

Landscape Rewilding Programme and Snowchange Cooperative



- Snowchange is a non profit Arctic and boreal NGO, founded in 2000
- Landscape Rewilding Programme was initiated in 2017 with Rewilding Europe, EIB and Snowchange and subsequently has grown to be the largest restoration programme in Finland
- Combines Indigenous and traditional knowledge with science to re-establish landscape-wide and – relevant sites for biodiversity and climate action
- First Indigenous and community conserved areas in Finland
- Methodology piloted and tested 2012-2017 in North Karelia

First site: Linnunsuo, a degraded peatland and marshmire, 180 hectares



2012



2020




*Long-billed Dowitcher, Terek Sandpiper
and other rare waders*


- From 2 bird species into 205 species, we monitor Wood Sandpiper and Northern Pintail as key species



Snowchange
COOPERATIVE

Norwegian Sea

 Owned by Snowchange

 Concession

Map Satellite



- By April 2025:
- 7100 hectares owned over 150 sites
 - Through land concessions and agreements over 56,000 hectares under rewilding and restoration influence
 - Agreements with the state companies, forest operators, municipalities, private people

Kivisuo, 750 hectares, largest protected area in Finland in 2020 in the sub-Arctic



For example the nesting area of Peregrine Falcon



Practical actions, scales and methods



Small landscape rewilding actions – 1-5 hectare wetlands



Single site actions – example of Hautaneva, 30 hectares middle boreal



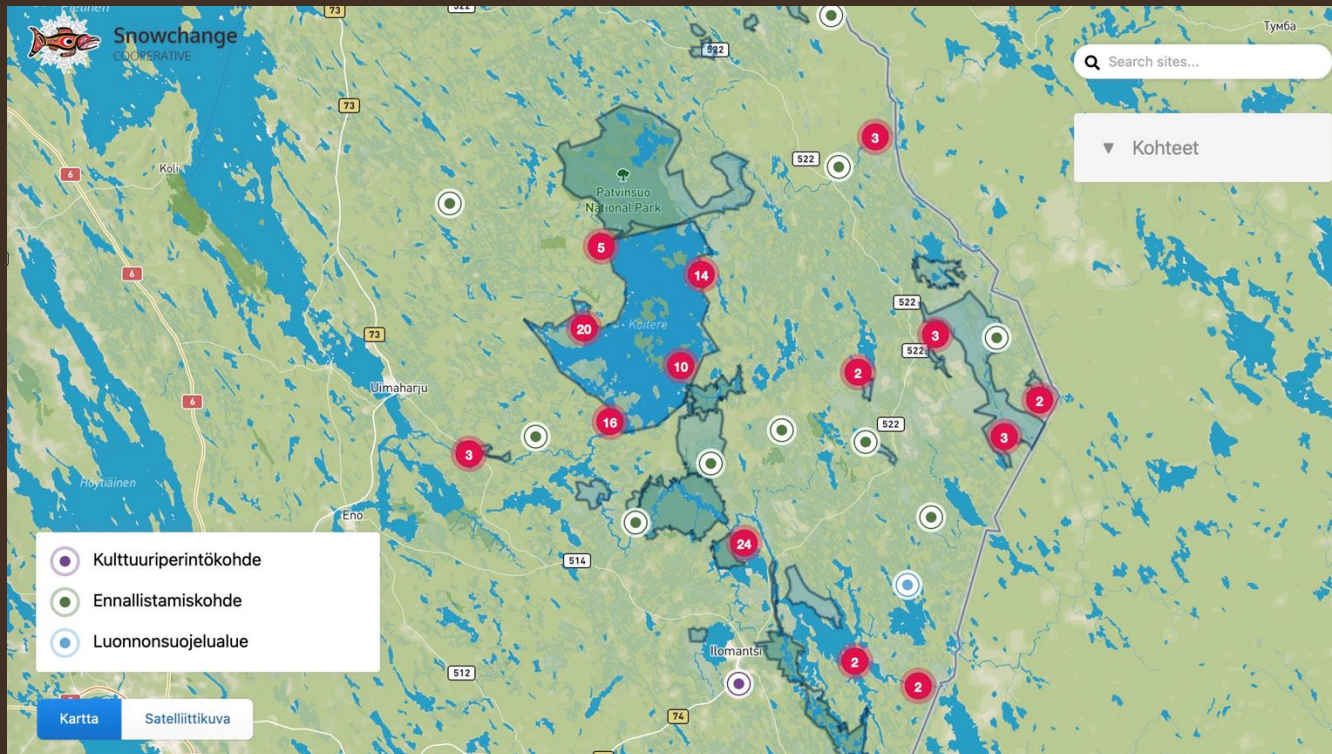
European Golden Plover

Salojenneva, 36 hectares



Keystone species: Southernmost population of Willow Ptarmigan

Catchment Restoration: Koitajoki 6500 square kilometers in North Karelia – the ELSP Project: Koitajoki – Land of Epic Poetry

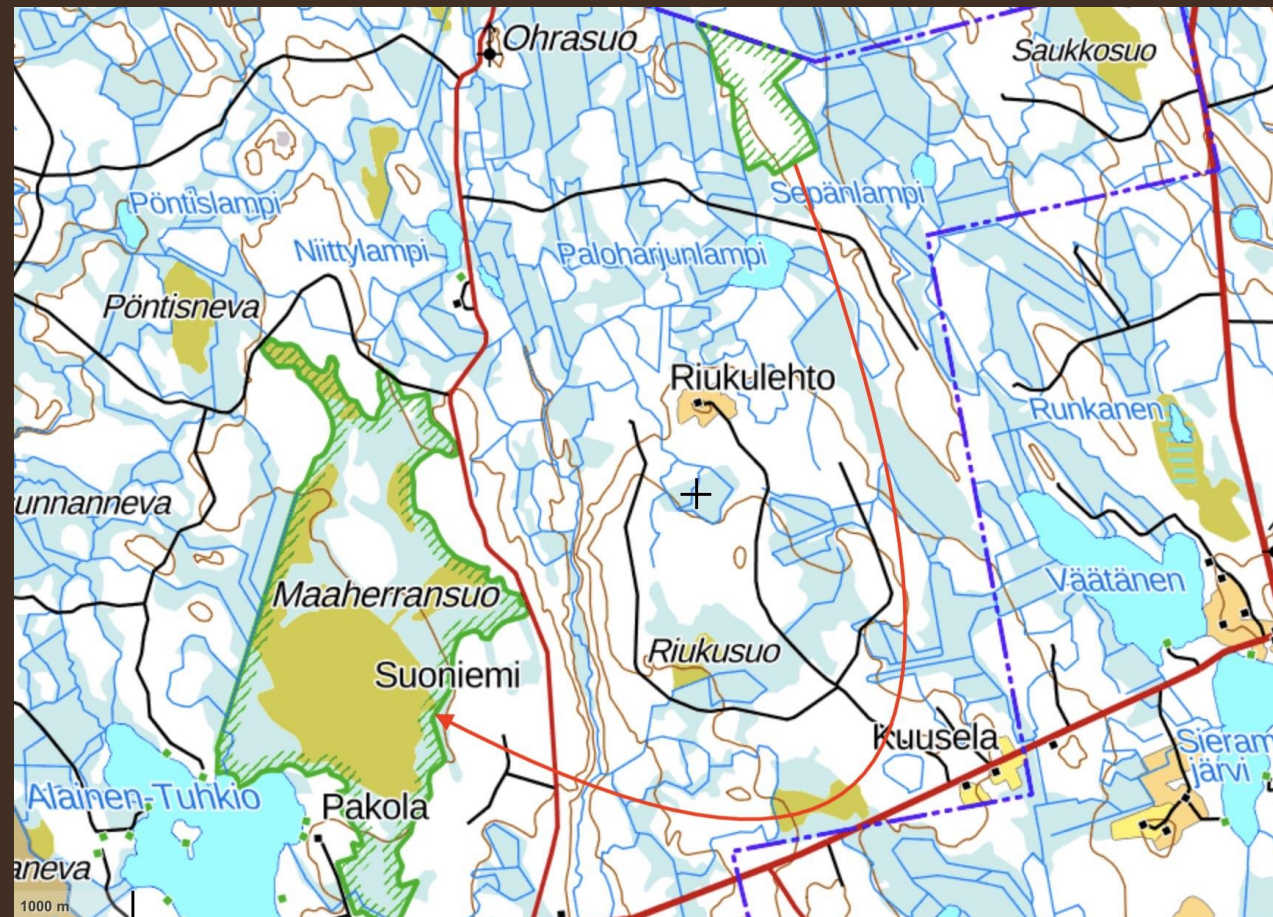




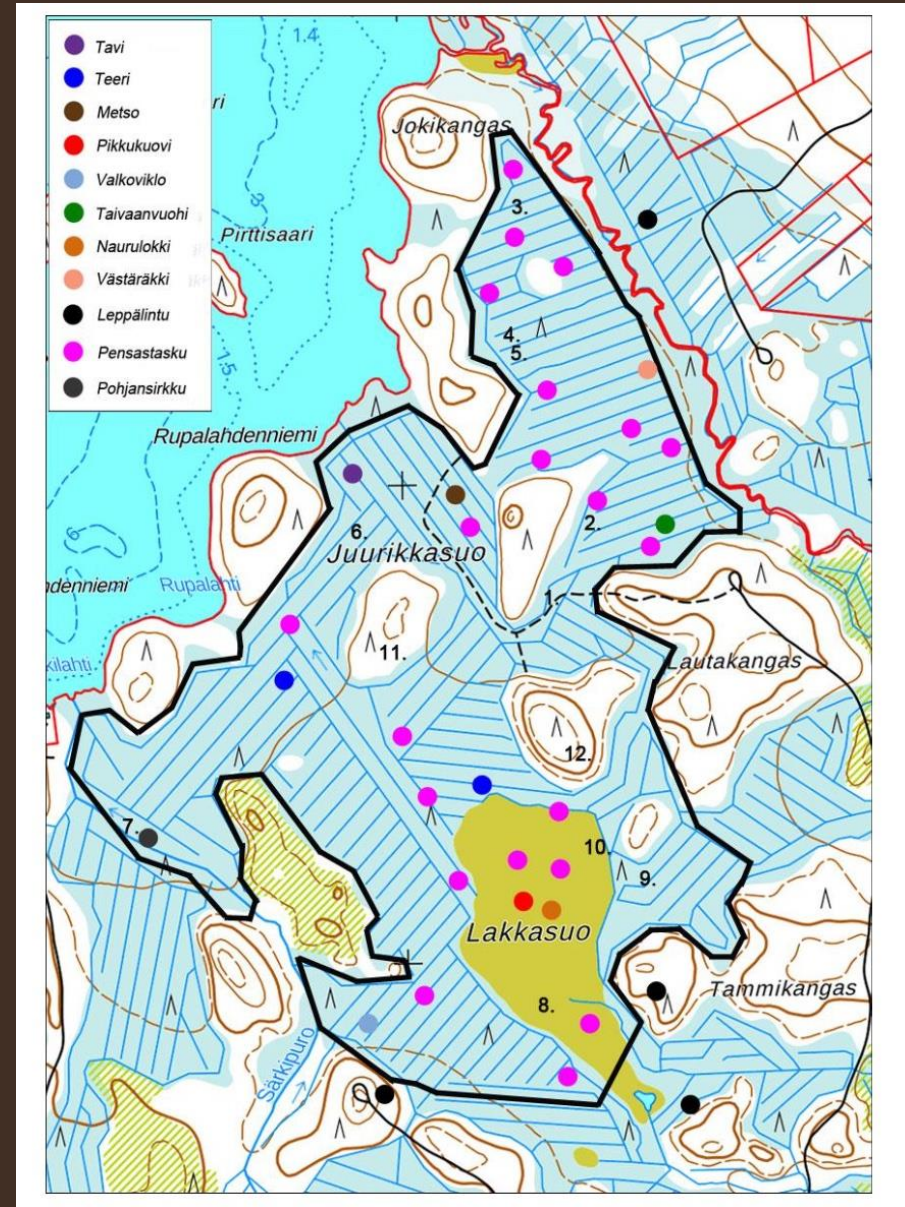


Interconnections to Natura 2000 Sites – Example of Ähtäri

- Already established Maaherransuo, 418 hectares, a Natura 2000 site, for birds main species waders, cranes etc.
- Northeast of Maaherransuo a OGF protection area
- Establishment of 66 hectare ecological corridor through land purchases, including Oravasuo, 20 hectares



Monitoring of Birds: Transsects, Nesting Locations an example from a boreal peatland of Lakkasuo, Ilomantsi



International Collaborations

- Poland and Ukraine Nordic Project 2024: *Nature-based solutions in open wetlands restoration for biodiversity, water quality improvement and climate mitigation*
- Climate Breakthrough: Minnesota, Alaska, Boreal Canada
- Pacific Community and Restoration Work: Solomon Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan

