

# Bothnian Sea National Park

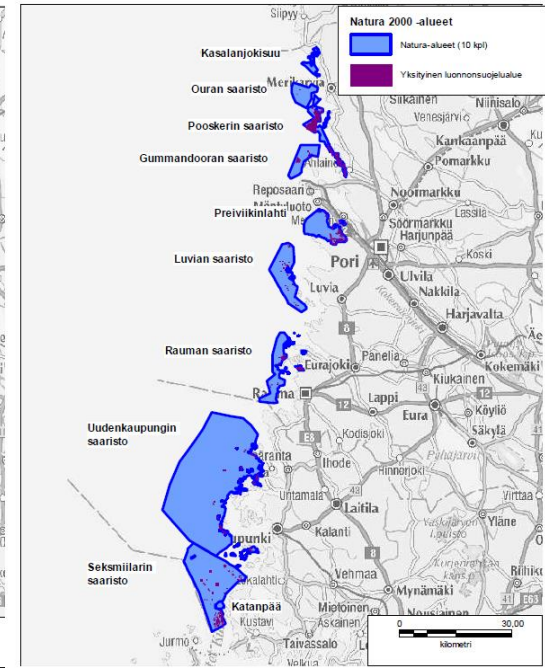
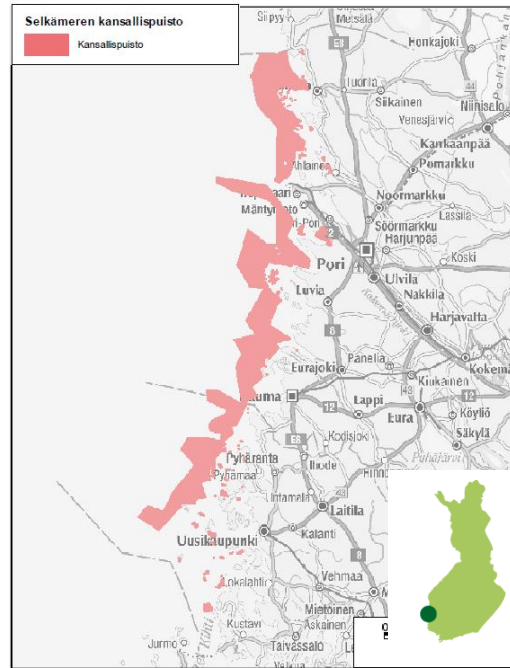
Siggen Seminar 2024

Lasse Kurvinen Parks & Wildlife Finland



# General information

- Established in 2011
- Located on the west coast of Finland
- ~90 000 ha
- The coastal zone is characterised by southeast-northwest headlands and bays between them and in some places denser archipelago areas. However, the zones of the archipelago are narrow and in some places the open sea begins directly from the coast.
- The average depth of the planning area is approximately 5–15 m and a depth curve of 20 metres has been used in the delimitation of the national park. The coastal waters are rocky and shallow
- Sand dunes and underwater reefs and sandbanks. Shallow fladas and bays, which are important e.g. as spawning grounds for fish.
- The biota consists of both saltwater and freshwater species. There are several resting areas that are valuable for birds during nesting and migration



# Main drivers and conservation objectives

- Natural values: Underwater ecosystems (species diversity, fish stocks, habitats), Species and habitats listed in HD Annexes (sandbanks, reefs, coastal meadows, 15 species from HD annexes and 40 bird species from BD annex)
- Cultural values: Local culture and cultural landscapes
- Recreation and livelihood: Fisheries and hunting, visiting islands
- Research

# Legal and governance considerations

- National parks are established by separate laws, which are outlined on the Nature Conservation Act
- These can only be established on state on areas (BSN NP has some exceptions)
- The national parks are managed by Parks & Wildlife Finland
- The national parks is connected with several N2000 areas (which partly overlap), as well as several private protected areas

# Socio-economic context and stakeholders

- Tourism and fisheries are the main economic activities in the MPA
- The main stakeholders in the area are: people living close to the park, fisheries, travel entrepreneurs, NGOs, associations, municipalities and the environmental administration
- A cooperation group was established in 2011

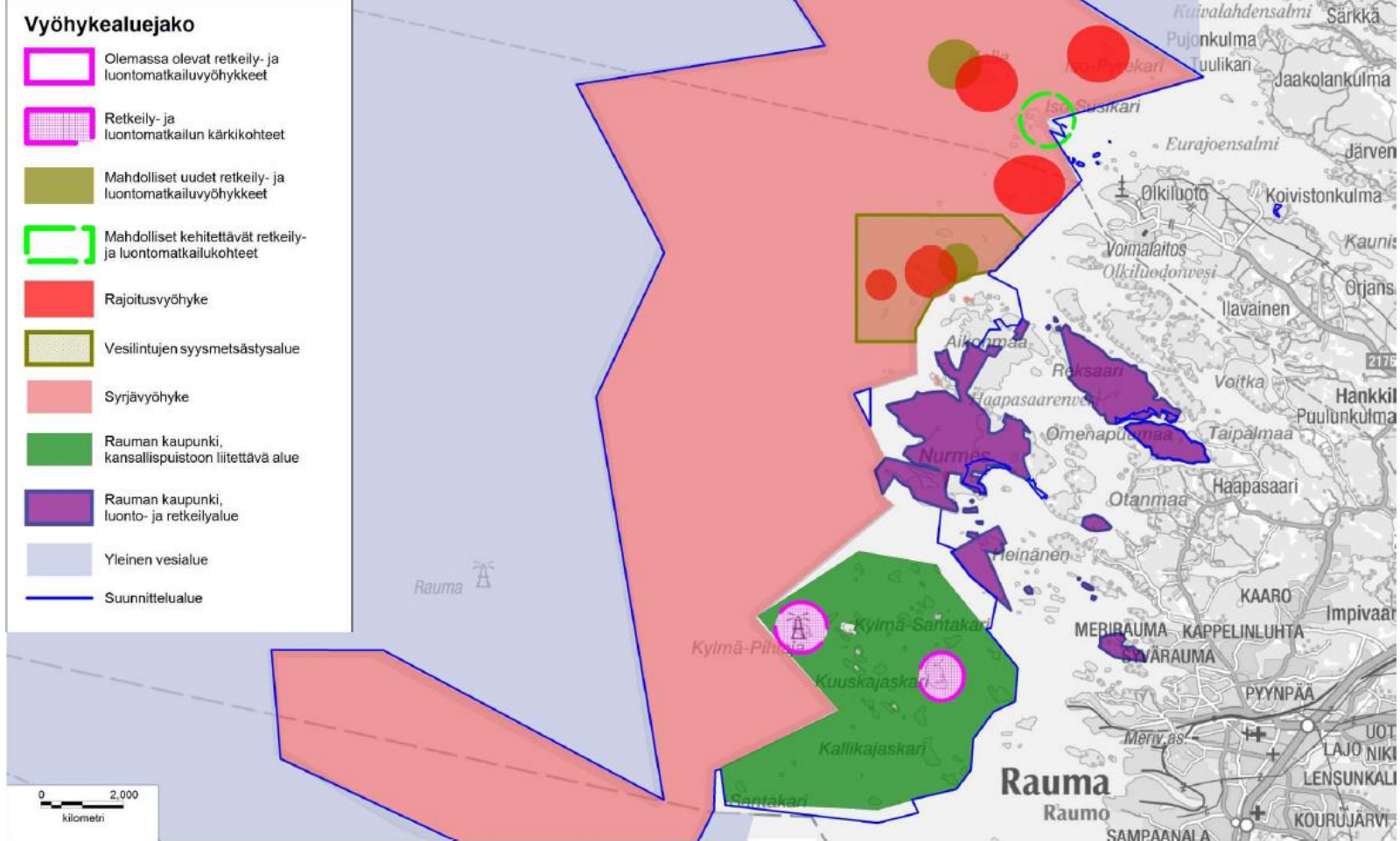
## Selkämeren kansallispuiston ja Natura 2000 -alueiden hoito- ja käyttösuunnitelma

# Management Plan for the national park and surrounding N2000 and private protected areas (2017)

- By law all national parks must have a management plan
- Often these include also for other areas that are close by
- Throughout the process opportunities for stakeholder participation were arranged and the management plan received 35 statements from different stakeholders
- The plan includes three types of zones: recreational zone, marginal zone and restriction zone



# Zoning - example



Kartta 3e. Selkämeren kansallispuiston vyöhykealuejako. Kohteet pohjoisesta etelään; retkeily- ja luontomatkailun kärkikohteet: Kylmäpihlaja, Kuuskajaskari, mahdolliset uudet retkeily- ja luontomatkailuvyöhykkeet: Kalla, rajoitusvyöhykkeet: Iso Pyrekari, Kalla, Truutkallio-Puskakari-Kalliopölä, Pohjan Bokreivi, Hylkeenkivet, vesilintujen syysmetsästysalue: Bokreivit. Ks. myös lomakkeet 18A-C, 21B ja 22 sekä kartta 4. Rauman alueet esitellään kartalla 3f.

# Management Plan for the national park and surrounding N2000 and private protected areas (2017)

- Main conservation actions:
  - general plan for managing natural values
  - maintenance of traditional biotopes,
  - removing of invasive alien species
  - Restoration of habitats
  - General plan for endangered species
  - Monitoring and field inventories



# Management Plan for the national park and surrounding N2000 and private protected areas (2017)

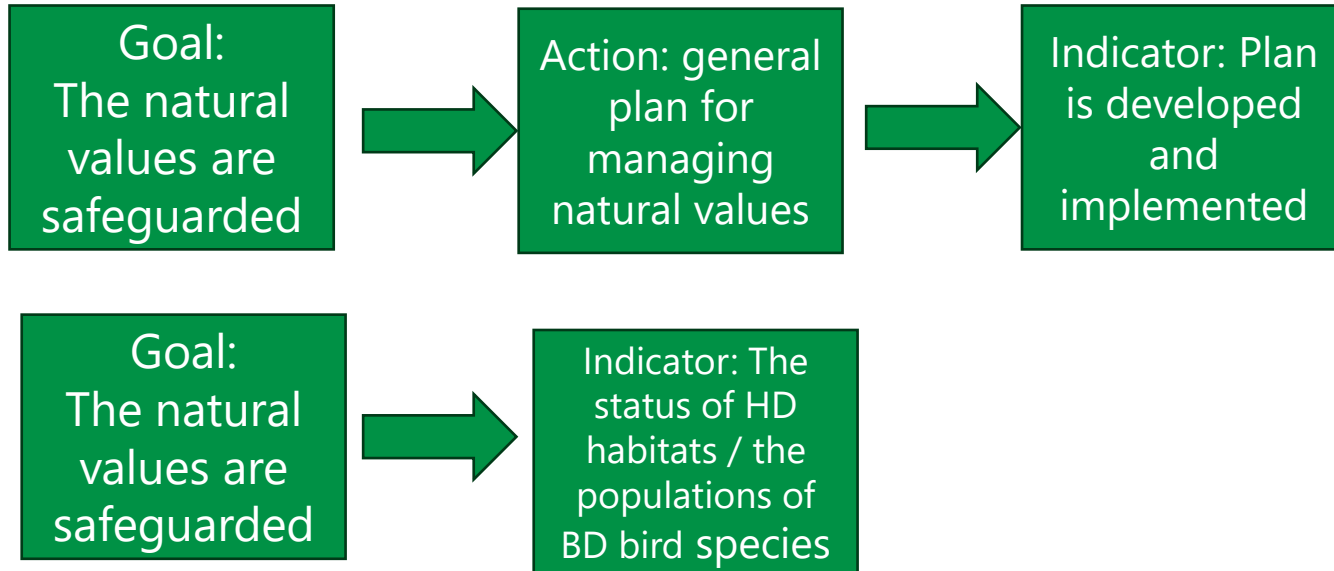
- Regulations:
  - In the national parks it is not allowed to kill animals, collect plants, remove soil, litter, harm relicts, keeping pets loose and generally harming nature
  - Movement restrictions in the restriction zones
  - Fisheries restrictions
  - Hunting restrictions



# Management Effectiveness Assessment processes

In the management plan two different types of monitoring is described: the implementation of the plan and the effectiveness of the actions

Example:



The logo consists of two stylized triangles pointing towards each other, one green on top and one blue on the bottom.

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