

Waterdrive case area seen in relation to the policy recommendations

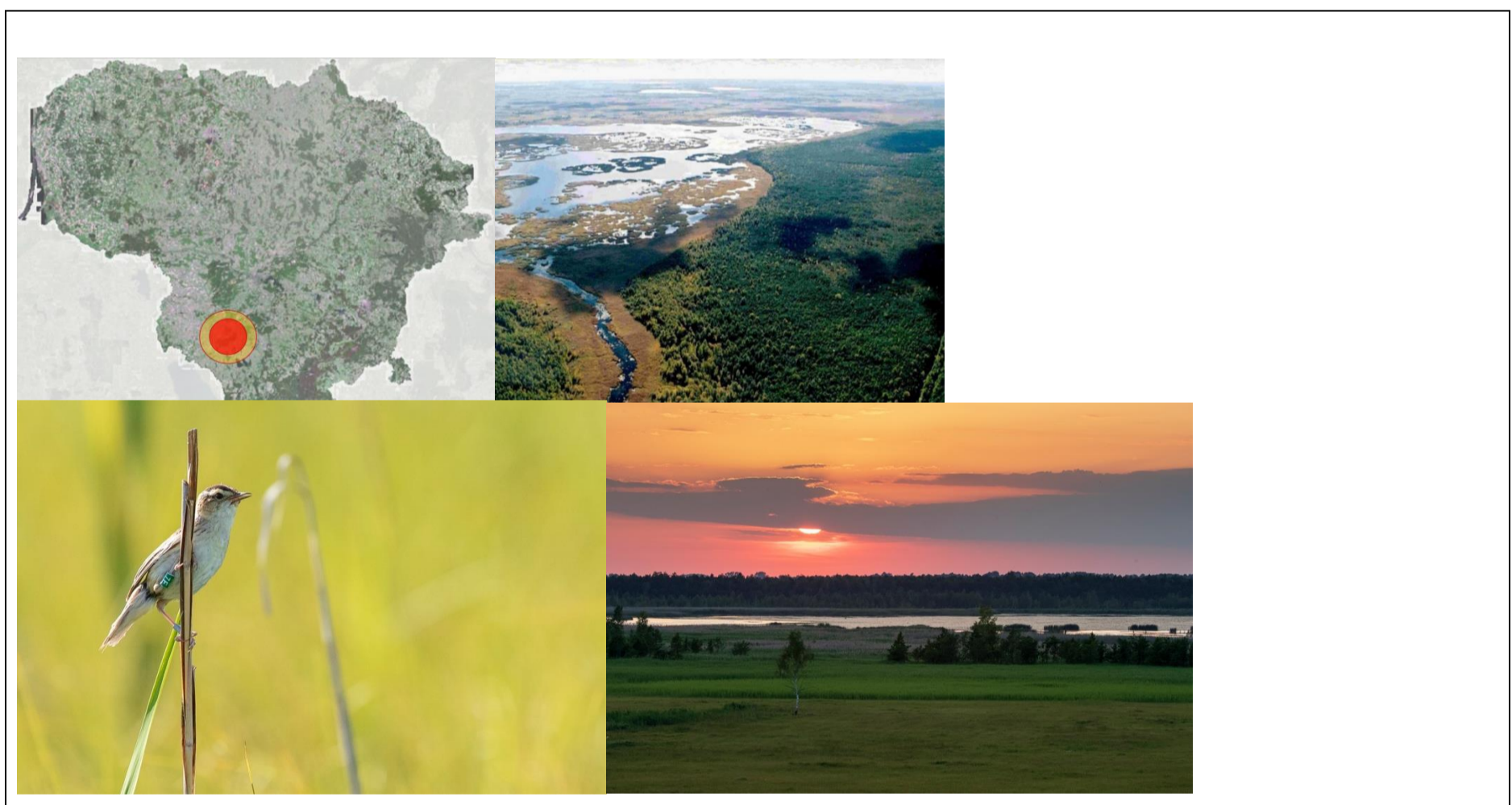
Policy recommendations:

- Secure win-win solutions for rural communities and the environment.** Measures that support the maintaining of high quality water, climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation must go hand-in-hand with farmers' motivation and desire to strengthen the long-term viability of their farms. Waterdrive encourages BSR countries to identify and stimulate win-win solutions and include them in their support programmes.
- Strengthen incentives for flexible local approaches and solutions.** Water management is highly dependent on local contexts and opportunities. No one size fits all across regions. Waterdrive encourages BSR countries to increase the level of flexibility and adaptivity of their present and future support programmes to benefit more from local needs, knowledge and experience.
- Strengthen joint and cross-sector actions on a catchment level.** Since multiple actors share watercourses and catchments, strengthened cooperation platforms and cross-sector networks are important for success. National-level support has an essential role in enabling local engagement. Waterdrive encourages BSR countries to further expand the number of pilot projects for testing catchment level water management solutions, including the new service of catchment officers.
- Motivate land managers to produce multiple ecosystem benefits.** Rather than supporting specific single target actions or the adoption of isolated measures, Waterdrive encourages BSR countries to identify and include measures providing multiple ecosystem benefits, including piloting result-based benefit systems.
- Strengthen agricultural advisory systems.** By increasing the number of highly skilled advisors and making their services available to all farmers, large and small, including new services for smart water management at catchment level, Waterdrive encourages BSR countries to strengthen their advisory services at catchment level with sufficient funding and expertise.
- Strengthen strategic water governance.** Having sufficient and regular monitoring services of water quality is a key element of water governance. Waterdrive encourages BSR countries to enhance governance, research, education, monitoring and planning to ensure effective strategic water planning at different scales and to enhance sustainability, including managing risks with too little water, too much water or water of poor quality.

Protecting of the Natura 2000 site Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve

by Elvyra Miksyte BEF

“There is a lack of funding for local projects, development of leadership skills and water management competences”

	
Strategic water governance	<p>The main focus of work in the case area is on involvement of decision-making stakeholders. The Waterdrive team develops recommendations for the water management and policy in the case area and on the national level. Also, initiates and facilitate cross-sector dialogue on potential implementation of best-practice water management in the case area and on the national level. During Waterdrive work, the connections were made with Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and dialogue established on water protection measures in CAP.</p>
Cross-sector actions at catchment level	<p>The main Waterdrive objectives in Lithuanian case study are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate cross-sector dialogue on implementation of best-practice water management in the case area and on the national level. • Carry out focus group meeting with farmers and other stakeholders about implementation of best-practice water management. Dialogue in the case area about water management and pollution reduction measures. • Carry out water quality monitoring in the case area to identify the level of potential agricultural impact or other pollution sources. Develop water quality monitoring recommendations for further monitoring in the case area in order to pin down the pollution levels and sources

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate participatory stakeholder engagement to identify policy and measure gaps resulting in low farmer engagement in voluntary measures which hinders water quality improvement in the catchment area Facilitate cross-sectoral stakeholder dialogue to identify policy and compensation measure opportunities empowering rural communities to act in a way which could result in water quality improvements
<p>Win-win solutions for rural communities and the environment</p>	<p>Lithuanian case area is unique due to Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve, which is a very sensitive place for biodiversity, rare and protected species. A lot of species found in the area are in the Birds Directive Annex 1 and the Habitats Directive Annex 1 and 2. A part of the reserve is protected by the RAMSAR convention since 1993 and in 2011 the reserve was enlisted into UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.</p> <p>However, currently the awareness of the farmers, local authorities and other local stakeholders about water pollution issues and need for innovative water management solutions is low. Moreover, there is a lack of data to identify pollution sources and justify the need for water management measure implementation. Therefore, in order to successfully engage the local authorities, farmers and communities in the dialogue and action on water management and nutrient run-off reduction, win-win solutions are crucial. Waterdrive team sees a potential to support win-win solutions and recommends national authorities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support for precision farming and no-till farming by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> providing financial support to farmers for the purchase of the machinery Providing trainings and advisory services on precision and no-till farming practices and benefits for farmers and ecosystems Provide support for soil sampling and fertilisation plans to increase the scale of adoption among farmers; but ensure smooth transition after funding period to become an orthodox practice (e.g. by ensuring accounting of costs and benefits while applying the schemes) Provide funding for municipalities to carry out comprehensive local studies and identify necessary local water pollution and surface run-off reduction measures and estimate necessary costs for implementation, also, develop local water management strategies. Increase the adoption rate of Agri-environmental measures Provide funding for implementation of local water pollution/nutrient run-off reduction measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two-stage ditches constructed wetlands sedimentation ponds especially the ones with the possibility for farmer to irrigate fields and in such way recycle nutrients sedimentation ponds with woodchips renovation of drainage systems and conversion into controlled drainage systems wetland restoration/rewetting
<p>Strengthen the agricultural advisory service</p>	<p>Currently Agricultural Advisory Services are focused on economic effectiveness, development and maximising returns. The services are not free of charge and therefore are not always affordable by farmers, especially smaller and extensive ones. Therefore, the Waterdrive team sees the need for the national government to encourage advisors to provide consultations on biodiversity conservation, habitat preservation and improvement, climate change mitigation, water pollution reduction measure implementation, e.g. by funding projects for advisory service providers to develop advisors' expertise and develop consultancy packages or funding farmers' consultations on these topics so the high quality information would be accessible to all farmers (including smaller and extensive ones).</p>
<p>Motivate land managers to produce multiple ecosystem benefits</p>	<p>Landowners will be involved but not at the level we expected due to lack of incentives from national and local governments, low awareness of the problem and low motivation to engage. One way for the farmers to engage and contribute to production of ecosystem services is through agrienvironmental measures. However, currently the uptake of these measures is very low, although, it is gradually increasing.</p> <p>Waterdrive team maintains the dialogue with farmers and decision makers. In upcoming months, we will discuss with the stakeholders the best-practice water management solutions and potential to implement them in the case area. These interactions will help us learn how to motivate land managers to get involved in the agrienvironmental measures and production of multiple ecosystem benefits.</p>
<p>Flexible local approaches and solutions</p>	<p>While working with Waterdrive in the case area learned that in general there is a lack of funding for local projects, development of leadership skills and water management competences.</p> <p>In order to support flexible local approaches and solutions it is important to strengthen local leaders who can work with water management and implement water management/pollution reduction projects by considering ecosystem thinking and participation of local communities. For instance, this could be done through funding local water management projects, promoting establishment of local water management associations/NGOs, encouraging citizen-science initiatives to collect more detailed data for monitoring, encouraging and supporting water management projects initiated by local action groups.</p>
<p>Stage of implementation? Strategy, information, education, engagement, implementation? (Kingas model in a more simple way)</p>	<p>Lithuanian case area work is focused on collecting the data on water quality and engagement of stakeholders to raise a problem of nutrient run-off and the need for innovative catchment-level water management. During discussions, focus groups and 1 on 1 meetings with stakeholders water management situation and necessary policy and systemic changes, as well as potential and needs to implement best-practice solutions is discussed.</p>
<p>Innovations in Waterdrive case area</p>	<p>Initiated the dialogue of stakeholders on water protection and management on a catchment level. Raised a problem and initiated more detailed water quality monitoring to collect data and fill knowledge gaps</p>

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	on water pollution levels. Maintaining the dialogue among the national authorities, farmers and other stakeholders.
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