

Challenges of nature protection and NGO activities in Latvia



Latvijas Zaļā kustība

Latvian Green Movement

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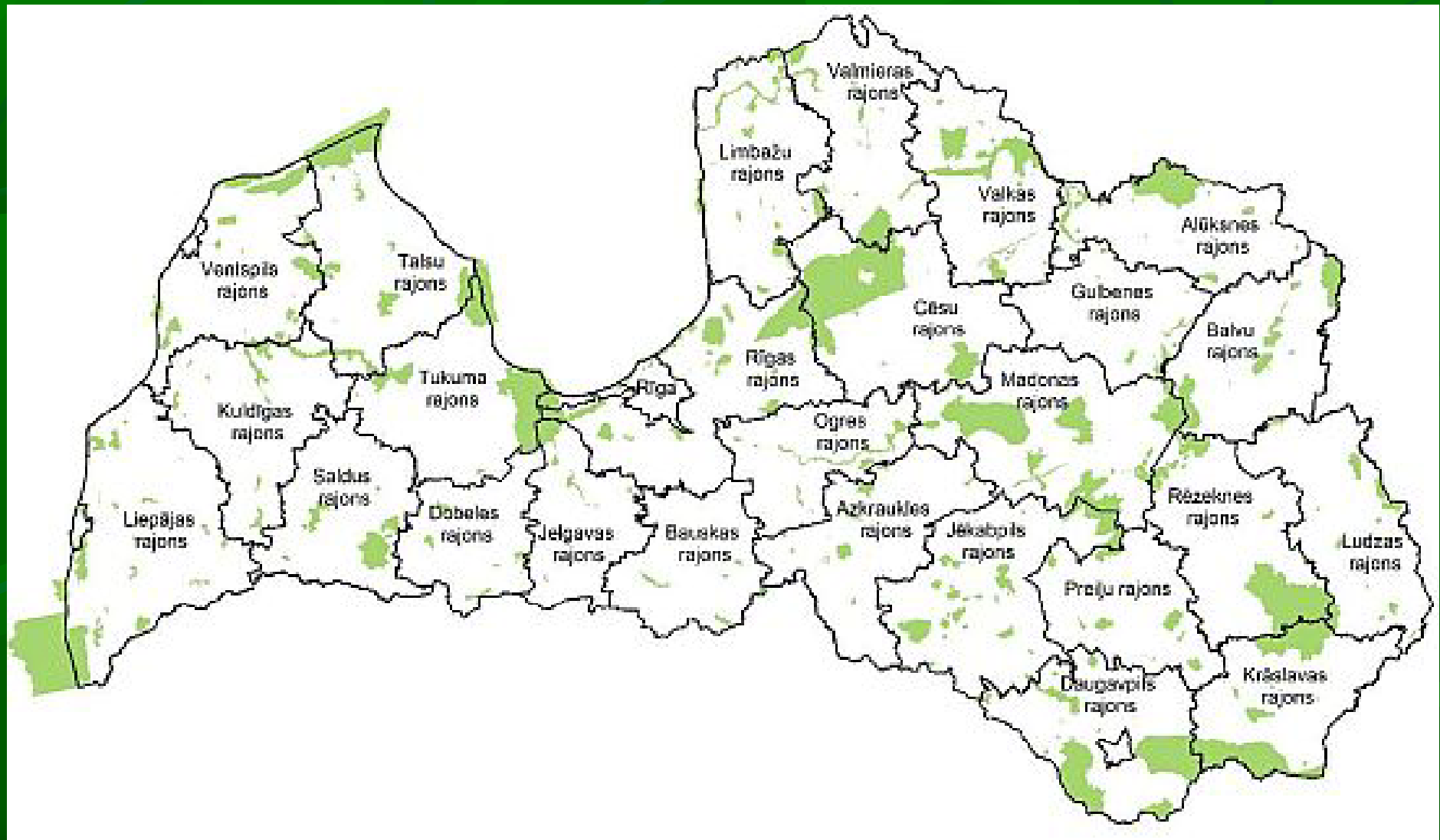
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Protected areas in Latvia



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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