

# Intelligent Buffer Zones (IBZ) as filters for nitrogen and phosphorus from tile drainage water and surface runoff – experiences from BufferTech

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## The Problem

A pipe like this (draining ca. 30 ha) might charge a stream  
with **SEVERAL**  
100 kg N/year

having concentrations  
up to 50 mg Nitrate/L)

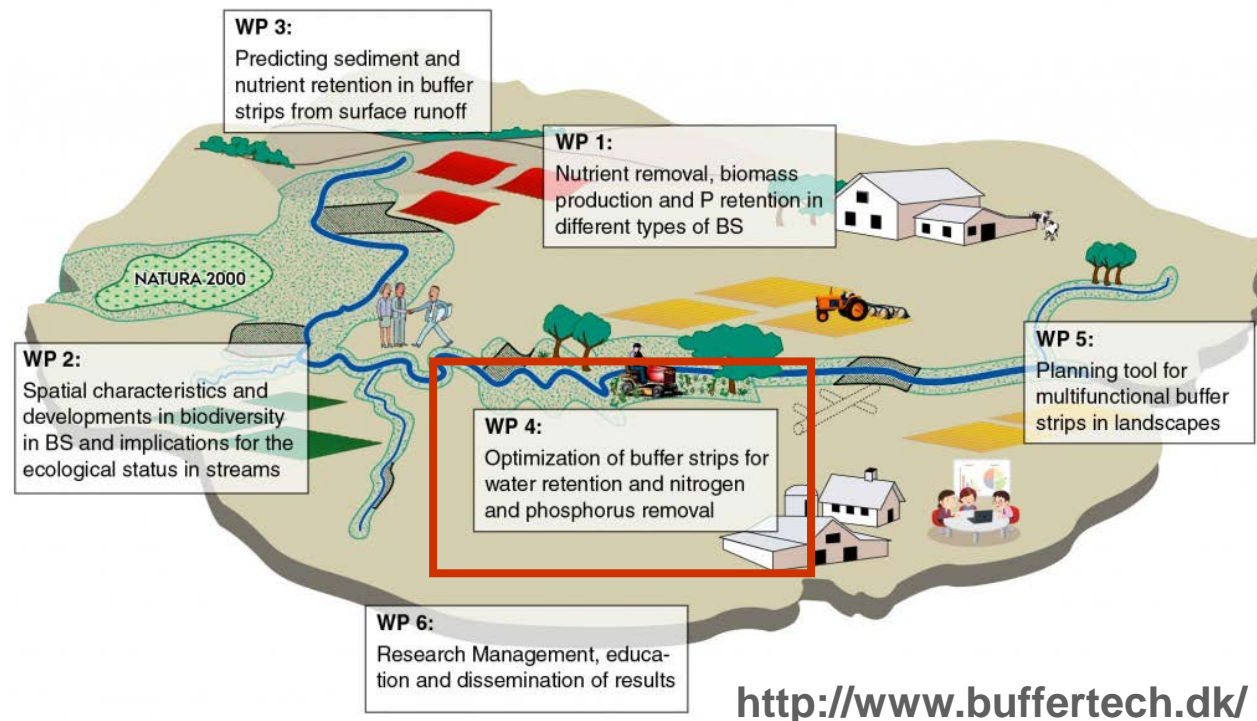


# The consequences are highly evident:



## IBZ: A solution of the problem?

### 1. How much nitrogen and phosphorus become filtered by IBZ?

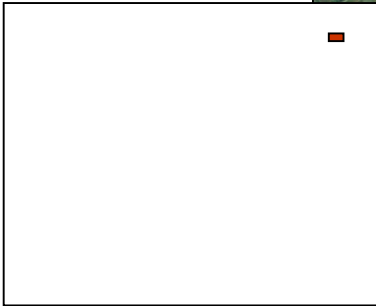


<http://www.buffertech.dk/>

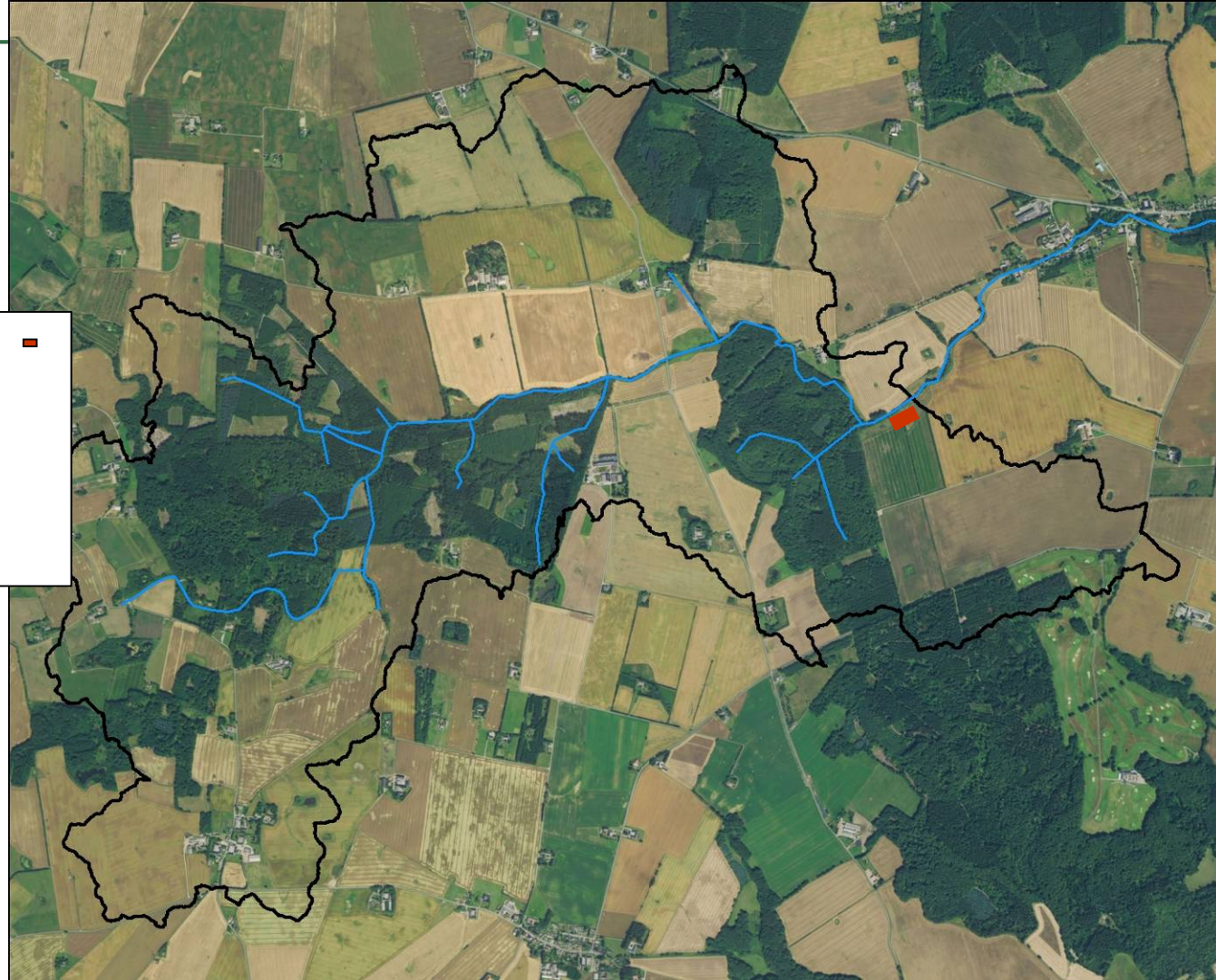
# Sampling Pilot Site(s)



# Catchment

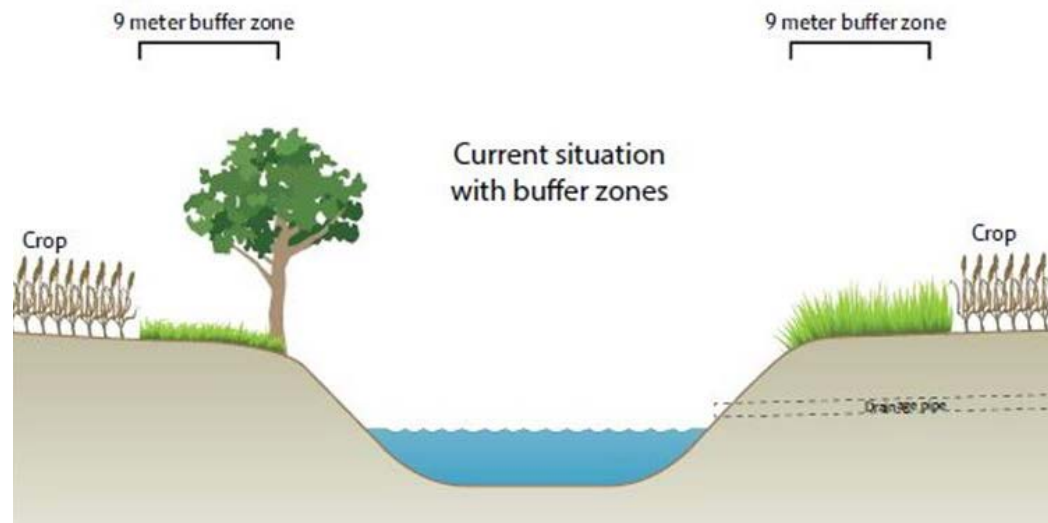


Ratio size of  
subcatchment/  
size of IBZ:  
~1000



## How we started

with nutrient  
removal?

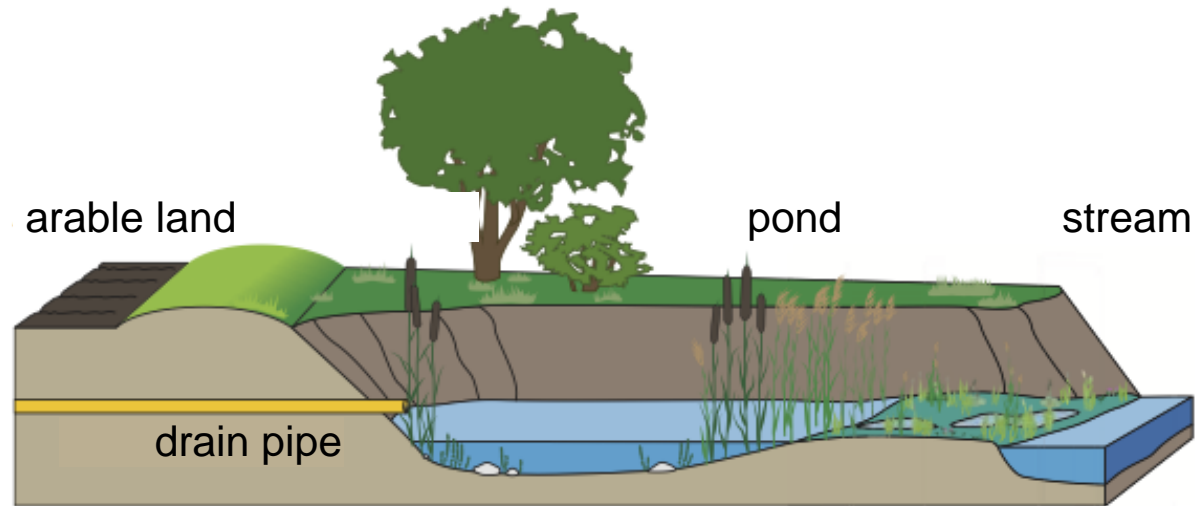


**Bufferzones to trap surface runoff and  
purify seepage water**

## One step forward

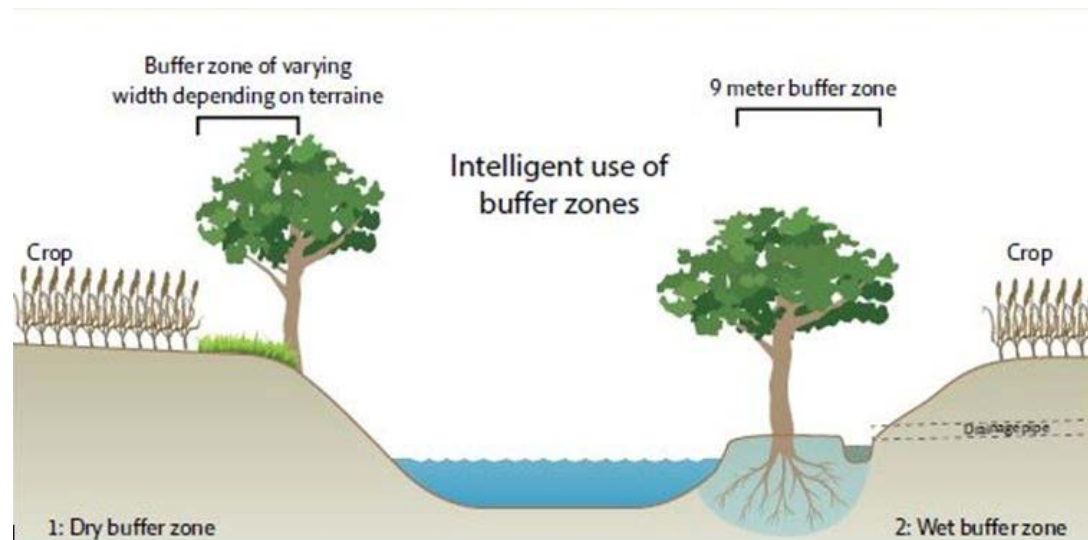
improving  
nutrient  
removal:

max. 60 kg/ha y

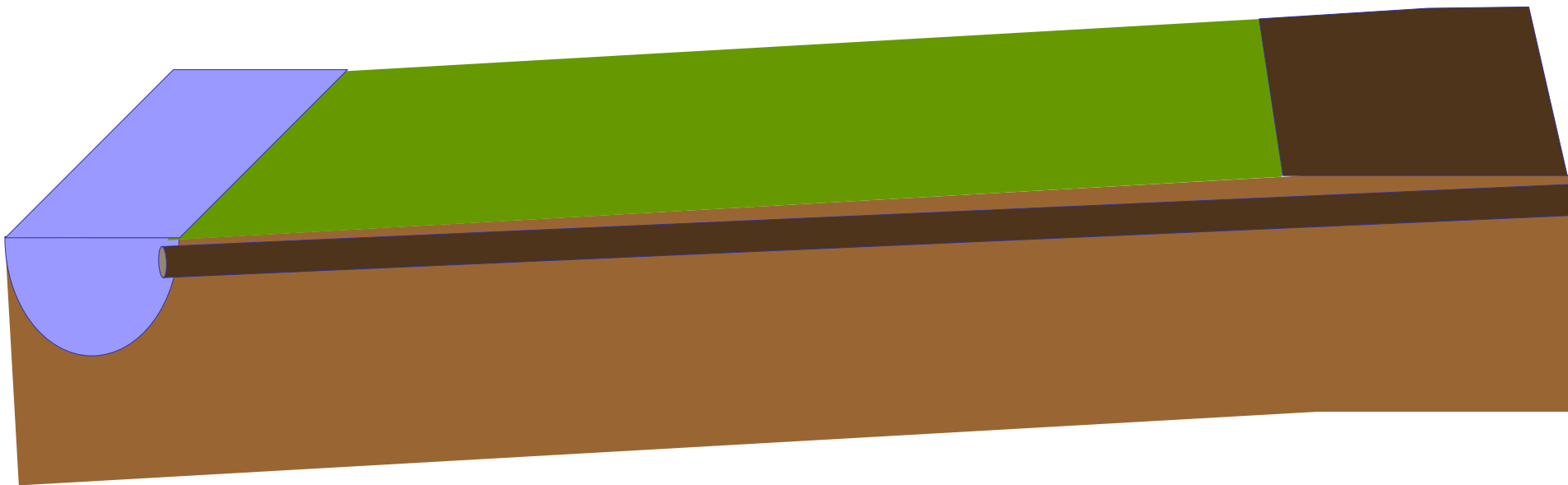


A „horseshoe wetland“ as an example of a  
dainage pond for nutrient retention (Peterson et  
al. 1992, Holsten et al. 2012)

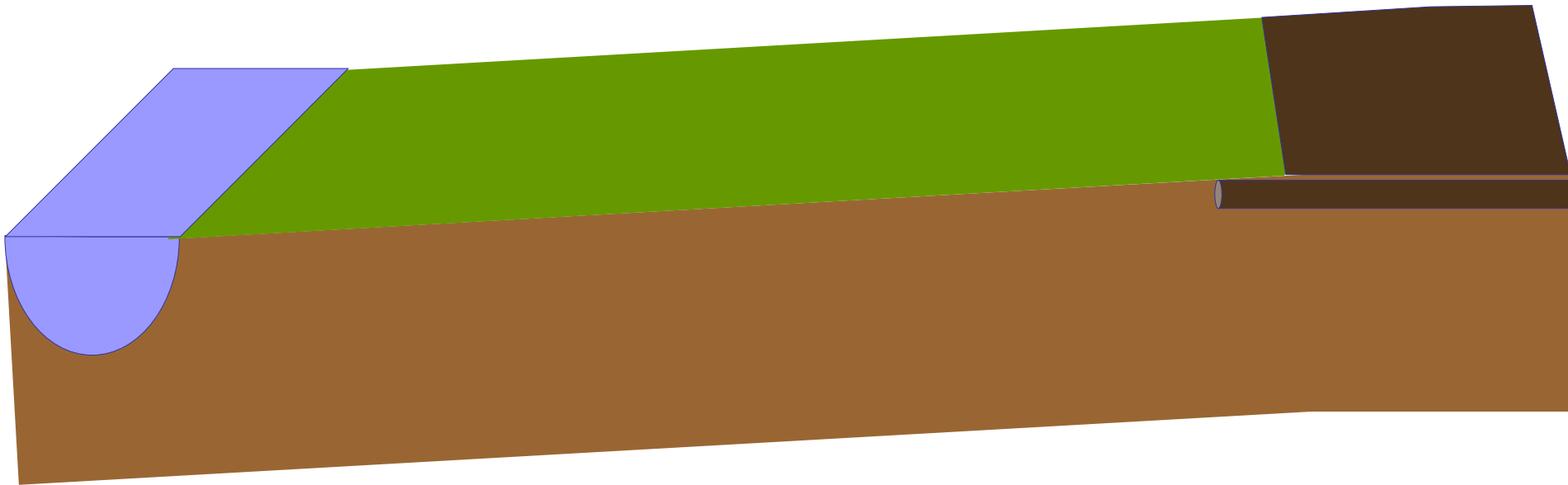
## What we have now to become evaluated!



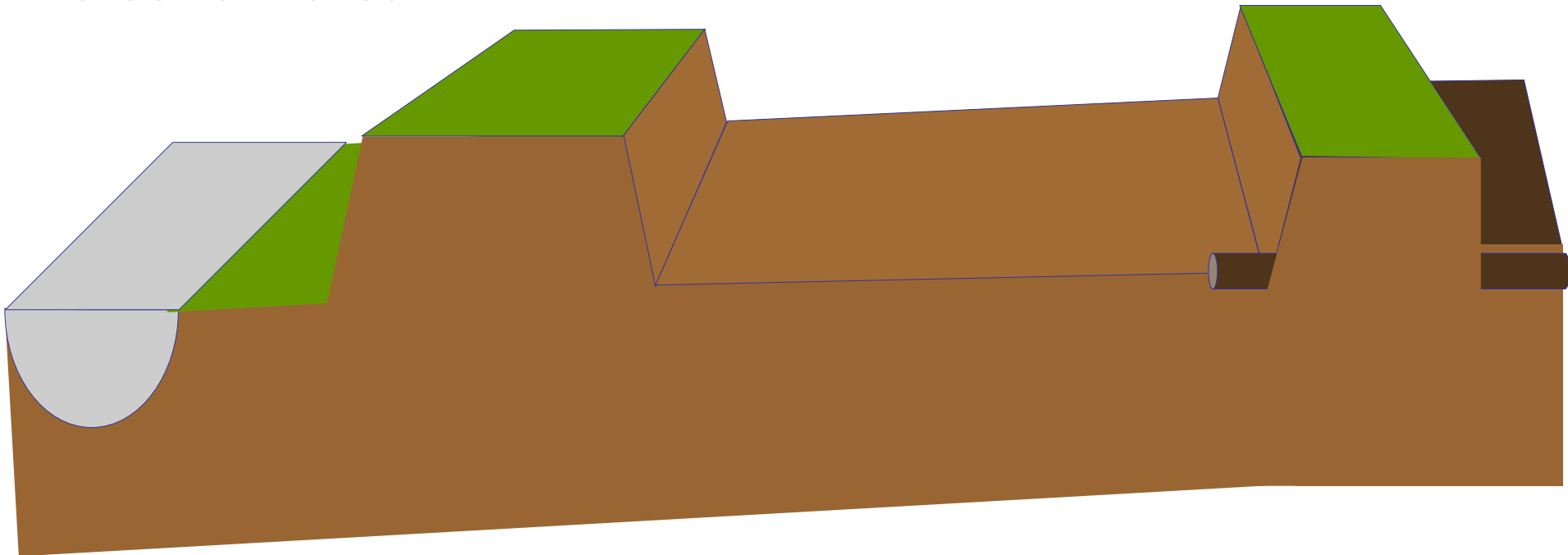
# The IBZ(rev)olution: in detail:



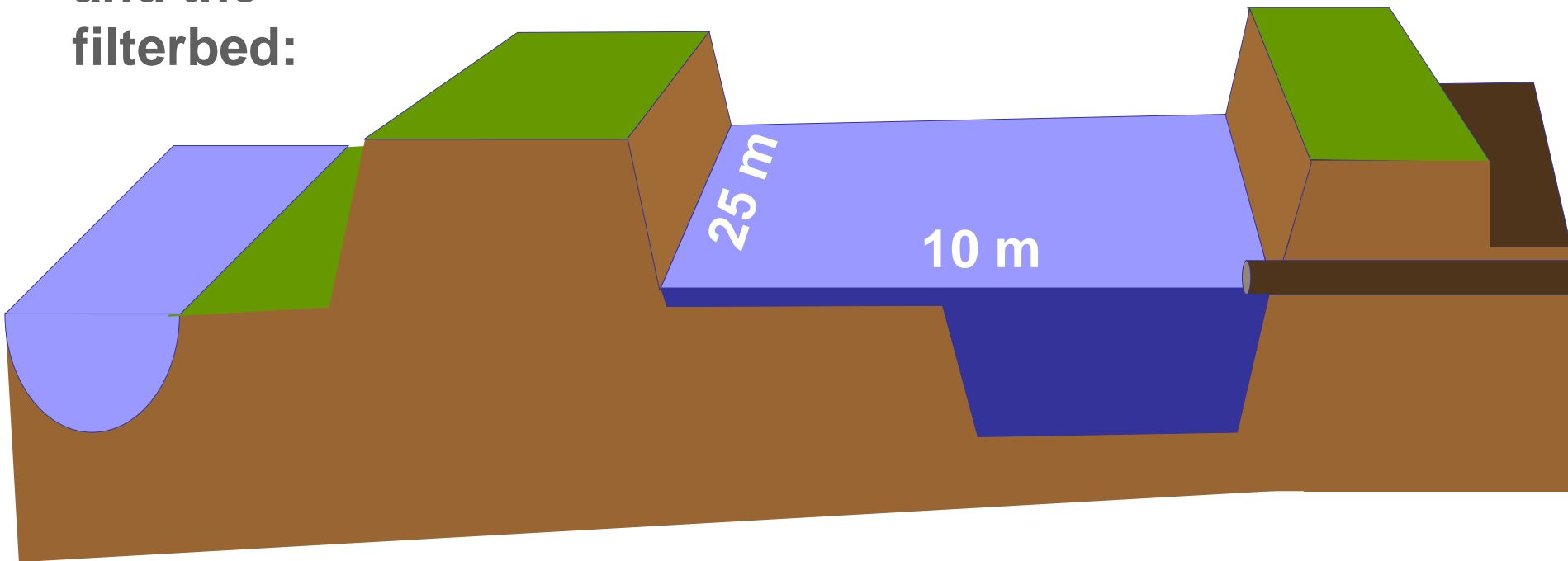
Find the drain pipe,  
and make it  
shorter:



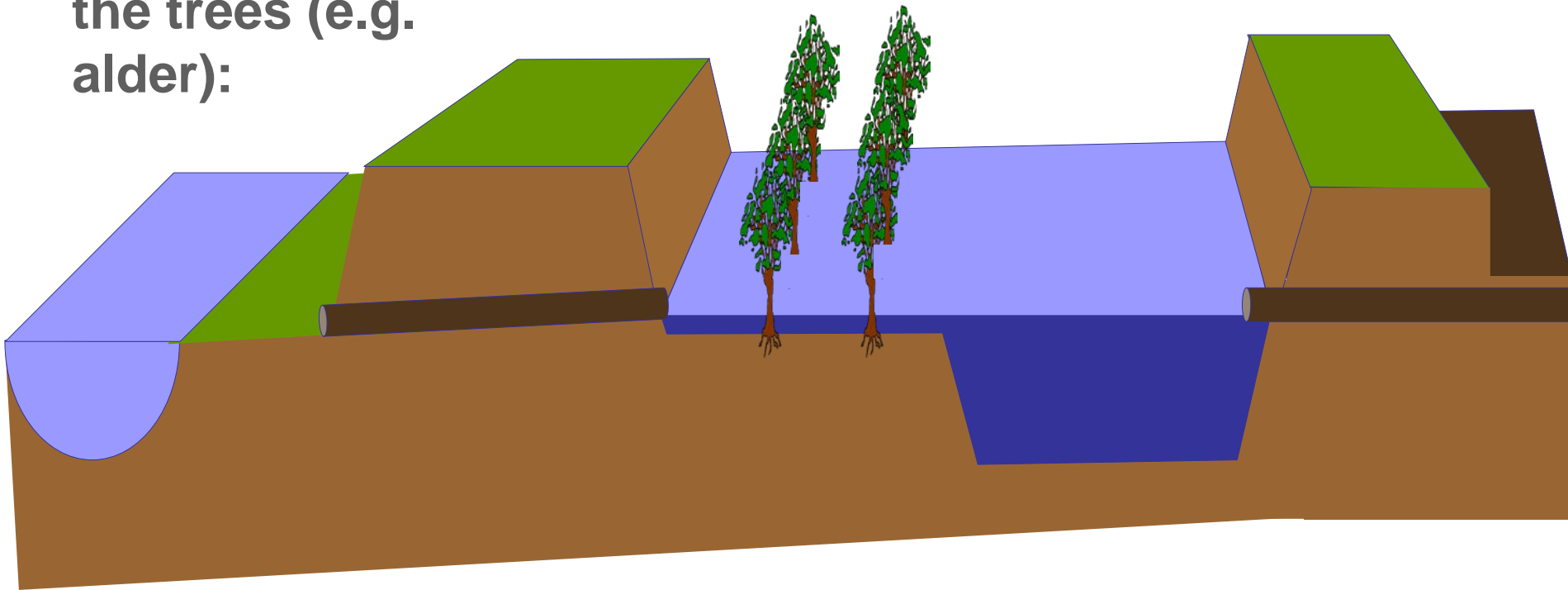
# Embanking, a certain area:



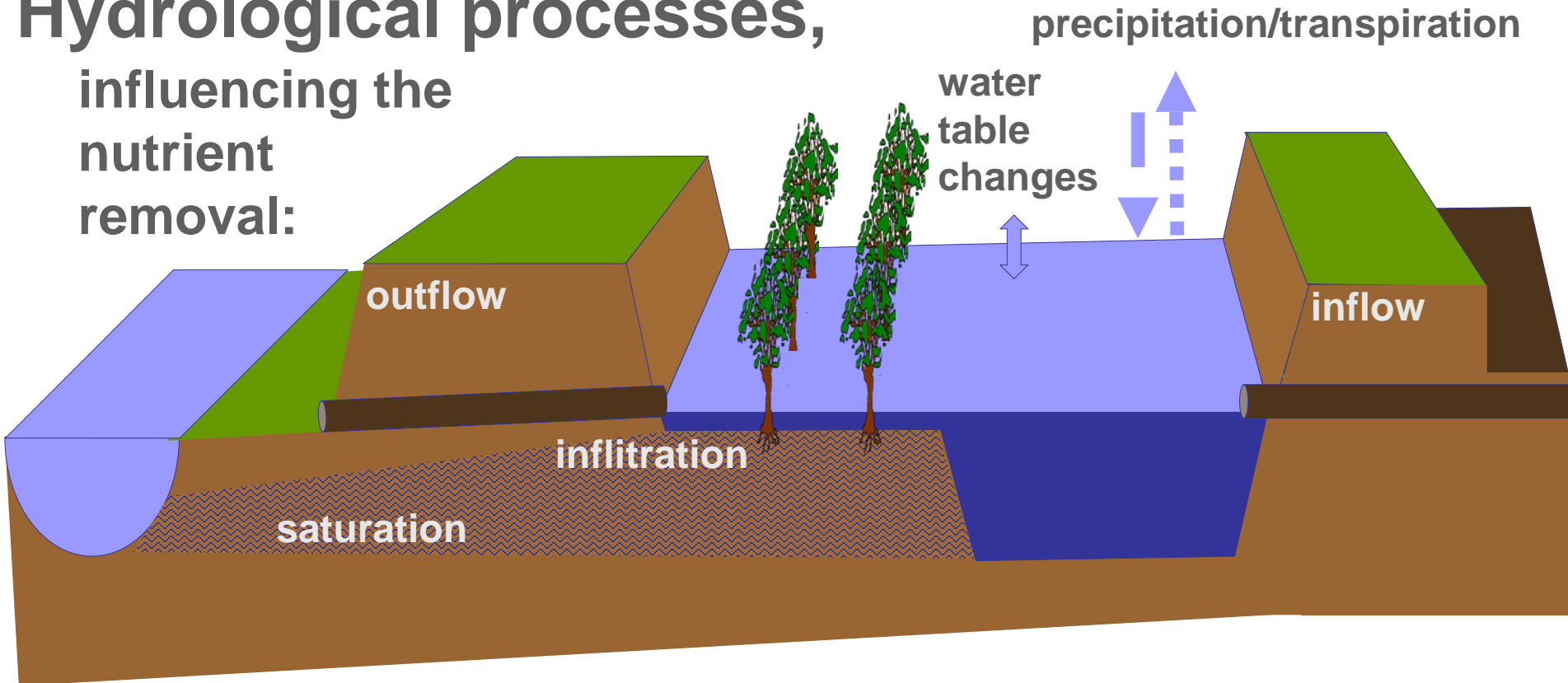
# Building the pond, and the filterbed:

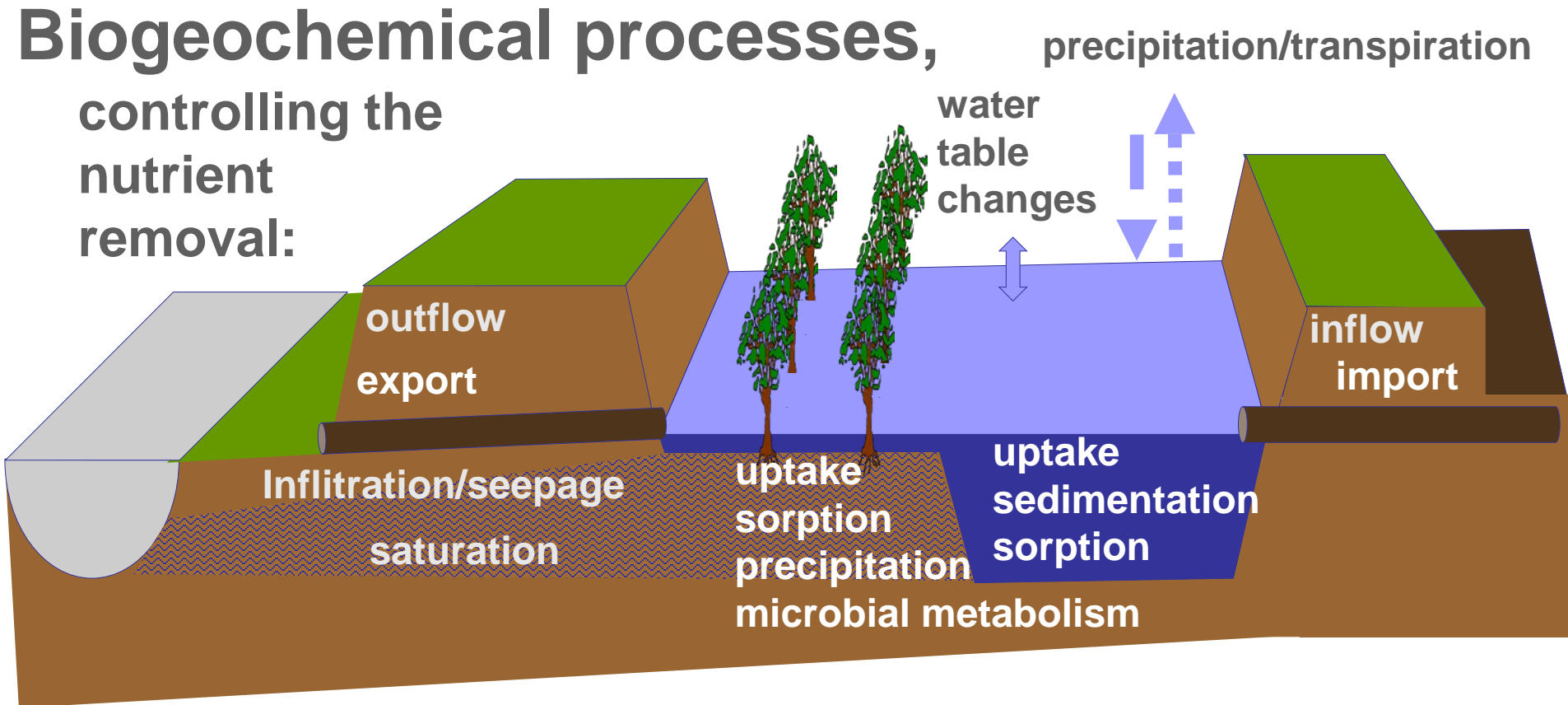


Do not forget,  
the trees (e.g.  
alder):

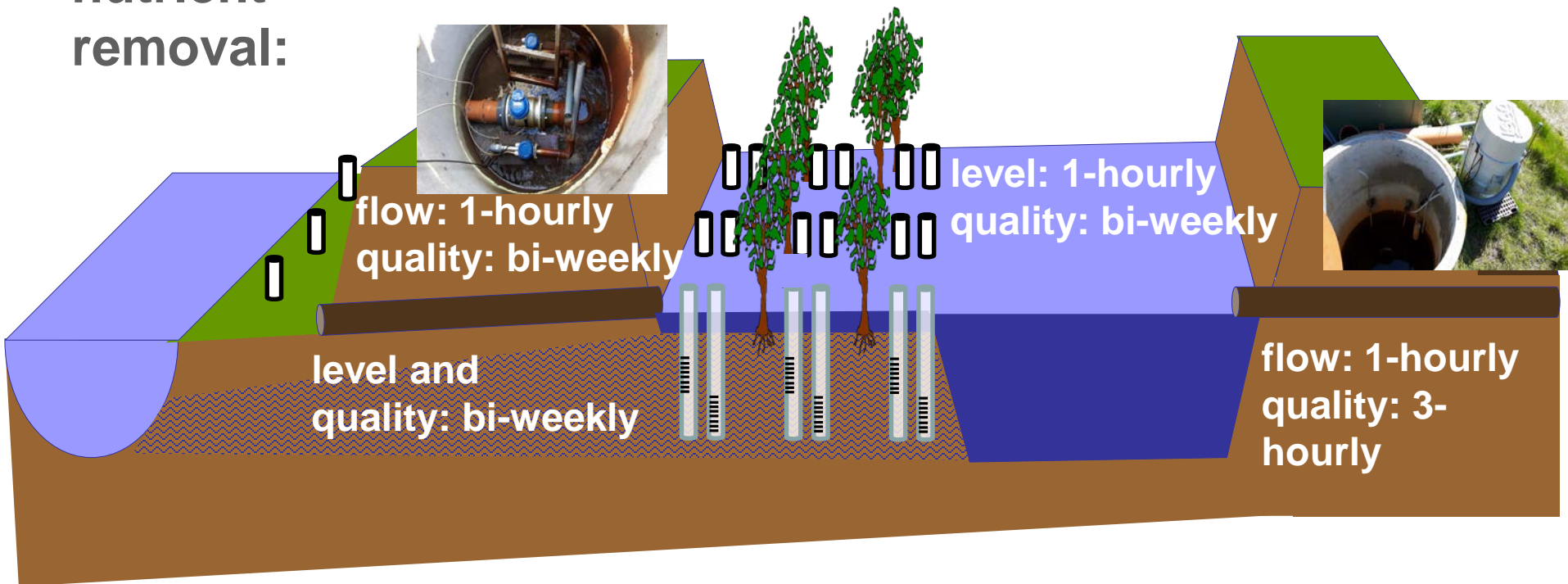


# Hydrological processes, influencing the nutrient removal:

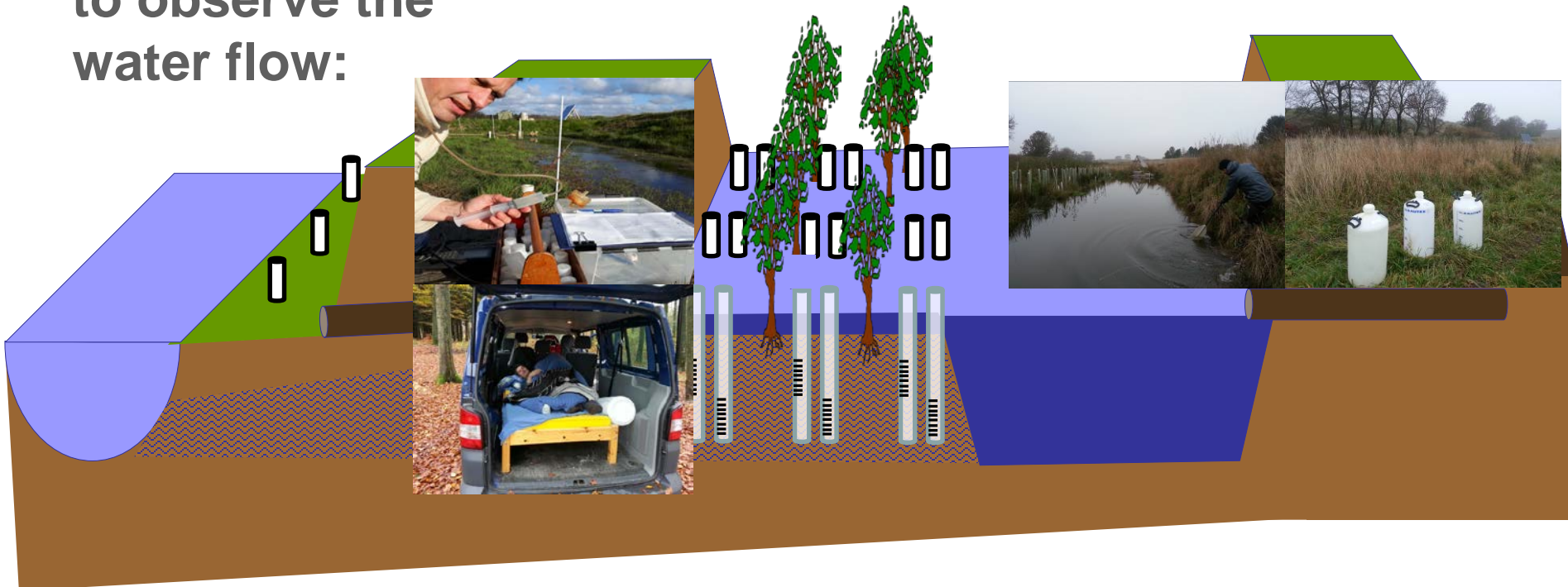




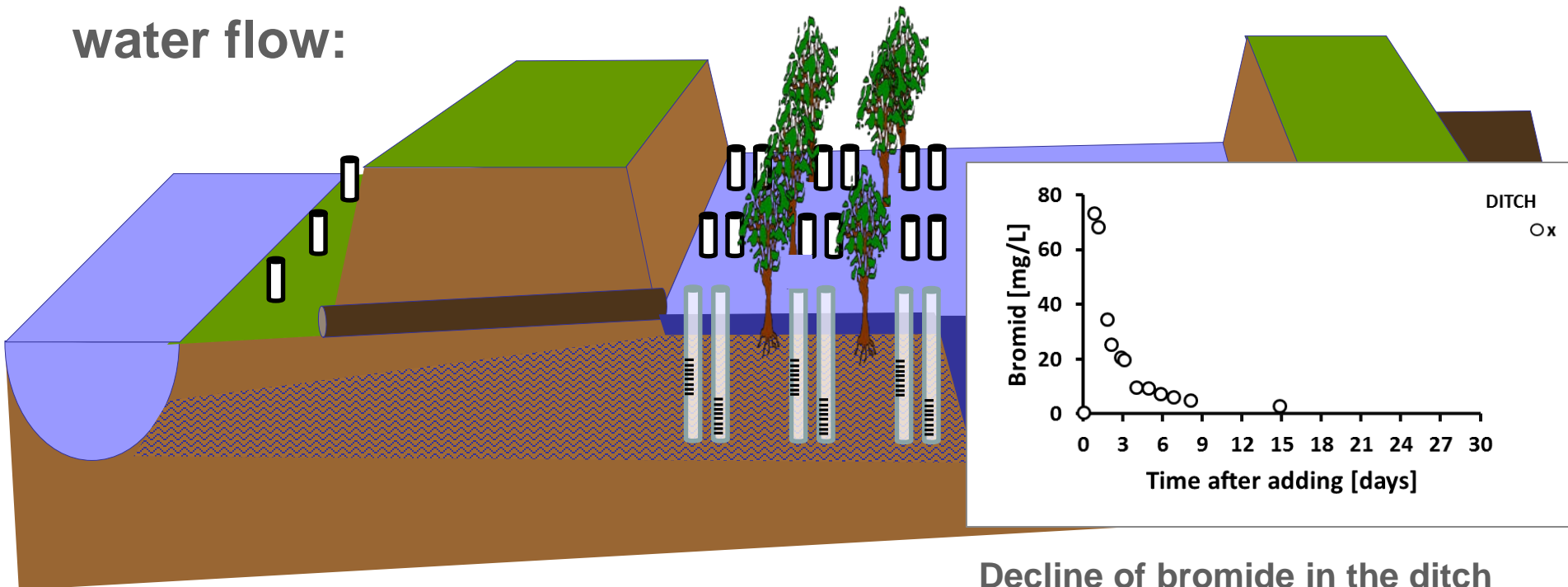
## Our monitoring, to calculate the nutrient removal:



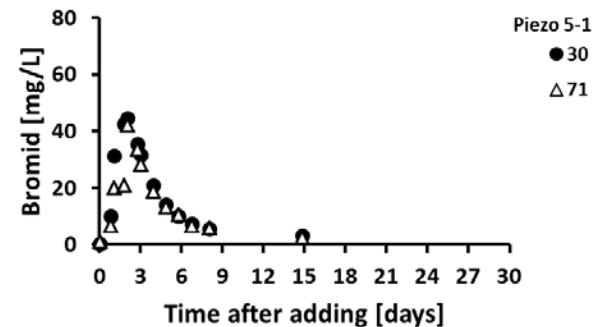
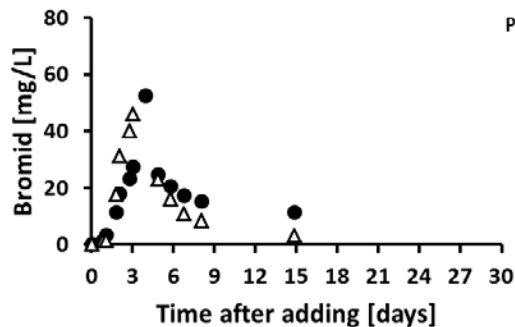
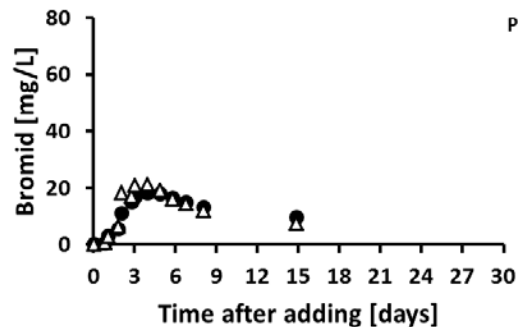
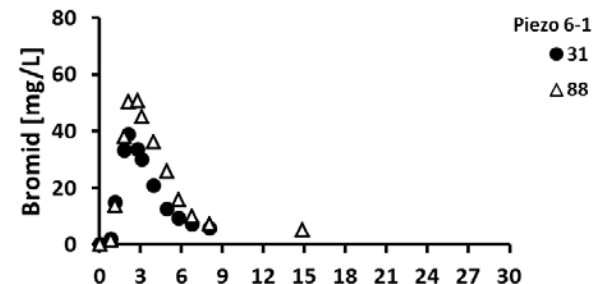
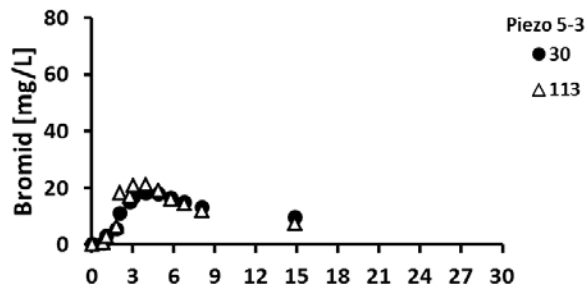
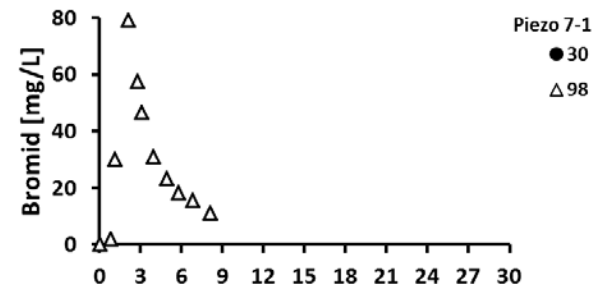
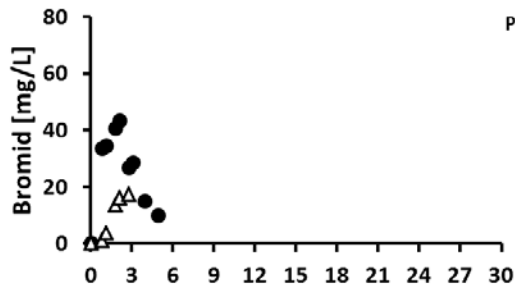
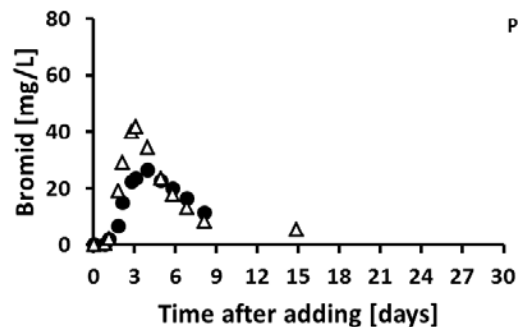
## Tracer experiment, to observe the water flow:



## Results, about the water flow:

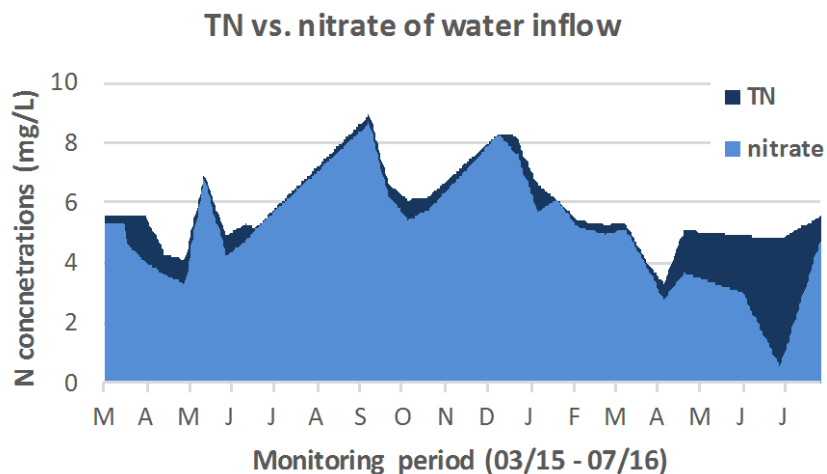
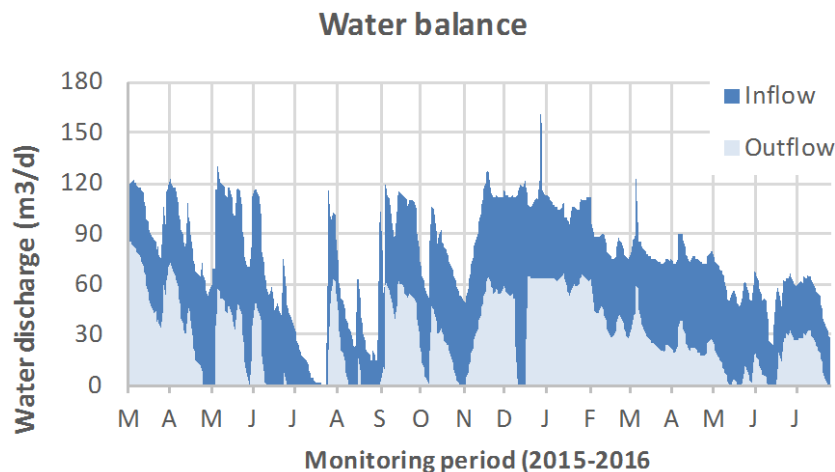


Decline of bromide in the ditch

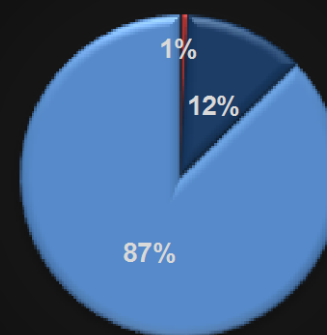


## Breakthrough curves of bromide of the whole filter bed

## Results, about the water flow and nitrogen import:



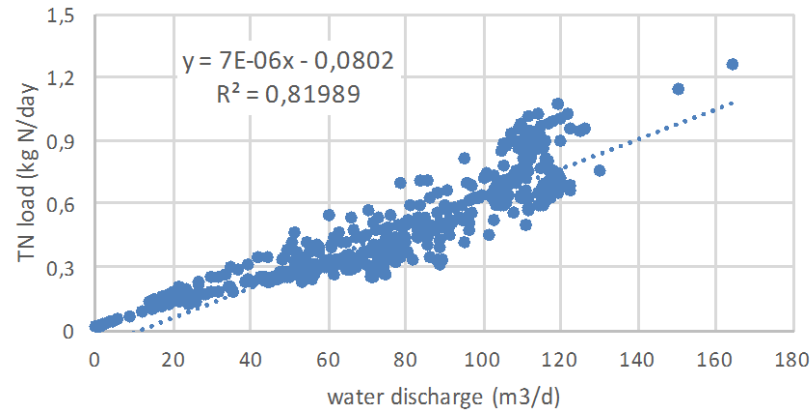
### N composition of water inflow



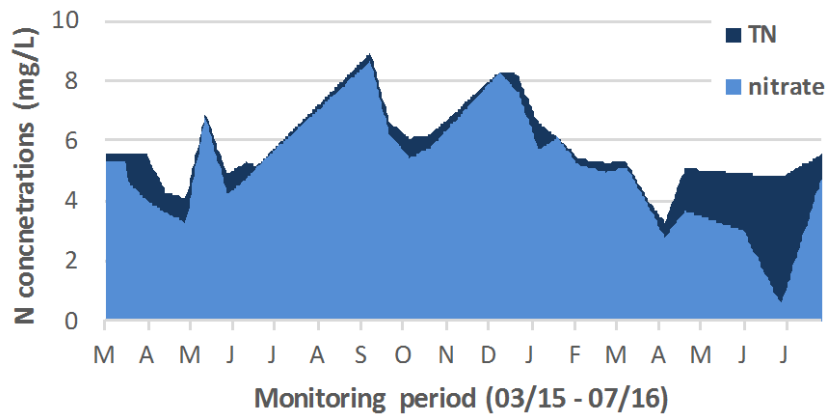
Legend: nitrite, ammonium, Rest N, nitrate

# Results, about the water flow and nitrogen import:

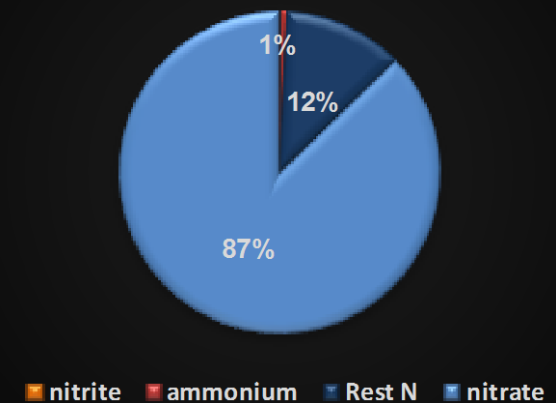
Total N import vs. inflow



TN vs. nitrate of water inflow

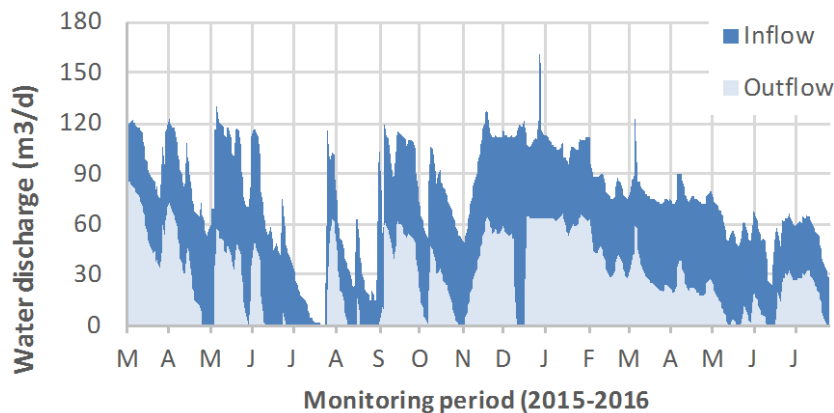


N composition of water inflow

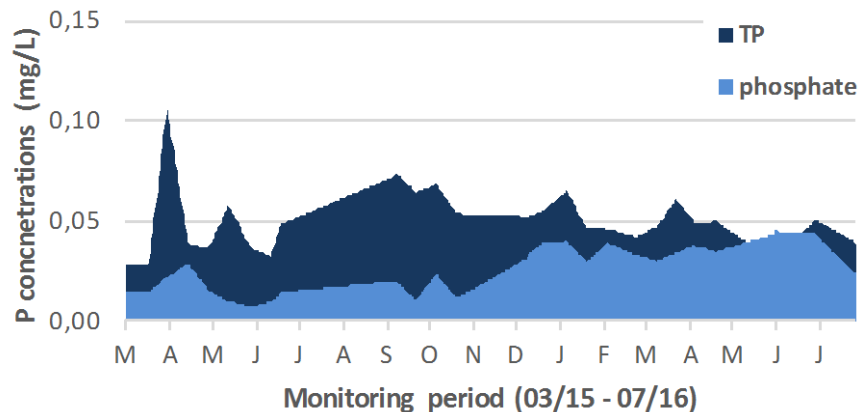


# Results, about the water flow and phosphorus import:

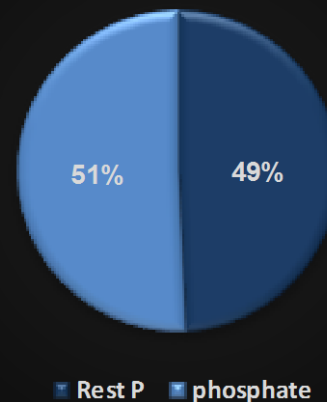
Water balance



TP vs. phosphate of water inflow

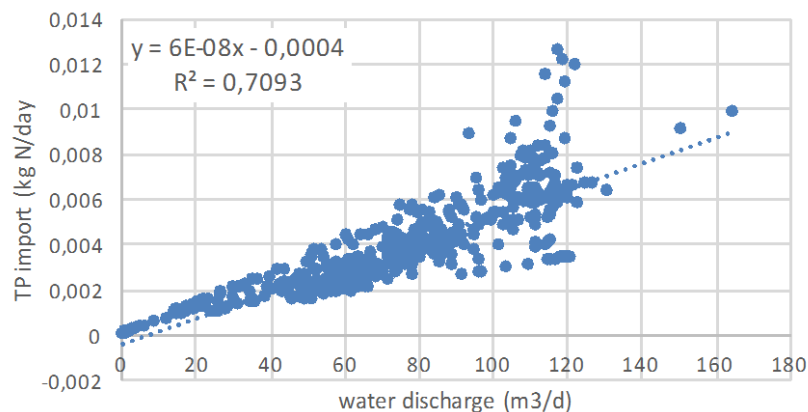


P composition of water inflow

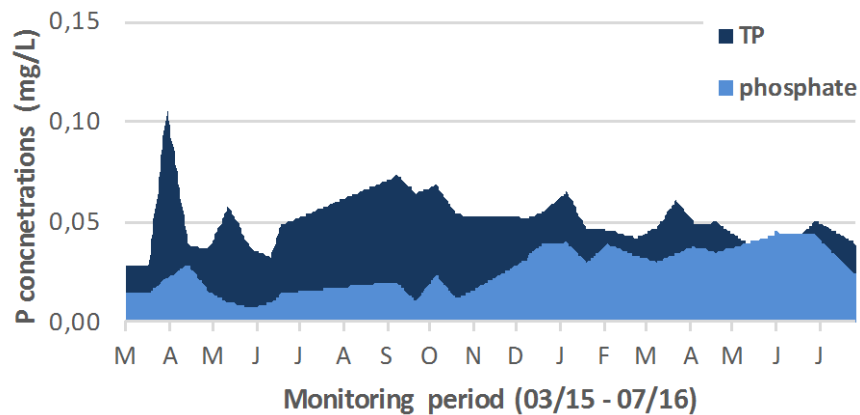


# Results, about the water flow and phosphorus import:

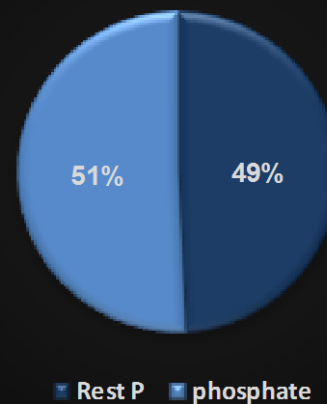
Total P import vs. inflow



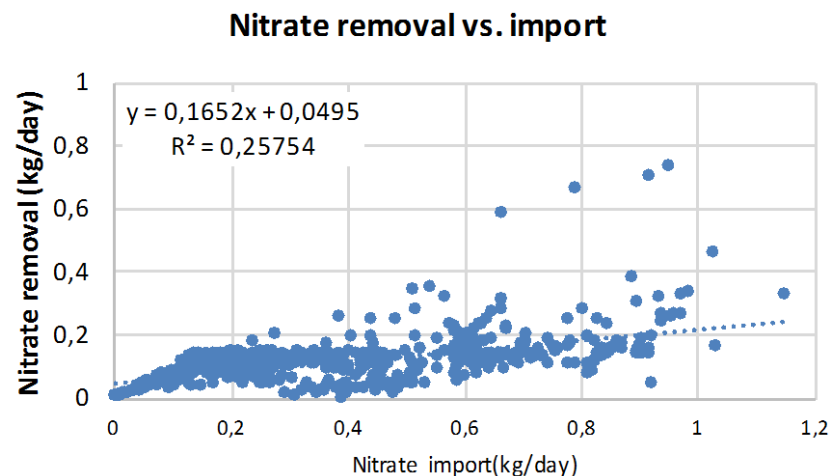
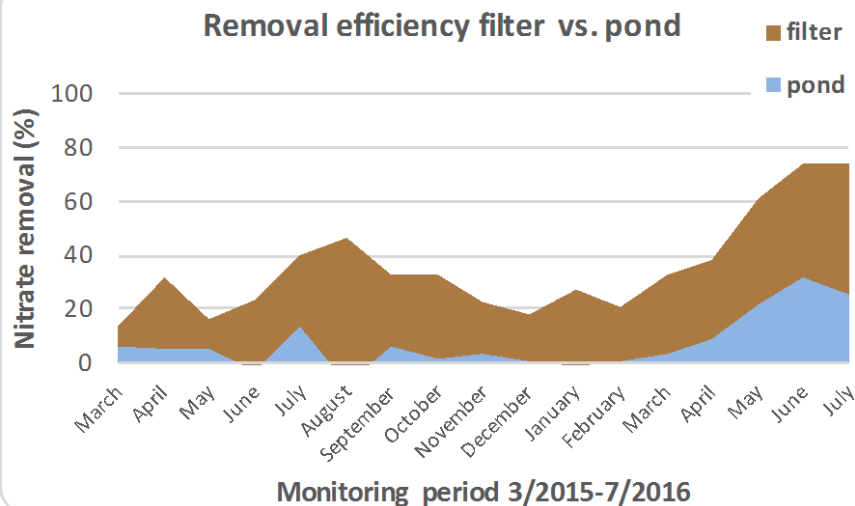
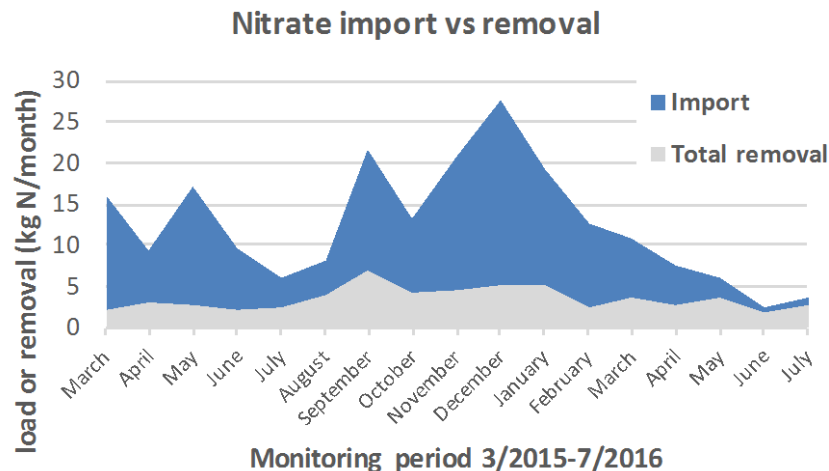
TP vs. phosphate of water inflow



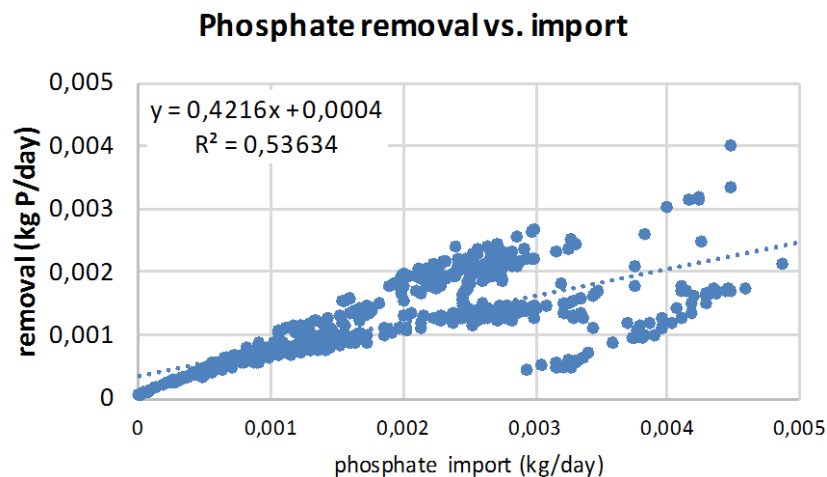
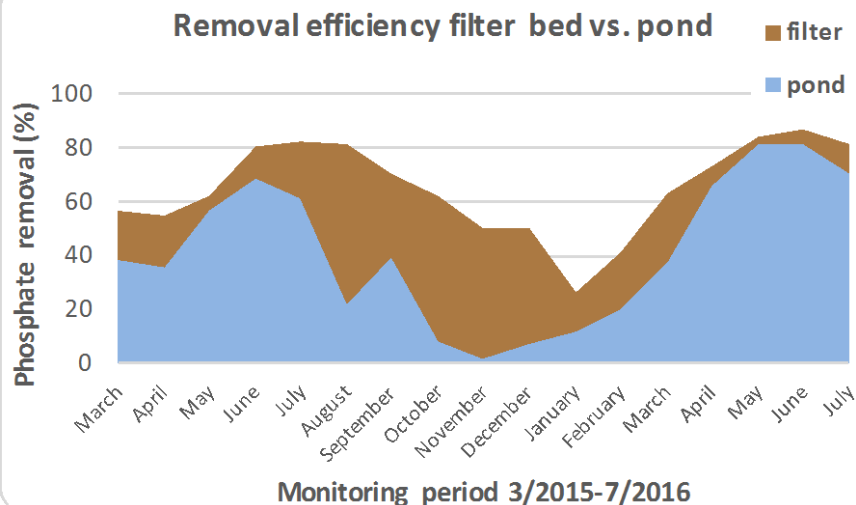
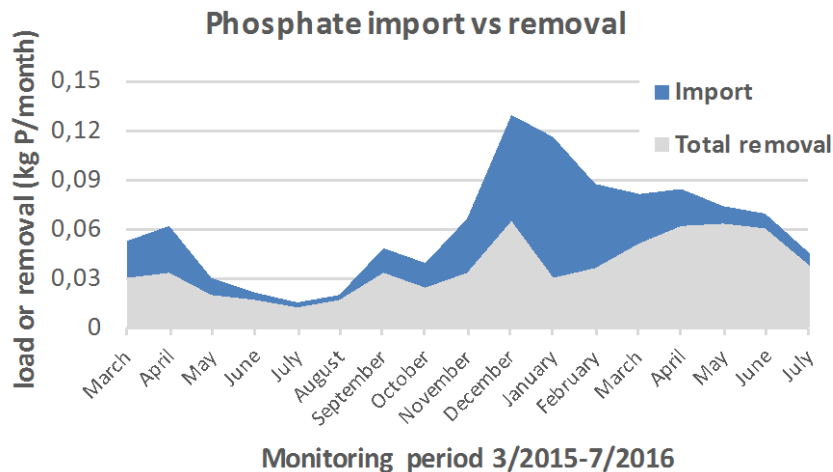
P composition of water inflow



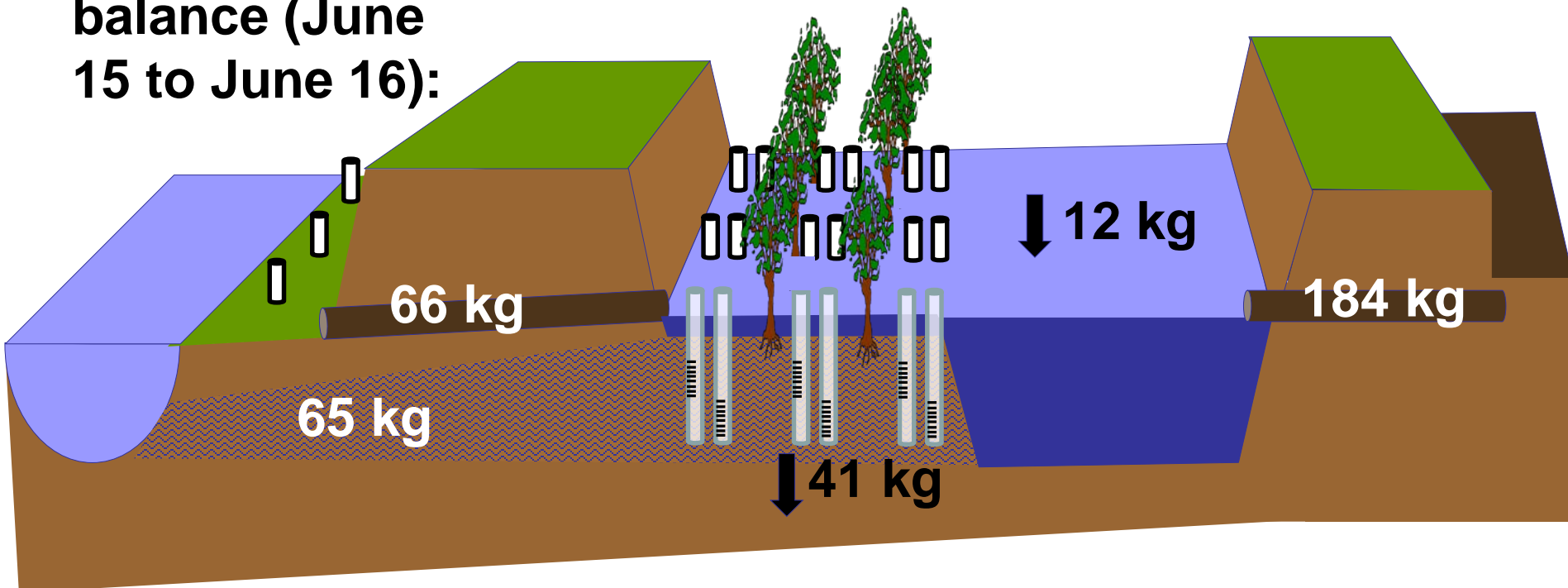
# Results, about the nitrate budget:



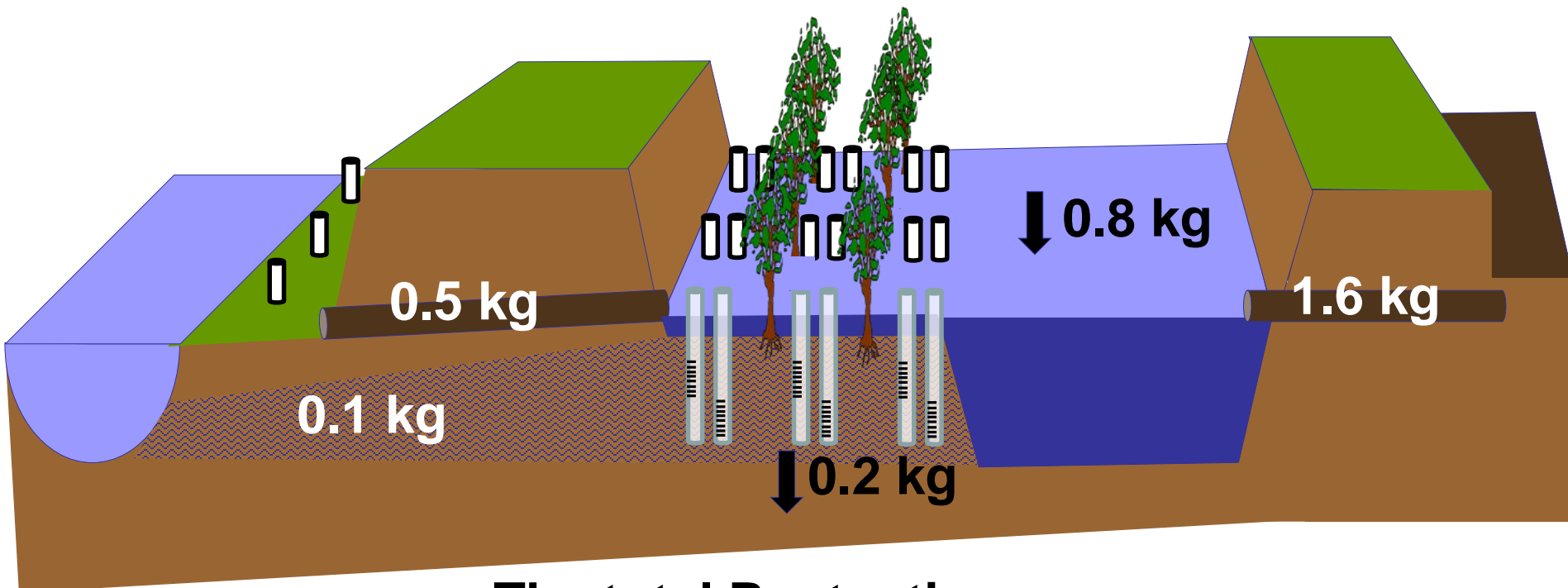
# Results, about the phosphate budget:



**To sum up,  
the annual TN  
balance (June  
15 to June 16):**



**The total N retention  
per ha and year: 2400 kg!**



**The total P retention  
per ha and year: 32 kg!**



**IBZ's will also capture most of surface runoff from fields and the transported sediment, phosphorus and organic nitrogen – an example is from the IBZ test facility at Spjald, western Jutland**

# Fazit & Question

- 1. IBZ are efficient wetlands to mitigate the nutrient pollution of streams throughout the year!**
- 2. However, the highest efficiency is observed during summer, with highest seasonal impact for the pond!**
- 3. What can we do to improve their efficiency and how they will perform over long-term?**

## Outlook

2 MILL. DKR  
FUNDING FOR  
ESTABLISHING  
TWO NEW FULL  
SCALE  
DEMONSTRATION  
IBZ'S DEZ 2016  
LINKED TO THE  
INNOVATION  
FOUNDATION  
PROJECT  
'BUFFERTECH'

