

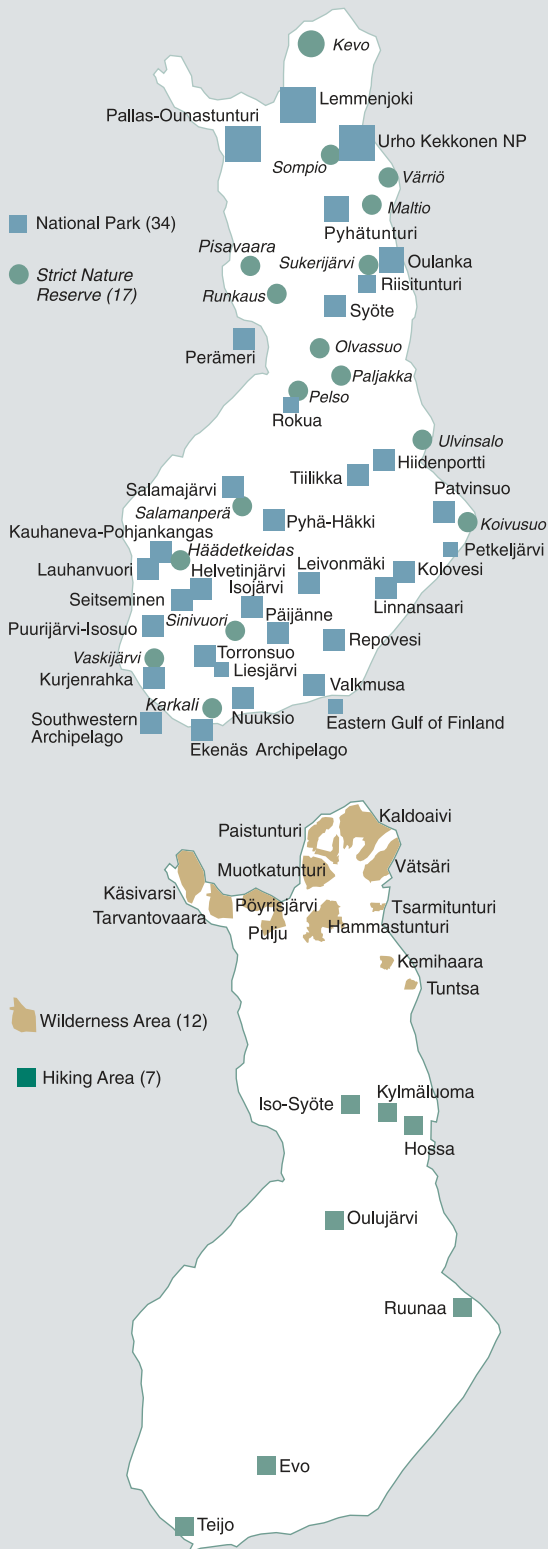


# METSÄHALLITUS NATURAL HERITAGE SERVICES

Annual Report 2002



METSÄHALLITUS



# Contents

Review by the Director of Natural Heritage Services .....	3
What Are the Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus? .....	4
Recreation Services from the Archipelago to Lapland .....	5
Areas from Finnish Forest Research Institute and Ministry of Defence ...	8
Fairy Slipper Orchid, Slender Naiad and Other Threatened Species ...	10
Habitat Restoration and Management of Traditional Landscapes .....	12
Game and Fisheries Wardens Supervise and Give Advice .....	14
Visitor Centres and Customer Service Points of Metsähallitus .....	15

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● Arctic Campion (*Silene fuscata subsp. angustiflora*)

*Johna Iikka*

# Review by the Director

The Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus manage national parks and strict nature reserves, other protected areas, wilderness areas and national hiking areas with the aim of preserving Finland's natural features and providing the citizens with recreation services. We also manage the publicly-owned sea and lake areas. While doing this, the NHS provide jobs and create an environment for nature tourism and research. The NHS also promote the sustainable use of the state-owned commercial forests managed by Metsähallitus. The major annual goals for the activities are set by the Parliament and defined by the Ministry of the Environment in matters of nature conservation and by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as concerns the recreation services.

**D**uring the last few years the activities of the Natural Heritage Services have been expanded and intensified rapidly and systematically as Finland's protected area management system has been developed. The growth and internationalisation continued in a favourable way, and the goals set by the Ministries were fully reached. At the end of the year the resources of protected area management and utilisation had to be directed, more than expected, to the protection of the forests in Southern Finland.

Our protected area network was considerably complemented in 2002 by the transfer of large areas from the Finnish Forest Research Institute and the Ministry of Defence to Metsähallitus. The most important are Pallas-Ounastunturi and Pyhäntunturi National Parks, Pisavaara and Karkali Strict Nature Reserves and Aulanko Nature Reserve. The areas transferred from the Ministry of Defence include sites in the archipelago and on eskers that are valuable especially from the viewpoint of threatened species protection.

In 2002 a decision was made to establish the wilderness-like Repovesi National Park that makes it possible to develop the recreational use of the area and its nature tourism at the same time making way to a new type of cooperation between various organisations. The Act on Repovesi National Park is effective as of January 1, 2003. The establishment of the pending Leivonmäki National Park was nearly completed. Thus the 35th national park in Finland could be established by law on March 1, 2003.

As operations grow and expand, many questions of human resources development need to be solved. Therefore a human resources strategy was drawn. In 2002 main attention was paid to the development of field work. By describing the patterns of field work and by collecting the best practices thereof we aimed at improving cost effectiveness and safeguarding the uniform quality of the services as well as developing the content and appreciation of the field work.

A major leap was taken by Finnish politicians in 2002 towards an active management of state-owned protected areas. A programme for the safeguarding of the biodiversity of the forests in Southern Finland, western parts of the Province of Oulu and the southwestern parts of the Province of Lapland was accepted. The METSO programme will be guide forest management in protected areas during the next ten years.

Prior to establishment, the protected areas in Southern Finland have usually been, at least partly, commercial forests, and that is why their forests and mires have lost some of their original features and species. If such forests were not to be restored, a large number of threatened species living in their small, valuable islets of old-growth forests would probably be lost in the future.

We need cost-effective, precise protection to help and restore the species-wise impoverished parts of protected areas to their natural state. By creating natural forest features suitable for the species we can strengthen the populations, and at the same time, essentially improve the conditions for their survival. Restoration work will actively safeguard the most important and threatened parts of the biodiversity of Finland's forests. The network of restored areas make it possible for the species to spread back to their old habitats.

The extensive work done in the protected areas is supplemented, in accordance with the METSO Programme, by varied, new means of voluntary protection in privately-owned forests.



*Rauno Väisänen*  
*Director, Natural Heritage Services*

# What Are the Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus?

Metsähallitus manages and utilises the state-owned land and water areas. Metsähallitus is a state enterprise that has both business activities and tasks set by society. The tasks include the management of state-owned protected and hiking areas and the outdoor recreation services produced for the citizens that are financed mostly from the government budget. The organisation of the Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus includes six regional units and the central unit.

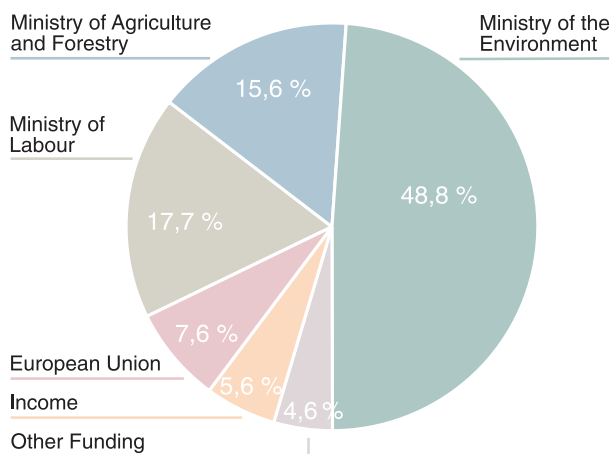
The Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus manage the majority of the state-owned protected areas and national hiking areas, and plan their use. In 2001 we managed a total of 36,600 sq. km. of land and 31,400 sq. km. of water areas.

Apart from that, we protect and monitor the sites of threatened species in state-owned areas managed

**The statutory protected areas, wilderness areas, national hiking areas, recreation forests, protected area reservations and public water areas managed by Metsähallitus on December 31, 2002.**

Type of Area	Number	Surface Area, sq. km.
National Parks	32	8 079
Strict Nature Reserves	17	1 502
Protected Mire Areas	173	4 487
Protected Herb-rich Forests	49	11
Other Protected Areas Established by Decision of Metsähallitus	177	788
<b>Statutory Protected Areas in Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>14 875</b>
Protected Area Reservations in Protection Programmes		6 246
Wilderness Areas	12	14 875
National Hiking Areas	7	359
Recreation Forests	101	1 695
<b>Other Protected Area in Total</b>		<b>23 915</b>
<b>Public Water Areas</b>		<b>27 520</b>
<b>All Areas in Total</b>		<b>65 590</b>

**The Sources of Funding of the Natural Heritage Services in 2002 (30 million euros)**



by Metsähallitus. We are responsible for the nationwide protection and monitoring of populations of the Golden Eagle, the Saimaa Ringed Seal and some other threatened species. We produce free-of-charge outdoor recreation services for those who wish to enjoy the great outdoors on grounds of the traditional everyman's rights.

The Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus participate in international nature conservation activities and promote experimental and research activities aiming at the maintenance of biological diversity.

A total of 30 million euros were used for the financing of the functions of the Natural Heritage Services in 2002. The total work input was 510 man years and, at the end of the year, the total number of the permanent staff members was 287. The work input of the short-term employees was 230 man years and their number was 735 in 2002.



Märku Tano

● *The Neitikoski Rapids and white-water boating are the audience pullers at Ruunaa Hiking Area.*

## Recreation Services from the Archipelago to Lapland

The visitor centres, customer service points, nature information huts and information sites of Metsähallitus provide the visitor with information on the natural features and outdoor recreation services of the area. The programmes of the 17 visitor centres include various kinds of happenings and exhibitions for the visitor. On December 31, 2002 the number of customer service points was 22; during the year a total of 671,600 visits were registered. The number of visitors increased by some 12 per cent on an average over the previous year. We manage also over 12,000 kilometres of different trails and routes, including 3,300 kilometres of hiking trails and nearly 1,000 kilometres of boating routes. Our firewood service covers 1,750 and garbage management over 600 sites.

**T**he number of visitor centres was increased by two, as the Pallastunturi and Pyhätunturi Visitor Centres were transferred to Metsä-

hallitus from the Finnish Forest Research Institute on January 1, 2002. Oldest of its kind in the Nordic countries, the Pallastunturi Visitor Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary in September. The number of visitors to the Pyhätunturi Visitor Centre went up – thanks to improved sign posting.

Metsähallitus also participates in the developing of new visitor and nature centres with other organisations. In May an aquarium called Maretarium displaying domestic fish species was opened at Kotka. Metsähallitus works together with Maretarium to provide information on the services of the Eastern Gulf of Finland National Park.

Terranova – Kvarken Nature Centre was also opened in May at Vaasa in cooperation with the Ostrobothnian Museum kept by the City of Vaasa. Terranova portrays the natural features in the Kvarken area, especially the post-glacial uplift, as well

as on protected areas and the possibilities for nature lovers and for nature tourism. One can get acquainted with the fish species of the brackish waters of the Kvarken in the virtual aquarium.

In January Metsähallitus participated in organising the Skábmagovat – Reflections of the Endless Night Film Festival at Siida, the Northern Lapland Nature Centre in Inari. Some of the films were shown on an ice screen called the Northern Lights Theatre. In the vicinity of Siida the first nature trail in Inari Sami language was opened in June. Metsähallitus's nature information was given for the first summer season at the traditional building of the Koltta Sami people at Sevettijärvi.

The European Day of Parks was celebrated on May 24 for the fourth time with the theme National Parks for Recreation – Nature, Landscape and Culture. Guided tours, presentations, bird nest building and rye bread baking, for example, were arranged at the Visitor Centres. Apart from that interviews of visitors to our national parks were published on our website.

A large variety of hiking structures were built in the Syöte National Park and the Iso-Syöte Hiking Areas, including wilderness huts for one night stays and day use, nature trails and information boards and a total of 700 new sign posts. The Syöte Visitor Centre was completed at Pudasjärvi. The building houses an auditorium, a customer service point and an exhibition on the natural and historical features of the Syöte area. The building was co-financed by EU funds, the Province of Oulu and the municipalities of Pudasjärvi and Taivalkoski.

The basic renovations of the visitor centres of Hossa Hiking Area and Oulanka National Park were completed, and the better services could immediately be seen in the rise of the number of visits. Also the



● The water areas managed by Metsähallitus cover an area of over 30,000 sq. km.

hiking structures in Hossa and Oulanka were improved. The Niskakoski hanging bridge was renovated at Oulanka. Another hanging bridge was built at River Ylä-Pulmankijoki of Utsjoki, the span being 86 metres. The bridge replacing the former ferry boat is suited for pedestrians and light off-road vehicles. It is now used by hikers, local inhabitants and practitioners of natural livelihoods.

The impacts of the Ruunaa Hiking Area on the local economy were estimated by a visitor survey. The functions of the hiking area provide annually work to some 60 persons, whose total work input is some 30 man years. The hiking area is annually visited by 65,000 people, each using an average of 50 euros in the Lieksa area. On an annual level, this means a direct income of 2.7 to 3.6 million euros. The income from the hiking activities during one hiking season equals the amount of public financing used in the building of the hiking services at Ruunaa.



● Oulanka National Park was granted the PAN Parks certification, which is a guarantee of valuable natural features and quality services for hikers.

There are nearly 1,500 privies on the lands of Metsähallitus that are regularly maintained and whose odours have been minimised. This is why a society for privies in Finland granted Metsähallitus the prize 2002 Privy of the Year.

At the end of the year a brochure for boaters and paddlers was published in Finnish and Swedish. From the southern Archipelago to the Northwest and Lake Inarijärvi, the most suitable sites for boating had been collected in the brochure.

Metsähallitus's website [www.metsa.fi](http://www.metsa.fi) includes a total of 1,335 pages that are a source of information for outdoor recreation seekers and on NHS activities. Apart from that, information is available on 360 NHS publications and other printed products.

#### The estimated number of visits at the visitor centres and customer service points in 2002

Blåmusslan Visitor Centre .....	20 100
Ekenäs Visitor Centre .....	26 000
Fell Lapland Nature Centre .....	23 500
Hossa Visitor Centre .....	44 500
Häme Visitor Centre .....	22 500
Lakeland Centre .....	14 200
Kainuu Nature Centre .....	12 000
Kellokas Visitor Centre .....	55 000
Koilliskaira Visitor Centre .....	22 500
Nestori – Saimaa Visitor Centre .....	9 200
Oulanka Visitor Centre .....	81 400
Pallastunturi Visitor Centre .....	33 500
Pyhätunturi Visitor Centre .....	24 700
Ruunaa Visitor Centre .....	15 000
Savukoski Visitor Centre .....	6 200
Seitseminen Visitor Centre .....	28 000
Siida – Northern Lapland Nature Centre .....	85 700
<b>Visitor Centres in Total .....</b>	<b>524 000</b>
Etäinen Customer Service .....	45 500
Customer Service at Ivalo .....	8 200
Karhuntassu Customer Service .....	73 300
Kiehininen Customer Service .....	9 200
Tikankontti Customer Service .....	11 400
<b>Customer Service Points in Total .....</b>	<b>147 600</b>
<b>All in Total .....</b>	<b>671 600</b>

#### The estimated number of visits in national parks in 2002

Eastern Gulf of Finland .....	15 000
Ekenäs Archipelago .....	*22 000
Helvetinjärvi .....	32 000
Hiidenportti .....	8 000
Isojärvi .....	8 000
Kauhaneva-Pohjankangas .....	6 000
Kolovesi .....	6 000
Kurjenrahka .....	*20 000
Lauhanvuori .....	30 000
Lemmenjoki .....	10 000
Liesjärvi .....	*25 000
Linnansaari .....	27 500
Nuoksio .....	*100 000
Oulanka .....	162 000
Pallas-Ounastunturi .....	98 000
Patvinsuo .....	*15 000
Perämeri .....	6 500
Petkeljärvi .....	*15 000
Puurijärvi-Isosuo .....	*22 000
Pyhä-Häkki .....	11 000
Pyhätunturi .....	35 000
Päijänne .....	8 000
Riisitunturi .....	6 000
Rokua .....	24 000
Salamajärvi .....	7 000
Seitseminen .....	37 000
Southwestern Archipelago .....	*40 000
Syöte .....	25 000
Tiilikajärvi .....	6 000
Torransuo .....	*15 000
Urho Kekkonen .....	150 000
Valkmusa .....	*6 000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>997 000</b>

#### The estimated number of visits in national hiking areas in 2002

Evo .....	50 000
Hossa .....	44 500
Iso-Syöte .....	20 000
Kylmäluoma .....	35 000
Oulujärvi .....	27 000
Ruunaa .....	110 000
Teijo .....	*50 000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>341 500</b>

\* Number from 2001. New number can be found on our website as soon as it is available.



Lassi Kujala

● *Establishment of Repovesi National Park proceeded at last.*

## Areas from Finnish Forest Research Institute and Ministry of Defence

The Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus manage nearly all of Finland's state-owned statutory protected areas. We manage also northern wilderness areas and national hiking areas as well as areas reserved for protection included in various nature conservation programmes. We are responsible also for twenty recreational forests. In 2002 the total surface area grew by 1,400 sq. km.

A total of 1,400 sq. km. of lands and water areas were transferred to Metsähallitus from the Finnish Forest Research Institute and the Ministry of Defence. The transfer was a part of the re-organisation of government land and water estates. After the transfer the Defence Forces lease the areas they need from Metsähallitus, which is responsible for the nature conservation and management of areas.

The personnel was transferred to Metsähallitus. The best known of the areas shifted to Metsähallitus is Aulanko Nature Reserve, which is a part of Finland's first National City Park in Hämeenlinna.

15 protected areas, 618 sq. km. in area, were transferred from the Finnish Forest Research Institute. The most significant ones are Pallas-Ounas-tunturi National Park in Kittilä, Muonio and Enontekiö, and Pyhätunturi National Park in Pelkosenniemi and Kemijärvi. Dating back to 1938, these are Finland's oldest national parks. Karkali Strict Nature Reserve in Karjalohja came also to Metsähallitus.

A research cooperation contract was renewed with the Finnish Forest Research Institute. This guarantees the Institute good conditions to carry on research activities on Metsähallitus's protected areas



and especially on the transferred areas. Metsähallitus also made a cooperation agreement with the Game and Fisheries Research Institute thus stabilising and unifying the already active research cooperation.

A total of 780 sq. km. of areas were shifted from the Ministry of Defence to Metsähallitus. Of those 63 sq. km. are now managed by the Natural Heritage Services. These areas include also areas of military historical importance, such as the 200-year-old Utti fortress of Valkeala and the islands Vallisaari and Kuninkaansaari, off the Helsinki coastline, that were earlier parts of the Suomenlinna fortress.

Twenty years had passed in 2002 since a total of eleven national parks were founded at one time: Eastern Gulf of Finland, Isojärvi, Helvetinjärvi, Hiidenportti, Kauhaneva-Pohjankangas, Lauhanvuori, Patvinsuo, Riisitunturi, Salamajärvi, Seitsemien and Tiilikkajärvi. The establishment of these parks was made possible by the proposal of the National Parks Committee. Only one of the parks proposed had to wait for its foundation, i.e. Repovesi National Park whose act of establishment was approved at the very end of 2002.

#### Life Nature Projects, financed by the European Union, participated by Metsähallitus in 2002

**Goal:** Protection of species and habitats primarily protected by means of the Habitats and Birds Directives as well as the development of areas in the Natura 2000 Network.

- 2002–2006** Restoration of Mire and Bog Ecosystems in North-Savo with Reference to Environmental Education
- 2002–2005** Evo Forest – Awareness-raising and Protection of Southern Finland Forest Biotopes
- 2001–2006** Protection of Valuable Bird-rich Wetlands in Central Finland
- 2001–2005** Protection of Aapa Mire Wilderness in Ostrobothnia and Kainuu
- 2001–2005** Herb-rich Forests, Forests of *Dendrocopos leucotos* and Western Taigas in North Karelia
- 2001–2004** Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Meadows in Finland, Sweden and Estonia
- 2001–2004** Protection and Management of the Valuable Wetland Siikalahti

- 2000–2005** Conservation of *Cypripedium calceolus* and *Saxifraga hirculus* in Northern Finland
- 2000–2005** Protection and Usage of Aapamires with a Rich Avifauna in Central Lapland
- 1999–2003** Conservation and Management of Boreal Groves
- 1999–2003** Deciduous Western Taigas and Herb-rich Forests in Pohjois-Savo
- 1999–2003** Conservation of Ylläs-Aakenus Taiga Forest Area in Lapland
- 1999–2003** Combining Protection with Other Forms of Land Use in the Natural Boreal Forests of Syöte
- 1999–2003** Management of the Most Precious Wetlands in SW Finland
- 1999–2002** Protection of Taiga and Freshwater Ecosystems in Central Finland
- 1998–2002** Conservation of the Arctic Fox (*Alopex lagopus*) in Finland and Sweden
- 1997–2002** Kvarken Archipelago
- 1997–2002** Protection of Aapamires in Southwestern Lapland and Northern Ostrobothnia
- 1997–2002** Rahja Archipelago

#### Structural Funds Projects, financed by the European Union, in which Metsähallitus participates in 2002

**Goal:** To diminish differences within the European Union by supporting the least-developed areas. To carry out various kinds of environment projects.

- 2002–2004** Development of Sustainable Nature Tourism in the Unesco Biosphere Areas of the Archipelago and in the Western Regions of Estonia
- 2002–2004** Return to the Sources – Environmental Education Cherishing the Traditions
- 2002–2004** Promotion of Nature Tourism in the Finnish Oulanka and Russian Paanajärvi National Parks
- 2001–2003** Service Constructions for the Lower Part of River Tiukanjoki
- 2001–2003** Kvarken Environment
- 2001–2003** Nature Trails and Recreational Facilities
- 2001–2002** Launch of the Activities of Syöte Visitor Centre
- 2000–2002** Construction of the Visitor Centre for the Syöte National Park
- 2000–2002** Service Structures in the Linnansaari National Park

# Fairy Slipper Orchid, Slender Naiad and Other Threatened Species

The Natural Heritage Services are responsible for the protection of threatened animal and plant species on the state-owned lands managed by Metsähallitus. We have special responsibility for 33 species, such as Fairy Slipper Orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*), a Primrose (*Primula nutans* var. *jokelae*), Arctic Campion (*Silene furcata*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Arctic Fox (*Alopex lagopus*) and Saimaa Ringed Seal (*Phoca hispida saimensis*). Since January 1, 2003 also the White-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*) is one of our species of special attention. Metsähallitus is responsible also for species considered important by the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

The areas transferred from the Ministry of Defence had kept in rather natural and valuable state. In the vicinity of Finland's only site of the Labyrinth Spider (*Agelena labyrinthica*) at Hanko several new sites were found. The endangered polypore (*Antrodia mellita*) again was found in a spruce swamp in Hämeenlinna. Two new butterfly species for Finland were found on an island at Dragsfjärd, i.e. the pyralid moth *Salebriopsis albicilla* and the Crown Boring Moth (*Cochylis atricapitana*).

The EU Life Nature project Deciduous Western Taigas and Herb-rich Forests in Pohjois-Savo monitored the sites of the Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*) and the Dark Red Helleborine (*Epipactis atrorubens*) in managed herb-rich forests at Juankoski. The number of the shoots of the Lady's Slipper increased, as spruce trees shadowing the site were removed.

The same species were also monitored at Juuka in the Life project Herb-rich Forests, Forests of *Dendrocopos leucotos* and Western Taigas in North Karelia. Owing to dry summer, the shoot number for the Dark Red Helleborine growing on cliffs remained small. The Life project Conservation of *Cypripedium calceolus* and *Saxifraga hirculus* in Northern Finland inventoried a total of 568 sites of the Lady's Slipper and the Marsh Saxifrage on Natura sites in Ostro-



Juha Ilkka

● The Lady's Slipper does not benefit from shade.

bothnia, Kainuu and Northern Finland. One in four sites was new: 60 Marsh Saxifrage and 77 Lady's Slipper sites.

On an international scale, one of the world's rarest aquatics, the *Najas tenuissima* is the rarest and most valuable vascular plant in Finland. Its site in the Siikalahti wetland of Parikkala has grown larger, as the open water area has been increased. The *N. tenuissima* seems to benefit also from the bird water

management that changes the lake bottom. The site was very abundant in 2002. During the monitoring the endangered Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*) was found for the first time in twenty years.

During the summer of 2002 moss species were inventoried in the Life project Protection and Usage of Aapamires with a Rich Avifauna in Central Lapland. The moss *Hamatocaulis lapponicus* and the Slender Green Feather-moss (*Hamatocaulis vernicosus*) were found, the latter in several areas. Both species are endangered in Finland and are included in the EU Habitats Directive.

The nesting of the Saimaa Ringed Seal (*Phoca hispida saimensis*) remained at the same good level as in 2000 and 2001: 54 seal cubs were born. The



Antti: Below

● The polypore *Antrodia mellita* has some 25 known sites in the world.



Juha Ilkka

● Sites of the *Arnica Arnica angustifolia* subsp. *alpina* were monitored by a new patch method in Hammastunturi Wilderness Area and in Lemmenjoki National Park in Lapland.

growth of the seal population is visible in the southern parts of the Saimaa lake system, whereas the disappearing of the seal from the northern parts seems unavoidable.

Monitoring of the sites of the vascular species mentioned in the Habitats Directive was improved together with the Finnish Environment Institute. The gathering of data on the sites of the sedge *Carex holostoma* and field check-ups were started in Northern Lapland.

Managers of protected areas need up-to-date and precise data on habitat types. The data on new areas is already comprehensive, but the data gathered in earlier times is not always sufficient. The protected area habitat type inventory project of Metsähallitus aims at covering a total of 17,000 sq. km. of protected areas by 2006. At the end of 2002 some 1,300 sq. km. had been inventoried. The management of protected areas will be easier as soon as we will have all data in a uniform format in the geographical information system.



Jari Koski

● *Traditional landscape managers at work.*

## Habitat Restoration and Management of Traditional Landscapes

We manage habitats to preserve threatened and rare species and their habitats. By managing traditional landscapes we protect valuable landscapes and organisms as well as cherish the cultural heritage. By restoring an area changed by man we aim at bringing the area back to its natural state or to a state as close to that as possible. Threatened species are most often found in traditional rural landscapes and in forests that are in their natural state.

**I**n areas managed by Metsähallitus, 220 hectares of forest and nearly 580 hectares of peatlands were restored. Traditional landscape restoration and management area exceeded 1,100 hectares.

The final report on the nature inventories of the Northern Lapland District for Wilderness Management and the Urho Kekkonen National Park was published. A nature inventory as extensive and many-

sided as this was the first on and beyond the forest line in the Fennoscandic region. The data stored in the geographical information system can be used in many ways in the planning of and research on the management and utilisation of natural resources.

A group of European young people worked on a voluntary basis in Nuuksio National Park in the vicinity of Helsinki. They got to know the national park and its nature and landscape by working there. Forests were restored by making small clearings and dense traditional landscapes were cleared and mown, and conifers were cut. Lupines were cut and pulled up to make it easier for the Clustered Bellflower species *Campanula cervicaria* to survive. Also cleaning of the national park and maintenance of the hiking trails were carried out. Camplife was ideal for increasing understanding for other people and nature and its protection.

A site of the Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) at Hanko was managed by the Life project Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Meadows in Finland, Sweden and Estonia. Here, too, participants of an international workcamp were involved in the management work. As a part of the project, a management plan for a traditional landscape area in Sipoo was drawn.

The Tiilitehtaanmäki-Pohjoislahti area in the town Kristiinankaupunki was also managed. A pasture for cows, 8 hectares in size, was built. To study the impact of pasturing on endangered species, also an intensified monitoring programme was started in a pasture area for sheep and horses.

At Joroinen, restoration work was finished off by clearing trees from mires. After the restoration the change in vegetation was surprisingly rapid: the mire vegetation is already larger in number than that of the forests, the species of the fen-like pine swamps have recovered and the sites of the Broad-leaved Cottongrass (*Eriophorum latifolium*) are much larger. Three forest areas were burnt in Tiilikjärvi National Park at Rautavaara. Also small clearings were cut in the middle of one-sided tree stands. Forest was burnt also in Syöte National Park and other protected areas of Pudasjärvi.

The Life Nature project Protection of Aapamires in Southwestern Lapland and Northern Ostrobothnia came to an end in 2002. Large aapamires were restored in the project. Land acquisitions were completed and nearly 200 hectares of aapamires in the Natura 2000 area of Suuripää of Tervola was restored.

The nationally valuable traditional landscape of Jurmu islands at Taivalkoski was restored by means of clearing, mowing and pasturing. An agreement was made with a local farmer to pasture his cattle on the islands and thus the islands were taken into regular management. The islands, frequently flooded, have several sites of the endangered the Northern Moonwort (*Botrychium boreale*) and the near threatened species the Leathery Grapefern (*Botrychium multifidum*) and the Common Moonwort (*B. lunaria*). Traditional landscapes were also managed at Lake Pielpajärvi of Inari; hay was cut and bushes were cleared from the meadow surrounding the wilderness church.



Jari Koski

● By means of controlled burning commercial forest will be restored and brought back to its natural state.

# Game and Fisheries Wardens Supervise and Give Advice

The field of activities for the game and fisheries wardens covers all the land and water areas managed by Metsähallitus, or about one third of Finland's total area. It is the duty of the wardens to supervise and give advice to outdoor recreation seekers. The wardens work in cooperation with other authorities and interest groups. Supervision is needed, although most nature lovers know how to act in a proper way.

In protected areas it is the duty of the wardens carry out supervision to make sure that the restrictions on species protection are followed, i.e. restrictions on moving in protected areas and the use of hunting gear and fishing tackle. Next to supervision, monitoring of the nesting of predatory birds and the populations of large carnivores is carried out in the northern and eastern parts of our country.

The protection of the Saimaa Ringed Seal is one of the most important areas in the game and fisheries wardens' work. In 2002 inspections were mostly carried out in Linnansaari and Kolovesi National Parks and on Lake Pihlajavesi. During one weekend, seven boats and more than a dozen wardens inspected, how the fishermen obeyed the net fishing restrictions made to safeguard the seal cubs. Also the use of fish-

ing tackle dangerous for the seal was monitored in the most prominent seal sites. One in four tackles violated the restrictions: two thirds concerned the fishing restriction area and one third dangerous tackle.

Next to the cooperation in the northern parts of the Gulf of Bothnia, supervision was also carried out in the Kvarken, Southwestern Archipelago and the Gulf of Finland. The work was focused on the protected areas for grey seals established in 2001, boating, hunting of waterfowl and the keeping on leash of dogs.

Most fishermen had acquired all the necessary permits and licences, but the supervision revealed, however, that a large number of fishermen lack the licence. The hunting permits and licences were usually also in order, but supervision of the catch quota was difficult. The severest problems in hunting included shooting from a moving vehicle, illegal shooting of elks and large carnivores, for example, from a snowmobile. Problematic cases can best be solved, when investigations can be started rapidly and when people moving in the terrain make their observations known to the authorities.

Supervision of snowmobiles drivers is usually carried out outside the trails and routes; illegal drivers will be stopped immediately. During summer illegal off-road traffic does not present any large problems. In early summer, boater's gear was often inadequate, but later in the season the situation grew better, i.e. life jackets were used and fire extinguishers were appropriate.

Littering of the landscape is a matter to which the wardens pay more and more attention. It is against the Garbage Act to leave garbage in the terrain. It is the goal of the wardens to cut down illegal littering.



Jari Koski

● Supervision on the Baltic Sea and cooperation with the Finnish Coast Guard Districts were intensified.

## Visitor Centres and Customer Service Points of Metsähallitus

### Blåmusslan Visitor Centre

Meripuistontie, 25930 Kasnäs, tel.int. +358 205 64 4620

### Ekenäs Visitor Centre

Rantapuistikko, 10600 Ekenäs, tel.int. +358 205 64 4613

### Etiäinen Customer Service

96930 Napapiiri, tel.int. +358 205 64 7820

### Fell Lapland Nature Centre

Peuratie 15, 99400 Enontekiö, tel.int. +358 205 64 7950

### Hossa Visitor Centre

Jatkonsalmentie 6, 89600 Suomussalmi, tel.int. +358 205 64 6041

### Häme Visitor Centre

Härkätie 818, 31380 Letku, tel.int. +358 205 64 4630

### Customer Service at Ivalo

P.O. Box 35, 99801 Ivalo (Ivalontie 10), tel.int. +358 205 64 7701

### Lakeland Centre

Ohitustie 7, 58900 Rantasalmi, tel.int. +358 205 64 5916

### Kainuu Nature Centre

Lenttiirantie 342 D, 88900 Kuhmo, tel.int. +358 205 64 6380

### Karhuntassu Customer Service

Torangintaival 2, 93600 Kuusamo, tel.int. +358 205 64 6800

### Kellokas Visitor Centre

95970 Äkäslompola, tel.int. +358 205 64 7039

### Kiehinen Customer Service

Honkapolku 3, 99830 Saariselkä, tel.int. +358 205 64 7200

### Koilliskaira Visitor Centre

99695 Tankavaara, tel.int. +358 205 64 7251

### Nestori – Saimaa Nature Centre

Akselinkatu 8 (visitors Aino Acktén puistotie 5), 57130 Savonlinna, tel.int. +358 205 64 5929

### Oulanka Visitor Centre

Liikasenvaarantie 132, 93999 Kuusamo, tel.int. +358 205 64 6850

### Pallastunturi Visitor Centre

99330 Pallastunturi, tel.int. +358 205 64 7930

### Pyhätunturi Visitor Centre

Kerontie 22, 98530 Pyhätunturi, tel.int. +358 205 64 7302

### Ruunaa Visitor Centre

Ruunaantie 129, 81750 Pankakoski, tel.int. +358 205 64 5757

### Savukoski Visitor Centre

Samperintie 32, 98800 Savukoski, tel.int. +358 205 64 7556

### Seitseminen Visitor Centre

Seitsemisentie 110, 34530 Länsi-Aure, tel.int. +358 205 64 5270

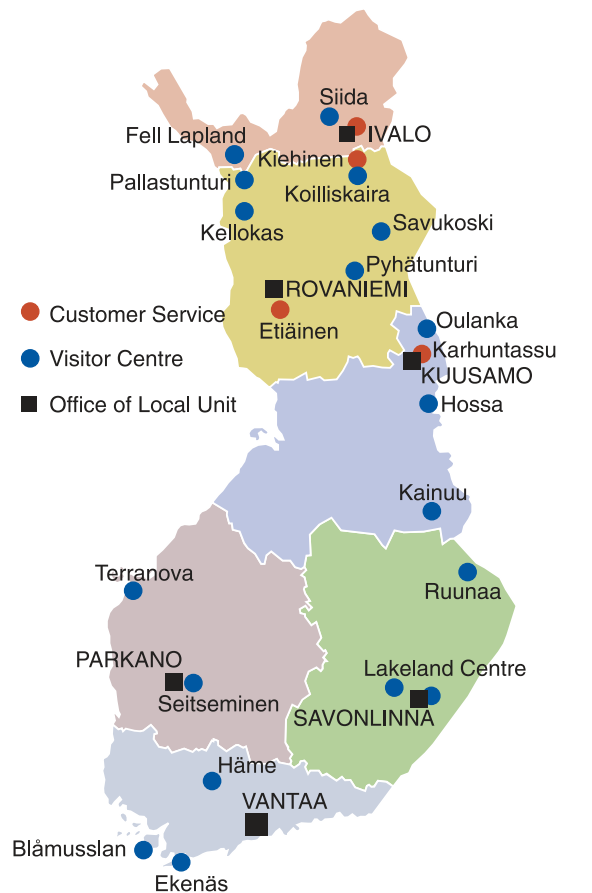
### Siida – Northern Lapland Nature Centre

Inarintie, 99870 Inari, tel.int. +358 205 64 7740

### Terranova – Kvarken Nature Centre\*

P.O. Box 2 (Museokatu 2), 65101 Vaasa, tel.int. +358 6 325 3800

\* in cooperation with the Ostrobothnian Museum



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#### Natural Heritage Services, Central Unit,

P.O. Box 94, 01301 Vantaa, tel.int. +358 205 64 100

#### Natural Heritage Services, Southern Finland,

P.O. Box 94, 01301 Vantaa, tel.int. +358 205 64 100

#### Natural Heritage Services, Western Finland,

P.O. Box 38, 39701 Parkano, tel.int. +358 205 64 5500

#### Natural Heritage Services, Eastern Finland,

Akselinkatu 8, 57130 Savonlinna, tel.int. +358 205 64 5500

#### Natural Heritage Services, Ostrobothnia-Kainuu,

Torangintaival 2, 93600 Kuusamo, tel.int. +358 205 64 6800

#### Natural Heritage Services, Northern Finland,

P.O. Box 8016, 96101 Rovaniemi, tel.int. +358 205 64 7600

#### Natural Heritage Services, Northern Lapland District for Wilderness Management,

P.O. Box 36, 99801 Ivalo, tel.int. +358 205 64 7700



## For Man and Nature

The Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus protect and manage genuine, threatened Finnish nature and produce recreation services for nature lovers. Nearly all of Finland's national parks, strict nature reserves and other protected areas on state-owned lands and waters as well as northern wilderness areas and a large number of other state-owned areas with hiking facilities are our responsibility. The areas are managed by our six regional Natural Heritage Services. The Visitor Centres and Customer Service Points provide the nature lover with information on the natural features and services of the areas. Information on the areas and NHS activities is also available on our website [www.metsa.fi](http://www.metsa.fi). ●



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