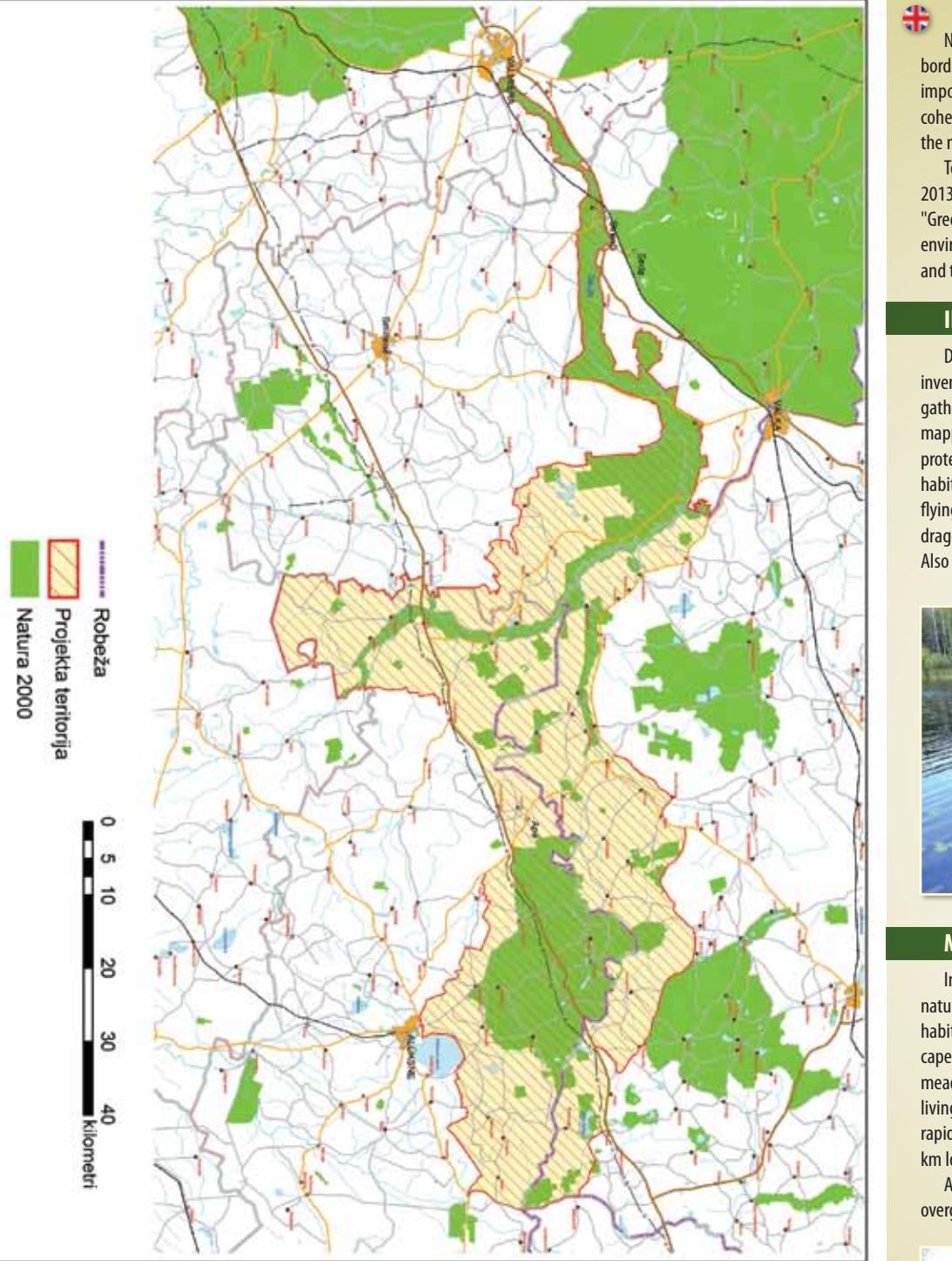


ZĀĻAIS KORIDORS – kas un kāpēc?

ROHELINE KORIDOR – mis ja milleks?

GREEN CORRIDOR – what and why?



Nature is our planet's common value, it knows no national boundaries, especially birds and animals. In Latvian and Estonian border regions as less economically active areas there have remained little affected ecosystem complexes. They play an important role in the Baltic biological and landscape diversity conservation and development as well as strengthening ecological coherence. It is necessary to preserve a unified national vision of the value of nature conservation and management otherwise the nature values in the common border areas may disappear or become substantially threatened.

To draw attention to the border areas and their nature conservation problems since November 1, 2011 until December 31, 2013 with a financial support of Estonian - Latvian cross-border cooperation program 2007-2013 there was launched a project "Green Corridor" in Southern Estonia and North-East Latvia. The goal of the project was to find common solutions to similar environmental problems, to create a common database of environmental values that would help in responsible decision-making, and to seek solutions to develop a coherent administration, monitoring and development activities in the cross-border area.

INVENTORY OF NATURE VALUES

During the project there was undertaken an extensive inventory of nature values in both sides of the border, there was gathered information and obtained new data, there was done mapping of protected habitats and species both in specially protected areas and within sites with importance for species and habitats. Special attention was paid to capercaillie, great snipe, flying squirrel, and Hermit beetle, a variety of butterflies and dragonflies species, as well as forest, grassland and river habitats. Also there was obtained a number of unexpected and valuable



MANAGEMENT OF NATURE VALUES

In order to provide the right conditions for the conservation of nature values there was taken a variety of protected species habitat enhancement measures, including management works in capercaillie habitats in the forests of Latvia and Estonia, wooded meadows and protected grassland habitats restoration. Improved living conditions for great snipe in Estonian grasslands, and river rapids were restored and removed the tree blockings in several km long sections (Pērijupe, Vecpalsa, Peetri river).

A 500 m long section of Gauja riverbed was cleaned from the overgrowth with weed and with the help of metal feries a



and included information on the site, the inventory results and recommendations for improving the species and habitat conditions. It allows to look for ways to improve the current situation in the border region, for example, thinking about protection of the declining population of the Great Snipe. Evaluated also the potential for tourism development in the project area and made suggestions for development a joint nature trails or cycle routes. The plan show differences in the hunting system in both countries, which is essential in the case of migratory species, also is provided an overview of invasive species in the border regions. A management recommendations plan is not a document of a legal significance and does not constitute an obligation to comply with the recommendations, but it will help professionals to better understand the situation in the border area.



VOLUNTARY MONITORING

A big role in the conservation and protection of nature values is playing the society and its understanding of natural processes and values so during the project there was promoted public monitoring, involving the local community. As



a basis there was used a public monitoring program developed by the Northern Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve – it's meaning is to engage in voluntary observation, to monitor and record a variety of information about birds, secular trees, alleys, beavers, waters, etc. The residents of Latvian border areas in the project territory were familiarized with the monitoring methodology. There were

COOPERATION

Many of the measures during the project were taken in close cooperation between the project partners – Estonian Environmental Board and Nature Conservation Agency, including the management measures, matching the inventory methodologies for nature values, participating in experience exchanges, as well as developing recommendations for further joint management of nature values in both sides of the border.

In project measures also local residents and landowners participated actively took part in practical works and informative seminars.

Performing of joint management measures, in Latvia there have been strengthened cooperation between the Nature Conservation Agency and various responsible institutions, including the State Forest Service, S/C "Latvian State Forests" and local municipalities. In Estonia the cooperation between local active people and Environmental board has been improved until now.

Significant experience was gained during the project team visit to the French-German border – the Vosges du Nord and Pfälzerwald cross-boundary specially protected biosphere reserve. During the visit there were explored practises of joint nature value conservation and gained significant experience in transnational cooperation in nature conservation.

Partneri

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Igaunijas-Latvijas pārrobežu sadarbības programmas ietvaros
2011. gada 1. novembris - 2013. gada 31. decembris

Linking Estonia and Latvia
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



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