

Replication & Transfer Strategy

Baltic Wide Web for *Osmoderma eremita*:
The Creation of an Ecological Network in the Baltic Region
(LIFE22 NAT/LT/101113698 LIFE OSMO BALTIC)



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Project partners:



**LATVIJAS
VALSTS CEĻI**

**DZŪKIJOS-SUVALKIJOS
SAUGOMŲ TERITORIJŲ DIREKCIJA**



List of beneficiaries:

LFN – Lithuanian Fund for Nature

DU – Daugavpils University

LZG – Lithuanian Zoological Garden

ŽNPD – Directory of Žemaitija National Park

LSR – Latvian State Roads

DSSTD – Directory of the Dzūkija–Suvalkija Protected Areas

LPR – Latgale Planning Region

NCA – Nature Conservation Agency

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1. Strategic Objective and Approach

The objective of this Replication and Transfer Strategy is to ensure that the results of the LIFE OSMO BALTIC project are systematically taken up by institutions with long-term mandates, enabling the continuation, expansion, and transfer of project approaches beyond the original project sites. Replication is achieved by assigning clear responsibilities to project beneficiaries and embedding project results into policy frameworks, management practices, education systems, and technical standards.

2. Strategic Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Inventory data transfer and legal protection of trees

- In Lithuania, LFN, ŽNPD, and DSSTD are responsible for transferring the inventory results of veteran and large-dimension trees to Lithuanian municipalities, for these institutions to include the inventoried trees in municipal registries of valuable trees, strengthening their legal protection. This action is strategically important because municipal registries are a key instrument for preventing tree loss in land-use planning and development decisions.
- LFN, ŽNPD, and DSSTD will provide new findings of the target species (*Osmoderma eremita*) and other protected species that they will encounter during the project implementation into the national nature data system "SRIS".
- In Latvia, NCA and DU are responsible for integrating inventory data directly into the national nature data system "OZOLS". This ensures that information on veteran trees and *Osmoderma* habitats becomes part of binding national datasets used for environmental decision-making, agricultural policy implementation, and conservation planning, and also grants the legal protection for these trees.

2.2 Integration into Natura 2000 and national biodiversity policy

- LFN, DSSTD, and NCA are responsible for providing project-generated data to the Ministries of Environment in Lithuania and Latvia. This supports the designation of new Natura 2000 sites and/or the update of existing site boundaries and species lists. This strategic action is essential for ensuring long-term protection of habitats, as Natura 2000 designation provides conservation measures for several decades and enables access to EU and national funding.
- DSSTD and NCA will ensure that the nature management plans for Natura 2000 territories prepared under the project (3 in Lithuania and 6 in Latvia) are formally approved and used as a basis for future conservation investments. These plans provide a replicable model for managing similar sites elsewhere.

2.3 Replication through infrastructure and planning standards

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- LSR plays a key strategic role by incorporating the project's tree avenue management guidelines into Road Specifications. LSR manages approximately 20,000 km of roads, representing about 28 % of the total road network in Latvia. By embedding biodiversity-friendly practices into mandatory technical documents, LSR ensures automatic replication of project solutions across all future road construction and maintenance projects in the road network under their management. This approach is strategically important because it removes the need for repeated advocacy and guarantees wide-scale application.
- LPR is responsible for transferring park reconstruction plans to municipalities and ensuring their continued implementation after the project. These plans demonstrate how biodiversity conservation can be integrated into landscape and cultural heritage management, providing a practical model for other municipalities.

2.4 Long-term habitat management and restoration practices

- LFN, DU, ŽNPD, and NCA are responsible for ensuring that restored habitats and artificial habitats continue to be maintained after the project. This is achieved through formal agreements with landowners and protected area administrations. These agreements are strategically important because they secure responsibility for maintenance at minimal cost while preserving ecological functionality.
- LZG maintains a permanent captive population of *Osmoderma eremita*, enabling future translocation and reintroduction actions in Lithuania. This ensures that restoration efforts can be scaled geographically if suitable habitats become available.

2.5 Scientific knowledge transfer and capacity building

- DU and LZG are responsible for producing scientific publications based on the findings and data analysis generated during the project. DU will represent these findings in several international conferences and symposiums, making the gained knowledge known in a geographically wide scientific range.
- DU are responsible for developing, approving, and maintaining an academic study course heavily leaning on the results and the best practice of the project. This strategy ensures that project knowledge is transferred to future generations of specialists and remains scientifically relevant.
- LFN and NCA are responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of seminars and capacity-building activities aimed at municipalities and other key stakeholders. DU, LZG, DSSTD, and LPR contribute expert knowledge and practical experience according to their respective fields of competence, ensuring that seminars combine scientific knowledge, policy context, and practical implementation guidance. The responsible beneficiaries design these activities to support replication by strengthening the capacity of institutions with long-term

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responsibility for land management and infrastructure. By increasing technical knowledge and awareness among municipal and institutional staff, the seminars reduce implementation barriers and encourage the uptake of project approaches beyond the project areas.

The responsible beneficiaries shall ensure that seminars are targeted at:

- Municipal specialists responsible for green infrastructure, environmental protection, and spatial planning;
- Staff of national and regional parks and other protected area administrations;
- Infrastructure and road management stakeholders, including those working under standards applied by LSR;
- Arborists, landscape planners, and other practitioners involved in tree management.
- LFN and DU shall organise and coordinate a targeted workshop in Estonia aimed at improving knowledge and conservation practice related to *Osmoderma eremita*. The workshop shall address the identified gap between the known distribution of the species and the currently designated Natura 2000 sites in Estonia, which is primarily attributed to insufficient surveys and limited data rather than a lack of suitable habitats.

The workshop is planned as an intensive 2–3-day programme combining theoretical lectures and practical fieldwork in one or more potentially suitable habitats for *Osmoderma* in Estonia. The workshop content shall be based on best practices and experience gained during the LIFE OSMO BALTIC project, and complemented by the knowledge and results generated during LIFE projects EREMITA MEADOWS and LIFE OSMODERMA. The workshop shall target scientists, non-governmental organisations, and state institutions involved in nature conservation in Estonia.

The workshop shall cover, at a minimum, the following topics: GIS-based analysis of suitable habitats and potential species locations; field inventory methods and species identification; habitat restoration and management practices; engagement of private and state landowners in the protection of veteran trees; development of ecological networks; ex situ breeding approaches; and involvement of the wider public in species conservation.

LZG, ZNPD, and DSSTD shall contribute their expertise to the workshop in accordance with their respective fields of competence. Through this activity, the responsible beneficiaries shall support the transfer of project knowledge to Estonia and promote the improvement of the conservation status of *Osmoderma eremita* in the wider Baltic region.

- NCA, DSSTD, ŽNPD, and LZG lead the transfer of knowledge through education and public awareness materials used in nature education centres and regional

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outreach programmes. These actions are strategically important for building societal support for conservation practices, which is essential for long-term replication.

3. Mechanisms Ensuring Replication

Replication is ensured through institutional ownership, legal integration, and capacity development. By embedding project outputs into official databases, planning documents, education systems, and technical standards, the project creates self-sustaining replication pathways.

The After-LIFE Conservation Plan will consolidate these mechanisms by identifying funding sources and responsible institutions, ensuring continuity beyond the LIFE funding period.

4. Strategic Conclusion

Through clearly assigned responsibilities and institutional integration, the LIFE OSMO BALTIC project establishes a robust replication framework. This strategy ensures that each beneficiary contributes according to its mandate and expertise, enabling the project's conservation approaches to be sustained, expanded, and transferred across the Baltic region and beyond.

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