



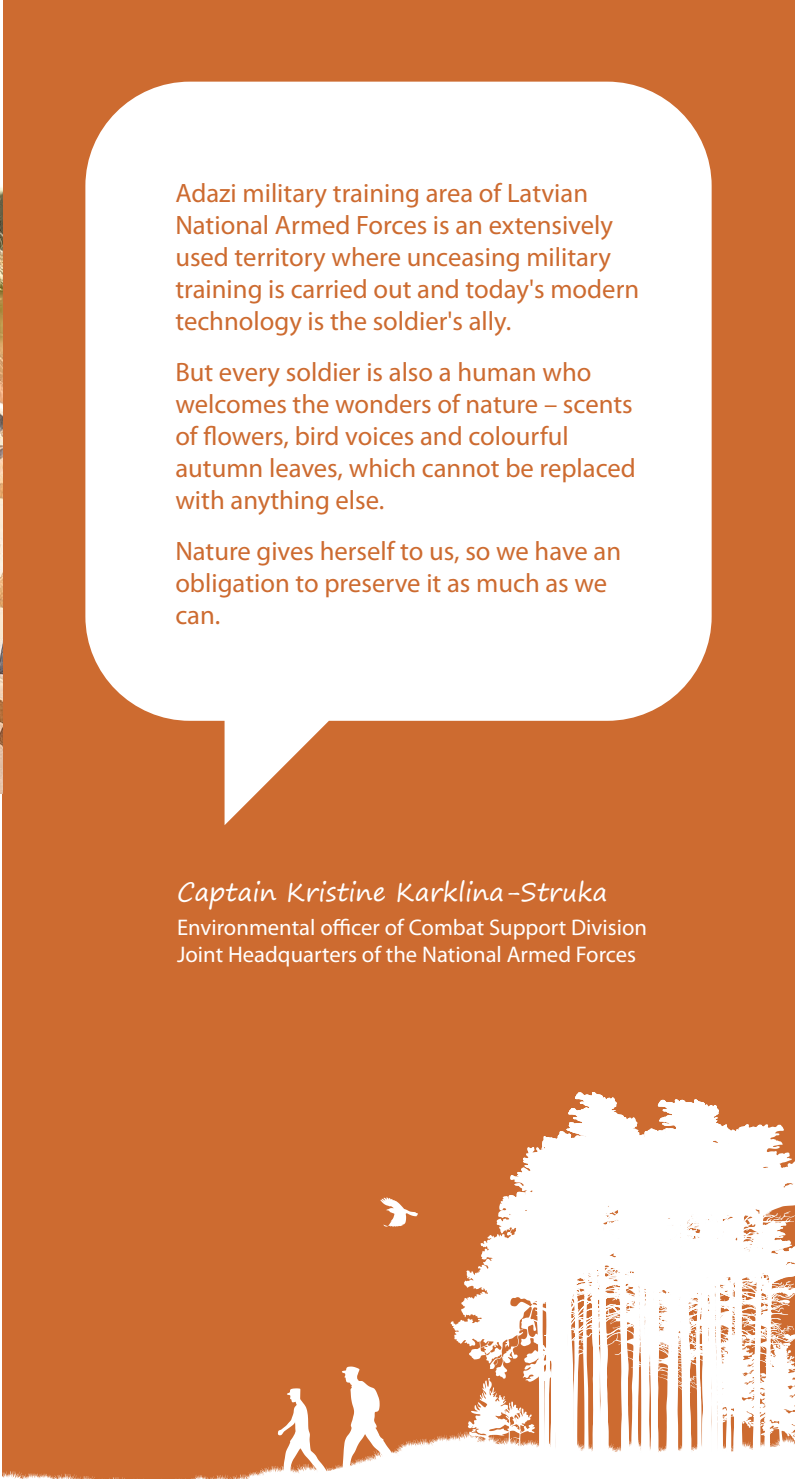
Capt. Kristine Karklina-Struka at the nest box of Hoopoe in "Adazi"

### Rare species in the tank tracks

The main part of the protected landscape area "Adazi" is also Adazi military training area. **Military training is carried out here for nearly 100 years**, accordingly the area is little affected by the common economic activities – agriculture, forestry, construction, tourism.

Tracking by the tanks and armored vehicles, blasting, making of the artillery positions and frequent fires have created **an open landscape of heath and dunes that is unique in Latvia**. Restrictions of the economic activity have allowed an undisturbed existence of clean lakes and old forests.

Thanks to the unusual conditions many rare animal and plant species are found in the territory and specially protected nature area has been established for preservation of these nature values. Compromises are being sought and found in order to **harmonize military and nature conservation needs**.



Captain Kristine Karklina-Struka  
Environmental officer of Combat Support Division  
Joint Headquarters of the National Armed Forces

Adazi military training area of Latvian National Armed Forces is an extensively used territory where unceasing military training is carried out and today's modern technology is the soldier's ally.

But every soldier is also a human who welcomes the wonders of nature – scents of flowers, bird voices and colourful autumn leaves, which cannot be replaced with anything else.

Nature gives herself to us, so we have an obligation to preserve it as much as we can.

### Protected landscape area "Adazi"



**Located** in Adazi and Seja districts



**Area:** 10,150 ha, 60% of which is covered by the Adazi military training area



**Established** in 2004



National Armed Forces use Adazi military training area for live fire shooting and tactical training. To avoid accidents, **it is forbidden to enter Adazi military training area** without the permission of the administration.



Duty officer of the military training area:  
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**Natura 2000 – Europe's nature for you**

"Adazi" is a part of the European Natura 2000 Network because it hosts some of Europe's most threatened species and habitats. All 28 countries of the EU are working together through the Natura 2000 network to safeguard Europe's rich and diverse natural heritage for the benefit of all.






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Fawn in "Adazi" – the territory is home to many animals common in Latvia. They are not protected by the law, however, no less important part of the nature

### Nature values

The landscape of "Adazi" is diverse – forests, bogs, rivers, lakes and heath. Therefore, many species protected in Latvia are found here:

32	Plants	
Eastern Pasque Flower, Water Lobelia etc.		
19	Invertebrates	
Rattle Grasshopper, Marsh Fritillary etc.		
4	Amphibians and reptiles	
Smooth Snake, Natterjack Toad etc.		
13	Mammals	
Gray wolf, Eurasian Lynx, Nathusius' Pipistrelle etc.		
34	Birds	
Short-toed Snake-eagle, Black Stork etc.		

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## Nature protection in protected landscape area "Adazi"







▶ Flowering "Adazi" heath



▶ A couple of European Rollers by the nest box

## How "Adazi" nature values are preserved?



### Maintenance of open heath landscape

Each year, an average of 200 hectares are managed by mowing of overgrown heath and cutting down new pine, birch and aspen trees. In smaller areas – about 50 ha per year – controlled burning of heath is being carried out under the supervision of the State Forest Service.



### Bog restoration

400 ha of bog has been restored in the drained Rampa and Dzerve bogs by removing trees and bushes and installing water level regulators.

Conservation of "Adazi" nature values is implemented by the State Centre for Defence Military Objects and Procurement in cooperation with the National Armed Forces. In 2006-2009 funding of the nature management and restoration works was allocated from the European Union LIFE program.



▶ Mowing of heath

## Restoration of rare birds habitats



To continue the conservation work in "Adazi" in 2013–2017 nesting and feeding areas of rare birds are restored with the funding of the European Union.

The LIFE+ project "Birds in Adazi" aims to manage and restore the natural environment, explore the impact of military training on "Adazi" nature values and limit illegal visiting of the territory. In order to promote support for conservation, education activities will be held for the soldiers and general public.



Project "Improving of the conservation status of specially protected bird species in Natura 2000 site "Adazi""



**Duration:** 01.11.2013. – 31.10.2017.



**Partners:** State Centre for Defence Military Objects and Procurement, National Armed Forces, Latvian Ornithological Society, Joint Stock Company "Latvia's State Forests", Municipality of Seja District



**Budget:** 1 537 988 EUR



**Funding:**  
50 % – LIFE financial instrument of the European Union  
21 % – Latvian Environmental Protection Fund  
29 % – project partners



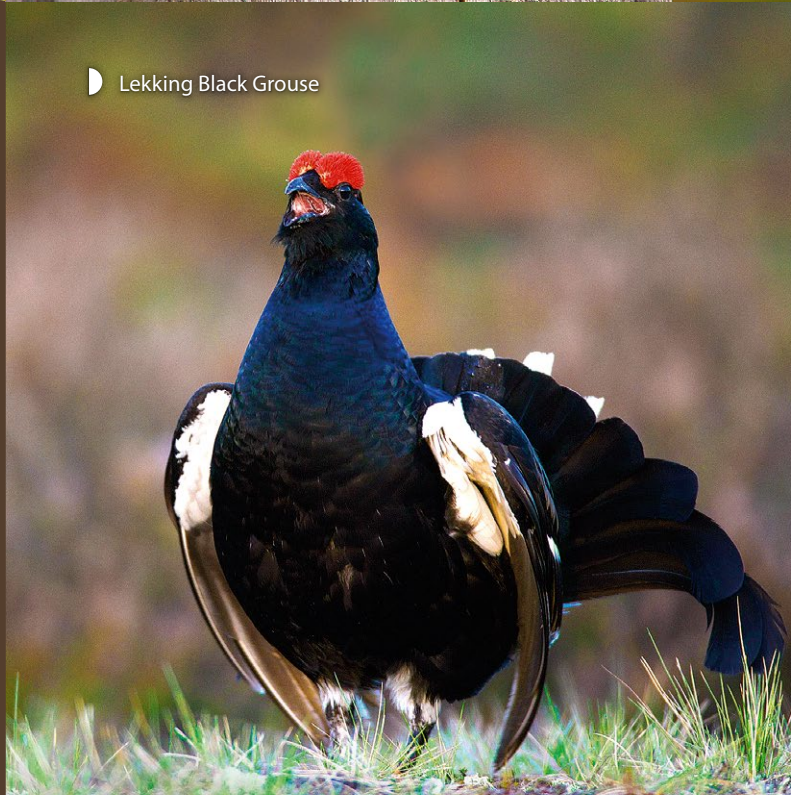
**Web:** [www.putniadazos.lv](http://www.putniadazos.lv)

## The largest heath in the Baltics

"Adazi" heath is about two thousand hectares wide landscape formed by a sunny and windy mosaic of heath, dunes and sparsely growing trees in a dry, nutrient poor soil. Many animal and plant species rare in Europe are found here.

In the early spring mornings **Black Grouse** lek in the heath, and as the first in the spring emerge **Eastern Pasque Flowers** with fluffy, purple blooms. In the summer days the simple song of **Tawny Pipit** can be heard in the plains, but at night **European Nightjars** rattle resembles the sound of a distant motorcycle engine growl.

In the second half of the summer around 20 species of grasshoppers are found in the heath in high numbers. **European Roller** families from a wide surrounding area feed on them. But the most magnificent the heath becomes during the flowering time in August when purple heather colour is dominant throughout Adazi military training area for several weeks.



▶ Lekking Black Grouse



▶ Controlled burning of heath

## What threatens "Adazi" nature values?

- The intensity of the military training in various parts of "Adazi" differs, therefore some **heath areas overgrow** with trees and bushes.
- A number of drainage ditches has been built in the territory's **bogs** and their **water level has dropped**. As a result, bogs overgrow and rare plant species disappear.
- Ignoring the rules irresponsible visitors **dump waste, steal timber and drive off-road in the forests and bogs** of "Adazi". This damages the nature values and destroys more vulnerable species and their habitats.

## 1620 ha of bird habitats will be restored



Cutting down of trees and bushes, mowing, controlled burning and sod cutting will be carried out in the heath



By construction of dams on drainage ditches and removing overgrowth, the natural water level of the drained Rampa bog will be restored



Rare type of pine forests – boreal forests will be restored by a controlled burning of the undergrowth

## Rare European birds will be helped

