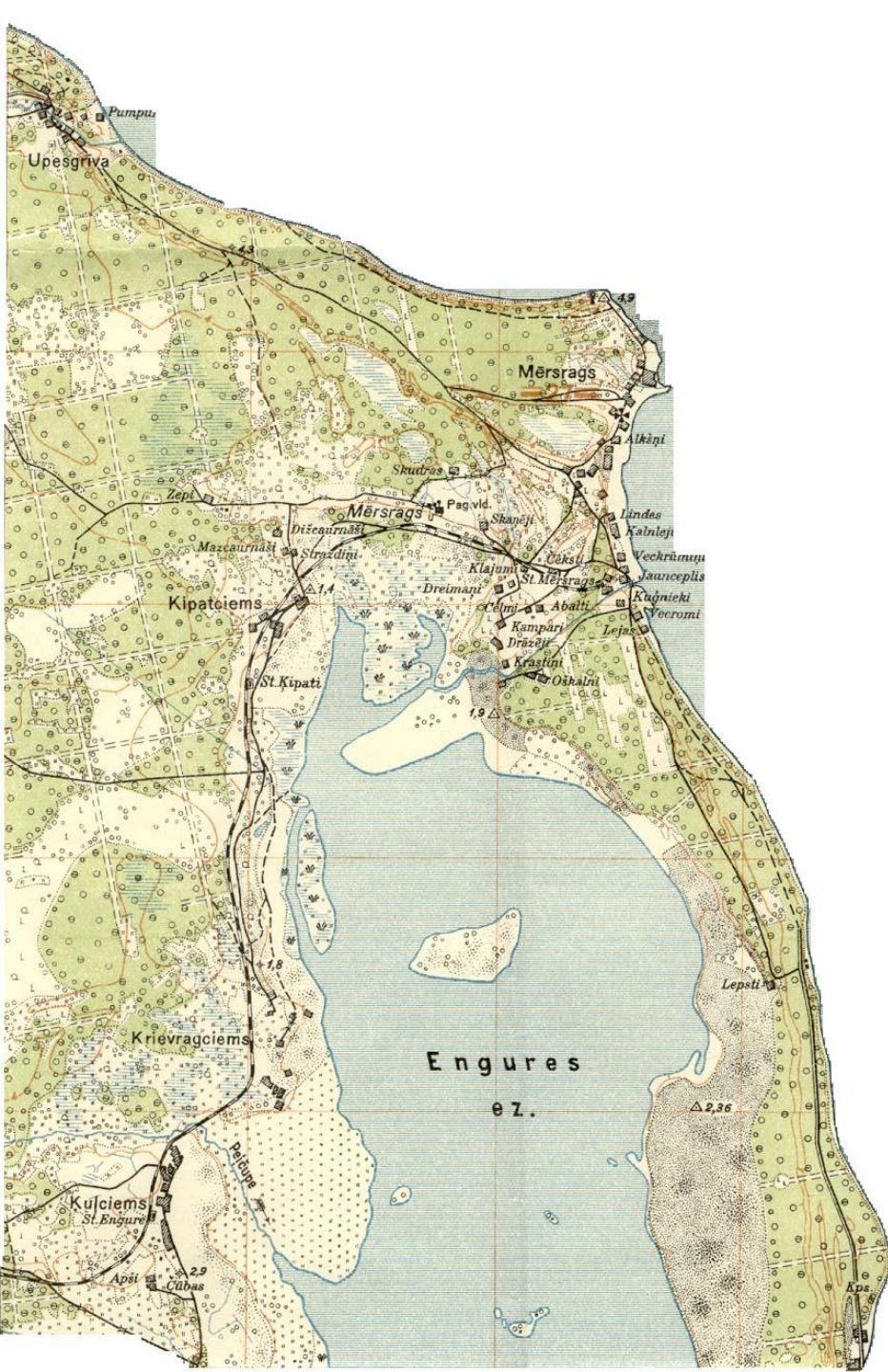




History, protection regime and management of Lake Engure Nature Park

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- **Origination of lake Engure about 4000 years ago as a shallow lagoon from Littorina sea.**
- **Lowering of water level on year 1842.**
- **Nature protection territory since 1957 .**
- **Establishment of Lake Engure Nature Park in 1998.**
Foundation of Lake Engure Nature Park Fund
- **Ramsar site since 1995.**
- **Natura 2000 since 2004.**



History of management activities

In the middle of 20th century landscape around the Lake Engure was mainly influenced by cattle grazing and hay making.

- E coast – 50-150m wide meadows were used mainly as pastures.
- W coast – from 100 to 300m wide meadows were used mainly for hay making.
- In 40-50ties haymaking and grazing was done also in the lake.
- First management activities –cutting of trees and bushes on islands were started on 1959.
- Years 1981-1983 – creation of artificial islands on Lielrova un Lopsalrova.
- Year 1999 - elaboration of first management plan and large scale reed cutting with Seiga reed cutter.
- Year 2001 -2004 - LIFE NATURE project -beginning of permanent reed cutting activities around islands with Truxor DM 4700.
- Year 2006 – making artificial islands in central part of lake with excavator Watermaster.
- Year 2011 – elaboration of second management plan
- Year 2013-2017 LIFE PLUS large scale reedbed fragmentation works.

What does it mean: a good Management plan?

- Document including all possible management actions in different habitats (even utopic ones);
- Main work document for site manager;
- Main tool for searching of financial support at national and at EU level for different management actions;
- Document showing the optimal places for tourism infrastructure.



Sources of financing

- Financing from EU subsidies for farmers 40% from annual budget;
- Financing from Latvian Fund of Environmental Protection 15% from annual budget;
- Financing from EU LIFE Nature and LIFE plus programs (can make up to 70%. From annual budget)
- Donations from companies and private persons 30% from annual budget;
- Income from offered services 15% from annual budget.



Structure of management works



All the management works can be divided in three main divisions:

- Restoration and maintenance of habitats in accordance with the management plan.
- Development of tourism infrastructure and control of the protected territory in places proposed in management plan.
- Public relations and educational work

Different management activities done in Engure

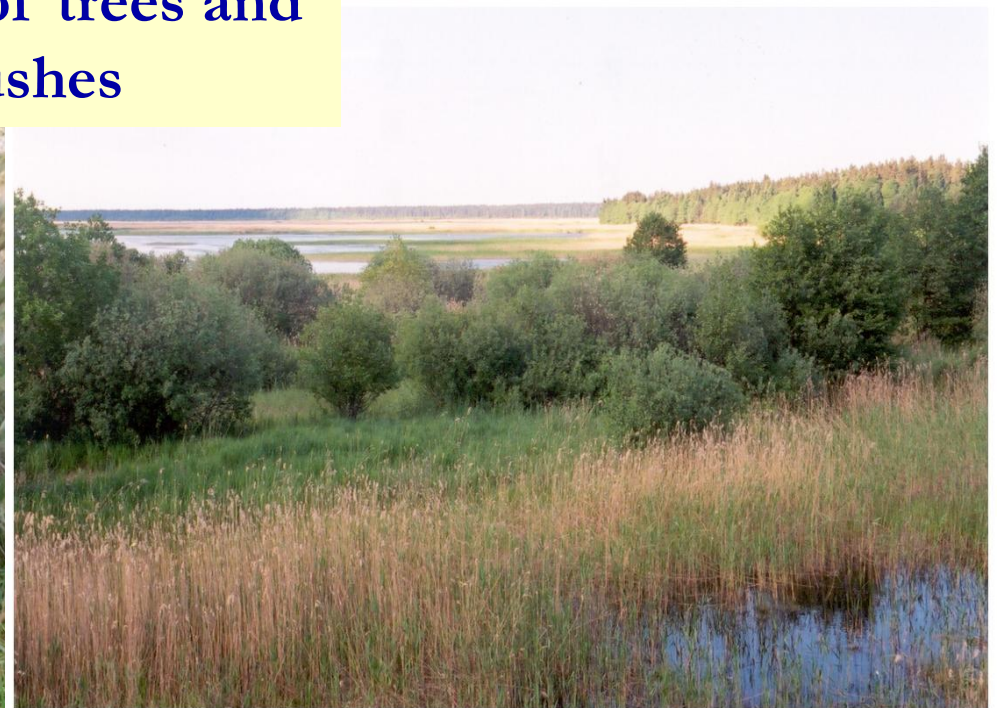


Fragmentation of reed stands





Cutting of trees and bushes





Grazing





Grazing











Conclusions

- To achieve long term improvements it is necessary to undertake large scale management measures.
- The restored areas have to be regularly maintained, otherwise the restoration activities will not result in increase of populations of targeted species.
- If the scale of restoration measures is insufficient, individuals might move to more suitable habitats from the less suitable habitats but overall the measures do not result in total increase of the population.

**Thank you for your
attention!**

