

# INTERNATIONAL BASIN ORGANISATIONS

## WHAT FOR?

### An example : the Rhine river

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Commission

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# international coopération on the river Rhine : an ancient history

- The first main difficulty to be dealt with : obstacle to navigation to be removed
- A first Treaty : 1668

# Excerpts from the Wesphalien Treaty 1648

- From now on, let traffic and passages be free to the inhabitants of one and the other bank of the Rhine, and adjacent provinces;
- it is not allowed to any party to restrain, stop, on any pretext whatsoever passers boats,
- It will not be allowed to establish on the Rhine new taxes, tolls, ...

# How to make it work ?

- A common will =>
  - But : not really implementation
- 1668/1815 a lots of new treaties to make it work
  - To no avail
- 1815 : the central Commission for navigation in the Rhine
  - to manage the implementation of the decisions
  - First International river Commission in the world



# Deep Changes, for the better, or?....

1838



1872



1980



# A new commission for the protection of the river

- 1950 first meeting
- 1963 first international convention :  
main objectives :
  - chemical pollution
  - thermal pollution
  - chloride pollution
- Good results with chemical pollution,
- Less in other fields, but.....

# The commission allows a quick reaction to important events

- ▶ December 1986 : a fire in the swiss chemical plant SANDOZ causes an important pollution and an important pressure from public opinion



- ▶ immediate action could be taken by the commission
- ▶ 1987 – 1999 : action takes then an more political dimension :

Ministers held regular meetings and decided on a **plan of action**

(= before the European framework directive)



# Among the results

- ▶ Organic and nitrogenous pollution are under control
- ▶ Reduction from 80% to 50% of toxic pollution
- ▶ Migratory fishes and especially the salmon are back

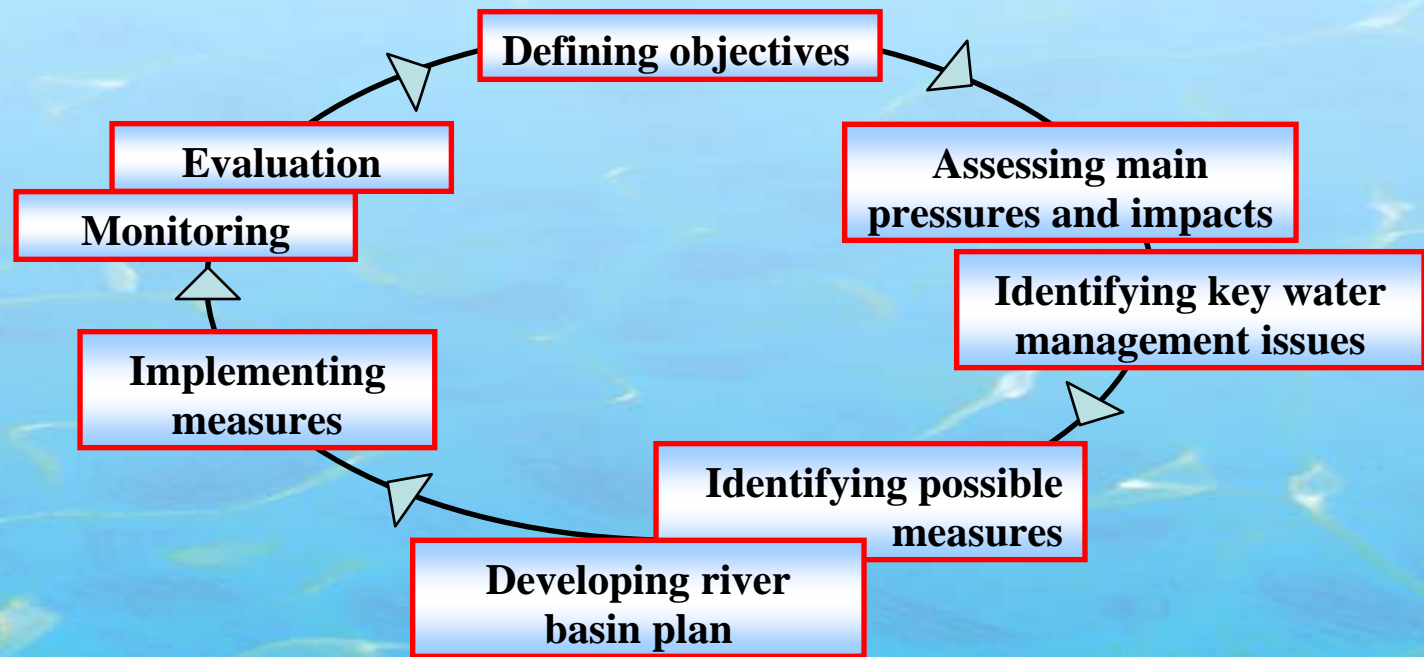


# What is made possible in a Commission ?

**A process that happens in stages :**

- 1) Set objectives = what we want**
- 2) Identify the problems to be resolved = what are the key questions to be dealt with**
- 3) Elaborate strategies = action plan**
- 4) Implement**
- 5) Assess the results (revise the plan to make it more effective)**

# An iterative process





**Thank you for your attention**

***Best wishes for productive  
exchanges***