

Demonstrative restoration of the Tyruliai bog as a part of the initiative of the re-wetting of Lithuanian peatlands

Project acronym: Tyruliai - Life

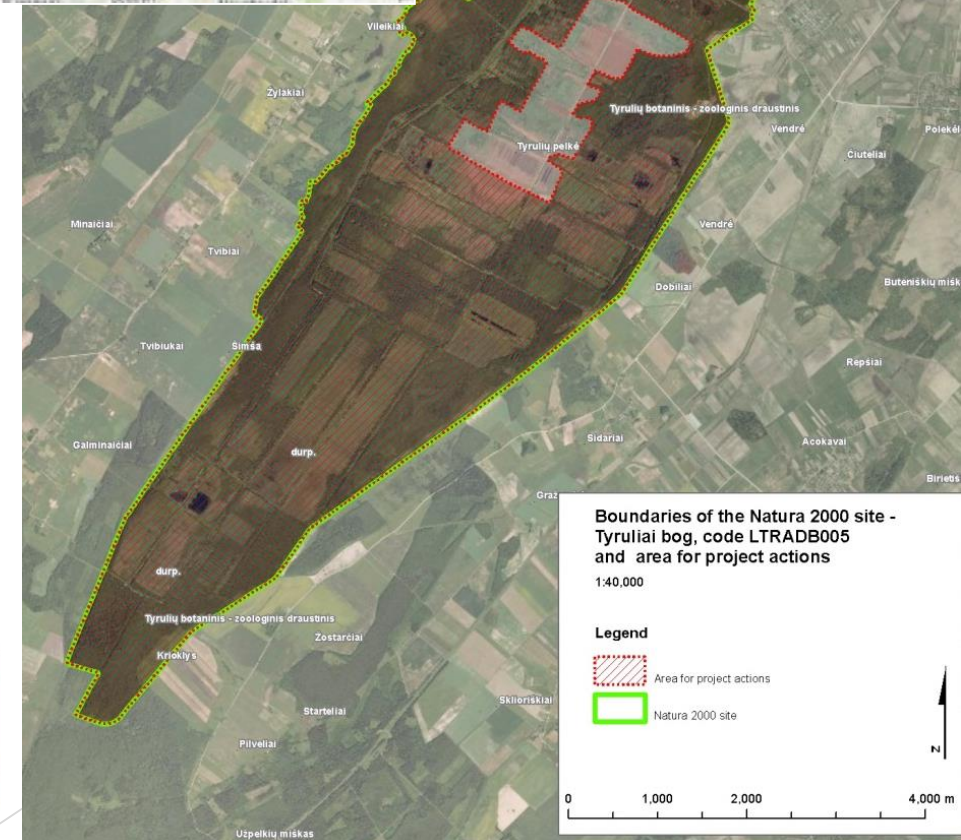
Project number: LIFE12 NAT/LT/001186

LIFE Baltic networking meeting 2017, Pärnu, 28.09.2017.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

- ▶ *Project location:* Lithuania, Šiaulių apskritis
- ▶ *Budget - 1,250,907 EUR*
 - ▶ *EU contribution:* 733,762 EUR
 - ▶ *Own contribution:* 79,328 EUR
 - ▶ *State budget:* 437,817 EUR
- ▶ *Duration:* 31/07/2013 - 30/11/2017
- ▶ *Beneficiaries:*
 - ▶ *Coordinating -* Lithuanian Ornithological Society
 - ▶ *Associated -* UAB "Didysis Tyrulis"



PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND MAIN ACTIVITIES (I)

- Tyruliai Bog SPA covers heavily destroyed peatland (because of former peat mining) with some areas under natural regeneration process.
- **Main objective** - to improve conservation status of Tyruliai bog, mainly, through the restoration of the destroyed marshy habitats - extermination of wood vegetation in the former open areas, restoration of the natural hydrological regime and support of the recovery of the natural bog vegetation including natural habitats of the Community Importance.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND MAIN ACTIVITIES (II)

► MAIN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES:

- Construction of the set of simple affluents on the drainage ditches in order to restore destroyed hydrological regime on large area of the bog;
- Removing of the wood vegetation in formely open bog areas including dry peatland sites used for re-wetting actions;
- Proper management of the reed stands using innovative methods - depending on the hydrological situation on concrete sites (two different Actions);
- Implementation of fire-prevention measures - improvement of the access roads for fire-engine, setting bounds for public traffic.



CURRENT SITUATION, MEASURED IMPACTS & RESULTS I

- ▶ The project was planning to re-wet more than 500 ha of dry peatland based on the prepared technical project. **The technical project on the restoration of the hydrological regime of the Tyruliai bog was prepared and approved.**
- ▶ For rewetting the area it was planned to construct 30 dams from local materials. **46 dams were constructed** by the project.
- ▶ To improve ecosystems it was planned to cut woody and other vegetation growing on the dry peat in the area of 280 ha. **Currently 250 ha are already managed.**
- ▶ It was planned to increase capacity of more than 200 ha reed stands growing in the flooded ponds by the extermination of reed in at least 32 ha. **25 ha of flooded reed stands were cut.**
- ▶ It was planned to manage the area of at least 200 ha by cutting bushes and other vegetation growing on the over-flooded places by cutting it at least twice. **The cutting was done already twice in the area of 200 ha.**
- ▶ **Reed stands had to be cut in wet places in the area of 100 ha for three times. The area of 113 ha was managed twice.**



CURRENT SITUATION, MEASURED IMPACTS & RESULTS II

- ▶ To improve effectiveness of the fire prevention it was planned to improve quality of 8,5 km of local roads. So far 9,6 km of the road were improved, and the activity is being continued.
- ▶ To close car traffic on the large area (some thousands ha) in the area of reserve four local roads were closed by building four roadblocks.
- ▶ An interactive ArcGIS Online map on monitoring data is publicly available on website since summer of 2014.
- ▶ Reports on birds monitoring and habitat monitoring in 2014, 2015, 2016 were prepared and latter approved by PSC.
- ▶ Ecosystem services reports were prepared by in 2015, 2017 and approved by the PSC.
- ▶ Seminar on the restoration of the destroyed peatlands and dissemination of the project results was organised.
- ▶ Website www.tyruliai-life.lt, two leaflets, brochure about Tyruliai bog SPA, four wall calendars, the film (incl. DVD) about the natural values of the Tyruliai bog and project achievements. Five notice boards together with visitors infrastructure (two observation towers). 8 public events, in particular addressed to the local community.



FURTHER ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- ▶ Re-wetting of the dry-peat areas of the Tyruliai bog (Additional 9 dams are planned in order to reach better recovery of the hydrological regime of the bog);
- ▶ Cutting of the wood and other vegetation in the dry peat areas (Woody vegetation will be cut in the area of additional 30 ha, which are surrounding the newly planned dams' area);
- ▶ Cutting of the reed stands in the already flooded areas/ponds (4 metres width belts will be cut with the underwater reed cutting amphibian machinery on the 7 ha area in order to create more attractive habitats for the protected birds species of the SPA - Great Bittern, Whooper Swan, Little crane and others);
- ▶ Cutting of the reed stands in the former open wet areas of the bog (repeat one more time (third) cut in the already managed areas of 113 ha in order to support formation of the open sedge communities there until the land managers will take over the management);
- ▶ Designing, elaboration and implementation of the Ex-ante and Ex-post monitoring scheme;
- ▶ Project impact on socio-economic conditions and ecosystem functions;
- ▶ Production and distribution of 2018 wall-calendar;
- ▶ Production of Layman's report;
- ▶ Elaboration of "After-LIFE Conservation Plan".



MORE INFORMATION:

► *Project website: <http://www.tyruliai-life.lt/>*

► *Contacts:*

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