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2011 - 2012

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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.

This report will present progress made and will be published on the occasion of the planned conference of ministers. The most important results and trends of the chemical and biological surveys of water quality will be presented in easy to understand graphs and/or tables and show the effects of all restoration measures implemented along the Rhine and in its catchment. Also, progress made in the field of flood protection and findings on the effects of climate change for water resources management will be presented. The Small Strategy Group (SG-K) is in charge of drafting this balance.

Further coordinated implementation of the WFD: Update of the inventory according to the WFD

Additionally, the ICPR Strategy Group has defined the orientation and workload in connection with updating the inventory according to the WFD. Based on the plan of the inventory so far, the basic update need has been described. It has been determined, which working group is to do what work and by when and what maps have to be updated. The Small Strategy Group (SG-K) is equally in charge of updating the inventory.

Coordinated implementation of the Floods Directive in the IRBD Rhine

The first step of implementation according to the Floods Directive, the determination of flood risk areas in the IRBD Rhine has, for the time being, been accomplished by end 2011 with a report coordinated within the ICPR and two survey maps and was published on the ICPR website www.iksr.org by mid January 2012. Information not yet integrated into this report will presumably be available by the end of October 2012.

The next steps within the implementation of the Floods directive concern the establishing of flood hazard and flood risk maps for all previously defined flood risk areas in the IRBD Rhine (part A, catchment > 2,500 km²). In this connection, the ICPR Rhine Atlas published for the main stream of the Rhine on a scale 1 : 100,000 will be updated and extended by the Alpine Rhine, Lake Constance, Lake IJssel and the coastal areas. This enables a **uniformed representation of flood hazards and flood risks along the entire main stream of the Rhine.**

Furthermore, the draft of the flood risk management plan according to the Floods directive has well advanced. This draft is to be accomplished by the end of 2014, and will be published and thus be subjected to the public participation procedure. The coordinated management plan to be drafted aims at reducing future detrimental effects on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activities.

Preparation of the conference of Ministers 2013

Following an invitation of the Swiss delegation, a Conference of Rhine Ministers will be staged in Switzerland in the last quarter of 2013, drawing a balance of the present state of the Rhine and its catchment and deciding on the orientation for future water management activities and problems in the Rhine catchment. In addition, first basic decisions concerning the second management plan to draft according to the WFD and the first flood risk management plan according to the floods directive must be taken.

Strategy for micropollutants

Since July 2010, work on the first part of this strategy for micropollutants (municipal and industrial wastewater) is available on the ICPR website. The core elements of this strategy are (i) a target, (ii) a number of definitions, (iii) an analysis of problems carried out for a number of substance groups with the help of which the basis for (iv) possible measures has been determined, according to which (v) a strategy for the implementation of measures can be drafted after having proceeded with a holistic examination of all substance groups.

For five substance groups (medicinal products for human use, biocidal products and anti-corrosive agents, oestrogens, radiocontrast agents and odiferous substances) evaluation reports have in the meantime been published on the ICPR website. The evaluation report on complexing agents has recently been accomplished and will soon be published.

It must be underlined that work on micropollutants going on in the ICPR has been of great interest at EU level. In several cases, reports drafted by the ICPR have enriched the corresponding EU activities.

A further milestone is the summary report on the "Integral Assessment of Micro-Pollutants and Measures Aimed at Reducing Discharges of Urban and Industrial Wastewater" which will be published in the near future.

Pollutant content of fish

A comprehensive report on the „Contamination of Fish with Pollutants in the Catchment Area of the Rhine - Ongoing and Completed Studies in the Rhine States" was published on the public web pages of the ICPR in German, French, Dutch and English at the end of 2011, beginning 2012. It contains a large number of findings on the pollutant content of the fish in the Rhine with dioxine-resembling PCB and other pollutants gathered in all states in the Rhine catchment. Even though the individual results are not directly comparable, the report does clearly indicate the existing problem of fish contaminated with dioxin containing PCBs. The future treatment of this problem is a topic of further discussion.

Aspects of climate change in the Rhine catchment

Mid 2011, the "Study of Scenarios on the Discharge of the Rhine" ordered by the last Conference of Ministers was published in four languages on the ICPR website. Thus, for the first time, global climate models and corresponding water resources models have been combined for a big catchment in order to obtain results for certain gauges. That means that now potential consequences of climate change for water resources (e.g. during floods and draughts) can better be estimated. For the ICPR they serve as a basis for drafting internationally coordinated adaptation strategies.

The corresponding knowledge on the future development on Rhine water temperatures is being treated.

Three ICPR working groups on "Floods", "Ecology" and "Substances" are today working on an estimation of the consequences of the changes of the discharge regime expected, e.g. on problems of floods and low water and on the ecology of the Rhine.

A **workshop** on the "**Effects of climate change on the Rhine river basin district**" will be staged in Bonn (Ministry of Environment) on 30 and 31st January 2013. During this workshop, the current international and national state of knowledge on aspects of climate change in the Rhine basin will be presented. In addition, insight gained in the working groups S, B and H will be discussed across the disciplines. This workshop aims at an adequate preparation of the adaptations strategies to choose or of proposals for first adaptation measures. Corresponding work of other river basin districts as that of the Danube, Maas, Elbe etc., will contribute to this discussion.

Further activities

Partly opening of the Haringvliet sluices

With respect to the problems in connection with the "Haringvliet", the Dutch delegation had announced in the PLEN-CC11 that the Haringvliet sluices, which are an important further access for salmon on their upstream migration into the Rhine will all the same be partly opened as of the end of 2014/beginning 2015. On June 29, 2011 the Dutch delegation confirmed this decision. All delegations had explicitly thanked the Dutch delegation for this important decision for the entire Rhine catchment which will have a positive effect on the further implementation of the Master Plan Migratory Fish.

MTBE/ETBE discharges into the Rhine

Furthermore, during the PLEN-CC in Vaduz it was discussed that the delegations of the ICPR and the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine and of the CDNI convention (Convention on the Collection, Deposit and Reception of Waste Produced during Navigation on the Rhine and Inland Waterways) had jointly stated that MTBE/ETBE discharges mainly originate from navigation and that the convention on waste from navigation (CDNI) which entered into force on 1st November 2009 is sufficient as an internationally valid legal instrument in order to avoid the problem of such illegal discharges from navigation.

Since then, further activities of all delegations concerned have led to a distinct decrease of the number of reports on MTBE-/ETBE discharges in 2011/2012.

Cooperation with representatives of the NGO with observer status

Within the ICPR, contacts with observers are of basic importance for water policy in the Rhine watershed. This has again been proved by the active participation of the NGOs in the activities of working and expert groups during the year under report. In this connection, the vivid exchange of information with the NGOs on June 13, 2012 with great participation from sides of the NGOs is to be mentioned.

This exchange of information showed, how many committed and well informed interest groups actively work in the entire Rhine catchment, from the source of the river in the Alps to its delta in the Netherlands and in the catchments of states involved through tributaries, such as the R. Moselle which support our aim to further water protection in the Rhine catchment.

Annex

The annex to this report includes a survey of the activities of the secretariat beyond every-day organisation of meetings, coordination and assessment of ICPR work and which belong to the domain of public relations.

The list includes lectures of members of the secretariat for different visitors' groups from all over the world in the secretariat, lectures on the occasion of congresses, seminars and the participation in other events.

New publications (July 2011 – July 2012)

ICPR reports (www.iksr.org)

- (1) Report of the President of the ICPR 2011-2012 – ICPR report no. 201 – www.iksr.org - technical reports
- (2) Implementation of the Action Plan on Floods between 1995 and 2010 – ICPR report no. 200 – www.iksr.org – technical reports
- (3) Evidence of the effectiveness of measures aimed at reducing flood levels of the Rhine: Implementation of the Action Plan on Floods between 1995 and 2010 including an outlook on 2020 and 2020+ - ICPR report no. 199 – www.iksr.org – technical reports – not available in English
- (4) Report on Low water periods in 2011 - ICPR report no. 198 – www.iksr.org – technical reports
- (5) Warning and Alarm Plan Rhine – Reported incidents 2011 – ICPR report no. 197 www.iksr.org – technical reports
- (6) Evaluation Report Complexing Agents - ICPR report no. 196 www.iksr.org - technical reports
- (7) Report on the Contamination of Fish with Pollutants in the Catchment Area of the Rhine – Ongoing and Completed Studies in the Rhine States – ICPR report no. 195 - www.iksr.org - technical reports
- (8) Evaluation Report Odoriferous Substances - ICPR report no. 194 www.iksr.org - technical reports
- (9) Comparison of the actual state with the targeted state of the Rhine 1990 – 2008 – ICPR report no. 193 - www.iksr.org - technical reports
- (10) Report of the President of the ICPR 2010-2011 – ICPR report no. 192 - www.iksr.org - technical report – **not available in English**
- (11) Warning and Alarm Plan Rhine – Reported incidents 2010 – ICPR report no. 191 www.iksr.org – technical reports
- (12) Progress on Implementing the Master Plan Migratory Fish in the Rhine Bordering States during 2010 – ICPR report no. 190 - www.iksr.org - technical reports
- (13) List of Rhine substances - ICPR report no. 189 www.iksr.org - technical reports – **not available in English**
- (14) Study of scenarios for the discharge regime of the Rhine – state April 2011 – ICPR report no. 188 - www.iksr.org - technical reports
- (15) Evaluation Report for Radiocontrast Agents - ICPR report no. 187 www.iksr.org - technical reports

ANNEX

Events in the ICPR secretariat or in which the secretariat participated

Visitors' groups in the ICPR secretariat

12.07.11	Thailand
29.08.11	Trainees from the Wasser- und Schifffahrtsdirektion
14.09.11	Students from Chile and Spain studying at the Fachhochschule in Cologne
22.09.11	International students at the University of Delft
04.10.11	Students at the University of Delft
06.11.11	Secretary of the Embassy of South Korea
13.10.11	China
19.10.11	Mekong River Commission
26.10.11	China
26.10.11	Ukraine - State Hydro Meteorological Service
26.10.11	South Korea
27.10.11	China
17.11.11	China
24.11.11	China
13.12.11	China
01.03.12	Lake Chad Commission
16.04.12	Trainees from the Wasser- und Schifffahrtsdirektion
23.04.12	Central Asia
24.05.12	UNESCO students – IHE Delft
12.06.12	Students of architecture Cornell University
29.06.12	Bangladesh/India/Nepal

Participation in events with contribution/lecture by the president of the ICPR or collaborators of the ICPR secretariat

21.09.11	ENGEEES Eau et Biodiversité, Strasbourg
08.11.11	UN-ECE, 25 years Sandoz, Bonn
12.11.11	Seminar "Adaptation to climate change", Almaty, Kazakhstan
16.11.11	Hochwassernotgemeinschaft, Cologne
03.02.12	FGG Weser, Strategy on micro-pollutants, Minden
28.02.12	International high level meeting on river basin management planning, Ankara
29.03.12	IKSD climate workshop, Munich

- 17.04.12 EC-WG F and Workshop Stakeholder Involvement Floods Directive, Bukarest
- 21.06.12 Technical symposium on micro-pollutants, Düsseldorf

Participation in events

- 02.09.11 Opening of the foundation "Living Rivers", Eltville
- 20.09.11 FLOW-MS, IKSMS, Trier
- 05.10.11 Meeting PCB in fish at the IKSMS, Trier
- 11.10.11 Acqua Alta 2011, joint stand with HKC and HWNG, Hamburg
- 25.10.11 2. KLIWAS status conference, Berlin
- 09.11.11 Workshop Floods and sustainable development, Strasbourg
- 09.11.11 Vernissage Salmon book, Basel
- 23.11.11 UN-ECE Core Group Climate Change, Genf
- 25.11.11 Pills Symposium, Pharmaceuticals in water, Gelsenkirchen
- 02.12.11 Plenary Assembly Maas Commission, Hasselt
- 13.12.11 50th Plenary Assembly IKSMS, Mondorf-les-Bains
- 13.12.11 WWF – Vivre avec les crues, Paris
- 02.02.12 Committee new concession at the hydropower plant Kembs – 1st meeting Kembs
- 07.02.12 CDNI working group G, Strasbourg
- 16.03.12 Plenary assembly of professional fishermen on the Rhine, Troisdorf
- 17.04.12 Technical Meeting Water Ecology in the catchment of the Alpine Rhine/Lake Constance, Hohenems/Vorarlberg
- 20.04.12 Sea Life, exhibition on migratory fish, Königswinter
- 03.05.12 IKSMS meeting PCB in fish, Trier
- 23.05.12 Workshop River continuity for fish, Roermond
- 08.06.12 Final event CCHydro, Bern
- 12.-13.06.12 CIS Workshop hydromorphology and the WFD, Brussels
- 14.-15.06.12 CHR Plenary Assembly Strasbourg