

SGEM Vienna GREEN 2025 "Green Science for Green Life"

Extended Scientific Sessions of the XXVth SGEM2025 GeoConference on Earth & Planetary Sciences

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CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE



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IN RECOGNITION OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AS A SPEAKER DURING THE PLENARY SESSIONS AT THE

SGEM Vienna GREEN 2025 "Green Science for Green Life"

PhD DACE KAUFMANE

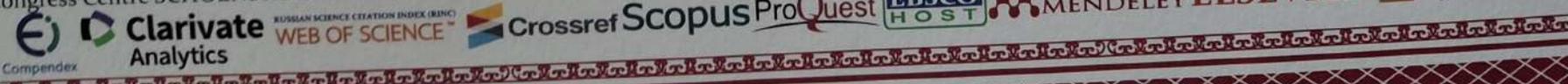
Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Latvia



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SGEM Vienna GREEN 2025

International Scientific Conference on EARTH & PLANETARY Science

GREEN SCIENCE FOR GREEN LIFE

**BIOREGIONALISM IN LATVIA:
ETHICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR A COMMUNITY-BASED
APPROACH TO NATURAL VALUES**



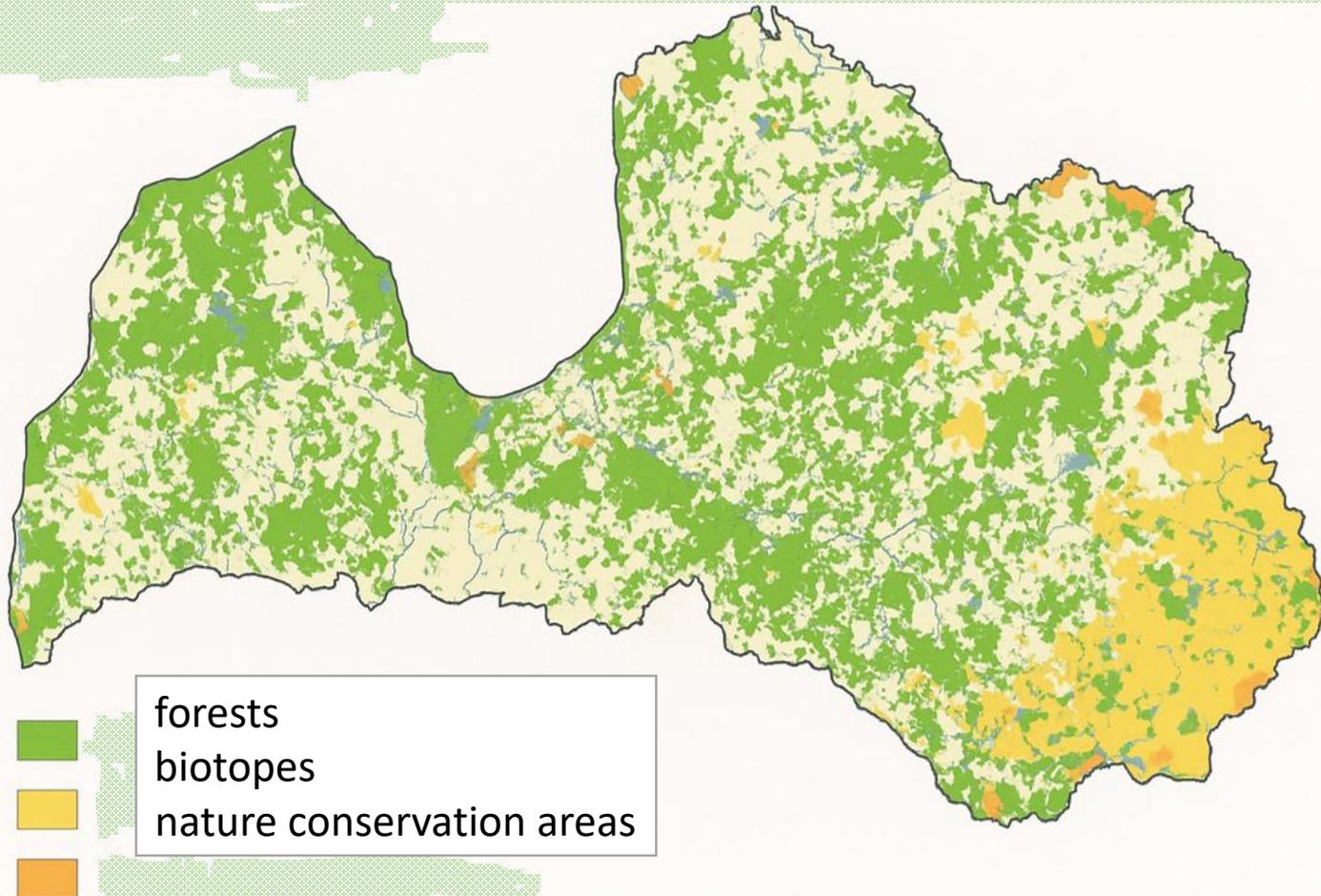
Latvia University
of Life Sciences
and Technologies

Assist. Prof., *Dr.phil.* Gunars Brazma

Assist. Prof., *Dr.oec.* Dace Kaufmane

The research was carried out as part of fundamental and applied research project No. lzp-2022/1-0519 "Bio-regions as an Integrated Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas in Latvia"

The perspective of bioregions in Latvia



Latvia is a green country in general:

53% of the country's territory is forests,

12% are specially protected nature areas,

there are 4,247 registered organic farming companies.

The principles of bioregionalism

- 1) Proposals for establishing a region as a better place for both people and nature are suggested and accepted by local communities.
- 2) Human presence and management, promoting local economies and well-being, do not contradict the possibilities of environmental protection.

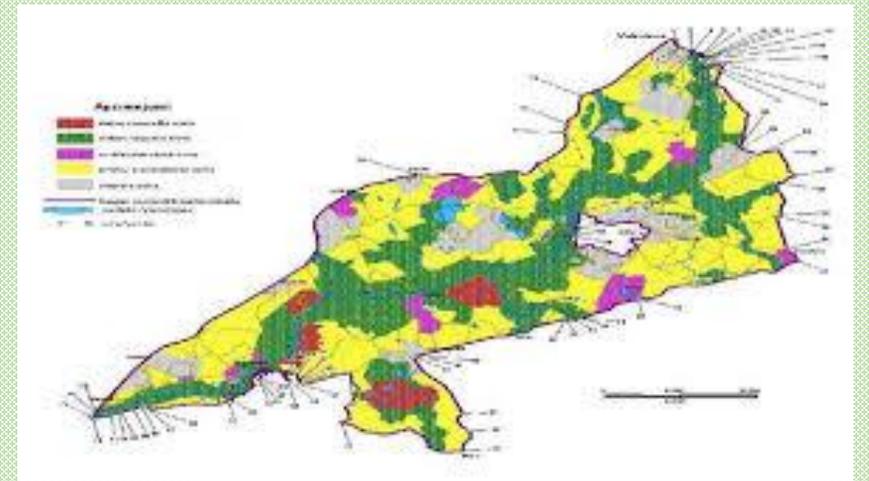


The context of the study

- So, the economic, social and environmental dimensions can be distinguished in bioregionalism.
- In previous research by sociologists and economists from Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, the possibilities of creating bioregions in Latvia were studied.
- The present research focuses on the environmental dimension of bioregionalism.
- The aim of the empirical study was to identify the natural values that are emphasized by the inhabitants of future bioregions in Latvia.

The methodology of the study

- The study included the analysis of semi-structured interviews, revealing the opinions of farmers practicing organic farming, municipal employees, representatives of the tourism industry and other stakeholders.
- Also, an analysis of public discussions and documents was performed, e.g., the memorandum on creation of the first bioregion in Latvia – within the National park surrounding the scenic valley of the river Gauja.



The results of empirical study

- The preservation of natural values is one of the main objectives of communities. For example, the Memorandum of Goodwill on the Establishment of a Bioregion in the Gauja National Park states that "*Natural diversity, especially protected nature areas and **natural landscapes**, are protected and preserved*".
- From a business perspective, public discussions raised concerns that "*Over time, any bioregion is going to impose restrictions*", while the potential for development of communities was also mentioned: "*An environmentally friendly lifestyle attracts like-minded people*".



Theoretical discussion concerning natural values

- Theoretical discussion focuses on how the philosophy of values can help to justify the significance of natural values emphasized by residents of rural communities, particularly landscape and scenic values.
- How are aesthetic values of nature related to the value of biodiversity prioritized by environmental science?



The significance of aesthetic values – objections and replies

- However, the importance of aesthetic values is ambiguous, since, according to an often-expressed idea, aesthetic values are called «subjective».
- Indeed, aesthetic experience is subjective in the sense that it can only be shaped as a result of direct experience.
- Also, aesthetic taste is subjective in the sense that there are no general principles that could allow to make logical conclusions about the aesthetic quality of a particular object.
- However, aesthetic taste is not simply the matter of individual taste – according to Immanuel Kant, we expect «a universal liking» – that other people should also perceive and appreciate aesthetic qualities.
- Also, aesthetic judgments are not subjective in the sense that they are relative. Relativism would mean that any aesthetic judgment is as justified as any other, but aesthetic taste can be developed through education.

Conclusions

- In local communities natural values are usually viewed as the aesthetic values of landscapes, which are the result of human management. This understanding of natural values requires justification and answers to objections concerning the significance of aesthetic values of nature.
- However, it could be concluded that none of the objections is sufficiently substantiated to consider man-made scenic values to be of minor importance.
- The understanding of local communities about the natural values can be theoretically justified by applying the insights from philosophy of values.

Thank you for your attention!



Latvijas Biozinātņu un tehnoloģiju akadēmija | LBTU Webmail | Monogr. | Semināra diskusijai | LBTU | Playback | SGEM Vienna Sessions

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Latvijas Lauksaimniecības universitāte | Rakstīt vēstuli | 2016-19.pdf | Par mums | LBTU

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ID	TIME	SECTION	SPEAKER	ARTICLE	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY
11	11:40	19. Ecology, Biodiversity, and Environmental Protection	Assoc. Prof. Luminita Costinar	HUMANSCALE. EPIDEMIOLOGY OF CANINE INFECTIOUS RESPIRATORY DISEASE: INSIGHTS INTO KENNEL COUGH	UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCE "KING MICHAEL I" FROM TIMISOARA	Romania
12	11:50	19. Ecology, Biodiversity, and Environmental Protection	PhD Gunars Brazma, PhD Dace Kaufmane	BIOREGIONALISM IN LATVIA: ETHICAL JUSTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH TO NATURAL VALUES	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies	Latvia
13	12:00	19. Ecology, Biodiversity, and Environmental Protection	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Carmen Claudia Durau	RESEARCH ON THE VEGETATION DYNAMICS AND PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF PERMANENT MEADOWS: CASE STUDY	University of Life Sciences "King Michael I" from Timisoara, Romania	Romania
14	12:10	19. Ecology, Biodiversity, and Environmental Protection	PhD Vladimira Nozkova	EARLY DETECTION OF PLANT STRESS IS ESSENTIAL FOR PREVENTING DECLINES IN BIODIVERSITY AND CROP PRODUCTIVITY	Palacký University	Czech Republic
15	12:20	20. Economics of Sustainability and Environmental Policies	PhD Mara Grinberga-silava	CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS: A DATA-INFORMED POLICY FOR PROMOTING ACTIVE MOBILITY AND TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREA	Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences	Latvia
16	12:30	20. Economics of Sustainability and Environmental Policies	Prof. DSc. Andrejs Cekuls	EVALUATING THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE POLICIES IN THE POST-INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY	University of Latvia	Latvia
17	12:40	20. Economics of Sustainability and Environmental Policies	Prof. Dr. Dimitre Velez	THE BREAK-EVEN POINT AS A BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR NATURAL DISASTER DAMAGES	University of National and World Economy	Bulgaria
18	12:50	20. Economics of Sustainability and Environmental Policies	Prof. DSc. Andrejs Cekuls	DATA-DRIVEN ANALYSIS OF WORKFORCE FLOW FOR ADVANCING GREEN AND CIRCULAR	University of Latvia	Latvia

19:01 07.12.2025

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MAXIMILIAN Hall (41) | SOPHIE Hall (34) | LEOPOLD Hall (8) | POSTERS (42)

ID	TIME	SECTION	SPEAKER	ARTICLE	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	
	00:00	----> DAY 3 - 5.12.2025, MAXIMILIAN HALL, GREEN SESSIONS					
1	09:30	18. Air Quality, Pollution Control, and Climate Change Mitigation	Prof. Marius Balas	GREENHOUSES AS SYNERGISTIC COMPONENTS OF HYBRID SYSTEMS	University Aurel Vlaicu of Arad	Romania	
2	09:40	18. Air Quality, Pollution Control, and Climate Change Mitigation	Prof. Marius Balas	INTERNET OF THINGS IN POULTRY FARMING: A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGIES, APPLICATIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS IN AFRICA	University Aurel Vlaicu of Arad	Romania	
3	09:50	18. Air Quality, Pollution Control, and Climate Change Mitigation	PhD Michel Kalenga Wa Kalenga	COMPARATIVE STUDY ON DIFFERENT BIOCHAR FOR PROSPECTIVE USE IN PYROMETALLURGY AS REDUCTANTS	University of Johannesburg	South Africa	
4	10:00	19. Ecology, Biodiversity, and Environmental Protection	Prof. Ivo Machar	JOINING OF HISTORIC AND NATURE HERITAGE IN URBANIZED LANDSCAPE: CASE STUDY MANOR PARK CECYH POD KOSIREM	Palacký University Olomouc-Faculty of Science	Czech Republic	
5	10:10	19. Ecology, Biodiversity, and Environmental Protection	Denis Vasiliev	POWERING THE NORTH: A MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION	Turiba University	Latvia	
6	10:20	19. Ecology, Biodiversity, and Environmental Protection	PhD Francesco Guarino	RESTORING LIFE TO DEGRADED SOILS: THE STOREROOM APPROACH USING BIOCHAR AND MICROBIAL DIVERSITY	Universitu of Salerno	Italy	

19:02 07.12.2025