

# Challenges of nature protection and NGO activities in Latvia



Latvijas Zaļā kustība

Latvian Green Movement

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# Protected areas in Latvia



# Specially protected nature territories

- 633 specially protected sites
  - 4 strict nature reserves
  - 3 national parks 1 biosphere reserve
  - 278 nature reserves
  - 43 nature parks
  - 9 areas of protected landscapes
  - 206 geological and geomorphologic formations with protectable qualities
  - 89 dendrological planted areas

# Natura 2000 sites

- 336 sites
- 11,9% from total area of Latvia
- Several levels of protection

# Coastal area

- 496 km long
- Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga
- Values:
  - Flora
  - Fauna
  - Landscape
- Protected strip 300 m
- Around 1/3 included in Natura 2000 sites or micro reserves



# Management of sites – different approaches

- Protection through planning:
  - Nature management plans (elaborated for the site or general)
  - Species conservation plans
  - Permits (related to protection of fauna)
- Stakeholders:
  - Administration of specially protected nature area
  - Institution responsible for management of the site (i.e. NGOs, private, local governments)
  - Nature protection board
- Independent monitoring of NGOs

# Problems and threats

- Lack of national territorial planning
- Requirements of national legislation are not enforced
- Lack of appropriate infrastructure for visitors
- Lack of information and environmental education activities
- “Development” initiatives of private land owners contradicting nature protection
- Lack of sufficient and long term funding for the management of the sites

# Ideas for co-operation

- Exchange of information on positive experiences and knowledge
- Developing of nature trails
- Participation in transboundary co-operation projects
- Networking for protection of coastal area of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga

# Thank you for attention!

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