Ministry of Climate and Environment
Republic of Poland

Polish National Restoration Plan - implementation ambitions and challenges

2.11.2026, Paris

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Poland’s NRP - preparation process

Draft prepration

WORKING GROUPS



Terrestrial, coastal, and freshwater ecosystems (art. 4)	Leader: General Directorate for Environmental Protection
Marine ecosystems (art. 5)	Leader: Ministry of Infrastructure
Urban ecosystems (art. 8)	Leader: Ministry of Climate and Environment
River ecosystems (art. 9)	Leader: Ministry of Infrastructure
Pollinators (art. 10)	Leader: Ministry of Climate and Environment
Agricultural ecosystems (art. 11)	Leader: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Forest ecosystems (art. 12)	Leader: Ministry of Climate and Environment

Where are we now?

- Draft of NRP completed
- Formal governmental approval process ongoing
- 61 restoration measures identified across the ecosystem and habitat types covered by the Nature Restoration Regulation
- Stakeholder pre-consultations on proposed restoration measures completed in spring 2026

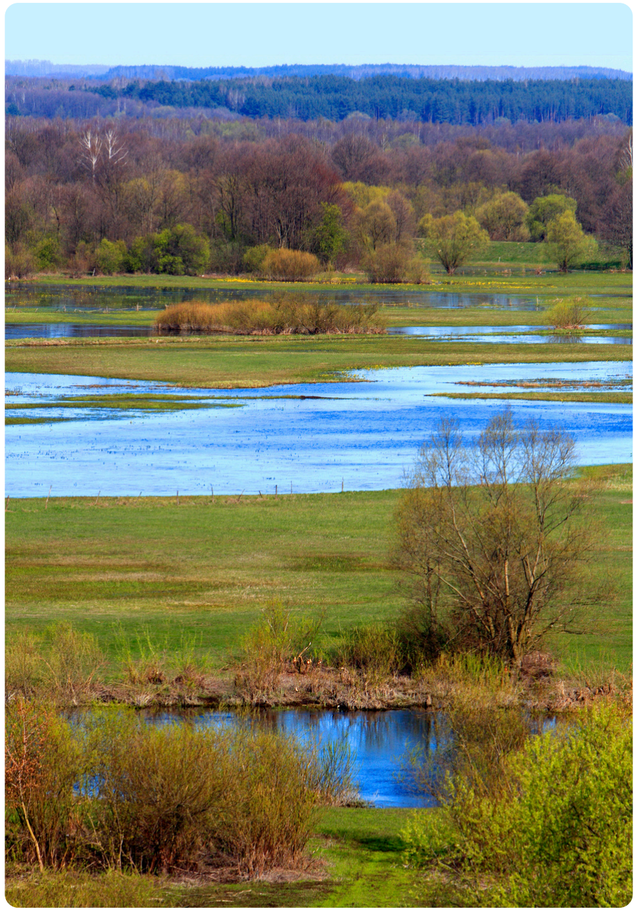
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Key interventions and challenges

 Terrestrial, coastal, and freshwater ecosystems (art. 4)	By 2030 - focus on Natura 2000. Challenge: need to conduct an inventory outside the Natura 2000.	18 measures
 Marine ecosystems (art. 5)	Reducing eutrofication, addressing underwater noise pollution (focus on harbour porpoises), nature-based management of the coastline.	12 measures
 Urban ecosystems (art. 8)	Additional national data to improve the accuracy. Challenge: translating national-level objectives into local spatial planning.	5 measures
 River ecosystems(art. 9)	Challenge: updating and integrating data, ownership issues, assessing whether continued maintenance is justified.	Analysis in progress
 Pollinators (art. 10)	Expanding the area of foraging grounds (linear infrastructure areas). Main challenge: monitoring and synergies.	7 measures
 Agricultural ecosystems (art. 11)	Incentives to increase retention, linked to GAEC 2. Main challenge: effective incentives and improving hydrological conditions.	12 measures
 Forest ecosystems (art. 12)	Climate adaptation and resilience (droughts, wildfires). Challenge: balance between adaptation and supporting native species.	7 measures

Water – a central issue of Poland’s NRP

- Poland - historically a wet country.
- Now: an increasingly severe drought problem in recent years (at least since 2015).
- A challenge for agriculture.
- A threat to human well-being (water supply disruptions).
- A key factor determining the effectiveness of restoration measures across the entire plan.
- A cross-cutting issue covering wetlands, rivers and lakes.



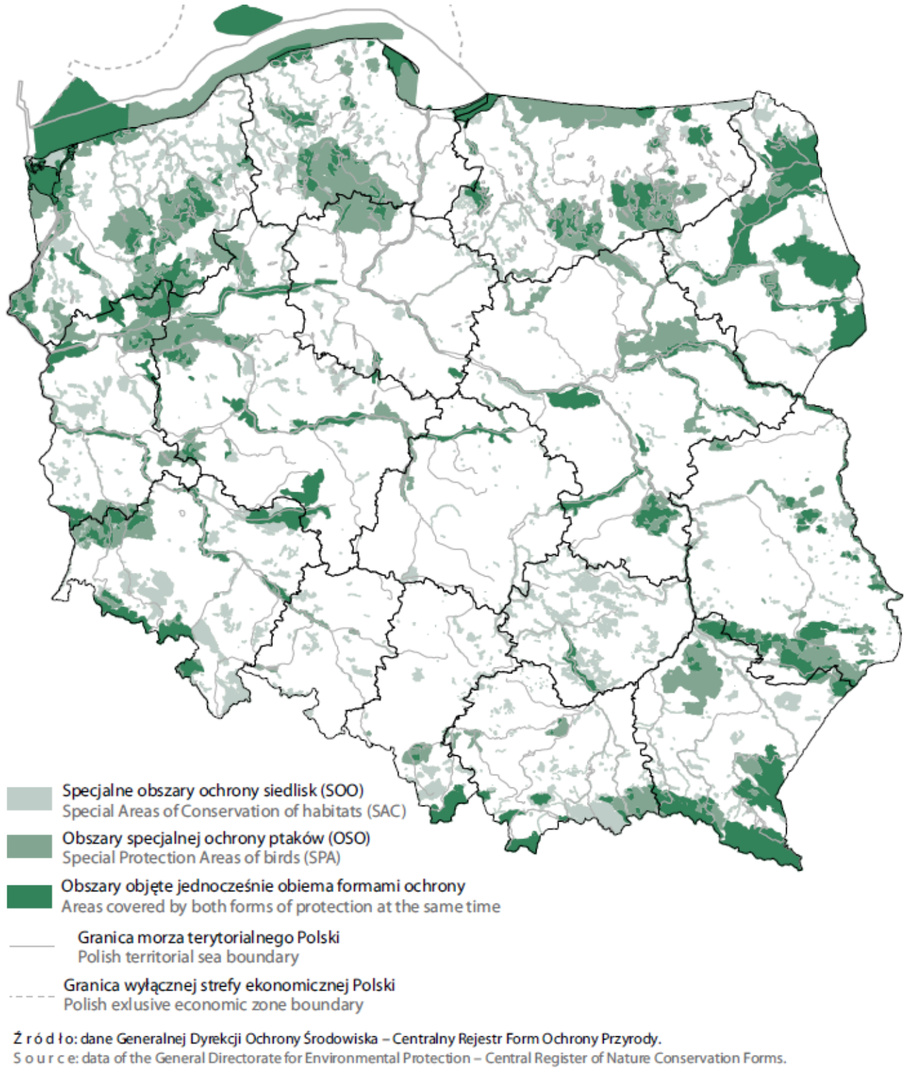
Horizontal challenge - nature conservation in Poland

23 national parks | 314,300 ha | 1.0% of Poland's territory

1,500+ nature reserves | 177,400 ha | 0.6% of Poland's territory

1,013 Natura 2000 Sites | 19.6% of Poland's territory (sites may overlap)

Overall, legally protected areas cover more than 10.1 million ha, or 32.2% of Poland



Protected areas, declining biodiversity

- Despite legal protection, the conservation status of many habitats and species in Poland remains unfavourable.
- Around 79% of habitat types and 70% of species protected under the Habitats Directive were assessed as being in poor or bad condition.
- The Farmland Bird Index (FBI) has declined by approximately 25% since 2000, indicating a long-term deterioration of farmland ecosystems.
- Poor ecological status of water bodies remains a major challenge, affecting biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and the provision of ecosystem services.



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Implementing NRP - changing philosophy

NRP already provides

National approach to ecosystem restoration
Quantified restoration targets
Ecosystem-specific measures

Implementation challenge

Site-based restoration	→	Landscape-scale restoration
Fragmented projects	→	Coordinated implementation system
Sectorial actions	→	Integrated governance
Dispersed information	→	Evidence-based decisions
Short-term delivery	→	Adaptive implementation until 2050

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What is needed for successful NRP implementation?

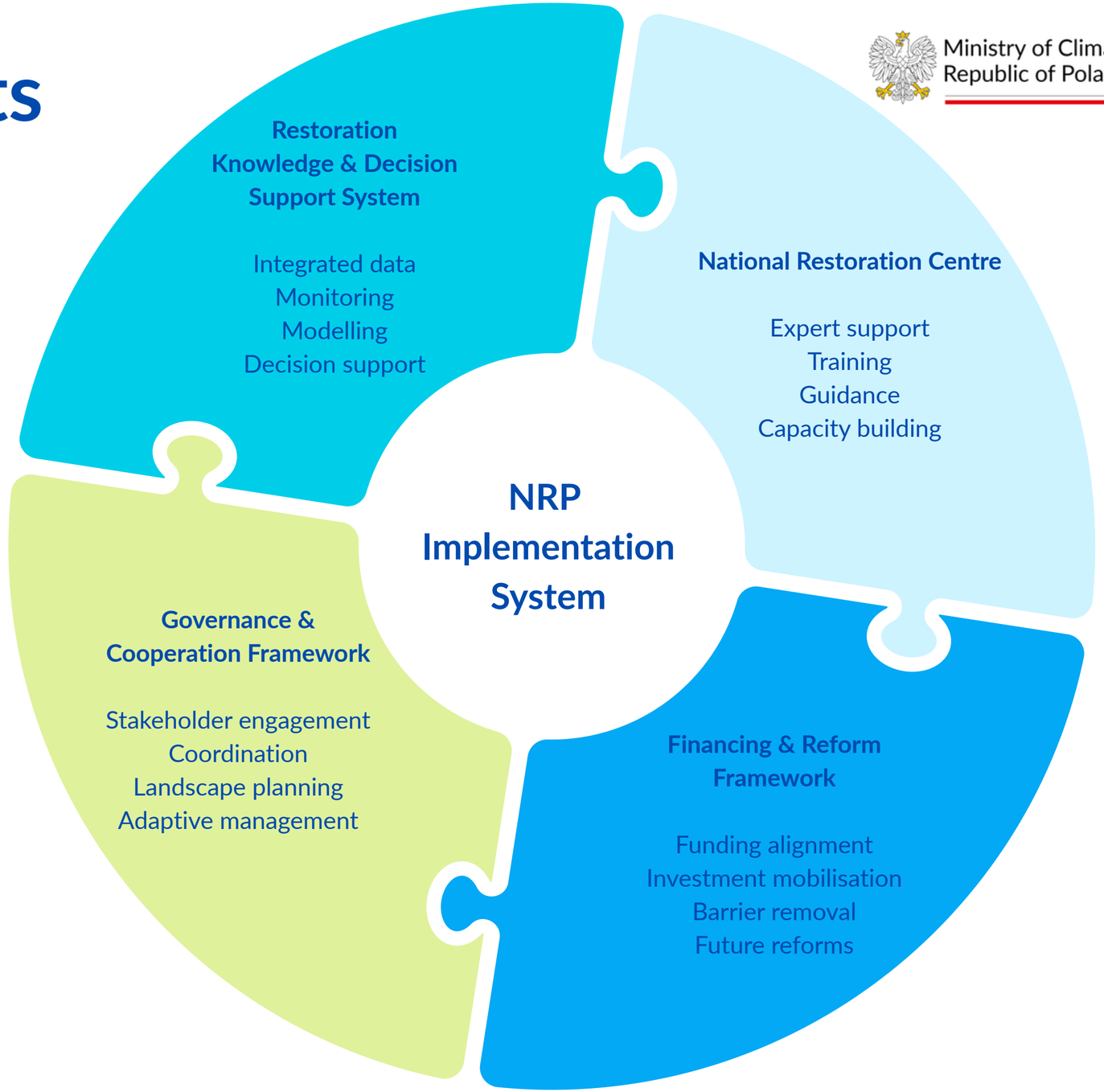
Poland has developed substantial scientific expertise and practical restoration experience through LIFE and other national and European initiatives, however ***to deliver the NRP we must transform them into a coordinated implementation system.***

What we are going to do:

- establish a permanent NRP Implementation System;
- develop integrated knowledge and decision-support tools;
- strengthen cross-sector governance and coordination;
- create permanent scientific and technical support functions;
- align restoration financing with NRP priorities;
- scale-up the actions;
- embed continuous learning and adaptive management into NRP implementation.

Core components of NRP Implementation System

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New approach: catchment-based coordination

- Catchment as the planning and investment unit rather than administrative boundaries. Water, ecosystems and climate risks operate at landscape scale and require coordinated responses.
- Shared priorities and project portfolios developed across municipalities, environmental authorities, water managers and regional governments.
- Alignment of funding streams towards common environmental outcomes instead of financing disconnected projects.
- Multi-level governance model linking national objectives, regional priorities and local implementation.
- Common monitoring framework to track ecological outcomes, climate resilience benefits and investment effectiveness.

Catchment-based coordination in practice

- We increased the allocation for Measure FENX.02.04 under the European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, Environment Programme (FEnIKS) by approximately EUR 102 million.
- The entire additional allocation is dedicated to projects for the restoration of aquatic and water-dependent ecosystems, including wetlands, peatlands and marshes.
- Projects will be implemented through partnerships to ensure that restoration measures are coordinated and delivered at the catchment scale.



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New approach: resilience certificates

We work on developing a nature credit mechanism that we currently refer to as **resilience certificates.**
The concept is based on a simple idea: **rewarding activities that increase water retention in soils and landscapes, thereby improving ecosystem resilience to drought, biodiversity loss and climate change.**

Why water retention?

- Easy to monitor, verify and certify.
- Provides measurable environmental benefits while serving as a proxy for multiple ecosystem outcomes.
- Relatively easy to communicate to businesses, citizens and policymakers.
- Directly addresses one of Poland's most pressing environmental challenges: increasing water scarcity and recurrent droughts.

Key features

- Based on voluntary contributions from the private sector.
- Designed to mobilise new sources of finance for ecosystem restoration.
- Focused on measurable improvements in ecosystem resilience.
- Intended to evolve into a modular system that can be bundled with biodiversity credits and/or carbon credits in the future.

New approach: aligning local finance with biodiversity objectives

- Introduced in the new local government revenue system and applied from 2025.
- Reflects a long-standing proposal to compensate municipalities hosting protected areas for development constraints and forgone revenue opportunities.
- Covers national parks, nature reserves, Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas.
- Provides a financial signal that nature protection delivers public benefits and should be recognised in intergovernmental transfers.
- Equally important, it creates incentives for local acceptance of new protected areas and biodiversity conservation measures.

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Thank you for your attention.

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