Developing Policies and Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region (ASTRA)

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Background

The project "Developing Policies & Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region" (ASTRA) is co-financed by the Interreg IIIB programme of the European Union. The lead partner of the project is the Geological Survey of Finland and the partnership comprises research institutes and regional planning offices around the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).
The project budget is 2,2 Mio € and time frame is June 2005 to December 2007.

Case study areas

The case study areas were jointly identified by scientists in cooperation with regional planners. Case studies in the ASTRA project comprise the following (see Fig.1):

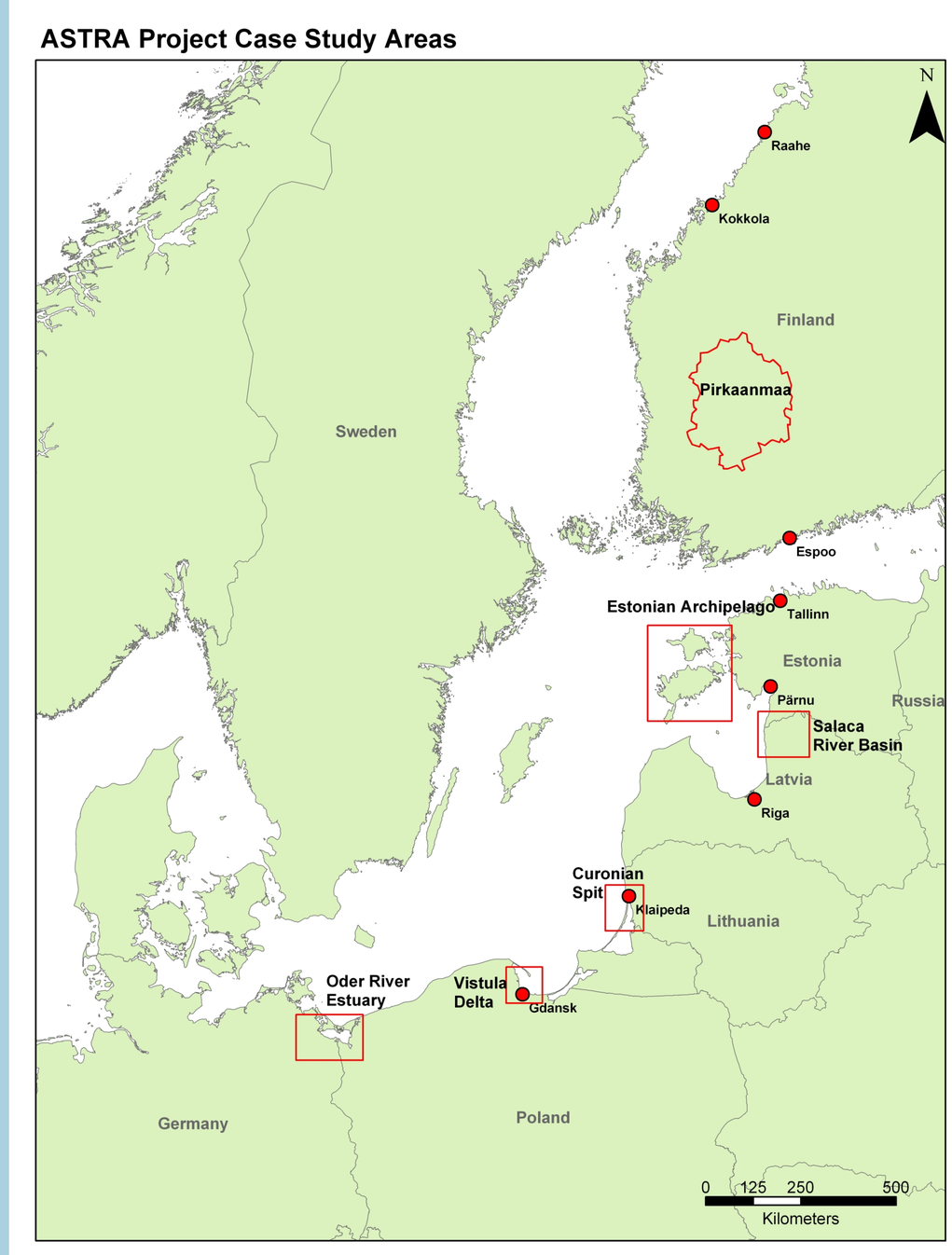

Fig. 1: Case study areas of the ASTRA project

Finland: Pirkanmaa Regions, cities of Espoo, Raahe and Kokkola
Germany: Oder River Estuary
Poland: Odra River Estuary, Cities of Gdansk and Sopot
Lithuania: Curonian Spit, City of Klaipeda
Latvia: Salaca River Basin, City of Riga
Estonia: Estonian archipelago, Cities of Tallinn and Pärnu

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Objective

The main objective of the project is to assess regional impacts of the ongoing global change in climate and to develop strategies and policies for climate change adaptation. The project will address threats arising from climate change in the BSR, such as extreme temperatures, droughts, forest fires, storm surges, winter storms and floods. In order to elaborate adaptation and mitigation strategies it is inevitable to involve regional and local spatial planners and stakeholders.
The methodology includes the identification of entry points to planning systems and integration of results to existing planning processes. The climate change impacts and vulnerability of regions are studied in several regional and local case studies.

Work packages

The ASTRA project consists of three work packages which are interlinked with each other:
1. Adaptation strategies for regional planning purposes
2. Dissemination
3. Development of Policies and Adaptation strategies for the Baltic Sea Region.

Expected results

The planned accumulated results of the project are the following:

1. Methods and tools for spatial planning taking into account long-term socio-economic and environmental climate change effects.

2.Presentation of climate impact research results for the Baltic Sea Region and strategies to adapt to the consequences of climate change effects.

3.Development of a pan-Baltic adaptation strategy providing country specific national strateies

4. Climate impact studies for each case study city or region (see Fig.1)

ASTRA project partners

Inner circle: Project team, co-financed by BSR Interreg III B

Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), Lead partner
Center for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS/YTK)
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
University of Latvia, Department of Environmental Science
Tallinn Pedagogical University, Institute of Ecology
Geological Survey of Estonia (EGK)
Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology (ECAT, Lithuania)
Vilnius University, Department of Hydrology and Climatology
Institute of Geology & Geography, Vilnius
City of Klaipeda
Polish Geological Institute (PGI), Gdansk
Baltic Sea Research Institute (IOW), Warnemuende
TuTech Innovation, Hamburg
City of Raahe
City of Espoo
City of Kokkola
Pirkanmaa Regional Environmental Centre
The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

Outer Circle: without financial contribution, providing data and information for local and regional assessments and participating in the project workshops.

Swedish Environmnetal Protection Agency, Stockholm
The County Administrative Board, Stockholm
Riga City Council
Infosab Ltd.,Latvia
Voivodship Inspectorate of Environmnetal Protection, Szczecin
Regional Planning Office of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
City of Pärnu
City of Gdansk, Gdansk Development Agency
City of Sopot
City of Helsinki
City of Loviisa
Stockholm City and Region
Regional Councilof Uusimaa
Regional Councilof East Uusimaa
The Association of Finnish Energy Industries
Office for Environment and Nature, Rostock