

# Turning the Tide:

## Innovative Water Management and Climate Adaptation in Lithuania

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# Lithuania



# Water Resources

**29.000** rivers

**6.000** lakes

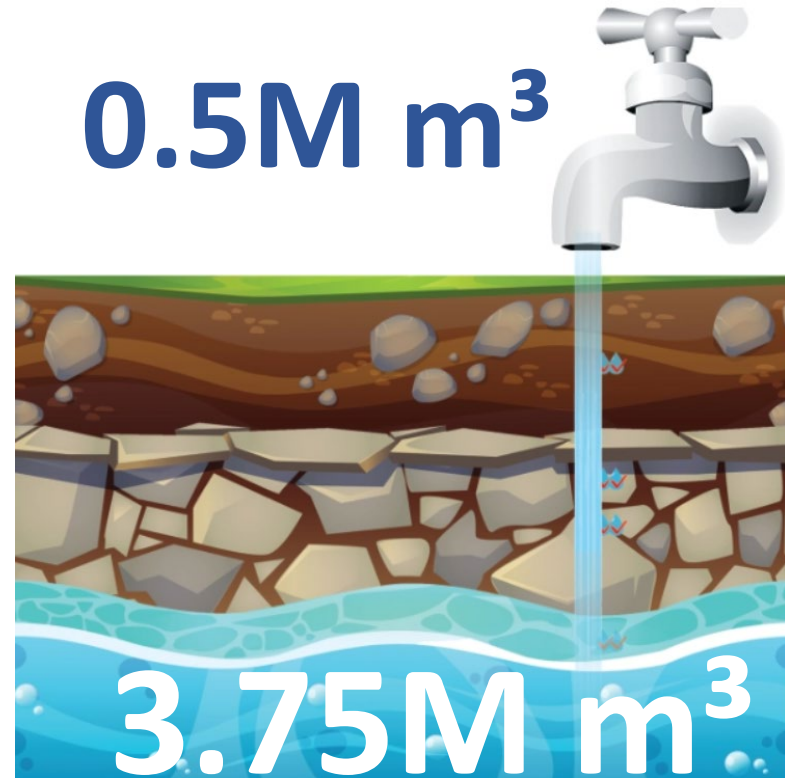
Curonian Lagoon

Baltic Sea



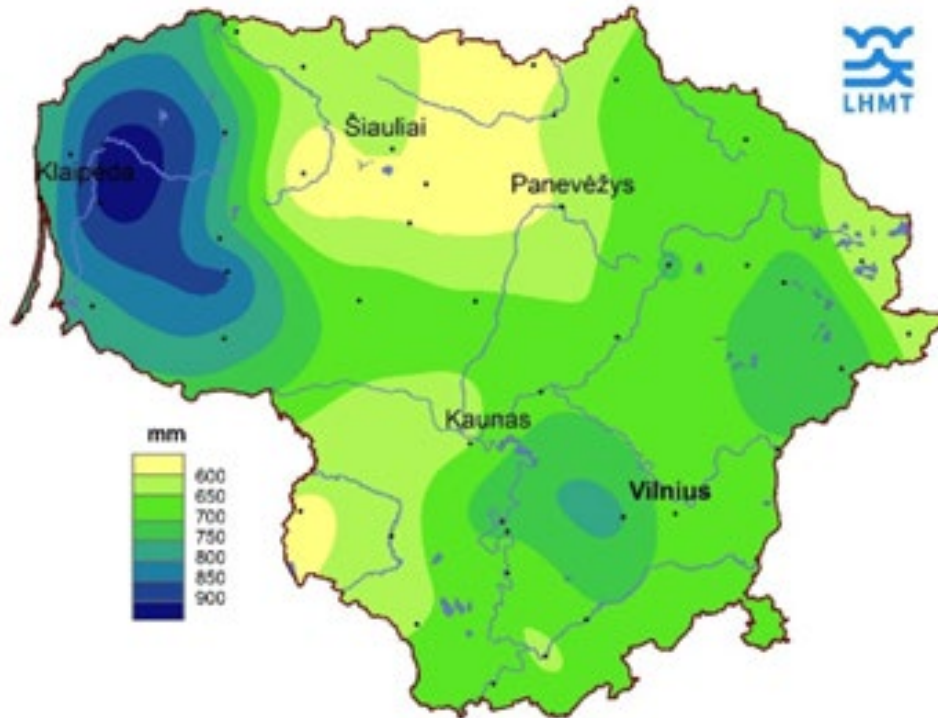
## Fresh Water

groundwater use is  
**13%**





# Precipitation



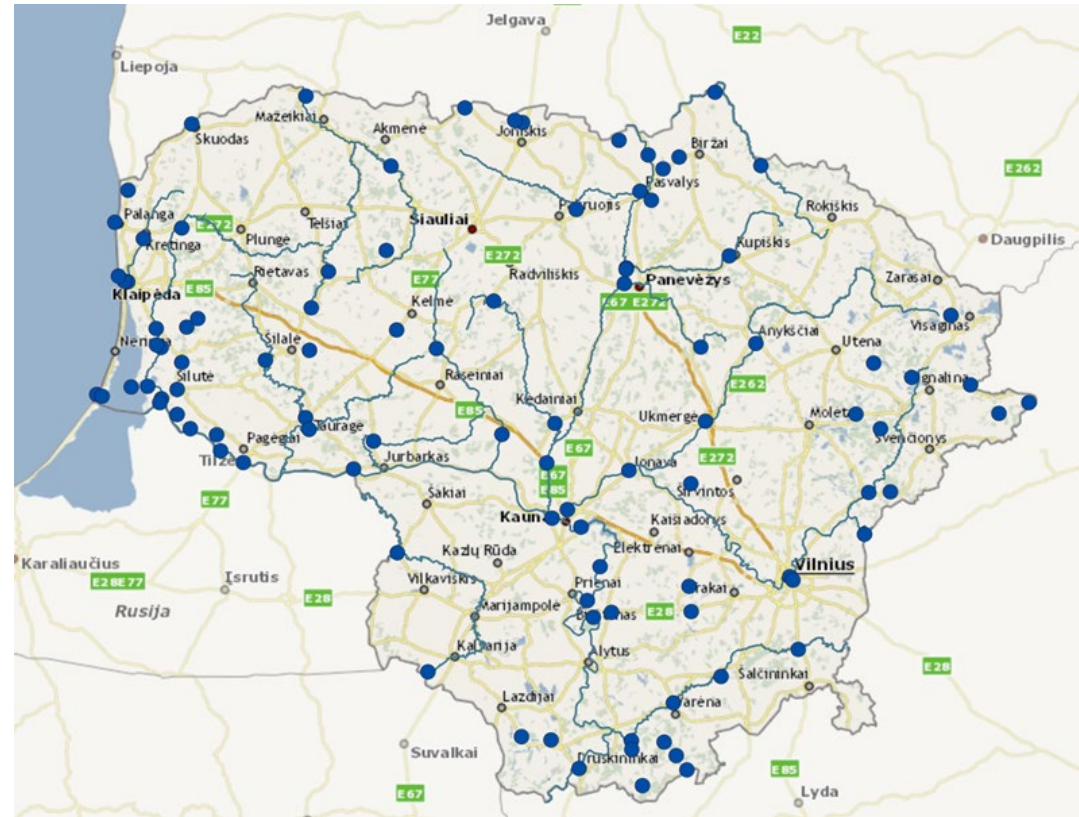
**695 mm** per annum

**66%** - from April to October

**intense** precipitation  
events are more frequent

# Hydrological Network

101 water gauge station



# Hydrological Measurement

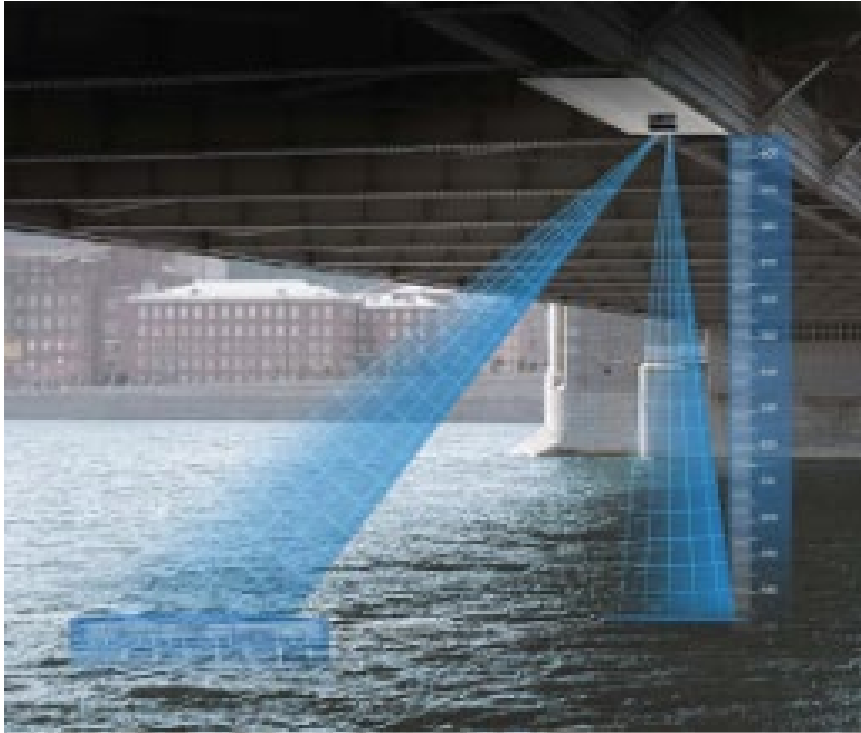


# Remote Sensing



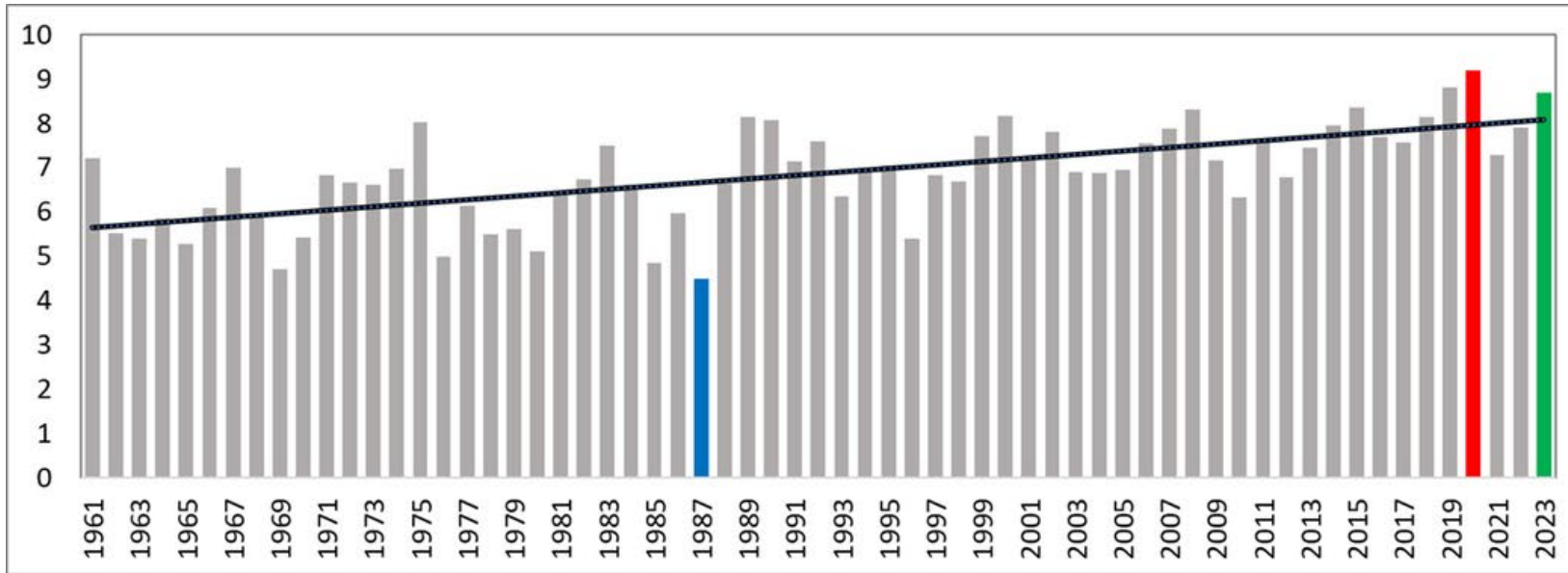


# Upcoming Development



# Climate Change (1)

Average annual air temperature in Lithuania



**+2,3 °C !**

## Climate Change (2)

Over the past decade, Lithuania has seen five of its hottest years:

**2015, 2019, 2020, 2023, 2024**

In 2024: **18** extreme (2 of them – catastrophic) meteorological events, **12** extreme hydrological events.

# Floods in Lithuania (1)



The number of very powerful floods is decreasing.

The overall number of floods is increasing.



## Floods in Lithuania (2)

Aspects that may influence changes in flood dynamics:

- **Climate Change** (e.g., increased precipitation or snowmelt processes)
- **Urbanization** (e.g., insufficient planning or poor maintenance)
- **Water Management Systems** (e.g., flood control capacity)
- **Human Activity** (e.g., deforestation, groundwater pollution, compaction of water bodies).
- **Monitoring and Forecasting Systems** (e.g., improvement in the ability to assess and predict flood risk, enabling timely preventive measures).

# Main Challenges

- Agricultural pollution** (nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides)
- Climate change impacts** (droughts, floods, rising temperatures)
- Hydromorphological alterations** (dams, land drainage systems)
- Unequal wastewater treatment coverage in smaller settlements**

# Surface Wastewater Management

## Objectives

- Protection of life and reduction of risks to public health
- Reducing flood risks and financial losses to the private and public sectors
- Protection of surface and groundwater resources
- Improving the quality of life in urban areas
- Consideration of physical, chemical, biological and ecological perspectives

# Measures to Reduce Impact of Urbanization (1)

## Non-structural measures

- Enactment and implementation of legislation
- Environmental impact assessment for all development projects
- Coordination of development projects
- Pollution control
- Control of stormwater runoff from private properties
- Flood prevention



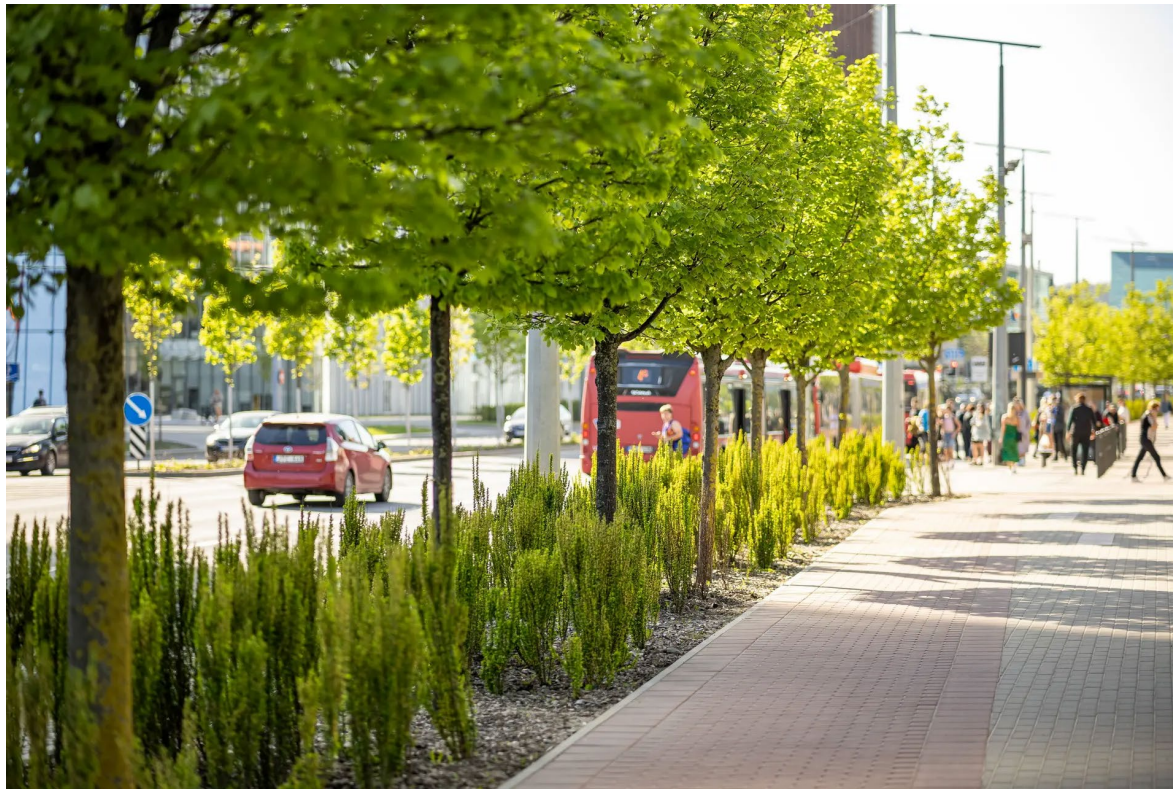
# Measures to Reduce Impact of Urbanization (2)

## Structural measures

- Runoff containment and stopping measures:
  - Retention and storage ponds
  - Biodegradable ponds
  - Wetlands
- Infiltration measures:
  - Infiltration ponds and downspouts
  - Landed depressions
  - Conductive strips
  - Conductive pavements

# Vilnius

## Greening and Greenery Maintenance Standard

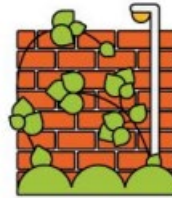


# Vilnius

## Greening and Greenery Maintenance Standard (2)



Preserving Trees



Every Open  
Space is Green



The Sponge City



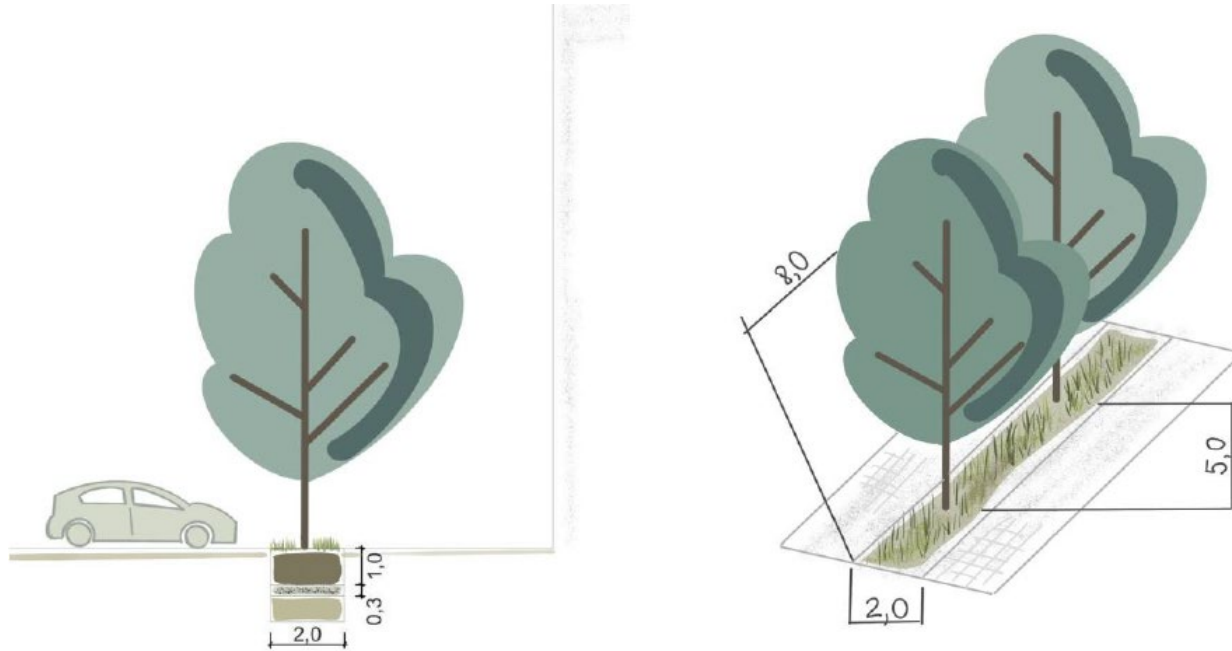
The Green City  
Corridor



Biodiversity

# Vilnius

## Greening and Greenery Maintenance Standard (3)



optimal area for new greenery  
– 16 m<sup>2</sup>, the recommended  
width – at least 1.5 m

the layer of crushed stone – at  
least 0.3 m; the soil depth – at  
least 1 m



# Vilnius

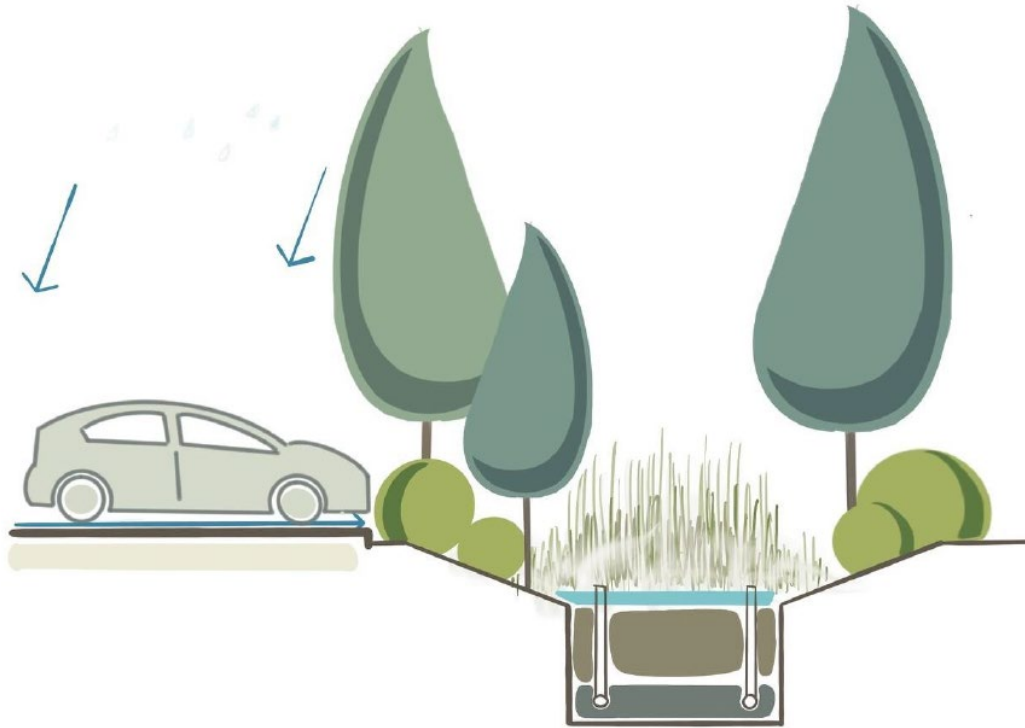
## Greening and Greenery Maintenance Standard (4)



rainwater collection through  
greenery and diversion into  
stormwater systems (dry  
infiltration basin)

# Vilnius

## Greening and Greenery Maintenance Standard (5)



rainwater collection within  
greenery (rain garden /  
constructed wetland)

# Vilnius

## Greening and Greenery Maintenance Standard (6)



rainwater drainage through a  
ditch, infiltration basin

# Vilnius

## Greening and Greenery Maintenance Standard (7)

Plant Tolerance to Waterlogging:

- short-term waterlogging (up to 3 hours)
- short-term (up to 3 hours) and long-term waterlogging (up to 3 days)
- plants that can be permanently flooded (during spring floods or heavy rainfall)





# Climate Adaptation Measures

**Flood risk reduction:** constructing protective levees, reinforcing riverbanks, upgrading hydraulic structures.

**Coastal resilience:** beach nourishment in Palanga and Šventoji, dune stabilization and regeneration in the Curonian Spit.

**Multifunctional ship for marine incidents:** acquiring a vessel capable of firefighting, emergency towing, pollution control.

**Hydrometeorological monitoring network:** upgrading and expanding observational systems to improve forecasting and early warning.

**Public awareness and capacity building:** educational and outreach initiatives to enhance resilience and preparedness.

# Public Awareness

**94%** recognise the need to adapt to climate change.

**56%** recognise that they will have to adapt their lifestyle due to climate change.

**29%** think they will have to move to a less climate-vulnerable place (whether locally or abroad) to avoid floods, forest fires or other extreme weather events.

**23%** say they will have to move to a cooler region or country.

謝謝  
Thank you!

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