Swiss Water Resources Management: A Water Tower with a View

Civic Exchange Water Seminar IV, Hong Kong, 5 March 2015







Hong Kong





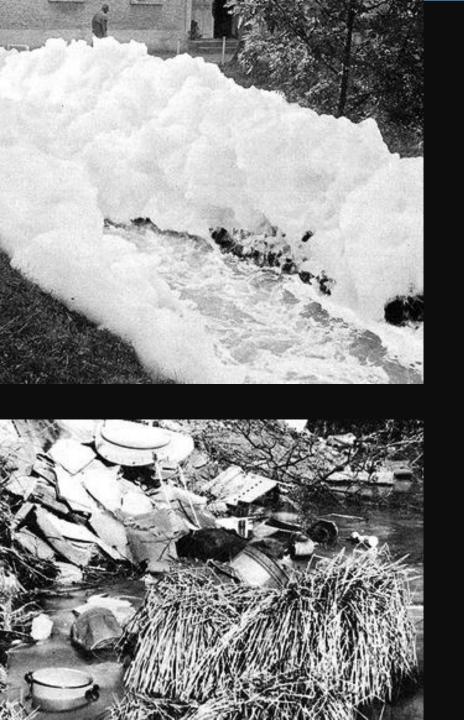
Same same but different

Hong Kong		Switzerland
300 m ³	Fresh water resources per capita	5,000 m ³
7.2 million	Population	8.1 million
53,000 USD	GDP PPP per capita and year	54,000 USD
15	Human Development Index ranking	3
2	Engineering Universities in top 50 worldwide	2
3	Easiness of doing business ranking	20
1	Globalization Index ranking	5

Beyond drinking: water is life

Water scarcity
is about optimization and risk management,
both in Hong Kong and Switzerland





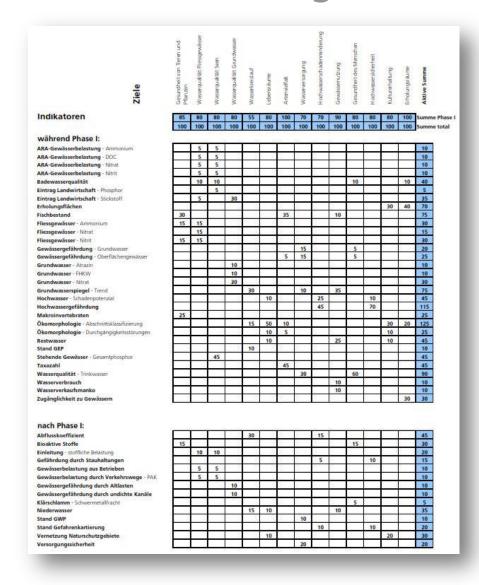




Swiss water recipes for gourmets

- Fusion data
- Regime du jour
- Water à la carte
- Triple stream restoration
- Protection par excellence

Fusion data: brings about innovation

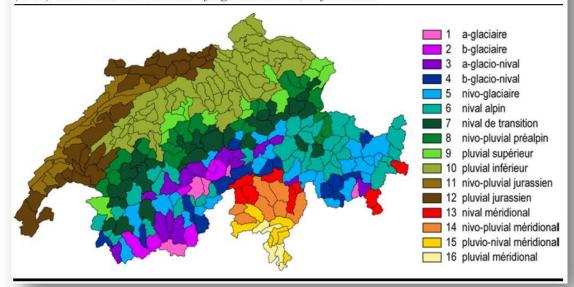


- Invest in monitoring
- Bring together authorities at different level, research, consultants and NGOs
- Examples:
 - Water Master Plan, Canton of Zurich (2000)
 - Swiss National Research Program 61 on Sustainable Water Management (2013)
 - Guidelines for Water Use in Emergency Situations, Federal Office for Environment (2015)

Regime du jour: do it locally, make it flexible

Abb. 6 > Die Abflussregimetypen der Schweiz

Die Abflussregimetypen der Schweiz sind anhand der Bilanzgebiete der Schweiz (HADES, Tafel 1.2) dargestellt. Die Reihenfolge der Regimetypen und der entsprechenden Regime-Codes für die Typen 11 und 12 richtet sich nach der Originalarbeit von Aschwanden und Weingartner (1985) und weicht von der Reihenfolge im HADES, Tafel 5.2 ab.



- Adapt your guidelines, standards, classifications to local conditions
- Negotiate actual conditions with stakeholders
- Be ready to re-negotiate

Examples:

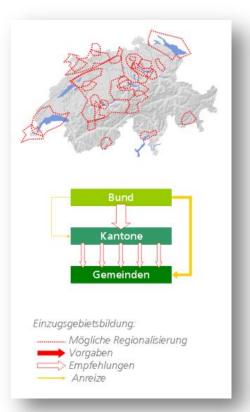
- Hydrology-Flow Regime Assessment Methodology, Federal Office for Environment (2011)
- Environmental Impact Assessment for Hydropower on River Landquart (2015)

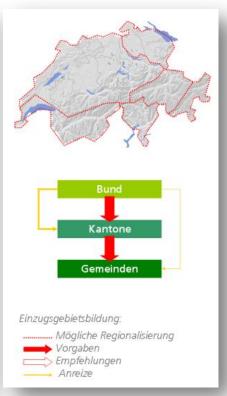
Triple stream restoration: adding value for all



- Always combine flood control, nature and recreation enhancement in river restoration
- Seek majorities in project support, mix financing from different sources
- Example:
 - River Restoration in Zurich
 Area, Private Investor (2015)

Water à la carte: profit from diversity



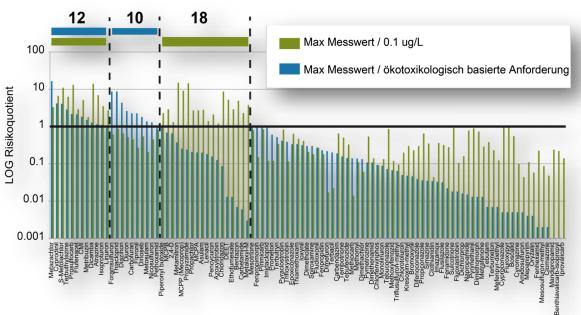


- Be pragmatic with overlaps, believe in institutional competition
- Use the power of economic instruments, but not for target groups which lead the system
- Acknowledge the limits of communication instruments for target groups which are already clearly positioned

Examples:

- Standardization of Key Wastewater Performance Indicator, Swiss Water Association (2006)
- Institutional Models for Swiss Water Management,
 Federal Office for Environment (2010)
- Policy Instruments at Federal and Cantonal Level, NRP61 (2013)

Protection par excellence: nothing is forever



- Have excellent universities and water research centres to serve as early warning systems for policy making
- Install a risk approach at policy level
- Be ready to invest and re-invest
- Examples:
 - Appraisal of Measures to Reduce Micropollutants at Source, Federal Office for Environment (2015)
 - Revision of Federal Ordinance on Water Protection, Federal Office for Environment (2015)

There is no magic spoon, it's the ingredients

