



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und Reaktorsicherheit



Precautionary Flood Protection in Europe International Workshop

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International and European co-operation on flood protection from the point of view of an environmental NGO

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Workshop organised by Ecologic, Institute for International and European Environmental Policy
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International and European co- operation on flood protection

from the point of view of an environmental NGO

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Wetlands/floodplains in WFD

Art. 1a:

„prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on aquatic ecosystems“

Art. 1e:

„contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts“



Wetlands/floodplains in WFD

Art. 2 (21):

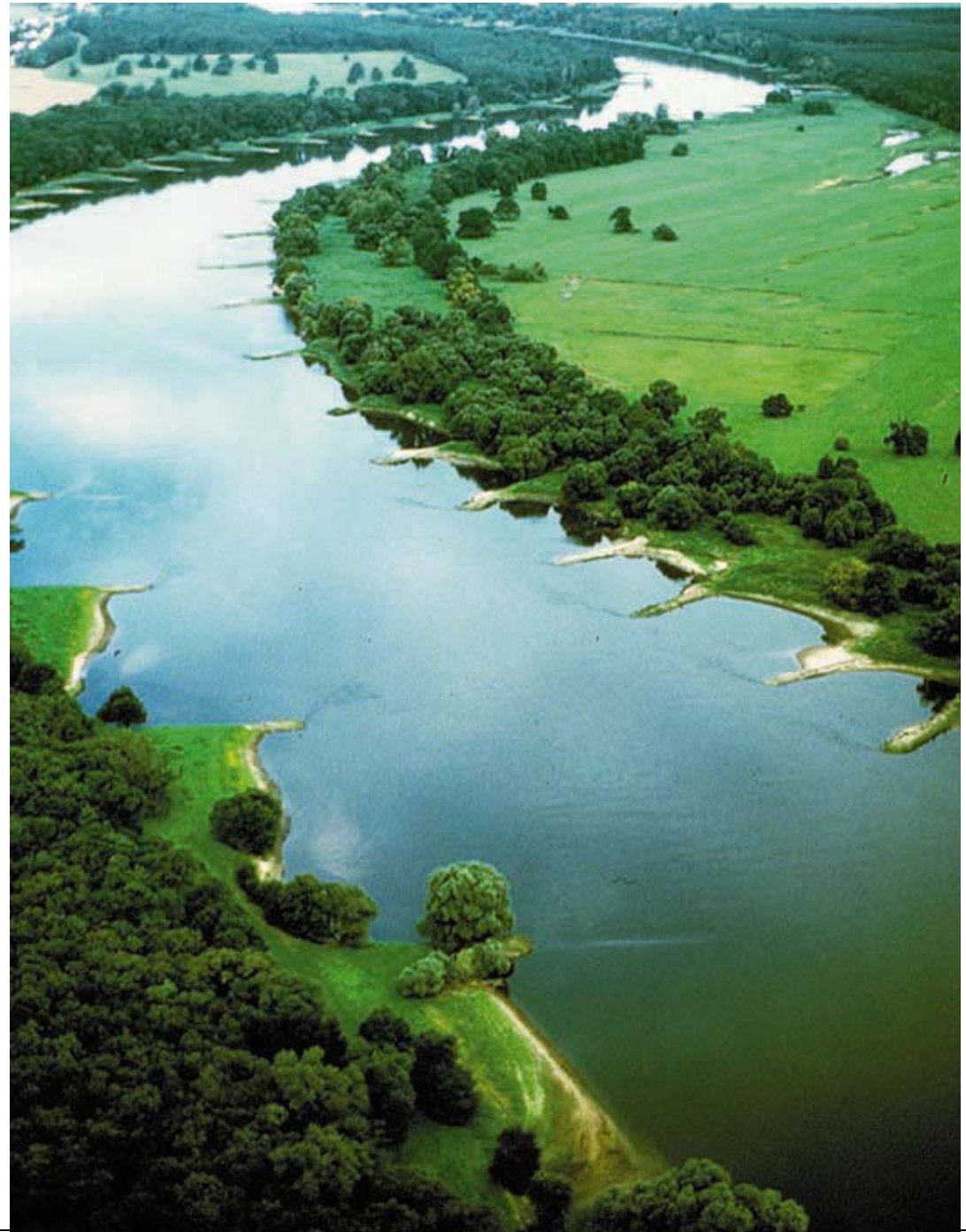
Ecological status is an expression of the quality of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems...

Art. 14:

„...shall encourage active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of the WFD, ...“



The waterbody Elbe river
at „normal“ stage







Protected areas?

Biosphere reserve
„Riverlandscape Elbe“

Red line: Border of reserve

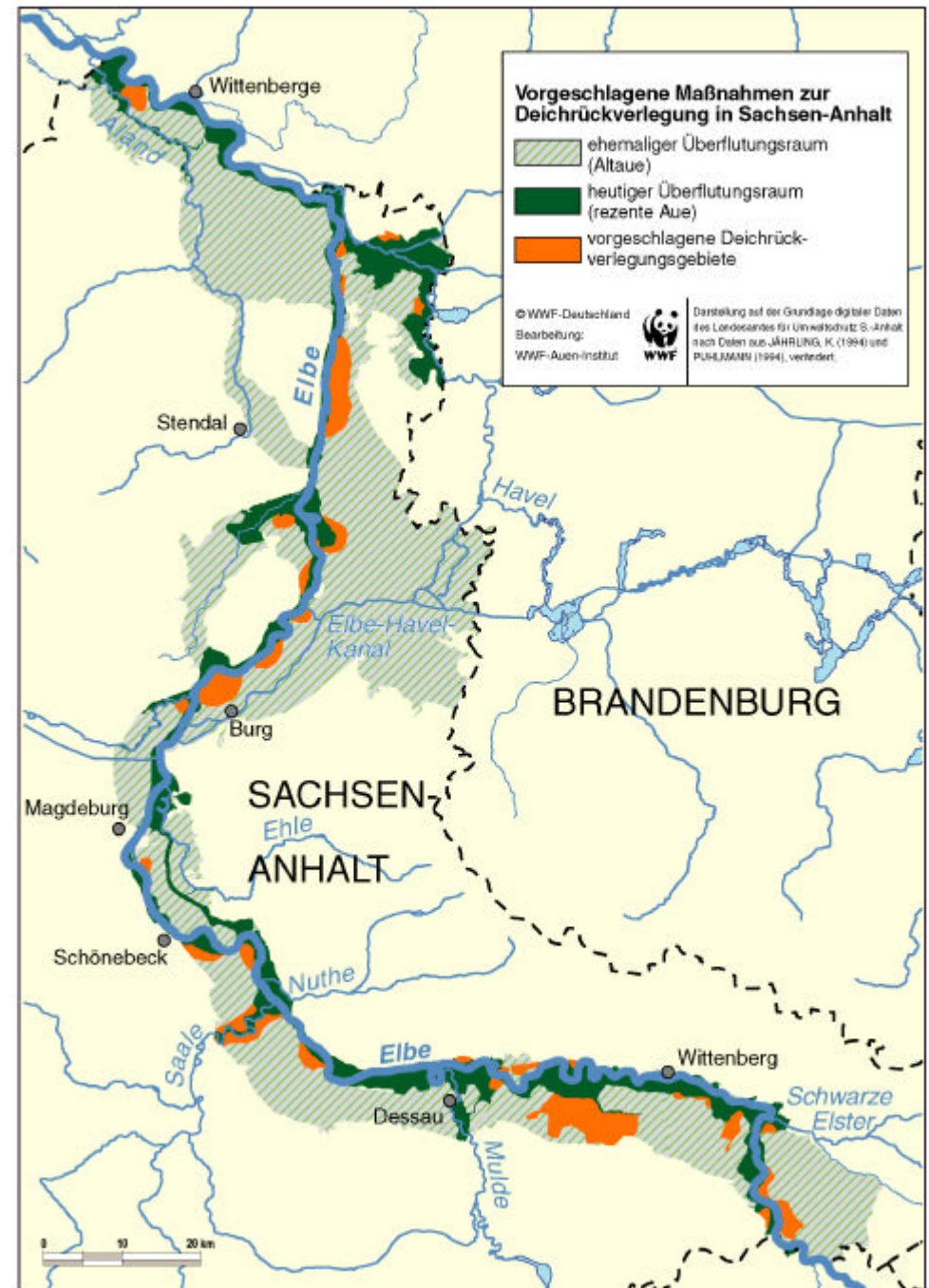
Green areas: Natural floodplain

Ca. 50.000 ha Natura2000 sites





Need for improvements
not only for flood protection
but also to secure the
functioning of the
ecosystem river and
floodplain





Other aspects

Floodplain ecosystems need dynamic processes and therefore dynamic management

River continuum cannot be reduced to the pure water body („discharge channels“)



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Other aspects

There is a clear need for a longterm cooperation and collaboration of the flood protection measures and nature conservation

Protected areas are for itself not a guaranty for the sustainable functioning of ecosystems



„Wishlist“

Integration or alignment of flood protection plans into WFD implementation process

Guidance on ‚wetlands‘

Ecosystem adapted use of conservation policy

