

# Game management in protected areas in Finland

28.10.2014

Madeleine Nyman

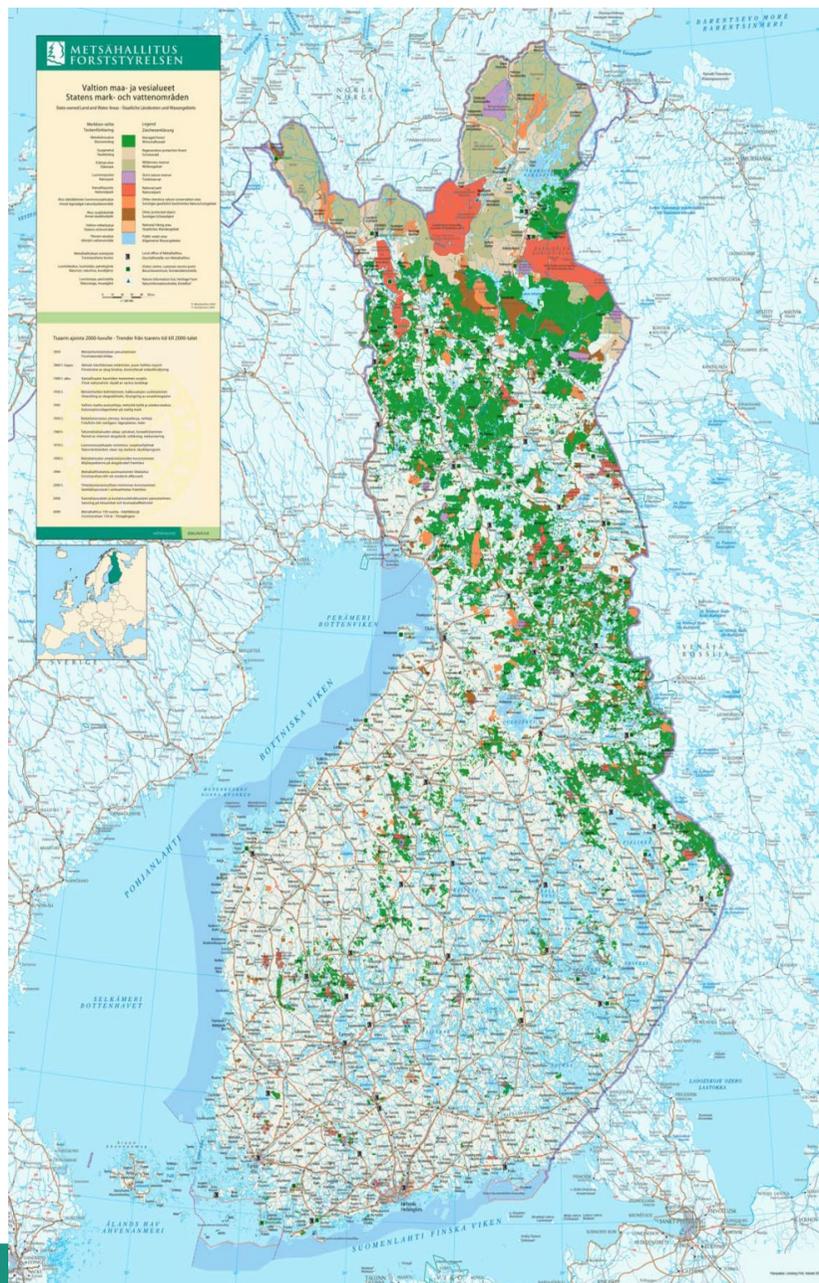
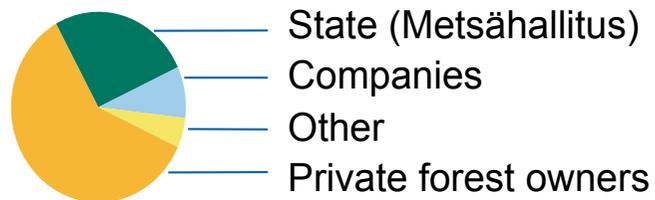


METSÄHALLITUS

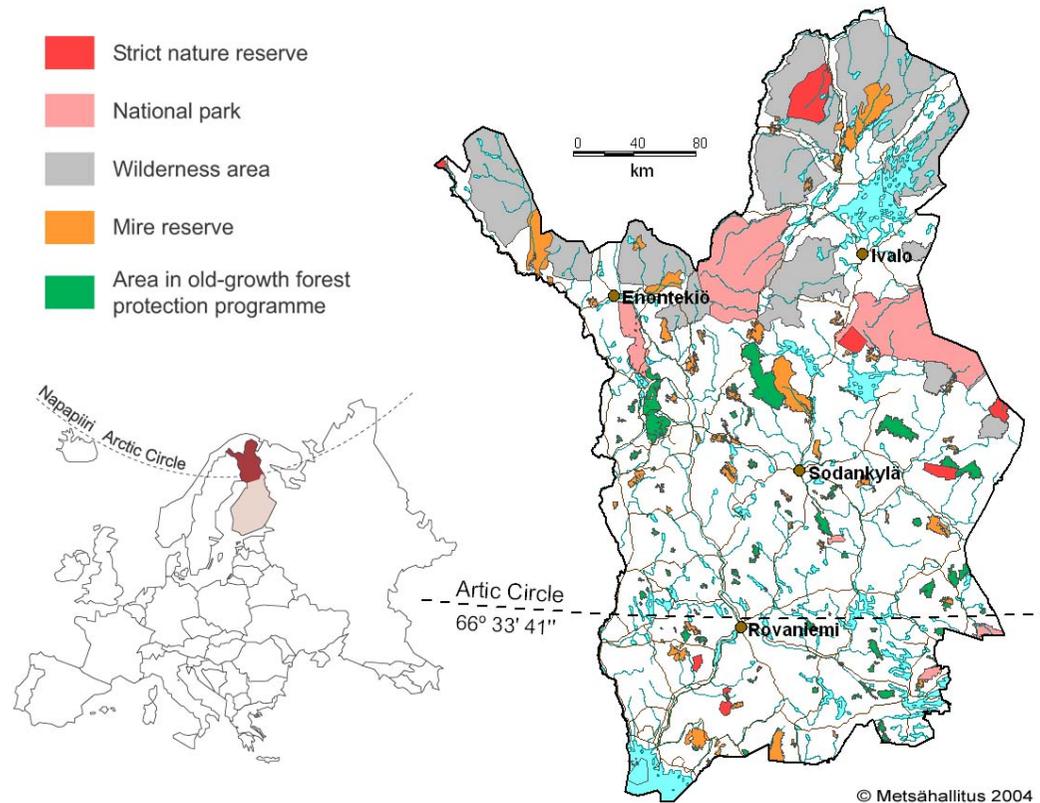
# State-owned land and water area >12 million hectares

- Forest land in managed forests, 3.5 million ha
- Poorly productive and non-productive land, 1.5 million ha (excluded from forestry)
- Protected areas, wilderness reserves and other areas, 4.0 million ha
- Water areas, 3.4 million ha
- Public water areas

## Ownership of forest land in Finland



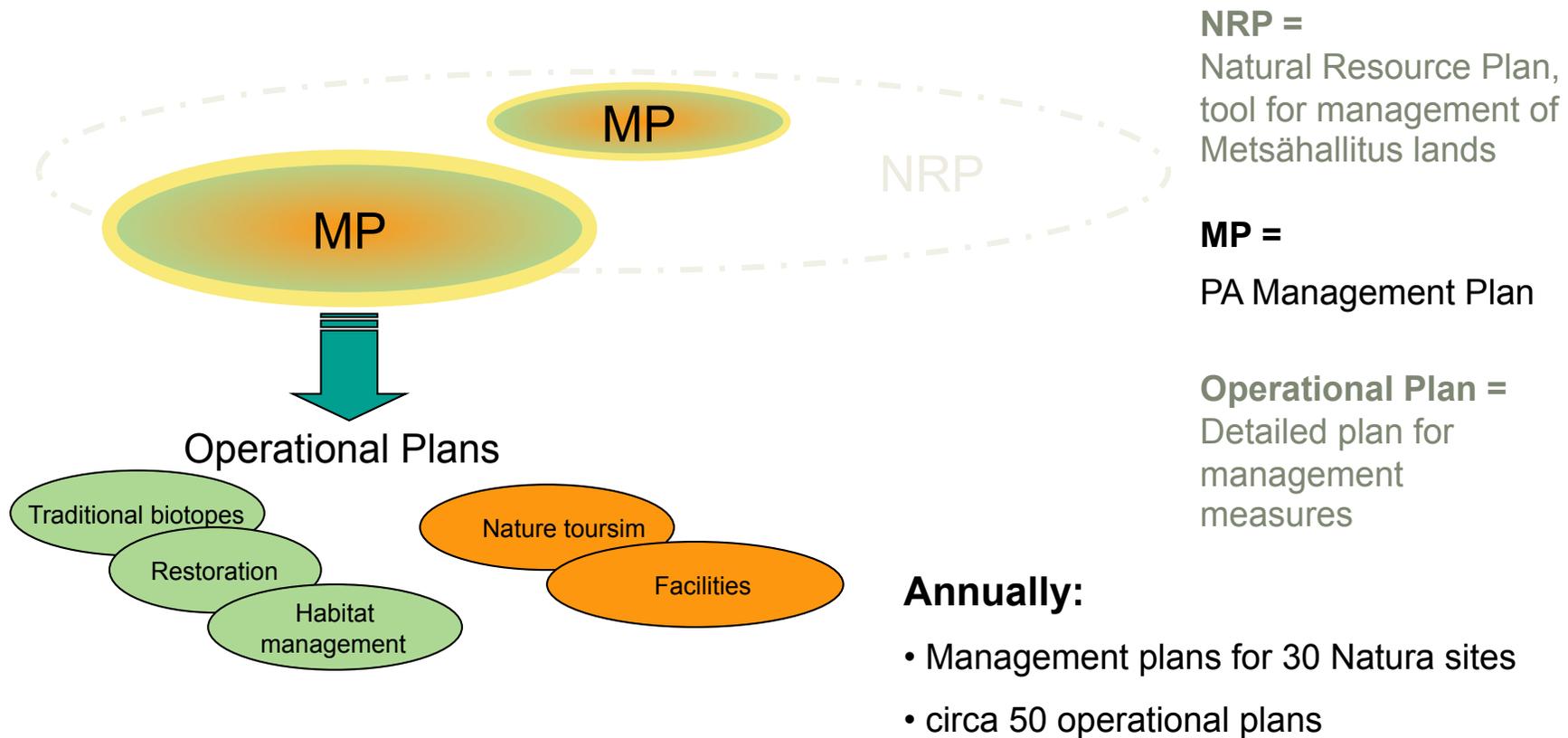
# Protected areas in Finland



# Hunting in protected areas

- National legislation stricter than the Habitats directive
- The aim of the protected areas is to maintain the ecosystem of the areas as pristine as possible, with as little human interaction as possible. Recreation, tuition, research and sustainable use in terms of berry and mushroom picking are permitted.
- Hunting is **prohibited** in nature reserves and national parks exception for local inhabitants in Northern Finland)
- In the other nature reserves, hunting is mostly **prohibited or regulated**
- Derogations and exemptions are possible for
  - invasive alien species (raccoon dogs and minks)
  - individuals causing damage to forests or livestock
  - causing danger to humans.
- Parks & Wildlife Finland (Metsähallitus) administrates and manages all protected areas on state owned land and water areas.

# Planning System: Protected Area Management Plan and Operational Plans



# Hunting as a part of the planning process of the management in protected areas

## 1. Risk assessment

- Positive effects of hunting (invasive species control, moose management)
- Negative effects (in conflict with the aim of protection, disturbs other users)

## 2. Zonation of area use

- If allowed, usually restricted to remote area zone

## 3. Implementation on management plan

- Leasing agreement with local hunters, if hunting is allowed
- Other cooperation with hand picked hunters for special tasks (i.e. predator control)

# Management and use = Actual plan

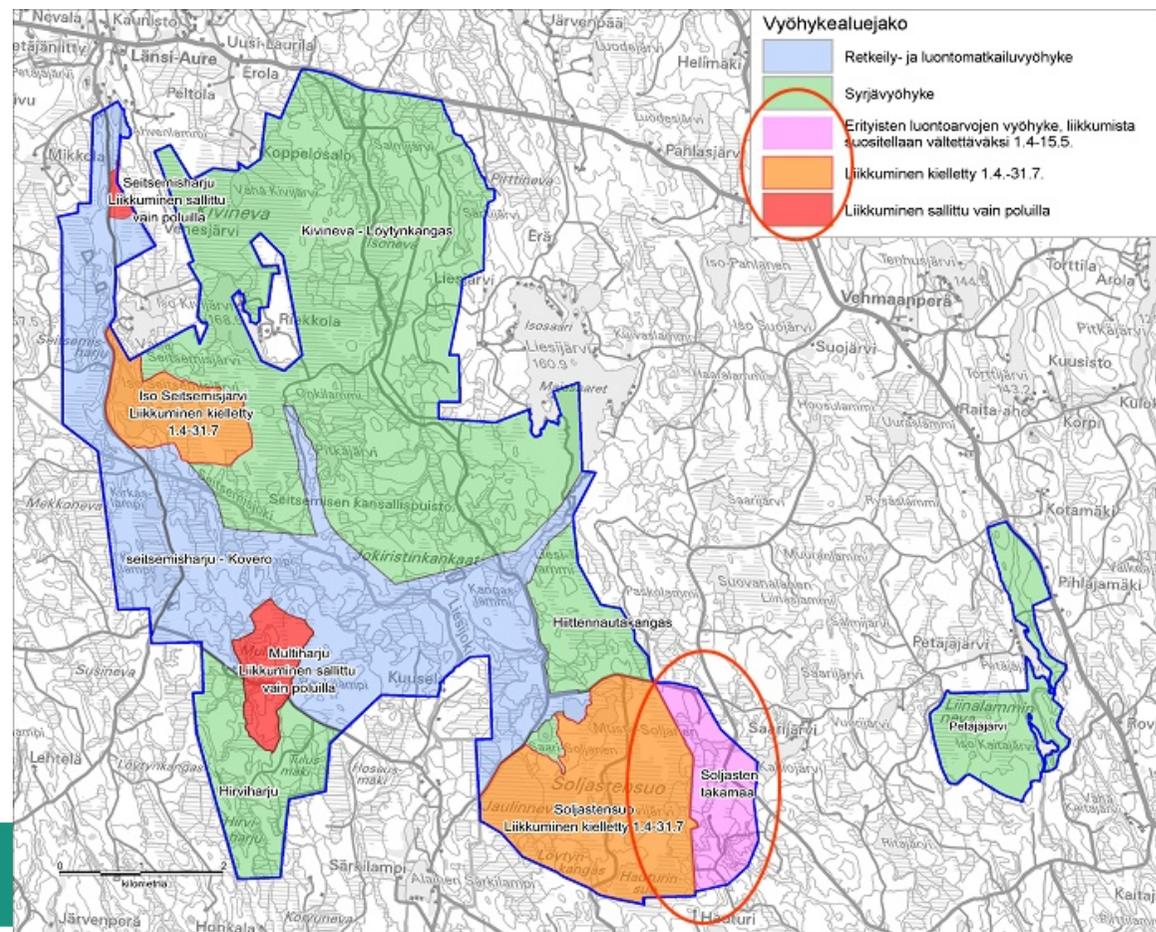
## Objectives of planning (goals)

Zoning is a strategic decision for future land use

-Retkeily- ja luontomatkailuvyöhyke = Recreation- and nature tourism zone

-Syrjävyöhyke = basic zone

-Rajoitusvyöhyke = restriction zone



# Co-operation between site managers and hunters in protected areas – **leasing areas**

- + long term agreements
  - + monitoring of moose and game triangles
  - + bag statistics
  - + pest control, and control of invasive species
  - + traffic accidents
  - + large carnivores, monitoring and of elimination of problem individuals
  - + stakeholders with good local knowledge
  - + very little bureaucracy and no funding required
- 
- not possible to require more than the agreement
  - not possible to manage in detail(hunting management)
  - local conflict with other stakeholders (both hunters and others)

# Co-operation between site managers and hunters in protected areas – **special tasks**

- + part of the site management activities as a whole
  - + based on voluntary work (cost efficient)
  - + is focused to specific tasks (species management, pest control,
  - + monitoring and game bag statistics
- 
- difficult to find persons with acquired skills (local knowledge, boating, dog)
  - requires bureaucracy and active co-operation (time consuming for manager)
  - requires some financial support (petrol, traps)
  - challenge to keep up the motivation of hunters in the long run

# International cooperation on alien invasive species with neighboring countries.

Co-operation with Sweden,  
Norway and Denmark

Implementing the EU invasive species Act  
(*early warning and rapid response,  
extermination and containment and  
mitigation*)

Focusing on small predators (mink and  
raccoon dog)

- I. Life+ project on raccoon dog  
(2010-2013)
- II. After life raccoon dog (2013-2015)
- III. Life + project on American mink  
(2016-2021)



After-LIFE Conservation Plan  
LIFE09 NAT/SE/ 000344 MIRDINEC

Management of the invasive Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes  
procyonoides*) in the north-European countries  
(MIRDINEC)



# Food for thoughts

- Importance of an open process involving different sectors and including facilitation, when developing a management plan
- Importance of lifting up the socio-economic aspects as a prerequisite for a sustainable and credible management and conservation.
- Importance of flexible and pragmatic approach to the management and conservation, which can permit local adaptations to the means applied to reach the goals set in the plan.
- Including hunting as a part of the site management gives an added value in decreasing the local conflicts, contributes to conservation efforts and provides a task force with local knowledge at a low cost

Thank you for your  
attention!