



European Union



INSPIRING
ENVIRONMENT

Nature reserve „Oviši” and „Užava” nature protection plans for 2015–2025

Content

- What is nature protection plan (NPP)?
- Nature reserves “Ovīši” and “Užava”, their management history and nature values
- NPP development process for nature reserves “Ovīši” and “Užava”
- Recommended management measures
- Proposed amendments to functional zoning and individual protection and management regulations (IPMR)

What is nature protection plan (EE analogue – *kaitsekorralduskava*)?

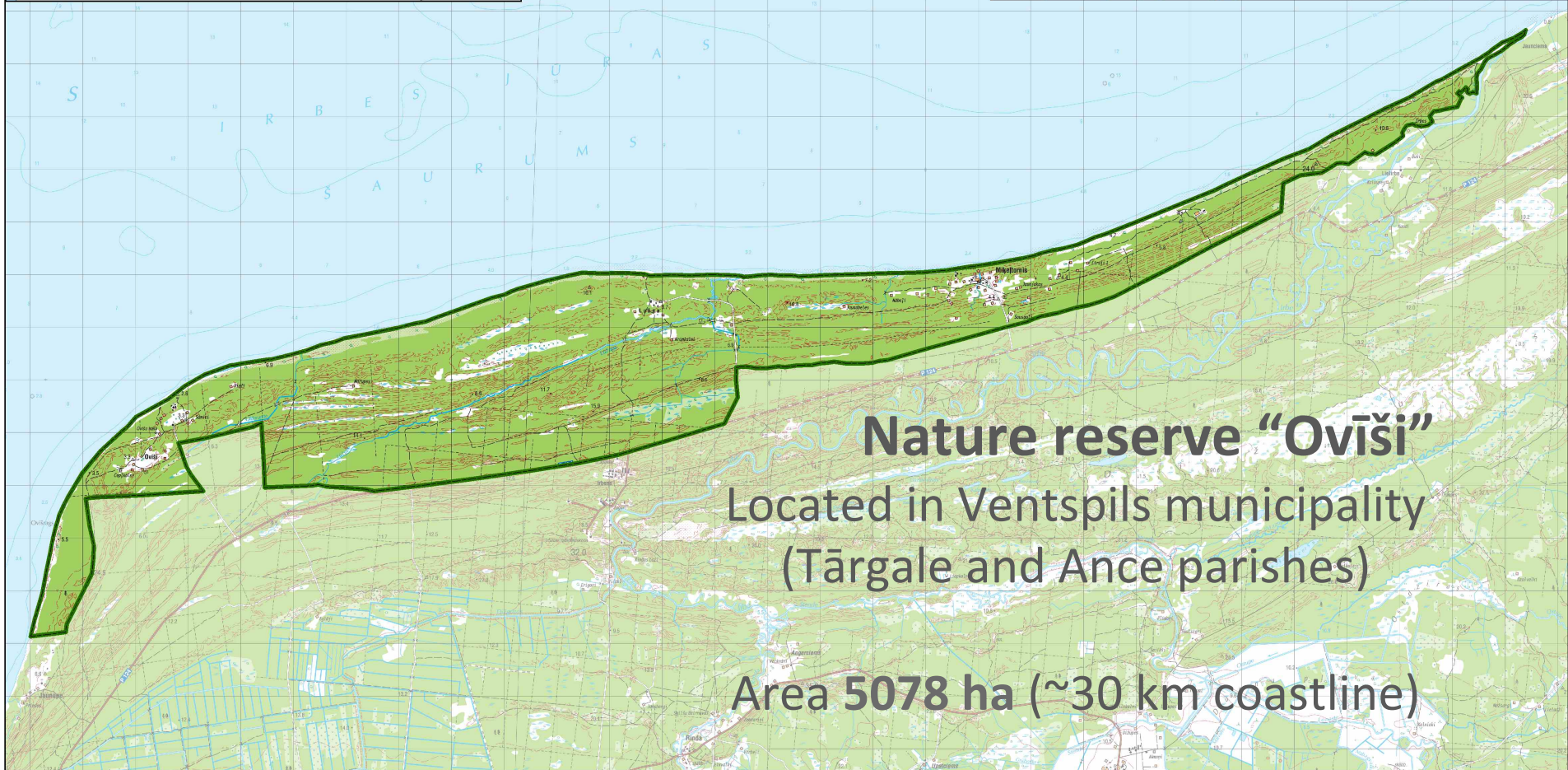
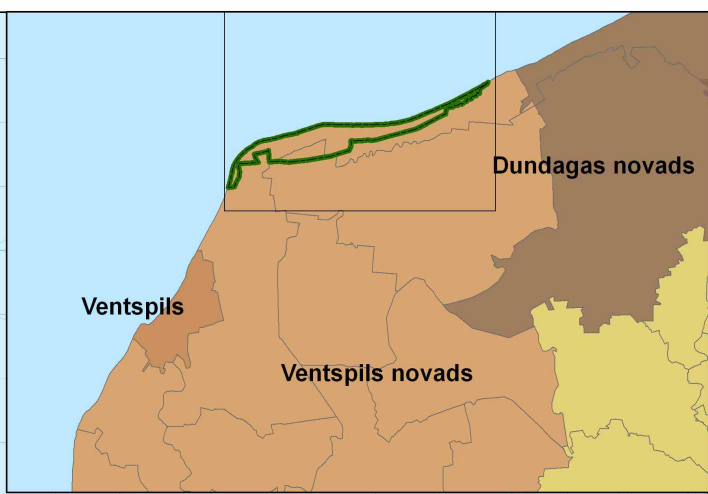
- Required by “Law On Specially Protected Nature Territories” (02.03.1993);
- Content and development procedure in Regulations of Minister of Cabinets no. 686 (09.10.2007) “Regulations on content and development procedure of nature protection plans for protected nature territories”;
- NPP includes general information about the territory, scientific information of nature values and recommendations for protection and management measures;
- Nature protection plan is a document of recommendatory nature, however it has to be taken into consideration by the state and regional institutions when planning territorial protection and management.

Development of NPP for nature reserves “Ovīši” and “Užava”

- NR «Ovīši» did not have approved NPP; in 2005 individual protection and management regulations (IPMR) as well as functional zones were developed and approved
- NR «Užava» - previous NPP developed for the period 2004-2014 by University of Latvia Faculty of Biology
- Both territories are within Natura 2000 network since 2005.
- NPP contracting authority – Kurzeme planning region (in the framework of co-financed project of the Estonian – Latvian programme 2007–2013 “Coastline and sea areas spatial planning of Gulf of Pärnu in Estonia and coastline municipalities in Latvia”);
- Developer – SIA “Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Environment” (environmental consultancy company with the experience in development of more than 30 NPPs in 15 years)
- NPPs were developed from Oct 2013 to Jan 2015

Importance of developing NPPs for particular nature reserves

- Both territories protect large areas of EU importance habitats (mostly coastal and forest habitats, also semi-natural grasslands, fens and rivers), rare and protected species, natural coastal processes of Baltic sea
- Cultural heritage – lighthouses, fishermen villages, military heritage
- Anthropogenic pressure due to recreational activities
- NR «Oviši» - necessary to consolidate and update data about natural values, evaluate existing IMPR and functional zoning and propose new IMPR and zoning if warranted
- NR «Užava» - necessary to update maps of protected habitats according to newest methodology, plan specific management activities and propose functional zoning and IMPR



Nature reserve "Oviši"

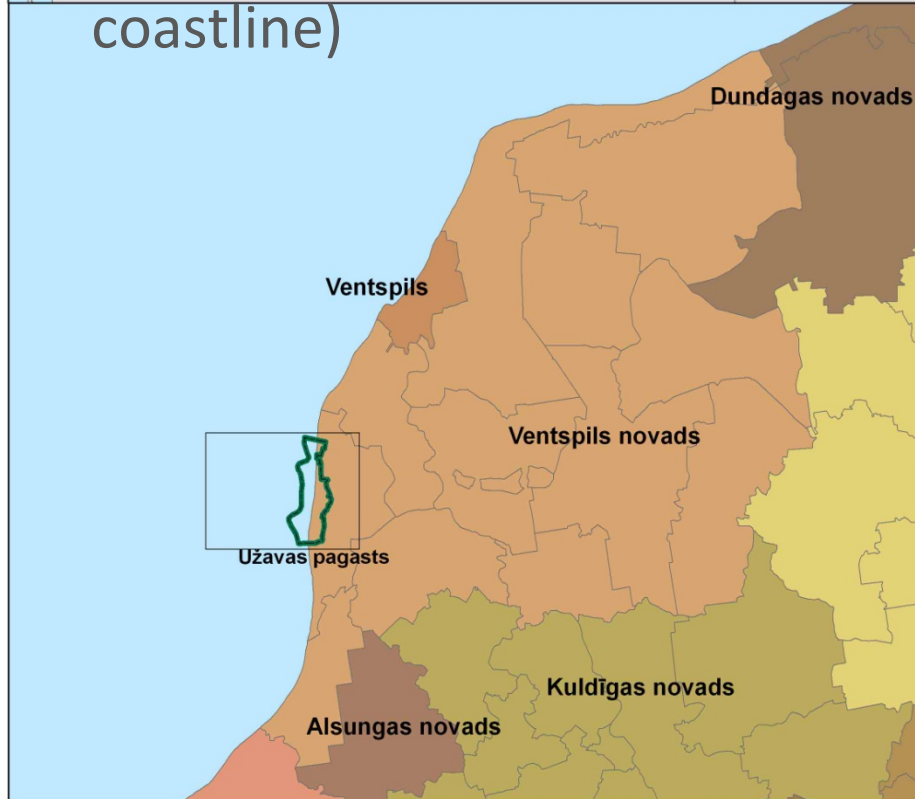
Located in Ventspils municipality
(Tārgale and Ance parishes)

Area 5078 ha (~30 km coastline)

Nature reserve “Užava”

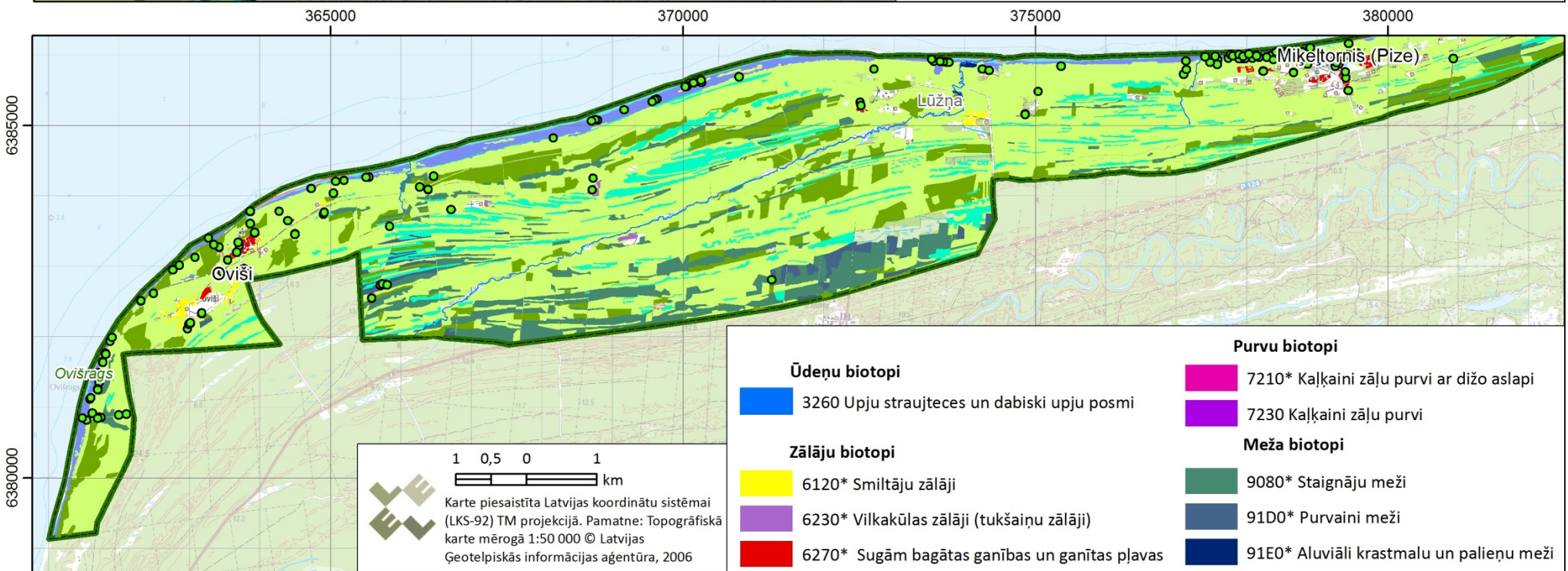
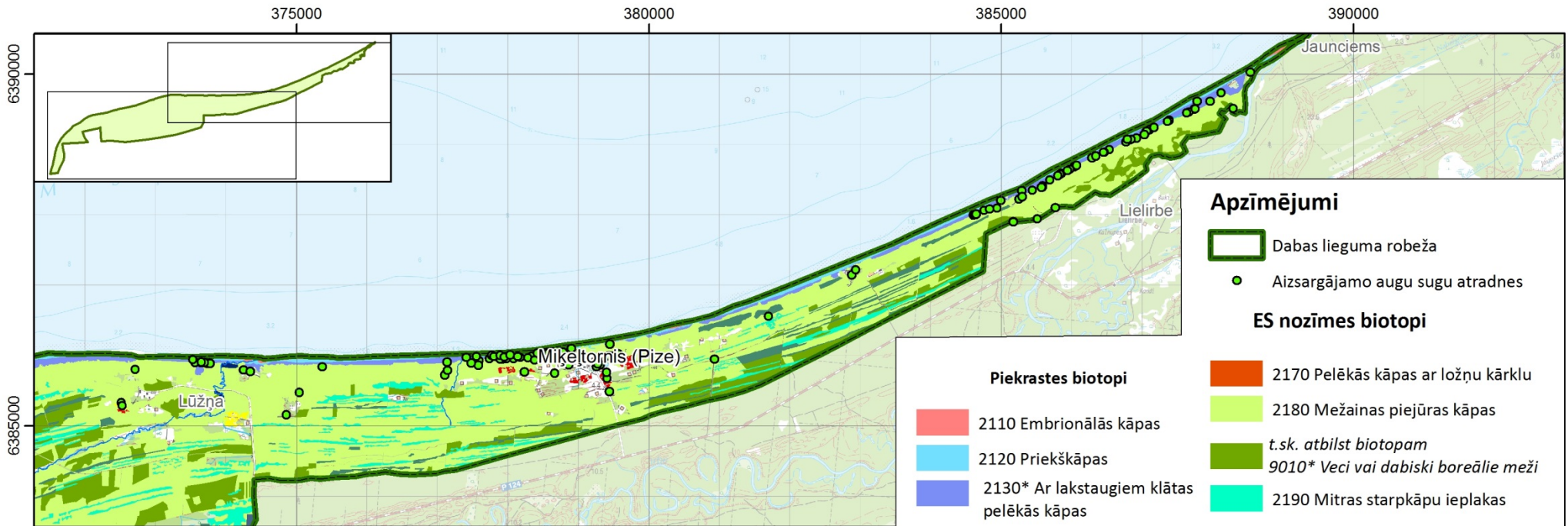
Located in Ventspils municipality
(Užavas parish)

Area **3008 ha** including 1236 ha
inland and 1772 ha sea, (~11 km
coastline)



NR “Ovīši” natural and landscape values

- Complex of longitudinal former Littorina Sea dunes and humid lowlands between them;
- 93,5% of area covered by habitats of EU importance;
- 58 rare and protected plant species, incl. 3 species from Annex II of Habitat Directive;
- 20 rare and protected bird species, incl. 20 species from Annex II of Birds Directive and 3 qualifying species for Important Bird Area;
- 23 rare and protected invertebrate species, incl 1 HD Annex II species;
- 1 amphibian species from HD Annex II, 3 mammal species from HD Annex II;
- Historical Livonian villages;
- Military heritage objects (from Soviet era) with high potential for tourism activities.



2120 Foredunes and 2110 Embryo shifting dunes



9080* Deciduous swamp woods



2190 Humid dune slacks



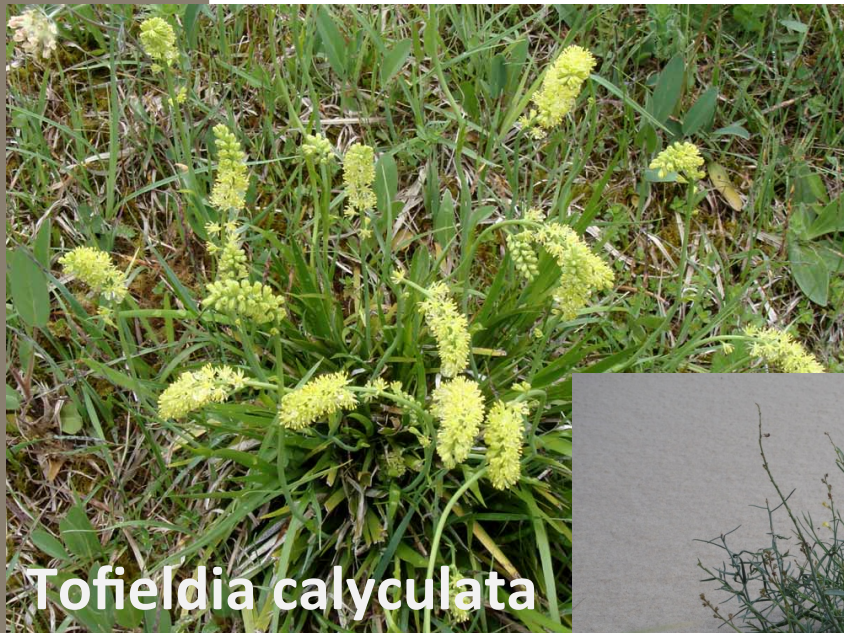
2130* Grey dunes



Nothorina muricata habitat



Lasius fuliginosus habitat



Tofieldia calyculata



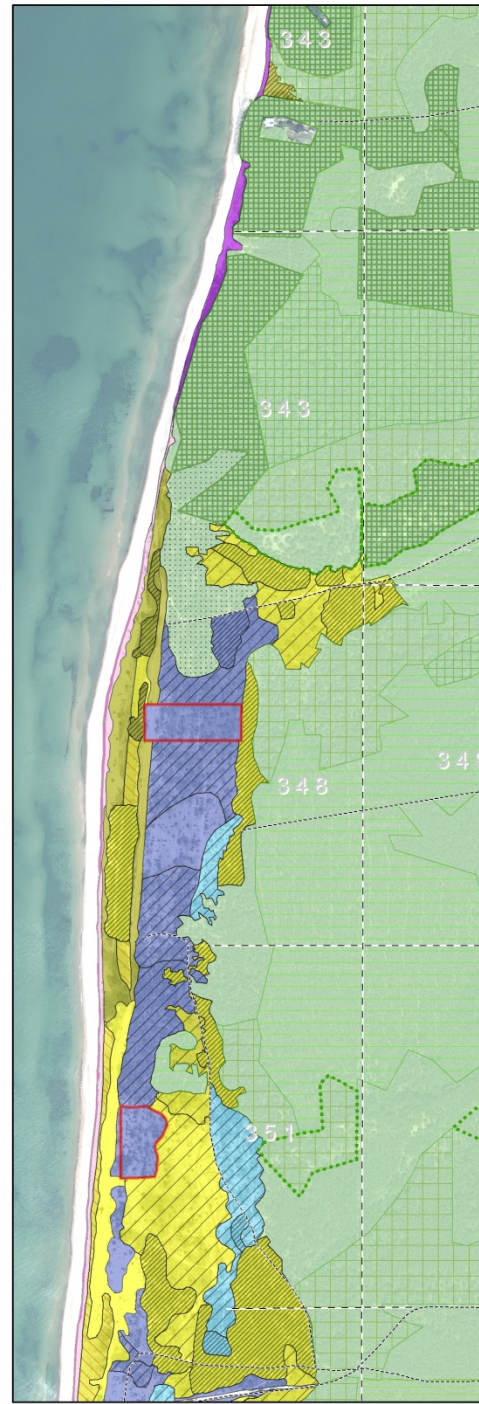
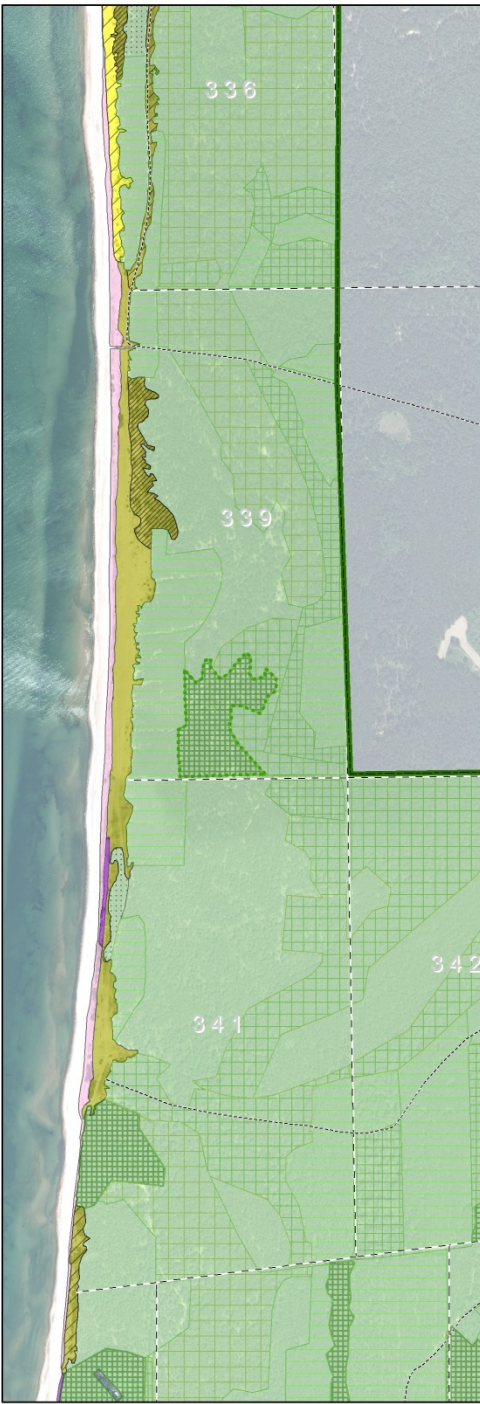
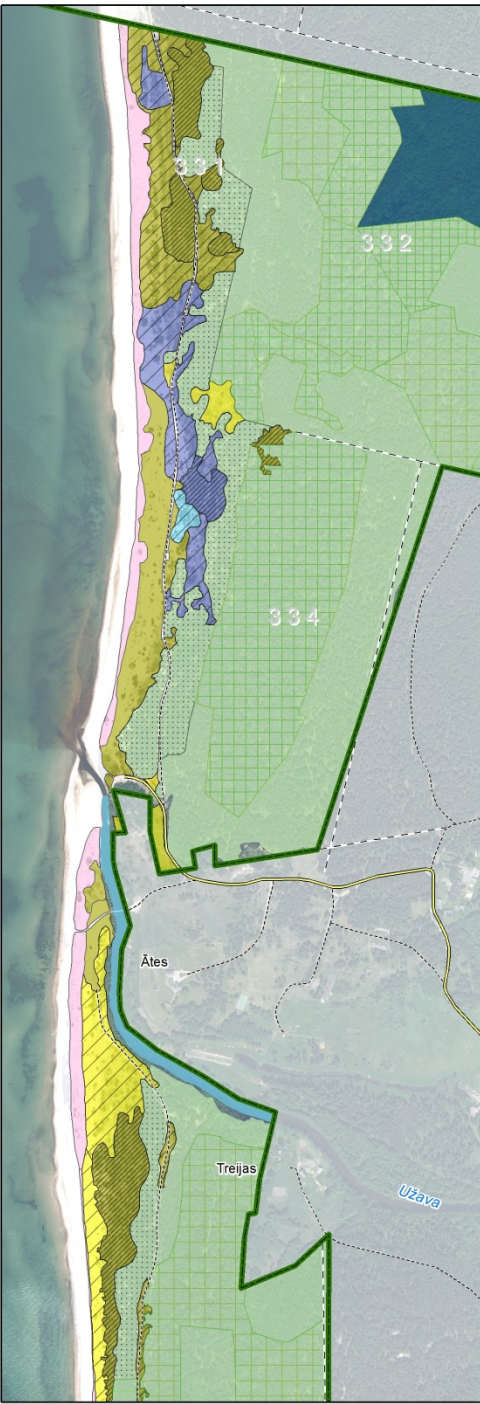
Linaria loeselii



Cephalanthera rubra

NR “Užava” natural and landscape values

- 97,3% of coastland covered by habitats of EU importance;
- 17 rare and protected plant species, incl. 2 HD Annex II species; 20 rare and protected lichen species (incl. 12 species for which this is only finding in Latvia);
- 19 rare and protected bird species, incl. 13 species from Annex II of BD and 1 qualifying species for Important Bird Area
- 18 rare and protected invertebrate species;
- Vast open landscape of grey dunes;
- Užava lighthouse and objects of military heritage.





2130* Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)



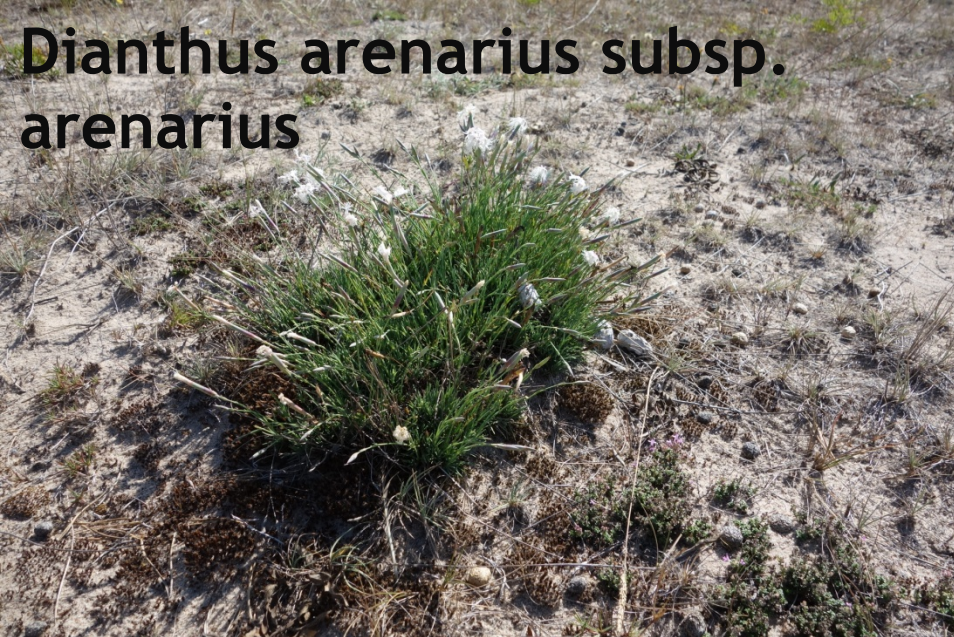
2170 Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea*



2140* Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*



2170 Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea*



Processes and impacts that maintain characteristic habitats in both NRs

Most significant geological processes: transformation of sea shore slope (erosion and accumulation) and aeolian processes (beach and dune overblowing). In NR «Užava» erosion is predominant (especially around lighthouse due to coastal fortifications) whereas in NR «Ovīši» large sections of coast are within dynamic balance or accumulation occurs.

Grassland management: semi-natural grasslands require specific management to maintain good quality (mowing and grazing). Due to population decline and changes in economics agricultural activities have ceased from NR «Ovīši» almost completely, thus endangering existence of grassland habitats and dependent species

Natural and anthropogenic disturbance of dunes: grey dunes require moderate disturbance to maintain characteristic structures. In NR «Užava» disturbance factors were fishing practices (drying of nets) and during Soviet era – military activities. Once they stopped, dunes have started to overgrow with pines, so management activities are necessary

Development of NPPs for both NRs I

- Certified species and habitat experts were engaged in the development of NPPs, as well as geomorphologist, hydrologist and landscape expert; plan development monitoring group included representatives of state and municipal institutions as well as entomological society;
- In the beginning of the plan development process information meeting was organised with the aim of presenting tasks of NPP development to all interested parties;
- During the development of NPP 4 monitoring group meetings were organised;
- Public consultations on NPPa were organised in October 2014, NPP documentation was available electronically online and in print in local municipalities;

Development of NPPs for both NRs II

- In NR «Ovīši» questionnaires were sent to land owners in order to receive information on the most topical issues related to usage and management of the territory (received information about 71 land units; in total 250 questionnaires sent);
- In NR «Ovīši» the most vivid discussions were related to proposal for individual protection and management regulations – representatives of monitoring group stressed the importance of detailed definition of conditions for territory usage, including control of open air event, while hunters society objected proposal for prohibition of feeding of hunting animals;
- In NR «Užava» very detailed mapping of dune habitats was organized, defining areas where specific management activities need to be carried out as soon as possible; planned activities were discussed with monitoring group.

Long-term nature reserve protection goals

NR «**Oviši**»: The territory of nature reserve ensures existence of protected species and habitats in the favourable protection status, simultaneously maintaining traditional structure of territory inhabitation and objects of cultural heritage. Economic use and development of the territory does not contradict with the requirement of nature protection.

Nature reserve „**Užava**” long-term protection goal is to ensure protection of typical coastal habitats and restoration and maintenance of its favourable protection status, leading to protection of living space of protected species and valuable landscapes, simultaneously allowing usage of territory for recreational purposes as long as it does not contradict with the nature protection goals.

Main results of NPP development for NR “Oviši”

- Evaluation of coastal processes, recommendations to decrease erosion risks;
- Updated information about protected species and habitats in NR and evaluation of habitat quality, detailed recommendations for protection and management;
- Hydrologist has evaluated areas with flooding problems, prepared recommendations for decreasing flood incidences;
- Recommendations for various management activities, including improvement of tourism infrastructure;
- In collaboration with developers of municipality territorial plan detailed recommendations for building orders in coastal villages were implemented in territorial plan;
- Proposal of changes in functional zoning and IPMR.

Main results of NPP development for NR “Užava”

- Evaluation of coastal processes, recommendations to decrease erosion risks;
- Completely recreated map of coastal habitats, detailed evaluation of habitat quality and characteristics;
- Updated information about rare species and state of their populations;
- Detailed map and instructions for management activities to increase habitat quality;
- Proposal for functional zoning and IPMR.

Proposed management activities

A. Administrative and organisational measures

(approval of new zoning and IMPR, evaluation and protection of military heritage, clarification of right-of-use issues for boat deliveries and access to sea);

B. Protection and management of nature values

(thinning of pine overgrowth in dunes, management of grasslands, building of barriers and pathways to protect foredunes, cleaning of waterways etc.)

C. Information and education of society

(information stands, brochures, mobile phone applications, informational campaigns etc.

D. **Tourism and recreation** (management and maintenance of tourism objects, new infrastructure objects);

E. **Monitoring and surveys** of nature processes, species and habitats

Proposed changes in NR «Oviši» functional zoning and IPMR

Currently enforced IPMR and functional zoning approved in 2005, following functional zones are defined: nature reserve zone, regulated regime zone, nature park zone, neutral zone.

Proposed changes in zoning are minor. Proposed designated roads in regulated regime zone where car traffic is allowed; identified parcels where detailed planning is necessary before building development.

Proposed changes in IPMR allow more flexibility for development in neutral zone, precisely define where and how forestry activities are allowed, regulate large open-air events, allow activities for regulating hydrological regime if necessary to avert flooding of villages or significant nature values.

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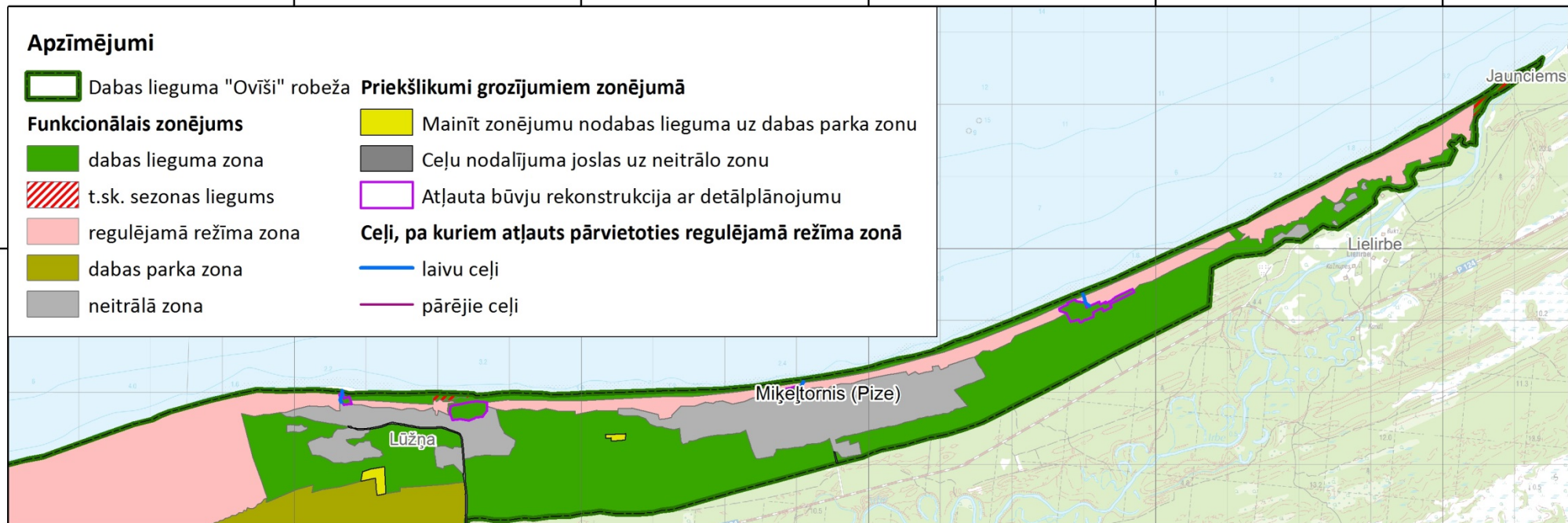
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Apzīmējumi

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  | Dabas lieguma "Oviši" robeža | Priekšlikumi grozījumiem zonējumā | |
| Funkcionālais zonējums |  | Mainīt zonējumu nodabas lieguma uz dabas parka zonu | |
|  | dabas lieguma zona |  | Ceļu nodalījuma joslas uz neitrālo zonu |
|  | t.sk. sezonas liegums |  | Atļauta būvju rekonstrukcija ar detālplānojumu |
|  | regulējamā režīma zona | Ceļi, pa kuriem atļauts pārvietoties regulējamā režīma zonā | |
|  | dabas parka zona |  | laivu ceļi |
|  | neitrālā zona |  | pārējie ceļi |

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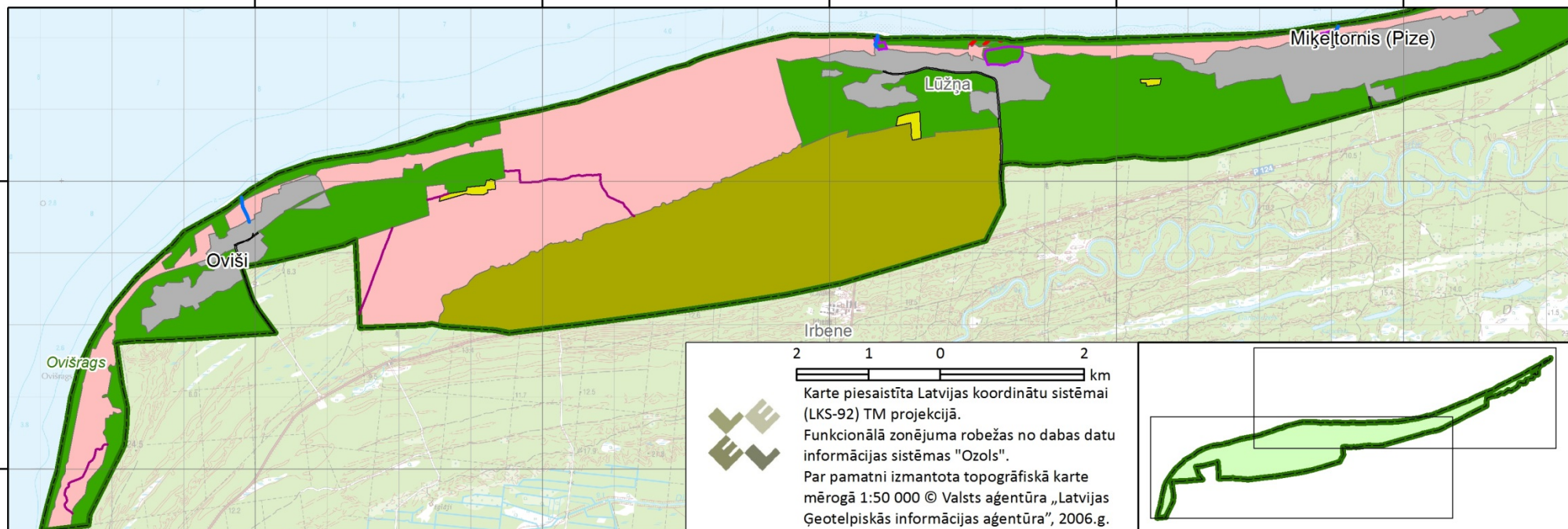
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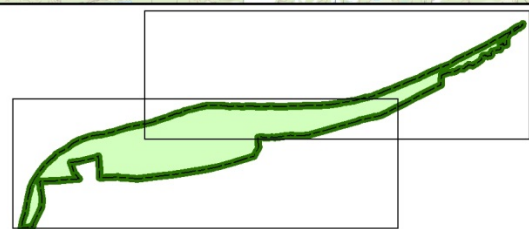


380000



2 1 0 2 km

Karte piesaistīta Latvijas koordinātu sistēmai (LKS-92) TM projekcijā.
 Funkcionālā zonējuma robežas no dabas datu informācijas sistēmas "Ozols".
 Par pamatni izmantota topogrāfiskā karte mērogā 1:50 000 © Valsts aģentūra „Latvijas Ģeotelpiskās informācijas aģentūra”, 2006.g.





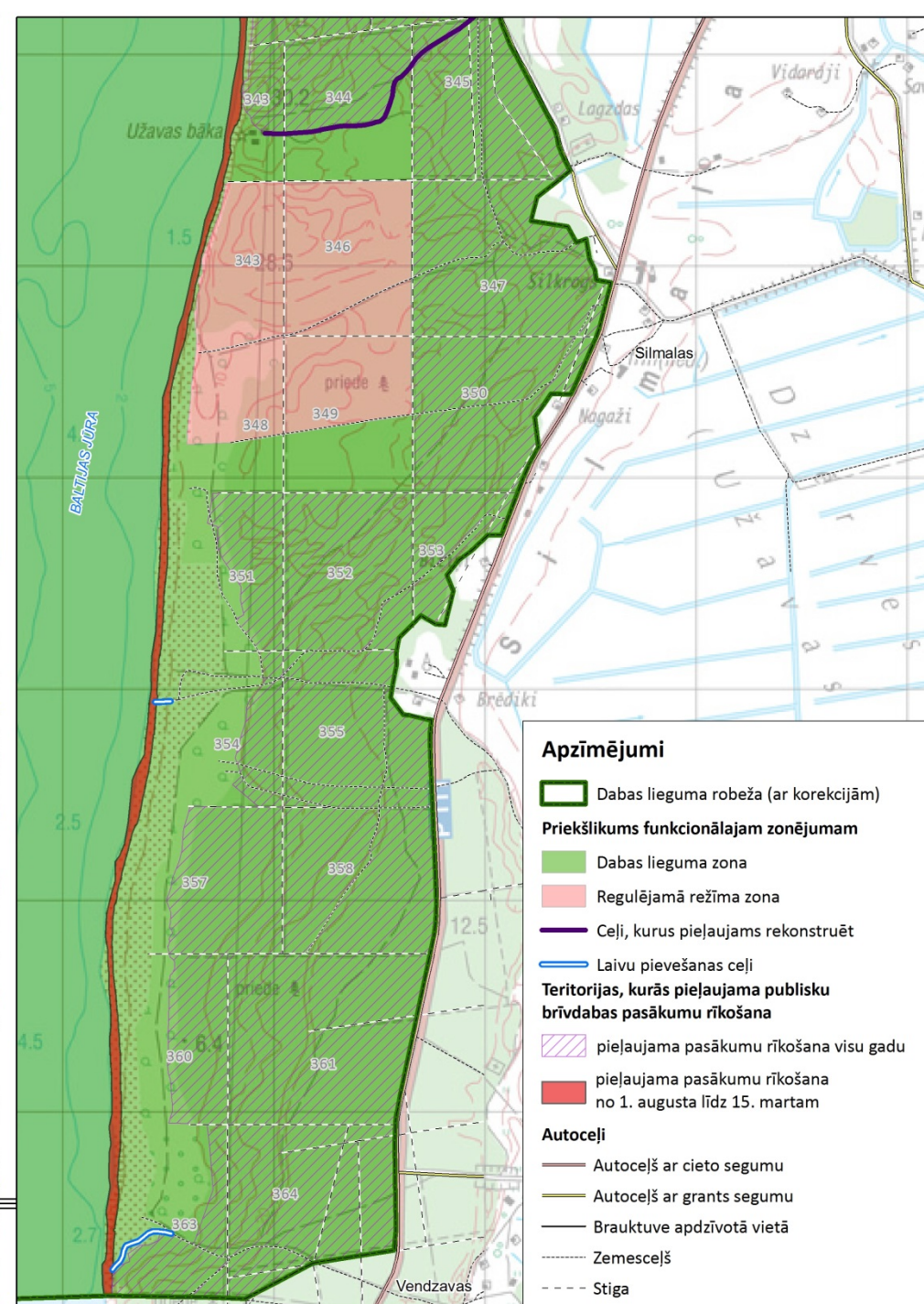
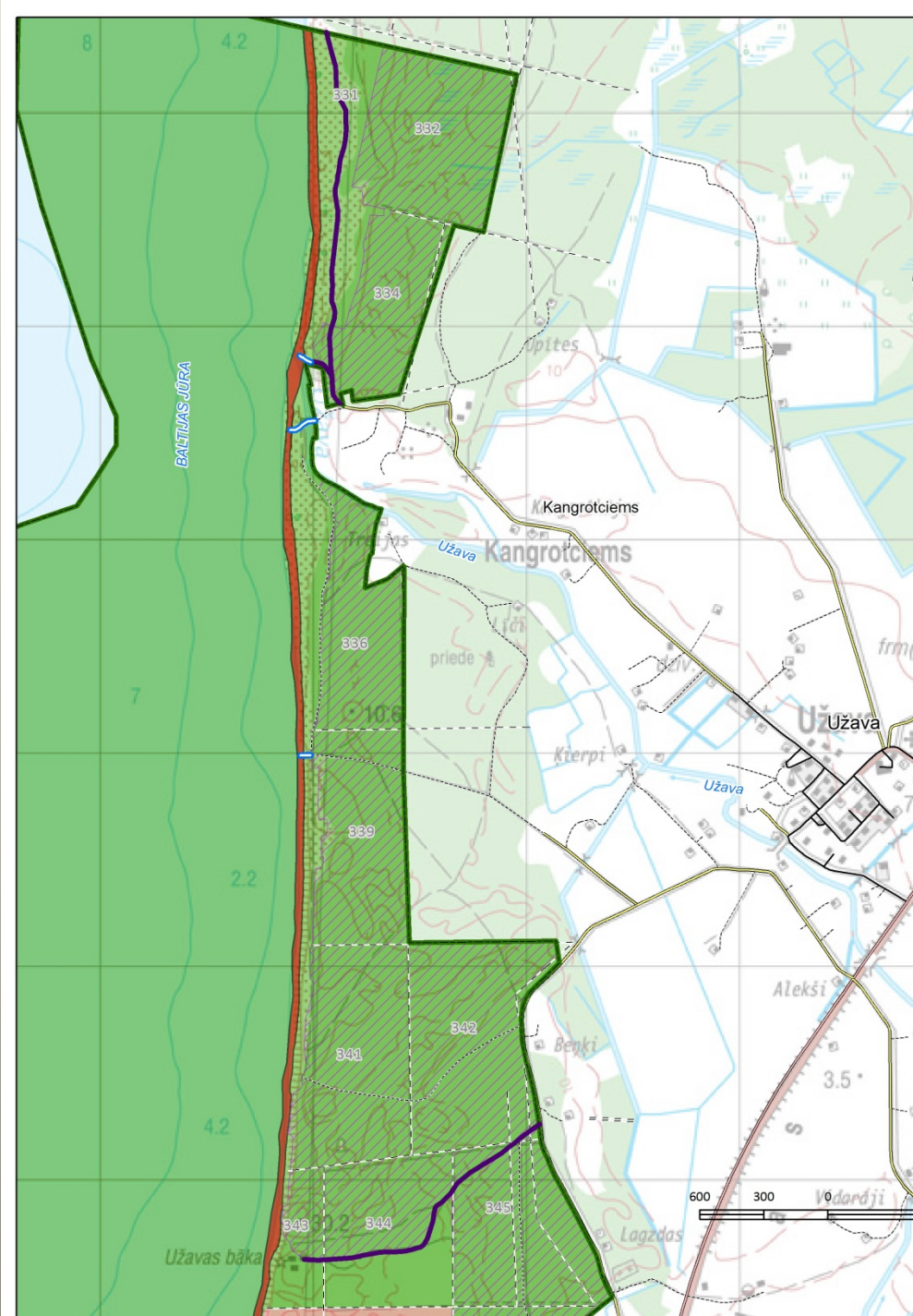
Proposal for NR “Užava” functional zoning and individual protection and management regulations

Functional zoning proposal includes regulated regime zone for protection of rare bird species;

Roads which can be reconstructed are highlighted in the functional zoning scheme, as well as boat-delivery roads are identified.

Identified zones, where open air event organisation (>60 participants) is permissible during certain seasons.

IPMR include particular requirements for protection of nature values, including specified conditions for transportation (e.g. vehicle movement in 4 m wide lane along the coast), ban on collection of fallen trees, conditions for forest thinning activities, restrictions for cobble collection, etc.



- Apzīmējumi**
- Dabas lieguma robeža (ar korekcijām)
 - Priekšlikums funkcionālajam zonējumam**
 - Dabas lieguma zona
 - Regulējamā režīma zona
 - Ceļi, kurus pieļaujams rekonstruēt
 - Laivu pievešanas ceļi
 - Teritorijas, kurās pieļaujama publisku brīvdabas pasākumu rīkošana**
 - pieļaujama pasākumu rīkošana visu gadu
 - pieļaujama pasākumu rīkošana no 1. augusta līdz 15. martam
 - Autoceļi**
 - Autoceļš ar cieto segumu
 - Autoceļš ar grants segumu
 - Brauktuve apdzīvotā vietā
 - Zemesceļš
 - Stīga

Prospects of implementing management activities, functional zoning and IPMR

Responsible for approval of functional zoning and IPMR – Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (usually 2-3 years until approval)

Recommendations for territorial planning – already implemented

Specific activities for habitat management – dependent on available funding, project activities, involvement of experts and NGOs (some activities in NR «Oviši» already occurred; in NR «Užava» ongoing habitat management activities within LIFE NAT-PROGRAMME project)

Tourism infrastructure – including proposed infrastructure in NPP allow to seek EU funding

Developers of the Nature Protection Plan

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