Ministry of Environment Republic of Lithuania

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: LITHUANIAN EXPERIENCE

Tomas Želvys
Pollution Prevention Policy Group

2023

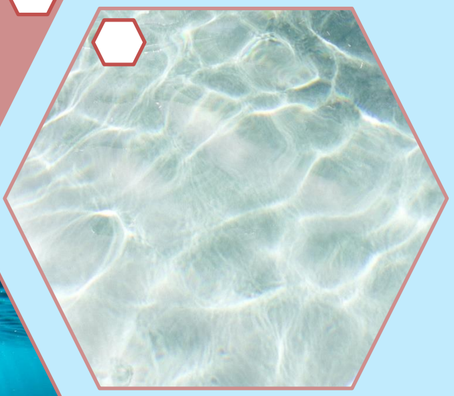
The Action Plan of the National Water Sector Plan for 2022-2027

Ground water

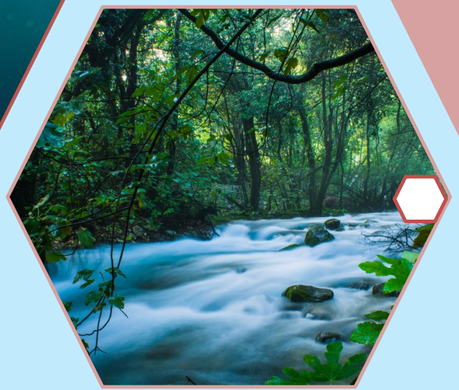
Floods

Surface water bodies

Waste water treatment

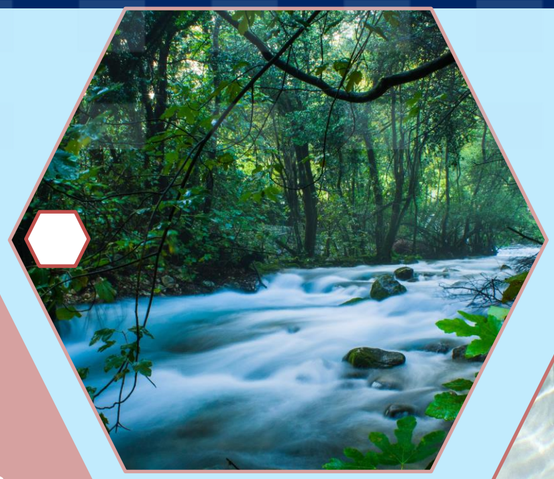


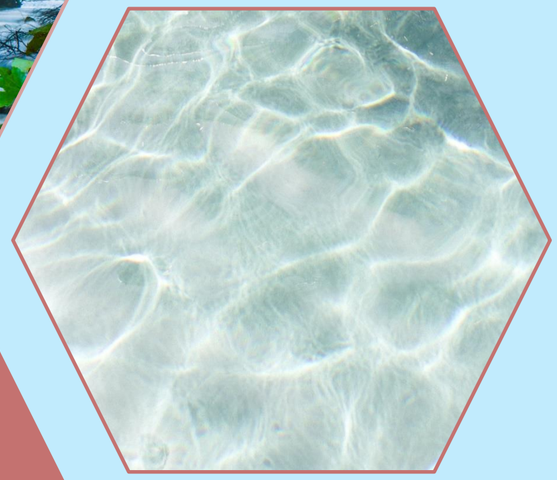
Baltic sea



Drinking water

The Action Plan of the National Water Sector Plan for 2022-2027





Measures

Goals

Current state analyses

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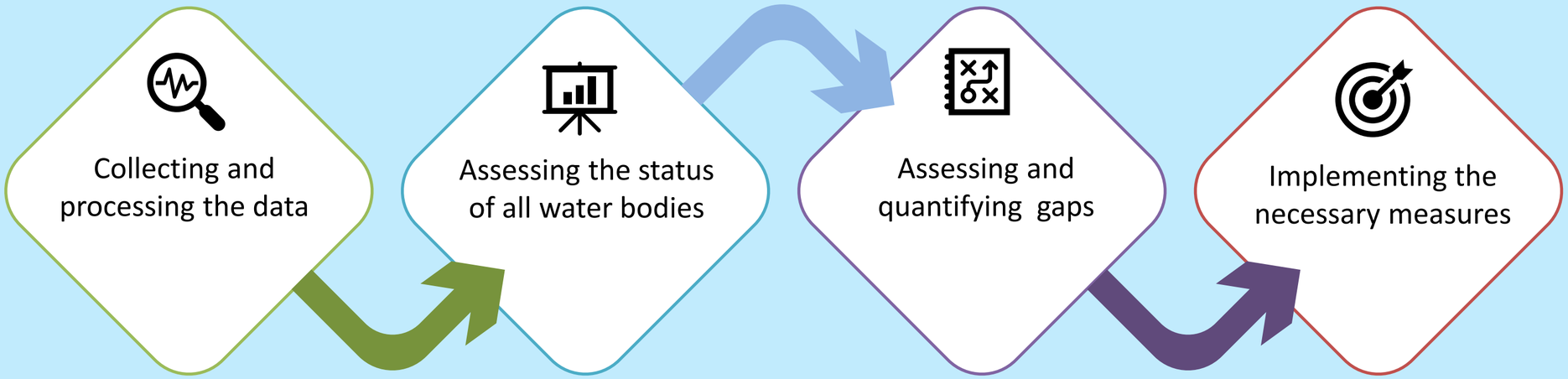
A way towards achieving the environmental objectives



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Updated Status of Water Bodies (2014-2019)

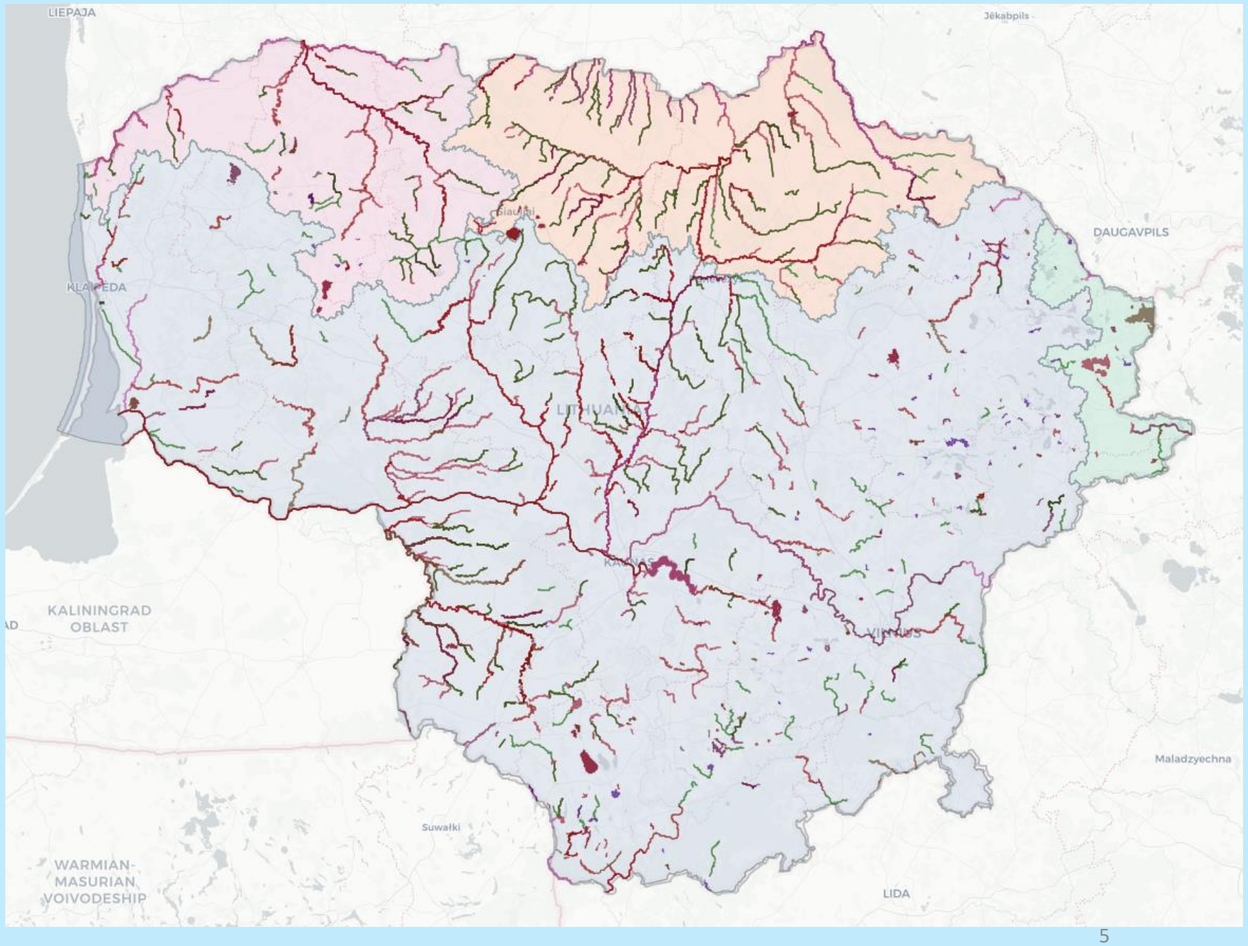
Improved data collection

1,193 surface water bodies

Almost half surface water bodies have not reached good status

100% good status of groundwater

Risk water bodies



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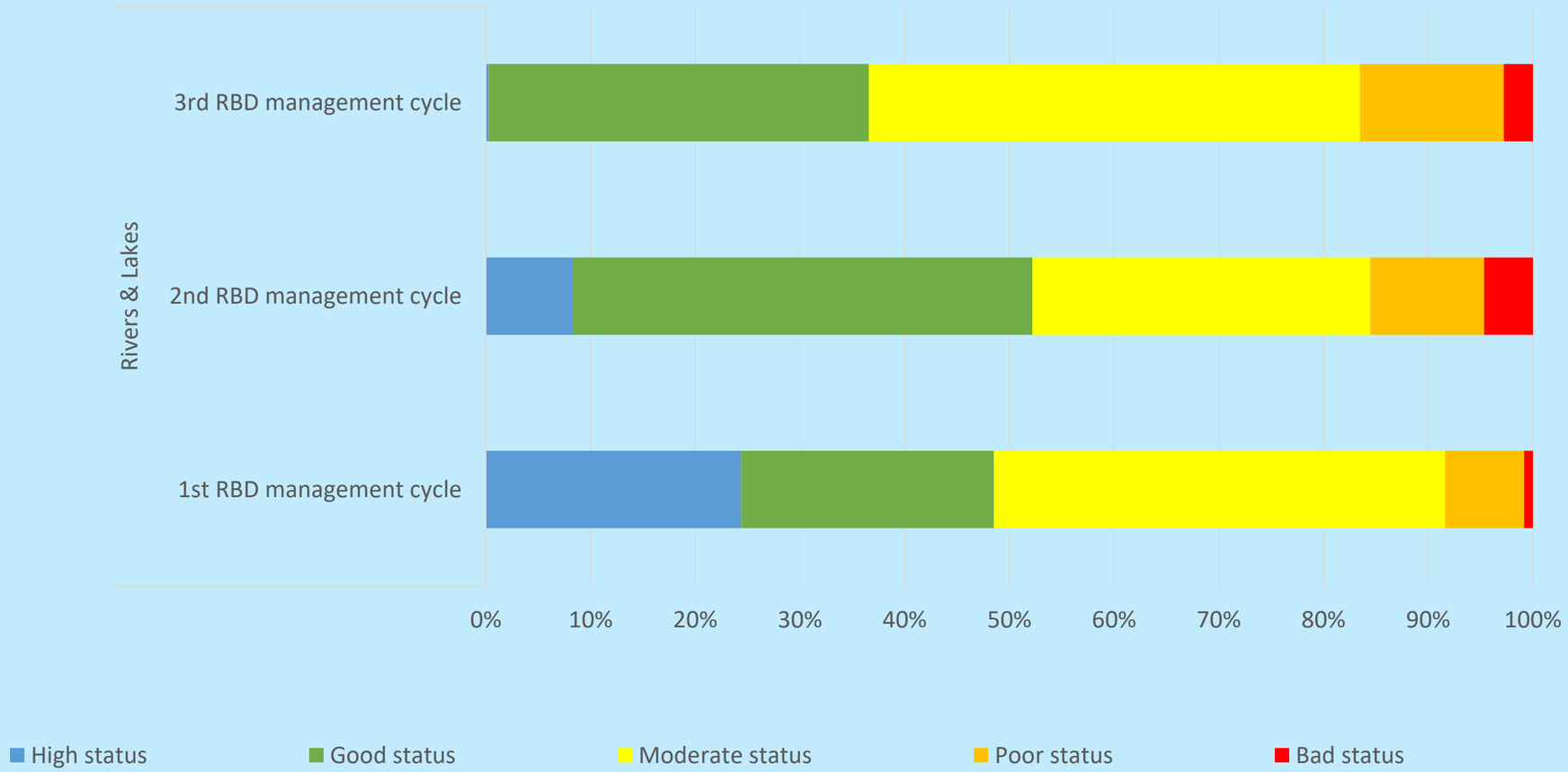
Changes in ecological status of surface water bodies



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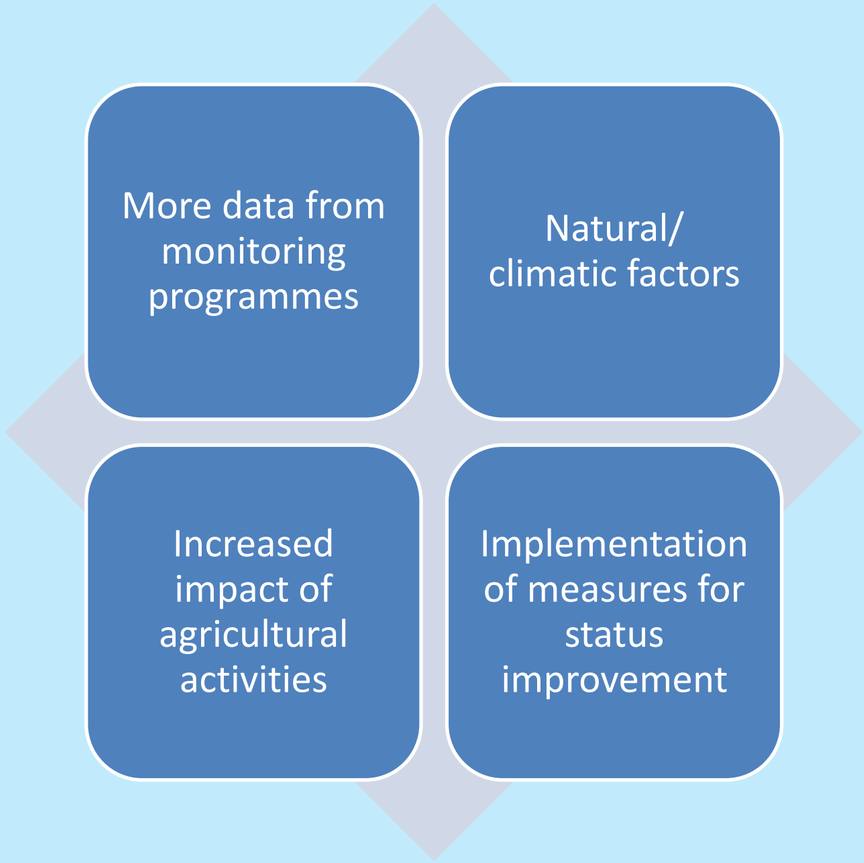
The main reasons for changes in ecological status of surface WBs



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Monitoring of ecological status of surface water bodies

- During the 3rd RBD management cycle ecological status was monitored in

63 %
river water bodies

88 %
lake water bodies

100 %
transitional and coastal

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Management of chemical status

- Only 19 river water bodies (out of 826) and 1 lake water body (out of 361) where significant pollution is likely are monitored.
- Monitoring full list of priority and hazardous substances is extremely expensive.
- Chemical status is classified as unknown in unmonitored water bodies.

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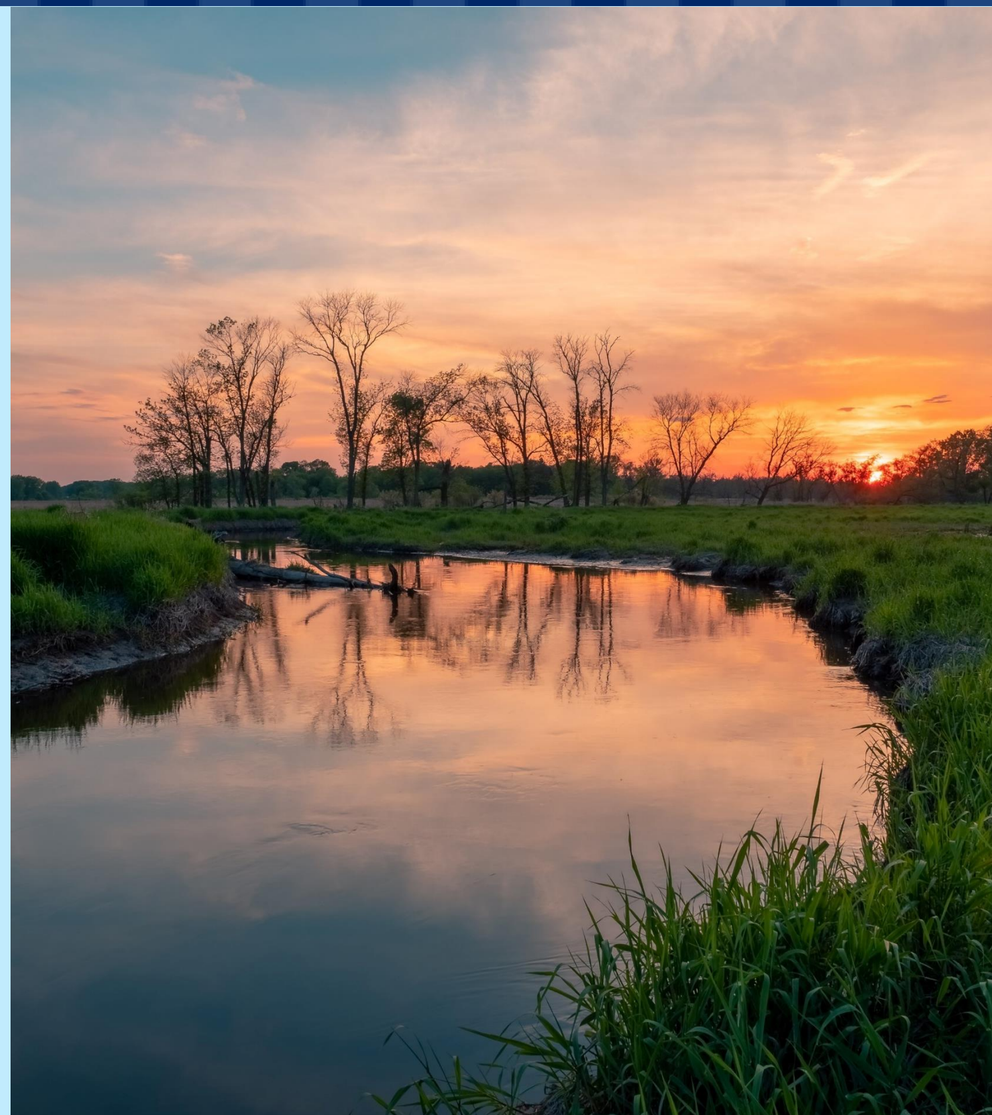
DEALING WITH DATA GAPS

- Grouping of water bodies for the purpose of ecological status assessment:
  - Representative monitoring sites are selected in water bodies of the same category, type, hydrological regime and anthropogenic impacts.
- Cooperation with neighbours (PL and LV) and data exchange (especially for assessment of chemical status).



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DEALING WITH DATA GAPS (2)

- Mathematical modelling: SWAT model is set up by the EPA for the entire territory of Lithuania.
- Modelling problems:
  - difficult to capture phosphorus;
  - not good for lakes;
  - data on important inputs is missing or accuracy of data is insufficient;
  - data is needed for validation of modelling results.

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Problems related to data scarcity

- The demand for measures can not be estimated (especially hydromorphological measures).
- Application of exemptions can not be properly justified. Lithuania does not apply Article 4(5), Article 4(6) and Article 4(7).

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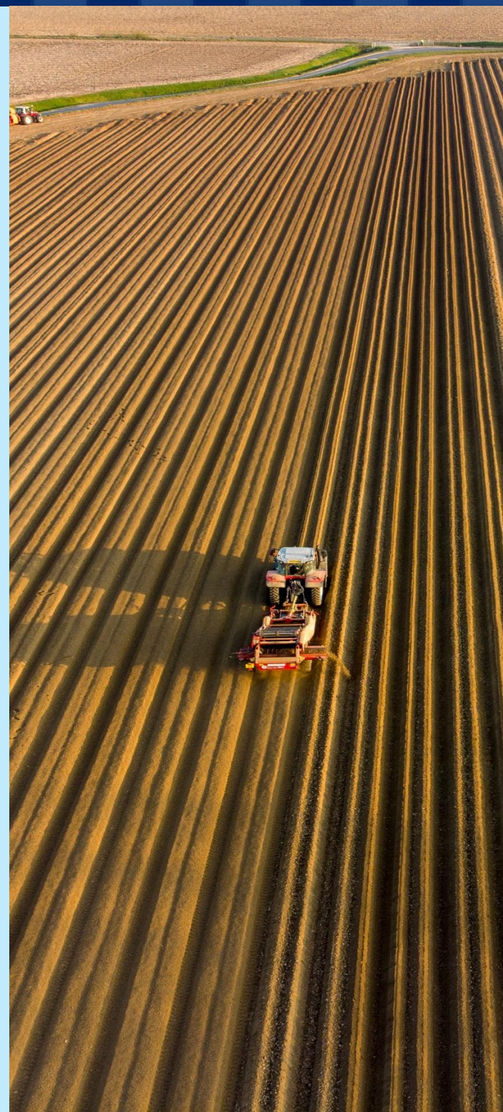
WHAT WE HAVE DONE?

Surface water pollution reduction from agriculture

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice updated in 2019

Methodology for fertilization plans and a database for fertilizer declarations have been created in 2021

2023-2027 CAP Strategic plan was adopted



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WHAT WE HAVE DONE? (2)

Hydromorphological alteration (I)

Funding mechanism created for municipalities to remove obsolete dams

Amendments in Water Law: requirements to remove obsolete dams and install fish passes on functional dams

Funding mechanism created for municipalities to remove obsolete dams

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WHAT WE HAVE DONE? (3)

Hydromorphological alteration (II)

- Ecological and socio-economical assessment of dams carried out
- Dam and remains of dams removed in 3 rivers
- Fish passes installed on 6 dams
- River restoration projects carried out in 52 of rivers

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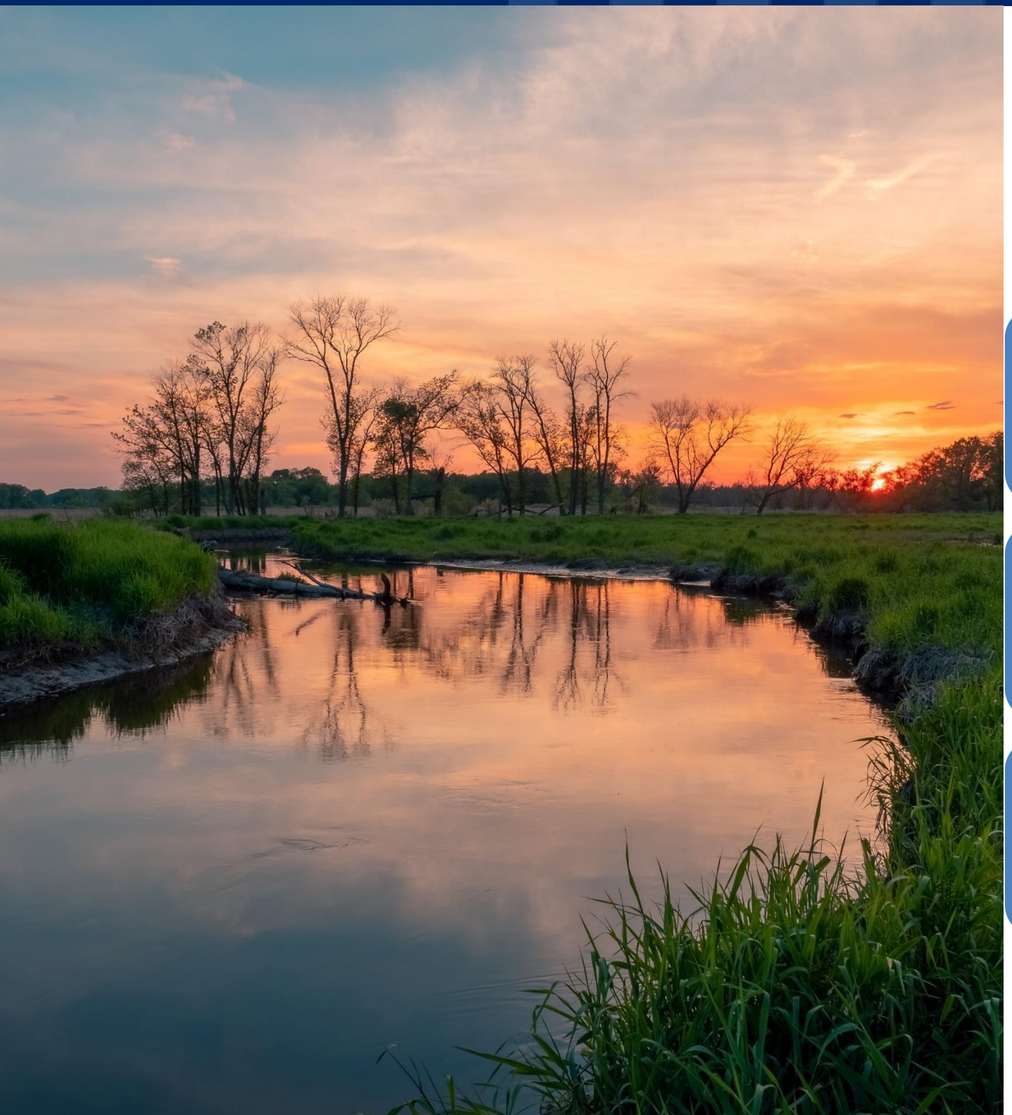
FUTURE STEPS



LIFE SIP project will be signed this year

Connections in agglomerations – 63 agglomerations in total; 33 achieved 98% connection, 30 in progress

Wastewater Management Information System (register)