



**Report of the President of the ICPR  
to the PLEN-CC15  
mid 2014 - mid 2015**

**2 and 3 July 2015,  
Vienna**

Internationale  
Kommission zum  
Schutz des Rheins

Commission  
Internationale  
pour la Protection  
du Rhin

Internationale  
Commissie ter  
Bescherming  
van de Rijn

*Report No. 231*



## **Imprint**

### **Publisher:**

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)

Kaiserin-Augusta-Anlagen 15, D 56068 Koblenz

P.O. box 20 02 53, D 56002 Koblenz

Telephone +49-(0)261-94252-0, Fax +49-(0)261-94252-52

E-mail: sekretariat@iksr.de

[www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)

ISBN-Nr 978-3-941994-98-0

© IKSr-CIPR-ICBR 2015

## **Report of the President of the ICPR to the PLEN-CC15 mid 2014 - mid 2015**

The main events of the session 2014-2015 were:

1. **The Award of the Thies International Riverprize**
2. **The Workshop concerning Vogelgrün and subsequent activities**
3. **The ICPR strategy on climate adaptation**
4. **The Workshop Monitoring of 5 and 6 March 2015 in Bonn**

### **1. Thies International Riverprize and European Riverprize**

On 16 September 2014 and one year after having been awarded the very first European Riverprize in Vienna, the International RiverFoundation (IRF) awarded the prestigious Thies International Riverprize to the ICPR. The Thies International Riverprize consists of a cash prize of 200.000 AUD (about 140.000 €) and a twinning component amounting to 100.000 AUD (about 70.000 €).

The prize money for the European Riverprize has been used to draft the recently released ICPR website for children/youngsters (8-14 years).

The twinning component of the European Riverprize (sponsors: GEF, IW:Learn) was implemented in close cooperation with the UNECE. This multilateral exchange of experience in cooperation with the UNECE and further European organizations will be pursued within the framework of the new twinning activities.

### **2. The Workshop concerning Vogelgrün and subsequent activities**

As instructed by the 15th Conference of Rhine Ministers, the ICPR organized an expert meeting in Colmar during 22-24 September 2014 in order to exchange on experience with the restoration of river continuity of the Upper Rhine for migratory fish (upstream migration until Basel). The objective was to find an optimal solution for the restoration of river continuity under the demanding local circumstances at the Vogelgrün/Breisach impoundment. Two possible solutions emerged which will now be analysed more in detail.

The subsequent activities have been discussed during two meetings of the heads of delegations within the ICPR on 16 December 2014 and on 10 March 2015. These discussions resulted in a draft decision to establish a project group **O**berrhein/**R**hin **S**upérieur (ORS) (Upper Rhine): The document PLEN-CC15-04-02 includes the background and the mandate for the new project group ORS. The necessity to take further measures to achieve sustainable river continuity upstream into Switzerland were also issues of the PLEN-CC14 in Luxemburg.

In a letter addressed to the operator of the Rhine power plant Iffezheim which was handed out to the participants of the PLEN-CC14, the President of the ICPR then expressed his concern about the longstanding malfunctioning at the Iffezheim fish passage during the mounting of the 5th turbine (April 2009 until October 2013).

Since the end of the construction work on the hydro power plant in Iffezheim, all 3 entrances are again functioning and the numbers of passing salmon, sea trout, sea lamprey, barbel, nase etc. are distinctly above those of preceding years. Among others, in 2014 a total of 87 salmon was registered.

And a **new record** has now been achieved: Between **January and the end of May 2015 142 salmon** have already been registered on their upstream migration at Iffezheim!

### **3. The ICPR strategy on climate adaptation**

In the beginning of 2015, the internationally coordinated strategy on climate adaptation for the Rhine catchment has been published (ICPR report no. 219). It presents the major effects of climate change and possibilities for adaptation and is linked to the internationally coordinated implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and of the Flood Management Directive (FD).

The drafts of the second management plan according to the WFD and of the first flood risk management plan according to the Floods Directive are available on the public part of the ICPR website since December 2014 and are thus accessible for public participation until 22 June 2015.

### **4. The Workshop Monitoring of 5 and 6 March 2015 in Bonn**

Following the results of the workshop staged on 5 and 6 March in the BMUB in Bonn in which 80 participants took part, the further development of substance monitoring in the Rhine may now be put into practice.

The possibilities / visions for a comparable approach or at least for comparable results were thoroughly discussed in Bonn. Furthermore, based on practical examples, the possibilities for implementing findings of the "non target analytical chemistry" in applicable risk assessments and reduction measures were discussed. In my opinion, the ICPR is the suitable platform for exchanging information on experience made with the "non target analytical chemistry" in order to achieve a sound preparation of the next steps towards further developing Rhine monitoring.

#### **Further activities**

##### ***Cooperation with representatives of the NGO with observer status***

Apart from the active NGO participation in meetings of working groups and expert groups, a special NGO discussion was organized on 9 June 2015. It proved to be extremely informative for all participants. The list of participants and the major issues discussed are to be found in Annex 1.

This exchange of information again proved how many well informed pressure groups actively support the targets of the ICPR. This is also shown in the outcome of a survey done by a Dutch student last year.

Furthermore, the transboundary cooperation in the Rhine catchment and the intensive involvement of NGOs was positively stressed by several lecturers during the 4th European Water Conference on the implementation of the WFD in Brussels on 23 and 24 March 2015.

##### ***Public relations work***

Annex 2 to this report includes a survey of the different public relations activities of the secretariat beyond the permanent tasks of every-day organisation of meetings, coordination and assessment of ICPR work.

The list includes lectures of the President of the ICPR and of the staff of the secretariat for various visitors' groups from all over the world, the participation in and lectures during congresses, seminars and other events and gives an overview over publications in technical magazines and/or contributions to reports of other organizations.

Within the coming twinning activities in cooperation with the UNECE, the preparation of the 2nd Rhine-Mekong-Symposium and further organisations the ICPR secretariat or ICPR delegates will in future exchange information with other organisations working on water protection.

## **Recent publications (July 2014 – July 2015)**

### **Major reports on [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)**

Draft of the Second Management Plan according to WFD (19.12.2014)

Draft of the First Flood Risk Management Plan according to the Floods Directive (19.12.2014)

Rhine Atlas 2015 with Maps representing Flood Danger and Flood Risk (June 2015)

### **ICPR technical reports are found under [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)**

- 1) ICPR report no. 223: Survey report on the development of the "Habitat Patch Connectivity along the Rhine" 2005-2013
- 2) ICPR report no. 222: Rhine Monitoring Programme Chemistry 2015-2020
- 3) ICPR report no. 221: Rhine Monitoring Programme Chemistry - HPLC MS/MS Special Assay 2013
- 4) ICPR report no. 220: Development and Assessment of the Rhine Water Quality 2009 - 2012
- 5) ICPR report no. 219: Strategy for the IRBD Rhine for adapting to Climate Change
- 6) ICPR report no. 218: Report of the President of the ICPR 2014
- 7) ICPR report no. 217: Warning and Alarm Plan Rhine – Reports 2013
- 8) ICPR report no. 216: Proposal for a Pilot Programme for Measuring the Pollutant Contamination of Biota/Fish in the Rhine Catchment during 2014/2015
- 9) ICPR report no. 215: List of Rhine substances 2014

### ***ICPR reports to be published by the ICPR after having been adopted by the PLEN-CC15:***

***ICPR report no. 224*** *Phytoplankton of the Rhine in 2012*

***ICPR report no. 225*** *Macrophytes in the Rhine 2012/2013*

***ICPR report no. 226*** *Benthic diatoms in the Rhine 2012*

***ICPR report no. 227*** *The Macrozoobenthos of the Rhine 2012/2013*

***ICPR report no. 228*** *Monitoring of the Rhine fish fauna 2012/2013*

***ICPR report no. 229*** *Assessment of the modification of probability*

***ICPR report no. 230*** *Survey of the WAP-reports 2014*

## Annex 1

### Exchange of information with NGOs acknowledged as ICPR observers, Koblenz, 9 June 2015

#### Participants:

WWF CH	Ruedi Bösiger
WWF NL	Esther Blom
IAWR	Ina Brüning, Gerard Stroomberg
Hochwassernotgemeinschaft Rhein	Ute Eifler
BUND	Heinz Schlapkohl
BUND NRW	Paul Kröfges
NABU Naturschutzstation Niederrhein	Christian Langner
Arbeitsgemeinschaft „Renaturierung des Hochrheins“	Benjamin Leimgruber
Zentralkommission für die Rheinschifffahrt	Gernot Pauli
BBU/AK Wasser	Nikolaus Geiler
Alsace Nature	Jean Wencker
Radboud Universität Nijmegen	Marjolein van Eerd

Discussions during the exchange of information with NGOs with ICPR observer status concerned the changes in the secretariat, new collaborators and the change of executive secretary as well as important events during the past year, such as the award of the Thies International Riverprize and the new ICPR website.

New elements of the draft of the 2nd Management Plan according to the WFD and of the Flood Risk Management Plan were presented. Some NGOs (IAWR, BUND, AG Hochrhein, Alsace Nature) indicated that written comments on these issues are currently being drafted. According to the NGOs it would be important to better highlight certain issues, such as the fact that the sturgeon and certain other fish species have still not returned to certain regions. Furthermore, attention was attracted to certain possibly erroneous indications concerning the continuity of the High Rhine. With respect to flood protection it was criticized that many measures have still not been implemented and it was proposed to strengthen the links between flood protection measures and ecological measures, for example regarding flood polders.

Also, preparations of the new ICPR working programme for the period 2016-2021 were presented and, in this connection, the NGOs pointed out the important issue of micro- and macro-plastic and ongoing studies, and they stressed the value of integral projects.

Furthermore, the NGOs regret their at present restricted resources in personnel and finances for cooperation with the ICPR. The President proposed transboundary and improved coordination among the NGOs.

Marjolein van Eerd presented the results of her analysis of the cooperation between the NGOs and the ICPR within her doctoral thesis. Basically, the NGOs are satisfied with the present cooperation. Problems arise when priorities have to be set, as, at times, schedules and financing do not permit a participation in all meetings.

The President underlined the importance of the NGOs within the ICPR and asked for intensive participation in the PLEN-CC meeting. He also welcomed the spreading of ICPR

publications within the different organisations and asked the NGOs to intensify their mutual exchange of information.

## Annex 2

### Events at the ICPR secretariat or in which the secretariat participated during the session 2014-2015

	<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
1.	9-10 July 2014	BfG sseminar on ecol. river continuity	Koblenz (DE)
2.	18 July 2014	Retirement Dr. Dister	Rastatt (DE)
3.	22 July 2014	Visitors' group: Lake Victoria Basin Commission	Koblenz (DE)
4.	29 July 2014	Visitors' group: Iran	Koblenz (DE)
5.	31 July 2014	Visit: Indian ambassador in DE	Koblenz (DE)
6.	02 August 2014	BUND - Biodiversity	Königswinter (DE)
7.	21/22 August 2014	Flood Symposium Cologne	Cologne (DE)
8.	26-27 August 2014	Meeting of General Secretaries	Wrocław (PL)
9.	15-18 September 2014	International River Symposium / Thiess International RiverPrize	Canberra (AU)
10.	1st October 2014	Visitors' group: TH Delft	Koblenz (DE)
11.	13 - 15 October 2014	Fifth Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins	Geneva (CH)
12.	14 October 2014	UNECE Lunchtime event (Twinning European RiverPrize)	Geneva (CH)
13.	30 October 2014	6th Flood Conference of the German-Dutch Working Group 'Floods'	Rees (DE)
14.	27-29 October 2014	European River Restauration Conference	Vienna (AT)
15.	18-19 November 2014	BfG sseminar remote sensing	Koblenz (DE)
16.	18 November 2014	Acqua Alta trade fair (stand)	Essen (DE)
17.	27 November 2014	Closing event UBA forum: Fish Protection & Downstream Fish Migration	Bonn (DE)
18.	02 December 2014	Visitors' group: WSV trainees	Koblenz (DE)



	<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
19.	23 January 2014	Visitors' group: Geograph. Institute University in Bonn	Koblenz (DE)
20.	9.-11. February 2015	Connective cities: Flood management and urban drainage	Cologne (DE)
21.	18 February 2015	Scientist from South Korea	Koblenz (DE)
22.	10-11 March 2015	Working Group Floods	Bruxelles (BE)
23.	19-20 March 2015	UN-ECE Workshop "Transboundary flood risk management"	Geneva (CH)
24.	23-24 March 2015	EU Water Conference	Bruxelles (BE)
25.	24-27 March 2015	Congress WASSER BERLIN INTERNATIONAL (lecture + stand)	Berlin (DE)
26.	21 April 2015	Book presentation 50 years cooperation on the rivers Rhine, Meuse, Scheldt and Ems	Utrecht (NL)
27.	08 May 2015	SOLUTIONS project (lecture)	Barcelona (ES)
28.	5-6 May 2015	Ecological colloquium of the BfG "Ecosystem Performance - Challenges and Chances of River Management"	Koblenz (DE)
29.	19-20 May 2015	River Restoration Centre conference (RESTORE), lecture	Northampton (UK)
30.	26 May 2015	Visitors' group: River basin commission from Central Asia (GIZ)	Koblenz (DE)
31.	28-29 May 2015	EEA: Expert meeting „Environmental impacts of floods/Flood protection impacts on the environment“ (lecture & discussion)	Copenhagen (DK)
32.	03-04 June 2015	CCNR plenary session & 200 years CCNR	Rotterdam (NL)

	<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
33.	05 June 2015	Visitors' group: UNESCO students' group, TU Delft	Koblenz (DE)
34.	08 June 2015	Indian journalist (newspaper/online: 500.000 million Hindi)	Koblenz (DE)
35.	09 June 2015	Environment Committee: Renewal of the concession for Kembs	Kembs (FR)
36.	11-12 June 2015	BfG chemical colloquium "Qualitative and hydrological aspects of WSV work"	Koblenz (DE)
37.	12 June 2015	Interview South Korean visitor	Koblenz (DE)
38.	16 June 2015	Podium „Bonn Dialogues“ DKKV, UN-University, Bonn	Bonn (DE)
39.	14 June 2015	20 years monitoring station Worms	Worms (DE)
40.	22-24 June 2015	International Fish Passage Conference (presentation & participation EG FISH with entire session)	Groningen (NL)

### Publications

<b>Where</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP, <a href="http://www.isocarp.org">www.isocarp.org</a> )	The History of the ICPR	Review 10, September 2014
Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft	Entwicklung der IKSR-Strategie zu Mikroverunreinigungen aus Siedlungs- und Industrieabwässern	No. 10, October 2014
Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft	Die chemische Wasserqualität des Rheins und aktuelle ökologische Verbesserungen – Ein Überblick	No. 8, October 2014 p. 448-455.