

# PROTECTED AREAS TARGETS: Pledges and approaches in Lithuania



4th Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar for the Boreal  
Region | 10-12th October 2023 | Nuukso, Finland

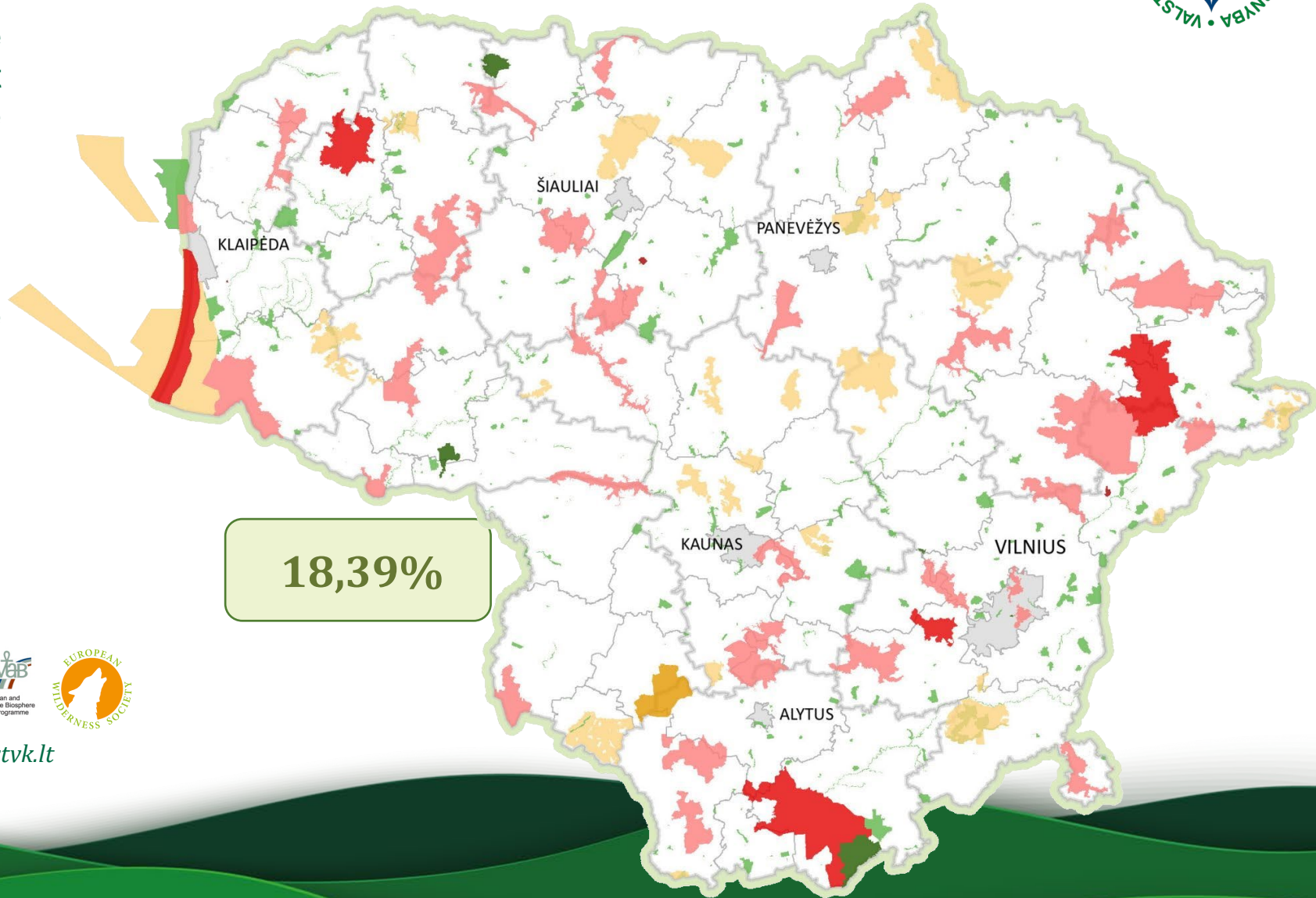
**Agnė Jasinavičiūtė**  
State Service for the Protected Areas under the  
Ministry of Environment  
[www.vstt.lrv.lt](http://www.vstt.lrv.lt) | [www.saugoma.lt](http://www.saugoma.lt)



# WHY WE NEED PROTECTED AREAS?



1. **PRESERVE** natural and cultural heritage values, landscape and biodiversity, but also the ecological balance of the landscape and the genetic pool;
2. **RESTORE** natural resources;
3. **PROVIDE** conditions for educational recreation, scientific research and monitoring of the state of the environment;
4. **PROMOTE** the protection of natural and cultural heritage values.



**14.27 %**  
„Natura 2000“ areas  
(70% on national protected area's)

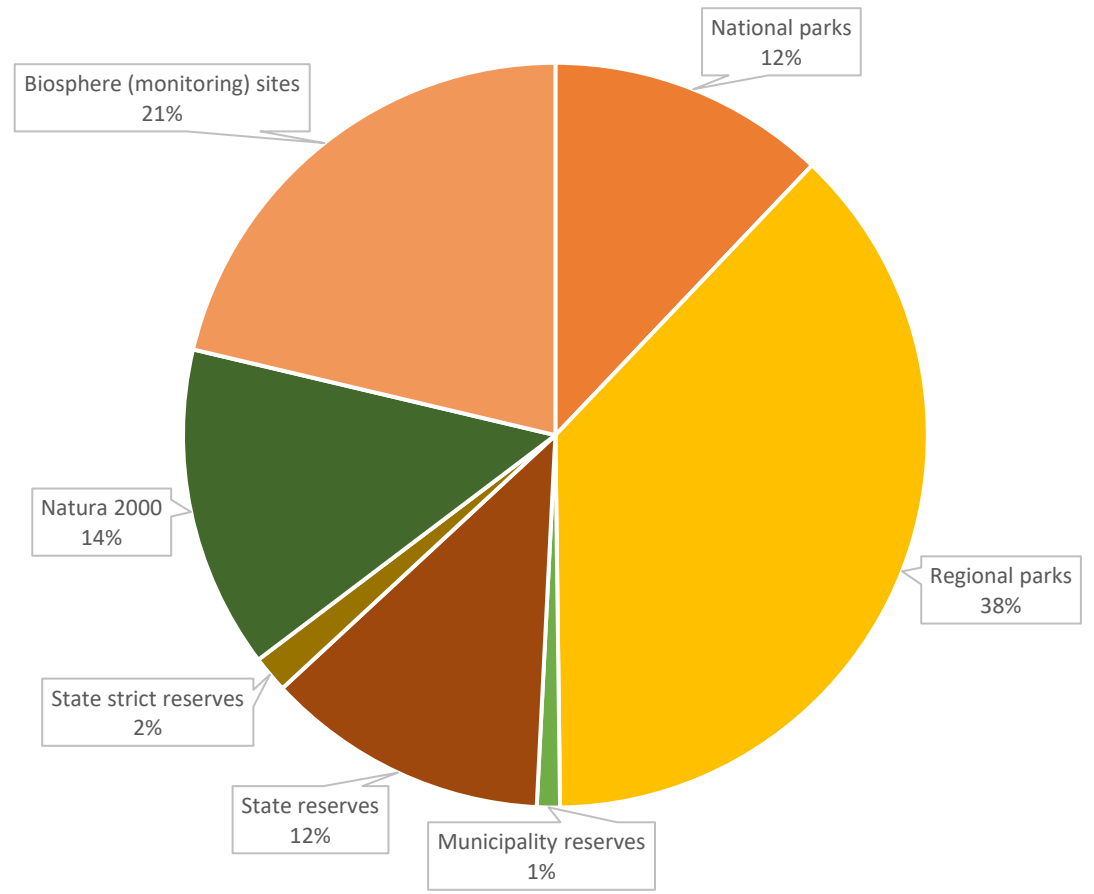


informacija apie saugomas teritorijas pasiekama [www.stvk.lt](http://www.stvk.lt)

# TYPES OF PROTECTED AREAS IN LITHUANIA:



NATIONAL CATEGORIES OF PROTECTED AREAS IN LITHUANIA
AREAS OF CONSERVATIONAL PROTECTION PRIORITY
TERRITORIES OF ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION PRIORITY
AREAS OF RESTORATIVE PROTECTION PRIORITY
INTEGRATED (COMPLEX) PROTECTED AREAS



## GENERAL PLAN OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

375. Develop a biodiversity and ecosystem restoration plan/programme that identifies gaps in the implementation and regulation of biodiversity protection, priority targets and timelines, as well as a definition, criteria and priorities for the protection, restoration or sustainable use of ecosystems, and actions to ensure that **at least 30% of the protected species and habitats that are currently in poor condition become in good condition or show a clear trend of improvement by 2030.**

376. Protected areas. Implement the priorities of the national policy for the protection of the natural and cultural landscape and biodiversity of the country's territory, optimise the system of protected areas and initiate the establishment of new protected areas. The principle of partnership should also be applied to the establishment of protected areas and the protection of values, with the involvement of public organisations, private landowners and other entities. **The State's priority task is to maintain a favourable conservation status of natural habitats and species and other natural values in existing and newly established protected areas.**

377. Priority is given to implementing the requirements of the European Union (EU) Directives on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) and on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), and to expanding the network of Natura 2000 sites in Lithuania. Identify appropriate conservation measures by 2022, carry out a conservation status assessment of Natura 2000 sites that are not national protected areas. Develop and implement protection and management documents for these sites or include protection and management measures in other plans

## 18TH GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

### 150. 2024 Success Indicators:

150.1. Lithuania's forest cover will reach 35% of the country's territory (currently 33.7%).

**150.2. Lithuania's area of protected areas will reach 20% (currently 17.64%), a quarter of which will be strictly protected areas.**

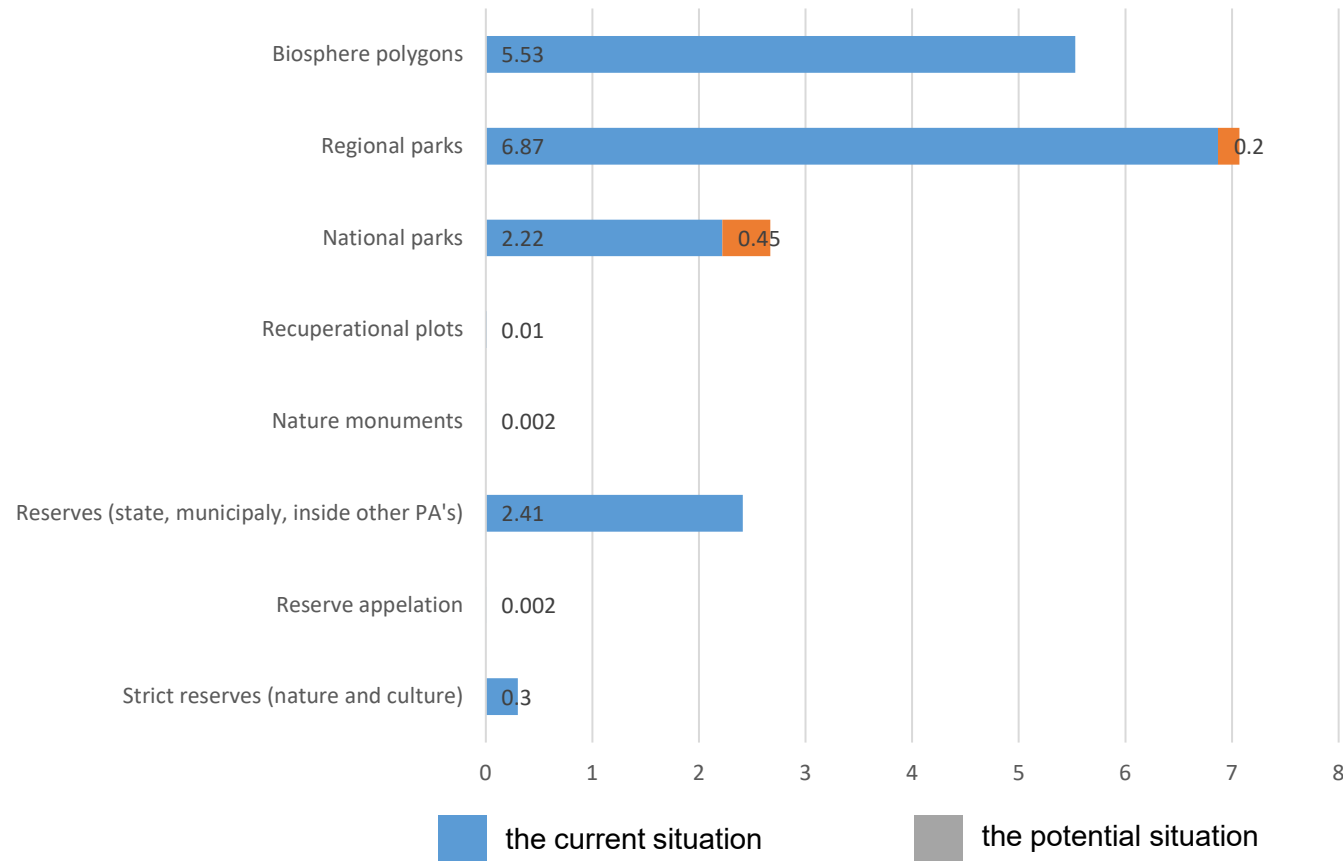
### 151. Indicators for success in 2030:

151.1. The first climate-neutral and climate-neutral city in Lithuania.

151.2. 30% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Lithuania compared to 2005.

**151.4. 30% of the country's territory will fall within the boundaries of protected areas (currently 17.63%), of which one third will be strictly protected.**

# TARGET: 30% in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030



**TOTAL area: 18.39% + 0.65% potential**

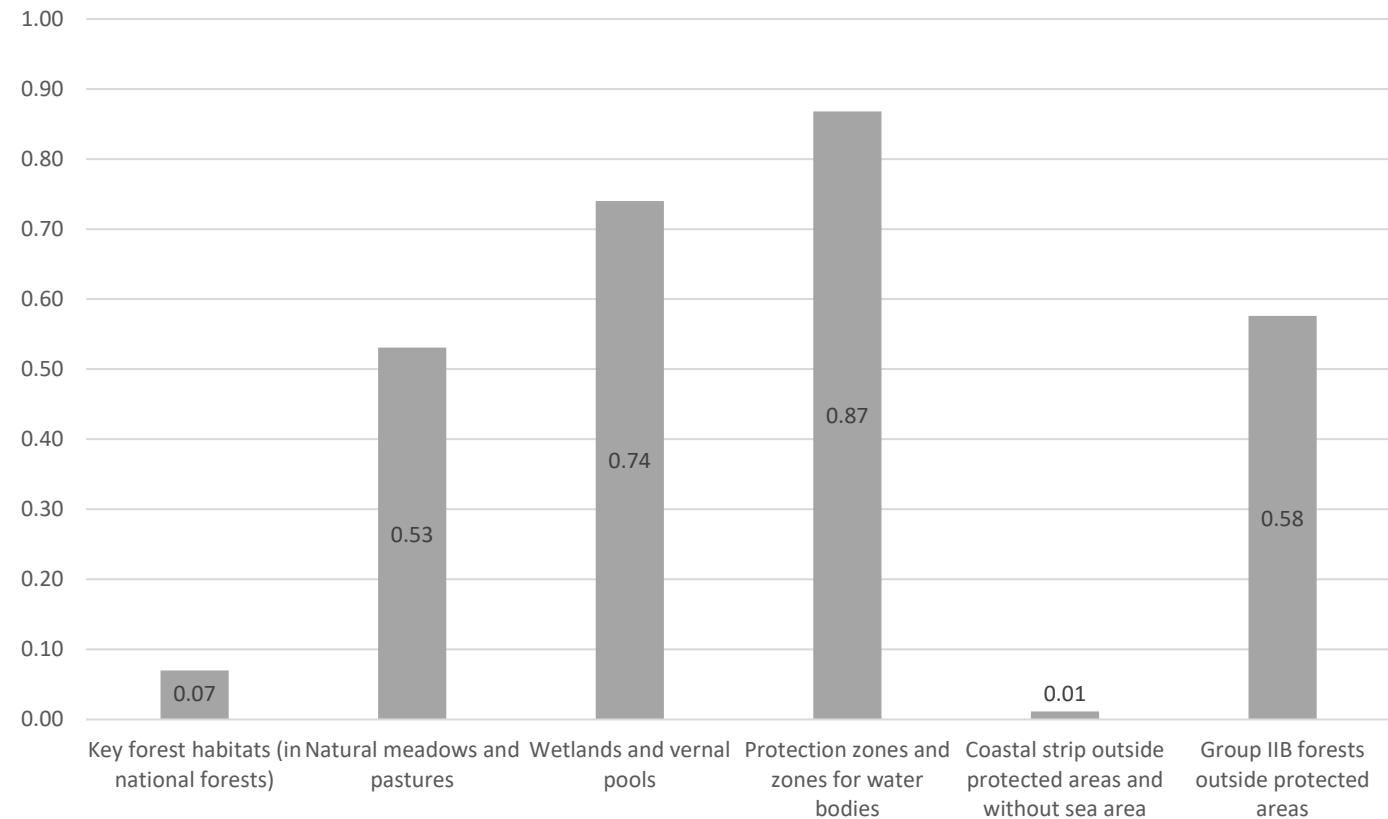
\* Marine protected areas are not used in the calculations.  
\*\* overlap of protected areas is eliminated in the calculations

# TARGET: OECD in LITHUANIA

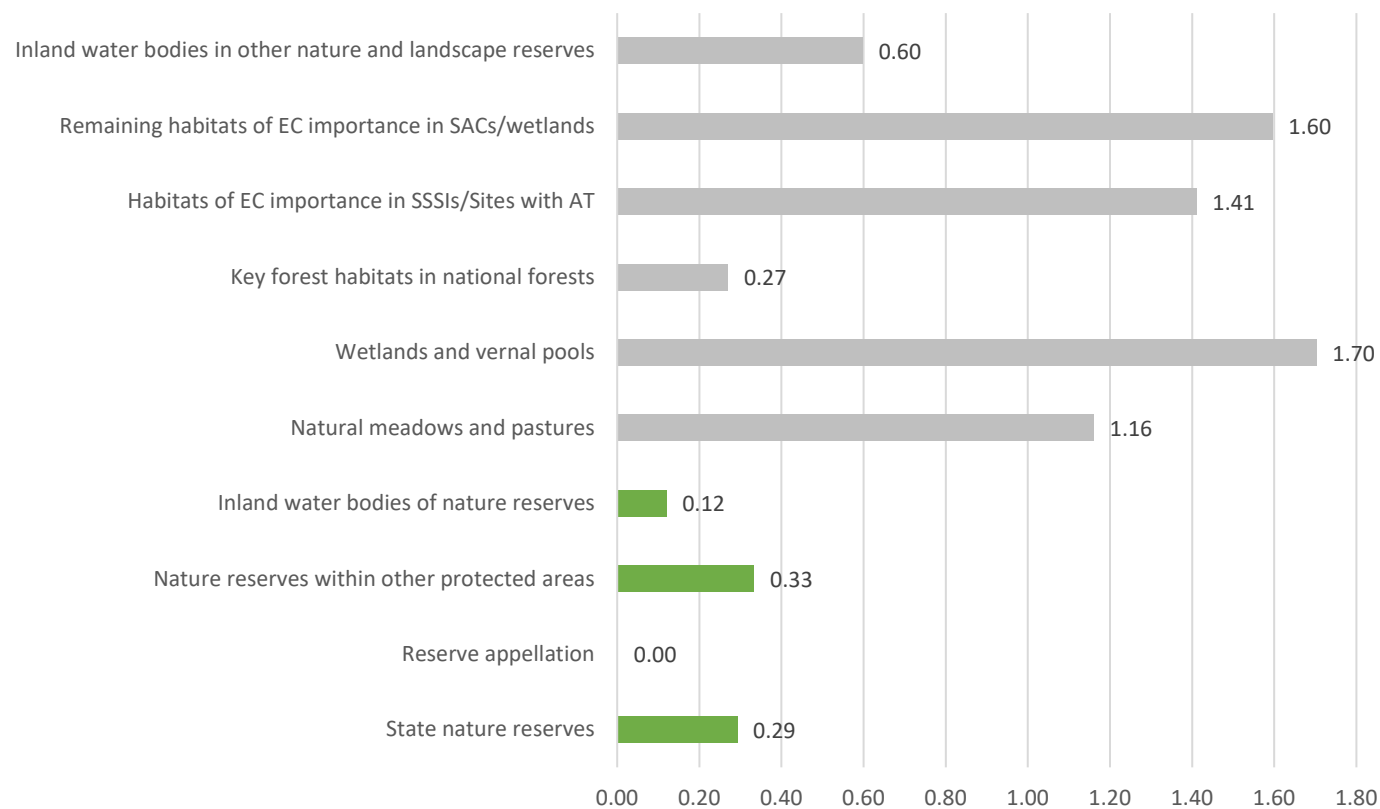


OECD is not officially used in Lithuania. Most of the sites that meet the recommended definition of OECD still do not have a legal status, which poses a significant risk of loss of values.

**Total area: 2.71%**



# TARGET: 10% of STRICT PROTECTION

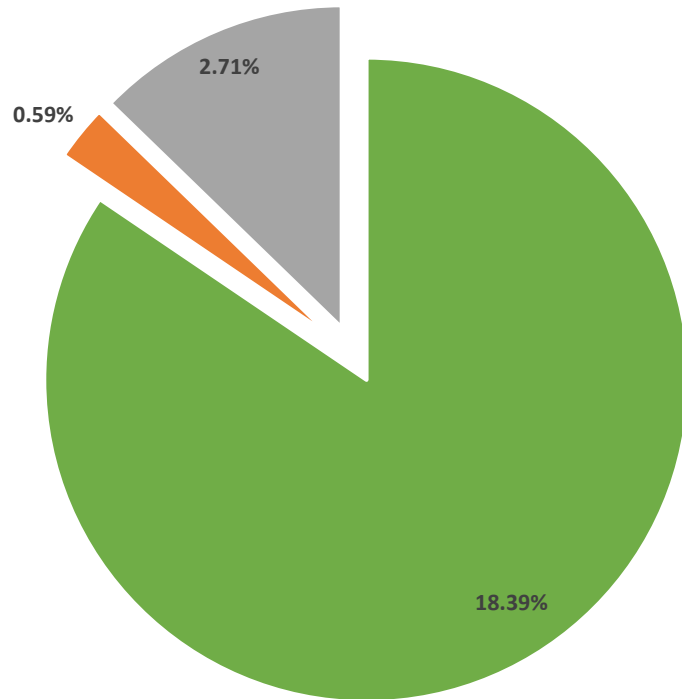


Total existing, without overlap: **0.75%**

Total potential, excluding existing strict protection protected areas and overlap with other potential areas: **5.08%**

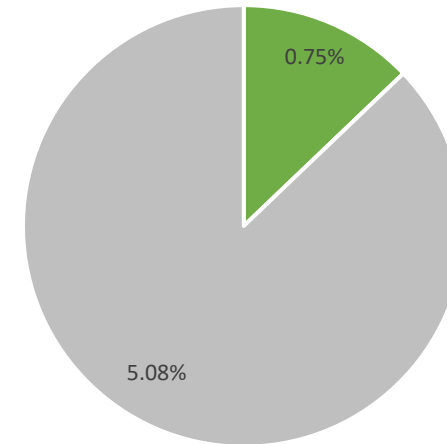


# TARGET: 30/10 OF NATURE PROTECTION



- Total existing protected areas counting towards the 30% target, without overlap
- Total potential protected areas eligible to count towards the 30% target, excluding overlaps
- Total potential protected areas, excluding overlap with other OECMs

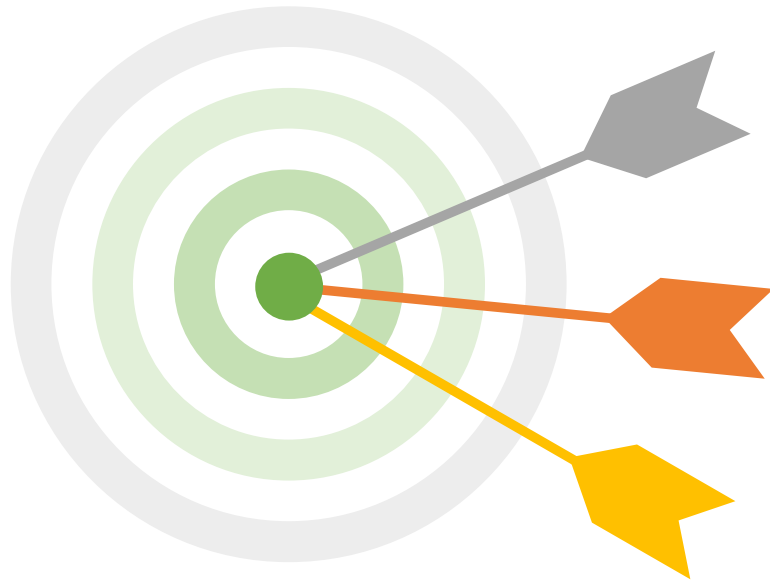
Total area of existing protected areas + potential areas **21.69 %**



- Total existing, without overlap
- Total potential, excluding existing strict protection protected areas and overlap with other potential areas

Total area of **STRICT** nature conservation **5.83%**





## ESTABLISHING PROTECTED AREAS, PREPARING PLANNING DOCUMENTS



A new reserve for the protection of the wetland ecosystem was created in 2023 (after a break of more than 10 years).  
22 planning documents are being drawn up to create new protected areas and ensure protection.

## FOREST BUY-BACK + COMPENSATION MEASURES



Forest buy-backs to preserve Natura 2000 values started in 2022.  
**ALREADY BOUGHT OUT! 6 forest plots with a total area of 106.33 ha.**  
This year ~31.47 ha are planned to be bought back.  
In 2023, ~400 ha will be bought back.

## SETTING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES



Conservation objectives area set up for 69% of Natura 2000 areas.

# LIFE INTEGRATED PROJECT “OPTIMIZING THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURA 2000 NETWORK IN LITHUANIA”



**WE STRIVE TO PRESERVE THE ANCIENT WOODS, WETLANDS, GRASSLANDS, OTHER HABITATS AND THEIR NATURALNESS WHICH HAS SURROUNDED LITHUANIAN PEOPLE SINCE THE ANCIENT TIMES**



**NATURALIT**

<https://naturalit.lt/en/>

**“Naturalit“ project aimed to ensure the full protection of the Natura 2000 network in Lithuania**

- Set SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely) conservation objectives for Natura 2000 network at national and local levels, in line with defined favourable reference values of natural habitats and species of Community interest;
- Improve efficiency of management, surveillance and analysis processes towards achieving and maintaining favourable conservation status of species and habitats of Community interest;
- Ensure integration and implementation of the nature conservation measures in other sectors, especially agriculture, forestry and tourism;
- Build capacity of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the Prioritized Action Framework (PAF).

Project duration: 10 years (2018-2027)

Project funding: total project value: €17 million

60% of the funds are from the EU LIFE Programme (€10.2 million)

the remaining 40% from the state budget.

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*Kauno marių regioninis parkas, Kadačių slėnis,  
Arlaviškių pažintinis takas*



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