

Lessons Learnt from the Past

We can draw the following conclusions from the natural disasters of the past few years:

- | **Increasing damage potential**
The damage potential is increasing as a result of the more intensive use of threatened areas.
- | **Increasing commodity value and rising vulnerability**
The increased value of objects in the endangered areas (e.g. machines, computers, cars) and the vulnerability to damage of these commodities, lead to higher damage costs.
- | **Climate change**
The predicted level of global warming will encourage the tendency towards extreme weather conditions. Existing protection constructions are losing their effectiveness due to changing natural processes.
- | **Greater willingness to take risks – false estimation of hazards**
On the one hand, individual willingness to take risks is increasing, while on the other hand, lack of knowledge about natural processes leads to the false estimation of hazards.
- | **Limits of safety – no complete protection possible**
Protection structures lose their effectiveness if the natural occurrences they are designed to combat exceed certain limits. Precautionary measures for worst-case scenarios are needed.
- | **Increased mobility leads to increased vulnerability**
The increase in traffic is leading to a higher probability of being hit by natural occurrences. The increased freight traffic and infrastructure costs produce unacceptable risks.
- | **Prevention limits damage**
Hazard maps have been confirmed in many areas. Taking these into account during spatial planning, and also preventive measures reduces regional damage.

| **Hazards are underestimated or ignored**

Particularly on the local level, building permits are issued despite knowledge of potential hazards.

| **Integral solutions provide decision-making aids**

Catchments-oriented, interdisciplinary planning with preventive measures with long-term effectiveness are a help in case of disaster.

| **Lack of flood retention areas**

The loss of retention areas (due to land being built on, approved for building, etc.) leads to an acceleration of run-off flow and to a hazardous excess accumulation of run-off waves.

Info acc. to "Photos & Diagrams" overview

15_30	Diagram	Lack of risk awareness often leads to lack of acceptance of preventive measures (e.g. building prohibitions). The possibility of being personally affected slowly disappears from the memory, as this study in Bavaria shows, Bavarian State Office for Water Management
15_31	Photo	Protective structures can ensure safety only until a specific event occurs. If natural forces are too powerful, structures (e. g. dams) can collapse. Such scenarios must be taken into account during planning, State Office of the Government of Carinthia
15_32	Photo	The increasing mobility of our society demands better protection of the infrastructure, Podjetje za urejanje hudournikov d.d., Slovenia