A retrospective analysis of existing ICZM best practise case studies

Ramūnas Povilanskas,
Klaipėda University
(Lithuania)

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Introduction

BaltCoast project WP4 case studies in the SE Baltic:

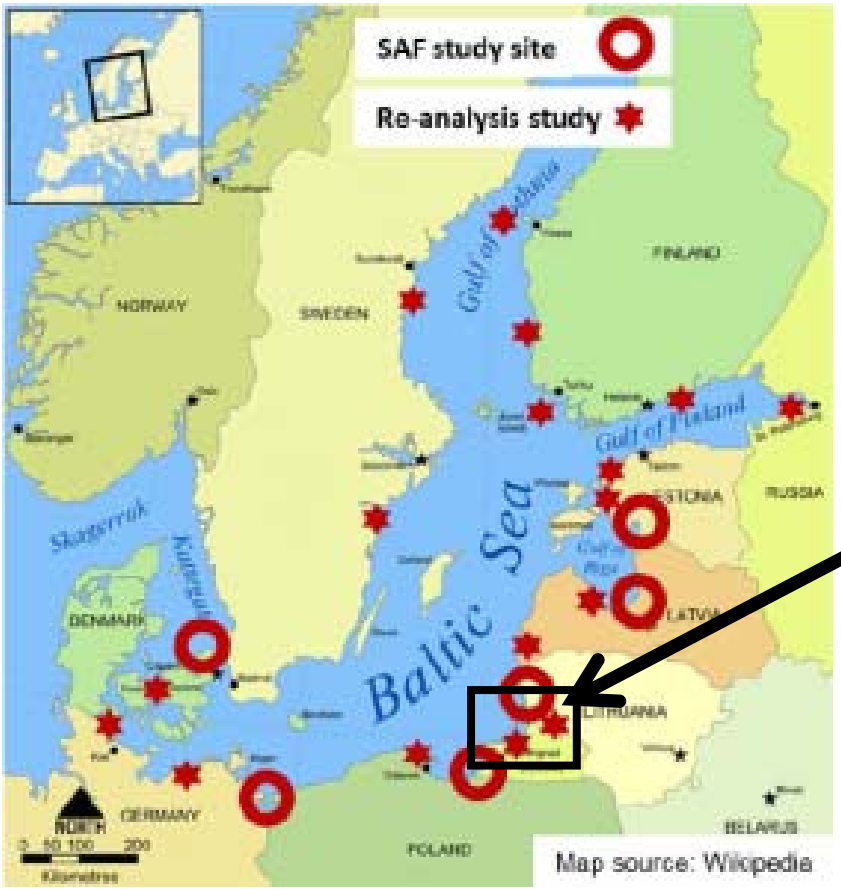
- Integrated shoreline management for a large harbour city and an adjacent seaside resort – LT
- Restoration of important habitats through sustainable agricultural practices, Rusne – LT
- Neman River Lower Course Catchment cross-border management integration – RU-LT
- Vistula Lagoon cross-border management integration – RU-PL

Introduction

BaltCoast project WP4 case studies in Northern Baltic:

- Coastal management strategy for southwest Finland – FI
- Restoration of dune and coastal habitats in the Vattaja Military Area – FI
- Initiating ICZM at Selkämeri, western Finland – FI
- Balancing conservation and tourism needs in a World Heritage Site, Kvarken Archipelago - SE/FI

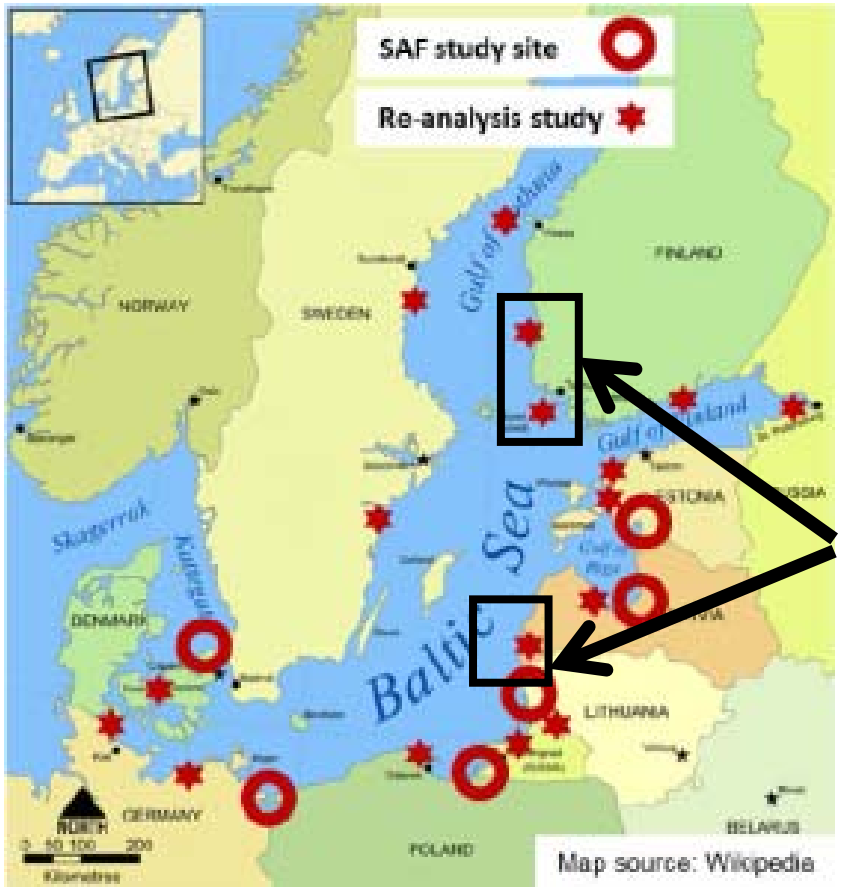
Introduction



Of the four SE Baltic case studies three are closely linked to other BaltCoast WP study target areas:

- Rusne Island (LT, on the border with RU)
- Neman River Lower Course Catchment (RU-LT)
- Vistula Lagoon (RU-PL)

Introduction



Another SE Baltic case study and two Northern Baltic case studies are particularly relevant for advancing SAF-based ICZM process

- Integrated shoreline management for a large harbour city and an adjacent seaside resort – LT
- Coastal management strategy for southwest Finland – FI
- Initiating ICZM at Selkä-meri, western Finland – FI

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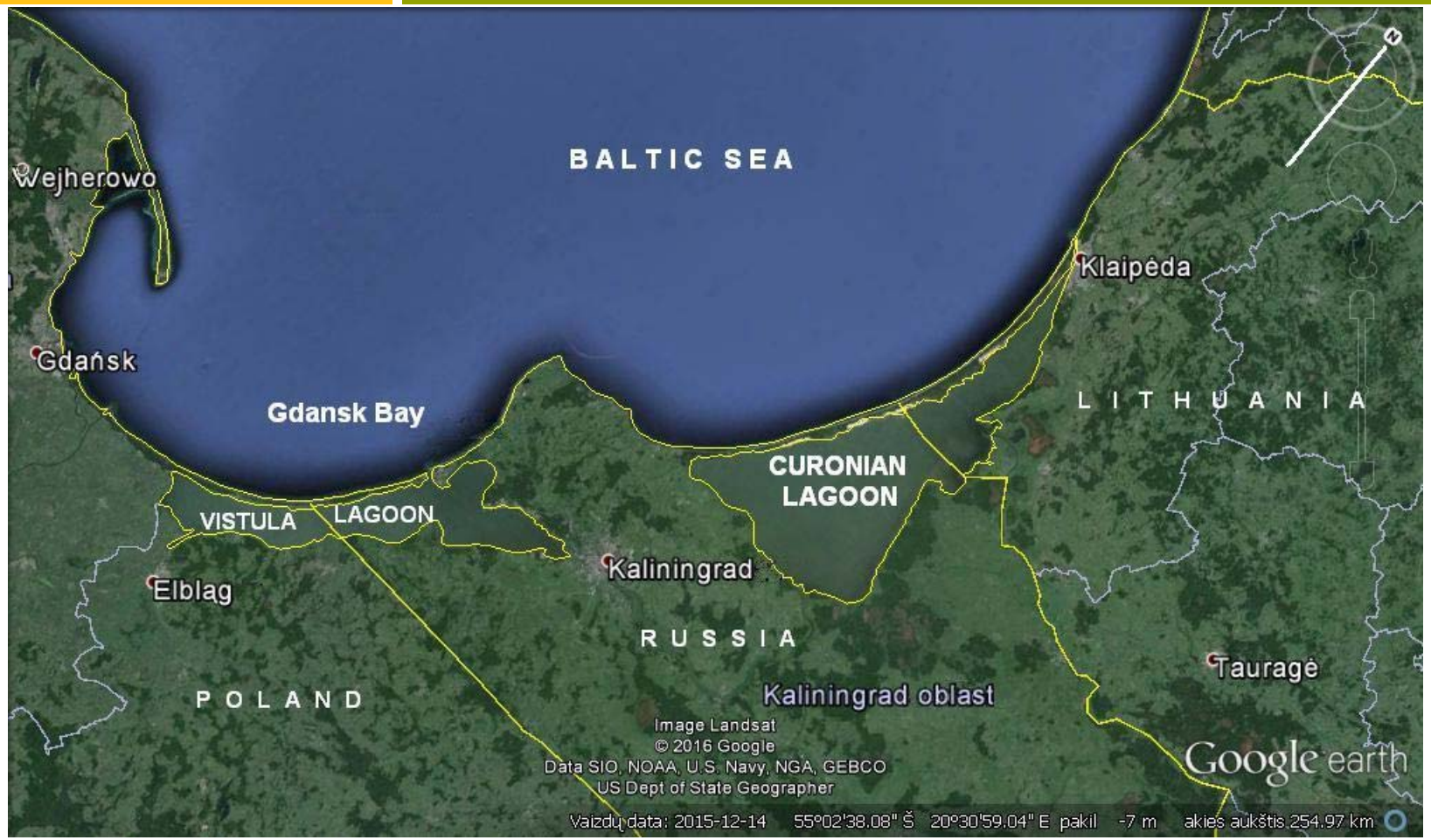
Study Area

- Kaliningrad Region (Oblast) is an exclave of Russian Federation sandwiched between two EU countries – Poland in the south and Lithuania in the north
- It shares two large coastal lagoons with its neighbours: Vistula Lagoon with Poland and the Curonian Lagoon with Lithuania
- … also sharing the catchment of the Neman River – the largest tributary of the Curonian Lagoon

Study Area



Vistula and Curonian lagoon catchment areas

Study Area

- "Sharing of waters and river basins by countries with different system of environment legislation is, form one side, an obstacle for coherent management efforts,…
- … but, from another side, it is an challenge for close cooperation cross political boundaries"
- In the case of success an effective cross-border cooperation might provide a true Systems Approach Framework for the management of the cross-border lagoons and their catchment areas

Study Area

- Russia and Lithuania are sharing the catchment of the Neman River –
- the largest tributary of the Curonian Lagoon
- Both, Lithuanian and Russian parts of the Neman catchment are compatible in Water Framework Directive terms

Study Objective

- Due to this unique situation, and demand of the WFD (Article 13.3) there is a permanent need for national environmental authorities of neighbouring countries to cooperate closely within the lagoon and river catchment management

The objective of our study – SAF-based assessment of the coherence of the cross-border cooperation –

- between Russian and Polish authorities in the management of the Vistula Lagoon …
- … and between Russian and Lithuanian authorities in the Curonian Lagoon and the Neman River Lower Course Catchment management

Results

The main positive findings of our study:

- Management of water and living resources of both lagoons and their catchment areas by Russian, Polish and Lithuanian authorities is systematic in institutional and in planning terms
- Sophisticated simulation models (MIKE 2D & 3D) are applied to validate management scenarios and identify optimal management solutions
- Close cross-border relations exist on personal level among the key persons in Russia, Poland and Lithuania

Results

- A series of projects in various frameworks of regional cooperation and research collaboration since the early 1990s involving all three countries
- Some projects took efforts to integrate pollution control simulations in the lagoons and their direct catchment areas across the border
- First steps are made to build an effective cross-border GIS for the lagoons integrated with MIKE models on pollution impact simulation

Results

The main negative findings of our study:

- Practical cross-border cooperation between Russian, Polish and Lithuanian authorities is limited to sharing environmental information and joint decision-taking on fishing quotas in both lagoons
- Existing bilateral agreements do not cover such key aspects of cross-border cooperation like coordinated control of pollution discharges from point and diffuse sources, strategic environmental impact assessment of anticipated development plans etc.

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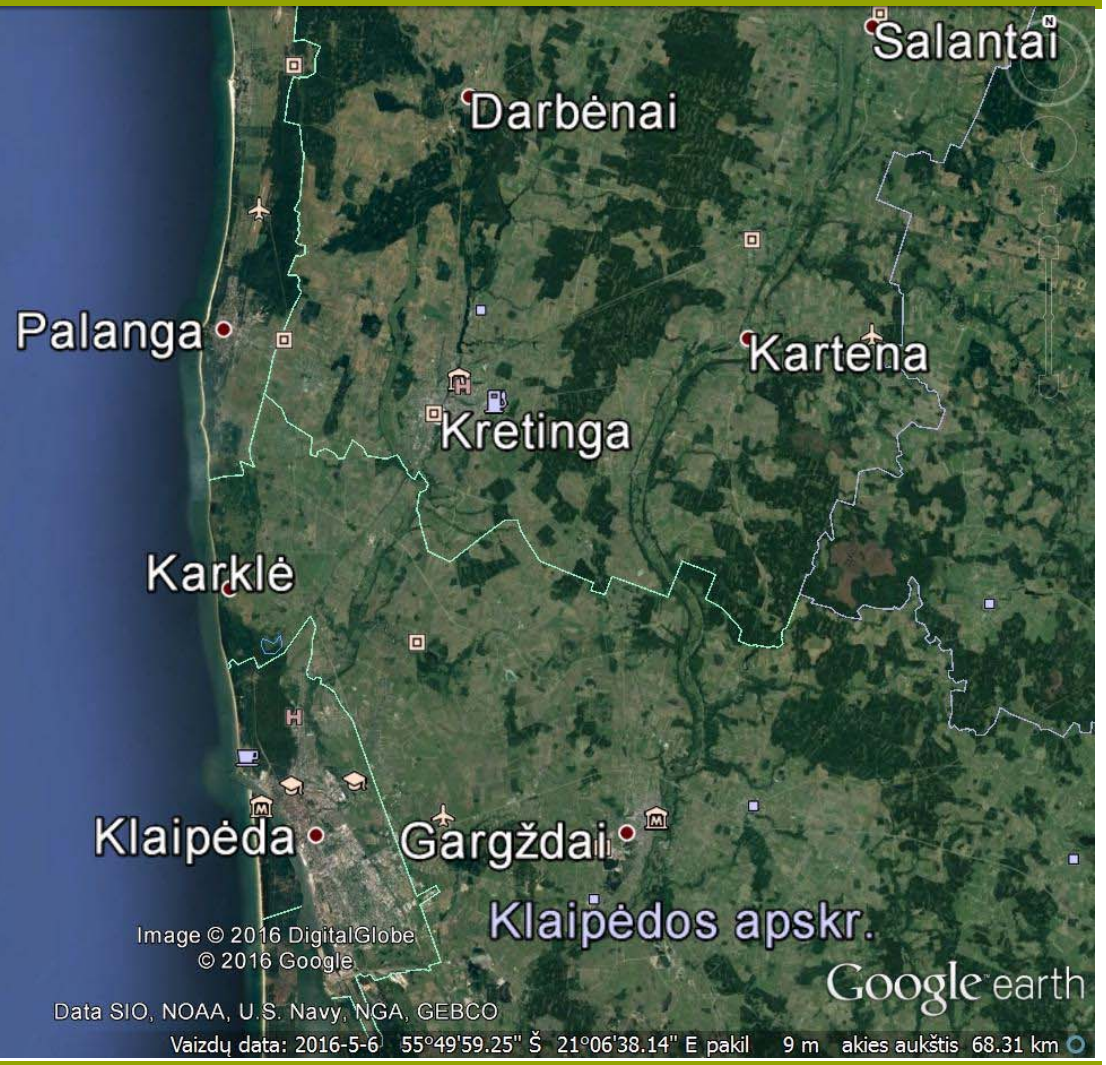
Study Area (LT)

- Lithuania has just 90 km of the Baltic shoreline, which accommodates a UNESCO World Heritage landscape (Curonian Spit), a large seaport – Klaipėda and a large seaside resort (Palanga-Šventoji)
- Hence a need for ICZM on a regional scale
- Advantage – short, 70 % protected coastline, within one planning region and just four municipalities
- Many conflicts between port development, nature conservation and recreation

Study Area (LT)

- Short coastline gives an advantage for meeting stake-holders‘ needs within a single plan
- Disadvantage – a challenge to ‚squeeze‘ too many interests into a limited coastal area



Study Area (FI)

In Finland the two case study areas coincide with the coastal administrative divisions between the two regions of the country:

- Southwest Finland
- Western Finland (Satakunta)

Much less conflicts between port development, nature conservation and recreation, yet many other challenges for ICZM related to a vast area: depopulation, communication and infrastructure development

Study Area (FI)

Study Area (FI)

- Long coastline gives an advantage for spatial seggregation of stakeholders' needs
- Disadvantage – an impossibility to have just one plan – a need for two ones

Study Objective

The objective of this case study –

SAF-based assessment and comparison of the coherence of the ICZM development in two different Baltic countries, ...

... which both focus their ICZM planning efforts on the regional scale, yet the decision-making is on different administrative levels:

- national and municipal level in Lithuania
- regional and municipal level in Finland

Results

- Both in Lithuania and in Finland interest in the ICZM has grown by the end of the 20th century
- It follows a widespread international acknowledgement that the coastal zone, due to its exceptional dynamism and concentration of conflicting interests, requires different planning approaches than those traditionally applied to spatial planning
- However, the ICZM approaches in Finland and in Lithuania are rather different

Results

- Unlike in Finland, where the Baltic Sea coastline is much longer than in Lithuania, the Lithuanian ICZM programme has been approved on the national level
- In Finland ICZM planning and implementation was left to the responsibility of the regions
- One level below, the implementation of the Lithuanian National ICZM Programme has been entrusted with the administration of the Klaipeda region, while in Finland it was largely a responsibility of local self-governments, coordinated by regional authorities

Results

- Despite these differences, all three programmes should be regarded as best ICZM cases since they have been successfully implemented in practice, and integrated into the spatial planning system
- However, in Finland, the development, approval, and implementation of ICZM progammes extensively included regional stakeholders and the general public,
- in Lithuania there was no active involvement of regional and/or local stakeholders into preparation and implementation of the ICZM programme
- Finnish case studies are more SAF-oriented

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Conclusions

1. It is necessary to integrate the management of both, the Vistula Lagoon and its catchment area, and the Curonian Lagoon, its direct catchment area, and the Neman River Lower Course catchment area
2. A SAF-based assessment of the coherence of the cross-border cooperation is needed as one of the principal efforts facilitating further progress in this direction
3. Existing bilateral agreements should be deepened and intensified in the aforementioned key aspects

Conclusions

4. Continuous funding and integration of an ICZM programme into an existing national and/or regional spatial planning and management system is critical for the success of the programme
5. Making the best use of up-to-date GIS information and aerial photos for a more detailed identification of conflict points in the area
6. Extensive inclusion of regional stakeholders and the general public to ensure a shared understanding of ICZM is a key to a successful SAF-based coastal management approach

Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?