



Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



Forest management in Natura 2000 areas – a hot topic



Gatis Eriņš, Biodiversity and habitat conservation expert, "Riga Forests" Ltd./ELLE



Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



Not just bio-diversity!

- Forest habitat types
- Ownership structure
- Historical/traditional management
- Landscape structure





Funded by
the European Union



Forest ownership structure

Country	Forest Area (million ha)	Owned by private forest owners
Norway	12.2 (8.6)	84%
Sweden	27.98	78%
Finland	22.41	69%
Latvia	3.39	48%
Estonia	2.42	47%
Lithuania	2.19	38%

Forest ownership structure and history of the property rights largely determine the potential for conflict



Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



Role of forest management as driver for conflicts



- Size of forest property
- Objective of forest management
- Importance of forest income in household economy
- Role of forest management in the economy of local communities and/or the region



Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



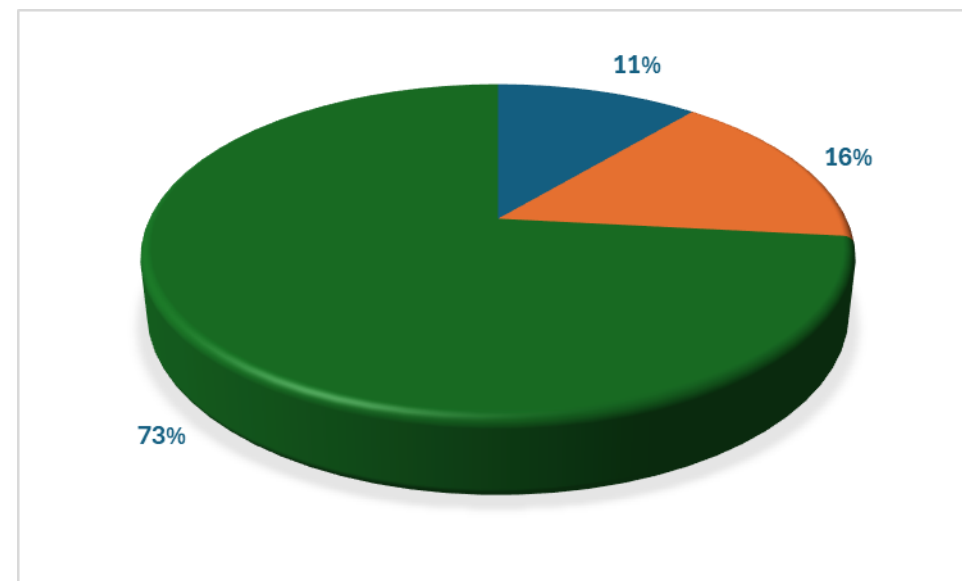
THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Forest owners' willingness to engage in nature conservation

Ready to get involved without
additional demands on the state

Ready to get involved if there are
compensation mechanisms

No, not interested





Funded by
the European Union

Conservation approaches I

Regulatory conservation vs. voluntary conservation: pros and cons

- the state sets restrictions
- based on regulatory enactments
- universally applicable
- easy to administer
- weaker motivation to achieve the goal
- limited cooperation and trust
- high risk of conflict
- foreseeable high need for compensations
- permanent (long-term)

- voluntary undertakes obligations
- based on planning and contractual relationships
- dynamic
- limited applicability (habitats)
- complex to administer
- high motivation to achieve the goal
- high trust and cooperation
- low risk of conflict
- financial and advisory support



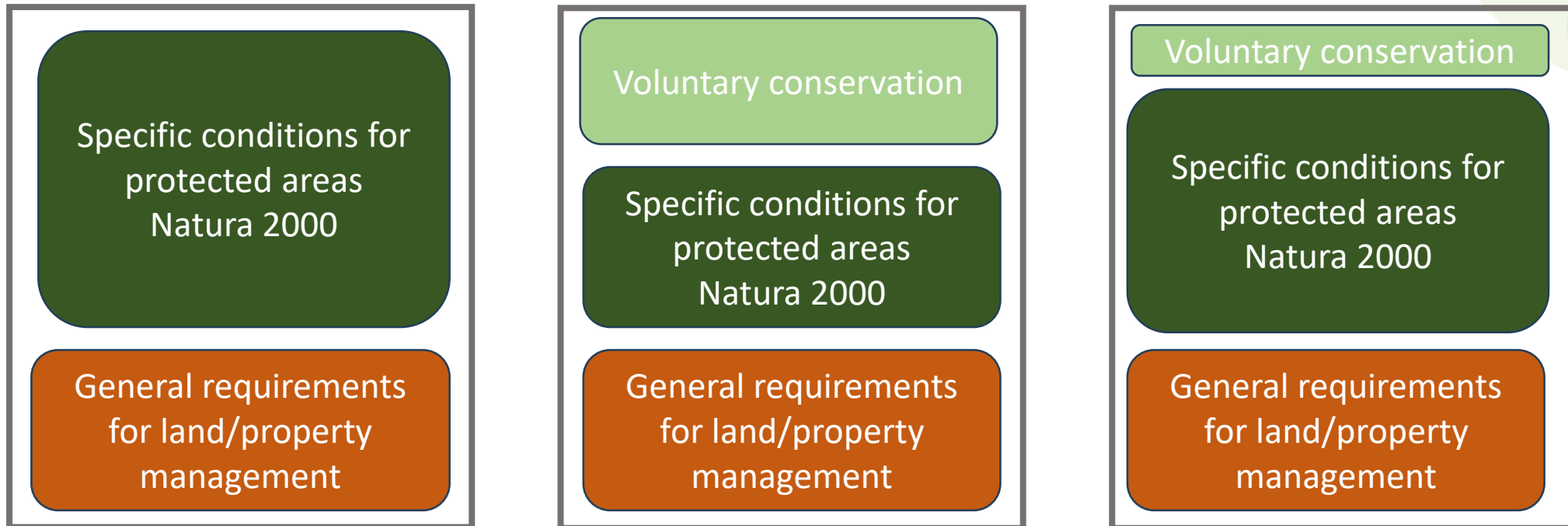
Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Conservation approaches II





Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



Challenges to ensure protection of forest habitats during the Natura 2000 establishment and management phases

- Selection and designation of sites
- Defining legal protection status
- Elaboration of management plans
- Enforcement of conservation status
 - who is the data holder on the natural values of the site?
 - is it the same authority who is responsible for enforcement of the forest management legislation?





Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

The diversity of compensation system opportunities and challenges

- ✓ **Annual payments**
- ✓ **One-off compensation - lost income (market price) from forest felling**
- ✓ **Long-term (10 - 20 year) restriction agreements**
- ✓ **Land exchange - exchange area fund must be available**
- ✓ **Land repurchase (the state buys the relevant forest property from the owner at the market price)**
- ✓ **Support for specific management**



Funded by
the European Union

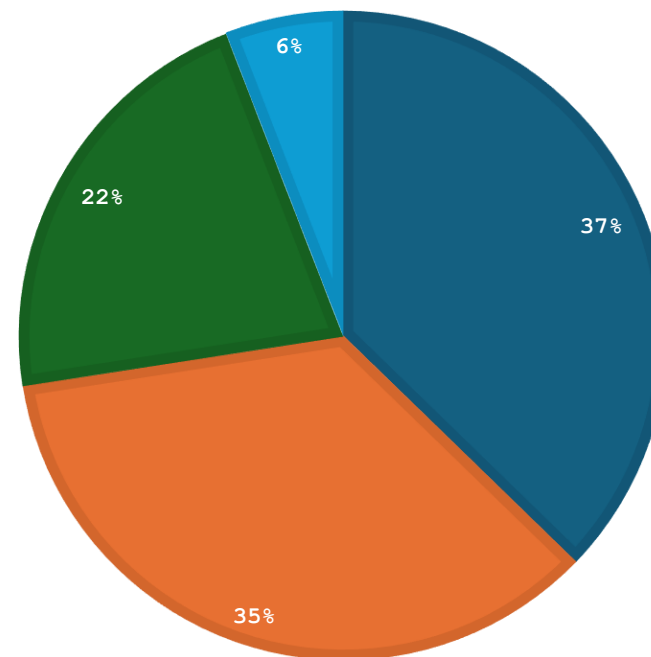
EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Opinions of forest owners (Latvia) on compensation types and approaches

- Annual compensation covering the value of the forest stand over 10 - 20 years
- Land exchange
- One-off compensation payment of the full value of the forest stand





Funded by
the European Union

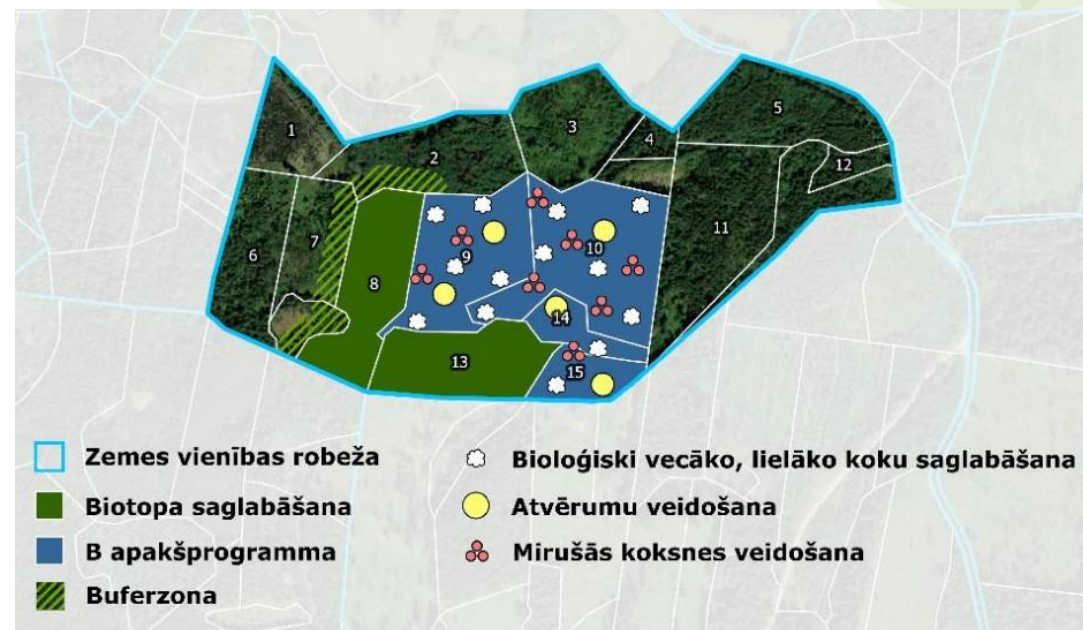
EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Opportunities and challenges of detailed forest management planning

- ✓ More detailed approach to management and conservation planning
- ✓ Close to nature forestry
- Who covers the costs of site assessment and management plan preparation?
- Additional administrative burden





Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Voluntary forest conservation programmes for forest owners in protected areas

- Voluntary forest protection in Norway <https://frivilligvern.no/>
- Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland METSO <https://metsonpolku.fi/en/>
- Pilot programme in Latvia: Living Forest <https://latvianature.daba.gov.lv/dzivais-mezs/>



Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Conclusions

Understanding of local forest management history, significance and traditions, combined with openness and patience on both sides





Thank you for your attention!