

## Benefits

- The developed methodology of ecosystem services assessment will create an innovative approach within the territorial planning processes in Latvia, thus finding a balance between environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, social and economic aspects.
- The Project will provide knowledge that can be used for planning and modeling of development scenarios for other regions of Latvia.
- At the same time the Project will promote public awareness and comprehension about ecosystems and their services.

## PROJECT is carried out by:



Nature  
Conservation Agency  
Republic of Latvia



Saulkrasti  
Municipality



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Latvijas  
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# EVALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN LATVIA

Project  
„Assessment of ecosystems and  
their services for nature biodiversity  
conservation and management”

## MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

<http://ekosistemas.daba.gov.lv>



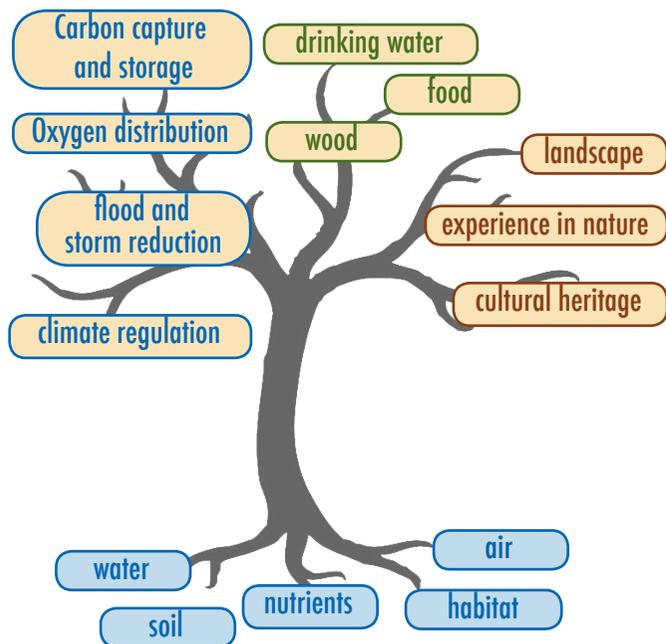
The mark of  
responsible forestry

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LIFE EcosystemServices  
LIFE13 ENV/LV/000839

**ECOSYSTEMS** are dynamic formations consisting of live organisms and habitats, which exist as a single entity.

**ECOSYSTEMS** provide a wide range of services mankind could not exist without.



**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** assessment approach describes benefits that people derive from the use of natural resources.

## EVALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES helps us to

- acknowledge the economic values of nature and contribution of them to the society;
- choose the economically most advantageous and sustainable options for territorial development;
- calculate the returns on investments in environmental conservation etc.

## The Project Idea

The goal of the Project LIFE EcosystemServices is to build public awareness of Latvian society about ecosystem services as well as to promote the decision-making processes and sustainable management of territories based on ecosystem services assessment approach.

This practice is still not widely used in Latvia, while in many European countries and worldwide the approach of ecosystem services assessment is an important decision-making component.

## Main Activities

- to develop methodology of ecosystem services assessment, relevant to Latvia;
- to develop recommendations for the integration of ecosystem services assessment approach in the territorial planning processes of Latvia;
- to educate society about the ecosystem services and the significance of the ecosystem services assessment.

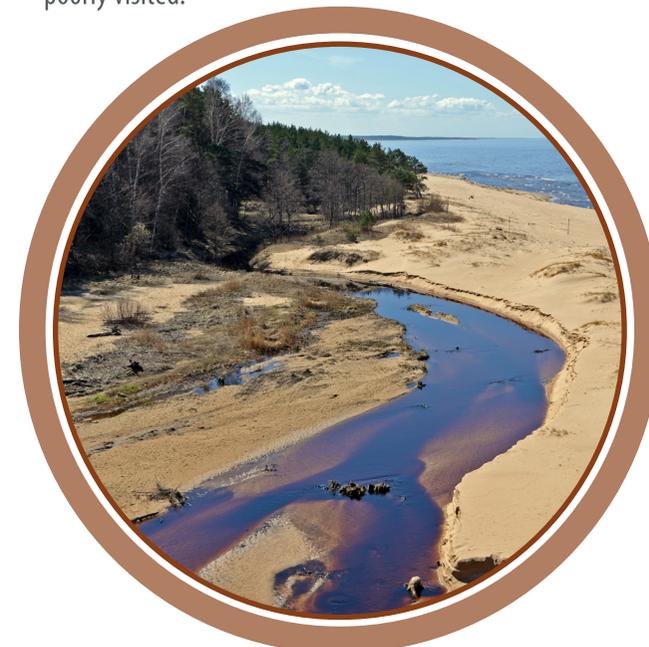


## Pilot Implementation Areas of the Project

The approach of ecosystem services assessment for Latvia will be developed in line with the best European Union (EU) practices and approved in two coastal pilot areas - Jaunķemeri and Saulkrasti.

## Pilot Area „Jaunķemeri”

The area is located within the City of Jūrmala and is part of Ķemeri National Park. It includes sandy beach and biologically valuable habitat of EU importance – wooded dunes. The area is not much transformed and is relatively poorly visited.



## Pilot Area „Saulkrasti”

The area includes sandy beach, biologically valuable habitat of EU importance – wooded dunes and a remarkable natural and cultural monument – the White Dune. The well-maintained nature object is frequently visited and subjected to excessive anthropogenic pressure and erosion.

The economic assessment of ecosystem services in both areas will help to model most sustainable development and management scenarios for the areas.