Management of Latvian Wetlands of International Importance

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Wetlands in Latvia

- Inland waters, rivers and lakes, (~ 3.7 %);
- Mires (~ 5 %) and peatlands (~ 10%);
- See (till 6 m depth; 500 km long coast line);
- Wet forests and grasslands;
- Springs and springfens.
Management of wetlands starts in LV...

... in year 1999 when first of 57 dams at Teiči Bog Nature Reserve was built.

Main activities was:

1) Restoration of natural hydrological regime of the active raised bogs (4635 ha) and black alder swamp (252 ha) influenced by drainage...
... by blocking existing draining ditches at the fringe of the raised bog, and to restore areas previously used for peat extraction.
2) Purchase of private lands (147 ha of forests and 730.5 ha of meadows including feeding / breeding habitats of *Crex crex* and *Aquila pomarina*) in order to ensure conservation of the most vulnerable habitats and/or using the incentive measures to ensure special management of their lands.

3) Active management to conserve bird colonies at the Ramsar site – lake Kaņieris.
4) Restoration of 449 ha of the natural floodplain meadows along the rivers Lielupe and Slampe; re-naturalization of Slampe river.
• Raised Bogs I “Implementation of Mire habitat management plan for Latvia” (2004.- 2008.) – main activities was delivered in 4 mires (building of 370 dams; tree cutting etc.).
Raised Bogs projects (cont.)
Raised Bogs II “Restoration of Raised Bog Habitats in the Especially Protected Nature Areas of Latvia” (01.02.2010.- 31.08.2013.)

The aim of the project is - improvements in the condition of the active raised bog habitat and site hydrology in the 4 specially protected nature areas in the area of 290 ha (Melnais Lake Mire, Aizkraukle Mire and Forests, Aklais Mire and Rozu Mire)
Raised Bogs projects (cont.)
Experience from Ķemeri NP - Life project II


*The project aims to carry out detailed hydrological research and to restore natural or semi-natural hydrological regime of:*
1) raised bog in the surroundings of the former peat quarry in Zaļais Bog
2) bog woodland and swamp forests along the western margin of Ķemeri Raised Bog
3) re-meandering of the straightened Skudrupīte River, restoration of floodplain meadows
Experience from Ķemeri NP - Life project II (cont.)
Why we should restore the nature?

It is not only a question about a biodiversity – habitats, species, places of resting, breeding, nesting...

... but it is even a question about us – people wellbeing, ecosystem services and money, landscape and other benefits from nature!
Conclusions:

• 1.
• 2.
• 3.
• 4.
• 5.
• ...
Thank you for your attention!

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