

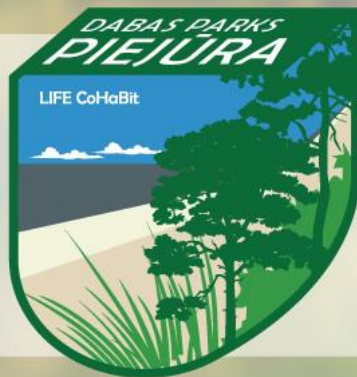


Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde



Involvement of society and promotion of participation

Role of development plan of the Nature Park "Piejūra" within coastal development process of local area

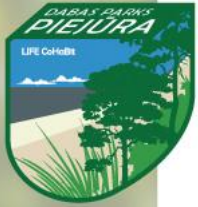


Coastal Habitat Conservation in Nature Park 'Piejūra', Natura 2000 site

LIFE CoHaBit

LIFE15NAT/LV/000900

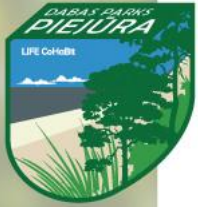
Mg.paed., Mg.psych. Gundega Ulme & Mg.Sc.ing. Agnese Jeņina
Carnikava Municipality & NGO «Baltic Coasts»



Agenda of presentation

1. Project LIFE CoHaBit
2. NP «Piejūra»
3. Restoration & management of habitats
3. Data & Statistics
4. Involvement of society
5. Challenges





Project LIFE CoHaBit

Duration: 01/09/2016 - 31/08/2020

Beneficiaries:

Coordinating –

Carnikava Municipality

Associated –

- Riga City Council, City Development Department
- NGO «Baltic Coasts»
- Nature Conservation Board

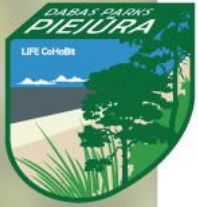
Co-funding:

- European Commission LIFE program 60%
- Administration of the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund and project partners 40%



Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde





Project LIFE CoHaBit

Main aim: Mitigation of the heavy anthropogenic pressure and restore the vulnerable coastal habitats in NP 'Piejūra' (Latvia), Natura 2000 site

There will be implemented conservation, restoration and sustainable management of 13 coastal habitat types (7 of them EU priority) and 2 plant species listed in the Habitats Directive, 9 habitat types according to the Bern Convention, and 6 species listed in Birds Directive found in Nature Park 'Piejūra', NATURE 2000 site

Main activities:

1. Nature Management plan and Visitor management plan of Nature Park 'Piejūra'

2. Conservation and restoration actions

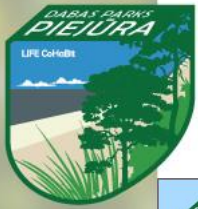
- including 5 ha of Coastal lagoons, 5 ha of Baltic Boreal meadows, 33 ha of grey dunes, 18 ha of Western taiga, etc.

3. Control alien species invasion in NP 'Piejūra'

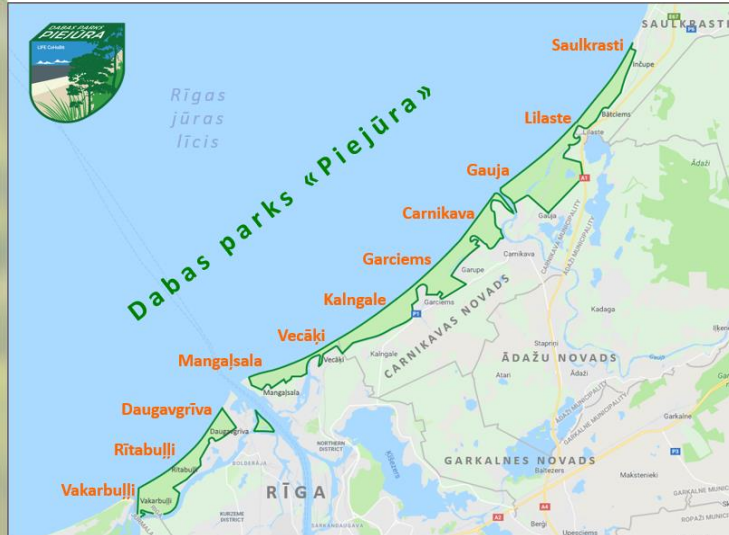
4. Stakeholder's involvement

- educational activities and awareness rising campaigns (The Information and Education Center of NP 'Piejūra' established, awareness raising campaigns and educational activities (mobile application, social media, video materials) Experience gained by networking with nature conservation institutions in EU to adopt their experiences in restoration and management of coastal habitats





Nature Park «Piejūra»



- Originally established in 1962, the purpose of the park was to preserve dune forests, forests, beaches.
- NP “Piejūra” represents the habitats and species of the Boreal region.
- Natura 2000 site
- Total area of 4315 ha

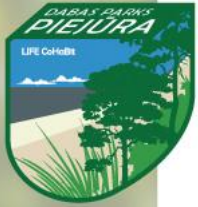




Nature Park «Piejūra»

- **Includes 3 municipalities** – Riga city, Carnikava municipality, Saulkrastu municipality.
- Flows through **3 major rivers** of Latvia: Lielupe, Daugava, Gauja.
- In accordance with the Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy it is **one of the premises of national interest**.
- Majority of the area is covered by **habitats of EU importance**, 10 of them are under priority protected status.
- **Intensive anthropogenic pressure.**
- **Habitat quality is rapidly decreasing.**
- Faces the **interests of different sectors** - forestry, culture, recreation, tourism, education and nature protection.
- **Several landowners** and land managers, both state and municipal institutions, and legal and private persons.
- **Mismatch and lack of** demand for tourism and recreation **infrastructure.**
- **Management of territory is carried out irregularly and insufficient.**



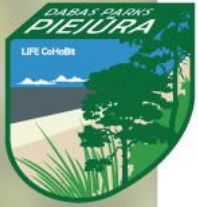


Nature Park «Piejūra»

- Majority of the area is covered by **habitats of EU importance**, like coastal dunes, meadows, lagoons, and forests that are spread in the area of more than 30 km and is **characterized by the high biodiversity**.
- The entire territory of these sensitive habitats are becoming more and more topical due to the **increase of the anthropogenic load**, as well as the increasing severity of storms and subsequent level of coastal erosion.
- The unique **value of area depends on the interaction of all species and habitats present in it**, and the project aims also to preserve this diversity of species and habitats, which together form the **landscape diversity of the seashore**.



Photo: A.Ģērmāne



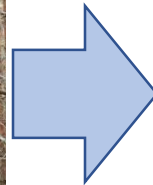
Restoration & management of habitats

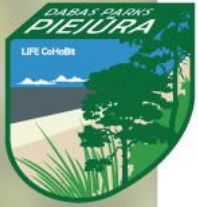
Wooded dunes and gray dunes

- The aim is to **restore and improve the condition** of the protected habitats while simultaneously **balancing these actions with the provision of a shore-side protective function** and the provision of **high-quality ecosystem services to the local population**.
- To restore coastal habitats **activities consist of complex restoration methods** together forming a **mosaic structure** to increase the biodiversity of habitats.
- Such works will be carried out for the **first time in NP “Piejūra” and overall Latvian coast**.



Dianthus arenarius

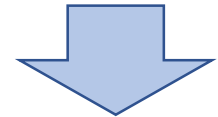




Restoration & management of habitats

Protection the coastal dunes against erosion

- The aim is to **restore and improve the condition** of the coastal dunes which is **threatened by anthropogenic pressure and wind erosion**.
- Main methods for erosion reduction will be **brush coverings, plantation** of *Leymus arenarius* or *Ammophila arenaria* and **set up of fences** to prevent erosion.
- An innovative and demonstrative aspect of coastal erosion reduction will be **the use of reeds for fence installation**.

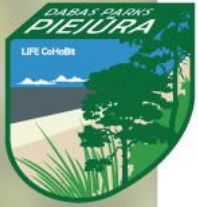




Restoration & management of habitats

Protection the coastal dunes against erosion



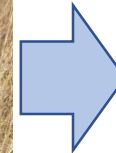


Restoration & management of habitats

Restoration measures of Boreal Baltic coastal meadows and coastal lagoons

Boreal Baltic coastal meadows

- The **purpose is to restore the grassland as creating a diverse and more favorable environment for the meadow regeneration process** and to make favorable conditions for development of plant and animal species, especially bird species.



Coastal lagoons

- The main aim of the restoration works is to **create a complex and open lagoon habitat landscape**, where would be favorable conditions for development of plant and animal species, especially bird species.



Rhinanthus spp.



Restoration & management of habitats

Alien / invasive species combat

- Invasive alien species pose a **significant threat to biodiversity** in the EU and also in Latvia.
- The dispersal restriction of invasive species is **one of the priorities of nature protection in Latvia** (the Latvian National Programme on Biological Diversity, accepted by Cabinet of Ministers on 16th of May, 2000).
- The action is required to **conserve habitats of Community importance** – Wooded dunes, shifting dunes and meadows.



Rosa rugosa



Aronia melanocarpa



*Solidago
Canadensis*



*Impatiens
glandulifera*



*Amelanchier
spicata*



Lactuca tatarica



Data & Statistics



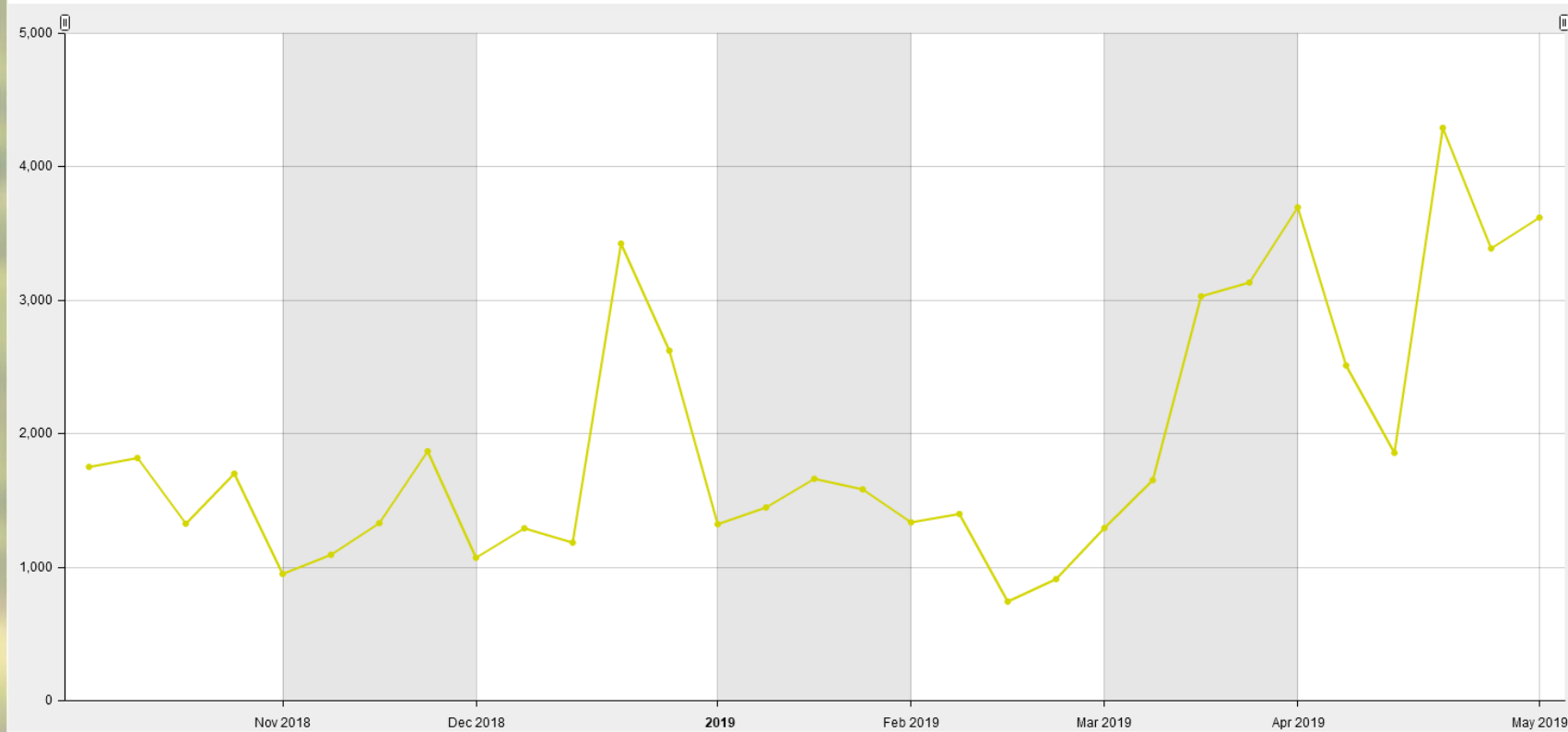
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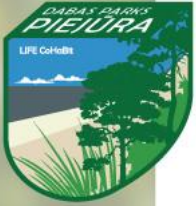
Scientific Conference "Maritime and coastal planning – from planning to results"



Data & Statistics

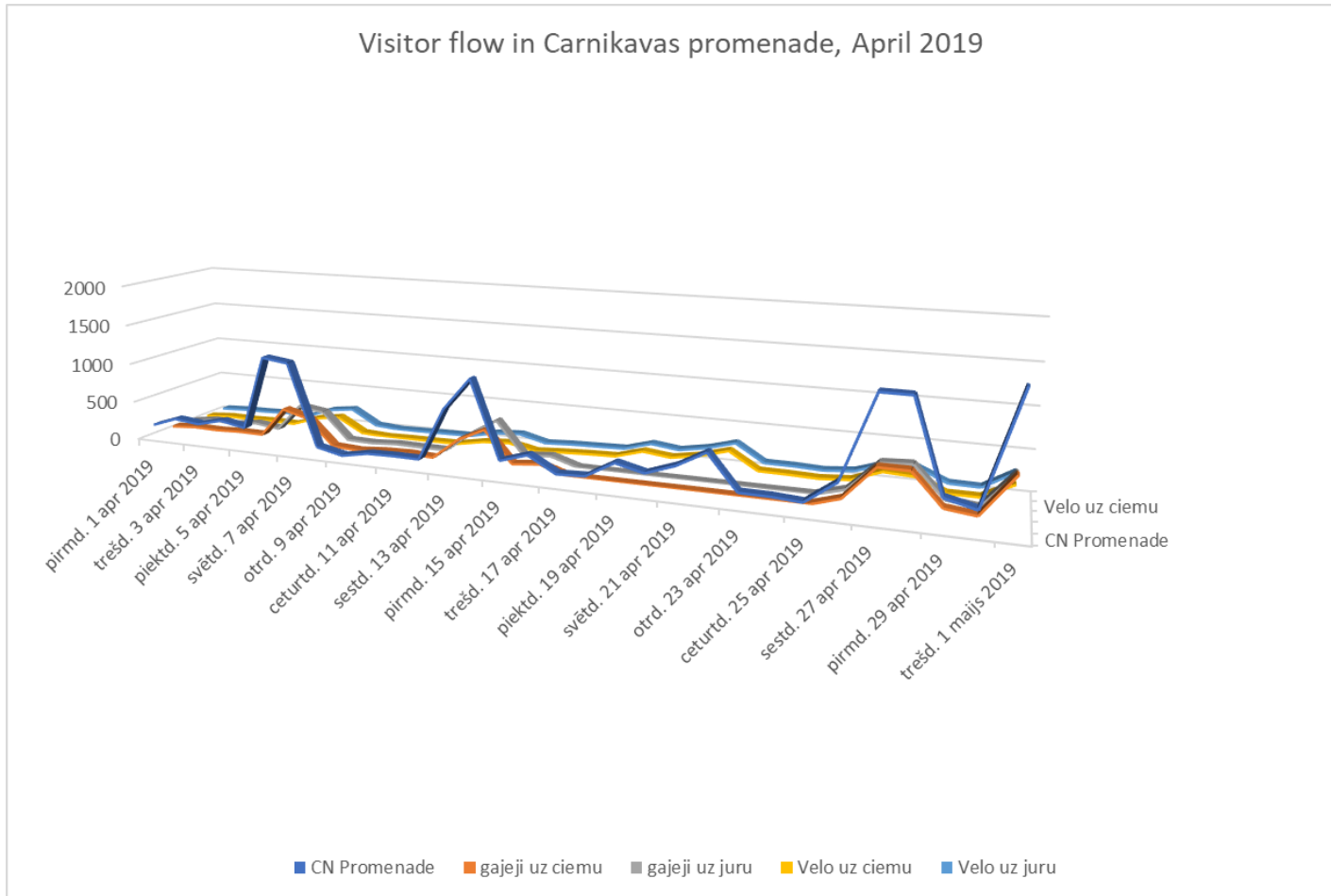
Visitor Flow at Carnikava Promenade (October 2018 – May 2019)





Data & Statistics

Visitor Flow at Carnikava Promenade

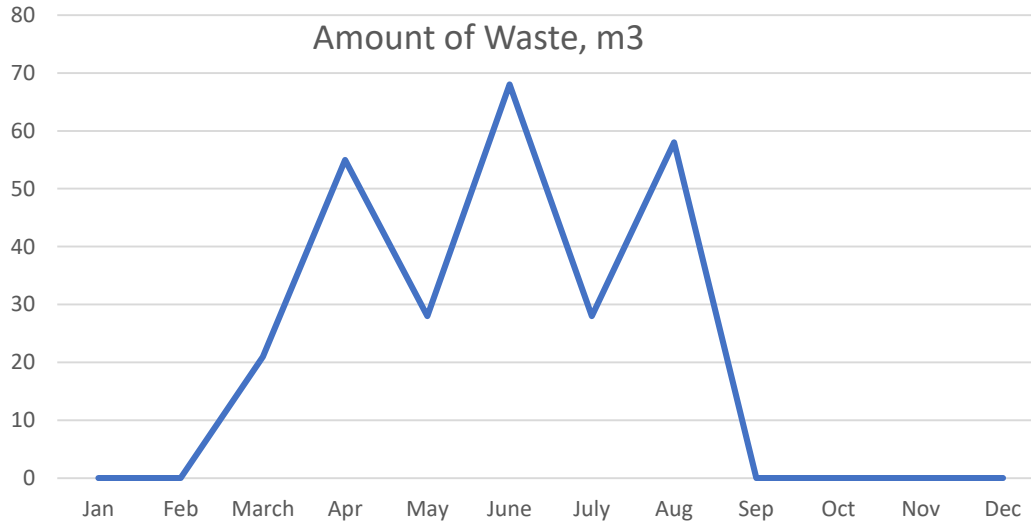


Average 490 visitors per day in April 2019, and ~1500 visitors every day in spring weekends.



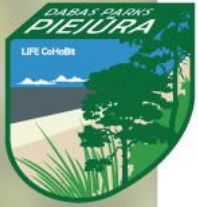
Data & Statistics

Amount of waste



The number of visitors to the park is increasing - the number of waste remains unchanged.

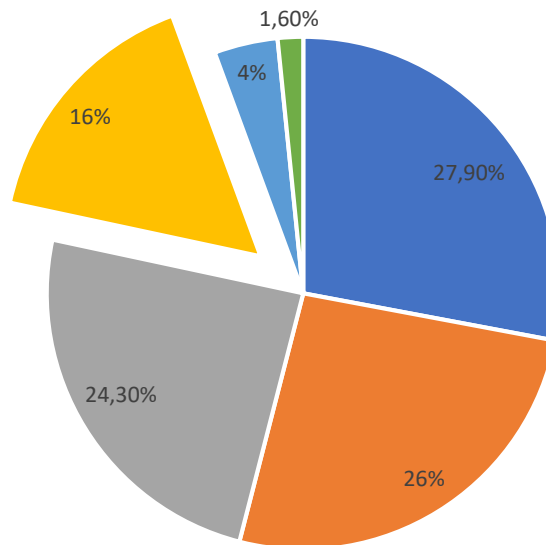




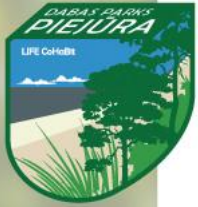
Data & Statistics

- The survey “Public opinion on the nature park “Piejūra””
- 08/10/2018- 24/10/2018, 506 respondents

How often do you visit NP «Piejūra?»



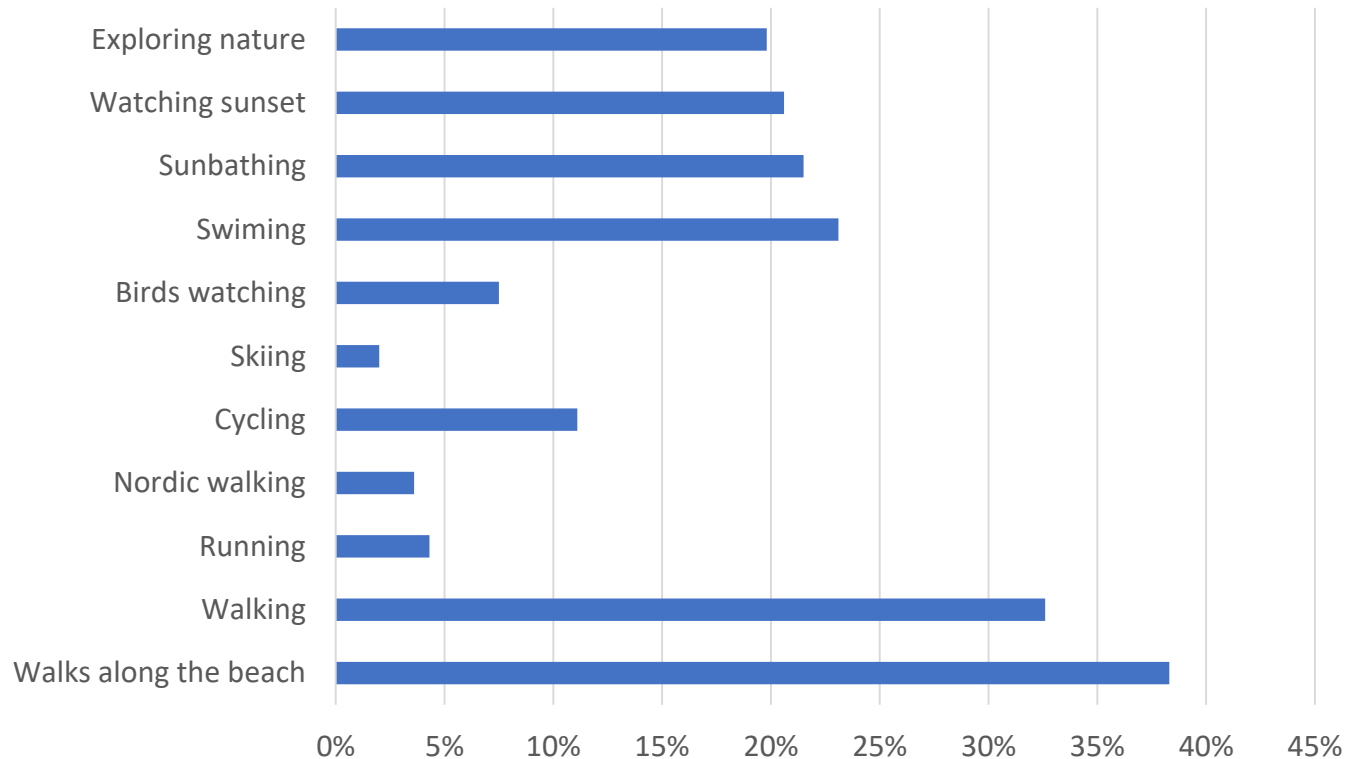
- At least one a month
- At least once a week
- Couple times in a year
- Every day
- Less than once a year
- Once a year



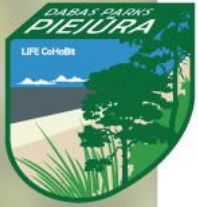
Data & Statistics

- The survey “Public opinion on the nature park “Piejūra””

For what purposes do you visit the nature park «FREQUENTLY»?



The most common answers within «other purpose»: orienteering; a desire to escape from the community and city; horse riding; time to spend alone.



Data & Statistics

- The survey “Public opinion on the nature park “Piejūra””

Priority of NP Piejūra No 1:

Nature protection

VS

Is it necessary to limit the number of visitors to the NP?

Totally disagree – 47%

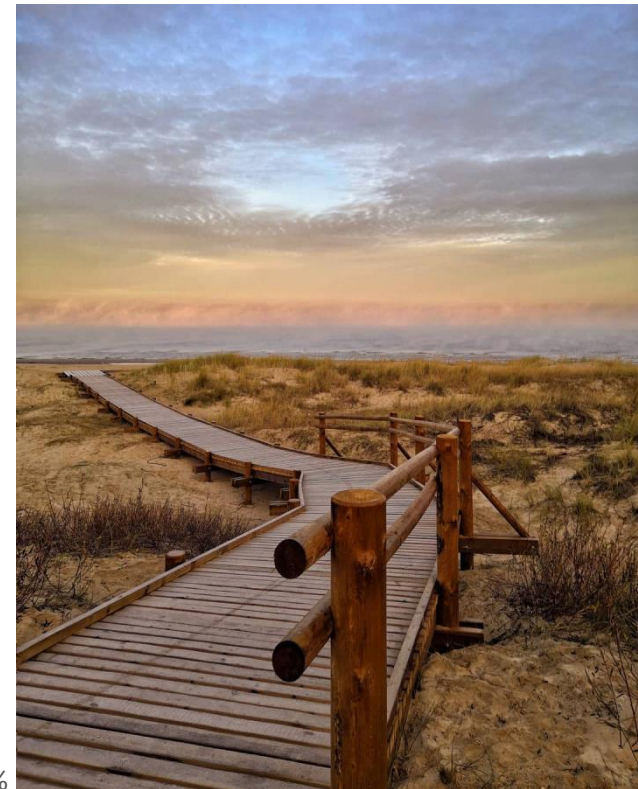
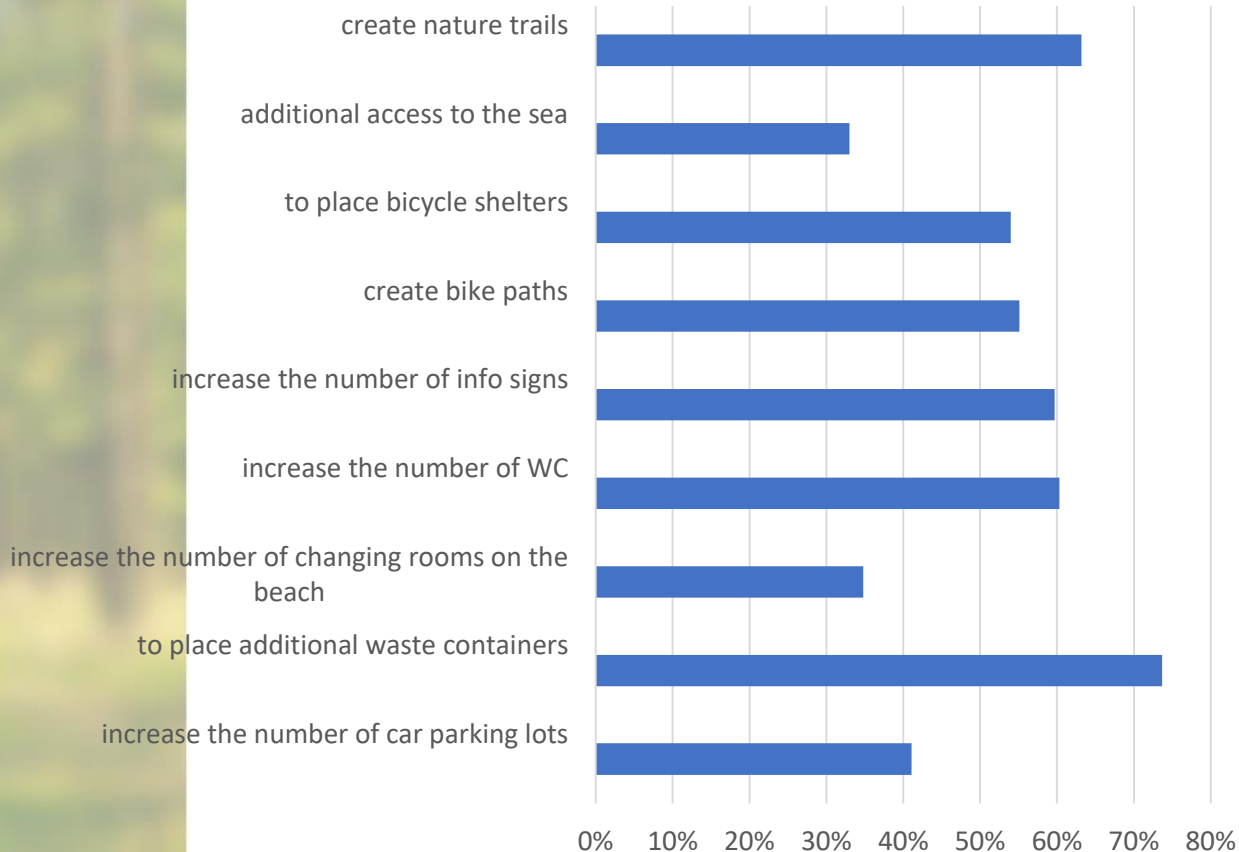
Partial disagree – 43%



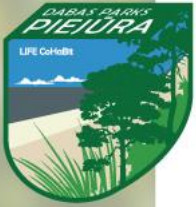
Data & Statistics

- The survey “Public opinion on the nature park “Piejūra””

Respondent's opinions on the necessity of infrastructure in the NP «Piejūra»

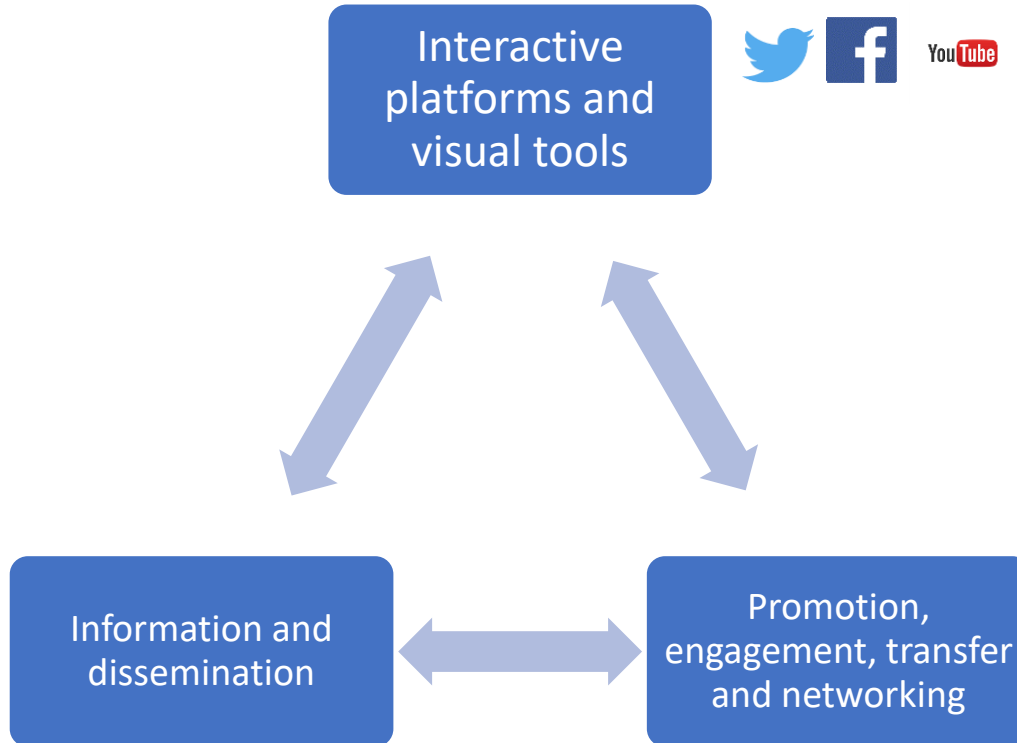


Garciems Trail. Photo: E.Lācis



Involvement of society

- LIFE CoHaBit project



Stakeholders:

- Landowners;
- Municipalities;
- Local NGO;
- Local communities;
- Organizers of Tourism, Recreation and Sport.





Involvement of society

- LIFE CoHaBit project / Education and awareness raising events in schools and camps



<http://www.eugreenweek.eu/partner-events/outdoor-awareness-raising-events-children-students-carnikava>

14.05.2019.

Scientific Conference "Maritime and coastal planning – from planning to results"

22

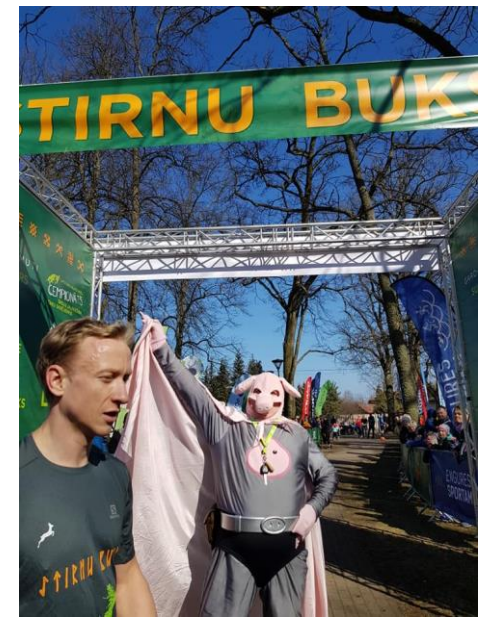
GREEN JOBS
for a greener future





Involvement of society

- LIFE CoHaBit project /Educational and awareness raising in various events in NP Piejūra





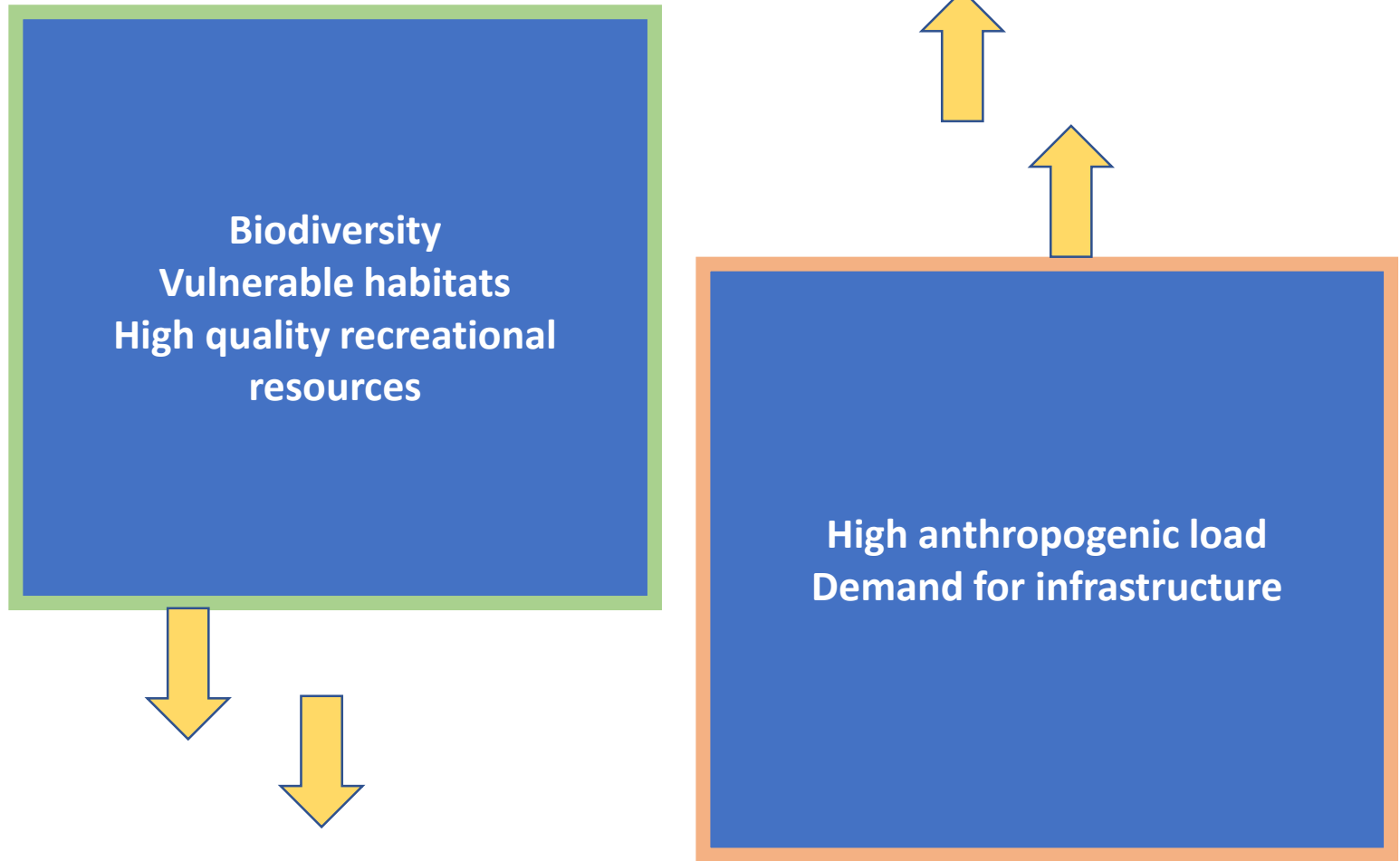
Involvement of society

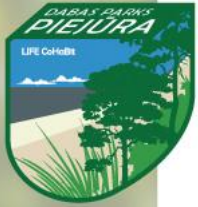
- LIFE CoHaBit project / Season opening days – common works





Balance?





Challenges

Maintaining the balance between coastal biodiversity and recreational resources is a major challenge in nature park Piejūra, to preserve healthy park ecology.

This particularly applies to area, because it has been subjected to human influence for long time and area are very sensitive to changes in environmental factors.

Biggest challenges and aims

- Current plans have to be updated!
 - Nature Management plan and
 - Visitor management planin order to meet interests of nature protection, visitors of the park, stakeholders such as municipalities and land owners.
- Education and involvement of society.
- Improvement of cooperation.



Which is the best way how balance all the interest and make everyone happy ?



Thank you for your attention!

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