

# Assessment of ecosystems and their services for nature biodiversity conservation and management



LIFE Ecosystem Services, LIFE13ENV/LV/000839

MAIN goal of the project – **to create an innovative approach within the territorial planning processes in Latvia by developed methodology of ecosystems and their services assessment in accordance with the best EU practices.**



Country(ies) involved – **Latvia**

Duration of the project – **01.06.2014 – 31.05.2018**

Partners – **Nature Conservation Agency, NGO „Baltic Coasts” and Saulkrasti Municipality**

## Ecosystem services (ES) what we deal with

✓ **22 ES** (Provisioning – 4, Regulation & Maintenance – 13, Cultural – 5) were identified in two pilot areas in the coastal zone – Jaunkemeri (~ 90 ha) and Saulkrasti (~ 132 ha).

## The actions that we take to evaluate/describe/assess ES and methods used

- ✓ **Mapping** – ES assessment matrix (developed by B. Burkhard et al, 2009, 2012 and 2014); 5 point scoring system; elaboration the indicators for the ES assessment; the assessment values were used to create a map for each ES and a multi – layer map of ES provided as sum of different services.
- ✓ **Economical evaluation** – secondary data – **market price method** for provisioning ES, **market price method/benefit transfer method** for regulation & maintenance ES, **benefit transfer method** for cultural ES; primary data – **travel cost method/contingent method** for cultural ES.



## Results to share

Mapping of the ES using biophysical data and expert judgement; tested and assessed the criteria and indicators for the coastal ES assessment appropriate for specific Latvia condition.

## Conclusions

Method used provides an opportunity to describe spatially distribution and importance of the ES in the given area, to identify most valuable areas with regard to the ES supply as well as to evaluate the impact on the ES supply for development scenarios.

The forest ecosystem has been assessed as most valuable, followed by sandy beach, dunes and river ecosystems.

## Reports, publications available

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services in Jaunkemeri and Saulkrasti Pilot Areas within the “LIFE Ecosystem Services” (LIFE13 ENV/LV/000839) project (Summary of the Final report, EN).

<http://ekosistemas.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/deliverables>

## Reports, publication planned

Report on Economic valuation of ES, elaboration and economic evaluation of the development scenarios for pilot areas.



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



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Actions were taken in the framework of LIFE13 ENV/LV/000839 project "Assessment of ecosystems and their services for nature biodiversity conservation and management" with the financial support of European Union LIFE+ programme and Latvian Environmental Protection Fund.

