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Educational, Scientific and  
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European Regional  
Centre for Ecohydrology  
Under the auspices  
of UNESCO



POLSKA AKADEMIA NAUK



FACULTY  
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PROTECTION



# Ecohydrology - Framework for Low Costs, Advanced & Systemic Solutions for Reduction of Poverty and Inequality

**MACIEJ ZALEWSKI**

Director European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology PAS u/a UNESCO

Chairman of Department Applied Ecology University of Łódz

Editor in Chief Int Journal ECOHYDROLOGY& HYDROBIOLOGY Elsevier

Chairman of SAC ECOHYDROLOGY, UNESCO International Hydrological Programme





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We are living in the Anthropocene Era when almost 80% of our usable ecosphere has been conditioned, converted, and consumed by humans, usually without understanding the full consequences of our actions.

*Columbus Declaration (EcoSummitt 2012)*

*„Legal system and politics in the range of non material values, moral and believes, changes much slower than economic processes.” W.F Ogburn 2010*

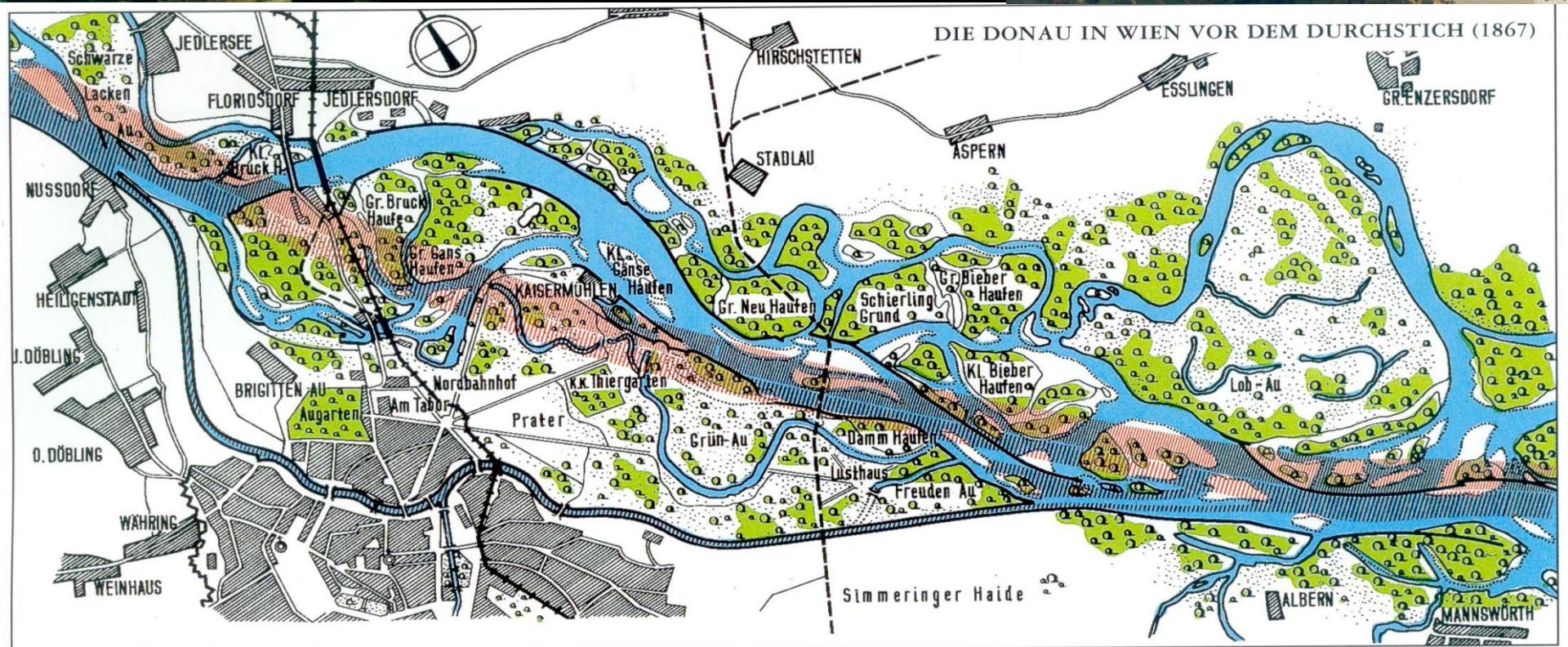
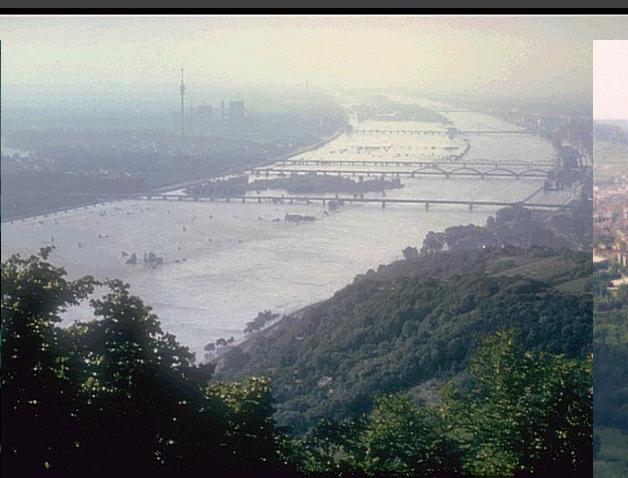
Earth at Night

More information available at:

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap020810.html>

# Acceleration of the water outflow from the catchment and habitats degradation

UNESCO Ecohydrology Danube Demosite (Janauer 2010)





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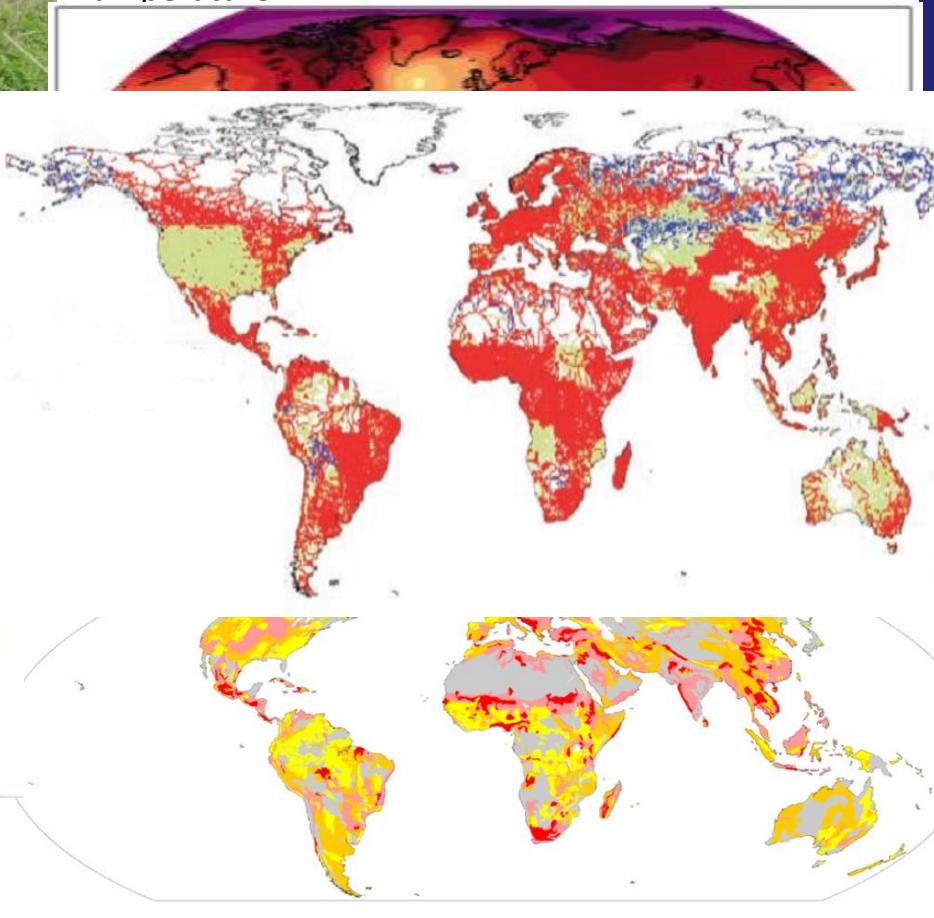


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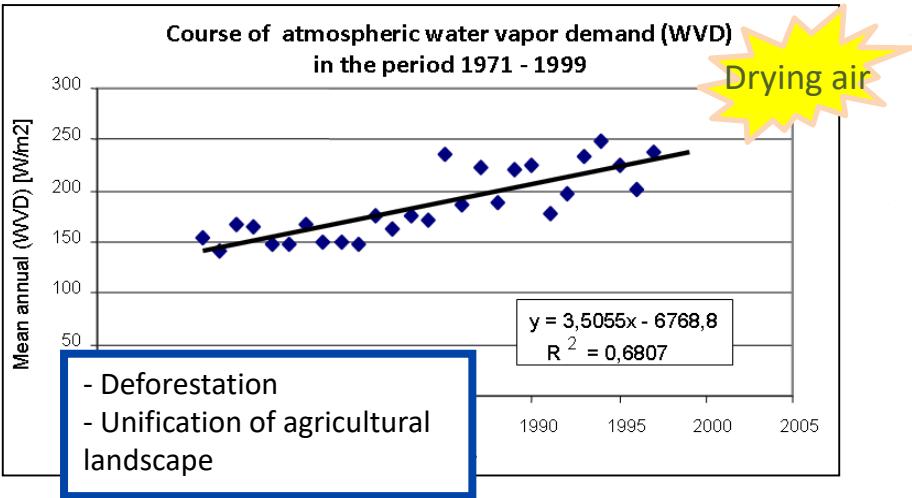
## How much more warming can we expect?

Temperature

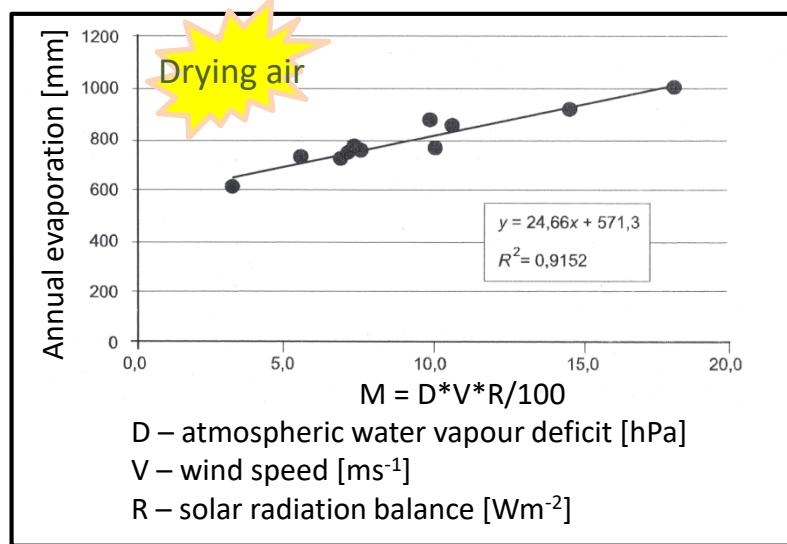


# Modification of water cycle due to

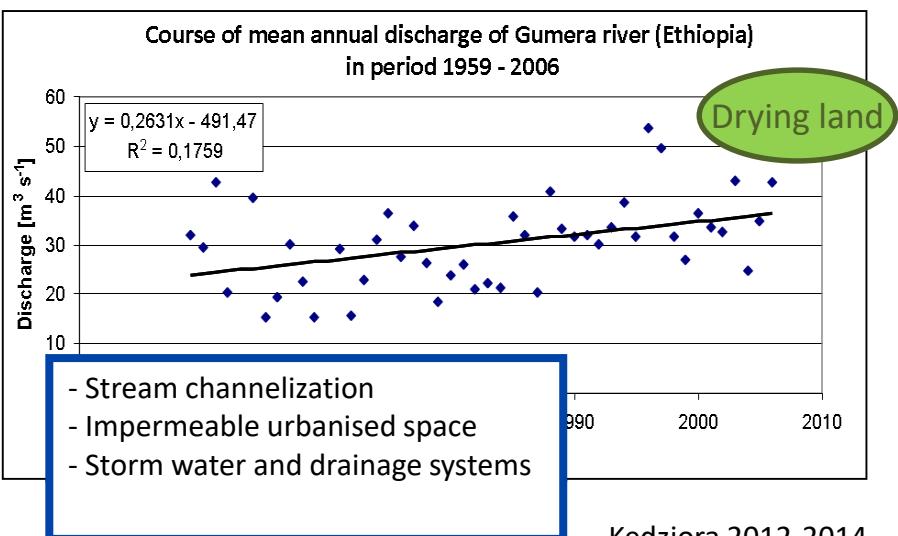
## Catchment's deforestation in Ethiopia



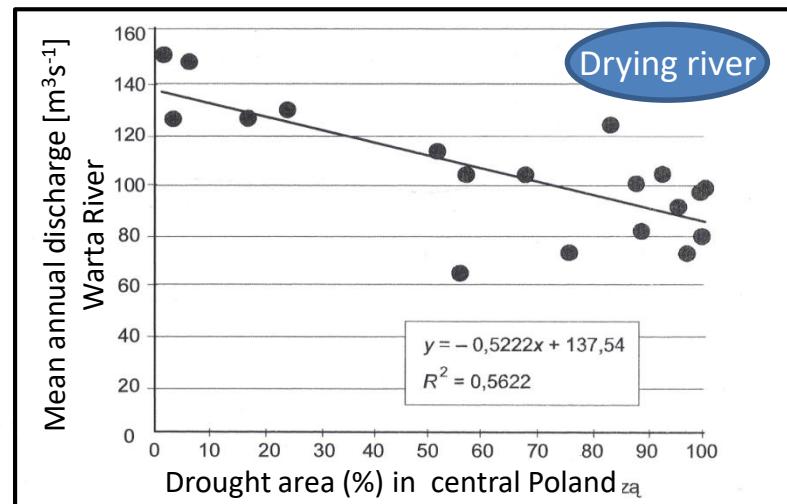
## Climate change Warta River Poland



Terrestrial phase



Kedziora 2012-2014



Acquatic phase

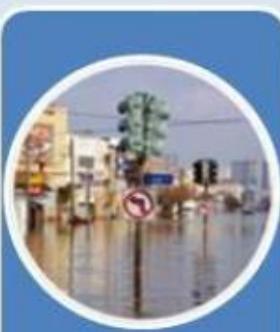
- Science First



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# UNESCO International Hydrological Programme VIII 2014 -2021



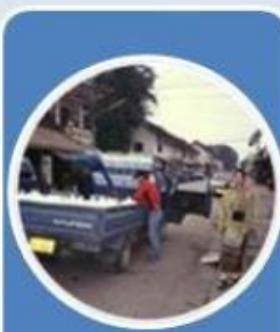
Water-related  
Disasters and  
Hydrological  
Change



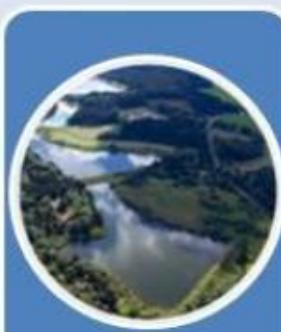
Groundwater  
in a Changing  
Environment



Addressing  
Water  
Scarcity and  
Quality



Water and  
Human  
Settlements of the future



Ecohydrology,  
Engineering  
Harmony for  
a Sustainable  
World

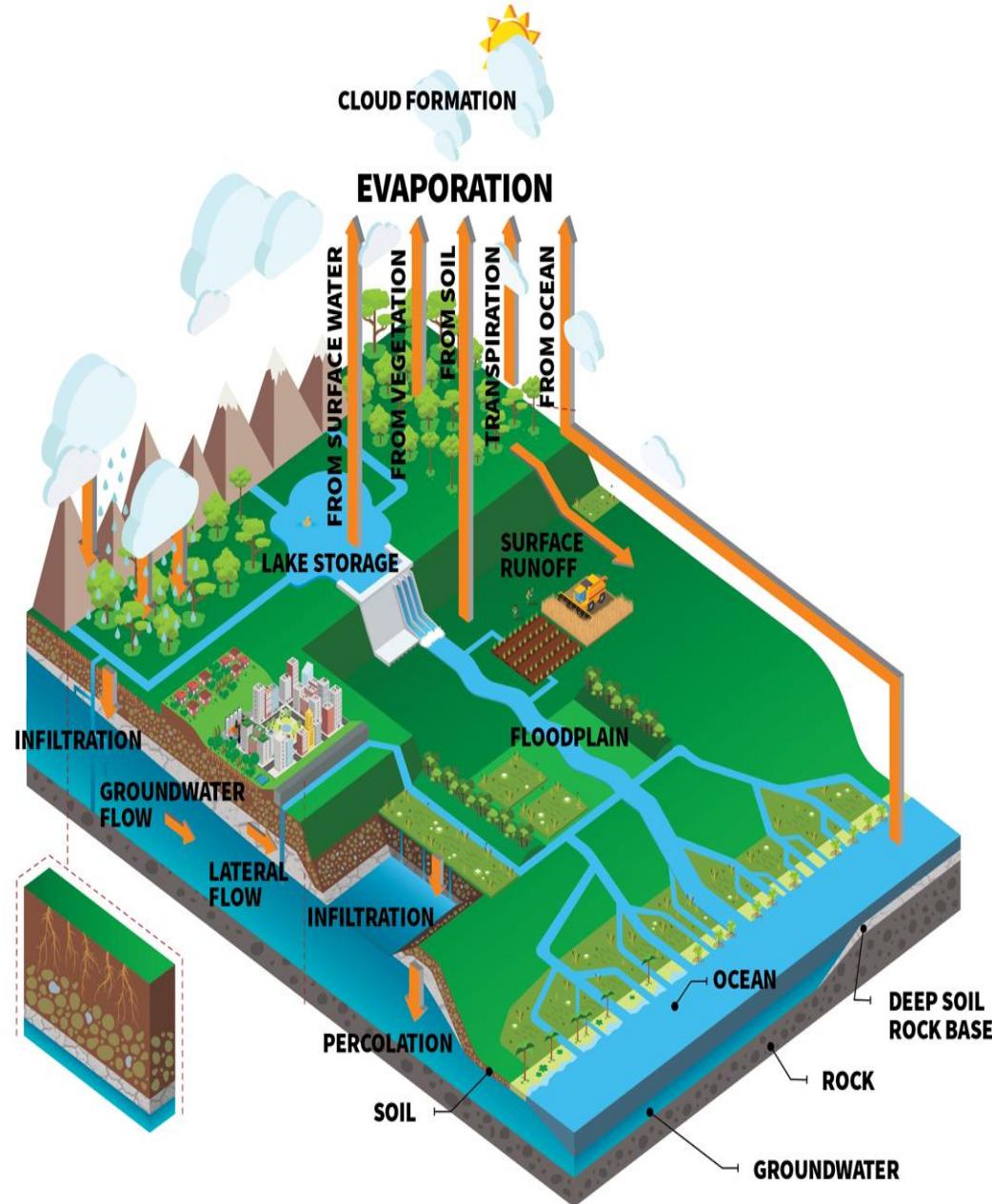


Water  
Education,  
Key for Water  
Security

Water Security: Responses to Local, Regional, and Global Challenges

# Ecohydrology - the use the relationship between ecosystems and the water cycle as a tool for catchment management

**Ecological processes** driven by vegetation and soils in forests, grasslands, wetlands, as well as in agricultural and urban landscapes, play a **major role** in the movement, storage and transformation of water

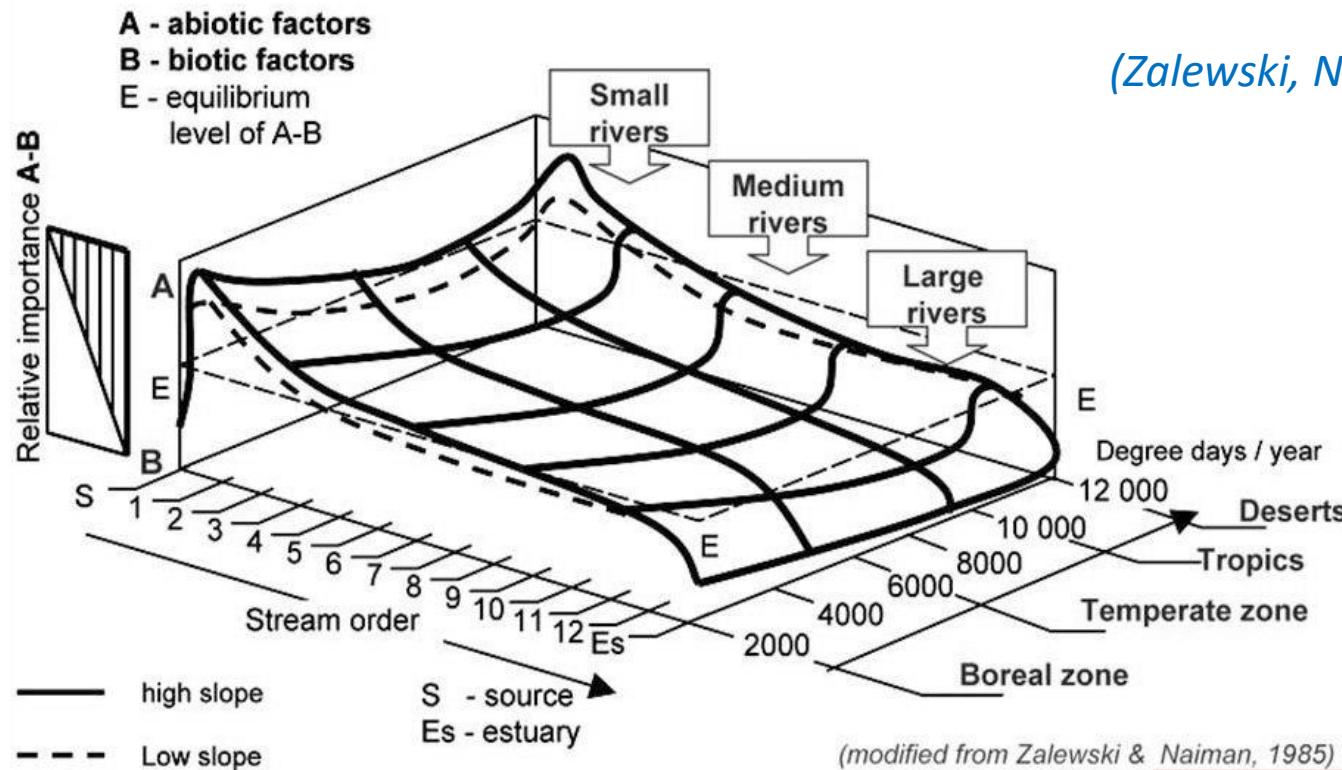




# Model of hierarchy of drivers at river ecosystems as a background for regulation of ecological processes for enhancement sustainability potential

Conceptual framework for EIFAC FAO „Physical Habitat Modification and Freshwater Fisheries” and  
UNESCO IHP ECOHYDROLOGY

## Deductive background of Ecohydrology

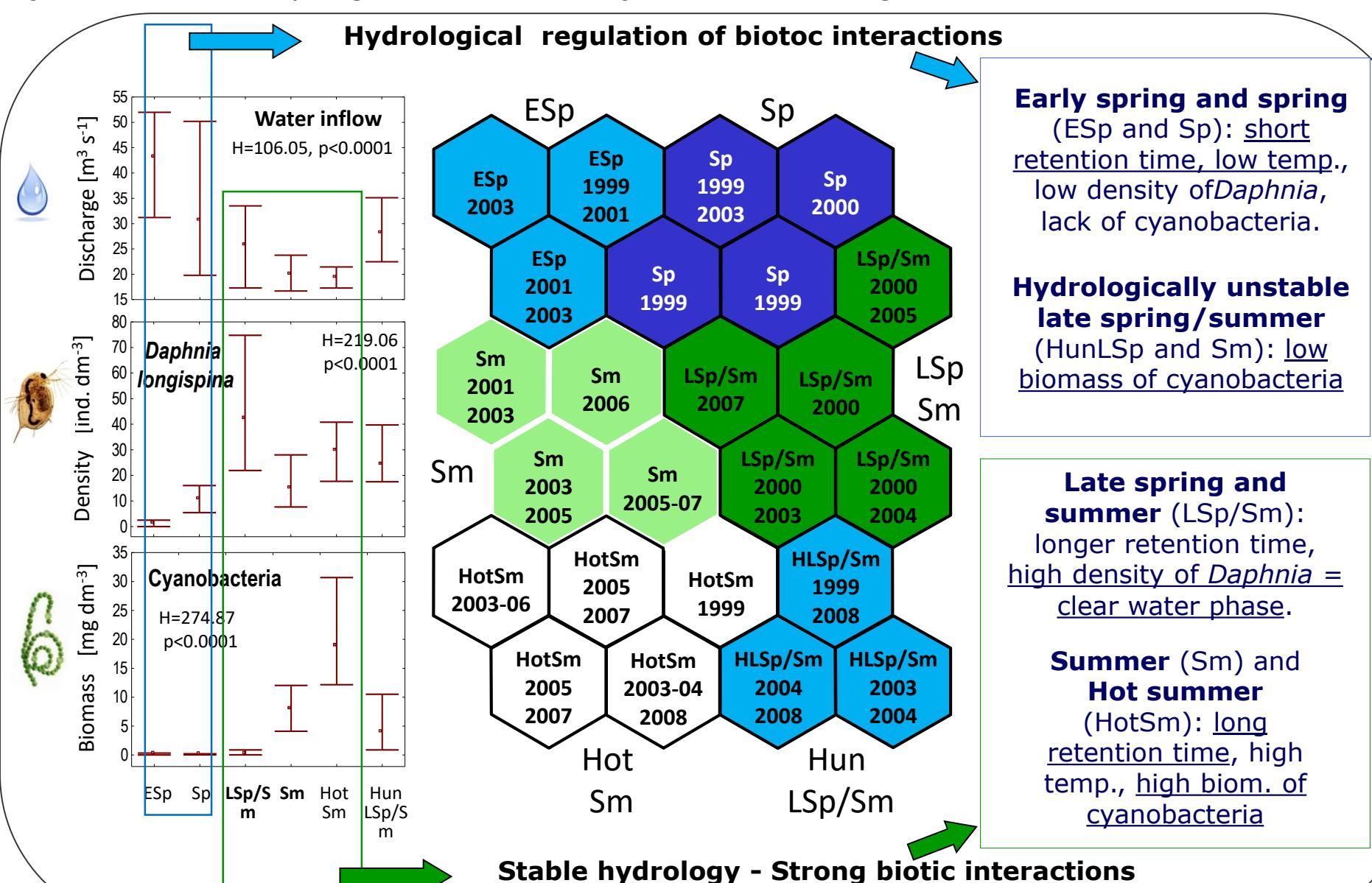


Hydrodynamics

Biodiversity/Bioproductivity – species , growth, reproduction energy gain – energy expenditure

Thermodynamics

Quantification of interactions between phytoplankton-filtering zooplankton-predatory zooplankton –juvenile Percids in pelagic zone of the Sulejow Reservoir using mathematical model





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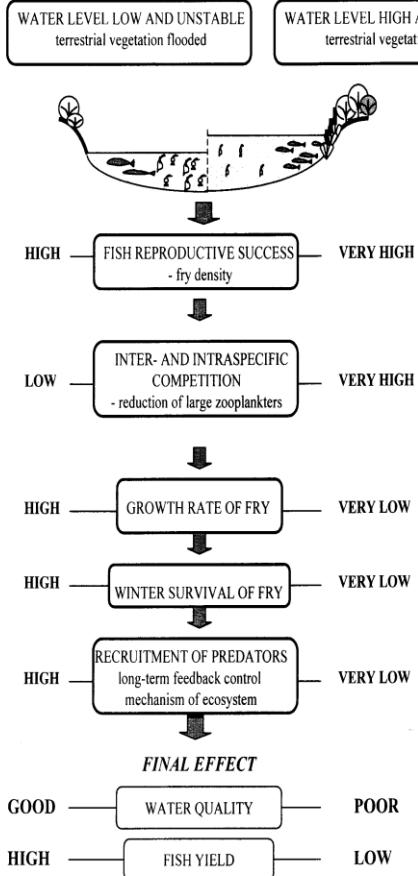


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# Empirical background of Ecohydrology

## Hydrobiomanipulation:

### regulation of trophic cascade by hydrological regime



$$\text{biomasa sinic} = -5,109 + 0,09684 * \text{stężenie TP}$$

Correlation:  $r = 0,94229$

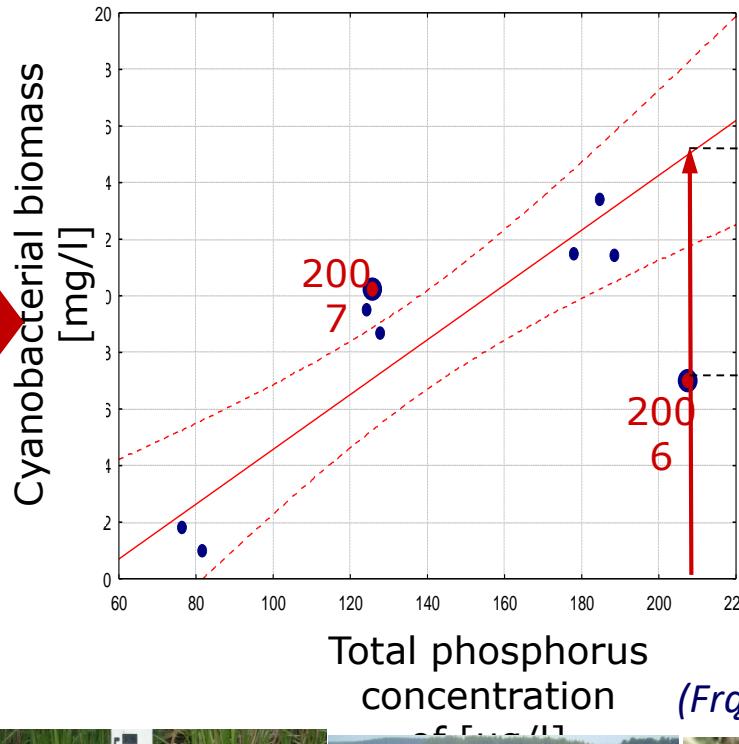
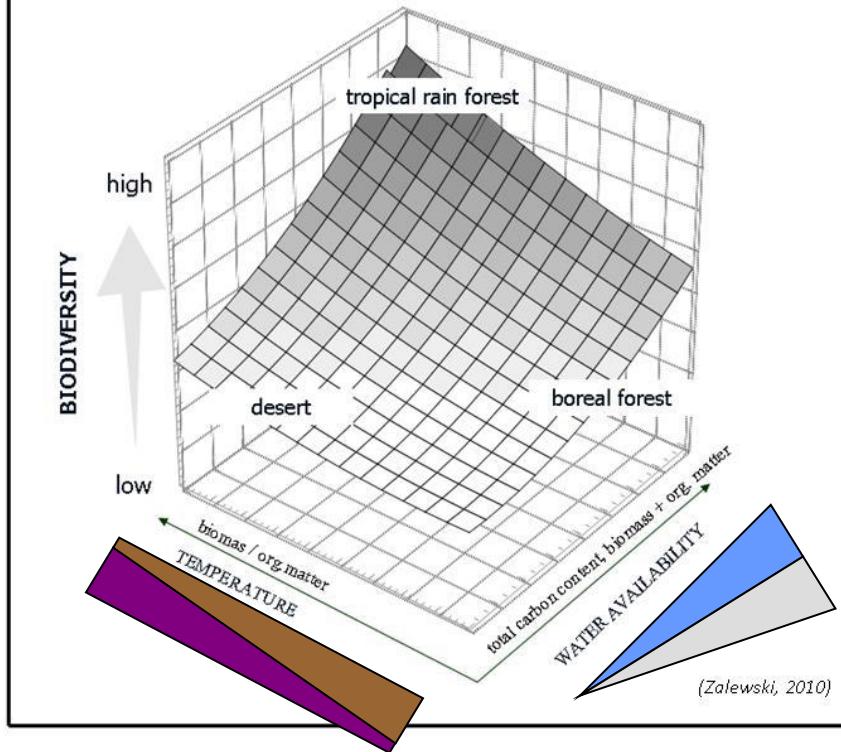


Fig. 5. Influence of flooding the shoreline on fish, plankton community structure and water quality (data from Zalewski et al. 1990a, b)

**(Zalewski et al. 1990)**

### Deductive background of Ecohydrology theory



The deductive background of ecohydrological theory that the amount of water determines the amount of carbon accumulated in an ecosystem while temperature determines the carbon allocation between biomass and soil organic matter. The maximum biodiversity and bioproductivity is achieved at highest water availability and highest temperatures (Zalewski 2010).

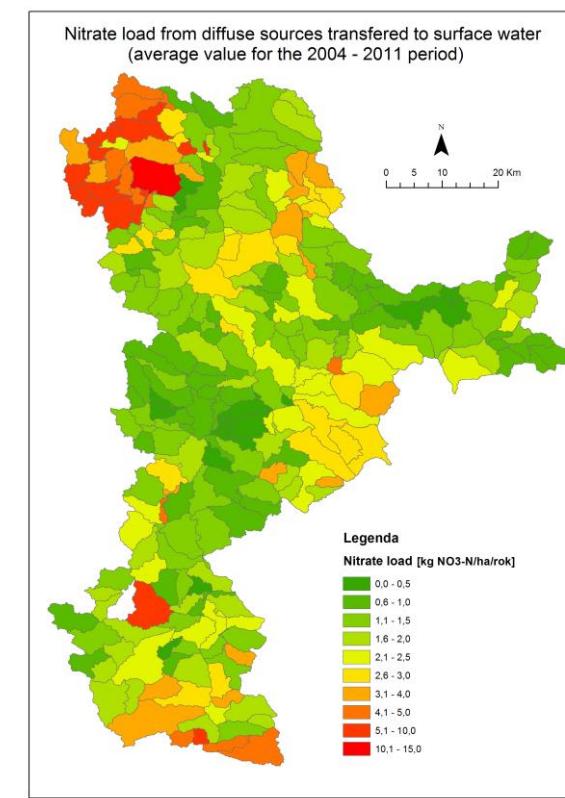


Organizacja Narodów  
Zjednoczonych do Spraw  
Oświaty, Nauki i Kultury

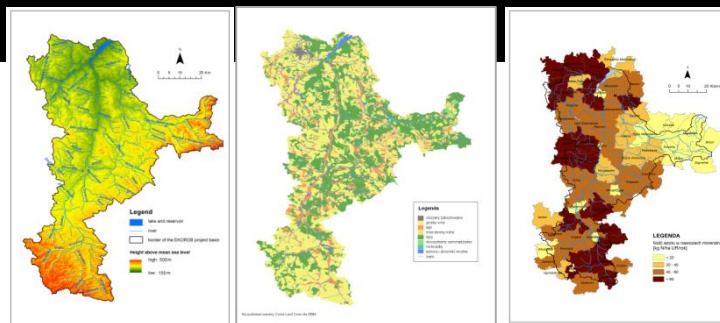
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Centrum Ekohydrologii  
pod auspicjami UNESCO



# Spatial differentiation of amount of nitrogen emission in the Pilica River catchment (results from SWAT model)

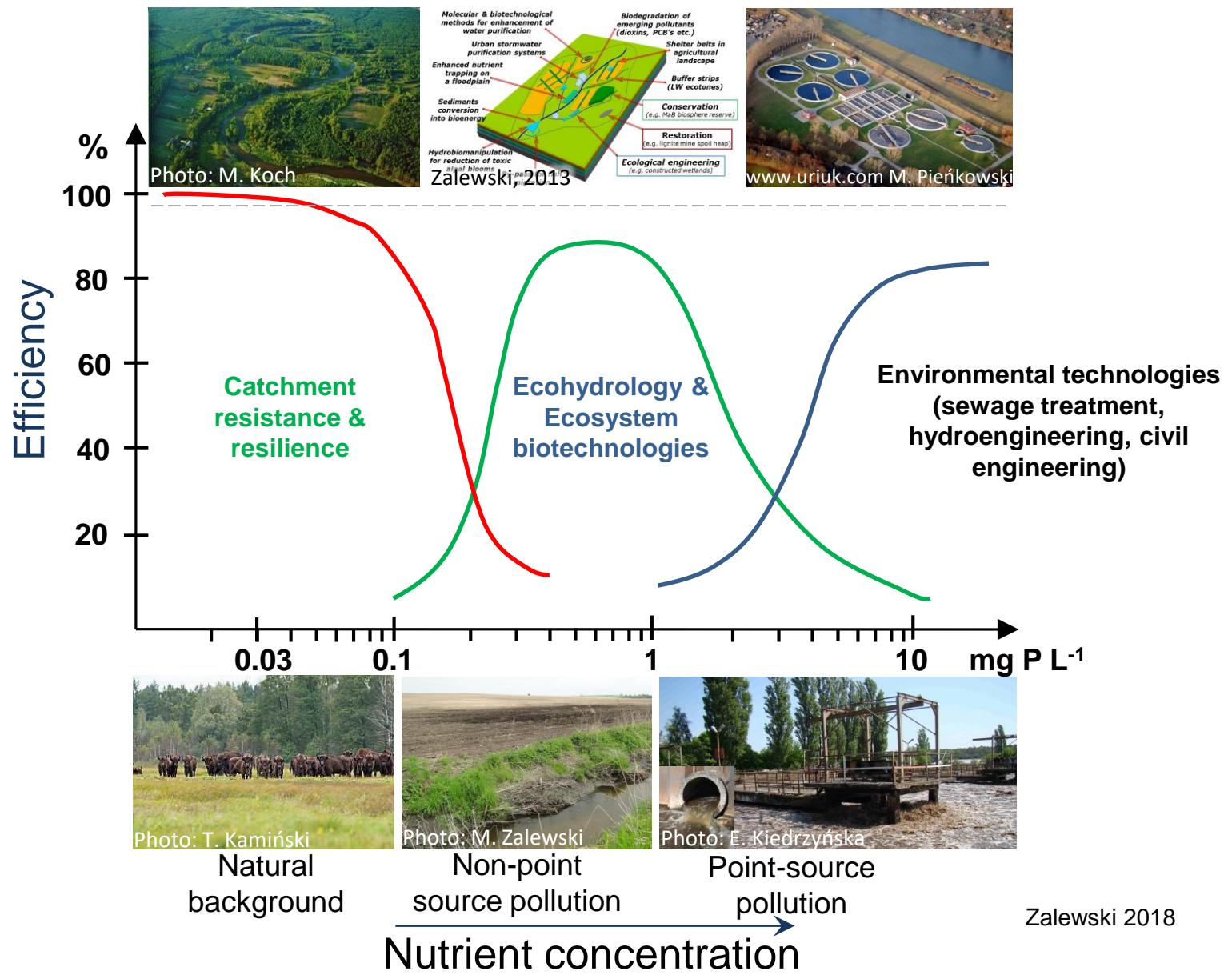


**EKOROB**



*(Piniewski, Frączak, Izydorczyk)*

# Ecohydrology – tool for mitigating intermediate impacts in catchment



# ECOHYDROLOGY – framework for implementation of NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

WATER CYCLE QUANTIFICATION

ECOSYSTEMS DISTRIBUTION

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

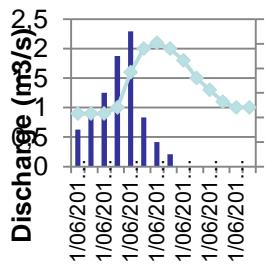
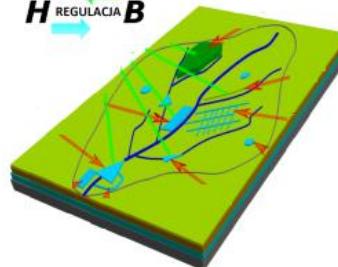
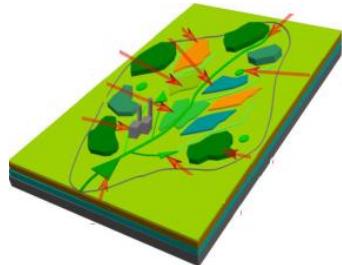
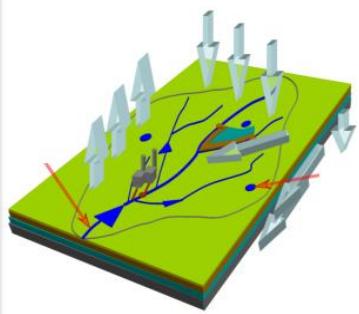
Ecological Engineering

DUAL REGULATION

$H_{\text{REGULACJA}}$

$B$

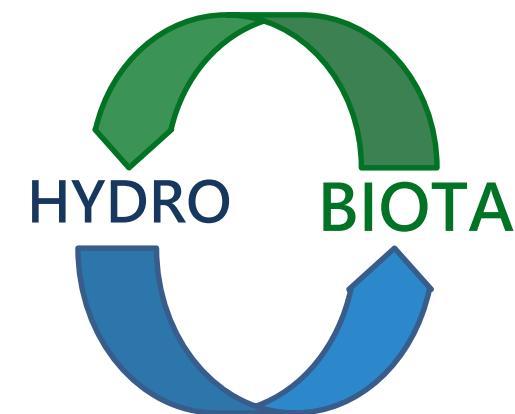
ECOHYDROLOGY



e.g. rainfall-runoff model



Sequential biofiltration systems & constructed wetlands



Zalewski, 2000; 2008; 2011; 2015



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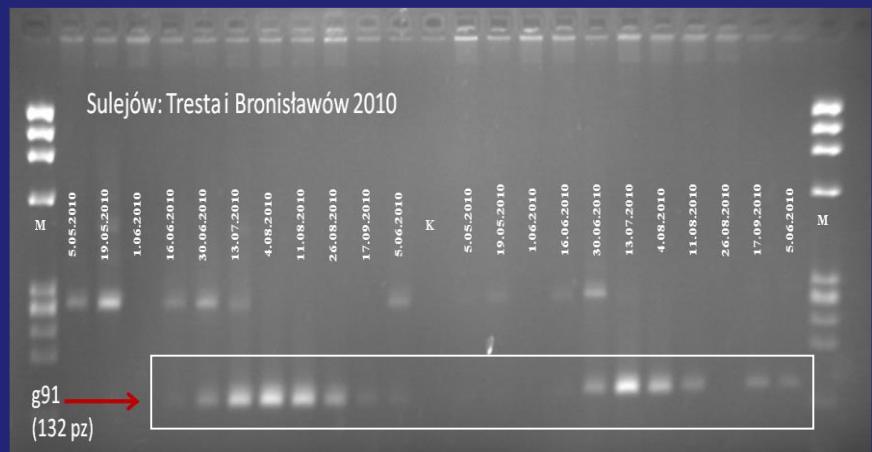
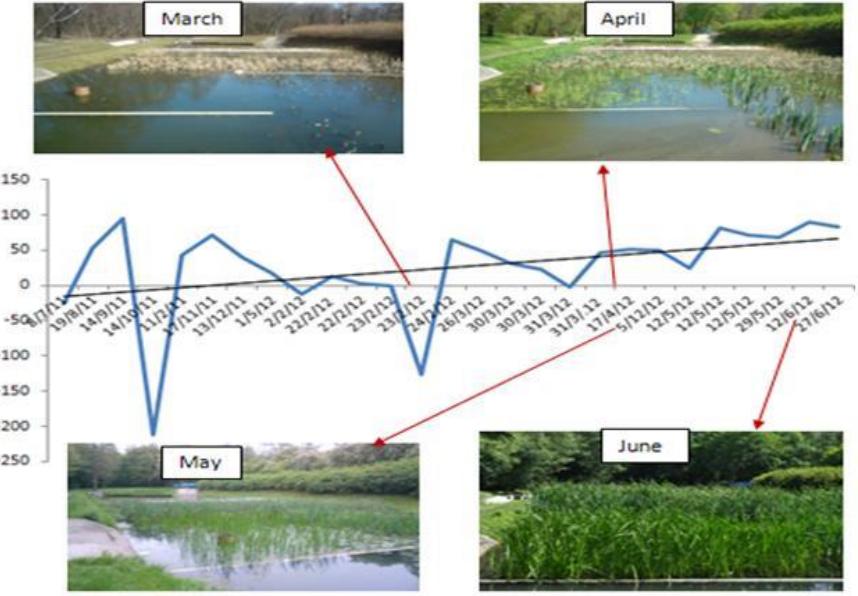


International Symposium  
Ecohydrology, Biotechnology & Engineering:  
Towards Harmony between the Biogeosphere and Society  
on the basis of Long-Term Ecosystem Research

2013  
17-18th September  
ŁÓDŹ  
POLAND

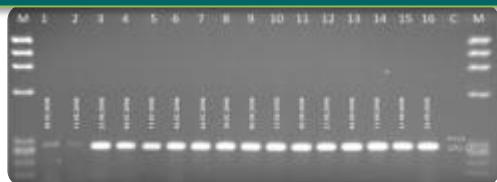
# Why Ecosystem Biotechnology ?

Because provide knowledge how to convert forms of the matter for improving water quality by using low energy methods e.g enzymes, microorganisms, plants and trophic cascade interactions.





*mcyA* gene, toxic genotype of *M. aeruginosa*  
(291 – 297 bp)



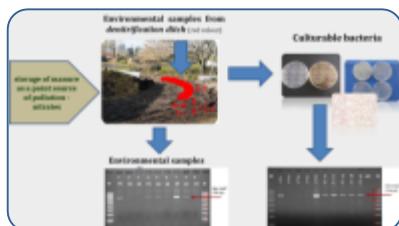
16S rRNA *Microcystis*, *mcyA* toxic genotype



*g91 Myoviridae*, 16S rRNA *Aeromonas*



*nosZ* gene, culturable bacteria, *Pseudomonas* sp.



## Early warning

detection of toxigenic (potentially toxic)  
strain of cyanobacteria

Mankiewicz-Boczek et al., *Environ. Toxicol.* 2006, 21: 380-387

Mankiewicz-Boczek et al., *Environ. Toxicol.* 2011, 26, 10-20

Mankiewicz-Boczek et al., *Harmful Algae* 2011, 10: 356-365

Gagala et al., *Fresenius Environ. Bull.* 2012, 21(2): 295-303

## Cause-effect analysis

toxigenic cyanobacteria  
and physicochemical parameters of water

Gagala et al., *Microbial Ecology*, 2013,  
DOI: 10.1007/s00248-013-0303-3

## New research

### Analisis of relationship between organisms

cyanobacteria/bacteria/cyanophages

- detection of cyanophages degrading cyanobacterial cells
- detection of bacteria degrading cyanotoxins

# **Molecular biology for Ecohydrology and NBS : methods for early warning and biotechnologies enhancement**

... for  
regulation of processes

towards:

1. Reversing degradation;
2. Development of cost efficient measures
3. Enhancing the carrying capacity of ecosystems

## Ecohydrological biotechnologies - process optimization

selection and implementation of bacteria  
in denitrifying barriers to removal of  
nitrate compounds



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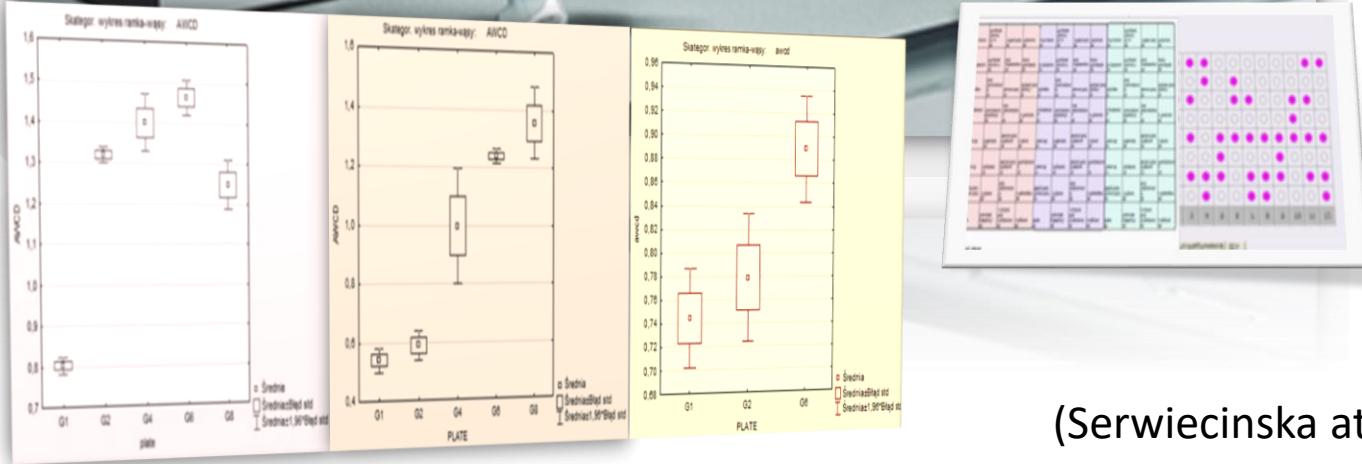
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# CLPP – Community-Level Physiological Profile



(Serwiecinska et al. In press)

Assessment of metabolic potential of microbial community  
for sole carbon utilization of the 31 different carbon sources



The National Centre  
for Research and Development



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Narodowy Fundusz  
Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej



KATEDRA EKOLOGII I OCHRONY ŚRODOWISKA  
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MIKRONATURA  
ŚRODOWISKO



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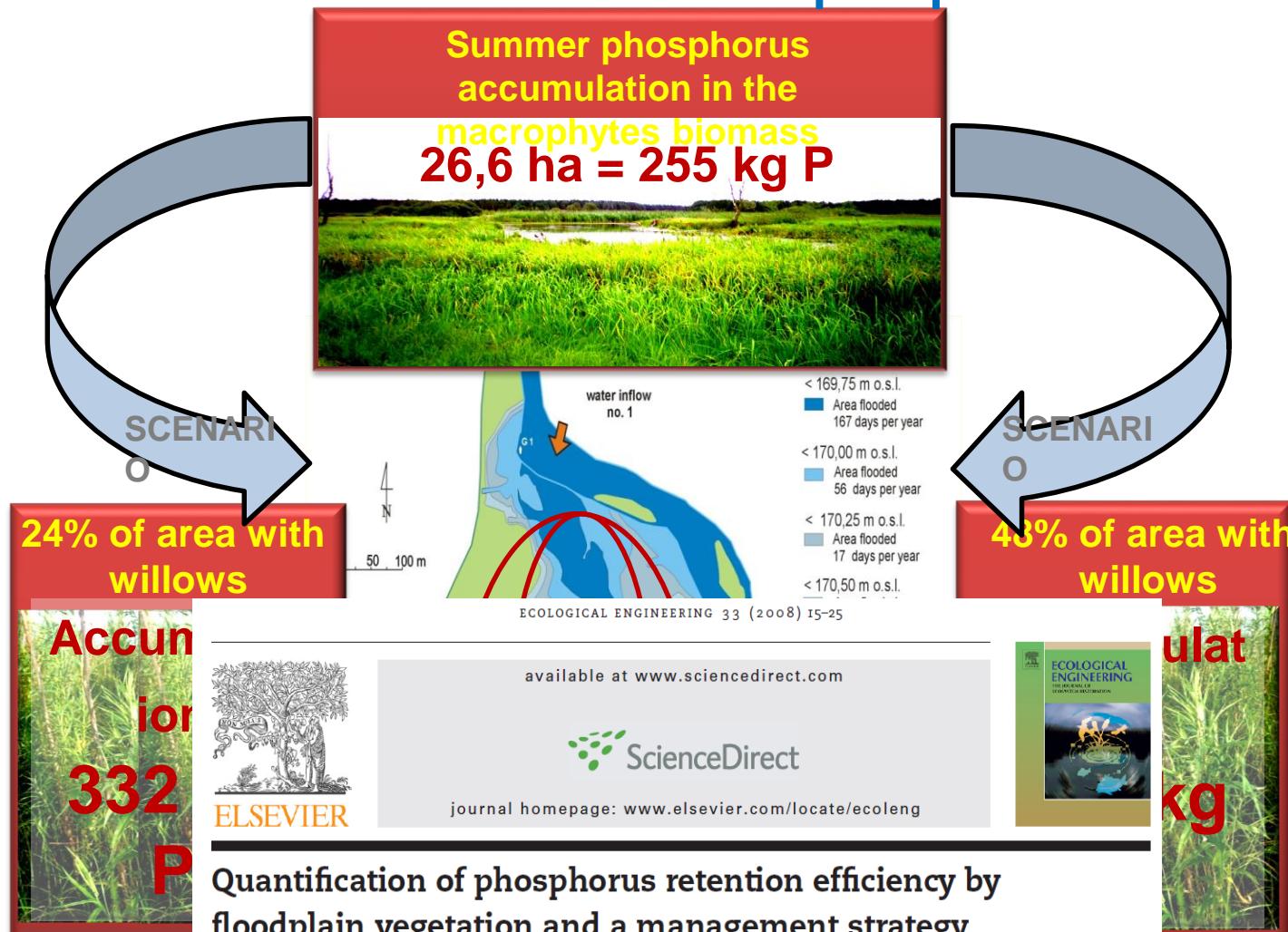


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# Enhancement of river floodplain role in phosphorus accumulation



Kiedrzyńska  
retention eff

Edyta Kiedrzyńska<sup>a,\*</sup>, Iwona Wagner<sup>a,b</sup>, Maciej Zalewski<sup>a,b</sup>



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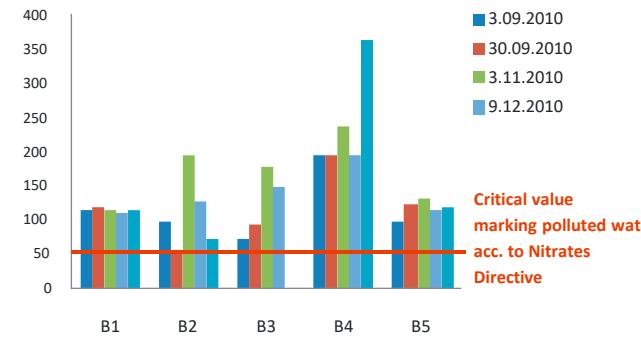
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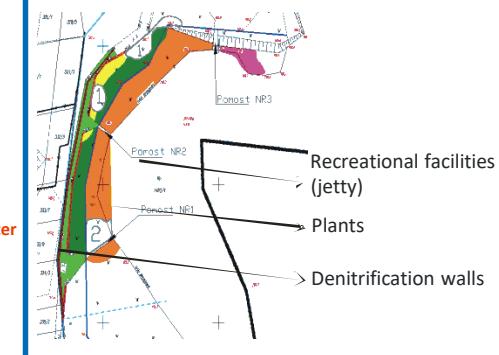
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## IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS

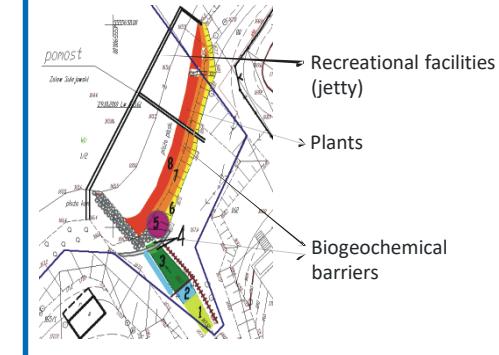
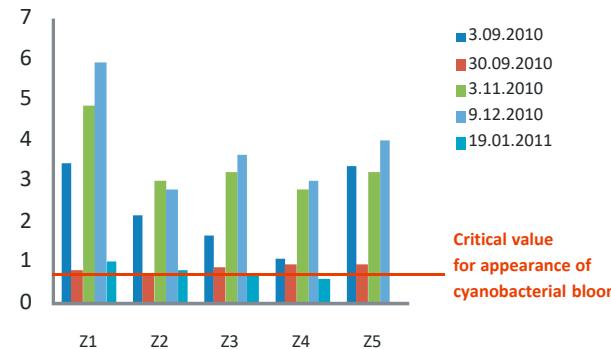
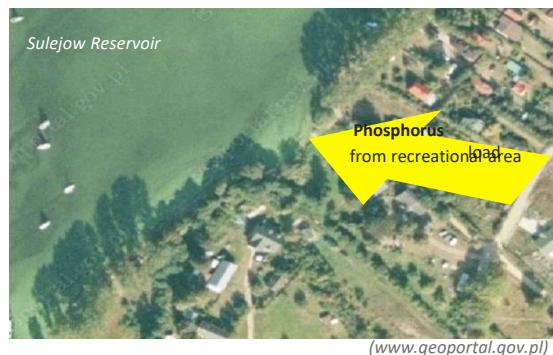
Reduction of **nitrogen** pollution from diffuse source by enhancement of plant buffering zones with denitrification walls



## DEVELOPMENT OF SOLUTIONS



Reduction of **phosphorus** pollution from diffuse source by enhancement of plant buffering zones with biogeochemical barriers





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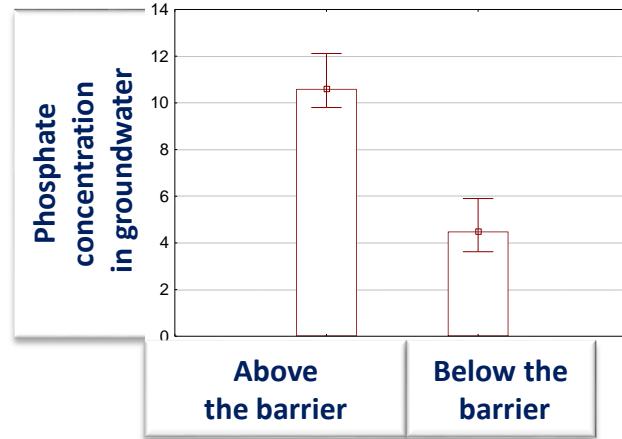
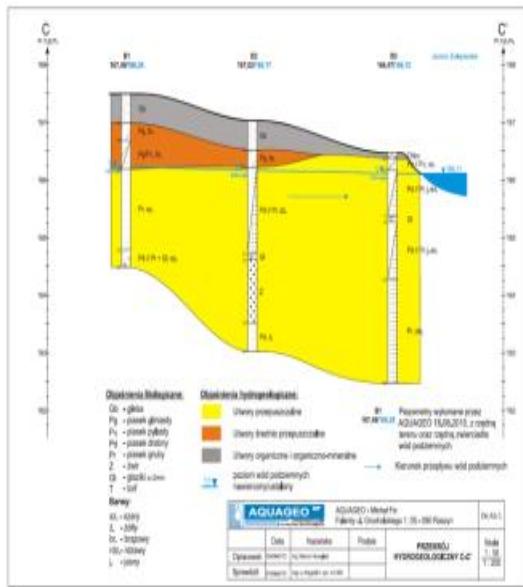
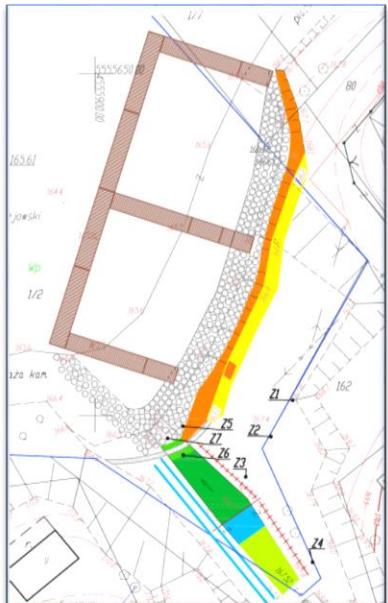
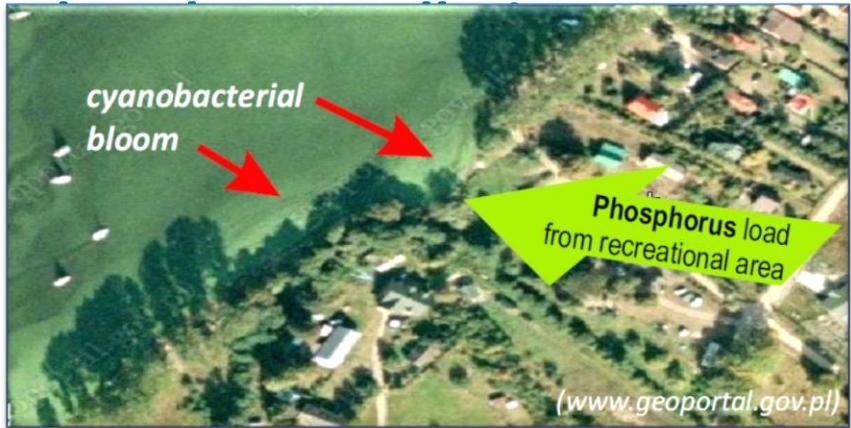
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„BEST OF EC  
LIFE+ Project,  
22 May 2018  
Brussels

## Highly effective buffer zones for reduction of diffuse



(Izydorczyk, Frątczak et al. 2013  
Ecohydrology & Hydrobiology)



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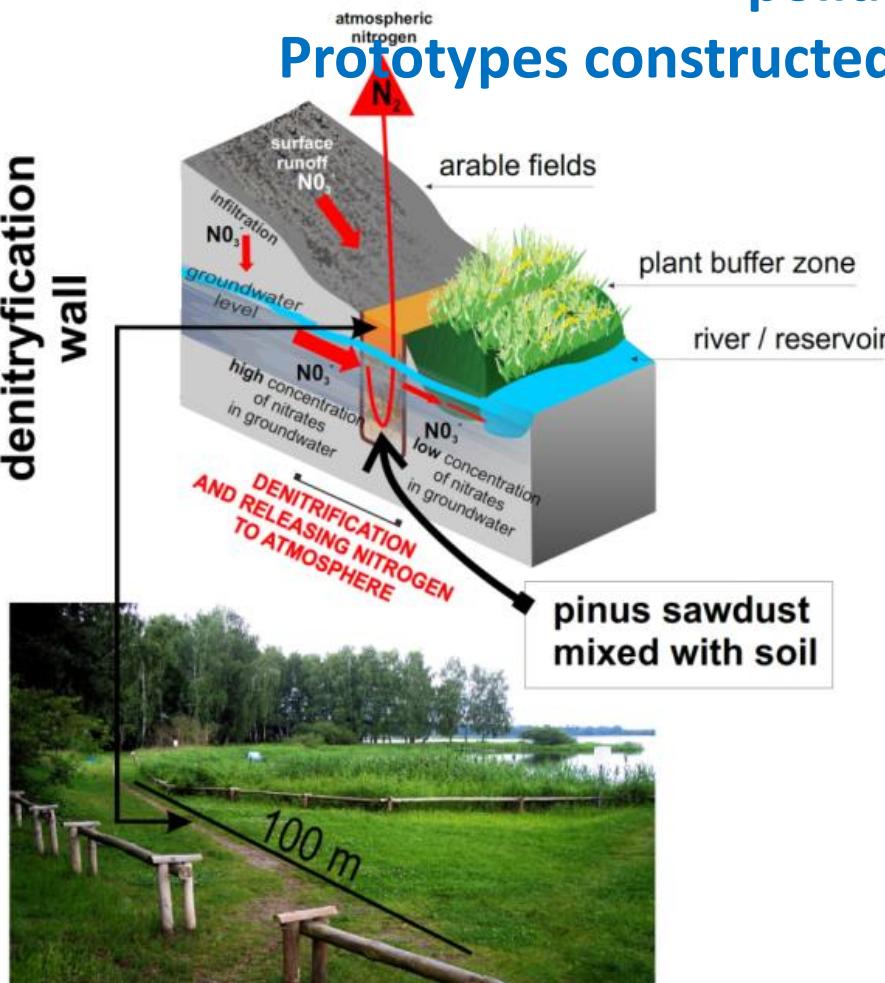


„BEST  
EC LIFE+  
Project, 2018  
Brussels

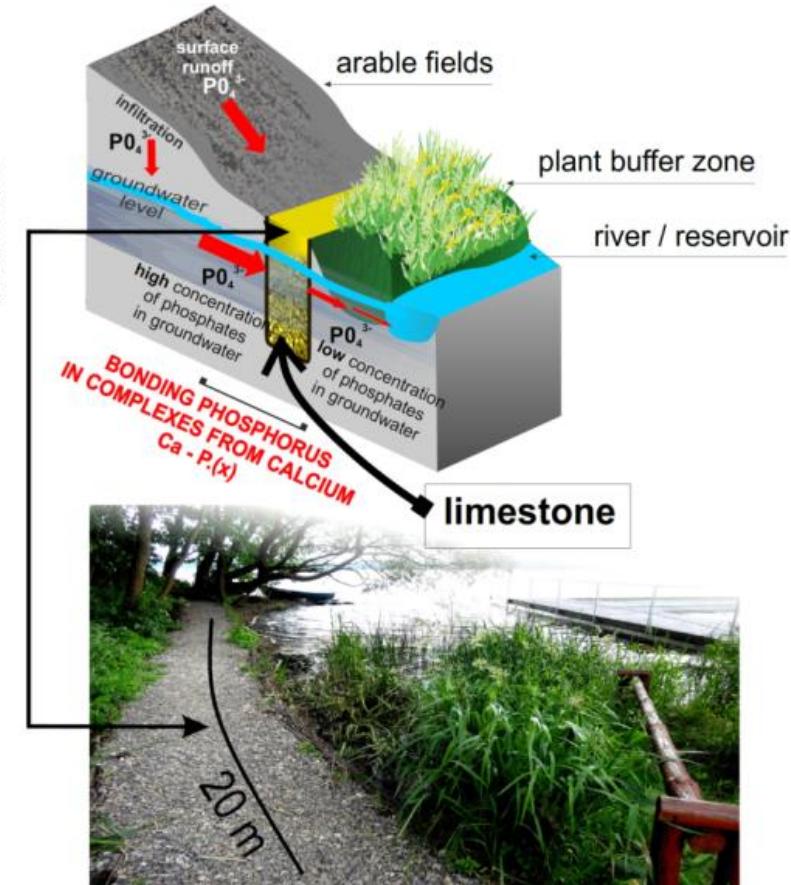
## Biotechnological buffering zone for reduction of non source pollution

### Prototypes constructed at Sulejow Reservoir

denitrification wall



biogeochemical barrier



(Izydorczyk , Frątczak Zalewski)

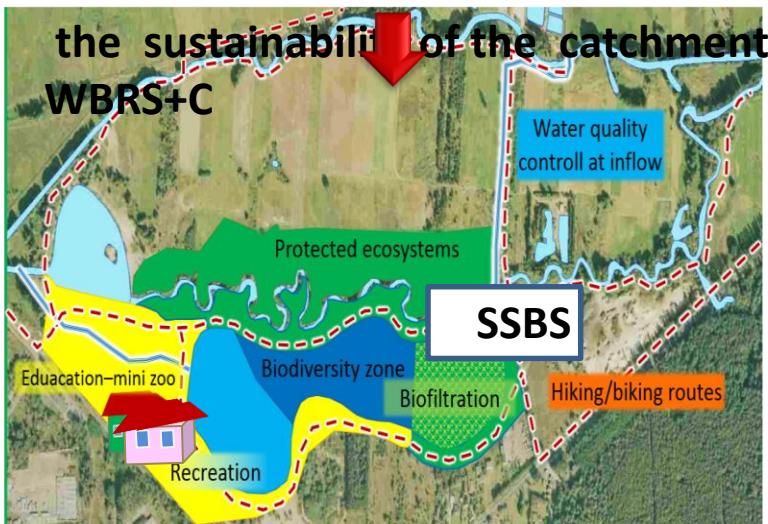


# What the difference Ecohydrology makes in the construction of reservoirs?



The comparison the traditional Hydroengineering design of the small reservoir and Ecohydrological Systemic solution WBSR+C for enhancement of the catchment sustainability

## Design of the EH systemic solutions to enhance



(Zalewski, Belka, Kiedrzynska 2018)



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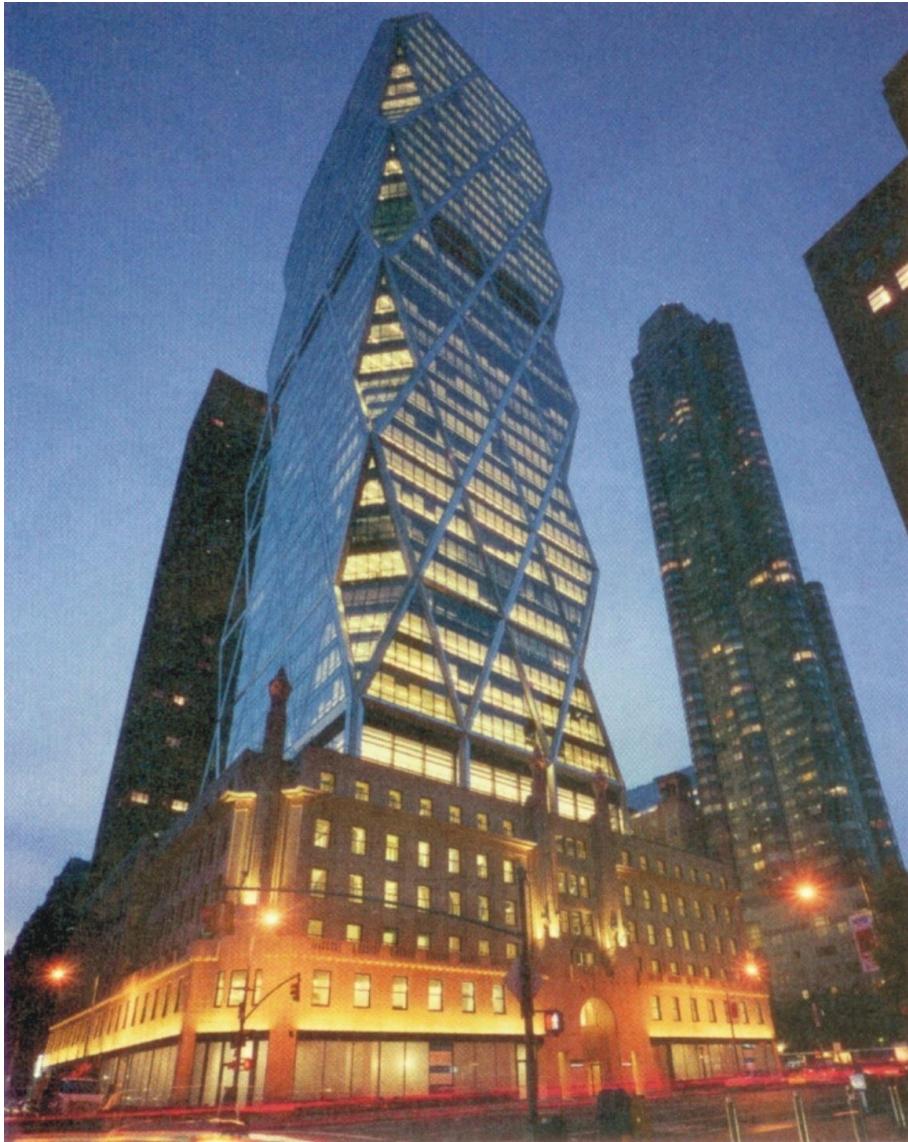
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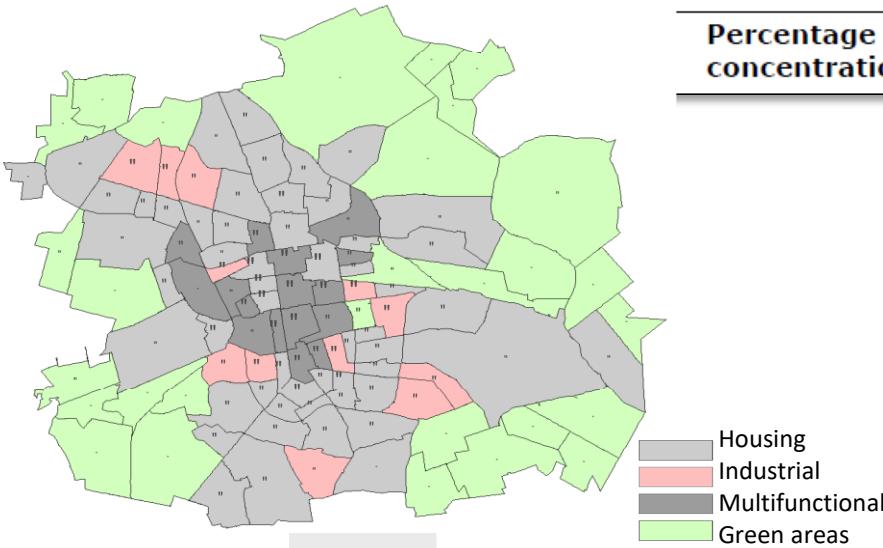
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# City of the future alternative scenarios



# WPŁYW URBANIZACJI NA ZDROWIE

## The effect of urbanisation on human health



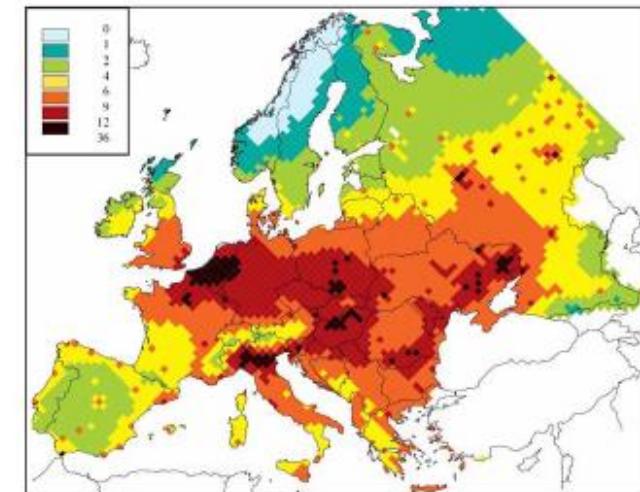
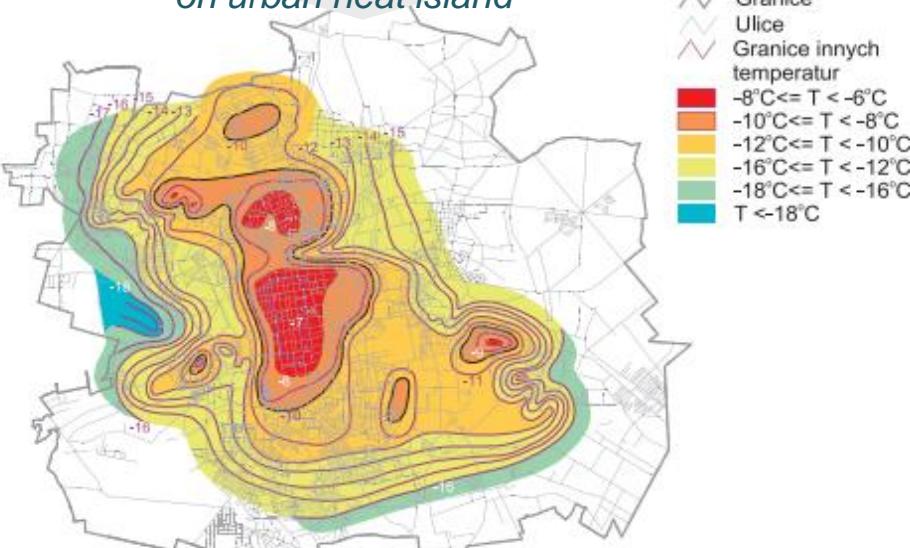
Percentage of the urban population in the EU exposed to air pollutant concentrations above the EU and WHO reference levels (2009–2011)

Pollutant	WHO AQG	Exposure estimate (%)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Year (10)	91–96
PM <sub>10</sub>	Year (20)	85–88
O <sub>3</sub>	8-hour (100)	97–98
NO <sub>2</sub>	Year (40)	5–13
BaP	Year (0.12)	76–94
SO <sub>2</sub>	Day (20)	46–54
CO	8-hour (10)	8–10
Pb	Year (1)	1–2
Benzene	Year (0.001)	0.1–0.2

### Life loss

Loss in life expectancy attributable to exposure to fine particulate matter - 2000

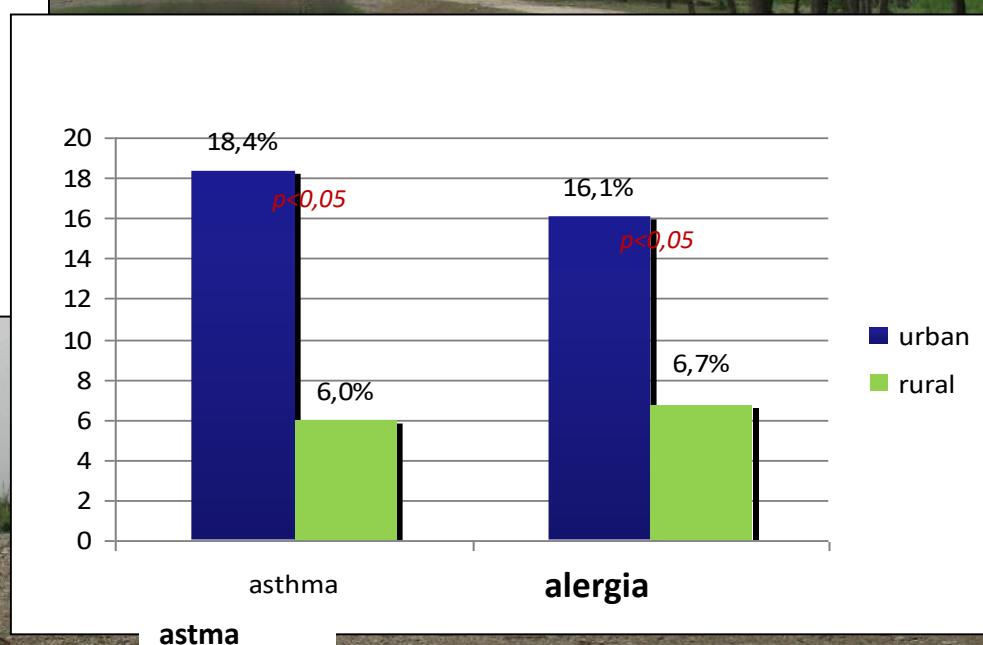
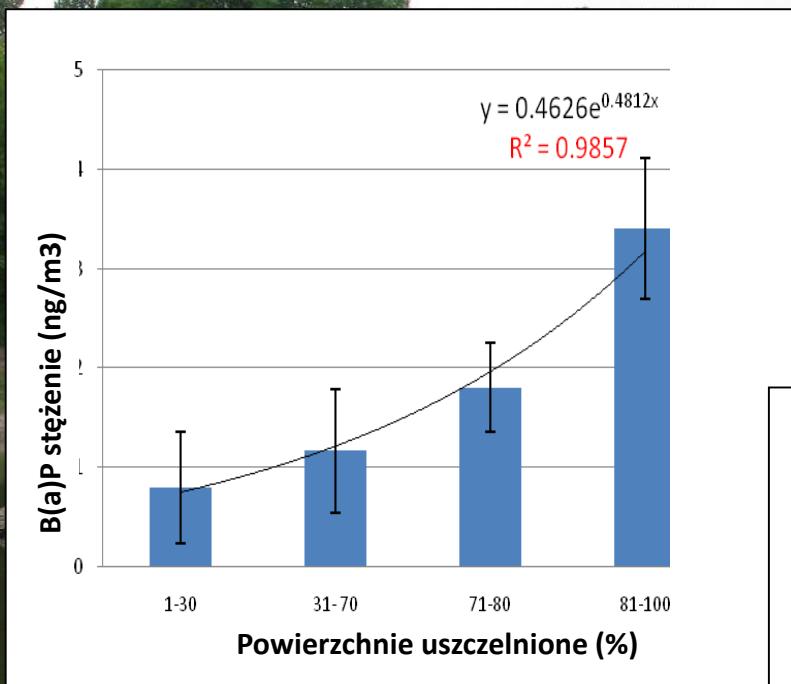
### Effect of land transformations on urban heat island



PM<sub>2.5</sub>: 8 months loss = 3.6 million life yr/annual

Health cost: €189-609 billion/annum in 2020

# Zbiornik Teresa

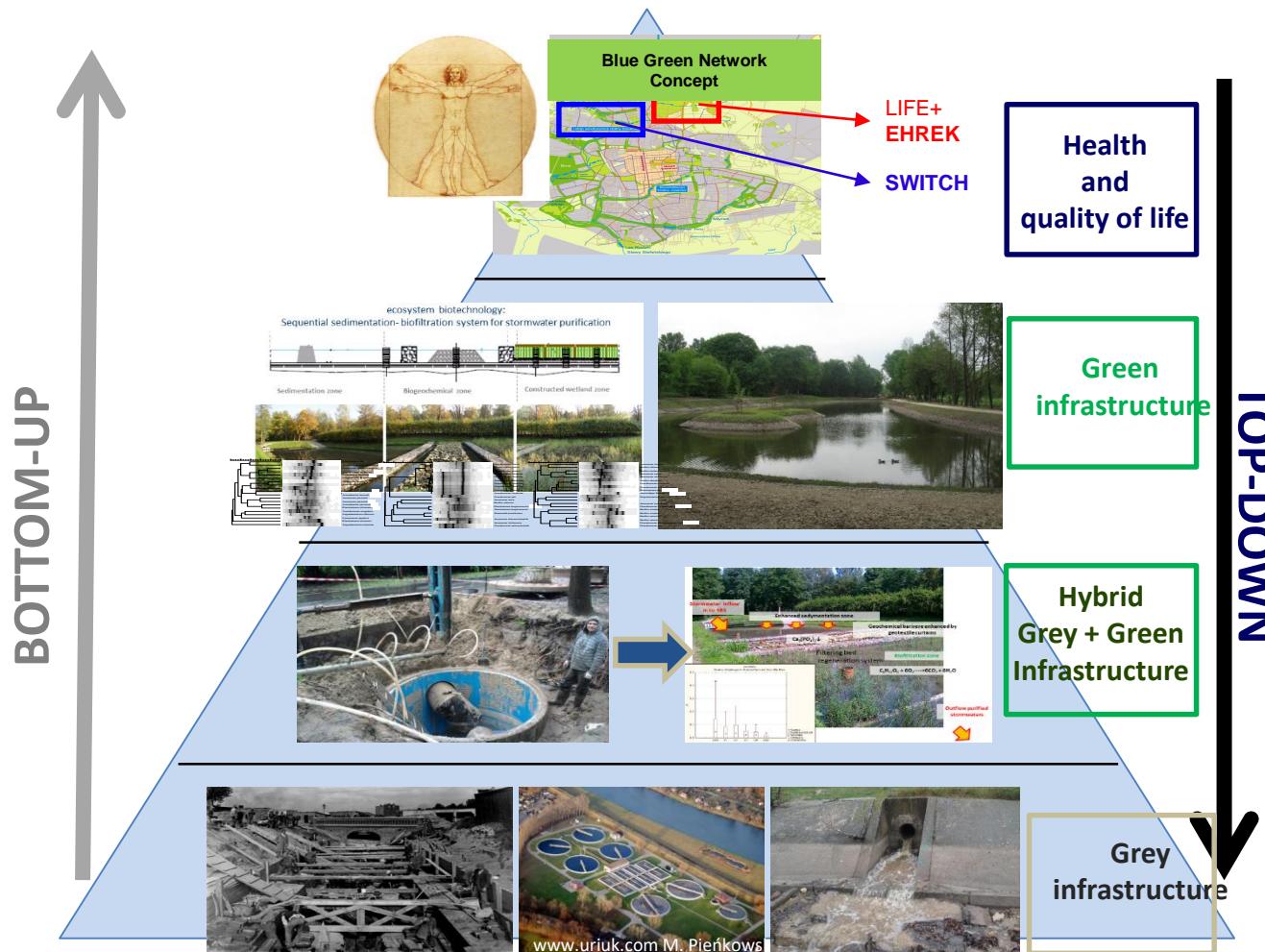


(Cuprys Lipinska et al. 2010)

(Zalewski 2012)

# SHAPING THE FRIENDLY AND HEALTHY CITY OF THE FUTURE

## ( Integration of TOP-DOWN: HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE BOTTOM-UP GREY, HYBRID AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE)

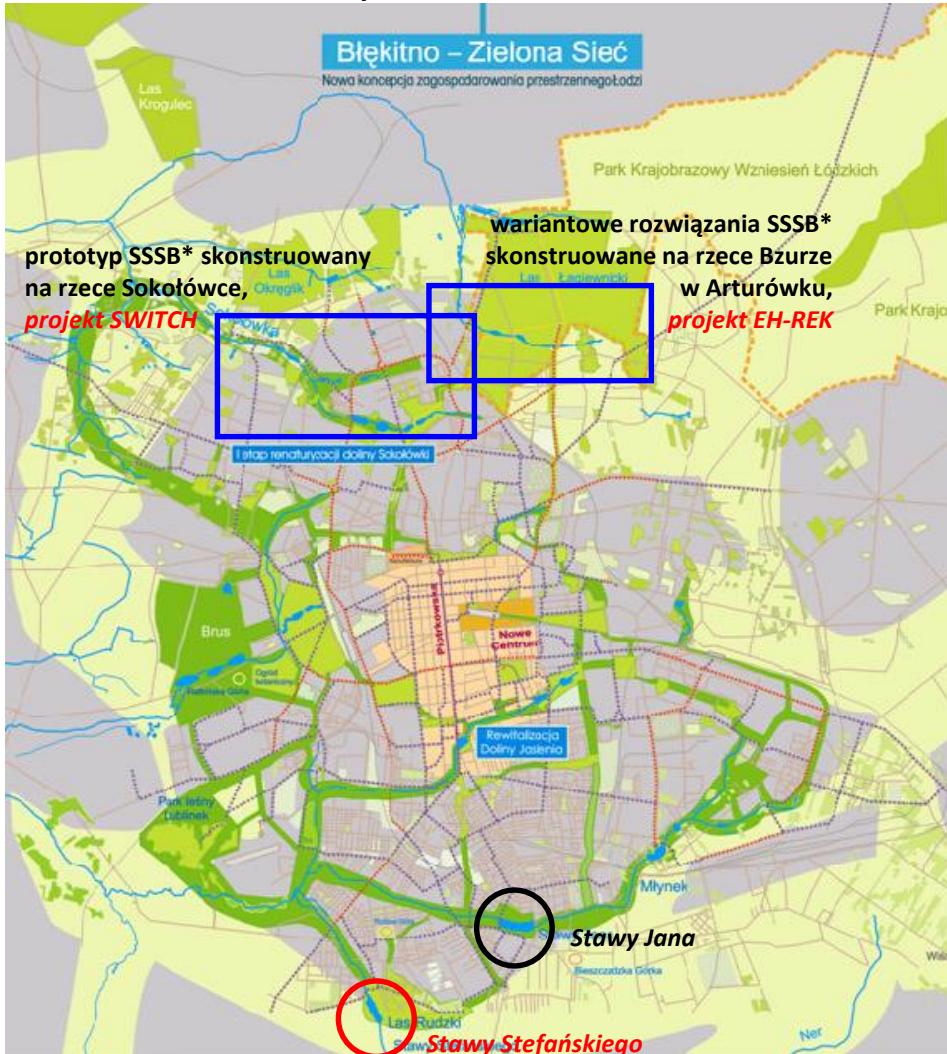


M. Zalewski  
(In press)

# ZAKWITY GLONÓW I TOKSYCZNYCH SINIC w zbiornikach rekreacyjnych na terenie miasta Łodzi

LIFE08 ENV/PL/000517  
[www.arturowek.pl](http://www.arturowek.pl)

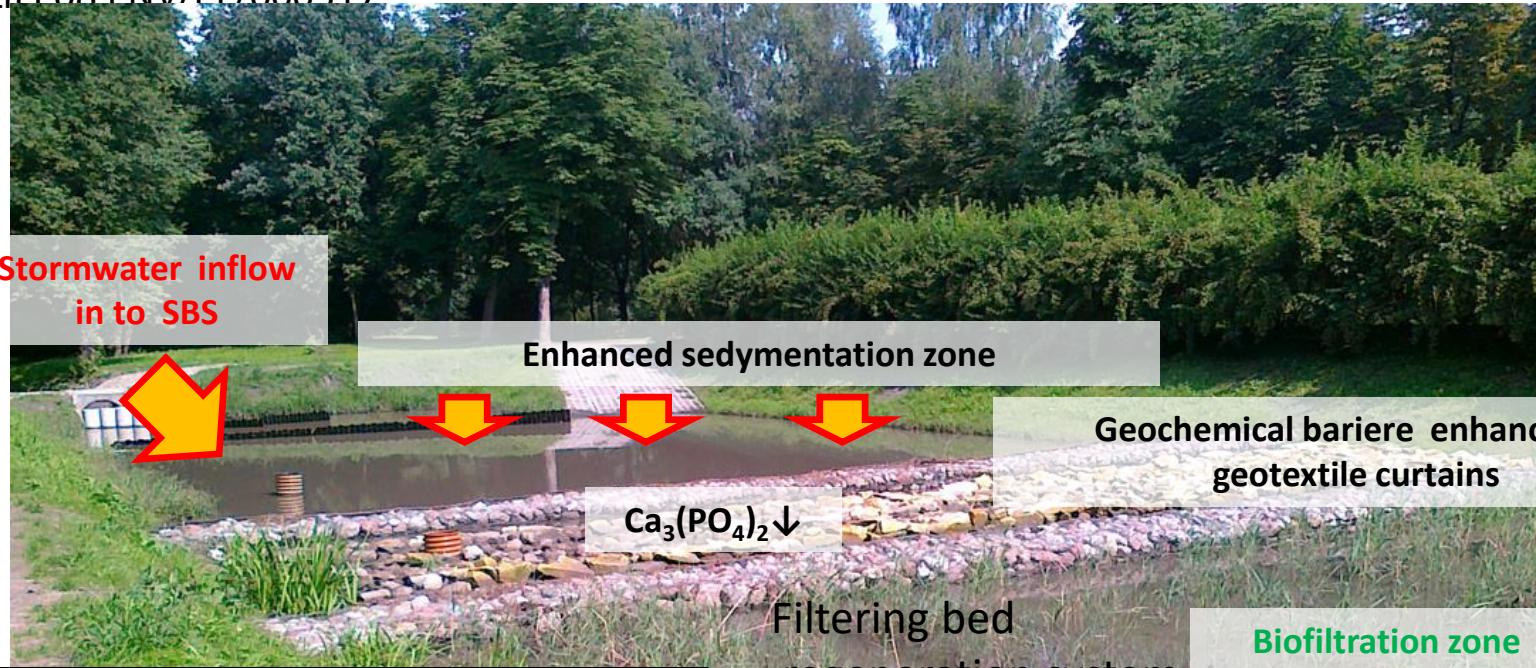
## Lodz City of Blue–Green Network



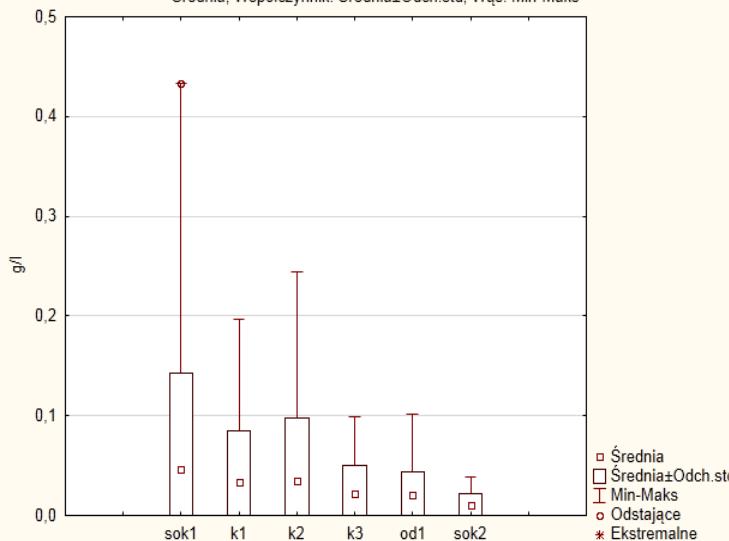
## The past challenges



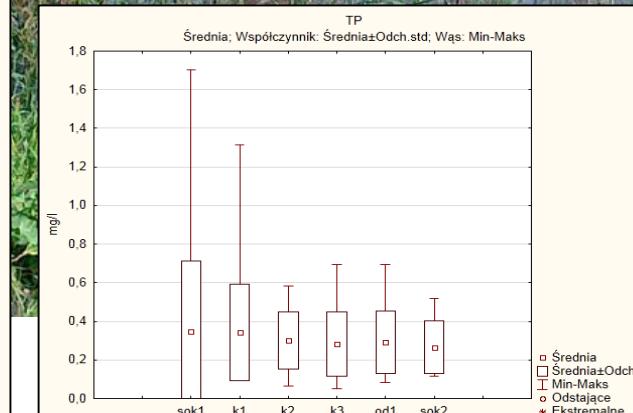
LIFE08 ENV/PL/000517



zawiesina  
Średnia; Współczynnik: Średnia±Odch.std; Wąs: Min-Maks



TP  
Średnia; Współczynnik: Średnia±Odch.std; Wąs: Min-Maks



Outflow purified stormwaters



## Zbiornik na Sokolowce zkonstruowany ponizej systemu SBS



(Zalewski 2012)

# Ekohydrologiczna rekultywacja zbiorników rekreacyjnych na górnnej Bzurze

CITY OF LODZ

Implementation Blue - Green Network Concept LIFE+ EHREK

2010



Toxic algal blooms in reservoir at upper Bzura River catchment

Mitigation of urban stormwater impact

Green



Grey

Hybrid infrastructure



Green infrastructure

2014



Reservoir



Water quality after implementation hybrid (grey + green) infrastructure in upper Bzura River catchment (July 15, 2014)



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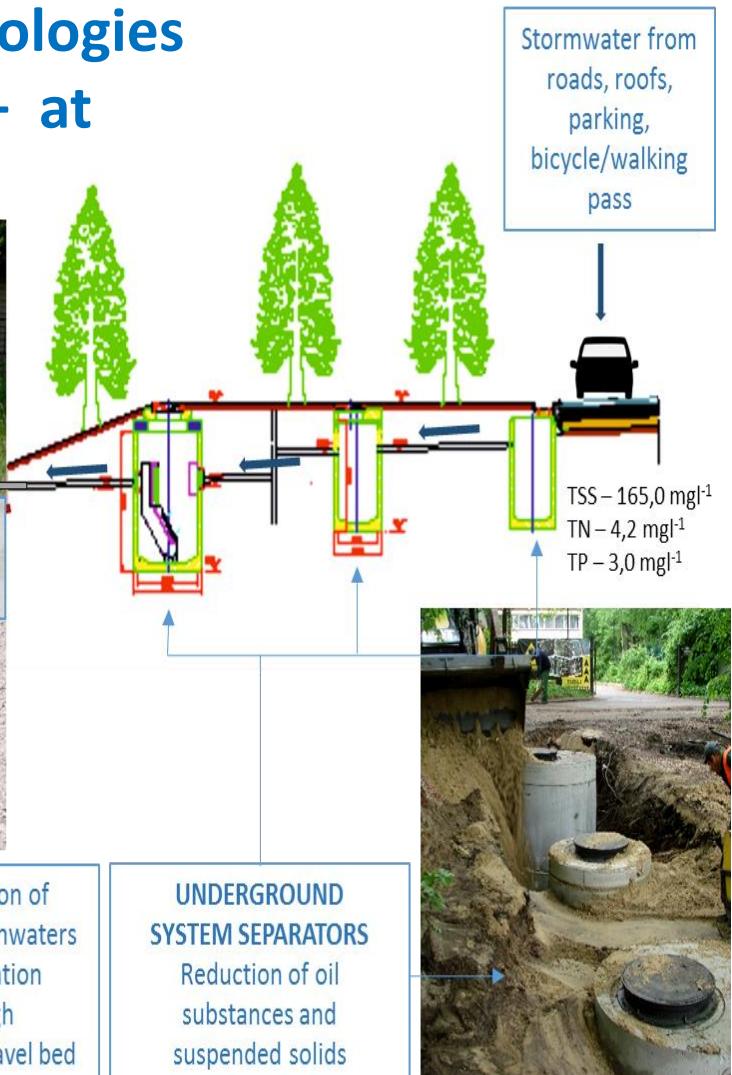
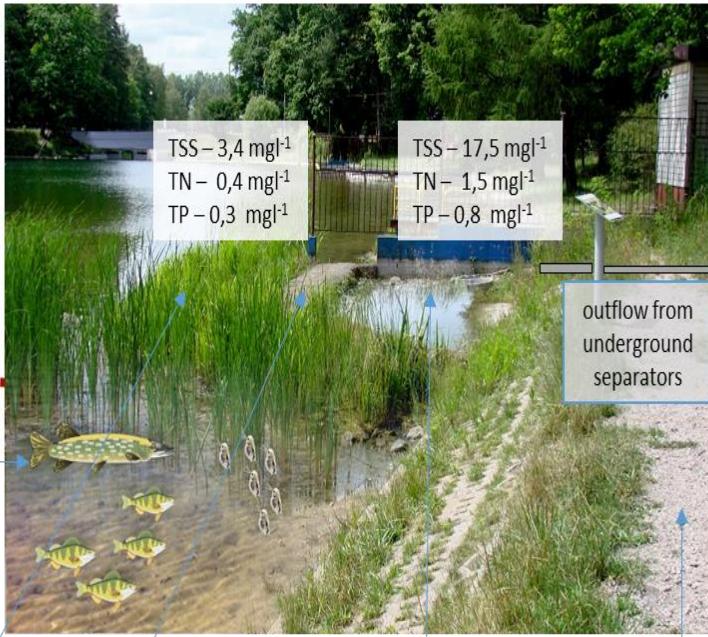
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Award of European Comission  
BEST OF THE BEST"  
LIFE+ Project,  
22 May 2018 Brussels

# Integration ecohydrological biotechnologies with hydroengineering EHREK LIFE + at Bzura River catchemnt

**REGULATION OF  
BIOLOGICAL  
PROCESSES**  
Enhancement of  
filtering  
zooplankton by  
predatory fish  
stocking



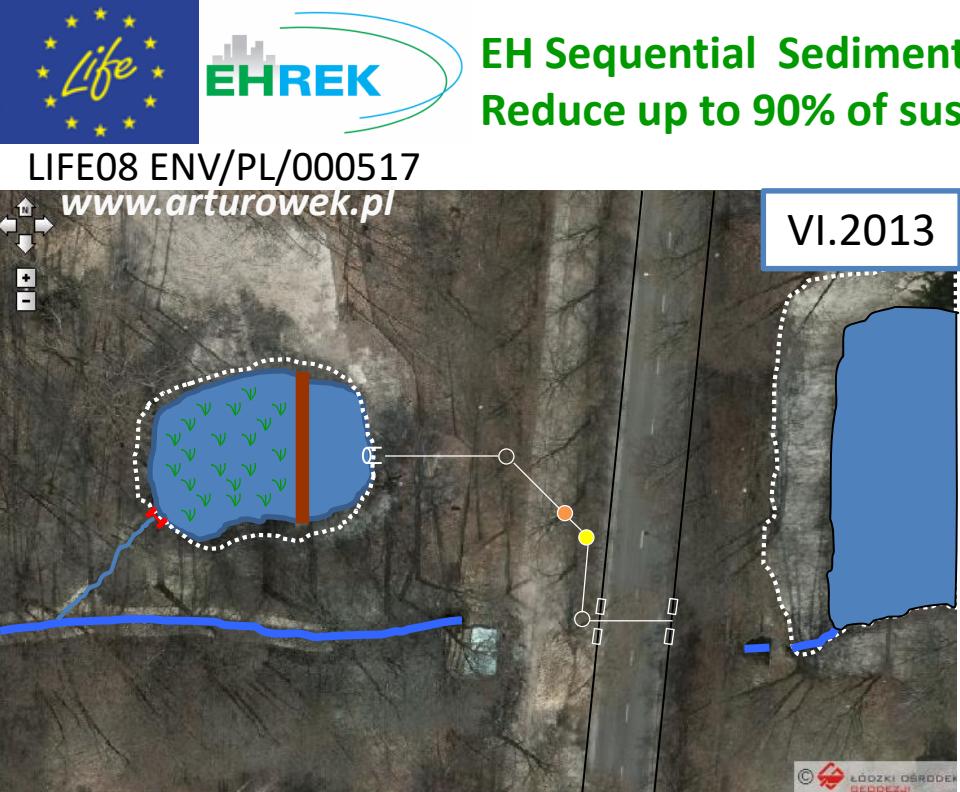
Jurczak, Zalewski

# EH Sequential Sedimentary/Biofiltration System (SSBS)

## Reduce up to 90% of suspended matter and nutrients

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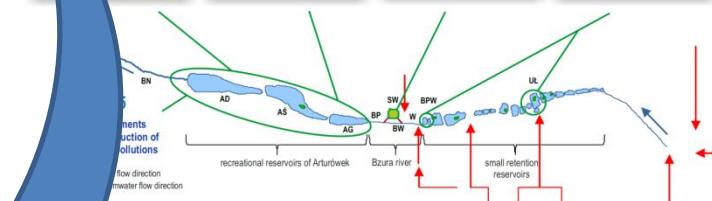
[www.arturowek.pl](http://www.arturowek.pl)



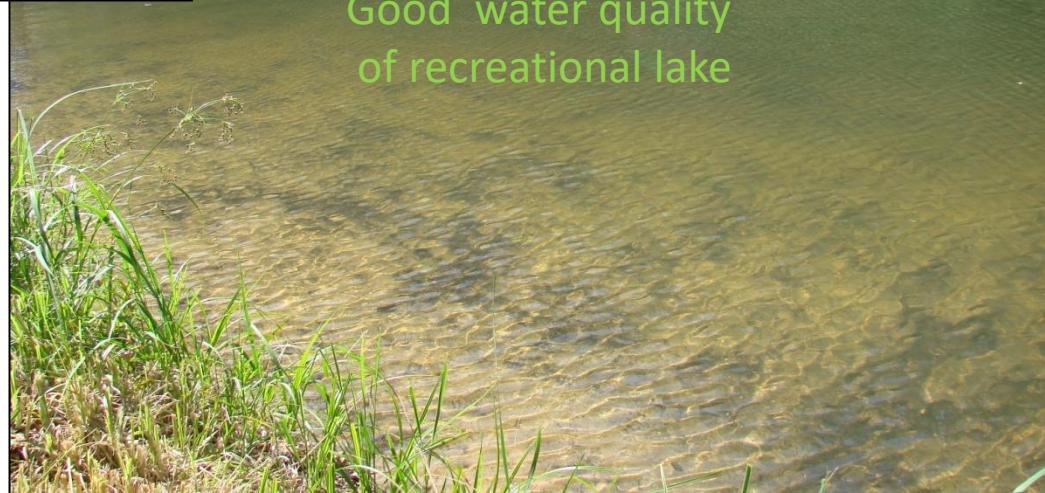
## The final effect construction of SSBS



- Task 1**  
Construction of buffer zones with geochemical barriers to reduce nutrients and floating plant mats to create refuges for zooplankton
- Task 2**  
Ecohydrological adaptation of reservoir for intensification of water self-purification
- Task 3**  
Construction of Biofiltratory-Sedimentary System (BSS) for reduction of stormwater threat
- Task 4**  
Ecohydrological adaptation of small retention reservoirs for intensification of water self-purification



Good water quality  
of recreational lake



Kierownik projektu: Profesor Maciej Zalewski

Koordynator projektu: Tomasz Jurczak



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The BEST of the BEST LIFE Projects

# EU Program LIFE, Award Ceremony

## 18 May Brussels 2018



The BEST LIFE Projects

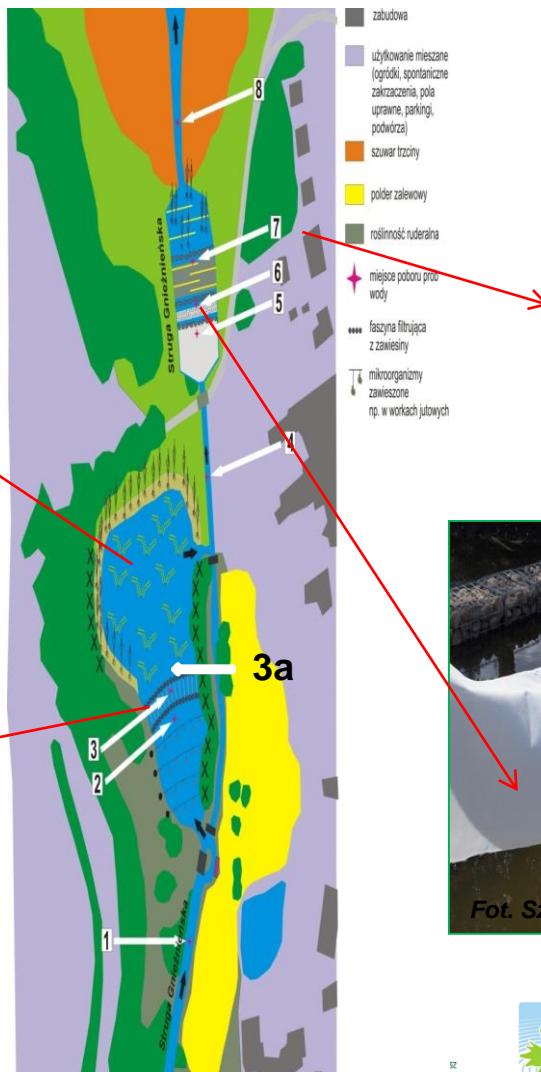


# IMPLEMENTATION OF SEDIMENTATION-BIOFILTRATION SYSTEM - EH BIOTECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

"The construction and optimization of sedimentation – biofiltration system, with micro-organisms activation zone in order to reduce nutrients risks of watercourses" within the framework of the project  
GEKON2/03/267948/21/2016



INSTITUTE FOR  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



# Sequential Biofiltering System for improvement efficiency small WWTP

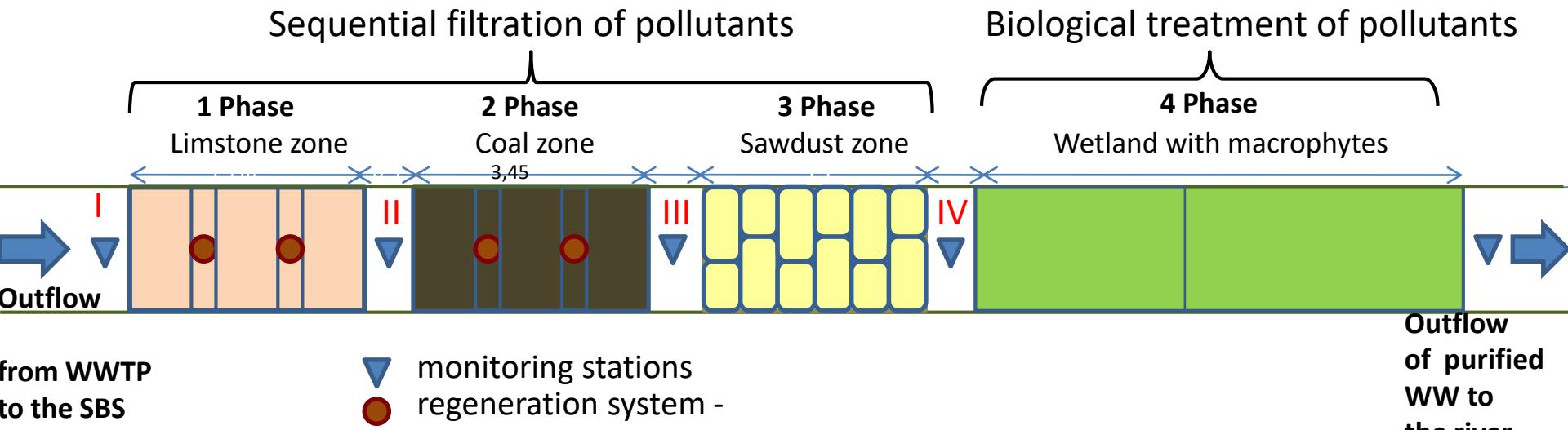
based on sequence of limestone, coal, sawdust and constructed wetlands

Mean TP reduction: 26%

Max. TP reduction 76%

Mean TN reduction: 48%

Max. TN reduction 97%





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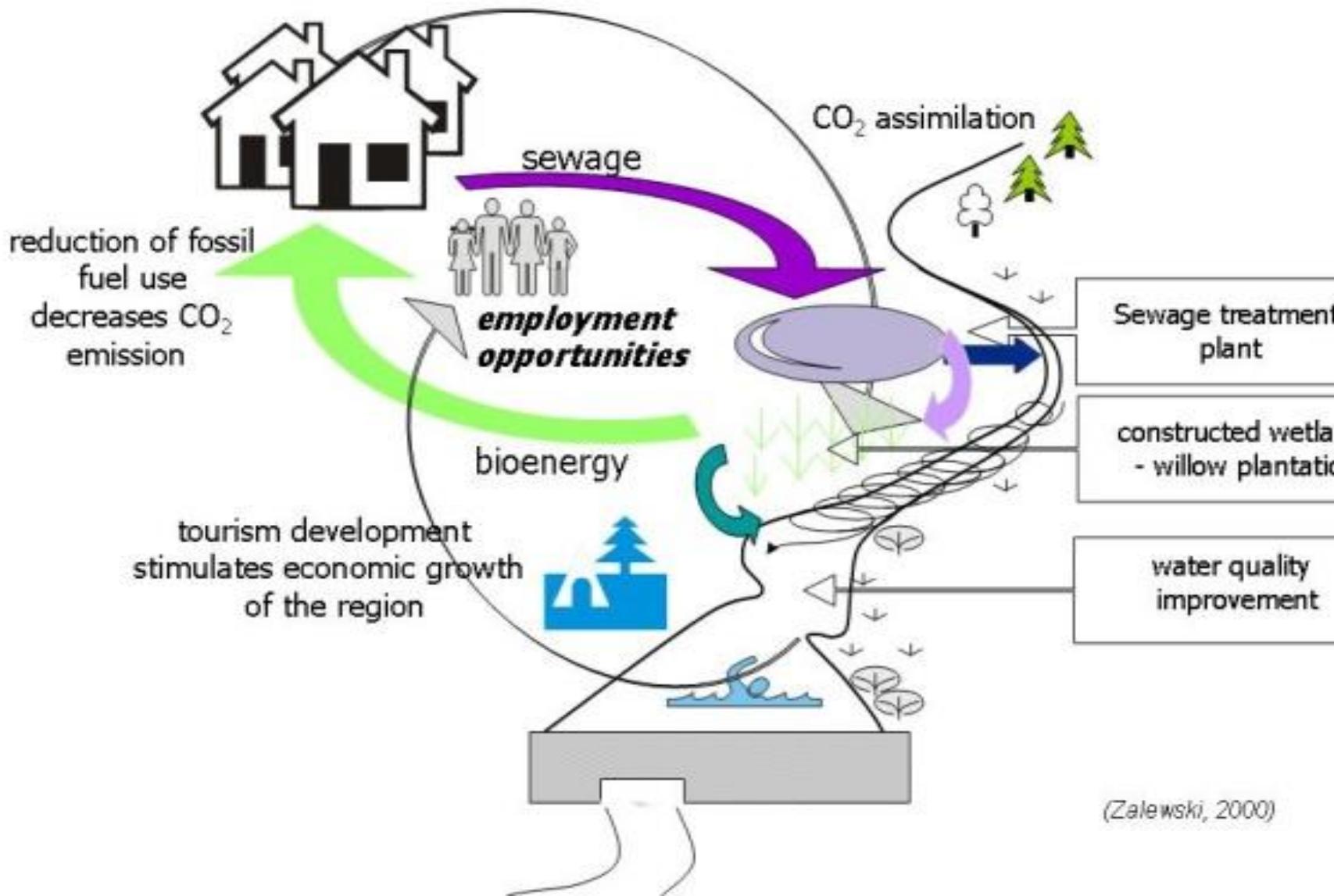
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## System solutions

### Improvement of water quality, human health and quality of life



# Ethiopia - African Centre for Ecohydrology





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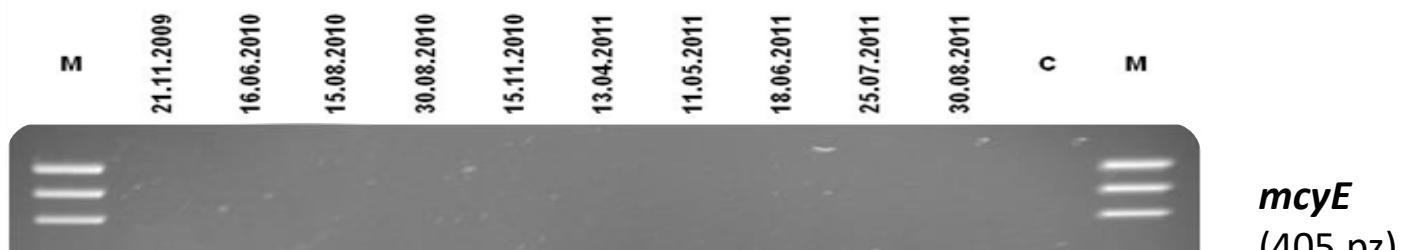


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## Molecular biology for EH – Early warning and quantification of toxicity Ethiopia Lake Tana

Charakterystyka występowania toksynogennych sinic wraz z oznaczeniem stężenia mikrocystyn ( $\geq 1 \mu\text{g/L}$ )



3  $\mu\text{g/L}$

1  $\mu\text{g/L}$

Gagała et al., Proceedings of 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Ethiopian Fisheries and Aquatic Science (EFAS): Impact of climate change and pollution on tropical aquatic resources. 2011, Ethiopia, page 287-300  
Mankiewicz-Boczek, Ecohydrology and Hydrobiology, 2012, 12, 165-170



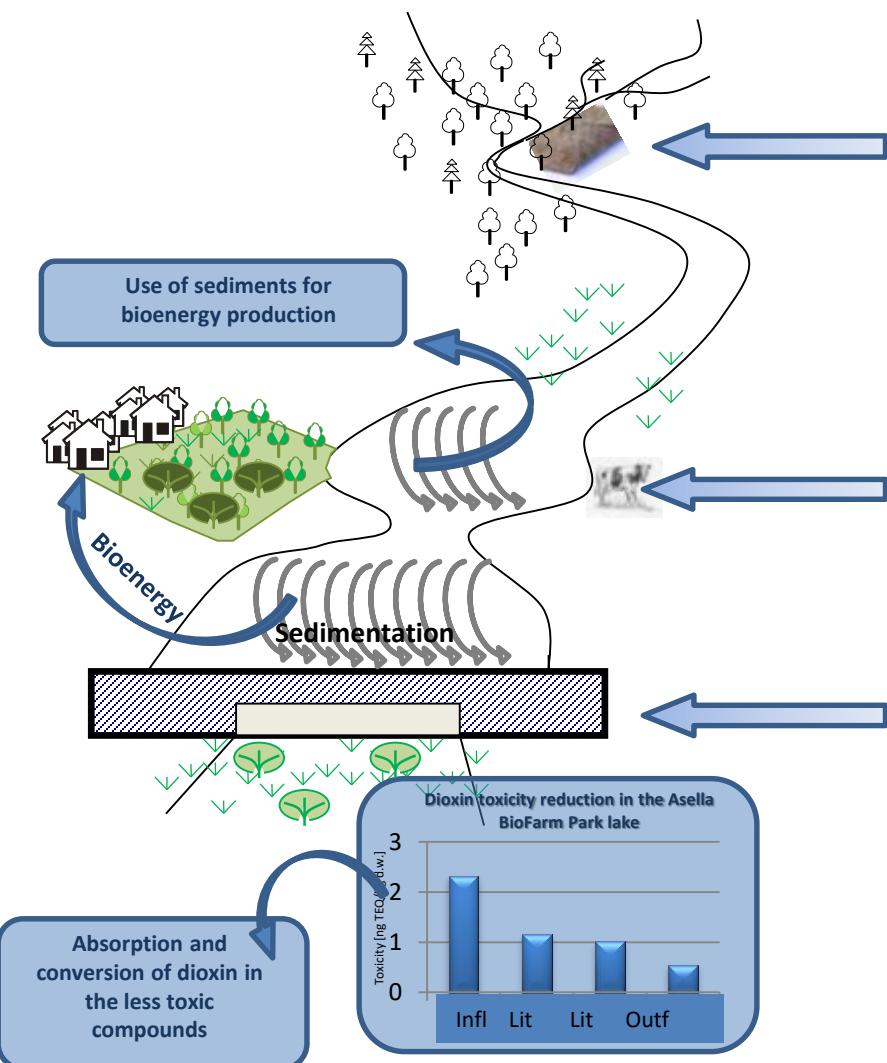




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# Ecohydrology based systemic solutions for reduction of turbidity, toxic algal bloom and dioxin-induced toxicity in the Asella BioFarm Park lake



Use of biodegradable geofibers for erosion control



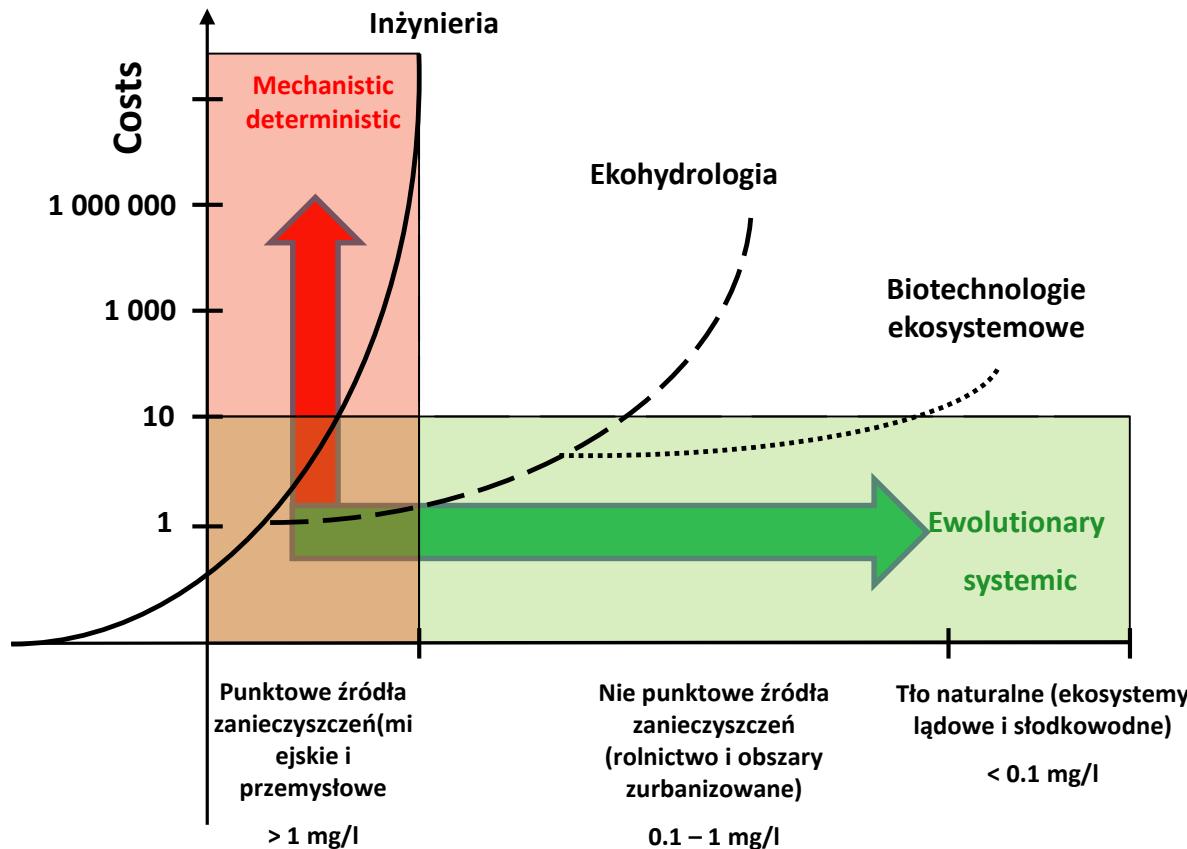
Stock watering site and use of manure collected at the site as a fertilizer



Construction of the sequential biofiltration system for turbidity, eutrophication and dioxin toxicity reduction in the Asella BioFarm Park lake



## Enhancement of efficiency and costs reduction by integration of the ecohydrology engineering and biotechnology



The intensity of the human impact in catchment scale expressed in phosphorus concentration

# **Education**

# Multi-stakeholder platform for knowledge transfer and implementation: dialog instead of talking, building ownership and critical mass



## Partners and LA members involved



The Lodz Learning Alliance (LA) was launched in May 2006.

The group of members is constantly growing and the LA has now a wide representation of stakeholders from the national, regional and local levels. The key partners on the City level are:

### Authorities:

- City of Lodz Office
- Lodz Infrastructure Company (LSI)

### Researchers:

- University of Lodz
- European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology u/a of UNESCO, PAS
- Lodz Technical University: Department of Environmental Engineering
- Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine in Lodz

### Service Providers:

- Waterworks and Sewage Systems Company (ZWiK)
- Waste Water Treatment Plant (GOS)

- *improving communication between the different organizations and to provide a cross-institutional platform to share information and discuss water issues*
- *Improving picture of how everything is working together*
- *addressing the issues in an integrated way*
- *creating independent space for discussion, sharing experience and transfer of know-how*





ERCE



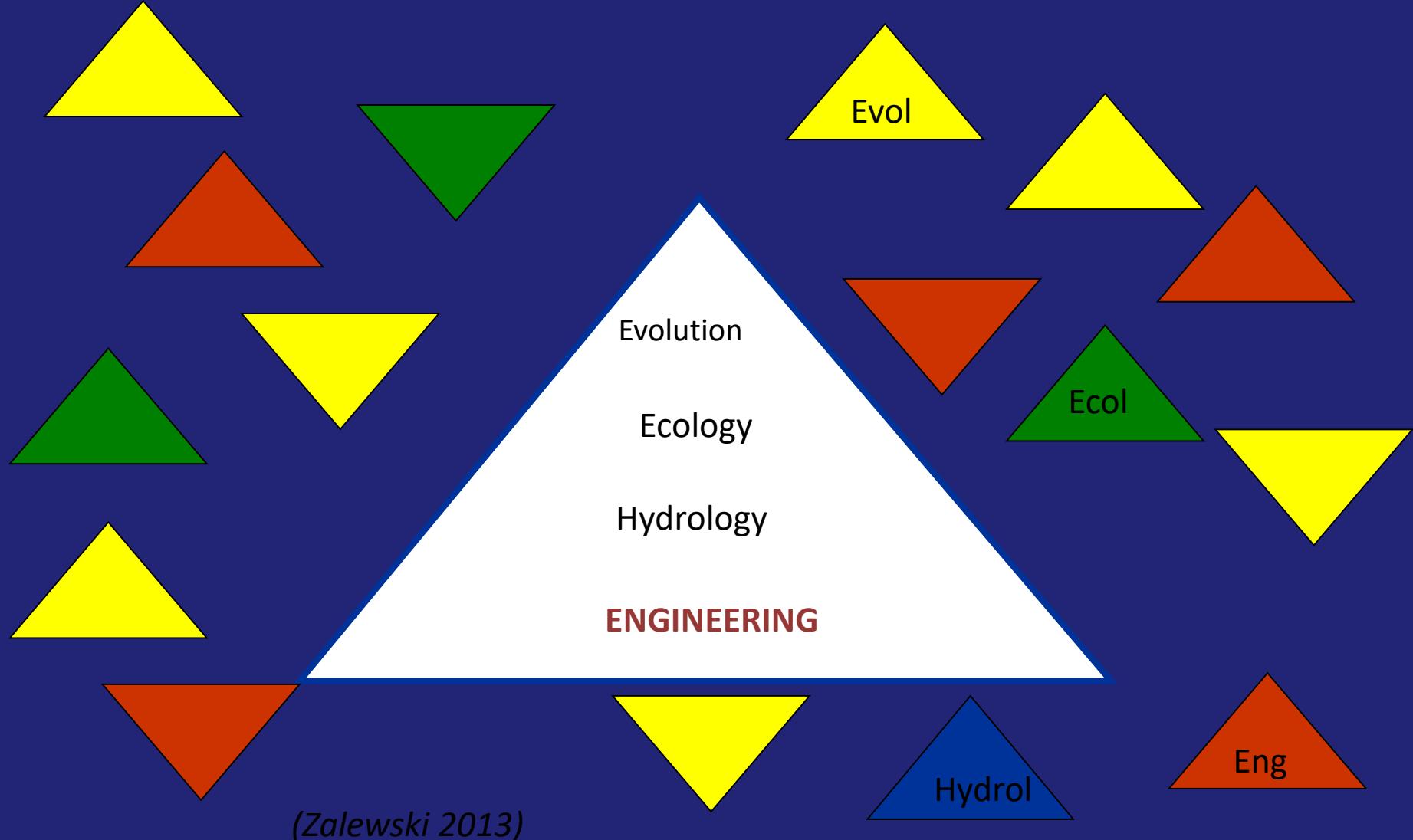
POLSKA AKADEMIA NAUK

Organizacja Narodów  
Zjednoczonych do Spraw  
Oświaty, Nauki i Kultury

Europejskie Regionalne  
Centrum Ekohydrologii  
pod auspicjami UNESCO



# Integration of the knowledge



# Understanding the evolution of paradigms and necessity systemic solutions based on integrative sustainability science

## Process-oriented thinking

### Structure-oriented thinking

	CONSERVATION	RESTORATION	ECOLOGICAL ENGINEERING	ECOHYDROLOGY
Goal	Maintaining biodiversity and the natural character of ecosystems	Reversing degradation of the structure of ecosystems	'Design of ecosystems for the mutual benefit of humans and nature' (Mitsch 1992)	Regulation of water-biota interplay for the enhancement of ecosystem potential and its harmonisation with society needs
Unit	 Ecosystem ↓ Population ↓ UNESCO MaB Biosphere Reserve	 Ecosystem patch ↓ Ecosystems	'Functional ecosystem'	Catchment's hydrological mezzo-cycle
Status	<b>MAINTAINING</b> 'status quo'	<b>ENHANCEMENT</b> of secondary succession processes at terrestrial ecosystems or reversing eutrophication in aquatic ecosystems	<b>SHAPING</b> of the functions of ecosystem	<b>REGULATION</b> of water-biota interplay for sustainable catchment and coastal zones

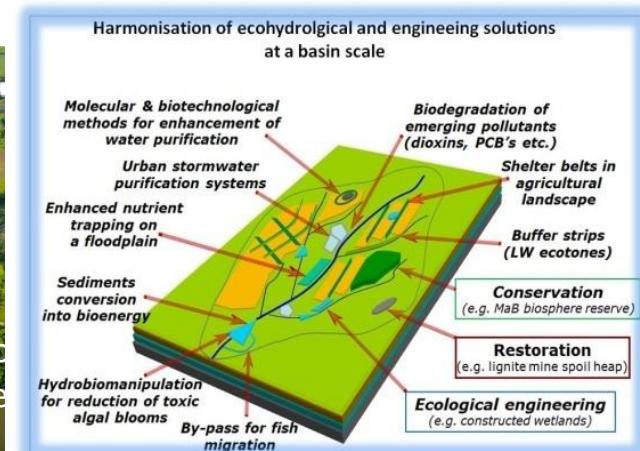
Białowieża National Park



Recultivated spoil heap of Bełchatów Mine

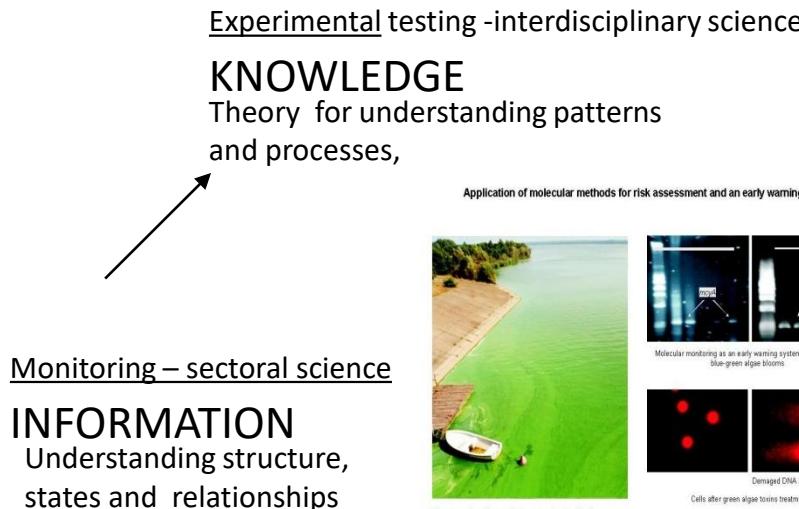


Constructed ec.  
Olentangy River  
Research Park,



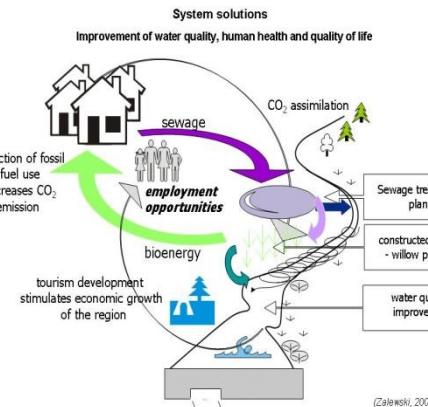
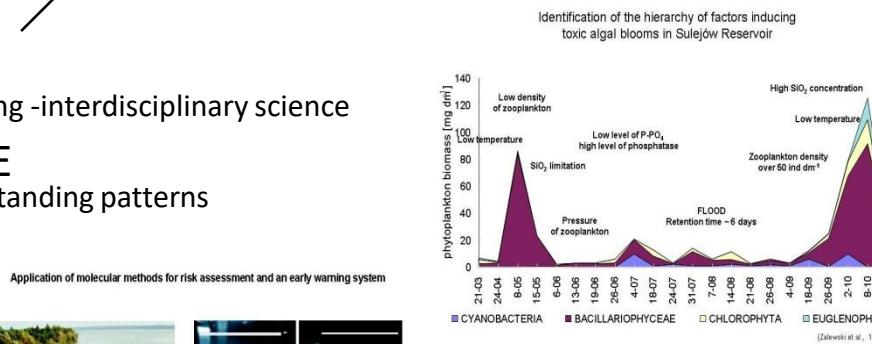
# Ecohydrology for desirable sustainable future of „SPACESHIP EARTH”

Holistic  
↑  
approach  
↓  
Reductionistic



## System solutions – Transdisciplinary science **WISDOM**

Use of information and  
knowledge for problem solving –  
Formulation of principles for action



Problem identification →

**Problem solving**

(Zalewski 2014)



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# Thank you



**The inspiring cooperation of my colleagues from  
ERCE PAS u/a UNESCO, Department of Applied Ecology, UŁ  
UNESCO Division of Water Sciences and IHP  
is highly appreciated and made the introduced projects happened**



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# Evolution of relations between Man & Environment

Believe in  
unlimited  
nature  
potential

Conquest  
of nature  
  
Industrial Era

Recognition of  
structure of nature  
(Linnaeus)  
Consciousness of  
decline of biodiversity

Exploitation  
of nature

Protection  
of nature

Increasing  
consciousness  
of the decline  
of ecosystem  
services

Restoration  
of ecology

Regulation of  
environmental processes  
toward harmonization of  
ecosystem potential and  
social needs - WBSRC  
e.g ECOHYDROLOGY &  
NBS

Increasing number of  
evidences of the decline  
of cultural and aesthetic  
values of nature

(Zalewski 2011)



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# From the Ecohydrology - use of ecosystem properties

Management tools to Nature-Based Solutions



ELSEVIER

Volume 16, Issue 1, February 2016, Pages 4-6

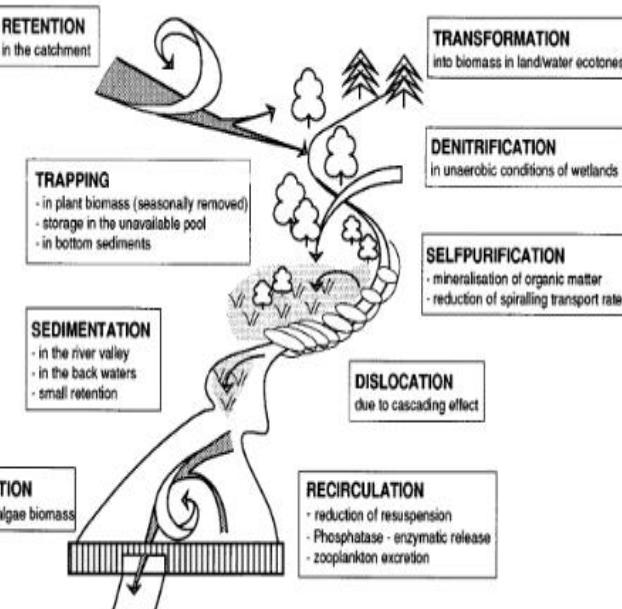
[www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoeng](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoeng)

ECOLOGICAL  
ENGINEERING

Guest editorial

Ecohydrology — the scientific background to use ecosystem properties as management tools toward sustainability of water resources

Maciej Zalewski



United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2018

"NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER"

PROPOSAL/REVIEW/BACKGROUND PAPER

Background information and suggested key sectors and relevant issues to be covered in the report

## I. NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND THE GLOBAL POLICY AGENDA

The dialogue on water and environment has shifted over recent years from trade-offs between water use for human needs and the environment towards how the environment can be managed to support water management objectives (Figure 1). This has resulted in significant uptake of attention to environment/ecosystems/biodiversity in the water agenda.

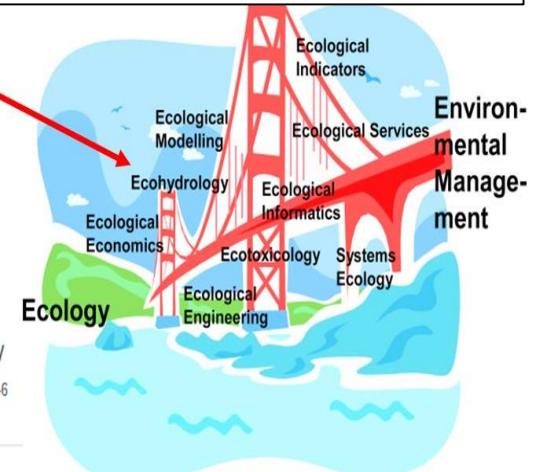
Ecohydrology and related environmental science as a bridge between ecology and environmental management



Short Communication

Ecohydrology & Hydrobiology

Volume 16, Issue 1, February 2016, Pages 4-6



Sven Erik Jørgensen ☰✉