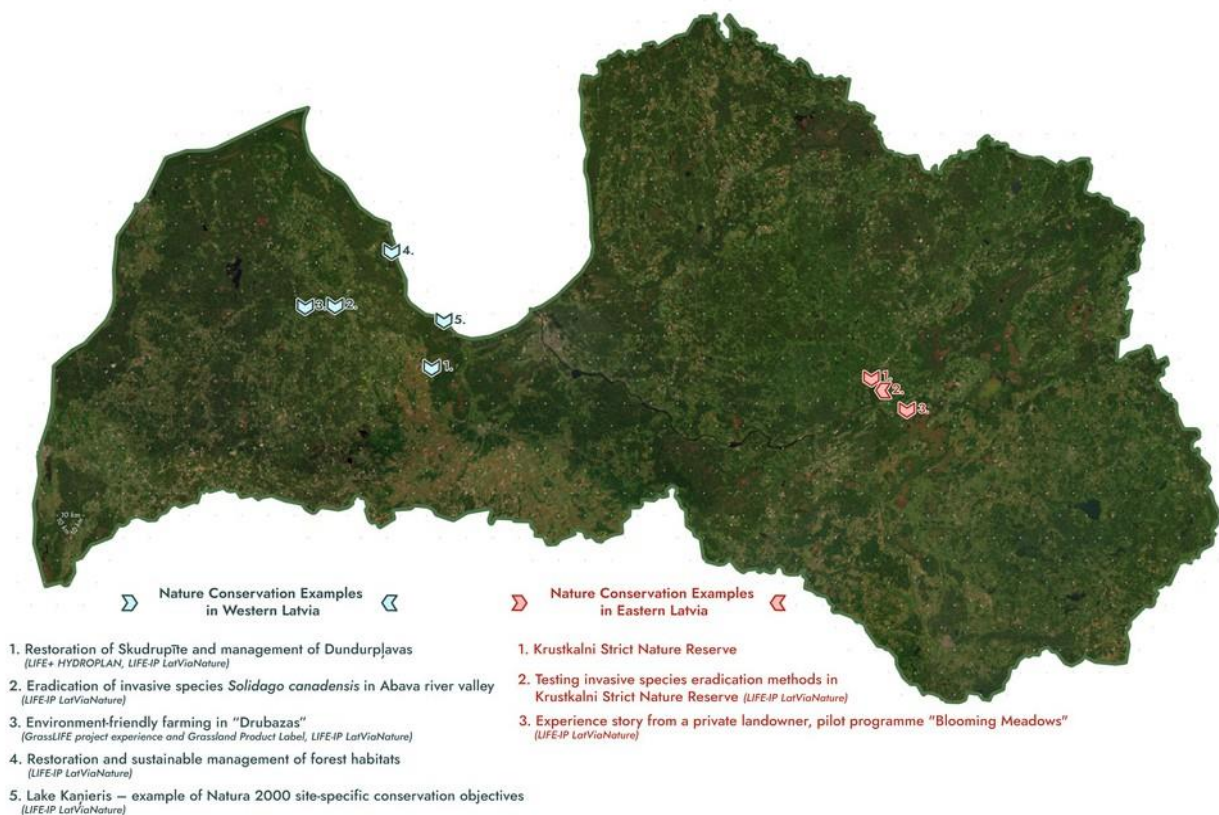


4. Excursion: Nature Conservation examples in Western Latvia, September 18, 2024

Journey through Western Latvia's remarkable landscapes, beginning with Dundurpļavas near Tukums. Here, you will explore LIFE+ Hydroplan project sites and observe the restored meander arcs of the Skudrupīte river. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to see a large herd of wild cattle in their natural habitat.

Next, you will visit the scenic Abava river valley to learn about the eradication of the invasive species *Solidago canadensis*, as well as learn about environmentally friendly farming in Drubazas. During this excursion, you will also visit Lake Engure site and discover the stunning views from Lake Engure shore, as well as be introduced to innovative restoration techniques and sustainable forest management practices being implemented to preserve this valuable ecosystem.

The route will conclude at the stunning Lake Kaņieris, an exemplary Natura 2000 site, where you will learn more about Natura 2000 specific conservation objectives.



Practical aspects:

- Take drinking water with you (some refill will be possible on the bus)
- Choose clothes according to the weather, regular hiking shoes are recommended
- On the way there and back, there will be stops at gas stations with access to wc facilities (free of charge) and snacks/coffee for an additional fee
- A light sandwich for lunch and warm soup for dinner will be provided

Link to additional handouts related to the excursion (a limited number will be available in printed form on the buss)

<https://latvianature.daba.gov.lv/en/nordic-baltic-life-platform-meeting/>

Agenda of the day:

7.30	Departure from "Hotel Radisson Blu Daugava"
7.30-8.30	Travel to the Dundurpļavas site
8.30-9.30	Field trip at the Dundurpļavas site (grassland habitats)
9.30-11.00	Travel to the Abava River Valley.
11.00-12.00	Field trip - invasive alien species (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>) in Abava River Valley
12.00-12.20	Travel to farm "Drubazas"
12.20-15.00	Field trip at farm "Drubazas", Grassland Product Label – Tourism. Light lunch (soup) and wine degustation.
15.00-16.00	Travel to forest management site near lake Engure
16.00-17.00	Field trip near lake Engure (forest habitat management site)
17.00-17.30	Field trip near lake Engure
17.30-18.15	Travel to lake Kanjeris. Light sandwich.

18.15- 19.30	Field trip near lake Kaņieris
19.30- 21.30	Travel back to Riga, <i>"Hotel Radisson Blu Daugava"</i>