

LAKE KAŅIERIS AND RIEKSTI PENINSULA IN ĶEMERI NATIONAL PARK

LAKE KAŅIERIS

- ▶ Kaņieris, the Annex I habitat of the Habitats Directive of outstanding quality *3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.* An important waterfowl nesting site.
- ▶ In the 1920s, the Ministry of Agriculture developed a project to lower the water table of Lake Kaņieris reclaiming 1,000 ha of land for agriculture. The area of the lake was only 1.7 km² that time, nowadays it is around 11.3 km².
- ▶ The water table of Kaņieris was restored in 1965 in order to create a suitable nesting and residence site for game waterfowl. Five artificial islands were created. Dolomite from the bottom of the lake was used to build the islands.



RIEKSTI PENINSULA

- ▶ Four habitats of Annex I of the Habitats Directive are discovered on Rieksti Peninsula: *6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils*, *5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands*, *7210* Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae* and *7230 Alkaline fens*, as well as the plant species of Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive *Liparis loeselii*.
- ▶ A bird observation tower and a road to the tower were constructed on Rieksti Peninsula in 2009. Management of the peninsula started in 2013 when selective felling of shrubs was carried out. In 2014, also trees were felled.
- ▶ Since 2015, mowing is done exclusively with a trimmer. The hay is being gathered in stacks and burned on the spot or carried away. In 2023, mowing with a small mower attached to a quadricycle (purchased in the LIFE IP LatViaNature project) was done for the first time.

SETTING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR SPECIES AND HABITATS OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE

- Conservation objectives at the national (FRV, or favourable reference values) and Natura 2000 site (CO, or site-specific conservation objectives) level are determined for the first time in Latvia within the framework of the LIFE IP LatViaNature project. Conservation objectives for terrestrial, freshwater and brackish water species and habitats are determined in the LIFE-IP LatViaNature project, but for marine species and habitats - in the LIFE REEF project.



- **Natura 2000 site-specific conservation objectives** are determined for 61 habitat types (59 terrestrial, freshwater and brackish water, 2 marine) of Annex I and 62 species (61 terrestrial, 1 marine) of Annex II of the Habitats Directive.



- **National favourable reference values** are set for the habitats of Annex I, as well as for the species of Annex II and V of the Habitats Directive. Favourable reference values for habitats, similar to Natura 2000 site-specific conservation objectives, have to be determined for all 59 types of terrestrial, freshwater and brackish water habitats, as well as for two marine habitats. The total number of taxa with the need to set favourable reference values reaches 118.

- **41** Habitats of Annex I (9 grassland and scrub, 9 forest, 8 mire and spring, and 4 freshwater, 1 outcrop and 10 coastal) and **9** plants species of Annex II (*Buxbaumia viridis*, *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*, *Dicranum viride*, *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Saussurea alpina ssp. esthonica*, *Liparis loeselii*, *Pulsatilla patens*, *Dianthus arenarius ssp. arenarius*, *Agrimonia pilosa*) of the Habitats Directive could be found in Ķemeri National Park.