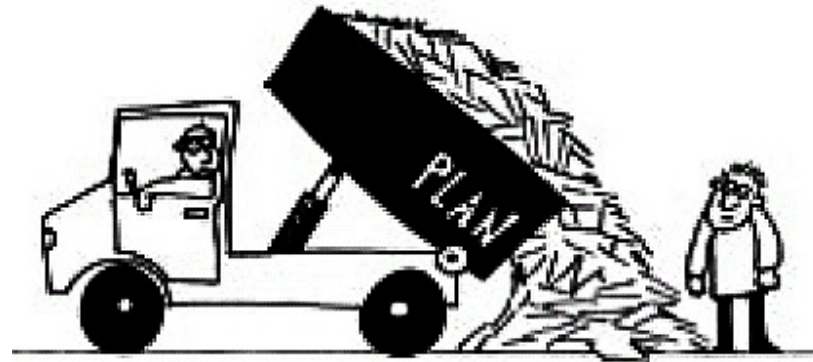
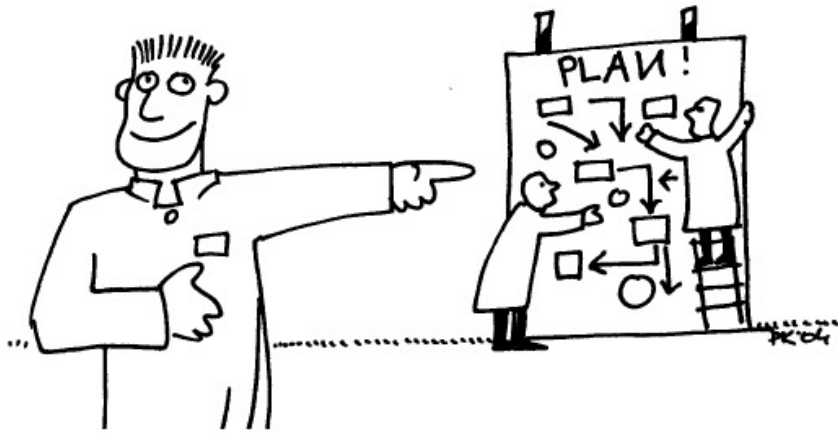


Water management planning and forest policy as potential background for wetlands restoration in Poland

Paweł Pawlaczyk



Papers, Plans and Theory



Why water management so important?

Because wetlands / peatlands depends on water!

Water Framework Directive instruments:

- River Basin Management Plans
 - environmental objectives for waterbodies and for protected areas
- Programme of Measures



RBMPs

including peatlands

Environmental objectives for protected areas:

- Deducted, with details, from designation acts or management plans, as
 - conservation objectives, used directly;
 - deducted water requirements for conservation objectives;
 - preventing threats concerning water conditions;
- Water requirements of peatlands included, if peatlands are mentioned i designation act/mgm plan
- Natura 2000 peatlands habitats
 - if no details provided, „standard objective” for relevant habitat type, including relevant water conditions (= monitoring criteria of FV conservation status)



PoM

Water-related measures for protected areas (mainly Natura 2000) taken from mgm plans, are included

(only if they are included in the mgm plan, of course)



RBMPs background / paralel water planning instruments

- Good Standard of Rivers Maintenance
- National Programme of Surface Waters Restoration
- Drought Mitigation Plan
- Programme of Counteracting Water Scarcity



Good Standard of Rivers Maintenance

Contains, among others, „peat-conserving maintenance profile” for rivers flowing by peatlands:

- slowing down the river flow (no deepening and sediments removing, only very limited vegetation removing, boggy bufer zones along river banks)

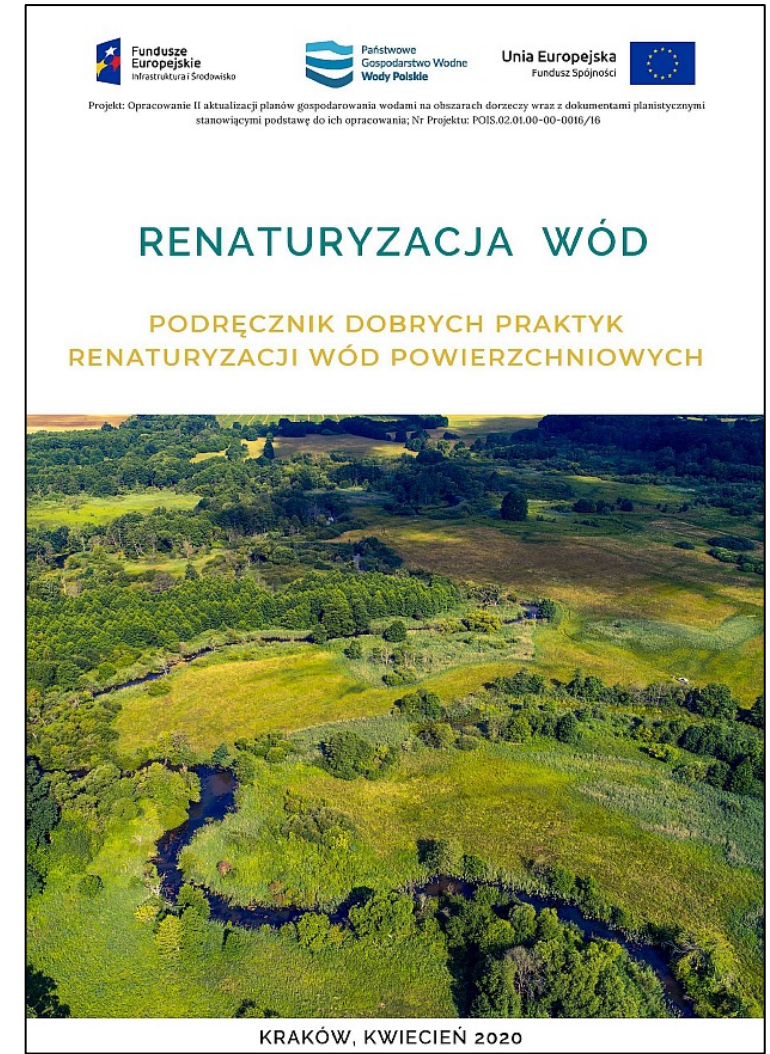


KATALOG DOBRYCH PRAKTYK
W ZAKRESIE ROBÓT HYDROTECHNICZNYCH
I PRAC UTRZYMANIOWYCH
WRAZ Z USTALENIEM ZASAD ICH WDRAŻANIA



National Programme of Surface Waters Restoration

- Among others, restoring wetland buffer zones along the rivers,
- Maintaining spontaneous vegetation along river banks,
- Cancelling or reducing sediments & vegetation removing from rivers.



Drought Mitigation Plan & Programme of Counteracting Water Scarcity

Wetlands restoration is directly mentioned as recommended measure



Why forest policy so important?

Because forests, 85% state owned, covers 1/3 of Polish territory; many most valuable peatlands are inside forests and are managed by Forest Service

Forest Act:

- Maintaining mires and peatlands in the forest is one of the obligations of the forest owner !

*ban of intentional deterioration,
obligation to prevent deterioration,
or obligation of restoration?*



State Forests internal guidances:

- Water management plan for forest district(s) – *optional*;
- „Water retention”; „small retention” – sometimes interpreted also as wetlands restoration



„Small retention” big projects implemented

- Incl. also ditches outflow blocking from peatlands

Integrated LIFE project - ongoing

- National scale
- Mapping wetland Natura 2000 habitats in State Forests
- Planning conservation measures



Practice & Reality



If we have so good strategies & plans,

- why still we have > 1 mln ha of peatlands to be restored?



In Polish culture
strategies, plans and standards
are not for implementing them,
but only for having them...



Water authority is responsible for achieving environmental objectives for waterbodies,

- but has no tools outside waterbodies, even for water conditions of protected areas;

Water & Nature Conservation authorities have not enough resources to restore something...

- ... and even not enough resources to apply for resources;

Land ownership mosaic & contradictory interests of land owners.





- Foresters: have wish but no have enough knowledge,
- Understand legal obligation as *not to deteriorate* only, not as *to restore/prevent deterioration*,
- Generally, act under the name *water retention*,
- But prefer „open water table” as visible water retention,
- Afraid impact on existing forest stands



Fot. Marek Taradejna, RDLP Białystok; <https://www.bialystok.lasy.gov.pl/>



Thank you for your attention

