



# Finnish Roadmap for Catchment-based Planning

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PA Nutri Talks | 9 September, 2025



# Catchment-based Water Management in Finland



# Multi-objective planning on catchment level



- Promotes collaboration among stakeholders, leading to a common understanding of water management
- Offers tools for mitigation and adaptation of the impacts of climate change
- Enhances the biodiversity and influence the state of surface waters and groundwater

The goals of the catchment-based planning until 2030 are recently published in the [Roadmap for Catchment-based Planning](#) (abstract in English)

# Cathment planning aims to realize synergies and improve effectiveness & use of resources

## State of waters

*The status targets for waters cannot be achieved without measures in catchment areas to prevent and reduce loading.*

## Agriculture and forestry

*Coordinated and cost-effective maintenance of drainage systems and water protection solutions.*

## Adaptation to climate change

*Preparing for floods and drought as well as water storage and irrigation needs requires actions across land ownership and land use boundaries.*

## Climate change mitigation

*Emission reductions from peatlands through extensive restoration and rewetting measures.*

## Biodiversity

*Effectiveness of the restoration of small water bodies, coastal nature and mires as well as in fisheries management. Connectivity of habitats.*

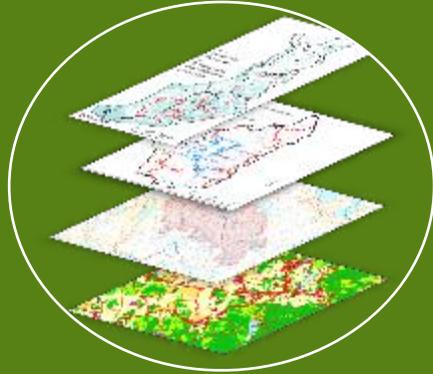
Storing and delaying water in catchment areas (wetlands, restoration of water)

Restoration of mires, peatlands and drainage areas, drainage based on the needs

Sustainable water management practices (nature-based structures, restoration and maintenance of channels, removal of migratory fish barriers, recycling of water)

**Coordinati  
on of  
needs and  
actions**

# Roadmap for Catchment-based Planning



## Target 1 COORDINATION

The practice of catchment area planning has become established. Multi-goal catchment area plans are being drawn up based on needs and they guide practical measures.



## Target 2 KNOWLEDGE

Competence in catchment area planning has increased and comprehensive information resources and planning tools are available to all actors



## Target 3 STEERING MECHANISMS

Steering methods and incentive schemes enable cost-effective, fair and multi-goal targeting of measures in the catchment area.



# Actions of the Roadmap - Coordination



## Target 1 COORDINATION

The practice of catchment area planning has become established. Multi-goal catchment area plans are being drawn up based on needs and they guide practical measures.

- Experiments and good practices on river basin level coordination
- Comprehensive Water Vision strategies covering entire river basins
- National call for grant applications to promote sustainable water management → 52 projects implemented
- Good experiences are compiled in the synthesis report (under finalizing) → aim to increase the cost-effectiveness of activities

# Actions of the Roadmap - Knowledge



## Target 2 KNOWLEDGE

Competence in catchment area planning has increased and comprehensive information resources and planning tools are available to all actors

Knowledge and expertise have been strengthened, for example, by

- guides and other publications;
- water expertise development program for government experts;
- trainings on the catchment-based water management;
- increased expert resources at ELY Centres;
- funding research projects.

# Actions of the Roadmap – Steering Mechanisms



## Target 3 STEERING MECHANISMS

Steering methods and incentive schemes enable cost-effective, fair and multi-goal targeting of measures in the catchment area.

- Focus in implementation of River Basin Management Plans in reducing the load from catchment areas.
- Funding scheme for private forestry (METKA) incentivizes multi-actor planning within catchment areas
- Private sector: Water Stewardship Commitment - promoting responsible water management practices in private companies
- Results-based funding pilots in agriculture and forestry, e.g.
  - Tendering pilot for rewetting of peatland fields
  - Pilot based on P-value of field in the Archipelago Sea catchment area

# ACWA LIFE

- A strategic LIFE –project in 2026-2033
- Budget 28 M€. EU funding 60 %, national funding 40 %
- 14 partners from private sector, public sector and NGO's
- Accelerated river basin management in Finland
- A nationwide project with regional priorities
- The aim is to launch and promote many complementary projects
- Close cooperation with land and water area owners



# ACWA LIFE - Actions for Waters from Source to Sea

The main objective:  
**to catalyze the achievement of good status in waters** by enhancing the full implementation of the RBMPs

Five specific objectives which are executed in the nine work packages:

1. Boost the implementation and targeting of measures
2. Strengthen the cross-sectoral cooperation
3. **Understand the source-to-sea dynamics**
4. Improve implementation of control mechanisms such as policy instruments
5. Mobilise complementary funding



 ACWA LIFE geographical scope

 Demo area

## National work packages:

 Indicators, e-tools and prioritization processes (WP2)

 Dissemination (WP6)

 Policy recommendations and complementary funding (WP7)

 Upscaling (WP9)

## ACWA LIFE activities on demo areas

 Catchment-scale coordination (WP3)

 Water protection measures (WP4)

 Restoration measures (WP5)

 Monitoring and impact evaluation (WP8)

# Looking forward



- **Nature restoration**

- National restoration plan is an opportunity to combine multiple benefits while complying with the requirements of the Nature Restoration Law – catchment planning is an important tool in harnessing the benefits
- Restoration of inland water bodies, streams and marine ecosystems are key elements in the Finnish restoration plan

- **ACWA LIFE**

- Enhanced action in RBMP implementation, Source-to-Sea approach
- Promoting private sector contribution and complementary project

- **New funding sources and instruments**

- Utilizing best practices and lessons learned from the funded projects for improved cost-effectiveness
- Water stewardship for promoting responsible water management practices in private companies
- Results-based funding for increased cost-effectiveness in government-funded activities

- **New steering group** for catchment-based water management

- Ensures **continued and coordinated efforts** to promote catchment-based approaches and sufficient efforts in water management in agriculture, forestry and cities.

