

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared within the LIFE Integrated Project: Optimising the Governance and Management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia LIFE19 IPE/LV/000010, Action A.4. The action aims at improvement of site management planning system in Latvia by critical evaluation of the current system incl. national regulation, providing legal basis and feasibility of the changes.

The report was prepared to summarize data gathered in two opinion polls (together 156 respondents) and >15 expert interviews carried out during March – September 2021. The aim of the surveys, interviews and discussions was to clarify precise cumbersome elements in the planning system to make site management plans for protected areas, including Natura 2000 territories, more effective in providing better conservation status to species and habitats at the same time making them more efficient, flexible and user friendly.

For this purpose, experts involved in the site management planning (supervisors of plans, species, and habitat experts), persons who are obligated to participate in plan development steering groups (various institutions including local municipalities, representatives of landowners, NGOs), those who are, in most cases, involved in implementation of the plans (regional administrations of NCA, JSC Latvia's State Forests, State Environmental Service, etc.), were inquired.

Partners involved in the Action A.4.: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Nature Conservation Agency, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences.

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