

Coherence of the MPAs network with the MSP and ICZM

The achievements and lessons learned in Latvia

Solvita Strāķe, Aurelija Armoskaite, Ingrīda
Andersone, Sandra Sprukta

Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology

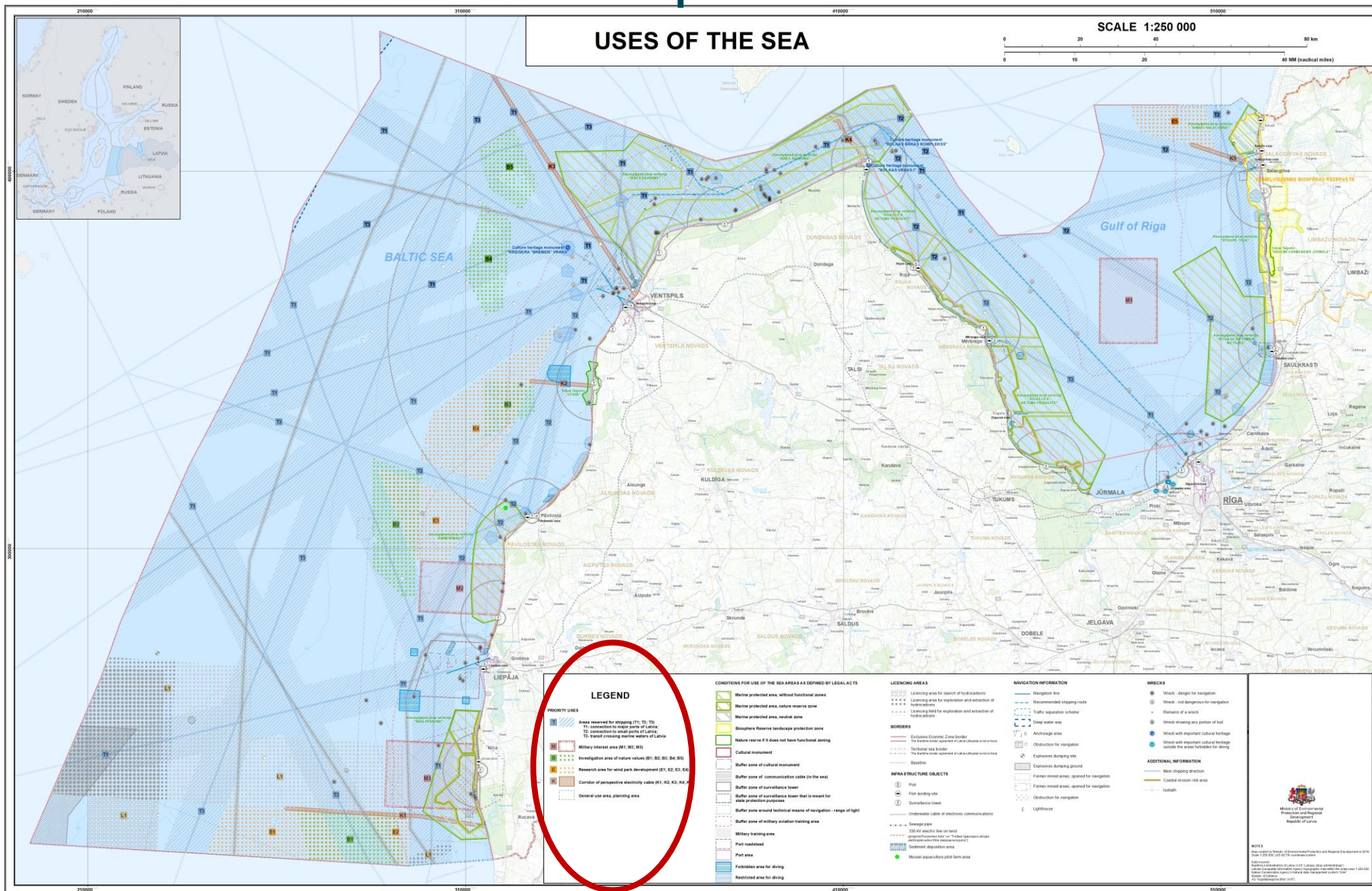


reef.daba.gov.lv



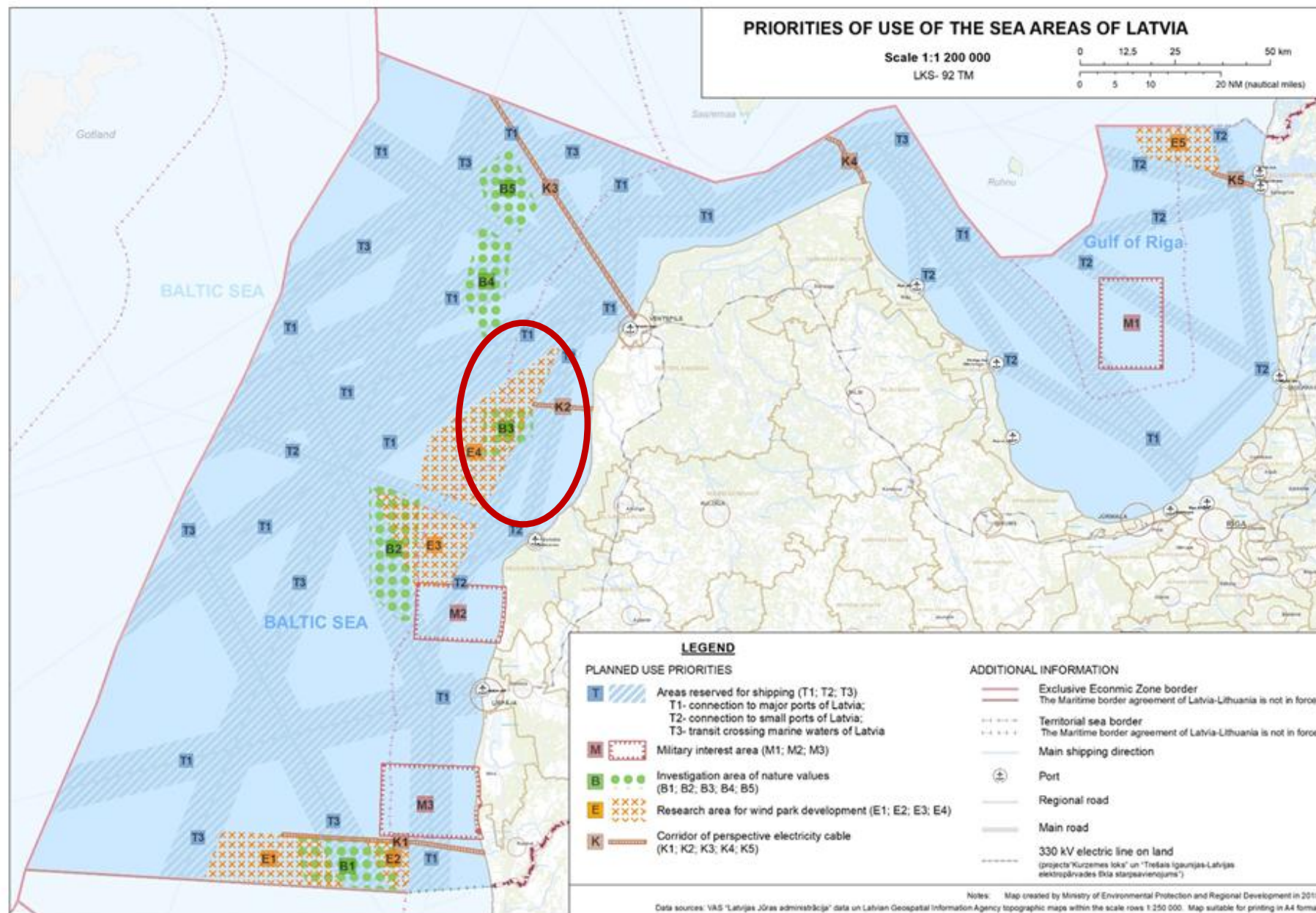
Maritime Spatial Planning



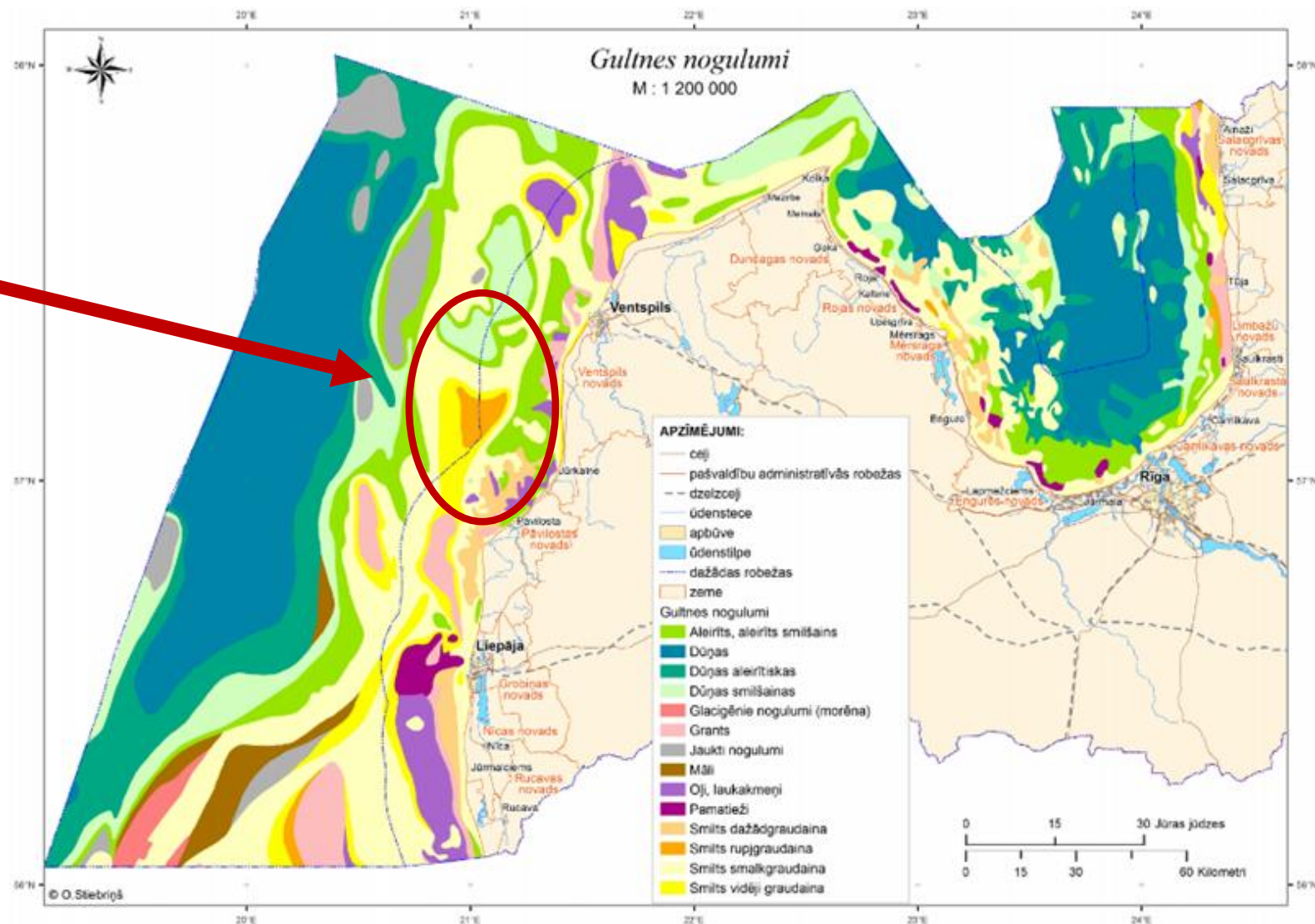
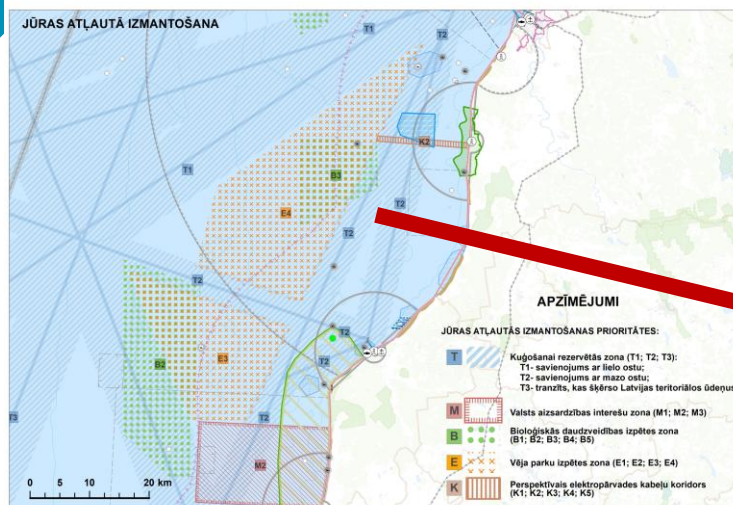




Priorities for the use of the sea areas



MSP and MPAs: identification of research areas in EEZ with unknown natural value

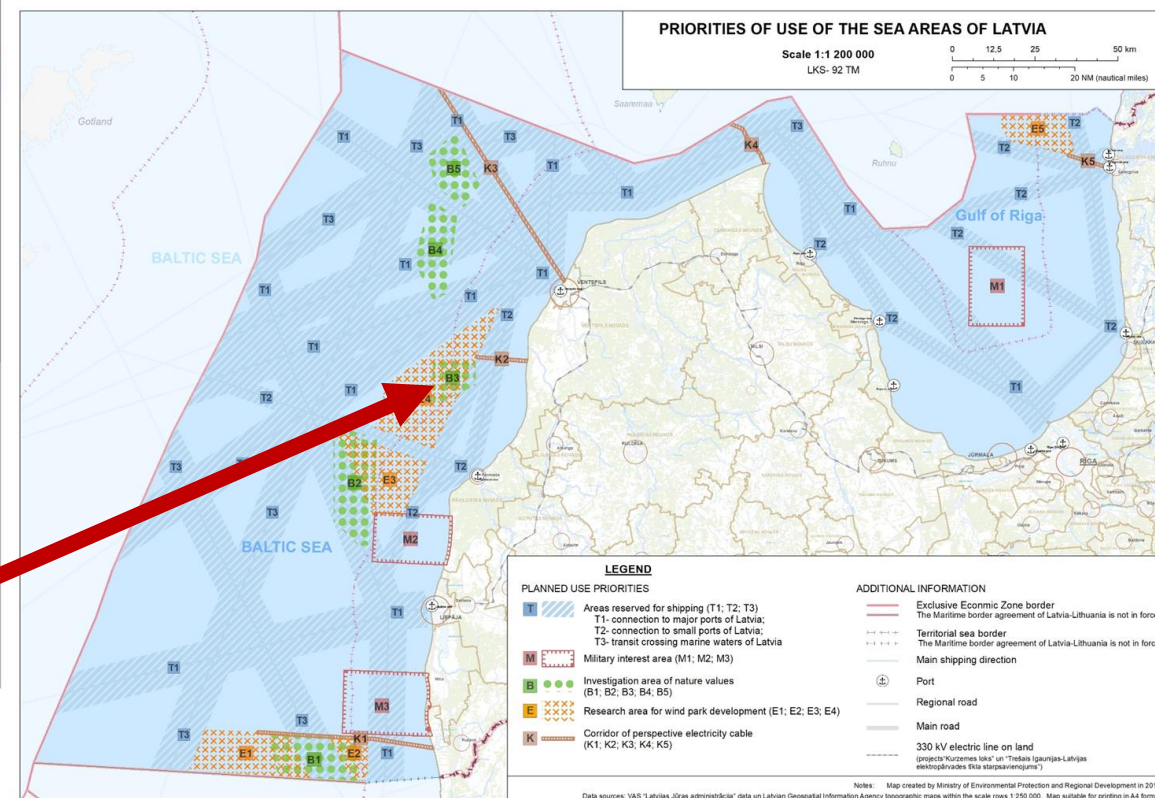
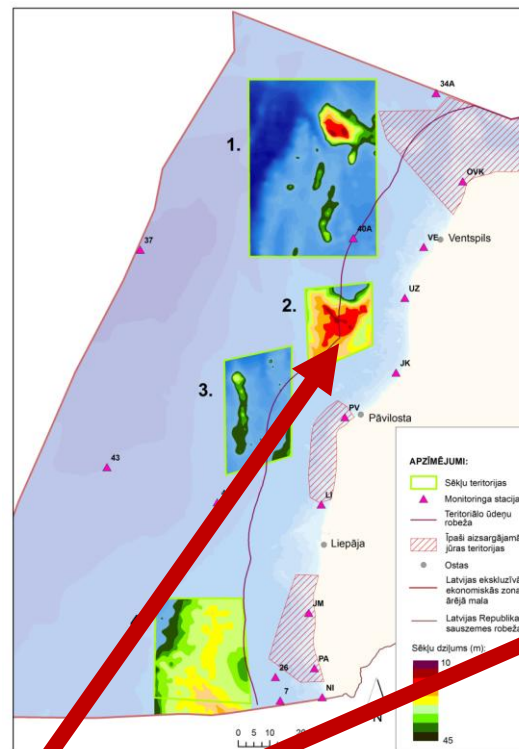




LIFE REEF project:

Research of marine protected habitats in EEZ and determination of the necessary conservation status in Latvia

LIFE19 NAT/LV/000973 LIFE REEF,
01/09/2020 – 28/02/2026

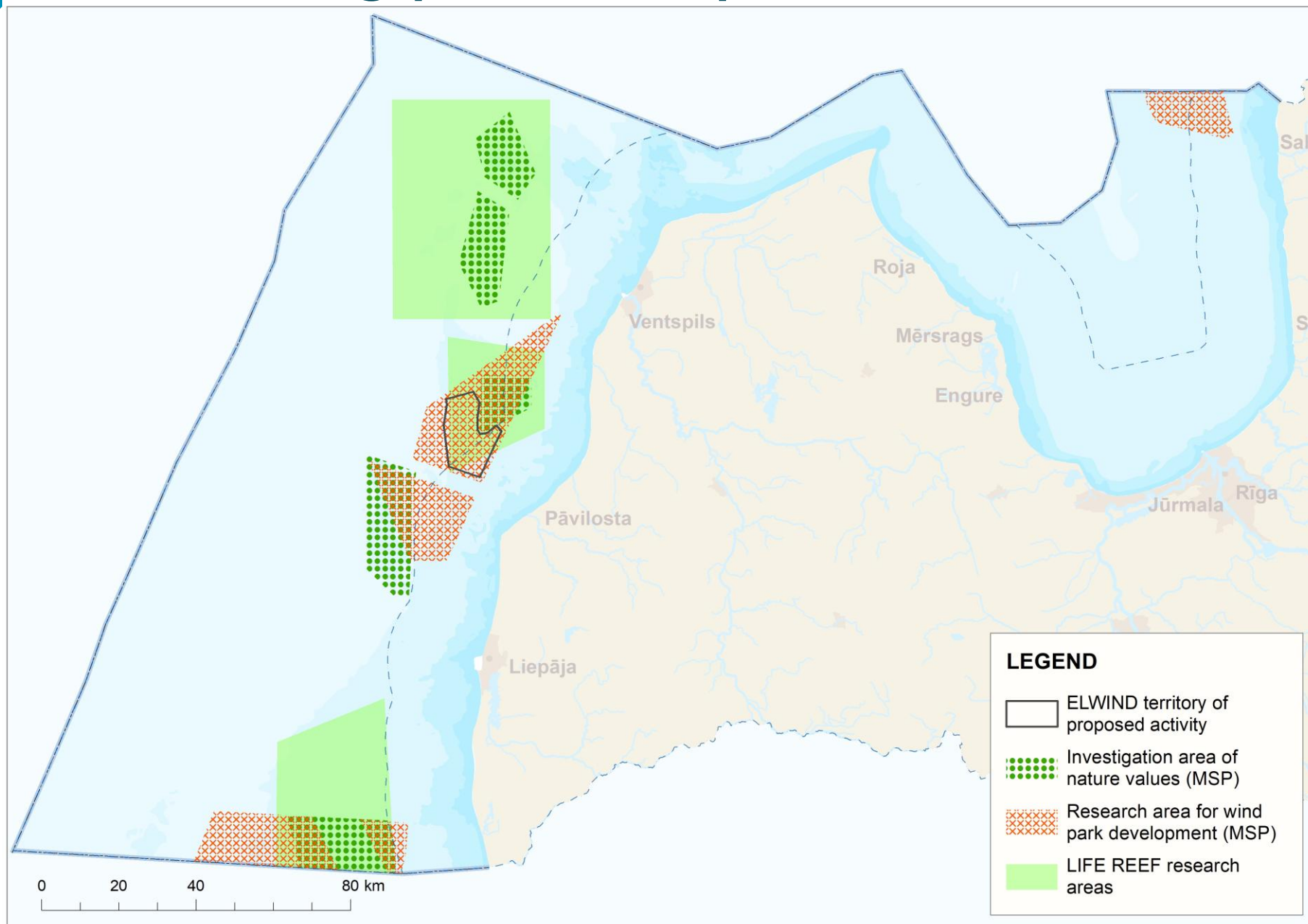


ELWIND project:

In September 2020, the Minister for Economics of Latvia and the Estonian Minister of Economy and Infrastructure signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the joint project of an offshore wind farm for energy production from renewable energy sources. The ELWIND project is planned to be operational in 2030.



Starting point at September 2020



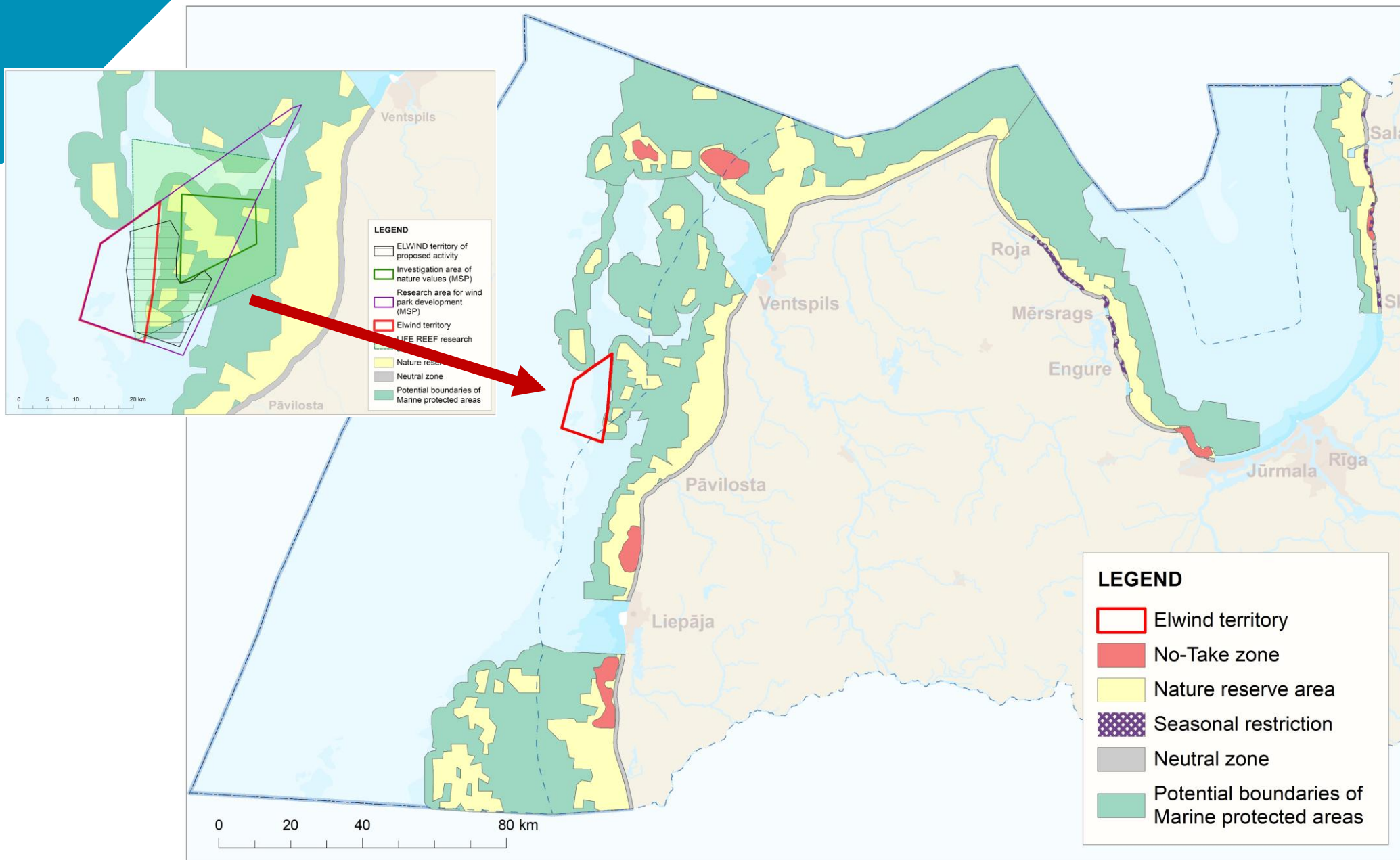


The interim assessment report of the Maritime Spatial Plan (2019-2023) was approved in October 2024

In 2022, the **Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning Coordination Group** was established with the aim of ensuring the involvement of state institutions, planning regions, coastal municipalities and public representatives, promoting the harmonization of sectoral policy objectives, development directions, interests and exchange of information.



Situation at September 2025





Key messages from the lessons learned

In the case of Latvia, the MSP thoughtfully and farsightedly identified and incorporated priority investigation areas for nature values, facilitating the process of establishing MPAs. The role of MSP, considering the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030, could be considered essential.

The MSP process provides cross-sectoral discussions and is a platform for finding compromises between nature protection and different uses of the sea.



Thank you!

Solvita Strāķe, PhD
Latvijas Hidroekoloģijas institūts
Voleru iela 4, Rīga, Latvia

solvita.strake@lhei.lv



reef.daba.gov.lv