



## **After-LIFE Communication Plan**

**Restoration of Raised Bog Habitats in the  
Especially Protected Nature Areas of Latvia  
LIFE08 NAT/LV/000449  
(01.02.2010 – 31.08.2013)**





### **Aim and objectives of the project**

The aim of the LIFE+ project “Restoration of Raised Bog Habitats in the Especially Protected Nature Areas of Latvia” was to restore the degraded areas of four raised bogs thus providing appropriate living conditions for plant and animal species, many of them rare and protected in European Union, to conserve rare habitats and draw the public attention to the natural wealth of Latvia.

The project aimed to fulfil the following objectives and results:

- (1) to draw up Management plans for four Nature Reserves – Aizkraukle Mire and Forests, Aklais Mire, Melnais Lake Mire and Rožu Mire;
- (2) to carry out hydrological assessment to aid the re-establishment of the natural hydrological regime of raised bogs and building of dams on drainage ditches;
- (3) to monitor the effect of management actions on habitats and site hydrology at project sites via a series of long-term observations;

### **Current results of the project**

- building of 156 peat/wood dams in four raised bogs (Aizkraukle Mire and Forests, Aklais Mire, Melnais Lake Mire, Rožu Mire);
- as a result of dam building, re-establishing of natural hydrological regime of natural raised bogs in almost 500 ha wide area which was previously degraded due to peat extraction or mire drainage.
- the same year after dam building in the Melnais Lake Mire the observed vegetation changes indicated trend towards undisturbed raised bog vegetation. Also the increase of bog pool and hollow species cover indicated it.







### Communication strategy

The knowledge dissemination of the project and its results was conducted and will be continued after completion of the project through several events and seminars, the project homepage, documentary, photo exhibition, booklets and book on raised bog management.

During the three years, the project realized following dissemination activities:

- Participation in more than 10 international conferences and/or study tours;
- Publication of five project booklets and leaflet 2000 copies each;
- Preparation of four project site information boards;
- Publishing a book on raised bog management;
- Informing general public about project activities and results at project website [www.purvi.lv](http://www.purvi.lv) reaching more than 5.500 visitors;
- Arranging a travelling Photo exhibition “Secrets of Mires” to 30 different places throughout Latvia like libraries, schools or municipalities;
- Producing a documentary “Mires Uncovered” in cooperation with film production company, foundation Elm Media;
- Participation in public awareness activities like Plant Conservation Day and European Researchers Night.

## Future continuous dissemination plans

After the end of project most of interested people will be reached through seminars, mass media, documentary, photo exhibition and project homepage.

Project staff gained wide experience about mire management practices, and is invited to share it after project end in following public events:

- October 14, 2013 Live interview with project manager to Radio LR1 in the broadcast "Zināmais nezināmajā" (The Known in the Unknown);
- December 5, 2013 Project NAT-PROGRAMME mire habitats seminar.

The project documentary "Mires Uncovered" can be found in both Latvian and English at the project website and at [elmmmedia.lv](http://elmmmedia.lv), and after the project completion will be presented in several international nature film festivals:

- September 18-22, 2013 Awards of the Matsalu Film Festival 2013, Estonia (<http://www.matsalufilm.ee/>);
- October 19-26, 2013 Competição Internacional Curtas-Metragens, Portugal (<http://www.cineecoseia.org/>).

Raised bog exhibition "Secrets of Mires" after the project end was committed to the care of administration of the Botanical Garden of the University of Latvia. The large sized photos will be exposed from time to time in the exhibition room at the Botanical Garden. Besides, the interested organizations, like libraries, schools or municipalities can subscribe and exhibit 12 transportable boards including 119 photos by request.

All the actual activities of the project were constantly updated in project homepage [www.purvi.lv](http://www.purvi.lv). After the end of project the homepage will be still accessible. In addition a short description about the project is given in the homepage of the Botanical Garden <http://www.botanika.lu.lv/purvu-projekts/> where link to documentary and most important materials and leaflets in PDF-format are published.



The screenshot shows the website [www.purvi.lv/en/news/](http://www.purvi.lv/en/news/). At the top is a banner for "RAISED BOGS" with the text: "Aim of the project is to re-establish the active raised bog habitats and site hydrology in the areas that are influenced by drainage and to protect the raised bog habitats, plants and animals of European and Latvian importance." Below the banner is a navigation menu: "News / About the Project / Project Sites / Life Reports / Actions / Galleries / Publications / Co-operation / Links / Contacts". The main content area features an article titled "Melnais Lake Mire Nature Management Plan" dated "05/04/2011 10:48". The article includes a large photo of red moss. To the right of the article, under "Financed by", are logos for the European Union (LIFE) and Natura 2000. Below these logos, the text reads: "Raised Bogs – LIFE08 NAT/LV /000449", "Project duration: 01.02.2010.- 31.08.2013.", "Funding: European Commission LIFE+ programme", "Beneficiary: University of Latvia", "Partners: Latvian Fund for Nature, Foundation ELM MEDIA", "Co-funding: Ministry of the Environment of Latvia, Ltd. Rīgas meži". Under the heading "Exhibition", there is a small photo of a landscape.