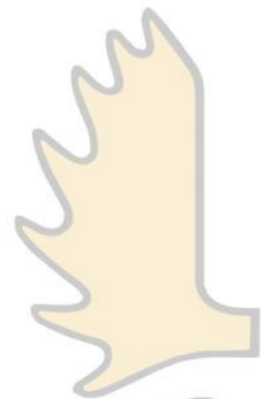
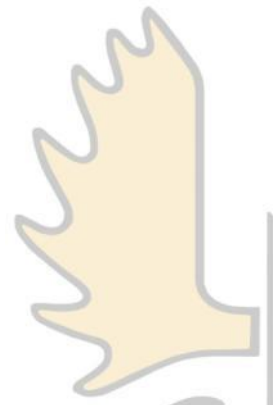


Participation of landowners



- Objectives of the authorities \leftrightarrow reasonable needs of the landowners
- In changing world people/landowners are resistant to make permanent agreement – it's socially more sustainable to have flexibility \rightarrow easier to be part of nature conservation \rightarrow more people involved \rightarrow better results in general, even if part of landowners are stepping away
 - Natura 2000: Top-Down
 - Outside Natura: Bottom-Up
- Many landowners understand the value of habitats and nature, but at the same time trying to make a living
- Communication: authorities and local stakeholders might talk about the same basic issues from different perspectives and with different words, thus creating misunderstanding \rightarrow simplification, popularization

- From landowners point of view:
 - Personal contact, respect, communication
 - Support, advice, compensation
 - Practical work instead of paperwork
 - Finding out the answers together – landowners often know their land, and they have ideas if you ask! → discussion



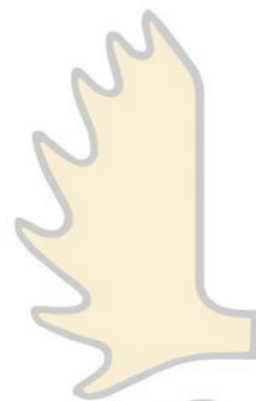


A wetland built by a landowner inspired by the Rural Wetlands project.
Funded through Agricultural funds as water protection wetland.

Life+ Return of Rural Wetlands



Project manager
Mikko Alhainen
Finnish Wildlife Agency



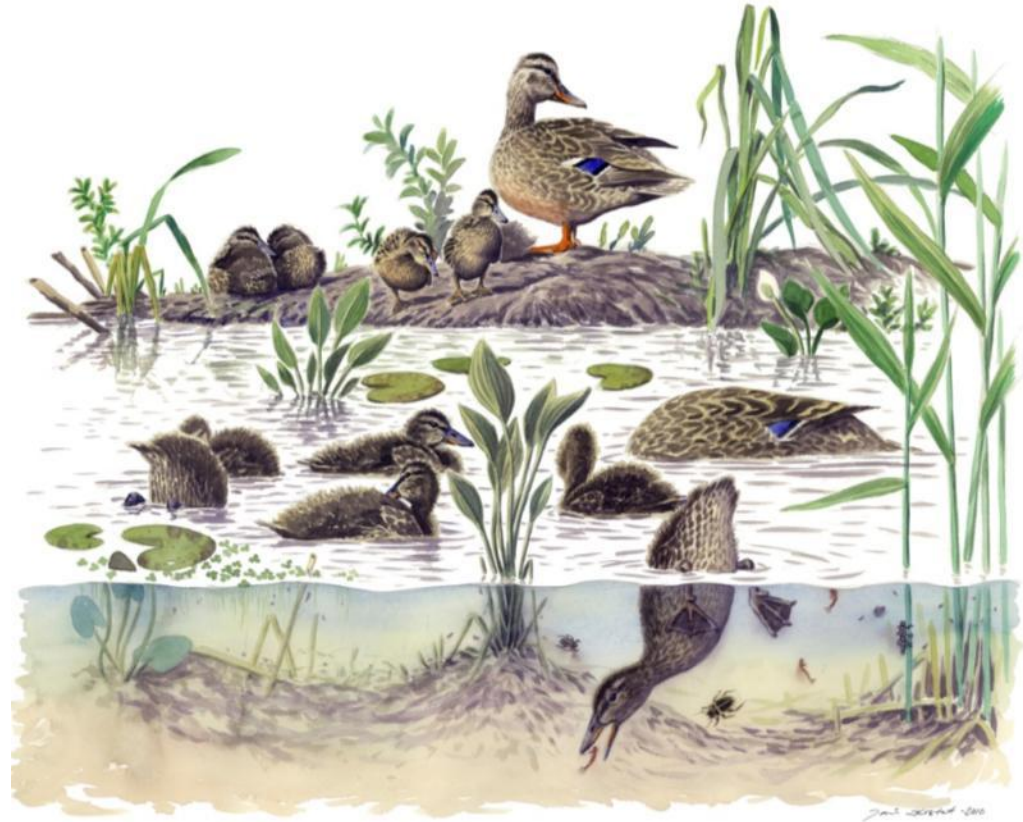
Project Objectives

- Promote interest towards wetland conservation, among local people through advice, education and information.
- Build working model and co-operational network between regional authorities and stakeholders for the restoration and re-creation of wetlands.

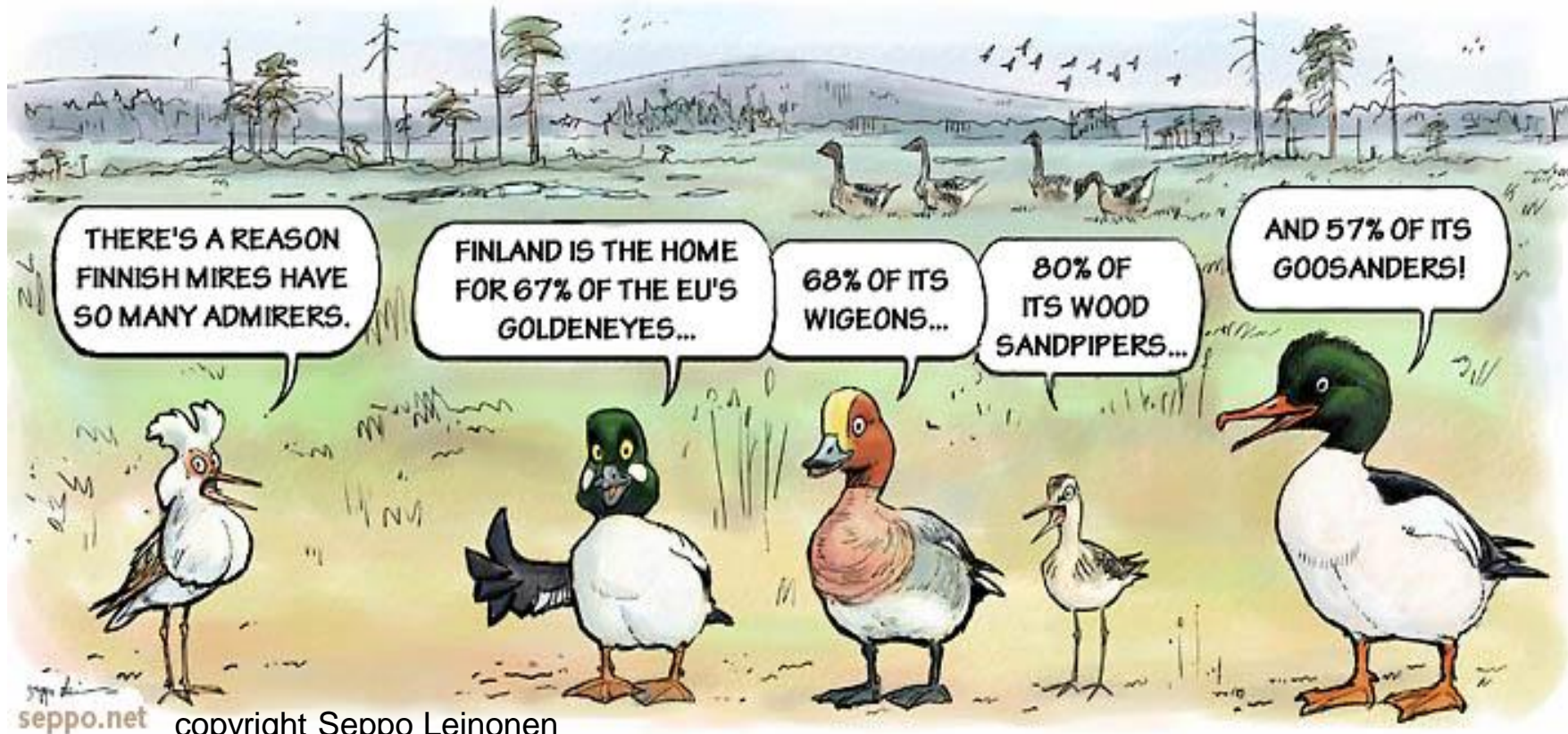


Project Objectives

- Restore/re-create at least 30 demonstrative wetlands to promote biodiversity and waterfowl brood habitats.
 - At least one site in each region
 - An example and positive experiences will promote the importance of wetlands to nearby communities and promote new wetland projects



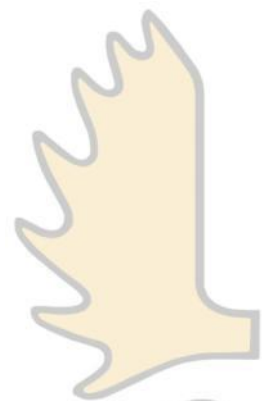
Why the Finnish wetlands and Mires are so important?

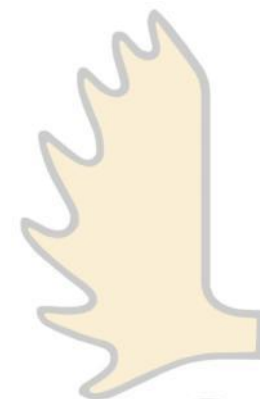


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Drained wetlands: If we have lost the ducks, what do we have left?







Wildlife Habitat

Biodiversity

Clean waters

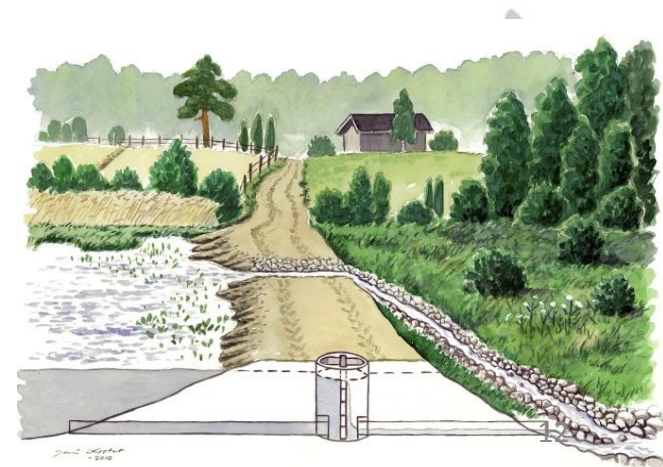
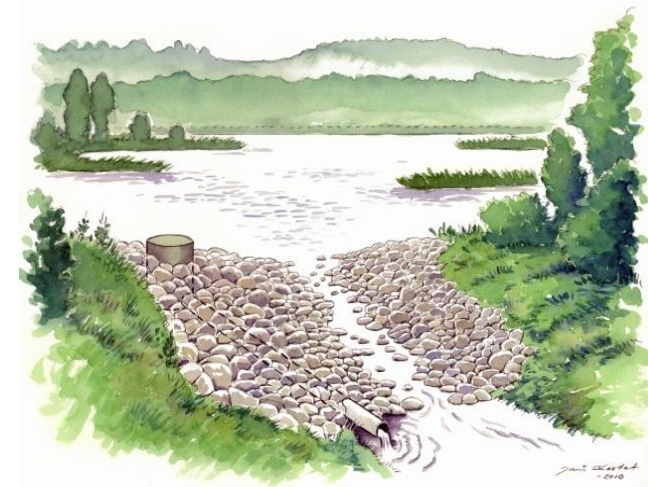
Flood retention

Recreation

Landscape

Demonstrative wetland sites

- Sites that local people/landowner want's to create/restore
 - To support existing interests on habitat restoration
 - To create positive experience and messages
- Primarily flooded wetlands → brood habitat for waterfowl → biodiversity
 - Project had money for planning, concrete action and materials – and we expected locals to participate on voluntary basis by work or handling part of the costs → own input promotes ownership → site will be taken care of
 - Minimum bureaucracy for locals/landowner



Working model, in general

1. Landowner and/or local association asks for action on their wetland site: a proposal
2. Preliminary check out for the reasonability of proposal: Map survey + field visit
3. Contact to regional environmental authorities and municipality to find out any limitations etc.
4. Local level meeting for landowners and other stakeholders
 - What is our project all about
 - What kind of actions we are talking about
 - What are the expectations to locals
5. Signed agreement with landowners and stakeholders about more detailed planning of the site. The forthcoming actions will be clarified and the focus is to get concerted action. However, if something comes up during action planning, things will be re-evaluated.
6. Action Plan for the site is prepared and agreed/signed by landowners and other stakeholders.
7. Regional environmental authorities will accept the Action Plan
8. Action Plan OK → selection of contractor → machines running and person responsible for action planning supervising and guiding omma selvä → koneet käymään, kosteikon suunnittelija työmaalla johtamassa

→ Hands on approach. Wetlands restored as fast as 6 months from proposal!

Where are we now?

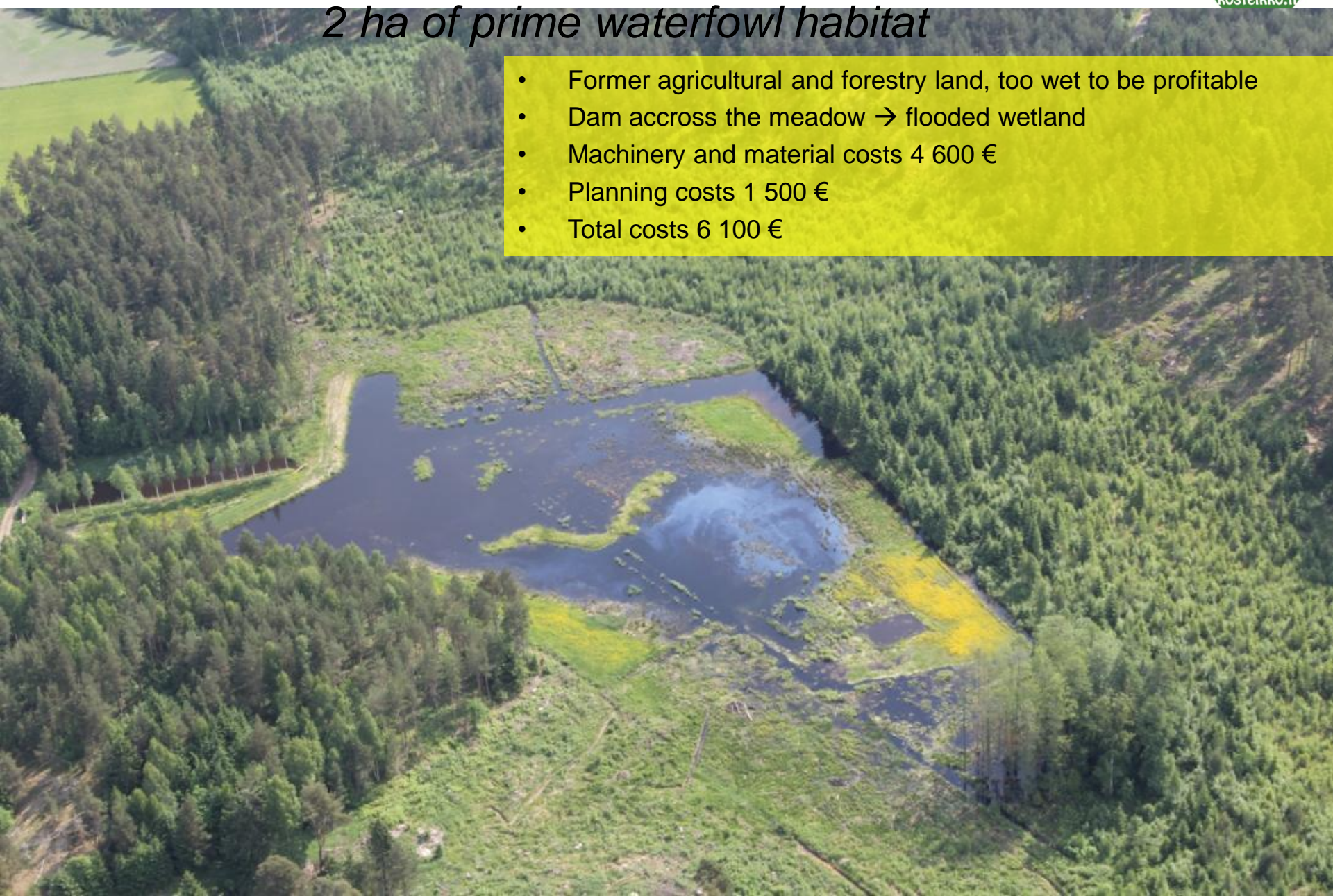
Demonstrative wetlands in June 2014

- 48 sites agreed with the landowners
- 48 action plans done
- **43 demonstrative wetland sites already accomplished or under construction totalling 240 hectares!**



2 ha of prime waterfowl habitat

- Former agricultural and forestry land, too wet to be profitable
- Dam accross the meadow → flooded wetland
- Machinery and material costs 4 600 €
- Planning costs 1 500 €
- Total costs 6 100 €



Vähä-Komu, Pyhäjärvi

20 ha of prime waterfowl habitat

- Vähä-Komu pond was drained 100 years ago and the area was used for excavating special soil for industry
- After the commercial use the area was abandoned .
- Seven local fellows bought the area and surrounding forests from the corporation after they were promised to be able to join the Rural Wetlands project for some help to restore the site.

- In the winter of 2012 the trees were cleared, the embankments restored and dams built.
- The landowners have done about 1 000 hours of voluntary work on the site for example in tree clearance and assisting construction.
- Cost of construction and materials 18 400 €



OPPORTUNITIES ARE IN EVERY VILLAGE
www.kosteikko.fi



28.10.2012



31.10.2012

Photos Mikko Alhainen

Thank You for Your Attention

