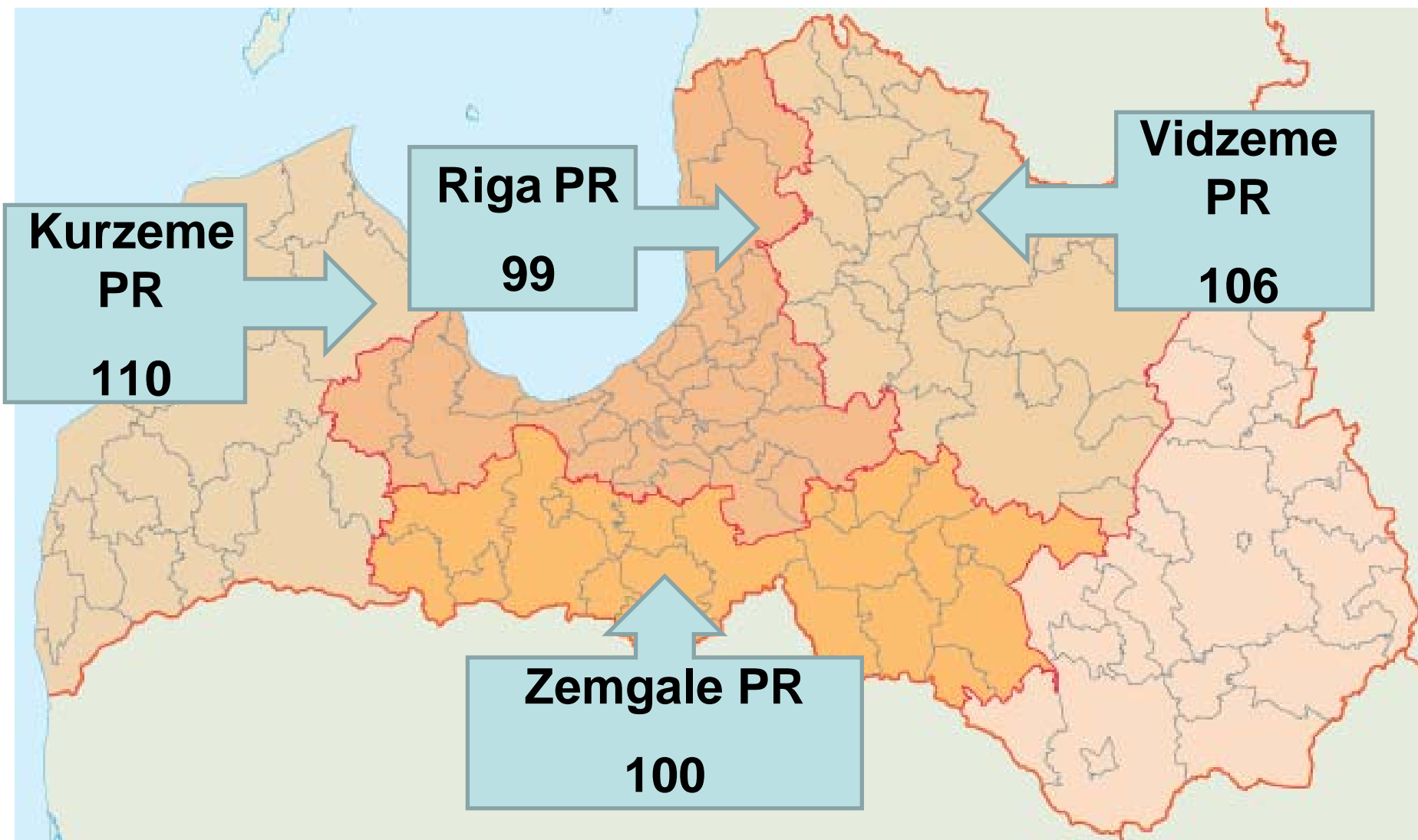


# Inspection of sacred sites in Latvia – results and conclusions



Mg. soc. sc. Ilze Grinfelde  
Tourism expert Vidzeme planning region  
Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences  
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# Inspection results of sacred sites



**In total: 415**



# Sacred sites by type



**Stones:165**



**Springs:37**



**Other water bodies:14**



**Trees and groves: 52**



**Caves:11**



**Hills: 85**



**Landforms: 7**



**Other  
objects: 44**

# In tourism involved sacred sites

	KPR	ZPR	VPR	RPR
In tourism involved	~ 20%	~ 10%	~ 20 %	~30%

## Comments:

- differences according to “involvement” (infrastructure, information);
- only few sites could be defined as “popular”.



# Sacred sites with tourism potential

	KPR	ZPR	VPR	RPR
Tourism potential	~ 20%	~ 20%	~ 45 %	~30%

## Needs:

- high quality interpretation;
- integration in existing tourism flows;
- tourism infrastructure (logical signage system, info stands etc.);
- integration in tourism routes or products (live experience).



# Sensitive objects

	KPR	ZPR	VPR	RPR
<b>Sensitive obj.</b>	<b>~ 30%</b>	<b>~ 30%</b>	<b>~ 10 %</b>	<b>~10%</b>

- **objects are different by type**

- **location in yard, private space;**
- **location in other with recreation related site;**
- **opinion of owners, local people;**
- **location in high level nature protection zone;**
- **object is already damaged by humans or nature resources.**



# Sacred sites – live experience

Gifts near springs,  
trees, stones

Ribbons, coins,  
candles, flowers



Traditional, ancient  
rituals (e.g.  
Midsummer)



**< 10%**

# Ownership status and Protection level

**~ 60% Private property**

**~ 35% State or municipality property**

**~ 5% Other legal entities property**

**~ 60% objects are under special protection status**

National and local level archaeological or natural monuments, location – in protected areas (e.g. nature reserve )





	<b>comment</b>
<b>atractiveness</b>	~ 10% have the highest attractiveness rates*
<b>accessibility</b>	~ 70% of objects have high or average accesibility
<b>capacity</b>	~ 50% have capacity from 0-9 persons
<b>publicity</b>	~ 10% are popular, ~ 10% are not known

**~ 5-10 % of objects have high rates in attractiveness and accessibility**

\*Object is unique in national level or in larger scale, ethalon for similar objects

# Conclusions

- **Mainly inspected sites are not included in tourism in any form;**
- **Local initiatives are very important regarding to maintenance and protection;**
- **Mainly objects are relatively far from populated places, locals are not informed about their existence;**
- **Some objects are in bad physical condition;**
- **Mainly objects are suitable for individual or micro-group visits;**
- **Challenges in interpretation: existing descriptions are more related to natural or technical conditions, data, but not to relation with cult;**
- **Higher tourism potential is for objects located relatively close to other more popular tourist sites or near tourist routes.**

# Ilze Grīnfelde

Tourism expert Vidzeme planning  
region

Vidzeme University of Applied  
Sciences

Valmiera, 27.01.2012

