

## Examples of restoration and sustainable management of forest habitats

FIELD TRIP TO EARLIER LIFE FOR-REST PROJECT SITE (KLAUKU LĪCIS)

**Klauku līcis (Klauku Bay) is located in Sigulda, within the Gauja National Park. The site is noteworthy for having undergone active restoration and management efforts over the past decade.**

### Restoration

In 2015, the territory of Klauku līcis (24 ha) was cleared of younger trees and bushes as part of the LIFE FOR-REST\* project. The primary objective was to effectively preserve habitat suitable for the Hermit Beetle (*Osmoderma barnabita*) and other threatened species. The oldest trees and shrubs were left untouched, along with a portion of the younger trees, which will develop into the next generation of biologically valuable hollow trees in the future. This process contributed to the restoration of the Fennoscandian wooded meadow landscape, characterized by an open landscape with distinct large trees.



\*The LIFE+ Nature project “Forest Habitat Restoration within the Gauja National Park” (LIFE10NAT/LV/000159 FOR-REST), was implemented from 2011 to 2016 by the Nature Conservation Agency, the Institute for Environmental Solutions, the Latvian Fund for Nature, and ELM MEDIA.

The primary goal of the project was to develop long-term solutions for the restoration and management of:

- Western Taiga (9010\*)
- Bog woodland (91D0\*)
- Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screens, and ravines (9180\*), and other habitats suitable for the Hermit Beetle.

**Management**

To ensure the preservation of the results and prevent the meadows from becoming overgrown with shrubs again, ongoing maintenance of the restored meadows is necessary. Since the initial restoration, several management activities have been carried out.

- Clearing of shoots from roots and stumps was conducted in the years following restoration.
- Grazing was implemented from 2019 to 2021 as part of the GrassLIFE\*\* project, by a mobile grazing unit.
- New oak trees have been planted to serve as future habitat for the Hermit Beetle.
- Currently mowing is organized once per year by the Nature Conservation Agency.

\*\*The LIFE project “Restoring EU priority grasslands and promoting their multiple use” (LIFE16 NAT/LV/000262 GrassLIFE), was implemented from 2017 to 2023 by the Latvian Fund for Nature (and partners). GrassLIFE focused on developing, optimising and improving the conservation status of five EU priority grasslands in Latvia (6120\*, 6210\*, 6230\*, 6270\* and 6530\*). One of the main actions was long-term sustainable grazing management of ‘difficult grasslands’ (i.e. difficult to manage and/or access), by using mobile grazing units.

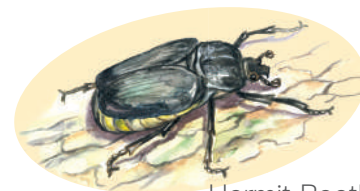


**Future**

The conservation efforts for the Hermit Beetle in Latvia are ongoing. This year, a new LIFE Project has begun: “Baltic wide web for *Osmoderma eremita*: the creation of an ecological network in the Baltic region” (LIFE22 NAT/LT/101113698 LIFE Osmo Baltic).

The aim of the project is to take measures to ensure the protection of the Hermit Beetle by creating a transboundary ecological network connecting Lithuanian and Latvian populations.

One of the project sites is also Gauja National Park.



Hermit Beetle  
*Osmoderma barnabita*

