

# Nature Conservation Highlights in Nordic and Baltic Countries during the Past Ten Years

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section  
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Finnish Nature Centre Haltia, Espoo, Finland



METSÄHALLITUS

# Lithuania

- **2003-2012** Interreg projects (Eagle, Parks and Benefits, Lifescape, Lakes for Future) help us share the experience among PAs with the Baltic Sea colleagues
- **2004-2012** nature management activities on an area of 4,000 ha in 58 Natura 2000 sites
- **2007-2012** new 17 visitor centres in Lithuania (one in Dzūkija NP) renewed or established and new facilities in most Regional and National Parks for visitors were built
- **2008** the first stationary orienteering park (track) established in the Kuršių Nerija National Park. It is only one in all Lithuania.

# Lithuania

- **2008** Plateliai (Žemaitija National Park) became a member of European Destinations of Excellence as Tourism and local intangible heritage with unique ancient traditions of Shrovetide celebration.
- **2011** Dzūkija NP became a member of PAN Parks
- **2010-2012** unique Cold War and Shrovetide museums established in Žemaitija National Park
- **2012** Kurtuvėnai Regional Park became Charter Area for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and Žemaitija National Park a candidate.

# Latvia

- Establishment of Natura 2000 network
- Fourth national park
  - Rāzna National Park
- 100 years of Nature Conservation
  - Moricsala Nature Reserve was established in 1913
- One merged institution – Nature Conservation Agency in 2009
- Nature Concerthall
  - music, poesy, songs, workshops with nature interpretation
- Nature data database OZOLS
- Large-scale investments in tourism infrastructure with EU funding
- European Charter for Sustainable Tourism for Ķemeri National Park

# Estonia

- Natura 2000 process and widening protected areas up to 18%
- Semi-natural grasslands maintenance and forest protection with the help of EU subsidies
- Eagles success stories
- Bog and mire hydrological regime restoration
- Restoration of fish passes
- Organizational changes of nature protection
- Compiling systematically species action plans and site management plans
- Collaboration between different stakeholders

# Denmark

- **1999** OECD recommendations
- **2001** National recommendations
- **2003** Pilot Projects
- **2007** Law of Danish national parks
- **2008** The first national park in Denmark
  - **2008** Thy National Park
  - **2009** Mols Bjerger National Park
  - **2010** Wadden Sea National Park

# Sweden

- **2004** A program for better use and management of protected areas, 2005-2015. Protect – Preserve – Present
- **2004** National guidelines for visitor centres
- **2005** Action plans for threatened species
- **2008** National Park Plan for Sweden's long-term protection
- **2009** Sweden's National Parks 100 years (1909-2009)
- **2011** The Laponian World Heritage, a joint management
- **2012** The brand for Sweden's national parks is launched
- **2013** 1,559 new Nature Reserves (2004-2013)

# Finland

- Consolidation of the PA system, including Natura 2000
- Strategic communication
- Development of personnel
- Project portfolio
- Mainstreaming and internationalization
- Systematic follow-up of the economic benefits of PAs
- Restoration and active management
- New fields: marine work, cultural heritage, fish & game