

# ***NATURA 2000 TERRITORIES AND LIFE-NATURE PROJECTS IN LATVIA***

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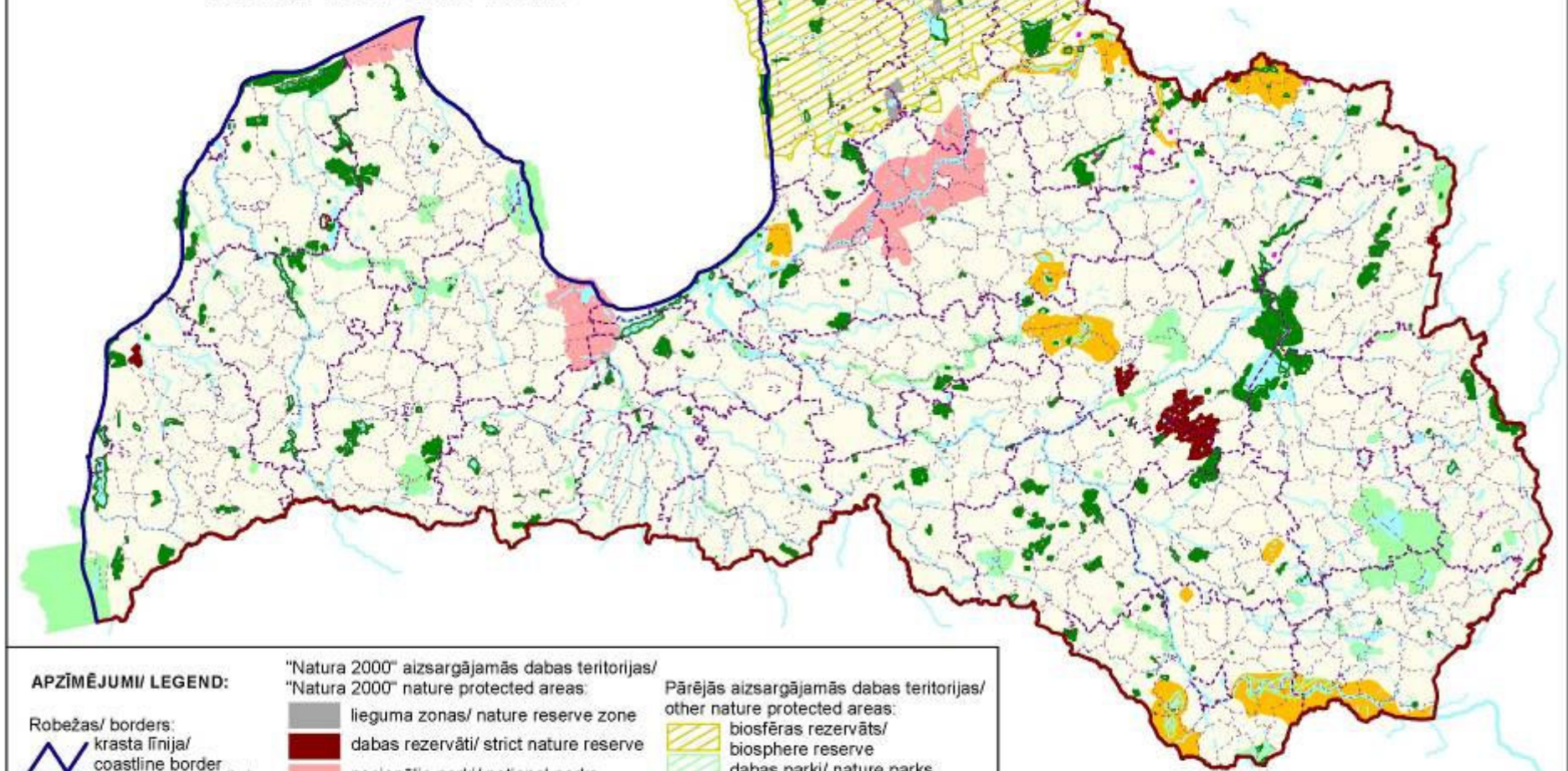
# *NATURE PROTECTION IN LATVIA*

- Way of life of our ancestors' tribes*
- Protected areas in 20 and 21 century*
- Independence and reorganization*
- Land reform - change of ownership*
- Accession Agreement with EU in 1995*
- Harmonisation of legislation*
- Development of Natura 2000 system*

# DEVELOPMENT OF NATURA 2000

- ❖ *Evaluation of existing system of protected territories and available scientific data*
- ❖ *Inventories inside and outside protected territories*
- ❖ *Proposals for correction of borders of existing protected territories and for new territories*
- ❖ *More than 70 meetings with land owners and local municipalities, compromises and agreements*
- ❖ *Rules of Cabinet of Ministers for nature reserves, nature parks and protected landscapes*
- ❖ *336 Natura 2000 sites, 11.9 % of the country*
- ❖ *Submitting the list, maps and database to the European Commission by accession, 2004*

## ĪPAŠI AIZSARGĀJAMĀS DABAS TERITORIJAS/ NATURE PROTECTED AREAS



### APZĪMĒJUMI/ LEGEND:

#### Robežas/ borders:

- krasta līnija/  
coastline border
- sauszemes robeža/  
national border
- rajonu robežas/  
borders of districts
- pagastu robežas/  
borders of municipalities
- Lielākās upes/  
main rivers
- Ezeri/ lakes

#### "Natura 2000" aizsargājamās dabas teritorijas/

#### "Natura 2000" nature protected areas:

- lieguma zonas/ nature reserve zone
- dabas rezervāti/ strict nature reserve
- nacionālie parki/ national parks
- dabas parki/ nature parks
- ģeoloģiskie un ģeomorfoloģiskie dabas pieminekļi/  
nature monuments
- dabas liegumi/ nature reserve
- aizsargājamo ainavu apvidi/  
protected landscape areas
- mikroliegumi/ microreserves

#### Pārējās aizsargājamās dabas teritorijas/ other nature protected areas:

- biosfēras rezervāts/  
biosphere reserve
- dabas parki/ nature parks
- dabas liegumi/ nature reserve



MĒROGS/ SCALE: 1:1750000

50 0 50 100 km

# PROBLEMS FACED (1)

## *Social and economic*

- *Lack of information, knowledge and understanding*
- *Lack of wish to understand*
- *Overstatement (lawyers), demagoguery, misunderstanding*
- *Distrustfulness to European Union*
- *State owned land - private owned land*

## *Political*

- *Nature protection is not a priority in Latvia*
- *Little support from ministries and local governments*
- *Law on Compensation - too late implemented, exchange of land deleted, now compensation stopped at all*

# PROBLEMS FACED (2)

## *Scientific*

- *Lack of new scientific information*
- *Experts who wish to protect all the country*
- *Choice of suitable protected territory category*
- *Marine sites - lack of information, designation on the way*

## *Capacity*

- *Low at the beginning, improved later (established Nature Protection Department and NP Board)*
- *Lack of cartographic materials*
- *Work load to prepare draft legal acts*

# *Improvement of Natura 2000 system according to EC requirements*

- *Designation of two more Natura 2000 sites after conclusions in Boreal Biogeographical seminar, 2005*
- *Inventories and designation of the marine Natura 2000 sites (LIFE project, 7 sites)*
- *EC Infringement procedure started in 2007 regarding incomplete Birds Directive implementation*
- *28 Natura 2000 sites do not correspond to Important Bird Areas in terms of area and borders, deadline 2011*
- *Adazi protected territory should be enlarged for 24 % !!!*
- *Inventories, evaluation, proposals still on the way*
- *Expectations*
  - *weak support from the Government and ministries*
  - *strong opposition from land owners and local municipalities*
  - *work load to prepare amendments to legal acts*
  - *still hopefulness in the ministry*

# MANAGEMENT OF NATURA 2000

- *Management plans (161) are developed for Natura 2000 sites, 20 plans on the way*
- *Individual rules follow the mgmt plans, 58 adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers*
- *EIA procedure for plans and projects*
- *Implementation of mgmt plans*
- *Financing possibilities - Latvian Fund for Environmental Protection (recently reduced), EU LIFE Nature, EFRD - have been used*
- *Reorganization in the ministry and sub institutions*

# *LIFE - NATURE PROJECTS*

- ❖ *Latvia has successfully attracted EU money for nature protection issues*
- ❖ *Possibility to develop management plans for Natura 2000 sites, species and habitats*
- ❖ *Possibility to finance implementation of management activities in the sites*
- ❖ *Job and money for local people*
- ❖ *Even till 75% EC money for projects*
- ❖ *Growing positive attitude to nature protection*
- ❖ *14 projects - almost 17 millions euro (11 from EC)*

# *Main activities in LIFE projects*

- ❖ Restoration of habitats (flood plains, woodland meadows, heathlands)*
- ❖ Development of management plans*
- ❖ Implementation of mgmt plans*
- ❖ Monitoring of mgmt of habitats*
- ❖ Bird watching towers, nature trails, information boards and signs, tourism infrastructure*
- ❖ Involvement of local people, educating*
- ❖ Booklets, leaflets, seminars, films*
- ❖ Exchange of experience (even abroad)*

# *LIFE - NATURE PROJECTS*

- Restoration of Latvian floodplains for EU priority species and habitats*
- Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia*
- for Restoration of Biological Diversity in Military Training Area and Natura 2000 site Adazi*
- Improvement of Habitats Management in Natura 2000 Site Vestiena*
- Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea*
- Protection of Habitats and Species in Nature Park Rāzna*
- Protection and Management of Two Important Bird Areas*
- Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici*
- Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park*
- Protection and Management of Coastal Habitats in Latvia*
- Conservation of Wetlands in Ķemeri National Park*
- Management of the Lubana Wetland Complex*
- Protection and Management of the Northern Gauja Valley*
- Lake Pape - Conservation, Preservation and Evolution*

# *FURTHER PLANS AND OBLIGATIONS*

- *Maintaining favourable conservation status (FCS) of protected species and habitats - management plans, individual rules, EIA procedure*
- *Natura 2000 monitoring*
- *Enlargement of 28 Natura 2000 sites*
- *Reports to the Commission in 6 years*
- *Management of Natura 2000 sites*
- *Informing and educating the public*
- *Preserving nature together with public*

*Nature can never be  
preserved without help  
of people*

*People will never help  
without a clear picture -  
why should I do this?*



*Thank you!*

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