

Aquatic Warbler in Belarus:

actual condition of the population.

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Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Belarus, 2011



Currently there are 15 aquatic warbler breeding sites in Belarus presented by c.60 separate localities.

AW population estimation

- results

The most complete aquatic warbler counts took place in 2010, when **12 out of 15** Belarussian breeding sites were counted:

Including double counts at 16 sample plots in Zvaniec (the most detailed counts ever executed at this mire).

Full counts were carried out at the majority of remaining AW sites.

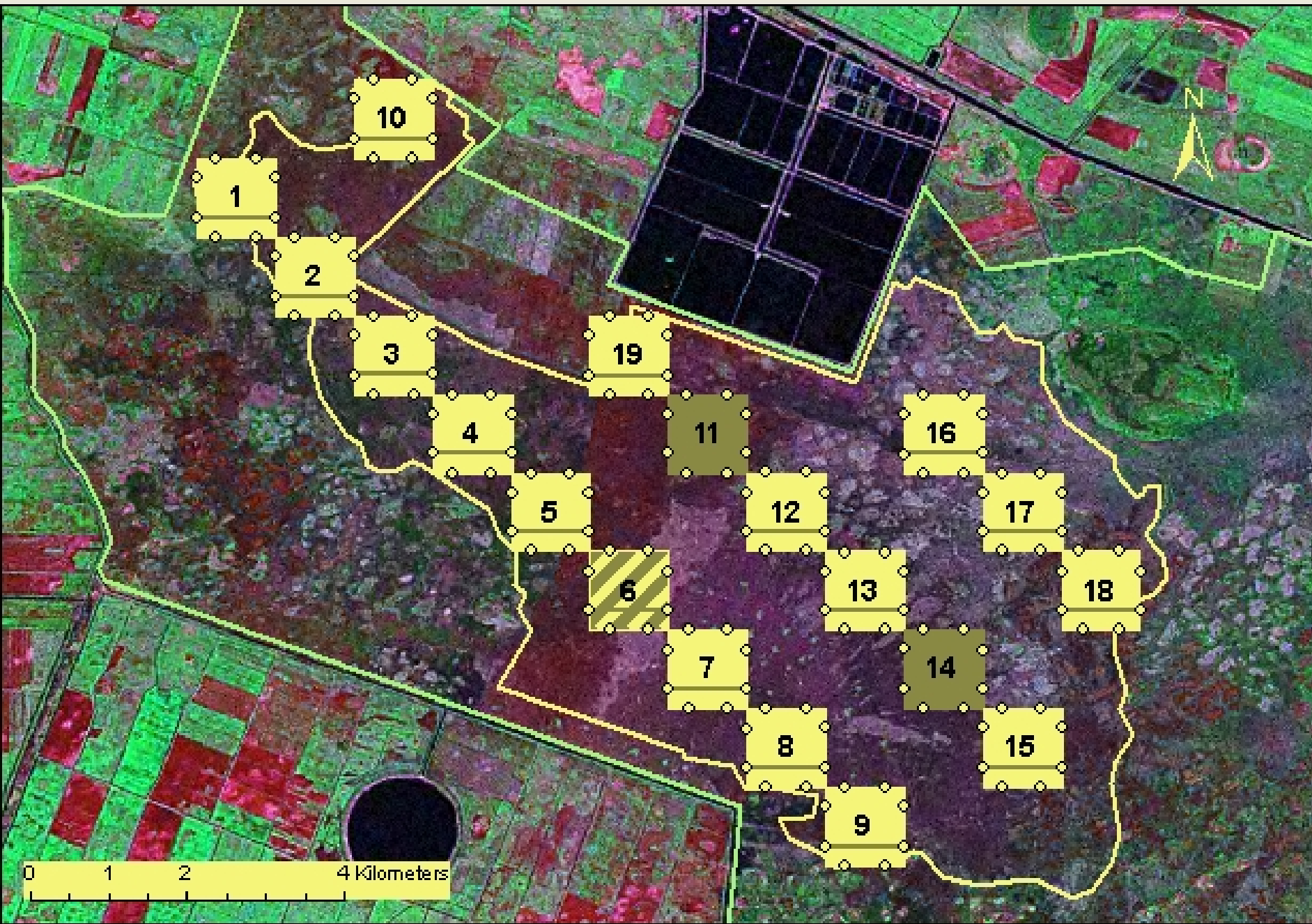
In 2011 full counts were carried out in Sporava mire as well (the most detailed counts ever executed at this mire).

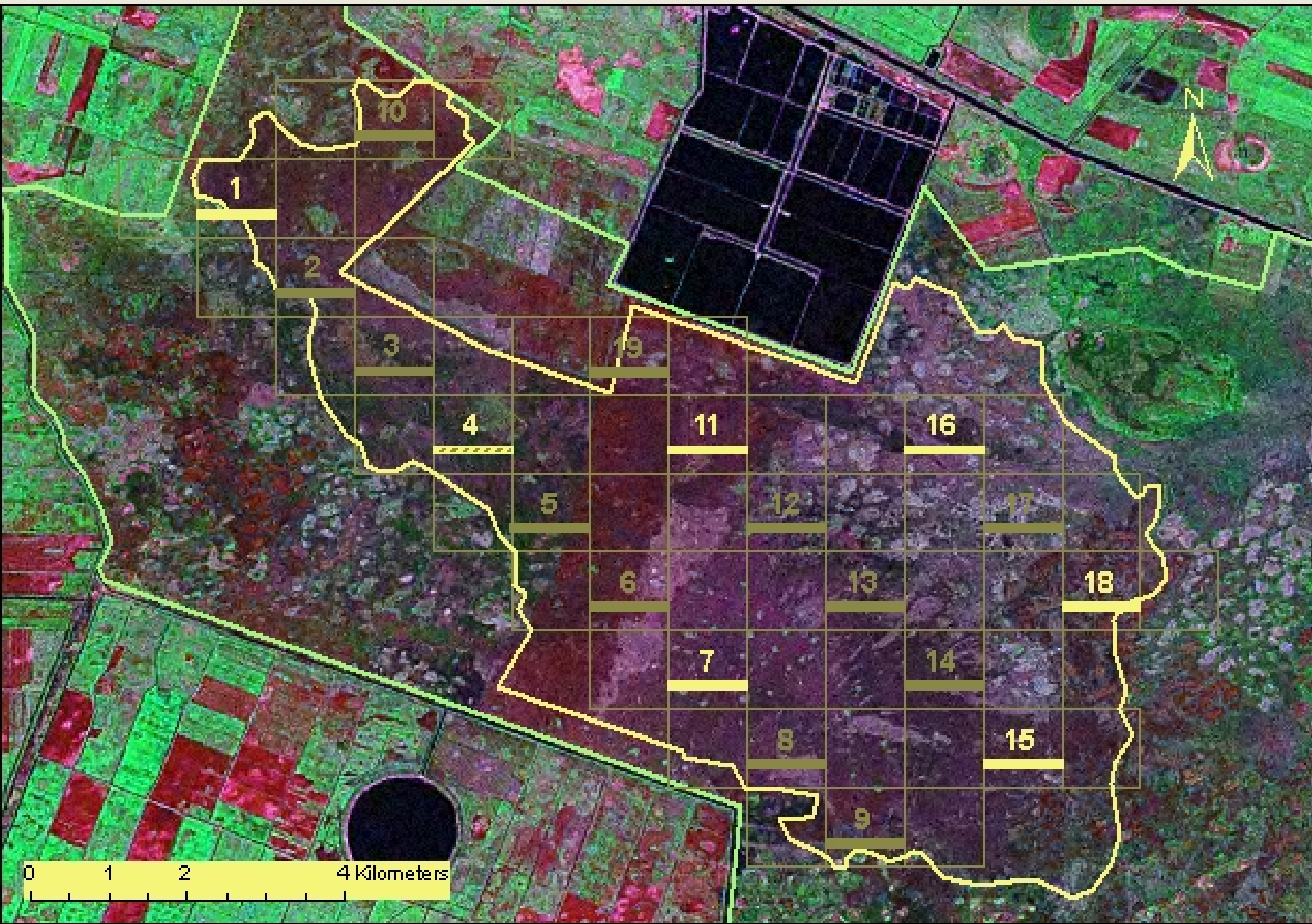
In recent years the species is not registered any more at 10 out of 60 localities.

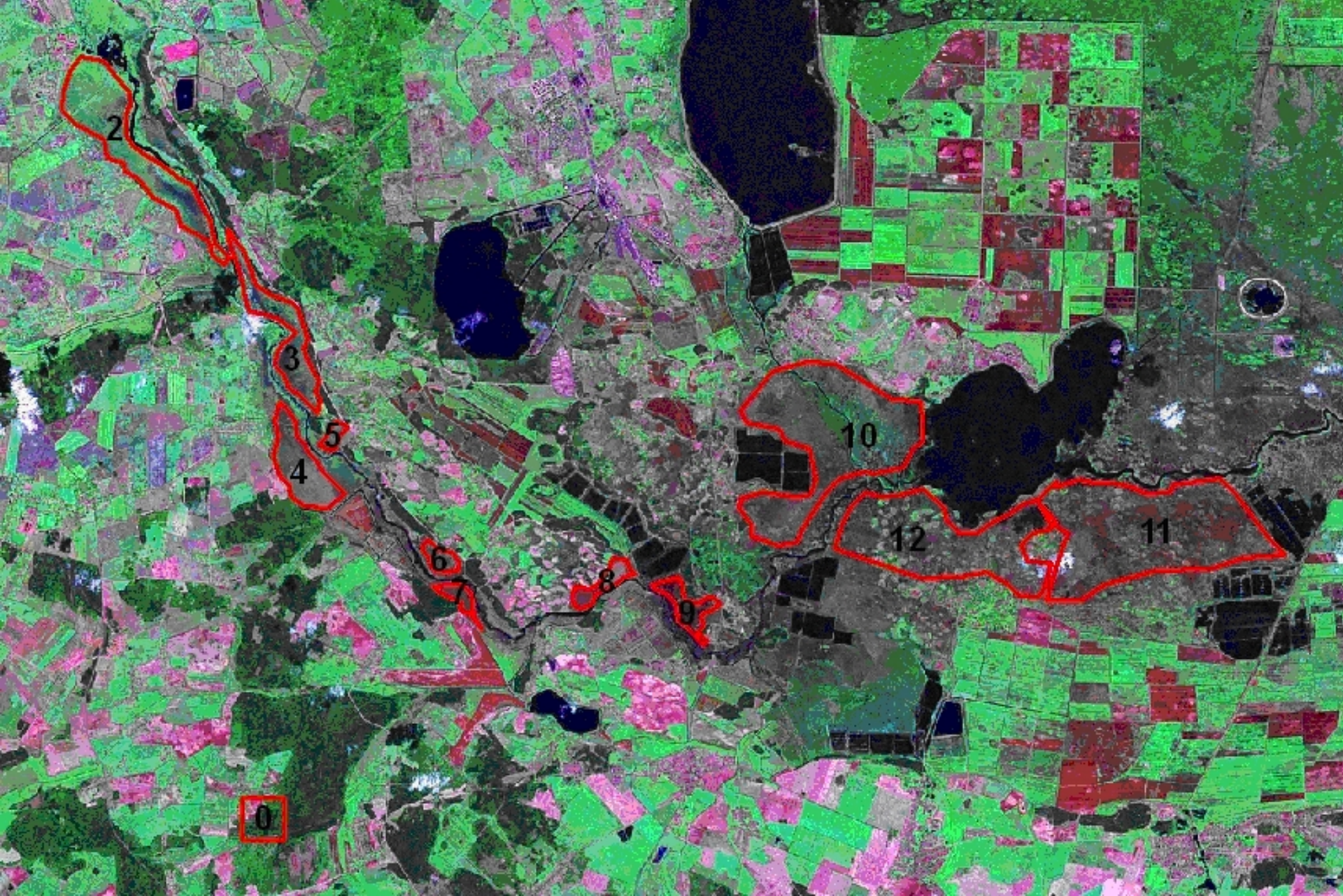
AW population estimation

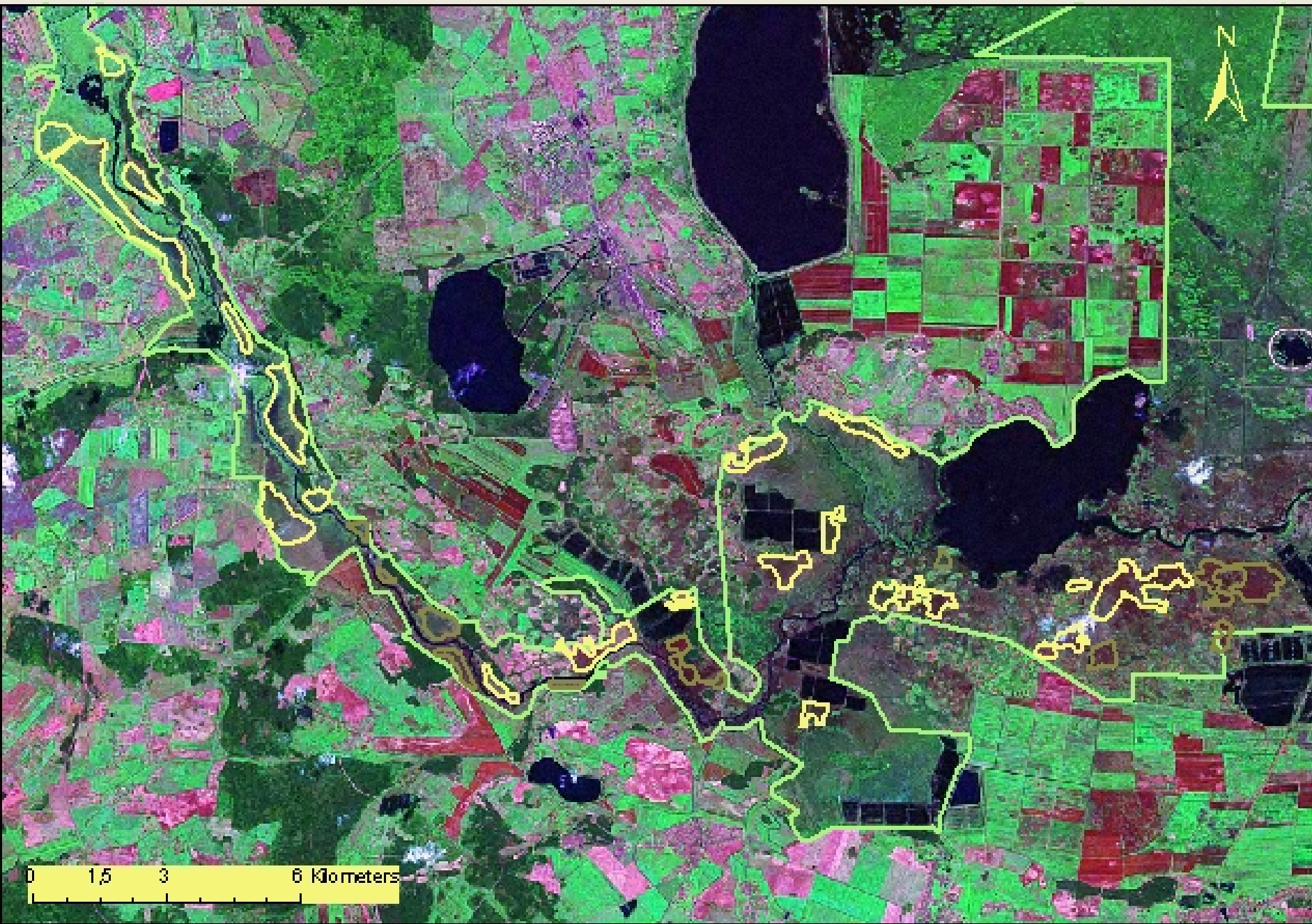
- results

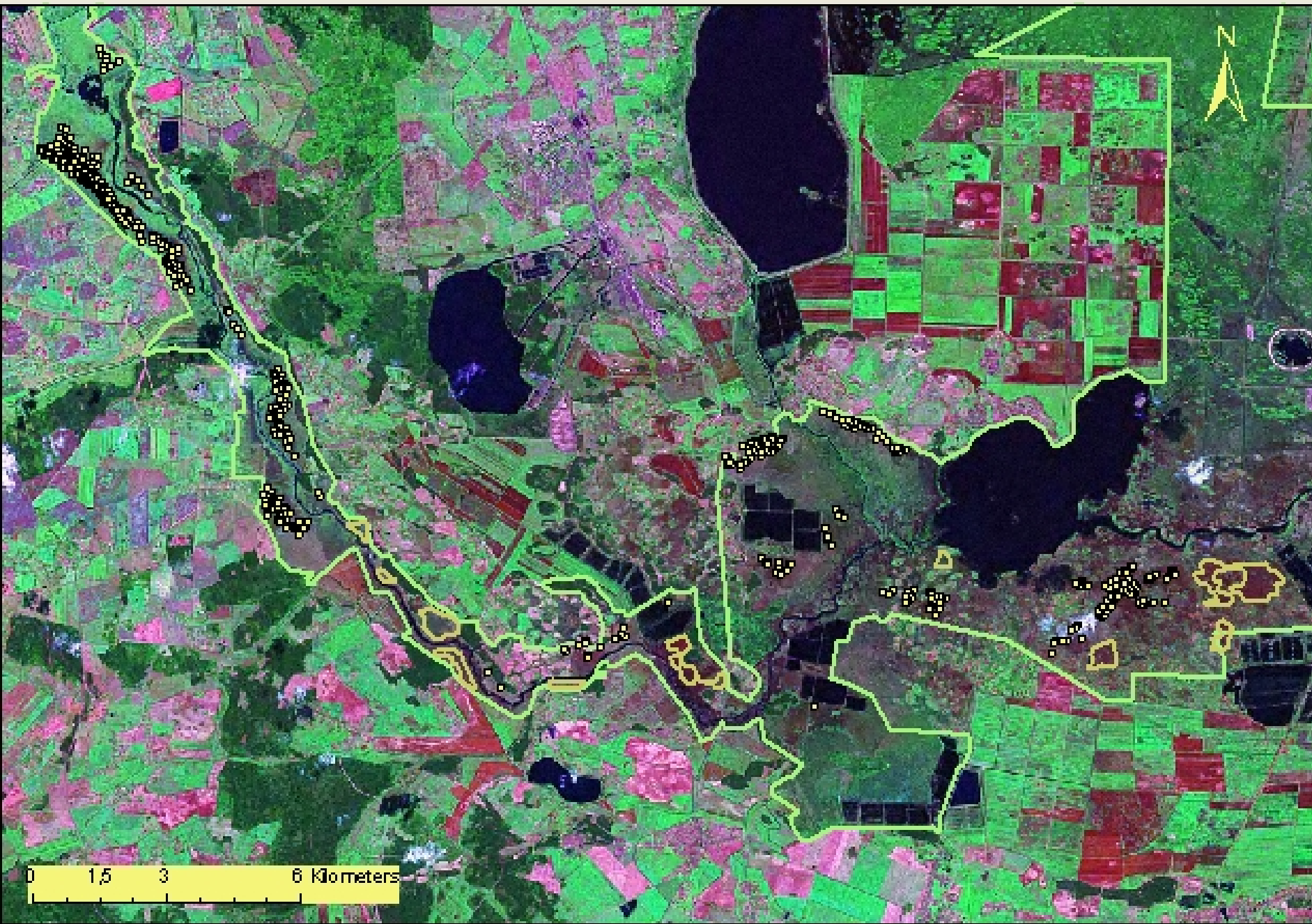
Overall AW population in Belarus in the year 2010 was estimated at **3,100-5,557** singing males, that is absolute minimum for the whole period of survey since 1996.

















AW population trends at key breeding sites in Belarus

Zvaniec	Sporava	Dzikoje	BELARUS
			

AW population trends at key breeding sites in Belarus

Zvaniec	Sporava	Dzikoje	BELARUS
			

These numbers reflect:

1. Possible population decline, that is indirectly proved by:

(a) decrease in suitable habitat confirmed by satellite images analysis : in Sporava – by 21%, in Zvaniec – by 11%,

(b) abandonment of peripheral localities. Thus in recent years the species is not registered any more at 10 out of 60 localities.

2. From the other hand these numbers reflect **an improvement of methodology**.

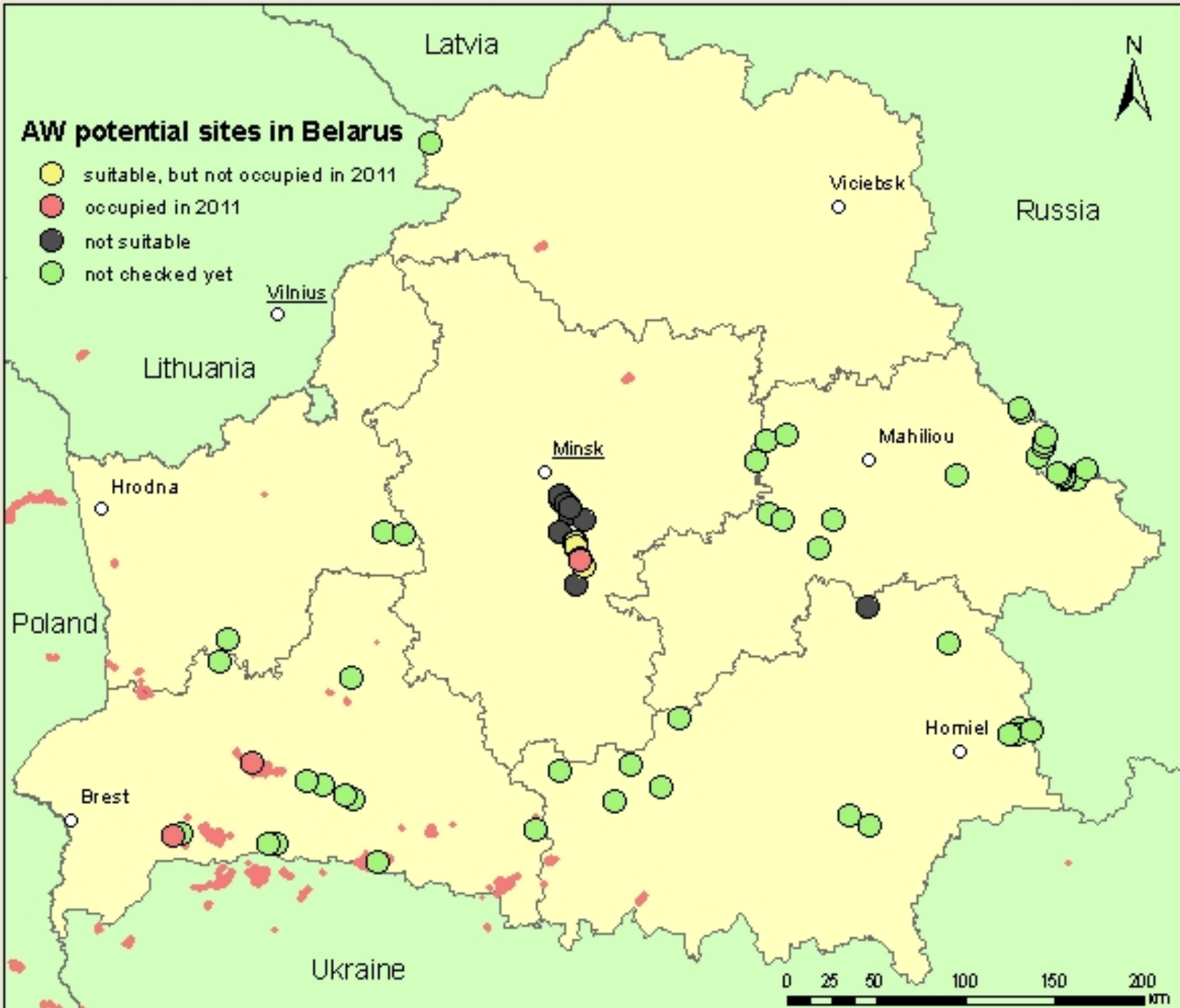
Therefore at least two more years of monitoring using a comparable methodology are required in order to prove statistically the possible decline

Search for the new AW breeding sites in Belarus

In 2011 the list of potential sites was developed basing on:

- recently developed BY GIS database of mires;
- old vegetation map;
- analysis of Google Earth images;
- personal communication with experts.

As a result c.60 potential sites were added to the list



Conservation actions

- introducing vegetation management in Sporava.



Ratrak in action (October 2011)

Conservation actions

- introducing vegetation management in Sporava.



Sporava mire before mowing ...

Conservation actions

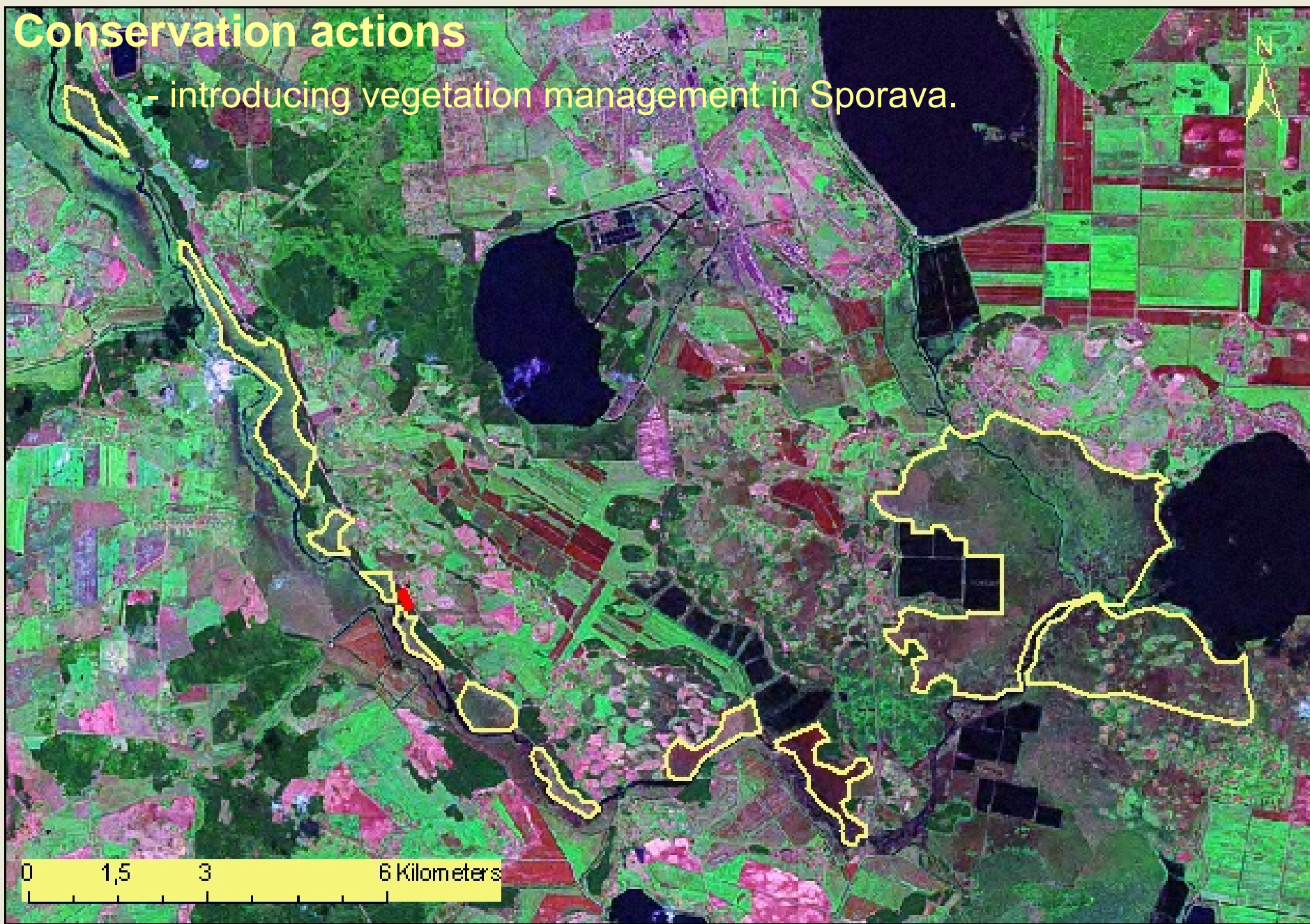
- introducing vegetation management in Sporava.



... and after 'test drive' of new machinery. (October 2011)

Conservation actions

- introducing vegetation management in Sporava.



Areas subject for active management are marked with yellow, location of briquetting facility – red.

Conservation actions

- introducing vegetation management in Sporava.



Trial briquettes produced out of biomass harvested in Sporava (2010)

Conservation actions

- introducing vegetation management in Zvaniec.

The application for funding was submitted to the Secretariat of Cross Border Cooperation Programme “Poland-Belarus-Ukraine” in September 2011.

The title of the project: "Maintaining globally threatened fen mire biodiversity in protected areas of the Poland-Belarus border region through sustainable vegetation management."

Applicant: APB-BirdLife Belarus

Partner: Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP)

Project sites: Zvaniec mire and Chelm marshes.

Total budget: 1 249 873.33 EUR

Duration:

2013 – 2014 (24 months)

Thanks for your attention!

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