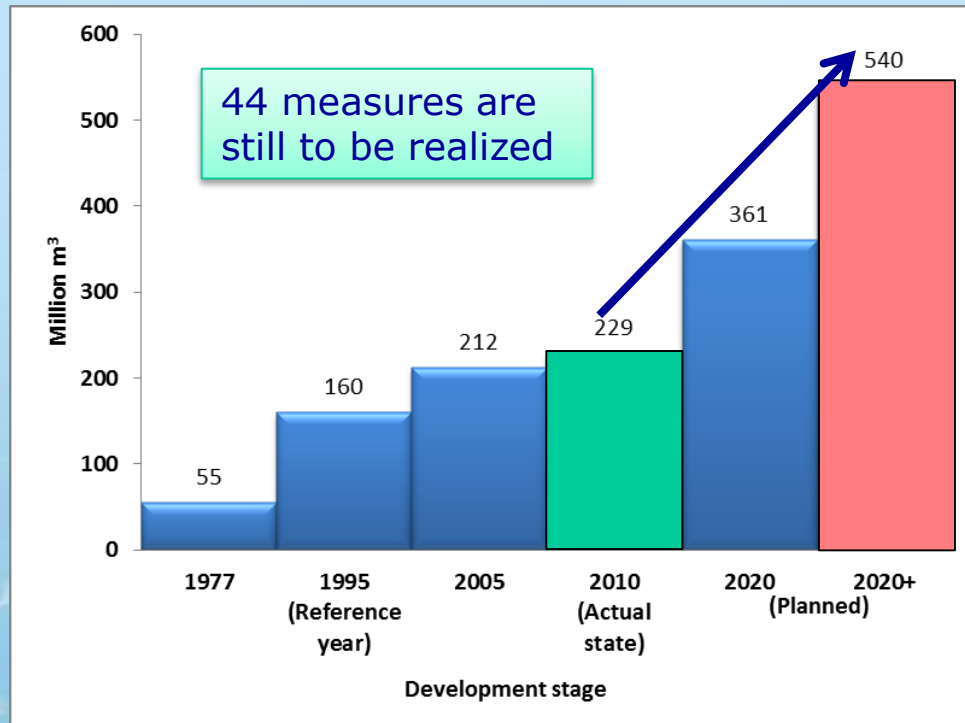
Voor de waterstandverlagende maatregelen in de Rijndelta vanaf Lobith: verlaging van de waterstand in m

Voor de retentiemaatregelen tussen Bazel en Lobith: volumes in miljoen m<sup>3</sup>

Opmerking: De Franse of Nederlandse naam van de maatregelen is te vinden in de bijgevoegde tabellen.

32 from 76 measures are accomplished





## Reduction of flood water levels

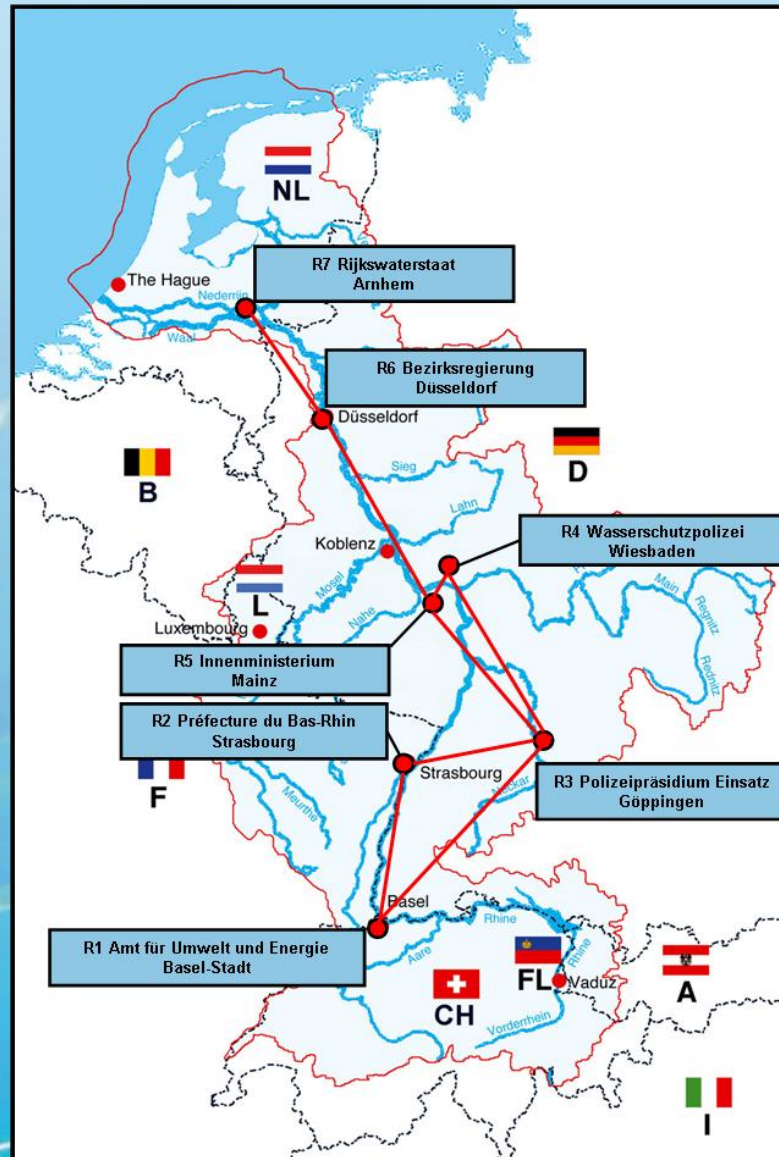
*(downstream of the impounded river stretch, **state as 2020**; 100years returning period)*

Upper Rhine	10-23 cm (max. 44 cm)
Middle Rhine	16-29 cm (max. 50 cm)
Lower Rhine	4-14 cm (max. 25 cm)
Rhine delta	10-45 cm (max. 57 cm)

# **Some related ICPR works**



# Warn and Alarm Plan (in case of accidental pollution)



# Macroscopic risk analysis and development of a GIS-instrument

To assess **environmental risks** or damages, the method used in the instrument identifies the impact of potential pollution arising from installations affected by floods (IPPC, SEVESO and water treatment plants) on different areas designated for drinking water production and for Natura 2000 (flora-fauna habitat and bird protection).



## Instrument for the assessment of the effects of measures on flood risk



### The context

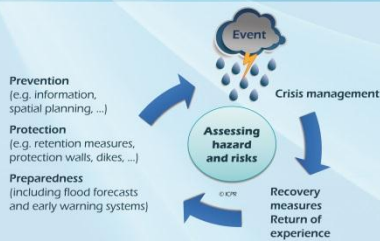
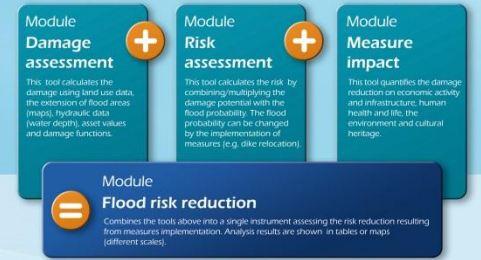
Reacting on the extreme floods in the Rhine in 1993 and 1995, the 12th Conference of Rhine Ministers on 22 January 1998 in Rotterdam adopted the "ICPR Action Plan on Floods" for the Rhine. One of the aims of this Action Plan is to reduce flood risk in 2020 by 25% compared to 1995. In 2007 the ICPR was charged with supporting the implementation of the European Floods Directive (FD).

The ICPR, supported by HKV, developed an instrument aimed at evaluating the effect of measures to reduce flood risk and estimating the evolution of flood risk (taking into account the impacts of different measures). The instrument, which is working in a consistent, reproducible and transparent manner, is available on demand at the ICPR and is applicable to other river basins.



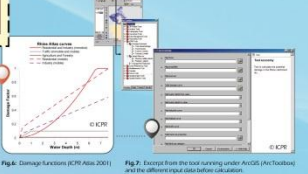
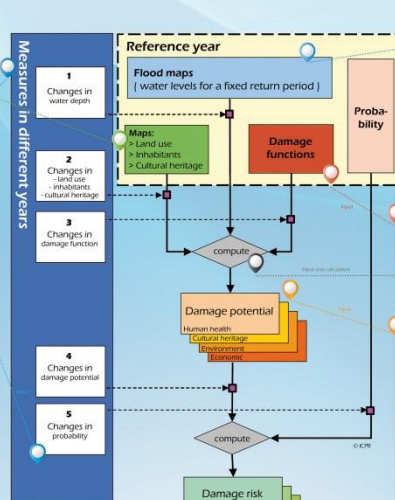
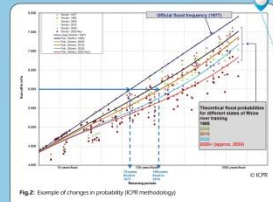
### The instrument

The instrument is GIS-based and covers the main stream of the Rhine. Flood maps developed under the FD, are the basis for the tool. In addition to the quantification of economic flood risk, modules are developed for quantifying the consequences of risk for human health, to the environment and to cultural heritage. This innovative and flexible instrument can be used to generate information about the effects and effectiveness of flood risk management measures on the reduction of flood risk at a river basin and/or tributary level, e.g. by assessing every 6 years the impacts of actions taken under flood risk management plans. In short, the main instrument consists of three interacting calculation modules (Model Builders) resulting in an overall flood risk reduction assessment.



In addition the instrument enables the challenging conversion of the effect of measures into an effect on flood risk. Flood risk is defined as the product of the flood risk probability and the consequences of floods (with corresponding damages). It can be reduced by lowering the flood probability and/or the potential damage. The flood probability can be altered by e.g. the retention measures available in the Flood Action Plan, which often reduce flood water levels.

A reduction of potential damage can be achieved by spatial planning, adapted building, flood forecasting and warning as well as crisis management. The whole cycle of flood risk management (prevention, protection, preparedness, crisis management and recovery measures) is considered in the instrument (see scheme to the left).



**Following innovative methods are used to assess risk for 4 types of protection objectives:**

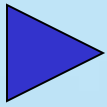
**Human health:** In a first step, the affected population is determined for each flood scenario, separated for different water depth classes. In a second step, a "security fraction" per region is used to visualize the population no longer in danger (i.e. due to evacuation).

**Economic activity:** The economic damage potential is calculated by combining land use maps (e.g. Corine Land Cover maps for different periods) with stage-damage curves and asset values (e.g. both from the ICPR (Rhine Atlas 2001)) for the categories settlement, industry, traffic, agricultural use and forest. Asset values can be adapted to the actual situation e.g. by using the price increase index.

**Environment:** To assess environmental risks or damages, the method used in the instrument analyses the impact of potential pollution arising from installations affected by floods (IPPC, SEVESO) and water treatment plants on different areas designated for drinking water production and for Natura 2000 (flora-fauna habitat and bird protection).

**Cultural heritage:** Cultural damage can be quantitatively estimated by combining cultural vulnerability (depending on different types of cultural heritage: UNESCO World heritage, historic sites, historic monuments) and water depths.





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