Mandates
2022-2027

English is not a working language of the ICPR. The English version of the mandates is, therefore, not an official translation and is only provided in order to make the mandates available to a wider audience.

Mandate
Strategy Group (SG)
2022-2027

The Strategy Group (SG) is responsible for drafting the resolutions of the joint annual meeting of the plenary assembly and the coordination committee Rhine (PLEN-CC) as well as for the ministerial conferences. In addition, it is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the activities carried out by the ICPR, with the help of the technical work carried out by the advisory groups[1]. Moreover, it is responsible for planning future ICPR activities, thereby ensuring the work of the ICPR remains consistent, and for providing guidance to the advisory groups, if needed.

The core functions of the SG have been derived from the "Rhine 2040" programme and the permanent tasks of the ICPR arising from the Convention for the Protection of the Rhine, and are necessary to ensuring the coordinated implementation of European water law and, in particular, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Floods Directive (FD). Its scope covers the International River Basin District Rhine (IRBD Rhine), i.e., rivers with a catchment area of > 2,500 km^2 (level A).

The strategy group's mandate comprises the following tasks:

I. Workplan management

1. Coordinating the activities carried out by ICPR bodies in accordance with the 2022-2027 workplan. This includes monitoring progress, meeting deadlines, and deciding when groups should be convened, or when they should be put on standby **(monitoring the workplan)**;
2. Determining the necessary priorities, adjusting the workplan, and adding new tasks to the workplan in response to new developments or events that are not covered by the workplan **(updating the workplan)**;
3. Deciding on the groups' deliverables, checking the finalised deliverables/reports, and ensuring they are sent to PLEN-CC to be approved for publication **(deliverables)**;
4. Preparing the first interim report on the "Rhine 2040" programme by 2027 **(interim report)**;
5. Drawing up the 2028-2033 workplan **(future workplan)**.

II. Coordinating the implementation of EU directives and discussing technical, political and legal matters

1. Aligning and optimising the monitoring programmes within the IRBD Rhine, ensuring monitoring consistency, making any necessary changes **(aligning the monitoring programmes)**;
2. Approving the 4th International River Basin Management Plan Rhine and the 3rd International Flood Risk Management Plan Rhine by 2027 **(plans)**;
3. Evaluating how the measures are implemented in accordance with the WFD and the FD, insofar as they apply to the IRBD Rhine, and assessing the progress made in terms of restoring river continuity for migratory fish in the Delta Rhine, the Upper Rhine, the High Rhine and the Moselle **(implementing the measures)**;
4. Sharing newly acquired knowledge on waste, particularly on macro- and microplastics, in the waters of the Rhine basin, as well as on national studies, measurements and methods with all members of the SG-K **(plastics/waste)**.

[1] "Advisory groups" is the generic term used in paragraph 4 of the ICPR rules of procedure and financial regulations for working groups, expert groups and project groups.

III. Public relations and knowledge transfer

1. Organising and managing all public relations activities of the ICPR **(public relations)**;
2. Cooperating with recognized ICPR observers and interested and involved parties **(observers)**.

IV. Budget and staff

1. Monitoring and adopting the draft budget submitted by the executive secretary, overseeing its approval and forwarding it to PLEN-CC for approval **(budget)**;
2. Taking decisions on staffing matters at the separately convened meetings of the heads of delegation (DELCH) **(staff)**.

The small strategy group (SG-K) provides assistance to the strategy group (SG) by drafting the resolutions of the SG. The SG-K serves as a bridge between the advisory groups and the strategy group.

How the SG works

The SG generally meets twice a year.

The small strategy group (SG-K) is responsible for preparing the thematic and organisational work and resolutions made by the strategy group (SG). The SG-K is part of the SG and may convene more frequently than the SG if necessary.

The SG can establish drafting groups, e.g., to draft the river basin management plan (SG-PLAN) or the first interim report on the "Rhine 2040" programme.

If necessary, it can also set up new expert groups or expand/modify the mandates of existing groups.

Languages and technical equipment

SG meetings can also be held via videoconference with simultaneous interpretation, enabling delegations to meet in a more sustainable and climate-friendly format, i.e., without having to travel.

Mandate
Working Group Flood and Low Water (WG H)
2022-2027

Building on the mandates from the "Rhine 2040" programme and other ongoing tasks - including the commitment made by EU states to implement EU directives in a coordinated manner - the Working Group Flood and Low Water (WG H) is responsible for the tasks described herein. Its remit covers the International River Basin District Rhine (IRBD Rhine), i.e., rivers with a catchment area > 2,500 km^2 (level A).

I. Flood risk management

The work of the WG H involves coordinating the implementation of the Floods Directive (FD) in the IRBD Rhine in cooperation with ICPR bodies responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The 3rd International Flood Risk Management Plan Rhine (IFRMP) is scheduled to be completed by 2027. It will include measures to be taken between 2028-2033.

In the "Rhine 2040" programme, the Rhine basin states have set the objective of reducing the risk of flooding on the Rhine and its major tributaries by at least 15 % by 2040 compared to 2020. To achieve this goal, various objectives have been agreed upon. These include implementing the planned measures to reduce flood levels by 2030 and identifying possible sites for additional retention areas.

Within its mandate,

1. the WG H will monitor and coordinate inter-state efforts to identify potential significant flood risk areas and update the corresponding report as required by the end of 2024, taking into account the impacts of climate change **(significant flood risk areas)**;
2. the WG H will ensure information is exchanged before updates are made to the flood hazard and risk maps **(flood hazard maps and flood risk maps)**;
3. the WG H will update the Rhine Atlas 2020 by 2026 as required based on the national flood hazard and risk maps. **(Rhine Atlas)**;
4. the WG H will draft the 3rd IFRMP by the end of 2027 (**IFRMP**);
5. the WG H will identify possible sites for additional flood reduction measures by 2025, that go beyond the retention measures to be implemented by 2030, on the basis of information provided by the states **(new retention areas)**;
6. the WG H will facilitate the technical exchange with civil protection and crisis management stakeholders **(civil protection)**;
7. the WG H accompanies the technical exchange of the flood forecasting and announcement centres as well as the workshops if required **(exchange flood forecasting)**;
8. by 2026, the WG H will pursue the coordinated implementation of the 2nd IFRMP (2022-2027) and will provide overview of the flood level reduction measures to be implemented by 2030 **(implementation of measures)**;
9. the WG H will assess whether water level reduction measures need to be recalculated. Should this be the case, a recalculation or sensitivity analysis is to be carried out by 2025 **(effectiveness of water level lowering measures)**;
10. the WG H will assess from 2025 to 2027 and using the FloRiAn tool the effects of the measures from the 2nd IFRMP and prospectively from the 3rd IFRMP and on the objectives of the "Rhine 2040" programme of the "Rhine 2040" programme **(flood risk calculation)**.

II. Climate change adaptation

One of the goals of the "Rhine 2040" programme is to update the climate change adaptation strategy of the IRBD Rhine, published in 2015, by 2025, on the basis of new knowledge. Here, the aim is to make the Rhine basin a sustainably managed environment that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and where rivers are valuable habitats for nature and people.

Within its mandate,

1. the WG H will prepare new discharge scenarios for flood and low water for the near future (2050) and the distant future (2100) in close cooperation with the CHR and taking national data and projects into account. This will take place over the 2022-2023 period. If necessary, it will also develop the scenarios in more detail once new IPCC data is available (presumably early 2022) **(discharge scenarios)**;
2. the WG H will create water consumption and water availability projections in close cooperation with the CHR by 2027 **(water consumption and water availability)**;
3. the WG H will address issues related to heavy rainfall in the basin by 2023 (e.g. pollutant inputs, decentralised water retention, synergies with environmental measures) **(heavy rainfall)**;
4. the WG H will assist the SG-K in carrying out a workshop on climate change adaptation in 2024. It will also assist it in updating the strategy by 2025 **(workshop and climate change adaptation strategy)**.

The outcome of these activities is to be taken into account when revising the climate change adaptation strategy and implementing the relevant EU directives.

III. Low water management

One of the objectives of the "Rhine 2040" programme is to improve the Rhine basin's ability to cope with the negative effects of severe low water events. This is to be achieved by low water monitoring and by putting jointly developed assessment methods and solution approaches into practice.

Within its mandate,

1. the WG H will oversee the low water monitoring established within the 2016-2021 workplan, assess low water events, and in consultation with the WG B and the WG S, make any necessary changes to the monitoring process and its parameters **(low water monitoring)**;
2. in consultation with the WG B and the WG S, the WG H will compile, if necessary, new measures taken in the states during low water, in addition to the measures compiled in 2017-2019 **(low water measures)**;
3. the WG H will establish a shared set of criteria for assessing low water in the IRBD Rhine by 2026 **(low water assessment criteria)**.

IV. "Rhine 2040" interim report

Starting in 2025, the WG H will assist the SG in preparing the first interim report of the "Rhine 2040" programme, to be published in 2027.

How the WG H works

To perform the tasks listed above, the WG H will seek the support of various expert groups, which will advise on the work of the WG H or help to resolve technical issues in accordance with the WG H's mandate. Where necessary, third-party experts may be brought on board to assist with the work performed by the WG H. The chairs of the EGs will report regularly to the WG H on the progress of the work and any problems encountered. The Chair of the WG H will in turn report regularly to the SG on the progress of the work and any problems encountered.

Expert groups

- The expert group **'Flood forecasting and announcement centres' (EG HWVZ)** serves as a platform for exchanging information related to task **I.7 (exchange flood forecasting)**.
- The expert group **'Low water' (EG LW)** is responsible for carrying out tasks **II.2** (water consumption and availability) and **III** (low water management).
- The provisional expert group (2022-2023) **'Discharge projection' (EG HCLIM)** carries out task **II.1** (flow scenarios).
- The expert group **'Flood risk analyses' (EG HIRI)** is responsible for task **I.10** (flood risk calculation).
- The provisional expert group (2023-2025) **'Validation of water level lowering measures' (EG HVAL)** is responsible for task **I.9** (effectiveness of measures for lowering water levels).

Languages and technical equipment

As a general rule, and barring exceptions, the WG H and each of its EGs will meet twice a year at most, and on a more frequent basis when preparing for the IFRMP, if necessary. The EG HWVZ will meet once a year.

Where necessary, meetings of the WG H and its expert groups can be held via videoconference with simultaneous interpretation to enable delegations to meet in a more sustainable and climate-friendly way, i.e., without having to travel.

Mandate
Working Group Water Quality/Emissions (WG S)
2022-2027

Building on the mandates from the "Rhine 2040" programme and other ongoing tasks - including the commitment made by EU states to implement EU directives in a coordinated manner - the Working Group Water Quality/Emissions (WG S) is responsible for the tasks described herein. Its remit is the International River Basin District Rhine (IRBD Rhine), i.e., rivers with a catchment area > 2,500 km^2 (level A).

I. Water quality

The work involves collecting data and assessing and (re)producing the water quality in the IRBD Rhine, in addition to implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) on the physical-chemical quality of surface waters and the chemical and quantitative quality of groundwater. Moreover, the mandate involves working together with the ICPR bodies responsible ensuring the Floods Directive is implemented in a co-ordinated manner.

In the "Rhine 2040" programme, the Rhine basin states have set the general objective of achieving a good quality status for water, suspended solids, sediments and biota in the Rhine and its tributaries, including groundwater. It is becoming increasingly problematic that there are no standardised and adjusted assessment methods and criteria for certain substances. As part of its 2016-2021 mandate, the WG S has established recommendations for addressing micropollutants. In addition, the Rhine basin states have agreed to reduce their micropollutant emissions by at least 30 %.

Within its mandate,

1. the WG S will update the Rhine Monitoring Programme Chemistry (annually) and the Rhine Substance List (every 3 years; 2023 and 2026), taking national analysis programmes and recent developments into account (e.g., lessons from non-target analysis and work on micropollutants). In accordance with the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, it will ensure monitoring is carried out consistently, assess and conduct a plausibility check of the data collected, and present the results in a coherent cartographic and synoptic form. If necessary, it will also carry out special analysis programmes (**Rhine Monitoring Programme Chemistry and Rhine Substance List**);
2. the WG S will update the Rhine Monitoring Programme with respect to fish contamination in 2023 and 2026, taking national analysis programmes and recent development into account. It will also ensure that contamination is consistently monitored in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, assess and conduct a plausibility check on the data, and evaluate the results with respect to biota **(contamination of biota)**;
3. the WG S will prepare the Rhine water quality report at regular intervals **(Rhine water quality report)**;
4. and where required, the WG S will use the reports (see points 1 to 3) to draw up further recommendations **(recommendations)**;
5. the WG S will update the inventory of isolated and widespread physical-chemical pressures from pollutants and nutrients on the waters of the Rhine basin (by 2026), from contaminated sediments, and from quantitative and chemical pressures on groundwater (by 2026) in accordance with the WFD and the Convention for the Protection of the Rhine **(inventory of pressures)**;
6. the WG S will prepare written reports and tables on the status of surface water and groundwater for the 4th International River Basin Management Plan Rhine up to 2026 **(WFD contributions)**;
7. the WG S will endeavour to make analytical results comparable for substances for which no standardised methods exist. This includes improving cooperation between laboratories within the Rhine basin and its major tributaries. This

cooperation involves both non-target and target analyses of polar, persistent, mobile and toxic substances that cannot be detected by the analytical methods routinely used. In addition, the WG S will examine new bioanalytical processes and effect-based methods to better monitor and assess the effects of substances in water in order to identify opportunities for action **(non-standardised analytical methods)**;

8. and with the help of the assessment system expected to be finalised in the first half of 2022, the WG S will regularly report[2] on the progress made in achieving the reduction target for micropollutants. Moreover, the WG S will be responsible for facilitating discussions on national methods for combating. If necessary, the WG S will adapt the ICPR recommendations published in 2019 by 2025 **(micropollutants)**;
9. the WG S will provide support to the SG-K in conducting a workshop on waste and more specifically on microplastics in 2024 (**waste workshop**).

II. International warning and alarm plan Rhine

Within its mandate,

1. the WG S will ensure the IWAP Rhine remains operational, for instance, by conducting regular alert exercises (at least every two years) and evaluating them. The WG S will also continuously fine-tune the parameters of the IWAP Rhine, for example with regard to unknown or emerging substances **(IWAP operation and optimisation);**
2. the WG S will submit IWAP Rhine reports on a regular basis (usually annually) and facilitate the sharing of information on identified pollutants and new substances (**IWAP reports**);
3. the WG S will develop a new Rhine flow time model by 2027, taking into account the lessons learned from the pilot project on non-target analysis **(flow time model)**.

III. Climate change adaptation

One of the goals of the "Rhine 2040" programme is to update the climate change adaptation strategy of the IRBD Rhine, published in 2015, by 2025, on the basis of new knowledge. Here, the aim is to make the Rhine basin a sustainably managed environment that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and where rivers are valuable habitats for nature and people.

Within its mandate,

1. the WG S will continue to take stock of the thermal discharge levels in order to calculate water temperature projections by 2023. The WG S will also collect data on thermal discharge levels for the entire Rhine basin and its major tributaries every 6 years (and for the first time in 2026) and will make any necessary changes to the study on long-term changes in water temperature **(thermal discharge levels and water temperature)**;
2. the WG S will update the water temperature projections by 2024 based on the most current runoff projections **(water temperature projections)**;
3. the WG S will assist the SG-K in carrying out a workshop on climate change adaptation in 2024. It will also assist it in updating the strategy by 2025 **(workshop and climate change adaptation strategy)**.

Relevant findings from this work will be taken into account when preparing the climate change adaptation strategy and implementing relevant EU directives.

[2] The cycle will be determined in 2022.

IV. Qualitative sediment management

One of the main objectives of the "Rhine 2040" programme is to improve the quality of the sediments in the Rhine.

In 2026, the WG S will report on the (qualitative) sediment management measures carried out by the states in accordance with the 2005 sediment management plan (**qualitative sediment management measures**).

V. Rhine 2040 interim report

Starting in 2025, the WG S will assist the SG in drawing up the first interim report of the "Rhine 2040" programme, to be published in 2027.

How the WG S works

The WG S will receive support from various expert groups in carrying out the above tasks. If necessary, external experts may be brought on board. Such groups may provide input on the work of the WG S or help to respond to technical issues as requested by the WG S. The chairs of the EGs will report regularly to the WG S on the progress of the work and any problems encountered. The Chair of the WG S will provide the SG with regular reports on the progress of the work and any problems encountered.

Expert groups

- The expert group **'Analytical methods' (EG SANA)** is responsible for tasks **I.1** (Rhine Monitoring Programme Chemistry and Rhine Substance List), **I.7 (**non-standardised analytical methods) and **I.8** (micropollutants, specifically: analytical methods, without measurements).
- The expert group **'Rhine Warning and Alarm Plan' (EG SAPA)** is responsible for tasks **II.1-3** (Rhine IWAP).
- The expert group **'Contamination to biota' (EG SCON)** is responsible for task **I.2** (contamination to biota).
- The expert group **'Emissions' (EG SEMI)** is responsible for tasks **I.5** (pressure inventory, including reviewing and if necessary, updating methods) and **I.6** (input for the WFD).
- The **'Monitoring' expert group (EG SMON)** is responsible for tasks **I.1** (Rhine Monitoring Programme Chemistry and Rhine Substance List), **I.3** (Rhine water quality report), possibly **I.7** (non-standardised analysis methods) and **I.8** (micropollutants, specifically: monitoring, without measurements). Additionally, it is responsible for **task V** (balance sheets), insofar as it concerns substance analyses.
- The temporary expert group **'Water temperature' (EG STEMP)** (2023-2024) is responsible for **task III.2** (water temperature projections).
- The temporary expert group **'Groundwater' (EG GW)** (2026-2027) is responsible for **tasks I.5** (pressure inventory) and **I.6** (input for the WFD), particularly on the topic of groundwater.

Languages and technical equipment

As a general rule, and with some exceptions, the WG S and each of its EGs will meet twice a year at most.

If necessary, meetings of the WG S or its expert groups may be held via videoconference with simultaneous interpretation. This is to enable delegations to meet in a more sustainable and climate-friendly way, i.e., without having to travel.

The language used in EG SANA meetings will be English.

Mandate
Working Group Ecology (WG B)
2022-2027

Building on the mandates from the "Rhine 2040" programme and other ongoing tasks - including the commitment on the part of the EU states to implement EU directives in a coordinated manner - the Working Group Ecology (WG B) is responsible for the tasks described herein. Its remit is the International River Basin District Rhine (IRBD Rhine), i.e., rivers with a catchment area > 2,500 km^2 (level A).

I. Aquatic biology and biotope network

This task involves collecting data and assessing and (re)presenting the ecological quality of rivers (ecological status or potential) and alluvial zones in the IRBD Rhine. In particular, it involves implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) on the ecological status of surface waters in a coordinated manner. In addition, the mandate includes consultation with the ICPR bodies in charge of implementing the Floods Directive.

In addition, the Rhine basin states have agreed on a number of quantifiable measures within the framework of the "Rhine 2040" programme to promote biodiversity by protecting or restoring Rhine habitats and strengthening the biotope network. Among these quantitative commitments are restoring 200 km² of floodplains, reconnecting 100 oxbow lakes and secondary waters and morphologically restoring 400 km of riverbanks. The states have also committed themselves to reducing hydromorphological pressures on the Rhine's main course and its tributaries, and to preserving, protecting, restoring and expanding alluvial natural environments. These measures will be assessed in 2027.

Within its mandate,

1. the WG B will update the Rhine Monitoring Programme Biology, taking into account national programmes, and ensure coherence with monitoring under the Water Framework Directive. It will also ensure that the results are assessed and a plausibility check in conducted, in addition to submitting the results in a coherent cartographic and synoptic form by 2027 **(Rhine Monitoring Programme Biology)**;
2. the WG B will write reports (biological quality components: phytoplankton, macrophytes, phytobenthos, macrozoobenthos, fish fauna) on the quality of surface waters for the 4th International River Basin Management Plan Rhine by 2027 **(input for the WFD)**;
3. where necessary, the WG B prepares recommendations based on the reports (see points 1 to 2) **(recommendations)**;
4. the WG B will continue to refine the evaluation method for the biotope network and will determine by the end of 2024 whether the biotope network on the Rhine can be re-evaluated using innovative analysis and monitoring methods (remote sensing data) before the "Rhine 2040" programme's interim review in 2027. In addition, it will examine whether updates to the "Rhine Biotope Network" concept are necessary by 2027, taking into account the effects of climate change. By 2025, it will regularly organise round tables on pilot projects and by 2027 will compile a list of measures for protecting, preserving and expanding habitats along the Rhine (e.g., designation of protected areas) **(biotope network);**
5. the WG B will facilitate the sharing of technical information on an international level, e.g., on topics such as non-native species or methods for assessing ecological status/potential **(sharing of technical information)**;
6. the WG B will make up a balance of measures to reduce hydromorphological pressures by 2024 **(report on measures to reduce hydromorphological pressures);**

7. the WG B will provide support to the SG-K in conducting a workshop on waste and more specifically on microplastics in 2024 **(waste workshop**).

II. Fish fauna and river continuity for migratory fish

Fish fauna is a part of a river's biology. The WG B deals with the state of the fish fauna. Through international cooperation, extra attention is given to fish fauna, in particular to migratory fish migrating long distances between marine and fluvial environments.

One of the concrete objectives of the "Rhine 2040" programme is to restore ecological continuity for migratory fish on the main course of the Rhine, from the mouth of the river to the Rhine Falls in Schaffhausen, in the major tributaries, and along 300 migration obstacles within the priority rivers listed in the Master Plan "Migratory Fish". The WG B is responsible for monitoring the extent to which these objectives are met and will report to the SG on a regular basis. A first assessment will be made in 2027.

Fish fauna and, subsequently, migratory fish have also been included in the Rhine Monitoring Programme Biology and in the WFD reports (see I).

Within its mandate,

1. the WG B will ensure the Master Plan "Migratory Fish" is implemented in a coordinated manner by reporting on the progress of the measures to be implemented by 2024 and updating the Master Plan as required until 2027 **(Master Plan "Migratory Fish");**
2. the WG B will report on the implementation status of the EU eel regulation every 6 years (2025) in order to ensure that eel stocks in the Rhine basin are monitored and measures are implemented in a coordinated manner **(Eel Regulation)**;
3. the WG B will keep abreast of new developments concerning innovative technologies for aiding the downstream migration of fish at crossings, draw up recommendations on this issue by 2024, and discuss other technical issues relating to river continuity for fish as required **(downstream migration and fish protection)**;
4. the WG B will monitor the reinstatement of upstream and downstream continuity and the latest research findings relating to this field **('best practices' for crossings);**
5. the WG B will organise, where necessary, technical meetings on topics such as establishing reference fish zones/ichthyocenoses with temperature thresholds for the fish fauna of the Rhine and its tributaries, or examining technical matters relating to fish passes **(sharing technical information on the fish fauna)**;
6. the WG B will serve as a discussion platform to facilitate dialogue (between experts) on the continuity of the Upper Rhine and the High Rhine. Committee A is responsible for the measures to be implemented on the Upper Rhine upstream of Strasbourg **(dialogue between experts on the Upper Rhine and the High Rhine**).

III. Climate change adaptation

One of the goals of the "Rhine 2040" programme is to update the climate change adaptation strategy of the IRBD Rhine, published in 2015, by 2025, on the basis of new knowledge. Here, the aim is to make the Rhine basin a sustainably managed environment that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and where rivers are valuable habitats for nature and people.

Within its mandate,

1. the WG B will update relevant knowledge on the impacts of climate change on aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity by 2024 **(climate change and biodiversity)**;
2. the WG B will gather scientific knowledge on the impacts of expected temperature changes and possible oxygen deficiency on fish fauna by 2024, particularly in the priority rivers of the Master Plan "Migratory Fish" **(climate change and fish fauna);**
3. the WG B will assist the SG-K in carrying out a workshop on climate change adaptation in 2024. It will also assist it in updating the strategy by 2025 **(workshop and climate change adaptation strategy)**.

The findings from these activities will be taken into account when developing the climate change adaptation strategy and when implementing the relevant EU directives.

IV. "Rhine 2040" interim report

From 2025 onwards, the WG B will assist the SG in drawing up the first interim report of the "Rhine 2040" programme, to be published in 2027.

How the WG B works

Various expert groups assist the WG B in carrying out the above tasks. These groups will advise on the work of the WG B or assist in answering technical questions arising from the WG B's mandate. If necessary, third-party experts may be brought on board. The Presidents of the EGs will report regularly to the WG B on the status of the work and any problems encountered. The WG B President will report regularly to the SG on the status of the work and any problems encountered.

Expert groups

- The expert group **'Biotope network on the Rhine' (EG BIOTOP)** is responsible for tasks **I.4** (biotope network) and **I.5** (technical dialogue on non-native species, specifically non-native alluvial species, including waterbirds).
- The expert group **'Biological Quality Components (EG BMON)** is responsible for tasks **I.1** (Rhine Monitoring Programme Biology)**, I.2** (input for the WFD) and **I.5** (technical dialogue on assessment methods and on non-native species, specifically macrozoobenthos, macrophytes, phytobenthos and phytoplankton).
- The expert group **'Fish fauna' (EG FISH)** is responsible for tasks **I.1** (Rhine Monitoring Programme Biology; here: fish fauna), **I.2** (input for the WFD, specifically: fish fauna), **I.5** (technical dialogue on non-native species, specifically: fish fauna and river crayfish) and **II.1-6** (fish fauna and river continuity for migratory fish).

Languages and technical equipment

As a general rule, and with some exceptions, the WG B and each of its EGs will meet twice a year at most.

If necessary, meetings of the WG B and its EGs may be held via videoconference with simultaneous interpretation. This is to enable delegations to meet in a more sustainable and climate-friendly way, i.e., without having to travel.

Mandate
Data management and mapping (EG GIS)
2022-2027

I. Product requirements

The EG GIS is primarily responsible for creating products, including maps and illustrative documents (e.g., calculations, tables, graphs etc.). These products are to be used for reporting on the status of EU directives in the International Rhine River Basin District (rivers with a catchment area > 2,500 km²) to the European Commission; they may also be created for technical reports compiled for the ICPR or for products intended for the public.

In addition, the EG GIS will assist other working groups and expert groups, such as the EG FISH, the EG BIOTOP and the EG HIRI with cartographic, IT or (geo)data management activities.

Insofar as certain products have not already been specified in the EU Reporting Sheets and addressed by the German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG) in WasserBLIcK, ICPR advisory groups will agree clearly and in advance with the BfG GIS experts (and the national experts consulted) on which products they wish to obtain (in particular with regard to formatting and legends) and the deadlines for their completion. They will also determine whether these deliverables can be produced in the desired form with the available and/or updated data and using the existing IT structures.

The EG GIS is responsible for defining and updating data exchange procedures and for solving technical GIS problems or questions relating to the use of WasserBLIcK. It shall be convened by the Strategy Group in agreement with the working groups and expert groups as required.

II. Data management

The responsible authorities within the Rhine basin states will generally upload the data directly into WasserBLIcK using predefined data masks. The delegations are requested to inform the ICPR and to ensure that the contact details of the relevant GIS correspondents within the national departments are kept up to date.

When developing products, data may also be collected via the ICPR bodies and forwarded to the BfG.

The WasserBLIcK system will be systematically and regularly upgraded by the BfG to meet the reporting requirements of the EU (reporting sheets and XML diagrams) in order to implement the WFD and the FD. The BfG will ensure that WasserBLIcK is compatible with the systems of other institutions (e.g. the European Environment Agency) and states (in accordance with the provisions of the INSPIRE Directive).

The existing data masks may need to be updated in accordance with the new regulations and adapted to the needs of the ICPR. The BfG will then recommend new data standards, present and discuss them in the EG GIS and apply them in WasserBLIcK once the EG GIS has given its approval.

III. Product development and quality assurance

As soon as the product requirements have been specified and the data collected, the BfG will develop the products. It will ensure that users within the advisory groups will have access to the data via WasserBLicK and to the map products.

The working groups and expert groups are responsible for monitoring the technical content and quality assurance of the products they have commissioned. They are also responsible for ensuring the results are accurate and consistent. As part of this task, technical experts must be able to consult with their respective GIS experts in order to find possible joint solutions and, if necessary, to convene special ad hoc meetings with technical experts, BfG representatives and GIS experts.