The Natureship project (2009–2013) is financed by the EU Central Baltic Interreg IV A Programme 2007–2013 and national funding providers. The project has two focus areas: “Water protection and coastal planning” and “Biodiversity and cultural landscapes”. A total of eleven organisations from three different countries have been involved in project implementation:

**Lead partner:** Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Southwest Finland

**Finland:** Metsähallitus, Department of Geography and Geology at the University of Turku, Salo, Raisio, Hamina and Vihti municipalities

**Estonia:** Environmental Board of Estonia and University of Tartu Pärnu College

**Sweden:** County Administrative Board of Gotland and Norrtälje Nature Conservation Foundation

To download these online publications, please visit the project website. Some are also available as printed versions. The publication languages are Finnish, Swedish, Estonian and English where applicable.

Further information:
Senior Adviser Iiro Ikonen
Telephone: +358 295 022 869
iiero.ikonen@ely-keskus.fi
www.ymparisto.fi/natureship

The status of traditional landscapes and success in their management can be assessed using so-called indicator species. The Clouded Apollo butterfly in the photo, for example, has become rarer as meadows are no longer grazed, but management actions have been successful in reviving populations. For more information, read our publication “Indicator species of traditional rural biotopes in coastal areas”. Photo: Iiro Ikonen.

The future of heritage biotopes is threatened by changing farming practices. On the island of Kråkskär in Archipelago National Park, grazing sheep help maintain a traditional landscape. Metsähallitus has carried out controlled burning trials on Kråkskär during the project to restore heaths, which are a highly endangered habitat. For more information on landscape management see our publication “Management guidelines for semi-natural landscapes – integrating historical perspectives and GIS into planning process”. Photo: Timo Pitkänen.
Ecosystem services refer to all tangible and intangible benefits that the environment produces for humans. Determining their financial value can also guide decision-making – for example, how much does it cost to replace a natural wetland by a man-made stormwater filtration system?

The most important objectives of the Natureship project are promoting interdisciplinary coastal planning following the principles of sustainable development and thus in cooperation with all actors striving to find the best cost-efficient methods for promoting water protection and biodiversity.

The project activities target coastal areas in Finland, Sweden and Estonia. The project has promoted conservation cooperation between these areas and the exchange of experiences on habitat and species management.

The aim of integrated coastal planning under the project, on the other hand, is to find solutions that will benefit all users of the area over the long term, taking natural values into account. Ecosystem service thinking plays a role in the planning and implementation of management measures, while an effort is also made to improve the cost-efficiency of the management work.

By targeting funding provided by various support mechanisms at the planning and implementation of management in the most valuable areas and by buying traditional landscape products – including meadow meat – we can make sure that biodiversity of the landscape and species will also be there for us to enjoy in the future. Environmental management is worth investing in!

Project outcomes are showcased in six publications on environmental management. These support exchange of information between the partners on tried and tested environmental management methods and inform the general public of the outcomes.

For the partner municipalities Hamina, Raisio, Salo and Vihti, the project prepared a total of fifteen urban meadow management plans that deal with not only management but also cost issues. Some of the planned management measures have now been implemented. The project has also organised a number of different public events.

Coastal meadows as habitats are today threatened in particular by overgrowing and the ensuing loss of biodiversity. This can be prevented by the grazing of coastal meadows, a practice which, when properly carried out, will benefit both biodiversity, farming and recreational use of the area. The publication Animals to the shore – yes or no? produced during the project helps find suitable solutions for various situations. Photo: Timo Pitkänen.

Coastal lagoons play a vital role in maintaining the biodiversity of maritime areas exposed to such threats as eutrophication, climate change and coastal sprawl. During the project, lagoon areas in the Baltic Sea where inventoried and their biochemical state was studied. For the results, see the publication “Coastal lagoons in Estonia and the Central Baltic”, which also describes various environmental management options. Photo: Matti Aro.

Many different and sometimes conflicting activities are being carried out in the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea. GIS systems can be used to protect the most vulnerable areas from activities that have a negative impact on biodiversity. The image below shows areas of high biodiversity value in Saaremaa, Estonia, highlighted in red. For more information on this, see the publication “Integrated planning and management of Baltic coastal areas”.

Coastal lagoons play a vital role in maintaining the biodiversity of maritime areas exposed to such threats as eutrophication, climate change and coastal sprawl. During the project, lagoon areas in the Baltic Sea where inventoried and their biochemical state was studied. For the results, see the publication “Coastal lagoons in Estonia and the Central Baltic”, which also describes various environmental management options. Photo: Matti Aro.

Coastal meadows as habitats are today threatened in particular by overgrowing and the ensuing loss of biodiversity. This can be prevented by the grazing of coastal meadows, a practice which, when properly carried out, will benefit both biodiversity, farming and recreational use of the area. The publication Animals to the shore – yes or no? produced during the project helps find suitable solutions for various situations. Photo: Timo Pitkänen.

By targeting funding provided by various support mechanisms at the planning and implementation of management in the most valuable areas and by buying traditional landscape products – including meadow meat – we can make sure that biodiversity of the landscape and species will also be there for us to enjoy in the future. Environmental management is worth investing in!

Project outcomes are showcased in six publications on environmental management. These support exchange of information between the partners on tried and tested environmental management methods and inform the general public of the outcomes.

For the partner municipalities Hamina, Raisio, Salo and Vihti, the project prepared a total of fifteen urban meadow management plans that deal with not only management but also cost issues. Some of the planned management measures have now been implemented. The project has also organised a number of different public events.

Coastal meadows as habitats are today threatened in particular by overgrowing and the ensuing loss of biodiversity. This can be prevented by the grazing of coastal meadows, a practice which, when properly carried out, will benefit both biodiversity, farming and recreational use of the area. The publication Animals to the shore – yes or no? produced during the project helps find suitable solutions for various situations. Photo: Timo Pitkänen.

By targeting funding provided by various support mechanisms at the planning and implementation of management in the most valuable areas and by buying traditional landscape products – including meadow meat – we can make sure that biodiversity of the landscape and species will also be there for us to enjoy in the future. Environmental management is worth investing in!

Project outcomes are showcased in six publications on environmental management. These support exchange of information between the partners on tried and tested environmental management methods and inform the general public of the outcomes.

For the partner municipalities Hamina, Raisio, Salo and Vihti, the project prepared a total of fifteen urban meadow management plans that deal with not only management but also cost issues. Some of the planned management measures have now been implemented. The project has also organised a number of different public events.

Coastal meadows as habitats are today threatened in particular by overgrowing and the ensuing loss of biodiversity. This can be prevented by the grazing of coastal meadows, a practice which, when properly carried out, will benefit both biodiversity, farming and recreational use of the area. The publication Animals to the shore – yes or no? produced during the project helps find suitable solutions for various situations. Photo: Timo Pitkänen.
nuuttaukset