

## **Work Package 2: Assessment of the network of protected areas in Lithuania in the context of European Green Deal**

### **Activity 2.3. Connectivity analysis of the network of protected areas of Lithuania**

#### **Summary of the report**

The generalized geographic analysis of the connectivity of the network of protected areas of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania provides real opportunities to identify the most valuable parts of the territories in relation to different groups of animals, the anthropogenic barriers that disturb their existence, and to provide legal and later physical measures to strengthen the protection regime of these parts of the territory.

It has been observed that the results of the second complexity level of connectivity range subsystem, which is based on the identification of the optimal ecological conditions for the life of amphibians and reptiles, are the most valuable and universal in terms of the goals set within the framework of the implemented project. These parts of the subsystem with reliable connectivity would be reasonable to name as a "golden" reserve for all analysed groups of animals.

The raster data presented in the drawings of the connectivity ranges of the second and third levels of complexity, presented according to the established methodology, have a qualitative expression that shows the ecological potential of each analysed grid (5x5 m) or their group (in points). The use of these data can help to assess the content of a specific connectivity area (biodiversity potential, naturalness, and some other qualitative characteristics).