

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF FOREST SCIENCE AND ECOLOGY

# Communication in modern world – the role of the Faculty of Forest Science and Ecology in Lithuanian society

**GEDIMINAS BRAZAITIS, VITAS MAROZAS, JOLANTA STANKEVIČIŪTĖ**



NATURALIT



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LIFE-IP PAF-NATURALIT Nr. LIFE16IPE/LT/16

# INTRODUCTION

Current situation – reforms, reforms, reforms ...

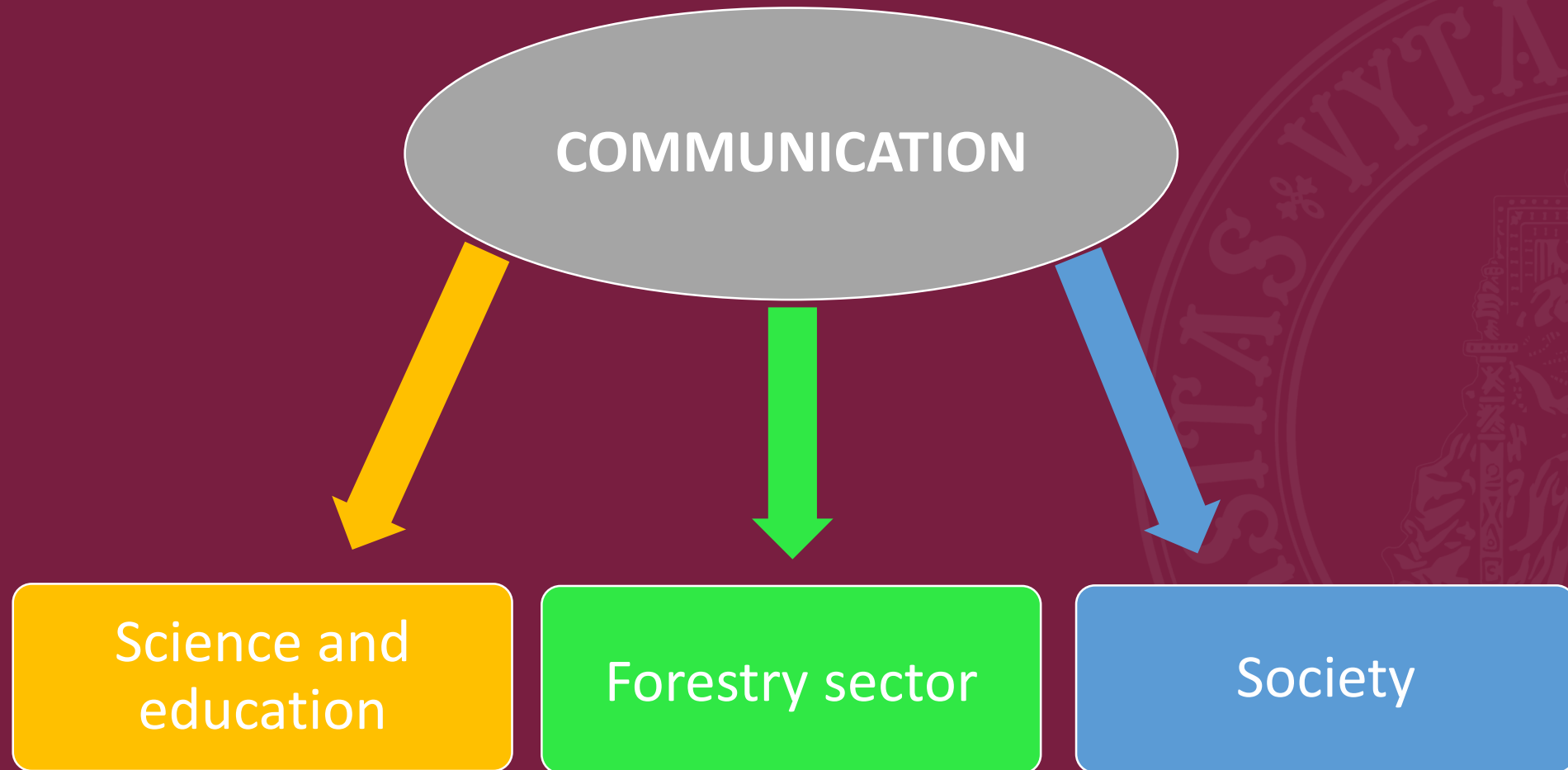
Admission of students to universities

University structure and education

State forest sector



# Communication of the Faculty of Forest Science and Ecology



# The role of the Faculty of Forest Science and Ecology

The faculty is ideologically diverse ecosystem consisting of scientists representing the philosophies from the extremes – such as intensive forest resources utilization and global biodiversity extinction, to comprehensive compromising between human and nature needs.

Being such structurally diverse we can propose society well discussed and agreed recommendations and expertise.



# Education of children's on nature and forest cognition

Popularize nature sciences;  
Present faculty scientific studies;  
Lots of efforts as it is potential students – university have policy to support such activities;  
Awake curiosity for future independent activities.



# Education of children's on nature and forest cognition

Why we need educate children's'?



How big is the worm?

# Education of children's on nature and forest cognition

Why we need educate children's'?

Children's get most of nature cognition without efforts from screens;

Overflooded by information, no experience and real cognition;

Love forest but without flies;

Hate to go to forest due to mosquitos and ticks;

**Experience from adults:**

No deciduous trees around house – lots of leaf litter every autum,  
hate to rake it, better cut the tree;

No white stork nests, no nest boxes as birds litter around;

Childhood experience important for personality development:



# Education of children's on nature and forest cognition

Lectures, laboratory works for visitors from various regions of the country;

Projects “Reserachers night”, “Youth leader”;

Kaunas municipality interdisciplinary program for talented childrens;

Open door days;

Collaboration with the State Forest Enterprise;

Contact with 1000+ children's during last 5 yrs.





# Education of children's on nature and forest cognition

Initiative of 2022 - Plant an Oak forest;

A gift of 1000 oak for Lithuanian  
gymnasiums.

Lecture about forest included;

Visited 36 gymnasiums in the country.



# Education of children's on nature and forest cognition



National contest – „My World for Sustainable Country“  
Traditional national annual contest since 2012;  
Totally participated 43 teams in 2023;  
Final stage in the Parliament of Lithuania.

# Expertise in Forest sector

Participation in and collaboration with lots of in organizations and activities:

- State Forest Service; State Forest enterprise; Ministry of Environment;
- Lithuanian Foresters Society; Societies of Forest Owner; Association of impartial timber scalers; FSC;
- Service of Protected areas; National and Regional Parks, National secretariat of IUNESCO;
- Society of Dendrologist; Lithuanian Birdlife, Baltic Environmental Forum;
- Hunter associations, Deer Farmers Association.

Expertise in many areas;

Long term relationships;

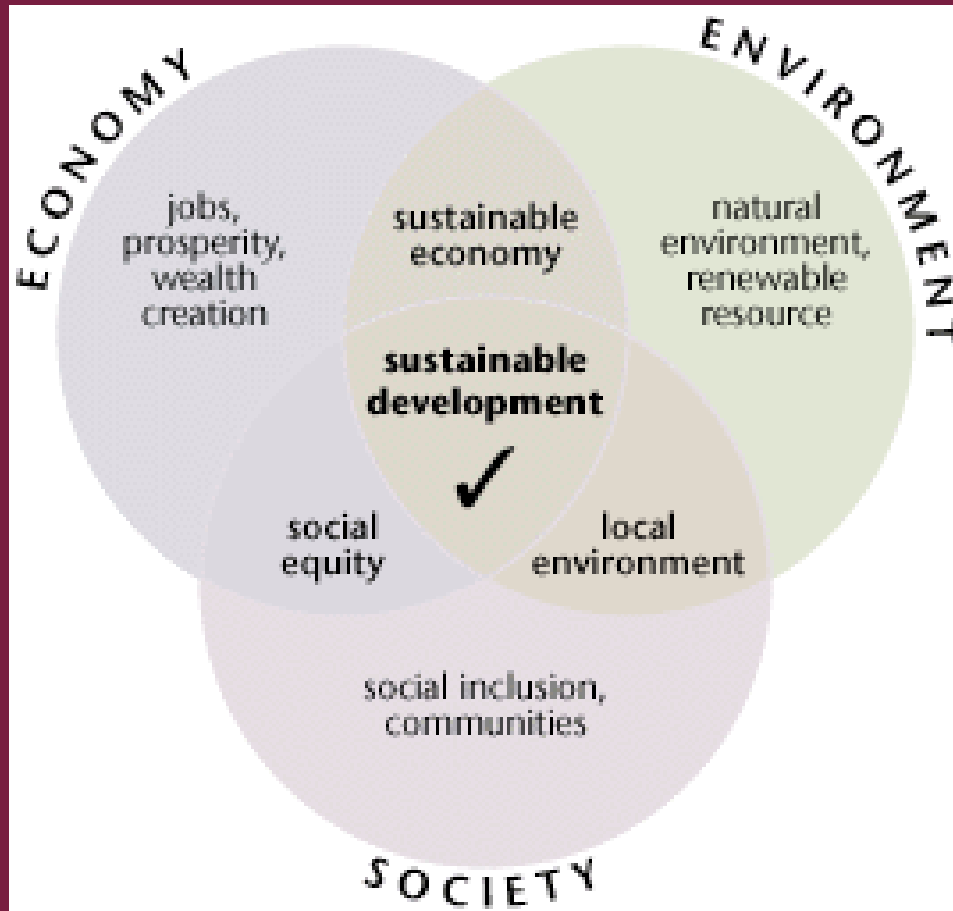
Trust in confronting society sectors

Reputation in the society as an expert organization  
on forest ecosystem



# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem

Communication between forest and conservation sectors is always a challenge



↑ Pagan universe model (W Lithuania)

# CONTRAPOSITION IN SOCIETY



**SOCIETY UNLIMITEDLY INCREASE THE CONSUMPTIONS OF FOREST PRODUCTS AND EXPECTATION FOR NATURE PROTECTION THAT CONTRADICT EACH OTHER**

# CONTRAPOSITION IN SOCIETY

Forest production

Forest conservation

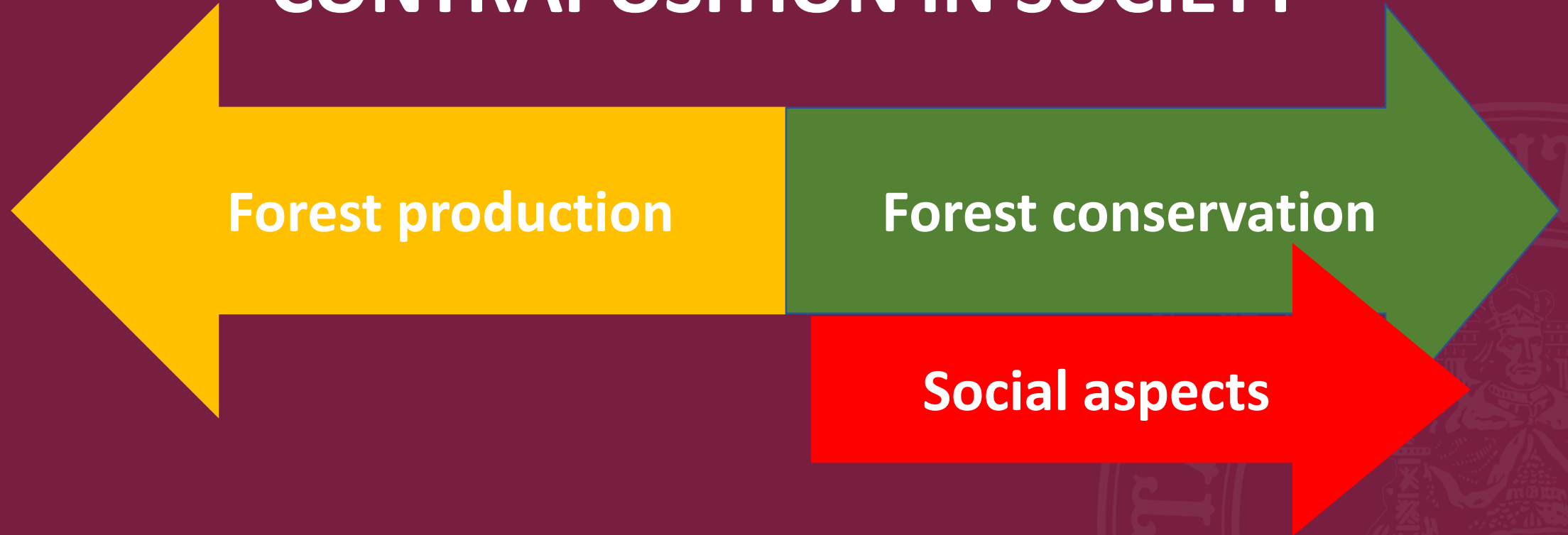
Social aspects

Social aspects

Social aspects



# CONTRAPOSITION IN SOCIETY



Result of:

- Increased distance from forest to town people; more romantic attitude to forests;
- Increased gap of social needs between town and countryside people;
- decrease of forest importance in national economics;
- forest product market globalization;



# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem

Mass shifts in understanding in species and ecosystem conservation and management.



Lietuvos miško ir žemės savininkų asociacija - LMSA  
Kovas 17 d., 18:50

● **Sokiruojanti aplinkosaugininkų gamtotvarka "sendinant" medžius Danijos miškuose.**  
Ir tai vadinama "gamtos išsaugojimu"... 🙄 Bepigu, kai europiniai fondai tokias "veiklas" noriai finansuoja.

Nors atrodo tikrai žiauriai, kai didelė mašina nulupa žievę nuo sveikų medžių arba juos nulaužia, arba kai pasamdyti darbuotojai su grandininiais pjūkiais ir grąžtais medžiuose specialiai pridaro skylių ir įtrūkimų kamienuose.

📌 Nuoroda į šaltinį su video: <https://bit.ly/3LrVFnH>

👍🙄 Dainius Ratkelis ir Dar 45 žmonės  
Komentarų: 41 8 bendrinimai

👍 Patinka    💬 Komentuoti    ➦ Bendrinti

# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem

Earlier foresters' generation often had authority on all processes within forest, including conservation, however it changed.



*Example: sanitary felling's in protected areas*



# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem

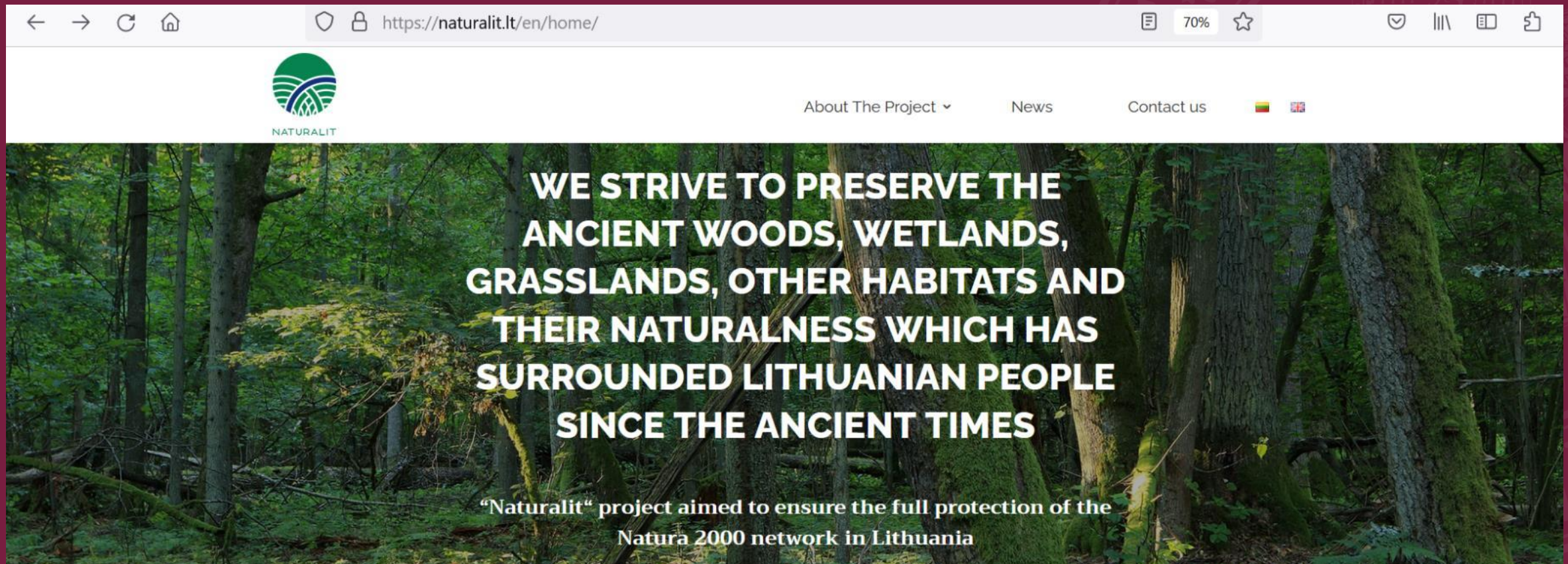
*Compromising deadwood and sanitary felling's: debarking and partial removal (apply sanitation felling's while increasing the amount of deadwood)*



# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem

In Lithuania the situation is changing by starting two initiatives:

I. A new project NATURALIT (LIFE-IP program, 2018-2027), where the faculty is actively involved in strategical planning conservation in forests.



The image shows a screenshot of the NATURALIT website homepage. The browser address bar displays "https://naturalit.lt/en/home/". The website header features the NATURALIT logo on the left and navigation links for "About The Project", "News", and "Contact us" on the right. Below the header is a large banner image of a forest with the following text:

**WE STRIVE TO PRESERVE THE  
ANCIENT WOODS, WETLANDS,  
GRASSLANDS, OTHER HABITATS AND  
THEIR NATURALNESS WHICH HAS  
SURROUNDED LITHUANIAN PEOPLE  
SINCE THE ANCIENT TIMES**

“Naturalit“ project aimed to ensure the full protection of the  
Natura 2000 network in Lithuania

# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem

Project NATURALIT:

Development of the recommendation of EU importance natural forest habitats took three yrs. and hard discussions;

- showed that conservation and management can mutually coexist;
- gained support from practical foresters;
- still not running on regular base;

Development of long term network of forest management experiments and monitoring sites in Dzukija National Park;

Promotion of natural process in the forests such as prescribe fire and pasturing;

Developing innovative monitoring methods of birds and habitats;

Involvement in legislative processes;

Description of criteria for Natura 2000 area favourable status.

# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem



Forest litter management by eliminating cover (left) and prescribe burning (right)

# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem



Wooded pastures management by partly cutting (left) and pasturing (right)

# Reputation in the society as an expert organization on forest ecosystem

## II. National Forest Agreement

Representing diverse interest of society served us for higher representability in the National Forest Agreement process lead by the Ministry of Environment for 2021-2023 and still not ended.

9 out of 12 agreement thematic groups finalized successfully.

Failed agreements in “Better biodiversity conservation in forests”, “Long term balance and adjustment of diverse benefits from forests” and “Increase of benefit from the forests” thematic groups.

Political parties might not have willpower to sign agreed parts of the Agreement.



# Final notes

Everything might appear under reconsideration and we should be ready for discussions about every single detail in modern societies;

Being deep “traditionally” minded and often “blind” to new equilibrium, the forestry sector was almost eliminated from further discussions about forest conservation;

Forest sector should recognize and consider society needs not only for forest products;

Do not confront, became part of it. We have lots of scientific evidences to alter the processes and seek compromises;

Be honest with scientific evidences, it helps on long term relationships, and is worth in long perspective.

# Thank You!

