

Monitoring of the White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) in Lithuania as a practical mean of protection of species

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**Presented during the workshop
“Involvement of general public in biodiversity monitoring:
experience in the Nordic-Baltic region”**

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White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)



- biggest breeding bird of prey in Lithuania
- the wingspan reaches 2,4 meters
- breeds in forests near sea, larger rivers, lakes or fishery farms
- feeds on fish and water birds, and in more rare cases - on mammals
- nests in trees, at the height of 11-32 meters
- the nest of an average size is of 1,7 meter width and 1 height
- 1-3 juveniles
- 1987 – first found nest recorded
- the number of hatching eagle pairs in our country is assumed to be in about 90

Protection status

- International Red Book
- Lithuanian Red Book (3 R)
- Bern convention
- EU Bird Directive (Annex I)
- Washington convention on the trade with vanishing species of wild flora and fauna (CITES I).
- Global Protection Organization (IUCN)



Population

- Global – 8,500-11,700 pairs**
- Europe – 5,000 (50 % of global population)**
- Asia – 4,000-7,200**
- Norway – 2,000**
- Poland – 500**
- Germany – 350**
- Finland – 200**
- Sweden – 200**
- Belarus – 90**
- Estonia – 80**
- Latvia – 30**
- Lithuania - 90**



Factors of decline of WTE population

- Intensive forest activities
- Raptors
- Trophies for poachers
- Electric discharge
- Chemical pollutants





Project

Protection of White-tailed Eagles in Lithuania



Objective:

to preserve and increase the population of internationally protected White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) in Lithuania.



Project

Protection of White-tailed Eagles in Lithuania

Tasks:

- **Inventory of WTE breeding sites in Lithuania**
- **Identifying new breeding sites suitable for erecting of artificial nests.**
- **Erecting artificial nests .**
- **Raising public awareness and involve local communities by monitoring together WTE, raising nests and taking care of them in future.**
- **Establishing of network of people who would pursue monitoring after the end of project.**
- **Preparing of recommendations regarding conservation and increase of population of the species for the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.**

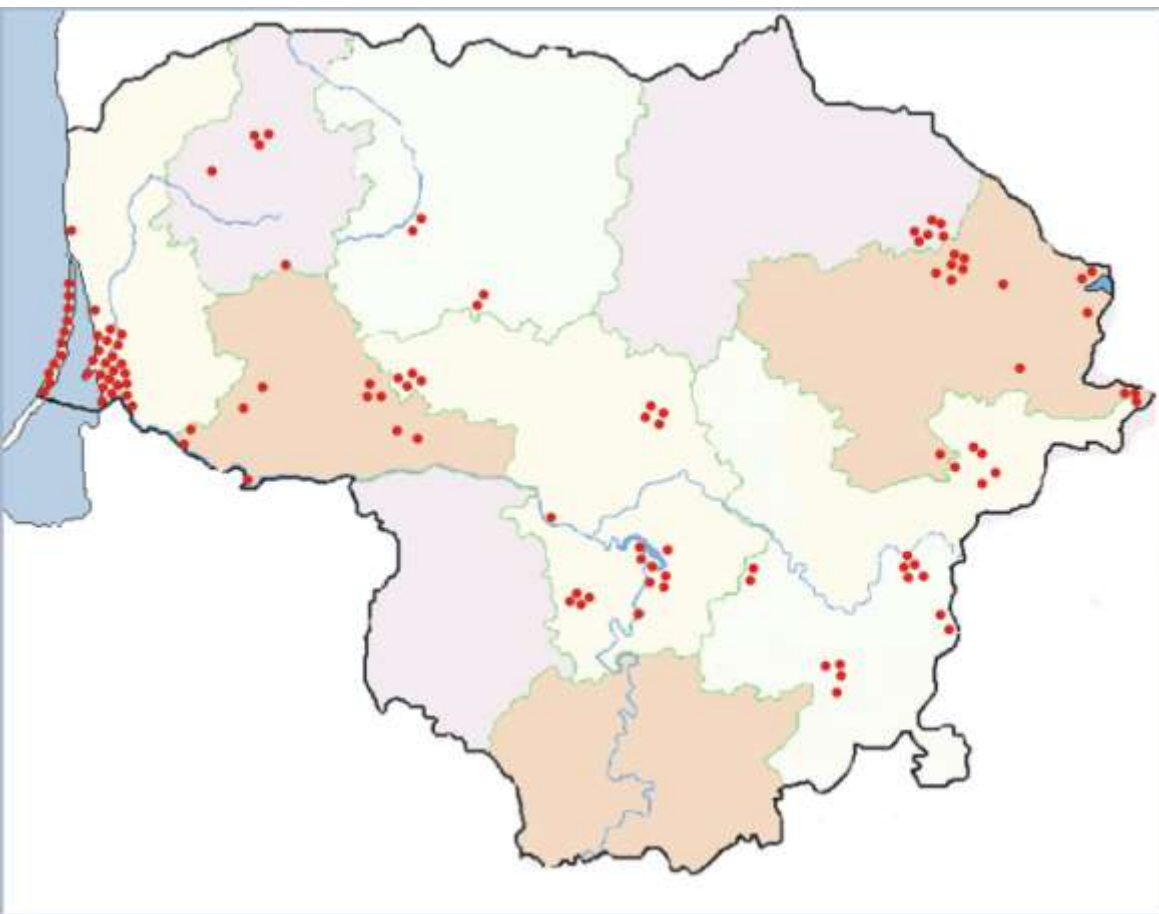
Application artificial nests

- **Method for scientific research**
- **Conservation measure**
- **Education on nature protection.**



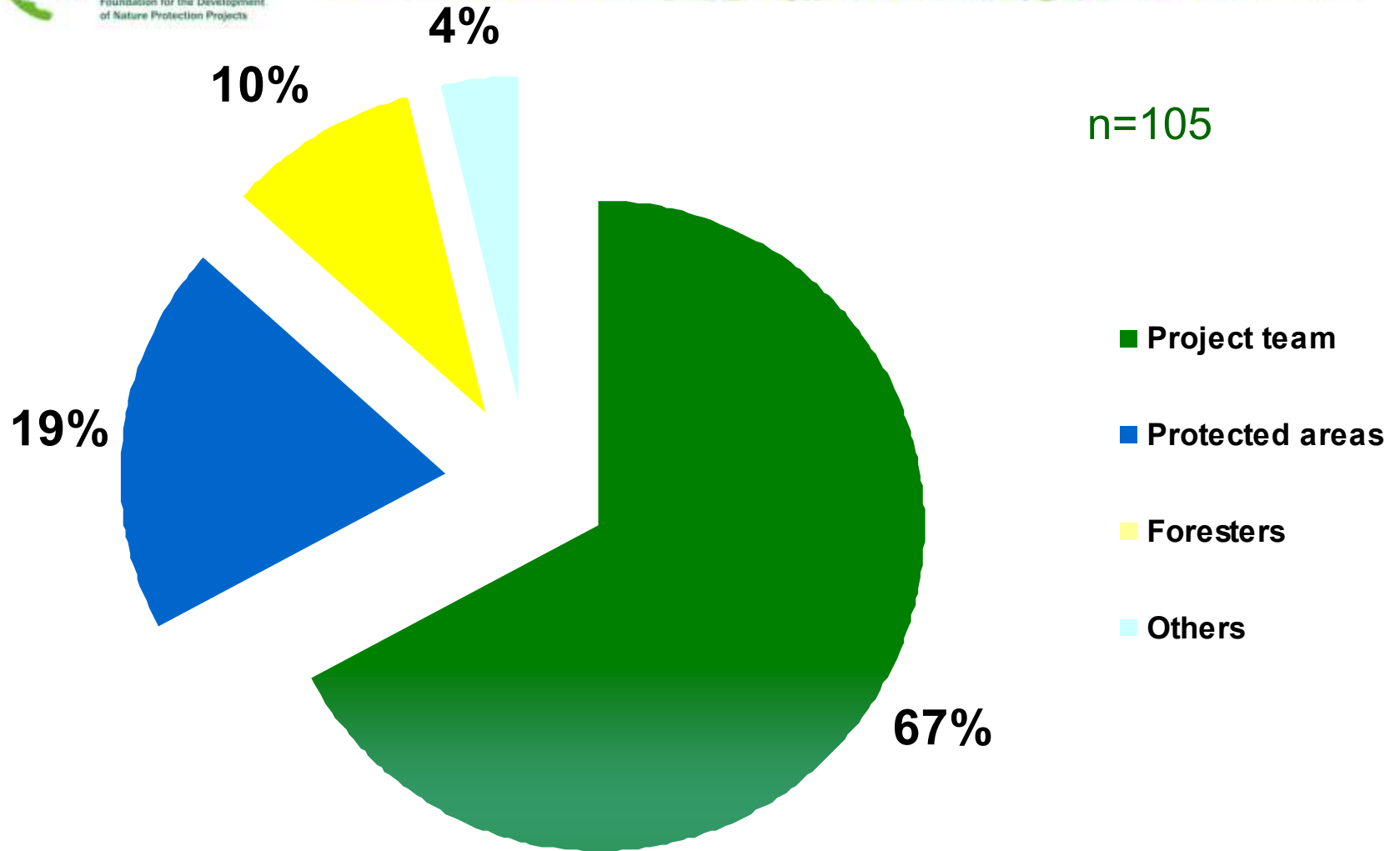
Natural nests

Natural nests found during the project
2003–2008 (n = 105)



Kaunas county – 18
Klaipėda county – 34
Vilnius county – 15
Utena county – 14
Panevėžys county – 3
Šiauliai county – 3
Telšiai county – 8
Tauragė county – 10

Natural nests



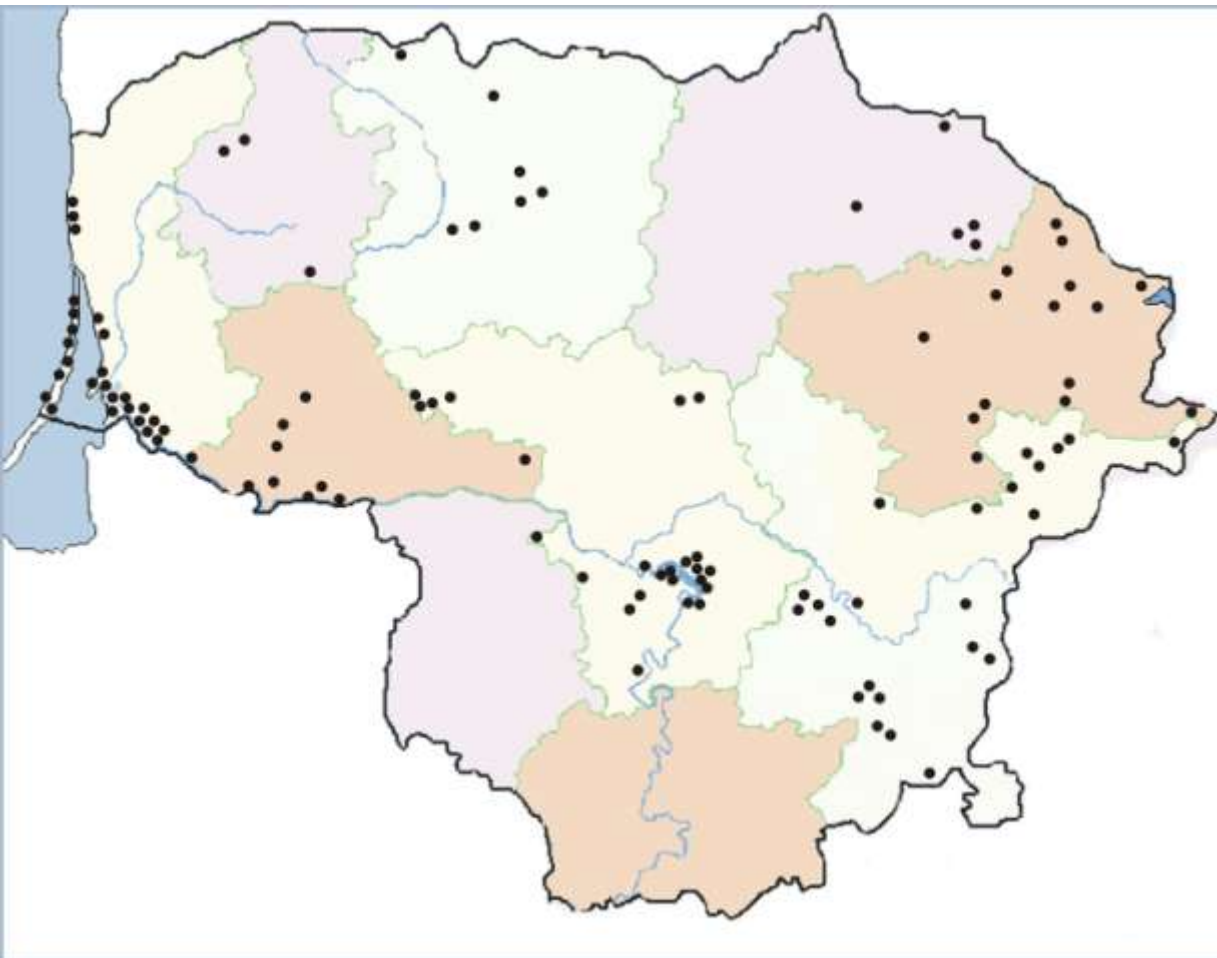
Breeding in natural nests

**Success of breeding of WTE in natural nests,
found during the project in 2003 - 2008**

Years	No of occupied nests	Unsuccessful clutch (No of pairs)	Successful clutch (No of pairs)	No of juveniles
2003	7	5	2	5
2004	17	6	11	19
2005	26	7	19	30
2006	29	9	20	31
2007	44	20	24	40
2008	47	16	31	56
Total	170	63	107	181

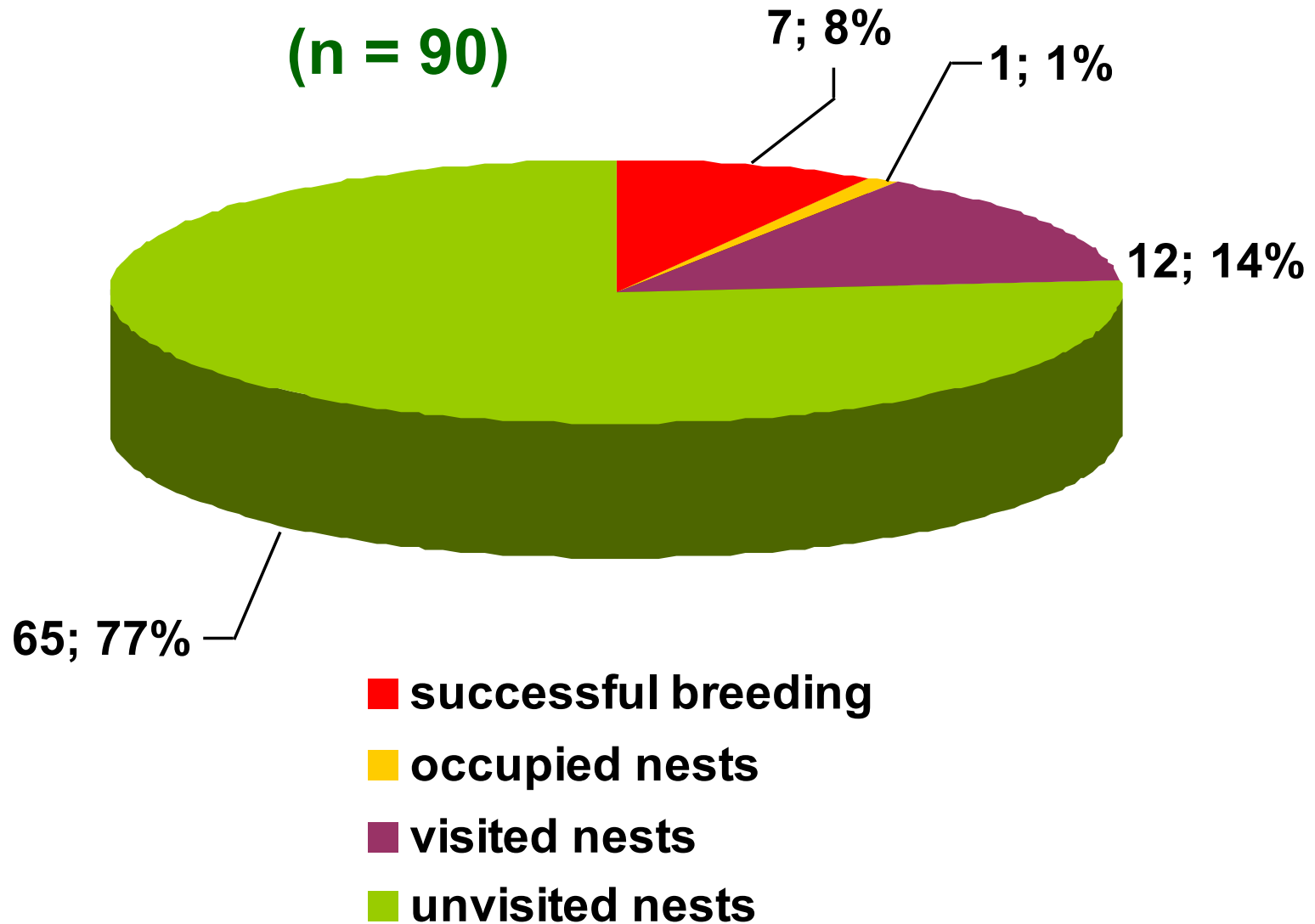
Artificial nests

Artificial nests erected during the project
2003–2008 (n = 102)



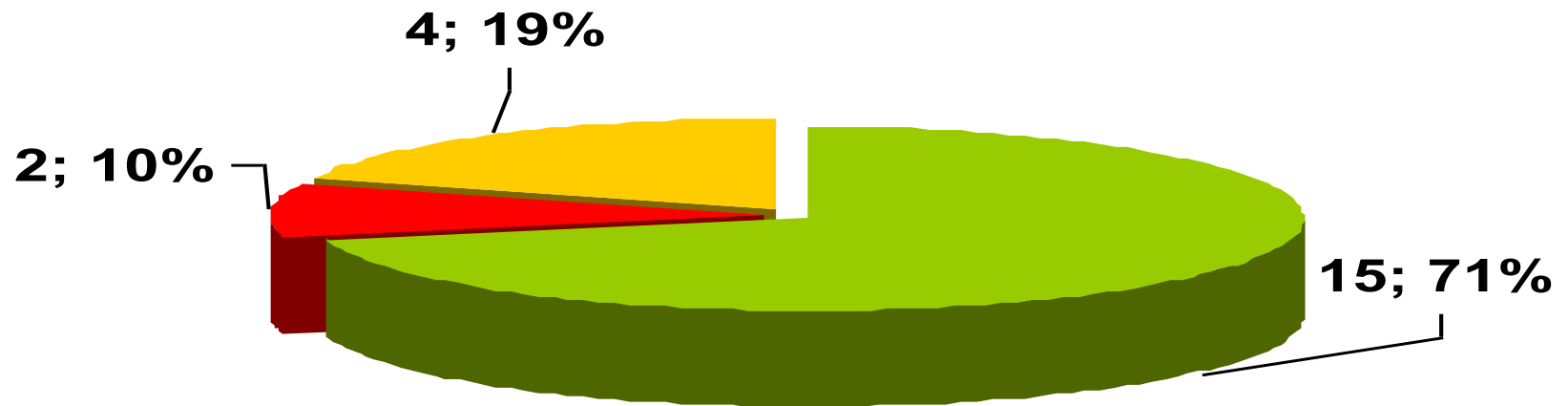
Kaunas county – 22
Klaipėda county – 23
Vilnius county – 21
Utena county – 13
Panevėžys county – 3
Šiauliai county – 7
Telšiai county – 3
Tauragė county – 10

Occupation of artificial nests



Cases on rescue of WTE

(n = 42)



- stopping of timber harvesting
- rescue of injured juveniles
- rescue of eagles found under nests



Natural nest in Meteliai RP



Silute district, 3 (2) NN, 1 DL



Rusne



Kedainiai district (2003 AN)







Taurage, NN





AN,
Salcininkai

Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)











Education

More than 80 events organized, 3000 persons attended.

Target groups:

- **Local communities**
- **Pupils and students**
- **Ecologists of protected areas and municipalities**
- **Foresters**
- **Researchers**





Information dissemination

Mass media

- TV
- Radio
- Press (local, regional, national newspapers and magazines)
- Internet

Project publications

- CD
- Brochures
- Leaflets
- Calendars

Others

- Stickers
- T-shirts
- Internet

www.juriniserelis.lt www.litagra.lt/GPVF



Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Zoological
Museum – WTE nest biological group
and information stand.
Other information stands in Lithuanian
Zoo and Zemaitijos National Park.



Movable photo exhibition was
demonstrated in 40 places.

Opening in LR Seimas

Future

1. Monitoring of existing breeding sites
2. Monitoring of natural and artificial nests.
3. Addition feeding in winter
4. Raising of artificial sites.
5. Promotion of WTE conservation.
6. Cooperation with State Forest Enterprises, State Forest Management Institute, Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment, et
7. Cooperation with foreign NGOs.





Project sponsors and partners

General sponsor of the project:

Private Limited Company UAB “LITAGRA”

Is one of the first private business organisations in Lithuania that has supported the solution of nature protection problems for many years.



Other sponsors:

United Nations Development Programme Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) (2004-2005 and 2006-2008)

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (2006-2008)



Other sponsors and partners:

Municipalities, administrations of the protected areas, Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas zoological museum, Lithuanian Ornithological Society, Latvian Ornithological Society, State Forest Management Institute





About the organization

The principal aim pursued by the Foundation is to sustain the biological diversity and ensure the preservation of natural environment in Lithuania as well as to promote the ideas of nature protection and management within the society.



The Foundation is performing a continuous project "Protection of White-tailed Eagles in Lithuania", launched since the establishment in 2003 and aiming at the preservation of internationally protected species of bird – the White-tailed Eagle.

Contacts

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