

Next steps, way forward

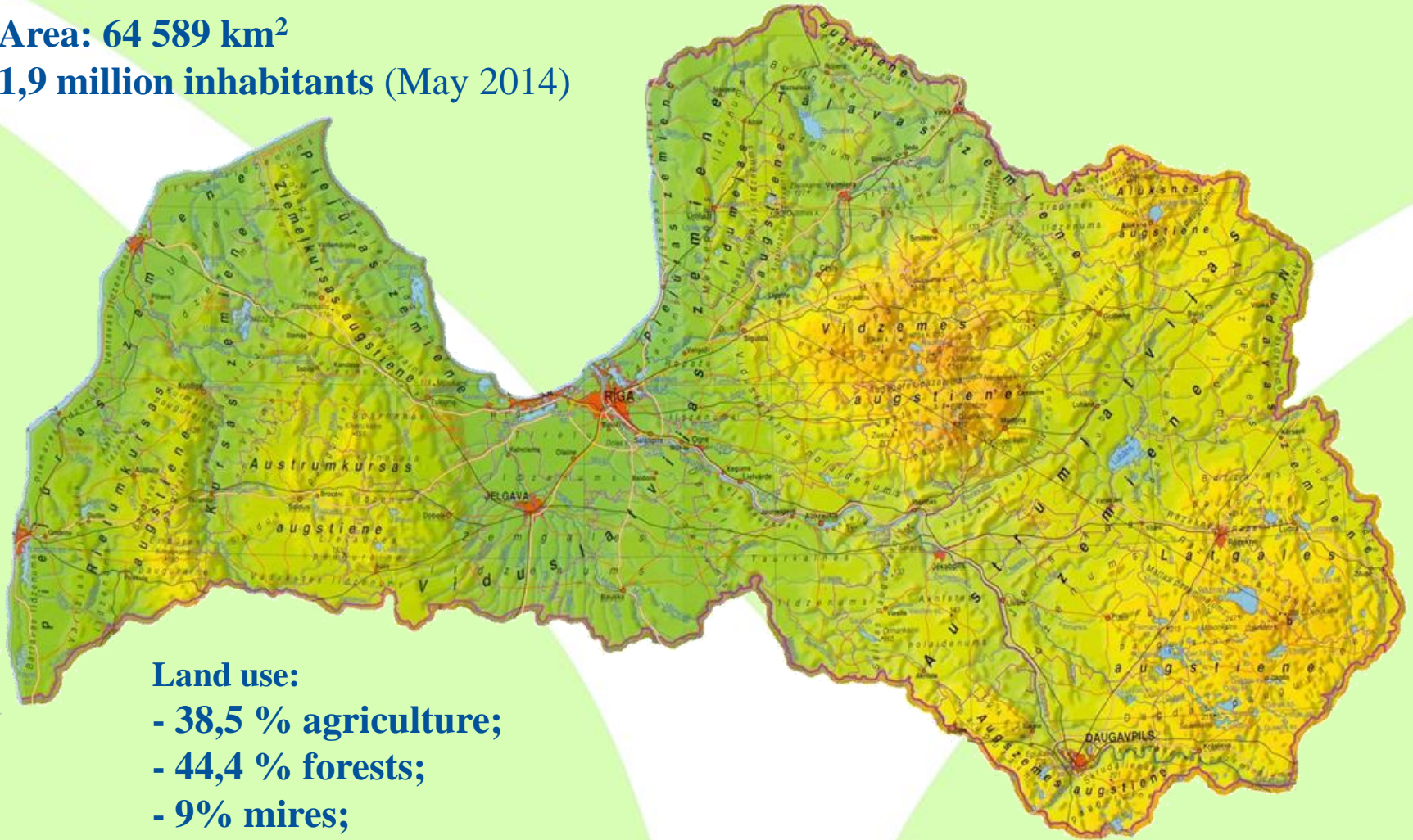
Daiga Vilkaste

24.11.2014.

General information

Area: 64 589 km²

1,9 million inhabitants (May 2014)



Land use:

- 38,5 % agriculture;
- 44,4 % forests;
- 9% mires;
- 8,1 % rest.



Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030

Capital Approach

The concept of capital is used in the strategy in wide meaning and includes elements, which are difficult to express directly in monetary terms. Our main capital is people – their skills, knowledge and talents. **Our capital is nature, environment and space of Latvia.** Also cultural heritage and creativity, the ability to co-operate and to do something jointly, which would be impossible to do individually, is our capital and the source of growth.

Objective

The value of natural resources of Latvia and the availability of natural environment gives a unique opportunity **to develop — green economy and sustainable consumption, to create and preserve the image of Latvia as — green country – an important part of international identification of the state.**

Sustainable Management of Natural Values and Services

Objective

To become the EU leader in the preservation, increase and sustainable use of natural capital

- Priority Long-term Action Directions
- Management of Natural Capital
- Creation of Market Instruments
- Capitalisation of Natural Assets
- Promotion of Sustainable Lifestyle

Sustainable Management of Natural Values and Services

Possible Solutions

- Management of Natural Capital
- Creation of Market Instruments
- Capitalisation of Natural Assets
- Promotion of Sustainable Lifestyle



Legislation - Natural and Cultural Capital synergies

- The first protected territory - Moricsala strict nature reserve (1912)
- Law on Specially Protected Nature Areas
- National parks are vast areas with outstanding nature formations of national importance, landscapes and **cultural heritage** landscapes untouched by human activities or nearly natural, a diversity of biotopes, abundance of **cultural and historical monuments**. Along with nature protection, scientific research, education and organization of leisure have an important role.

Legislation - Natural and Cultural Capital synergies

- The main goals of national parks shall be nature protection, **preservation of cultural and historical heritage**, scientific research, organization of education and recreation, which are restricted by the goals of the **protection of nature and cultural environment**.
- Biosphere Reserve - Biosphere reserve are broad territory **in which landscapes and ecosystems of international significance are located**. The goal of establishing biosphere reserves is to **ensure the preservation of natural diversity and to promote sustainable social and economic development of the territory**.
- 42 Nature Parks - Nature parks are territories that represent the natural, **cultural and historical values of a particular area**, and that are suitable for recreation, education and the instruction of society.

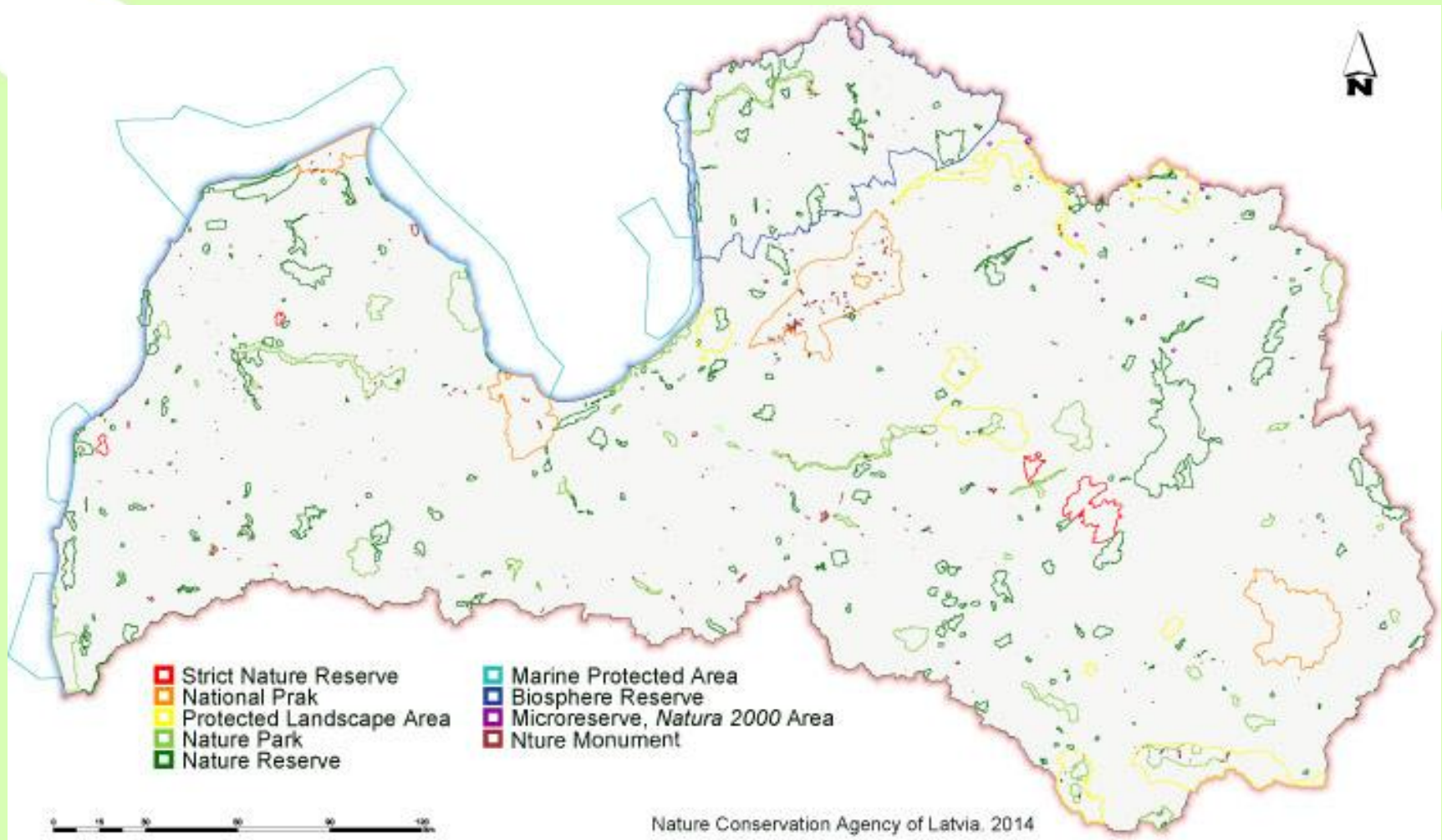
Legislation - Natural and Cultural Capital synergies

- Organization of recreation and economic activities in nature parks shall be carried out by ensuring the preservation of the natural, **cultural and historical values located in such parks.**

- **9 Protected Landscape Areas**

Protected landscape areas are territories remarkable for original and diverse landscapes and special beauty. The goals of such territories are to protect and preserve the **cultural environment and landscapes characteristic** of Latvia in all their diversity, as well as to ensure the preservation of environment appropriate for recreation of society and for tourism, and use of environment friendly management methods.

Protected Nature Areas of Latvia



Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia. 2014

Specially protected nature territories (SPNT) and Nature 2000 sites in Latvia (in numbers)

Categories of specially protected nature territories	Number of SPNT in Latvia	Natura 2000 sites among them
Strict nature reserves	4	4
National parks	4	4
Nature reserves	261	239
Nature parks	42	37
Protected landscape areas	9	9
Biosphere reserve	1	almost all of the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve forming part of nature reserves and natural parks
Protected marine territories	7	7
Nature monuments (except protected trees), including:	355	9
• protected geological and geomorphological nature monuments;	206	9
• protected dendrological plantations;	89	0
• protected alleys	60	0
TOTAL number of SPNT	683	309
Microreserves	2150	24
TOTAL number of Natura 2000 sites		333



The project “Parks & Benefits” which has ended officially on 24 January 2012

- The project strengthened sustainable nature tourism approaches in the Baltic Sea Region and communicates the mutual benefits to protected areas and to their surrounding regions for regional development and sustained natural development.
- Parks
- German Parks
- Danish Park
- Norwegian Park
- Estonian Park
- Latvian Park
- Lithuanian Parks

LIFE projects

Nature Conservation agency

“LIFE Ecosystem Services - Assessment of ecosystems and their services for nature biodiversity conservation and management”

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?useaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4913&docType=pdf

Baltic Environmental Forum

“LIFE Grass service - Alternative use of biomass for maintenance of grassland biodiversity and ecosystem services”

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?useaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4576&docType=pdf

LIFE projects

Baltic Environmental Forum has been working on several Life projects about Baltic Sea ecosystem

For example:

“Innovative approaches for marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment of conservation status of nature values in the Baltic Sea” (Project acronym - MARMONI)

Towards a resilient ecosystem of the Baltic Sea

Legal frame for monitoring, assessment and reporting on the status of marine biodiversity

<http://marmoni.balticseaportal.net/>

The ecosystem approach: a holistic way of thinking



Future, next steps, cooperation

- MARMONI project`s final conference from 27 to 28 January 2015 in Jurmala, Latvia
- Conference **“EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 - implementation”** from 26 to 27 May 2015 in Riga, Latvia
- Mapping of specially protected species/biotops according **“Environmental Policy Strategy 2014 - 2020”**.

Gauja National Park



Kemeri National Park



Razna National Park



Slitere National Park



North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve



Protected landscape area
"Veclaicene"





Grazie!