

Parks & Wildlife Finland

# Protecting Finland's natural treasures

ANNUAL REPORT 2014





# New initiatives and greater social impact

**During 2014 we have expanded our activities at Parks & Wildlife Finland (formerly known as Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services) and launched new initiatives to increase our social impact.**

**W**e have already built up an international reputation for our work managing Finland's national parks and stocks of game species, and providing facilities that promote outdoor recreation and boost local

economies. We can now utilise our experiences to cherish the 29 cultural heritage sites we have taken over from the National Board of Antiquities.

We have also made progress promoting well-being. We started to systematically assess how much visitors to national parks and the users of our fishing and hunting services value their experiences. Respondents to our questionnaire surveys truly appreciated the well-being benefits of their activities – estimating for instance that a visit to a national park is worth an average of 208 euros, corresponding to the value of several months' membership in a gym.

Our involvement and expertise in project work have also increased. Our total spending on project work in 2014 was double the figure for 2010. We enabled more than 110 jobless youngsters across the country to gain welcome work experience. A project run with the city of Lieksa demonstrated how outdoor recreation can activate people who have long been unemployed. We have also increasingly provided useful employment for inmates from open prisons, helping them to integrate back into society.

Public sector organisations are expected to improve productivity – quite rightly, since they use tax-payers' money. At Parks & Wildlife Finland we have shown that we can work productively and cost-effectively. I hope we have also shown that effectiveness can involve much more than doing more work with fewer personnel. Our work gives society plenty of added value in terms of benefits enjoyed by individual citizens and businesses. We hope that the new parliament will continue to support our efforts to cherish Finland's natural and cultural heritage for the good of our people and the national economy.

*Rauno Väisänen, Director,  
Parks & Wildlife Finland*



PHOTOS: METSÄHALLITUS / JUUKA-PEKKA RONKAINEN

*Parks & Wildlife Finland now runs popular historical attractions including the Raseborg Castle ruins.*





*Oulanka National Park is increasingly bringing in visitors who also enjoy other local attractions. The park's visitors spent 2.7 million euros more in the Kuusamo region in 2014 than in 2009.* PHOTO: BASECAMP OULANKA

# Social and economic benefits from outdoor recreation

**Metsähallitus's Parks & Wildlife Finland unit manages Finland's national parks and other protected areas. We provide services for hunters and fishers who use state-owned lands and waters. Safe and well-indicated routes through Finland's superb landscapes encourage everyone to get out into the wild. Our national parks welcomed almost 2.3 million visitors in 2014. Their spending benefited local economies by a total of more than 125 million euros.**

People feel happier and more energetic after visiting our national parks or other beautiful natural attractions, as shown by survey findings. The psychological, social and physical benefits enjoyed by people visiting natural areas have never been studied as extensively in Finland before.

The survey results indicate that trips to national parks give peace-of-mind and reduce stress. People who stay overnight in natural settings enjoy even more

health benefits than day-trippers. People visiting in groups also enjoy social well-being benefits and strengthen friendship bonds. The physical benefits enjoyed by visitors include fresh air and the chance to experience silence.

In financial terms the health benefits perceived by visitors to our national parks in 2013 are worth an estimated 226 million euros.

Fishers and hunters feel that they gain more in terms of well-being by taking





*Parks & Wildlife Finland now produces services in Chinese for visitors in Lapland and Nuusio. PHOTO: JOUNI MÄNNISTÖ*

longer trips. People of working age and women of all ages particularly find such activities relaxing. Some 90% of hunters and 80% of fishers felt that their hunting and fishing trips significantly improved their social, psychological and physical well-being. Hunters walk an average of 8 kilometres a day out in the forests, often in challenging terrain. Visitors to national parks hiked an average of 15 km a day.

### Millions of people enjoy Finland's natural assets

During 2014 Finland's national parks and our other areas welcomed a total of 5.6 million visitors, and our web services were more widely used than ever – especially on mobile devices.

Finland's best loved national landscapes include Oulanka National Park

in Kuusamo and the hilltops of Koli National Park in Karelia. The exhibitions at our nature centres in both of these popular parks have been revamped. The exhibitions utilise new technology to help visitors to virtually experience the parks' unique nature. Visitors can also enjoy a new film about nature's changing seasons in Oulanka and its twin park Paanajärvi, just over the Russian border. This production was funded by the EU, Finland and Russia, as part of the Fennoscandian Green Belt Project.

Our nature centres welcomed more than a million visitors in 2014. The Northern Lapland Nature Centre Siida and Pyhä-Luosto Visitor Centre Naava each welcomed almost 100,000 visitors. The Finnish Nature Centre Haltia in Espoo had 115,000 visitors, while nearby Nuusio

National Park attracted almost 300,000 visitors.

Destinations in Finnish Lapland, Eastern Finland and the Helsinki area are also popular with tourists from Russia. An ongoing two-year project will upgrade the services we provide for these visitors through language training and the production of material in Russian. A similar scheme targeting Chinese visitors particularly aims to promote the Nuusio, Urho Kekkonen and Lemmenjoki national parks, the Finnish Nature Centre Haltia, and the Northern Lapland Nature Centre Siida. Our customer service staff and other service providers are studying Chinese culture and language.

A delegation from the Forestry Department of Hunan Province recently visited the Helsinki area and Northern Lapland

as part of ongoing Finnish-Chinese collaboration.

## Collaboration to provide memorable experiences of wild Finland

During 2014 we worked to enhance opportunities for year-round nature tourism in Lapland for Finnish and international visitors. Our most popular national park, Pallas–Yllästunturi, welcomed more than half a million visitors – largely due to increased summer tourism. Together with local service providers we are developing a Village to Village tourism package concept. This popular idea has attracted more than 100 partner firms interested in offering services such as accommodation, catering and the transportation of trekkers' luggage to their next overnight destination.

The second annual Finnish Nature Day was marked during the last weekend in August with more than 100 events attracting over 11,000 participants in all.

In NE Finland we established new riverside fishing waters with a total length of 200 km. Many of our recreational fishing waters can now be viewed in online videos.

Through our Moved by Nature project in Eastern Finland we trained volunteer women of the Martha Organization to work with school groups, aiming to encourage teachers to take groups out into the natural environment. The project has also developed new ways to improve children's health and attitude to nature.

The Finnish Heart Association gave Metsähallitus an award in 2014 recognising the way our work promotes cardiac health by providing facilities that encourage people to enjoy healthy outdoor activities.

## Successful partnerships

Parks & Wildlife Finland has extensive networks of partners including businesses, organisations and administrative

agencies throughout Finland. The ministries who supervise our work asked us to find out how our partners see us. Out of 500 respondents 80% are generally happy or very happy with the cooperation with us.

Of our international partners, 95% were pleased with the cooperation. They saw us as an organisation with the high level of expertise and commitment.

## International cooperation on conservation

The Fennoscandian Green Belt consists of a chain of existing and planned nature reserves extending through the borderlands of Finland, Russia and Norway from the Gulf of Finland to the Arctic Ocean. Parks & Wildlife Finland is actively involved in this international scheme, realising projects that enhance cooperation between national parks and nature centres in Finland and Russia to promote sustainable nature tourism. During an EU project we also produced materials for schoolchildren and tourists highlighting the shared natural and cultural heritage of the three countries' borderland regions.

In our work protecting marine life in the Baltic Sea we work closely with organisations including HELCOM and the EU Marine Expert Group. We have shared our experiences of marine habitat inventory methods, marine mapping, and the creation of underwater nature trails and cultural trails for visitors with diving gear.

At the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney we highlighted cross-border cooperation between twin national parks, the benefits of parks for local economies, health impacts, the planning of protected areas inhabited by indigenous people, and scope for sustainable fishing and hunting in protected areas. At the congress Metsähallitus signed a cooperation agreement with the Korea National Park Service and a provisional agreement on



700 youngsters participated in Fishing Rod Day events in June. PHOTO: METSÄHALLITUS / KARI SARAJÄRVI



collaboration with Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia.

## Finland's living cultural heritage

In January 2014 Parks & Wildlife Finland took over the running of 29 historic sites around Finland from the National Board of Antiquities. These sites include medieval castle ruins, the Sámi heritage farmstead of Vålímáa in Lapland, and the sea fortress of Svartholma in the Gulf of Finland. We also now manage the former military islands of Vallisaari, off Helsinki, and Öró in the Archipelago Sea.

Aided by additional government funding we have started to plan the future use of these sites. Working together with local authorities, residents, service providers and the National Board of Antiquities, we aim to make them into thriving attractions and event centres, while safeguarding their natural and cultural values.

The fortified island of Öró will open to visitors during 2015, and we will gradually make it into an important centre for nature tourism in the Archipelago National Park. The island has sandy shores, interesting military relics and many historic buildings. A plan has been drawn up to prepare the island to receive some 30,000 visitors annually in the future. Regular boat services will run to Öró from summer 2015, and work has begun to create a harbour for visiting private boats. Building restoration work has also begun.

Restoration work has continued at Vallisaari and nearby Kuninkaansaari. These islands lie off Helsinki near the Suomenlinna sea fortress – a UNESCO world heritage site. Visitors should be able to discover their natural and historic attractions from 2016.



*While visiting the Vålímáa Sámi heritage farmstead in Lapland, children from the Sámi indigenous community produced Sámi-language films to be shown on TV and on Parks & Wildlife Finland's Sámi-language website [Lundui.fi](http://Lundui.fi). PHOTO: METSÄHALLITUS / PENTTI PIESKI*

## Protecting the heritage of the indigenous Sámi people

The Sámi are a group of indigenous peoples with their own languages, cultures and identities, who live in northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Their traditional livelihoods include reindeer-herding, hunting, fishing and handicrafts. Finland is home to about 7,000 Sámi people. When managing lands in the Sámi homeland region in northernmost Lapland Metsähallitus respects the Sámi people's rights to preserve and develop their own cultures, and

preserves traditional Sámi buildings in these lands.

Parks & Wildlife Finland is the first public authority anywhere in the world to apply the voluntary Akwé:Kon guidelines defined in connection with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to promote the involvement of indigenous peoples in decisions on land use and management in their homelands.

# Working together for nature

Parks & Wildlife Finland collaborates with various partners on projects where our public funding is used to leverage wider funding and benefits. Over the last five years our annual EU project funding levels have doubled to 5.2 million euros. We also greatly appreciate the time and skills many people contribute to our nature conservation work on a voluntary basis.

**A**t Parks & Wildlife Finland we are able to bring together organisations and people from different sectors to work productively. Extensive EU LIFE projects have particularly

supported nature conservation, while many other projects have promoted nature tourism.

## Building snowy dens for rare lake seal pups

The Saimaa ringed seal is an endangered freshwater seal found only in Finland's Lake Saimaa. The five-year Saimaa Seal LIFE Project has been launched to help ensure its survival.

During the winter of 2014, when snowfall rates were unusually low, a team of more than 100 volunteers piled up snowdrifts by lakeshores for seals to use to make the winter dens for newborn

pups. The volunteers worked for two weeks creating 240 possible dens. The scheme was a success, since out of the 64 pups born in late winter 59 were raised in the artificially enhanced den sites. During winters with little snow only 50–70% of the seals' pups survive, but this year more than 80% survived thanks to the volunteers' efforts. The Ministry of the Environment and the Finnish committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gave the volunteer den-makers the Best Deed for Nature award for 2013–2014.

The project has also used divers to survey seal breeding success rates, and

↓ *Saimaa ringed seal numbers remained stable at around 300 individuals.* PHOTO: MERVİ KUNNASRANTA







*The Frigga fritillary benefits from peatland protection schemes such as Boreal Peatland LIFE. This project, the most extensive EU LIFE project so far realised in Finland, ended in 2014.*

PHOTO: METSÄHALLITUS / JUSSI MURTOSAARI

assigned a ranger to ensure that local fishers only use seal-friendly nets and traps.

## LIFE projects protecting peatlands and sunlit habitats

Much of Finland was originally covered by various kinds of natural peatlands, but many of these areas have been drained over the years to create farmland or promote forestry. Our Boreal Peatland LIFE project aimed to restore natural hydrological conditions and landscapes in many of these drained peatlands by filling in ditches and removing excess tree growth. The five-year project, which ended in 2014, restored a total area of 4,700 hectares of peatland habitat, with a million metres of ditches infilled. The project created employment for local contractors amounting to 90 person-years. EU funding covered half of the

project's total budget of some 6.7 million euros. Our experts have closely monitored the impacts of restoration work on the peatlands' hydrology, water quality, vegetation, bird-life, butterflies and dragonflies. Their findings show that these areas are successfully reverting towards their

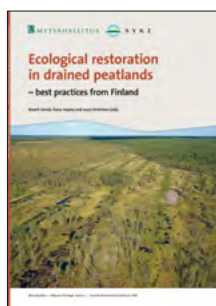
natural state. Some 3,500 schoolchildren have also visited local peatlands as part of the project.

Our new EU-funded Light & Fire LIFE project is the first such scheme in Finland to cover private lands as well as state-owned lands. It involves organising controlled burning to recreate natural conditions in sunlit habitats such as esker slopes and coastal meadows, to benefit their characteristic flora and fauna. About half of the project's total budget of more than four million euros will be covered by EU funding.

## New hope for vanishing wildlife

Metsähallitus and the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute started to work with Russian partners to restore salmon populations that have vanished from Eastern Lapland. Mature salmon caught in Russian waters have been moved to waters near the Finnish-Russian frontier. Fifty of the fish were radio-tagged to enable scientists to study their migratory movements, behaviour and occurrence in spawning areas in rivers and lakes on both sides of the border.

The reintroduction of these salmon should also help endangered local freshwater pearl mussel populations to



## New handbook for ecological restoration in drained peatlands

*Metsähallitus has published an abridged English version of a detailed guide to best practices for the restoration of drained peatlands. The handbook compiles knowhow accumulated over more than 25 years of peatland habitat restoration in Finland, together with useful background information on peatland ecology and hydrology. The guide has been designed to encourage and facilitate peatland restoration work in other countries.*

*The handbook Ecological restoration in drained peatlands – best practices from Finland can be downloaded at [julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisut/show/1733](http://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisut/show/1733).*





*Former Finnish President Tarja Halonen took part in a voluntary work scheme organised by Parks & Wildlife Finland and WWF on the old sea fortress of Vallisaari. PHOTO: METSÄHALLITUS / TĒA KARVINEN*

recover. These molluscs have not been able to reproduce successfully, since their larval stage lives in the gills of salmonid fish. Surveyors looked for pearl mussel larvae in about a hundred streams and rivers in NE Finland over the years 2012–2014. Adult mussels were found living in nine rivers, but young mussels were only observed in three rivers. The species' populations were also mapped in a Nordic project which indicated that the mussels are faring worse than was earlier believed. Their decline can only be halted if river basins are restored and fishways are built to enable salmon to migrate naturally.

We have also begun to plan reintroductions of wild forest reindeer in areas

where they earlier lived, aiming to restore thriving populations that can be sustainably hunted. It is important to prevent interbreeding between wild forest reindeer and their domesticated cousins. Finland has two separate populations of wild forest reindeer: one in Western Finland built up through reintroductions 30–40 years ago; and a natural population in NE Finland that has declined alarmingly.

### **Valuable work contributions from volunteers**

Volunteers make vital contributions to the management of habitats and sustainable game and fish stocks, and species monitoring work. Our summer work events

in 2014 attracted record numbers of participants. 75 such events were organised in our protected areas, including new kinds of events like the pop up voluntary work scheme run at Linnansaari through the national park's Facebook pages. In our marine national parks volunteers combated litter and invasive alien species to mark the designated Gulf of Finland Year 2014.

Expert amateur naturalists did invaluable work surveying the nesting sites of rare birds. Their observations showed that white-backed woodpeckers and golden eagles both had a good year. Record numbers of golden eagle territories were occupied, and 213 eaglets were raised. Peregrine falcon breeding rates were



average; but gyrfalcon breeding rates were very poor for the sixth year running, with only three fledglings ringed.

In the open fells of northernmost Finland volunteer hunters participated in a red fox cull designed to help arctic foxes to return to Finland from nearby breeding areas in Swedish and Norwegian Lapland, by removing their red fox competitors. Every summer hunters also visit almost 1,000 game survey sites around Finland. Their observations are used to help define game bird hunting quotas for the autumn.

### Support for sustainable hunting and fishing

Our income from sales of fishing, hunting and off-road snowmobile permits rose to a record five million euros. The resulting funds are used to improve game habitats, fishing waters and other facilities for hunters and fishers.

We enhanced our supervision of hunting and fishing by employing a virtual ranger in addition to our 12 game and fisheries wardens who work in the field around Finland. The new virtual ranger was a police officer whose job involved following online and social media discussions related to hunting and fishing, and joining such discussions to contribute advice about good practices.

### Better data on species found in protected areas

Surveys of the species occurring in protected areas have focused on the habitats of threatened species. These surveys have found many species not previously observed in Finland, and compiled plenty of useful data, especially on insects.

The 20-year task of surveying habitats in Lapland, which total 40,000 square kilometres, was closing to its end. Aerial

photographs are used to identify localities of interest for more detailed field inventories.

Data fed into geographical information systems is widely applied, for instance when we plan how areas will be managed. Universities and research institutes also benefit from these data banks.

Parks & Wildlife Finland also manages many marine areas, where we are increasingly applying data compiled over the years as a part of the Finnish inventory programme for the underwater marine environment. We have now initiated ecological monitoring of seabed habitats.

### Extensive new protected areas

Many new protected areas, including two new national parks, were established in 2014 in state-owned lands already managed by Metsähallitus. In SW Finland alone more than 90 new protected areas were set up, with a total area of 130 km<sup>2</sup>.

New protected areas totalling 130 km<sup>2</sup> around Lake Saimaa were set up particularly aiming to protect the lake's endangered seals.

As part of the wide-ranging METSO forest biodiversity programme Metsähallitus protected 130 km<sup>2</sup> of forest earlier managed for commercial forestry. Protected areas totalling almost 330 km<sup>2</sup> were added to the Fennoscandian Green Belt as part of the Kalevala Park scheme in the Finnish-Russian borderlands near Suomussalmi.

Parks & Wildlife Finland marks out the boundaries of new protected areas, and makes plans for their future sustainable management.



*Willow grouse numbers in Northern Lapland were 50% higher than in 2013.* PHOTO: METSÄHALLITUS /

TIMO ESKOLA





*Teijo recently became Finland's 39th national park. The park offers varied opportunities for outdoor activities.* PHOTO: METSÄHALLITUS / TEA KARVINEN

# Two new national parks created through citizens' initiatives

Finland now has 39 national parks, after two new parks were created by the Ministry of the Environment at Teijo and Southern Konnevesi on the basis of citizens' initiatives. The old-growth forests and undeveloped lakeshores of Konnevesi in Central Finland, and the varied natural and cultural settings of Teijo in the southwest both add significantly to our network of national parks.

**S**outhern Konnevesi offers opportunities for outdoor activities from kayaking to berry-picking. At Teijo

visitors can enjoy beautiful lakes and marshes, rugged terrain and diverse forests just a stone's throw from a long inlet of the sea.

Forests earlier managed within the Teijo Hiking Area will from now on be left to revert to their natural state in the new national park. Recreational fishing will continue in Lake Matildanjärvi. Teijo National Park, with its easy trails and diverse activities is well-suited for families with members of all generations from babies to grandparents.

At Southern Konnevesi we will now develop nature tourism and facilities for visitors together with local businesses and organisations, as the management plan for the new park takes shape.

Establishing a new national park invariably helps the local authorities and businesses to expand tourism. Both of the new parks encompass Natura 2000 sites already owned by the Finnish State. As visitor numbers grow, the valuable natural features will be carefully safeguarded through ecological measures.



## Cherishing Finland's natural and cultural heritage

We compile information on nature and manage natural and cultural attractions under the supervision of the Ministry of the Environment.

### Nature conservation in numbers in 2014

- 1,627 hectares of forest and mire habitats restored
- 4,310 hectares of traditional agricultural biotopes managed
- 137,614 hectares of terrestrial biotopes surveyed
- species surveyed on 1,621 hectares
- 2,273 ancient cultural heritage sites and 334 protected buildings in care of P&WF



Beetles of the critically endangered species *Cucujus cinnaberinus* were discovered in 2014. PHOTO: LUBOMIR HLASEK

## Productive use of project funding

Together with our partners we use project funding to promote nature tourism around Finland and manage natural areas to preserve threatened species and habitats.

### Project information 2014

- about 100 ongoing projects
- EU project funding levels have doubled to 5.2 million euros in five years (2010–2014)

# Successfully promoting conservation and recreation

## Services to encourage people to experience nature

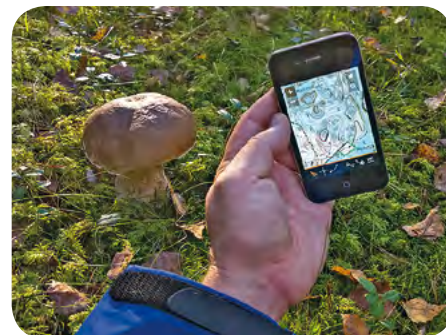
Our revamped Outdoors.fi website is the most popular service for outdoor enthusiasts in Finland. It presents more than 300 destinations, with links to our map service Excursionmap.fi. Both of these services now also have mobile applications.

Hunters and fishers can use our Eräluvat.fi website and online shop to find places to enjoy their sport and buy the necessary permits. The same site can now also be used to pay the national fisheries management fee and to buy provincial lure-fishing permits.

Permits for using snowmobiles in state-owned lands can now be easily purchased by phone, from our customer service points or through the Eräluvat.fi website.

### Customer service in numbers in 2014

- 1.1 million individual visitors at the Luontoon.fi (Outdoors.fi) website
- almost 1.9 million downloads at the Retkikartta.fi (Excursionmap.fi) website
- 286,000 individual visitors at the Eräluvat.fi website
- over 1 million visits to customer service points
- 63,619 participants in client groups provided with guidance
- over 7,000 kilometres of marked trails
- 2,900 maintained picnic sites
- customer satisfaction ratings averaging 4.3 (on a scale of 1–5)
- satisfaction ratings among hunters 3.7 (on a scale of 1–5)



A mobile application was released for the map service Excursionmap.fi. PHOTO: TAPANI MIKKOLA

## Good facilities attract visitors and boost tourism

We use public funds to provide free facilities for outdoor recreation around Finland. Income from fishing and hunting permits is used to manage hunting grounds and fishing waters. Local businesses provide tourism services near our attractions.

Studies have indicated that funds invested by the state in national parks and hiking areas generate economic benefits worth ten times the original investment on average, in the shape of local employment and business opportunities. The funds raised through permit fees generate seven-fold benefits.

### Local economic impacts in numbers

- 5.6 million visits to areas managed by Parks & Wildlife Finland
- 2.3 million visits to national parks
- impact of national parks on local economies totaled an estimated income of 125.8 million euros
- 50,100 hunting permits and 70,151 fishing permits purchased
- estimated local economic impacts of hunters and fishers were 28.2 million euros



## Worthwhile employment in all regions of Finland

Half of Parks & Wildlife Finland's staff are based in our Southern Finland region, a quarter work in Ostrobothnia; and a quarter are in Lapland. We hire many seasonal staff, support youth employment schemes, and provide work for convicts from open prisons. Our projects also provide wide-ranging work for local contractors. Volunteers also kindly give their time to make valuable contributions to our nature conservation work.

### Working for nature

- *total work input of P&WF staff was 624 person-years.*
- *employment for 110 young, unemployed persons during 2014*
- *convicts from open prisons worked for 51 person-years.*
- *2,510 volunteers worked a total of 23 person-years*



*EU-funded peatland habitat restoration projects have been realised around Finland.*

PHOTO: PHILIPPE FAYT



# Managing Finland's natural assets in 2015

*Nuuskio National Park still offers peaceful natural settings even though the park attracted record visitor numbers in 2014.* PHOTO: METSÄHALLITUS / TĒA KARVINEN

**During 2015 Parks & Wildlife Finland will continue to look after Finland's precious heritage, including national parks, cultural sites and sustainably managed game and fish stocks.**

**We will for instance:**

### Increase the value of our national heritage

- We will restore valuable cultural heritage sites including the sea fortress of Svartholma and the Raseborg Castle ruins.
- We will plan reintroductions of wild forest reindeer to expand and connect the species' distributions.
- We will use EU-funds to manage sunlit habitats and safeguard the endangered species they host.

### Help people experience nature to improve their well-being

- We will encourage people to get outdoors by adding municipally run natural recreational areas to our Excursionmap.fi service.
- We will collect the national fisheries management fees to improve the services connected with fishing permits.
- We will start to systematically monitor the well-being benefits enjoyed by visitors

to national parks and other users of our services.

### Promote growth in tourism through productive partnerships

- We will help to increase tourism in SW Finland by opening the fortified island of Örö to visitors and improving facilities in the new Teijo National Park.
- We will reinforce our position as a significant actor in tourism in the Helsinki metropolitan area.
- We will improve facilities for visitors to the popular Urho Kekkonen National Park, especially in the vicinity of the Saariselkä resort in Lapland.

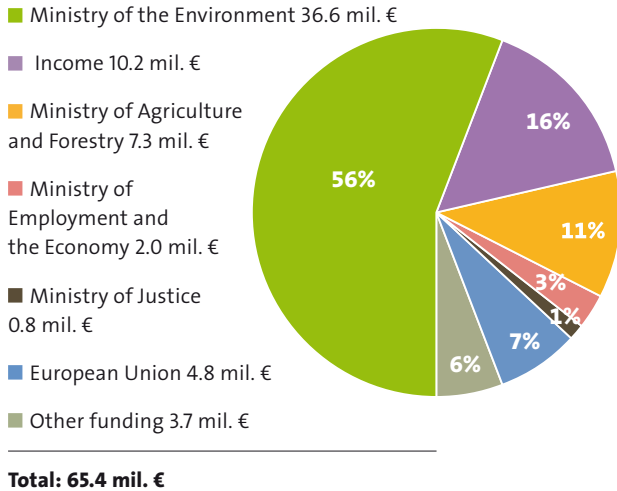
### Cherish Finland's natural and cultural heritage applying all our skills and energy

- Our new geographical data systems will be taken in to use.
- We will continue to employ jobless young people to give them valuable income and experience.
- We will help to rehabilitate convicts from open prisons by providing meaningful outdoor work.



## FINANCES OF PARKS & WILDLIFE FINLAND IN 2014

The activities of Parks & Wildlife Finland are largely financed from the national government budget. Additional income is obtained from fees paid for hunting and fishing permits, and rents.



## METSÄHALLITUS'S PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS

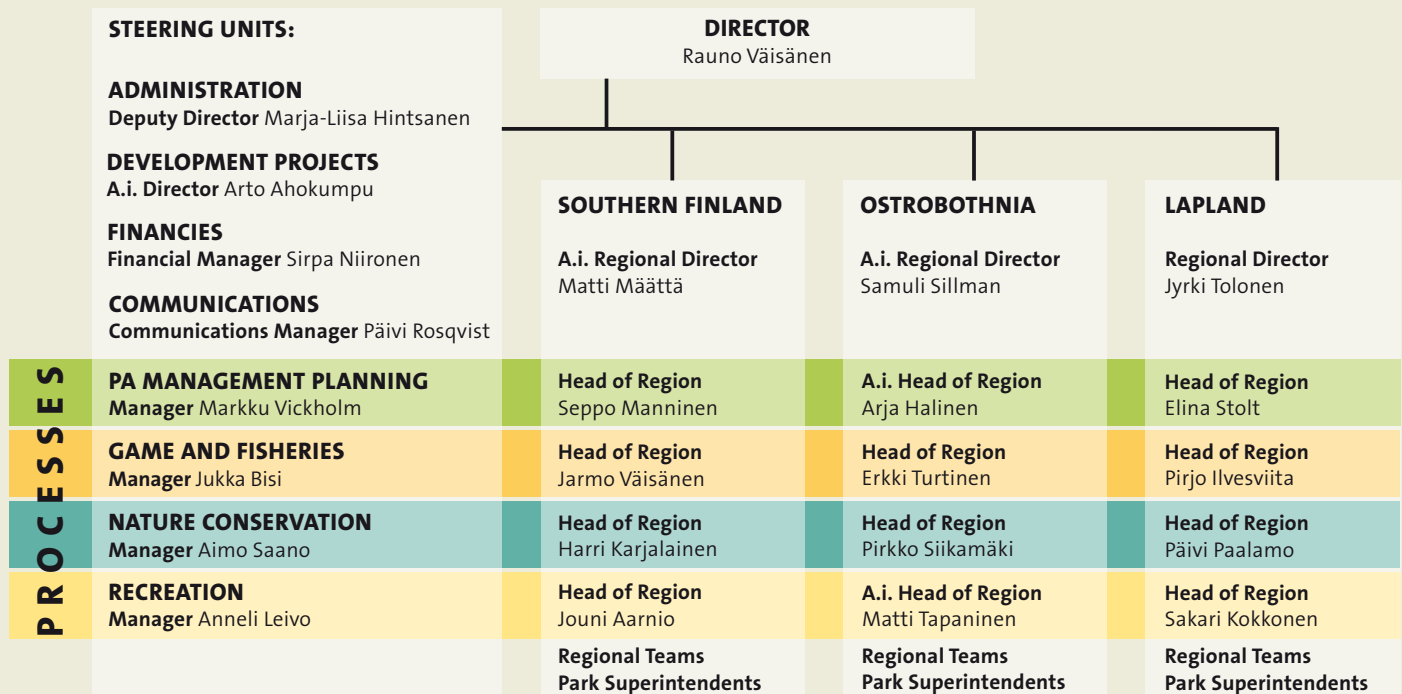
Metsähallitus is a state-owned enterprise that provides services related to natural resources. Metsähallitus's activities are divided into commercial operations (including forestry and real estate deals) and the public administration services provided by Parks & Wildlife Finland (including nature conservation, hunting and fishing services and the provision of free facilities for outdoor recreation). The public services are largely financed from the national government budget.

## OUR AREAS IN NUMBERS 2015

The administration of lands and waters owned by the Finnish State (which amount to about a third of the country's total area) has been placed in the care of Metsähallitus.

- Metsähallitus administers areas with a total extent of 125,000 square kilometres, including 91,000 sq km of state-owned land and 34,000 sq km of state-owned waters.
- Of these totals Parks & Wildlife Finland manages 39,000 sq km of land and 32,000 sq km of waters (totaling 71,000 sq km), including:
  - 39 national parks, 19 strict nature reserves, and about 500 other nature reserves (together totaling 17,000 sq km)
  - 12 wilderness areas (with a total extent of 15,000 sq km).

## THE ORGANISATION OF PARKS & WILDLIFE FINLAND 1.1. 2015





## ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF VISITS TO NATURE CENTRES AND CUSTOMER SERVICE POINTS IN 2014

(Total: 1. 007,500 visits.)

Service point	Visits
Archipelago	12 200
Ekenäs	16 100
Fell-Lapland	27 900
Hailuoto	12 100
Haltia	115 000
Hossa	39 800
Häme	16 000
Ivalo	13 900
Kalajoki	33 200
Karhunkierros	7 200
Kilpisjärvi	10 200
Koilliskaira	12 000
Koli	48 700
Kuhmo	10 400

Kuusamo	20 200
Kvarken	13 600
Liminganlahti	54 800
Linnansaari	8 300
Northern Lapland	98 500
Oulanka	51 900
Pallastunturi	40 900
Pyhä-Luosto	96 900
Ruunaa	5 500
Saariselkä	44 200
Saimaa	30 600
Savukoski	7 100
Seitseminen	28 700
Syöte	33 900
Teijo	17 000
Yllästunturi	80 700

Metsähallitus nature centres and customer service points 2014. Contact information and services: [www.outdoors.fi](http://www.outdoors.fi) > Customer service



## ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF VISITS TO NATIONAL PARKS IN 2014

(Total: 2.286,500 visits. Southern Konnevesi NP was established 1.9.2014, Teijo NP 1.1.2015.)

National park	Visits
Archipelago	54 700
Bothnian Bay	9 800
Bothnian Sea	48 000
Eastern Gulf of Finland	14 200
Ekenäs Archipelago	48 000
Helvetinjärvi	18 900
Hiidenportti	10 200
Isojärvi	12 300
Kauhaneva-Pohjankangas	7 200
Koli	135 200
Kolovesi	10 200
Kurjenrahka	36 600
Lauhanvuori	11 000
Leivonmäki	12 900
Lemmenjoki	12 200
Liesjärvi	28 600

Linnansaari	30 500
Nuoksio	285 200
Oulanka	179 600
Pallas-Yllästunturi	514 800
Patvinsuo	13 000
Petkeljärvi	18 800
Puurijärvi-Isonsuo	8 400
Pyhä-Häkki	15 900
Pyhä-Luosto	101 600
Päijänne	14 000
Repovesi	98 200
Riisitunturi	22 400
Rokua	17 800
Salamajärvi	14 000
Seitseminen	41 000
Sipoonkorpi	75 200
Southern Konnevesi	9 700
Syöte	36 600
Tiilikkajärvi	8 400
Torransuo	12 000
Urho Kekkonen NP	288 600
Valkmusa	10 800

## ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF VISITS TO NATIONAL HIKING AREAS IN 2014

(Total: 355,300 visits. Teijo Hiking Area became a part of the new Teijo NP 1.1.2015.)

Hiking area	Visits
Evo	64 400
Hossa	51 700
Iso-Syöte	25 100
Kylmäluoma	25 800
Oulujärvi	39 500
Ruunaa	81 200
Teijo	67 600

Next page: Map on protected areas and national hiking areas. →



# Parks & Wildlife Finland

Metsähallitus is a state-owned enterprise that provides services related to Finland's natural resources. Parks & Wildlife Finland is a unit of Metsähallitus, providing public administration services which are largely financed from the national government budget.

Parks & Wildlife Finland

- manages national parks, strict nature reserves, wilderness areas, national hiking areas and most of the state-owned public waters
- protects and manages species, habitats and cultural heritage in state-owned areas
- provides outdoor recreation services for hikers
- sells permits for hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

[www.metsa.fi](http://www.metsa.fi) – information on the activities and organisation

[www.outdoors.fi](http://www.outdoors.fi) – information on the protected areas and services for hikers

[www.excursionmap.fi](http://www.excursionmap.fi) – hiking-destinations and hunting and fishing areas on a map

[www.eraluvat.fi](http://www.eraluvat.fi) – web service for purchasing hunting and fishing permits

[www.haltia.com](http://www.haltia.com) – Finnish Nature Centre Haltia: all of Finland's nature under one roof and closer to the visitor in the Helsinki region.

 Parks & Wildlife Finland on Youtube

 **METSÄHALLITUS**



Finland's national parks, strict nature reserves, wilderness areas, national hiking areas and public waters under Metsähallitus's management as of 31.12.2014. (Teijo National Park was established 1.1.2015.)