



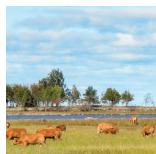
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Bothnian Bay Coastal Meadows Management

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment,
North Ostrobothnia

The exceptionally extensive coastal meadows of the Bay of Bothnia have been restored to preserve their landscape and habitats. These were the result of the traditional agriculture that was practised there, but the evolution of agricultural practices had led to their degradation. Thanks to the project, more than 4,000 hectares have been restored.

An operating model for the management of the coastal areas was first developed involving identification of valuable coastal meadow sites, identifying suitable measures for restoring them to the target state, and finding a local farmer to implement these measures with funding via agri-environmental support. The use of this operating model, based on the experience gained in pilot sites, has been successfully extended to a large territory.



The success of the project means that the vast traditional coastal meadows of the Bay of Bothnia have been restored to their former lustre through extensive and long-term co-operation. Similar measures and methods can also be applied elsewhere in Finland and in other States.

The strong co-operation between nature conservation authorities, land-owners, farmers and local organisations has resulted in the restoration of a landscape of 4000 hectares of coastal meadows with maintenance practices dating back to the 15th century. Farmers have been able to benefit from agri-environmental measures to revitalise the rural landscape of the Bay of Bothnia. Awareness-raising initiatives have helped to familiarise new generations with traditional agriculture. The project represents a noteworthy example of solidarity between local actors, in order to preserve the history of a unique landscape.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.