

FOUNDATION FOR PEATLAND RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

I. INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

1. Objectives:

- 1.1. Seek effective and innovative solutions combined with traditional methods to protect natural peatlands and
- 1.2. Restore degraded peatlands into viable ecosystems.
- 1.3. Engage stakeholders and decision-makers in peatland restoration.

2. Tasks:

- 2.1. Demonstrate best practices for peatland restoration and thus advocate for a scale up in restoration.
- 2.2. Participate in advocacy influencing decisions and expanding stakeholder involvement.
- 2.3. Develop financial incentives and promote paludiculture (peatland-friendly farming).
- 2.4. Strengthen the organization's institutional and financial capacity and public visibility.
- 2.5. Conduct public education on peatlands.

3. Activities:

3.1 Implemented project on influencing legislation and public awareness to reduce GHG emissions

[Promoting Peatland Restoration by Influencing Legislation, Raising Public Awareness and Involvement to Reduce the Country's GHG Emissions](#)

Project budget 85 856.43 Eur

The project is financed by the EU Climate Change Programme, administered by Environmental Projects Management Agency under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Project lead – Foundation for Peatland Restoration and Conservation (FPRC)

Project partner - Environmental Coalition (LT)

Project duration Sept 2023- June 2025

Results in 2024:

An environmental position on peatland restoration and conservation was initiated.

Proposals for the Programme of the 19th Government of Lithuania submitted.

Expert opinions and suggestions developed. These included but were not limited to: recultivation of peatlands by rewetting, peatland restoration in agricultural lands, the development of carbon credits system etc.

An opinion survey on the importance of peatland conservation was conducted.

Development of informational brochures on a number of topics began.

3.2 Received funding and became a partner organization in project [Complex Approach to Habitat Conservation by Demonstrating Closer-to-Nature Forestry Practices on Natura2000 areas. LIFE23-NAT-LT-LIFE ForestHabitatLT](#)

Total Project Budget - 3 944 615.99 EUR

Project Lead – State Forest Enterprise

Project Partners – Vytautas Magnus University, Foundation for Peatland Restoration and Conservation

Project Duration - 01/06/2024 – 31/05/2030

The project is funded by the EU LIFE Programme, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, and project partners.

Work carried out in 2024:

A partnership agreement was signed with the Lithuanian University of Agriculture (VMU).

Preparatory analytical work began on the peatlands, selected for the project: Praviršulys Nature Reserve, Bukta Forest, and the restoration of Dabravolė.

The development of the Living Labs concept was initiated.

3.3 Completed the paludiculture promotion project (with partners from Germany, Estonia, Latvia). [EUKI. Carbon Capturing by Baltic Peatland Farmers – Practical Exchange for Paludiculture and Carbon Farming](#)

Project budget - 612 955 Eur

Project lead – Michael Succow Foundation (DE)

Project partners – Foundation for Peatland Restoration and Conservation (LT), Estonian Fund for Nature (EE), Lake and Peatland Research Centre (LV)

Project duration: August 2021 – June 2024

Project funded by The European Climate Initiative (EUKI), which is supported by German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)

Work carried out in 2024:

- A paludiculture (wetland farming) products exhibition was displayed in various Lithuanian venues (science and other institutions) and outdoors during public events.
- The publication “Paludiculture. Climate-friendly Farming on Wetlands” was developed and published. It is aimed at landowners, farmers, agricultural and conservation specialists, specialists at municipalities, other professionals and the general public.
- An online video titled “PALUDICULTURE. Farming on Wet Peat Soils” was published and shown at various events, showcasing climate-friendly farming methods on wetlands.
- Field days were held at the Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve.

3.4 Applied for and received funding to implement the project “[SavePeatLands. Increasing Capacities of Stakeholders for Agriculturally Used Peatland Restoration in the Crossborder Region of Lithuania and Poland](#)”

Project Budget - 159 496.79 Eur

Project Lead - Foundation for Peatland Restoration and Conservation

Project partner - The Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków)

The project is financed by European Union INTERREG V-A Lithuania – Poland Programme and project partners.

Work implemented in 2024:

- Project agreement signed.
- Preparation work began.

3.5. We continued active advocacy of transformation in peatland restoration and conservation:

- Joined an international campaign #RestoreNature to promote the position of Lithuania in support of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation.
- Participated in the monitoring committee for the implementation of Lithuania’s 2023–2027 Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development.

3.6 Carbon Footprint Reduction Activities:

- We continue collaborating with Luminor Bank and other institutions to help them reduce their carbon footprint. In 2024, we carried out hydrological regime restoration works at the Pažulynė Botanical-Zoological Reserve.
- We are monitoring the development process of the European Commission’s voluntary certification system for long-term carbon dioxide absorption, carbon-sequestering farming, and carbon-retention products (CRCF), and we participate in EU working groups that develop methodologies for Carbon Farming activities.

3.7 Commercial and Consulting Activities:

- In 2024, we developed **greening schemes** for five cities: Vilkaviškis, Anykščiai, Kaišiadorys, Naujoji Akmenė, and Jurbarkas.
- We provided other expert consultations.
- We participated in various national and international events and conferences, delivering presentations on peatland conservation topics.

4. Results:

- Restored Paažuolynė peatland, reducing GHG emissions.
- Peatland protection included in the Programme of the 19th Government of Lithuania.
- Increased public and stakeholder awareness about peatlands, restoration and conservation, paludiculture.
- Strengthened strategic partnerships.
- Launched new project proposals and international collaborations.

II. INFORMATION ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR

5. Goals:

- Continue to demonstrate effective, innovative peatland restoration approaches and thus scale up the restoration.
- Seek to scale up the restoration of degraded peatlands into viable ecosystems.
- Ensure broad stakeholder involvement.

6. Objectives:

- Demonstrate best practices.
- Continue advocacy efforts.
- Promote financial incentives for paludiculture.
- Increase organisational capacity and recognition.
- Educate the public and raise awareness.

7. Planned Work:

- Expand restoration areas and implement best practices of peatland restoration and stakeholder involvement while implementing current projects.
- Promote paludiculture implementing the EU Horizon Programme project "PaluWise".
- Offset carbon footprints through peatland restoration.
- Participate in drafting National Restoration Plan.
- Engage public through events and social media.
- Include volunteers in peatland restoration.
- Offer consultations, reports, and peatland conservation strategies.

III. INFORMATION ON STAKEHOLDERS

8. Stakeholders:

- Private individuals: €445 contribution (unchanged from previous year)

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

Signed: Nerijus Zableckis, Director