You can learn more about LIFE here: ec.europa.eu/life | www.lifeprogramma.lv | facebook.com/caplifelat | twitter.com/CAPLIFELAT

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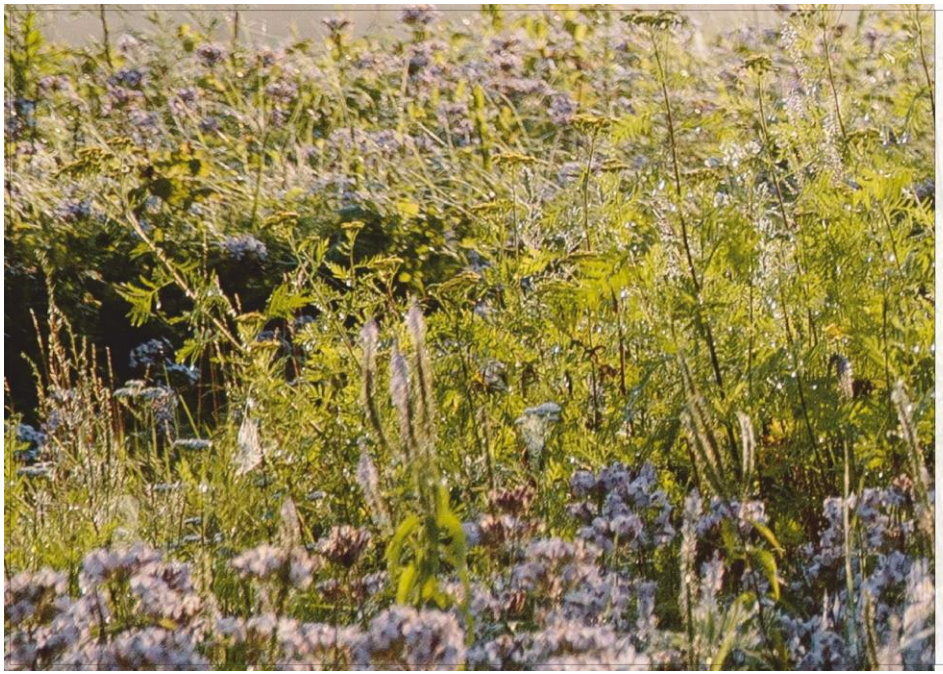
A VALUABLE PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPROVEMENTS



Compared to the other countries in the European Union, Latvia can be proud of its natural wealth – the extensive forests and clean water.

Our mission is to maintain a clean and safe environment to the next generations.

In order to do so, it is important for us to be organized and it is necessary to constantly invest in the field of the environment.

Projects of the LIFE program have always provided a substantial benefit. They have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of the Latvian population in the fields of waste management, nature protection, and climate change mitigation.

The LIFE projects have also been a great opportunity for testing scientific progress and innovations in real conditions rather than in the laboratory.

Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to every developer of the LIFE projects for the high environmental awareness and the responsible attitude, particularly because all the projects have been submitted for voluntary reasons.

I call on the future environmentalists to draw ideas from projects already implemented and to think of new, innovative and environmentally friendly projects for conservation of one of the most important resources – the environment.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
Kaspars Gerhards

The LIFE program

The LIFE program is the European Commision's financial instrument for making innovative and sustainable improvements in the changes of the environmental quality and climate. The main objective of the LIFE program is to promote implementing, developing and updating of the environmental and climate policy of the European Union, by granting co-financing for projects that meet the objectives of the LIFE program and create an extra added value.

The European Commission has launched the LIFE program in 1992, and to date, the program has been implemented in four phases, during which 3954 projects have been funded in the countries of the European Union. Currently, the life of the ongoing LIFE program is from 2014 to 2020, with a total available investment amount of EUR 3.4 billion.

In Latvia, the LIFE program is already running for 15 years and 46 projects are implemented by its financial support. With a total budget of over 40 million euros, a number of specially protected nature territories are renewed in the framework of the program, management plans are developed and implemented for endangered plant and animal species, the protected habitats are restored and solutions are found for the production of alternative energy and CO_2 reduction, as well as a number of information campaigns has been launched.

Read, learn, and get inspired for your LIFE project!

LIFE "Wetlands"

www.mitraji.lv

The objective of the project is to implement the measures for wetland protection and renewal to ensure conservation and protection of important habitats in Latvia and the European Union.

The project involves 4 specially protected natural reserves – Bažu Mire, Vigas and Jušu springs in Slītere National Park, Sudas-Zviedru Mire and Dāvida springs in Gauja National Park, Ziemeļi mires and Raunas Staburags where the hydrologic, geologic and habitat research of wetlands is carried out and management measures are proposed. According to the modeling results, it is provided that the area where the wetlands will have a positive impact of the management measures reaches 710 ha.

LIFE13 NAT/LV/000578

HYDROPLAN

hydroplan.daba.gov.lv

Ķemeri National Park is rich in wetlands – mires, water-saturated forests, coastal lakes and floodplains of rivers provide unique natural values in Latvia and Europe. The existence of wetlands is dependent on the water availability. In order to maintain natural values endangered at the European level in the future, the renewal of the natural water level for three drainage-affected wetland areas will be carried out in Ķemeri National Park. During the project, a detailed hydrologic study and the renewal of the natural water level in the three wetland areas of Ķemeri National Park once affected by drainage will take place. During the project, the restoration program of the natural water regime will be developed and reconstruction works will be implemented. In order to prevent a risk to affect the economically usable areas, an extensive study and modeling of water level changes with the aid of the latest technology are scheduled.

LIFE10 NAT/LV/000160

Protection of wetlands in Ķemeri National Park

The objective of the project was to ensure a long-term protection of habitats and species of European significance, implementing the measures envisaged in the nature protection plan. An important component of the project was the promotion of public participation. In order to preserve and cultivate the outstanding natural values of Ķemeri National Park, a lot of work and investments should be injected. The target area of the project takes up about half of the national park – 19 500 ha. The LIFE project was the first step towards the implementation of the management plan. Specific, modern management techniques were introduced in the result of the project, by the aid of which the biological value of the park's wetlands was maintained.

LIFE02 NAT/LV/008496

Wetlands are the mires, rivers, lakes, damp and flooded forests, floodplain meadows and other places where the earth and water encounter. These sites create ecosystems that constantly or periodically accumulate water.

Wetlands have a very important role in both natural cycles and human life. For instance, wetlands purify water and accumulate nutrients, delaying their runoff into the sea. They help prevent flooding, by capturing flood waters, and later gradually releasing them. Wetlands are home to different species of plants and animals, specifically adapted to life in water-saturated conditions. Many of these species are rare and protected.

In the framework of the LIFE program in Latvia, a several projects are implemented to protect and renew wetlands.

REstore

Restore.daba.gov.lv

Mires, taking carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and producing large amounts of organic material, are a huge carbon storage. As a result of human activities, the degraded mires or peatlands create significant carbon dioxide CO_2 emissions, that's why, their re-cultivation is very important. Methodology will be validated in the project that will allow to identify a number of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the degraded peatlands in Latvia and recommendations will be developed as the decision support tool for a sustainable management of the degraded peatlands, balancing renewing of biodiversity, economic potential and reduction of GHG emissions, mitigation of negative climate changes in the long term. One of the tasks of the project is to create a list and a database of the degraded peatlands, to develop an optimization model of the use of the degraded peatland areas, as well as to provide support to policy makers.
LIFE14 CCM/LV/001103

LIFE "Raised bogs"

www.purvi.lv

The objective of the project was to renew the natural water levels at the project sites – in the raised bog habitats that have been affected by drainage, thereby protecting mire habitats, plants, and animals of European and Latvian significance. The positive result of the mire management contributed to the recovery of the conditions of the raised mire habitats in the area of 488 ha. Furthermore, the positive results which were reflected both in the hydrologic regime of the mires and the vegetation in the project sites were visible immediately after taking the measures. For the project sites Melnais Lake Mire, Aizkraukles Mire and forests, Aklais Mire and Rožu Mire, nature management plans are developed.
LIFE08 NAT/LV/000449

Protection of mire habitats

The project location comprised four special areas of conservation – Cena Mire, Stiklu Mire, Klani Mire, Melnais Lake Mire. The objective of the project was to implement priority protection and management measures laid down in "The Mire Habitat Management Plan" developed in 2003. Overall, in the project, 19 measures were provided for the conservation and management of the protected habitats of European significance.
LIFE04 NAT/LV/000196

Mires are an important part of the landscape in Latvia, found in the entire territory of Latvia. Although they occupy almost five percent of the territory of Latvia they are of great importance in the conservation of the biological diversity. They are rich in flora and fauna, many rare plant and animal species, as well as habitats of European significance are found here.

Protection and management of Northern Gauja Valley

www.ldf.lv

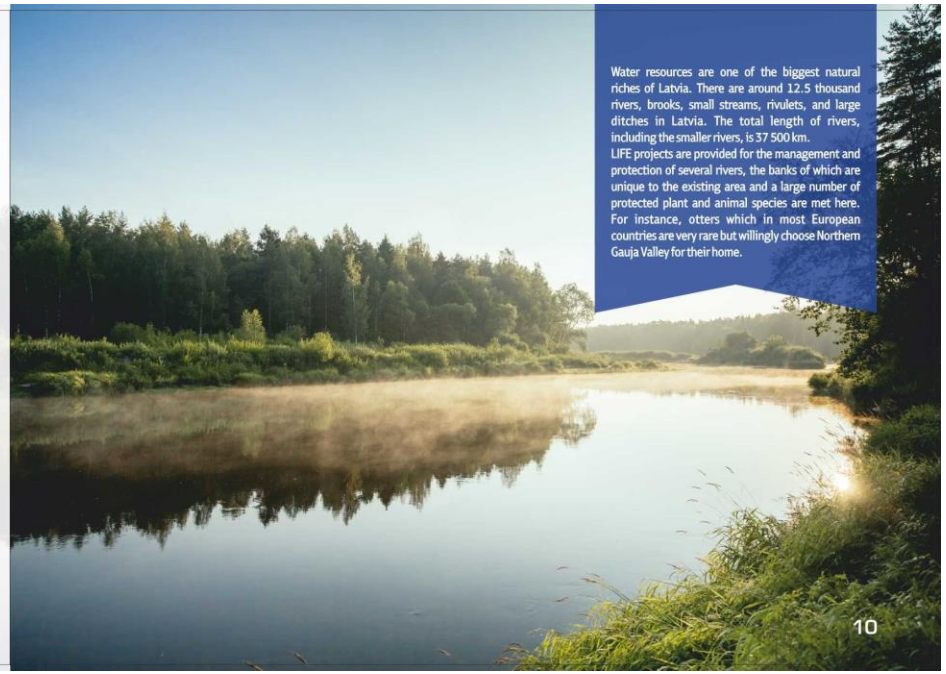
The project area includes the Gauja river in the area of approximately 140 km, its valley (from Gulbene and Aluksne District boundaries to Valmiera) and the adjacent areas. The total area of the project – 18 070 ha of which only 6% were originally protected. The objective was to assign a status of an area of protected landscapes and to include it in the network of special areas of conservation of the EU – Natura 2000. The natural values of the project area are mainly threatened by intensification of the use of forest resources and insufficient management of the traditional meadows (mowing and grazing). The scheduled measures under the project were aimed to reduce and prevent these threats.
LIFE03 NAT/LV/000082

The Ziemeļsusēja river

The objectives of the project were related to the improvement of the water condition of the Ziemeļsusēja river. The main tasks of the project were to reduce the pollution of the Ziemeļsusēja river basin, to create an innovative system of the river basin management suited to the Latvian conditions which would provide cooperation between local governments, national authorities, and the community, to develop indicators and procedures that would allow to state water quality in the river basin and to ensure quality monitoring.
LIFE02 ENV/LV/000481

Bārta Club

The project "Bārta Club" was created with the objective to get involved in the creation of the plan of the Bārta river management, in order to reduce the pollution level in the catchment area of the Bārta river, creating an innovative river basin management system in Latvia. An additional objective was through pilot projects to show what the opportunities exist to improve the condition of drinking water for small size (up to 2000 inhabitants) local governments. The project has resulted in an improved quality of drinking water in the local governments involved in the project and the pollution level in the Bārta river has decreased.
LIFE00 ENV/LV/000961



Water resources are one of the biggest natural riches of Latvia. There are around 12.5 thousand rivers, brooks, small streams, rivulets, and large ditches in Latvia. The total length of rivers, including the smaller rivers, is 37 500 km.
LIFE projects are provided for the management and protection of several rivers, the banks of which are unique to the existing area and a large number of protected plant and animal species are met here. For instance, otters which in most European countries are very rare but willingly choose Northern Gauja Valley for their home.

Lake Pape: protection and development

http://www.pdf-pape.lv/

During the project, the study of valuable species and habitats of Pape Nature Park was carried out, the effect of birds, fish migration, as well as the large herbivores (horses and aurochs) on the open landscape was studied. Like all the information, it was summed up in the cartographic materials. A particular attention was paid to the options of restoration the natural hydrology of the park's core – Lake Pape and Nida Mire. Based on this information, nature protection, restoration, and management measures were developed to preserve the natural and cultural, and historical values characteristic to the park.
LIFE03 NAT/LV/000081

Implementation of the nature protection plan of the nature park of Lake Engure

http://eedp.lv/

The project is based on the nature protection plan for the nature park of Lake Engure for 1998–1999, developed within the joint project of the SEPA (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) and the LFN (Latvian Fund for Nature). The main objective of the project was to preserve and protect the values of Lake Engure and to contribute to the development of the region. Within the framework of the project, the situation of the coastal areas was improved, by providing suitable nesting sites for waterfowl. Cows and horses are acquired which graze in the meadows of the bank of Lake Engure. The project has a website, as well as other public outreach measures are taken that have ensured an increase in the number of tourists to the nature park of Lake Engure.
LIFE00 NAT/LV/007134

Management of the environment of the Lubāns wetland complex

Lubāna Wetland is an area of 480.2 km^2 around the greatest Latvian Lake – Lubāns. The objective of the project was to introduce and implement a rational management of the area of Lubāns Wetland, based on the international nature protection requirements, national legislation and the interests of the parties involved in the management, creating a permanent and effective wetland management structure, limiting degradation and extinction of habitats of European significance, as well as improving the living environment of specially protected bird species and waterfowl through organizing monitoring of water level and implementing the program of habitat conservation. It was scheduled to raise public interest in the implementation of nature protection measures, to explain the importance of habitats and species met in the area.
LIFE03 NAT/LV/000083

There are more than 5000 lakes in Latvia, the total area of which is more than 110 thousand hectares. They create an important environment not only for many different species of aquatic creatures but also for several animals which are recorded in the Red Book of the World.

EREMITA MEADOWS

www.eremita-meadows.lv

The objectives of the project were to create a comprehensive environmental management system and to ensure the management of the Fennoscandian wooded meadows and the rare species that depend on overgrown trees and intact forest habitats, to ensure protection of two beetle species under priority protection in the European Union – the hermit beetle and the false darkling beetle, to support further development and introduction of the Natura 2000 network, involving landowners and other interest groups in the site management and educational activities of Natura 2000 in order to improve the knowledge and to get support for nature protection and the Natura 2000 network. The most important measures of the project are implemented in six natural reserves, in three natural parks and in one protected landscape area.
LIFE09 NAT/LV/000240

Renewal of floodplain meadows

16 most valuable ecosystems of floodplain meadows are included in the project from all the regions of Latvia which were not involved in other habitat management and renewal projects. All these areas are Natura 2000 sites and include significant natural values: both species (corncrake, lesser spotted eagle, greater spotted eagle, great snipe, the hermit beetle, etc.) and habitats (river floodplain meadows, the Fennoscandian wooded meadows, species-rich fallow land, etc.). The objectives of the project were to renew biologically most valuable and overgrown areas of floodplain meadows, to promote lasting management of floodplain meadows in the future and to promote public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and careful use of natural resources.
LIFE04 NAT/LV/000198

LIFE Viva Grass

vivagrass.eu

Natural grassland significantly improves people's quality of life, by providing different benefits – ecosystem services of which we often even don't think every day. From the early 20th century to the present day, natural grassland areas have significantly decreased in Latvia, by overgrowing with forests or by turning into arable lands. The project experts and scientists from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are developing economically viable models of grassland management to promote the conservation of grasslands.
LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189

Meadows are an important part of the Latvian nature, where more than half of the Latvian Red Book species can be met. The most valuable are the meadows which have not been plowed, fertilized, seeded for a longer time – around 400 different species of plants can be found here. Many birds nest in the meadows, including the great rarity in Europe – the corncrake.

Marmoni

marmoni.balticseaportal.net

The project objectives were to gain an overview of different regulatory enactments of the European marine environmental and nature protection and their impact on data mining and reporting, to develop monitoring methods for an integrated assessment of biodiversity and the impacts of human economic activity. In practice, the effectiveness of the proposed methods and the analysis of the data obtained were tested, nature protection measures expected in the Baltic Sea were assessed and the obtained results of the project were integrated into the national monitoring programs and documents of the environmental policies. Measures are also taken to inform the society and the involved parties of the results of the project. The countries participating in the project – Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Finland.
LIFE09 NAT/LV/000238

BaltActHaz

http://www.baltacthaz.bef.ee/

The objective of the project was to promote the protection of the Baltic Sea, strengthening cooperation between various national authorities in the management of hazardous substances and more effective execution of the requirements of the regulatory enactments, as well as to improve the knowledge of various involved parties of dangerous substances and the opportunities of the reduction of pollution caused by them. Pilot replacements of hazardous substances were also made in companies of the Baltic States. Both the LIFE program resources and the national funding of all three Baltic States are attracted to the project funding.
LIFE07 ENV/EE/000122

Protection and management of coastal habitats in Latvia

http://piekraste.daba.lv/

The objective of the project was conservation of the coastal habitats and species under the European protection in Latvia. The project area is the whole coastal protection zone of the Baltic Sea in Latvia – about a 300 - meters wide zone along the coast. Within the project, the basis of a balanced protection of the coastal protection zone and the management system of the Baltic Sea were created.
LIFE02 NAT/LV/008498

Livi Green Coast

http://www.visit.dundaga.lv/

The objective of the project was to reduce various adverse effects of activities on the northwest (NW) of the Latvia's coastal environment and to integrate the principles of sustainability in all sectors of the coastal development. The creation of a model of a sustainable existence of the environmental quality of the NW coast of Latvia was defined as a long-term objective along with the development of a successful cooperation and the experience exchange network with similar institutions around the Baltic Sea. Within the project, an international conference on a sustainable development of the coast is organized. The local residents are also involved in the project, their ideas and suggestions are heard. Renewing works are carried out in a number of cultural and historical sites, North Kurzeme Agenda-21 Center is created.
LIFE00 ENV/LV/000956

The Baltic Sea is the youngest sea dating back to the glaciers melting 10 – 15 thousand years ago. In the last 100 years, the unique ecosystem of the Baltic Sea has become an environment rich in nutrients. Each year about million tons of nitrogen and 35 000 tons of phosphorus get into the Baltic Sea which adversely affects the marine ecosystem.
By the support of the LIFE program, projects are implemented to improve the waters of the Baltic Sea and the situation of the coastal area.

BIRDS IN ADAZI

http://putniadazos.lv

The objective of the project is to help rare bird species in Europe. In the area of 1620 ha in "Adazi", nesting and feeding sites for the black grouse, European nightjar, European roller, woodlark, tawny pipit, red-backed shrike are restored in the area of the protected landscapes. In order to implement the objective of the project, it is necessary to restore the natural water regime of Rampas Mire affected by drainage. In order to promote forest regeneration, a controlled burning of the forest ground in the area of 20 hectares will be carried out. Nesting cages and special sitting trees for finding food will be placed in the landscape area. The effects of the military training on species and their habitats will be assessed, as well as recommendations for planning environmentally friendly military training will be developed.
LIFE12 NAT/LV/000509

COASTLAKE

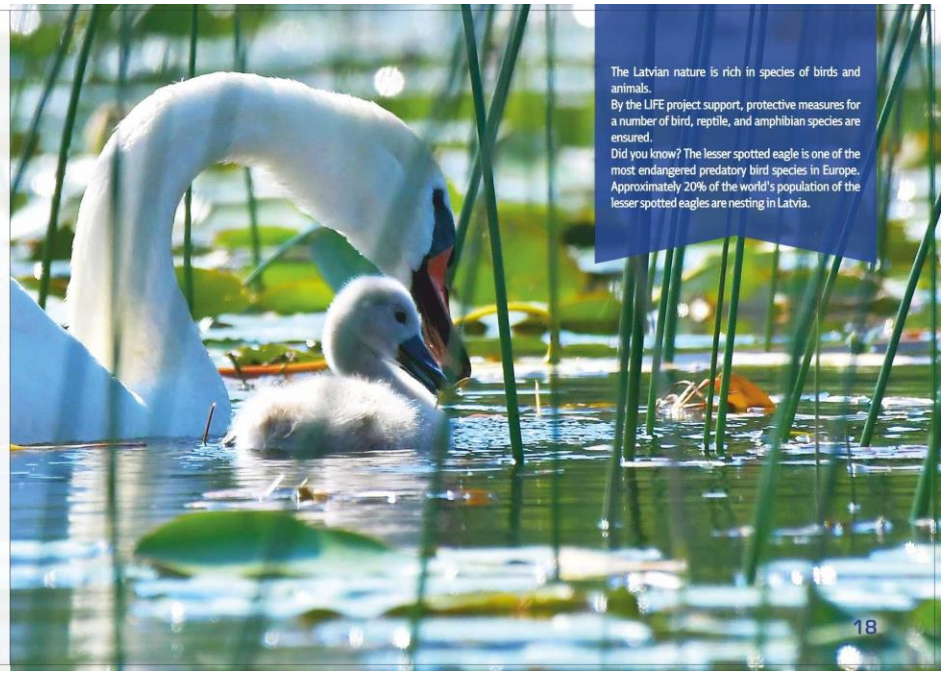
http://ldf.lv/lv/projects/life-coastlake

Based on the EU species management plan, the objective of the project is to improve the conservation status of the bittern in Latvia and the European Union. It is scheduled to improve the conservation status of the bittern and the ecosystem functions for the bittern in two large major coastal lakes in Latvia – Lake Engure and Lake Pape, reducing the direct and indirect threats to the bittern population and promoting sustainable management of the lakes. It is also foreseen to promote public awareness on the ecological, economic and social value of the coastal wetlands, by organizing tours and lessons for school students, creating a touring exhibition about the bittern, as well as supporting the integration of issues of nature conservation in the business sector.
LIFE12 NAT/LV/000118

Dviete

www.dvietespaliene.lv

The objective of the project was to renew the breeding habitat of the corncrake in the nature park "Floodplain of Dviete'', by improving the protection status of this species, and promoting the implementation of the requirements of the Birds Directive. During project implementation, the Dviete river flow through the natural bed is renewed, the abandoned and overgrown floodplain meadows are restored and their maintenance is ensured, as well as a model is developed to determine suitable habitats for corncrakes.
LIFE09 NAT/LV/000237



The Latvian nature is rich in species of birds and animals.
By the LIFE project support, protective measures for a number of bird, reptile, and amphibian species are ensured.
Did you know? The lesser spotted eagle is one of the most endangered predatory bird species in Europe. Approximately 20% of the world's population of the lesser spotted eagles are nesting in Latvia.

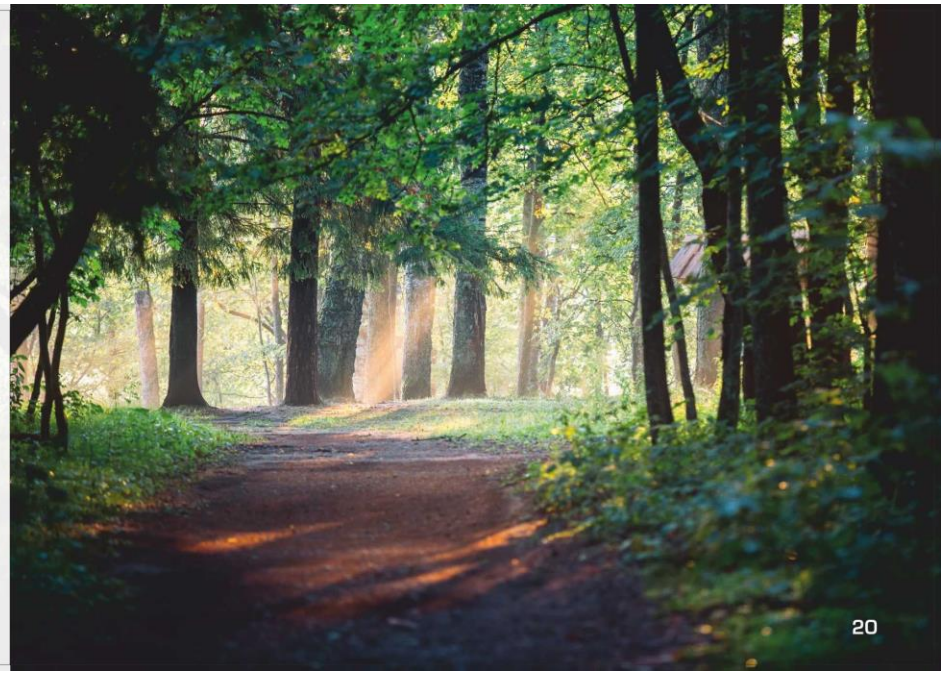
Protection and management of two important bird sites in Latvia

In the territory of the Baltic countries, there are still many intact forests and wetlands where many EU protected species of birds such as the lesser spotted eagle and the black stork find their home. During signing up for the project, a number of these areas hadn't sufficient legal protection which led to a threat to the conservation of these sites and bird species finding a home there. Within the project, two areas were selected – Katleši (12 000 ha) and Zvārde (10 000 ha). During the project, appropriated legal status was established, as well as a nature management plan was developed with the aim to protect and preserve the natural values existing in the area. Both protected natural areas created within the project are included in the List of Latvian Natura 2000 sites.
LIFE00 NAT/LV/007124

HerpetoLatvia

http://life-herpetolatvia.biology.lv/

The objective of the project was to support the increase of the European pond turtle, smooth snake and fire-bellied toad populations in Latvia and to ensure their sustainable existence with combination of methodsof in-situ, ex-situ conservation and a of protection by the law. Within the project, it was intended to create a new Natura 2000 site in Demene Parish for the protection of the Latvia's largest population of fire-bellied toads, as well as to develop the management plan for the smooth snake species and management plans of all the three habitats of rare species. According to these plans, measures were taken to create new habitats for the needs of each species. The fire-bellied toads and the European pond terrapins are raised in captivity and released in order to increase the number of the fire-bellied toads and the European pond terrapins living in nature. The project will facilitate the involvement of landowners and operators in the Natura 2000 site management and will enhance public awareness of the rare amphibian and reptile species. Teaching materials will be created and other educational activities will be implemented.
LIFE09 NAT/LV/000239



Green Certificate

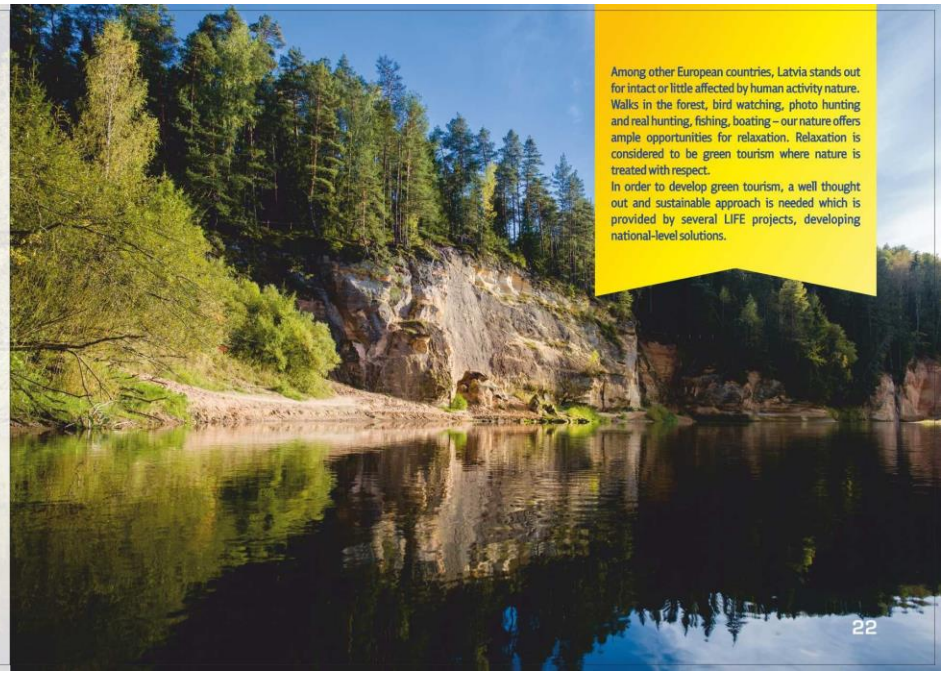
www.celotajs.lv

The "Green Certificate" is a certificate of the environmental quality mark for tourist homes, where there is respect for the environment and landscape, the rational use of water and energy resources, the organization of environmentally friendly waste collection and management, environmentally friendly activities, healthy local food products and valuable information about local natural, cultural and historical attractions are offered to tourists. Within the project, the criteria for obtaining the certificate were developed, as well as a public information campaign was launched.
LIFE00 ENV/LV/000959

POLPROP-NATURA

www.polprop.celotajs.lv

The objective of the project was to develop recommendations for tourism development and nature conservation policy documents, based on a real sustainable tourism destination – the Natura 2000 site model, which was demonstrated on the basis of Slitere National Park, creating tourism products and tourism impact monitoring in the natural, social and economic aspects, by involving interested parties.
LIFE07 ENV/LV/000981



Among other European countries, Latvia stands out for intact or little affected by human activity nature. Walks in the forest, bird watching, photo hunting and real hunting, fishing, boating – our nature offers ample opportunities for relaxation. Relaxation is considered to be green tourism where nature is treated with respect.
In order to develop green tourism, a well thought out and sustainable approach is needed which is provided by several LIFE projects, developing national-level solutions.

Environmental protection measures in the Teiči region

The objective of the project was to develop nature management measures in the Teiči region, by the support of the LIFE program acquiring 29 land units with a total surface area of 409.61 ha, thus ensuring conservation of protected forests and mires. Within the project, measures were implemented relating to the cutting of overgrown bushes in the meadow areas included in the project and improving the hydrology condition of mires. In order to enhance public knowledge on protected areas of the Teiči region, new hiking trails of 1. 92 km in length are created, as well as a number of handouts are developed. As a result, three new Natura 2000 sites were created, helping to ensure a long-term protection of several animal and bird species, and habitats.
LIFE00 NAT/LV/007127

Marine protected areas in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea

http://www.balticseaportal.net/

The objective of the project was the protection of the marine biodiversity in the Baltic Sea. The creation of the EU network of protected areas Natura 2000 in the marine area is assessed as the most important tool for attaining this purpose. The scientific information obtained during the project was used for the marine Natura 2000 site determination to establish the protection status of the three Baltic States. The international project with the activities in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia gathered together national scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations, and experts of these countries, addressing issues related to the protection of marine areas.
LIFE05 NAT/LV/000100

Natura 2000 is a single network of protected areas of the European Union. In Latvia, the Natura 2000 network embraces 332 areas – nature reserves, national parks, natural reserves, nature parks, landscape conservation areas, marine protected areas, and micro-reserves. The terrestrial areas included in the Natura 2000 network generally take about 12% of the territory of Latvia or 787 729 ha of the total land area of Latvia.
Within the LIFE project, the creation and developing of a number of new protected areas of the European Union's significance have been implemented.

Improvement of habitat management in the Natura 2000 site – at Vestiena

Within the project, a management plan of the protected landscape zone "Vestiena" is developed. The management plan has been developed for 10 years, its renewal is foreseen in 2020. The management plan describes the site's natural and socio-economic values, factors affecting them, as well as the protection and management objectives are set and the recommended management measures are developed for their attainment.
LIFE06 NAT/LV/000196

Adazi

http://www.adazinatura.lv/

The project is implemented in part of Military training area "Adazi", which is also designated as a specially protected nature territory – the protected landscape area "Adazi" (area of 6126 ha; after the extension in 2011 – 10 150 ha) and which is included in the EU protected areas network Natura 2000. The project objectives were to harmonize environmental and military interests, to renew the nature values of the military training area Natura 2000 sites and to provide them with a favorable conservation status, to educate the military personnel on issues of nature protection and to ensure cooperation with other military managers of the Natura 2000 sites.
LIFE06 NAT/LV/000110

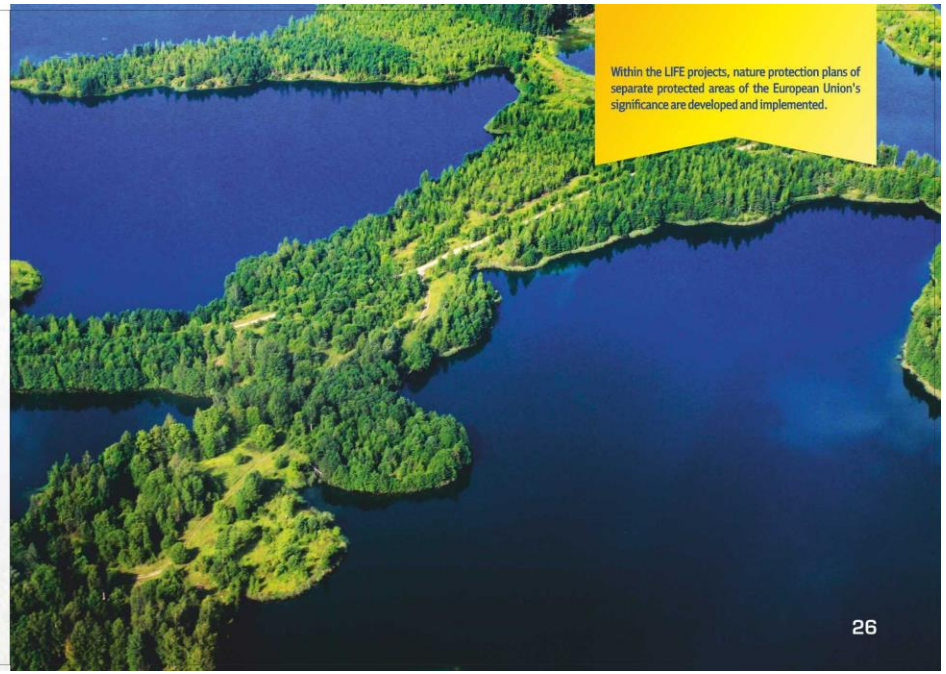
Protection of species and habitats of the nature park "Rāzna"

The project was implemented in Rāzna National Park, which is a special area of conservation of a national significance. Within the project, the development and public consultation of the nature management plan of Rāzna National Park were implemented. Various habitat restoration activities (removal of shrubs, pond renewal, limiting economic activity near ponds) were carried out and a number of public awareness building and information activities were carried out as well.
LIFE04 NAT/LV/000199

For-Rest

http://for-rest.daba.gov.lv/

Within the project, it was intended to make mapping of habitats of the forests of the European Union's significance and to assess their conservation status, to develop a long-term program for forest habitats, species recovery and management, to implement innovative recovery and management measures in priority protected forests, where the value of nature protection or the future existence of the habitat or species is endangered. Seminars and experience exchanges were held, as well as audio-visual materials were developed on hot topics in the project.
LIFE10 NAT/LV/000159



Within the LIFE projects, nature protection plans of separate protected areas of the European Union's significance are developed and implemented.

Noise behind the wall

troksnisaizsienas.lv

In the framework of the project, innovative solutions in the management of railway noise were developed. For the implementation of these solutions in the real environment, three priority tasks were moved forward. Firstly, using innovative, environmentally friendly, noise-absorbing composite materials to construct a kilometer long protective wall, to develop and test noise mitigation track elements in Riga in the area of Šķirotavas railroad station in order to reduce the train noise level in this densely populated location to the indicators of favorable acoustics laid down in the regulatory enactments. Secondly, in the above area to create a green protective wall – evergreen plants for additional absorption of railway noise. Thirdly, adapt the environmental noise assessment method RMR used in the European Union for the situation in Latvia and for the countries, which use the 1520 mm track gauge.
LIFE11 ENV/LV/000376

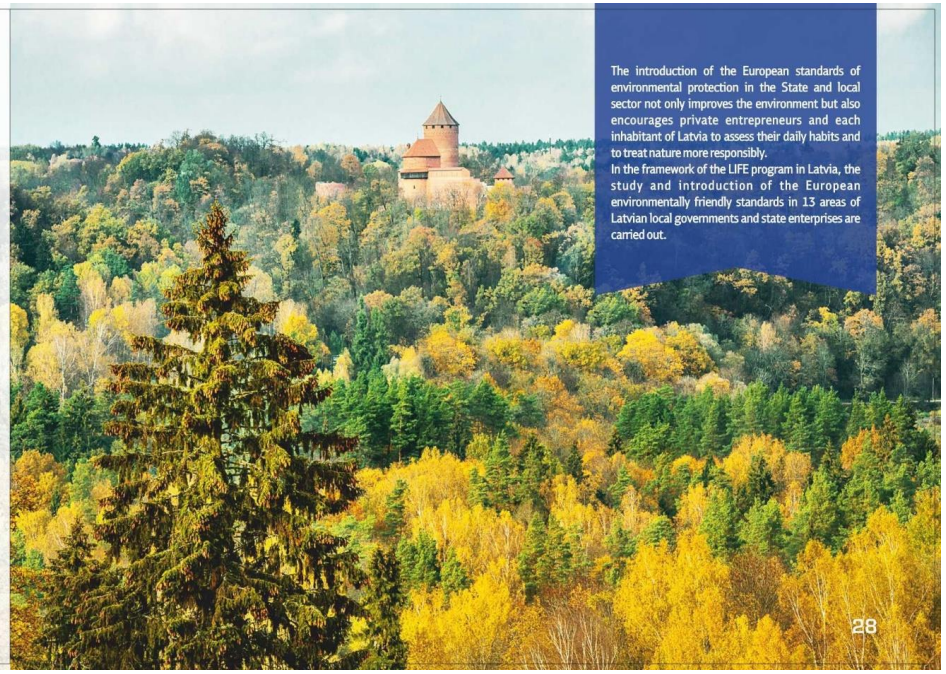
Riga Against Flood

www.rigapretpludiem.lv

Part of the territory of Riga constantly suffers from floods and every year significant economic and moral losses are caused to the owners of the flooded areas. In addition, in connection with the global warming related climate change, the flood risk and the risk of having the bank wash-down in the territory of Riga are increasing. Therefore, in order to effectively prepare the city of Riga for climate changes and to reduce the negative impacts of floods on its territory, an in-depth research was needed. The main objective of the project was to identify the hydrologic factors in a timely manner that in relation to the future climate change could negatively affect the citizens of Riga, the economy, as well as preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and to develop solutions how either to prevent or to reduce these effects.
LIFE08 ENV/LV/000451

EMAS4NewStates

A complex and long-term solving of issues of the environmental protection in both companies and local governments are becoming more urgent. One of the tools that can significantly improve environmental management, starting from one structural unit to an entire enterprise or a local government, is the EMAS (Environmental Management and Audit Systems). 12 local governments from different regions of Latvia participated in the project, which were divided into 5 clusters, and for each cluster, 2 consultants were appointed who helped the representatives of local governments to implement the EMAS in the relevant local government.
LIFE04 ENV/LV/000631



The introduction of the European standards of environmental protection in the State and local sector not only improves the environment but also encourages private entrepreneurs and each inhabitant of Latvia to assess their daily habits and to treat nature more responsibly.
In the framework of the LIFE program in Latvia, the study and introduction of the European environmentally friendly standards in 13 areas of Latvian local governments and state enterprises are carried out.

Ecosystem services

http://ekosistemas.daba.gov.lv/

The project will introduce an innovative approach to the protection of natural values, balancing nature conservation with the social and economic aspects. The project will provide knowledge that can be used in development planning of different regions of the Latvia's coastal area. This innovative approach will be developed according to the best practices in the EU through various economic indicators of the environment (including the economic assessment of ecosystem services). The whole project will help improve the practice of development planning of Latvia's coastal areas and other planning documents. Within the project, two pilot areas are selected – Saulkrasti and Jaunķemeri where the assessment of ecosystem services and the development of scenarios for the area development will be carried out.
LIFE13 ENV/LV/000839

Nat-program

http://nat-programme.daba.gov.lv/

During the project, the guidelines for the management and protection of the coastal, freshwater, grassland, mires, forest and rocky habitats are developed. In order to check the habitat management methods and assess their effectiveness, a series of experimental management work in different regions of Latvia has been carried out. In the development of the guidelines of the habitat protection, not only nature experts but also the representatives of the government and non-governmental organizations were involved, which contributed to the inclusion of the guidelines in the planning documents of the local governments and the State. In the course of the project, "Natura 2000 Site Management Program" is developed where both the habitat conservation status and the priority protection and management measures are assessed to promote common conservation of natural values in all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites.
LIFE11 NAT/LV/000371

Nature Coop

http://www.bef.lt/

Within eighteen months, experts of nature protection of the Baltic and the other Member States of the European Union met at the same table to exchange ideas and knowledge about management methods, introduction of projects, and to generate new ideas. The main objective of the project was to promote quality management of habitats, to introduce the LIFE nature projects, as well as to promote other activities related to potential Natura 2000 sites.
LIFE03 NAT/CP/LV/000010

Within the LIFE projects, a single system, based on the experience of the values of nature management and protection, is developed.

Enerlab

enerlab.bf.rtu.lv

The main objective of the project was to provide a lower energy consumption for buildings and their inhabitants, thus reducing the negative impact of energy consumption on the environment, creating the heat consumption management system for residential buildings in the city of Ogre. In the result of the project implementation, 5 – 10% less consumption of heat was expected in the city of Ogre and it is scheduled that the introduction of the energy certification system for buildings will additionally stimulate harmonization of the real estate and housing prices in the city of Ogre. The introduction of the energy certification system for buildings developed in Latvia was approved in a city of a small scale, which allowed drawing conclusions about the likelihood of the use of the system elsewhere in Latvia and in other European countries as well.
LIFE02 ENV/LV/000478

Encerb

encerb.bf.rtu.lv

The main objective of the project was getting smaller energy consumption for buildings and their inhabitants, minimizing the negative impact on nature. It was intended to further develop the energy certification and energy labeling system for residential houses that in 2002/203 was established in the city of Ogre during the project ENERLAB. The intended result was to transform the established heat consumption control system to a full energy management system, as required by the energy performance of the Buildings Directive 2002/91/EC, subsequently with the result of getting the energy certification system for buildings by equivalent of CO_2 emissions. The additional objective of this project was to consolidate the achieved reductions in energy consumption and to achieve a conscious approach to energy issues in Ogre, as well as to disseminate the gained experience in the neighboring countries.
LIFE04 ENV/LV/000634

Ecovent

ecovent1.bf.rtu.lv

The main objective of the project was to achieve a reduction of CO_2 emissions, creating innovative ventilation systems with reduced energy consumption. The objective of the ECOVENT demonstration project was to familiarize with the creation of an ecology-friendly ventilation system in the form of a hybrid ventilation system, using the French and Swedish corporate knowledge and experience in the design and manufacture of ventilation systems, as well as the experience in the adaptation of the systems for specific needs. The specific objective of this project was to test the suitability of the above systems for Latvia, specific for its cold climate with relatively high humidity. This objective was pursued by continuously observing the working capacity of the systems within the period of a year.
LIFE04 ENV/LV/000633

Human activity has a significant impact on the climate change. In order to stop irreversible climate change and to preserve the present equilibrium of nature, one person should not be allowed creating more than 3 tons of CO_2 per year. The Latvian rates per person significantly exceed the recommended 3 tons.
LIFE projects update this issue and generate solutions to reduce negative impacts on the environment and the climate.

Fit for REACH

http://www.bef.lv/

The European Union's legislation on hazardous chemicals – the REACH regulation – has imposed a large responsibility for the management of the substances on the manufacturers, as it has generally improved corporate knowledge of dangerous substances. However, many emitters of hazardous substances are very small enterprises, which use them in their daily life, not realizing it. These enterprises cannot afford sophisticated authorization procedures, they lack the knowledge, skills, and resources to find safer alternatives. But the hazardous substances reach the environment, adversely affecting the existing ecosystems, accumulate in the food chain and early or late return to people again. The objective of the project is to prepare small and medium-sized enterprises – downstream users of chemical substances – to future challenges in the management of chemical substances, determined by the REACH regulation, to inform enterprises about topical legislative requirements with regard to the special concern listed substances, the inventory of chemical substances and the main management principles, to help (including materials) implement the substitution of hazardous dangerous substances in order to reduce their environmental impact, showing that it pays off not only in the field of environmental protection but also economically.
LIFE14 ENV/LV/000174

Over the past 50 years, people have created 80 000 new chemicals that are used in the production of a variety of goods and products. The objective of the LIFE program-supported projects is to reduce the volume of the use of hazardous chemicals in business and in the daily consumption of the Baltic people.

Recycling of the municipal biologically degradable waste through composting technology

www.lasa.lv

The objective of the project was to find out the best solutions how in Latvia to reduce the amount of organic matter in landfills, to create and implement the recommended waste management scheme in 2 parishes of Latvia that would ensure sorting, collection and recycling of compostable waste and to create the most preferred composting methods for the conditions in Latvia that would suit recycling of the municipal organic waste into a quality compost.
LIFE03 ENV/LV/000448

Grasservice

http://grassservice.balticgrasslands.eu/

The project activities are implemented in two local governments of Latvia – in Sigulda and Ludza municipalities. During the implementation of the project, the biodiversity of grassland ecosystems and the ecological value, the volume of the grassland biomass, and the potential of the use of grasslands in both project areas will be assessed. Appropriate technical solutions for the economically sustainable use of grassland management and biomass will be developed. It is scheduled to introduce local entrepreneurs and farmers with alternative opportunities to the use of biomass, demonstrating alternative solutions, and technological opportunities in practice. Cooperation networks will be created between landowners and entrepreneurs associated with biomass processing, and/or use in the energy production.
LIFE12 BIO/LV/001130

The alternative energy is the type of energy resources that does not harm the environment or cause it to only a small extent. The types of the alternative energy are mainly the renewable resources – bio-fuel, hydro-, solar energy, wind energy.
Did you know?
From the grass biomass, pellets are produced that can serve as an alternative to wood pellets for the supply of heating. If the tree needs 30 years to grow up the raw material for the production of grass pellets is ready in a year.

CAP LIFE LAT

Assessing the current contribution of the LIFE projects and the future potential in improving the environment and climate in Latvia, within the joint project "Capacity Building for LIFE Program Implementation in Latvia" (CAP LIFE LAT) the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development and Administration of the Environmental Protection fund have established the LIFE support unit.
The task of the support unit is to promote understanding of the LIFE financial tool and its availability to any legal person, as well as to provide support to project applicants and developers, facilitating the volume of the successful LIFE projects in Latvia.
The interested parties can get advice and guidance from experienced experts. Training and experience exchanges are held both locally and at the Baltic scale.
Webpage of the LIFE support unit at lifeprogramma.lv contains information about the current LIFE program, as well as about the current LIFE projects in Latvia.
The LIFE expert advice on any issue around the program is available every day.

The LIFE support unit

You are invited to communicate by writing, calling or coming in order to improve the environment and climate together!
The LIFE support unit's contacts:

Riga, Eksporta street 5 | Phone: 67503322 | Lifeprogramma.lv