

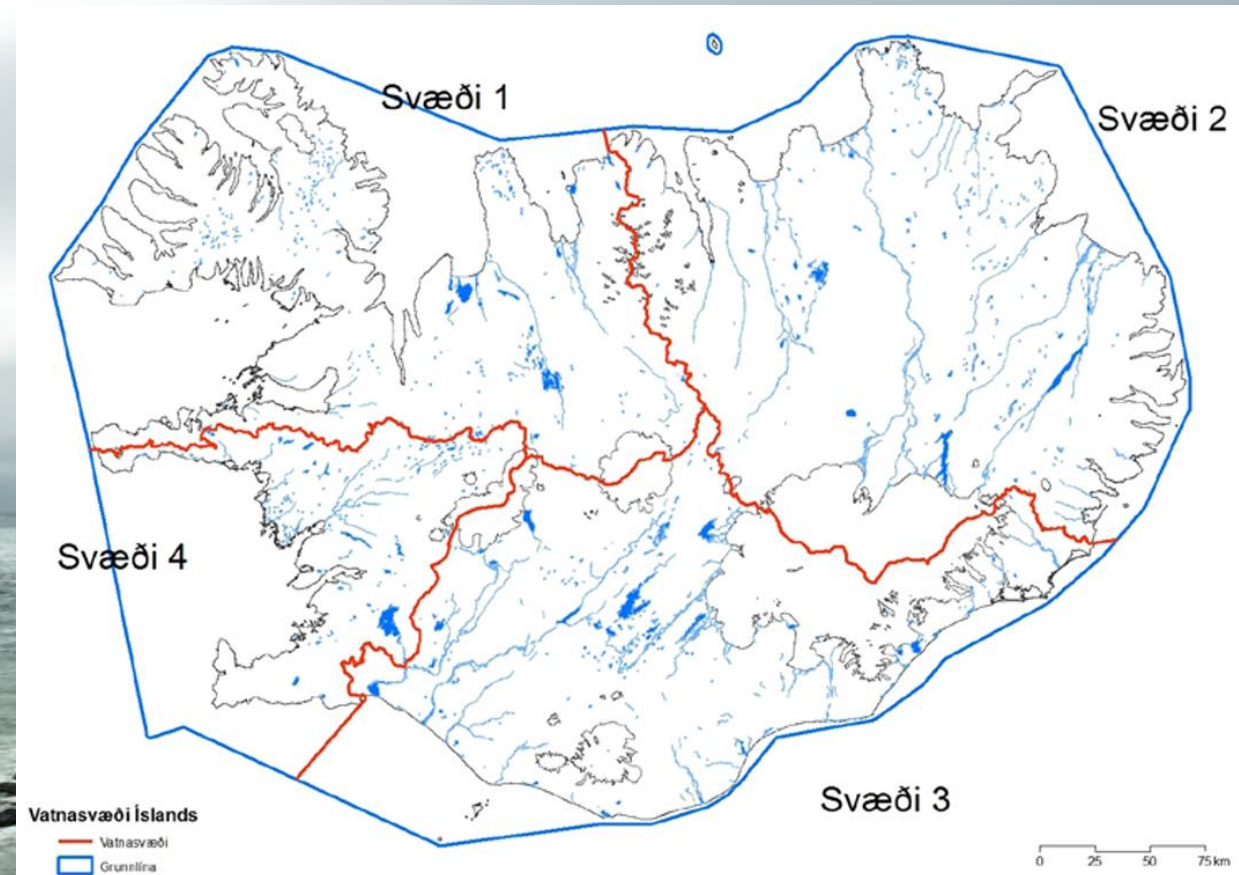
NATIONAL OVERVIEW ICELAND

Lilja Ólafsdóttir, EAI

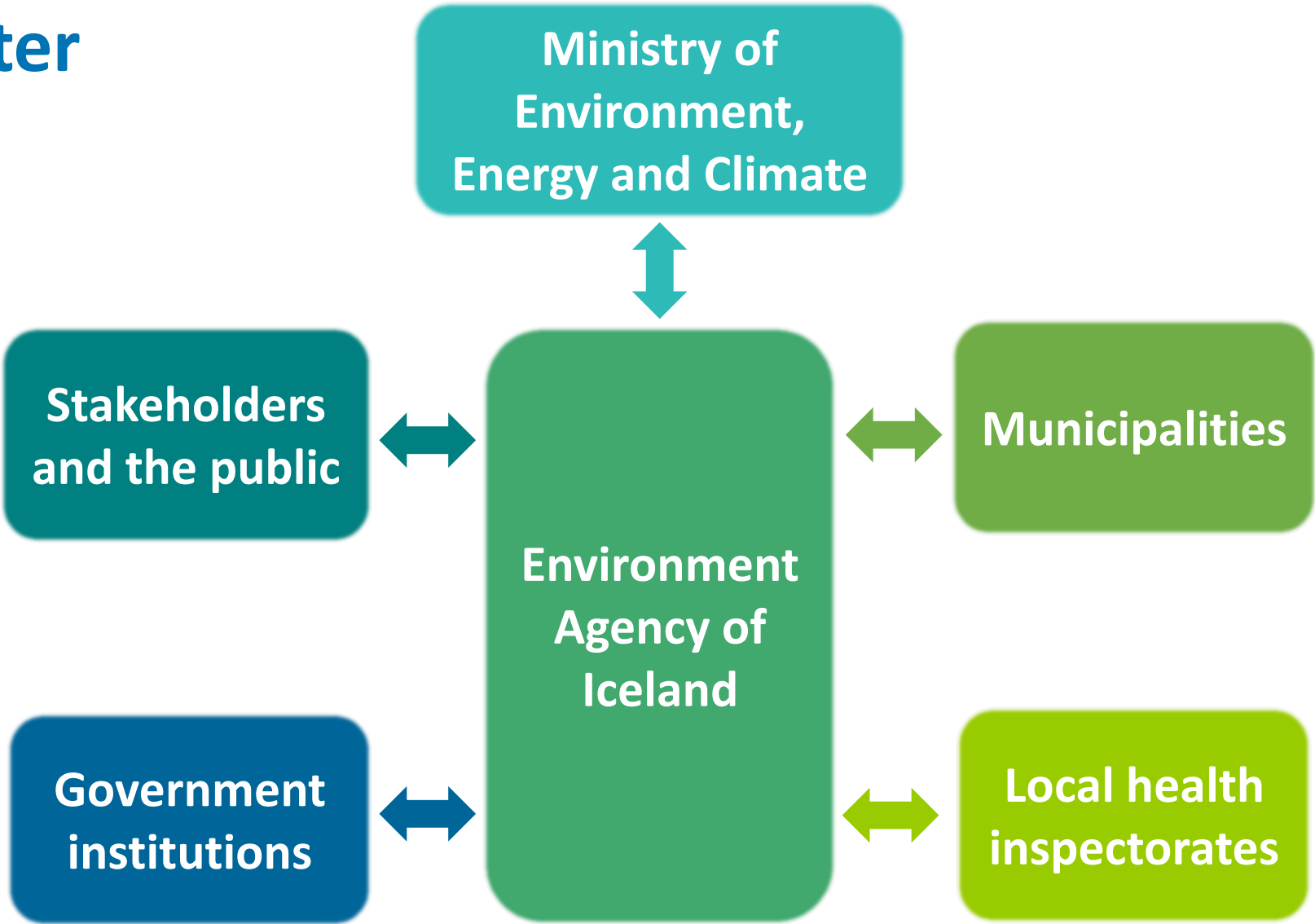
**11th Nordic WFD Conference
Sweden, Gothenburg
25-26 September 2024**

River Basin management in Iceland

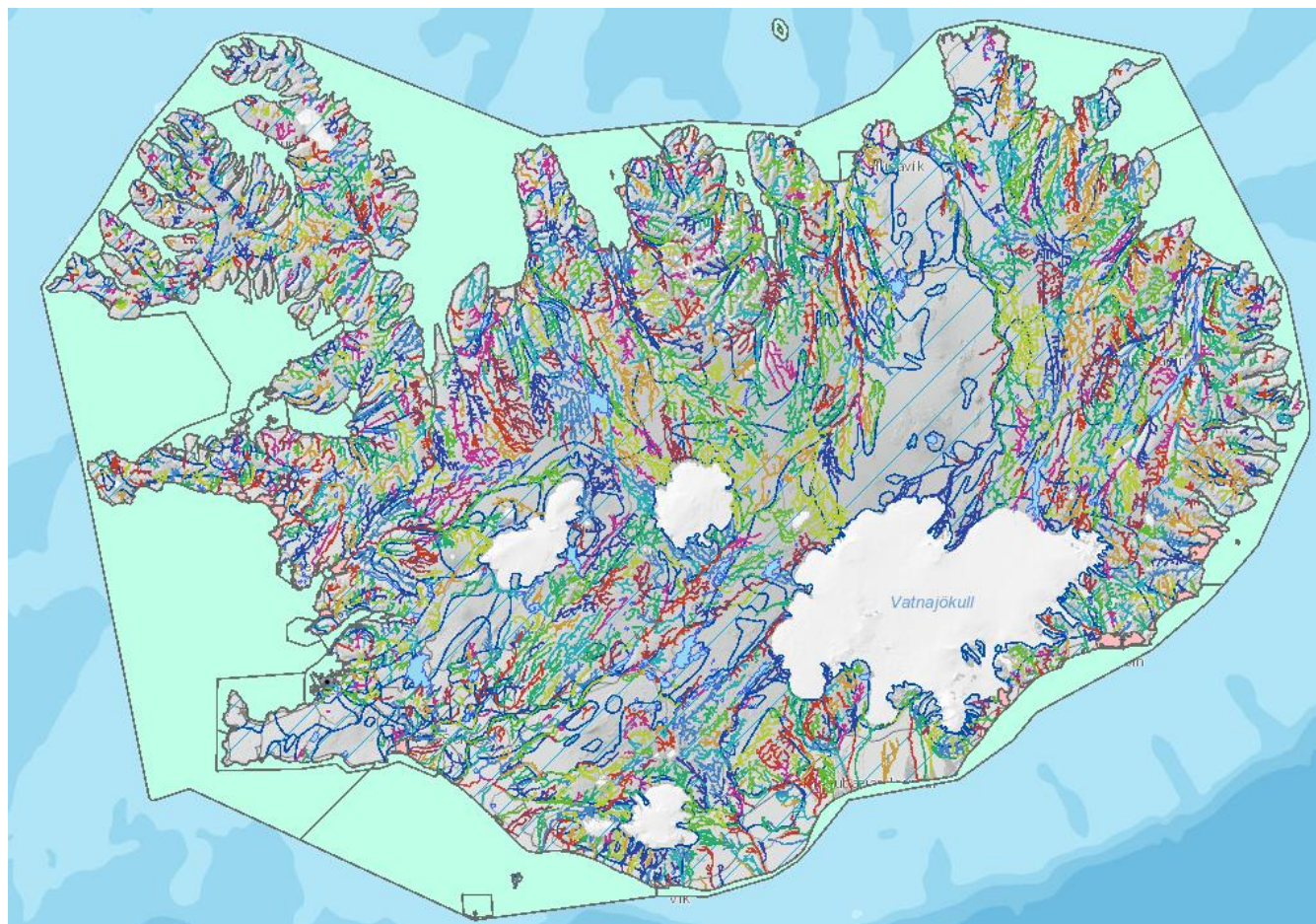
- Iceland has vast uninhabited areas and is very rich in surface water and groundwater
- WFD transposed into national law in 2011 (no. 36/2011)
- Iceland is one river basin district with 4 regional committees
- EAI is responsible for the implementation



Collaborators in water managment



River Basin management in Iceland



- Total **2716** water bodies
 - 1872 river wb
 - 387 lake wb
 - 79 transitional wb
 - 73 coastal wb
 - 311 ground wb
- Classification system for most of the surface water body types has been developed (not transitional wb)
- Overall high/good ecological status of most surface waterbodies in Iceland

Springfed rivers



Icelandic waterbodies

**Geothermal
groundwater bodies**



Glacial fed rivers



1st RBMP 2022 - 2027



River Basin Management
(RBMP)

Plan



Programmes of
Measures (PoM)



Monitoring
Programme (MP)

Programme of Measures

Implementing WFD requirements

Measures and guidance for wastewater

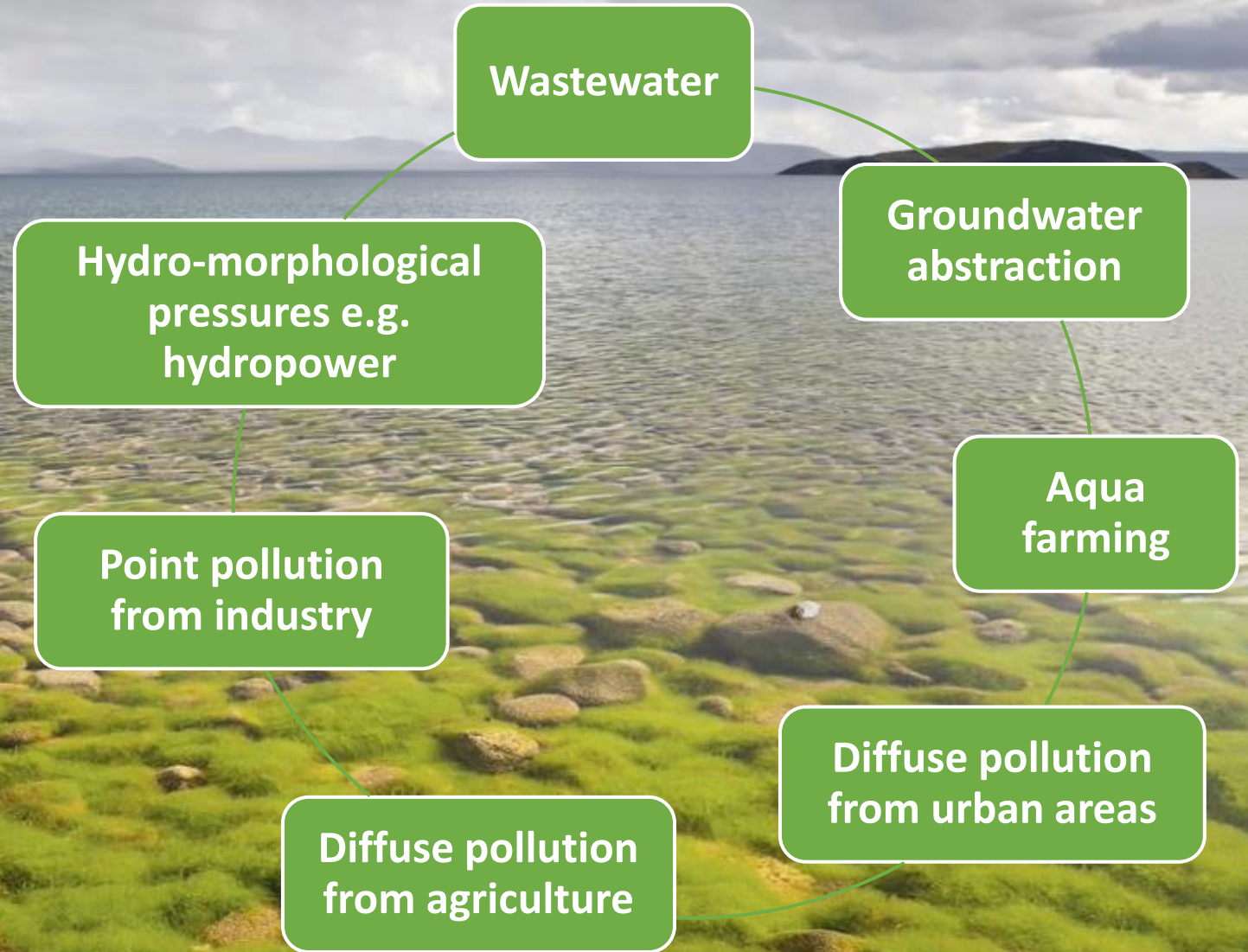
Measures on education and cooperation

Measures for waterbodies at risk

Administrational measures

Monitoring

Main pressures adressed in the 1st RBMP



Wastewater



Groundwater abstraction



Hydropower



Diffuse pollution in urban areas



- Overall challenge in implementing the Urban Wastewater Directive
- Various efforts are in place to improve the situation

- >90% of all drinking water from groundwater
- Used e.g. for landbased aquafarming, industry and swimming pools
- Quantitative status not defined for any groundwater body

- Work on defining heavily modified or artificial water bodies started 2020
- Waterbodies under pressure from hydropower >10 MW prioritized
- 59 waterbodies preliminary designated as heavily modified or artificial

- Need for increased knowledge on diffuse pollution from urban areas
- Need for mitigation measures in the form of nature based solutions (NBS)
- Iceland has not implemented the Floods Directive

The benefits of Iceland's first RBMP



- A more comprehensive and integrated approach to national monitoring of water bodies
- A better understanding of various anthropogenic pressures in water bodies
- A positive domino-effect throughout different administrative levels and the industrial sector
- A better understanding for the purpose of environmental objectives and the need for applicability assessment and article 4(7) test



The road to the next RBMP

- Need for further revision and delineation of water bodies for the next RPMB – Groundwater
- Defining methodology for assessing status of groundwater bodies
- Develop a classification system for hydro-morphological quality elements
- Finish the designation of HMWB/AWB
- Develop a classification system for ecological potential
- Pressure analysis



The challenges

- Increased demand for use of water
- This increases demands for applicability assessment and article 4(7) test
- Some permits have been annulled by ENR Board of Appeal due to lack of examination of conformity with the water legislation
- A case contesting permits for the district court
- New demand for guidance on the application of the water management legislation
- Requests for simplified procedures
- A small administration - still a lot of work to be done

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright pink t-shirt and dark grey shorts, is lying on her back on a dark, mossy rock. She is looking towards a massive, wide waterfall that cascades over a dark rock face. The water is white with foam and spray. In the background, there are green hills and a flat-topped mountain with patches of snow under a clear blue sky. A dark jacket is lying on the rock next to her.

Thank you!