Satellite monitoring as an instrument for river basin management: the showcase of the "Rhine Biotope Atlas"

INBO / NASA / WMO / CNES - Webinar 22 April 2025 Marc Daniel Heintz, Executive Secretary, ICPR





Internationale Kommission zum Schutz des Rheins

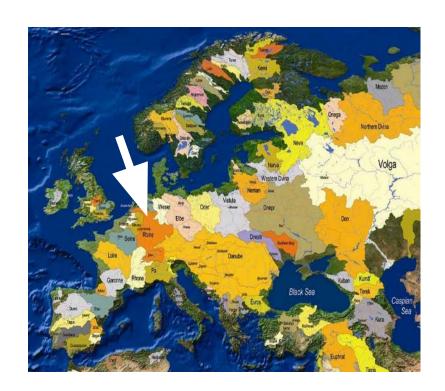
Commission
Internationale
pour la
Protection du
Rhin

Internationale Commissie ter Bescherming van de Rijn

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

The Rhine river basin

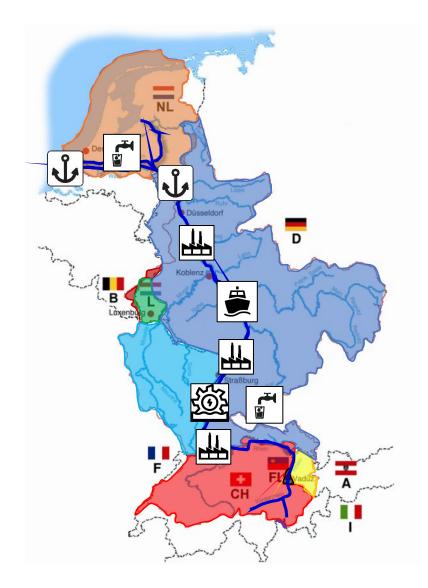




Rhine: 200.000 km², 1.200 km

Danube: 815.000 km², 2.800 km

Mekong: 800.000 km², 4.400 km



The Netherlands
Belgium/Wallonia
Luxembourg
France
Germany
Austria
Liechtenstein
Switzerland
+European Union

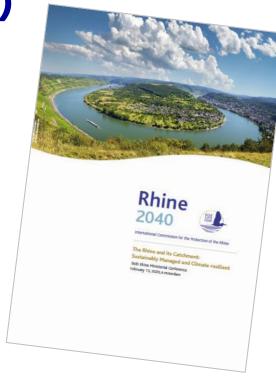
Population: 60 mio.

Intensive use

The International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)

- Founded on 11 July 1950, international treaty
- States agree on **goals** (current programme "Rhine 2040")
- Measures implemented and financed by national states
- Monitoring by national states, but data gathered and interpreted in ICPR
- Expert groups (national experts + NGOs)
- 3 working languages (German, French, Dutch)







Tasks of the ICPR







KSR

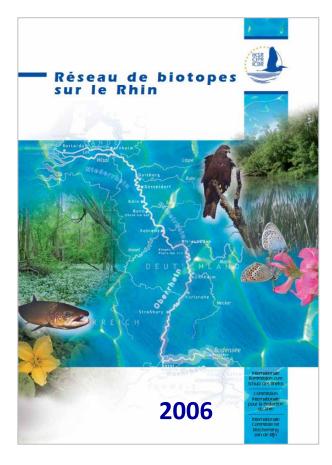
CIPR ICBR





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Monitoring of biotopes along the Rhine



- Since 2001
- Ecological connectivity ("stepping stones")

Rhine 2040 vision:

"Habitats typical of the Rhine have been preserved, protected or restored. The biotope network on the Rhine has improved significantly due to the expansion of core areas and the networking of suitable, sufficiently large steppingstone biotopes"

Rhine 2040 goals:

- restore 200 km² floodplains
- reconnect 100 oxbow lakes
- restore 400 km of riverbank

Rhine 2040 measures:

- "Comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the biotope network on the Rhine using innovative investigation and monitoring methods (e.g. remote sensing data)"
- Round tables and partnerships (exchange of good practice)





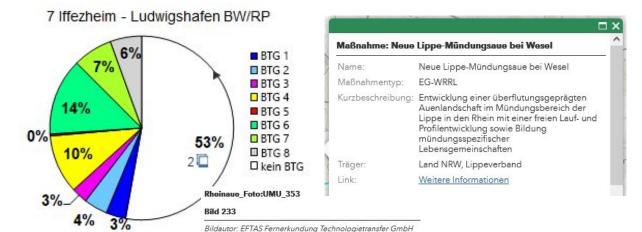
Aquatic and amphibious zone of flowing waters Natural floodplain waters und near-natural artificial standing waters Marshes, reeds, tall herbaceous vegetation Grassland Dry biotopes Floodplain forests in the current floodplain Native deciduous forests no longer subject to temporary or permanent flooding due to embankment (floodplain forest relicts) Other biotope types important for species protection / biotope network Remaining areas that are currently not important for the biotope network kein BTG Nadelwald M Ackerflächen Siedlung und Verkehr Ostwald Schwerpunkt- und Defiziträume Schwerpunktraum mit sehr hoher Bedeutung für den Biotopverbund Illkirch ___ Schwerpunktraum mit hoher Bedeutung für den Graffe nstade Defizitraum mit sehr großen Auswirkungen auf den Biotopverbund → Defizitraum mit großen Auswirkungen auf den Biotopverbund Maßnahmenempfehlung pro BTG Erhalt und ökologische Verbesserung Vergrößerung Neuschaffung Escha Infolayer Maßnahmen - Übersicht Maßnahmen - Detailansicht O Totholz im Fluss - umgesetzt Totholz im Fluss - geplant; umzusetzen bis 2027 Untersuchungsgebiet Rheinabschnitte Informationspunkt (BTG-Anteile pro Rheinabschnitt) Rheinabschnittsgrenze Foto des Biotops

BTG = biotope type group:

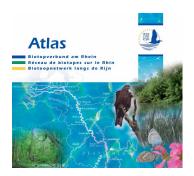
Biotope Atlas 2020

* IKSR CIPR ICBR

Rheinabschnitt: 7



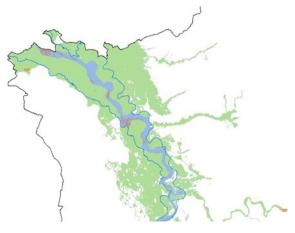


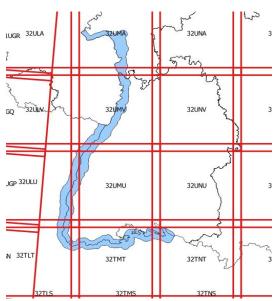


Predecessor product: Biotope Atlas 2006 Methodology: mapping in the field! Only selected Rhine sections

New Biotope Atlas 2020: methodology



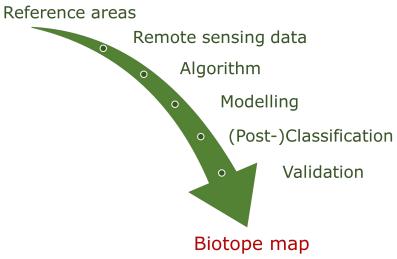




- Based on Copernicus (Sentinel 2) data
- spatial resolution: 10 x 10 m
- Validation to guarantee comparability with 2006 Atlas
- Support by EFTAS
- Implementation Atlas as web mapping service: German Federal Institute of Hydrology

https://www.iksr.org/en/topics/ecology/habitat-patch-connectivity

- large-scale (transboundary)
- semi-automated
- cost-effective
- more regular intervals





Thanks for your interest!

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Description of methodology