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# Stakeholder roles in management of Protected Areas

initiative, responsibility, funding, management, land ownership

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- **Government Agencies:** policy-making, enforcement, funding
- **Landowners:** land management, habitat management, land stewardship
- **Local Communities:** land use, cultural practices, conservation efforts
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** advocacy, research, education
- **Private Businesses:** sustainable tourism, resource management
- **Other Users:** recreation, hunters, sports
- **Researchers and Academia:** data collection, impact studies, policy recommendations





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## Conservation strategies (*Whose conservation?*)

- “***nature for itself***” - PAs as nature-centered conservation, islands of wilderness protected from human interventions
- “***nature despite people***” - focus on reversing or reducing threats to species and habitats from humans through population monitoring and management and PA networks
- “***nature for people***” - PA conservation focuses on evaluation of ecosystem services and benefits for human wellbeing provided by conservation areas
- “***people and nature***” - conservation is perceived as approach managing social-ecological systems through use, modification and care for nature



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## Government agencies

Strategy: *nature by itself* and *nature despite people*

- ✓ Ministry of Environment
  - ✓ National conservation agency
  - ✓ Municipality level conservation authority
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- Defining policies, targets and approaches toward them
  - Role in establishing protected areas
  - Enforcement of regulations
  - Funding and resource allocation





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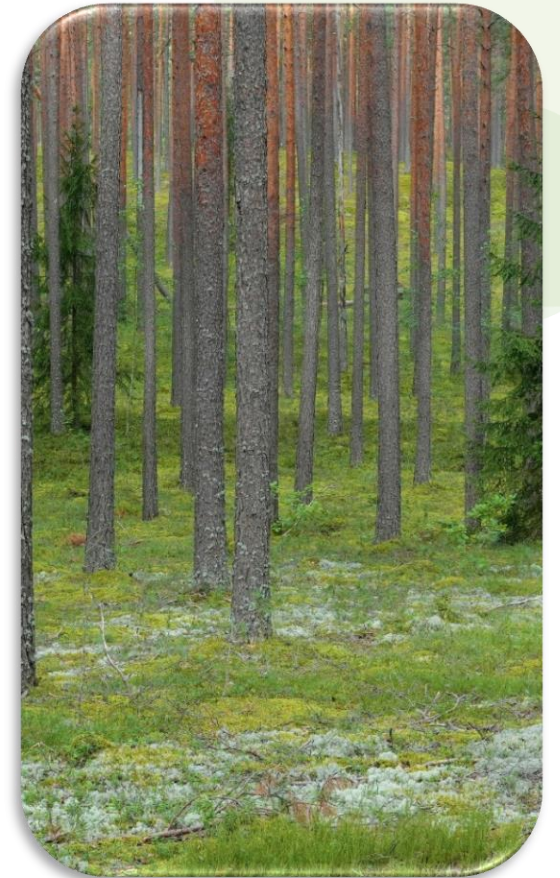
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## Landowners

Strategy: *nature for people* and *people and nature*

- ✓ Forestry, farming, fisheries etc.
- ✓ Traditional knowledge and practices
  
- Land management for economic gain or as traditional way of life
- Securing the interests of rights holders as a priority
- Participation in conservation efforts
- Benefiting from nature conservation and challenging nature conservation





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## Local communities

Strategy: *nature for people*

- ✓ Traditional knowledge and practices
- Participation in conservation efforts
- Identification of threats and management priorities

## Private businesses

Strategy: *people and nature*

- ✓ Sustainable tourism, providers of other goods and services related to the region
- Investment in conservation projects, participation in conservation efforts
- Collaboration with other stakeholders



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# Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Strategy: *nature despite people*

- ✓ Advocacy for conservation policies
- ✓ Represent general public
  
- Prioritization of management actions to increase biodiversity and reduce land development
- Conducting research and monitoring
- Educational programs and awareness campaigns
- Have higher trust in environmental authorities\*







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# Researchers and science community

Strategy: *nature for people* and *people and nature*

- Conducting impact studies
- Providing data for informed decision-making
- Developing conservation strategies







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## Case: designation and establishment of PA

**Kuja** (LV0304200 - SPA/SAC) 10'791 ha

Category: nature park (IUCN category IV)

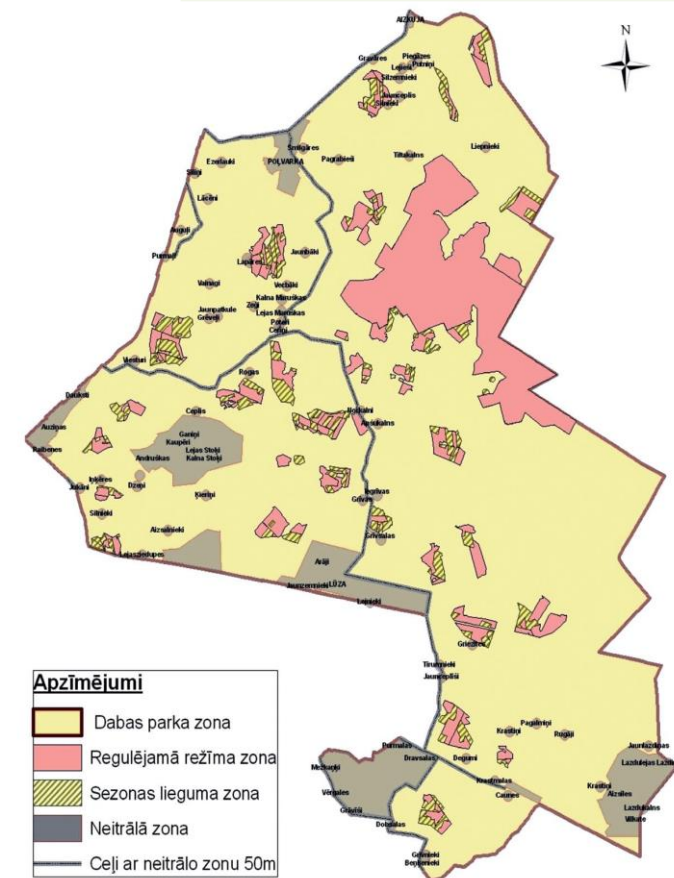
32 protected bird species have been identified in the site

Most important species for the site - Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina*

- the highest known density of nesting pairs not only in Latvia, but throughout the species' range

Problem faced: intensive forest management (clear-cutting) of privately owned forest

Possible solution/stakeholder involvement: temporary restriction of forest management for a fixed period of time in order to agree on acceptable compensation measures (Finnish approach)





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## Case: elaboration of management-conservation plan

***Gauja National Park*** (LV0200100 - SPA/SAC) 91'786 ha

Category: national park (IUCN category II)

Latvia's first and oldest national park

➤ forests cover 47% of the PA

Problem faced: strong opposition from forest owners during the development of a new site management plan, which foresees that large forest areas will be included in zones of stricter restrictions

Stakeholder involvement: **too late, too little, irregular, lack of focus** ⇒ a lot of challenges that cause conflicts and requires additional administrative capacity





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## Case: habitat restoration activities

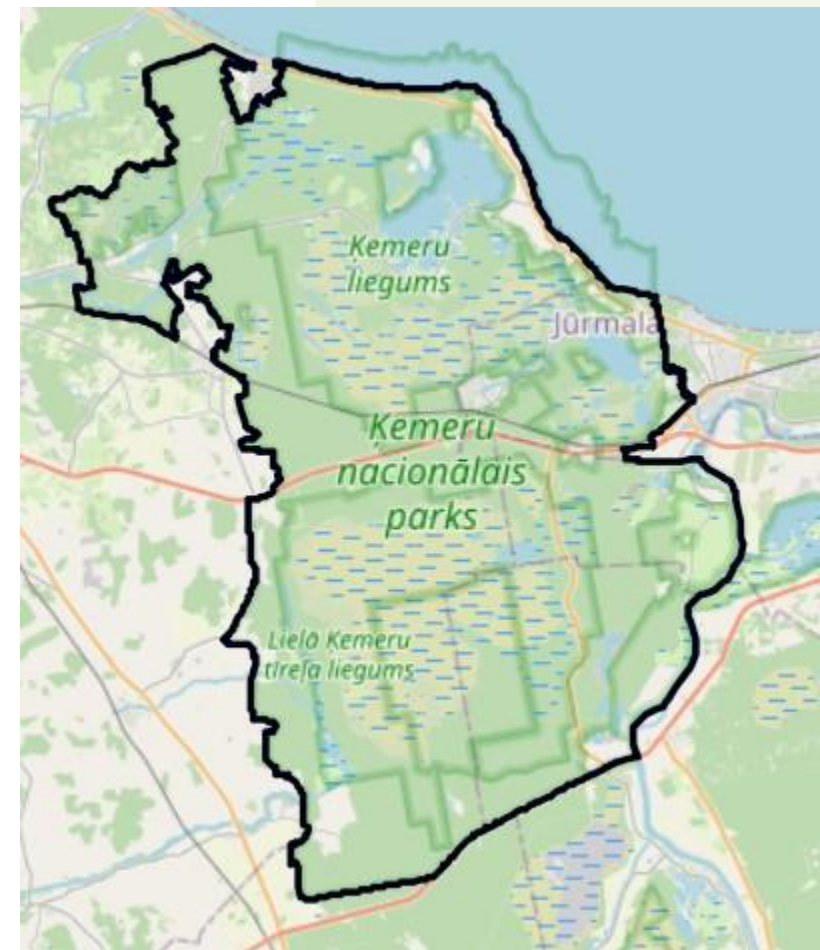
**Kemeri National Park** (LV0200200 - SPA/SAC, RAMSAR wetland)  
36'184 ha

Category: national park (IUCN category II)

- 8 bog and marh habitat types covering more than 6'800 ha
- 670 ha of 7120 *Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration*

Problem faced: loud objections from local communities to planned hydrological restoration measures in degraded bogs

Stakeholder involvement: involving researchers/scientists and melioration professionals, providing competent and detailed information that substantiates the validity of the decisions made







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## Case: elaboration of management-conservation plan

***Veclaicene*** (LV0600200 - SPA/SAC) 20'846 ha

Category: protected landscape area (IUCN category V)

- 23 types of protected habitat types of EU importance have been identified, *Western taiga* 9010\* and *Bog woodland* 91D0\* cover [covered?] largest areas
- the territory has high scenic value
- failed and inappropriate high nature value grassland management, resulting in shrub encroachment and loss of grassland habitat types of EU importance

Problem faced: active, locally driven initiative against nature conservation ⇒ intensive forest management (clear-cutting) of privately owned forest, abandonment of grassland management/destruction of grasslands

Possible solution/Stakeholder involvement: ?



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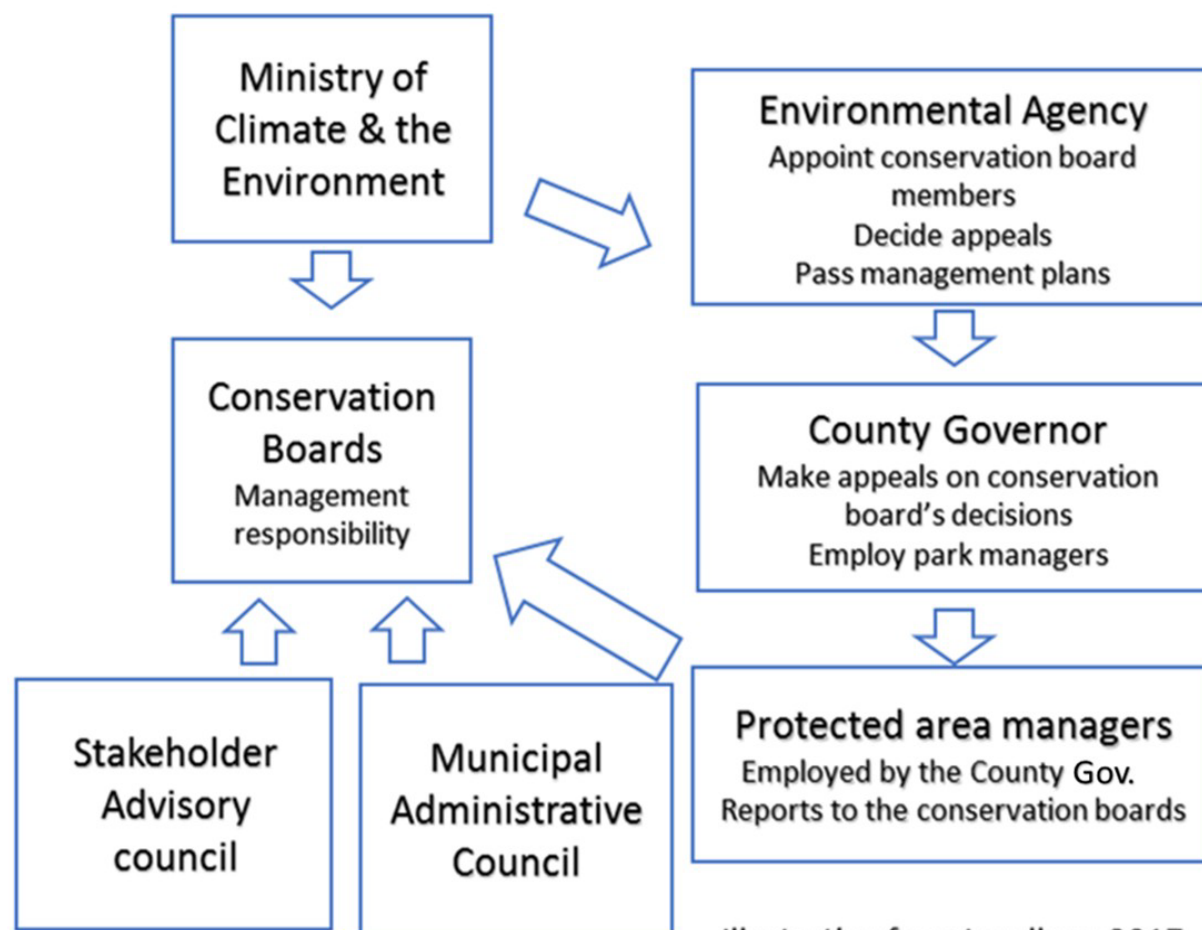


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Before the reform  
(1983-2009)



After the reform (2009-)



*Illustration from Lundberg 2017*



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## Community-based conservation approach (Norway)

Decision-making power is allocated to lower-level authorities and involves local stakeholders in conservation management, is thought to increase support for conservation through greater sensitivity to local conditions and perceptions

- ✓ Sense of ownership to the PA
- ✓ Involvement in development of strategies to overcome challenges
- ✓ Opportunity to highlight and emphasize the importance of communication and collaboration





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## Reflections

Conservation can mean different things to different stakeholders

Importance of recognition of stakeholder roles in effective management

Fair distribution of costs and benefits is at the heart of conservation conflicts

Balanced representation of conservation and local interests on the stakeholder participatory bodies

Community-based conservation approach has the potential to improve collaboration and conflict mitigation as well as improve trust in Protected area governance

Sufficient financial and administrative resources as well as support from research and science community are crucial







Thank you for your attention!