

Implementation of Bird and Habitat Directives in Lithuania: Historical View Backward to the Beginning of a Long Way Forward.

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Lithuania – short introduction



- * Area – 65300 km²
- * Population 3 mln.
- * GDP Per capita
14210 \$ (51st)

Lithuania – short introduction



- * Landscape - flat
- * Highest point - 294 m
- * Forests - 33 %
- * Protected areas – 15,7 %

Lithuania – History of Nature Conservation



- * First strict nature reserve Žuvintas - 1937
- * Nature Protection Committee - 1957
- * Law on Nature Protection 1959
- * First Aukštaitija National Park – 1974
- * Dept. of Environmental Protection reorganised - Ministry of Environmental Protection 1994
- * MoEP renamed to MoE - 1998

Present Legal System of Nature Conservation



- * Law on Environmental Protection
- * Law on Env Monitoring
- * Law on EIA
- * Law on Protected Areas
- * Law on Forests

Present Legal System of Nature Conservation



- * Law on Protected Species of Plant, Animal and Fungi and their Communities
- * Law on Wild Animals
- * Law on Wild Flora
- * In total 36 laws regulating environmental protection and utilisation of natural resources

Main Landmarks to Accession to EU



- * EU declared Copenhagen Criteria for CEE – 1993 (*acquis communautaire*)
- * EU – LT Association agreement – 1995
- * LT submitted request to accept to EU – 1995
- * EU agreed to start membership negotiation – 1999 (31 chapters)

Main Landmarks to Accession to EU



- * EU – LT negotiation official end – Dec 2002
- * LT referendum for EU membership – 91% for EU, May 2004
- * LT – May 1, 2004 official beginning of membership to EU

Acquis in Environment and Nature Conservation



- * Total EU *Acquis* on Env
196 Directives & 40
Regulations
- * Bird Directive
- * Habitat Directive

Acquis in Environment and Nature Conservation



- * Seal Pup Skins
Directive - 1985
- * Endangered Species
Trade Regulation
(CITES) – 1997

Acquis in Environment and Nature Conservation



- * Regulation on Whales and Cetacean Products 1981
- * Regulation on Leghold Traps in EC 1991

Bird Directive in Short



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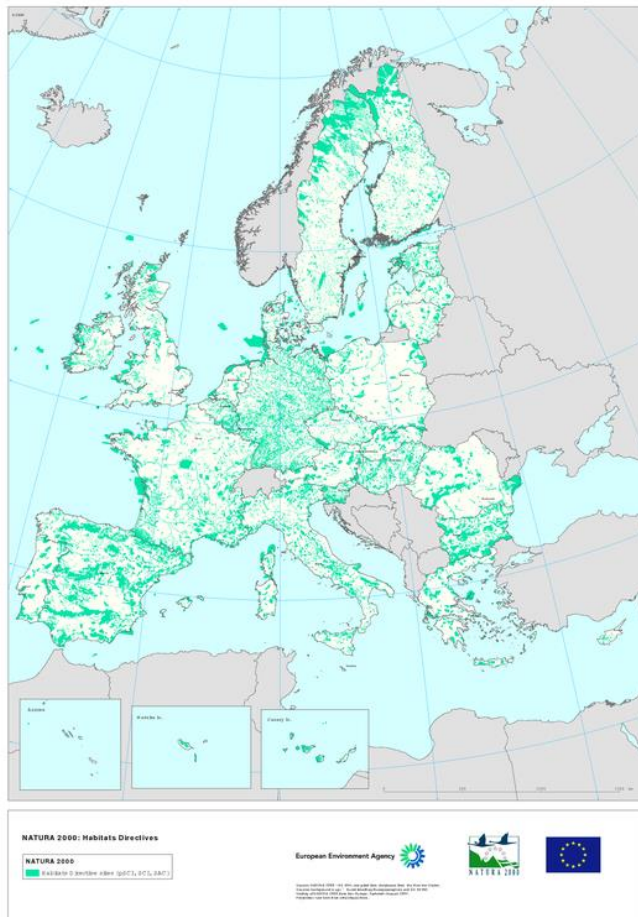
- * Identification and designation of SPA for Annex I & migratory species
- * Restriction on sale & keeping of wild birds
- * Conditions for hunting (huntable species in Annex II)

Bird Directive in Short



- * No large-scale & non-selective bird killing
- * Introduction of non-native birds do not threaten biodiversity

Habitat Directive in Short



- * Designate pSCI (SAC) for Annex I habitats and Annex II species
- * SPA (Bird Directive) + pSCI = NATURA 2000
- * Maintain species & habitats at *Favourable Conservation Status*
- * Appropriate management of SACs

Habitat Directive in Short



- * Assessment of plans & projects likely to have significant effect on SACs (§ 6)
- * Ensure strict protection of Annex IV species
- * Ensure Annex V species exploitation is sustainable

Negotiations on Env Chapter - Timeline



- * Start of negotiations - 1999 (31 chapters)
- * Environment chapter opened August, 2000
- * Practical opening of Env chapter – 2000-11-15

Negotiations on Env Chapter - Timeline



- * 2001 Feb-May – tech consultations
- * 2001-06-27 Env chapter closed
- * Env chapter negotiations lasted – 10 month

What was agreed?



- * Full transposition & implementation of Directives by 01-05-2004 (no transitional period until 2010)
- * N2000 sites designated, data sent to EC by 01-05-2004

What was agreed?



- * LT asked various HD exceptions (from Annex II & IV):
- * Wolf (excpt granted)
- * Beaver (excpt granted)
- * *Cobitis teania* (Spined loach) – *Sabanejewia caucasica* in GE

What was agreed?



- * LT asked various Bird Directive exceptions (from Annex I):
- * White Stork
- * Red-backed Shrike
- * All not granted