



Natura 2000 Networking  
Programme on behalf of  
the European  
Commission

Natura 2000 Networking Programme managed in  
partnership by project partners EUROPARC  
Federation, Eurositer and European Landowners  
Organization (ELO)

## Natura 2000 in Latvia: Opportunities and Obstacles

### Workshop Report

#### a. Introduction/ Background

- The workshop took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007 in Birini Castle, Latvia.
- The workshop consisted of a half-day conference with a Questions and Answers sessions (after each presentation and in the end of all presentations), followed by an afternoon visit in the field in the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve. Additionally, press, including a press conference after the seminar, covered the entire event.
- Target audience: different stakeholders working on a daily bases with environmental issues, especially foresters (the local co-organiser of this event is the Latvian Forest Owner's Association, representing 25% of Latvian forestry area), representatives of Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities; representatives of forestry enterprises, NGOs (e.g. The EUROPARC Federation) and farmers (e.g. Lithuanian participants). Moreover the presence of journalists was very important to better communicate Natura 2000 issues on a local and national level.
- The scope of stakeholders groups was various (42 participants)
  - Foresters (Latvian Forest Owner's Association, Confederation of Latvian Forest Owners, Forest Owners Association of Lithuania);
  - Farmers (Lithuanian Family Farmers Union, Lithuanian Landowners Union);
  - Landowners (ELO, Latvian and Lithuanian organisations);
  - Hunters (Latvian Forest Owner's Association, Confederation of Latvian Forest Owners, Forest Owners Association of Lithuania);
  - Scientists (North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve -NVBR);
  - Site Managers (ELO, The EUROPARC Federation, North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve –NVBR, Latvian Forest Owner's Association, Confederation of Latvian Forest Owners, Forest Owners Association of Lithuania, Lithuanian Family Farmers Union, Lithuanian Landowners Union);
  - National and local authorities (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, local municipality);
  - European Commission, DG Environment;
  - Private sector (e.g. SIA "Skogssallskapet Latvia);
- For the full list of participants, see annex 1

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EUROPEAN LANDOWNERS ORGANIZATION ASBL - E.L.O. ASBL

Rue de Trêves 67 – B-1040 Bruxelles

Tel: +32 (0)2 234 30 00 - Fax: +32 (0)2 234 30 09

Email: [elo@elo.org](mailto:elo@elo.org) URL: <http://www.elo.org>

## **b. Purpose of Workshop & Expected Outcomes**

Environmental issues are more and more acute, due to global warming, etc. This phenomenon leads to re-plan the Latvian and European policies more toward environmental protection. Some human activities (and also forestry) may be affected by what happens to nature, and there is a need to anticipate the future situation. Moreover there is a need of better understand and communicate the issues linked to Natura 2000 regulations and requirements.

- **Aim & Objectives of the workshop for the host**

The aims were to explain how Latvia has managed to organise environmental and forestry issues and also show other Member States experiences. The workshop also aimed to assess the impact of economic activities from social, economic and environmental aspects.

- *Specific issues such as:*

- Viewpoints on the implementation of Natura 2000 – the need to share good examples and best practices;
- Natura 2000 Networking Programme – added value;
- Natura 2000 in Latvia - development and future plans;
- Natura 2000 and the economic activities- the Lithuanian point of view;
- Compensation payments available to forest owners in Latvia in respect of constraints imposed by Natura 2000;
- The involvement of landowners in the improvement of the living area in the territory of the reserve was addressed during the workshop.

## **c. Results - key points arising during the workshop**

- The key points were:
  - Better communicate the requirements of Natura 2000 (this was emphasised due to the letter of warning sent to the Latvian authorities by the European Commission on 10<sup>th</sup> July);
  - Anticipate the future national regulations linked to the implementation of Natura 2000, including discussions with various stakeholders (not always taken into account by different national authorities in the process of preparation).

## **d. Conclusions and further action**

- The main points emerging are the need for discussion and cooperation between local stakeholders (the example presented was the Latvian Confederation of Forests Owners; where the 7 Board Members representing: State (including National Parks), municipalities, forests enterprises, big private forests owners and small private landowners cooperate on daily basis);
- Need to explain good examples and best practices, explicate the problems in the field, (e.g. via actions such as special training for the national Latvian deputies on the challenges of forestry, lead by the Latvian Confederation of Forests Owners) to avoid myth and discuss realities and make sure to pave the way for solutions.

## **e. Contact details of workshop host**

- Latvian Forest Owner's Association  
Meza Ipasnieku Biedriba (MIB) -Forest Owners Association  
Udensdzirnavas, Birini  
Limbazu raj. LV4014  
LATVIA

Tel: +37129104286  
Website: [www.mezaipasnieki.lv](http://www.mezaipasnieki.lv)

**Mr Arnis MUIZNIEKS**  
Executive director  
E-mail: [info@mezaipasnieki.lv](mailto:info@mezaipasnieki.lv)

**f. Contact details of workshop participants**

- Name, address, e-mail, website (see the annex 1)

**g. Relevant background papers**

see attachments:

1° PP presentations

2° press article(s)

3° Programme documentation (leaflets, future workshops, [www.natura.org](http://www.natura.org), etc)

**The workshop will be carbon compensated.**

# Annex 1

NNP- "NATURA 2000 in Latvia : Opportunities and Obstacles.", 11th of July 2007, Birni Castle (Latvia)				
first name	last name	organisation	e-mail	signature
1. LAIMA <del>MEKSA</del>	MICKUVIENĒ	LITHUANIAN LANDOWNERS ORGANISATION	laima.meksa@ yahoo.co.uk	<i>[Signature]</i>
2. ANTONINA	VENCKIŅIENĒ	" - " - " - "	1255@zur.ek	<i>[Signature]</i>
3. <del>El. Mirdzūnāja</del>	Kulinskis	ZM (Ministry of agriculture)	1255@zur.ek	<i>[Signature]</i>
4. RITVILDS	Šimbermanis	LITHUANIAN FAMILY FARMERS UNION	ritvilds@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
5. Vidas	Juodshukis	" - " - " - "	1255@zur.ek	<i>[Signature]</i>
6. Diana	Mortančionė	" - " - " - "	vidas@zur.ek	<i>[Signature]</i>
7. Lina	Kukieraitė	Lithuanian family farmers union	nick@ yahoo.co.uk	<i>[Signature]</i>
8. Edgars	Dupuzs	MEŠPARNIEKU BIEDRĪBA	KURSAEDZ@ yahoo.co.uk	<i>[Signature]</i>
9. Augusts	Lediņš	augšmēģa vēstis"	transkripcija@ yahoo.co.uk	<i>[Signature]</i>
10. Laine	Lediņa	UNDP/GEF	laine@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
11. KATĀ	JAUNBLAŽE	Latvian, avize	ani@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
12. NORIMUS	BERZINS	Meža īpašnieku biedrība	nochimus@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
13. Ēriņš	Čakrāns	SIA Stora Enso Mežs	jans@ yahoo.co.uk	<i>[Signature]</i>
14. LĒNIS	Kadziņš	Meža īpašnieku biedrība	lenis@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
15. Aigars	Neimanis	HIB/ Stora Enso mežs	aigars.neimanis@ storaenso.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
16. Lāis Georgs	Hedland	M.B/ Skopss eksperimentārs	lgeorgs@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
17. Ojars	Sarvins	Lithuanian landowners' Family farmers	opavica@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
18. Alberts	Čerņieks	" - " - " - "	alberts@ gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
19. Jānis	Čerņieks	" - " - " - "	" - " - " - "	<i>[Signature]</i>
20. Aiga	Čerņieks	" - " - " - "	" - " - " - "	<i>[Signature]</i>
21. Māris	Čerņieks	KPC	" - " - " - "	<i>[Signature]</i>



NNP- "NATURA 2000 in Latvia: Opportunities and Obstacles", 11th of July 2007 Birni Castle (Latvia)				
first name	last name	organisation	e-mail	signature
22	Dejnere	Latvian Nature Conservation Society	agnie@hs.lv	[Signature]
21	Zanis	BACANS	BACANS@FINIERIS.lv	[Signature]
24	DIANA	MARTINIELIENE	dianna@finieris.lv	[Signature]
22	Sandra	JACOVICA	sandra.jacovica@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
22	Kristaps	Vilnava	kristaps.vilnava@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
22	Harpis	Fordans	harpis@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
22	Edvards RAUGALIS	Lithuanian Landowners Union	edvards.raugalis@progritrucentras.lt	[Signature]
23	Jone	Raugalaitė	jone.raugalaitė@progritrucentras.lt	[Signature]
23	Raimonds	Baltonis	raimonds.baltonis@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
23	Ornuta	Garnautskas	ornuta.garnautskas@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
31	Anders	Ligas	andis.ligas@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
33	Arnis	BPVL	arnis.bpvl@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
33	RASA	RAUGALIENE	rasa.raugaliene@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
35	Tomas	Konars	tomas.konars@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
35	ILONA	DEPSENA	ilona.depse@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
34	ROLANDS	AUZINS	rolands.auzins@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
34	Thierry	de l'Eschelle	thierry.deleschelle@elo.org	[Signature]
35	Arts	Erilis	arts.erilis@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
40	Boris Shingals	Shingals	boris.shingals@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
41	Emmanuel	Maksa	emmanuel.maksa@vmd.gov.lv	[Signature]
42	Cécile	BONINO	cecile.bonino@elo.org	[Signature]