

German Environment Agency

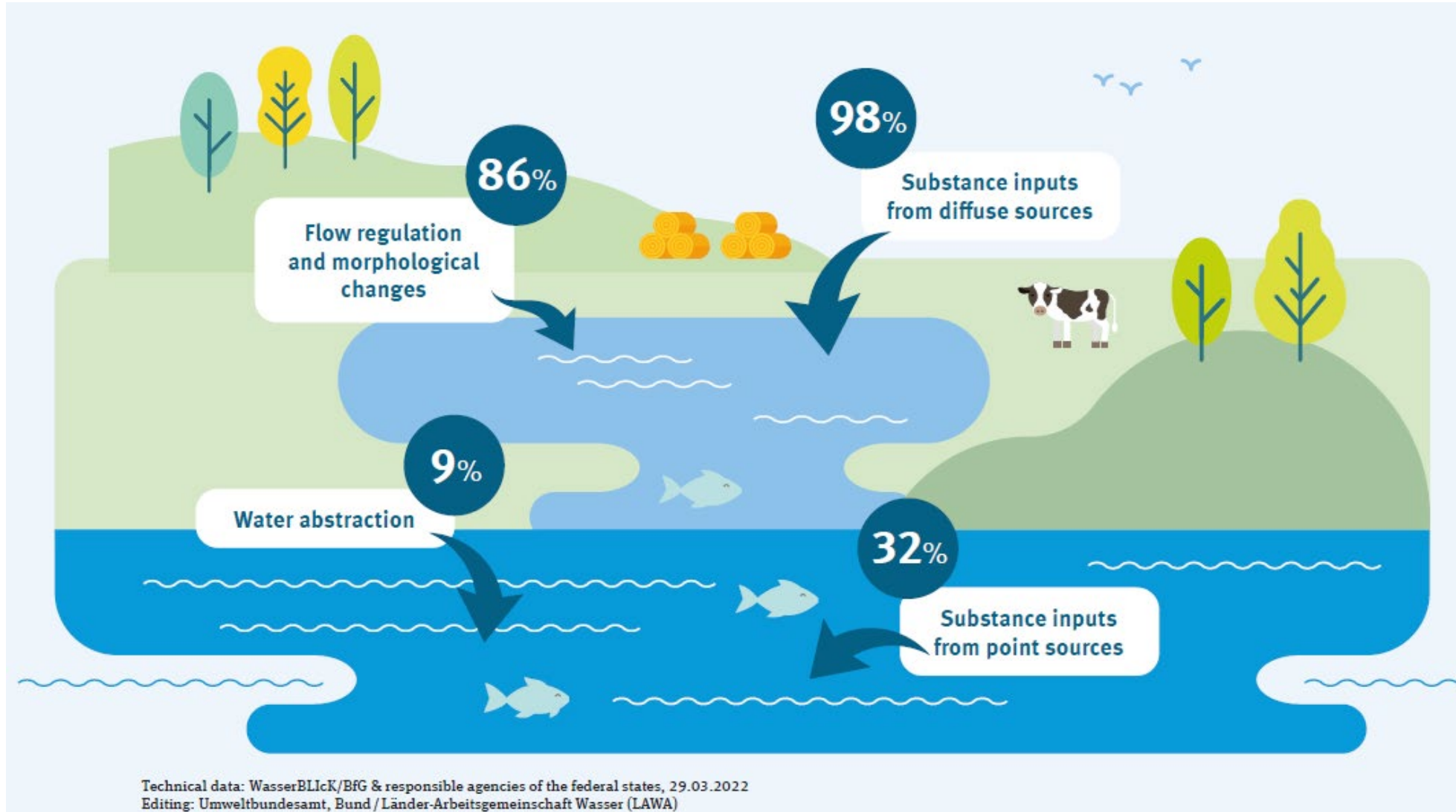
Umwelt   
Bundesamt

EURO-INBO Conference, October 2023, Valencia

# Status of German waters under the WFD 2021 and the way forward in water management

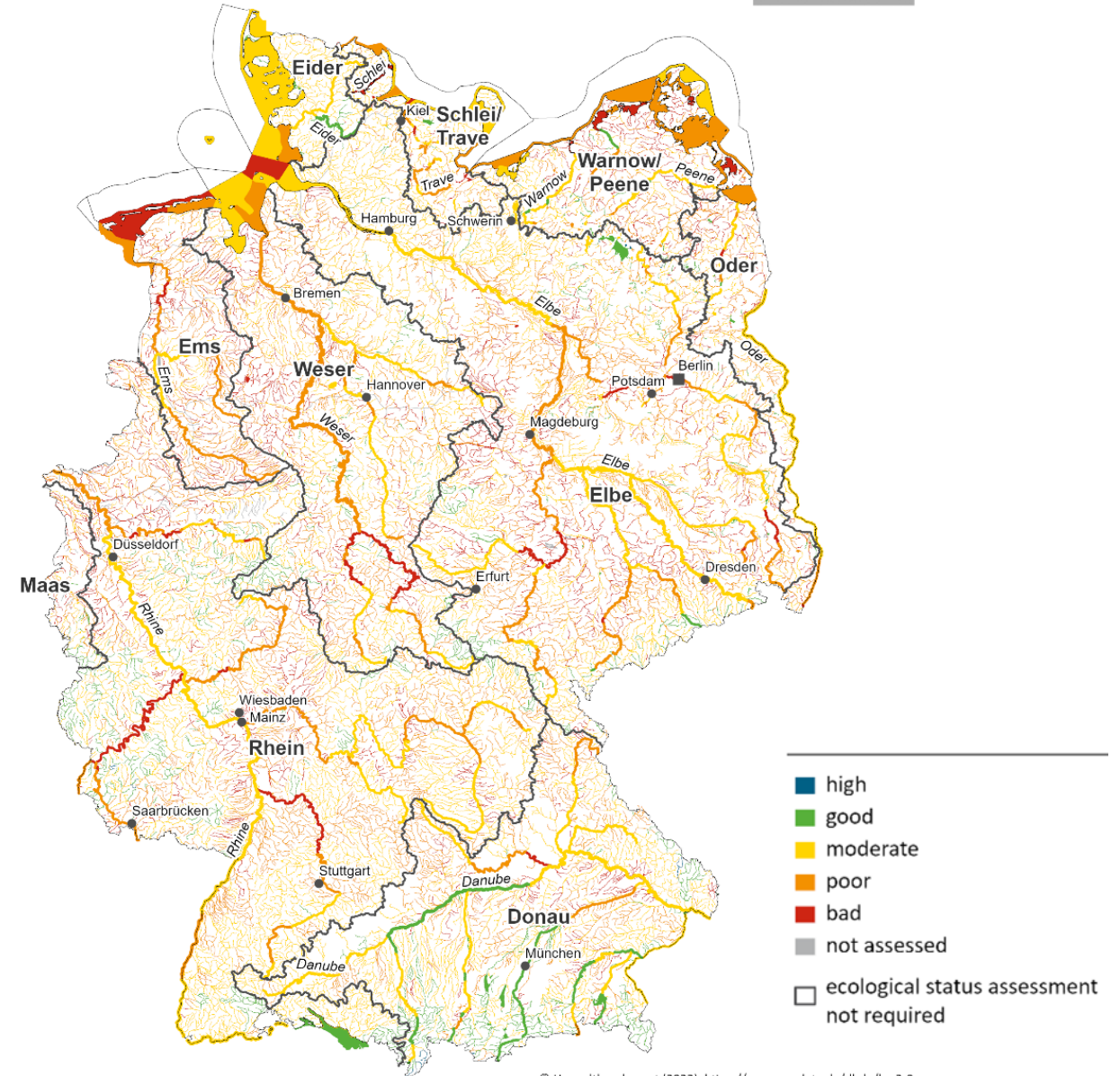
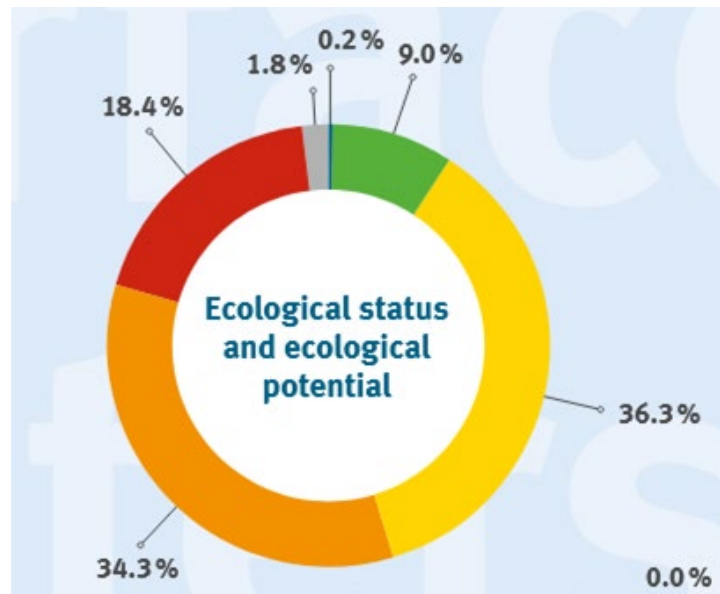
Jeanette Völker  
Head of unit Inland Waters

## Multiple pressures on surface waters in Germany



## Results ecological status 2021

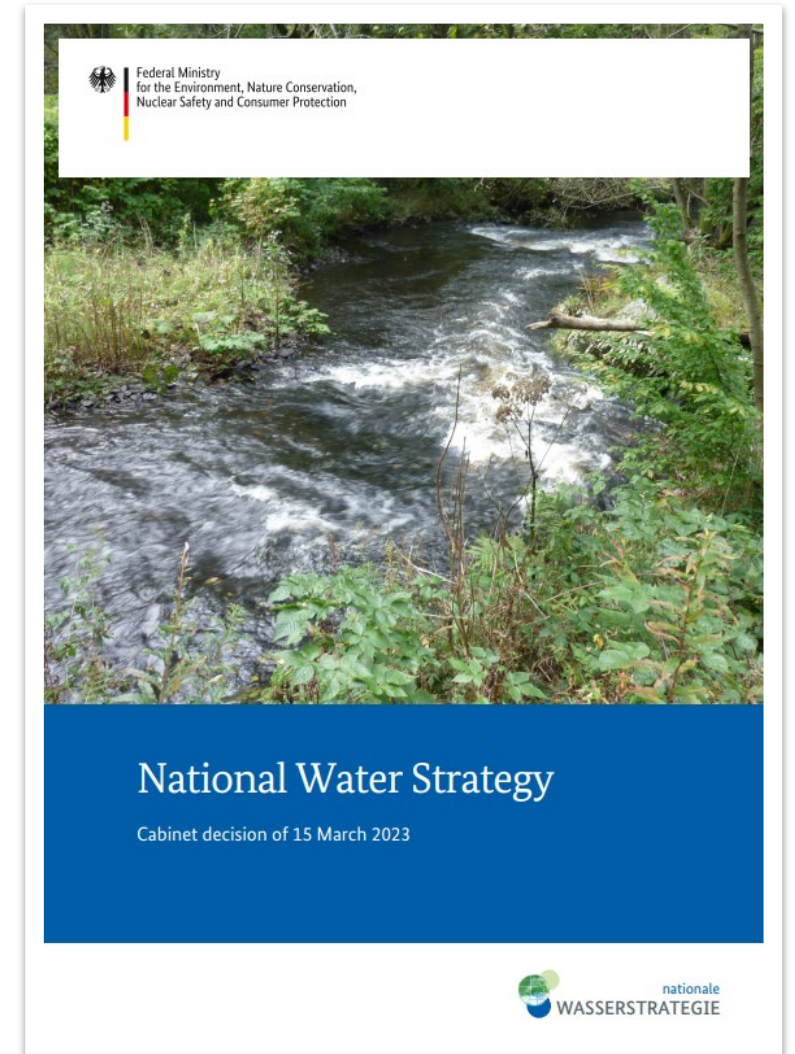
- More than 90 % of the water bodies fail to meet the WFD targets;
- 9.2 % achieve very good or good ecological status;
- 2015: 8.1% - slight improvement



# New challenges

## Three main crisis

1. Climate change
  - Increasing temperature and droughts
  - More frequently heavy rainfalls
  - Decreasing groundwater level
2. Biodiversity loss
3. Pollution of groundwater, surface- and marine waters
  - Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous)
  - Chemicals



National Water Strategy - Cabinet decision of 15 March 2023 (bmu.de)



# National Water Strategy – transformation in water management

Current and future challenges of water management require consistent and integrated action



Focus on precautionary measures:

- ...as public service
- ...for ecosystem health
- ...for future generations

Time horizon 2050 –  
Programme of water measures to 2030  
⇒ first steps as of now!



Not only water management addressed –  
All water users and society as a whole are called upon!



BMUV / Sascha Hilgers

**The importance of intact and resilient ecosystems is underlined!**

# National Water Strategy – 10 strategic issues



Raise awareness of water as a resource



Mitigate risks caused by **pollution**



Further develop sustainable **management of water bodies** – achieve and preserve **good status**



**Link water, energy and substance cycles**



Further develop **water infrastructure adapted to the climate** – protect against extreme events and ensure supply



Realise **water compatible and climate adapted land use**



Strengthen **efficient administrations**, improve **data flows**, optimise legal frameworks and **secure financing**



Work together to protect **global water resources** for the long term



Protection of **marine areas** (North and Baltic Seas) from pollutants from land



Protect a semi-natural water regime – prevent **water scarcity and conflicting goals**

## Programme of water measures

No focus on water management alone - integrated approach!

Other thematic areas are addressed: Soil, agriculture, planning, etc.

Actions need to be adressed in combination

Timing of actions: short term (within the next 5 years), medium term (5-10 years) or long term (> 10 years)



↓  
The process of implementation already started

# Thank you!

Jeanette Völker

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<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/water>