



Planned retreat as an option for the European Alps? To whom, what and when we have to talk

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04-06 June 2018

This research received financial support from the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund and was carried out within the ACRP program.

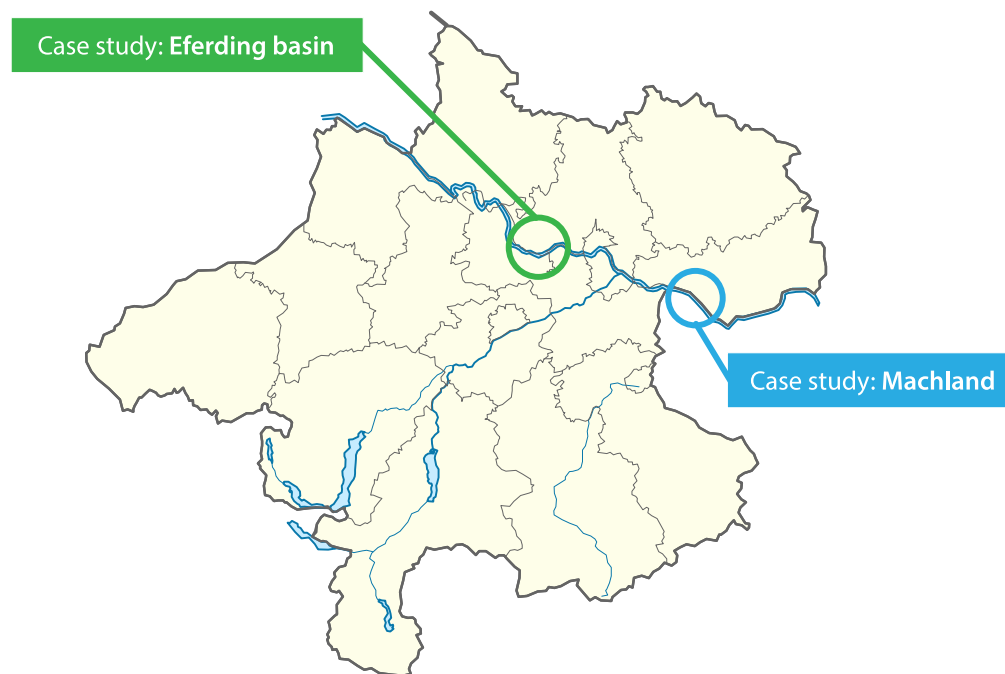


Challenges in flood risk management



Research strategy

- **mixed-method** approach, e.g. qualitative interviews, surveys, social network analysis



Potential impacts

- **physically, mentally and emotionally** stress
 - erasing **social networks**
 - financial resources - **compensation**
 - responsibility and **property rights**
 - leading to **weak coping capacities**
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Whom to talk to

- actors in managed retreat are **not uniform**
 - separate governmental entities **rarely act in concert**, because of different formal jurisdictions or political agendas
 - residents **differ in their capabilities** to participate in the political discourse
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What to talk about

- relocating residents struggle with **multiple impacts**, such as: overcoming emotional attachment to the previous residence and resolving their traditional or spiritual connection to the land
 - coping with **financial burdens**; recreating **social structures**, if the scattering of former neighbours disrupts community ties
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When to talk

- evolution of stakeholder interests during this process
 - managed retreat is more successful if the relocation scheme is **initiated after a recent flood event**; however, this policy window is only open for a **short time**
 - this window is leveraged best in communities with an **ongoing discourse** on risk management preceding the flood event
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Conclusion

Central question is: should someone stay or should someone go
