



CoastNet LIFE

Restoring the Baltic coastal habitat networks

NAT/LIFE17FI/000544

Overall aims of the project

- To improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 areas through restoring their habitat network
- Implement cost effective total management of the regional core areas
- Pilot, demonstrate and transfer actions in underwater habitat planning and restoration
- Increase the awareness of Natura 2000 network and the importance of nature restoration work
- 8 partners, 2 countries, budget 8,7 M€
- 1.8.2018 - 31.3.2025



Network of Sun-lit Habitats



Network of Coastal Meadows and Primary Succession Forests



The habitat network approach

- In sun-lit network, target is to create a series of managed, open habitats following the geographical line of esker formation in Baltic sea
- We are ensuring the warmth and luminosity of extreme solar radiation demanded by the species
- Critical task is saving the habitats from invasive alien species
- Coastal meadow network is characterized by low growing plant communities in the geolittoral zone

C1 725ha semi-natural habitats

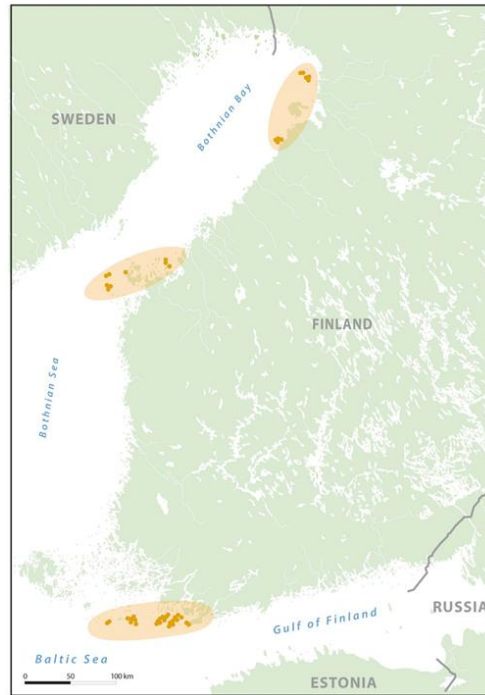
C5 140ha sun-lit habitats



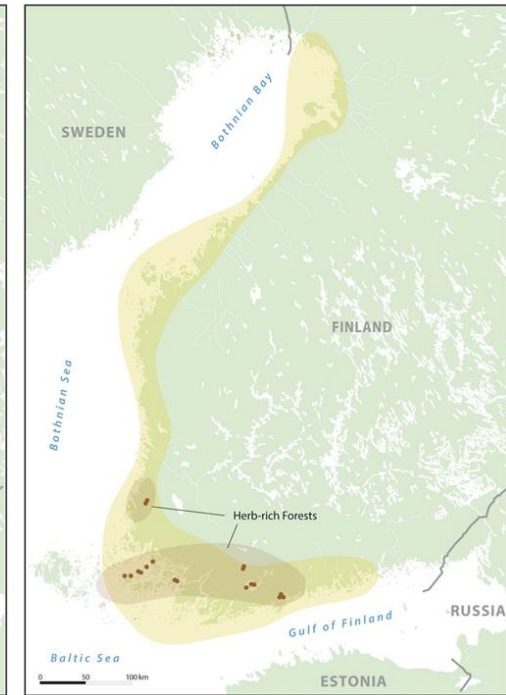
The habitat network approach

- The traditional agricultural land use on the coastal zone has created a complex of herb-rich forests, wooded pastures, heaths and meadows, where the species can spread throughout the area and also outside the area on potential habitat patches
- e.g. *Parnassius mnemosyne* needs a forest species *Corydalis solida* in the larval phase, but nectar species and warmth of meadows in the butterfly phase of its living circle, so both habitats need to be reassured in the restoration planning

Network of Boreal Baltic Islets



Network of Semi-natural Grasslands and Herb-rich Forests



C2 111ha of islets and small sized open areas in the outer archipelago

C4 Restoration of forest habitats 282ha



Work for species

- *Parnassius apollo* is a species of the outer archipelago in Finland. It's habitat patches are diminishing due to overgrowing caused by eutrophication & invasive alien species
- *Margaritifera margaritifera* is in danger of extinction in Estonia. Historically widespread, has only a small population in only one river.

C3 Restoration of *Parnassius apollo* habitat network for 50ha, population expected to grow 3-fold

C10 183ha river habitat restored, 7200 Freshwater pearl mussel bred



Volunteer work and invasive alien species

- 28 volunteer work camps with 3085 manwork days
- New volunteer work concepts are being developed: recreational volunteering days for companies, volunteer work contract jobs
- Over 300 occurrences of *Rosa rugosa* and other invasive alien species combated (17 sites, 144ha)
- A comprehensive management plan for invasive alien species in Ruissalo N2000 area, Turku



Piloting lagoon restoration

- Täktominlahti site used to be clear, sandy bottom inlet with open beach areas
- The current state is an eutrophicated inlet with bottom suffering from anoxia, full of aquatic vegetation that blocks the water flow inside the inlet
- We are piloting lagoon restoration to improve the water flow via harvesting the aquatic plant biomass & reedbed from the shore line
- Better water flow affects the visibility of water & reduces the amount of organic matter accumulating to the bottom. Thus, sandy bottom and beach species can settle and recover



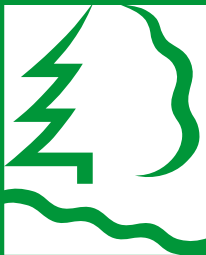
C7 Lagoon restoration for 72ha,
results reported and transferred



Dissiminating & workshopping

- Reaching 500 000 persons with media events, info tables and nature trail
- Science trail in Seili will introduce the scientific work conducted in archipelagial areas, as well as CoastNet LIFE and former LIFE project
- Bird watching tower & exhibitions, outdoor programs for pupils in urban Natura 2000 areas, Turku & Tallinn
- Creating guidelines to city landowner - environmental authorities cooperation and management planning on marine protected areas





METSÄHALLITUS

www.metsa.fi

Marko Takala

Project coordinator

Marko.takala@metsa.fi

+358 40 653 1557



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