

## LITHUANIAN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

### PEISAJUL LITUANIAN PROTEJAT

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**Abstract.** Lithuania has 1020162 hectares of protected areas, which account for 15.64% of total surface of the country. The Lithuanian natural heritage comprise the countryside and natural environment, including flora and fauna (scientifically known as biodiversity), as well as geological elements (scientifically known as geodiversity). These kind of heritage sites often serve as an important component in a country's tourist industry, attracting many visitors from abroad as well as locally. Heritage can also include cultural landscapes, meaning natural features that may have cultural attributes. Some of the cultural features of these protected areas are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

**Key words:** Lithuania, protection, landscape, future

**Rezumat.** Lituania are 1020162 hectare de arii protejate care însumează 15.64% din suprafața totală a țării. Patrimoniul natural lituanian cuprinde zone din mediul rural și natural, din care fac parte flora și fauna ce constituie biodiversitatea, precum și elementele geologice ce constituie geodiversitatea. Acest tip de zone de patrimoniu servesc adesea ca importante componente ale industriei turismului lituanian, atrăgând mulți vizitatori din alte țări, dar și localnici. Patrimoniul acesta poate include de asemenea și peisaje culturale, adică peisaje cu trăsături naturale având atribute culturale. Câteva din trăsăturile culturale ale acestor arii protejate sunt moștenite de la generațiile trecutului, fiind prezervate în prezent pentru a fi transmise spre beneficiul generațiilor viitoare.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Lituania, protecție, peisaj, viitor

### INTRODUCTION

The protected areas of Lithuania are: national parks, state parks, national reserves, reserve area, biosphere reserves, biosphere polygons, state and local nature reserves, etc. State Office of Protected Areas in Lithuania survey 1020162 hectares of protected areas, which account for 15.62% of Lithuania surface (European Landscape Convention and Explanatory Report, 2001). For applying the state protection of all these areas, the main Legal Acts are the following:

- Republic of Lithuania law on environmental protection (1992, 2003)
- Republic of Lithuania law on protected areas (1993, 2001)

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-Republic of Lithuania law on territorial planning (1994, 2003)

-Republic of Lithuania law on construction (1995, 2003)

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

The paper focus on the analysis of the all protected areas of Lithuania and on creating a synthesis of the situation of the natural landscape heritage - comprising the countryside and natural environment, including the biodiversity as well as geodiversity, but also of the cultural landscape heritage - meaning natural features that may have cultural attributes (Deveikis, 2003).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The statistic of the Lithuania protected areas categories (tab. 1) show that there are five main categories of protected areas each one having some specific areas, as following:

1. STATE STRICT RESERVATION
  - Natural
  - Cultural
  - Small Strict Reservation
2. RESERVATION
  - State Reservation
  - Municipal Reservation
3. STATE PARKS
  - National parks
  - Regional parks
4. BIOSPHERE RESERVATION
5. BIOSPHERE POLYGONS

Table 1

**STATISTIC OF THE PROTECTED AREAS CATEGORIES**

Category	Amount	Area (ha)	Part of country are(%)
<b>STATE STRICT RESERVATION</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18772.09</b>	<b>0.29</b>
Natural	3	18406.72	0.28
Cultural	2	245.85	0.004
Small Strict Reservation	1	119.52	0.002
<b>RESERVATION</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>156114.88</b>	<b>2.39</b>
State Reservation	279	143229.46	2.19
Municipal Reservation	111	12885.42	0.20
<b>STATE PARKS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>593700.35</b>	<b>9.09</b>
National parks	5	144338.50	2.21
Regional parks	30	449361.85	6.88
<b>BIOSPHERE RESERVATION</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18489.69</b>	<b>0.28</b>
<b>BIOSPHERE POLYGONS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>233518.73</b>	<b>3.58</b>
		<b>1021440.20</b>	<b>15.64</b>

The *State Strict Reserves* are the most strictly controlled protected areas that are established to facilitate the protection and research of Lithuania's landscapes with scientific environmental or cultural value. All economic activity in strict reserves is forbidden.

Objectives of establishment of strict reserves:

1. to ensure the unaffected course of natural processes or maintenance of authenticity of territorial complexes and objects (properties) of cultural heritage;
2. to preserve a typical or unique natural or cultural landscape and the objects of heritage located therein;
3. to preserve valuable natural ecosystems, habitats, gene pool of wild flora, fungi and fauna species;
4. to organise continuous scientific research and monitoring as well as museum work;
5. to promote territorial complexes and objects (properties) of natural or cultural heritage.

As seen in table 1, according to the type of protected properties, strict reserves shall be classified as follows:

1. Natural - for the preservation of particularly valuable complexes of natural landscape.
2. Cultural (museums-reserves) - for the preservation of particularly valuable complexes of cultural landscape (Archives of the Land Survey Institute, 1987 – 1993).

Within Lithuania there are three state strict nature important reserves:

- Čepkeliai
- Kamanos
- Viešvilė

The state strict cultural reserves are two:

- Kernavė
- Vilnius Castles

But also there are 36 nature and three cultural strict reserves within complex protected areas and one small strict reserve-Dubrava.

Regarding the *Protected Reservation* there are 390 protected areas: 279 state reservation and 111 municipal reservation.

Other very important protected areas are the Lithuania *State Parks* in total 35, of which there are 5 national parks and 30 regional parks.

There are some important objectives of establishment of state parks:

- to preserve a naturally and culturally valuable landscape;
- to preserve typical or unique ecosystems;
- to restore destroyed and damaged natural and cultural complexes and objects (properties);

- to provide conditions for scientific research in the field of protection of natural and cultural heritage;
- to promote and support the ethno-cultural traditions of Lithuanian regions;
- to provide conditions for recreation, primarily cognitive tourism;
- to develop environmental education, promote ecological farming;
- to implement other objectives of their establishment provided for in statutes of the state parks.

The fifth category of Lithuania protected areas are the *Biosphere Reservations* (1) and *Biosphere Polygons* (28). Biosphere grounds shall be established with a view to conducting national and regional environment monitoring in the areas of particular geoecological importance.

Objectives of establishment of areas of biosphere monitoring:

- to create a representative system of complex ecological monitoring – to monitor, control and forecast changes in natural systems;
- to conduct experiments and research of the use of biosphere;
- to develop environmental education and propaganda;
- to ensure protection of natural complexes.

## CONCLUSIONS

All these Lithuanian protected heritage sites often serve as an important component in a country's tourist industry, attracting many visitors from abroad as well as locally. Some of the cultural features of these protected areas are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Related to the actual situation of these protected areas, a stringent need has been highlighted: the importance of finding new ways to increase the search for curative and preventive solutions for the preservation, restoration and regeneration.

## REFERENCES

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