

# Transboundary flood risk management in the river Rhine basin



93  
95



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*Connective cities – 9-11.2.2015, Cologne, DE*



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

# International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine



**ICPR:** an intergovernmental organisation **founded in 1950**

**6 member states:** Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, European Union

**Partners/Observers:**

- 1. Countries:** Austria, Liechtenstein, Belgium (Wallonia)
- 2. Other river basin commissions**
- 3. Non-governmental organisations – NGO's**
- 4. Other participants:** Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO's), Navigation, ...



# Why manage flood on a transboundary level in 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*)



# Man made flood risk increase: The lost of flood plains

**1838**



**1872**



**1980**



**Upper Rhine**



# Impression of flood events



# What has the ICPR done in the past?

## Rhine Ministers' Conference Jan. 1998 → The Action Plan on Floods (1998-2020)



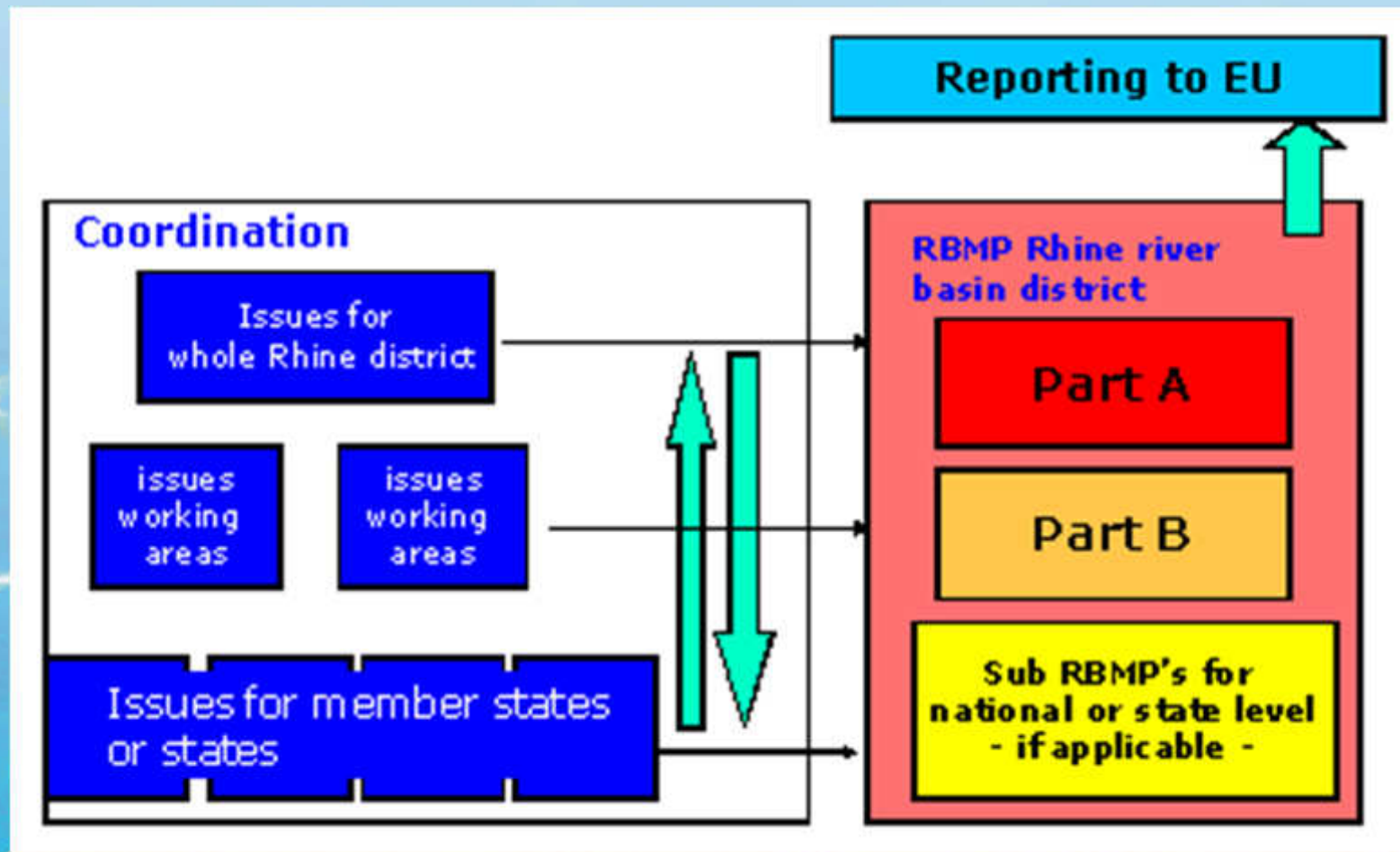
### 4 ambitious objectives:

- (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

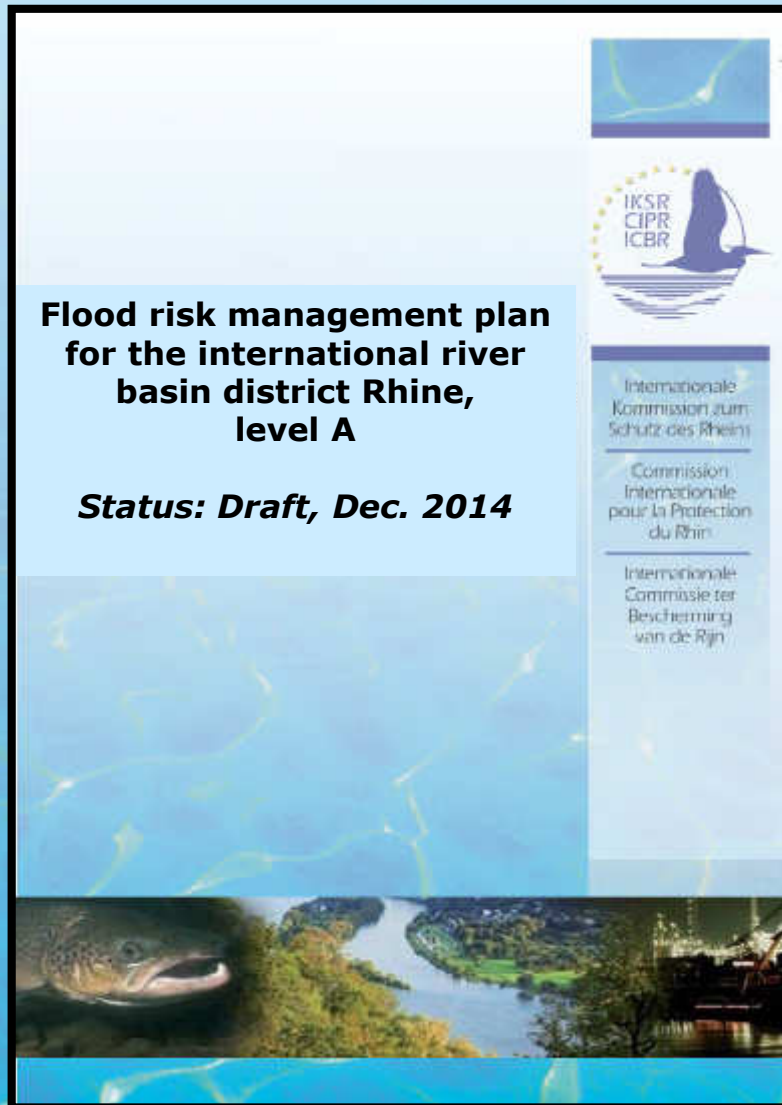


**Since 2007:**

**ICPR = Frame for the exchange of information and the coordinated implementation of the EU FLOODS DIRECTIVE**



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



**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.**



## **Main principles**

- **Responsability, solidarity and proportionality**
- **Synergy with other EU environmental politics**
- **Sustainable and integral flood risk management**
- **Security level ecologically, economically and socially compliant**
- **Flood risk management = common task (clear task distribution)**
- **No 100% security, always residual risks**

# Common objectives



Reduction of  
existing risk

Reduction of negative  
consequences during an  
event

Avoiding  
new risks

Reduction of negative  
consequences after  
an event



# **Common concrete measures**

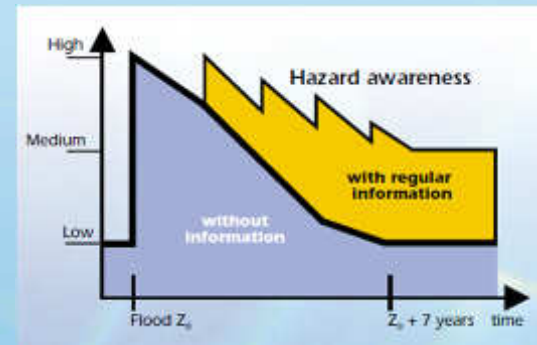
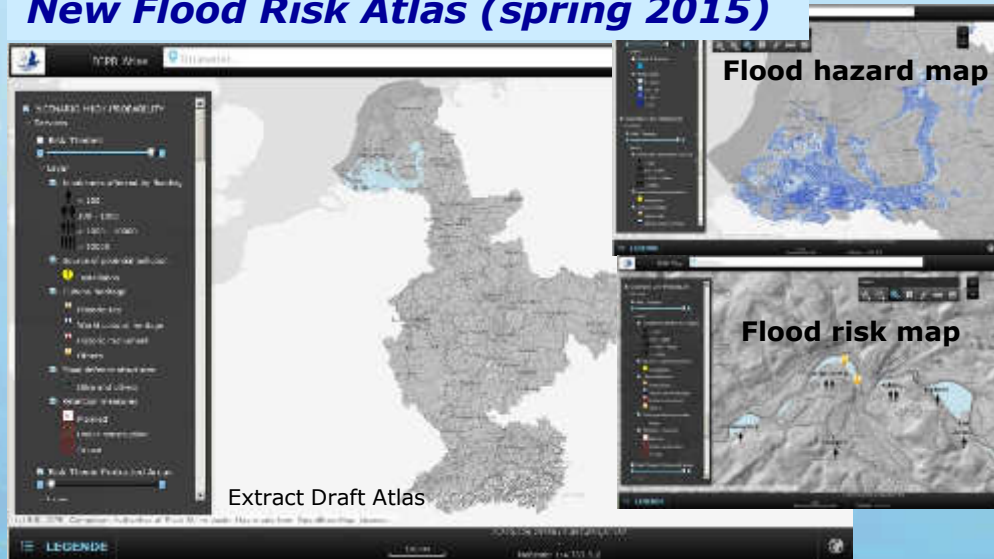
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- 1. International coordination of measures  
(measures with transboundary effects)**
- 2. Improvement of information exchange  
and access**
- 3. Improvement of flood forecast and  
flood warning system**
- 4. Realization of water level reduction  
measures**

# Improvement of information exchange and access

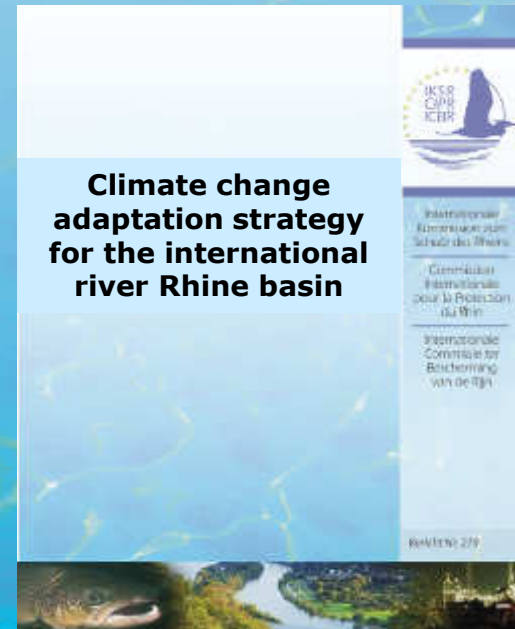
- Risk knowledge and awareness

## New Flood Risk Atlas (spring 2015)



- Knowledge about the impacts of climate change

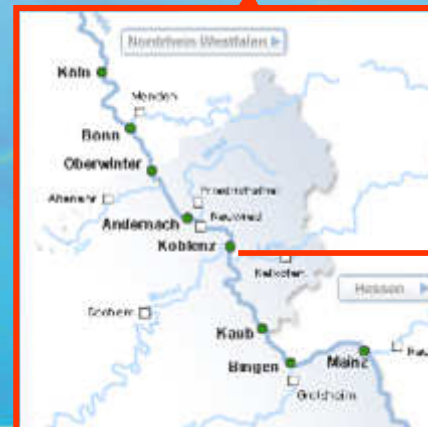
## Climate change adaptation strategy for the international river Rhine basin



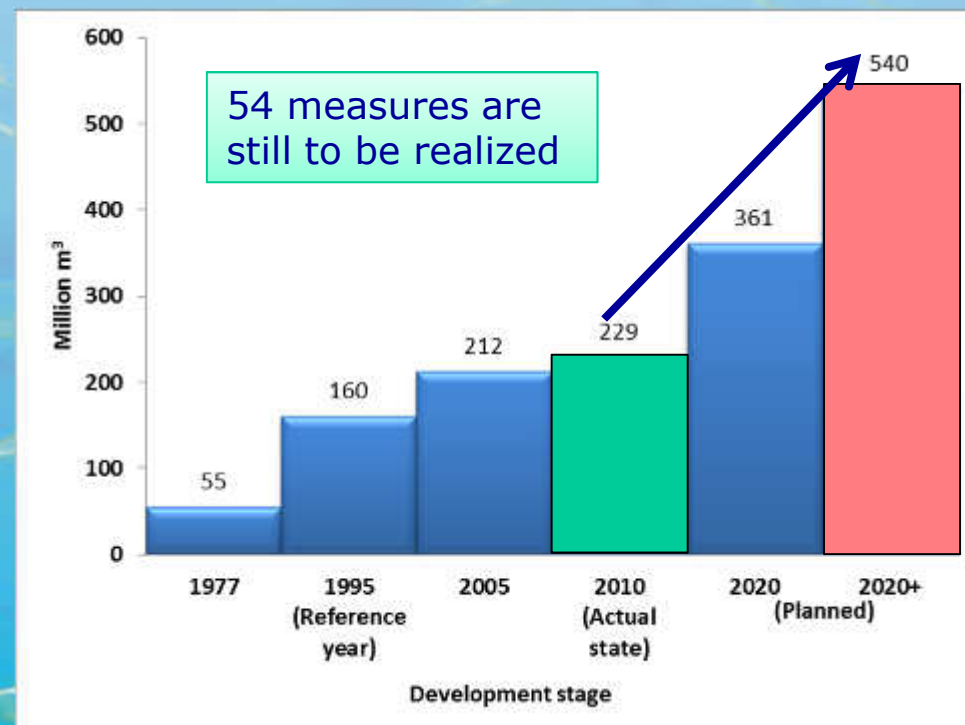
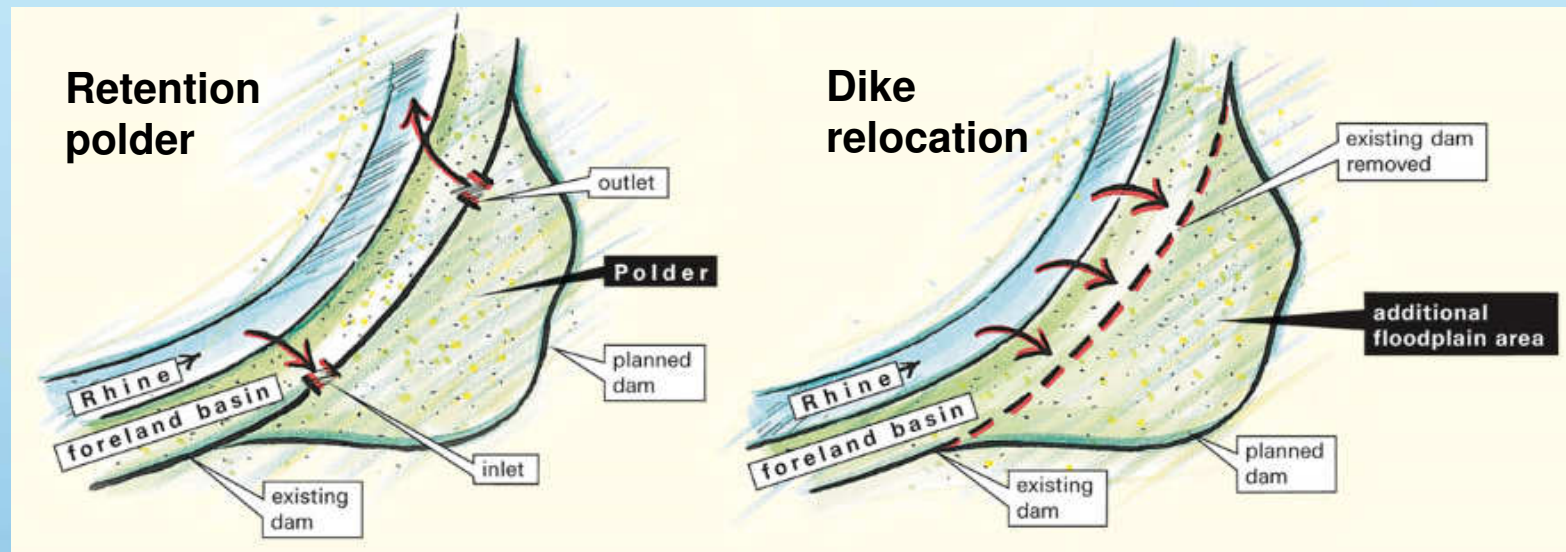


# Improvement of flood forecast and flood warning system

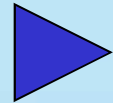
## Flood announcement and forecasting centres



# Realization of water level reduction measures







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