Annual Activity Report 2021

FOUNDATION for PEATLAND RESTORATION and CONSERVATION

https://en.pelkiufondas.lt

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FOUNDATION for PEATLAND RESTORATION and CONSERVATION

Foundation for Peatlands Restoration and Conservation is a non-profit non-governmental nature protection organization that takes care of the protection, restoration, sustainable use and education of peatlands and other ecosystems.

MISSION

Restoration and protection of antropogenically damaged drained peatlands and other ecosystems solving the biodiversity and climate crisis, new pathways in the usage of peatlands in agriculture and forestry.

VISION

Natural and restored peatland ecosystems for the climate and well-being of nature and humans.

Our achievements

The 2021 year was full of challenges and opportunities for our organization. Together with partners from Lithuania and foreign countries we implemented new activities, introduced good practices, and started new projects. Every year, our experts gather more and more theoretical and practical experience, which helps implement peatland restoration and other projects.

By restoring the hydrological regime in 3 drained peatlands, we implemented two projects for the reduction of GHG emissions and one for the improvement of the status of biodiversity in damaged peatlands.

We have submitted 3 proposals to the European Commission on the objectives of peat soil conservation, the prospects for the development of paludiculture, and comments on the Common Agricultural Policy.

We cooperate with organizations from the Baltic States, Germany, Poland, Ireland, Belgium, and international associations in order to improve the protection of peatland ecosystems and peat soils in Lithuania and the EU.

We participate in discussions with farmers, foresters, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the State Service for Protected Areas on the restoration and/or sustainable use of damaged peatlands.

We have been actively involved in the National Forest Agreement (NFA) initiative by participating in the Alternative Climate Group and continuing work in the Community Sector Group.

Current projects

- Improvement of ecological conditions of water bodies in Latvia and Lithuania" (*LLI-476 Save Past for the Future*), 2020–2022.
- EUKI - Carbon capturing by Baltic peatland farmers – Practical exchange for paludiculture & carbon farming, 2021–2023.
- Demonstration restoration of a peatland (fen) in Baisogala. Reshaping intensively used agricultural land to meet climate change mitigation goals, 2020–2021.
- Restoration of the hydrological regime in Tartokas fen and ensuring the good condition of natural habitats, 2021 m.
- Restoration of cut-over peatlands by applying paludiculture and other restoration approaches (since 2020)
- Restoration of the South-Western part of the Aukštumala raised bog, 2021.

PROJECT

Improvement of ecological conditions of water bodies in Latvia and Lithuania”

Save Past for the Future LLI-476

PROJECT DURATION

The start of the project is 01/08/2020
The end of the project is 31 July 2022

PARTNERS

Project leader - Preili municipality administration (Latvia)
Zarasai District Municipality Administration (Lithuania)
Innovator Valley (Lithuania)

PROJECT VALUE

The total value of the project is 1.03 million Eur.
The project is partly funded by 2014-2020 European Regional Development Fund Lithuanian-Latvian Interreg VA Latvian-Lithuanian Cross-Border Cooperation Program and the Republic of Lithuania

The aim of the project is to increase the capacity of organizations involved in the restoration and maintenance of historic parks in the regions of North-Eastern Lithuania and Latgale through modern and comprehensive land management provisions combining historical, natural and biodiversity values and aspects of the rural landscape.

Interreg
Latvija–Lietuva
European Regional Development Fund

EUROPEAN UNION

INOVATORIU SLĖNIS

Results

Strengthening of theoretical knowledge and practical experience of organization combining conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage in historical manor parks.

A biodiversity survey and assessment of the state of veteran trees were carried out in historical manor parks, as oases of biodiversity in urban and rural landscapes.

Nature management of the 4 historical manor parks (Kamariškės and Antalieptė in Lithuania, as well as Preiļi and Bebrene in Latvia) has been carried out under the recommendation of our experts:

- certified specialists from *Balta Laja MB* (Lithuania) carried out canopy maintenance of veteran trees in Kamariškės, Antalieptė and Bebrene parks;

- in Antalieptė, Kamariškės, and Preiļi Parks, old water bodies have been cleaned up and new ones have been created to meet biodiversity protection requirements (amphibian wintering sites);

- excess woody and ruderal vegetation have been removed during the voluntary working camps in Kamariškės Manor Park.

Guided tours about the biodiversity of Kamariškės Manor Park were organized for volunteers, sharing knowledge on the conservation of protected species and improving their status.

PROJECT

EUKI – Carbon capturing by Baltic peatland farmers –

Practical exchange for paludiculture & carbon farming

PROJECT DURATION

The start of the project is 01/08/2021
The end of the project 01/12/2023

PARTNERS

Project leader - Michael Succow Foundation (Germany)
Estonian Fund for Nature (Estonia)
Lake and Peatland Research Centre (Latvia)

PROJECT VALUE

The total value of the project is 612 955 EUR. The project is financed by The European Climate Initiative (EUKI), which is supported by German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Although drained peatlands cover only 5–6% of agricultural soils in the Baltic countries, they are responsible for 53–71% of total GHG emissions from the agricultural sector.

Farmers have the opportunity to grow renewable and climate-neutral paludiculture biomass for energy, feeding, bedding, and production of construction materials, it can be used in the food and pharmaceutical industries, etc.

The aim of the project is to transfer knowledge about the climate-neutral use of peatlands and the acquired practical experience to the farmers of the Baltic countries.

Beginning of the project – August 2021.
The main activities are foreseen in 2022–2023.
The exhibition of wetland products is ready for display.

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz

European Climate Initiative EUKI

Succow Stiftung

PELKIU ATKŪRIMO IR APSAUGOS FONDAS

E L F

EZERU UN PURVU IZPĒTES CENTRS

Demonstration restoration of a peatland (fen) in Baisogala

Reshaping intensively used agricultural land to meet climate change mitigation goals, 2020–2021

BAISOGALA

PROJECT DURATION

2020-2021 (Phase 1)

PARTNERS

Greifswald Wetlands Center (Germany)
Michael Zukov Nature Conservation Foundation (Germany)
Institute of Animal Husbandry, LSMU Veterinary Academy (Lithuania)

THE PROJECT IS FINANCED

Project funded by TAMM LtD (Germany) and the Zero Waste 2020 Festival (Lithuania).

This is the first pilot project in Lithuania that meets the requirements of the carbon credit standard *MoorFutures* (Germany). The project combines nature conservation, scientific experiments, and landowner's interests in deeply drained agriculturally used fen peatland near Baisogala town (Radviliškis district). Implemented actions: reconstruction of land reclamation system and restoration of the hydrological regime by installing a dam.

Results

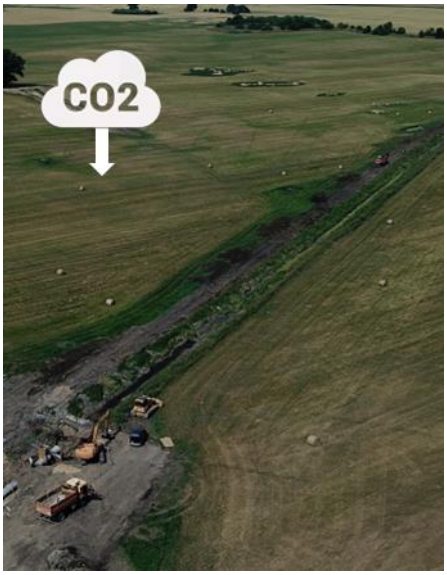
Hydrological monitoring and video recording systems have been installed.

The drainage system has been reconstructed and adapted to maintain a high water table.

Hydrological regime restored on deeply drained fen peat soils (in 5 ha area).

Mineralization rate of organic soil is reduced.

Restored hydrological conditions are favorable for the establishment of wet meadows and fen vegetation.



Avoided GHG emissions: ~100 t CO_2 eq./5 ha/year.

Wetlands are a natural biological filter, effectively treating water contaminated by agricultural pollutants and improving the quality of water. Only restored peatlands can provide ecosystem services lost due to drainage, such as climate protection, maintaining biodiversity and improving the quality of water bodies. This will contribute to reducing the eutrophication of the adjacent Baisogala ponds and the Kiršinas Rivulet, which flows into the Nevėžis River.

Restoration of the hydrological regime in Tartokas fen and ensuring the good condition of natural habitats

TARTOKAS

PROJECT DURATION	PARTNERS	THE PROJECT IS FINANCED
2021	Nemunas Loops Regional Park	The total value of the project is 12 000 €. The project is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, Rockit Vilnius (Lithuania), Katalista Partneriai MB (Lithuania), Zero Waste Festival 2021 (Lithuania), Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT, Lithuania)

Implemented a project for the restoration of ecological conditions in Tartokas Telmological Reserve (Prienai town). It includes restoration of the hydrological regime, reduction of GHG emissions, and improvement of the conservation status of fen and wet meadows habitats, and protected species as well.

This is a demo project to offset the carbon footprint by restoring drained peatland.

It has been implemented with the voluntary support of responsible business companies and other institutions.

Šiaurės ministrų tarybos biuras Lietuvoje 30 METŲ LIETUVOJE

Rockit

Katalistos partneriai MB

NEMUNO KILPŲ REGIONINIS PARKAS

ZERO WASTE FEST

LiJOT LIETUVOS JAUNIMO ORGANIZACIJŲ TARYBA

Results

A system of hydrological monitoring was installed.

Woody vegetation and reedbeds were cleared (in 15 ha).

Dams of various constructions were installed on drainage ditches.

Hydrological regime improved in 11 ha area.

The status of protected species and habitats of European importance is improved.

Avoided GHG emissions: ~38 t CO2 eq./11 ha/year.

Restoration of the hydrological regime in drained peatland will contribute to reducing GHG emissions and stimulating the renewal of the peat-forming process. Additional measures such as regular extensive mowing and grazing, cutting offshoots of wooden vegetation, and removal of harvested biomass from the site are necessary to ensure the good conservation status of the natural values.

Restoration of cut-over peatlands by applying paludiculture and other restoration approaches

PROJECT DURATION

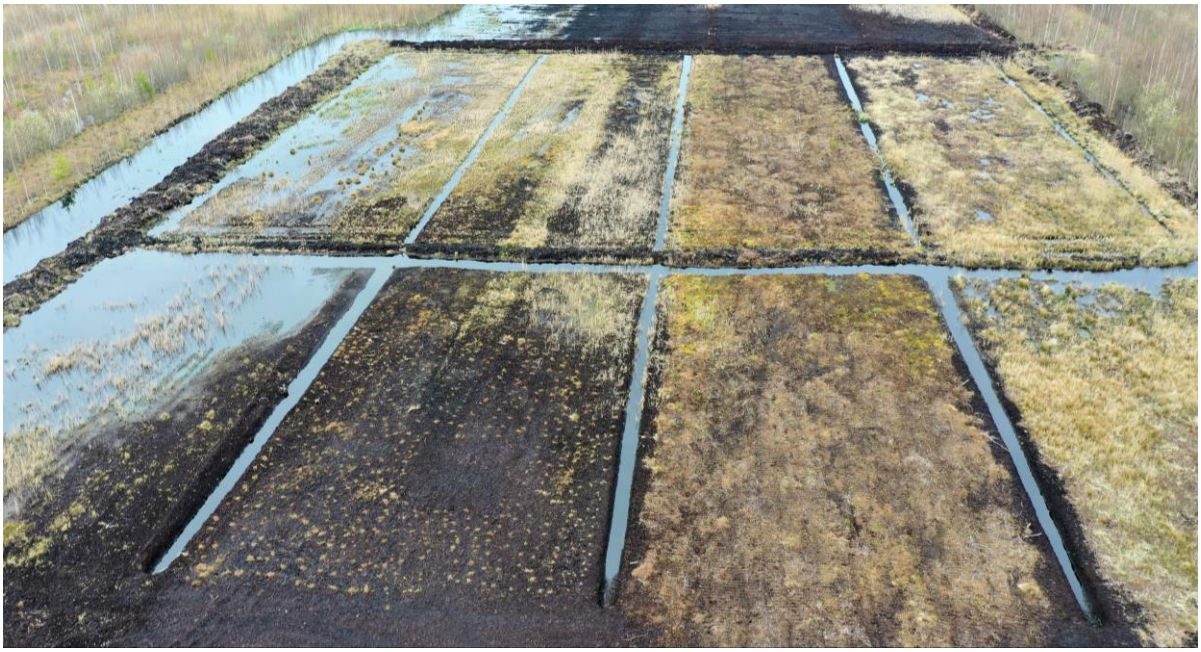
The start of the project is 2020
End of the project - N / A

PARTNERS

JSC Klasmann-Deilmann Ežerėlis
JSC Klasmann-Deilmann Šilutė

PROJECT VALUE

The project is partly financed by
JSC Klasmann-Deilmann Ežerėlis
JSC Klasmann Deilmann Šilutė



Peat-forming plants (*Sphagnum*, cranberries, reeds, etc.) have been planted in a pilot site (0.4 ha in size) installed in the cut-over part of Ežerėlis peatland (Kaunas region).

A step forward. It is a promising approach for the recultivation of cut-over peatlands using nature-based solutions.

EŽERĖLIS

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECT

Restoration of the South-Western part of Aukštumala Raised Bog

PROJECT DURATION

2021

PARTNERS

Greifswald Mire Centre (Germany)
Michael Zukov Nature Conservation Foundation (Germany)

THE PROJECT IS FINANCED

The total value of the project is 36 000 €.
Stiftung Zukunft Jetzt!

A project for the restoration of hydrological conditions and ensuring the better environmental status of the southwestern part of the Aukštumala raised bog (Šilutė region) has been implemented in 2021.

This is one of the first projects in the country for the conservation and restoration of peatland biodiversity, voluntarily funded by a socially responsible company.

The project aims at restoring the hydrological regime to improve the status of raised bog habitats and protected species.

The project also contributes to reducing GHG emissions from damaged by drainage peatlands.

STIFTUNG ZUKUNFT Jetzt!

Succow Stiftung

Partner im GREIFSWALD MOOR CENTRUM

Results

Over 250 various construction water retention barriers (peat embankments (total length – 120 m), peat dams, and peat-wood panel composite dams) have been installed on drainage ditches in the restoration area.

A hydrological monitoring system was installed. Hydrological conditions improved in 50 ha.

The status of protected species and habitats of European importance has been improved.

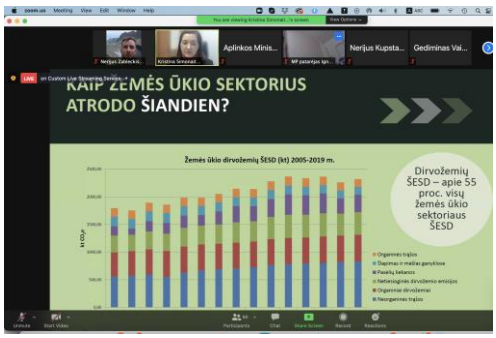
Avoided GHG emissions: ~325 t CO_2 eq./11 ha/year.

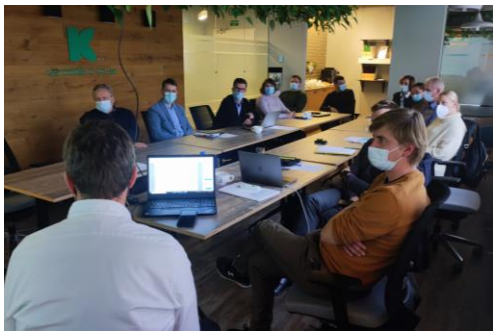
The Aukštumala raised bog and its surroundings are not only remarkable for their valuable natural and cultural heritage but also are important for the development of peatland science. The bog became famous in the world in 1902, when German botanist C.A. Weber published a monograph dedicated to Aukštumala and other mires.

Other activities

Moor Futures

Ihre Investitionen in Klimaschutz.





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- The MoorFutures Carbon Standard (Germany) has been translated and adapted (on the basis of the lawyer's recommendations) into Lithuanian with a special emphasis on the GHG assessment methods.
- Established cooperation with the NGO "*Myliu mišką*" and other national institutions interested in the implementation of a carbon credit standard for restoration and improvement of ecological conditions in drained peatlands and forests (LULUCF sector) in Lithuania.
- Representatives of the foundation actively participate in providing information and consulting the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association "*Lietuviškos durpės*" and other institutions interested in restoration and wise use of peatlands:
  - preparation of guidelines for Lithuania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan "New Generation Lithuania", investment "Increasing GHG absorption capacity„;
  - exploring new recultivation options for cut-over peat quarries.
- The head of the foundation is actively involved in the National Forest Agreement process by forming an alternative Climate Change Group, which has not been formally included in the process. Together with other representatives of the "non-timber" sector, we actively participated in the process. The process highlighted the importance of peatlands, as forests and peatlands ecosystems are closely linked in various aspects (ecosystem conservation and restoration, biodiversity and global climate protection).

We are grateful to

PARTNERS

SUPPORTERS

Katalistos partneriai MB