

- 1) Water quality of the Meuse during low river flows
- 2) Contribution of the Roer to the Meuse river flow

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About Dunea

- Drinking water utility
 - 1.3 million customers
 - 80 Million m³/year (9000 m³/hr)
 - Major cities: The Hague, Leiden
- Raw water sources
 - Major intake: Meuse River (side branch)
 - Alternative intake: Rhine River (river Lek)
- Water treatment in five steps
 - Step 1: intake river water / microsieves
 - Step 2: rapid sand filtration
 - Step 3: transportation to the dunes
 - Step 4: infiltration into the coastal dunes
 - Step 5: post-treatment → drinking water



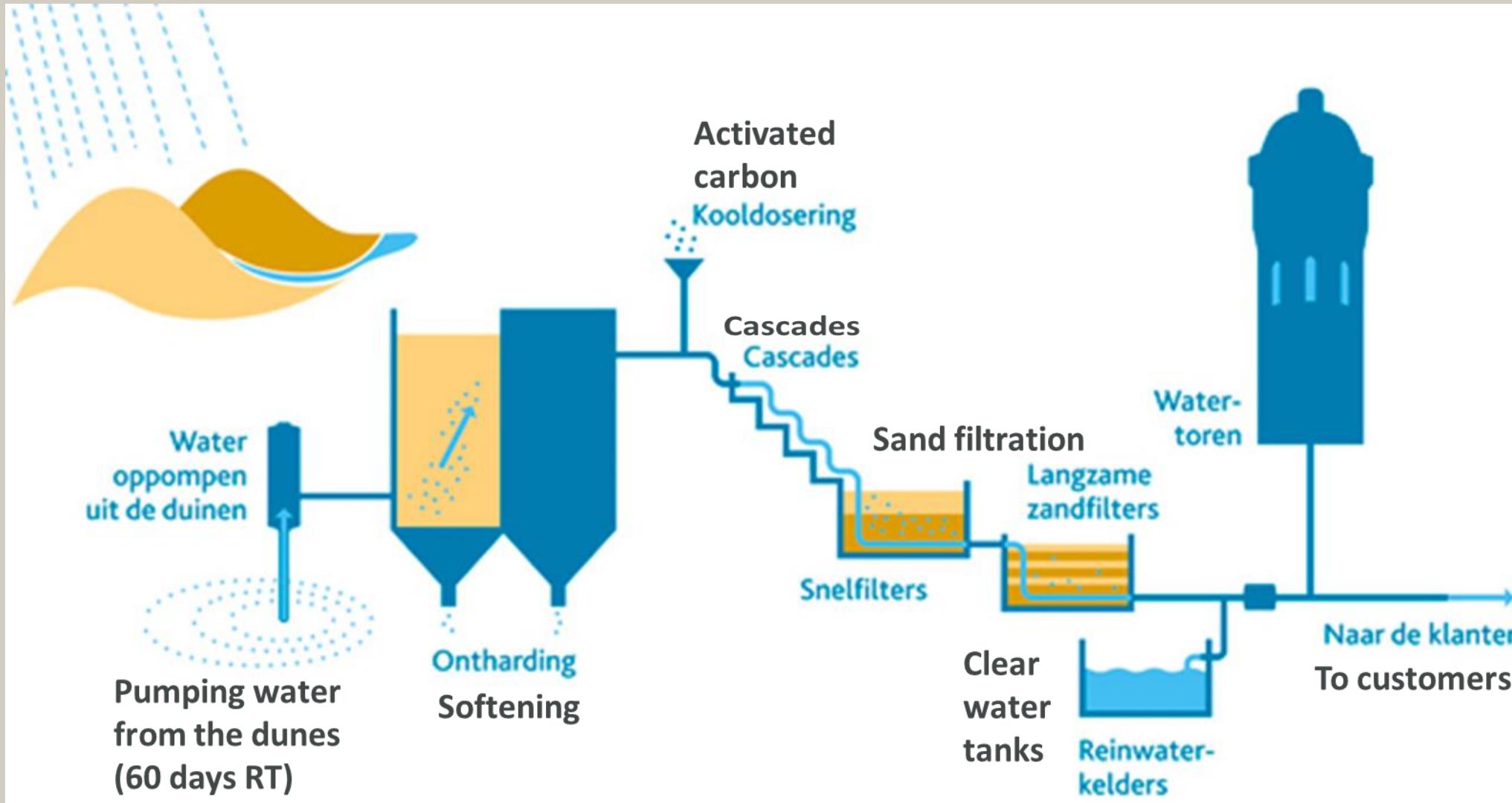
Artificial recharge in the dunes (step 4)



3 Infiltration areas

- Berkheide = $25 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{yr}$
- Meijendel = $48 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{yr}$
- Solleveld = $8 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{yr}$
- Total length: 20 km
- Width: 2-4 km

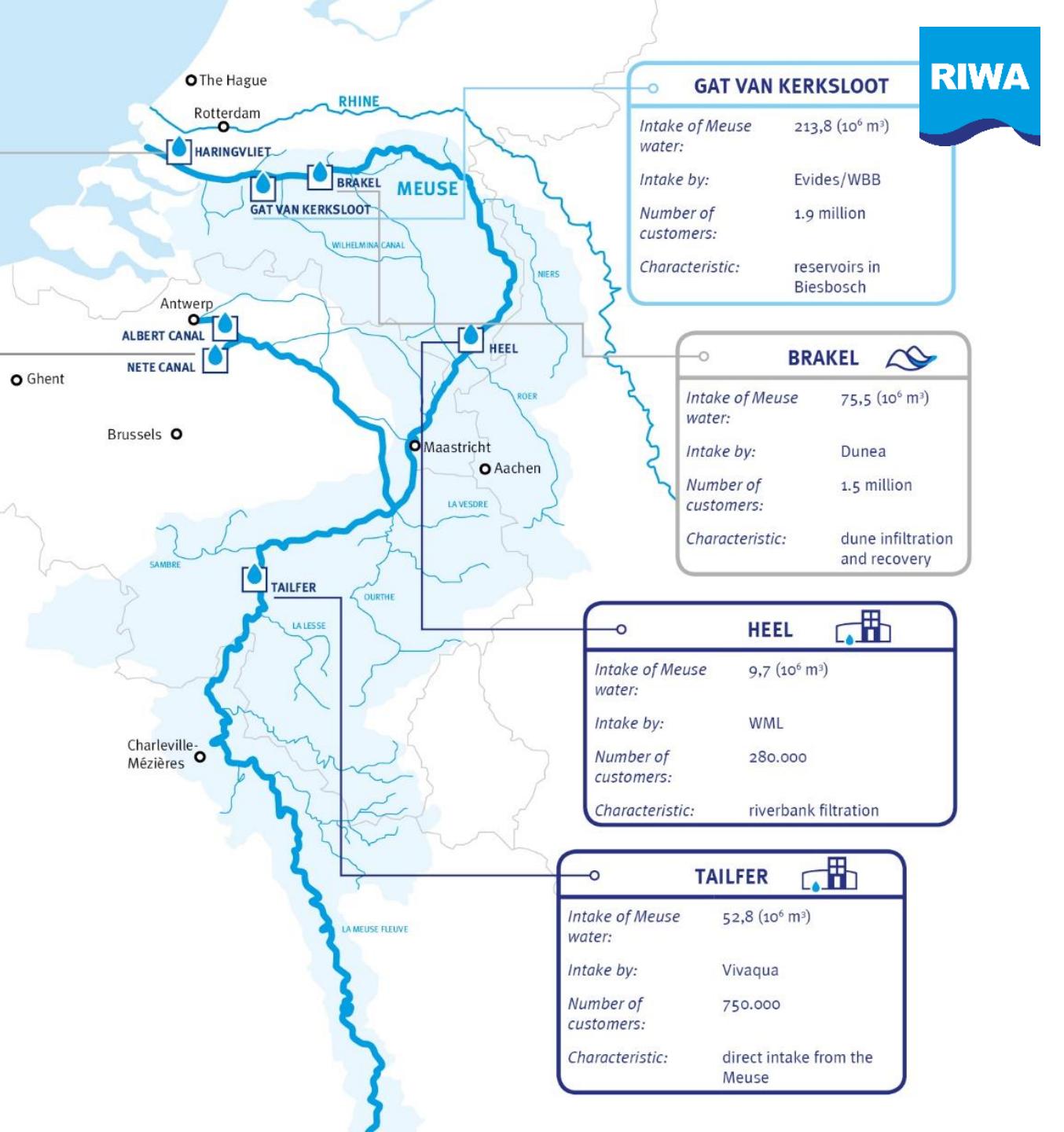
Post-treatment to drinking water (step 5)



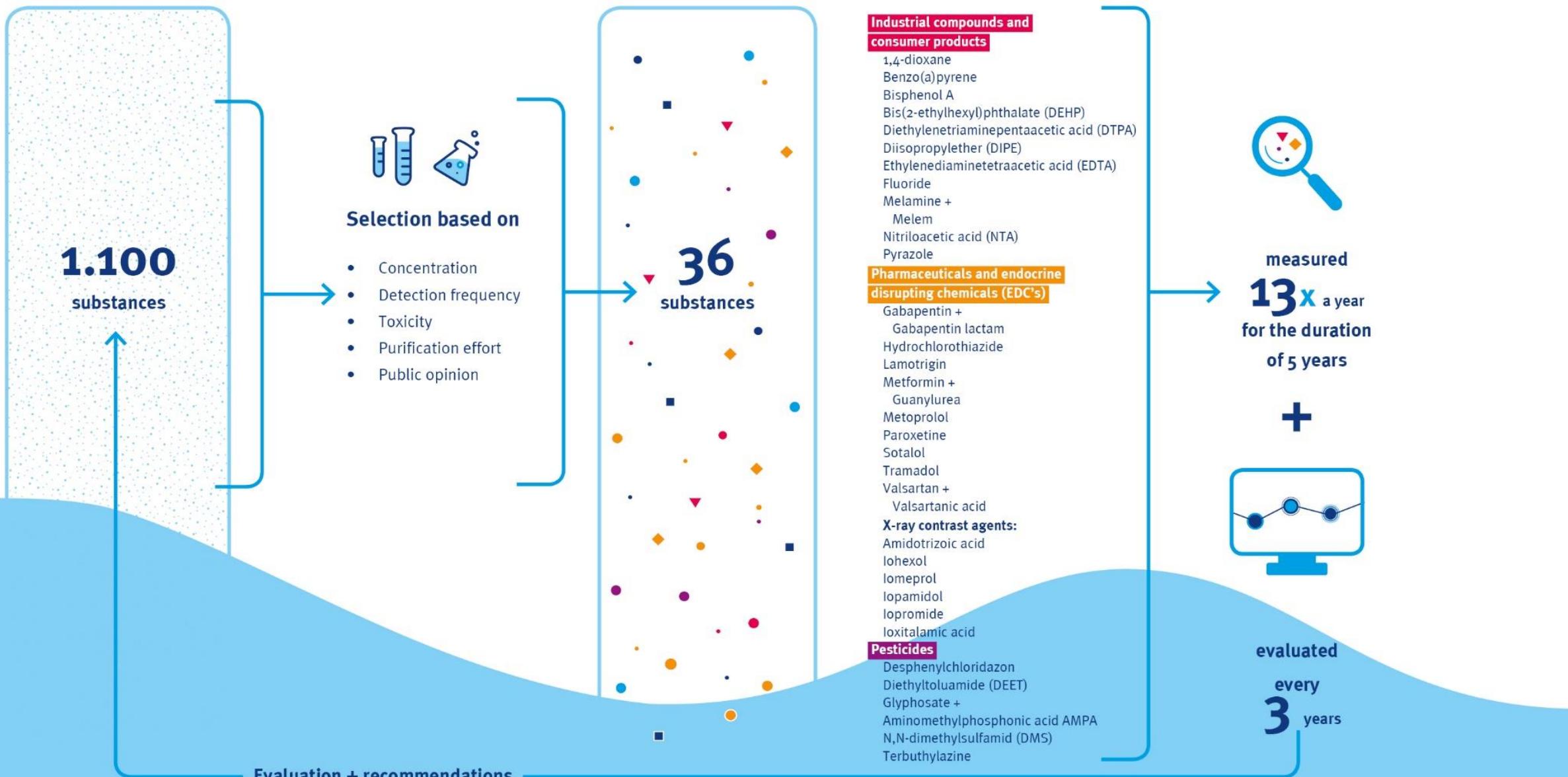
Journey through the river basin

RIWA

SURFACE WATER AS DRINKING WATER SOURCE			
Members RIWA-Meuse	Intake surface water (%)	Intake surface water ($10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$)	Customers provided with surface water
Evides (+WBB)	80%	220	2.0 million
water-link	100%	144	2.5 million
Dunea	100%	76	1.5 million
Vivaqua	30%	53	750.000
WML	25%	10	280.000
Total		503	7,0 million



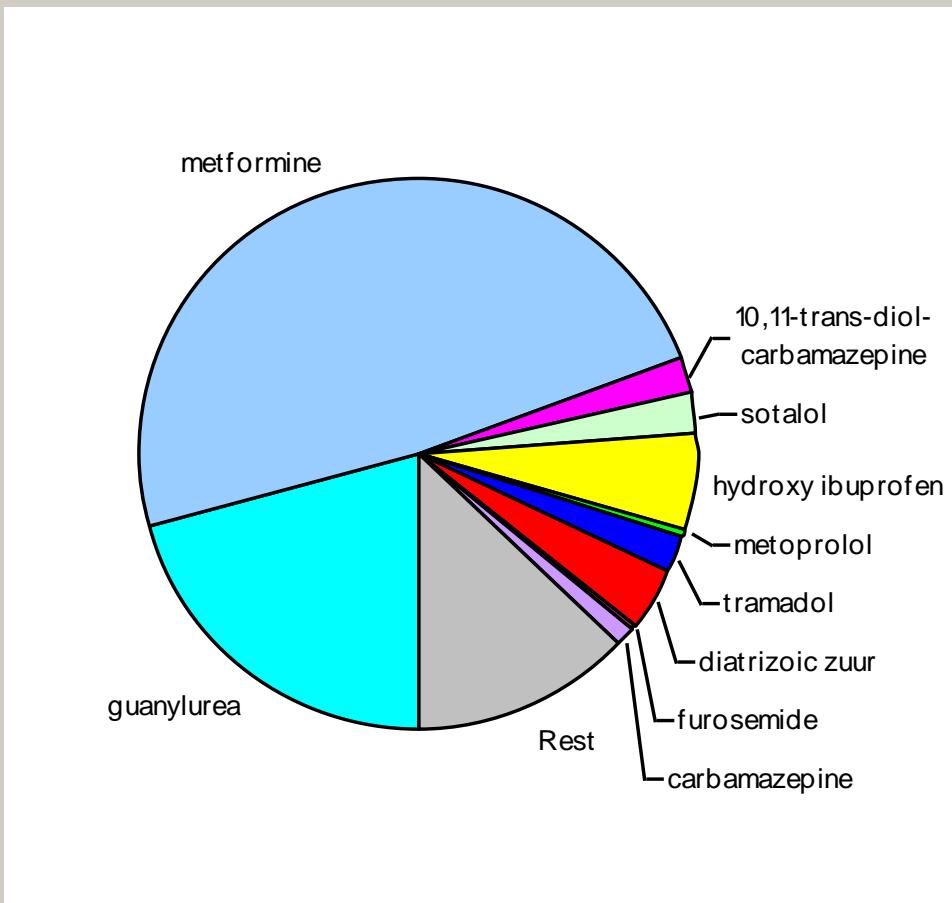
Drinking water relevant substances



Specific substances that exceed intake limits

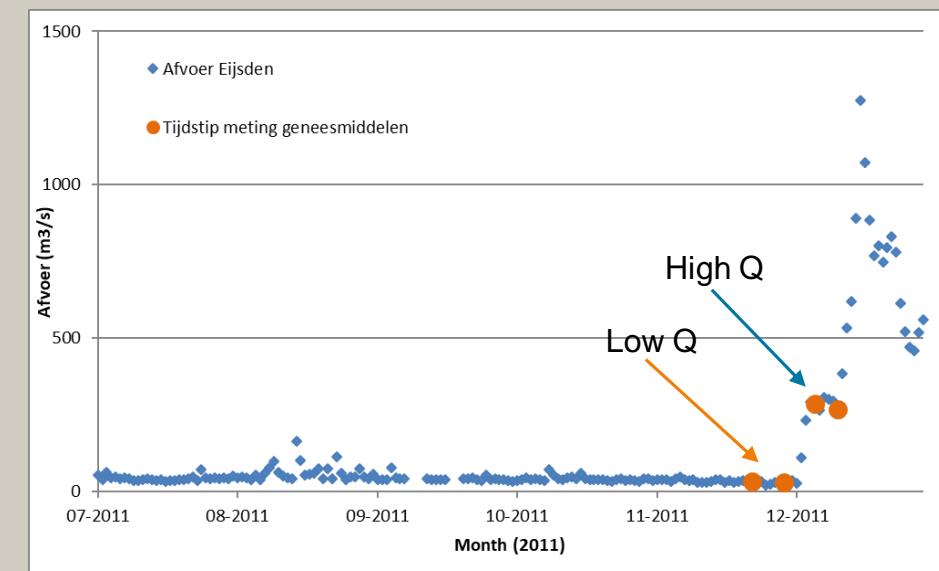
substance	Standard or Signal value	Exemption value	WML (Heel)	Dunea (Brakel)	Evides (Biesb.)
Glyphosate	0.1 µg/l	0.3 µg/l	X		X
AMPA	1 µg/l	3 µg/l	X	X	X
Trifluoracetic acid	1 µg/l	350 µg/l		X	
Aceton	1 µg/l	3150 µg/l	X		
Chlorite	1 µg/l	100 µg/l			X
Chlorate	1 µg/l	20 / 50 µg/l		X	X

Pharmaceuticals in the Meuse River (Eijsden, 2011)



Date	Q (m³/s)	C (µg/l)	Load (kg/d)
Nov 23	19	8,2	13
Nov 30	14	8,5	10
Dec 7	252	5,5	119
Dec 12	245	3,6	75

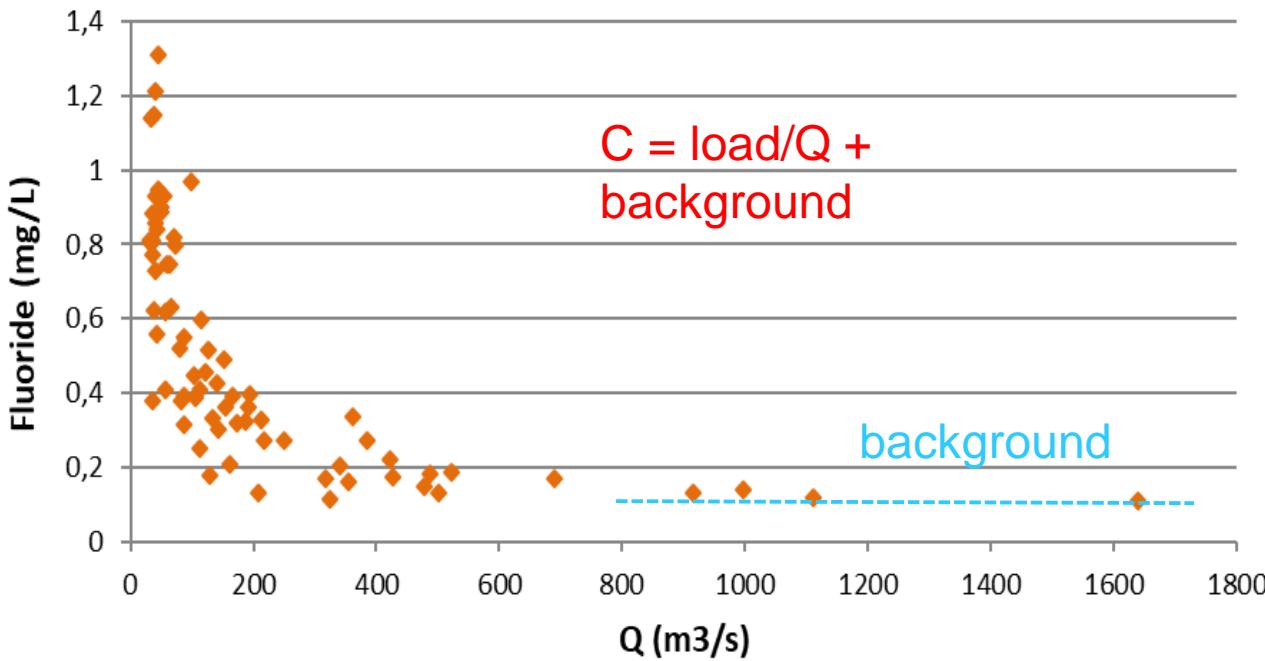
C = total concentration of pharmaceuticals
 → Depends on Q



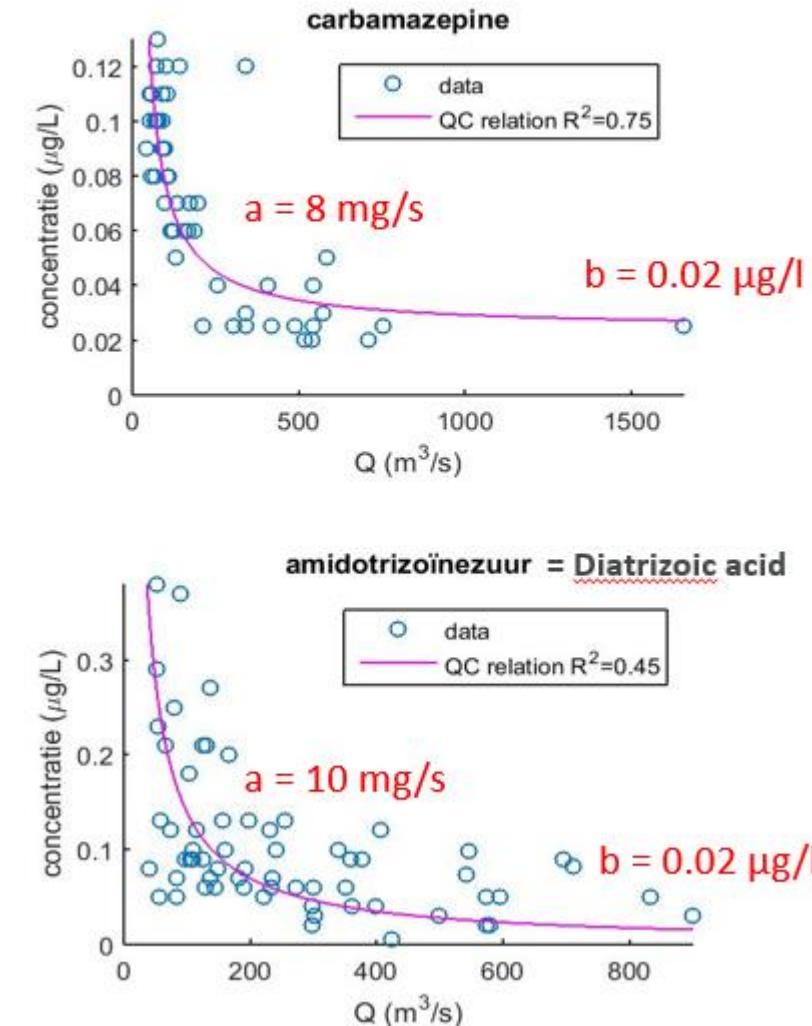
T.L. ter Laak et al. (2014). Different compositions of pharmaceuticals in Dutch and Belgian rivers explained by consumption patterns and treatment efficiency. Environ Sci Pollut Res Int. 21:12843-55

Impact of river flow on water quality

Fluoride concentration Eijsden, 2010-2012

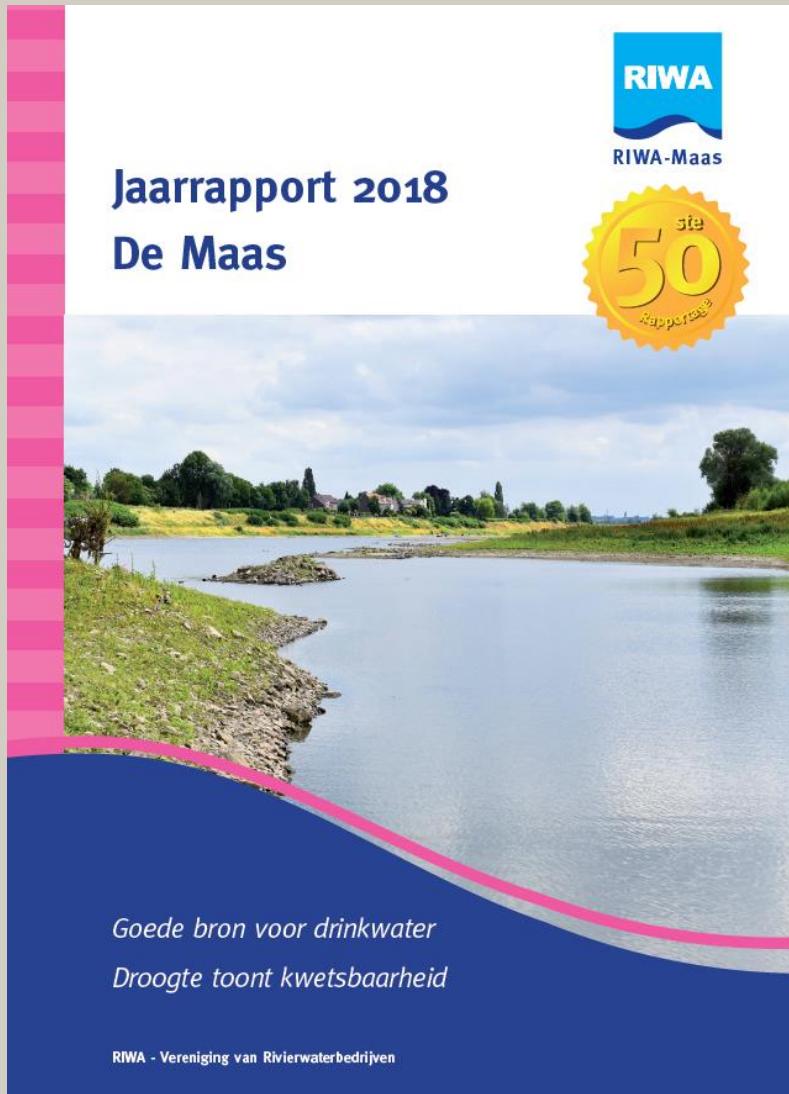


- Meuse River (Keizersveer)



- Point sources (e.g. industry, WWTP plants)
- Constant load over time, but dilution varies (Q)
- Water quality under pressure at low river flow

Concerns about droughts and water quality



Annual report RIWA-Meuse (2018)

*“2018 shows how vulnerable
we are”*

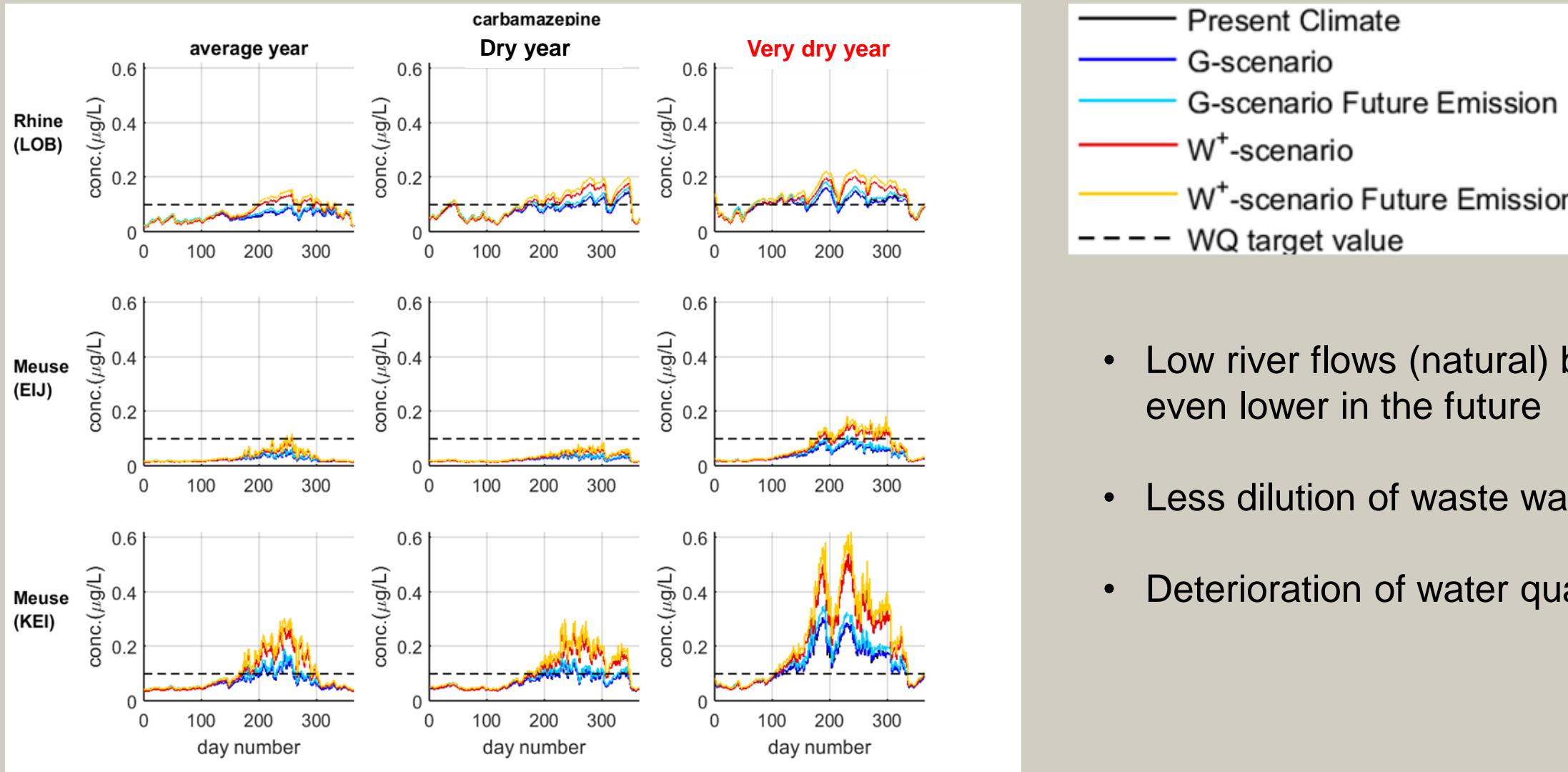
Front page article Trouw,
September 11, 2019
*“Will there be enough water
in the future?”*

<https://www.riwa-maas.org/publicatie/degelijkheid-van-het-maaswater-in-2018/>

<https://www.riwa-maas.org/fr/publicatie/la-qualite-des-eaux-de-la-meuse-en-2018/>

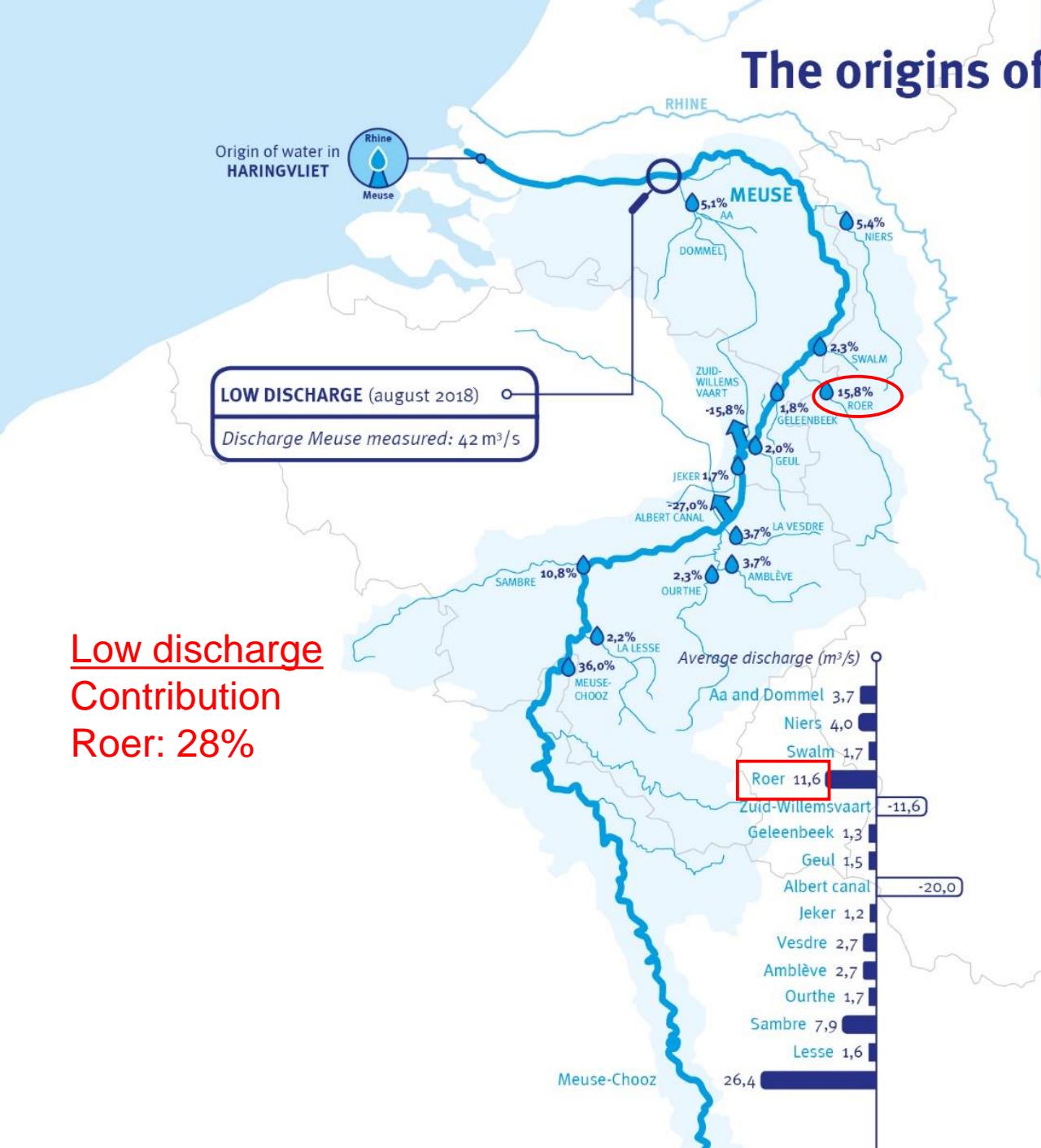


What if river flows become even lower due to climate change?

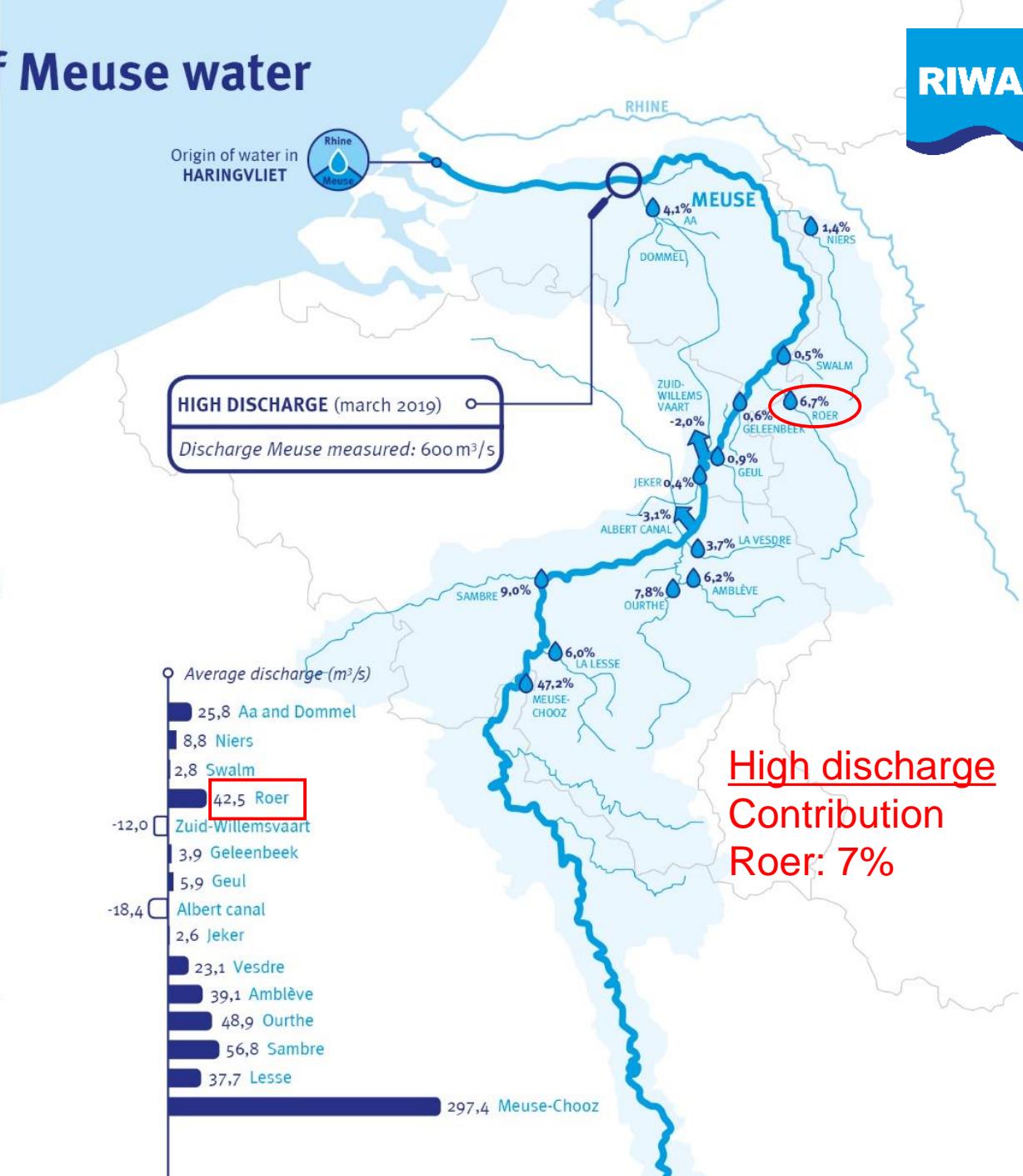


- Low river flows (natural) become even lower in the future
- Less dilution of waste water
- Deterioration of water quality

The origins of Meuse water

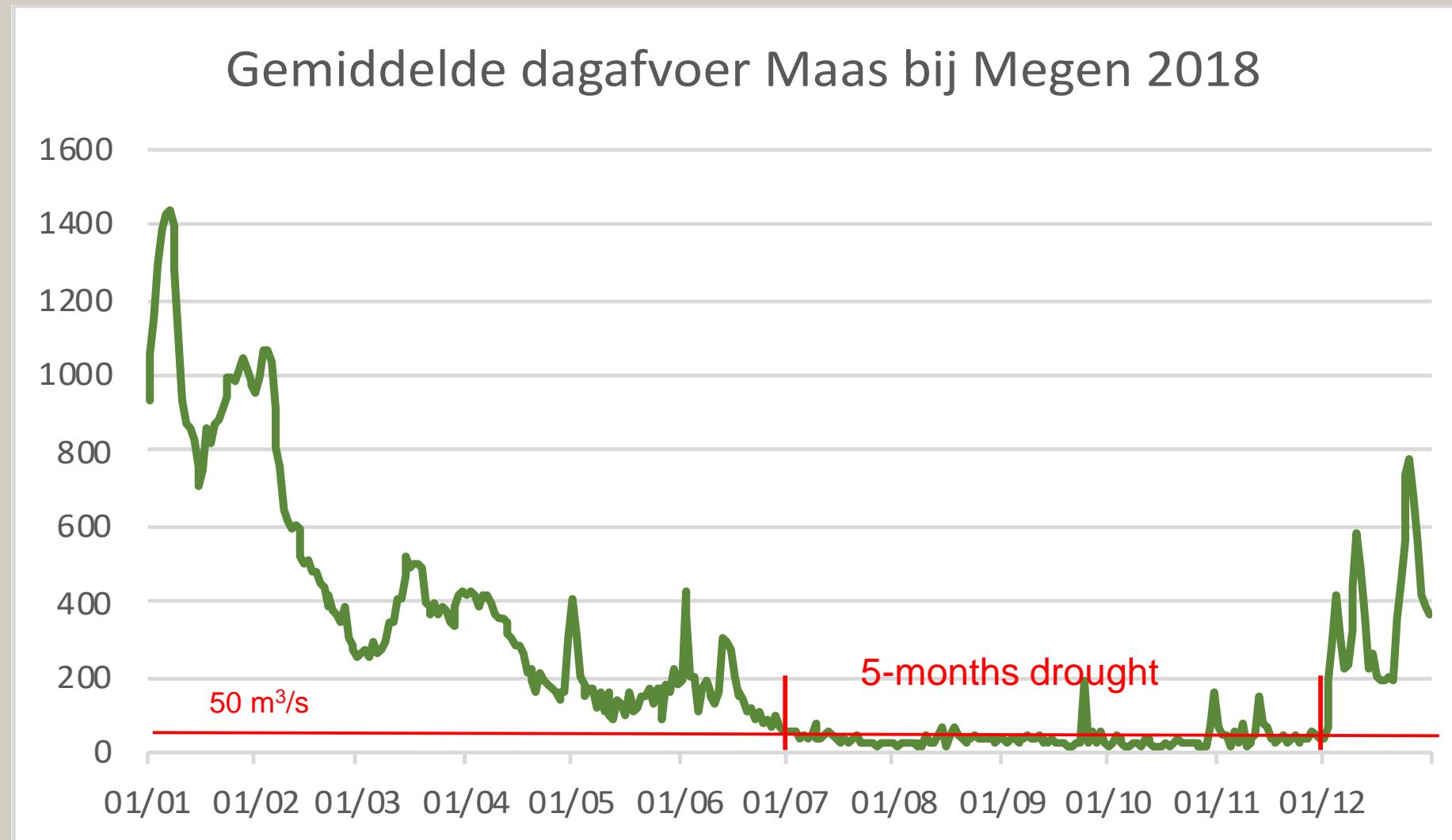


Low discharge
Contribution
Roer: 28%

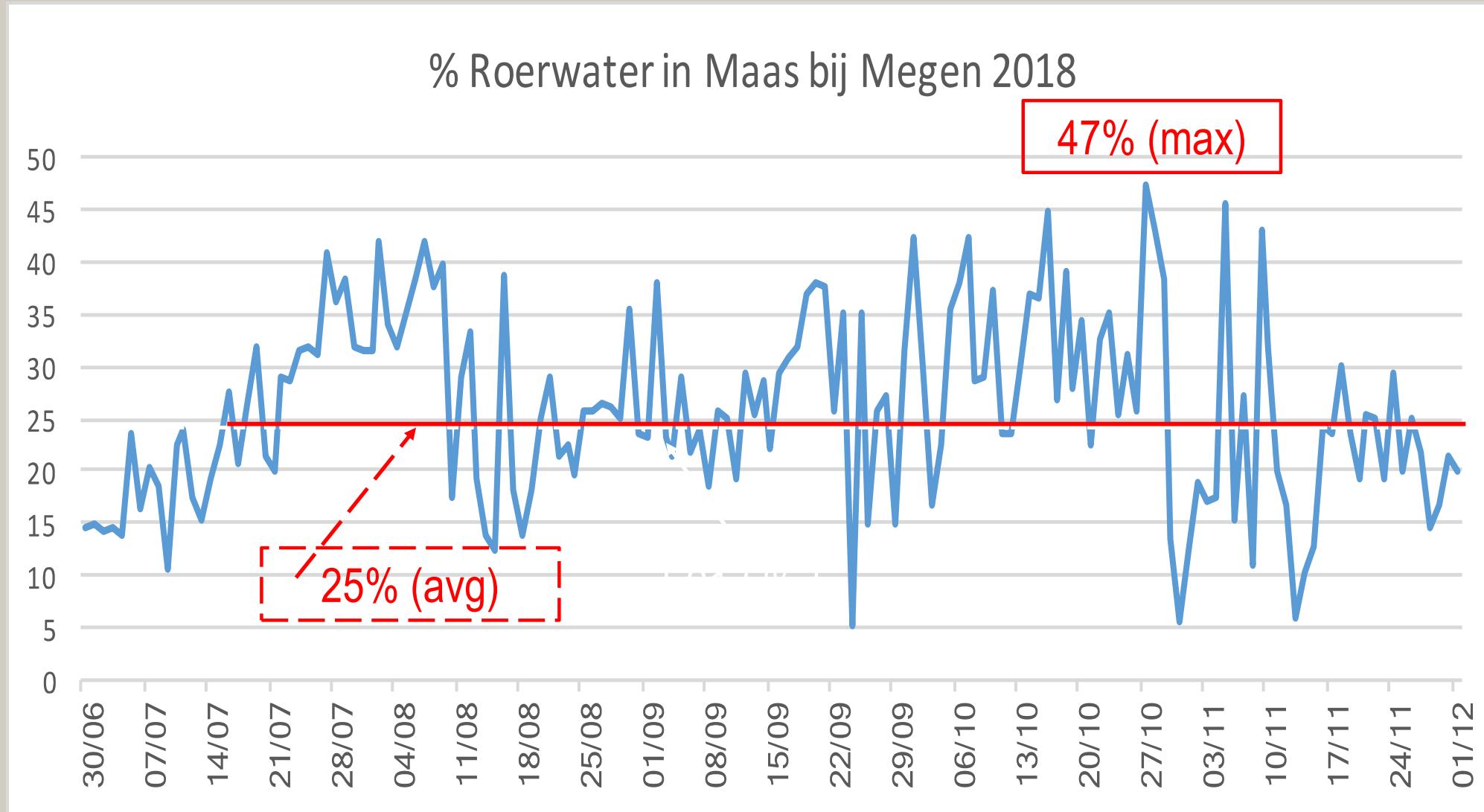


High discharge
Contribution
Roer: 7%

Discharge of the Meuse (Megen, NL) in 2018



Contribution of the Roer to Meuse river flow (Megen) during the five-months drought of 2018



Einzugsgebiet der Rur (WVER-Verbandsgebiet)

- 2087 km² Einzugsgebiet
- 2500 km Hauptgewässer davon 165 km Rur
- Im Norden:
Flachland (30 mNN)
Jahresniederschlag ca. 800 mm
- Im Süden:
Mittelgebirge (620 mNN)
Jahresniederschlag bis zu 1300 mm
- 9 Talsperren (6 WVER)



Discharge of the Roer controlled by dams (9)

- Policy objective: more water retention in reservoirs
- Minimum flow of the Roer: 5 m³/s (currently: 10)
- Significant impact on the Meuse during droughts
- **Need for International cooperation on transboundary water management of the Roer (quantity/quality)**



Conclusions

- For many substances, there is a clear **relationship between river flow and water quality** of the Meuse. Water quality deteriorates during low river flows.
- **Climate change** will worsen the problem considerably, due to an increase in frequency, duration and intensity of low river flows.
- **The Roer** makes an important contribution to the discharge of the Meuse: from 5% in average conditions to 40% during low flows of the Meuse. This is also important for the water quality.
- The trigger value for surface water quality as a source of drinking water ($0.1 \mu\text{g/l}$) is widely exceeded by **pharmaceuticals** in the Meuse.
- **Emission reduction** is needed to protect the drinking water function of the Meuse, especially during low river flows.
- Otherwise, the drinking water companies which abstract water from the Meuse rivers will be forced to upgrade their **treatment techniques** (which are already advanced and expensive).



RIWA

Thank you for listening!

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