

# **“Rhine 2040”**

## **The Rhine and its catchment: sustainably managed and climate-resilient**

**19<sup>th</sup> Intl. Conference for the Implementation  
of the European Water Directives**

**10 December 2021**

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(Executive Secretary of the ICPR)



Internationale  
Kommission zum  
Schutz des Rheins

Commission  
Internationale  
pour la Protection  
du Rhin

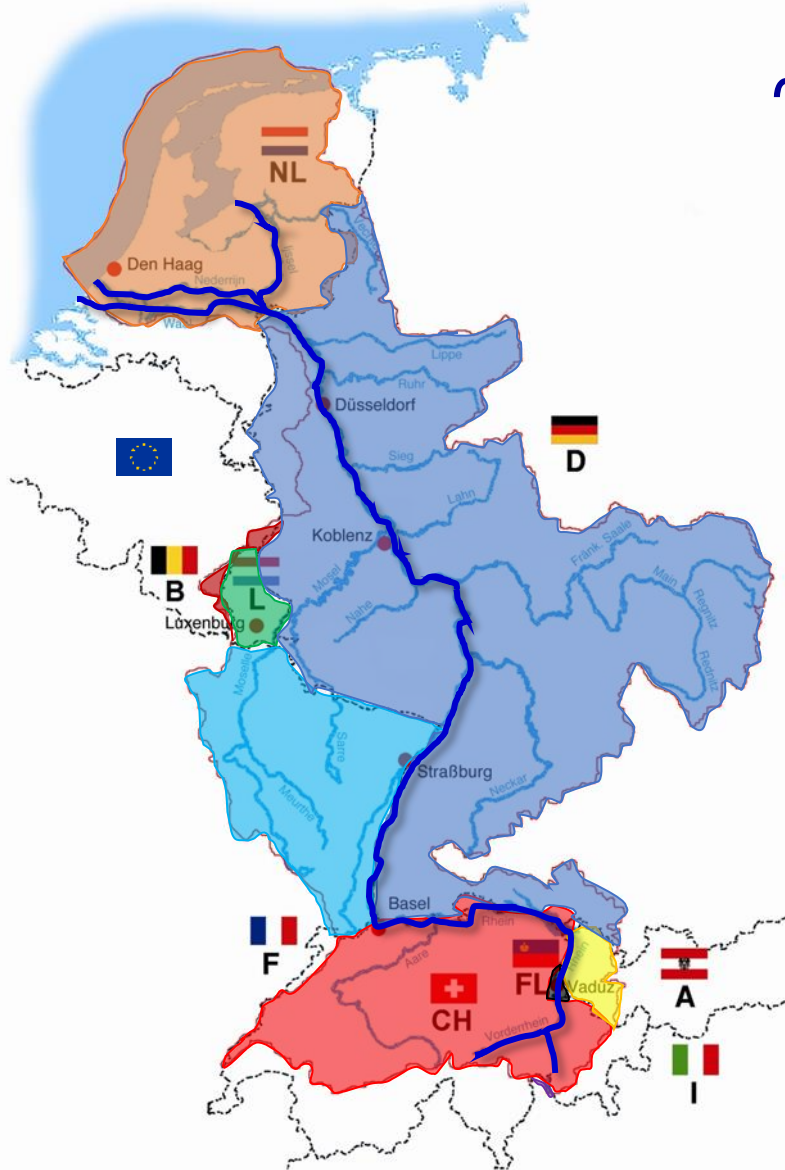
Internationale  
Commissie ter  
Bescherming  
van de Rijn

International  
Commission  
for the Protection  
of the Rhine

# One river – nine national states



~ 200.000 km<sup>2</sup>





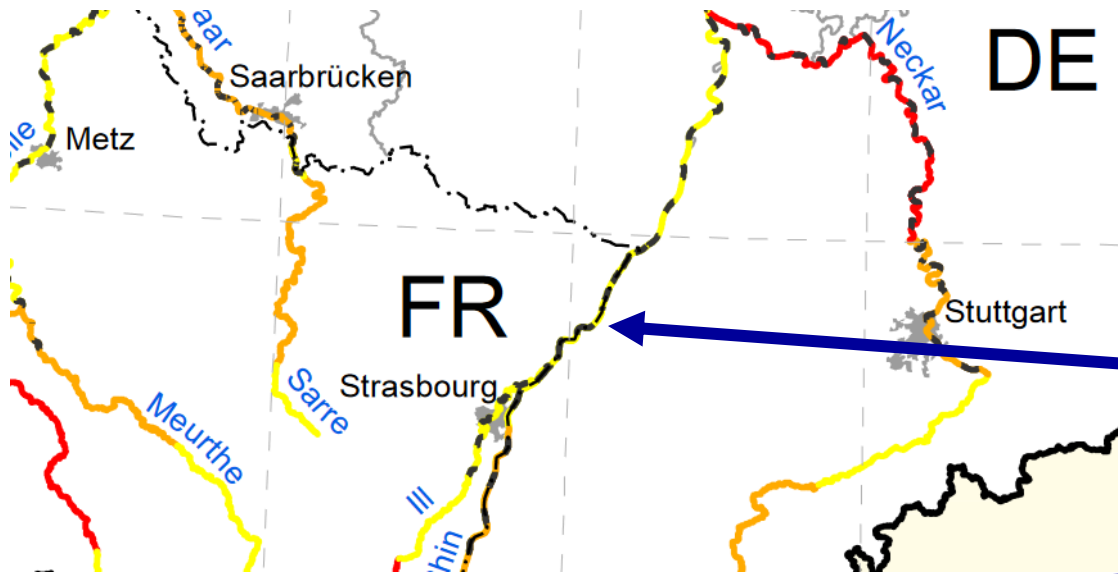
# One of the oldest international river basin commissions



- Founded in 1950
- Convention on the Protection of the Rhine (1999)
- Groups with technical expertise
- 9 delegations + 30 observers
- Coordination of implementation of EU directives
- Objectives defined by Ministerial Conferences, implementation of measures by national states
- Consensus principle, no sanctions
- Secretariat, 3 working languages



# Coordination of implementation of EU directives



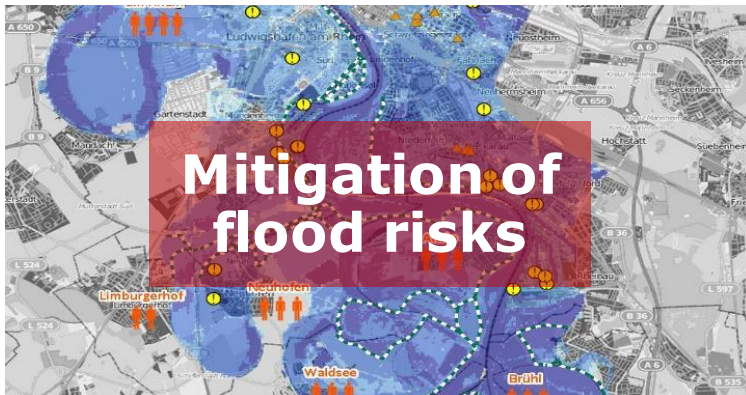
agreed evaluation of the ecological status of trans-national water bodies

agreed common runoff values for the extreme event scenario

Scope	Low probability HQ <sub>extreme</sub>
Alpine Rhine - Landquart to mouth R. Ill	5,250 m <sup>3</sup> /s*
Alpine Rhine - mouth R. Ill to Lake Constance	6,500 m <sup>3</sup> /s*
Lake Constance to mouth R. Thur	1,250 m <sup>3</sup> /s
Mouth R. Thur to mouth R. Aare	2,930 m <sup>3</sup> /s
Mouth R. Aare to mouth R. Wiese (point of reference: Basel)**	5,480 m <sup>3</sup> /s
Iffezheim to downstream mouth R. Neckar	6,500 m <sup>3</sup> /s
from mouth R. Neckar	7,600 m <sup>3</sup> /s
from mouth R. Main	10,300 m <sup>3</sup> /s

# Programme “Rhine 2040”

- Adopted on the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Rhine Ministers on 13 February 2020 in Amsterdam
- Visions, objectives and measures for:



**Sustainably managed  
and climate-resilient**



# Retrospection: history of the ICPR



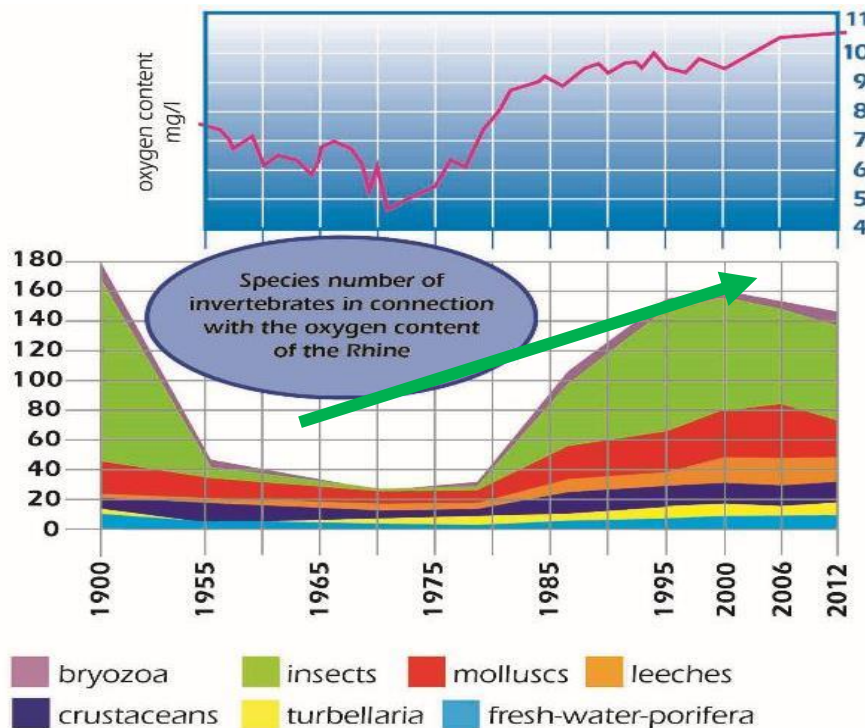
1986: Sandoz Accident

1987: Rhine Action Programme

1993 + 1995: heavy flood events

1998: Action Plan on Floods

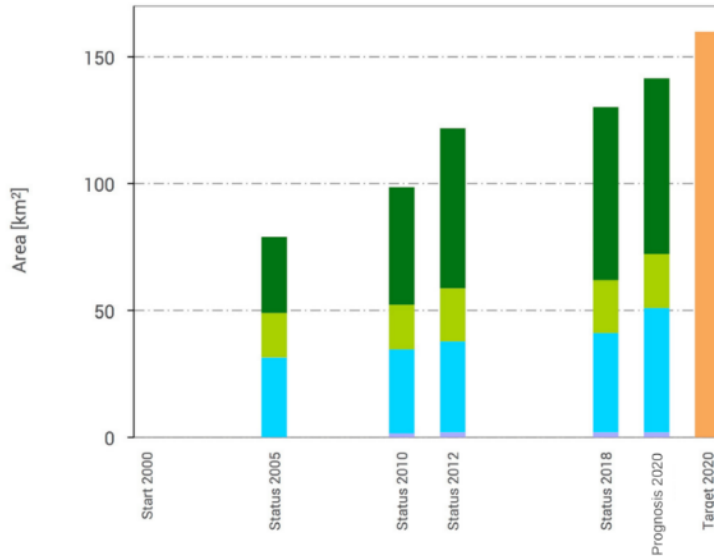
2000: Programme "Rhine 2020"



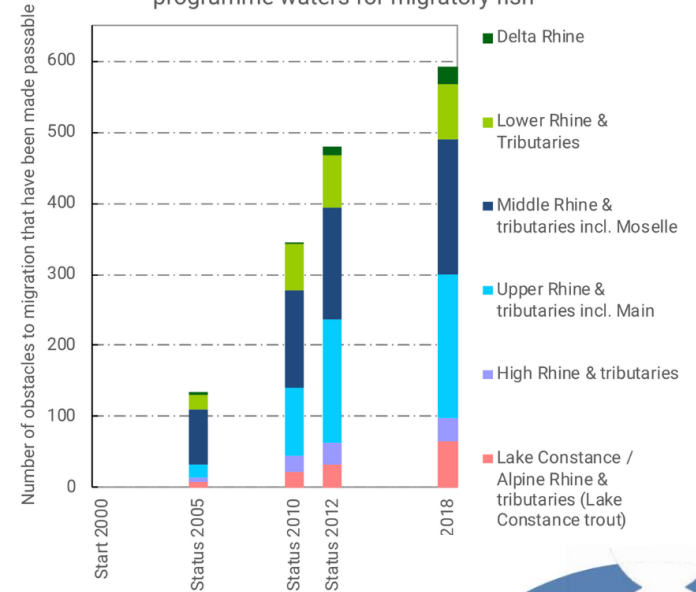
# Evaluation of "Rhine 2020"

**140** km<sup>2</sup>  
of floodplains have been reactivated

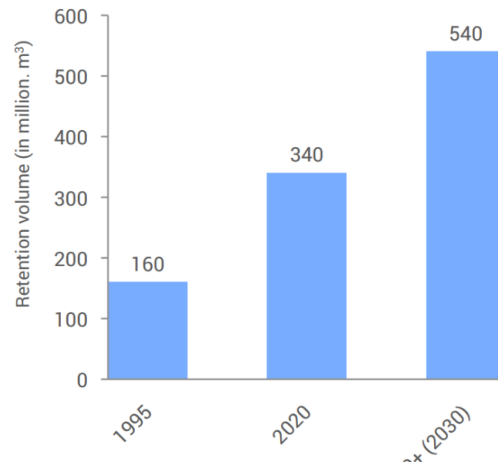
Reactivation of floodplains



Improving the river continuity of the Rhine and the programme waters for migratory fish



Retention volume for different development states of the Rhine



**592**  
obstacles to migration have been made passable

# Rhine 2040: visions, objectives, measures



## Good water quality, **vision:**

*The quality of water, suspended matter, sediment and biota in the Rhine and its tributaries as well as in the groundwater is good. The Rhine continues to be a usable resource for drinking water production with the simplest possible, most natural treatment processes.*

## 6 **objectives** for

- nutrients
- micropollutants
- other pollutants
- sediments
- warning and alarm plan
- waste





# Rhine 2040: visions, objectives, measures



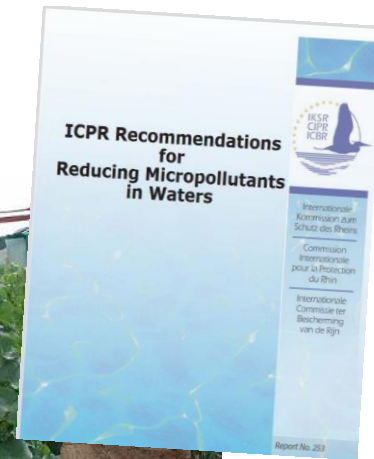
## Objective for micropollutants:

*The influx of micropollutants into the water from the areas of municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems, agriculture, industry and commerce has been **reduced by at least 30%** in comparison to the **period 2016-2018** – consistent with a longer-term ambition to further decrease pollution in the entire Rhine catchment area.*

*In order to be able to numerically check the reduction in influx at regular intervals and, if necessary, to increase the reduction target, the ICPR is tasked with developing a **joint evaluation system** for the reduction across the three areas by 2021.*



Photo: Wikimedia Commons, Karl Bauer



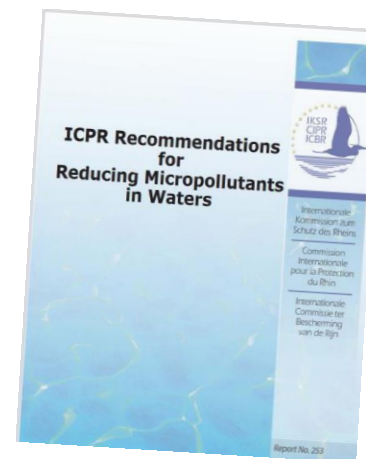
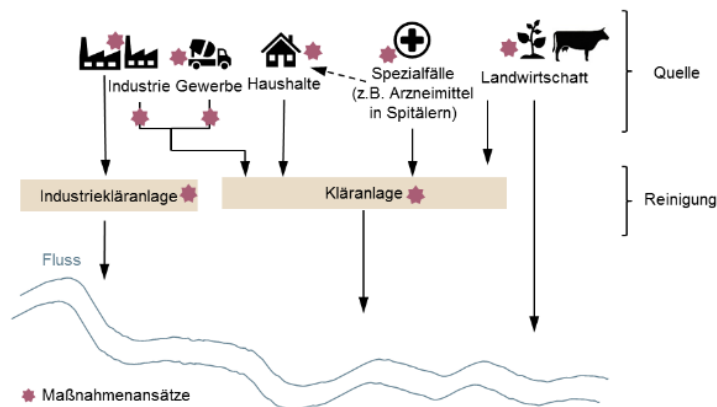
# Rhine 2040: visions, objectives, measures



## Measures to reduce micropollutants:

Implementations of ICPR recommendations (2019), e. g.

- ban of certain products
  - financial measures (linking subsidies to good ecological practices)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> treatment stage for selected wastewater treatment plants
  - information campaigns (e. g. on disposal of medicines)
  - collecting x-ray contrast agents
  - EU-funded pilot project on non-target screening (2021-2024)
- measures at source preferred (focus on diffuse sources)



# Updating the ICPR's climate adaptation strategy



- update of **runoff scenarios by 2023**
- update of **water temperature projections by 2024**
- develop projections for **water consumption / availability by 2024**
- investigate **effects on ecology** (e. g. certain plants and migratory) **by 2024**
- **interdisciplinary workshop in 2024**
- re-formulating the strategy **by 2025**





# Thanks for your interest !



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