

Climate-Smart Community Action Plan for Saulkrasti



**Saulkrasti
2025**

Co-funded by the European Union under the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme

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1 Introduction

This document outlines the Community Action Plan (CAP) for Saulkrasti, developed as part of a **co-creation process** involving the citizens of Saulkrasti, scientists, regional and national institutions, and the municipal authorities. It serves as a strategic roadmap for adapting the municipality's coastal tourism sector to the growing challenges posed by climate change.

Coastal tourism in the Baltic Sea region is a vital part of the EU Blue Economy, supporting over 330,000 jobs. However, this sector—especially beach tourism—is highly sensitive to climate impacts such as sea level rise, extreme weather events, and coastal erosion. These changes threaten not only the natural environment but also the economic and social well-being of coastal communities like Saulkrasti.

Recognizing the difficulties that many municipalities face in accessing, interpreting, and applying climate data, this CAP was developed as a key outcome of the **BEACH-SOS project**. Through a series of participatory workshops and collaborative planning sessions, local stakeholders worked alongside experts and government representatives to shape a plan that is both scientifically informed and locally grounded.

This CAP provides Saulkrasti with a practical and inclusive framework for climate adaptation. It aims to strengthen local resilience, promote sustainable tourism practices, and ensure that the benefits of a healthy coastal environment are shared by all—residents, businesses, and future generations alike.

2 Process of CAP Development

This Community Action Plan (CAP) is a practical guide to help Saulkrasti prepare for and adapt to climate change, especially in its coastal areas. It was created through a collaborative process that brought together many voices from the community, along with experts and decision-makers. This way of working—called co-production—ensures the plan is not only based on science but also reflects the real needs, ideas, and experiences of the people who live and work in Saulkrasti.

The goal was to create a plan that the community truly owns—one that helps everyone understand the challenges ahead and take action to protect Saulkrasti region future. This process also strengthens local knowledge and builds confidence to respond to climate-related changes like rising sea levels or more extreme weather.

The CAP was developed through four workshops organized as part of the BEACH-SOS project, supported by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region program. Around 150 people participated in these workshops, including:

- Local residents and business owners
- Municipal government staff
- Local Action Groups (LAGs)
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Regional government representatives
- Representatives from neighboring municipalities
- Scientists and climate experts

Each workshop created space for open discussion, learning, and planning. Participants explored the challenges Saulkrasti might face in the future—especially for coastal tourism—and worked together to find practical solutions.

Municipal and regional representatives shared insights on governance and planning. NGOs and Local Action Groups brought in community perspectives and highlighted local needs. Scientists contributed the latest research on climate change and sustainable tourism. And neighboring municipalities offered valuable ideas and experiences that could be shared across the region. By combining all these perspectives, the community created a strong, forward-looking plan. This CAP not only supports Saulkrasti region resilience but also serves as a model that other coastal towns around the Baltic Sea can learn from.

3 Saulkrasti Geography, History and the Coast

3.1 Geography

Nestled along the Gulf of Riga in western Vidzeme, Latvia, Saulkrasti municipality delights with a stunning 17 kilometers of coastline. Its diverse landscape stretches inland for approximately 20 kilometers towards the Loja River, encompassing a scenic coastal forest strip. This vibrant community boasts over 9,000 residents, with a significant influx during the summer tourist season.

3.2 Saulkrasti: A Seaside Retreat Steeped in History

Saulkrasti is a city located in Vidzeme, 45 km away from the capital of Latvia, Riga. The city gained its rights in 1991. "Archaeological findings, such as stone axes and hillfort cemeteries in the southern part of the city near Inčupe, indicate the prehistoric settlement of the area. Written sources also testify to the settlement of this area from the 12th century onwards. The local indigenous people were Finno-Ugric tribes known as Livonians. Heinrici chronicon Lyvoniae (Henry's Livonian Chronicle, 1225–1227) mentions small Livonian villages called Metsepoles by the sea. These villages can be identified as modern-day Saulkrasti. In the mid-18th century, there were still small, impoverished fishing villages around Saulkrasti, with few inhabitants.

In the early 19th century, owners of estates such as Bīriņi Manor and other Vidzeme manors began to show interest in seaside recreation. In 1823, Karl von Reiter, the owner of Lēdurga Manor, and Aleksey von Pistohlkors, the owner of Bīriņi Manor, built the first summer cottages north of Pēterupe and created a new bathing area, which was named Neibāde - old name of Saulkrasti city. In 1925, the densely populated area of Neibāde was given a name, and in 1933, Neibāde and Pēterupe were merged and acquired a new name – Saulkrasti.

3.3 Saulkrasti Coastline: A Diverse Playground

Boasting a rich history as a Latvian recreational destination since the 19th century, Saulkrasti's 17-kilometer coastline offers a captivating blend of natural beauty for every taste.

Sandy Shores: Sunbathers will find paradise on the soft, golden sands of Saulkrasti itself, while nature lovers can explore the pristine, light-colored sands of Lilaste.

Romantic Rocky Coast: Zvejniekciems provides a dramatic counterpoint with its rugged, rocky shoreline, perfect for scenic walks and enjoying the power of the sea.

Unveiling Saulkrasti's Gems:

The White Dune: This iconic landmark is the crown jewel of the Vidzeme Coast and a popular spot for weddings. Beside it lies the well-maintained Environmental Design Park, featuring artistic installations, a playground, and inviting recreational areas.

Sunset Trail: Unwind on the scenic 4-kilometer Sunset Trail, stretching from the White Dune to the Sun Bridge. Recent improvements (completed in 2023) extend the trail all the way to the Sea Park, creating a longer, more connected experience.

Sea Park: This lively hub in the heart of Saulkrasti offers something for everyone. Families can enjoy the children's playground and outdoor fitness equipment, while sports enthusiasts can challenge themselves on the beach volleyball court. The Saulkrasti Tourist Information Center and several cafes are also conveniently located here.

For water lovers, the designated swimming area "Centrs" boasts a Blue Flag certification for over ten years, guaranteeing pristine water quality and safety during the season (May 15th to September 15th) thanks to the vigilant beach rescuers.

3.4 Economic activities and sectors in Saulkrasti

Saulkrasti, a small coastal town in Latvia, has a diverse economy that primarily relies on tourism, but also includes local industries, services, and agriculture. These are main economic drivers in Saulkrasti municipality: Tourism; **Local Services (Hospitality and Accommodation, Restaurants, Cafes, and Shop, Transportation)**; Agriculture and Forestry; Retail and Small Businesses; Real Estate; Consulting services.

Saulkrasti has become a popular location for real estate investments, with many residents purchasing properties in the town. In fact, it's not uncommon for individuals to register their businesses in Saulkrasti, even if the actual operations or factories are located in other municipalities. This practice allows businesses to benefit from the town's favorable tax environment, as all tax income generated by these businesses is directed to the Saulkrasti municipality.

Tourism is the most prominent economic driver in Saulkrasti, largely due to its stunning coastline. The town attracts both domestic and international visitors who are drawn to its natural beauty and coastal attractions. The main components of the tourism economy include:

- **Tourism and Hospitality:** This is a significant area for small businesses in Saulkrasti. Examples include:
 - **Cottages and Guesthouses:** Numerous small accommodations like cater to tourists seeking a coastal getaway. Many individuals and families buy property in Saulkrasti for personal use or as rental properties for tourists. The demand for vacation homes has been steady, particularly during the summer months.
 - **Hotels and Apart-hotels:** smaller hotels and apart-hotels also operate in the town center.
 - **Cafes and Restaurants:** The "charming highlights" of Saulkrasti town center include "inviting cafés" and restaurants.
 - **Recreational Services:** Businesses related to outdoor activities.
 - **Local Services:** Similar to any community, Saulkrasti would have small businesses providing essential services, such as: Hairdressing salons and beauty parlors, small construction or maintenance companies, automotive repair shops and other personal and professional services.
- **Beaches and Coastal Recreation:** Saulkrasti beaches, such as the White Dune, are major attractions for tourists seeking sun, sand, and water-based activities. The town offers a

variety of beach activities, including swimming, sailing, and sunbathing, which generate income for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and beachside services

- **Eco-Tourism and Nature:** The town's natural coastal landscapes, including forests, dunes, and wetlands, support eco-tourism, birdwatching, and hiking.
- **Cultural Events:** Events draw tourists to the area. These events create demand for accommodation, food, and local services
- **Traditional Fishing:** Local fishermen continue to catch fish such as cod and herring, supplying fresh seafood to both local markets and restaurants. Fishing is an important part of the town's heritage, and the preservation of this industry is central to its coastal economy.
- **Maritime Services:** Small-scale maritime services, such as boat rentals, tour operators, and transport for fishing vessels, contribute to the local economy. These services support both tourism and the local fishing industry. Also, Skulte harbor is a key point for shipping wood and turf goods to Europe.
- **Agriculture and Forestry:** Saulkrasti, a municipality in Latvia, exhibits characteristics typical of the broader Latvian landscape when it comes to agriculture and forestry. While a coastal town known for its beaches and pine forests, the surrounding rural territory plays a role in these sectors. Saulkrasti rural territory includes fields used for agriculture (around 246.2 hectares as of 2023).

3.5 Institutional structure for climate adaptation within the municipality

Municipal organization chart and departments

Currently, our municipality lacks a **dedicated department or institution specifically responsible for climate change adaptation**. While we are creating a new position primarily focused on nature protection, it will also include responsibilities for contributing to climate change policy discussions. This shows a growing awareness, but not yet a centralized approach to adaptation.

In Latvia, every municipality operates under a standardized departmental system. These departments manage key sectors and work within annual budgets, which are approved by the deputy board, elected every four years. (See **Figure 1: Saulkrasti Municipality Departments** for a visual overview.)

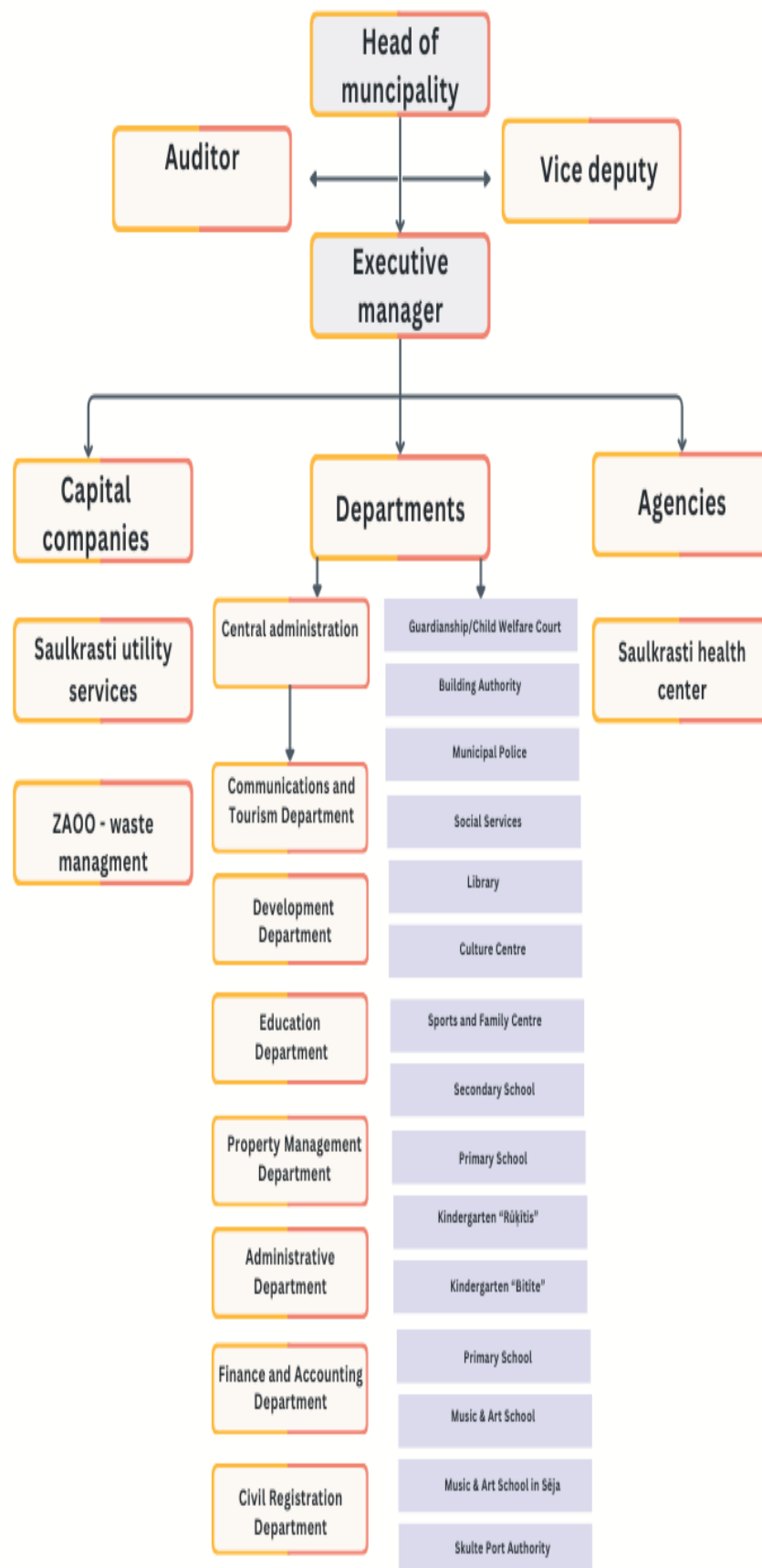


Figure 1. Saulkrasti municipality departments

Engaging with the Municipality on Climate Change

For local stakeholders looking to address climate change issues, there are two primary ways to engage with the municipality:

1. **Direct Departmental Approach:** You can approach the relevant municipal department directly. Submit an application outlining your idea or proposed work, or visit during their designated reception hours. For example, if you want to organize a climate change workshop, you could contact the **Communication and Tourism Department** or the **Culture Department**. If your event aligns with their annual budget, they may offer support or funding. This decentralized approach means that while there's no single point of contact for climate adaptation, opportunities for collaboration exist within existing departmental frameworks.
2. **Formal Application to the Municipality:** The second option is to submit a formal application detailing your question, idea, or proposed work, addressed to the municipality as a whole. Once submitted, your application will be forwarded to the relevant committee based on its subject matter. (See **Figure 2: Saulkrasti Municipality Committees** for an example of how this process works.)
 - **Example:** If you want to raise the ground level near a river due to flooding concerns, your application would go to the **Economic Development and Nature Committee**. You'd then present your issue to them. If the committee approves your proposal, it will be submitted to the deputy board for a vote.

Our municipal organizational chart and departments are structured to facilitate this process, ensuring each application is reviewed by the appropriate body.

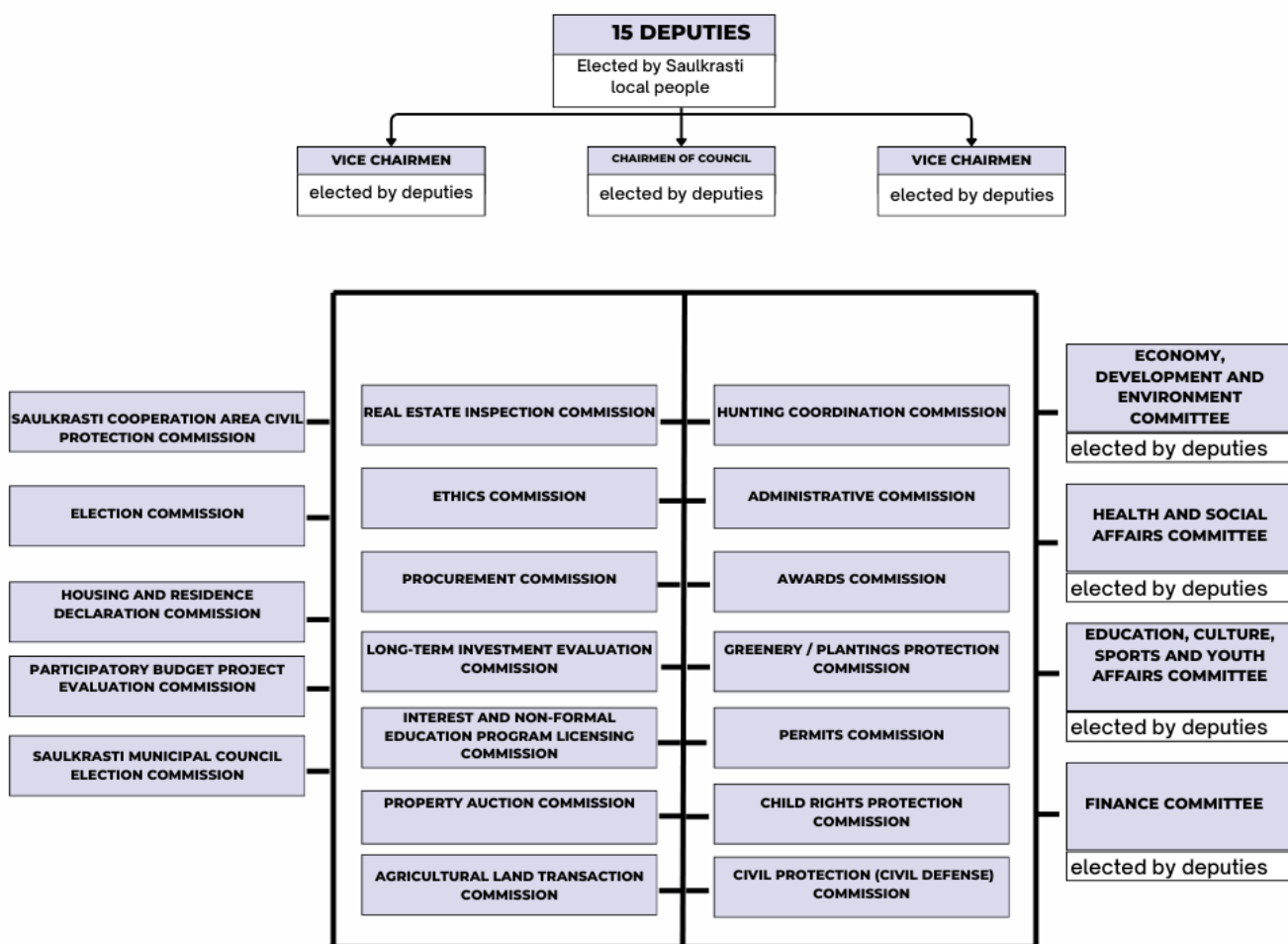


Figure 2. Saulkrasti municipality committees

Regional administrative divisions, planning regions and key institutions

Saulkrasti is part of the **Vidzeme Planning Region (VPR)**, one of Latvia's five planning regions. Since 2006, the VPR has represented 25 municipalities and the city of national significance, Valmiera, at both national and international levels.

The VPR plays a crucial role in:

- Organizing and implementing **regional spatial development planning**.
- Ensuring regional and local representation in the development of business, employment, and social policy.

The VPR's mission is to promote sustainable and well-balanced development across the Vidzeme Region and provide effective services to regional governments, businesses, NGOs, and citizens to achieve jointly defined development targets. It serves as a vital development platform for local

governments within the Vidzeme Region and has extensive experience implementing international cooperation projects across various areas, including:

- Strategic and spatial planning
- Business development
- Vocational education
- Culture and tourism
- Landscape conservation and management
- Environment and energy
- Information technologies
- Public transport development

Saulkrasti also sits within the **Riga metropolitan area**, which includes Riga city and nearby towns like Jūrmala, Olaine, Jelgava, and Sigulda, among others. These areas have strong functional ties to Riga, driven by its attractiveness as an economic, financial, and cultural hub, and facilitated by daily commuting.

A key development direction for our region is the **coordinated cooperation between local governments, regions, and state institutions**. This coordination is essential for planning transport infrastructure, public transport, and urban development. We must also ensure the preservation and effective functioning of green areas and ecological corridors between urbanized areas.

3.6 Climate adaptation Policy and management instruments at different scales

Understanding the existing policy and management instruments for climate adaptation is crucial for effective action. We will examine these at the municipal, sub-national, and national levels.

- **Municipal Level:** Currently, there are **no specific climate adaptation policy or management instruments** formally adopted or in active implementation at the municipal level within Saulkrasti. This indicates a significant gap in localized strategies for addressing climate change impacts directly affecting our community.
- **Sub-National Level:** Similar to the municipal level, a clear set of **dedicated climate adaptation policy or management instruments are not yet established at the sub-national (planning region) level**. While the Vidzeme Planning Region participates in various broader development and environmental initiatives, a focused and explicit strategy for climate adaptation for the region remains to be formalized.
- **National Level:** In contrast to the local and sub-national scales, Latvia has developed several key planning documents and strategies specifically addressing climate adaptation at the national level. These provide a crucial framework and guidance for future local and regional efforts. Key national instruments include:
 - **The National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030:** This overarching plan outlines Latvia's commitments and strategies for energy and climate action, including adaptation measures.
 - **The Strategy for Achieving Climate Neutrality in Latvia by 2050:** This long-term strategy sets the ambitious goal of climate neutrality and encompasses adaptation as a vital component.

- **Latvia's Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the period up to 2030:** This is a dedicated plan specifically detailing the country's approach to adapting to the impacts of climate change, outlining objectives, actions, and responsibilities.

3.7 Access to Climate Knowledge in Saulkrasti

Despite growing awareness of climate change, Saulkrasti currently lacks a formal strategy for climate adaptation and mitigation. This makes the town more vulnerable to the impacts of rising seas, stronger storms, and other climate-related risks. One of the main challenges is that while there is a lot of climate information available, it's not always easy for local communities to find, understand, or apply it.

3.7.1 National Sources of Climate Information

Latvia provides several important resources for climate data and guidance:

- **Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC):** Offers weather forecasts, climate data, and reports on extreme events.
🌐 www.meteo.lv
- **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (VARAM):** Leads national climate policy and supports local adaptation efforts.
🌐 www.varam.gov.lv
- **State Environmental Service (VVD):** Monitors environmental conditions, including air and water quality.
🌐 www.vvd.gov.lv

3.7.2 European Climate Resources

The European Union also offers valuable tools and platforms:

- **European Environment Agency (EEA):** Provides detailed reports and data on climate impacts and adaptation across Europe.
🌐 www.eea.europa.eu
- **EU Climate Action Portal:** Shares updates on EU climate policies and the European Green Deal.
🌐 ec.europa.eu/clima
- **Climate-ADAPT Platform:** A one-stop resource for adaptation strategies, case studies, and climate risk data.
🌐 climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu

3.8 Climate Change Information. Climate Signal

One of the first steps in creating this Community Action Plan (CAP) for Saulkrasti was understanding how climate change is already affecting our region—and what might come next. While there are many sources of climate information available at the national and European levels, local communities like Saulkrasti often face challenges in accessing, understanding, and using this information effectively.

To help bridge this gap, the BEACH-SOS project introduced a set of **climate signals**—clear, science-based indicators that show how the climate is changing and what that means for our coastal town. These signals were shared and discussed during four community workshops, where local residents, business owners, NGOs, municipal staff, regional government representatives, and experts from neighboring municipalities came together to learn and plan.

Experts from the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS), along with representatives from the Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC), presented the latest data and tools. These included a wide range of climate signals such as:

- Sea level rise
- More frequent and intense rainfall
- Rising sea surface temperatures
- Ocean acidification
- Increased storm surge risk
- Coastal erosion
- Saltwater intrusion into groundwater
- Changes in marine biodiversity
- More frequent heatwaves

To make the planning process more focused and accessible, the community workshops concentrated on **three key climate signals** that are especially relevant for Saulkrasti:

- **Sea Level Rise (SLR):** As the sea level rises, Saulkrasti faces greater risks of coastal erosion, flooding, and damage to infrastructure near the shoreline.
- **Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI):** This index measures how weather feels to people, considering temperature, humidity, wind, and sunlight. Changes in this index could affect tourism and outdoor life, making Saulkrasti less comfortable during hot and humid periods.
- **Extreme Rainfall Events:** Heavier and more frequent rainstorms can lead to flash floods, disrupt transport, and harm local businesses—especially those near the coast.

By focusing on these signals, the CAP helps the community understand what's changing and why it matters. This shared understanding is the foundation for building resilience and taking action.

Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC) gathered information about climate changes and how they will affect Saulkrasti till end of the century. But they also provide information about this moment situation in Saulkrasti municipality.

In 2023, the average air temperature in Saulkrasti municipality was +7.9 °C, which is 0.8 °C warmer than the 1991–2020 norm (+7.1 °C). During the climatic standard norm period (1991–2020), the warmest month in Saulkrasti municipality is July, with an average air temperature of +18.2 °C. In turn, the coldest month of the year with an average air temperature of -3 °C is February. During the entire observation period, the highest recorded air temperature at the Saulkrasti municipality observation station “Skulte” is +35 °C (observed on August 2, 1936). In turn, the lowest air temperature (-41.8 °C) at the meteorological observation station “Skulte” was recorded on January 16, 1940.

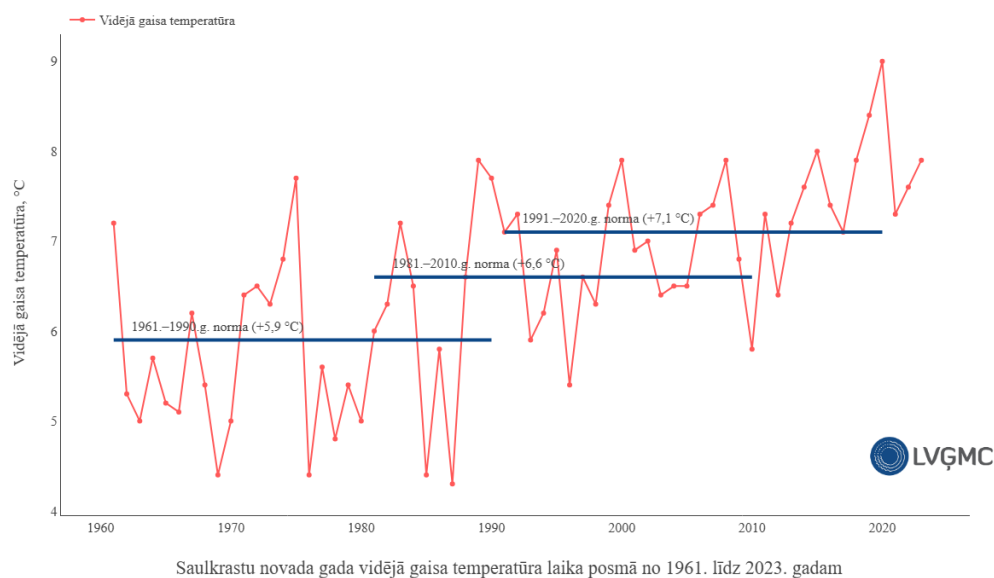


Figure 3. Average temperature in Saulkrasti

In 2023, the total precipitation in Saulkrasti municipality was 682.1 mm, making this year 8.4% drier than the 1991–2020 norm (739.1 mm).

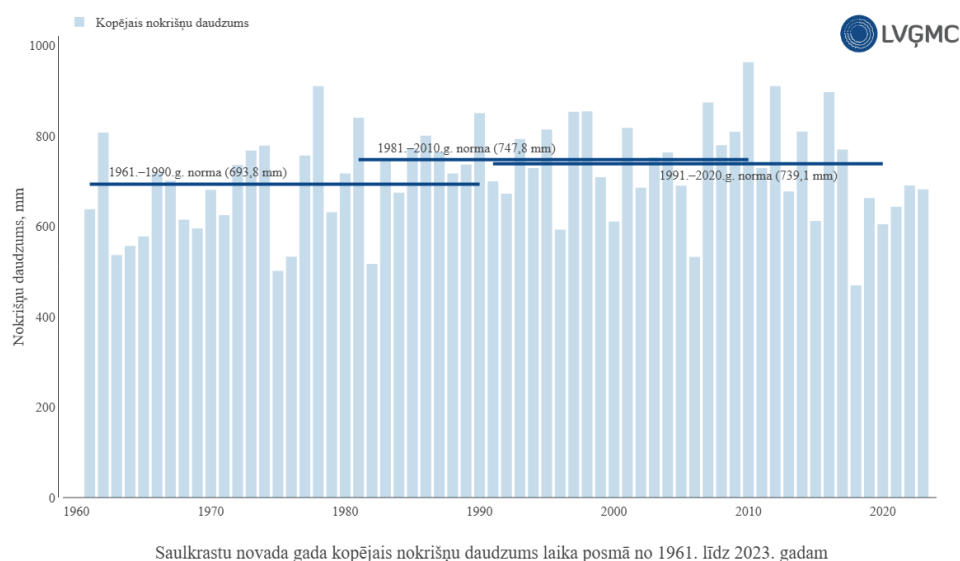


Figure 4. Annual precipitation in Saulkrasti municipality period 1960-2023

In Saulkrasti municipality, the annual precipitation during the climatic standard norm period averages 739.1 mm. In terms of months, the most precipitation is in October (84 mm), but the least is in April, when the total precipitation reaches an average of 38.5 mm. Comparing the climatic standard norm (1991–2020) with the climatic reference period (1961–1990), the annual average air temperature in Saulkrasti municipality has increased by 1.2 °C, but the amount of precipitation has increased by 45.3 mm.

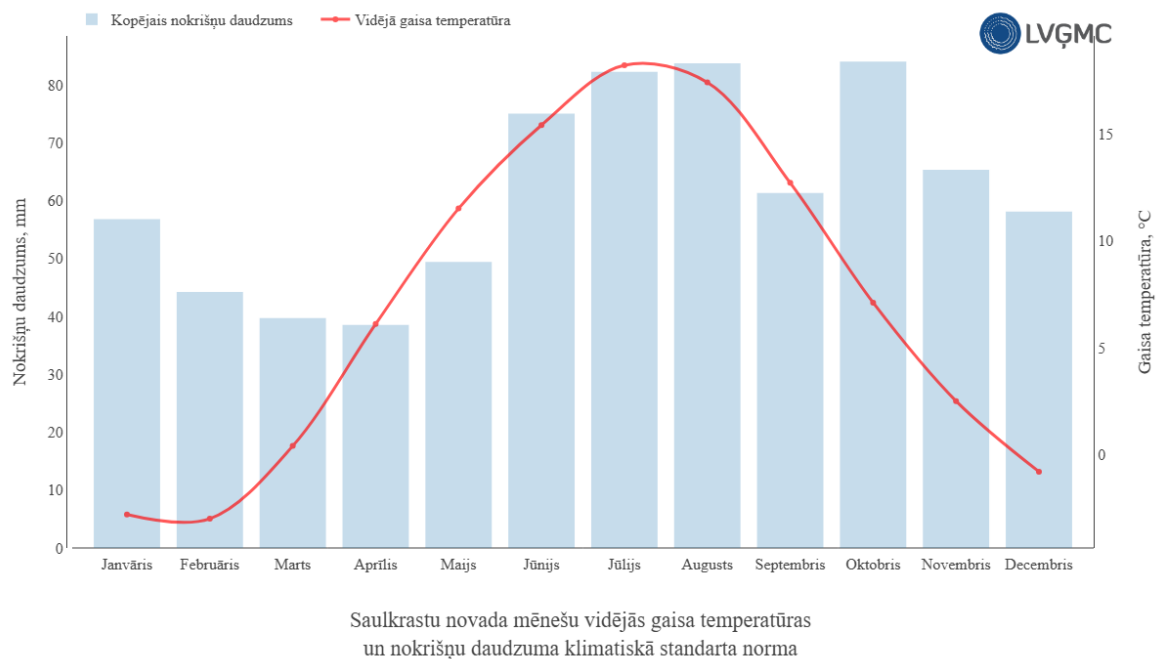
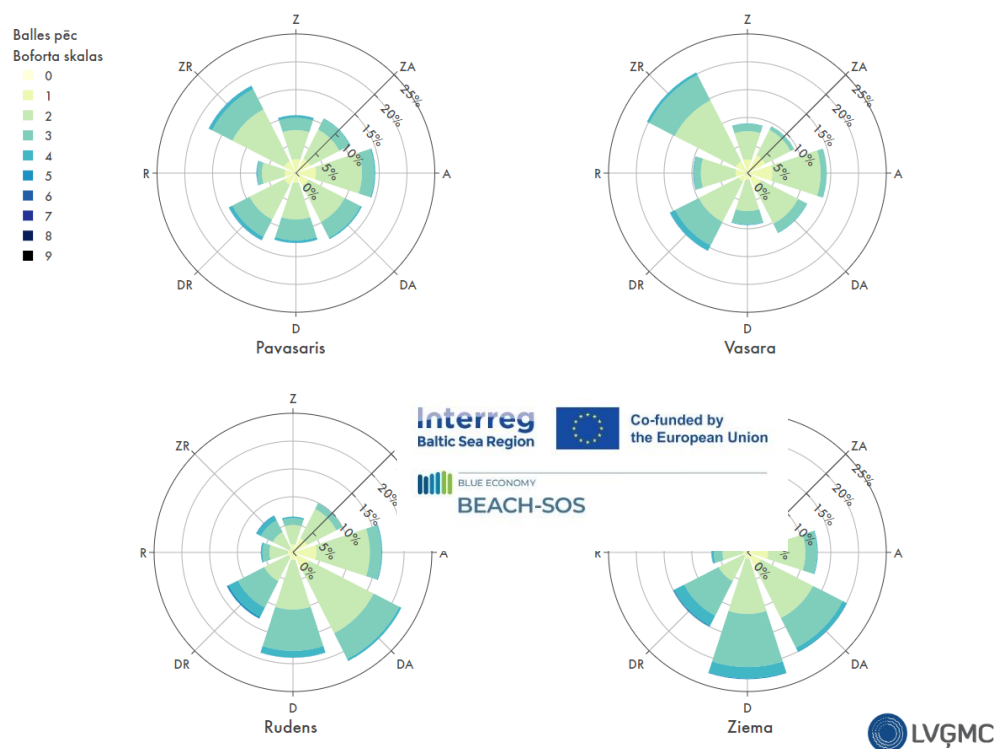


Figure 5. Monthly precipitation and temperature in Saulkrasti municipality

During the previous norm period (1991–2020), the average wind speed at the “Skulte” observation station is 2.8 m/s. The windiest month is December, with an average wind speed of 3.4 m/s and it blows mainly from the south. During the norm period, the calmest winds are in May, June and July, with an average wind speed of 2.5 m/s. At the “Skulte” observation station, an average of 2.2% of the year is windless. The windiest season is winter with an average wind speed of 3.2 m/s.



Vēja virzienu atkārtotšanās biežums stacijā "Skulte" un ātruma sadalījums katram virzienam kalendārajos gadalaikos

Figure 6. Wind direction and frequencies in 4 seasons

Future climate change scenarios, which provide insight into how climate conditions may change in the future, help to assess the impact of climate change on people and the environment. The municipal reviews use the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission scenarios RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 developed in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The RCP 4.5 scenario is a GHG emission stabilization scenario and describes moderate climate change, while the RCP 8.5 scenario is a high GHG emission scenario that describes significant climate change. Future forecasts show that the average annual air temperature in Saulkrasti municipality will continue to increase. At the end of the century (2071–2100), according to the moderate climate change scenario, the average annual air temperature will reach +9.3 °C, i.e., it will be 2.2 °C higher than in the period 1991–2020. In turn, in the case of a significant climate change scenario, the average annual air temperature will reach +11.3 °C, i.e., it will be 4.2 °C higher than today.

The number of frost days will decrease significantly – from an average of 121 frost days in the 1991–2020 period to 81 days under average climate change and to an average of 53 days under significant climate change in the 2071–2100 period.

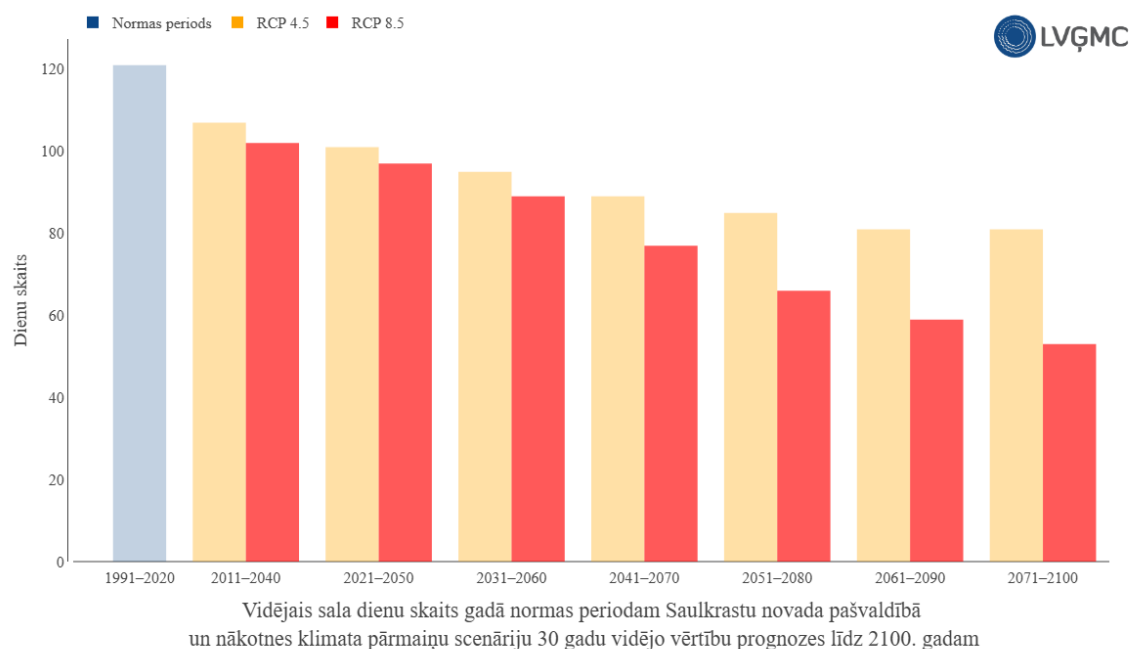


Figure 7. Average frost days in periods till end of the century

The number of summer days will increase – from an average of 20 summer days in the period 1991–2020 to 43 days under average climate change and to an average of 64 days under significant climate change in the period 2071–2100.

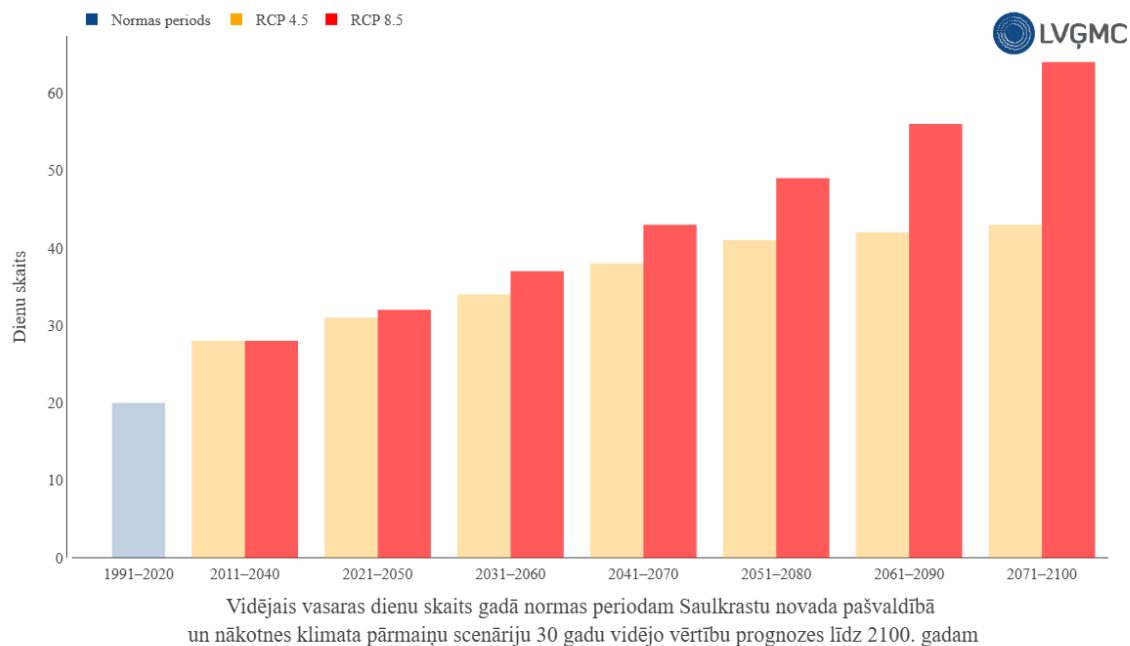


Figure 8. Summer days in periods till end of the century

Today, Saulkrasti region has an average of 1 tropical night. Under average climate change, 5 are predicted by the end of the century, while under significant climate change, an average of 16 tropical nights per year are predicted.

The duration of the vegetation period will increase from 200 days today to 222 or 242 days by the end of the century, respectively, in the case of moderate or significant climate change.

In Saulkrasti region, the duration of heat waves has increased over the past 30 years, while that of cold waves has decreased. Forecasts until the end of the 21st century indicate that the trends for both climate indices will not change.

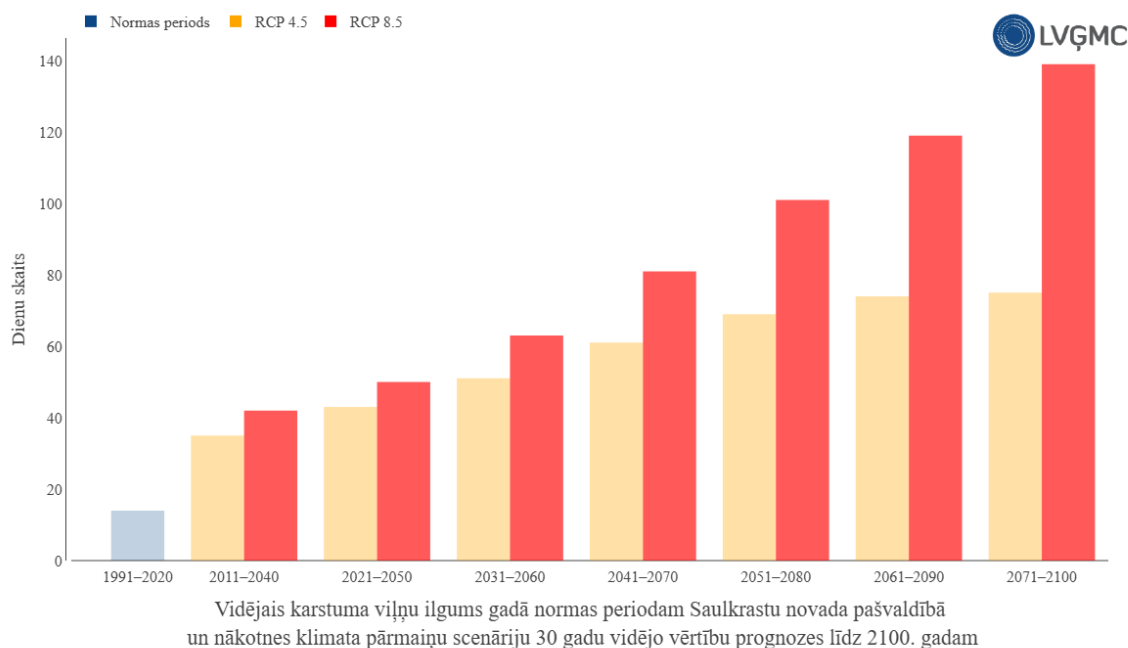


Figure 9. Average heat wave length till end of the century

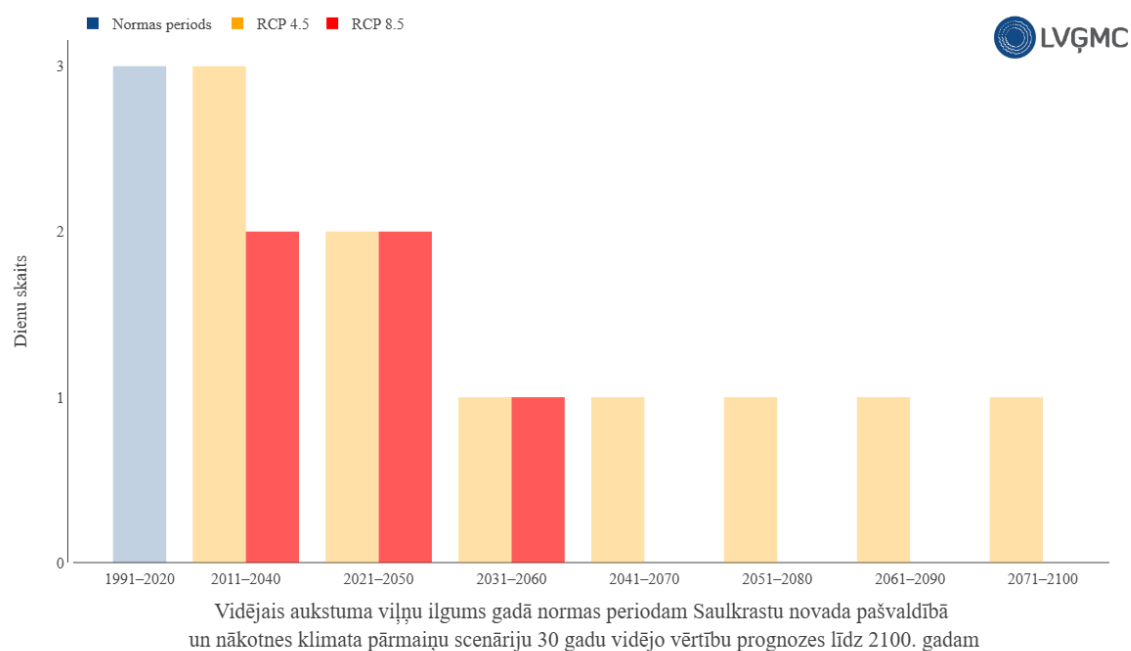


Figure 10. Average cold waves till end of the century

Annual precipitation is projected to increase, reaching 802.3 mm (an increase of 63.2 mm) or even 823 mm (an increase of 83.9 mm) by the end of the century, under moderate or significant climate change, respectively.

The number of days with heavy and very heavy precipitation will also increase.

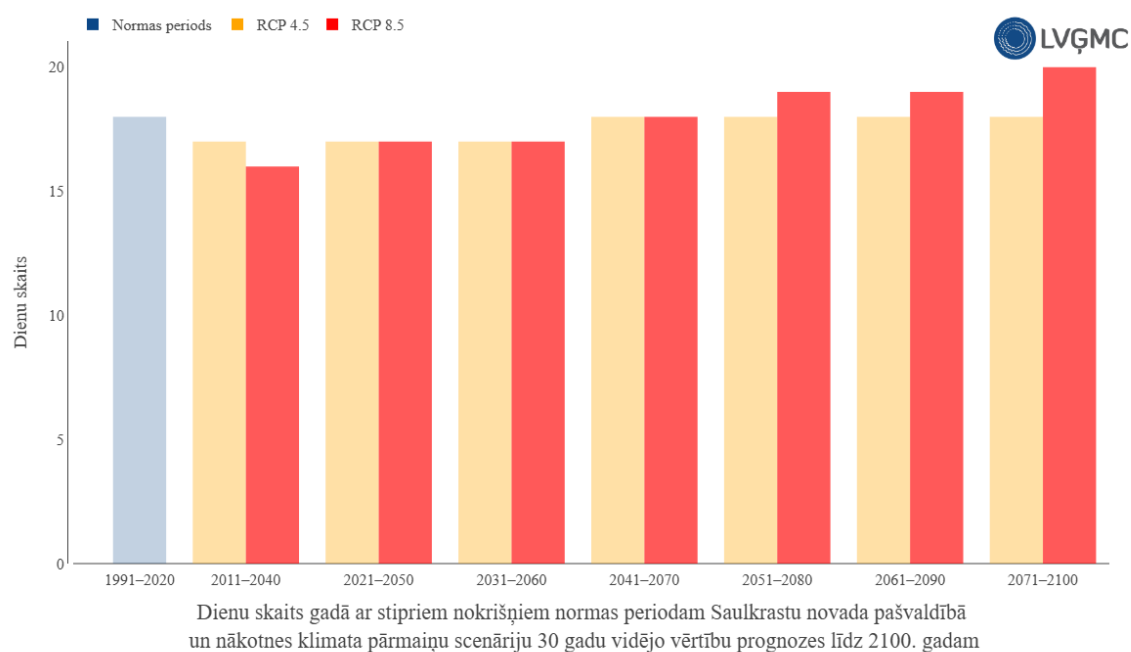


Figure 11. Days with heavy precipitation till end of the century

If the average snow cover thickness during the climate norm period (1991–2020) is 5.1 cm, then by the end of the century it will decrease to 2.5 cm in the case of moderate climate change or 1.2 cm in the case of significant climate change.

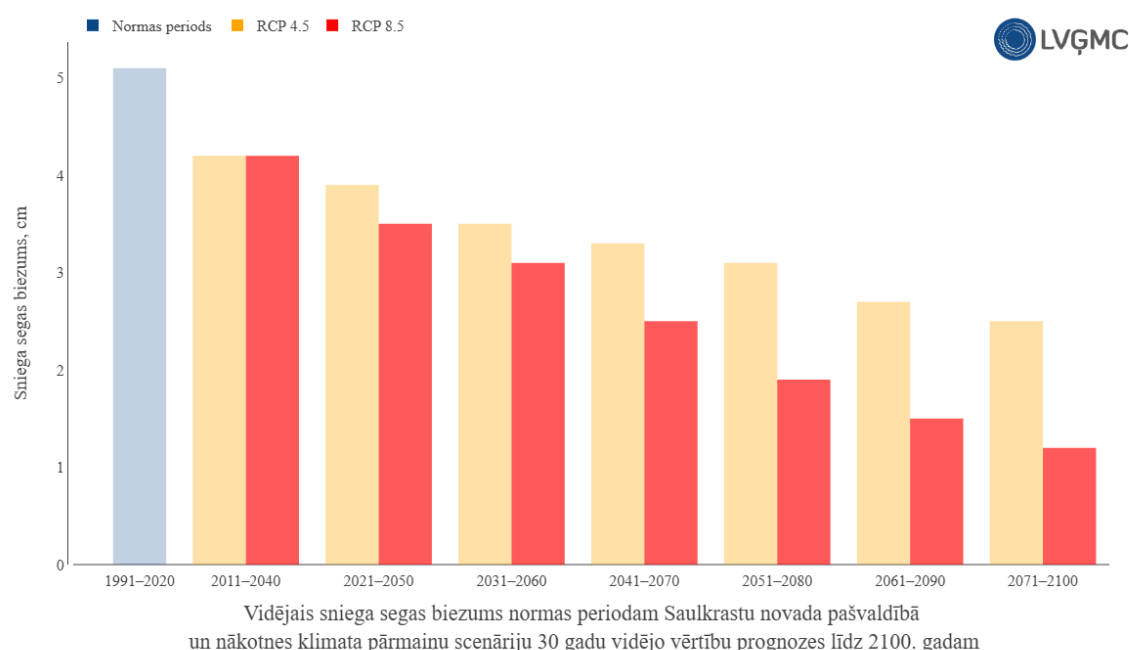


Figure 12. Average snow coverage till end of the century

To fully understand the climate change prognosis for Saulkrasti there is some explanation made from **Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Centre**

Frost days – days with a minimum air temperature below 0 °C.

Summer days – days with a maximum air temperature above +25 °C.

Tropical nights – days with a minimum air temperature above +20 °C.

Duration of the growing season – the number of days in a year between the periods when the average daily air temperature above +5 °C was first and last observed for at least six consecutive days.

Duration of heat waves – the number of days in a year when the maximum daily air temperature is above the 90th percentile of the reference period (1961–1990) for at least six consecutive days.

Duration of cold waves – the number of days in a year when the minimum daily air temperature is below the 10th percentile of the reference period (1961–1990) for at least six consecutive days.

Days with heavy precipitation – the number of days per year when the daily precipitation is over 10 mm.

Days with very heavy precipitation – the number of days per year when the daily precipitation is over 20 mm.

3.9 Saulkrasti people and their access to climate change information and knowledge

Saulkrasti faces a significant challenge: despite growing awareness of climate change, our municipality lacks a comprehensive climate change adaptation and mitigation plan. This absence of proactive planning leaves our community vulnerable, especially given its coastal location, which is at heightened risk from rising sea levels, more frequent storms, and coastal erosion. Without a formal strategy, Saulkrasti may struggle to effectively respond to the escalating pressures of a changing climate.

The scope of developing a CAP for Saulkrasti is therefore both urgent and essential. It provides a structured, community-driven approach to identifying local climate risks, setting adaptation priorities, and outlining practical actions that can be taken now and in the future. The CAP serves as a bridge between scientific knowledge and local realities, empowering residents, businesses, and decision-makers with the tools and information they need to act. It also strengthens Saulkrasti ability to access national and EU-level support, funding, and partnerships for climate resilience. By investing in this plan, Saulkrasti is taking a critical step toward safeguarding its people, economy, and natural environment for generations to come. More information about INTERREG Baltic Sea Region project BEACH SOS – Climate smart beaches and tourism: <https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/beach-sos/>

4 Coastal Community Action Plan for Saulkrasti. Building Collaboration

Saulkrasti coastline is not only a natural treasure but also a vital part of the town's identity, economy, and way of life. Its beaches, dunes, and marine ecosystems support a wide range of activities—from tourism and recreation to fishing and conservation. However, climate change is putting increasing pressure on this fragile environment. Rising sea levels, stronger storms, and coastal erosion threaten both the natural landscape and the livelihoods of those who depend on it.

To respond to these challenges, Saulkrasti has developed this **Coastal Community Action Plan (CAP)**—a shared roadmap for building resilience and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our coastal zone. At the heart of this plan is the belief that **collaboration is key**.

4.1.1 Saulkrasti Coastal Communities and Their Role

The coastal communities of Saulkrasti are diverse and deeply connected to the beach and marine environment. They include:

- **Permanent residents**, such as families, retirees, and fishermen, who live year-round in the area.
- **Seasonal residents**, who own or rent summer homes and contribute to the local economy during peak months.
- **Local businesses**, including hotels, restaurants, cafes, shops, and tourism service providers that rely on beach visitors.
- **Landowners**, whose properties are located along the coast and are directly affected by erosion and flooding.
- **Environmental organizations**, which work to protect and restore the natural coastal environment.

Each of these groups brings valuable knowledge, experience, and motivation to protect Saulkrasti coast.

4.1.2 Community Leadership in Coastal Tourism and Climate Adaptation

Saulkrasti coastal communities are not just stakeholders—they are leaders in shaping the future of beach tourism and climate resilience. Their contributions include:

- **Local knowledge** of the environment, weather patterns, and seasonal changes.
- **Stewardship** of the coast through sustainable practices and responsible tourism.
- **Creative adaptation strategies**, such as beach restoration, infrastructure improvements, and nature-based solutions.
- **Communication and outreach**, helping to raise awareness about climate change and engage others in action.

By recognizing and supporting these roles, the CAP ensures that local voices are central to decision-making.

4.1.3 Learning Together, Acting Together: A Shared Commitment to the Future

The development of this Coastal Community Action Plan (CAP) was deeply shaped by the collaborative spirit of the BEACH-SOS project. Through a series of inclusive workshops, the project brought together a wide range of voices—residents, NGOs, municipal staff, regional authorities, scientists, and representatives from neighboring municipalities. These sessions created a valuable space for open dialogue, mutual learning, and joint problem-solving. Participants explored the specific impacts of climate change on Saulkrasti coast and worked together to identify practical, locally relevant solutions. Scientific insights were paired with community knowledge, ensuring that the resulting plan was both evidence-based and grounded in everyday experience. This process not only strengthened the plan itself but also built trust, understanding, and a sense of shared purpose among all involved. What emerged was more than just a strategy—it was a shared commitment. This CAP reflects the collective effort of Saulkrasti people to protect what they value most: their coastline, their community, and their future. It demonstrates that when communities come together, they can build stronger, more resilient systems that are better prepared for the challenges ahead. By continuing this spirit of collaboration, Saulkrasti coastal communities can lead the way in sustainable beach tourism, climate adaptation, and environmental stewardship—not just for today, but for generations to come.



Figure nr 13. From Vision to Action: A framework for understanding citizens priorities to cope with climate change.

4.2 Vision: Citizens of Saulkrasti describe the desired future of coastal tourism under climate change.

We believe in a strong future for Saulkrasti! To help us imagine what that future could look like, we brought together around 50 citizens from our community. Each person shared their dreams for Saulkrasti by the year 2050, including both their hopes and any challenges they foresaw.

To organize all these great ideas and finding common ground all the different visions were analyzed to find common themes and patterns. We noticed that many ideas revolved around two key choices, leading to four distinct visions:

- Working with Nature vs. Building More Things: Should we use natural solutions to protect our coast, or should we build more human-made structures?
- Protecting What We Have vs. Growing and Changing: Should we focus on maintaining Saulkrasti as it is, or should we encourage new growth and activities?

These discussions helped us develop four distinct shared visions and needed actions for a Climate Smart Saulkrasti in 2050!

Vision 1: A Sanctuary of Nature. Saulkrasti becomes a sustainable tourism destination with eco-friendly infrastructure like wooden pathways and solar panels. Local residents engage in tourism by offering nature walks and community cafes. The town focuses on ecosystem conservation, restoring wetlands, and increase resilience. Collaboration with neighboring villages and strict zoning regulations ensure organized and environmentally friendly development.

- The vision for Saulkrasti as a "Sanctuary of Nature" by 2050 focuses on four key economic sectors: tourism and hospitality, transportation and infrastructure, retail and services, and fishing and aquaculture. Immediate measures, seen as most urgent, include risk awareness workshops, dune restoration, tax incentives for eco-friendly businesses, and land use restrictions. Soon, the plan involves developing climate-resilient infrastructure, diversifying tourism, and forming public-private partnerships for sustainable infrastructure. Later measures include shore water management, innovative research grants, and constructing offshore breakwaters. Stakeholders have mapped out these priorities to ensure a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation, addressing social, policy, economic, and ecological aspects. This vision aims to create a resilient and sustainable future for Saulkrasti, balancing economic growth with environmental preservation.



Vision 2: A Green Oasis in Saulkrasti. This vision emphasizes preserving Saulkrasti natural beauty and local traditions. The town protects its coastline, dunes, and pine forests, creating birdwatching spots and wildlife sanctuaries. The river is revitalized for fishing and kayaking. The town center becomes pedestrian-friendly with electric bikes and scooters.

- The vision for Saulkrasti as a "Green Oasis" by 2050 prioritizes tourism and hospitality for immediate climate adaptation measures, followed by utilities and infrastructure. Renewable energy is important but less urgent, while retail and services are prioritized for longer-term planning. Immediate actions include public campaigns, soft engineering like stone walls in dunes, and climate funds. Soon, the focus shifts to tourism diversification and developing water and sewer systems. Later measures involve EU co-financing for projects and constructing resilient infrastructure. Stakeholders have outlined these priorities to ensure a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation, addressing social, policy, economic, and ecological aspects. This vision aims to create a sustainable and resilient future for Saulkrasti, balancing economic growth with environmental preservation. Cultural events and traditional cuisine highlight local heritage, promoting sustainable development.



Vision 3: Modern Amenities. Saulkrasti blends its history with modern amenities, featuring bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and family-run businesses. Luxurious cruise ships dock at a new yacht harbor, and the town offers world-class spas, trendy cafes, and boutiques. Cultural heritage is preserved through restored buildings and festivals. Family-friendly attractions like an aquapark and carousel enhance the town's appeal.

- The vision for Saulkrasti as a destination with "Modern Amenities" by 2050 prioritizes economic and financing sectors for immediate climate adaptation measures, followed by transportation and infrastructure. Retail and services are considered less urgent, while tourism and hospitality are prioritized for longer-term planning. Immediate actions include enhanced stakeholder participation, tax incentives, public-private partnerships, and physical responses like seawalls. Soon, the focus shifts to promoting research and development, adaptive land use planning, and infrastructure developments such as harbors and pedestrian pathways. Later measures involve resilient infrastructure design, private investments, and pre-investment assessments for harbors. Stakeholders have outlined these priorities to ensure a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation, addressing social, policy, economic, and ecological aspects. This vision aims to create a sustainable and resilient future for Saulkrasti, balancing modern amenities with environmental preservation.



Vision 4: Year-Round Destination. Saulkrasti transforms into a year-round destination with diverse attractions like an ice-skating rink, hiking trails, a marine museum, and a wellness center. Educational programs and water sports events are available year-round. Innovative marketing draws tourists globally, and a well-connected transport system, including a ferry to Riga, improves accessibility and visitor experience.



- The vision for Saulkrasti as a destination offering a "Year-Round Destination" by 2050 prioritizes tourism and hospitality for immediate climate adaptation measures, followed by retail and services, transportation and infrastructure, and public services. Immediate actions include risk assessments for all-season attractions, dune management, attracting investors, and developing a city vision. Soon, the focus shifts to public-private partnerships, capacity building, and adaptive land use planning. Later measures involve creating all-season attraction points, ensuring space for business development, and increasing services in health transport and safety. Stakeholders have outlined these priorities to ensure a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation, addressing social, policy, economic, and ecological aspects. This vision aims to create a sustainable and resilient future for Saulkrasti, balancing year-round tourism with environmental sustainability.

4.3 Action Plan: Type of actions to achieve the visions in the face of climate change.

Based on identified climate change signals and their potential impacts on the municipality of Saulkrasti, participants proposed a series of climate adaptation actions for its residents and visitors. These actions were categorized by their implementation timeline: immediate (Now), medium-term (2030), and long-term (2050). The proposed measures spanned several key areas: Economic, Policy and Governance, Social and Knowledge, and Physical and Ecological. For comprehensive details on climate signals, their projected impacts, and the specific adaptation measures, please refer to the BEACH-SOS guidelines, titled [“Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Pathways. A Practical Guide to Support the Development of Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans”](#)

Figure 14 This table presents a comprehensive **Action Timeline for Saulkrasti climate resilience strategy**, detailing proposed initiatives across different timeframes and aligned with four key "visions" for the city's future. The table is structured into three primary sections based on the timeline for implementation: **Immediate Actions (Now)**: Steps to be taken immediately; **Medium-term Actions (By 2030)**: Initiatives planned for completion by the year 2030; and **Long-Term Actions (By 2050)**: Strategic goals and developments anticipated by 2050.

Action Timeline	"Sanctuary of Nature" Vision	"Green Oasis" Vision	"Modern Amenities" Vision	"Year-Round Experience" Vision
Immediate Actions. Now	Hold risk awareness workshops; Begin dune restoration; Offer tax incentives for eco-friendly businesses; Apply land use restrictions in vulnerable areas.	Public campaigns; Soft engineering like stone walls in dunes; Climate funds.	Enhanced stakeholder participation; Tax incentives; Public-private partnerships; Physical responses like seawalls.	Risk assessments for all-season attractions; Dune management; Attracting investors; Developing a city vision.
Medium-Term Actions. By 2030	Develop climate-resilient infrastructure; Diversify tourism activities; Create public-private partnerships for sustainable projects.	Tourism diversification; Developing water and sewer systems.	Promoting research and development; Adaptive land use planning; Infrastructure developments (e.g., harbors, pedestrian pathways).	Public-private partnerships; Capacity building; Adaptive land use planning.
Long-Term Actions. By 2050	Implement shore water management systems; Provide research grants for climate innovation; Build offshore breakwaters for coastal protection.	EU co-financing for projects; Constructing resilient infrastructure.	Resilient infrastructure design; Private investments; Pre-investment assessments for harbors	Creating all-season attraction points; Ensuring space for business development; Increasing services in health, transport, and safety.

Figure nr. 14 **Action Timeline for Saulkrasti climate resilience strategy**

4.4 Achieving a shared vision. A Phased Approach to Climate Resilience

This section details **Saulkrasti climate resilience strategy, shaped by the collective insights and shared vision of its citizens**. The proposed actions, encompassing social, knowledge-based, policy, governance, economic, and physical-ecological dimensions, demonstrate a deep commitment to a phased yet integrated approach. Each recommendation aligns carefully with community priorities,

ensuring an effective path toward a resilient future. From fostering "Green thinking" through educational adjustments to implementing robust infrastructure and environmental protections, these steps are designed to build foundational strength and pave the way for long-term adaptation.

4.4.1 Social and Knowledge based adaptation actions:

The citizens of Saulkrasti prioritize social and knowledge-related adaptation actions, specifically focusing on "Risk Awareness," "Networks," "Promote Research and Development," "Public Campaigns," "Community-Based Adaptation," and "Capacity Building." Their specific priorities for action include:

Regarding Public Campaigns, Local Knowledge & Practices, Capacity Building, and Education:

- **To create a community and foster "Green thinking":** This involves adjusting the education system (kindergarten, school, different age groups) to integrate green principles. Economic sectors involved would be education and HORECA (**H**otels, **R**estaurants, and **C**afés).
- **To help improve and develop locals and their ideas:** This would be achieved through public campaigns and municipality support, utilizing resources like the Saulkrasti municipality and library. The business sector would be a key economic beneficiary.
- **To create a strong community by highlighting personal relevance and local heritage:** This involves focusing on local knowledge and practices, common heritage, local history, and sailing ships. Implementation would include a bonus system and public campaigns, particularly in Saulkrasti, on the beach, and among fishermen. Micro and family businesses, even those not directly connected with tourism, would be involved.

Regarding Capacity Building:

- **To decrease stress for people and nature in short seasons and ensure stable income all year round:** This involves adjusting to a bigger tourism sector and a larger flow of tourists during the off-season. The approach would be to develop interesting offers for each season within the Saulkrasti municipality. Economic sectors impacted include HORECA, transport, tourism, and tourism attractions (museums, excursions, cultural events).

4.4.2 Policy and Governance based adaptation actions:

The citizens of Saulkrasti prioritize "POLICY AND GOVERNANCE" actions, specifically focusing on "Institutional Innovations," "Regulatory Intervention," "Policy," "Planning Models," "Management Models," "Intergovernmental Cooperation," "Public-Private Partnerships," "Adaptive Land Use Planning," and "Tourism." Their chosen actions under this category are detailed as follows:

Regarding Collaboration and Service Development:

- **Municipality, NGO, and Business Collaboration for Tourism Services:** The aim is to overcome monotony and boredom in tourism offerings. This will be achieved through conferences, exchange of experience programs, and tourism forums, involving the

municipality, NGOs, and businesses. The municipality will engage with locals and seek insights from outside Latvia. The key economic sectors involved are tourism (hotels, catering, culture, history, attractions).

Regarding Infrastructure Development:

- **Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Infrastructure Development:** The purpose is to ensure suitable infrastructure for different seasons, addressing initial needs. This will involve strengthening partnerships, such as with LAG Jūras zeme, through various funding initiatives. These efforts will focus on the municipality and the coast, primarily benefiting the tourism sector.

Regarding Tourism Diversification and Eco-tourism:

- **Year-Round Eco-Tourism Development and Promotion:** This action seeks to mitigate seasonal dependence in tourism and enhance nature protection. It will involve developing all-season eco-tourism offers, creating new tourism routes, and implementing marketing campaigns that utilize the railway and routes from train stations (e.g., the cycling route Zvejniekciems – Lilaste – Skulte, and an app for offers). The primary economic sector is tourism.

Regarding Cultural Preservation and Tourism:

- **Creation of a Fisherman Museum:** The goal is to preserve the coast's history and traditions, and to popularize coastal fishing. This initiative has the support of local fishermen who are willing to provide materials for a "live museum" with their stories. The ideal location identified is the old fire station in Saulkrasti, and it involves both the tourism and fishing economic sectors.

4.4.3 Economic based adaptation actions:

The citizens of Saulkrasti prioritize "ECONOMIC" actions, specifically focusing on "Climate funds," "Insurance schemes," "Pre-investment assessments," "Land acquisition," "Public funding," "Payment for ecosystem services," "Insurance," "Private investments," "Tax incentives," "Financial mechanisms," and "Infrastructure Development." Their chosen actions are detailed as follows:

Regarding Pre-investment Assessments:

- **Cost-Benefit Analysis for Economic Viability:** The core idea is to ensure that proposed projects are economically viable. The rationale is to have clarity on future actions. This will be achieved through soft research, NGO and community involvement, and best practice transfer. These assessments will be conducted at the municipal level, specifically within coastal sustainability and related departments/sectors. The economic sectors involved are tourism, transport, and other horizontal sectors.

Regarding Financial Mechanisms:

- **Clarity on Funding and Evaluation of Sources:** The aim is to achieve clarity on funding. This involves evaluating the availability and potential sources of funding, including private investors, public funds, and investments in infrastructure, with a focus on finance and investment. This will take place within planning and development authorities, impacting the economic and finance sectors.

Regarding Infrastructure Development:

- **All-Season Attraction Points and Tourism Destinations:** The objective is to make Saulkrasti popular in all seasons through the development of infrastructure. This is seen as a safe bet and a logical next step. It will be implemented through the wise execution of infrastructure development projects (roads, attractions, utilities) that contribute to the goal of an all-season destination. These developments will occur in public spaces, benefiting utilities infrastructure/public services and tourism (including nature areas).

Regarding Tax Incentives:

- **Tax Incentives for Environmentally Friendly Businesses:** The purpose is to involve and motivate the private sector towards sustainable actions. This will be achieved through tax initiatives, investment attractions, and stakeholder engagement in decisions. These efforts will be managed by respective municipal institutions (tourism/business). The economic sectors involved include tourism, marina, retail, and industry.

4.4.4 Physical and ecological adaptation actions:

The citizens of Saulkrasti prioritize "PHYSICAL AND ECOLOGICAL" actions, specifically focusing on "Ecosystem-based adaptation," "Ecosystem restoration and Biodiversity conservation," "Hard engineering," "Soft engineering," "Water management," and "Resilient infrastructure." Their chosen actions are detailed as follows:

Regarding Water Management:

- **Water Treatment Plan and Drainage System:** The core issue identified is the lack of a water drainage system, leading to untreated water flowing into rivers and then the sea. There's also a need for monitoring harbor operations and water quality. The rationale is to address this environmental problem. The approach involves establishing regulations, implementing water purification systems that meet these regulations, and assisting households that cannot afford to build such systems themselves. This is seen as a regional and government-level decision, impacting Saulkrasti municipality, rivers and lake coasts, neighboring municipalities, and specifically Skulte harbor. The economic sectors involved are utilities infrastructure, fishing and aquaculture, maritime industry, and tourism and hospitality.

Regarding Resilient Infrastructure Design:

- **Ecological and Long-Lasting Infrastructure:** The goal is to reduce stress on nature, promote sustainable development, and decrease the ecological footprint, particularly considering Saulkrasti tourism and seasonality. The rationale is to ensure sustainable development. This will be achieved through high standards, selecting long-lasting and high-quality materials, and fostering a quality labor and work culture. These efforts will be applied across the entire coastline and municipality, with extra focus on the coastline and nature park. The economic sectors involved are Tourism and Hospitality, Retail and services, public services, Private sector, utilities infrastructure, economic and financial, renewable energy, and transportation infrastructure.

Regarding Physical Responses (Pollution and Waste Management):

- **Decrease Coastal Pollution and Save Coastal Habitat:** The immediate goal is to decrease pollution along the coastline and, in the long term, save the coastal habitat. This involves increasing the number of waste containers on the coastline and encouraging volunteer participation. The method includes increasing public interest in saving coastal nature, involving schools and youth, and developing an "App for local nature SOS." These actions will focus on the Saulkrasti municipality, particularly tourism attractions and public spaces. The economic sectors involved are Tourism and Hospitality, public services, and economic and financial.

Regarding Soft Engineering:

- **Stone Walls in Dunes and Sand Addition:** The primary reason for this action is to strengthen the dunes to protect green areas and allow trees to grow, thereby preventing green areas from turning into sand. The approach involves using nature-friendly materials, planting trees beneficial for dunes, and constructing tree walls for dune stabilization. These efforts will concentrate on areas of the coastline experiencing coastal erosion. The economic sectors involved are Retail and services, and economic and financial.

4.5 Conclusion: A United Path Towards Resilience

Here is an improved version of the "Conclusion: A United Path Towards Resilience" section, drawing upon information from the provided sources to make it more comprehensive for a general public and authorities:

4.5.1 4.5 Conclusion: A United Path Towards Resilience

The journey to climate resilience in Saulkrasti is a profound testament to shared purpose and proactive collaboration, culminating in this Community Action Plan (CAP). This document, developed through a unique co-creation process, involved citizens, scientists, regional and national institutions, and municipal authorities, ensuring it is both scientifically informed and deeply rooted in local needs and experiences. It serves as a strategic roadmap for adapting Saulkrasti vital coastal tourism sector to the increasing challenges of climate change.

A Foundation Built on Community and Shared Vision At the heart of Saulkrasti climate strategy is the active involvement of its diverse coastal communities—including permanent and seasonal residents, local businesses, landowners, and environmental organizations—who bring invaluable knowledge and motivation to protect their coastline. The CAP was forged through a series of four participatory workshops as part of the BEACH-SOS project, bringing together approximately 150 people including local residents, business owners, municipal staff, NGOs, regional government representatives, scientists, and climate experts. This collaborative approach, which included visioning exercises, allowed around 50 citizens to articulate their hopes and challenges for Saulkrasti by 2050.

These discussions led to the development of four distinct yet complementary shared visions for a Climate Smart Saulkrasti in 2050: "A Sanctuary of Nature," "A Green Oasis," "Modern Amenities," and "A Year-Round Destination". Notably, the "Sanctuary of Nature" and "Green Oasis" visions garnered the strongest support, reflecting a clear community preference for nature-based solutions and environmentally responsible development.

Understanding the Climate Challenge and Designing Adaptive Pathways the CAP's approach is firmly grounded in a clear understanding of local climate change impacts. The BEACH-SOS project introduced and discussed key climate signals relevant to Saulkrasti, such as Sea Level Rise (SLR), the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI), and Extreme Rainfall Events. These indicators highlight risks like coastal erosion, flooding, damage to infrastructure, and potential impacts on human comfort and outdoor activities. Through community-based vulnerability assessments, participants identified and ranked the potential positive, negative, and neutral impacts of these climate signals across various economic sectors, including tourism, fishing, and infrastructure.

To address these challenges, the CAP adopts an "Adaptation Pathways" approach, which are flexible, strategic plans outlining a series of measures to cope with anticipated climate impacts. This methodology allows Saulkrasti to dynamically respond to changing conditions, integrate scientific data with local knowledge, and prioritize actions effectively, thereby enhancing the community's overall resilience.

Integrated Actions for a Resilient Future

The diverse array of actions detailed within this plan aligns strongly with the community's identified needs and are categorized into four key areas:

- **Social and Knowledge-based Adaptations:** Prioritizing "Risk Awareness," "Public Campaigns," "Community-Based Adaptation," and "Capacity Building" to foster "Green thinking" through adjusted education systems and public campaigns, promoting local knowledge, and ensuring stable income by developing year-round tourism offers.
- **Policy and Governance Measures:** Focusing on "Institutional Innovations," "Adaptive Land Use Planning," and "Public-Private Partnerships" to strengthen collaboration between the municipality, NGOs, and businesses for tourism services, develop suitable infrastructure for all seasons, and promote year-round eco-tourism. The proposed creation of a Fisherman Museum also highlights cultural preservation efforts.
- **Economic Actions:** Emphasizing "Cost-Benefit Analysis" for project viability, gaining "Clarity on Funding and Evaluation of Sources" including private and public funds, developing "All-Season Attraction Points," and implementing "Tax Incentives for

Environmentally Friendly Businesses" to motivate the private sector towards sustainable actions.

- **Physical and Ecological Strategies:** Including a comprehensive "Water Treatment Plan and Drainage System" to address pollution, designing "Ecological and Long-Lasting Infrastructure" to reduce environmental stress, decreasing "Coastal Pollution" through increased waste containers and volunteer involvement, and implementing "Soft Engineering" like stone walls in dunes and sand addition to strengthen coastal protection.

Ensuring Long-Term Impact and Transferability

This phased approach, deeply rooted in the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders, ensures that every immediate and long-term action is precisely tailored to Saulkrasti unique context and heritage. By embracing these mutually agreed-upon actions, Saulkrasti is poised to achieve its shared vision of becoming a truly resilient community, harmoniously integrating environmental protection, economic vitality, and social well-being for generations to come.

For the successful implementation of this CAP, municipal endorsement is critical, providing political legitimacy, authority, and facilitating resource allocation and cross-sectoral coordination. The Saulkrasti municipality has been involved throughout the process to ensure this official backing. Furthermore, this CAP holds significant potential to serve as a replicable model for other Baltic coastal communities, showcasing a localized, stakeholder-driven approach that can be adapted to their unique needs. To ensure continued accessibility and impact, the CAP will be available online on the saulkrasti.lv and visitsaulkrasti.lv websites, and copies will be placed in the Saulkrasti Library, making it a living, accessible resource for the entire community and beyond.

5 Endorsement of the CAP

Municipal endorsement is paramount for the successful implementation of the Community Action Plan (CAP) in Saulkrasti, as it provides the essential political legitimacy and authority needed to drive climate adaptation initiatives forward. This official backing is crucial for mobilizing resources, facilitating cross-sectoral coordination, and ensuring the plan's long-term sustainability.

Why Municipal Endorsement Matters:

- **Legitimacy and Authority:** Formal approval from the local government provides the CAP with the necessary political weight to secure resources, engage stakeholders, and enforce policies. The municipality has the authority to guide and coordinate actions across various sectors, aligning the CAP with broader local, regional, and national climate policies.
- **Resource Allocation:** Endorsement enables the municipality to allocate financial resources from its budget, seek grants, and forge partnerships to fund CAP initiatives. It also allows for the provision of crucial in-kind support, such as human resources and technical expertise.
- **Cross-Sectoral Coordination:** Climate action demands collaboration across municipal departments like urban planning, transportation, and public health. Endorsement ensures these departments work cohesively, integrating the CAP's goals into broader planning and development projects.

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Trust:** When the municipality endorses the CAP, it signals official backing to local stakeholders—including businesses, NGOs, and residents—fostering trust and encouraging wider community participation in climate initiatives.
- **Policy and Regulatory Framework:** The municipality possesses the legal authority to implement and enforce policies, such as climate-resilient building codes or incentives for renewable energy, directly supporting the CAP's objectives.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Endorsement institutionalizes climate action, ensuring the CAP remains a long-term priority even with changes in political administration. It also enables ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress, with necessary adjustments made over time.

Saulkrasti Municipality's Involvement: The Saulkrasti municipality has been actively involved throughout the BEACH-SOS project, which laid the groundwork for this CAP. A dedicated workshop specifically for municipal authorities fostered a shared understanding of climate change challenges and their impacts on Saulkrasti beaches and coastal tourism. Discussions highlighted crucial areas such as infrastructure improvements, sustainable practices, promoting year-round tourism, and the need for solutions to coastal erosion and infrastructure resilience. Effective communication, staff education, and managing tourism surges were also identified as priorities by municipal departments. This multi-departmental approach reflects Saulkrasti commitment to climate adaptation and aligns with the visions provided by local stakeholders. The CAP will undergo a formal review process within the municipality's departments to ensure alignment with their responsibilities and objectives, leading to official approval and commitment from all involved departments for its successful implementation.

This proactive involvement and eventual endorsement ensure that the CAP is deeply integrated into municipal agendas, continuously prioritized, and supported at the local government level, paving the way for a more resilient Saulkrasti.

6 Transferability and Long-Term Benefits

Saulkrasti Community Action Plan (CAP) holds significant potential beyond its immediate application, serving as a powerful and replicable model for other Baltic coastal communities and ensuring its own sustained effectiveness over time.

A Replicable Model for Coastal Resilience

The CAP's development through the BEACH-SOS project embodies a truly localized and stakeholder-driven approach, making it highly transferable. It emerged from a unique co-creation process that actively involved a diverse array of participants: citizens, scientists, regional and national institutions, and municipal authorities. This "bottom-up approach" prioritizes the active involvement of coastal communities in the adaptation process, fostering community ownership and ensuring the plan reflects local needs, ideas, and experiences.

The methodology employed in Saulkrasti, documented in the "Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Pathways: A Practical Guide to Support the Development of Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans" (D1.1_AdaptationPathwaysGuidelines_FINAL.pdf), is specifically designed to support other coastal municipalities in the Baltic Sea region. This guide provides practical methodologies and recommendations for developing and implementing locally-relevant and community-supported adaptation pathways for coastal tourism. By adapting the lessons learned from Saulkrasti experience,

other municipalities can develop their own tailored climate action plans that contribute to broader climate resilience across the Baltic Sea area. The process also strengthens local knowledge and builds confidence within communities to respond to climate-related changes, demonstrating that this CAP serves as a valuable model for other coastal towns in the region.

Dynamic and Enduring Resilience

A key strength of Saulkrasti CAP is its dynamic nature, allowing for continuous review, adaptation, and refinement based on evolving circumstances and future developments. This inherent flexibility is crucial in the face of uncertain and evolving climate change impacts and shifting local conditions. The "Adaptation Pathways" approach, central to the CAP, is specifically designed to be flexible and responsive, enabling the community to adjust strategies as new information becomes available or as the climate evolves.

For the plan to remain effective long-term, continuous monitoring and evaluation are vital. This involves tracking progress, assessing the effectiveness of implemented actions, and making necessary adjustments as needed. By integrating the implementation phase into municipal agendas, the CAP ensures that adaptation efforts are continuously prioritized and supported at the local government level. Through regular stakeholder input and the flexibility to adapt to new data, policy changes, and resource availability, the CAP remains a living document that evolves with Saulkrasti needs and challenges, ensuring long-term resilience and sustainability for generations to come.

7 Conclusion

The Community Action Plan (CAP) for Saulkrasti represents a pivotal step towards securing a resilient and sustainable future for its vital coastal tourism sector in the face of climate change. This document is more than just a plan; it is a shared commitment born from extensive collaboration and a deep understanding of local needs and global challenges. By protecting coastal resources, promoting sustainable tourism, and ensuring long-term climate resilience, the CAP helps secure a thriving tourism economy for the municipality while preserving its natural and cultural assets for future generations

The CAP helps Saulkrasti municipality and local stakeholders together achieve:

1. Protecting Coastal Infrastructure and Natural Assets
2. Enhancing Climate Resilience
3. Sustaining Tourism Revenue
4. Promoting Sustainable Tourism Practices
5. Building a Competitive Edge
6. Long-Term Viability of the Tourism Sector

A Community-Driven Strategic Roadmap

Developed as a key outcome of the BEACH-SOS project, the CAP serves as a strategic roadmap, specifically tailored to adapting Saulkrasti coastal tourism sector to the growing challenges posed by climate change.

It addresses the difficulties many municipalities face in accessing, interpreting, and applying complex climate data by providing a practical and inclusive framework. The plan's foundation is built upon a unique co-creation process, involving approximately 150 participants from diverse

backgrounds, including citizens, scientists, regional and national institutions, and municipal authorities, ensuring it is both scientifically informed and deeply rooted in local realities.

Through four participatory workshops, around 50 citizens articulated their hopes and challenges for Saulkrasti by 2050, culminating in four distinct yet complementary shared visions: "A Sanctuary of Nature," "A Green Oasis," "Modern Amenities," and "A Year-Round Destination". These visions were developed by exploring two key choices: "Working with Nature vs. Building More Things" and "Protecting What We Have vs. Growing and Changing". Notably, the "Sanctuary of Nature" and "Green Oasis" visions garnered the strongest stakeholder support, reflecting a clear community preference for nature-based solutions and environmentally responsible development. This collective effort reflects a shared commitment to protect what is most valued: the coastline, community, and future.

Integrated Actions for a Resilient Future

The CAP is firmly grounded in a clear understanding of local climate change impacts, focusing on key climate signals such as Sea Level Rise (SLR), the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI), and Extreme Rainfall Events.

Through community-based vulnerability assessments, participants identified the complex mix of positive, negative, and neutral impacts of these signals across various economic sectors, including tourism, fishing, and infrastructure.

To address these, the CAP employs an "Adaptation Pathways" approach, outlining flexible and strategic measures to cope with anticipated climate impacts.

The diverse array of actions detailed within the plan, categorized into Social and Knowledge-based, Policy and Governance, Economic, and Physical and Ecological dimensions, are in strong agreement with the community's identified needs. These actions range from enhancing social awareness and capacity building like "Green thinking" through educational adjustments and public campaigns, to implementing robust policy measures such as adaptive land use planning, public-private partnerships, and cultural preservation initiatives like a Fisherman Museum, fostering sustainable economic growth through cost-benefit analysis and tax incentives for eco-friendly businesses, and safeguarding the natural environment with comprehensive water treatment plans and soft engineering solutions for dune protection.

Ensuring Long-Term Impact and Accessibility This phased approach, deeply rooted in the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders, ensures that every immediate and long-term action is precisely tailored to Saulkrasti unique context and heritage. Community ownership of the CAP is paramount for the long-term protection and sustainability of Saulkrasti beaches, fostering a sense of pride and accountability.

To ensure its continued accessibility and impact, the CAP will remain an integral part of the municipality's official documents, with full access granted to the local action group "Jūras Zeme". Furthermore, it will be made available online on the saulkrasti.lv and visitsaulkrasti.lv websites, and physical copies will be placed in the Saulkrasti Library, ensuring it remains a living, accessible resource for the entire community. By embracing these mutually agreed-upon actions, Saulkrasti is poised to achieve its shared vision of becoming a truly resilient community, harmoniously integrating environmental protection, economic vitality, and social well-being for generations to come.