



Financing Natura 2000 and protected areas management in Latvia: achievements and challenges ahead

EUROPARC 2019, LATVIA

The 1. Workshop “How much money do we need for Natura 2000”
25.09.2019, Jurmala,

by **Juris Jātnieks**,
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Juris Jatnieks ?

- ❖ 30 years working for Nature,
- ❖ Director General of NCA of Latvia (2017- 15.07.2019). Two months ago Minister released me from **my Mission** due to politic reasons.
- ❖ Elected President (2015 -2017) of the Environmental Advisory Council - the main consultative & coordinating body (NGO) to ensure public participation in the development and implementation of environmental policy at the Ministry of Environment and regional Development,
- ❖ Manager of Project and co-author of the National PAF 2012, the “Protected habitat management guidelines for Latvia” and the “National Conservation and Management Program for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia 2018 – 2030”.
- ❖ The leader of development team to create the united National GIS portal for nature data – State Information System “OZOLS”,
- ❖ Developer of the Teici Nature Reserve – the largest mire complex in Latvia; researcher and director for 18 years,
- ❖ The mentor of young managers, author of regional strategies and development programs of municipalities, e.t.c.
- ❖ and ... be crazy enough to **bring EUROPARC 2019 to LATVIA.**



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The network of protected nature areas



There are **683 protected nature areas in Latvia** established by National laws or Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia.

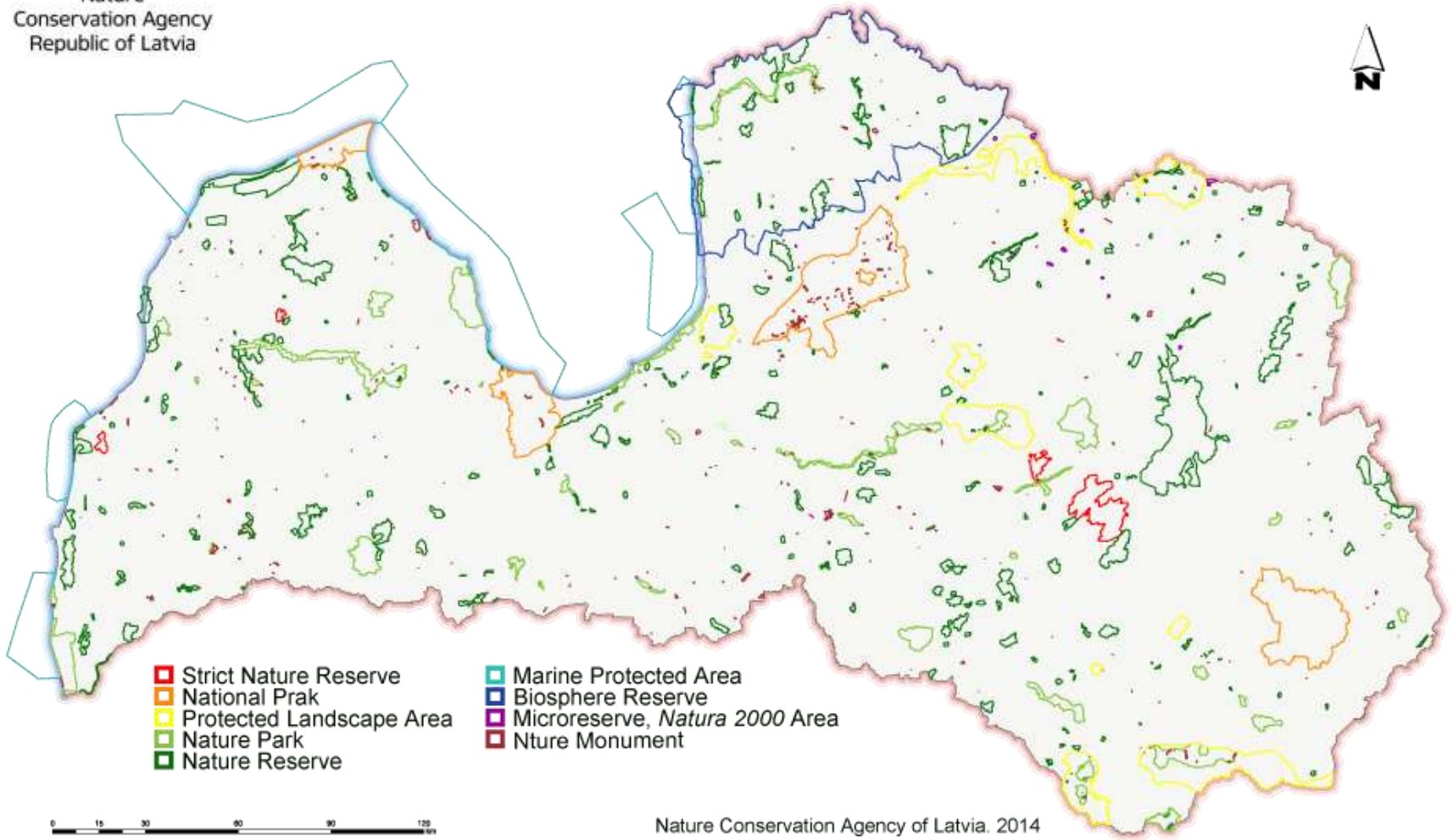
333 of them are **NATURA 2000**

Only 12% from total area of Latvia is protected under NATURA 2000 network.



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Protected Nature Areas in Latvia





Financing sources for NATURA 2000 related to the Nature Conservation Agency (NCA) of LATVIA

- **Core budget** of the State to run the Agency – increased significantly during past 3 years! *Unfortunately do not finance direct management measures for species and habitats.*

- EU structural funds



- EU LIFE Program

- Environment Protection Fund of Latvia – State money, significant co-financer of LIFE and other projects,

- Interreg projects and bilateral cooperation,

- Rural Development Program (RDP), **Agri-environment support** - crucial source to maintain grassland habitats; exelent **synergies developed!**

- The Initiative “Working for Nature” of the NCA





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Investments from EU structural funds 2007 – 2013

Nature Conservation Agency projects



Korneti un Daugavas loki



*Mākoņkalns un
Aklais purvs*



- 45 Natura 2000 areas,
- 7 300 000,- EUR



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Infrastructure for nature interpretation and tourism



Anthropogenic Load Decreasing and Informative
Infrastructure Development in *Natura 2000* Sites

Observation towers and high platforms – **21**

Platforms on trails – **17**

Nature trails with various hard surfaces - **81,234 km**

parking lots - **31/18411** No./m²

Access roads - **11/7825** No./m²

Various sheds – **40**

Camp sites for water tourists – **18**

Toilets – **51**

Information boards – **349**

Border signes/landmarks – **1850**



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Investments of the EU structural funds 2014 - 2020



Embūte

- ✓ Open tender for **municipalities**: 13 infrastructure projects implemented in 12 NATURA2000 areas
- ✓ 3 400 000, - EUR
- ✓ Initial objectives overreached concerning habitat areas benefiting from the infrastructure projects.

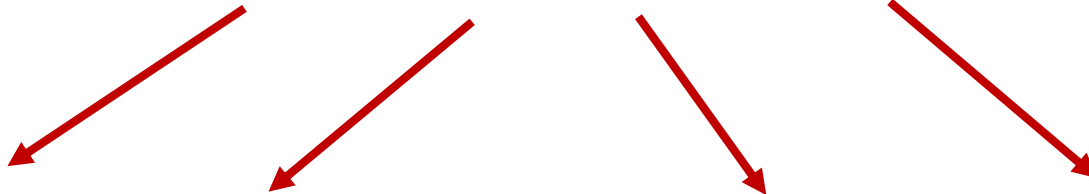


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Investments of the EU structural funds related to the Nature Conservation Agency 2014 - 2020



Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde

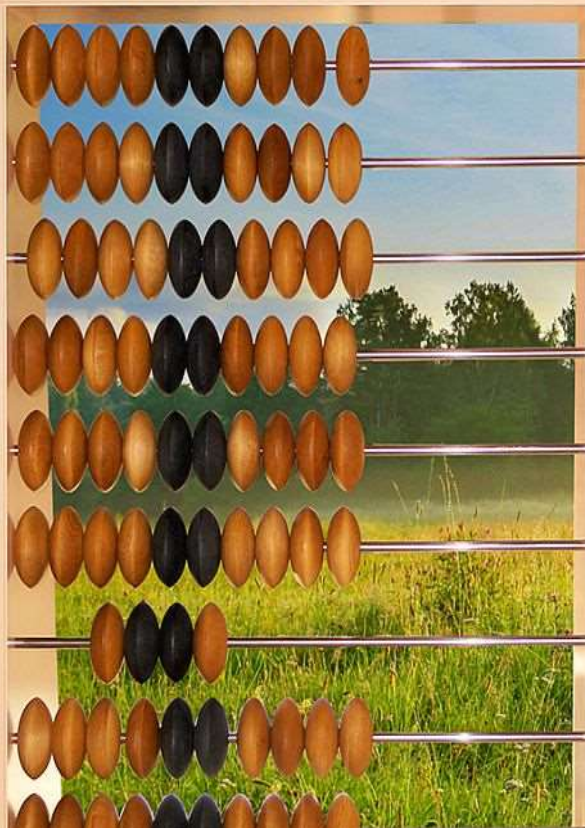


***The habitat inventory of
Latvia, management plans for
20 Natura 2000 areas***

***Monitoring of
biodiversity***

***Restoration of
habitats***

The "Nature census" project



DABAS
SKAITĪŠANA



www.skaitamdabu.gov.lv

"PRIEKĻĒMŠĀCIĪJUMU IZVEIDE LABĀKAI BIODIVERSITĀS
DAUDZVEIDĪBAS SĀGLĀBĀŠANAI UN EKOSISTĒMU
AIZSĀRŽĪBAI LATVIJĀ" JEB "DABAS SKAITĪŠANA"

Projekta numurs: Nr. 5.4.2.1/16/I/001

Projekta mērķis - sagatavot priekšnosaukuma bioloģiski daudzveidības
saglabāšanai un ekosistēmu aizsardzības veicināšanas. Savienības atbalsts
tirdzniecības bioloģiskajai izstrādāšanai un kvalitātes aprakstam, veicinot
samarbības izstrādi, kā arī izstrādāt divpusēji īpaši aizsargājamo
dabas teritoriju dabas aizsardzības plānus un pieņemt īpaši aizsargājamo
aizsardzības plānus.

Īstenošanas laiks: 01.11.2016. - 31.12.2019. Atbalsta izstrādāšana un izstrādāšana
izstrādāšanas jomā - no 01.11.2016. līdz 31.12.2019.



European Union Cohesion Fund project

NACIONĀLAIS
ATTĪSTĪBAS
PLĀNS 2020



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA
Kohēzijas fonds



DABAS
SKAITĪŠANA

IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ

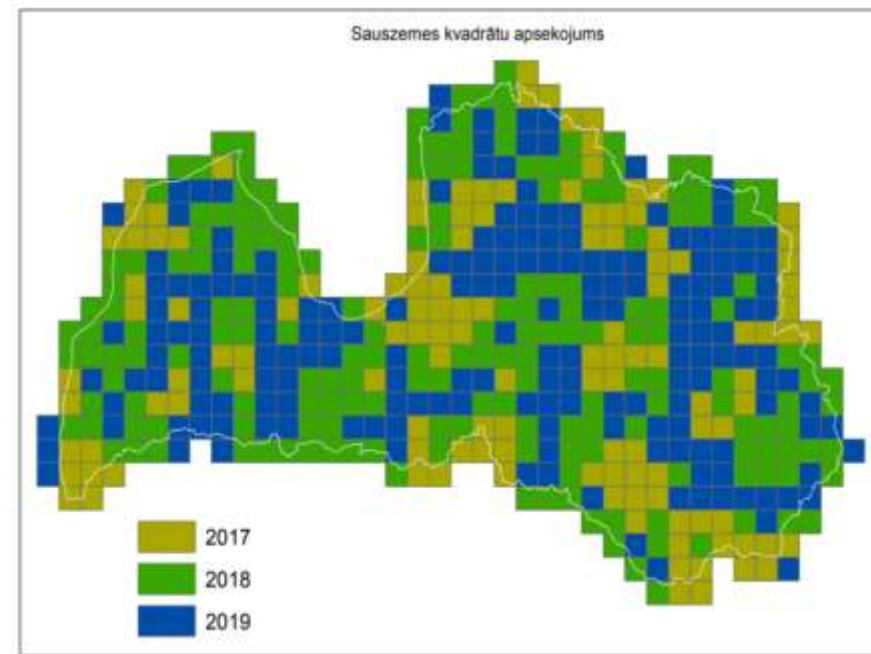
Preconditions for better biodiversity preservation and ecosystem protection in Latvia

jeb "Nature Census"

5.4.2.1/16/I/001

Habitat inventory

- ❑ 3 field seasons - 9,5 M. EURO
- ❑ 495 square mapping units,
- ❑ > 300 000 information letters to landowners,
- ❑ Field surveys (based on biophysical mapping) done by > 350 habitat/species **experts** (ID card)
- ❑ A **unified checklist** for each habitat:
structure, functions, process indicators,
impacts and threats, necessary management activities;
mapping the polygonal borders of the habitat
- ❑ **Quality control** (10% of each square next year).



Six types of habitats surveyed



- coastal
- caves & outcrops



- mires and springs
- forests
- rivers & lakes
- grasslands





 The national TV produced a documentary film on nature survey process and work of experts.

 E-mail: skaitamdabu@daba.gov.lv,
Websites: www.skaitamdabu.gov.lv
www.daba.gov.lv

“National Conservation and Management Program for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia 2018 - 2030”

The prioritised list of management measures for all terrestrial NATURA 2000 area of Latvia – 800 pages in Latvian and English

“**NATPROGRAMM**” is the detailed follow-up of the National PAF 2012, setting **the location, the scale and priority** of habitat management measures to be implemented:



- precious enough to **address priority measures for the qualifying features** and the main conservation values of each particular NATURA2000 site.
- Flexible, to be applicable **for the period up to 2030.**
- **knowledge base for developers** of site management plans, protected area site managers, spatial and development planners of municipalities and project managers.

This LIFE Project is awarded as most important NAT conservation project nationally!



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National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia (2018. - 2030.)



- **Priorities for detailed management action planning of NATURA 2000,**
- **Priority actions for habitat management granted from Cohesion Fund,**
- **Priorities for strategy of NCA, and yearly action plans.**
- **Priorities for National co-financing of LIFE programme, INTERREG, bilateral and other nature conservation projects.**
- **Knowledge base for Integrated LIFE programme project in Latvia,**
- **Together with actual data from EU habitat mapping project will serve the development of PAF for Natura 2000 of Latvia and Agrienvironmental Schemes.**

“The National Conservation and Management Program for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia 2018 - 2030”

Costs (*price level 2016*) to implement the Program

	Direct management costs (EUR)	Direct costs + administrative expenses (EUR)
Restoration costs of priority habitats according the Program.	30 993 930	37 192 716
Yearly costs to ensure conservation status of priority habitats restored (improved) according the Programme.	2 085 050	2 502 060
TOTAL (EUR)	33 078 980	39 694 776



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The protected habitat management guidelines for Latvia



For coastal habitats, freshwater habitats, grasslands, wetlands and forests, rocky habitats and caves

Published as a set of 6 handbooks 1300 pages in Latvian and English

- The **Guidelines** describe field methods, suggest **HOW** to manage the existing habitat to improve status, or restore the habitat whenever it is possible and necessary.
- User-friendly indicators included to evaluate state of habitat for land users&managers, municipality planners and decisionmakers.
- Conclusions from experiments of management methods for dunes, grasslands, freshwater, mire and forest habitats.



The guidelines are largest
Nature Books during past
100 years in Latvia!

<http://nat-programme.daba.gov.lv/public/>





How much money do we need for
Natura 2000 ?

**WILL THEY EVER BE ENOUGH
AT ALL ???**

No



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Cross-sectoral synergies developed

Guidelines for management of coastal habitats
ere incorporated in «**National long-term
thematic plan for the coastal area of the
Baltic Sea**»



First time since Latvia joined EU, the Nature conservation priorities for habitat management and restoration are clearly defined on the National Priority Action Framework PAF 2012 and included in National Operational Program (2014-2020).



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Cross-sectoral Synergies (2)

3. Guidelines for management of **freshwater habitats** are suggested by the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development to be applied by Municipalities governing public waters.
4. **Guidelines for management of grassland habitats** are accepted by the Ministry of Agriculture as a official handbook for all farmers and land managers in country, to qualify for support payments according Rural Development Program of Latvia.



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Cross-sectoral Synergies (3)

The Ministry of Agriculture adopted the regulation, that all farmers and landowners who manage grassland habitats, should pass **obligatory practical** 16 hours **course** of grassland management according the NCA guidelines to qualify for EU support payments!

The certificate on the course of proper management of grassland habitats.





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The benefits from multi - sector synergies

- **Professionals from different sectors work for common objective** broadening scope of matter, involve more decisionmakers and society, gaining better understanding on the objectives of sectors or industries with different tasks,
- The Sectoral policies, Strategies and Action plans, as well as Spatial plans of the Municipalities and regions integrate common tasks and become more applicable,
- **Activities of any financing instrument (EU as well as National funds) become increasingly cost-effective.**
- The results of any projects become more sustainable and long-lasting, due to continuity of support and understanding gained during synchronized tasks and objectives.
- due to broader involvement, the recognition of **non-commercial ecosystem services** (mental health, spiritual and culture value) rises tremendously. On the line with the recognition, grows acceptance of Nature conservation and **willingness to share bigger part of public or even private financing!**

The NCA have developed full set of efficient instruments to reach the EU policy targets for nature conservation.

- **A unified GIS system** for nature data – portal “the Oak”
- **National certification and supervision system** of nature experts, > 1000 conclusions and acts analysed by NCA already.
- **The Guidelines of habitat management and restoration** – handbooks with methods and best praxis how to save, restore and create habitats, how to reach favorable conservation status for protected habitats.
- **The National Conservation and Management Programme** for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia, (detailed PAF) where the necessary management measures for habitats are prioritised for each of 333 Natura 2000 area.
- **The Biodiversity monitoring programm**, implemented and representative nature data continuously analysed and integrated in nature data system.



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The urgent needs of nature conservation in Latvia

- The first pillar of new CAP (direct payments) going to be not in a ballance with rural development needs and nature conservation requirements. If this heppens again, the conventional farming will be even more owersubsidized in next EU planning period.
- The National Agriculture policy is oriented towards intensification, so the bulk part of support financing is redirected accordingly and availble for large industrial farms.
- Rural development, especially small scale bio-farming should be supported to gain fast and evident benefits for rural society (i.e. employment of youth) in close synergies with nature conservation objectives of EU and national level.
- Farmers and foresters who accept conservation restrictions shall be compensated and supported to stimulate voluntary conservation and habitat restoration actions.



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