



Using easements for forest conservation in Scandinavia and the Baltic States

Nature conservation programmes in Finland

Finland has six national nature conservation programmes that cover the following:

- ▶ Mires
- ▶ Waterfowl habitats
- ▶ Eskers
- ▶ Herb-rich forests
- ▶ Shore areas
- ▶ Old-growth forests

Most of these areas belong to the Natura 2000 network

Nature conservation programmes in Finland

- ▶ The implementation of the programs takes place under the Finnish Nature Conservation Act
- ▶ The state must negotiate with landowners for the implementation of private lands belonging to the conservation program areas.
- ▶ Implementation can take place by:
 - ▶ selling the land area to the state
 - ▶ land swap
 - ▶ establishing a private nature conservation area (compensation payments)
- ▶ The law also allows the implementation of conservation programs without the consent of the landowner, but 99 % of the program areas have been implemented voluntarily

Financing of nature conservation

- ▶ The Finnish State is responsible for financing
- ▶ The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry are responsible for co-ordinating and implementing the funding
- ▶ In 2017 funding for the implementation of nature protection programs was EUR 18 630 000

Action plans ensure biodiversity

- ▶ The Government and the environmental administration have launched extensive nature conservation programmes, based on the Nature Conservation Act and various action plans for safeguarding biodiversity.
- ▶ The most important action program for forest protection is Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSU)
- ▶ Other action plans:
 - ▶ National action plan for species protection
 - ▶ Action plan for improving the state of threatened habitat types in Finland
 - ▶ Development of recreational use of nature and nature tourism

Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO)

- ▶ The programme aims to activate voluntary-based conservation agreements between forest owners and authorities
- ▶ METSO Programme offers three options for forest owner:
 - Permanent protection
 - Temporary protection
 - Nature management in forest habitats
- ▶ The Finnish government's objective by 2025 is to have sites covering about 96 000 hectares
 - ▶ In Lapland, about 9,000 hectares have been implemented in the Metso program.
 - ▶ One third of the area was implemented in the NATNET Life + project 2012-2017





NATNET Life+ -project

Increasing ecological
connections and coherence
of the Natura 2000 network

South-West Lapland, FINLAND

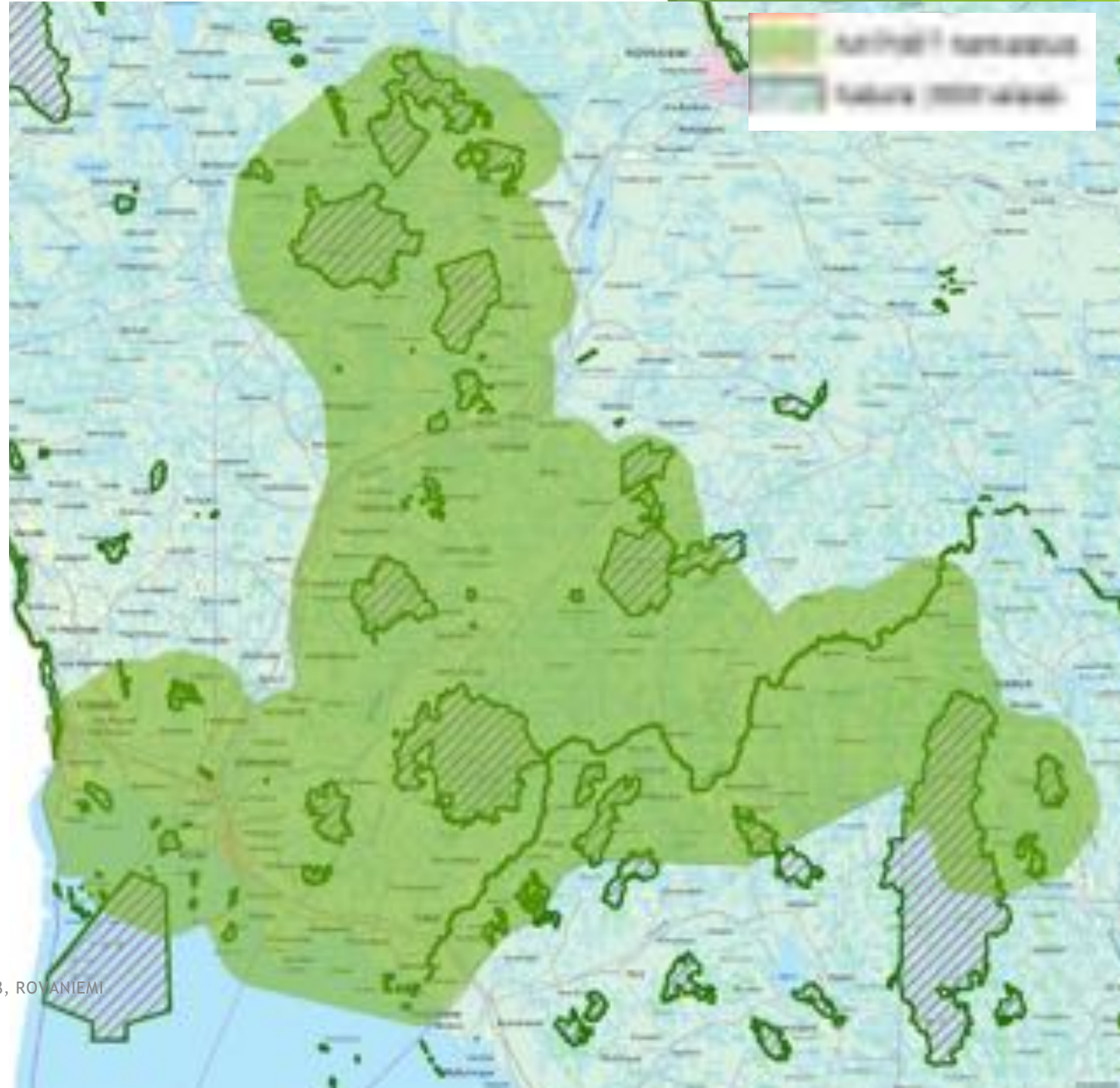
0,5 million hectares

6,9 million euros

37 Natura 2000 –areas

PROJECT AREA

- ▶ 8 municipalities
- ▶ 3 000 private forest owners
- ▶ 120 000 ha Natura areas
- ▶ 5 partners
- ▶ Coordinator LAPLAND ELY-CENTRE



- **Expected results and Outcomes were:**
- Protection agreements 2800 hectares - *2860 hectares achieved*
- Restorations in the Natura 2000 sites: Mire restorations 120 hectares - *195 hectares achieved (mire and forest restorations in total)*
- Restorations in the private land :Mire restorations 600 hectares - *610 hectares achieved*
- Production of decayed wood 200 hectares - *201 hectares achieved*
- Production of charred and burned wood 150 hectares - *155 hectares achieved*
- Nature management plans for in all 5000 hectares - *5018 hectares achieved*
- Green infrastructures and ecological connections, for in all about 250 kilometres. -- *381 kilometers achieved*
- Several reports - *5 reports achieved*
- Other material and outputs according to the actions and dissemination plan - *lots of material and outputs*



Active information activities and good co-operation with landowners was behind the success

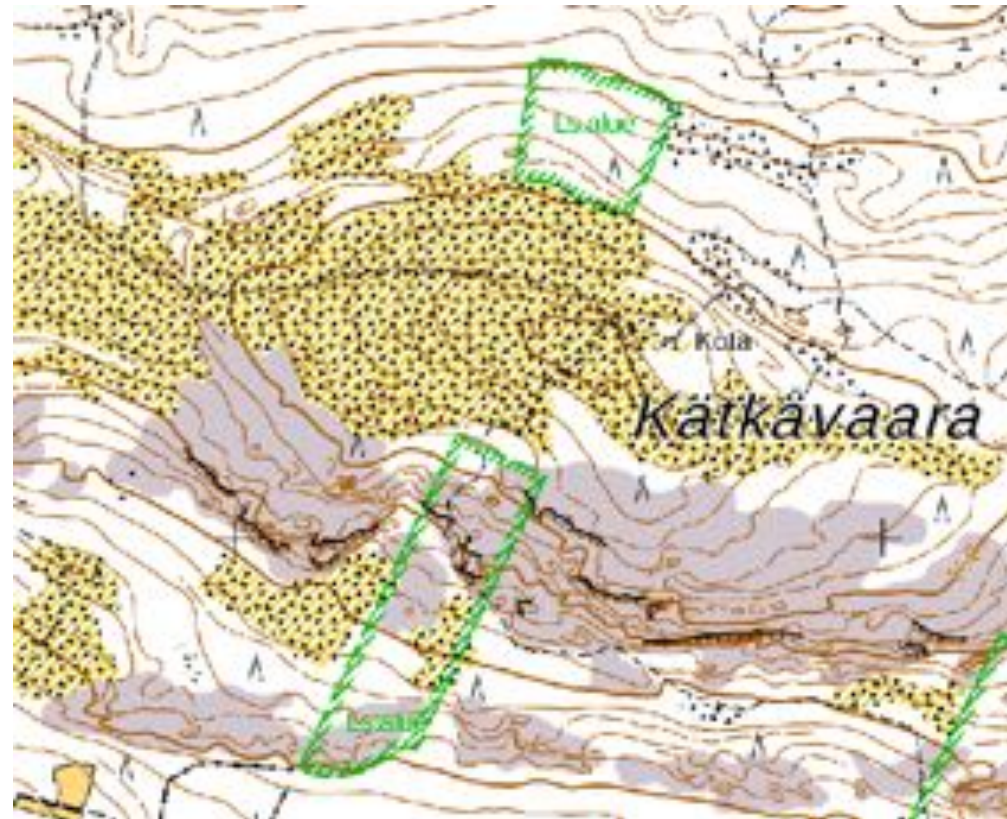


Use of conservation easements, Finland

- ▶ In Finland the private nature conservation areas are not established as easements
- ▶ In Finnish real estate and property law the definition of an easement means a right / entitlement to use someone else's land or water area. The right is usually based on decision made by a public authority and the right is restricted to a certain area. The easement, information on its contents and changes are entered into the Real Estate Register.
- ▶ In Finnish legislation the conservation areas are established through regulatory authority decision, and they are not considered as easements. The Authority Decision that establishes the conservation area, is entered into the Real Estate Register and the regulatory decision is shown in the cadastral certificate.

Use of conservation easements, Finland

Private protected areas marked on the base map on the same time as they are in the Real Estate Register



Use of conservation easements, Latvia

- ▶ Easements can be used to dedicate property or part of it to the nature conservation purposes, but there are some restrictions to the type of information that can be registered in the Land Register.

Use of conservation easements, Estonia

- ▶ Easements can be used to dedicate property / or part of it to the nature conservation purposes
- ▶ According to the general norms regulating easements (“servitudes” in Estonian legal language) in the Law of Property Act, these may take the form of entitling another person or owner of “dominant” immovable to either use “servient” immovable or obliging the owner of the “servient” immovable to refrain from particular exercises of ownership rights (e.g. not construct any new buildings, cut trees or similar). Also, certain actions may be required from the owner for the benefit of another person as part of a servitude called “real encumbrance”. The law does not preclude any purpose for which the easements may be used, i.e. it can also be used for nature conservation purposes.

Use of conservation easements, Denmark

- ▶ Easements can be used to dedicate property / or part of it to the nature conservation purposes
- ▶ According to Danish law easements in principle can be used to dedicate property to nature protection purposes.
- ▶ The easements ('servitutter') may be described in a text directly entered in the title, or in a document that is attached and thus becomes part of the title.

Thank you for your interest!



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