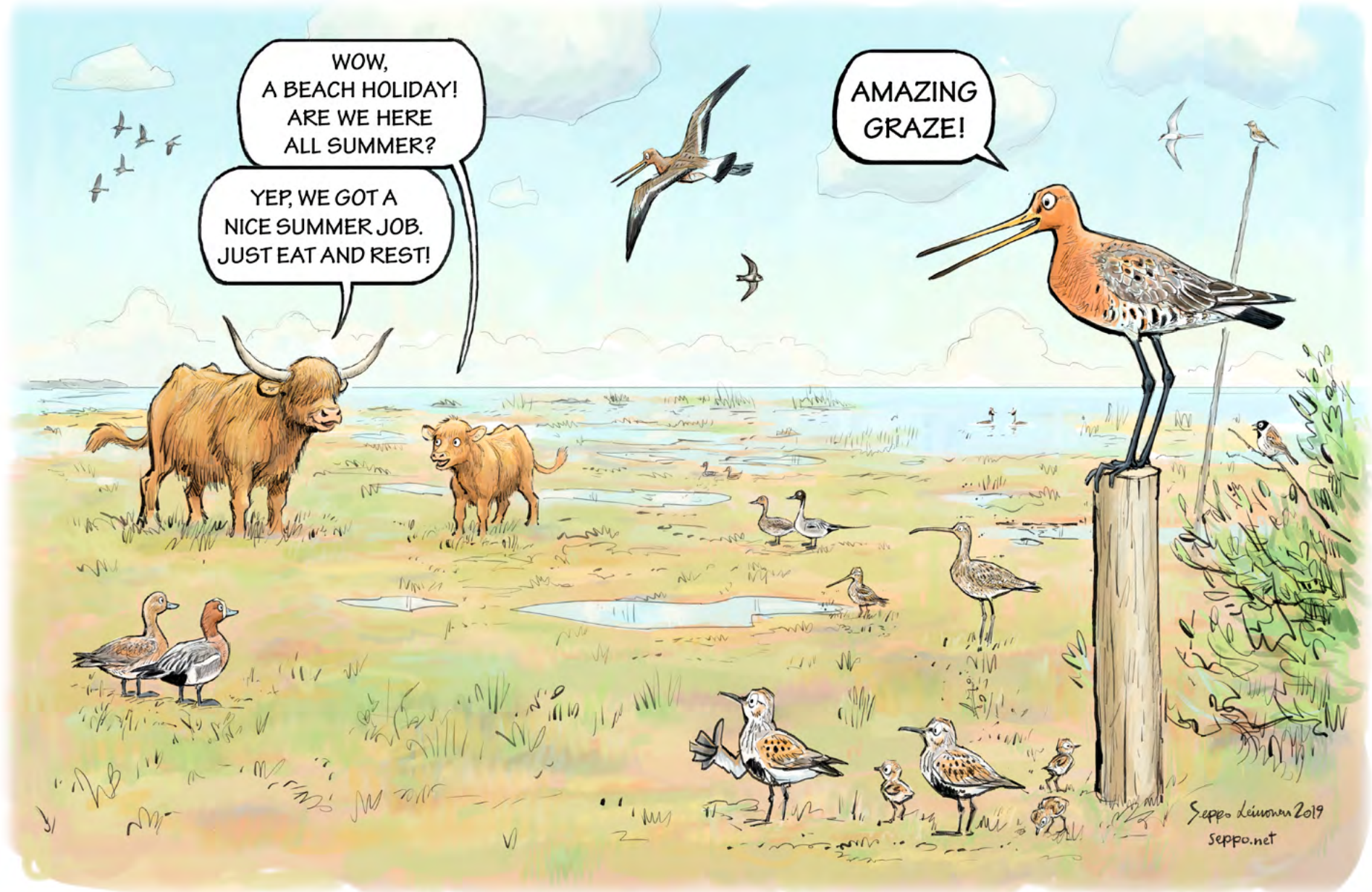


2 Grazing animals help coastal meadows!



Grazing animals help coastal meadows!

Open coastal meadows have served as traditional pastures for livestock. Flood water brings nutrients to the meadow and helps hay and other plants grow. Meadow plants, insects and birds together create a wonderfully diverse habitat. Coastal meadows are important open habitats for many rare species, too.

If outdoor grazing were to be discontinued, the meadows would soon grow over and there would be a loss of biodiversity. The management of coastal meadows in nature reserves and elsewhere requires the help of grazing animals.

Livestock keeps wetland meadows open

Coastal meadows overrun with reed beds and scrub can flourish again once they are managed. First, trees, bushes and reeds are cleared. Then, the four-legged nature managers can get to work.

Lowering the vegetation also gives many endangered plants room to grow. When coastal meadows are managed, bird wetlands are also taken care of and landscapes open up. Open coastal meadows belong to the traditional Finnish rural landscape.

Benefits for livestock owners

Natural pastures provide livestock with food and physical activity. The number of animals is adjusted to suit the yield of a given pasture. Vegetation should remain low throughout the growing season, and no additional food should be brought into the area.

Agri-environmental agreements funded by the European Union have offered a funding opportunity for grazing in many valuable nature sites.

MORE INFORMATION

- **Most of the meadows in state-owned nature reserves in Finland are managed by grazing tenants (metsa.fi).**

Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland does not charge rent for these areas.

WETLAND CARDS: [JULKAISUT.METSA.FI/
EN/PUBLICATIONS/SHOW/2693](https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/en/publications/show/2693)



Hydrology LIFE project – Restoring peatlands and wetlands all over Finland

During the project we safeguard peatlands, small water bodies and important bird lakes in over 100 Natura 2000 areas. The majority of peatlands in Finland is severely degraded by forestry-drainage. The restoration measures recover the habitats towards the natural state which is vital for many valuable species.

Flood protection, water quality and game areas will also be improved.

The project is run by Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland from 2017 to 2023.

www.metsa.fi/en/project/hydrology-life



ILLUSTRATION BY SEPPO LEINONEN / SEPPO.NET.

THE PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE LIFE PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE MATERIAL REFLECTS THE VIEWS BY THE AUTHORS, AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OR THE CINEA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY USE THAT MAY BE MADE OF THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS.