D.T3.5.2 - REPORT FROM NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

AUSTRIA

WasserCluster Lunz **December 2019**

1. General Data

Country:	**Austria**
Date & Place:	**Amt der Oö. Landesregierung** Direktion Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft Abteilung Wasserwirtschaft 4021 Linz • Kärntnerstraße 10-12 **17. Dezember 2019, 14:00 - 17:00**
Organizers:	WasserCluster Lunz: Eva Feldbacher, Damiano Baldan, Thomas Hein organizer from stakeholder side: Torben Walter
Documents See Annex for: • Scan of list of participants • Agenda • Photos	

2. Report

Main points of the dialogue / short summary *(max 2000 characters)*
Please prepare short summary of the dialogue with main messages so that we can use it as an article or promotion for social media, web page, etc.

Summary

On Dec 17 a stakeholder meeting took place at the water authority's office at Linz/Upper Austria to present and discuss the preliminary results of the FramWat project. The focus was put on presenting and discussing the preliminary dynamic modelling results of the Austrian pilot catchment Aist.

Stakeholders were very much interested in the modelling results of the catchment for the main catchment issues siltation, habitat suitability, and habitat connectivity for the key species *Freshwater Pearl Mussel* (*FPM*). The model results clearly reflect the stakeholders' knowledge of the catchment and the existing problems in the sediment balance.

The measures chosen for the NSWRM implementation modelling were discussed lively; doubts were expressed concerning the assumptions of the measures' efficiency parameters originating from general references within the model environment. Stakeholders stressed their opinion that catchment specific assumptions have to be applied and that literature values have to be adapted to the catchment specific situation.

Beside the variant of maximum potential implementation, a main discussion point was the definition of a variant modelling measures approved by the stakeholders for the next and final modelling task. The nature protection authority and water management authority have different needs and approaches: Nature protections aims at conserving existing (mapped) FPM populations and at improving conditions for the FMP in appropriate river reaches, thus they would like to get modelling results for maximum measures implemented at local scale. The water authority prefers to get measures suggestions and modelling results for improving hotspots for sand accumulation at catchment scale.

In the end a common agreement was reached on the next steps as well as the timeline. The modelling of variants as a basis for the Action Plan will continue in close interaction with

the stakeholders.

Course of Action

Thomas Hein, managing director of WasserCluster Lunz and FramWat project leader, opened the meeting and acted as facilitator throughout the entire event which took around three hours in total (from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.).
After a short introduction to the agenda, Eva Feldbacher gave an update on the status of the FramWat project, briefly repeated project aims, outcomes and tools again, and introduced the concept of the main FramWat results "Guidelines" and "Action Plan".
Next, Thomas Hein presented in detail the modelling results for the pilot catchment. Damiano Baldan provided the technical modelling background information whenever needed. The modelling part of the meeting ended in an intense discussion about the selected measures and the modelling of the measures variant. An agreement was reached for the next (and final) step - the measures implementation modelling. Additionally, WCL will prepare some more information on the selected NSWRM for a better understanding and acceptance among the stakeholders.
The final part of the meeting was the presentation of some field studies performed in the catchment. These field investigations are not part of the FramWat project itself but part of Damiano Baldan's PhD thesis (paid from a national funding source). Results from the field investigations will ideally be used within the modelling part of the FramWat project and serve as validation and additional information for effectiveness assessment of N(S)WRM combinations.

Participants *(max 500 characters)*
Shortly describe who were the participants, from which sector, institutions, levels, …? How many of them, etc.?

Target groups	**Number** *(please attached also list of participants)*
Local public authority	
Regional public authority	6
National public authority	
Sectoral agency	1 (SME, but manager for Natura2000 site in catchment)
Interest groups including NGOs	
Higher education and research	
International organization	
General public	

**according to the Target groups identified in AF*

Six governmental representatives from the provincial government of Upper Austria took part in the stakeholder event: two from the nature protection department, five from the water management department. The seventh stakeholder participant was the managing director of a private company (SME Blattfisch) that is involved in many environmental and water protection activities in the region and also manages the Natura2000 protected area Waldais-Naarn within the pilot catchment region. This private company is also partner in the Interreg project „Malsemuschel"(Promotion of the natural environment and occurrence of freshwater pearl mussels (Margaritifera margaritifera) in the Malše catchment), covering the Aist's neighbouring river Maltsch and its catchment.

3. Outcomes

Please provide short feedback from your stakeholders on below topic (the ones that you have discussed):

Feedback/comments on the Concept plan / selection of the measures *(max 1000 characters)*
The Concept plan was already sent to the stakeholders in spring, the definition of the chosen variants was not questioned any more. The catchment modelling results for the status quo of the catchment are of high value for the stakeholders as it was for the first time, that a hydrological model and a habitat model in form of a modelling cascade were set up for the catchment. The modelling results reflect the real catchment situation, confirm the stakeholders' knowledge of the catchment and provide new insights. The measures chosen for further modelling are, to some parts, already implemented in the catchment and a further implementation is absolutely realistic. But the assumptions of their efficiency were doubted and the parameters of efficiency will have to be adapted to catchment specific characteristics.
Feedback/comments on the draft structure of the Guidelines (Steps) *(max 1000 characters)*
What are future steps/plans in terms of preparation of the Action Plan? *(max 1000 characters)*
It was agreed that, in a first step, the assumptions concerning the measures efficiency have to be adapted to catchment specific characteristics. Additionally, the measure types need to be explained in more detail, giving also insights into design parameters. Based on this first step, the "maximum possible implementation variant" has to be adapted to get the stakeholders' acceptance. For the final **measures modelling ("measures variant")** we agreed on two specific approaches for the nature protection authority and for the water management authority: The main aim of the nature protection authority is to protect and foster the key species **freshwater pearl mussel** in the catchment. Therefore they identified the most important river stretches based on existing mapping results. We will now model a maximum measures implementation at the chosen sub-catchments and will show results at local (sub-catchment) scale. The water management authority is generally concerned about the sediment and water balance in the region and wants to improve hotspots of sand accumulation. Therefore, they want us to develop an expert measures variant for them that is leading to the best possible improvement of the siltation problem in the whole catchment. In this variant, hotspots of sand accumulation are identified and NSWRMs are implemented in the hydrological model with a targeted approach. The selected measures including parameterization and efficiency, the adapted "maximum possible implementation variant" and the stakeholders' measures variants will become part of the Action Plan. The Action Plan will then be a valuable tool/framework for their further work in the catchment.

Feedback on usability of the tools and how they can be used after the project ends *(max 1000 characters)*
The GIS Tool (WP1) has been presented and discussed in detail at the spring 2018 stakeholder meeting – see report "SUMMARY REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FRAMWAT TOOLS (D.T3.2.2)". The Static Tool/Method was discussed at a stakeholder meeting in October 2018 and the tool was presented to the stakeholders in spring 2019 – see report "INTEGRATED APPROACH ON CUMULATIVE EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT; D.T2.5.1"
Feedbacks/proposals for follow-up/future activities

Agenda:

Framework for improving water balance and nutrient mitigation by applying NATURAL SMALL WATER RETENTION MEASURES (NSWRM)

FramWat - Stakeholder Veranstaltung

Abteilung Wasserwirtschaft, Linz, 17. 12. 2019, 14:00 Uhr

AGENDA

Teil 1 - FramWat Projektinformationen

Teil 2 - Modellierung EZG Aist

- Vorstellung der gewählten Varianten für die Modellierung
- Ergebnisse der „modelling cascade“ - SWAT, HecRAS und Habitatmodell
- Vorstellung der gewählten NSWRM Typen
- Erste Modellergebnisse für NSWRM Umsetzungen
- Diskussion & Stakeholder Input: Maßnahmenverortung

Teil 3 - Felduntersuchungen Waldaist und Maltsch

Allfälliges

WasserCluster Lunz | Damiano Baldan, Eva Feldbacher, Gabriele Weigelhofer, Thomas Hein

List of Participants:

FramWat - Stakeholder Veranstaltung, Abteilung Wasserwirtschaft, Linz, 17. 12. 2019

Anwesenheitsliste

Name	Institution	Unterschrift
ANDERWALD Peter	Land OÖ W-PL	
Gumpinger Clemens	Stattl. e.U.	
Gutmann Stefan	Land OÖ, Abt. Naturschutz	
Sudhva Straub-Wochesberger	Land OÖ, Abt Naturschutz	
Franz GILLINGER	Land OÖ; ARA-Linz	
FELIX WEINGRABER	OÖ, WW-HW	
Torben Walke	-"-	
THOMAS HEIN	WCL	
DAMIANO BALDAN	WCL	
EVA FELDBACHER	WCL	

WasserCluster Lunz | Damiano Baldan, Eva Feldbacher, Gabriele Weigelhofer, Thomas Hein

Photos: