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Federal Department
of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Hazard Prevention Division

Switzerland's focus for an enabling environment for DRR

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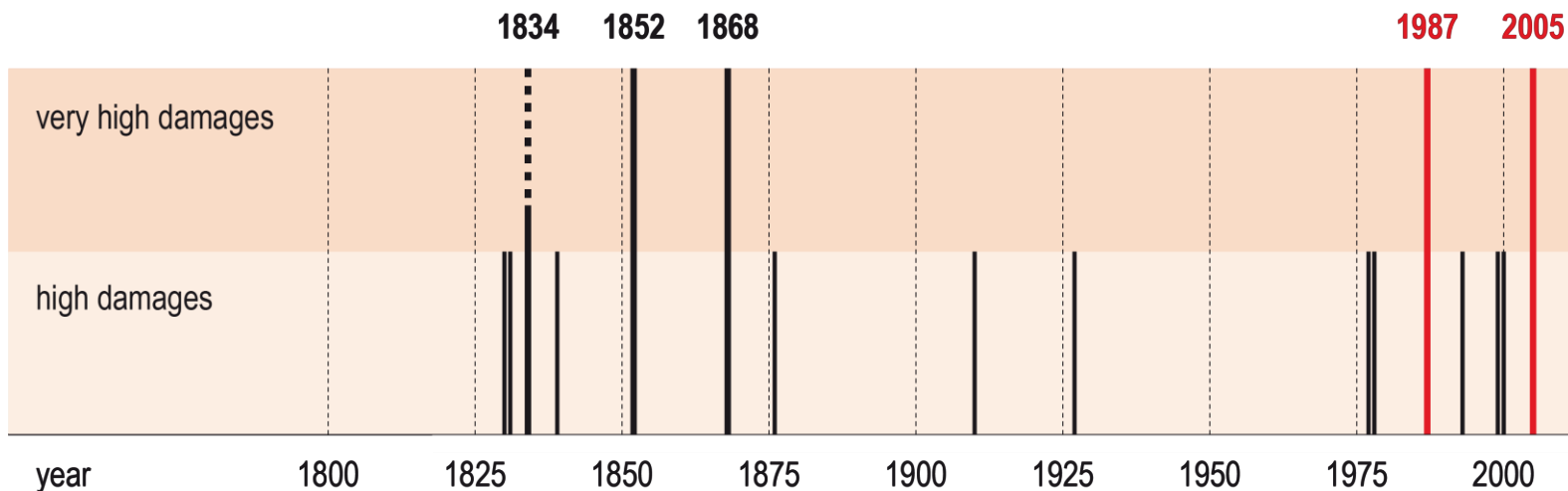


Disaster events since 1800

Watercourse corrections



«disaster gap 1882 - 1976»



Pfister (2009): Gaia



- **hazard fundamentals**
- **land use planning**, to prevent the build-up of new risks
- maintenance of river courses/protection facilities

2005 floods

- improve **coordination**
- improve **forecasts, early warning** and alerting
- raise public awareness

Shift from hazard to risk → Integrated Risk Management IRM



Integrated risk management IRM

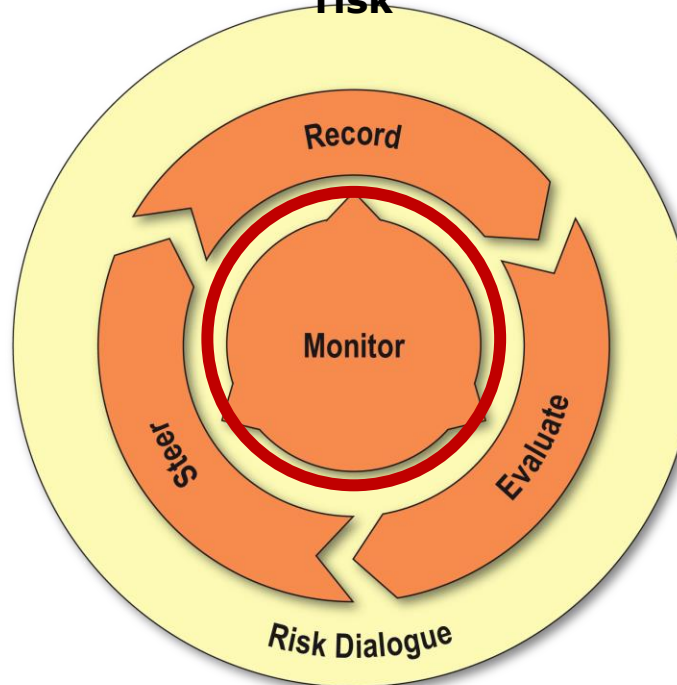
What can happen?

Analysis of **hazard exposure, vulnerability and risk**

What should be done?

Use all chances to influence the risk:

- **Avoid risk**
Land-use planning
- **Reduce risk**
Structural and non-structural measures
- **Transfer risk**
Insurance

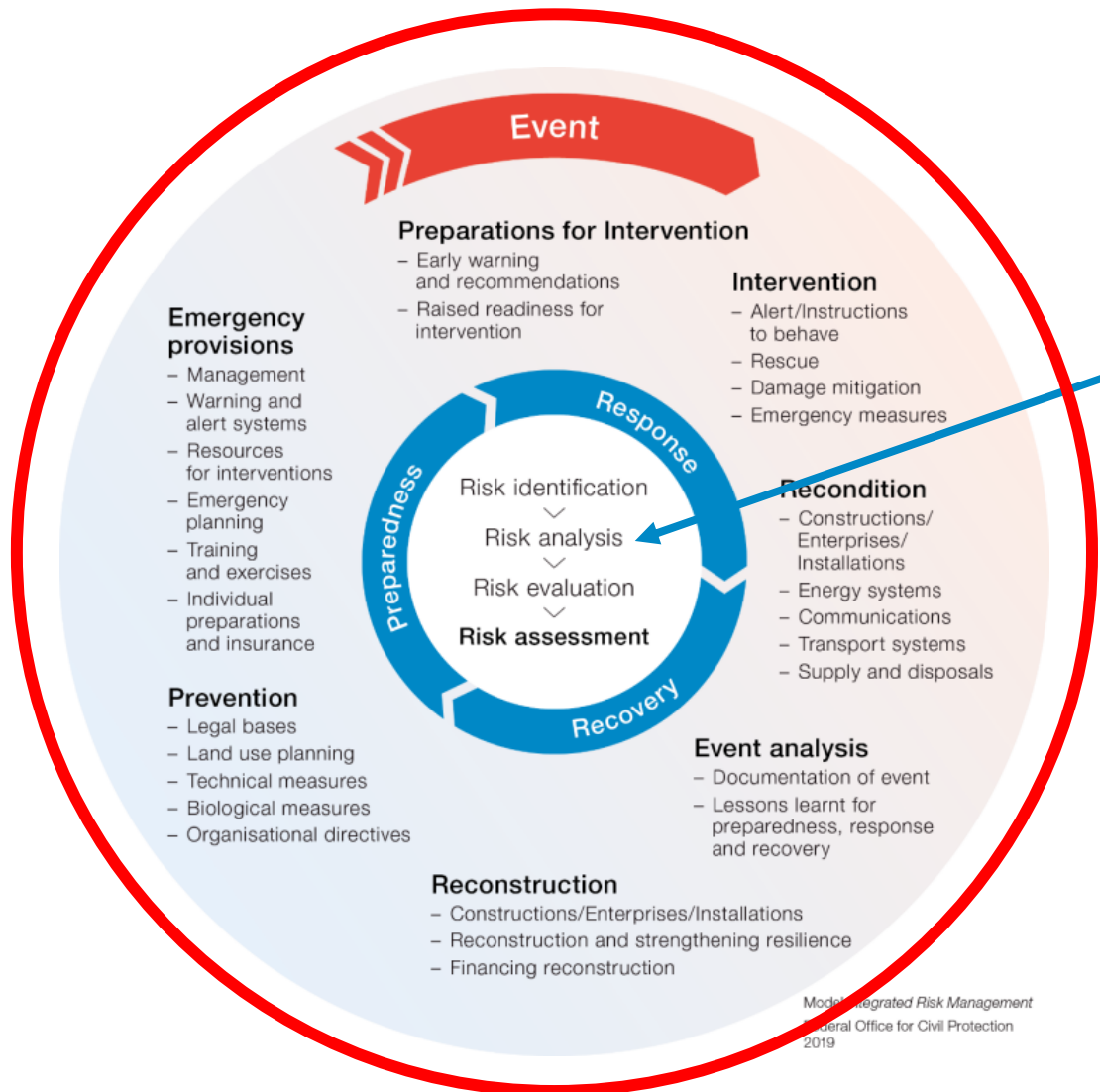


What is allowed to happen?

Identification of **protection deficits** based on protection objectives



Cycle of measures in IRM



Risk fundamentals are used for **all** risk management phases

Needs an enabling environment



Make DRR a policy priority, provide a legal framework and strategic orientation

Policy priority:

- Use windows of opportunities to bring/keep DRR high on the political agenda, make the case: prevention pays!!
- National strategies underline that DRR is a policy priority: [National strategy on DRR](#), [Climate Change Adaption](#), [Sustainable Development](#) or [National strategy for Critical Infrastructure Protection](#)

Legal framework:

- Since 150 years robust legislation (forest and water management)
- Federal acts in all relevant sectors (e.g. water conservation, spatial planning) consider DRR issues
 - Basis for financing protection concepts and measures

Common strategic orientation:

- IRM is known / accepted / applied at all levels





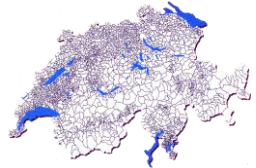
Clear roles and responsibilities



Legislation; policy; **guidelines**; **financial support**; support of research and education; warning and alerting



Enforcement of laws; cantonal land use planning; **hazard mapping**; planning of protection measures, emergency management



Communal land use planning; building permissions, **implementation of protection measures, emergency management**



Private sector and homeowners:
Local protection of buildings; precautionary measures



Mandatory building insurance covering the **remaining risk** and support preventive protection measures



Trustful coordination and participation

Multi-stakeholder committees ensure the build up of trustful and reliable cooperation

- [PLANAT](#): National Platform for Natural Hazards, consists of members from national and cantonal authorities, universities, private sector and insurance companies
- [LAINAT](#): Steering Committee Intervention in Natural Hazards, six federal agencies to issue warnings for the public and community authorities

Transparent and participative decision making

- Extra subsidies (2 %) for participative approach in protection measures
- [Handbook](#) how to do participation in flood protection projects





Capacities and financial resources

- ✓ **Suitable financial resources** need to be allocated (according to roles) and guaranteed in **the long term** → Switzerland provides cantons with **subsidies** (~50%) on a four-year basis
- ✓ Overall **awareness and capacities** for DRR issues at all **administrative levels** and among the **population/stakeholder**
- ✓ Awareness building for decision makers, administration and the public at large (use of window of opportunity)
- ✓ Investing in **basic education and trainings at universities** (Supporting **research** for particular issues)
- ✓ Make sure that related disciplines are aware of DRR and include the topic in their curricula (e.g. architects)



Local involvement

- Hazards impact on local communities
→ risk management needs to be well anchored at local level
- Delegate **responsibilities/rights** as far down as possible
→ local knowledge, ownership and individual responsibility
- **Training of local DRR advisors** (providing local knowledge at municipal or community level)



Mainstream DRR

- Integrate risk reduction in **relevant sector** policies, strategies, programmes and project design (infrastructure, agriculture, land-use planning, etc.)
→ prevent future losses by **risk-informed planning**
- **Private sector** needs to include DRR efforts for protecting their assets, workforce, supply and distribution chains



Take home messages

Common strategic approach to manage risks –
integrated risk management

Key aspects of an enabling environment

1. Persistent **political commitment**
2. Clear **roles and responsibilities**
3. Trustful **cooperation** and **participation**
4. Available **capacities** and **resources**
5. Involvement of **local level**
6. Risk reduction is considered in **all relevant sectors**



Thank you for your attention!

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in some background information, please contact me at:

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