

Nature Park “Engure Lake”

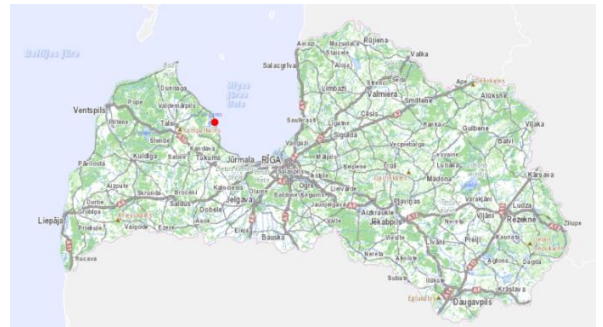
Natura 2000 territory

Dabas parks “Engures ezers”

Area: 12 580 ha

Foundation Year: 1957

Nature Values: 44 endangered European bird, 5 fish and 3 plant species.



Objective: Quality improvement and diversification of the EU importance habitat 2180 Wooded dunes in the Nature Park «Lake Engure»

Project area: 33 ha

Wooded dunes

Wooded dunes (2180) need natural disturbances such as wind, fire or regular disruption of the ground vegetation which keeps the sand exposed to the sun. In the absence of such disturbances, the dunes gradually become overgrown, the habitats of different plant and animal species disappear and the forest levels out.

Why to maintain?

Due to lack of natural disturbance, the shady conditions and the nutrient-rich soil in the Nature Park "Lake Engure" contributes to an excessive proliferation of mosses and *Vaccinium spp.*, which, in turn, suppress the sun-loving lichens and other species native to this habitat.

Before the activities

There are too many nutrients, so the wooded dunes are grown over and there is not enough space and sun for sun-loving lichens and other species native to this habitat. There are not enough different structures, like deadwood, trunks, etc.



The result to achieve

Wooded dunes with a varied structure: pine groves with trees of different ages and sizes, uniform arrangement of trees interspersed with openings and pine thinnings. Reduced projective cover of the dominant shrubs and a greater proportion of the lichens of the genera *Cladina* and *Cladonia* in the ground cover promoted.



Methods of habitat management, 2 demo sites of 15 and 18 ha

- we thin the trees to allow space for sunlight
- we increase dead wood so that the habitat once again supports different structures, making it more diverse and more suitable for natural forest inhabitants
- we expose the sand and create irregularly shaped areas or openings for the lichens characteristic of the habitat to spread
- we pile up the logging residues to leave them to dry for a while. After drying, the piles will be incinerated, thus also burning the biotope's excess nutrients
- we sow pine trees in individual openings to promote pine regeneration and diversify the age distribution of the forest
- we test ways of reducing the harvested excess organic material: burning, burying, removing



Time scale

