

# World Heritage Volunteers 2015

## Project Description

Title	<b>World Heritage Volunteers Protection of Biodiversity in Curonian Spit</b>
Site	Curonian Spit
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000
Project location	Nida, Neringa county, Lithuania
Project dates	30 July 2015 to 10 August 2015
Site description	Human habitation of this elongated sand dune peninsula, 98 kilometres long and 0.4 – 4 kilometres wide, dates back to prehistoric times. Throughout this period it has been threatened by the natural forces of wind and waves. Its survival to the present day has been made possible only as a result of ceaseless human efforts to combat the erosion of the Spit, dramatically illustrated by continuing stabilisation and reforestation projects.
Project objectives	The project aims to contribute to the preservation of Curonian Spit's biodiversity as a part of World Heritage landscape by eradication of invasive species and to increase public awareness about eutrophication – the single biggest threat to the Baltic Sea, Curonian Lagoon and their coastal areas. At the end of the 10 days project 500 people will know about threat of eutrophication and their personal impact to this process and mostly by invasive species affected areas in Curonian Spit will be cleaned.
Project activities	The project combines a practical part and an awareness raising part: For four days the local and international volunteers will clean under supervision of experts areas, mostly affected by invasive plant – <i>Robinia pseudoakacija</i> . The three days at the beginning of the project and the three days at the end – the weekends when tourists are usually visiting the Curonian Spit – will create the frame for the practical works: The volunteers will carry out a campaign in order to increase environmental awareness about eutrophication in Baltic Sea, spreading printed material in different locations of Curonian Spit, explaining causes and consequences of eutrophication, supporting educational events about eutrophication and teaching visitors how to use the eutrophication footprint calculator.
Organisation	Lithuanian Fund for Nature
Partners	Kursiu nerija (Curonian Spit) National Park administration
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