

THE RHINE RIVER BASIN

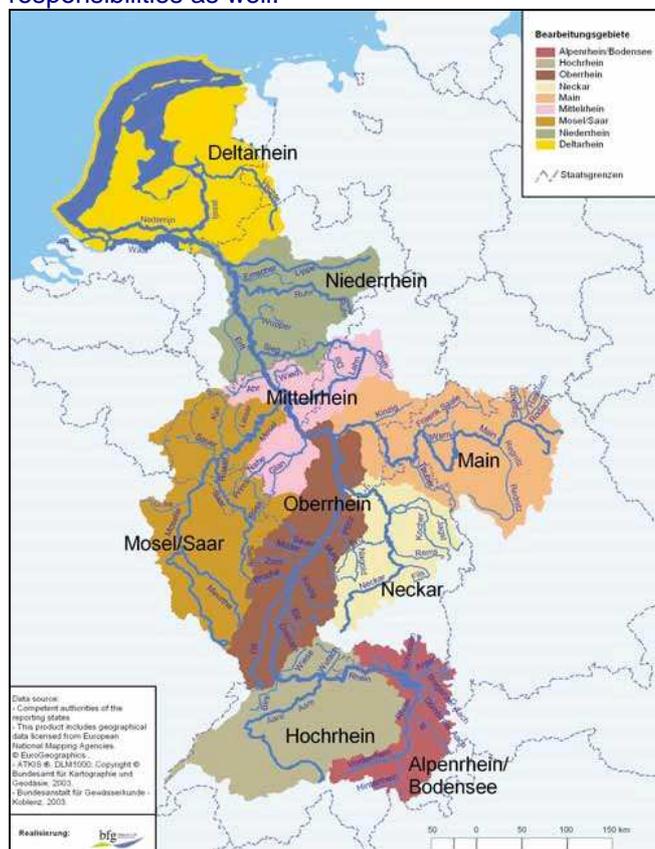
The Rhine basin covers an area of about 185,000 km², distributed between nine countries. It has a length of 1,230 km and is the only river connecting the Alps with the North Sea. Two thirds the basin area is situated in Germany. The Alpine countries, of which Switzerland is the most important, form 20% of the area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DESCRIPTION

More than 50 million people live in the Rhine basin. The river is one of the world's most intensively navigated inland waterways and of major importance for the supply of water to large socio-economically important areas. Changes in the discharge regime can have severe consequences for safety, for the water availability for shipping, industry, domestic use, agriculture, the natural environment and recreation.

WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS

The *International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine* (ICPR) coordinates water management in the Rhine basin. For the Dutch Rhine catchment, *Rijkswaterstaat* is responsible for the major waterways. Major rivers have their own committee/board within *Rijkswaterstaat*. Water boards care mostly for implementation and have some legislative responsibilities as well.



The Rhine basin (source: ICPR, 2010)

NEWATER PROJECT

For more than four years, NeWater studied and fostered Adaptive Integrated Water Resources Management (AWM) as a concept guiding theory and practice. Taking up the interdisciplinary challenge of managing the river basins as social-ecological systems, NeWater reflected the diversity of perspectives and potential through 37 project partners from Europe, Africa and Central-Asia.

NeWater has developed “Water Resources Scenarios for Case Study regions”, which include an evaluation of water resources scenarios incorporating the latest results of climate development simulations. Considering the social and political contexts in the various case study regions, the book “Climate Change Adaptation in the Water Sector” also includes examples beyond NeWater. Interestingly, the cross comparison of adaptation strategies across regions shows the dependency of climate mitigation strategies on the awareness and acknowledgement of climate change but less on its expected impact.

In the Rhine Basin, NeWater studied four processes in Germany and the Netherlands, both at international basin level and sub-basin level in the Wupper basin, the Niederrhein basin and the Kromme Rijn. The processes were linked to the implementation process of the European WFD or to climate change adaptation strategies. Researchers analysed, supported and even co-designed the activities that led to a number of outputs. These outputs will be used by the stakeholders as input for their decision making processes. For example, the “Water Management Plan (WMP) Kromme Rijn” will be used by the *Waterschap Hoogheemraadshap De Stichtse Rijnlanden* as a reference and the basis for a handbook for WMPs in other areas. Both researchers and stakeholders reported an improved knowledge base for the design, implementation and evaluation of participatory planning processes based on the Wupper and Kromme Rijn sub-cases.

(ADDITIONAL INFO ON WWW.NEWATER.INFO)

ABOUT TWIN2GO

Twin2Go reviews, consolidates, and synthesises research on adaptive and integrated water resources management in basins around the world. The aim is to draw insights relevant to policy and research on issues around adaptive water governance in the context of climate change, and to make them transferable to other basins. Twin2Go further promotes sharing of research results with practitioners and high level decision makers through effective dialogue.