Waterdrive

CASE STUDY & POTENTIAL ACTION PLAN

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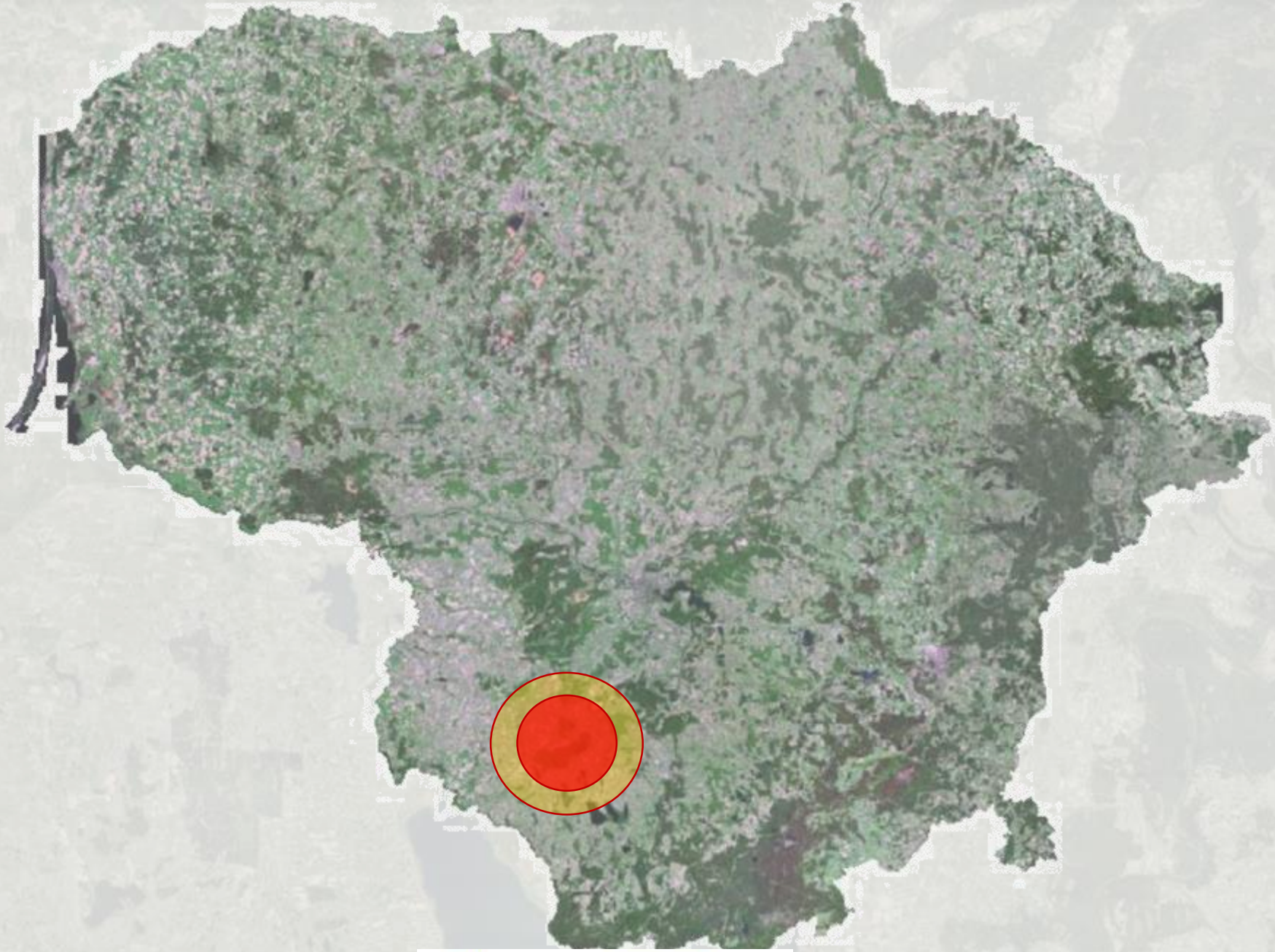
BALTIC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

BEF LITHUANIA

Interreg Baltic Sea Region

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



Interreg Baltic Sea Region

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

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Waterdrive

WATERDRIVE in Lithuania

Dovinė river catchment

Focus:

Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve and surrounding areas


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POWERED

Case study actions

- Many separate meetings with stakeholders:
  - Experts, Žuvintas BR Directorate, municipalities, ministries, people with experience and knowledge in the case area, Meteliai RP Directorate, etc.
- Searching for allies and communities
- Water quality measurements
- Focus group with farmers in March, 2020
- Survey of municipalities and farmers
- Contact with Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and dialogue established on water protection measures in CAP

What we found out

Focus group with farmers in March, 2020:

- Low awareness impacts on local water quality
- Low personal gain from water quality measures – low motivation to implement
- No local concern or active groups/initiatives addressing water quality question

What we found out

Controlled drainage the most feasible measure for farmers:

- High impact on water pollution reduction
- Financially adequate, fast payback
- **Not feasible in case study region due to hilly landscape**

Water quality measurements show:

- No significant pollution detected from agriculture on the catchment level (doesn't mean that it is not there)
- Potential pollution from household wastewater
- Hydrological imbalance due to fishery pond activity
- More measurements needed to draw conclusions

Plans for 2021

- Continue water quality monitoring and result analysis

  → Feedback results to Žuvintas BR Directorate, farmers and communities

- Meeting with fishery pond managers to investigate impacts and strategies for the future

  → Contact with other stakeholders and Swedish partners to investigate possible impacts and solutions (if possible)

- Meeting with local action groups and promote and inspire local environmental and water management actions

- Meeting decision-making stakeholders to discuss best-practice measures and potential to implement in LT

Potential action plan directions

After finishing the monitoring programme:

- → Identified potential pollution sources and **if possible** solutions for reduction
- → Develop recommendations for further monitoring
- → Calculate financial resources needed for further monitoring to pin down pollution sources

Identified best-practice water management solutions that would have higher potential to get implemented in the case area or nationally

Potentially: impacts of fishery ponds (we need to further investigate to identify and know how to address the impacts)