



## Kampinos wetland rewetting PL Regional Scalability plan

## Imprint

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## Content

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<b>1 For the reader</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Scope of the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Characteristics of the region	5
2.2 Rationale for the region	7
2.3 Links and synergies with other initiatives	12
<b>3 Stakeholders of the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1 Characteristics of the main stakeholders	13
<b>4 Green Deal Goals</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1 Main goals	18
4.2 Secondary goals	20
<b>5 From general goals to action</b>	<b>22</b>
5.1 Climate goal	22
5.2 Biodiversity goal	22
5.3 Drought resilience	25
5.4 Flood resilience	25
5.5 Inclusivity	25
5.6 Health and well-being	25
5.7 Zero pollution	26
5.8 Green growth	26
5.9 Sustainable food systems	26
5.10 Responsible stakeholders and their roles	26
<b>6 Timeline</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7 Budget</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8 Uncertainties and assumptions</b>	<b>30</b>



## 1 For the reader

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**The Regional Scalability Plan "Flowing Mazovia"** aims to improve the conservation status of wetlands in Mazovia. The document describes an action plan for improving hydrological conditions in the region through the transfer of knowledge and experience from the Kampinos National Park to the surrounding municipalities and the entire Mazovian Voivodeship.

The "Flowing Mazovia" plan is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, such as the Kampinos National Park, regional and local government authorities: Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, the counties and municipalities in Mazovia, as well as the landscape parks, the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection and the Natura 2000 areas it supervises, the State Forests, the Regional Water Management Authority in Warsaw, the State Water Management Authority, local communities and non-governmental organisations, as well as representatives of scientific institutions.

The aim of "Flowing Mazovia" is to engage, advise and collaborate. Through wetland restoration activities and building public awareness and support, we plan to jointly disseminate the experience and knowledge of Kampinos National Park in implementing effective wetland protection and restoration. We will scale up by multiplying projects on a micro and macro scale.

The document divides the upscaling process into three scales. The scale of the **Kampinos National Park (KNP)** is where technical restoration goals are put into practice and sustainable water management is already implemented. **The KNP buffer zone**, comprising eight municipalities in the immediate vicinity of the Park, two districts of the City of Warsaw and three poviats, is the area where the implementation of restoration measures is planned. And the entire **Mazowieckie Voivodeship** is a zone where scaling up will be based on promoting wetland restoration and raising awareness of the importance of wetland protection and sustainable water management for biodiversity, but also for our society.

Flowing Mazovia was created thanks to the support of the Coordinating Council and the Office of the Marshal of the Mazovian Voivodeship. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to its creation.



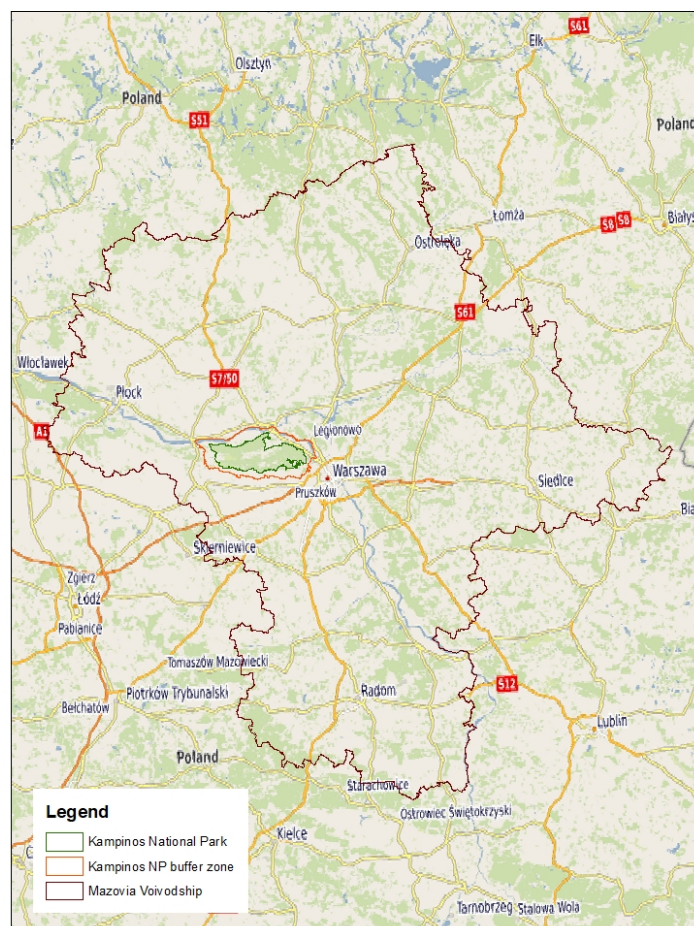
## 2 Scope of the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan

### 2.1 Characteristics of the region

The area of the Kampinos National Park is 38,544.33 hectares, of which 72.40 hectares fall within the Bison Breeding Centre in Smardzewice, in the Lodz Voivodeship. A buffer zone of 37,756 ha extends around the park.

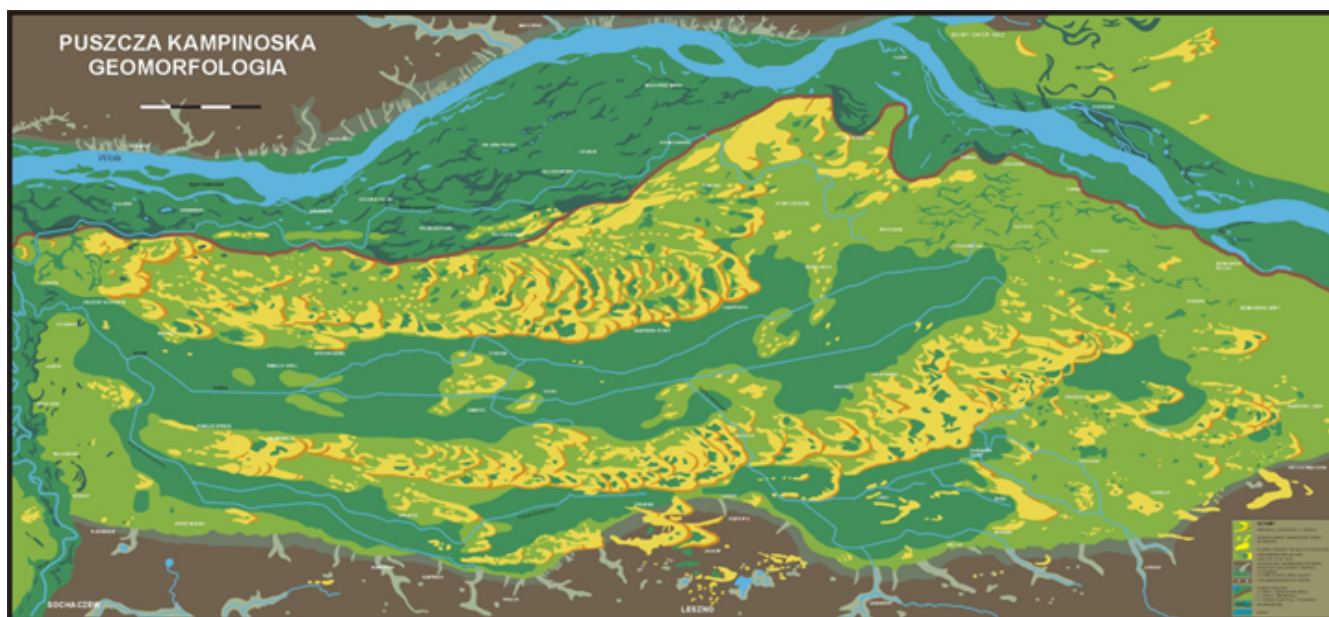
Kampinos National Park is located in central Poland, north-west of the Polish capital Warsaw (Fig. 1).

Geographic scope of the Flowing Mazovia Plan



*Fig. 1 Kampinos National Park and its buffer zone against the background of the City of Warsaw and Mazowieckie Voivodeship.*

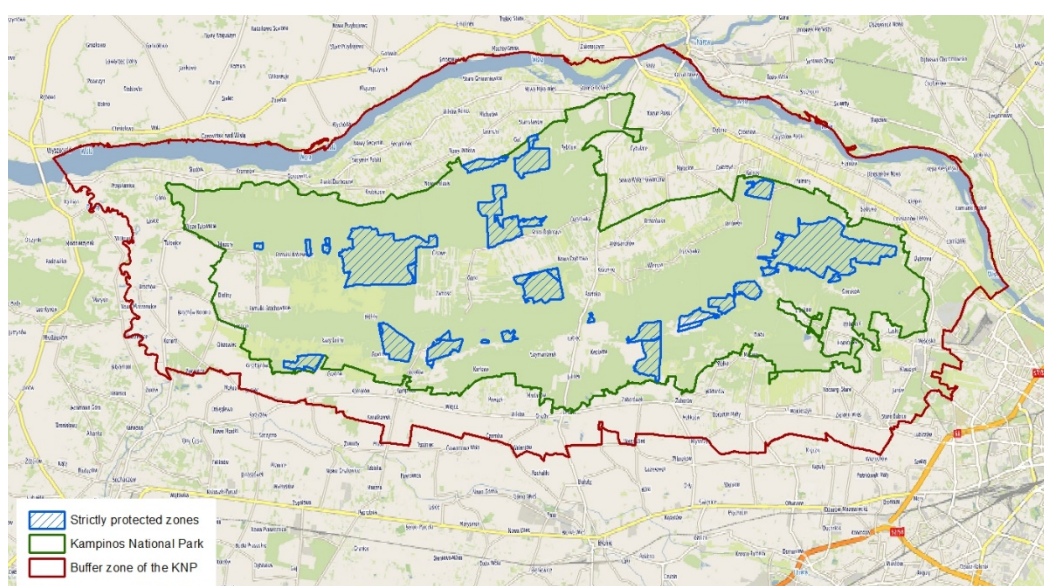
Within the park's borders, there are vast areas of the Kampinos Forest, located in the Vistula pre-valley. The Forest forms a clearly distinguished natural system, situated at the junction point of ecological corridors (the Vistula, Bug and Narew valleys) of European importance. The area was shaped in the post-glacial period by waters from the melting glacier flowing into the sea along the 18 km wide Prawiśka riverbed. Islands and shoals gave rise to dunes, and marshy areas were formed in the former troughs and oxbow lakes. Thus, two dune belts arranged latitudinally and two marshy belts lying between them were created. In addition, there are marshy depressions among the dune complexes and sand hills and small dunes in the marshy areas (Fig. 2).



*Fig. 2 Geomorphology of the Kampinos National Park*

To the south, the area is bounded by a proglacial scarp and postglacial plains: Łowicko-Błońska and Warszawska. To the north of the area of the Kampinoski National Park, there is a contemporary riverbed of the Vistula limited by manmade embankments, to the west – the Bzura river, a left-bank tributary of the Vistula. The wetlands of the Kampinos Forest have a unique, braided character, which is the result of fluvial processes, shaped mainly by the flood waters of the Vistula in the past. Despite the partial degradation of these areas, the area of the Park in the swampy strips still largely consists of wet forests and open habitats that harbour rare plant, fungi and animal species. With most of this area now in state ownership and under the management of the National Park, extensive efforts are now being made to improve the conservation status of the habitats and species in this area.

The Kampinos National Park constitutes both a Natura 2000 Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). 4 species of plants and 19 species of animals from Annex II of the Habitats Directive, as well as 25 species of birds from Annex I of the Birds Directive are found here. KNP counts as a bird sanctuary of European rank, and in 2000 the Kampinos Forest and its buffer zone were recognised as an MAB UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



*Fig. 3 Kampinos National Park with its buffer zone against the background of the main rivers in the region. Map background: © authors OpenStreetMap Open Database License <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>*



The most valuable fragments of the Park are under strict protection in 22 Strict Protection Areas with a total area of 5,823 ha (approx. 17.4% of the Park's area) (Fig. 3). The largest of them - Strict Protection Area Sieraków - is located only a few kilometres from the borders of Warsaw. On the remaining areas various active protection activities are carried out, aimed at restoring the lost natural values: reconstruction of tree stands, restoration of disturbed water regime, reintroduction of plant and animal species that previously occurred here. In order to preserve the traditional agricultural landscape of Mazovia, 4 landscape protection zones have been designated encompassing 7,226 ha (19% of the park's area).

The Mazowiecka Lowland is a historical region of Poland once inhabited by the Mazovian tribes. The flat landscape is made more attractive by rolling uplands, dune areas and the pre-valleys of the region's largest rivers: Vistula, Bug and Narew rivers. Numerous lakes, meadows and boulders scattered by the Scandinavian ice sheet are a permanent feature of the landscape. Nearly a quarter of the area of Mazovia is covered by forests, the most beautiful of which are Puszcza Biała and Puszcza Zielona. Within Mazovia's borders lie five landscape parks that make up the Mazovian Landscape Park Complex (Brudzeński, Chojnowski, Koziński, Mazowiecki and Nadbużański Parks), as well as Bolimowski, Gostyniński-Włocławski, Górzniński-Lidzbarski and the "Podlaski Przełom Bugu" Landscape Park. In particularly valuable places, 190 nature reserves have been created, such as the "Larch Forest". In addition, there are large forest complexes such as the Gostynin, Serockie, Chojnowskie and Garwolińskie Forests. The forests here are often diversified with dune formations, creating whole chains of hills sometimes exceeding 20 m in relative height, which are quite a tourist attraction in the lowlands. Forests cover an area of approximately 80,100 hectares, which accounts for 23.5% of the voivodeship's area. Compared to other voivodeships, Mazovia is relatively low-forested (Fig. 4). Mazovia is an industrial and agricultural region with a dynamically developing economy and the highest production potential in the country. The area of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship is 35,597 km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of approximately 5 million. Two-thirds of the voivodeship's area is covered by agricultural land (of which: 74% arable land, 4% orchards, 22% meadows and pastures), and 11% is urbanised.

### Percentage of voivodships covered with forests

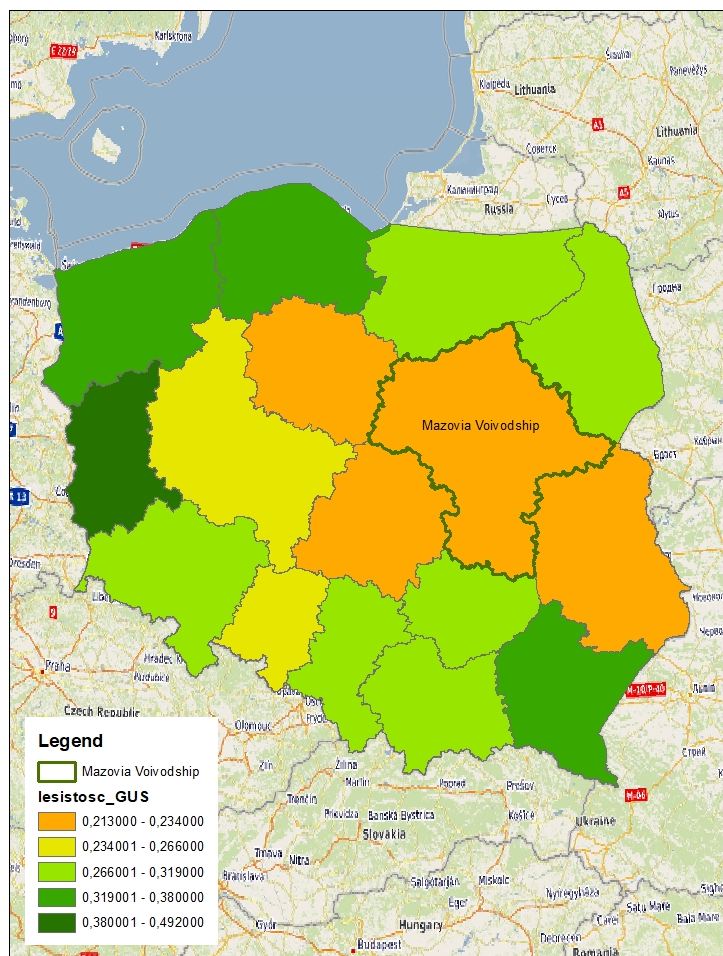


Fig. 4 Forest cover of Polish voivodships. Map background: © authors of Open Street Map Open Database License <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>

## 2.2 Rationale for the region

Kampinos National Park is the only national park located in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and central Poland. Due to the increasing phenomenon of fragmentation of natural landscapes, cooperation with institutions managing other protected areas surrounding KNP is particularly important: Landscape parks (the Mazovian Complex of Landscape Parks, as well as the Complex of Landscape Parks of the Łódzkie Voivodeship and the Gostyniński-Włocławski Landscape Park), the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship supervising protected landscape areas and landscape parks, the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Warsaw supervising Natura 2000 areas and nature reserves, as well as the State Forests and local governments supervising lower rank nature protection areas.



The Kampinos National Park cooperates with many of the above-mentioned institutions, also on wetland ecosystem restoration activities. Together with the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, the REC Poland Foundation and the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, "Kampinos Wetlands II" Life Nature project is currently being carried out (LIFE 19/NAT/PL/000746). Consequently, it is the Mazowieckie Voivodeship that has been selected as the geographical scope of the Regional Scalability Plan, "Flowing Mazovia". Figure 5 shows the most important protected areas in Mazovia.



*Fig. 5 Protected areas in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. Map background: © authors of Open Street Map Open Database License <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>*

The "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan can be divided into three stages:

1. Activities in Kampinos National Park - large-scale wetland restoration. The Kampinos National Park has been carrying out wetland restoration projects in its area for years. Currently, the Life Nature project "Kampinos Wetlands II", conducted in a consortium with the REC Poland Foundation, the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, is in progress. Despite land acquisitions carried out since 1975, there are still nearly 5,000 hectares of private land in the Park, and carrying out restoration activities in the vicinity of these lands is difficult. Permits from the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection and the State Water Management Company Wody Polskie are required to carry out active nature conservation measures. Despite this, it should be recognised that the Kampinos National Park has a strong influence on the state of progress of wetland restoration in its area. The Park has carried out such activities in the past, is currently carrying them out and anticipates applying for funding to continue them.
2. Activities in the buffer zone of the Kampinos National Park - small-scale wetland restoration. The buffer zone designated around the Kampinos National Park is not a legally protected area, however,

there are certain restrictions related to the neighbourhood of the national park and the possibility of the activities in the buffer zone influencing the nature inside the park. According to the Act on Nature Protection (*Journal of Laws Dz.U.2023.1336*) t.j. Art. 10, ust. 6, "projects of master plans, local plans of spatial development, spatial development plans of voivodeships [...] in the part concerning the national park and its buffer zone require acceptance of the director of the national park as far as the arrangements of these plans may have negative impact on the protection of nature of the national park." In addition, according to Article 60 (1) of the Act of 27 March 2003 on spatial planning and development (*Journal of Laws Dz.U.2024.1130*) "the decision on development conditions shall be issued, subject to paragraph 3, by the head of the municipality, the mayor or the president of the city after acceptance of the authorities referred to in Article 53 (4) and obtaining the arrangements or decisions required by separate regulations." According to Article 53. section 4, one such authority is the "director of the national park - with respect to areas located within the park's boundaries and its buffer zone". Since 2000, the Kampinos National Park has been a designated Biosphere Reserve "Puszcza Kampinowska" (Fig. 6). In 2023, a Coordinating Council was established with the aim of fostering cooperation and building a platform for the exchange of information and experience, integrating various interest groups and initiating actions for the proper functioning and development of the Biosphere Reserve.

The protection of ecological corridors and a number of soft nature conservation measures are being carried out together with the municipalities in the KNP buffer zone. There are also plans to promote sustainable water management and wetland restoration activities.

### 3. Actions in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship - large-scale awareness-raising and local actions to increase water retention.

The Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship has been working for years to improve the quality of the natural environment in the region and to raise awareness among local authorities of the value of wetland ecosystems. The voivodeship finances activities of municipalities related to, among other things, water management, rainwater management, green spaces, reclamation of urban and rural green spaces, blue-green infrastructure, climate change adaptation, biodiversity and micro-retention. There are plans to continue and scale up the above activities.

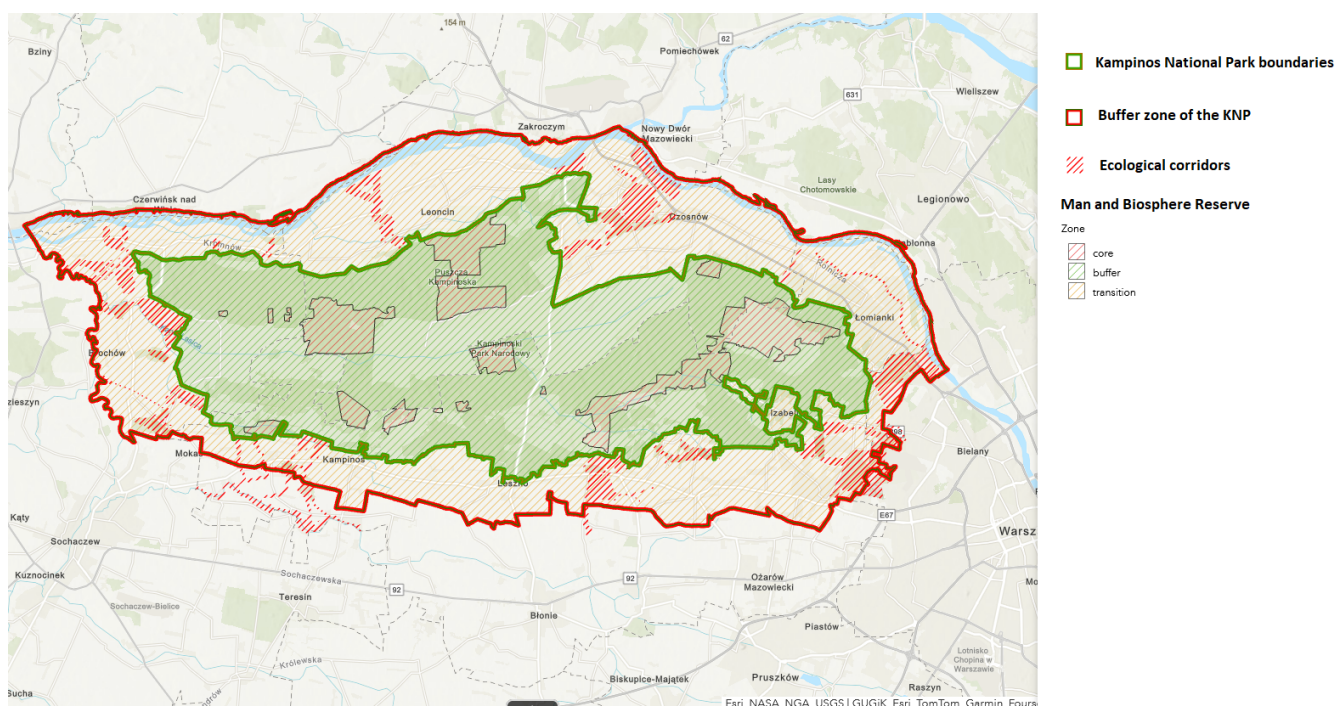


Fig. 6 Puszcza Kampinowska Biosphere Reserve with division into three zones (authors: Kampinos National Park open GIS portal <https://gis.kampinoski-pn.gov.pl/portal/home>).

Table 1. summarises the main actions planned and a preliminary breakdown of the actors responsible, timeframe and sources of funding.

Table 1 Actions under the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan

Scale of activities	What activities will be carried out	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Source of funding	Amount
Kampinos National Park	Implementation of the Life Project "Kampinos Wetlands II"	Kampinos NP and the project consortium: Regional Environmental Centre REC Poland, Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and Warsaw University of Life Sciences.	By 2026.	Life Fund, co-financing from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and own contribution from the Ministry of Climate and Environment	EUR 5 340 169 (total project budget 2020-2026)
	Implementation of the Merlin project	Kampinos NP	By September 2025.	Horizon 2020	
	Implementation of the project 'Protection of the habitat mosaic in Kampinos National Park' (The project includes mowing of wet meadows and control of invasive species).	Kampinos National Park	By 2026.	National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management	356 668.94 EUR (1 546 460.00 PLN) between 2023 and 2026
	Applying for additional funding for wetland restoration	Kampinos National Park	By 2050.		
	Continuation of the land buy-back programme	Kampinos National Park	By 2050.	National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Life Fund, FENiKS and others	
	Education and awareness-raising activities (including organisation of Wetlands Day, Merlin Day, educational statutory activities)	Kampinos National Park	By 2050.	in-kind plus various sources: e.g. National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Life Fund, UNESCO	
	Adaptation of educational and tourism infrastructure to meet the needs of people with disabilities	Kampinoski NP		PEFRON, Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development	
	Analysis of ecosystem services of wetlands in Kampinos NP	Warsaw University of Life Sciences	W 2024		
The buffer zone of the Kampinos National Park	Continue the work of the Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Council and working groups focused on environmental issues: water management, ecological connectivity, public expectations, protection of cultural assets and tourism.	Kampinos National Park together with local authorities and members of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Coordination Council			
		UNESCO funding			
	Raising awareness of the local communities about	Local authorities together with	May 2024.	UNESCO funding	



Scale of activities	What activities will be carried out	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Source of funding	Amount
	the biosphere reserve and nature conservation (e.g. by organising biosphere reserve days)	Kampinos National Park and members of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Coordination Council			
Mazowieckie Voivodship	Include wetland restoration priorities in strategic documents (e.g. Programme for Environmental Protection for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship 2030-2040 and beyond)	Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship	2050		
	Raising awareness among local authorities in Mazovia of the importance of wetland restoration	Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship	2050		
	Allocation of funds for wetland restoration for municipalities in Mazovia	Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship	2050		
	Cooperation with the Mazovian Landscape Parks Association for the protection and restoration of wetlands	Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship	2050		
	Assessment of the impact of the Regional Scalability Plan on ecosystem services (in the Bzura basin)	Catalan Institute for Water Research	2025	Horizon 2020 (as part of the Merlin project)	

## 2.3 Links and synergies with other initiatives

### **Draft strategy for the protection of wetlands in Poland for 2024-2034** (under ministerial consultation)

The draft Strategy for the Protection of Wetlands was commissioned by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection and is currently under consultation. The Strategy emphasises the importance of the ecosystem services of wetlands, describes the resources and status of wetlands in Poland, the priorities for their protection, the programme of measures to be implemented and the standards for monitoring the degree of implementation of the Strategy. If adopted, the Strategy for the Protection of Wetlands in Poland for 2024-2034 will be an important planning document indicating priorities and courses of action in the protection of wetland ecosystems in Poland.

### **Life Project Kampinos Wetlands I** <https://www.kampinoskiebagna.pl/en/home-kampinos-wetlands-1/>

The project was implemented in 2013-2019 by a consortium of partners comprising the Kampinos National Park, the Regional Ecological Centre REC Poland, the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences. The objectives of the project were to permanently improve the wetness of selected wetland fragments of the Kampinos Forest, inhibit succession in open wetland habitats and reduce conflicts between nature conservation interests and local communities. Technical activities included the construction of dams, levees, dykes and culverts, the development of a Beaver Population Management Plan and a Vision for Nature Conservation of the Kampinos Forest in a 100-year perspective.

### **Life Project Kampinos Wetlands II** <https://www.kampinoskiebagna.pl/en/home-kampinos-wetlands-2/>

The project started in 2020 and will run until 2026. The members of the project consortium are: Kampinos National Park, REC Poland Regional Ecological Centre Foundation, Warsaw University of Life Sciences and the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. The aims of the project are to improve hydrological conditions, to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species, to reduce areas of conflict between the interests of local communities and nature conservation, and to initiate regional and international activities to protect wetlands. The project includes the construction of dams, restoration of channel hydromorphology, construction of ponds, mowing and grazing of open habitats, enhancement of invertebrate and amphibian populations, control of invasive alien species, active bird protection and land purchase.

As part of the measure entitled 'Initiating wetland restoration in the region' in October 2023. The Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship organised a conference for Mazovian local authorities on the importance of small-scale water retention.

### **Agricultural Land Protection Fund** <https://mazovia.pl/pl/rolnictwo/dotacje-dotyczace-ochrony-gruntow-rolnych.html>

The 'Agricultural Land Protection Fund' programme finances, among other things, the construction of small retention ponds.

### **Mazovia for Climate Programme** <https://mazovia.pl/pl/bip/zalatw-sprawe/ekologia-i-srodowisko/mazowsze-dla-klimatu-2023/>

The Mazovia for Climate Programme - the programme finances tasks in municipalities and districts related to water management, rainwater management, green spaces, urban and rural green space rehabilitation, blue-green infrastructure, adaptation to climate change and natural disasters, biodiversity, micro-retention and energy efficiency.

### **Rural Development Programme** <https://www.gov.pl/web/rolnictwo/-program-rozwoju-obszarow-wiejskich-2014-2020-prow-2014-2020>

Under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, there were regional programmes funding the construction of retention ponds.

In addition, the State Forests and the City of Warsaw are also involved in small-scale retention activities (e.g. <https://eko.um.warszawa.pl/-/mala-retencja> ).

### 3 Stakeholders of the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan

#### 3.1 Characteristics of the main stakeholders

The Regional Scalability Plan "Flowing Mazovia" is addressed to different stakeholder groups depending on the scale: 1) in the Kampinos National Park, 2) in the KNP buffer zone and 3) in the whole of the Mazovian Voivodeship.

In 2023, the Coordinating Council of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve "Puszcza Kampinoska" was officially established, which is also the Case Study Board of the Merlin Project. The Council is composed of representatives of: the Kampinos National Park, local and regional self-governments from the KNP buffer zone, the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection, the Regional Water Management Board, the Warsaw City Forests, residents of the Kampinos Forest and scientific institutions and non-governmental organisations.



*Fig. 7 Photo from one of the meetings of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Council.*

The Coordination Council is a platform for

decision-making in a partnership based on cooperation and expert consultation (Fig. 7). The main objective of the Council's work is to build a space where decisions on the management and protection of the "Puszcza Kampinoska" Biosphere Reserve are made together. One of the topics on which the Council is working are the activities of the Kampinos Wetlands II and the Merlin projects and the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan.

#### Conflicts

In carrying out activities aimed at restoring wetlands and raising groundwater levels in its area, the Kampinos National Park not infrequently encounters resistance from some stakeholders. One such group is the local communities, particularly in the villages of Brzozówka, Janówek, Górki and Zamość. These include local people with strong ties to the area, owners of agricultural land and non-local summer house owners.

Activities aimed at the restoration of wetland ecosystems, which are one of the most important tasks of the Kampinos National Park, are sometimes perceived by local communities as the cause of spring flooding and, as such, are seen as detrimental to local residents and farmers. In part, this dispute is due to a lack of understanding of the complex processes of water flow through the Park and the effects of anthropogenic changes currently taking place in the Kampinos National Park and its buffer zone. Also the cooperation in water management with the State Water Management Company needs to be made more effective.

In order to resolve the conflict and improve relations with local communities, a Working Group on Public expectations related to the Puszcza Kampinoska Biosphere Reserve has been established within the Coordinating Council. In addition, smaller group meetings and so-called 'kitchen table meetings' are planned. As part of the Merlin project, the Kampinos National Park is currently conducting extensive public consultations to create a map of areas at risk of spring flooding in order to more effectively direct water to areas of natural value and away from populated areas. In the coming days, employees of the Kampinos National Park will also receive training in public communication in order to learn how to have a substantive discussion, listen to the other side and find a solution to the problem together.

The table below summarises the stakeholders of the Regional Scalability Plan "Flowing Mazovia".



Table 1 Stakeholders of the Regional Scalability Plan "Flowing Mazovia"

L.p.	Name of stakeholder	Sector	Degree of commitment	Action level	Type of organisation	Description: expectations, interests, responsibilities	Commitment to the "Flowing Mazovia" plan
1.	Brochów municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State	The competences of the municipalities include setting the direction of the local spatial policy by, inter alia, adopting local laws, such as Local Spatial Development Plans or Municipal Development Strategies, (soon to be called General Spatial Plans), and enacting ordinances in agreement with the provincial governor and other competent entities. Brochów is located on the western side of the KNP, bounded by the Bzura River.	Support, consultation, promotion, implementation: implementation of objectives with the support and use of KNP analyses, in accordance with Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship instructions and spatial plans, in compliance with EU regulations
2.	Czosnów municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State	Czosnów, Leoncin are located on the northern side of the KNP, bounded by the Vistula River.	
3.	Leoncin municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State		
4.	Kampinos municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State	Kampinos, Leszno are located on the southern side of the KNP.	
5.	Leszno municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State		
6.	Stare Babice municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State	Stare Babice, Izabelin, Łomianki are located in the central part of the Mazovian Voivodeship, the area of the communes lies in the direct vicinity of Warsaw, from the western border of the city.	
7.	Izabelin municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State		
8.	Łomianki municipality	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State		
9.	Bielany district of Warsaw city	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State	Bemowo and Bielany are two districts of the Polish capital.	
10.	Bemowo district of Warsaw city	Spatial planning, nature protection	Engaged	Local	State		
11.	Urban forests of the City of Warsaw	Forestry	Engaged	Regional	State	An institution that manages forests on the territory of the City of Warsaw and conducts extensive environmental education.	Pro-retention activities in urban forests, support, promotion
12.	Mazovian Chamber of Agriculture	Agriculture		Regional	State	The Mazovian Chamber of Agriculture is an institution of economic self-government representing the interests of Mazovian agriculture and farmers.	Support, promotion
13.	Mazowieckie Landscape Parks Complex	Environment, climate, natural disasters	To the invitation	Regional	State	A complex of five landscape parks operating in the Mazovia region.	Pro-retention activities in landscape parks, support, promotion
14.	Ministry of Climate and Environment	Cross-sectoral	Engaged	National	State	Government administration	Support, promotion
15.	Railway Museum in Sochaczew	Other	Engaged	Local	State	Museum of the narrow-gauge railway, organising narrow-gauge railway trips from Sochaczew to the Kampinos Forest in the summer season	Support, promotion
16.	Palmiry Historical Memorial Museum	Other	Engaged	Local	State	Museum which is part of the Warsaw Museum and commemorates Nazi crimes against civilians in the Kampinos Forest.	Support, promotion

L.p.	Name of stakeholder	Sector	Degree of commitment	Action level	Type of organisation	Description: expectations, interests, responsibilities	Commitment to the "Flowing Mazovia" plan
17.	Museum of the Sochaczew Region and the Battle of the Bzura	Other		Local	State	Museum based in the Sochaczew Town Hall, commemorating the Battle of the Bzura and events in the history of the region.	Support, promotion
18.	Państwowe Gospodarstwo Wodne Wody Polskie	Water resources	Engaged	Regional	State	This institution is the main entity responsible for national water management. The representative of this institution, who takes part in the meetings of the Coordinating Council, is the deputy director of the Catchment Management Board in Łowicz, the organisation that manages the area of influence of the Regional Scalability Plan "Flowing Mazovia". This regional entity is responsible for water management, watercourses, ditches and hydrotechnical structures, including weirs, in the Park's buffer zone and also in the KNP, where management is carried out jointly with the KNP director.	Support, consultation, promotion, implementation, cooperation with KNP and municipalities, protection of wetlands through responsible weir management
19.	Nowodworski Powiat	Cross-sectoral	Engaged	Regional	State	The three poviats in which the KNP is located. The poviats are responsible for tasks analogous to those performed by the municipalities, but at a higher level and on a larger scale.	Support, consultation, promotion, implementation: implementation of objectives with the support and use of KNP analyses, in accordance with Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship instructions and spatial plans, in compliance with EU regulations
20.	Sochaczewski Powiat	Cross-sectoral	Engaged	Regional	State		
21.	Warszawski zachodni Powiat	Cross-sectoral	Engaged	Regional	State		
22.	Other municipalities in Mazovia	Spatial planning	To the invitation	Local	State	Units of administrative division in Poland - 1st level.	Pro-retention activities in your area, support, promotion
23.	Other districts in Mazovia	Cross-sectoral	To the invitation	Municipal	State	Units of administrative division – 2 <sup>nd</sup> level in Poland.	Pro-retention activities in your area, support, promotion
24.	Scientific Council of the Kampinos National Park	Other	Engaged	River basin level	State	An advisory body to the KNP Director, consisting of scientists, experts and functionaries.	Support, expertise, advice
25.	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection	Cross-sectoral	Engaged	Regional	State	The authority carries out tasks concerning environmental policy in the field of nature protection management (in particular, it supervises Natura 2000 areas and nature reserves and enforces species protection regulations), control of the investment process and the provision of environmental information in the	Support, consultation, promotion, implementation

L.p.	Name of stakeholder	Sector	Degree of commitment	Action level	Type of organisation	Description: expectations, interests, responsibilities	Commitment to the "Flowing Mazovia" plan
						voivodship. The authority also issues, within the scope of its competences, acts of local law in the form of regulations.	
26.	University of Life Sciences	Cross-sectoral	Engaged	National	State	University specialising in natural sciences and science, collaborating with the Kampinos National Park on projects including Kampinos Wetlands I, Kampinos Wetlands II and Merlin.	Scientific support: providing scientific knowledge, conducting research at KNP, leading working groups
27.	Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship	Cross-sectoral	Engaged	Regional	State	The Office of the Marshal is a unit of the Voivodeship Board which, with the help of the Office of the Marshal, executes the resolutions of the Voivodeship Assembly and the tasks of the Voivodeship. It supervises the work of the Mazovian Complex of Landscape Parks, as well as the areas of protected landscape. It supports nature conservation in various ways, including through environmental education, cooperation with local authorities and grant management. Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship is responsible for developing policies and strategic documents at the county level among others: for environmental protection and water management. The basic document, concerning the environmental issues, developed and monitored by the Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship is the Environmental Protection Programme for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. This document defines the ecological policy of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship taking into account issues related to adaptation to climate change. The Marshal's Office collaborates with poviats and municipalities located within the Mazovia Voivodeship area.	Support, consultation, promotion and education in the region, subsidising pro-retention activities in municipalities and districts.
28.	Centre for the Protection of Wetlands	Environment, climate, natural disasters	Engaged	National	Non-governmental	NGO, experts in wetland protection and restoration	Support, expertise, promotion
29.	St Roch Confraternity	Other	Engaged	Local	Non-governmental	The association refers to the Brotherhood of St Roch, which existed in Brochów between 1854 and 1881. Contact with local communities	Support, promotion
30.	LAG "Between the Vistula and Kampinos"	Other	Engaged	Local	Non-governmental	Association "Between the Vistula and Kampinos" acting as Local Action Group under the Rural Development Programme.	Support, promotion
31.	Regional Environmental Centre REC Poland	Environment, climate, natural disasters	Engaged	Other	Non-governmental	Non-governmental organisation, experts in wetland conservation and restoration, working with KNP on the Kampinos Wetlands I and Kampinos Wetlands II projects.	Implementation of wetland restoration activities in cooperation with KNP in the Kampinos National Park



L.p.	Name of stakeholder	Sector	Degree of commitment	Action level	Type of organisation	Description: expectations, interests, responsibilities	Commitment to the "Flowing Mazovia" plan
32.	Inhabitants of the villages of Brzozówka, Aleksandrów, Zamość, Górki, Wiersze, Truskawka, Janówek, Zaborówek	Other	Engaged	Local	Association	A group of local residents, mainly opposed to the restoration of wetlands in the villages lying within the boundaries of the KNP.	Support, consultation: participate in consultations, advise on the basis of your local knowledge
33.	Association "The Kampinos Bee"	Environment, climate, natural disasters	Engaged	Regional	Association	An association dedicated to the conservation and dissemination of knowledge about the Central European Kampinos bee race.	Support, promotion
34.	Together for Bielany Association	Other		Municipal	Association	Association for the benefit of the Bielany district	Support, promotion
35.	„ZaPuszczeni" Association	Environment, climate, natural disasters	Engaged	Regional	Association	Association Kampinos Guiding Collective "ZaPuszczeni" - group of certified guides	Support, promotion
36.	The Green Ring of Warsaw	Environment, climate, natural disasters		Regional	Association	The Green Ring of Warsaw is a project for the organisation of socially important open spaces and a platform for joint action to realise this project.	Support, promotion

## 4 Green Deal Goals

This Regional Scalability Plan addresses the following objectives identified by the European Green Deal (Figure 8):

### Main goals

- Biodiversity net gain
- Climate regulation
- Drought resilience
- Flood resilience
- Inclusivity
- Health & well-being
- Zero pollution

### Secondary goals

- Financing the transition
- Green growth
- Sustainable food systems

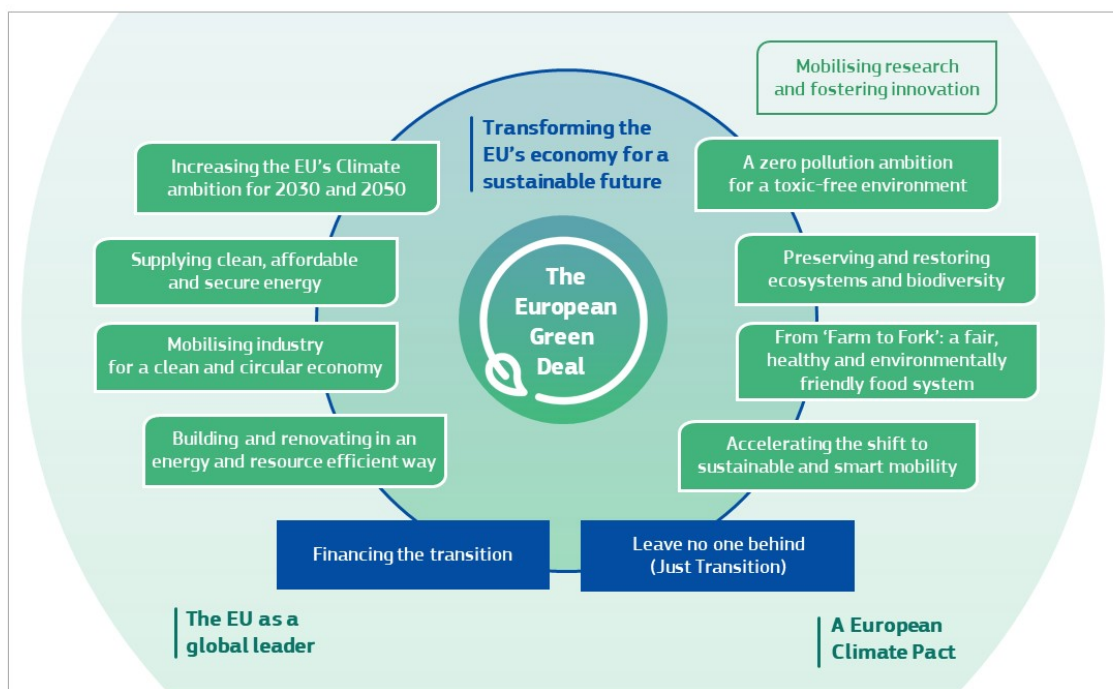


Fig. 8 European Green Deal - Objectives

### 4.1 Main goals

#### Biodiversity net gain

National parks are the highest form of nature protection in Poland and, as such, have the task of protecting biodiversity. According to the Law on Nature Protection, national parks "are established to preserve biological diversity, resources, inanimate nature and landscape values, to restore the proper condition of natural resources and components, and to restore deformed natural habitats, plant habitats, animal habitats or fungi habitats." Due to limited funds, active conservation projects (including wetland restoration) are made possible

through external funding. The park carries out active conservation by acquiring external funds and implementing projects to improve biodiversity within its boundaries.

Kampinos National Park monitors and reports on the status of species and habitats in its area, in accordance with the guidelines of the Birds and Habitats Directives. Monitoring also takes place as part of the State Environmental Monitoring. In addition, most active conservation projects have in-built monitoring tasks to assess the state of nature and the effects of the project.

### Climate regulation

Biodiversity conservation projects are inextricably linked to climate regulation. All activities related to rewetting, removal or planting of vegetation have an impact on carbon stocks and emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases. Drained and degraded peatlands are one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere as the decomposition of peat deposits takes place (Figure 9). The way to stop this process is to rewet these areas, which stops the decomposition process and protects the stored carbon from escaping into the atmosphere. Unfortunately, the process of active carbon accumulation by living peatlands is very slow and amounts to a maximum of a few millimetres per year. This is why it is so important to conserve existing wetlands and re-wet those that have not yet completely degraded.

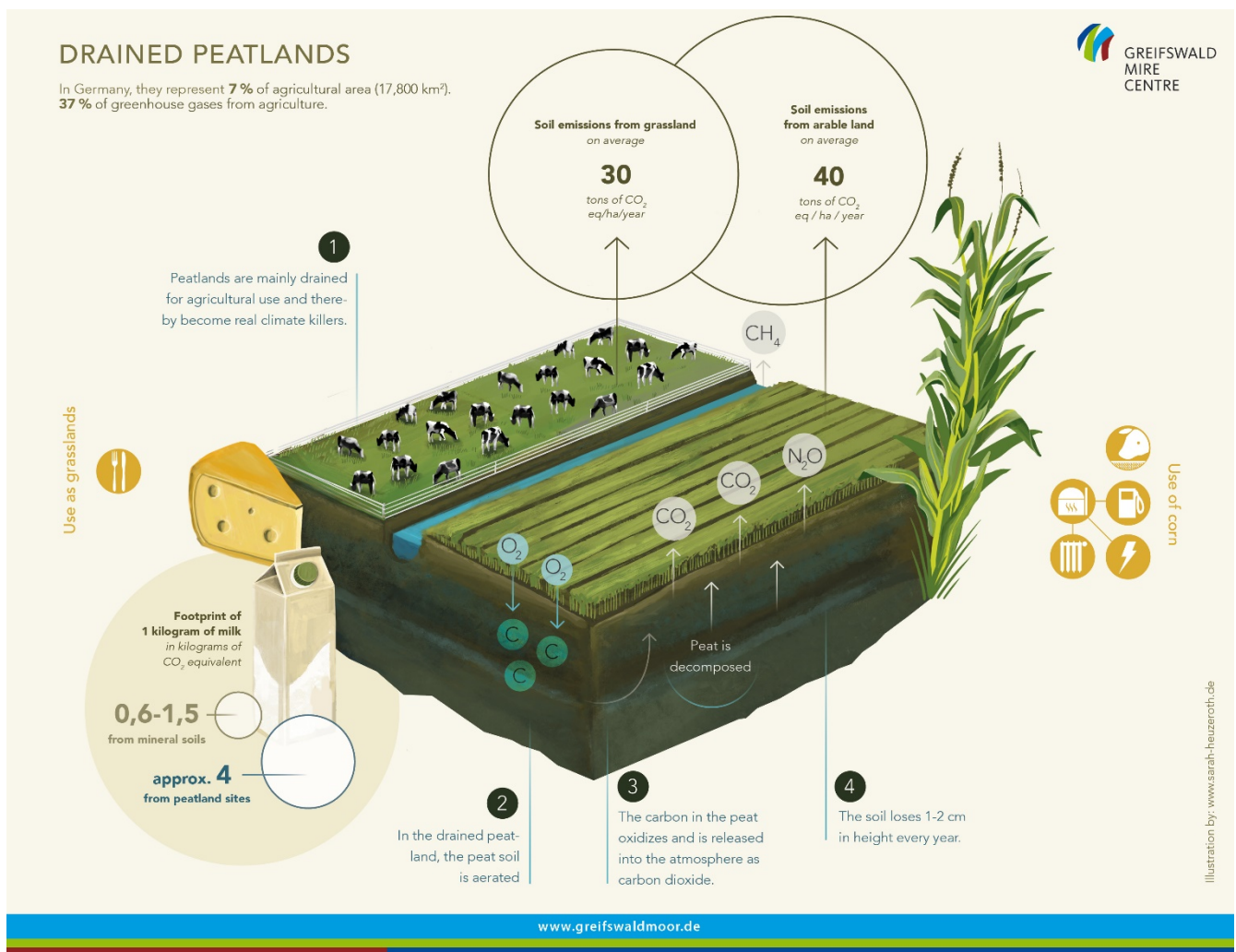


Fig. 9 How drained peatlands affect the climate. Source of infographic: Sarah Heuzeroth in collaboration with the Greifswald Mire Centre; licensed under CC BY 4.0

Unfortunately, at the moment the Kampinos National Park does not have the capacity to monitor the uptake and emission of greenhouse gases from ecosystems located within the Park's boundaries.

### Drought resilience

Droughts have hit Poland almost every year in recent years. Climate change is leading to less frequent but more intense rainfall, resulting in less water being absorbed. Increasing patches of built-up and impermeable land



mean that drainage systems cannot cope with heavy rainfall, leading to localised flooding. Warm winters, often without snow cover, mean that less water is stored until spring, when plants need it most. Hot summers, on the other hand, result in higher evaporation rates.

All activities related to retaining water in ecosystems, including the installation of levees and damming, raising the level of water in ditches and diverting it to wet meadows, peat bogs and swamp forests, naturalization of watercourses, help to reduce surface water run-off, and thus mitigate the effects of drought and reduce the likelihood of its occurrence. The Kampinos National Park does its best to predict the effects of its small retention measures in detail. To this end, the Park has models that provide information on the effects of raising the Park's water level on local residents.

### **Flood resilience**

Maintaining functional floodplains is the best method of flood mitigation, as it provides a place where the flood wave can spread out and brake. Natural ecosystems act like a sponge to absorb water during heavy rains, the frequency of which is increasing due to climate change. Many valuable natural habitats need the regular flooding of large rivers, most of which, such as the Vistula, have been cut off from them by dikes. Unfortunately, most of the floodplains claimed in this way are now either used for agriculture or populated and built-up, making their restoration and floodplain restoration impossible.

### **Inclusivity**

Gaining the support of local communities for conservation efforts is crucial. It is necessary to use a participatory approach in which local people are involved in the conservation planning process. To effectively protect and restore wetland ecosystems in Mazovia, local stakeholders must be taken into account, although it will certainly be difficult to take divergent priorities and views into account.

### **Health & well-being**

Access to natural ecosystems is crucial for maintaining physical and mental health. This aspect became particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kampinos National Park, as well as other natural areas, saw a significant increase in visitor numbers at that time. Ensuring that all citizens have access to high quality green spaces, areas for physical activity and contact with nature is the responsibility of a democratic state.

### **Zero pollution**

Functional wetlands play an important role in retaining the run-off of pollutants and fertilisers from agriculture into surface waters. Unfortunately, due to significant overfertilisation of fields and through a dense network of drainage ditches and rivers, Poland is the main supplier of nutrients to the Baltic Sea, resulting in eutrophication, algal blooms and the formation of so-called dead zones. Functional wetland ecosystems stop water runoff and filter pollutants.

## **4.2 Secondary goals**

### **Financing the transition**

Kampinos National Park finances wetland restoration in its area through project grants from external funds. Unfortunately, such funding is not stable and will not be available in the long term. Therefore, mechanisms need to be developed to make nature conservation and wetland ecosystem restoration economically viable. Unfortunately, under the current economic system, the environmental costs of economic activity are mostly passed on to society (especially to future generations) and to nature itself. It is necessary to reform the economic system so that nature conservation is a priority and a self-financing undertaking.

### **Green growth**

Creating green jobs that depend on healthy ecosystems is one way of attracting conservation advocates. Protected areas are particularly linked to recreational and nature tourism. The more local prosperity depends on nature tourism, the more the local community should oppose unsustainable municipal development.

### **Sustainable food systems**

Kampinos National Park is situated on two belts of dunes and two belts of marshlands. The dune areas are now predominantly forested, while the marshy areas are drained wet forests, peat bogs and meadows. The shrinking of peat deposits and turning of peat into muck has resulted in a significant loss of fertility in the area, which, combined with socio-economic changes, has led to the unviability of small-scale agriculture in the area. The Park's buffer zone is becoming increasingly densely populated and built-up, with agricultural land being

abandoned or converted into building plots. For the shrinking number of farmers still cultivating Kampinos' land, raising the groundwater level will provide protection against the drought that regularly hits Poland. Unfortunately, many local residents oppose raising the water level in the ditches and blame the Park for spring flooding of fields and houses. Kampinos National Park has hay meadows that are rented out and included in the agri-environmental programme.

Although agriculture is disappearing in the Kampinos National Park, the Mazowieckie Voivodeship as a whole is an important agricultural and fruit-growing region in Poland.

## 5 From general goals to action

### 5.1 Climate goal

In order to achieve the objective of combating and adapting to climate change, the following measures are envisaged:

Action 1. Wetland rewetting (Kampinos National Park, local authorities)

Action 2. Study of carbon and greenhouse gas balance in KNP, analysis of ecosystem services (e.g. Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

Action 3: Assessment of the impact of the Regional Scalability Plan on ecosystem services in the Bzura river basin (Catalan Institute for Water Research)



*Fig. 10 Alses under water in the KNP (author M. Szajowski)*

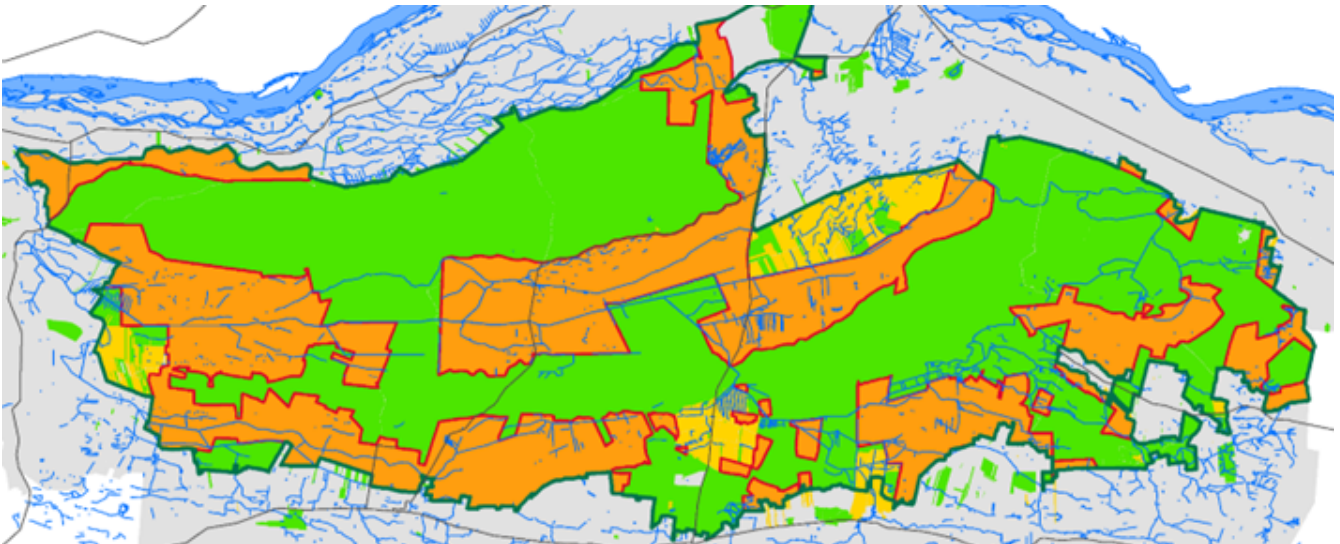
### 5.2 Biodiversity goal

In order to achieve the objective of combating the loss of biodiversity, the following measures are envisaged:

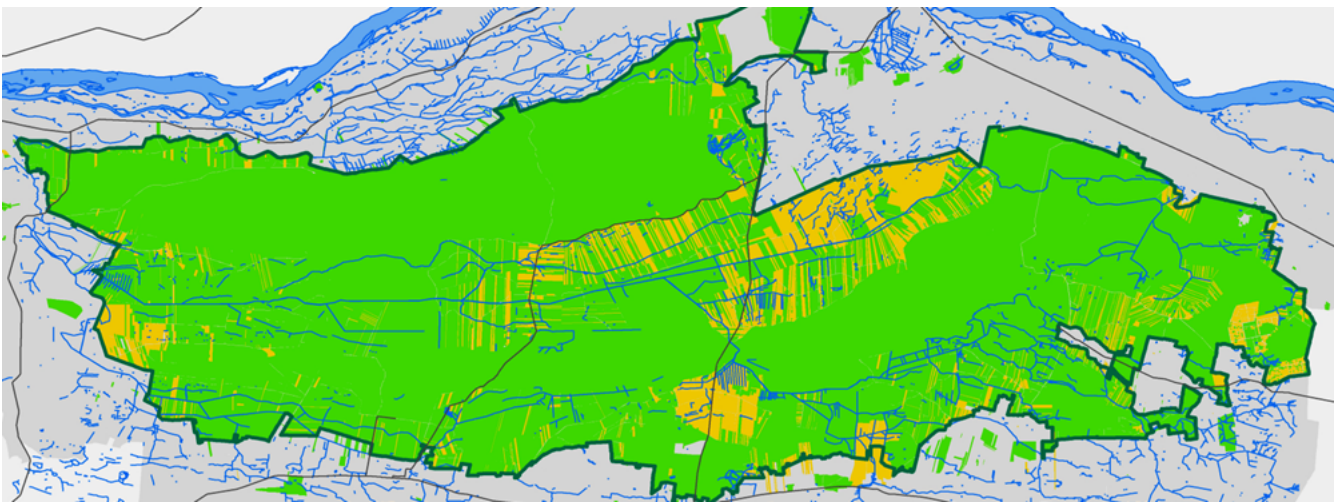
Action 1. Land purchase (Kampinoski NP)

The Kampinos National Park was established in 1959 on both state (State Forests) and private land. A land buy-out programme has been in place since 1975, which is crucial to guarantee full and indefinite environmental protection. Private owners of land lying inside the Park often oppose activities on the watercourses, which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to carry out the restoration of the Kampinos marshes. Land acquisitions are carried out as far as possible depending on the available funding and the supply of plots. Figures 11 and 12 illustrate the progress of land buyouts (orange and yellow are private land, green is KNP land).





*Fig. 11 Status of land purchase in KNP in 1975 (beginning of the process)*



*Fig. 12 Status of land buyout in KNP in 2023.*

#### Action 2: Wetland restoration (Kampinoski NP and local authorities)

Kampinos National Park is situated in the pre-valley of the Vistula River, which has shaped the area and periodically flooded it. A large part of the park was a drainless area with only periodically formed watercourses. Unfortunately, many years of land reclamation have resulted in significant drainage of water from the area and drainage of habitats in the marshy strips. Figure 13 shows the process of building drainage channels in the KNP.

For years, the Kampinos National Park has been carrying out wetland restoration activities to the extent that the degree of land purchase, external funding and acceptance by local residents makes this possible.

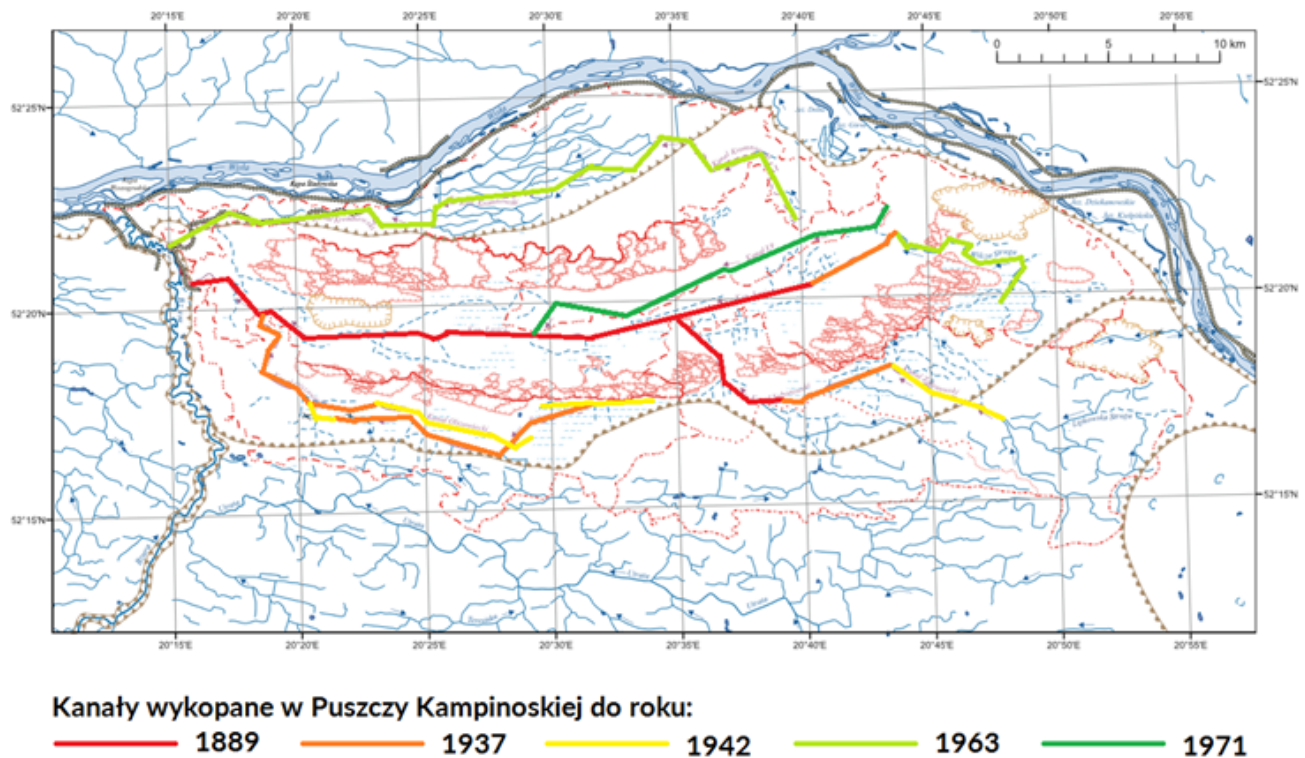


Fig. 13 Canal construction process in KNP in respective years. (authors: Michał Miazga based on Małgorzaa Gutry-Korycka, Izabela Gołębiowska, *The protection and renaturalization of wetlands in the Kampinos National Park*, Warsaw University.)

#### Action 3: mowing of grassland vegetation (Kampinoski NP)

The marshy strips used to be covered by extensively used meadows. Unfortunately, a large part of them has been abandoned and is therefore overgrown with shrubs and trees and invasive species. The Kampinos National Park actively protects the meadows by mowing and grazing them in order to restore the species and habitats of the open areas (Fig. 14).

#### Action 4: removal of invasive species (Kampinos National Park and local authorities)

Due to the large area it occupies, its proximity to Warsaw and the large number of visiting tourists, Kampinos National Park has a serious problem with invasive plant and animal species. The plant species posing the greatest threat to local biodiversity are invasive goldenrod, knapweed, black locust, red oak and box elder. Depending on the species, different methods are used to control uninvited guests. Invasive animal species are controlled by trapping and shooting. Raccoon dog and American mink



Fig. 14 Meadow in the swampy strip mown by KNP

cause the most damage to native animals.

It should be noted that due to the listing of some species on the IAS list, local authorities are also obliged to eradicate them. KNP

#### Action 5: Creation of new habitats (Kampinoski NP)

In order to support amphibian and invertebrate populations, KNP will excavate ponds as part of the Kampinoskie Bagna II project, which will provide a habitat for invertebrates, including rare and protected molluscs, and amphibian reproduction. Nesting platforms are being built to improve the conservation status of large birds of prey and the black stork.

#### Action 6: Reintroduction of species (Kampinoski NP)

The Kampinos National Park plans to support amphibian and invertebrate populations by reintroducing them into newly created ponds.

### 5.3 Drought resilience

In order to achieve the objective of combating drought, the following measures are envisaged:

Action 1: Improvement of wetland hydration status (Kampinoski NP and local authorities)

Action 2: Analysis of ecosystem services - including drought prevention - provided by wetlands (Warsaw University of Life Sciences).

Action 3: Assessment of the impact of the Regional Scalability Plan on ecosystem services in the Bzura river basin (Catalan Institute for Water Research)

### 5.4 Flood resilience

In order to achieve the goal of flood resilience, the following measures are envisaged:

Action 1: Improve wetland hydration status → increase water retention capacity

Action 2: Analysis of protection needs against flooding among local communities (Kampinoski NP)

Action 3: Analysis of ecosystem services - including flood control - provided by wetlands (Warsaw University of Life Sciences).

Action 4: Assessment of the impact of the Regional Scalability Plan on ecosystem services in the Bzura river basin (Catalan Institute for Water Research)

### 5.5 Inclusivity

The Regional Scalability Plan "Flowing Mazovia" aims to create a collaborative and diverse environment in which stakeholders from different backgrounds, communities and expertise can actively participate and contribute to the sustainable development of wetland ecosystems. To achieve this goal, "Flowing Mazovia" prioritises the involvement of local communities and public institutions in decision-making processes. Taking into account the perspectives of local communities, we strive to ensure that our initiatives are in line with the needs of those directly affected. Through the involvement of public institutions such as the State Water Company "Wody Polskie", the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and local government authorities, we want to achieve a platform for cooperation and consultation that will serve to make decisions by consensus. This diversity will enrich the project with a wide range of insights and approaches, enhancing our ability to address the complex challenges of restoring and further protecting wetlands. In addition, we are prioritising transparency, ensuring that information about planned activities is understandable and accessible to everyone. This approach aims to enable all stakeholders, regardless of their level of knowledge, to actively participate in discussions and decision-making processes.

One of the most important objectives is the continuous education of all stakeholders. The "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan project includes a series of meetings and workshops with local communities, where we want to set an example for water resource management. In addition to the Coordinating Council, which includes local government representatives, we have created five working groups that contribute to the planned workshops and help create a platform for cooperation.

By incorporating inclusivity into the core of our project, we not only promote social equity, but also recognise that a comprehensive understanding of wetland restoration and conservation requires diverse perspectives. Together, we aim to create a project that reflects the values and needs of the whole community, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for sustainable management.

Measure 1: Adaptation of the educational and recreational infrastructure of the Kampinos National Park to the needs of people with disabilities (Kampinos National Park, through the PEFRON project "Protected area, accessible area").

Action 2: Training of Kampinos National Park staff in communication and problem-solving skills.

### 5.6 Health and well-being

For the implementation of public health support, the following activities are envisaged:



Action 1: Construction of paths, shelters, playgrounds, educational boards and other infrastructure for tourists and visitors to popularise outdoor recreation, communing with nature and environmental education (Kampinoski NP).

Action 2: Analysis of ecosystem services - including public health services

## 5.7 Zero pollution

To meet the pollution reduction target, the following measures are envisaged:

Action 1: Improve wetland hydration status → increase filtration of pollutants and retention of agricultural runoff

Action 2: Analysis of ecosystem services - including pollution retention services provided by KNP wetlands (Warsaw University of Life Sciences).

Action 3: Assessment of the impact of the Regional Scalability Plan on ecosystem services in the Bzura river basin (Catalan Institute for Water Research)

## 5.8 Green growth

To achieve the green growth objective, the following measures are envisaged:

Action 1: Support local tourism to create jobs (KNP, the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, local authorities)

Measure 2: Active nature conservation activities and related jobs (e.g. in the construction industry, in the design and planning of activities, nature inventories) (Kampinoski NP, local authorities)

## 5.9 Sustainable food systems

To achieve the objective of sustainable agriculture, the following measures are envisaged:

Measure 1: Implementation of agro-environmental programmes in KNP (Kampinoski NP)

Measure 2: Promotion of agri-environmental climate programmes in Mazovia (the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship)

Measure 3: Improving the hydration of wetlands and increasing the drought tolerance of agricultural areas (Kampinoski NP)

## 5.10 Responsible stakeholders and their roles

The "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan is broken down into three scales and different stakeholders are responsible for different aspects of it, as broken down in Table 2.

**Kampinos National Park** will use its experience from wetland restoration projects in protected areas, biodiversity conservation and cooperation with local communities to increase the scale of nature restoration **in its area**. KNP will share its knowledge of the Park's neighbouring areas to support wetland restoration by local municipalities in the Park's buffer zone.

**In the Kampinos National Park buffer zone, 8 municipalities and 3 counties** will be responsible for implementing wetland restoration measures and monitoring the results in their area, with the support of KNP, the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and scientific and expert institutions.

**The Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship** will be responsible for promoting the vision and objectives described in the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan at the scale of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. In addition to supporting the restoration of wetlands, including relevant provisions in strategic documents and allocating funds for wetland restoration in municipalities, it will also be important to undertake activities that increase public awareness: education of children, youth and adults, organisation of conferences and events on the importance of wetlands on a regional scale.

Financing and monitoring

The 'Flowing Mazovia' Regional Scalability Plan will be managed and coordinated by each stakeholder at their scale and level. The approach is decentralised, allowing local authorities to take ownership of their areas, using their connection to the local context. Each stakeholder will also allocate financial resources to their areas and activities according to need and availability of funds. This approach ensures that funding is directed exactly

where it is most needed, taking into account the specifics of each area. Currently, funding is based on grants, but the long-term goal is to develop and implement new financial instruments. Monitoring the progress and results of the project will be the responsibility of the various stakeholders, allowing lessons to be learned and improvements to be made on an ongoing basis. Promotion of the "Flowing Mazovia" plan and public awareness activities will be carried out by stakeholders using their own networks and contacts. The above approach is based on autonomous implementation, management, financing, monitoring and promotion of the "Flowing Mazovia" Plan by all stakeholders in their sphere of influence. This will make the implemented Plan more adaptable and flexible, increasing the chances of effective and sustainable wetland restoration and biodiversity conservation in the region.

## 6 Timeline

Table 4 presents indicative timeframes for the actions outlined in the Regional Scalability Plan.

*Table 2 Timeframe of activities outlined in the "Flowing Mazovia" Regional Scalability Plan*

	1-year periods						2-year periods			5-year periods		
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030- 2031	2032- 2033	2034- 2035	2036- 2040	2041- 2045	2046- 2050
Implementation of the Merlin project												
Implementation of the Kampinos Wetlands II project												
Implementation of the project "Protection of habitat mosaic in Kampinos National Park".												
Applying for funding to continue active protection measures												
Continued land acquisitions												
Community education and awareness raising												
Organisation of Merlin Days												
Adaptation of educational infrastructure to meet the needs of people with disabilities												
Analysis of ecosystem services provided by KNP wetlands												
Work of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Council and working groups												
Organisation of the Days of the "Puszcza Kampinoska" Biosphere Reserve												
Include wetland restoration priorities in strategic documents (e.g. Programme for Environmental Protection for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship 2030-2040 and beyond)												
Raising awareness among local authorities in Mazovia of the importance of wetland restoration												
Allocation of funds for wetland restoration for municipalities in Mazovia												
Cooperation with the Mazovian Landscape Parks Complex for the protection and restoration of wetlands												
Assessment of the impact of the Regional Scalability Plan on ecosystem services (in the Bzura basin)												



## 7 Budget

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Sources of funding for the activities of the Regional Scalability Plan "Flowing Mazovia":

Budget of the Kampinos National Park (budgetary grant from the Ministry for Climate and Environment)

Revenue for Kampinos National Park (educational fees, timber sales, permits, etc.).

Budget of the Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship as a part of activities implemented by the Board of the Mazovia Voivodeship

UNESCO grants for the Kampinos Primeval Forest Biosphere Reserve

Potential other grants (require application and coordination): Life Fund, NFOŚiGW funds, EU operational programmes,

Local municipal and poviats budgets

Expenses:

Hard measures for the restoration of wetlands in Kampinoski NP, surrounding municipalities and the whole Mazowieckie Voivodeship

Soft activities - education and awareness raising

Cooperation and capacity building among municipalities in the buffer zone of Kampinoski NP and others

## 8 Uncertainties and assumptions

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### National:

1. In December 2023, the central government changed in Poland. The new government pledges support for environmental and nature conservation measures, the conversion of forests from production to conservation purposes and the creation of new protected areas. Nevertheless, it remains to be seen to what extent the election promises will be realised and whether the President of Poland will sign any changes to the law in this regard.
2. In autumn 2023, a new law on spatial planning came into force, which introduces changes to the spatial planning system in Poland. The changes and transition periods will take several years, and we will know the potential effects of the changes and whether they can be implemented years later.
3. As of today, the further fate of the so-called NRL "Nature Restoration Law" is unknown. If the above-mentioned law were to be passed, it would undoubtedly have a major impact on the restoration of wetland ecosystems in Poland, in the Mazovia region and in the Kampinos National Park.
4. Unfortunately, large infrastructure projects that conflict with nature conservation (e.g. hydroelectric power plants, dam reservoirs, waterways, etc.) are still taking place in Poland. The future will show whether the new government will move away from this approach and direct activities towards restoring natural capital, blue-green infrastructure and supporting ecosystem services.
5. A large part of Polish society still fails to understand and support the protection of biodiversity and wetland restoration. This lack of understanding is particularly related to lower wealth and education. In order to increase support for nature conservation measures, it is necessary to raise the standard of living of the inhabitants of the poorest areas, which often represent the richest natural areas.
6. In recent years, both climate change and biodiversity loss have been topics frequently discussed in public debate and in the media. Unfortunately, recent political events, such as the war in Ukraine and the migration crisis on the border between Poland and Belarus, have pushed the topic of nature conservation into the background. It seems that how strongly the government and the public deal with environmental topics will be conditioned by the current geopolitical situation.

### Local:

7. For many years, the Kampinos National Park has been carrying out land purchases, wetland restoration activities, active protection of ecosystems, combating invasive species and educating the public. To what extent and with what effect the above-mentioned statutory activities can be continued will depend on the availability of funding, cooperation with local authorities and central government policy.