

# Impact assessments for air pollution policy and nature conservation policy in Germany

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Nitrogen Deposition and the Nature Directives

Impacts and Responses: Our shared experiences



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# Air pollution policy and nature conservation – what are the links?

## Key questions

- To what extent does your country include abatement of nitrogen emissions in local, regional or national nature policy?
- To what extent are **nature policy targets** taken into account in air pollution policy or agricultural policy?
- Is nitrogen policy seen as local, regional, national or European **responsibility**?
- What **indicators** and/or response variables are used to support nature policy and nitrogen impacts?

## Abatement of nitrogen emissions in German nature policy

### Nationally

Umweltbundesamt (EPA): Concept of Critical Loads (**Indicator**)  
=> NEC Directive

That's the extent to which **nature policy targets** are taken into account in air pollution policy or agricultural policy

BfN (Nature agency): Protection rather locally (Nature reserves)

### Regionally

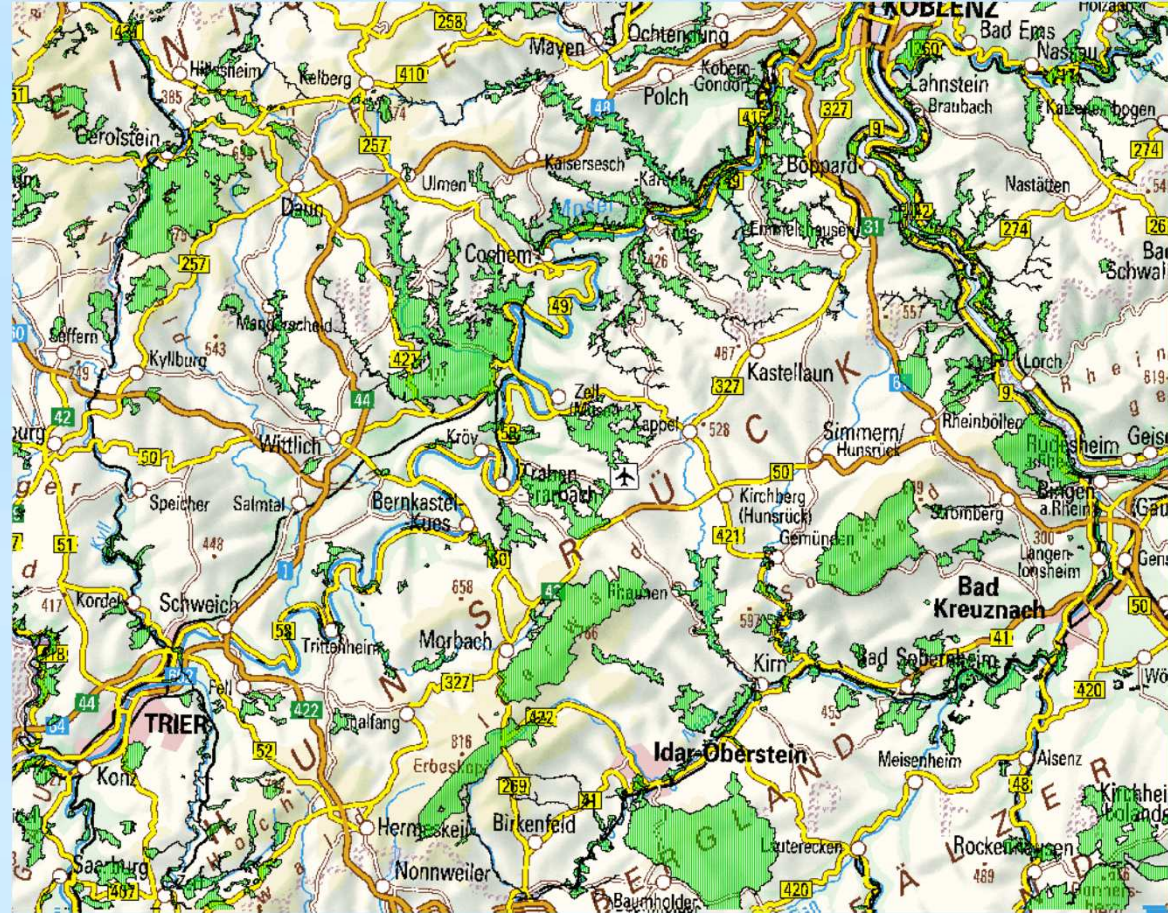
Approaches addressing mainly human health

### Locally

Management only within nature reserves / SACs

Awareness is rising because of Natura 2000 conflicts

**Natura 2000:  
SACs and SPAs cover  
15,4% of terrestrial  
Germany**

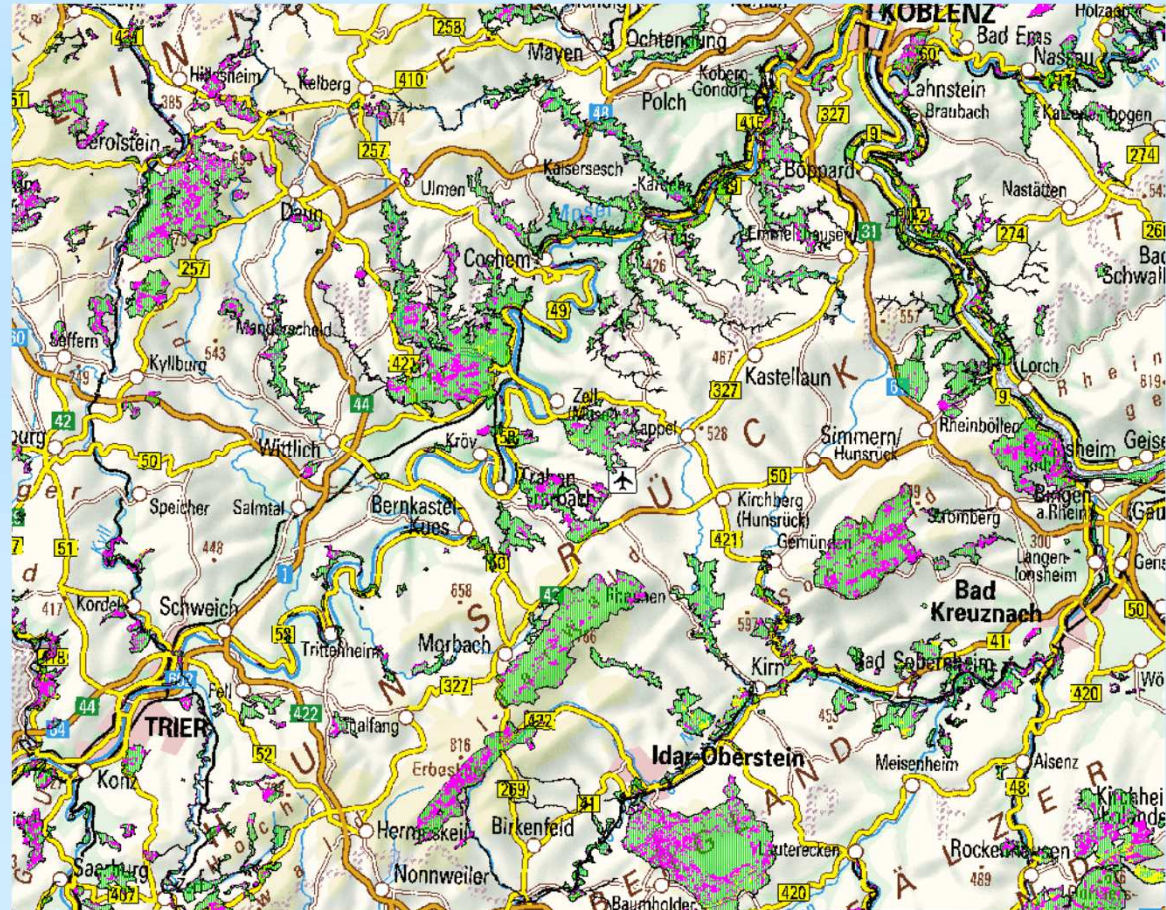




## Conservation objectives:

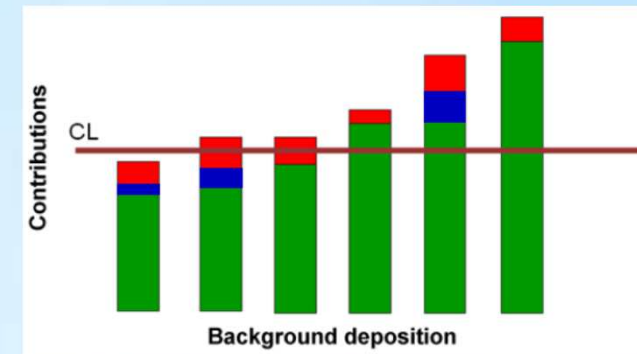
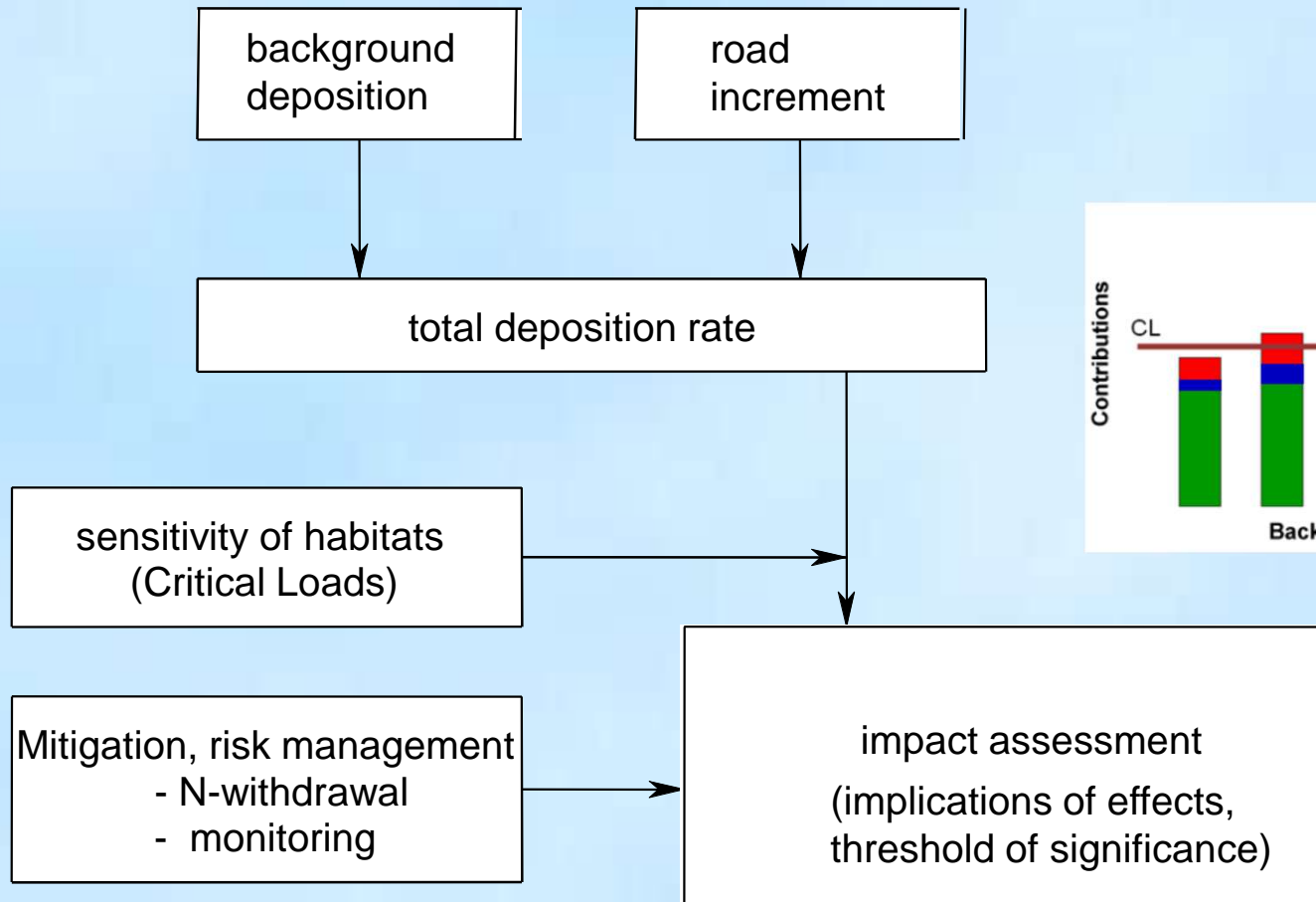
*Favourable status*

*Most of the habitats are  
sensitive to  
nitrogen deposition*

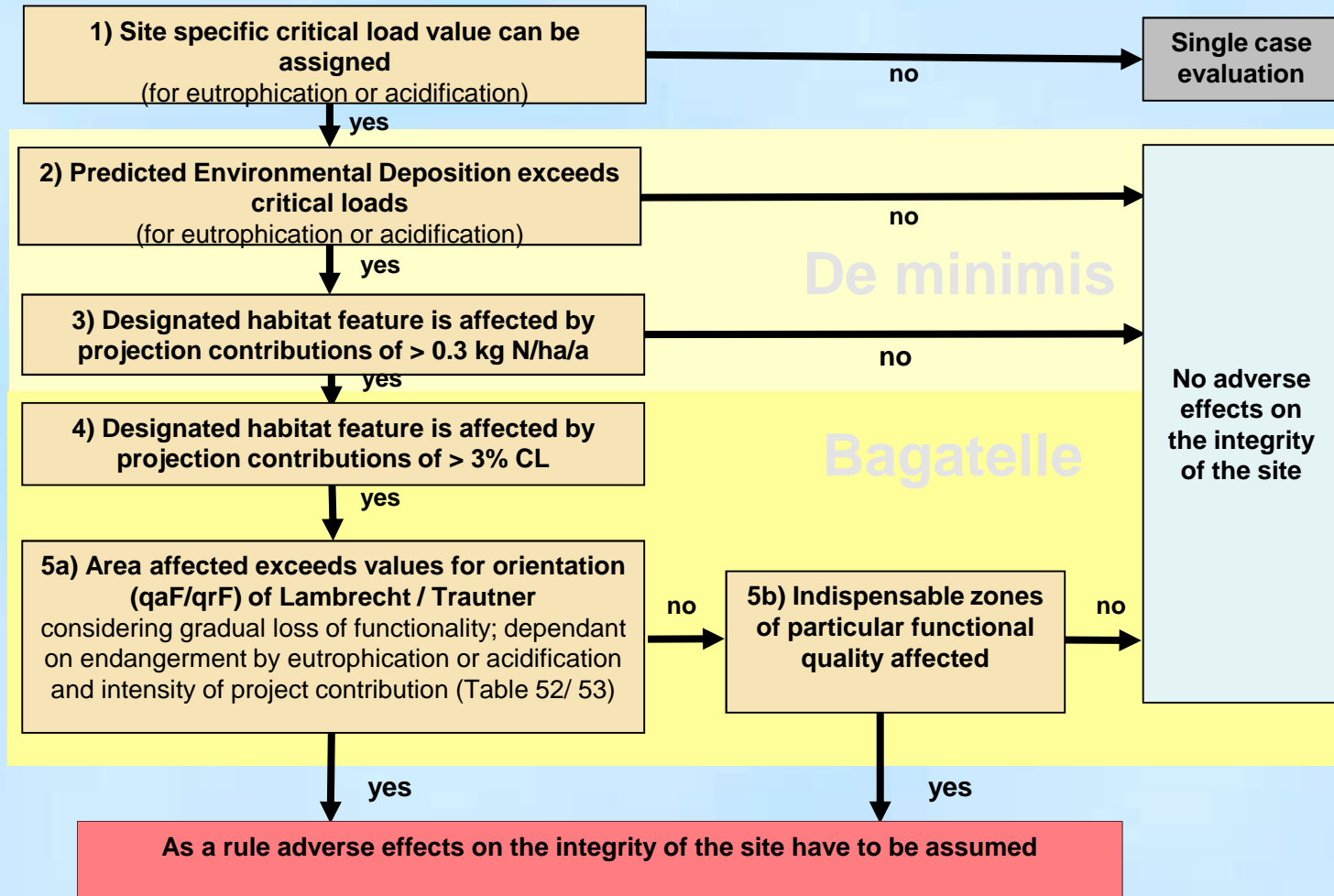
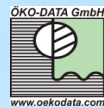


SACs are not just in the highlands, they are close to urban areas as well  
And they cause a lot of trouble

## Appropriate assessment:



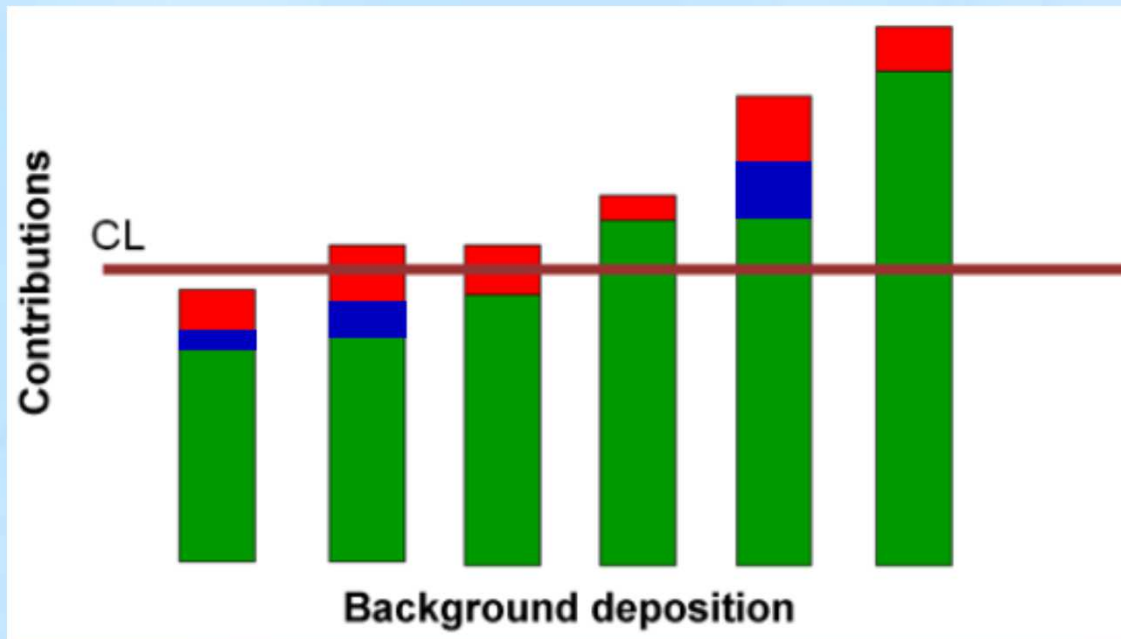
# Assessment scheme



Source: Balla et al. 2013



Is nitrogen policy seen as local, regional, national or European **responsibility**?



**Appropriate assessments:**

*The red ones are to blame*

*But maybe it would be more worthwhile to change something about background deposition*

**Global thinking applied to local problems may cause reflections on regional, national, European **responsibilities****