



LIFE Mires Estonia - Conservation and restoration of Mire Habitats

LIFE14 NAT/EE/000126



Photo: LIFE14 NAT EE 000126 / Piret Pungas-Kohv

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Project description:

Background

The priority habitat types – active raised bogs (7110), bog woodlands (91D0) and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (9080) – have become very rare in the EU. This is mainly due to the negative impact of drainage. Based on overall biogeographical assessments of Estonia, the status of the habitat types targeted by the project is neither favourable nor secure.

Objectives

The overall objective of the LIFE Mires Estonia project is to secure the favourable conservation status of wetlands, especially mires and priority habitats protected by the Habitats Directive: active raised bogs, bog woodland and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods.

Through the restoration of the hydrological regime and the abandoned peat mining areas, the project also aims to benefit fauna affected by drainage such as birds, amphibians, dragonflies and butterflies. The project will also raise awareness among the local population, present the project results nationally and internationally and develop a methodology and guidelines for the restoration of degraded mire habitats sites concurrently supporting western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), moor frog (*Rana arvalis*) and dragonfly (*Leucorrhinia*) populations.

The restoration and management activities will be carried out on six Natura 2000

areas and the hydrology improved on around 5800ha of which 3450 ha are Natura 2000 priority habitats.

Expected results:

- Significant and sustained improvement of conditions of the EU priority habitats active raised bog habitats (2447.2 ha restored), bog woodland (567.8 ha), Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (159 ha) and western taiga (276.2 ha);
- Conditions sustained for western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), willow ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), amphibian moor frog (*Rana arvalis*), and Leucorrhinia dragonfly populations;
- Spatial planning methodology developed for reducing the potential negative impacts to these species due to restoration activities, e.g. removal of trees or sudden closure of drainage ditches; and
- Public events to introduce restoration activities, study days for schoolchildren and teachers and the establishment of a LIFE trail.

Results

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Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Habitats - Bogs and Mires

Keywords

drainage system, aquatic ecosystem, wetland

Target EU Legislation

- Nature protection and Biodiversity
- Directive 79/409 - Conservation of wild birds (02.04.1979)
- Directive 92/43 - Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora- Habitats Directiv ...
- Directive 2009/147 - Conservation of wild birds - Birds Directive (codified version of Directive ...
- COM(2011) 244 final “Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ...

Target species

Lagopus lagopus Leucorrhinia pectoralis Rana arvalis Tetrao urogallus

## Target Habitat types

- 6450 - Northern boreal alluvial meadows
- 7110 - Active raised bogs
- 7140 - Transition mires and quaking bogs
- 7230 - Alkaline fens
- 9010 - Western Taïga
- 9080 - Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods
- 91D0 - Bog woodland
- 3160 - Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds
- 3260 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation

## Natura 2000 sites

SCI	EE0010173	Lahemaa
SCI	EE0020205	Ohepalu
SCI	EE0060209	Tudusoo
SCI	EE0070171	Agusalu
SPA	EE0070173	Sirtsi
SCI	EE0080374	Alam-Pedja
SCI	EE0070104	Sirtsi

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## Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Estonian Fund for Nature
Type of organisation	NGO-Foundation
Description	The Estonian Fund for Nature (Eestimaa Looduse Fond) was founded in 1991 in close co-operation with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) with the aim of protecting the Estonian nature and its diversity. Its main areas of focus are forests, wetlands and the sea.
Partners	Tartu Un.(University of Tartu), Estonia ARHV(Arheovisioon MTÜ), Estonia

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## Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE14 NAT/EE/000126
Duration	01-SEP-2015 to 31-AUG -2020
Total budget	2,815,576.00 €
EU contribution	2,100,713.00 €
Project location	Kesk-Eesti(Estonia Eesti) Kirde-Eesti(Estonia Eesti)

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Read more:

Project web site	<a href="#">Project's website</a>
Publication: Case study	Title: "Arheoloogiliste eeluuringute kava Life Mires Estonia projekti taastamisaladel" (761 KB) Author: Kaarel Sikk Year: 2016 Editor: Eestimaa Looduse Fond No of pages: 15
Publication: Case study	Title: "Palasi mahajäetud turbatootmisalal soo taastamise kava" (7.16 MB) Year: 2016 Editor: Eestimaa Looduse Fond, Tartu Ülikool No of pages: 47
Publication: Case study	Title: "Mudel rabakonna (Rana arvalis) elupaikade prognoosimiseks LIFE Mires Estonia sootaastamisaladel" (0.99 MB) Author: Liina Remm Editor: Tartu Ülikool No of pages: 6
Publication: Case study	Title: "Kokkuvõte LIFE Mires Estonia õppereisist Rootsi 9.-14. okt 2016" (3.43 MB) Author: Jüri-Ott Salm (ed.) Year: 2016 No of pages: 14
Publication: Case study	Title: "Mudel rabakiilide (Leucorrhinia spp.) elupaikade prognoosimiseks LIFE Mires Estonia sootaastamisaladel" (1.37 MB) Author: Liina Remm Editor: Tartu Ülikool No of pages: 6
Publication: Technical report	Title: "Soosaare soo taastamiskava" (7.94 MB) Year: 2016 Editor: Eestimaa Looduse Fond, Tartu Ülikool No of pages: 39

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