Regionalverband Neckar-Alb
Regional Report Year 1

Environmental risks related with depopulation and ageing population in rural areas

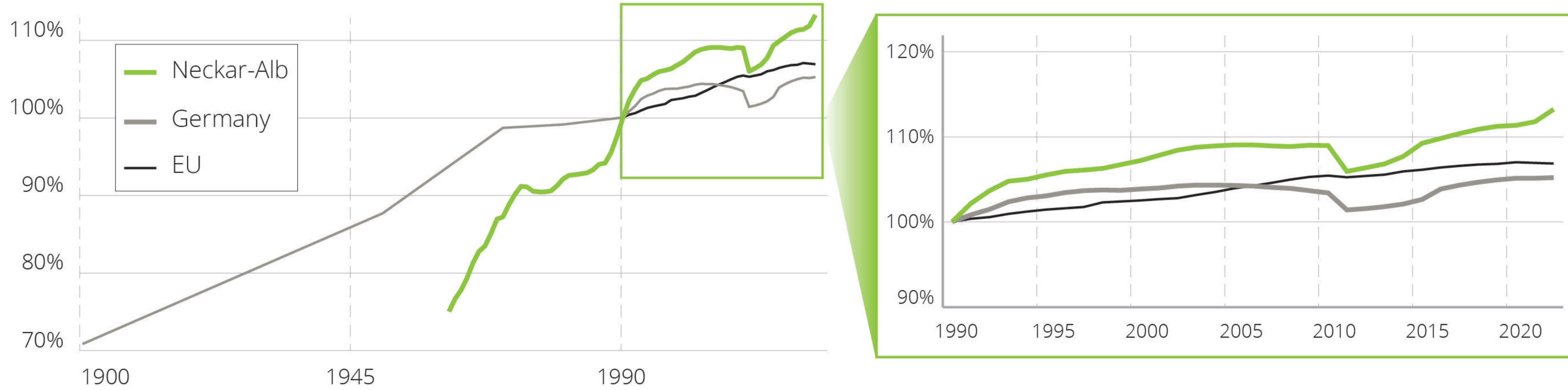Interreg Europe — Co-funded by the European Union — Down to Earth

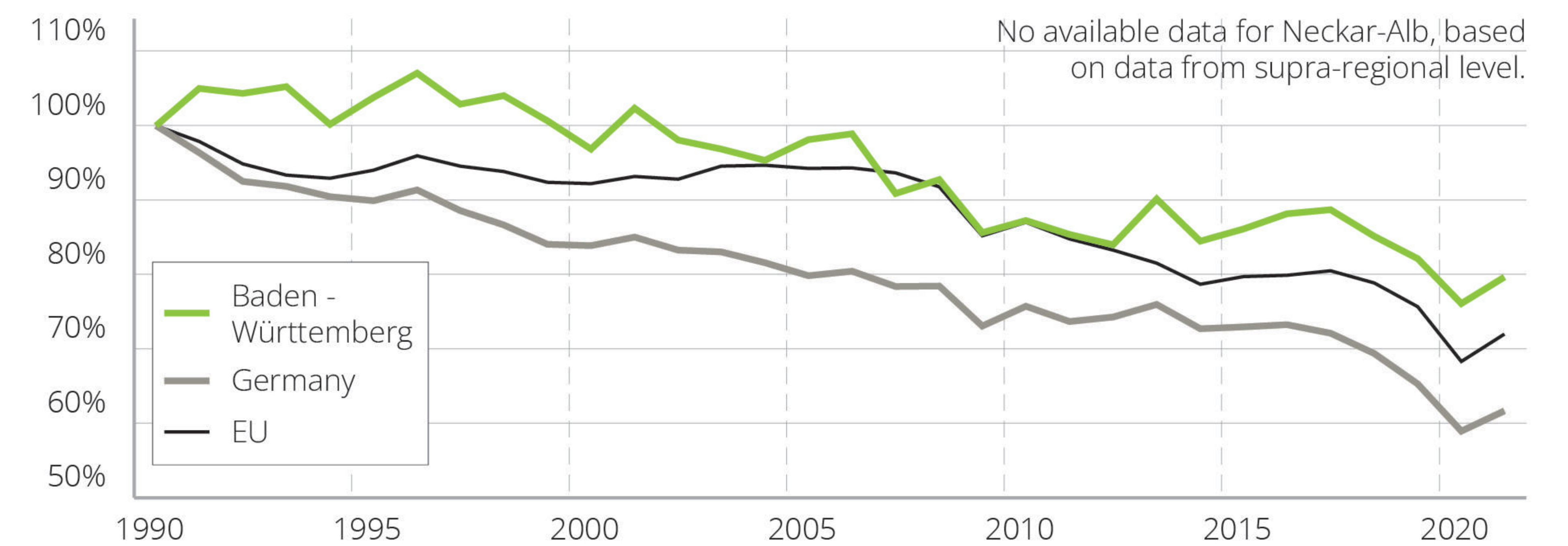Regionalverband Oberzentrum Neckar-Alb Reutlingen/Tübingen

Demographic trends
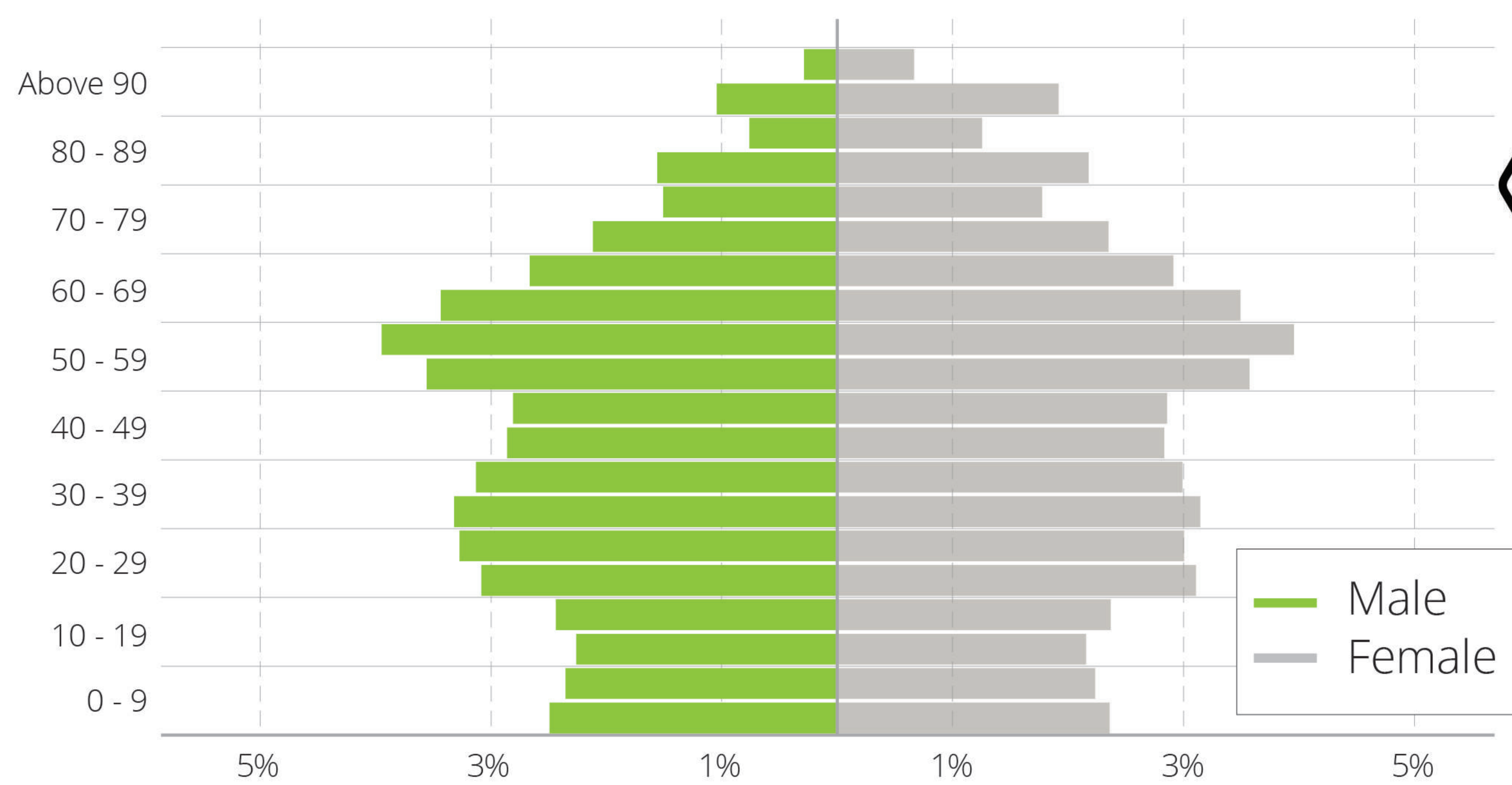Source: Statistisches Landesamt Baden-Württemberg & EUROSTAT

- Neckar-Alb
- Germany
- EU

Regional GHG emissions
Source: Statistisches Landesamt Baden-Württemberg & EUROSTAT

No available data for Neckar-Alb, based on data from supra-regional level.
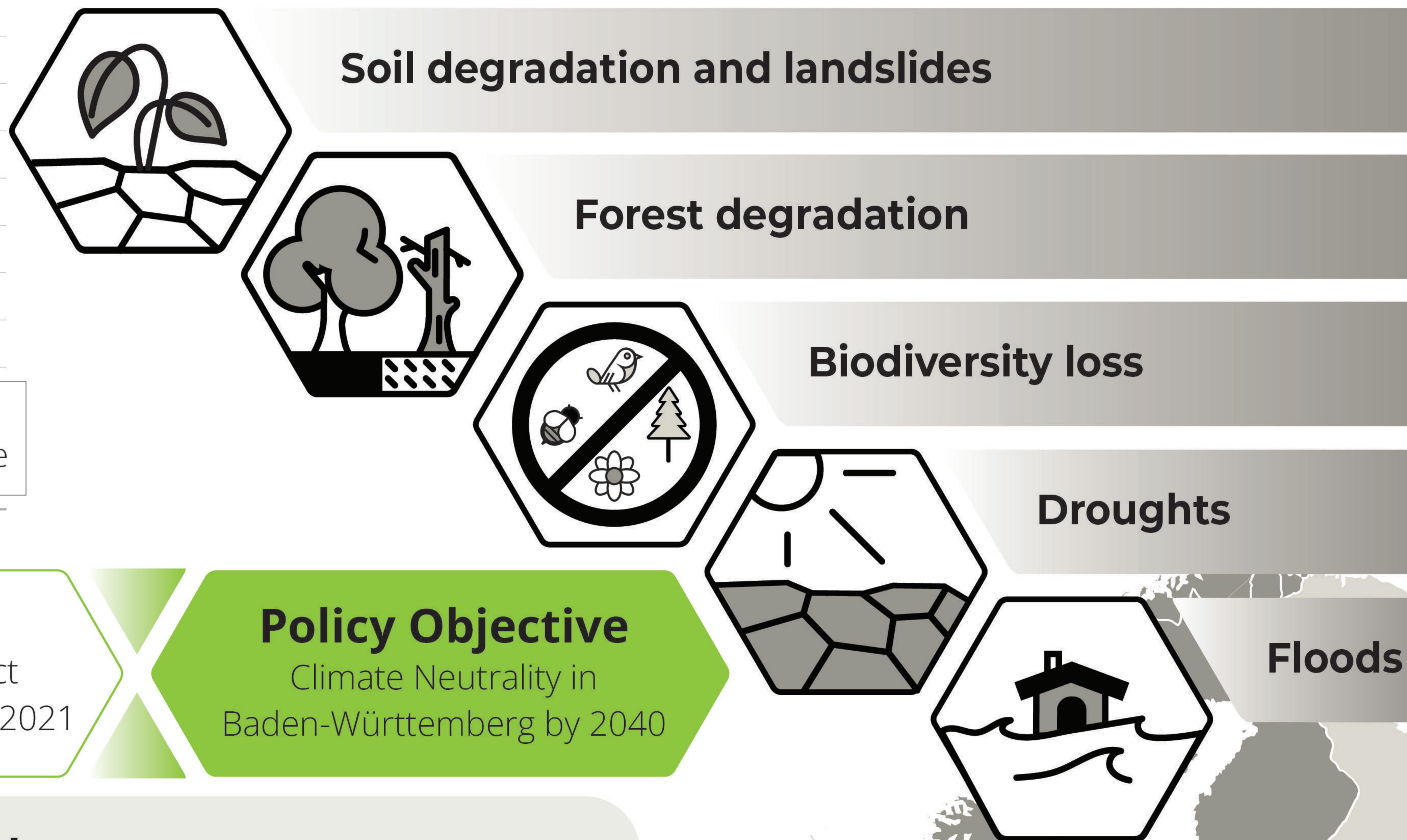
- Baden - Württemberg
- Germany
- EU

Population Pyramid
Total population: 730.134 inhabitants (EUROSTAT 2022)

- Male
- Female

Environmental risks and effects of climate change

- Soil degradation and landslides
- Forest degradation
- Biodiversity loss
- Droughts
- Floods

2002: State Development Plan Baden-Württemberg
2023: Climate Protection and Climate Change Adaptation Act
2013: Regional Plan Neckar-Alb. Modifications in: 2017, 2019 & 2021

Policy Objective
Climate Neutrality in Baden-Württemberg by 2040

Strenghts
- Unique biodiversity and protected areas
- Projects and organisations addressing environmental issues
- Disaster preparedness
- Sustainable farming techniques

Weaknesses
- Inadequate maintenance of protected areas
- Reduced surface water supply in summer months
- Inaction on plans and implementations
- Land-use pressure from settlement expansion
- Lack of accessible public transportation in rural areas

Opportunities
- Irrigation for water management
- Risk prevention for heavy rains
- Improved private forest maintenance
- Alteration of vegetation period
- Adoption of organic farming
- Provision of environmental education services
- Innovative orchard management
- Transportation transformation
- Energy transition

Threats
- Endangered and invasive species, loss of habitats
- Groundwater depletion
- Increased disaster risks
- Aging populations of orchard managers and sheep farmers
- Demographic changes: high aging population, shortage of skilled workers

Cases that address ageing, depopulation and related environmental risks, as well as sustainable regional development

Biosphere Reserve Swabian Alb
Photo: Arnulf Hettrich

Baking Culture for the Love of Home
Photo: Bäckerei Glocker

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