

STARTING UP DAM REMOVAL

AND FUTURE PLANS
FOR LITHUANIA

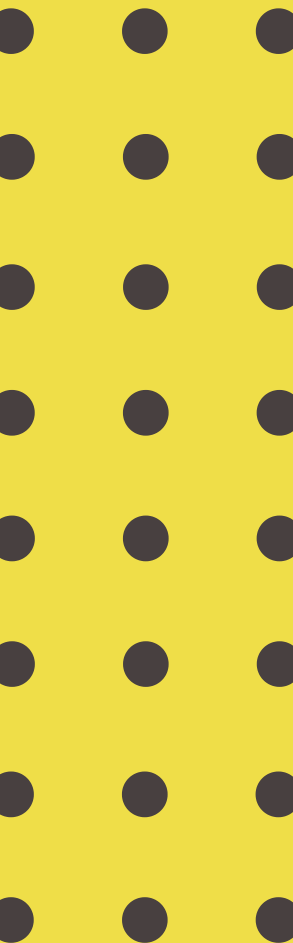


JONĖ LEŠČINSKAITĖ ADVISOR FOR FREE FLOWING RIVER RESTORATION
IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



LAWS AND REGULATION

- Ownership of inland waters:
the Government;
- Ministry of Environment is
responsible for the water quality,
nature conservation and natural
resources;
- Environmental protection agency
is responsible for implementing
measures to improve the status
of surface water bodies;
- Municipalities are responsible for
the dams and ensuring safety;
- Administrations for protected
areas are responsible for
implementing measures to
conserve and improve the
protected areas.



LITHUANIAN NATURE

- 4418 rivers longer than 3 km (a river in every square km)
- In early 2000s legislation helped to protect 169 rivers or river stretches (4 770 km) from damming.
- Special rights for 19 salmonid rivers and 152 potentially salmonid rivers.
- 7 regional parks were created to protect rivers and riverine landscape.





STATUS OF DAMS

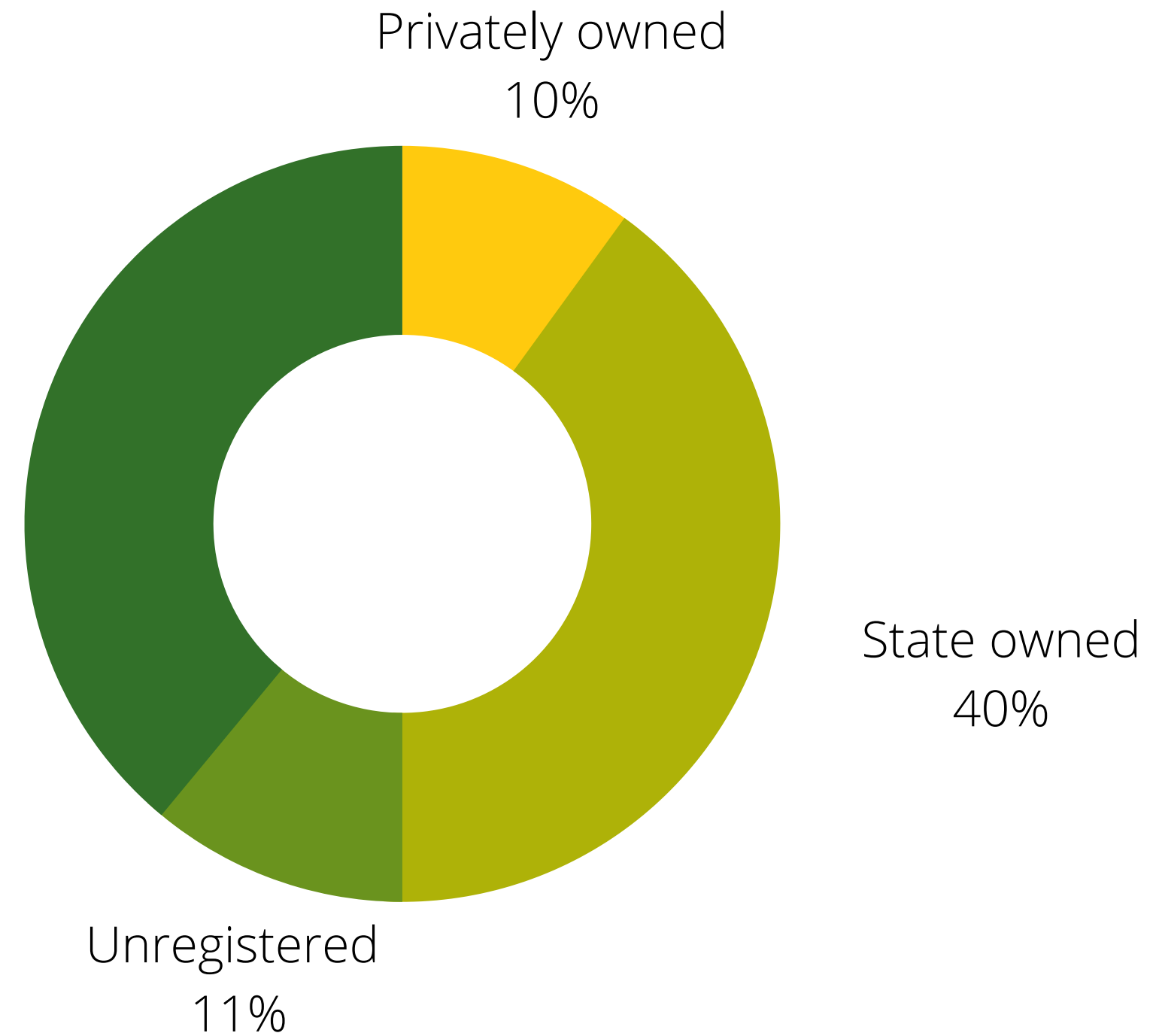
- FUNCTIONS

41% recreation
6% hydropower
3% fisheries
3% agriculture
the rest unknown or has no function

- STATE

9% very bad state
41% bad state
50% good and average state

Unknown status
39%



BEGINNING OF DAM REMOVAL

2016 - collapse of landmark dam sparked first debates of dam removal

2018 - Dam removal Europe organised workshop in the Ministry of Environment

2020 - First well documented dam removal

2020 - Ministry created position for river restoration

Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences and Meetings



June 25, 2018

Dam Removal Europe Workshop – Lithuania

Dam Removal Europe Workshop in Lithuania Date: 2 – 3 July 2018 Next week, Dam Removal Europe along with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, will host...





LACK OF REGULATION

WATER LAW

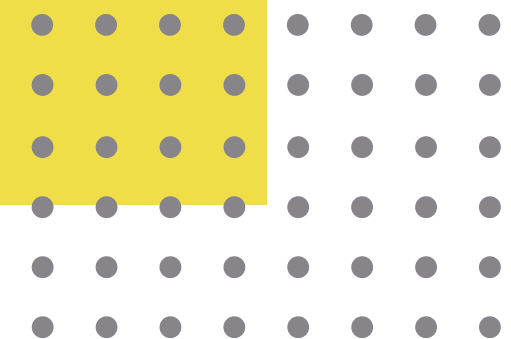
Lacks key responsibilities for dam owners
and water users;
No permits for water use for hydropower;

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAW

Lacks tools to control hydropower damage
and ensure compensation;

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Lacks responsibility for bad state of dams;



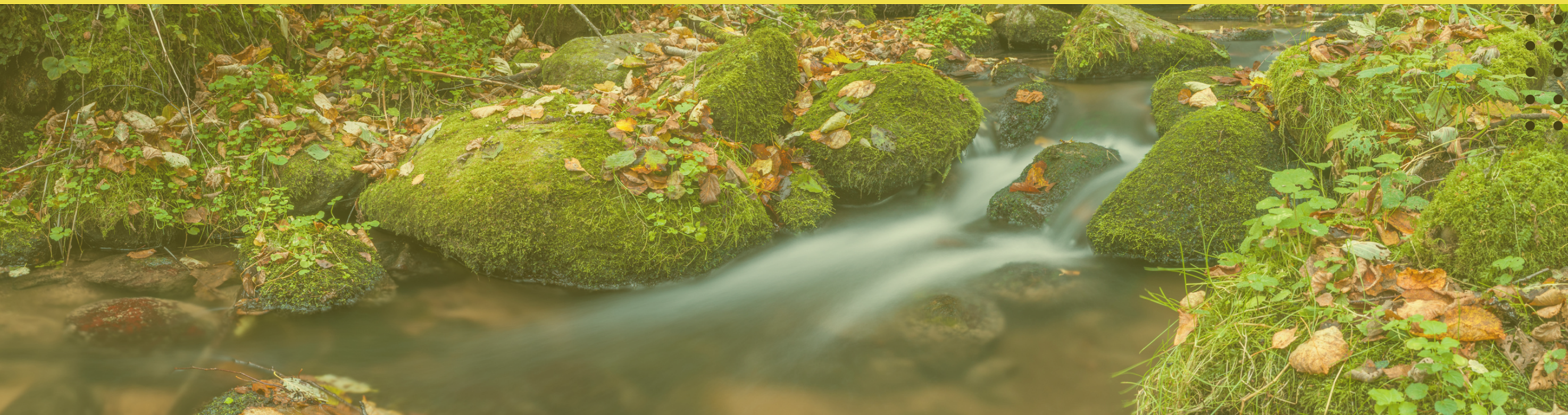
PLANS IN MINISTRY

- Proposed changes for Water law;
- Preparation of Action plan for Water Sector Development;
- Completion of Action plan to restore free flowing rivers and minimize hydropower damage;
- Opening national funding for dam removal;
- Securing EU funding for big river restoration projects.



SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO DAM REMOVAL

- Dam inventory and evaluation started in September 2021: Database more complete; Complemented with more technical information;
- Detailed evaluation of 212 dams on 171 rivers: Cost-benefit analysis; Socio-economical evaluations; Ecological evaluation;
- Selected 15 dams will be on "remove until 2027" list which will be signed by the Government.





BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

THANK YOU!

