

Promilleafgiftsfonden for landbrug

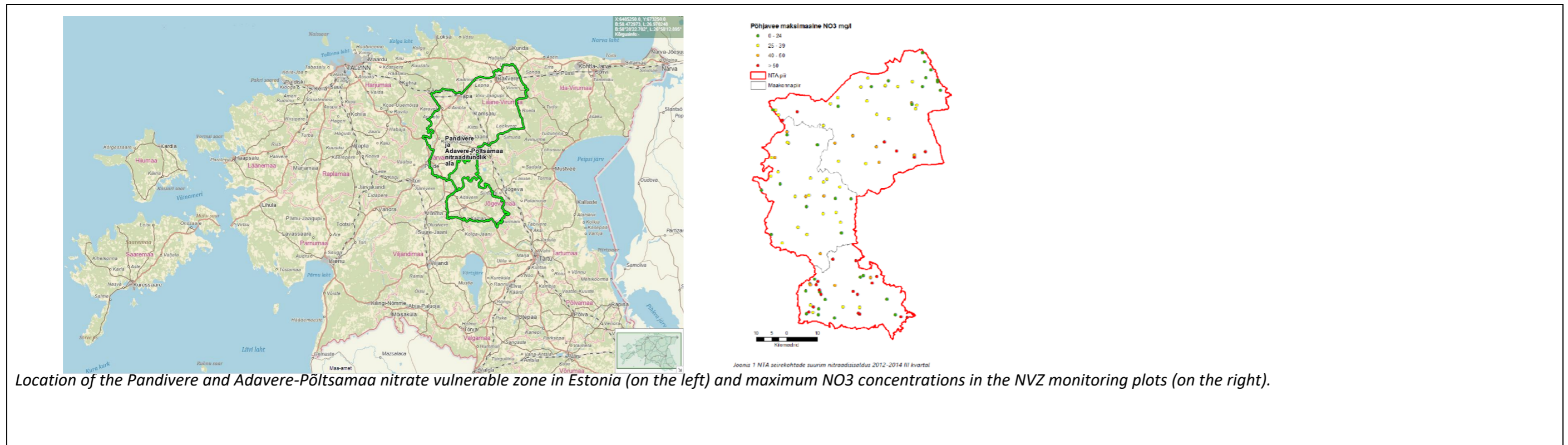
Waterdrive case area seen in relation to the policy recommendations

Policy recommendations:

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.

Implementing Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) action plan: challenges and solutions, Estonia by Kaja Peterson

“We need to better understand the challenges and solutions to improve the water quality in NVZ.”



Location of the Pandivere and Adavere-Põitsamaa nitrate vulnerable zone in Estonia (on the left) and maximum NO3 concentrations in the NVZ monitoring plots (on the right).

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Strategic water governance	<p>The pilot case is targeting the water policy and the effectiveness of implementation of the policy (action plan), the most important is to bring together the decision makers from different ministries and agencies and discuss the water issues in agriculture beyond their administrative borders. This was the ultimate aim of establishing of the NVZ task force in Estonia.</p> <p>The task force (a focus group) was established to discuss the findings of the analysis and the proposal for additional measures to improve the water quality in NVZ. One of the targets of policy analysis was the review of the action plan of NVZ 2016-2020 and provide input to the next period of 2021-2025. Policy analysis aimed at understanding the effectiveness of implementation of the action plan and what other measures could be useful to consider in the renewal of the action plan.</p> <p>Administrative changes and adopting new measures need communication, explanation and follow-up activities. A list of amendments was discussed in the task force. The NVZ action plan is currently been developed by the Ministry of Environment and the pilot case provides useful input to the draft.</p>
Cross-sector actions at catchment level	A survey among the pilot cases and case areas in Waterdrive has demonstrated that farmers and local governments expect better communication and cooperation with the state authorities to find the best solutions together.
Win-win solutions for rural communities and the environment	A survey among the pilot cases and case areas in Waterdrive has demonstrated that farmers regard the soil fertility as the primary issue in agricultural production, since this enables better yields, better yields again enable profits and economic sustainability of farms. Proper drainage ensures high yields and less nutrient loss.
Strengthen the agricultural advisory service	Followed by the survey results, the farmers expect the advisory system to be strengthened to find better solutions for agri-environmental measures.
Motivate land managers to produce multiple ecosystem benefits	<p>The water-measures should be tied to soil fertility measures. This gives the best outcome for the farmers and the environment. In addition to the water-soil measures also biodiversity measures are important to consider.</p> <p>In the NVZ pilot case most of the agri-environmental measures are related to water and soil protection, but there is a need for maintaining grasslands, both permanent and short-term, to ensure the soil carbon storage and soil fertility.</p> <p>Also financial support to expand organic farming practices is important.</p>
<p>Stage of implementation?</p> <p>Strategy, information, education, engagement, implementation? (Kingas model in a more simple way)</p>	<p>The NVZ action expires in 2020, and a new document is currently been developed for 2021-2025.</p> <p>The NVZ action plan task force (the focus group of Waterdrive) has suggested to strengthen the cooperation between stakeholders and the advisory system for the benefit of food production and protection of the environment. The information exchange between stakeholders needs to become regular</p> <p>The NVZ action plan also provides cost estimate of the implementation of measures.</p>
Flexible local approaches and solutions	The primary conflict in the NVZ is between the high soil fertility in the area which enables and encourages intensive agricultural production in poorly protected surface and groundwater areas (karst region). The intensive agricultural production needs to be transformed either into high-tech practices or into extensive practices (such as transferring cropland into grasslands, expanding farmland under organic farming). Both approached require financial support.
Innovations in Waterdrive case area	Waterdrive surveys in WP4 have demonstrated the primary issue for farmers is soil fertility, since this enables better yields, better yields again enable profits and economic sustainability of farms. The surveys have also demonstrated farmers and local governments expect better communication and cooperation with the state authorities to find the best solutions together. That is why the advisory system needs strengthening. The water-measures should be tied to soil and ecosystem services measures. This gives the best outcome for the farmers and the environment.