

ENDANGERED LANDSCAPES

A collection of presentations of endangered areas in partners' countries

The **Green Europe** project

ENDANGERED LANDSCAPES

THE VISTULA LAGOON
THE VISTULA LOWLANDS
THE ELBLĄG HIGHLANDS



People cannot live without a natural environment. If they destroy it completely they will not exist any longer. We must do our best to preserve it for future generations.





NAVIGABLE ROUTES

There are many boats, yachts and ships sailing on the Vistula Lagoon. They pollute the water and release toxic bottom sediments.



MOWING THE CANE

In autumn and winter mowing the cane decreases an area of nesting and resting sites to the protected species of birds that live by the banks of the Vistula Lagoon.



URBAN AREAS, RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Factories, many house estates,
emission of pollutants change an
urban climate, landscapes and
surroundings.**



THE VISTULA LOWLANDS

Agriculture, building new roads, motorways are not advantageous to animals which inhabit the area of Lowlands. The young ecologists launch actions in order to save endangered species of pheasants, hares, partridges.



**SURROUNDINGS NOWY DWOR
GDAŃSKI**



A HARE



A PHEASANT



A PARTRIGE



WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION

On the protected areas there are more and more wind farms. They can negatively influence on migratory birds.

Modern wind mills destroy a unique landscape and become dominant features of it.



NEXT TO MIŁEK

STEGNA –A RESORT LOCATED ON THE DUNE FOREST AREA

In the 60s and 70s of 20th century a dune forest area was intensively developed. Nowadays, there are many resorts, cottages or campsites which contribute to devastation of natural environment and a landscape.



TRICITY LANDSCAPE PARK

It is an example of a building pressure on the neighboring areas of the Park. It causes not only disadvantageous phenomenon, uncontrolled penetration the Park by people but a landscape damages as well.



THE PUCK BAY



The Inner Bay of Puck is a sea part of the Tricity Landscape Park. It is a unique area because of variety of bottom flora and fauna., A great amount of untreated sewage pollutes the water and causes its eutrophication.

MALBORK – TEUTONIC CASTLE

In 1309 Great Master of Teutonic Order Siegfried von Feuchtwangen announced Malbork a capitol city. For centuries it was a fortress, a residence, a garrison and a museum. Nowadays the castle is surrounded by modern building rubbish which spoils the castle's countryside.



CUTTING FORESTS –NEAR POGRODZIE

Cutting forests influences not only on animals' lives but landscapes changes as well. Fortunately these changes are reversible.

Forest workers plant lots of trees but they need much more time to grow up.



▶ THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN BY A SATELLITE ABOVE A RURAL AREA OF ELBLĄG.
THIS IS A COAT OF ARMS OF OUR CITY AND A LOGO OF NATIONAL FORESTS.





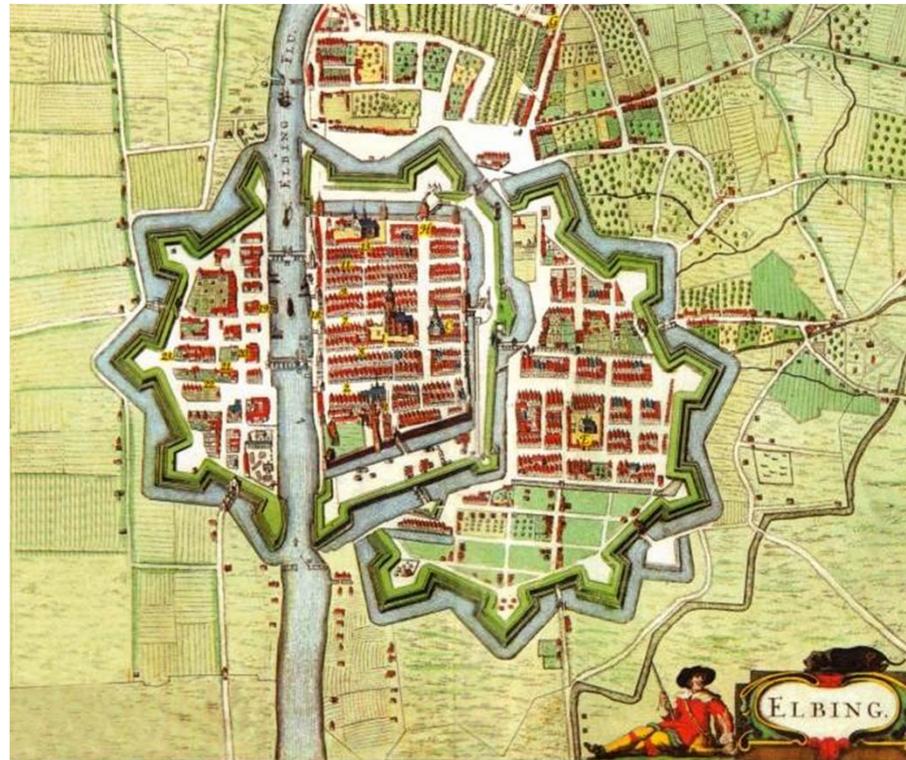
GRAVEL PITS

- ▶ They ruin the unique values of the landscape nearby Elblag.

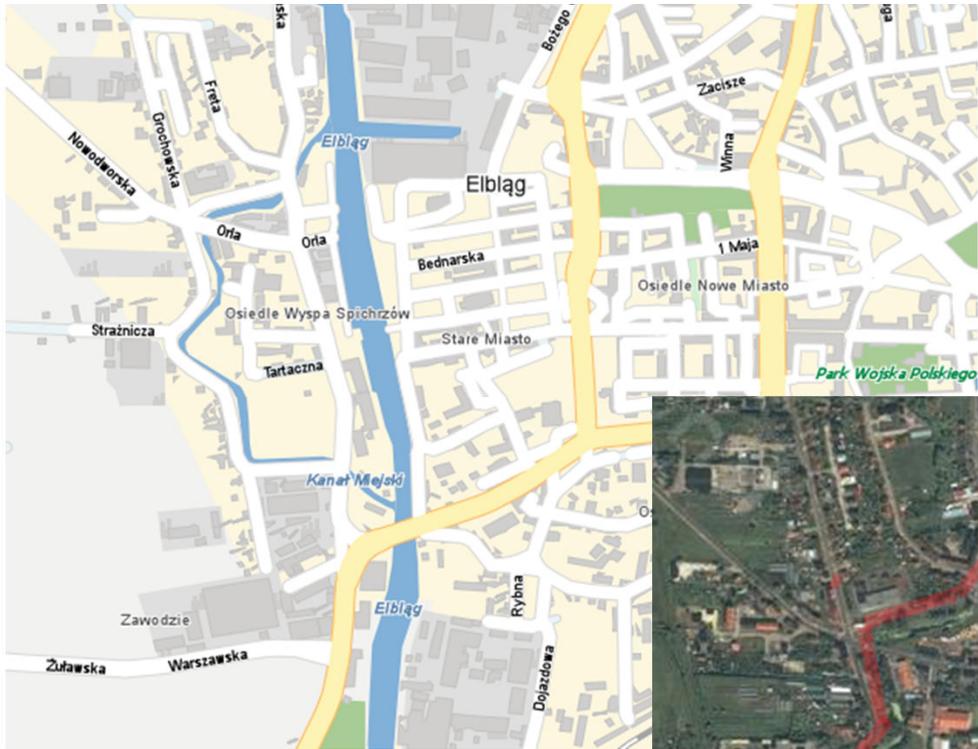


FORTIFICATIONS OF ELBLĄG

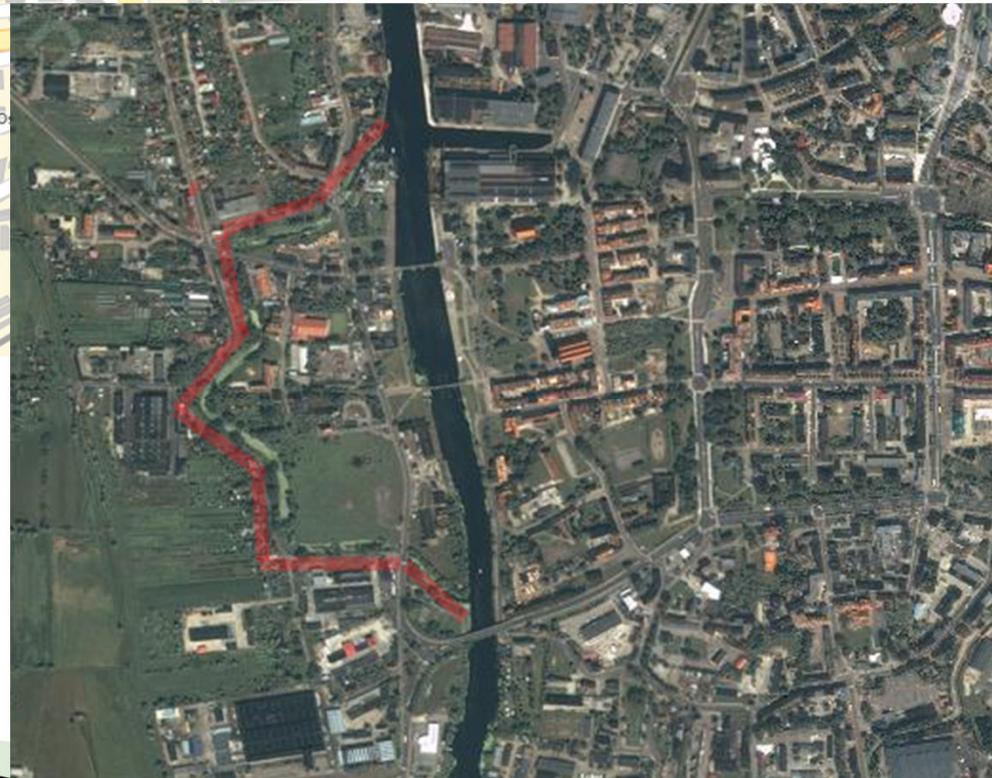
For centuries the city borders were changed. A civilization development of Elblag contributed to changes of its landscape and surrounded environment.



CITY BORDERS FROM 1635 R.



ELBLĄG – THE GRANARY ISLAND AND CURRENT CITY BORDERS



**IN NATURE THERE ARE NEITHER
REWARDS NOR PUNISHMENTS; THERE ARE
CONSEQUENCES**

R.Ingersoll



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION





Endangered Landscape in Lithuania

Prepared by Akvile Sudvojute and Edvardas
Razanskas

World Heritage

There exist a great variety of landscapes that represent different regions of the world. Combined works of nature and humankind express a long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment.



Curonian Spit

One of such landscapes is the dunes in The Curonian Spit (Kuršių Nerija), Lithuania. The Curonian Spit is a unique and vulnerable, sandy and wooded cultural landscape on a coastal spit. It is situated in the west of Lithuania, in Peninsula which is 98 km long and 0.4–4 km wide.

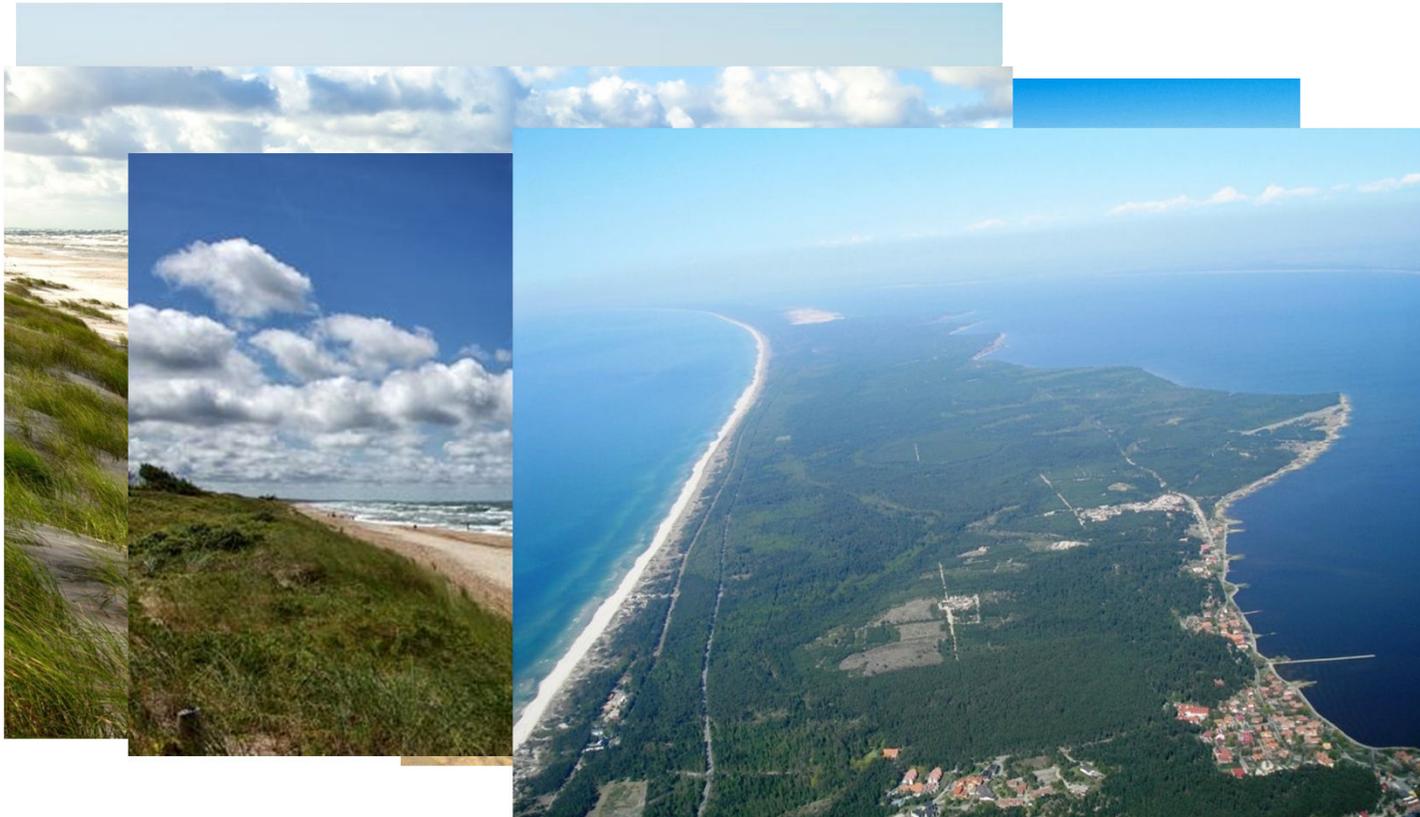


Humans and Nature

The Spit was formed by the sea, wind and human activity and continues to be shaped by all of them. Local communities adapted to the changes in the natural environment in order to survive.



Intensive logging



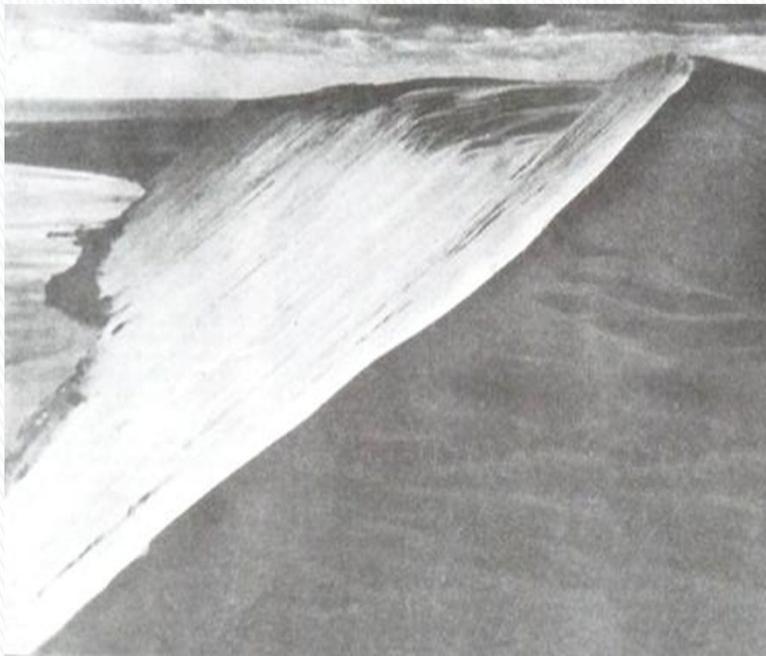
The History of the Curonian Spit

5,000 years ago, a narrow peninsula, the Great Dune Ridge separating the Baltic Sea from the Curonian Lagoon, was formed on moraine islands from sand transported by currents, and later covered by forest.



The Decreased Dunes

Before 70 m high



Now 50 m high



There was a drastic deforestation in the 16th century



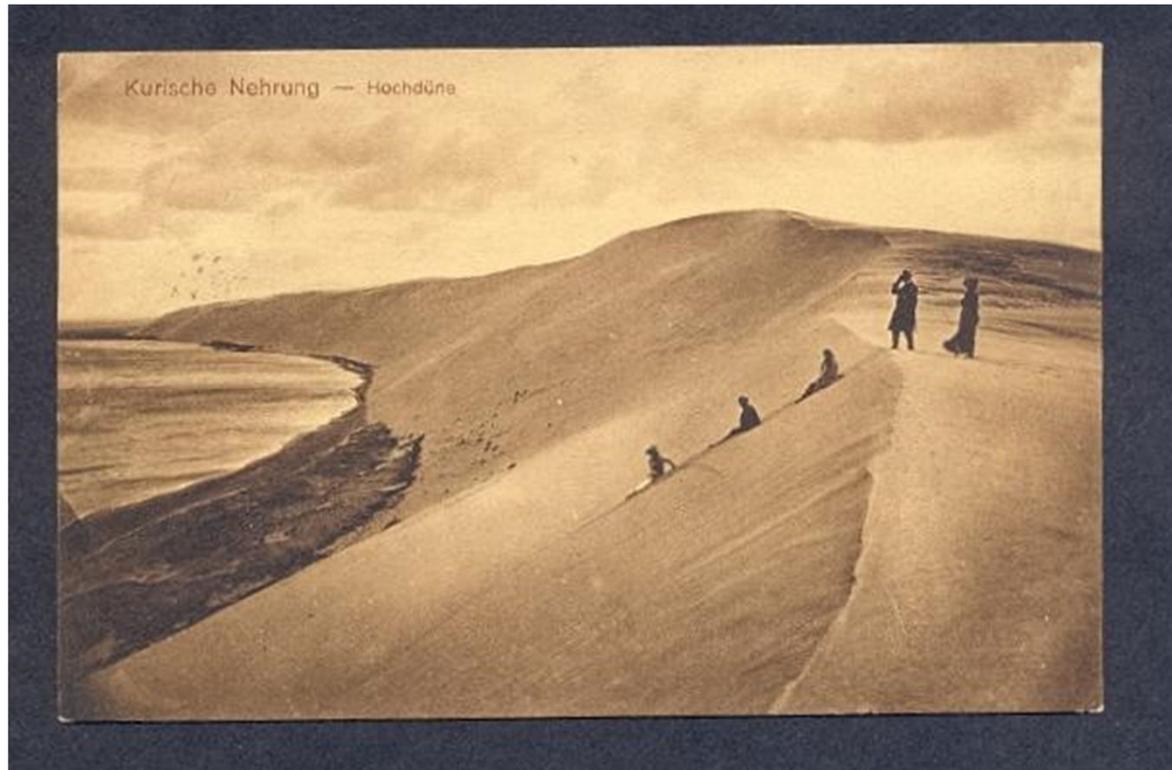
There were created artificial barriers



Forests and sand dominate the Curonian Spit. Urbanised areas cover just about 6 % of the land.



Having fun sliding down the dune.



Problems

- **Problem:** Earlier all tourists and locals could walk anywhere they wanted, so consequently the tallest dunes slowly decreased.
- **Solution:** Now, there are special tracks for people to walk. It is forbidden to slide and usually walk across the dunes.



- **Problem:** The wind also makes a big influence on dunes. The sand is being blown out by the wind, so dunes are decreasing too.
- **Solution:** Sand catchers. These are rows of stakes which are dug deeply into the sand.



- **Problem:** Fires. Two big fires that struck the forests of the Curonian Spit occurred in 2006 when 235ha were fired and in 2014 when 118ha were fired.
- **Solution:** Due to high fire risk, forests are being monitored for longer.



- **Problem:** Deforestation. The human interference had been catastrophic because of the drastic deforestation.
- **Solution:** Deforestation had lasted by the 19th century. Then the first trees were planted and this work has been continued till now.



Suggestion



I think students could collect litter. Since there are social hours in Lithuania, for example, schoolchildren have to work 10 hours of social work in form 5, while in form 8, they have to work 18 hours. Because of that classes from nearby schools could come to Curonian Spit a couple of times a month and do their social work there. This could have a double effect—students could not only work their social work hours but it could also serve as a means to achieve educational purposes. As they themselves won't litter and hopefully will stop others from doing that. This is one of the possible ways how to help save our Lithuanian pearl—Curonian Spit.

Saving Dunes. Every rule or law has its trespassers.

Nevertheless there are many specially arranged tracks to walk on, some people, do not care and walk across the dunes or even slide them down. There are a lot of nature lovers, who want to help nature and save its natural beauty. A daily watch could be organised by local authorities. In dunes volunteers might watch tourists and remind them of the rules of behaviour there – not to slide down or walk across the dunes so that the public awareness would grow.



**Thank you for your attention. We
invite you to visit the Curonian Spit
in Lithuania**





ENDANGERED LANDSCAPES

LATVIA

JURKALNE SEASHORE BLUFFS

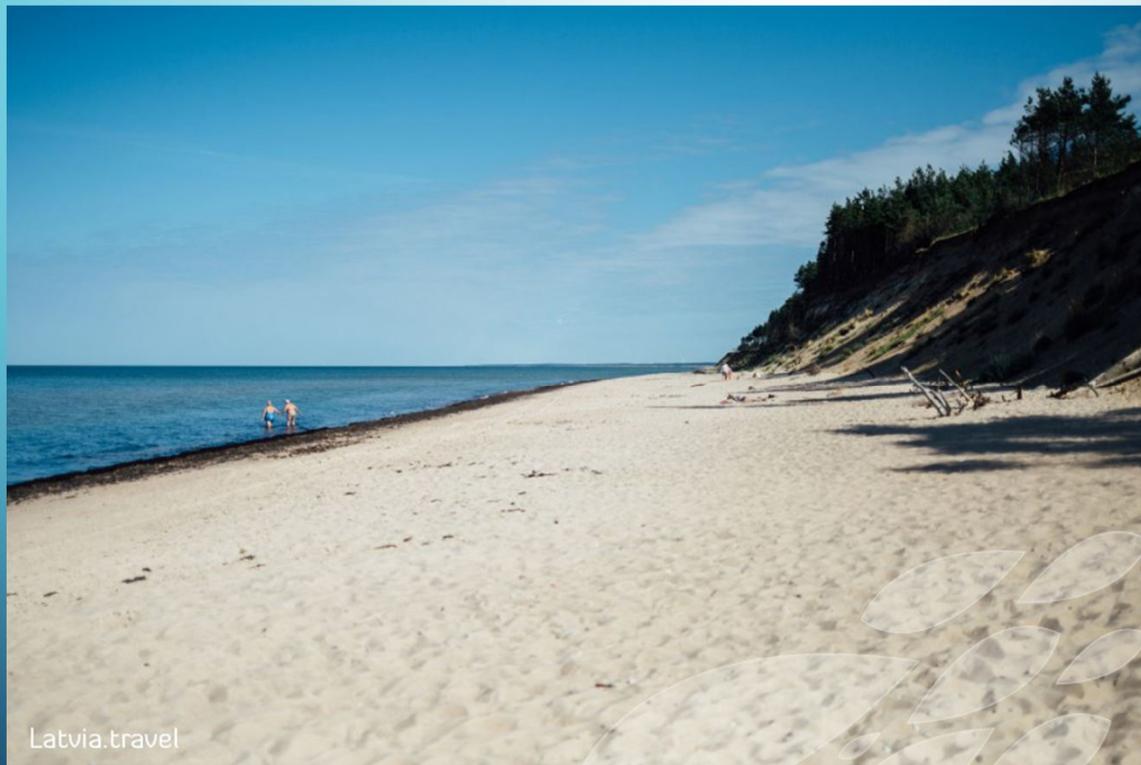


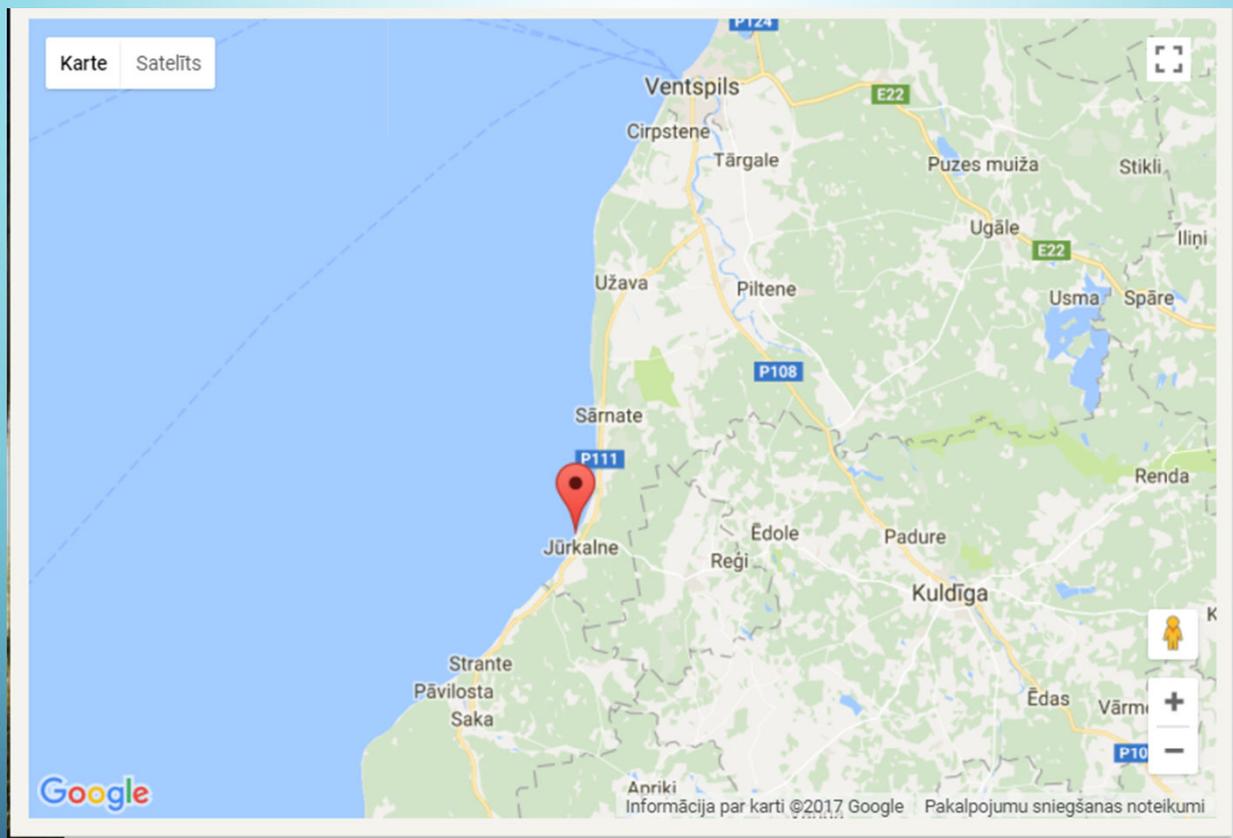
Foto <http://www.latvia.travel/en/sight/jurkalne-seashore-bluffs>

THE JURKALNE BLUFFS ARE ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE PARTS OF LATVIA'S SEASHORE, WITH A QUIET BEACH UNTOUCHED BY CIVILISATION AND BLUFFS OF UP TO 20 METRES HIGH.

- The bluffs in Jurkalne belong to the landslide-landfall type. The largest amount of erosion can be observed in Jurkalne.
- The stairs that lead from the top of the bluffs to the beach have been replaced many times, due to the shore receding after powerful storms. It has been noticed that the shore can recede as fast as a few metres a year.



Foto <http://www.kurzeme.lv/lv/kurp-doties/atputa-daba/122-jurkalnes-stavkrasts/>



THE STORM ERUPTS SEASHORE BLUFFS

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jiDa-c2x4k>



ENDANGERED HABITATS IN KOZJE AND KOZJANSKO

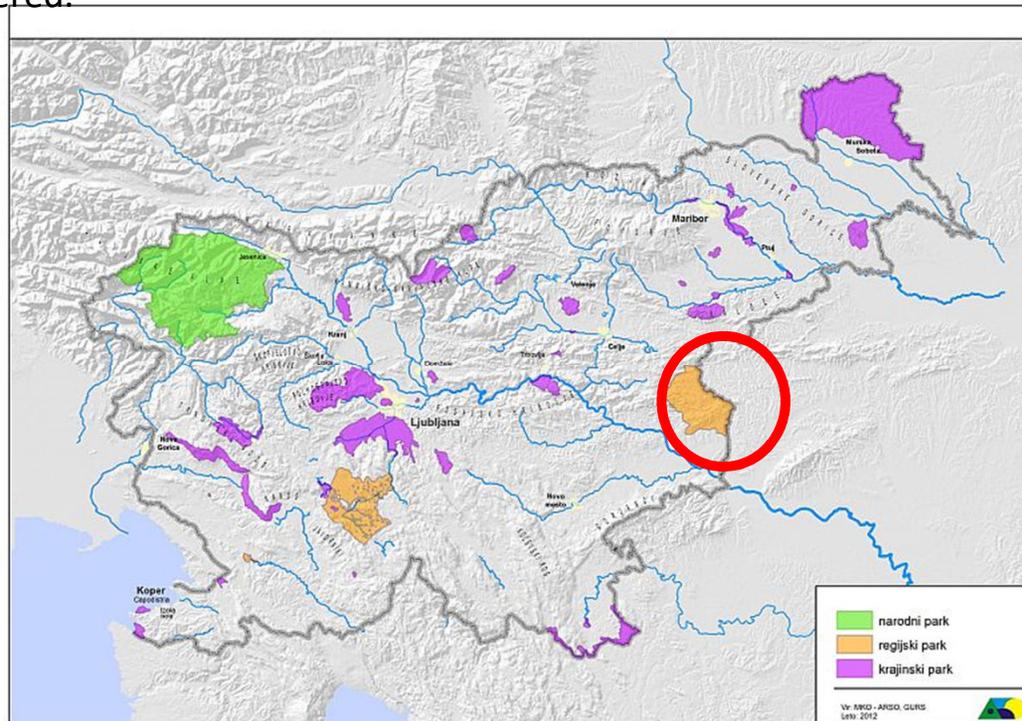


Slovenia is a green country. 13% of the territory of Slovenia is protected. We live in the protected area of Slovenia, the Kozjansko regional park. The Regional Park was founded in 1981 and is one of the oldest protected areas in Slovenia. Here we have forest, hills and plains. Most of the park (69%) is included in the Natura 2000 special protection area. Research has shown that there is a great biodiversity in the area. We want to preserve a lot of animal and plant species, especially those that are rare and endangered.



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Kozjanski
park





MEADOW ORCHARD



• **Meadow orchards** were common in Kozjansko. There grow old varieties of apples and pears. Trees are old, tall, with thick trunks and large canopies. In them, numerous birds are found, such as vijeglavka, zelena žolna, sova uharica and so forth. The cultivation of orchards is being abandoned since they are replaced by intensive plantations, which are much easier to cultivate, and the yield is larger, but less healthy.



DRY GRASSLANDS



Dry grasslands in hilly areas are meadows where typical diverse plant and animal species reside. Today they are endangered for various reasons: excessive fertilization, intensive pasture, mowing before plants form seeds, abandoning meadows and thus overgrowing. On these meadows we can find rare butterflies, orchids, gentiana ...



CAVE AND STREAM GRUSKA



In the past, ditches, deeps, caves and ponds have been a common place where people have taken away a variety of waste. One of these caves is Gruska cave with the stream Gruska, which was once a landfill of waste. Today it is cleaned and is a natural monument where we can find crabs and insect larvae, which live only in pure. Amphibians also live there. We are very proud that every year there are less and less wild landfills in our environment, as there is a waste collection center in Kozje.



AMPHIBIANS' HABITATS







There is a busy road along the Trebče and Kozje fishponds that threatens the amphibians at the time of their reproduction. In spring, frogs migrate from the forests across a busy road to the pond to lay eggs. For this purpose, we put protective fences along the road, and the volunteers carry the amphibians across the road so that they are not run over by cars.

QUIADVV



There is a large quarry in the vicinity of Kozje, where sand is dug. By digging, the habitat of forest species of animals and plants is being reduced. This causes a lot of noise, which disturbs forest animals. These are often endangered due to falls from the forest into abyss. Dust accumulates on plants, which makes photosynthesis more difficult. Sometimes people in the quarries deposit waste or even burn waste like rubber, which causes a lot of air pollution.

NON NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS



Non-native invasive plant species appear on the banks of the Bistrica River. They reproduce very quickly and take up space from our indigenous plants. Some of them have overgrown (japonski dresnik) so much that they prevent the passage of larger forest animals to water. Some are toxic to humans and cause allergies (ambrozija).



UNDERGROUND KARST CAVES



We also have karst caves In our area that are inhabited by bats. Entrances to the caves are not protected, therefore some people still throw waste into them, cause noise and thus interfere with the wintering of bats.



Possible solutions

Since Kozjansko regional park is already doing a wonderful job in protecting animal and plant species we are very lucky.

There is still room for improvement, especially in the area of public awareness.

In our opinion the biggest threat are non native invasive species that put native species in danger. If people are aware of what is happening, there is a chance that they will do something to change the situation. If on the other hand they are not aware of the problems, we can not expect situation to improve.



THE ETNA

The Etna rises on the eastern coast of Sicily, within the territory of the province of Catania and is crossed by the 15 Meridian east, which from it takes its name. It occupies an area of 1265 km², with a diameter of over 40 kilometers and a base perimeter of about 135 km.

- Its surface is characterized by a rich variety of environments: dense forests that preserve numerous species of flora, desolate areas covered by magma rocks, and snow-capped peaks subject to snowing at the major Quotas.
- Etna has a rather complex structure that changes continuously during time



history

- The first historical references to the eruptive activity of Etna are found in the writings of Thucydides and Diodoro Siculo and the poet Pindar; Other references are mostly mythological. According to Diodoro Siculo about 3,000 years ago, following a phase of violently explosive activity of Etna, the inhabitants of the time, moved to the western parts of the island
- The majority activity in historical times has been connected to that of the central system, which in more recent times has affected other new mouths craters: the Northeast Crater, formed in 1911, the chasm born inside the central crater in 1945 and the Bocca Nuova originated always inside, in 1968.
- The new southeast crater was formed in 1971. Finally, in 2007, the new south-east Crater was



The ETNA Territory

- The district has characteristics that make the land excellent for agricultural productions, thanks to the particular fertility of EUROPOMICE debris. The inhabited and cultivated area reaches almost 1000 sqm, while the woods reach up to 1500



The various eruptions of Etna

- Etna is an active volcano. Unlike the Stromboli which is in perennial activity, and Vesuvius, which alternates periods of quiescent to periods of paroxysmal activity, it always appears overstated by a plume of smoke. At fairly close periods it enters eruption starting in general with a period of degassing and emission of volcanic sand followed by a fairly fluid emission of lava at the origin. Sometimes there are periods of Strombolian activities that attract crowds of visitors from all over the world because of their spectacular
- In General, the eruptions of Etna, although strongly destructive for objects, are not for people except some cases such as that of Bronte on November 25, 1843
- The longest eruption in historical memory is that of July 1614. The phenomenon lasted for ten years and issued over one billion cubic meters of lava, covering 21 square kilometers of surface on the northern slope of the volcano



The pollution of Etna

- Unfortunately wastes are often illegally thrown away on the Etna
- Today the photos speak clear: the slopes of our mountain are reduced to a heap of waste. For this reason we have started meetings with the institutions, to understand what is going on and how the authorities responsible for controlling the landscape and the environment are acting.



Types of waste

- The types of waste vary from urban undifferentiated to scraps of building materials, slabs in fibro-cement (Eternit), car carcasses, tyres, plastic materials, refrigerators, kitchens, sofas and much more genres. Their location, unfortunately affects much of the park
- Many environmentalistic associations stood up against all this and are trying to find a solution to this problem
- We will encourage young people to volunteer for cleaning

- Project created by Igor Lazzarotti and Donato Lo Faro and



Il Fiume Simeto

L'allarme di Legambiente:

"Il Simeto è in pericolo"

The River Simeto

- Sicily is a relatively dry island
- The Simeto river, is the longest in Sicily
- It runs around the Etna
- It harbors a lot of water in winter, but it is rather dry in summer
- Many threats loom on the river

Threats for the river Simeto: a new dam and an old Alga

- Electric company ENEL wants to build a dam on the river
- If this happens, the river will be even more polluted
- One of the main problems for the river could be the «Red Alga»



Threats of river Simeto:

- Unfortunately river Simeto is often used as an illegal waste dumps
- Dangerous Eternit (oncogenic) materials have been found along the river banks
- Risks that these materials reach the water are high; thus, consequent risks for cultivations are high

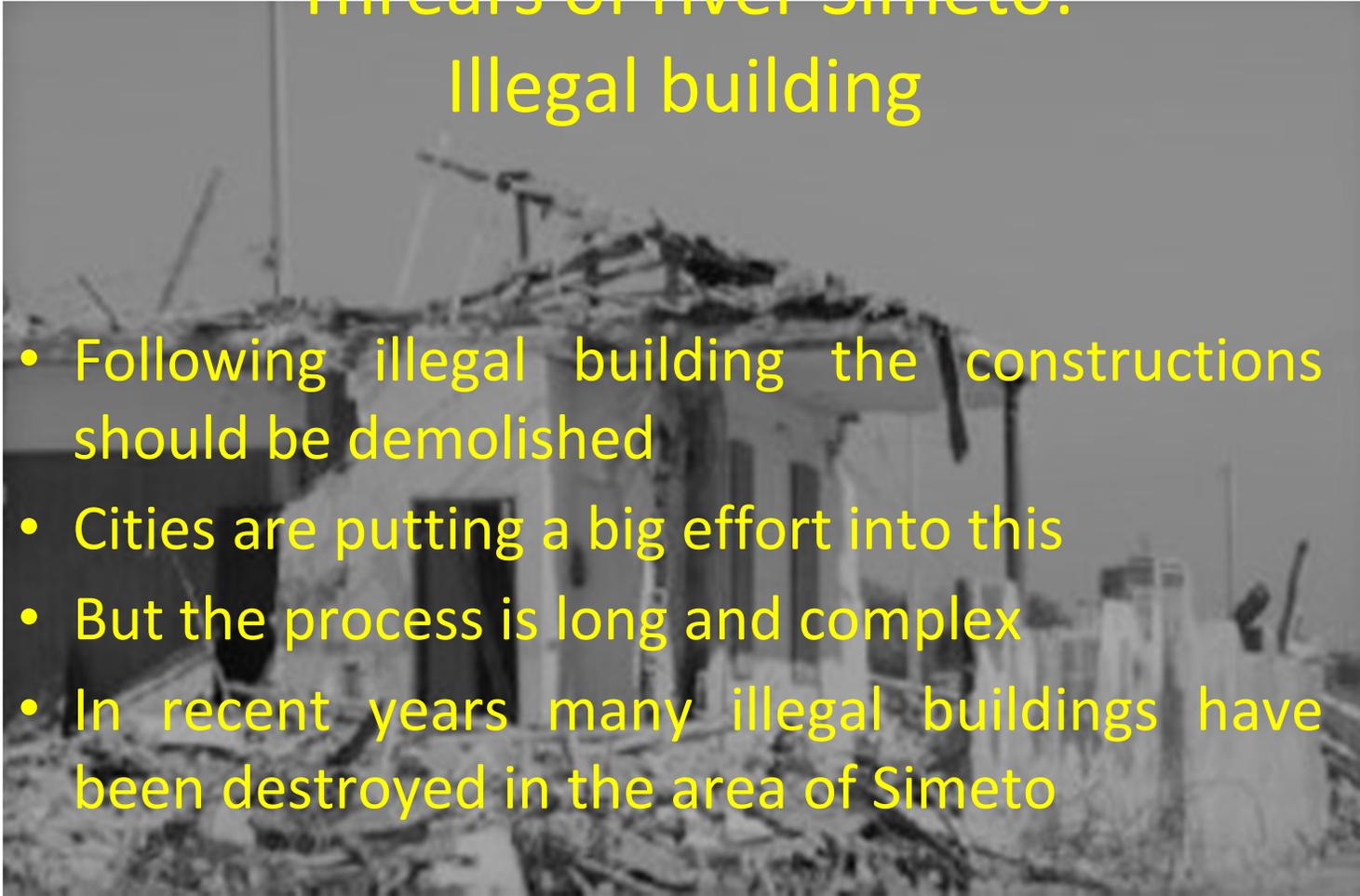


Threats of river Simeto: pollution and buildings

- Despite the Simeto area is a protected one, many illegal things happen:
- Constructions of non allowed buildings
- Hunting
- Waste dumpings
- Illegal water supplying for private gardens
- polluting water waste treatment plants
- Illegal fishing
- All this is because since its birth, the reserve didn't have any surveillance

Threats of river Simeto: Illegal building

- Following illegal building the constructions should be demolished
- Cities are putting a big effort into this
- But the process is long and complex
- In recent years many illegal buildings have been destroyed in the area of Simeto



Threats of river Simeto: Illegal fishing

- This plague affects the Simeto river
- This is not only terrible for the environment, but also for human health, because the fishes of this troubled river are probably not edible due to the high amounts of pollutants in their bodies
- It happens often that water of the river is illegally pumped into private gardens or fields

Threats of river Simeto: possible solutions

- People should be made more aware of the value of our river
- Institutions (cities, province, etc) should finally put the money for surveillance services of the river area: cameras, equipments, employees
- Environmental crimes should be punished more severely