

# Driving forces for a change of the coastal landscape of Latvia

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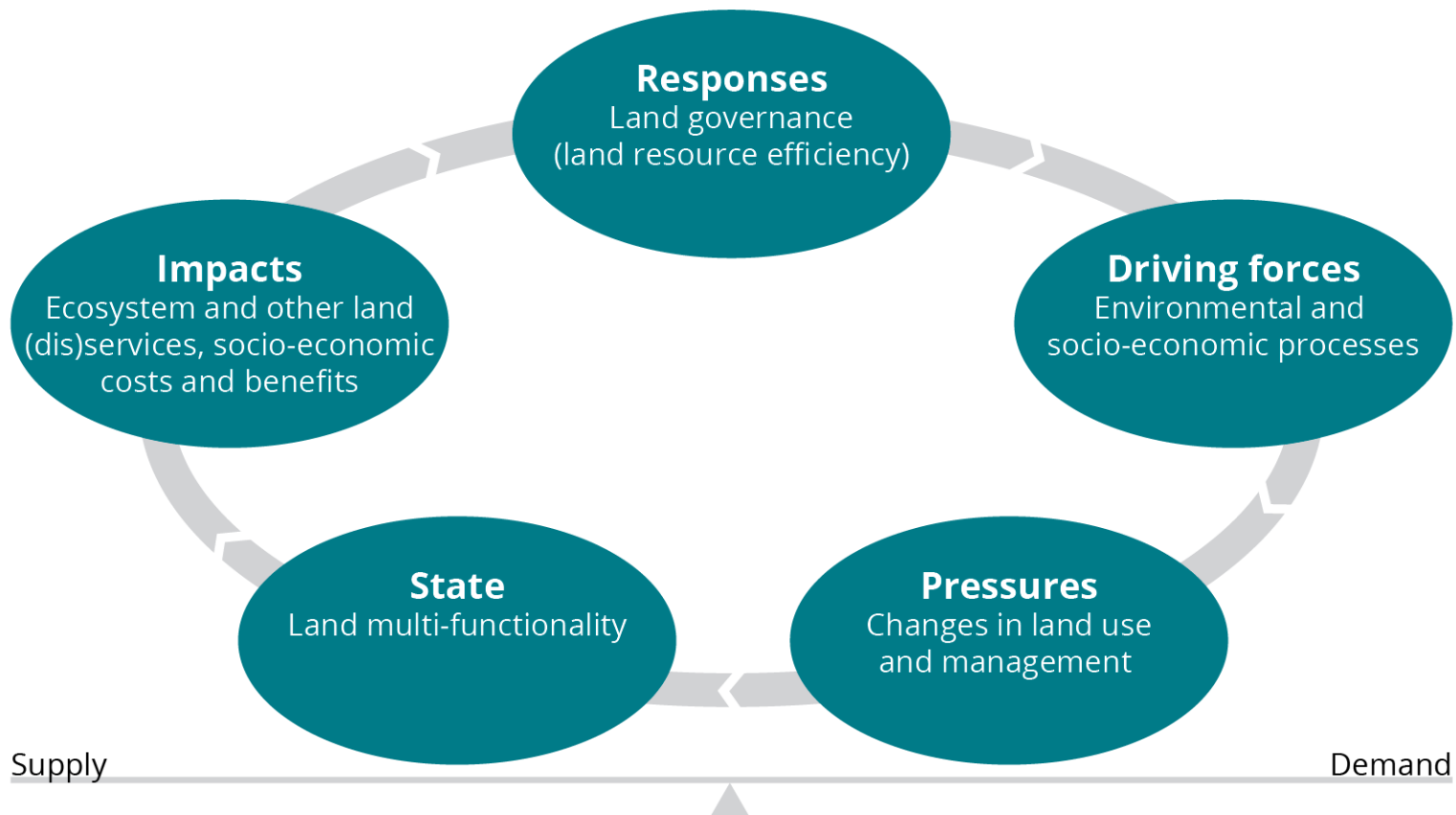


# Basic facts

- About 500 km long shoreline, heterogeneous in terms of nature and human activities
- Coastline (85% sandy beach) has been straightened by erosion and deposition processes over the times
- Restricted access up to 1991 due to external border of Soviet Union
- High importance for biological diversity
- Location of main cities, including Riga
- Importance for economy, harbours



# Driving forces for a change

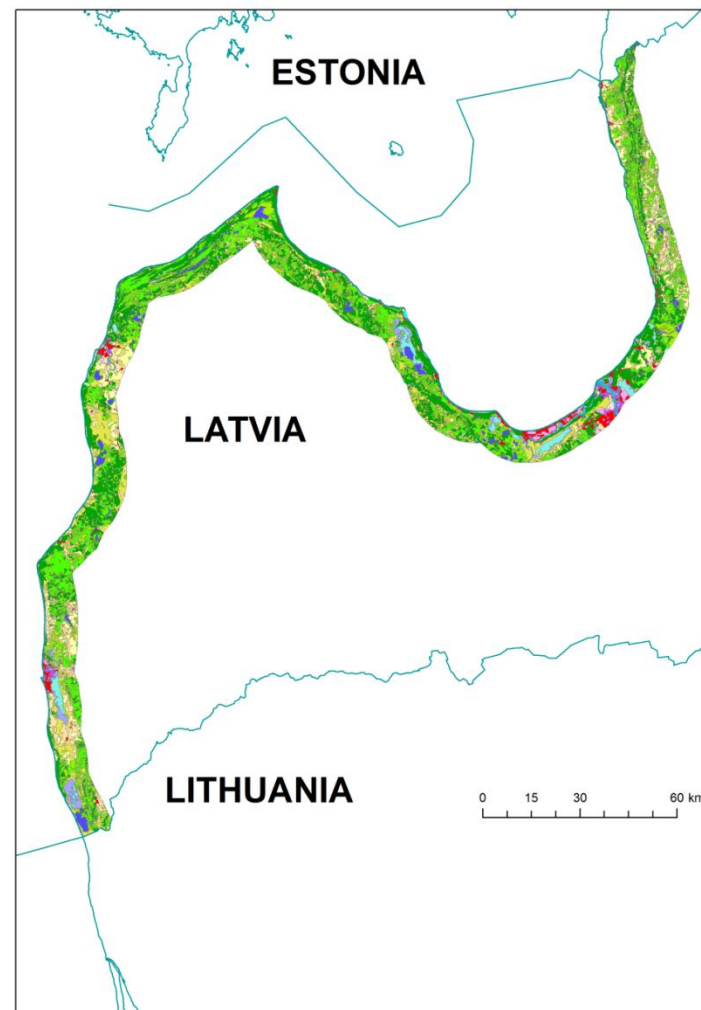


The degree to which human activities and natural processes are interacting or have been interacting in the past determines the character of a landscape.

# State of the landscape

**Share of the main land cover classes in the coastal zone of Latvia, by the distance from shoreline (%), 2006**

Code	Land cover class	Shoreline	0-300 m	0-10 km
1	Artificial surfaces	6.8	12.7	4.3
2	Agricultural areas	7.6	16.9	25.3
3	<b>Forests and semi-natural areas</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>62.7</b>
4	Wetlands	1.2	0.6	4.6
5	Waters	0.5	0.3	3.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



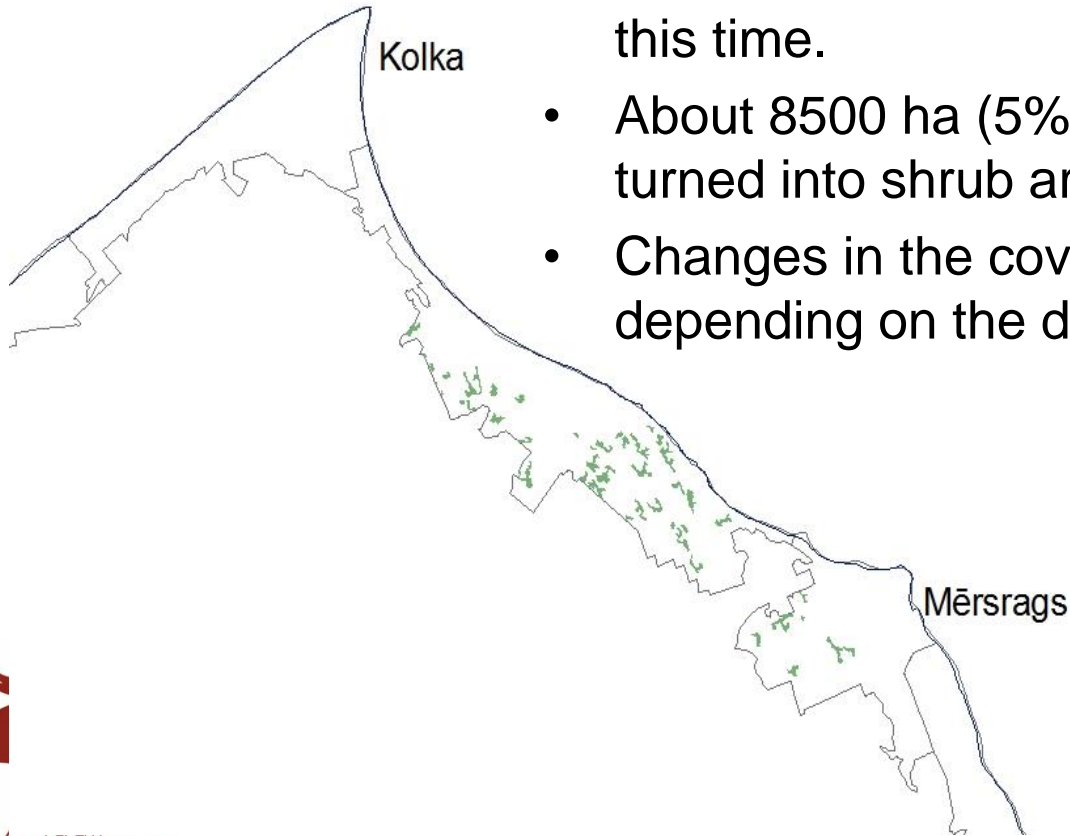
# Socio-economic driving forces

- Who/which sectors change the coastal landscapes?
  - Urbanization
  - Forestry
  - Shipping and ports
  - Fishery
  - Tourism and recreation



# Forestry - forest felling

- Major change has been experienced by forest land cover: 94% of all changes in the area over this time.
- About 8500 ha (5%) of forest cover have been turned into shrub areas in 1996-2006
- Changes in the cover structure is different depending on the distance from the shoreline.



# Forestry - forest felling



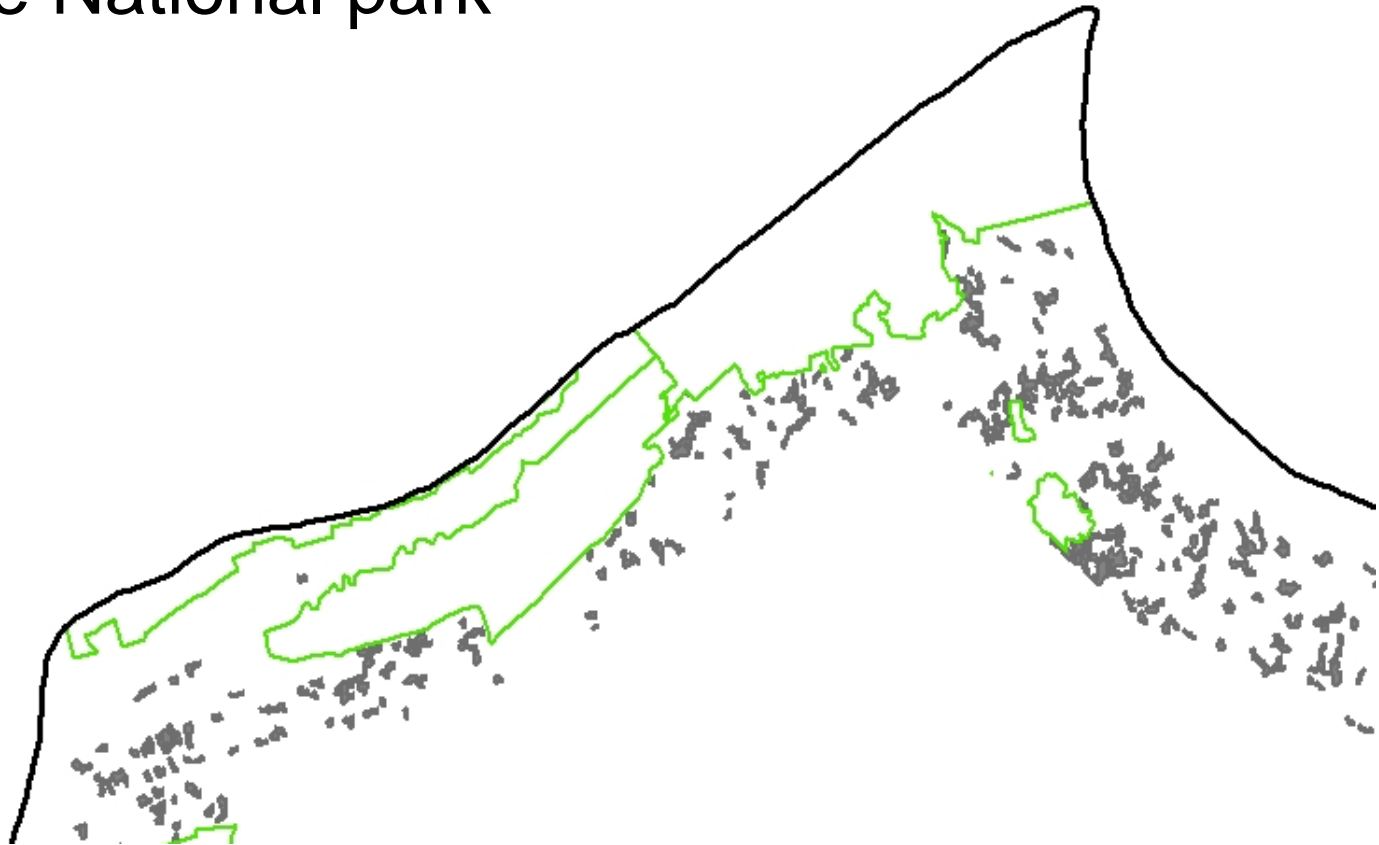
Due to designation of the coastal protection zone, final felling is restricted in 300 m along coastline

300 m line

1 km line

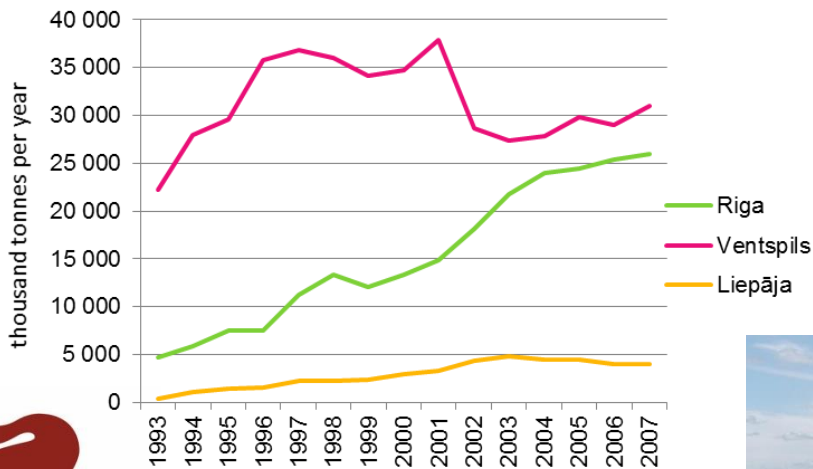
# Natura 2000 and protection of coastal landscapes

- Slitere National park



# Harbours

- 3 Large ports – Riga, Ventspils, Liepāja
- 7 Small ports – fishing, fish processing, tourism, export and import of environmentally safe cargoes.



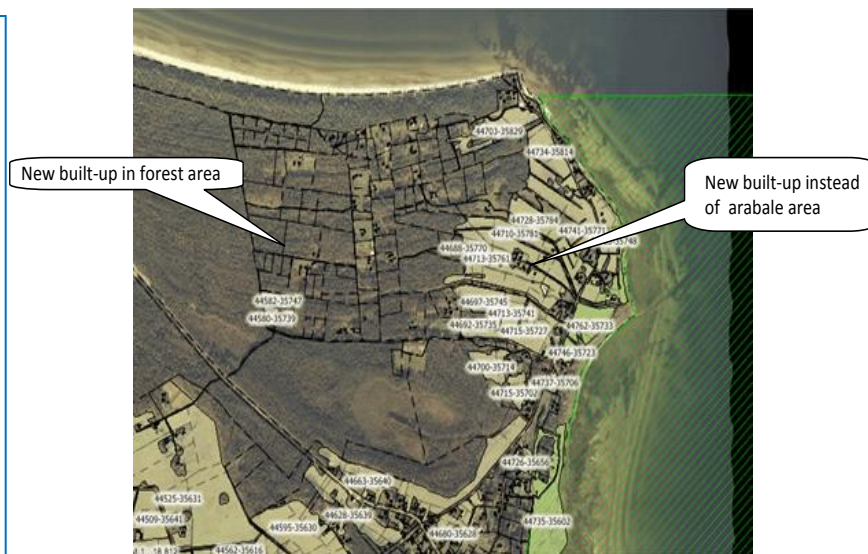
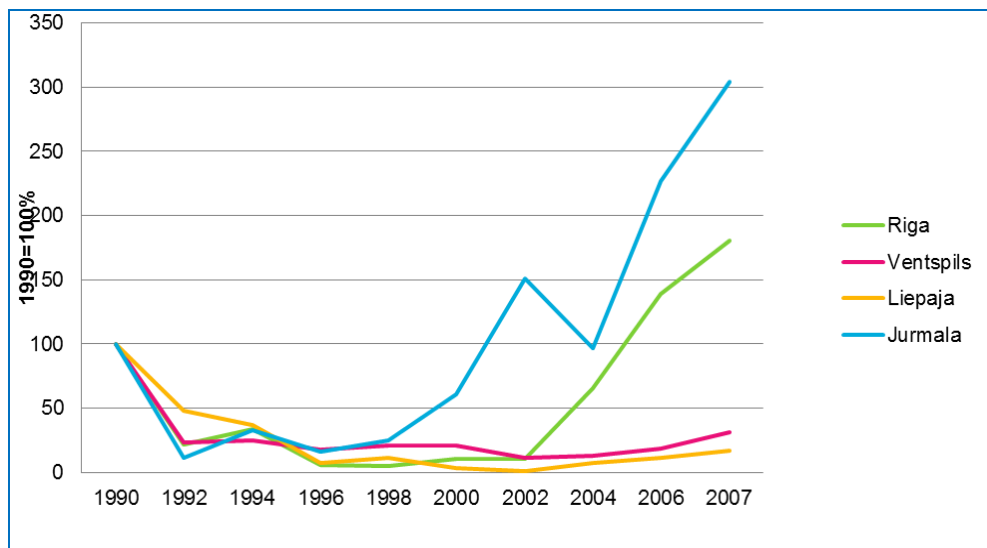
# Urbanisation

- Residential expansion is observed in rural coastal municipalities near by the large cities, in distance till 50km. In few of them, the number of inhabitants have increased by 110-130%.
- Desire to have a summer house at the beach is bringing pressure on spatial planners to designate new built-up areas or increase the density in the present one.



**Population change 2000-2011**

# Urbanisation

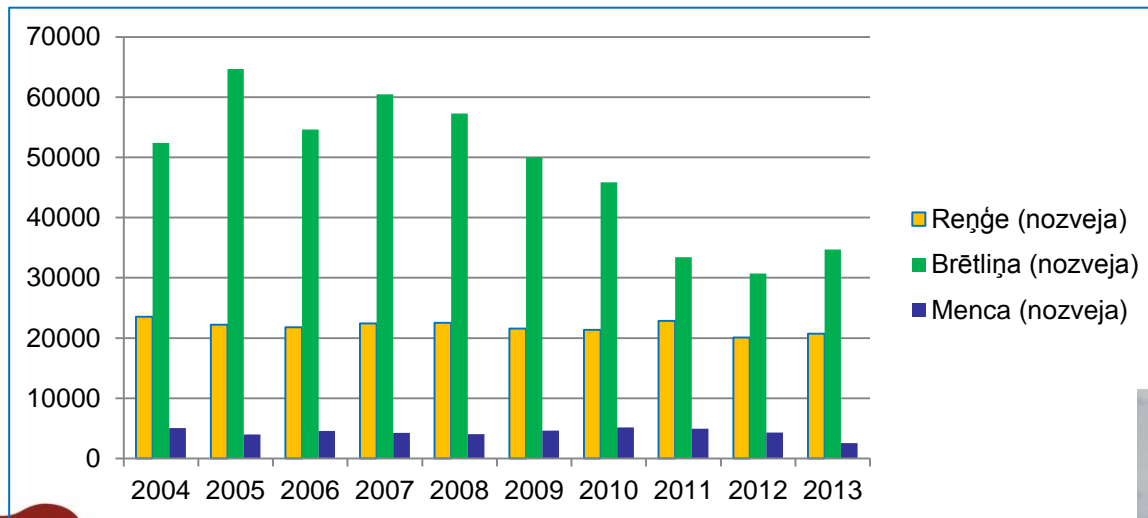


*Dwelling completed 1990-2007*

Built up- in former agricultural lands and forest areas

# Fishery

- Traditional economic activity along the Baltic Sea;
- However, the activity is reducing in terms of a number fishermen and boats involved

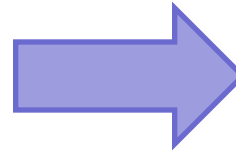


*Fish catch in the Baltic Sea, th. tonnes*



# Tourism and recreation

- Growing pressure – income of inhabitants are increasing and thus weekends are spent along the coasts;
- Driving in forests, damage to dune ecosystems
- Building of the campsites, guest houses
- Waste management problem



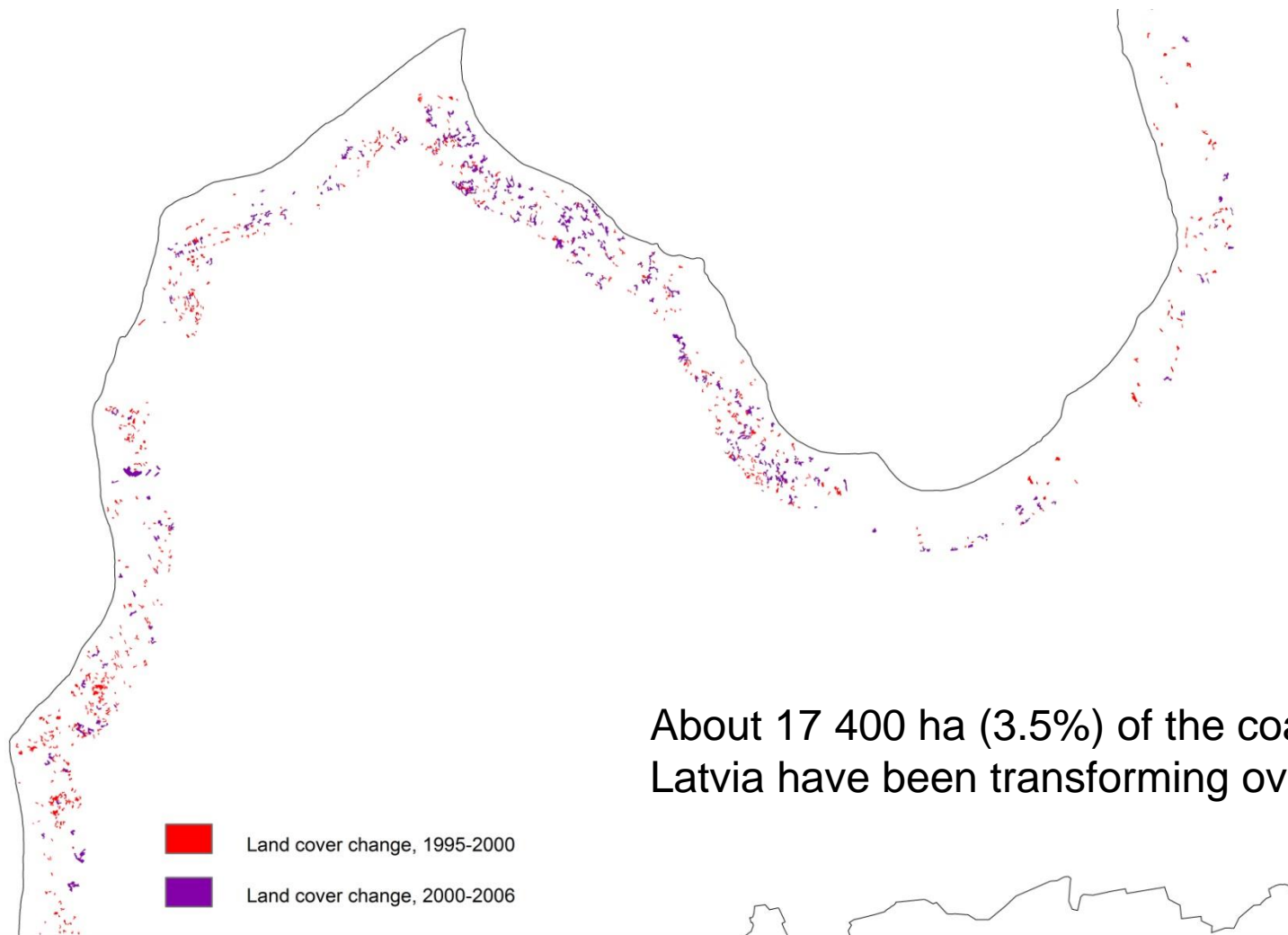
INFRASTRUCTURE



LATVIA



# Change in landscape



# RESPONSES

- Policy frameworks
- Legislation
- Support to infrastructure development
- Awareness rising

# Thank you!

