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# Sustainabel Use and Management of Alluvial Plains in Ddiked River Areas

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SUMAD is a German-Austrian-Hungarian cooperation project within the Community Initiative INTERREG III B (CADSES) of the European Union towards furthering economic, social, cultural and territorial collaboration in Europe. The project title SUMAD stands for "Sustainable Use and Management of Alluvial Plains in Diked River Areas" and reflects the project's main objective to reconcile necessary contributions of flood protection with sustainable development and use of rivers and their alluvial plains. Central subject of this contribution is the Austrian river Pinka at the border from Austria and Hungary between Woppendorf and the estuary in the river Raab which is regulated in order to ensure sufficient flood protection. A compasion with historical maps shows that only smal portions of the river Pinka remain in their natural state. The reasons for this on the one hand pressure from the agriculture, urbanization, infrastructure and recreation and on the other hand hydro power generations. Natural changes like the growth of alluvial plains due to sedimentation and succession but also changes in the agricultural and forest use of the flood plain areas decrease the water flow rate of the river Pinka and therefore lead to a higher risk of future flood disasters. Suitable measures of flood prevention in the alluvial plains (e.g. tree clearing) often contradict national and European nature protection goals (e.g. NATURA 2000). In this contribution an interdisciplinary approach to develop and implement strategies and instruments for a sustainable and integrated management of flood plains will be discussed.