

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

**Ben van de Wetering
General Secretary**



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

A European river



Catchment area



**3rd biggest
European river**

**9 countries,
58 million
Inhabitants**

**Drinking water
supply for 30
million people**

Pictures



Functions and uses



The ideal river for ...

... nature protection

... agriculture

... drainage

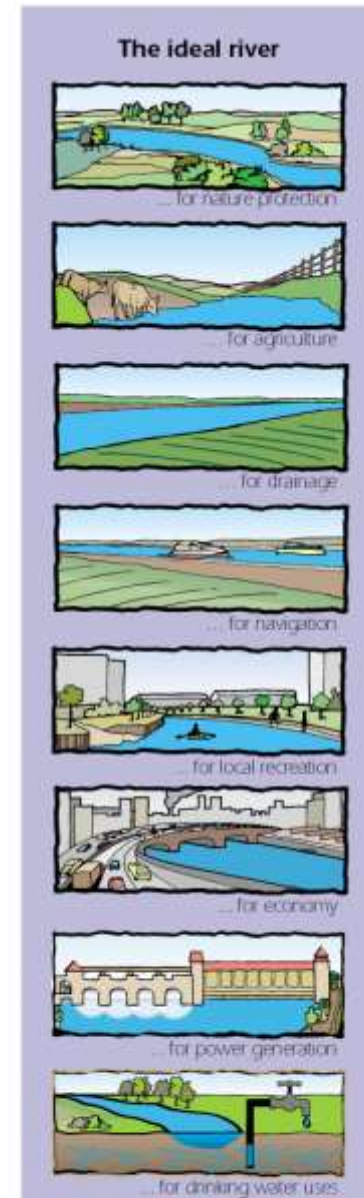
... shipping

... tourism

... economic activities

... power production

... drinking water production



Changes over the centuries



1838



1872



1980



Over the years: 85% loss of alluvial flood areas

Landmarks



- **1950 - Foundation**
- **1963 - Convention of Berne**
- **1986 - Accident at Sandoz**
- **1987 - Rhine Action Program**
- **1993 and 1995 – Flooding**
- **1998 – Flood Action Plan (1995 – 2020)**
- **1999 - New Convention - entry into force 1 Jan. 2003**
- **2000 - Programme Rhine 2020**
- **2000 - EU Water Framework Directive**
- **2007 - EU Floods Directive**

The ICPR



- ▶ **ICPR**
Established 1950, amended in 1963 and 1999

- ▶ **Members**
Switzerland, France, Germany,
Luxemburg, Netherlands, European
Union

Cooperation with Austria, Liechtenstein,
Wallonia (Belgium)

- ▶ **Observers**
Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO's)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)



Cooperation

- **De-centralised organization**
- **National delegations**
 - political mandate
 - technical know how
 - annual budget 1.200.000 €/a (operational costs of the Secretariat)
- **Political framework, no sanctions**
- **Legal framework provided by EU Directives (WFD and FD) and national legislation**
- **All agreements by consensus. Measures as recommendations to countries**
- **Obligation to report on implementation of measures**
- **Small neutral Secretariat, 4 languages**

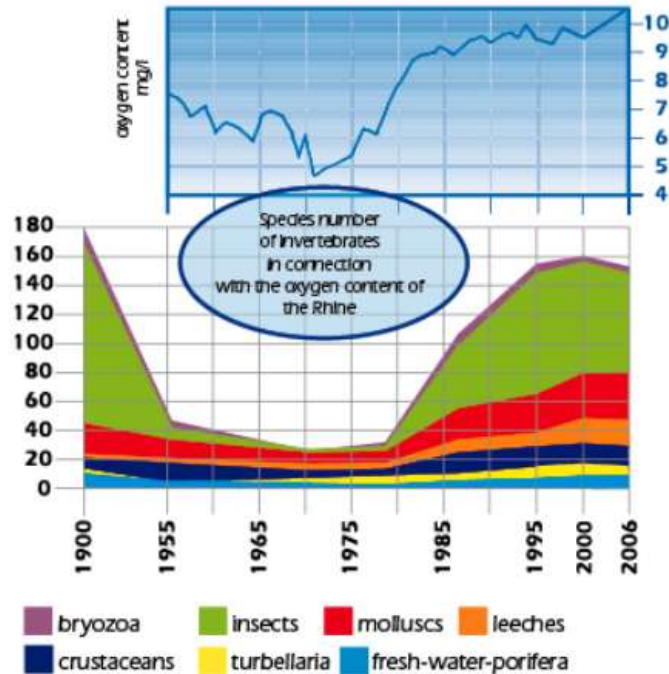
Organisation



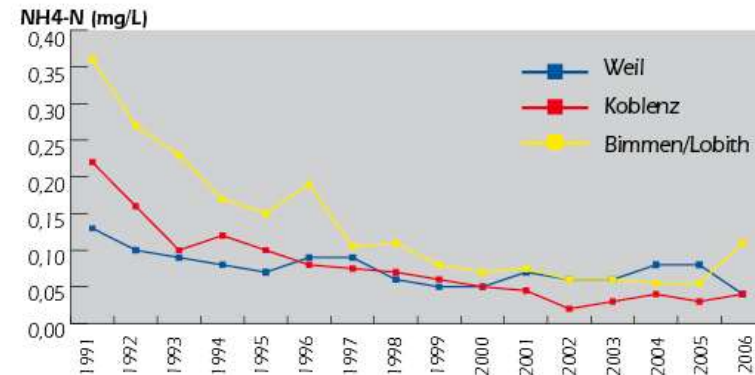
Results



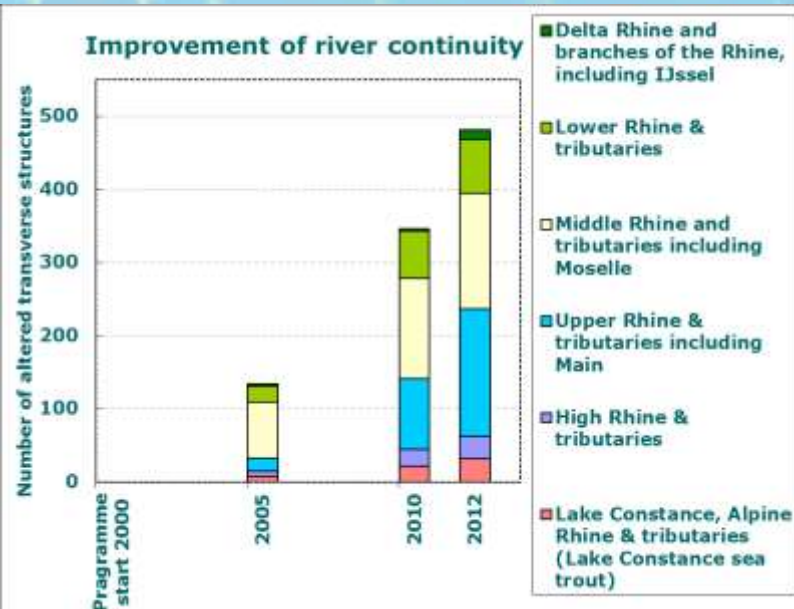
Development of the communities of the Rhine and average oxygen content of the Rhine at Emmerich



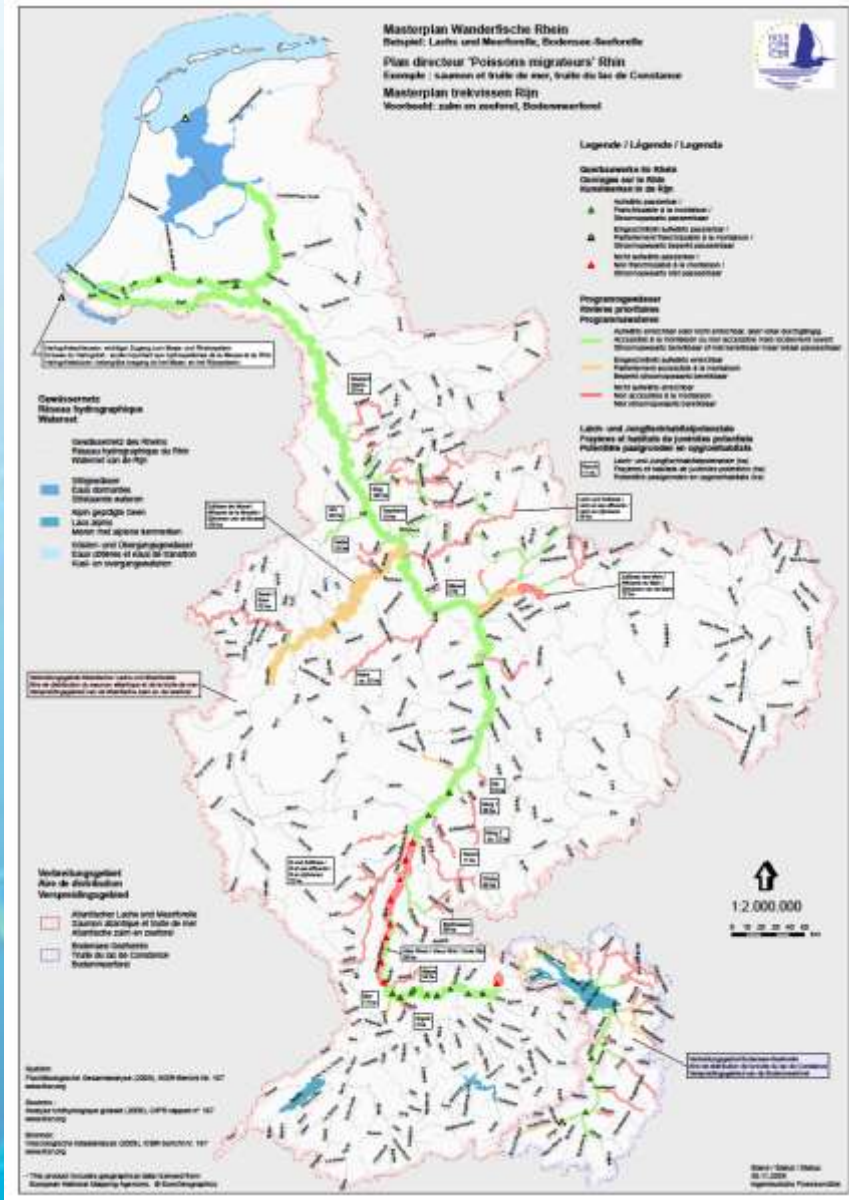
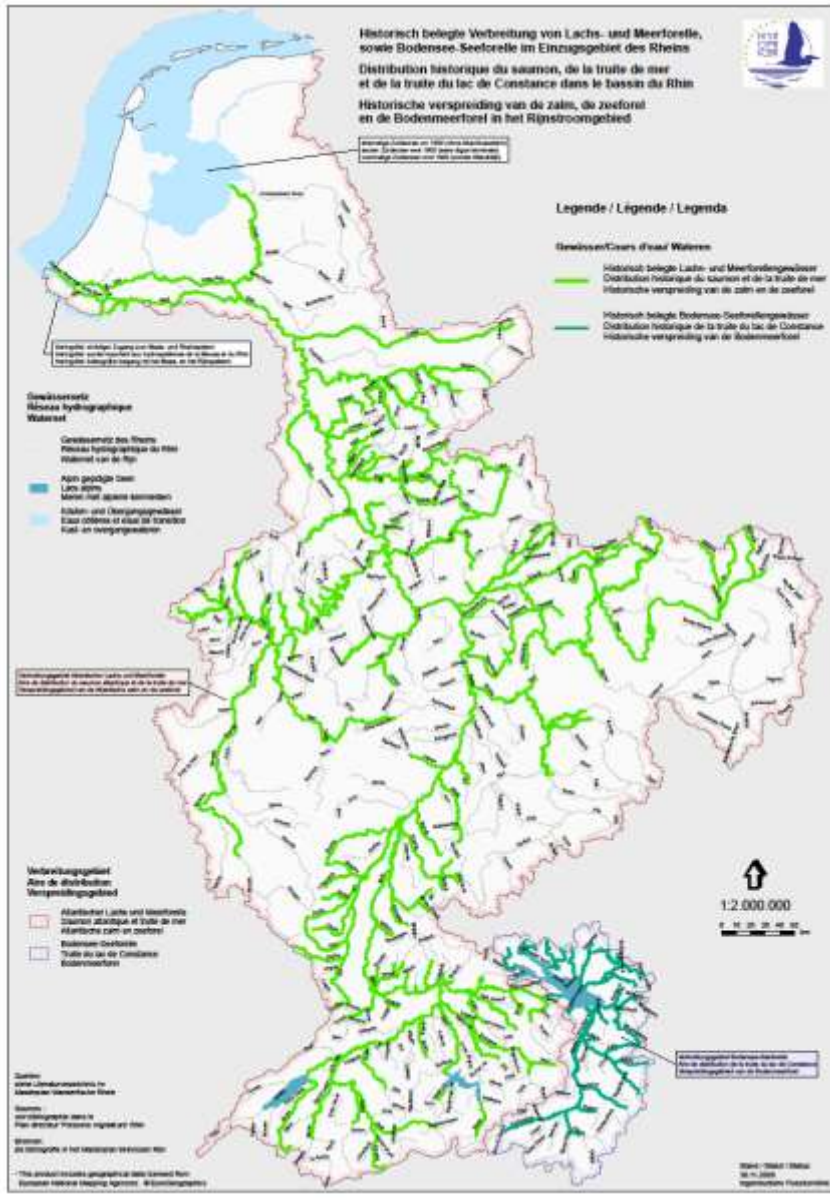
Contents of ammonium (ammoniacal nitrogen) in Rhine water (1991-2006)



Improvement of river continuity



But more to do ...



New topics



- **Micro-pollutants**



- **Contamination of fish**



- **Mitigating effects of climate change**



Public Relations



The screenshot shows the ICPR website with a navigation menu at the top containing: Home, Contact, Sitemap, Imprint, Mobile, Deutsch, Français, Nederlands, and English. The language options are circled in red. Below the navigation is the ICPR logo and a banner with the organization's name in four languages: IKSR, CIPR, ICBR, and ICPR. The main content area features a 'Welcome' message, a search bar, and several news articles. On the left, there are vertical navigation menus for 'Updated pages', 'Rhine', 'Topics', 'Uses', 'International Cooperation', 'Water Framework Directive', 'Floods directive', 'Events', and 'Documents/Archive'. On the right, there are buttons for 'ICPR - Secretariat' and 'Meetings/Documents', and a section for the '6th International Rhine Symposium'.

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IKSR • Internationale Kommission zum Schutz des Rheins
CIPR • Commission Internationale pour la Protection du Rhin
ICBR • Internationale Commissie ter Bescherming van de Rijn
ICPR • International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

Updated pages
Rhine
Water cycle
Sub-basins
Maps of the river basin
Topics
Ecology
Water quality
Pollution
Floods
Climate change in the Rhine catchment
Low water
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International Cooperation
Legal basis
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Conferences of ministers
Rhine 2020
Water Framework Directive
Inventory
Monitoring
River basin management plan
Public participation
Floods directive
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
Flood hazard and flood risk maps
Flood risk management plan
Public participation
Events
Documents/Archive

Welcome
to the website of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine.
Nine states – one river basin.
For the benefit of the Rhine and of all of its tributaries the members of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands and the European Commission successfully co-operate with Austria, Liechtenstein, the Belgian region of Wallonia and Italy. Focal points of work are sustainable development of the Rhine, its alluvial areas and the good state of all waters in the watershed. [\[more\]](#)

Workshop: Impacts of climate change on the Rhine river basin
On 30 and 31st January 2013 the ICPR staged a workshop on "Impacts of climate change on the Rhine river basin". About 50 experts in the field of water management [more..](#)

Reports 06/08/2013
210. Bericht des Präsidenten der IKSR 2012 - 2013
Vorbereitung der Rhein-Ministerkonferenz 2013 Am 28. Oktober 2013 wird auf Einladung der schweizerischen Regierung die... [\[more\]](#)

press releases 03/07/2013
Upstream Salmon Migration again possible at some 480 Obstacles
Rotterdam, 3 July 2013 Result of the present ICPR balance of ecological measures taken during 2000 - 2012: Upstream migration is again possible at some 480 obstacles in the Rhine catchment. 122 km² of floodplains have been reactivated, 80 oxbow lakes and backwaters have been reconnected to the dynamics of the Rhine. During its annual Plenary Assembly on July 2 and 3 in Rotterdam the ICPR presented these successes leading to an ecologically more stable and varied Rhine system. In this [summary](#), the President of the ICPR, Dr. ...

Reports 01/08/2013
209. Darstellung der Entwicklung der Rheinwassertemperaturen auf der Basis validierter Temperaturmessungen von 1978 bis 2011
Der IKSR-Bericht 209 beschreibt die Entwicklungen der Rheinwassertemperatur

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Meetings/Documents
6th International Rhine Symposium
28. - 29.10.2013, Basel
[Registration](#)
ICPR finalist for the "European Riverprize"
ON WATER
World Water Day
2013
International Year of Water Cooperation
R
Breaking the World's Barrier

Publications



Publications



Upstream
Outcome of the Rhine Action Programme

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The Rhine A RIVER AND ITS RELATIONS

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Updated pages

Rhine

- Water cycle
- Sub-basins
- Maps of the river basin

Topics

- Ecology
- Water quality
- Pollution
- Floods
- Climate change in the Rhine catchment
- Low water

Uses

International Cooperation

- Legal basis
- About us
- Conferences of ministers
- Rhine 2020

Water Framework Directive

- Inventory
- Monitoring
- River basin management plan
- Public participation

Floods directive

- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
- Flood hazard and flood risk maps
- Flood risk management plan
- Public participation

Events

Documents/Archive

Documents/Archive Technical reports



Urban wastewater (t/a)	Paykland	Abricht
223 600	F	223 600
16 500	BWP	16 500
16 500	BR	16 500

Technical reports

203. Integrated assessment of micro-pollutants and measures aimed at reducing inputs of urban and industrial wastewater 14/03/2013

The 14th conference of Rhine Ministers on 18 October 2007 required the ICPR among others to develop a joint and comprehensive strategy for reducing and avoiding micro-pollutant inputs from urban wastewater and other (diffuse) sources into the Rhine and its tributaries by... [\(more\)](#)

202. Evaluation Report on Industrial Chemicals 11/03/2013

Industrial chemicals are substances used as components, additives or admixtures in industrial production processes. The industrial chemicals concerned by this report are organic compounds of xenobiotic origin, such as solvents, surfactants, flame retardants, adhesives and... [\(more\)](#)

201. Report issued by the President of the ICPR 2011 - 2012 06/03/2013

Balance of the present state of the Rhine and its catchment – joint progress report for 2012/2013. As decided by the Strategy Group, a „Balance on the progress made due to improvements of the state of the Rhine and its catchment“ will be drawn in the beginning of 2013.... [\(more\)](#)

200. and 199. - Balance on the implementation of the Action Plan on Floods between 1995 and 2010 26/07/2012

Since the last great flood of the Rhine in 1995 the countries in the Rhine catchment have invested some 10.3 billion € into improved flood protection and have thus increased the protection of people and goods. According to the balance on the implementation of the Action Plan on... [\(more\)](#)

198. Low water periods in the Rhine river basin in 2011 31/07/2012

During the PLEN-CC12, the Dutch delegation referred to the period of extremely low water in 2011, which gave rise to different problems and measures in the Netherlands. It was convened that all delegations would deliver a survey on available national knowledge on all low water... [\(more\)](#)

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State: 18. April 2013 Print



Symposia

- **Monitoring in large river basins (Basel, 28-29 October 2013)**
REGISTRATION OPEN till 15 September 2013
- **Upstream – downstream migration (2005)**
- **The river, the port and the sea (2000)**
- **Ecology and flood prevention (2000)**
- **The Rhine – again a salmon river (1999)**

Workshops

- **Impacts of climate change on the Rhine river basin (2013)**
- **Warning and alarm plan (2010)**
- **Master plan migratory fish (2010)**
- **Micro-pollutants from diffuse sources (2010)**
- **Water structure measures along the Rhine – best practice (2008)**
- **Micro-pollutants from urban wastewater (2007)**
- **Water protection and navigation (2006)**
- **Integrated approach towards sediment management (2005)**
- **Flood action plan (2004)**

Events



6TH INTERNATIONAL RHINE SYMPOSIUM

Monitoring in Large River Basins

Following the 15th Conference
of Rhine Ministers in Basel

MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2013 FROM 4:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2013 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

> Congress Center Basel

**NEW DEADLINE FOR
REGISTRATION!
15 SEPTEMBER 2013!**

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General Programme

MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2013 FROM 4:00 P.M.

Welcome to the participants and information about the symposium, 20 years joint operation of the Swiss-German monitoring station in Weil am Rhein and the UN year of water cooperation 2013

Introductory lecture on the whole purpose of modern environmental monitoring

Joint dinner

TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2013 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Block 1 (Chemistry) – Monitoring programmes of the Rivers Rhine, Moselle-Sarre and Danube: Natural constituents and pollutants, micro-pollutions, drinking water supply and impact of climate change

Block 2 (Biology) – Monitoring of invertebrates and fish in the Rivers Rhine and Danube: invasive species, salmon and sturgeon migration, riparian vegetation and floodplains, ecosystem services and restoration

Block 3 (Sediments) – The role of suspended matter and sediments in river monitoring: Bedload management, flood protection and sediments as habitats of the aquatic fauna

Round Table and Conclusion – Monitoring between Management and Science: Lessons learnt in international river basins, challenges and proposals for future water monitoring.

Closing speech of the President of the ICPR

Challenges



First Phase (50ties - 70ties twentieth-century)

- **Building trust and mutual understanding**
- **Convincing society of the danger of continuous increasing water pollution**

Turning Point: Sandoz Accident

- **From short term detailed technical discussion to long term ambitious goal setting**
- **Integration of all relevant policy fields**

For the future

- **How correct the impact of missing environmental management of the past**
- **How to take account of uncertainties regarding the socioeconomic evolution and the impact of climate change**

Lessons learned



Both the Sandoz fire in 1986 and the floods of 1993 and 1995 were triggers for fundamental changes in policy

- **always try to find a positive approach, even when catastrophic events have occurred**
- **start with building common denominators, not with identifying disagreements**

Agreements should be developed bottom-up and with involvement of all stakeholders. This does increase ownership and acceptance.

Thank you!



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