

Towards good ecological water quality in Austrian rivers

Integrative approach of ecosystem
restoration and flood protection

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Challenges ecology



Hydromorphological pressures

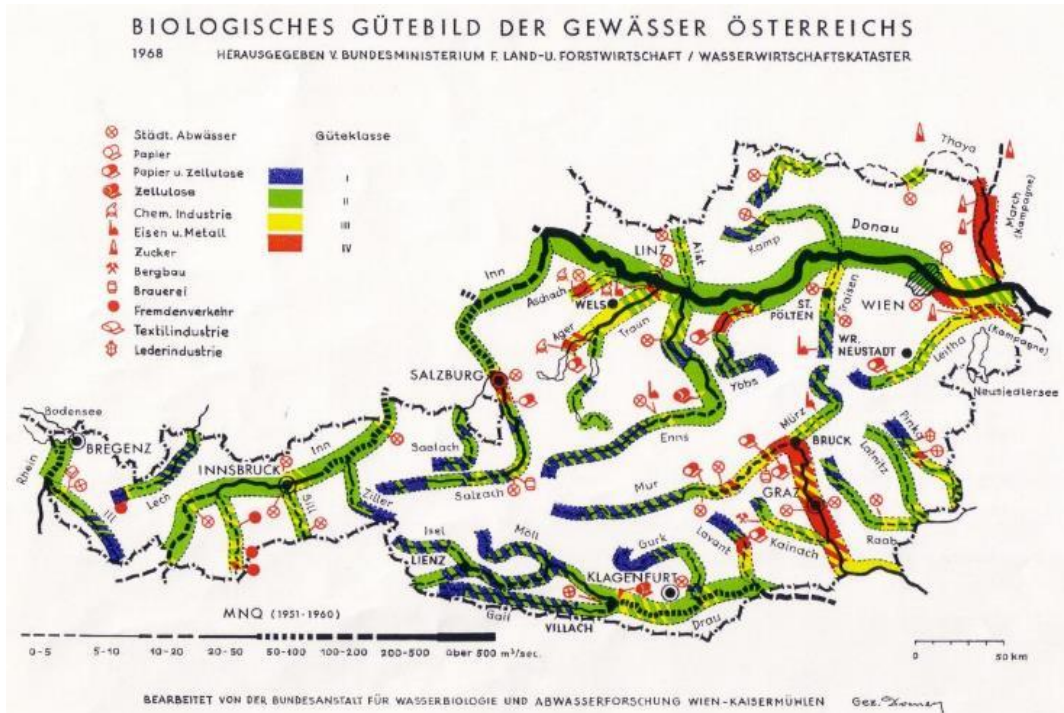


Pollution



Other pressures

Water quality of Austrian rivers in 1968



□ Major investments
in industrial and urban
wastewater treatment

Vienna wastewater
treatment plant
4 Mio. p.e.



Water quality of Austrian rivers in 2005

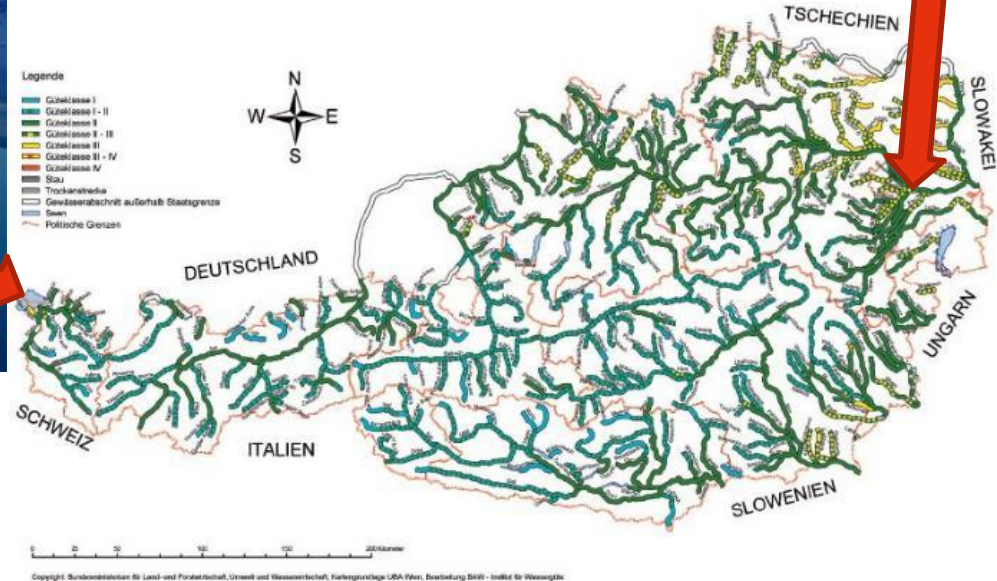


Lake Constance

Phosphorous concentration (mg/l)

Saprobologisches Gütebild der Fließgewässer Österreichs 2005

Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium für Land und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft





Missing E-flow



Migration barriers:
ca. 10-20% due to
hydropower

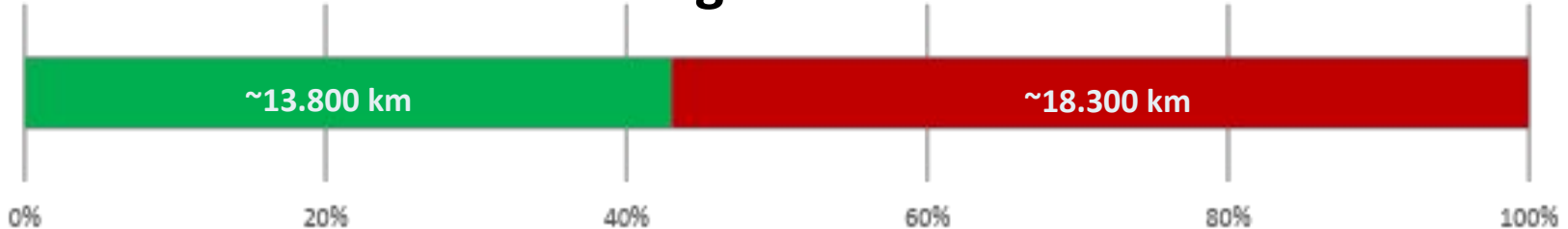


Significant
changes in
morphology



Challenges ecology

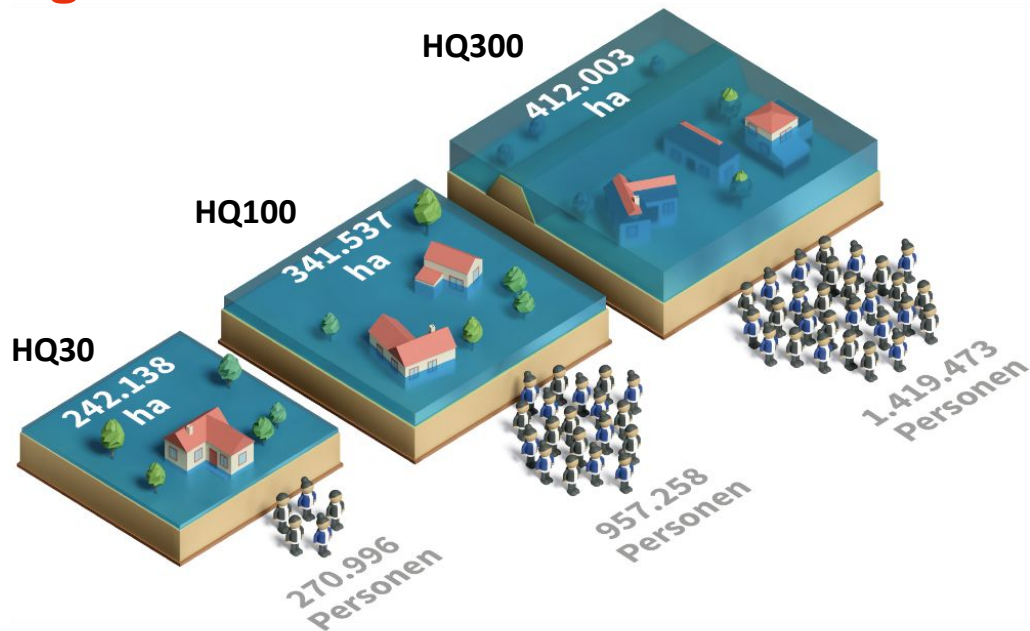
National River Basin Management Plan 2021



High/good ecological status

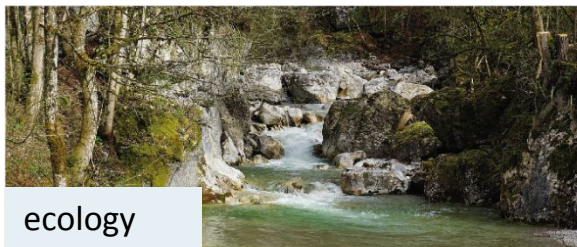
Moderate to bad ecological status;
Mostly due to hydromorphological pressures;
**Flood Protection is a main driver for
hydro-morphological pressures**

Challenges flood risk management

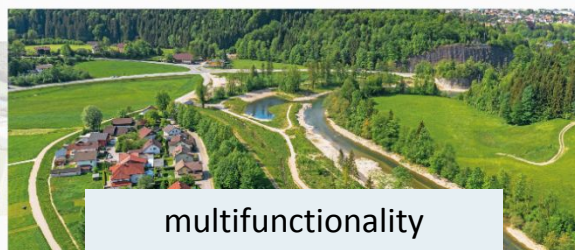


Flood risk management and ecology

formerly



today



Integrative River Basin Management



River development and risk management concept (GE-RM)

OBJECTIVE 1

Joint
implementation of
WFD an FD



OBJECTIVE 2

Catchment-based
planning instead of
local measures




OBJECTIVE 3

Intersectoral
planning
and public
participation



OBJECTIVE 4

Room for our
Rivers through
legally binding
plans



From „space for land use“ towards more „space for rivers“



River Drau, Obergottesfeld, Carinthia

A scenic landscape view of a river valley. The river flows through the center, flanked by green hills and mountains. A town with red-roofed buildings is visible on the right bank. The sun is shining from the upper right, creating a bright glow and casting shadows on the mountains. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. In the foreground, there are dark green pine trees.

Thank you for
your kind
attention!

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LIFE IP IRIS

Integrated River Solutions in Austria

[HTTPS://LIFE-IRIS.AT/](https://life-iris.at/)

budget
€ 16.5 M.
€ 9.9 M. EU-funding

project duration
9 years
(2019-2027)

project partners
9 partners
BMLRT, states, viadonau, UBA

PHASE 1



2019 - 2021

Preparation of river
development and risk
management concepts
(GE-RMs)

Implementation of
pilot measures
(+monitoring)

2022 - 2025



PHASE
2 AND 3

PHASE 4



2026 - 2027

Evaluation of
project results

PILOTRIVERS
7 RIVERS



WATERCOURSE
595 KM



FLÜSSE BEWEGEN
RIVERS MOVE