# NATURE CENSUS IN LATVIA

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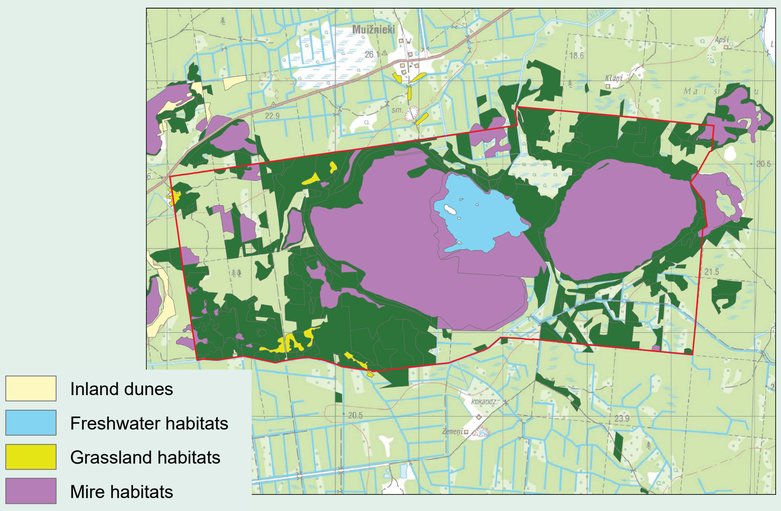
5.4.2.1/16/I/001 EU Cohesion Fund co-financed project 'Preconditions for better biodiversity preservation and ecosystem protection in Latvia'
Nature Conservation Agency

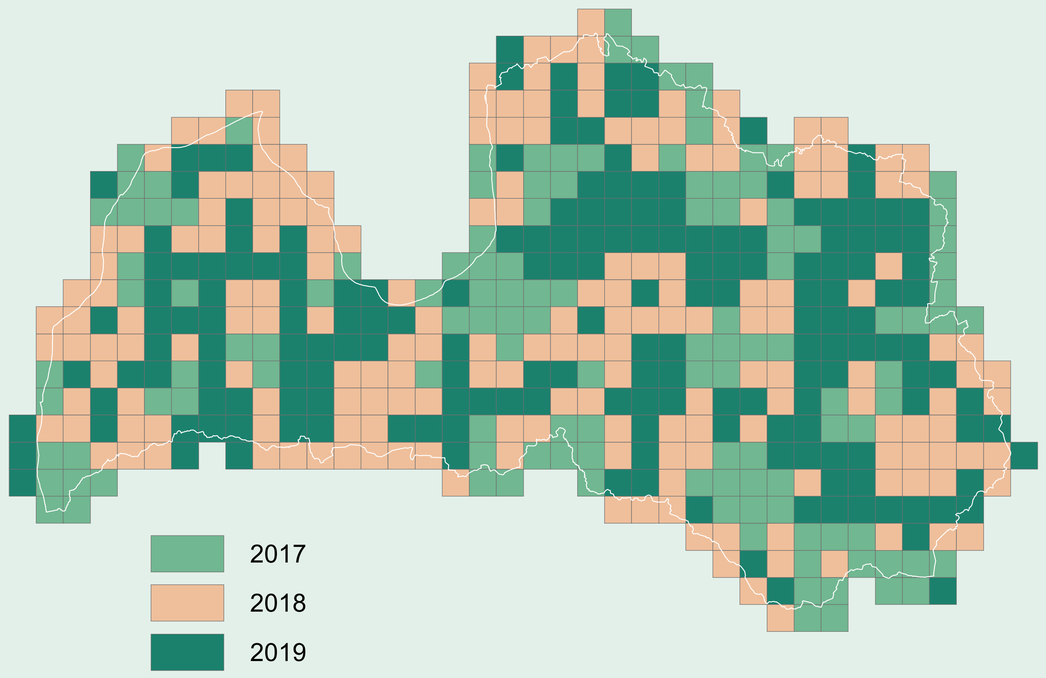
## Description

EU Cohesion Fund co-financed project "Preconditions for better biodiversity preservation and ecosystem protection in Latvia", or the "Nature Census. The aim of this project is to establish preconditions for the preservation of biological diversity and protection of ecosystems by carrying out analysis of acquired basic information, as well as to develop twenty specially protected nature conservation plans and five specially protected species protection plans.




Distribution of the EU protected habitats in Klanu mire *Natura 2000*

To facilitate the transparency of mapping works, the whole territory of Latvia is divided into a grid of 12.5 km x 12.5 km squares.




The identification of the distribution and quality of specially protected habitats of European Union importance in Latvia is implemented in the period of three years from 2017 to 2019, determining the area and quality of these habitats. 60 habitat types of EU importance are identified for six habitat groups - grasslands, forests, swamps, coastal areas and sand dunes, rivers, lakes, exposed rock formations.

Types of mires in Latvia - Active raised bogs (7110 *), Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120), Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140), Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* (7150), Alkaline fens (7230), Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* (7210 *), Petrifying springs with tufa formations (cratoneeurion) (7220 *), Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens (7160 *).

7110 Active raided bogs

Drosera rotundifolia is a characteristic specie of active raised bogs

Habitat 7210* Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*

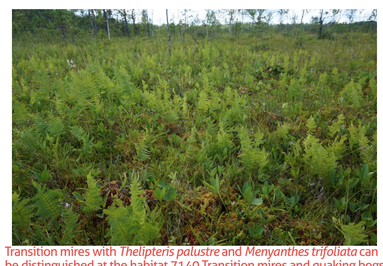
Springfen in a forests

7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

Habitat 7230 Alkaline fens

*Schoenus ferrugineus* is also found in alkaline fens (habitats 7230*)

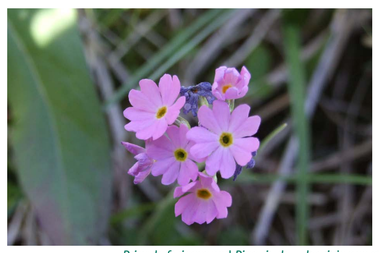
Transition mires with *Rhynchosphora alba* and *Scheuchzeria palustris* at the habitat 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs



Transition mires with *Thelipteris palustre* and *Menyanthes trifoliata* can be distinguished at the habitat 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs

Transitional mires are important habitats for protected species, for exampl, *Liparis loeselii*

Habitat 7220*Ptrifying springs with tufa fotmstion (Crataneuron)



*Primula farinosa* and *Pinquicula vulgaris* is one of habitats 7220* characteristic species

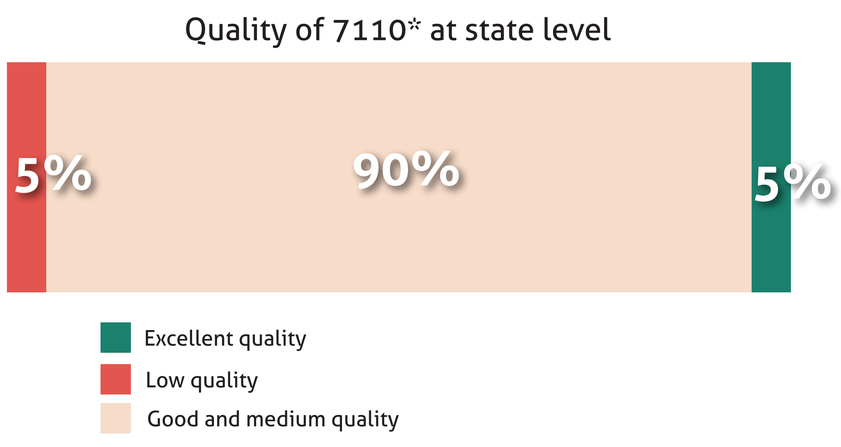
Habitat 7160 Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and sprinfens

*Caltha palustris* is a characteristic specie of mineral-rich springs

Habitat 7150 Depressions an peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporin*

*Photo: A.Namatēva*

## Conclusion




1. Areas of habitat 7110 * and 7120 in the country after the identification of habitats of EU importance are likely to be smaller than estimated to date. The 7110 * area reduction is mainly due to more accurate data. The reduction of habitat 7120 area can be explained by clarification of interpretation, incl. mapping that now excludes degraded bog areas where no natural regeneration is possible - i.e. all abandoned peatland fields that need to be recultivated and which are currently not significant from the economic or biodiversity point of view.

2. The area of alkaline fens in the country can actually be larger than estimated so far, but the quality of these habitats is also on the decline.

3. Hydrological modification, usually related to peat extraction, may cause changes in the micro – relief and affect natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 3160 associated with active raised bogs. In the future natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 3160 conservation status will depend on the development of peat industry extraction bogs and peatland restoration activities.

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