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INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING IN AUSTRIA

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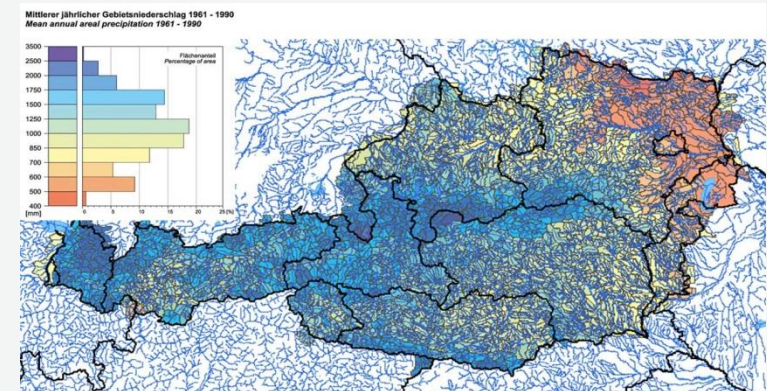
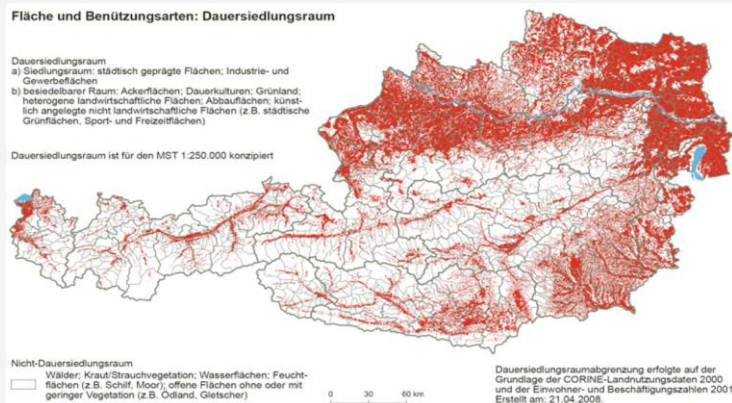
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW)

Coordination between RBMP and FRMP: Austrian Water Act (§55 1 (8) WRG 1959)

- Preparation and revision of FRMP has to be coordinated at **catchment scale** with RBMP (can be integral part of it)...
 - ➔ same deadlines, competent authorities (BMLFUW), ...
 - ➔ cross references in both management plans
- focus on improving efficiency, information exchange, synergies and shared benefits in terms of environmental objectives, avoiding potential conflicts
 - ➔ What does this mean in practise?

HYDROMORPHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

- About 2/3 of Austrian rivers are not in a good status due to hydromorphological pressures
 - Numerous drivers, but **flood protection** and **hydropower use** during the last centuries were decisive for not meeting GES/GEP
 - Only 37% of Austrian territory available for permanent settlement and development (2/3 alpine area) – **unique situation in EU**
 - Potential high precipitation (ranges <500mm up to 3.500 mm/a)
- Revitalisation of rivers has been integral part of water management for a long time, but what has been build in many decades cannot be remediated in a few WFD cycles (keeping the same level of protection)



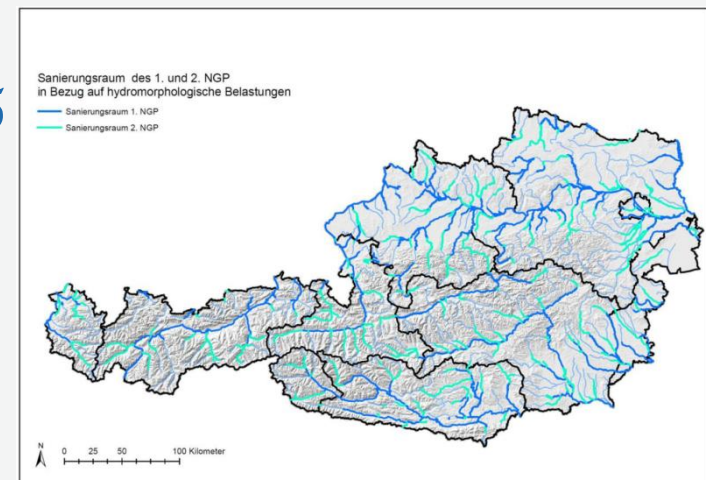
RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

River Basin Management Plan 2009 (NGP 2009)

- Focus of PoM was on
 - ➔ area of 1st priority for river restoration “prioritärer Sanierungsraum”
 - ➔ removal of **fish migration barriers** for medium distance migrating fish and gradual **increase of residual flow**
- Since 2010 about 1.000 migration barriers have been removed and at 200 river sections residual flow increased

(Draft) River Basin Management Plan 2015

- Enlargement of priority area for river restoration
- Enhanced focus on improvement of morphological conditions



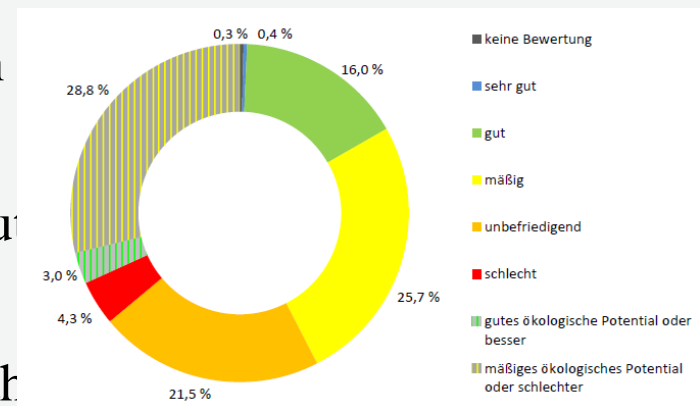
INTEGRATED PLANNING

Experiences over years (decades)

- Measures for improvement of morphological conditions are likely at sites where flood protection is still an issue
 - Priority on „green“ measures (NWRM), not on „grey“
- ➔ lift synergies between ecological and flood protection requirements

Ecological status in APSFR

- 51,5% of river length in APSFRs with less than good status
 - about 30% of HMWB located in APSFRs, about 29% do not meet the GEP
- ➔ In total nearly 80% of water bodies (total length in APSFR) do not meet the objectives of WFD



INTEGRATED PLANNING (2)

Technical Guidelines for Federal Water Engineering Administration (RIWA-T 2016)¹

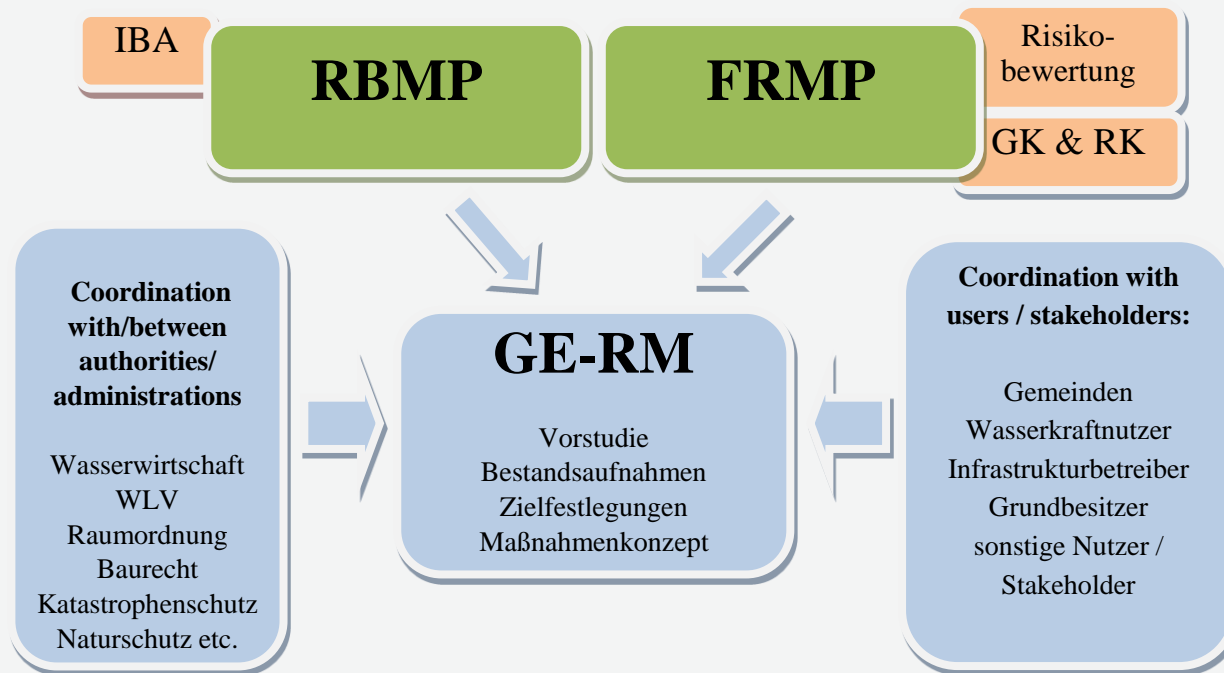
- sets **obligation for integrated planning** on regional (sub-catchment) level
- flood risk management has to consider ecological requirements
- Instrument: **GE-RM**
- **GE-RM** („Gewässerentwicklungs- und Risikomanagementkonzepte“ – **integrated river basin and risk management concepts**)
 - ➔ is triggered by need of flood risk management, but objectives of river restoration and sediment management are of equal importance
 - ➔ should be **developed** particularly for **those areas / rivers**, where
 - ➔ **need for action was identified** in terms of flood risk management /river restoration or
 - ➔ where **serious impact** on flood protection / hydromorphological conditions is **expected**

¹ Technische Richtlinien für die Bundeswasserbauverwaltung: https://www.bmlfuw.gv.at/wasser/wasser-oesterreich/foerderungen/foerd_hochwasserschutz/trl_neu-ab-2016.html

- Definition of

→ objectives, priority for measures, possible actions for

→ flood protection, river restoration, sediment management and flood risk management



→ Coordination of measures needed to achieve the objectives of FD and WFD

Planning area/selection criteria:

- strong related to APSFR (first priority) or to priority area for river restoration
- allow for integrated assessments (interrelations between flood protection, ecology and nature protection)
- comprise in any case inundation areas for HQ 300/extrem event
- need for action in terms of flood protection and ecology according to FRMP and RBMP

MEASURES - SYNERGIES

- Most measures of FRMP have potential for ecological improvements, but not all
- Ecological improvements expected by flood protection measures, e.g.:
 - Restoration of flood plains and sedimentation areas
 - Structural protection measures (e.g. widening of cross sections)
- In 82 APSFR (904 km) measures for reconnection of retention areas are envisaged until 2021, in 18 APSFR (425 km) appropriate measures already implemented
- 57 APSFR (526 km) with intended measures are located in area of 1st priority for river restoration (prioritärer Sanierungsraum) of 2. RBMP in terms of hydromorphological pressures;
 - most of these APSFR (54 – 466 km) do not meet the GES/GEP →
Synergies in terms of measures to be exploited

OUTLOOK

- 188 APSFR (1463 km) (= 54% of total river length of APSFR) are located in areas with focus on river restoration of hydromorphological pressures
- Obligation of **GE-RM** at catchment scale
 - integrated planning is **prerequisite for future funding** of flood protection measures
 - Guidelines on GE-RM currently under elaboration
 - Application of GE-RM at selected rivers (pilot studies) envisaged (2019)
 - Further revision of guidelines envisaged based on lessons learned (pilot studies)





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Thank you for your attention!

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