NATURE MANAGEMENT TO BENEFIT COASTAL AND ARCHIPELAGO NATURE IN

Finland and Estonia

Project activities and results 2018–2025

METSÄHALLITUS
FORSTSTYRELSEN
MEAHCIRÁÐÐEHUS

Life

NATURA 2000

CoastNet LIFE

Contents

CoastNet LIFE -project (LIFE17 NAT/FI/000544)

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Partners: Keskkonnaamet (Estonian Environmental Board) Town of Raahe, Town of Rauma, City of Tallinn, City of Turku, University of Turku, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Southwest Finland, WWF Finland

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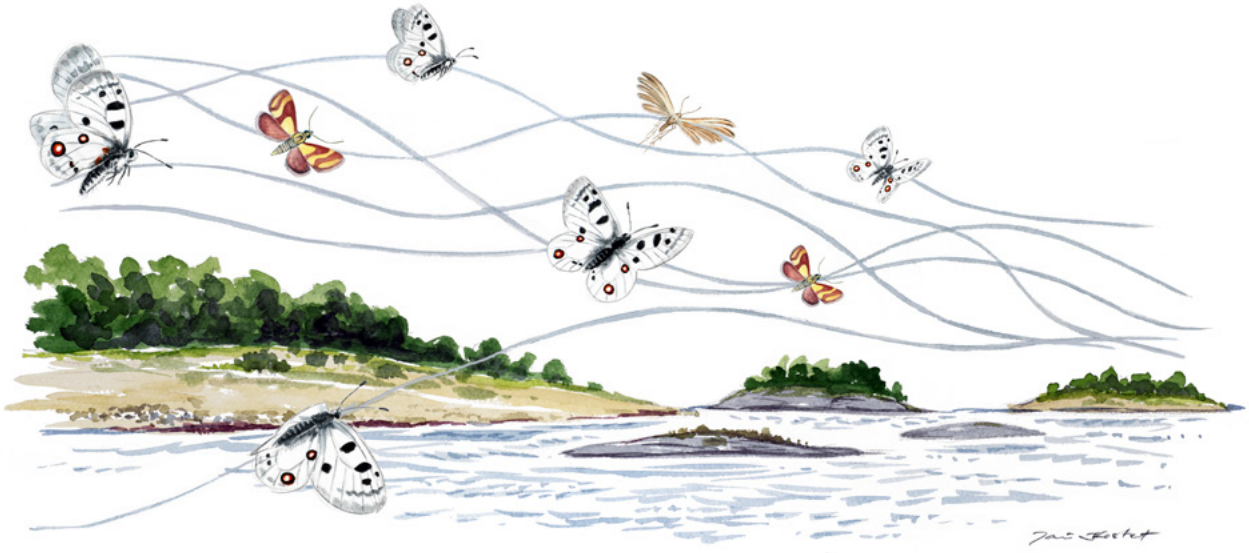
Cooperation to improve coastal nature on land and at sea

The coastal area and archipelago of Finland and Estonia are full of diverse areas with many endangered species and habitats that are sensitive to the impacts of climate change. Open heaths, meadows and areas that are important for birds have decreased due to the end of grazing, overgrowth accelerated by eutrophication and the spread of invasive alien species.

The network of Natura 2000 sites protects important habitats and species throughout the European Union. The aim of the Coastal LIFE project was to improve the status of the Natura area at 41 sites in Finnish and Estonian coastal areas and in the archipelago.

A well-functioning network of habitats makes it possible for species to move from one area to another. Improving the network is and will continue to be particularly important, when the impacts of climate change are becoming visible. A continuous north-to-south network of habitats that are in good condition will help species spread to new living areas when the southern habitats become too hot or dry.

The networks of managed habitats overlap, and one species may need different kinds of habitats during its lifespan. The quality of the Natura network has been improved by means of nature management in the CoastNet LIFE project.



We performed measures to, for example, help two Apollo butterfly species. Illustration: Jari Kostet.

Six partners from Finland and two from Estonia participated in the project. The project had a budget of EUR 8.7 million, of which the EU's co-financing share was 60%. Together, we restored important coastal and archipelago habitats, such as sunlit areas, coastal meadows, herb-rich forests and wooded pastures in an area from Bothnian Bay to the Hanko archipelago in Finland and on the northern coast of Estonia. We also piloted the restoration of a lagoon, created new practices for planning underwater nature management and restored a freshwater pearl mussel home river.

We cleared overgrown environments, established new grazing areas and did burning. We combated invasive alien species, such as the Japanese rose. We also supplemented the networks with new sites. We also performed restorations using volunteers.

We published videos, communications material and research information related to nature management. Nature schools in Finland and Estonia as well as nature trails, events and exhibitions provided information on coastal nature.

CoastNet LIFE restoration sites from Finland's Bothnian Bay to the Estonian coast

The restoration sites in the CoastNet LIFE project are located in 41 Natura areas that represent the diverse land and marine nature of the coastal area.

The restoration sites in Finland are located in 37 Natura areas from Bothnian Bay to the Archipelago Sea.

Bothnian Bay National Park is located in the northernmost corner of the **Bothnian Bay** area. It consists of approximately 30 low moraine islands and islets shaped by waves, pack ice and land uplift. The land is like a miniature version of Finland: the landscape ranges from rocky islets with no vegetation to coastal meadows and herb-rich forests. The islands have small lakes – also called gloes – as well as open forest and low shrubs similar to those found on fells. Approximately 100 bird species nest on the islands in the Bothnian Bay. The park's official bird is the Arctic tern. The Tornionjoki and Kemijoki rivers discharge a lot of fresh water into the sea, which means that Bothnian Bay has the lowest salinity in the Baltic Sea.

The natural landscape in **Kvarken** is rocky archipelago, and it can be called the "A kingdom of rocks". Signs of the last Ice Age and land uplift are visible everywhere. Continuous land uplift constantly reveals new rocks. The area is home to the critically endangered sea grayling, a species that is native to the Gulf of Bothnia and is not found anywhere else in the world. Together with Sweden's High Coast, the Kvarken Archipelago also forms Finland's only natural heritage site on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The **Bothnian Sea** is where the northern and southern land and marine nature meet. Also located in the area is Bothnian Sea National Park, which was the first park established to protect actual water areas and the seabed. Nutrient content and eutrophication levels in the Bothnian Sea are clearly lower than elsewhere in the Baltic Sea. In the open sea areas of the Bothnian Sea, water exchange is effective and the waters remain clear due to the open nature of the coast. The bird islets and other parts of the outer archipelago are home to the common eider. Preiviikinlahti Bay is also an important nesting and rest area for birds. The coastal meadows along the shores of the Preiviikinlahti Bay have developed on former pastures and on new land revealed by land uplift.

The **Archipelago National Park** area includes approximately 2,000 islands and islets shaped by continental ice and waves, the most well-known of which are Jungfruskär, Jurmo, Utö lighthouse island and Örö fortress island. The nature of the islands is exceptionally diverse. The Archipelago Sea nature has flowering shoreline plants, herb-rich forests that provide a home for many species, and lush meadows with hazel. The special features of archipelago nature include coastal meadows and semi-natural grasslands.

Sandy beach plants. Illustration: Jari Kostet.

Restoration measures were carried out at four Natura sites in the coastal area of Estonia.

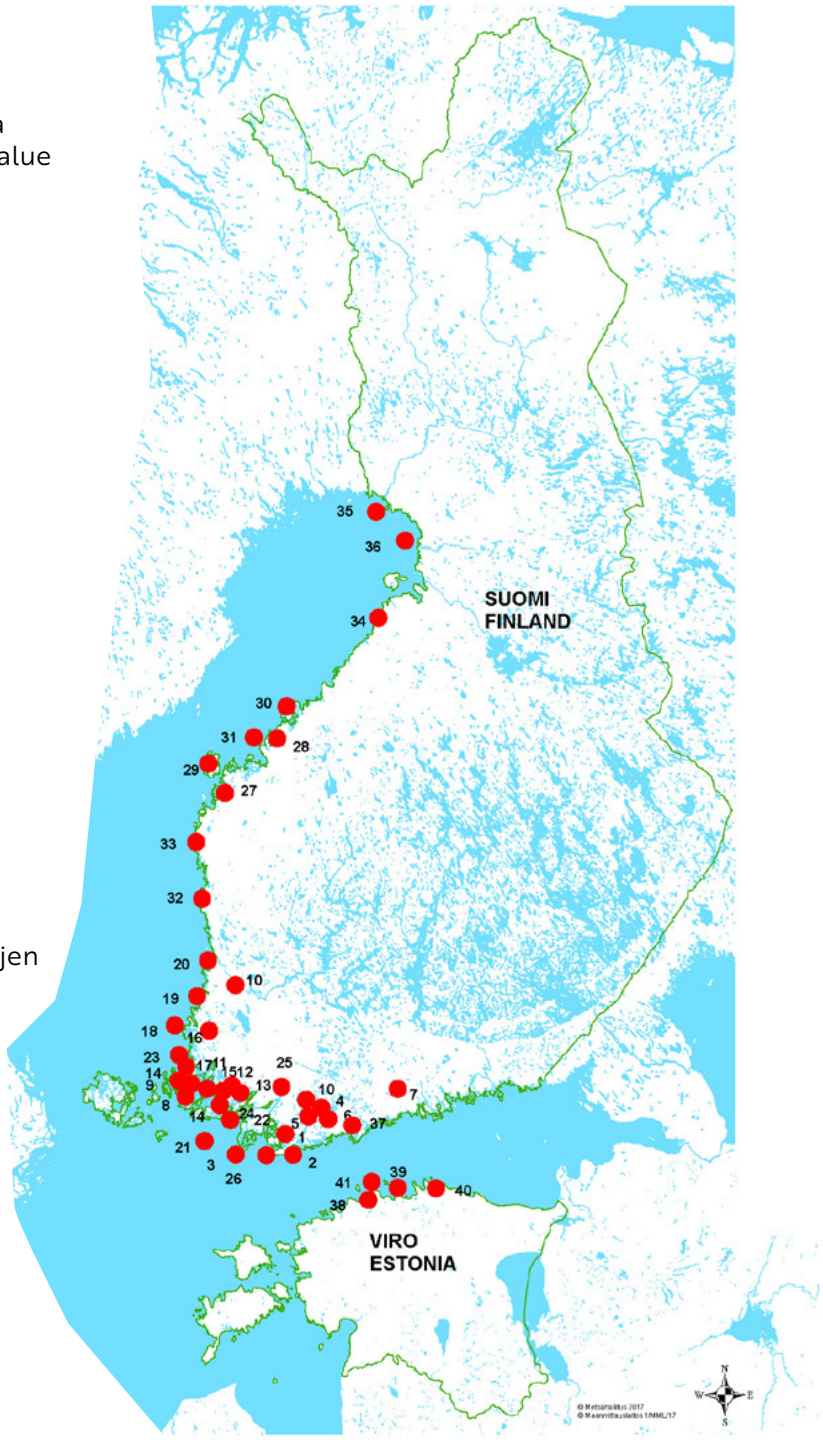
Paljassaare is a nesting and rest area for several bird species. Up to 233 different bird species have been observed in the area. The landscape is diverse, including meadows, shrubs and shallows. Paljassaare is also located on a bird migration route.

Kolga lahe is a bay that includes islands and a coastal area. Fixed coastal dunes are the most valuable habitat in the area.

Lahemaa is one of the most important forest protection areas in Europe. The impressive North Estonian Klint – an extensive coastal cliff – is also located in the area. One of the keystone species in the project is located under the surface of a river in Lahemaa: the freshwater pearl mussel. Today these mussels only live in a single river in Estonia.

Aegna is a small island located near the city of Tallinn. The island is home to a dense pine and spruce-dominated forest. Coastal meadows and wooded dunes are characteristic of the island.

1. Tapelsåsen-Lindöviken-Heimlax
2. Tammisaaren ja Hangon saariston ja Pohjanpitäjänlahden merensuojelualue
3. Tulliniemen linnustonsuojelualue
4. Karkali, Suurniemi ja Mailan alueet
5. Kalkkimäki ja Laukmäki
6. Lohjanjärven alueet
7. Lemmenlaakson lehto
8. Houtskärin lehdot
9. Iniön saaret
10. Lemulanrinne
11. Hulaholmi-Kluuvi
12. Ruissalo
13. Rauvolanlahti
14. Seilin saaristo
15. Pakinaisten saaristo
16. Untamala
17. Keistiön fladat
18. Uudenkaupungin saaristo
19. Rauman saaristo
20. Preiviikinlahti
21. Saaristomeri
22. Paraisten harjusaaret
23. Katanpää
24. Uutiskuuva
25. Vuorelanmäki
26. Örö
27. Södra Stadsfjärden-Söderfjärden-Öjen
28. Lapuanjokisuisto-Bådaviken
29. Merenkurkun saaristo
30. Luodon saaristo
31. Uudenkaarlepyyn saaristo
32. Kristiinankaupungin saaristo
33. Närpiön saaristo
34. Raahen saaristo
35. Perämeren kansallispuisto
36. Perämeren saaret
37. Meiko - Lappträsk
38. Paljassaare
39. Kolga lahe
40. Lahemaa
41. Aegna



Grazing in Sundholm. Photo: Meelis Linnamägi.

Improving the condition of the coastal network of habitats

Activities before nature management measures

Before implementing the restoration measures, we examined the species in the protected areas on land and at sea and ensured that the measures would not harm the different species, such as birds, beetles, spiders, butterflies, mosses and vascular plants. We also inventoried cultural heritage values and found a total of 65 new archaeological sites. Management measures for the sites were planned in advance to maximise the benefit of restoration for species in the area and ensure that the overall restoration would be as successful as possible.

Valuable semi-natural grasslands

Semi-natural grasslands are meadows, wooded pastures and grazed woodlands maintained by means of grazing and mowing. Grazing protects habitats and species and preserves semi-natural grasslands for future generations. Managing this endangered habitat is one of the most important methods of preventing biodiversity loss. The

Highland cattle at Paljassaare. Photo: Matis Mägi.

variety of species in semi-natural grasslands is very large: for example, a single square metre may contain more than 35 plant species. In addition, many species have adapted to meadow habitats and to certain nectar-producing plants growing there or manure produced as a result of grazing, and cannot survive anywhere else.

In the CoastNet LIFE project, we maintained semi-natural grasslands by restoring pasture areas. For example, we removed and mowed shrubs and established new pasture areas. Grazing will continue in some sites after the project.

Bringing the traditional archipelago landscape back to life

More than 100 hectares of pastures were fenced and restored in the Rauma archipelago. We restored the areas to the condition they were in when the archipelago was inhabited and grazing and felling for household use automatically kept the landscape more open.

Clearing and grazing were used to improve the living conditions of, for example, the endangered heath bedstraw plant. Grazing and restoration of semi-natural grasslands also have a positive impact on hiking and help recreational users to better understand how people used to live in the archipelago. A more open environment is pleasant, and the grazing animals provide joy and variety for nature enthusiasts.

In 2023, the Finnish Landrace Association Maatiainen awarded Rauma a certificate honouring its work on semi-natural grasslands in the Päiväranta-Pinokari area of Nurmes Island.

Coastal meadows

Coastal meadows play a major role in preserving biodiversity. In addition to vegetation and insects, this endangered habitat is particularly important for birds. In particular, waders like the redshank , ringed plover and lapwing nest and feed in coastal meadows. Coastal meadows are threatened by overgrowth caused by nitrogen loads, climate change and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. In the CoastNet LIFE project, we used different methods to prevent overgrowth. For example, we restored meadows by clearing juniper shrubs and

Sheep at work in the Rauma archipelago.
Photo: Kustaa Elsilä.

Natural pastures provide grazers – sheep, horses or cattle – with balanced nutrition suitable for their species.

Semi-natural grassland caretakers in Bothnian Bay National Park. Photo: Jussi-Tapio Roininen

coniferous trees on Pensaskari Island in Bothnian Bay National Park. Sheep will handle management of the site in the future.

Natural pastures provide grazers – sheep, horses or cattle – with balanced nutrition suitable for their species. They simultaneously keep the vegetation low and prevent shrubs from taking over.

Restoration of small areas in the outer archipelago

The outer archipelago islets and shores of the islands have many types of small and open habitats. The meadows, heath and meadow patches and tiny sandy beaches form a diverse but vulnerable environment. Small habitats are extremely sensitive to environmental changes. Even a slight change can cause a species to completely disappear from the area. We carried out restoration measures in, for example, the Raahe archipelago.

Birds like the eider, turnstone and rock pipit nest on the outer islets or rest there while migrating.

Restoration of the Apollo butterfly network

The Apollo butterfly is a flagship species of the Archipelago Sea, and it is a highly endangered and protected butterfly species in Finland. The Apollo is a large white butterfly that is very loyal to its home area and has excellent flying skills.

The population began to rapidly decrease starting in the 1950s. The strongest population of the species is currently found in Finland's southwestern archipelago. A survey conducted in 2019 revealed a significant decrease in the Apollo butterfly population in the Archipelago Sea. One of the key factors endangering the species is changes in the area inhabited by the Apollo butterfly. Sunny and warm meadows are becoming overgrown. The nectar plants that are important for adult butterflies are disappearing at the same time. One of these plants is orpine, which Apollo butterfly larvae use as a food source. We have cleared and burned juniper shrubs in the CoastNet LIFE project in order to increase the habitat for Apollo butterflies.

A turnstone on a rock. Photo: Suvi Saarnio.

The feeding flights of an Apollo butterfly may extend hundreds of metres from the rocks where they make their home. Photo: Jaakko Ruola.

The hermit beetle is only found in the Turku region in Finland. Photo: Emma Kosonen.

The clouded Apollo butterfly also needs help. The clouded Apollo butterfly is classified as vulnerable (VU) species and in need of urgent protection. Clouded Apollo butterflies prefer to live on islands with plenty of semi-natural grasslands and herb-rich forest. We improved clouded Apollo habitats by directing tree clearing and grazing to appropriate sites. We managed clouded Apollo butterflies in protected areas of the Archipelago Sea.

Restoration of herb-rich forests

Our herb-rich forest environments are home to very high numbers of species. One example of our herb-rich forest management is Karkali Strict Nature Reserve, where space for deciduous trees and hazel has been opened up by reducing the number of spruce trees. In Lahemaa, we cleared space for a meadow by dismantling old Soviet military structures in the area. Three years after the restoration, the site has become a diverse semi-natural grassland that will also have room for herb-rich forest growth in the future.

> ***We restored wintering sites for bats***

The Ruissalo Natura 2000 site in Turku was the most extensive herb-rich forest included in the project, with oak and deciduous forests being managed over a 48-hectare area in Ruissalo. Ruissalo Island has Finland's largest natural oak and hardwood forests, and these provide a habitat for a large number of demanding and endangered species. The Ruissalo forests are an important habitat, especially for many fungi and invertebrates that depend on decaying wood. In terms of species that depend on old deciduous forests, many of Finland's most extensive or even the only populations are in Ruissalo.

The aim of management measures was to reduce competition from fast-growing mixed tree species that weaken the status of Ruissalo's deciduous and herb-rich forests and slow the spread of spruce

trees while simultaneously promoting the renewal of oak trees. The management measures were also aimed at limiting the spread of invasive alien tree species and other invasive alien species.

During the CoastNet LIFE project, new linden trees were planted along the Kansanpuistontie road in Ruissalo to supplement the old alley of trees. Old tree alleys are important habitats for species like the protected hermit beetle. We also cleaned up 160 littered sites that were found in Ruissalo forest areas in connection with the surveys.

We restored wintering sites for bats in Ruissalo.

Restoration of sunlit areas

Open sunlit areas, such as the sandy beaches, meadows and heaths on Baltic esker islands, are the only habitats where many insect and plant species can thrive. Breckland Thyme is one of the most important plant species in the Baltic esker islands. Many endangered species depend on it, such as Scarce Crimson and Gold, a moth whose larvae live on thyme.

Sunlit areas quickly become overgrown. In the CoastNet LIFE project, we cleared and burned juniper shrubs and young trees and established pastures. Among other things, the management measures have provided more living space for thyme. The spread of thyme to new areas will improve the opportunities for species dependent on it to survive in the future as well.

Volunteers are important to nature management

Volunteers worked with us to manage coastal nature. Their efforts have helped to improve the habitats for many species. During the CoastNet LIFE project, volunteers did valuable work in overgrown meadows, heaths and bird islands.

In Finland, WWF has been responsible for the majority of arrangements for the project's volunteer camps. WWF organised a total of 19 volunteer camps in which 297 volunteers took part. The main task of the volunteers was to restore semi-natural grasslands by clearing, collecting felling residue, and mowing meadows and reeds. The camp volunteers also combated invasive alien plant species, such as the Japanese

Controlled burning on the Pargas esker islands in Jurmo in the Archipelago Sea. Photo: Jani Virtanen.

An overgrown shore area in Täktominlahti Bay in Hanko before restoration measures. Photo: Esko Tainio.

The same shoreline area after mowing of the reeds. Photo: Sami Isoaho.

rose, at several sites and collected litter that had drifted onto the shores.

The WWF's goal is to utilise the work input of volunteers as effectively as possible for the benefit of nature. The sites selected for camps are places where volunteer work is the most cost-effective option and which cannot be accessed with machines due to, for example, the terrain or an isolated location.

The volunteers worked a total of 2,272 person-days, which corresponds to approximately 10 person-years. This is a massive effort in terms of nature conservation work. For example, WWF organised two long camps and two burning camps on Katanpää Fortress Island in Kustavi to restore old coastal meadows and clear nesting cliffs for sea birds. The total work input was more than 144 person-days. The volunteer camps organised by WWF will also continue in cooperation with Metsähallitus after the CoastNet LIFE project.

In Estonia, volunteers have removed and burned young pine trees on Mohn and Rammu islands.

Volunteers helped build water flow structures, fish spawning grounds, and mowed riverbank meadows in Pudisoo and Altja rivers.

A total of 52 camps, 652 volunteers and 241 days in Finland and Estonia.

Many methods of combating the Japanese rose

Japanese rose in an invasive alien species that takes over living space on the coast and destroys biodiversity. The hardy Japanese rose is an invasive alien species that originated in Northeast Asia and was originally introduced into Europe as an ornamental plant. The plant spreads when birds carry it from yards and roadsides. Its berries also spread to new areas via the water. The roots of the Japanese rose grow into a very dense ball and the plant eventually completely replaces the original

Photo: Meelis Linnamag.

Photo: Petteri Tolvanen.

Photo: Teemu Niinimäki.

A total of 52 camps, 652 volunteers and 241 days in Finland and Estonia.

coastal species. It takes time and perseverance to eliminate the Japanese rose. During the project, we used different methods to combat Japanese rose. These included digging them up, covering the plant with reusable tarps, cutting down the green parts of the plant three times during the summer, and using a pesticide.

At Paljassaare in Estonia, we tried grazing as a method of removing the Japanese rose in 2019–2023. In combination with other methods, Highland cattle proved to be an effective way of combating the Japanese rose – especially in the dry season.

Comprehensive work to combat invasive alien species in Ruissalo and Lahemaa

In Ruissalo, Turku, the CoastNet LIFE project performed a comprehensive survey of invasive alien species and made a plan for dealing with such species. This provided the basis for continuing work to combat invasive alien species that had already begun before the project. Among other things, we combated giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, Garden lupin, Japanese rose, Spanish slug, and the harmful small carnivores mink and raccoon dog.

In Lahemaa National Park in Estonia, the CoastNet LIFE project combated dwarf mountain pine, which has taken over living space from native species. Small predator hunting was carried out on islands in Kolga Bay to protect the nesting sites of birds. A total of 21 hunting trips were made during the project and, for example, 29 raccoon dogs were removed. Hunters also collected hundreds of litres of litter at the same time.

After the project, measures to combat invasive alien species will continue at several sites.

You can also help! If you notice Japanese roses that have escaped into nature growing near your home or cottage, ask the landowner for permission and make combating the rose a summer project. For example, this can be done by cutting down the green parts of the plant several times during the summer.

Information about management of invasive alien species

- **https://www.metsa.fi/projekti/rannikko-life-hanke/kurttulehtiruusun-torjunta-rannikko-life-hankkeessa/**
- **vieraslajit.fi**

Work to combat the Japanese rose in Kvarken. Photo: Meelis Linnamägi.

Photo: Essi Keskinen

Under the water surface

Five plans for archipelago nature

Both underground and underwater nature have been taken into account when planning archipelago nature management. Five management plans that took underwater nature as a whole into account for the first time were implemented and updated during the project. One of the goals when planning management and use in archipelago areas has been to reconcile nature conservation and recreational use.

Read more about management and use plans.

- **Perämeri**
- **Saaristomeri**
- **Viro Kolga Lahe**
- **Aegna**
- **Paljassaare**

Lessons from the restoration of Täktominlahti Bay

Eurasian watermilfoil is not an invasive alien species but a type of submerged aquatic plant commonly found in shallow bays in Finland. It can grow to a length of up to 3.5 metres. It spreads from not only its roots but also other plant parts and secretes a kind of plant poison that prevents or hinders the growth of other plants. This has also happened in Täktominlahti Bay in Hankoniemi, where Eurasian watermilfoil has taken over living space from original species. It also hampers recreational use and has disturbed water exchange in the bay.

Täktominlahti Bay is a large shallow bay and a large flada that used to be a sandy-bottomed bay with clear water and little vegetation. At the beginning of the project, it was silty and had been taken over by large amounts of water plants. Local water management associations have built wetlands that helped to reduce nutrient emissions from waters running into the bay. The CoastNet LIFE project aimed to further reduce the nutrient load in the bay by mowing the aquatic plants that had taken over the bay.

We tried mowing the aquatic plants with a mowing machine, which was repeated for three consecutive years. The trial demonstrated that although mowing did not reduce the amount of Eurasian watermilfoil, it did not increase it either. The trial provided valuable lessons about the practical implementation of restoration of a bay.

Read more. Includes a checklist for starting a water restoration project.

https://www.metsa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/taktominlahti_restoration_pilot_final_report.pdf

Täktominlahti Bay in 2021. Photo: Julia Nyström.

Raising young freshwater pearl mussels

The freshwater pearl mussel is in danger of becoming extinct in Estonia. This species used to be common, but now only lives in a single river where its population is small and declining.

For the first time ever in Estonia, help was provided to restore the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel population. Young mussels struggle to survive and need help. In the CoastNet LIFE project, 10,000 young mussels were placed in river enclosures where they will be managed for the next 10 years until they can survive independently.

The freshwater pearl mussel's home river and the streams above it were also restored. For example, we removed beaver dams to prevent flooding, built river flow structures to improve water flow, created spawning sites for trout and mowed riverside meadows for Apollo butterflies.

Freshwater pearl mussels live for a long time, up to 120 years. Photo: Jürgen Karvak.

Restoration of a wetland in Ruissalo, Turku

During the CoastNet LIFE project, a wetland that increases biodiversity was established in the Kallanpää field area on Ruissalo Island. We blocked the drainage channels in a field area that had been under cultivation for a long time, and we dug a pool in the lowest part of the field. The aim is to retain water so that the field area gradually becomes a wetland environment as a result of natural growth and development.

Ruissalo has very few forested wetland environments and promoting their development plays an important role in preserving a diverse range of species. Species that benefit from different stages of wetland development likely include bats, amphibians, dragonflies and other insects. Wetlands are also important habitats for many water birds and waders. More than 100 mallards and teals were observed in the area immediately after completion of the wetland.

River restoration in Estonia. Photo: Riina Martverk.

Highland cattle and sheep in Örö. Photo: Jarmo Vehkakoski.

Impacts of restoration measures

The impact of the restoration measures will be monitored after the sites have been restored. We performed more detailed monitoring at some sites, for example, using vegetation squares. Based on the monitoring results, most of the monitored sites are in excellent condition after restoration. Nature management work has significantly improved the habitats of the CoastNet LIFE sites.

During the CoastNet LIFE project, we also monitored the impact of restoration measures on the number of ticks, Apollo butterflies and birds.

Grazing does not affect the abundance of ticks

A key conservation action for maintaining semi-natural grassland habitat in protected areas often involves releasing large grazing animals, such as sheep or cattle, to help maintain the habitat. While grazing increases nature value, these grazers may also increase the number of ticks and thus grazing may have undesirable consequences. Based on data collected in 2019 and 2024, we show that restoration and grazing of previously abandoned semi-natural grasslands in Southwest Finland does not affect the abundance of ticks or the prevalence of disease (mainly Borelia) carried by these ticks.

A Highland cow at work in Paljassaare. Photo: Matis Mägi.

The Apollo butterfly still needs help

The Apollo butterfly occurs in the Turku archipelago but is declining dramatically. Apollo prefers open habitat and, like many other species, suffers from overgrowth of its habitat by shrubs and trees. A traditional management method used in the archipelago to maintain a treeless habitat involves removing and burning juniper shrubs. In the archipelago, this type of vegetation is low-growing and effectively covers the ground. Six years of data collection shows that this kind of traditional management can benefit the Apollo butterfly by dramatically changing the vegetation and providing flowers that attract and are needed by adult Apollo butterflies. However, the Apollo butterfly has unfortunately continued to decline during this time, both in restored and non-restored habitat.

Birds and grazing peacefully coexist at Paljassaare

In Estonia, the number of migratory and nesting birds at the Paljassaare restoration site was monitored before and after the restoration measures. The Paljassaare habitat has improved significantly, and the same applies to the bird life there. Based on four bird counts, the restoration measures have a positive impact on birds. The number of different species has decreased overall, but the number of important nesting bird species has increased by five species.

Approximately 4,000 pupils from Turku schools visit Ruissalo Nature School every year. The instruction is based on national curricula and supports the sustainable development goals set in them.
Photo: Nina Puistovaara.

Information on coastal nature for everyone

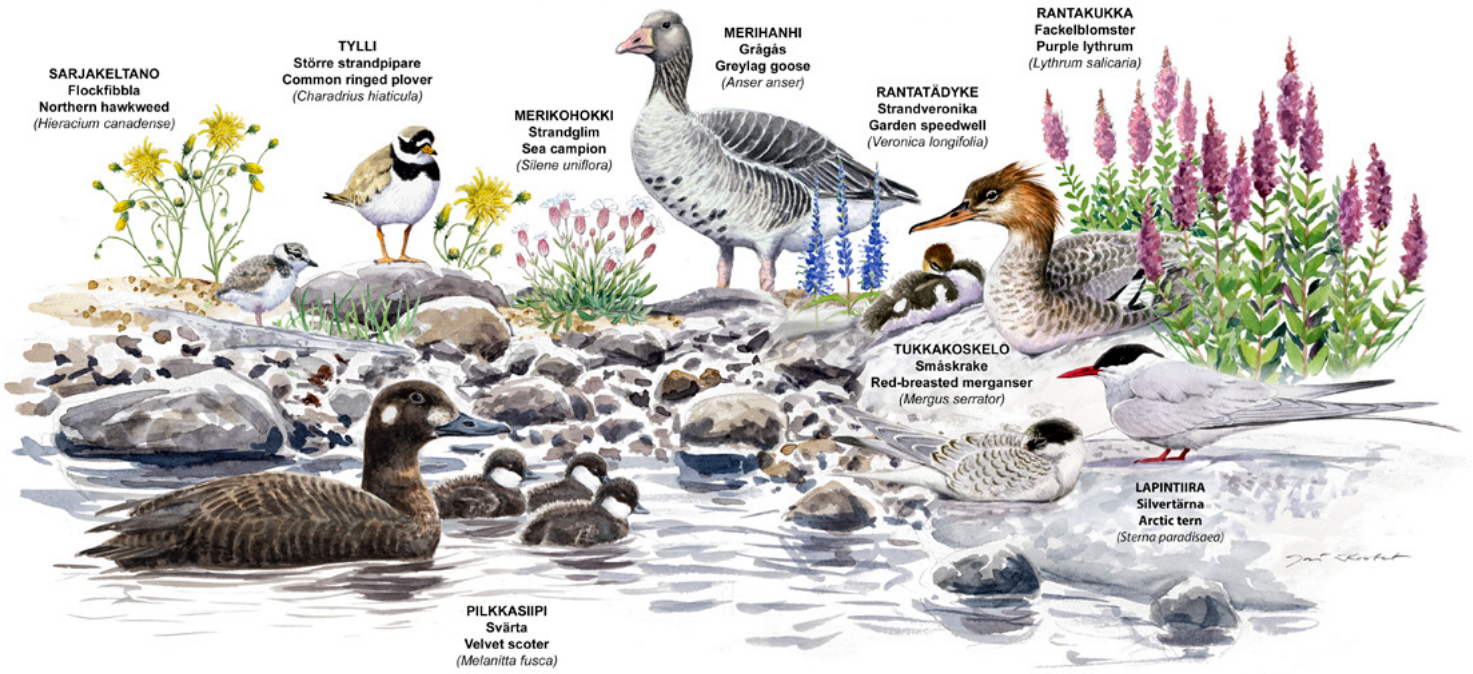
The three permanent nature trails established during the project ensure that people have access to nature information. They can be found at Tasku Island in Raahe, Seili in the Archipelago Sea, and Pähkinämaa in the Turku Archipelago. Each of the project restoration sites also has an information board describing the nature and nature management in the area.

Nature school activities in Finland and Estonia

Nature schools teach participants how to be active responsibly in nature and observe and study the environment while developing a positive relationship with nature through personal experiences. At the same time, the aim is to increase awareness of the importance of protecting nature.

The CoastNet LIFE project promoted nature guidance and nature school activities in Ruissalo. For example, we developed digital guidance and produced learning material for the nature school. We also built a pier and campfire hut for teaching and guidance purposes near a pond in Ruissalo.

In Estonia, summer camps for children are organised every year at the Nature House on Aegna Island. During the project, we prepared an outdoor learning program for one-day and two-day camps. We built a mobile exhibition in Lahemaa to describe nature management work, and this is utilised in teaching.



Birds at Tulliniemi peninsula in Hanko. Illustration: Jari Kostet.

Read more about the nature and species in the coastal area:

- **CoastNet LIFE**
- **https://www.metsa.fi/projekti/rannikko-life-hanke/hankkeen-videot/**

Read more about the nature in Ruissalo:

- **Ruissalon saaren luonto**
- **Naturen på ön Runsala**
- **The Nature of Ruissalo Island**
- **Ruissalon saaren luonto - Kuvailutulkattu**
- **Ruissalo – Turun saariston helmi**
- **Runsala – Åbo skärgårdens pärla**
- **Ruissalo – the Pearl of the Turku Archipelago**
- **Ruissalo – Turun saariston helmi - Kuvailutulkattu**

Results of the CoastNet LIFE project

Kuvitus: Jari Kostet

Actions on **41** *Natura 2000 sites*

81 *hectares of new protected areas were established*

5 *management plans were prepared*

Restoration:

Over **800** *hectares of semi-natural grasslands*

Nearly **250** *hectares of herb-rich forests*

Over **200** *hectares of sunlit areas*

111 *hectares of open habitats in the outer archipelago*

Over **40** *hectares of Apollo butterfly network habitat*

Over **5** *kilometres of rivers*

1 *wetland was established*

Combating invasive alien species over an area of **140** *hectares in size*

Over **650** *volunteers participated in restoration work*

More than **240** *people worked in the project*

EUR **2,6** *million spent on outsourced services*