



EU LIFE Programme project  
"Optimising the Governance and Management of the  
Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia"  
(LIFE19 IPE/LV/000010 LIFE-IP LatViaNature)



# LIFE-IP LatViaNature

Ieva Saleniece  
Project Manager

20/05/2024

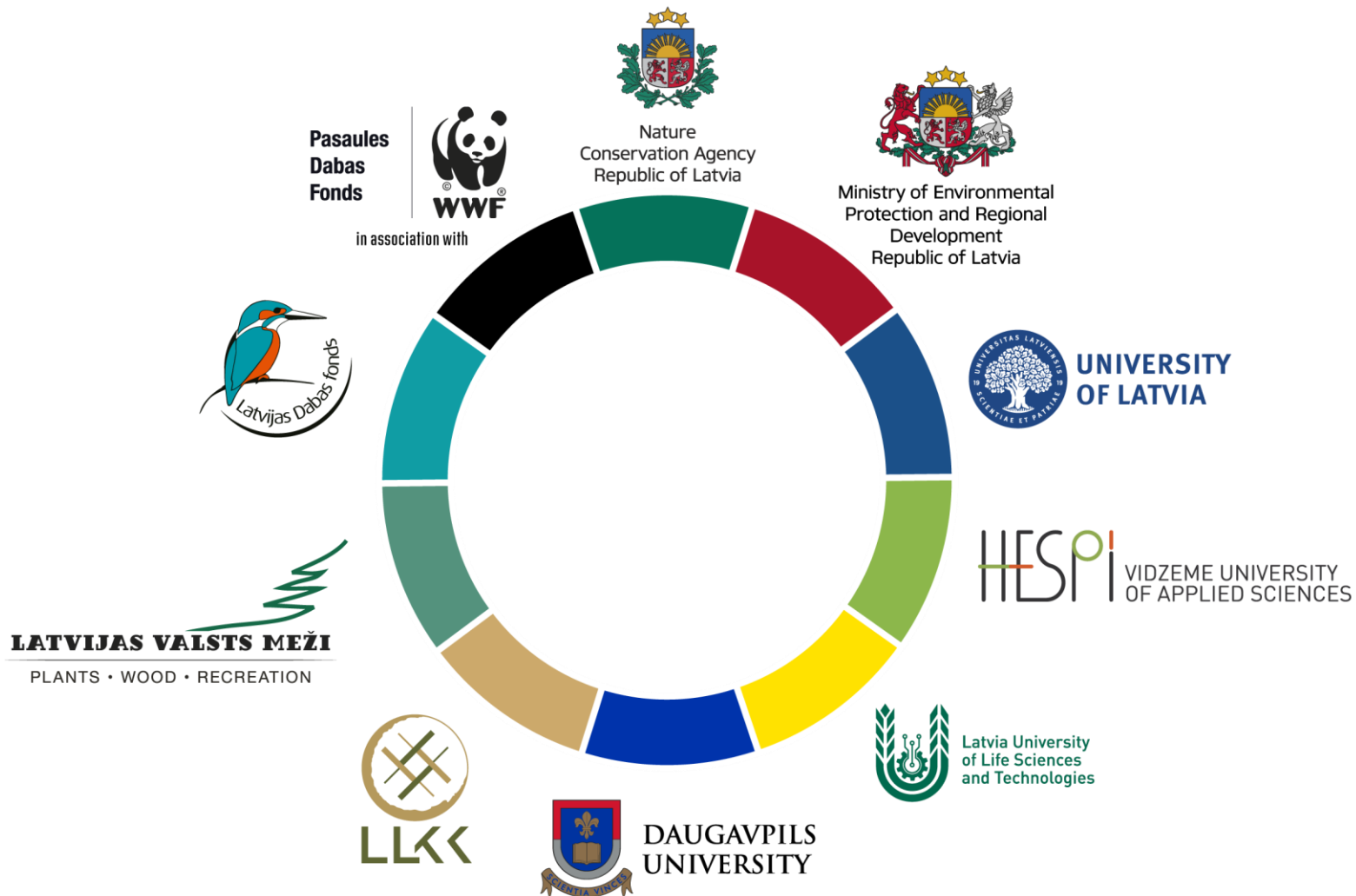


# 2 National Parks / 2 Lakes / 2 Forest Demo Sites 3 Days with LatViaNature



[https://ej.uz/Naturalit\\_LatViaNature](https://ej.uz/Naturalit_LatViaNature)

# Project partnership



## Public bodies (2):

1. Nature Conservation Agency (NCA) (Coordinating beneficiary)
2. Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MoEPRD)

## Educational organizations (4):

3. University of Latvia (UL)
4. Daugavpils University (DU)
5. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences (ViA)
6. Latvia University of Life Sciences and technologies (LLU)

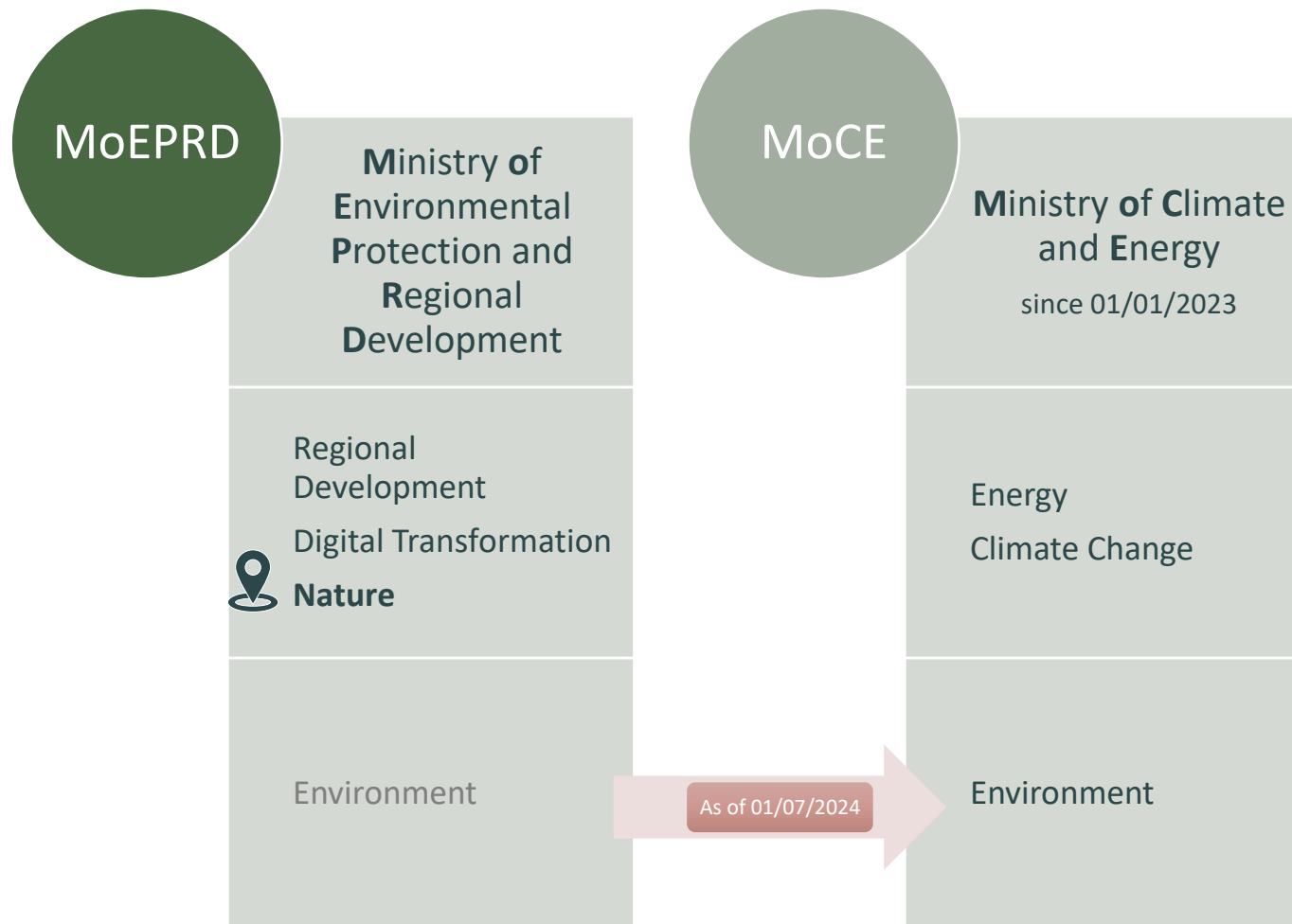
## Enterprises (2):

7. JSC "Latvia's state forests" (LVM)
8. Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LRATC)

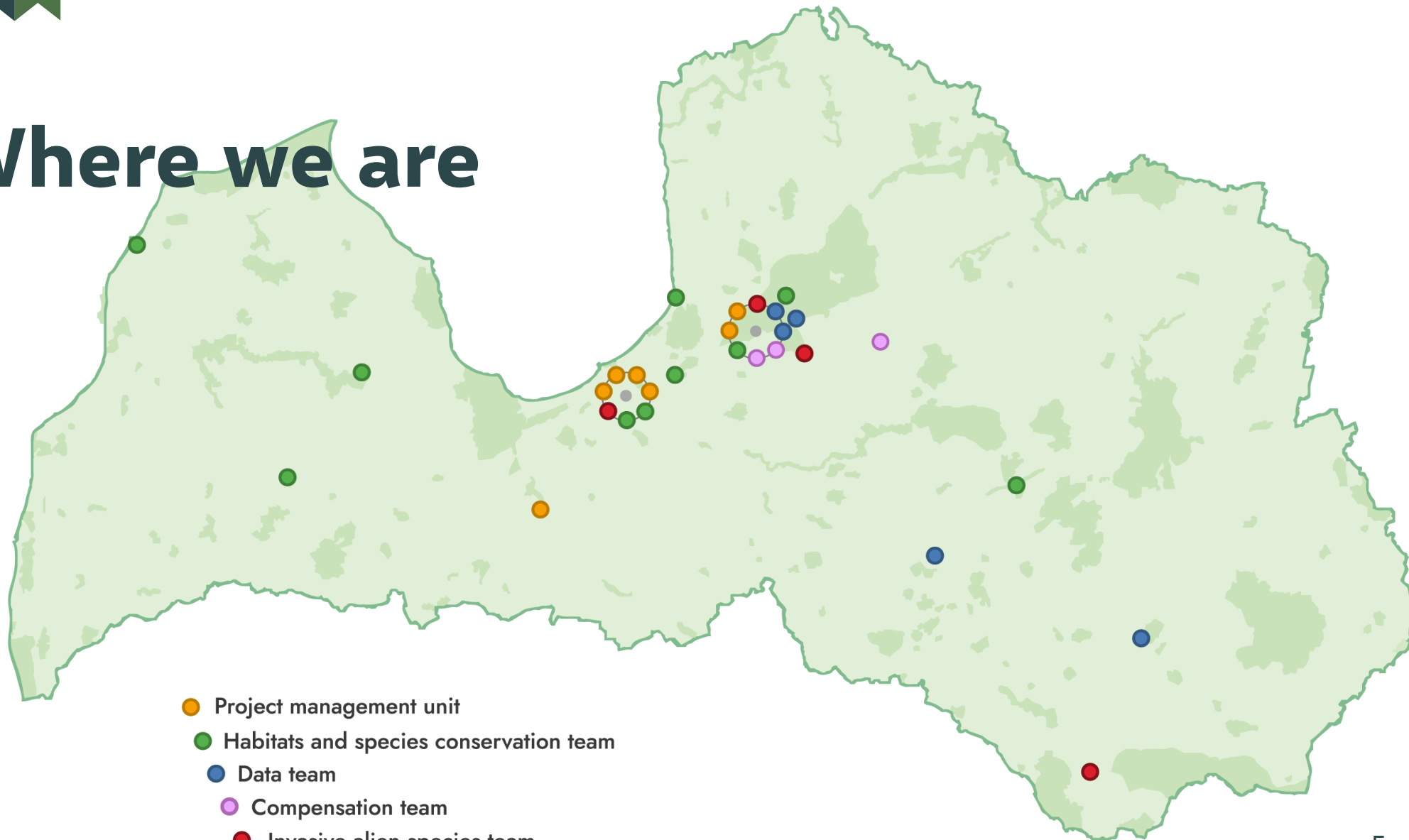
## NGOs (2):

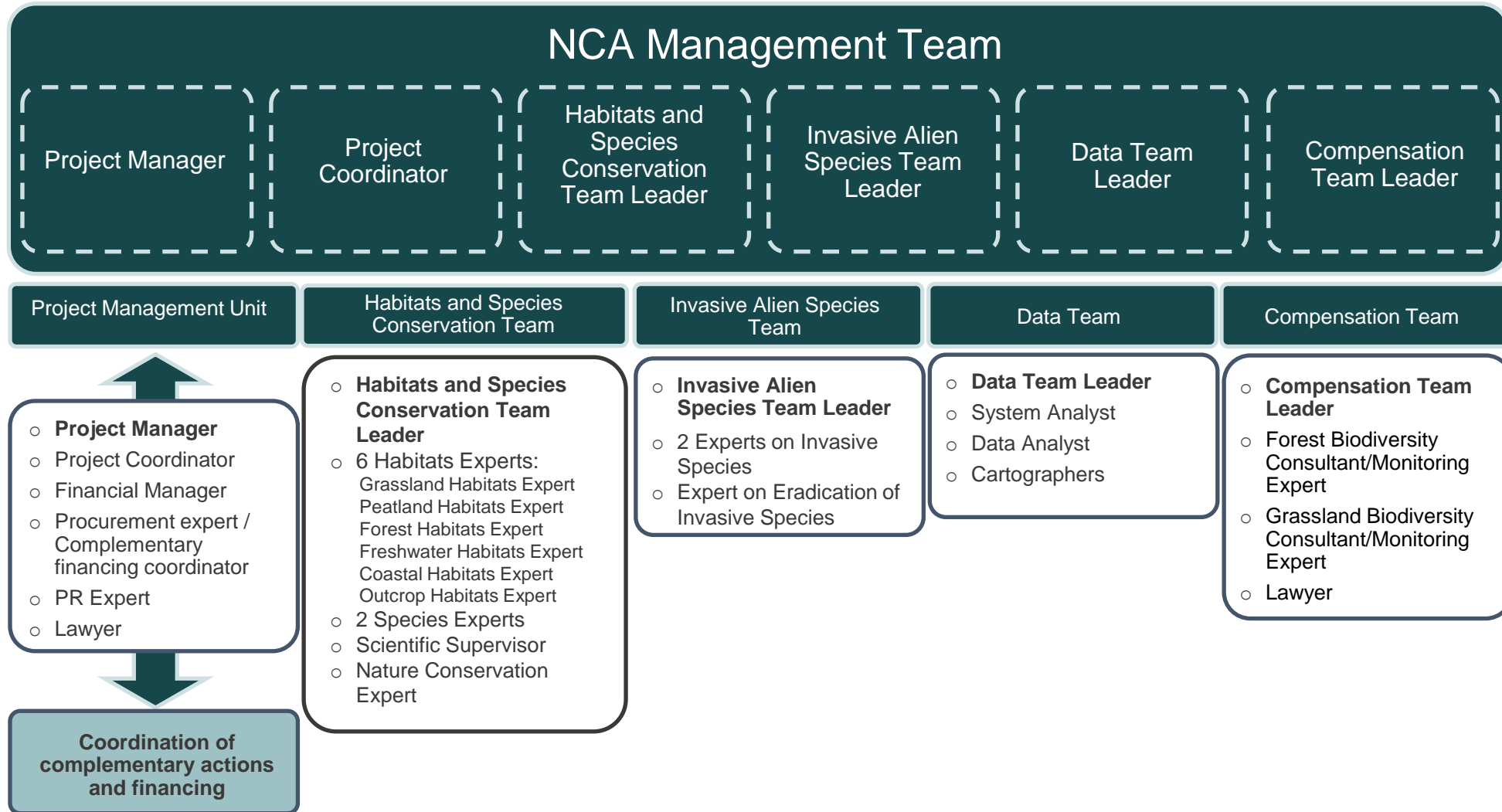
9. Latvian Fund for Nature (LFN)
10. Pasaules dabas fonds (PDF)

# Where we are



# Where we are





## Habitats and Species Conservation Team

Head of Unit **Agnese Priede**

Team Leader  
**Agnese Priede**

**FRVs, COs for EU Importance Species and Habitats**  
**Action Plans for EU Importance Habitats**

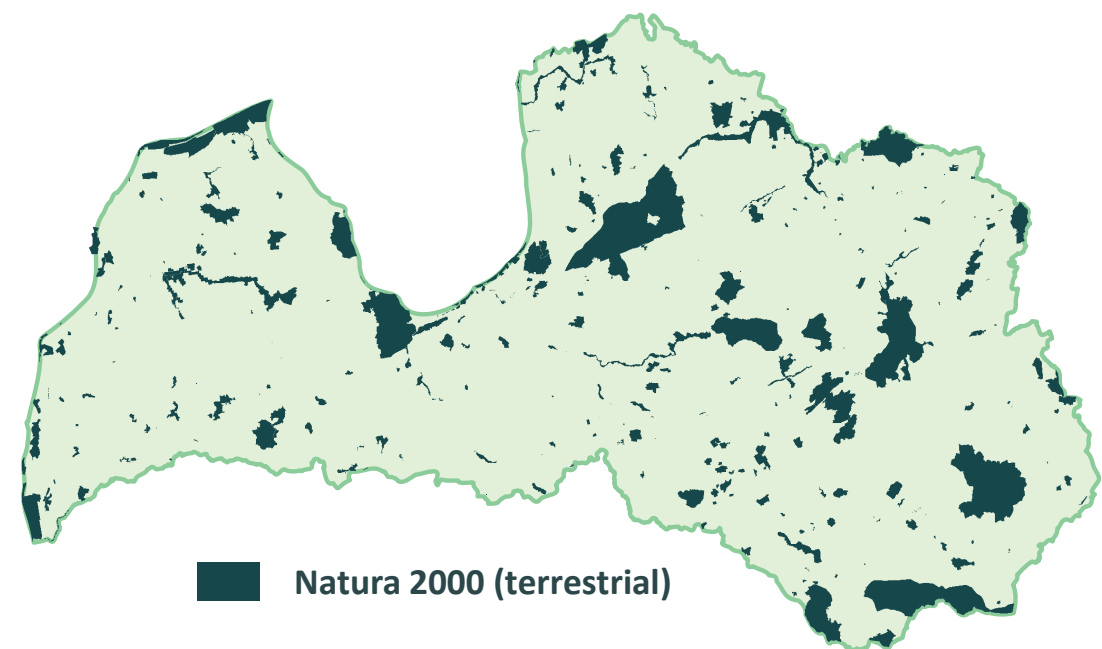
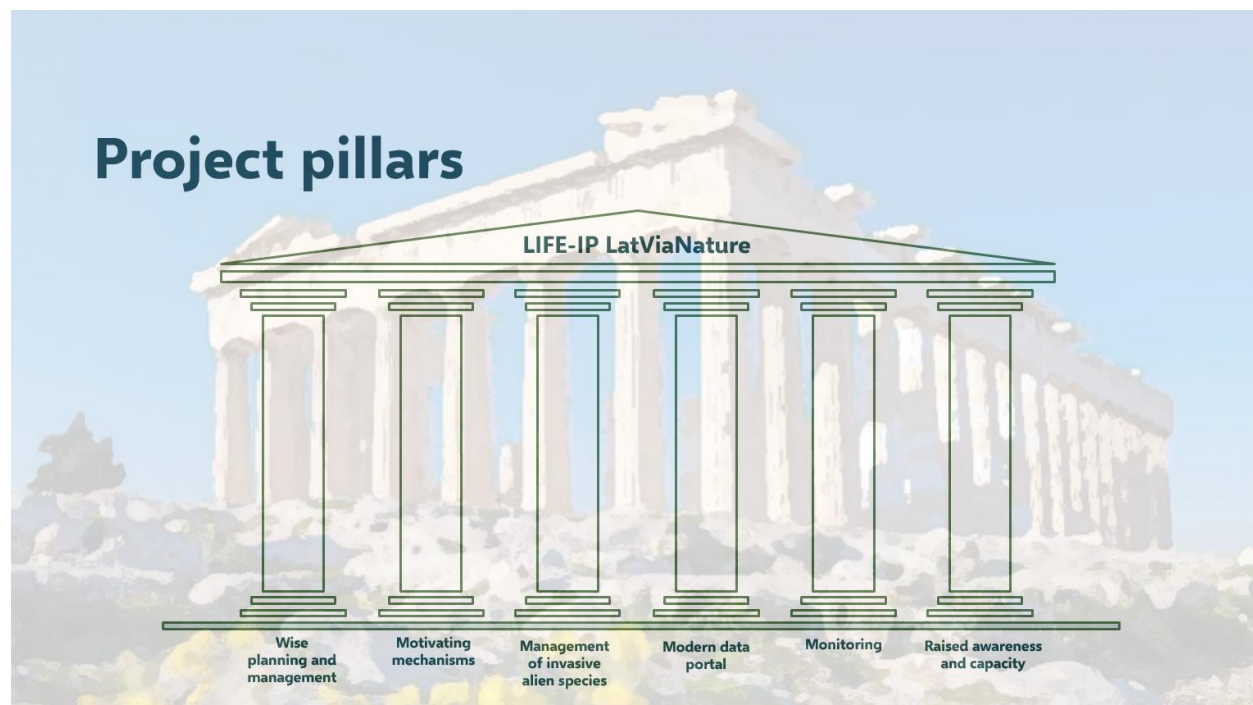
6 Habitat Experts (grassland, peatland, forest, freshwater, coastal, outcrop habitats)  
2 Species Experts  
Scientific Supervisor (Otars Opermanis)  
+ outsourcing

Team Leader  
**Kristīne Viļņa**

Site Management Plans and Optimising Natura 2000 Network

Nature Conservation Expert  
+ outsourcing

# Objective - Improved conservation status of habitats and species, by implementing PAF



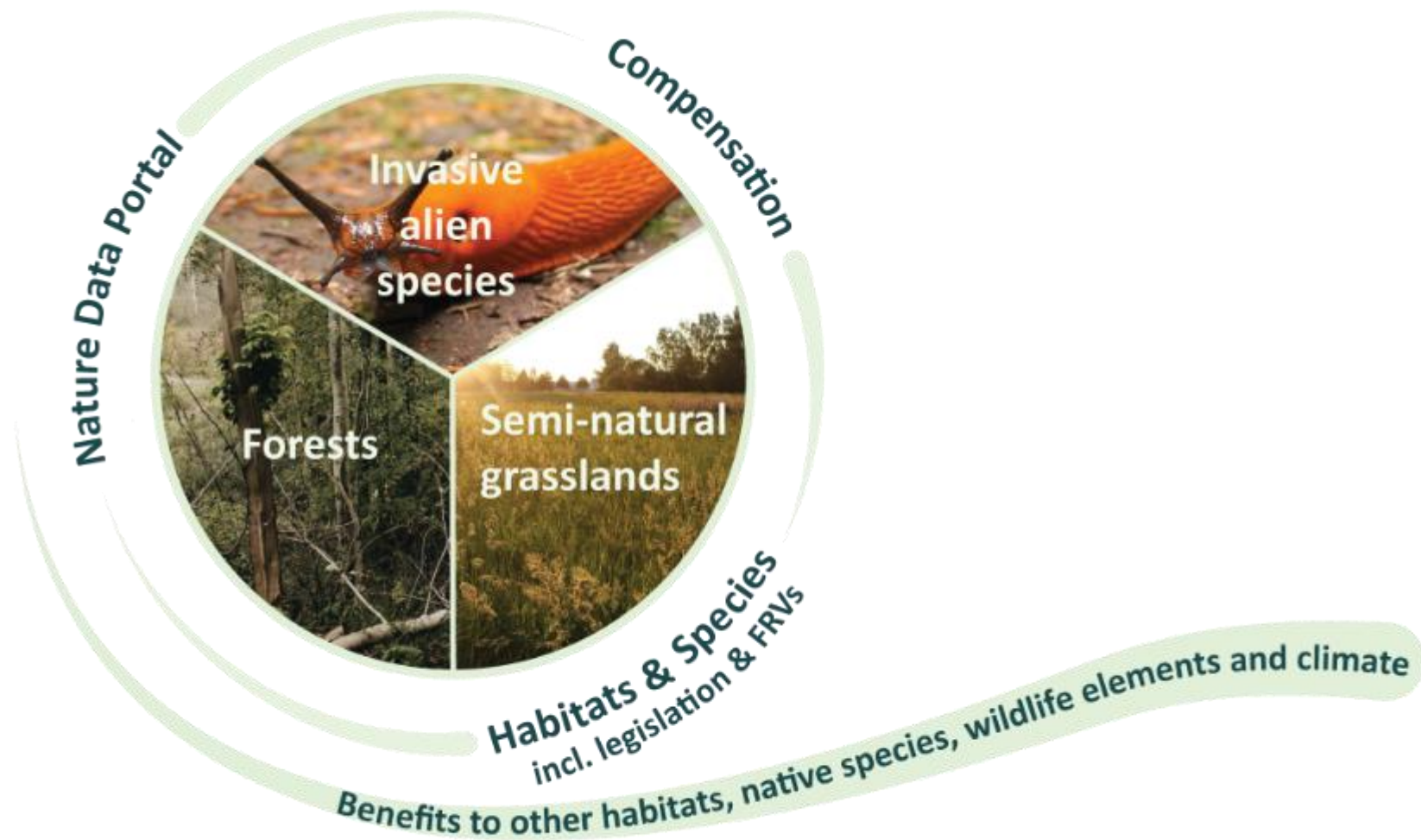
Duration: **2020 – 2028**  
Total IP budget: **19 484 173 €**  
EC LIFE contribution: **11 690 504 € (60%)**



# The two 3s

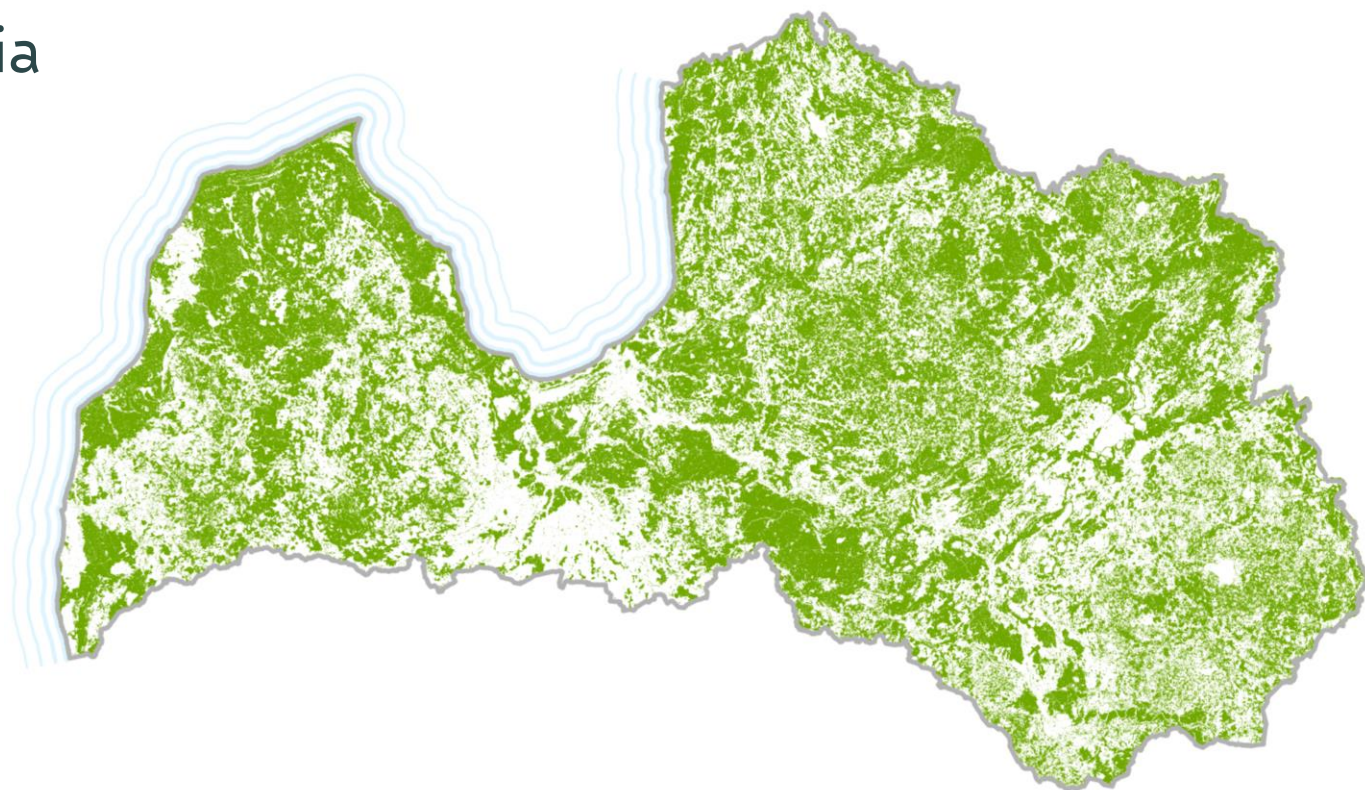
3 FOCUS GROUPS

3 THEMATIC BLOCKS



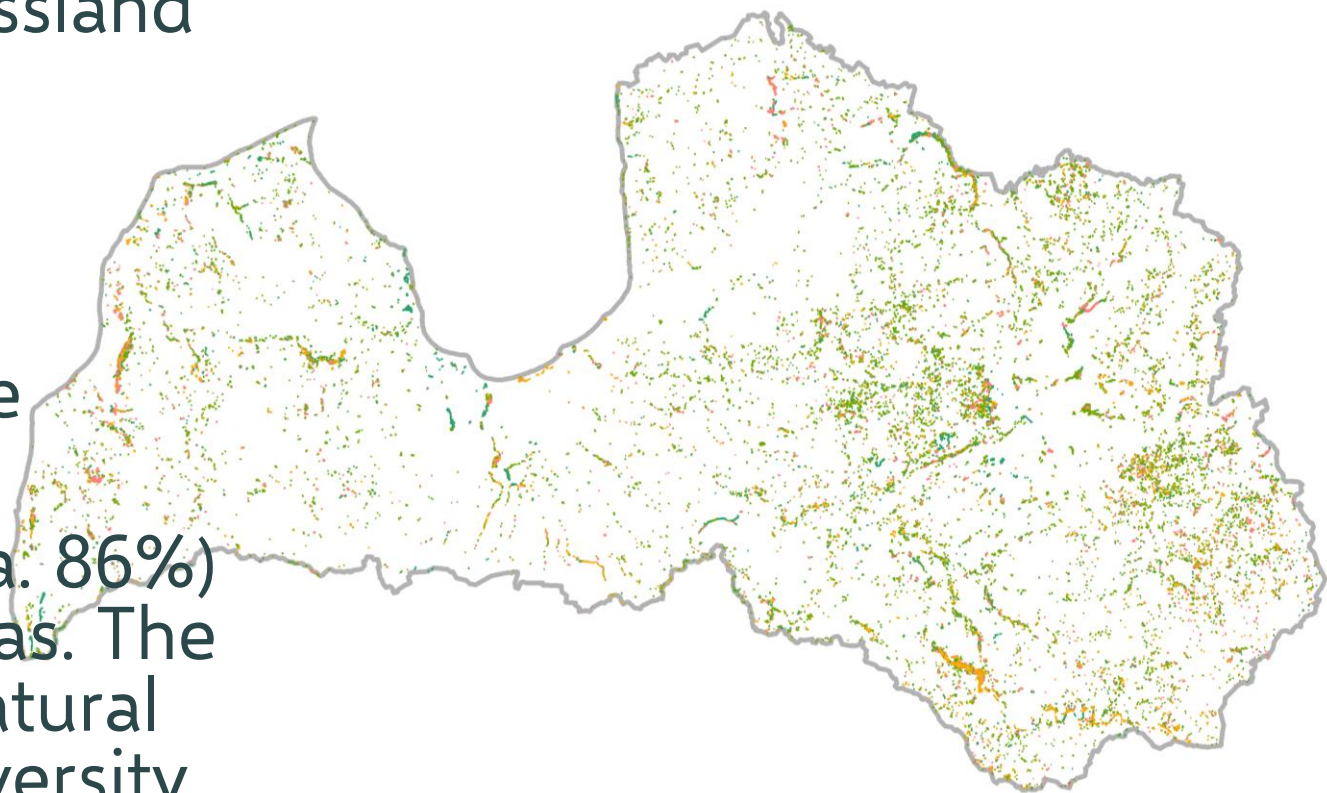
# Focus on forests

- ▼ The largest proportion of the EU importance habitat areas in Latvia are forests
- ▼ The conservation status of all forest habitat types listed in the Habitats Directive in the period 2013–2018 was assessed as unfavourable (U2 or U1)
- ▼ 50% of forests in Latvia are in private property (ca. 135,000 private owners). Multiple solutions (motivation, compensations, demo areas, support by the general public, etc.) and integrated approaches are needed



# Focus on semi-natural grasslands

- ▼ Nearly all EU importance grassland habitat types in Latvia are in unfavourable (U2 or U1) conservation status
- ▼ Highly vulnerable, declining habitats, depending on active management
- ▼ Mostly in private property (ca. 86%) outside protected nature areas. The only way to preserve semi-natural grasslands and related biodiversity is the motivation of landowners



# Blooming Meadows & Living Forest



# Constitutional Court cancels rules on younger tree cutting

- ▼ The rules adopted by the government in 2022 which allow the cutting of younger trees are **unconstitutional**, as decided by the Constitutional Court on April 8, 2024.
- ▼ The Court effectively abolished these rules.

[Full article >>>](#)

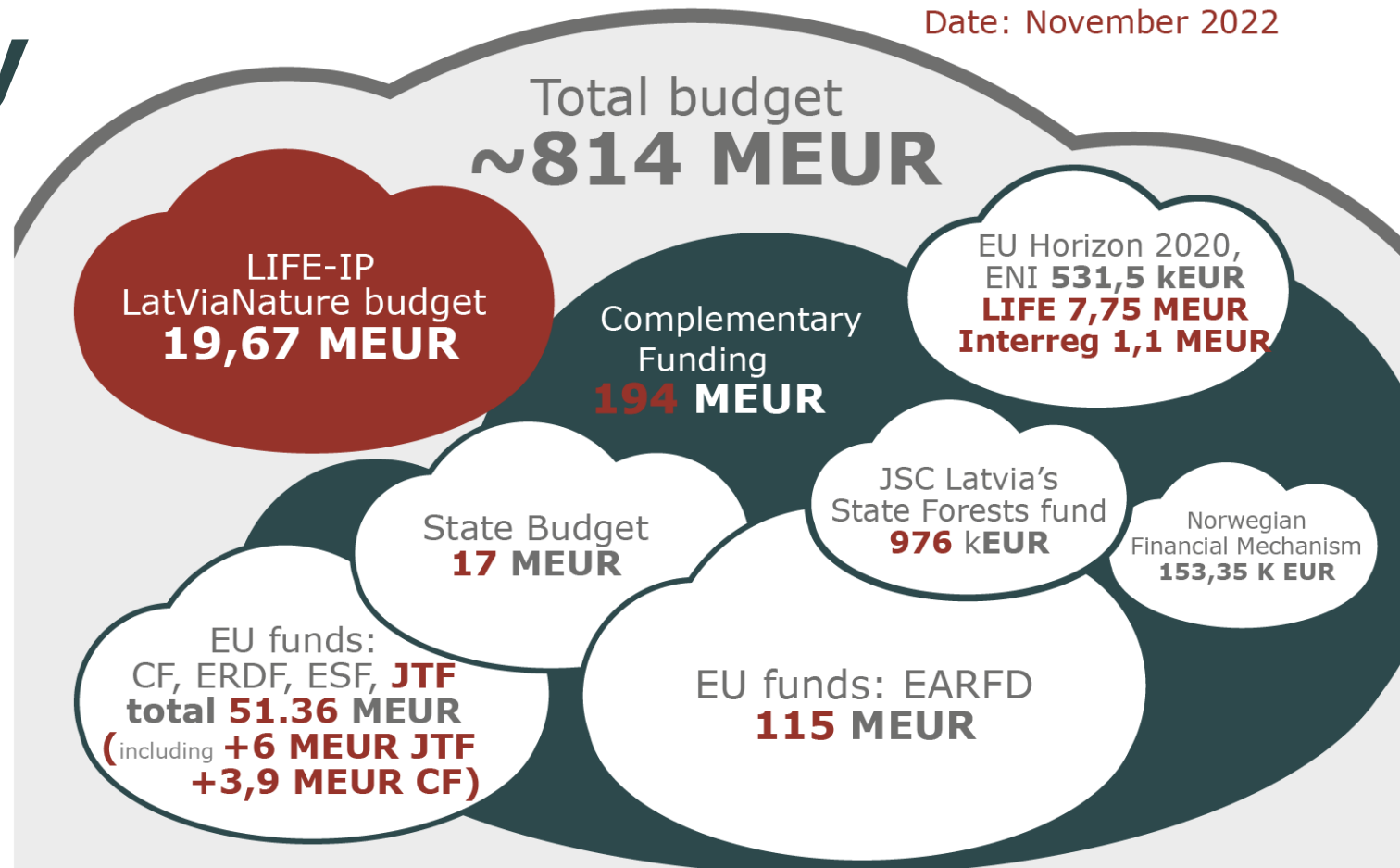


[Announcement of the Constitutional Court ruling >>>](#)

## Planned budget for the implementation of the Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Latvia (2021–2027)

Date: November 2022

# Complementary financing



The aim is to maintain and restore, at a favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of EU importance, whilst taking account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.

EARFD – European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development  
 CF – Cohesion Fund  
 ERDF – European Regional Development Fund  
 ESF – European Social Fund  
 ENI – European Neighbourhood Instrument  
 JTF – Just Transition Fund

# Capacity building

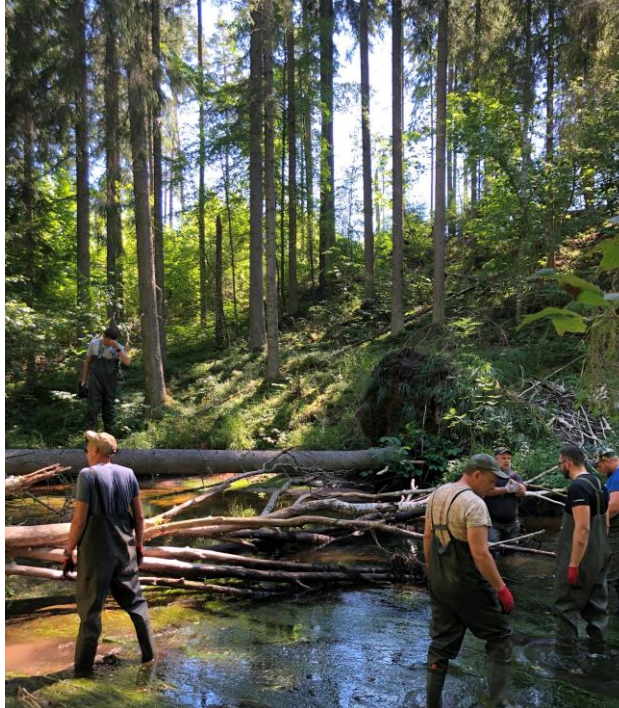
Capacity building of stakeholder organisations (staff of governmental institutions, consultants and NGOs), experts and private landowners



Demonstration of sustainable forest management on private lands

Demonstration of forest habitat and invasive alien species management





## “Let`s Do It for Nature” initiative – volunteer events

- For people who love nature and enjoy being outdoors the initiative of the “*Let`s Do It for Nature*” is a great opportunity to do good things for nature as volunteers, meet new people and learn new skills
- Invasive alien species eradication; cutting down bushes; mowing meadows, harvesting hay; clean rivers of trees and beaver dams; prevention of erosion of costal habitats etc.



# Mobile nature education class



A regular cargo van transformed and equipped to the needs of nature education:



Portable exposition (including interactive games) developed and installed



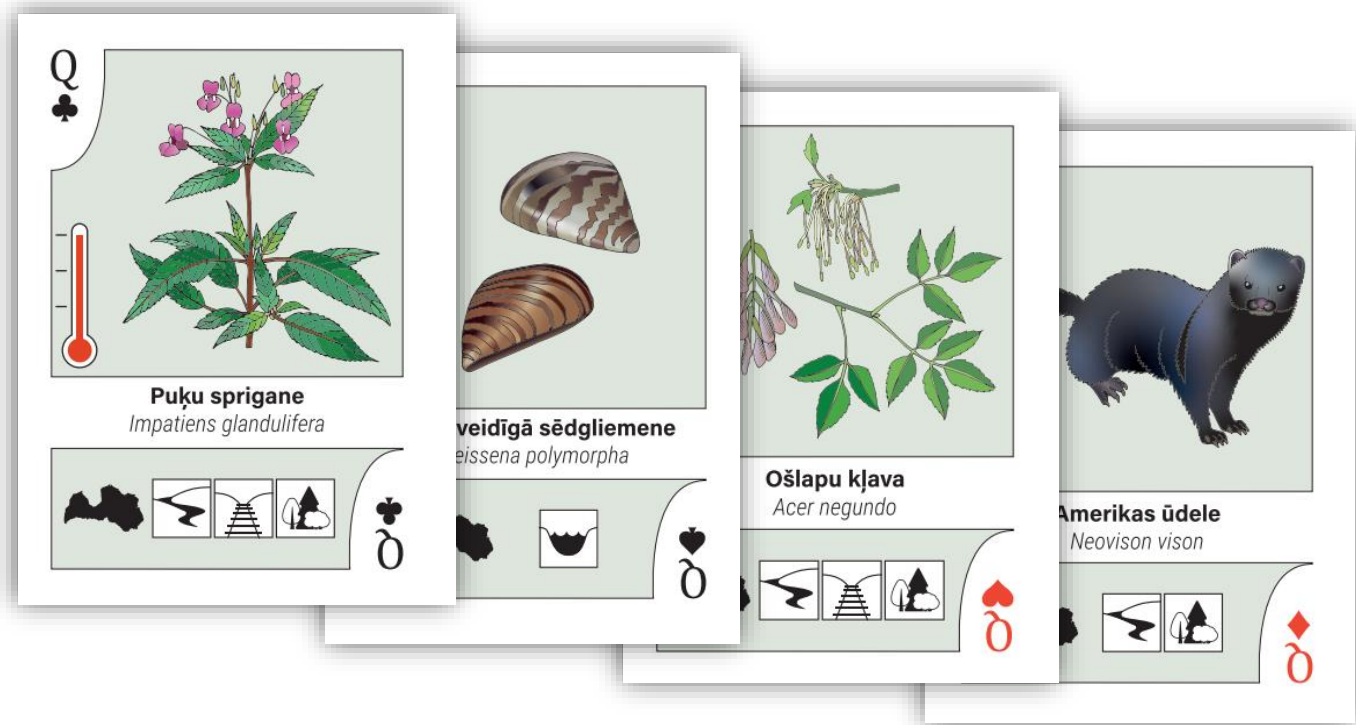
+ solar panels & batteries

92 events gathered 12 260 participants in 2022/2023



Since you are in Latvia  
-  
play our national card  
game **Zolīte** :)  
with cards that have an  
invasive species touch

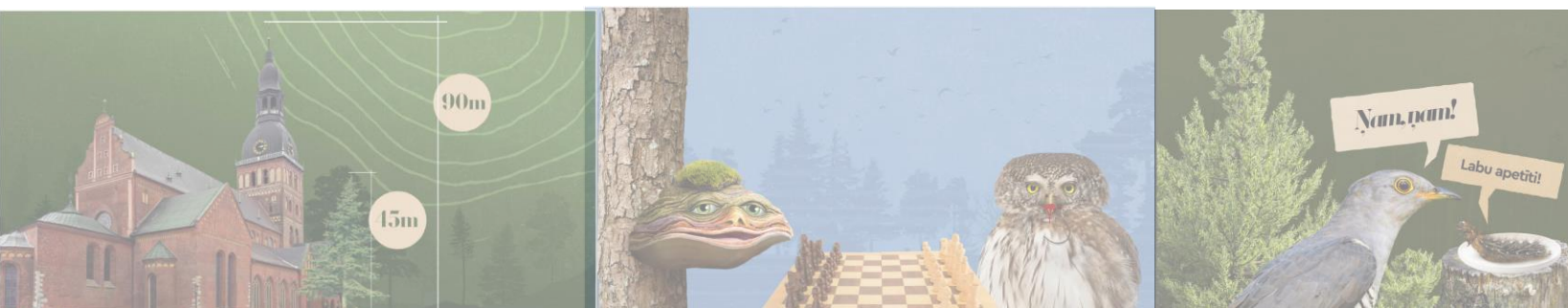
Learn how to play Zolīte:





# «Stories of the Old Polypore Mushroom»

- ✓ Social media short film series
- ✓ 10 films x 2-3 min
- ✓ Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, website
- ✓ Biodiversity in forests, showing the importance of old, biologically valuable forests
- ✓ Neutral and easy talk of the old polypore is based on scientific data and expert knowledge
- ✓ <https://latvianature.daba.gov.lv/vecas-piepes-stasti/>



«Yes, yes, we all have heard:

"She is sitting in the party like a polypore!" or "She's just an old and wrinkled polypore.«

Or that those polypores are ugly parasites. (*Polypore laughs ironically*)

Well, I do want to say the following about this: Come, explore us and you will see – we are charming and diverse, and, yes, admirable also!

We are *many-pores*, who, despite our sedentary lifestyle (*adding wittily*), diligently help other forest creatures. But, I'm not just going to talk about polypores today and I will not focus on them.

## VECĀS PIEPES STĀSTI

**This will be a story about the forest, where all living creatures have their own place.**

Where no one is redundant and where **we only together keep the vast web of forest life strong.**

Trust me, I've watched it for years being attached to a tree »

# The most important results of the IP itself

- ✓ Improved conservation status of habitats and species through wise planning and effective management (115 species FRVs and 59 FRVs and habitat management plans)
- ✓ Improved Natura 2000 network
- ✓ Improved nature management planning system
- ✓ Effective motivating mechanisms to support biodiversity on private lands
- ✓ Effective system for control and management of invasive alien species
- ✓ Modern, centralized data portal for nature conservation sector
- ✓ Increased capacity of stakeholders, enhanced collaboration among governmental, non-governmental and scientific institutions
- ✓ Increased stakeholder involvement and raised awareness regarding nature conservation



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# Paldies! Ačū!



latvianature.lv



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Dabas  
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