



Case study #10: Germany's Blue Belt

Case study cluster: large transboundary rivers

Case study presentation: Germany's Blue Belt

Country: Germany

Scientific partner: University Duisburg-Essen (UDE)

Implementation partner: Waterways and Shipping Administration, Federal Nature Conservation Agency (BfN), Institute for Federal Real Estate (BImA), NGOs, municipalities

Twinning case study: Marker Wadden (The Netherlands)

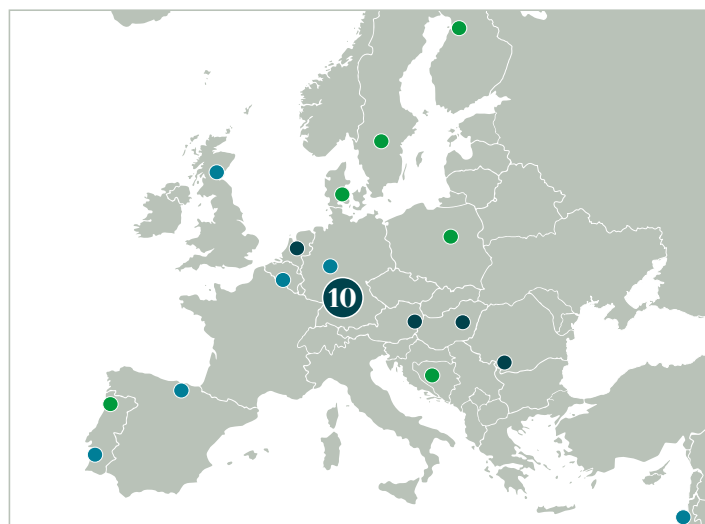
Website:

www.bafg.de (German Federal Institute of Hydrology);
demonstration I: www.blaues-band.bund.de
(Website Germany's Blue Belt);
demonstration II: tinyurl.com/bdzbnphf

Demonstration I

„Germany's Blue Belt programme“

- **Type of restoration:** In total, 39 different types of restoration measures are to be applied, ranging from measures in the river channel (e.g., riverbed development, restoring natural discharge levels, removal of barriers), to river bank and in riparian zones (e.g., removal or nature-based conversion of bank fixations, development of riparian strips, creation of low disturbance areas) to floodplains (e.g., ecological development of oxbows and flood channels, nature based flooding of polders, extensifying floodplain land use).
- **Size:** approx. 4350 km national waterways and their floodplains (240,000 ha)
- **Location(s):** national
- **Value of the case:** The value of Germany's Blue Belt emerges mainly from two aspects: 1) the large spatial scale covered, and 2) the attempt of mainstreaming multifunctional, cross-sectoral views on waterways with benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The main focus of the Blue Belt is to improve and re-establish a riverine habitat network on the national scale through ecological restoration, nature-based modification of grey infrastructures, and protective measures. Whenever possible, measures are designed multifunctionally to leverage synergies for different sectors, such as conservation, water management, navigation and tourism. Long-term funding has been secured by a cross-ministerial agreement, but there is also the opportunity of private funding. The program can capitalize on successful methods for public participation and it is advised by high-ranking representatives of important stakeholder associations and economic sectors. The success of the programme will be evaluated based on a comprehensive scientific monitoring.
- **Stakeholders involved:** Waterways and Shipping Administration, Federal Ministries, Federal States, nature protection agencies, recreation and leisure associations





- **Sectors involved:** transport & navigation, tourism, agriculture, nature conservation, water management
- **Innovations being applied:** Restoration actions in rivers and floodplains are jointly planned and implemented from scratch by conservation and navigation sector, with intensive support by specialised authorities and agencies, environmental and tourist associations, and relevant local and regional stakeholders. Implementation measures are accompanied through innovative research activities. Long-term funding is secured by a cross-ministry agreement and explicit budget titles. There is also periodic, systematic monitoring and reporting towards the Ministries and the Federal Government concerning the goal achievement of the programme.

Demonstration II

„Pilot project ‘Kühkopf-Knoblochsau‘“

- **Type of restoration:** complete removal of bank protection, nature-based modification of necessary bank protection, development of natural river banks and increasing river-floodplain connectivity; implementation in 2019, monitoring ongoing
- **Size:** river kilometers 475.50 - 476.20; project area approx. 1.2 km²
- **Location:** Stockstadt am Rhein
- **Scope:** local
- **Vicinity:** rural
- **Stakeholders involved:** Waterways and Shipping Administration for the Upper Rhine, Federal Institute of Hydrology, Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute, Federal State Hesse, Regional Council of Darmstadt
- **Innovations to be applied:** combination of complete removal of bank protection and nature-based modification of river banks in a highly frequented waterway



Bundesprogramm Blaues Band Deutschland (BBD)



Quelle: Fachstelle für Geoinformationen Süd, Regensburg (Kartographie), zur Verfügung gestellt gemäß GeoNutzV
Bundeswasserstraßen, die eine Länge von unter 5 km aufweisen, sind maßstabsbedingt teilweise nicht dargestellt.

Stand: Januar 2019 W 162 km

— Bundeswasserstraßen und Auen, die Teil der BBD-Kulisse sind

— Seewasserstraßen des Bundes
— Binnenwasserstraßen des Bundes, die nicht Teil der BBD-Kulisse sind