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Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas

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APPRAISAL REPORT RENEWAL 2024 Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Finland)

June 2023

by
Ms Blanca RAMOS
Conservation Biologist
(Spain)

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INTRODUCTION

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, by means of its Resolution (96) 30, awarded the European Diploma for Protected Areas category "B" to Tammisaari Archipelago National Park at its 569th meeting of 19th June 1996. The deadline established for its renewal was 19th June 2001. The Diploma has been further renewed in 2001, 2006 and 2011. The last renewal by Resolution CM/ResDip (2011) 7, for a period of 10 years, expired on 19th June 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the appraisal visits to all the protected areas whose Diplomas were due in 2020 and 2021 and by means of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe ResDip (2021) 3, the validity and the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip (2011)7 had been extended, on an exceptional basis, until 19th June 2024.

Having regard to the decision of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas at its meeting of 2-3 March 2023 to perform on-the-spot appraisal visits to areas whose Diplomas were due in 2024, the undersigned was invited as independent consultant to carry out the visit to Ekenäs/Tamisaari Archipelago National Park (Finland). The objective stated was *“to assess whether the conservation of biological, geological and landscape diversity which was put forward at the time of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the area is still of exceptional European interest and can, consequently, motivate the renewal of its European Diploma”*.

The appraisal visit took place on 8th and 9th June 2023. A Programme of the visit, previously established, is enclosed as Annex I to this report.

The consultant was welcomed on Wednesday 7th June by two members of Metsähallitus, the official body responsible for nature conservation and protected areas in Finland, **Mrs Tiina Kanerva**, Senior Specialist on Nature Conservation, and **Mrs Annukka Rasinmäki**, Land Use Manager. They gently drove to the accommodation in the beautiful city of Ekenäs (in Swedish) or Tammisaari (in Finnish), which gives its name to the National Park.

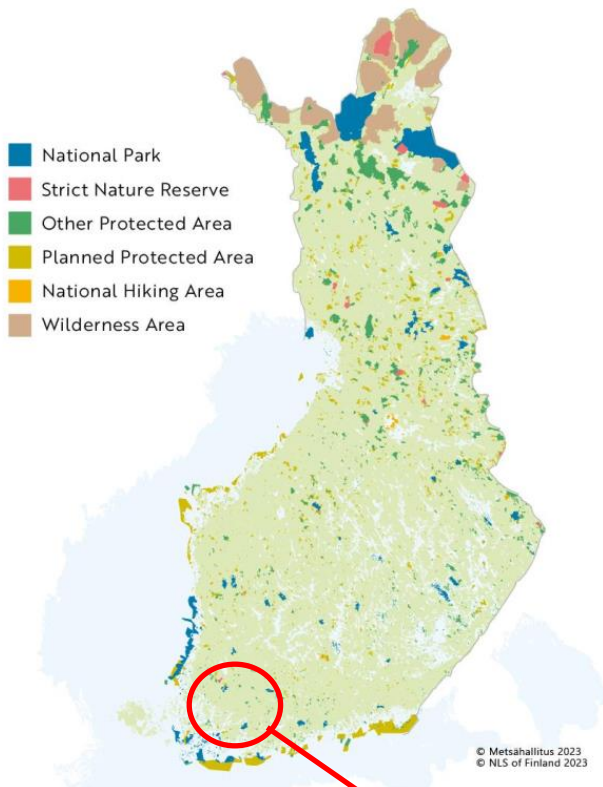
On Thursday 8th June in the early morning there was a meeting with the staff of the protected area with short presentations to summarise the most relevant issues of the National Park conservation and management. Right after, the group boarded a boat to make an interesting trip across the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago during the rest of the day.

The day after, Friday 9th June, several meetings with different sectors on different topics like tourism, nature restoration, etc., took place. A short interview with a journalist of a local newspaper took place at the end of the sessions. The visit finished after lunch, with return to the Helsinki Airport.

I - BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EKENÄS/TAMMISAARI ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK

Finland has two official languages of very different origin, Finnish and Swedish, used by the majority of the population, along with some minority official languages (Sami, Karelian or Romani). For that reason, all panels, informative written and spoken supports are presented in both languages. In the case of this National Park, Ekenäs is the name in Swedish, while Tammisaari is the Finnish name.

The Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park is located in the South-West coast of Finland, in the western sector of the Gulf of Finland and at about 100 km South-West to Helsinki. The area belongs to the region of Raasepori/Raseborg.



Protected areas of Finland



Dark green: Raasepori/Raseborg region

The Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park is a strictly insular natural area of land and sea not affecting the mainland. A total of 380 islands of different sizes, from large ones like Älgö or Jussarö to tiny islets and skerries, compose this protected archipelago. These islands are distributed from the inner archipelago, closer to the mainland to the outer archipelago more related to the open sea. The ecological conditions are very different across a gradient from north to South, since the islands closer to the mainland are usually covered by forests and thicket often surrounded by reedbeds, while the islands and islets more influenced by the sea are mostly slightly vegetated, with plants adapted to the saline spray. The terrestrial habitats can only be found on the 13 % of the surface area of the National Park, while the remaining 87 % are submerged habitats.

Their main physical features are as follows:

- Surface area: 5.500 ha (nearly 900 ha terrestrial and 4.600 ha marine)
- Maximum elevation: 30 meters above sea level in Älgö Island
- Deepest area: 60 meters below sea level

II - EUROPEAN INTEREST OF THE SITE

The Resolution (96) 30 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe awarded the European Diploma to the Tammisaari Archipelago National Park as a recognition of its great biological importance, the balanced management of both cultural and ecological values, the specific research, education and training efforts and the sustainable level of recreation and tourism.

A key feature can be considered to explain the important biodiversity of this area: the gradient from inland to the open sea of the ecological conditions, between the inner archipelago (closer to the mainland) to marine waters more influenced by the open sea. Larger islands are mostly covered by forest communities, basically of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and associated thicket, like those that can be found in the continental forests, whereas smaller and more marine islands are treeless and have rather scarce vegetation, although of great biological importance.

II - 1. Fauna

The most conspicuous fauna group is certainly the birds. Among the raptors, the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), the great owl (*Bubo bubo*) and the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) can be highlighted as regularly breeding in the area. Some breeding marine birds must also be mentioned: great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo* subsp. *sinensis*) black guillemot (*Cephus grille*), razorbill (*Alca torda*), red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), caspian tern (*Sterna caspia*), parasitic jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) and greylag geese (*Anser anser*) are among the species of major European importance. A specific mention must be made to the eider (*Somateria molissima*), a breeding marine duck that in early summer use to gather in big flocks of moulting males in the sea, while the females remain in the inner archipelago completing the rearing of chicks, often gathering females and juveniles in big groups. This representative species has become the symbol of the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park.



Big flocks of birds, namely ducks and shorebirds, can be found during migration. The area of Ekenäs/Tammisaari has very good condition as resting and feeding stopover for migrant birds.

The group of the mammals is represented by the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), elk (*Alces alces*), snow hare (*Lepus timidus*) and carnivores like the badger (*Meles meles*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), etc. The European lynx (*Lynx lynx*) has been also reported occasionally, in particular during the winter when the ice cover allows the arrival of dispersing individuals.

The group of invertebrates is really worth of mention, in particular the group of insects, like some rare species living in dead trees. Mollusc is also an important group, with species that can be found particularly in more marine habitats, namely mussels (*Mytilus trossulus*) of great importance as feeding resource for marine birds.

As a consequence of reintroductions for hunting purposes years ago, a wild population of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) still persist in some islands. Other exotic invasive carnivores also occur: the American Mink (*Neovison vison*) and the Raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*).

II - 2 Flora, vegetation and habitat types

The gradient between inner and outer archipelago maintains different habitat types allowing a great diversity of vegetation and species both on land and underwater.

In the virgin forests several endangered fungi and lichens can be found. The beard lichens (*Genus Alectoria, Bryoria and Usnea*), that can be found in Jussarö Island in the outer archipelago, are good examples of organisms thriving in areas of old trees and clean environments, having declined in the mainland due to air pollution.

Larger islands, particularly those located near the continent, are covered by forests of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), accompanying species like birch (*Betula spp.*), thicket and spruce (*Picea abies*). The western half of Jussarö Island still has an excellent representation of Western Taiga forest (priority habitat type 9010 of Annex I of the Habitats Directive¹) in very good condition, being probably one of the most untouched archipelago virgin forests of Southern Finland.

Traditional rural biotopes are characteristic of Ekenäs Archipelago National Park. Islands in the National Park have a long history of traditional human living including domestic fishing, light agriculture and gathering of firewood, plants and berries for everyday living. This old-fashioned living has created characteristic open habitats including shallow-grown meadows, moors and sandy habitats. These habitats also support a large variety of endangered species, for example beetles, butterflies and vascular plants. Nowadays, traditional island lifestyle has diminished, which is why also the traditional rural biotopes have been at risk due to overgrowing. Parks & Wildlife Finland maintains significant areas of nature management (including e.g. animal husbandry, moving and burnouts) in these valuable biotopes to safeguard their natural values and endangered species and habitats.

In the inner archipelago, some seashore formations of reedbed (*Phragmites sp.*) growing in brackish waters can be found. They provide an excellent spawning habitat for fishes and breeding sites for a great variety of birds.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora



In the inner archipelago, some island shores are surrounded by reedbed fringes of *Phragmites australis* providing excellent feeding grounds and shelter to many other species

In the beach ecosystem the endangered prickly saltwort (*Salsola kali*) can be found. There are some specific measures for its recovery.

In marine shallow-water habitat forming species like the bladder wrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*) is well represented. It is worth to be mentioned, since it is a quite sensitive species to habitat deterioration and/or contamination. It has disappeared in extensive areas of the Baltic Sea because of the pollution. Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) is represented in lesser extent, but it is one of the key indicator species in the Baltic Sea. In marine deep-water the red algae and mussel beds (*Mytilus trossulus*) also form three-dimensional habitat for other species as well.

The occurrence of two typically Baltic coastal lagoon habitat types must be also highlighted: the so-called “flada” and “glo” are well represented in this area. They basically represent different stages of the active dynamic coastal morphology, and have been identified as significant quality factors of spawning habitats for marine fish species, like Northern pike (*Esox lucius*).



Graph from a presentation of Sanna Kuningas – Natural Resource Institute of Finland

The VELMU project (see section IV.5) characterises the so-called “Essential Fish Habitats (EFH)”, and reveals the great importance of Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago for fish reproduction, feeding and migration. In particular, the environmental requirements for four fish species, perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca*), smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*) and Baltic herring (*Clupea harengus* subsp. *membras*), reveals to what extent the lagoon morphology and more specifically the availability of “flads” and “gloes” are essential drivers for the successful reproduction. This knowledge has been fundamental to design restoration methodologies and also for regulating human activities that can deteriorate them, for example, avoiding the siltation of coastal shallow channels and ponds.

The total inventory of terrestrial habitat types of Annex I of the Habitats Directive has been calculated as follows (including their surface areas in hectares and percentage of the total):

	ha	%		ha	%
Perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220)	2,7	0,3	Vegetated siliceous rocky slopes (8220)	25,7	2,9
Vegetated sea cliffs (1230)	52,4	5,9	Western taiga* (9010)	93,8	10,5
Islets and islands in outer archipelago (1620)	47,8	5,4	Herb-rich forests (9050)	2,1	0,2
Coastal meadows* (1630)	1,8	0,2	Wooded pastures (9070)	0,5	0,1
Sand beaches with perennial vegetation	0,0	0,0	Deciduous swamp woods* (9080)	0,8	0,1
Oligotrophic waters (3110)	29,7	3,3	Bog woodland* (91D0)	21,9	2,5
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds (3160)	9,1	1,0	Total Area of non-marine Nat2000 habitats	295	33,2
Species-rich dry to mesic grasslands* (6270)	1,8	0,2	Total area of non-marine habitats	890	
Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140)	5,7	0,6	Total area of NP	5 500	

Source: Tiina Kanerva / Metsähallitus

The coastal habitat types of the Habitats Directive have also been inventoried in the whole Tammisaari and Hanko Archipelago and Pojo Bay Natura 2000 site as follows:

- Sandbanks (1110)
- Estuaries (1130)
- Coastal lagoons (*) (1150)
- Large shallow inlets and bays (1160)
- Reefs (1170)
- Baltic esker islands (1610)
- Islets and islands in outer archipelago and open sea (1620)
- Narrow inlets (1650)

(*) – Priority habitat type

In the National Park there are coastal lagoons, reefs and islets and islands in outer archipelago and open sea.

Some invasive plant species, like *Rosa rugosa*, introduced for ornamental purposes, can be found in the area. It creates dense root system, very difficult to uproot effectively once installed, invading and replacing native plant communities. The tree *Acer pseudoplatanus* shows also an invasive behaviour.

II-3 Exploitation of resources

Only mushrooms and berry collection are allowed in accessible zones. Sport fishing is also allowed under permit and subject to specific regulation. For that purpose, data on reproductive capacity of fish community are collected in order to establish limits, if necessary. No fish farms or fish restocking are allowed.

Ekenäs Archipelago National Park is owned by the Finnish State and the area is governed by Metsähallitus. Metsähallitus is organised into multiple sectors and Parks & Wildlife Finland is responsible for the governance of National Parks, other state-owned protection areas and state-owned land and marine areas which are intended to be protected via the Finnish Nature Protection Act. Ekenäs Archipelago National Park is established in the coastal and marine areas outside the city of Ekenäs and the National Park covers a significant proportion of islands and islets but also underwater marine bottoms.

There are only a few exceptions of small plots of territory in the hands of private owners, which do not belong to the National Park and, consequently, the National Park regulation does not apply to them. No agriculture is practised at present. Some small-scale domestic animal husbandry is implemented in the National Park, basically under management and nature restoration criteria.

The eastern side of the Jussarö Island, which does not belong to the National Park, has been deeply transformed due to the mining activity in different spots and times. For example, a coastal bay was totally filled in with rock waste. The iron on Jussarö was first utilised from 1834-1861 and later by Vuoksenniska Oy in a project running from 1954-1967. After closing down the mine, the production and living facilities as well as the transport and port equipment were abandoned and left deteriorate. In 1834 an iron ore (magnetite) deposit was found in Jussarö Island and its extraction began shortly after. Many buildings and infrastructures were erected, since the mining activity gathered about 80 prisoners, used as labour force, and 50 soldiers to watch over them, along with other mine staff. The mine was abandoned decades ago, but these constructions still persist and the whole area is included in the interpretation trail available to the visitors of the island.

II-4 European Interest justifying the Diploma

The most important natural values of Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park are the following:

- Excellent breeding and moulting grounds for common eider (*Somateria mollissima*), a sea duck of restricted distribution area in Europe
- Excellent representation of the priority habitat type “Western Taiga” in one half of the Jussarö Island. It is a practically untouched forest, having a good conservation status.
- Diversity of other habitat types of the Habitats Directive, including priority ones like 91D0 “Bog woodland”.
- Excellent breeding grounds for many species of wildfowl and marine bird species
- Excellent stopover grounds for migratory bird species
- Excellent representation of reefs and islets and islands in outer archipelago and open sea
- Good representations of typically Baltic coastal lagoon habitat types “flada” and “glo”
- Continuous education and dissemination activities for youngsters and visitors
- Intense scientific research and monitoring activities aiming at providing knowledge transfer to improve management practices.
- Excellent management practice for the conservation and surveillance of the natural area
- Outstanding landscape and exceptional aesthetic value

III - CONSERVATION MEASURES


III-1 Legal protection status


The Ekenäs Archipelago National Park was established by Act of Ekenäs Archipelago National Park by the Finnish Parliament in 1989 (485/1989). The National Park (=State-owned areas within the boundaries of the Park) covered at that time around 3900 hectares. The National Park was originally built around Jussarö Strict Nature Reserve, which was established already in 1956, although being significantly smaller. The protection regulations of the Park were defined in a decree (243/1990). The Act of the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park was updated in June 2023, derogating from the Decree 243/1990. The conservation regulations in the National Park were based directly on the Finnish Nature Protection Act (9/2023). In 1995 the National Park was enlarged to the current 4.800 ha.

This protected area has been included in the large Natura 2000 site “Tammisaari and Hanko Archipelago and Pojo Bay” (See section VI.2). The natural conservation around the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park and within the Natura 2000 site is supplemented with large areas, which are protected as privately protected areas, usually owned by private landowners, including individual persons, municipalities, companies etc. Privately protected areas have a legislative protection status like National Parks and other state-owned protection sites. Their authoritative role with respect to the Finnish Nature Protection Act however belongs to regional centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. Also, the regulations may vary between the privately protected sites.

III.2 Boundaries/zoning/buffer zones


Restriktionsområde
Rajoitusalue
Restricted area



 För att skydda undervattensmiljö samt värdefull terrest miljö och arter är det förbjudet att ta i land 1.1.-31.12. Det är tillåtet att röra sig längs med den märkta naturstigen på Jussarö.


Vedenalaisen luonnon ja arvokkaan maaluonnon turvaamiseksi on maihinnousu kielletty 1.1.-31.12. Jussarön merkittyä luontopolkua pitkin liikkuminen on sallittua.

To protect marine and coastal habitats, boaters may not go ashore between **1st January and 31st December**. To explore Jussarö visitors may walk around the island's marked nature trail.

 För att trygga den häckande fågelfaunan är det förbjudet att ta i land 1.4 - 31.7. I den södra viken av Storträsket är det tillåtet att simma.

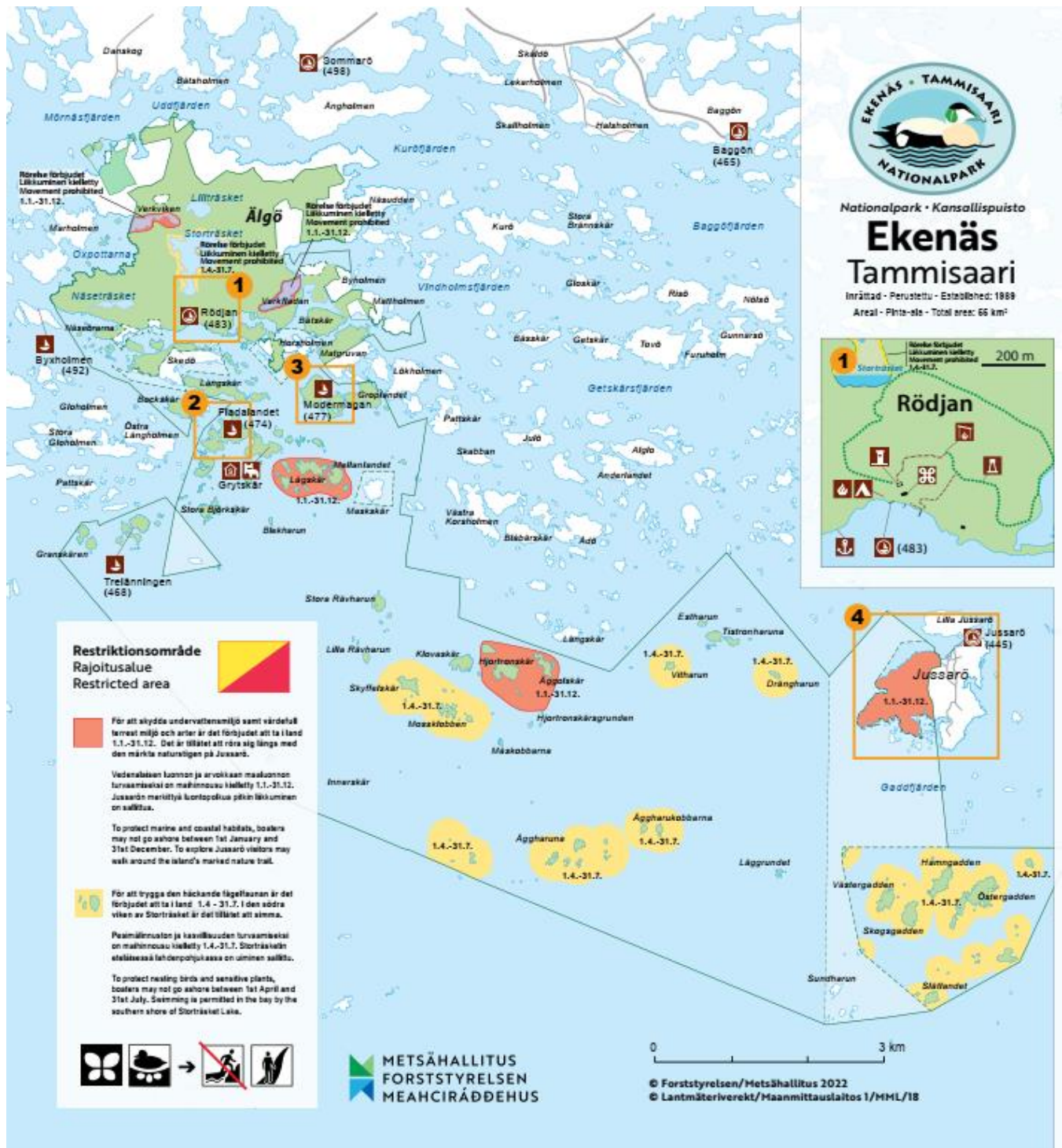
Pesimälinnuston ja kasvillisuuden turvaamiseksi on maihinnousu kielletty 1.4.-31.7. Storträsketin eteläisessä lahdenpohjukassa on uiminen sallittu.

To protect nesting birds and sensitive plants, boaters may not go ashore between **1st April and 31st July**. Swimming is permitted in the bay by the southern shore of Storträsket Lake.



The boundaries of the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park are, to some extent, rather artificial since they do not correspond to ecological or geographical limits. As can be seen in the following map, a major zoning criterion is the possibility to access to the concerned islands, either temporarily or permanently, basically to protect bird nesting process:

[Legend of the map shown on the following page](#)



III-3 Supervision and warding

The different tasks involved in the management and conservation of Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park are executed by the staff of the State Agency Metsähallitus, responsible for nature conservation. There is not specific staff devoted exclusively to this protected area, since it is disseminated through all the protected areas existing within the Regional Metropolitan and Coastal Area of Raasepori/Raseborg. This applies not only to technicians, guides or auxiliary staff, but also to Warden Corps responsible for the supervision and surveillance of Law enforcement.

III.4 - State of conservation of the main species and their habitats.

According to the monitoring data obtained by the staff of Metsähallitus and other Agencies, the abundance and state of conservation of relevant species and habitats of European interest reveal that the area maintains good conservation status, some components show an improved condition and only in specific cases their situation has deteriorated. A specific mention deserves the common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), with 2.000 - 2.500 pairs. Its trend is decreasing and according to the assessment made in the framework of the Natura Site Condition Assessment (NATA) exercise, carried out for each Natura 2000 site (see section IV.5), some conservation actions are needed.

At this stage, it is relevant to underline the significant efforts of the management authorities for i) carefully monitoring the situation of wild species and habitats, ii) implementing conservation measures based in scientifically validated data, iii) restoring damaged habitats for the recovery of species. The example of the restoration of “flads” and “gloes” (see section II.2) for the recovery of pike and perch breeding spots is a good example of the good conservation practices that are implemented in Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park.

In recent years, significant conservation actions have been put into practice to conserve the species and habitats which are characteristic for the area and for the archipelago in general. These include management of traditional rural habitats which would otherwise risk overgrow, the removal of the invasive species *Rosa rugosa* and significant efforts to lower the populations of invasive predators (mink, raccoon dog) in the archipelago to protect the marine waterfowl.

III.5 - Land use planning

The Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park land use is ruled by the legislation of its creation and specific regulations. The protected area as a whole is owned by the Finnish State and managed by Metsähallitus (Parks and Wildlife Finland).

III.6 - Threats

III.6.1 – Global change. According to the series of data gathered since the early 1900's, climate change has raised the water temperature, affecting the ecology of marine wild species habitats and ecosystems. Other factors like the pollution affecting the whole Baltic Sea, the arrival of invasive alien species and other detrimental events caused by the human being, is changing the natural ecological identity, function and ecosystem services. The combination of them, currently known as Global Change, goes beyond the climate change exclusively and must be closely monitored. In particular the monitoring of the effects on wild

species, habitat types and ecosystem services is obligatory for the correct decisions concerning their management and conservation.

III.6.2 – Mass tourism. Tourism is, by far, the most important activity that, if uncontrolled, can produce severe degradation and damage to natural areas, like disturbance to wild fauna, trampling soils and vegetation, noise, accumulation of wastes, etc., as well as worsening of the quality of the visits. As in most protected areas of Europe, after COVID-19 pandemic the number of visitors has largely increased, particularly in summer, creating situations of overcrowded human presence, either in terms of time and/or space. The managers of Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago are taking measures to avoid such effect, like diversifying the visit offer, installing information panels, reinforcing paths to avoid damage to the plants and small fauna, regulation of the visits in most sensitive areas, etc.

III.6.3 – Invasive alien species. The arrival to Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago of the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and exotic invasive carnivores like the American mink (*Neovison vison*) and the raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) has produced very negative effects on the ecology of native species and habitats. For example, predation by these carnivores is considered the main threat for the nesting birds. For that reason, the authorities are making big efforts for their eradication or at least for maintaining their population levels as low as possible with different sustainable methods. The thicket of *Rosa rugosa*, used in principle for ornamental purposes, is showing an invasive behaviour replacing wild native plant communities and is also subject to eradication by the authorities, very often with volunteers, using mechanical methods. To increase the efficiency of the eradication measures the use of the herbicide glyphosate has been tested in the recent years, apparently with good results. However more and more evidences suggest that this product is extremely harmful for wild species, namely the aquatics like amphibians and arthropods and for that reason its use should be very restricted or banned and, if applied, with the maximum precautionary measures.

III.6.4 – Pollution of the Baltic Sea. This has been identified as a major problem, since this is the most polluted marine water body in Europe. It finds its origin in a number of factors occurring in most of the neighbouring countries namely pouring their wastes to this semi-closed sea for many decades. However, the strategic position of the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago, at the entrance of the Gulf of Finland, allows a certain renewal of the water from the Atlantic Ocean.

The excess of nutrients from the southern Baltic Sea and from land (agriculture and forestry) cause eutrophication, which accelerates growth of annual filamentous algae changing the species composition of marine habitats and thus degrading their condition. The inner and middle parts of the Ekenäs Archipelago do not have strong currents, which would enable more efficient mixing of the stratified water layers (stratification caused by salinity and temperature). Instead, nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, builds up in the water causing eutrophication, which can be observed in increased blue-green algae blooms owing to anoxic conditions on sea beds. Also, filamentous and other algae are drifted on shores, which accelerates overgrowth (such as reed) on narrow coastal shores degrading the state of coastal meadows.

Additionally, chemicals used at a more local scale in the hydrographical basin outside the protected area for the agriculture and husbandry produce a chronic diffuse pollution of aquifers and superficial water affecting sooner or later to the Diploma holding area. The Park authorities are collecting long series of data in order to characterise and cope with the problem and to look for available remediation strategies.

III.6.4 – Old Military use. At the time of the award of the European Diploma, some military activity was held in a specific protection area of Jussarö Island, derived from its strategic situation and from specific circumstances occurred in the history of the XXth century, particularly during and after the Second World War. The military activity, although not officially abandoned, does not take place anymore, since the military infrastructure has been demolished or transformed for other civilian uses and the shooting drills have stopped in early 2002.

IV - MANAGEMENT

IV.1 - Management Plan

The Resolution CMResDip(2011)7, renewing the European Diploma to Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park, contained one condition namely to finalise and approve the management plan (Master Plan), encompassing the plans for the enlargement of the protected area within one year. The Management Plan was approved in 2012, fulfilling, then, this part of the condition.

In 2017 the State-owned nature reserves of the Uusimaa region started a new enactment process, which included the enlargement of the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park. It was then decided that instead of enlarging the National Park, which would encompass the change of its declarative Law, a more appropriate way to protect the site would be the declaration of the new conservation area of Segelskär (approximately 6200 hectares) by means of a Decree, which would establish the new protected area and define the authorised and non authorised activities. The area would then be under the umbrella of the new Finnish Nature Conservation Act, which very recently (1st June 2023) came into force (Act 9/2023). Also, the regulations of the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park were updated by the Act 526/2023 to harmonise the regulations of the National Park with the updated Nature Conservation Act.

The enactment process of the State-owned areas of Uusimaa region, finalised in May 2021, considered however only terrestrial areas, and excluded all the marine areas of the Gulf of Finland, including Segelskär. The process for State-owned marine areas (approximately 57 000 ha and five areas) is planned to start again in 2024 and will continue in 2025. Segelskär conservation area is included in this process and thus will be protected by a government statute in the next future.

The enactment process is led by the Ministry of the Environment with the participation of Metsähallitus, Parks and Wildlife Finland, which compiles basic information on the sites, draws up maps and ensures the involvement of the local parties. This process is open to the participation of key local stakeholders like the authorities of the Province and the Municipalities, and hunting and nature conservation organisations, among others.

The update of the Management Plan approved in 2012, in the light of the new legislation will start when the revision of the common principles for the management of State-owned natural areas is ready. Updated principles were put into practice during the summer 2023 and the final English version is due at the end of 2023.

According to the scheduled procedure, the update of the management plan will start in 2025 and will be carried out in collaboration with Biodiversea LIFE-IP — for Marine Nature project: <https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/biodiversea-eng/>.

This LIFE project will help identify the most valuable sea sites allowing Finland to contribute to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to protect 30 % of marine areas by 2030. At present about 12 % of Finnish marine areas are protected.

Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland



IV.2 - Institutional responsibility

Since early 2005 the institutional responsibility of protected areas and nature conservation in Finland, along with the management of forests, relies on Metsähallitus, created by a Law of the Finnish Parliament. Metsähallitus is jointly under the scope of both the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and of the Ministry of the Environment. This is coherent with the fact that most of the forests managed by the Public Administration are State-owned and also many of them contain remarkable natural values and ecosystem services needed of adequate conservation and management measures. National Parks, State-owned protection sites and other terrestrial and marine areas which are intended to be protected are governed by Parks & Wildlife Finland, which is also responsible for the planning and management of these areas including e.g. nature restoration and management, recreational use and development of potential nature-based tourism.

IV.3 - Capacities

In Ekenäs Archipelago National Park there are 2 permanent staff. More than 2 permanent employees work in the National Park but also work in other protected areas. On average staff is estimated to be three people per year.

IV.4 - Budget

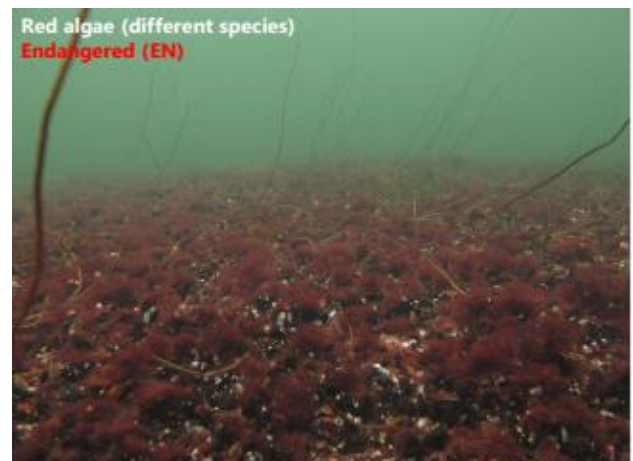
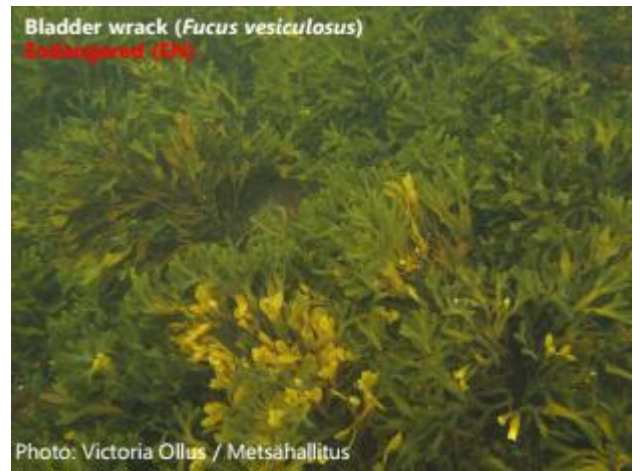
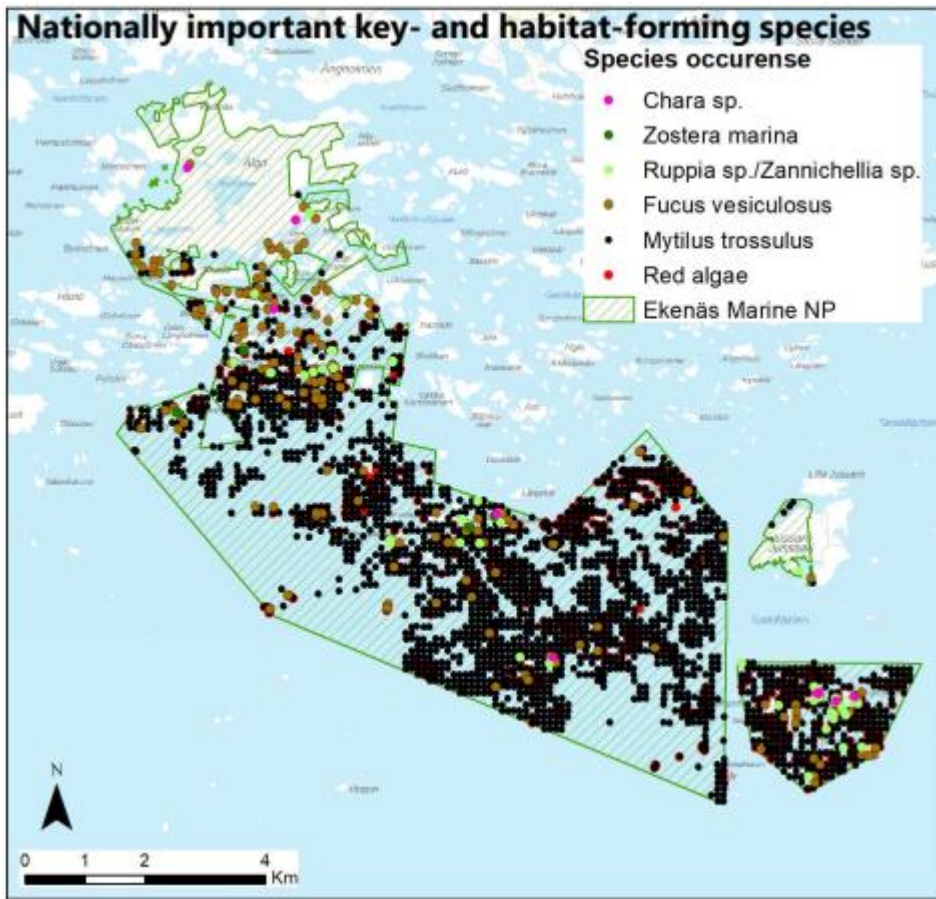
During the past recent years, the annual budget amounts on average 264 000 euros.

IV.5 - Research and Monitoring Programmes

The scientific activity in Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park has been historically very active. With the aim of improving the scientific knowledge on the biological assets of the Gulf of Finland, in 1902 the Professor of Zoology at the University of Helsinki, Johan Axel Palmén, created as a private initiative the Tvärminne Zoological Station in Hanko, a nearby city. A few years later, in 1919, it was merged with the University itself. Since then, it has provided many series of ecological scientific data.

In Älgö Island an integrated monitoring scheme was implemented to study the airborne pollutants and their effects on the environment.

More recently, the project VELMU (Finnish Inventory Programme for the Underwater Marine Environment, in the local language) is providing data since 2004 for the whole Finnish coast, including the area of Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago which is one of the most surveyed. Up to now, over 170 000 underwater observations have been made and in consequence habitat types and key marine species have been mapped in detail.



Some attempts have also been made to test the

efficiency of different methods for the restoration at small-scale of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) carpets, with good results.

The Natura Site Condition Assessment (NATA) carried out for each Natura 2000 site provides significant data and scientific information. This exercise has been carried out in 2021 and 2022 in “Tammisaari and Hanko Archipelago and Pojo Bay” site, which includes Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park. The assessment reveals threats related to the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea, changes in the traditional land use in the islands and impact of harbours and industries in the mainland. It also identifies areas where restoration efforts have been done and others where further restoration or management planning is still needed. It also recommends specific management of traditional rural areas that should be maintained. Finally, the assessment underlines the need of updating the Management Plan of the National Park in a timeframe of 3-5 years.

It is also worth to mention the ongoing National Protective Area Management Effectiveness (PAME), an assessment made by Parks and Wildlife Finland in 2023. PAME assesses the overall governance of the state-owned protected area network in Finland. Also, five pilot areas were chosen in which more detailed assessment was done using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park was one of the pilot areas, in which the assessment focussed on conservation of marine nature, underwater habitat inventories and coastal and marine research.

<https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/202101/new-edition:protected-area-management-effectiveness-tracking-tool-mett>

IV.6 - Relationship between the Reserve Administration and other stakeholders

The National Park Administration is in constant dialogue with the tourism sector. The private sector is taking care of visitors under specific administrative grants, which encompass the necessary restrictions and requirements for a sustainable tourism activity. The Park authorities are in close contact with the tourism authority of the Municipality of Raseborg.



Leaflet from the Municipality of Raseborg showing the major tourism resort for visitors

There are frequent contacts between the Administration and the sectors dealing with fishing and hunting, since these activities can be practiced with permits.

Traditional fishing methods are allowed in the national park as well as sport fishing, under specific restrictions and rules and authorisation by the managers. Small scale inshore commercial fishing is also permitted in the national park (see section V.5.2).

Waterfowl hunting is only allowed during a brief period between early September and end of November subject to specific permits granted by the Administration. During the last years no application has been received for that purpose (see also section V.5.1). White-tailed deer hunting is allowed from October to mid February, although the weather conditions currently allow hunting during October and November.

The scientific community has a strong relationship with the authorities of the National Park, since historically this has been an important activity and most management measures are based on scientific evidence and knowledge. Particularly important is the relationship with the University of Helsinki and the Novia University of Applied Science.

IV.7 - Public services including waste management

There are no waste bins in the National Park. Visitors must take their waste to the mainland. Biodegradable waste should be placed in a dry toilet or composter, and small amounts of clean paper and cardboard can be used as kindling in a campfire. The nearest places with waste bins are outside the National Park in Baggö, Sommarö and Predium guest harbours.

V - USES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

V.1 - Exploitation of natural resources

The regulation and list of authorised and forbidden activities is available on the web page of the Ekenäs/Tammisaari National Park, under the tag “Instructions and rules”:

<https://www.nationalparks.fi/ekenasarchipelagonp/instructionsandrules>

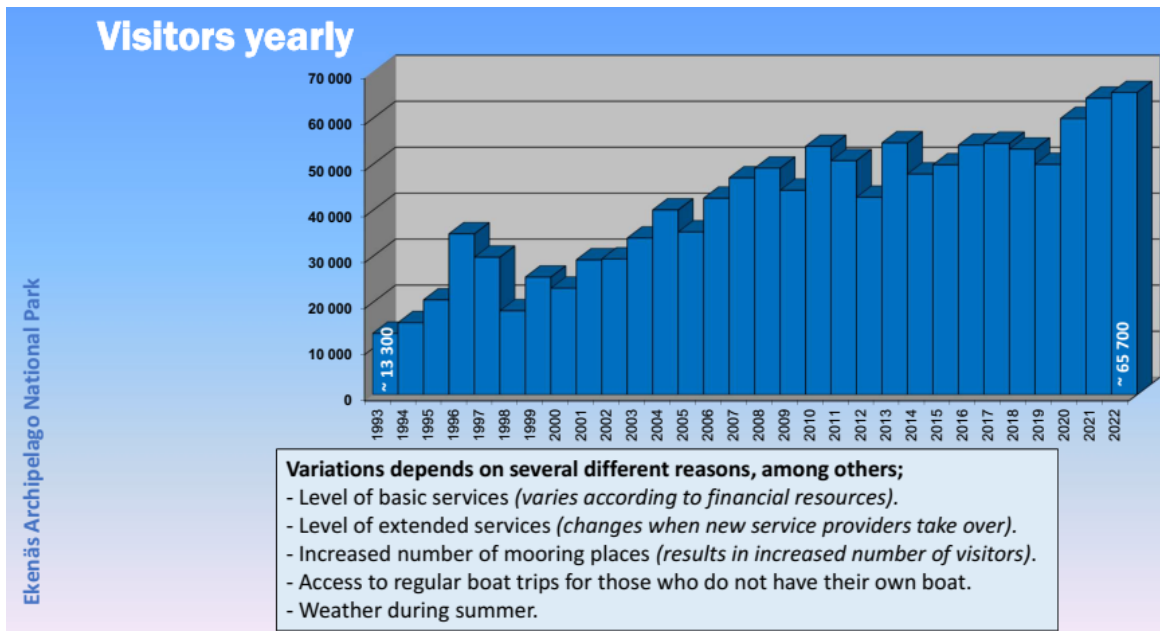
Only mushrooms and berry collection are allowed in accessible spots. Sport fishing is also allowed subject to permit and to specific regulation. For that purpose, data on reproductive capacity of fish communities are collected in order to establish limits, if necessary. No fish farms or fish restocking are allowed.

The area is public and belongs to the Finnish Administration, with very few exceptions of small plots of territory owned by private owners, where the National Park regulations do not apply. For that reason and for the forest character of the terrestrial sector, no agriculture is practiced at present. Some small-scale domestic animal husbandry is practiced in the National Park, basically with management and nature restoration purposes and under conservation criteria.

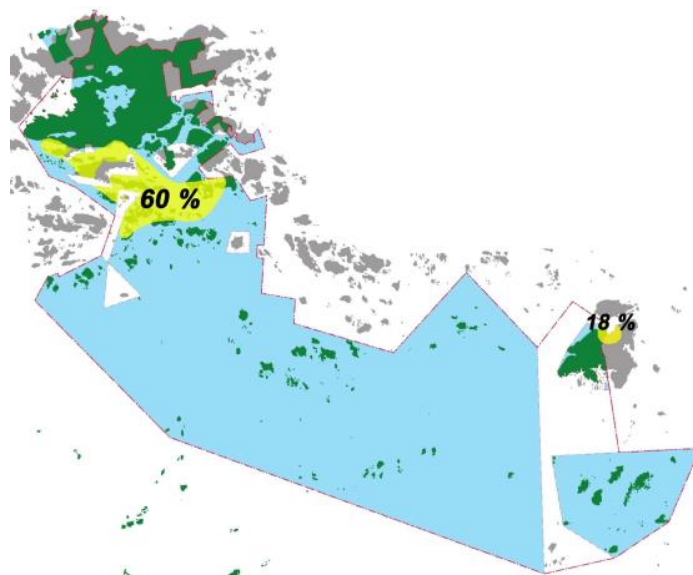
V.2 - Tourism and leisure activities

Tourism is probably the most important economic activity in the Ekenäs Archipelago. The Raseborg region, where the National Park is located, receives each year approximately 400 000 visitors, producing an overall turnover of around 35 million euros and employing about 270 persons. This area is visited more intensively in summer, when the impressive landscape, the mild climate and the natural assets make the area more attractive and accessible. Most visitors use the transport services provided by the local tourism enterprises, although the visitors can also move around in their private boats.

The number of visitors to Ekenäs Archipelago increases year after year, except in 2020 (COVID-19 pandemic):



Nearly 80 % of the visitors concentrate in two relatively small areas, one close to the mainland (60 %) and the other in Jussarö Island (18 %).



Metsähallitus has decided to outsource practically all the tasks concerning the management of the visitors and the education and awareness raising. The Administration maintains a web page where visitors

may find all the necessary information, recommendations and regulations for a pleasant and sustainable stay in the National Park.

The authorities of the National Park have leased/rented buildings to a local entrepreneur in Jussarö south part. The old coast guard station and a small building plot around it on the north side have been sold to a local entrepreneur for nature tourism activities as well. In Jussarö Island a new pier for private yachts, a few accommodation wagons, dry toilets, a sauna and a nature peripheral trail, designed to show both the western half with Western Taiga habitats and the eastern side with remaining activities of the old mine, have been installed and the old house refurbished as café-restaurant. A long-term rental contract to a private enterprise has been concluded to promote visits under specific conditions for a sustainable and respectful nature tourism activity. The visits by boat to the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago are also subject to administrative grant to private entrepreneurs.



Two of the most visited spots in Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago: Jussarö Island and Rödjan in Älgo Island

Photos and graphics of section V.2: presentation of Hans-Eri Nyman/Metsähallitus

V.3 - Education and awareness raising

As already mentioned in the previous section, Metsähallitus outsources these tasks to private entrepreneurs but provides a framework for the appropriate development of these activities. For that purpose, the following instruments establish the basic frame for nature interpretation in the Ekenäs/Tammisaari National Park:

- The webpage: <https://www.nationalparks.fi/ekenasarchipelagonp>
- Information provided via the social media and social networks
- Information boards in the field
- 4 nature trails: Rödjan, Modermagan, Jussarö and a new trail for children that will soon be available in Rödjan
- Rödjan Interpretation Centre, an old fishermen house refurbished for that purpose:
 - Small exhibition on the old way of life
 - Small exhibition on the eider (*Somateria mollissima*), the symbol of the Park.
- Entrepreneurs working in the Park under administrative grants.

V.4 Vessel traffic and public access

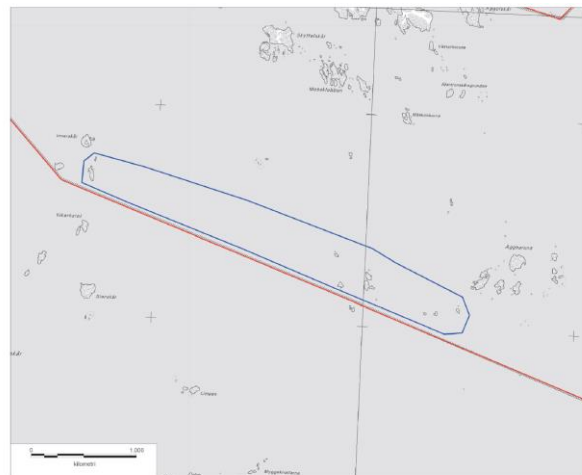
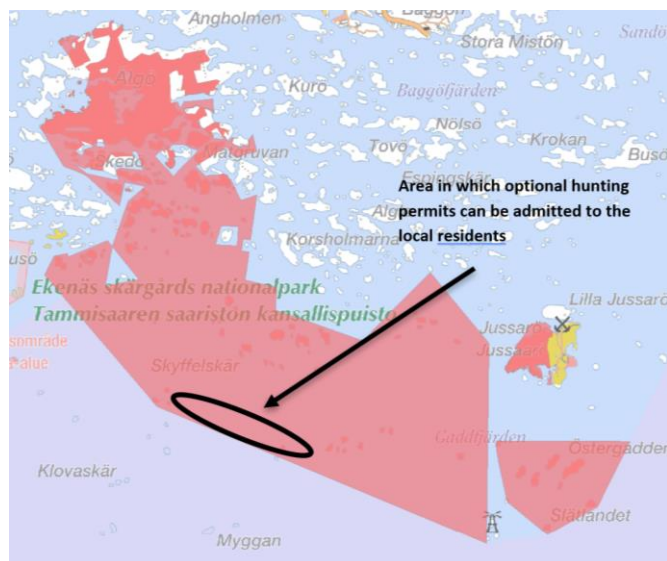
The tourism activity taking place in the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park involves either enterprises carrying visitors to different areas and islands or private vessels going around the islands where landing is allowed. In addition to that, the big vessels making the trip between Helsinki and Hanko partially cross the protected area.

Visitors to the National Park are allowed to navigate in the waters and land on islands as well as move around the islands by foot or skis, with the exception of restricted areas where going ashore/landing and/or navigating is forbidden in specific time periods. There is a small area around the Island of Älgö near Rödjan where low speed is recommended.

V. 5 - Hunting/fishing

V.5.1 – Hunting.-

As regards the hunting activity, both the Act 485/1999 declaring the National Park and the Decree 245/1990 regulating the activities allowed, forbid killing vertebrate fauna and/or destroying their nests. Although in practice hunting is forbidden within the National Park, an exception was introduced for resident hunters who are allowed to hunt waterfowl between 10th September and 30th November, if a permit was previously granted, in the islets west to Äggharun:



Source: Metsähallitus

However, it seems that the local hunters are not interested in requesting such permits. Since 1994 no permit has been requested. Another reason may also be that only a small group of people (the sparse archipelago locals) are eligible to apply for permits and, thus, no hunting activity has been recorded since then in this area.

The decrease of eider population encouraged the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to restrict the eider hunting in Finnish marine areas in the years 2022-2024 via Decree (341/2022). Male eider hunting during these years was limited to a two-week period in early June. Therefore, it is not possible to hunt common eider in the National Park.

White-tailed deer is hunted in the largest islands Älgö and Jussarö, contributing to contain the density of this alien species. The selective preference for feeding on specific plants can lead to their local extinction if the deer population density becomes too high.

V.5.2 – Fishing.-

Fishing is permitted in the national park at the exception of the protected water areas. Hook and line fishing, ice fishing and simple herring rig are permitted. Fishing permits are available from Metsähallitus' online shop (eraluvat.fi).

Persons between 18 and 64 year-old must pay the fisheries management fee. To use more than one rod, for example for trolling or spinning whitefish in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park, the Metsähallitus' angling permit no 7412 is obligatory for the sea area. For using netting and other trap methods in the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park, an additional fisheries management fee, trap fishing permit no 6017, must be paid.

For net fishing, a maximum of 240 meters of net per person or boat is allowed, but only if there is no commercial purpose. Small scale inshore commercial fishing is also permitted in the national park. Currently there are 6 professional fishermen in the national park.

Regarding the sport fishing, it is allowed subject to permit and to specific regulation. For that purpose, data on reproductive capacity of fish communities are collected in order to establish limits, if necessary.

V.6 - Human occupation

In general terms, the human occupation in the Ekenas/Tammisaari archipelago area is very low. Only in larger islands there are some dwellers living in traditional constructions linked to the fisheries activities that took place in the past.

V.7 - Cultural heritage

In past centuries and decades, mining was an important activity in these islands with an important exploitation of ferrite in Jussarö Island. It has generated not only an important restoration task but also interesting testimonies of industrial heritage worth to be promoted and valued. The trail surrounding the island provides informative panels and elements to show the extraction method and the manipulation of the mineral.

Fishing was also an important economic activity, today almost abandoned, which left interesting buildings and settlements that now are devoted to other uses, mostly tourism. It is worth to mention the fishermen's settlement in Rödjan (Älgö Island), where an information point of the National Park has been installed in an old fishermen's house.

Some outstanding buildings have been restored, as recognition of the important role that they played in the past, like the cottage of about 1850 in Jussarö Island.

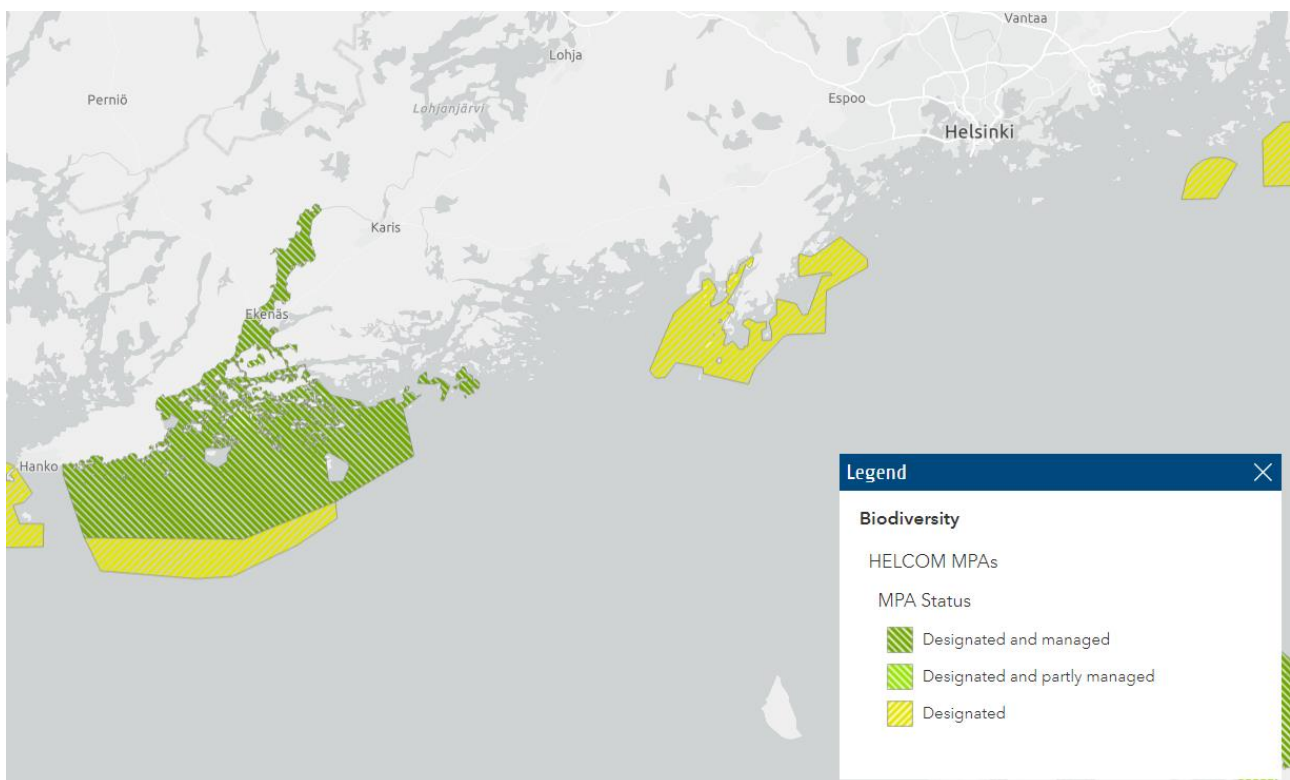
VI - CONNECTIVITY OF THE AREA

VI.1 - Ecological connectivity with other areas

The Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago is located in the Gulf of Finland, in an area of extreme interrelation between land and sea, with thousands of islands, many of them in relatively good ecological conditions and a rich biodiversity. For that reason, there is an intense shared use of the territory by many wild species of fauna and flora. This area is intensively attended by migratory wild birds. Therefore, this is an important factor explaining the ecological connectivity with nearby and remote areas, since there are not significant barriers preventing the natural movements.

VI.2 - Other forms of recognition awarded

- **Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM).** The Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park has been included in its entirety in the Baltic Coastal Area Reserves Programme, as part of the fulfilment of the Finland's commitment as Contracting Party to the Helsinki Convention.



Source: Metsähallitus

- **Natura 2000 Network.** The Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park has been included in the Natura 2000 site “Tammisaari and Hanko Archipelago and Pojo Bay”, both as Special Protection Area, pursuant Directive 2019/147/CE on the conservation of wild birds, and as Special Area of Conservation under Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of the natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.



Natura 2000 site “Tammisaari and Hanko Archipelago and Pojo Bay”. In red: Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park”

Source: Metsähallitus

VII - IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

When the European Diploma was renewed in 2011, the Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)7 established 1 condition and 6 recommendations. According to the information collected during the appraisal visit and from relevant sources, the undersigned expert could draw the following conclusions:

Assessment of CONDITION 1 – *Within 1 year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan (master plan) which itself will include plans to enlarge the National Park*

The Management Plan was approved in 2012. Therefore, this part of the condition has been fulfilled in time.

As for as the enlargement of the National Park, within the process of modification of the legislation on nature conservation completed with the enactment of the Finnish Nature Conservation Act 526/2023, the Finnish Authorities decided not to modify the declarative Law of the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park. Instead they decided to create the new conservation area of Segelskär (approximately 6.200 ha) by means of a Decree, which establishes the authorised and non authorised activities. This newly protected area is under the umbrella of the Nature Conservation Act, ensuring its conservation and management. In the light of this new legislation, the update process of the Management Plan will start when the revision of the common principles for the management of State-owned natural areas, will be ready, hopefully by the end of 2023. According to the scheduled procedure, it will start in 2025 and it will be carried out in collaboration with Biodiversea LIFE-IP — for Marine Nature project:

<https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/biodiversea-eng/>.

The condition has, therefore, been **fulfilled**. Furthermore, the area is well managed with the support of the existing Management Plan of 2012 and the knowledge provided by important monitoring programmes and scientific research, like VELMU, NATA and PAME (see section IV.5).

For the forthcoming renewal, **this condition should be dropped.**

Assessment of RECOMMENDATION 1 – *Make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan*

The European Diploma area has been actively and wisely managed implementing the provisions of the approved Management Plan. The recommendation has, therefore, been **fulfilled**.

For the forthcoming renewal, **this recommendation should be dropped.**

Assessment of RECOMMENDATION 2 – *Inform the Secretariat on the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the park) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals.*

The Finnish authorities made efforts to assess all Natura 2000 sites in an exercise called NATA (Site Condition Assessment), which replaces the previously foreseen MEE (Management Effectiveness Evaluation). The NATA for Ekenäs/Tammisaari has been completed between 2020 and 2022. Additionally, a

new assessment is underway, the National Protective Area Management Effectiveness (PAME), made by Parks and Wildlife Finland in 2023 in five pilot areas. Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park has been one of them (see section IV.5). In 2023 a system-level management effectiveness evaluation for protected areas involving the network of State-owned conservation zones was ordered by Metsähallitus and carried out by a group of experts. Results will be published early 2024. In this process five areas were examined with the management effectiveness tracking tool (METT). Ekenäs Archipelago National Park was one of them and represented a marine conservation area.

The recommendation has, therefore, been **fulfilled**.

For the forthcoming renewal, **this recommendation should be dropped**.

Assessment of RECOMMENDATION 3 – *Continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to:*

- The inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved
- Restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species

Both issues have received since 2004 an important impulse within frame of the project VELMU (see section IV.5) and actions for the eradication of invasive alien species have been implemented. The recommendation has, therefore, been **fulfilled**.

For the forthcoming renewal, **this recommendation should be reformulated**, in terms of continuing the control measures of invasive species.

Assessments of RECOMMENDATION 4 – *Continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular:*

- *Improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure*
- *Further develop customer service and interpretation*
- *Raise the public awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park*

The recreational and educational services have been transferred to local tourism companies under the commitment to respect the framework previously established by the management authorities. The management authorities keep however the responsibility to maintain in good condition the trails, panels, buildings and other infrastructures. The recommendation has, therefore, been **fulfilled**.

For the forthcoming renewal, **this recommendation should be dropped**.

Assessment of RECOMMENDATION 5 – *Review and where necessary renew the regulations of the National Park within two years*

The pending regulations foreseen at the time of the last renewal have been renewed during the early years after the adoption of Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)7. The recommendation has, therefore, been **fulfilled**.

For the forthcoming renewal, **this recommendation should be dropped**.

Assessment of RECOMMENDATION 6 – *Deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators*

The relationship of the management authorities with the tourism sector is very smooth and regular. Metsähallitus has even decided to transfer all the tasks dealing with visits, interpretation and awareness raising to local tourism enterprises, under a previously established framework to assure that the activities respect the natural values. The recommendation has, therefore, been **fulfilled**.

For the forthcoming renewal, **this recommendation should be dropped**.

Final Appraisal

The preliminary conclusion of the undersigned expert is **to recommend the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park for 10 years, since the area is of exceptional European interest and it is managed in an exemplary way.**

For the renewal of the European Diploma to **Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park the following recommendations are proposed:**

RECOMMENDATION 1: *Finalise the designation of the “Conservation Area of Segelskär”, providing a sufficient conservation legal framework to secure the ecological, cultural, recreational and landscape values deserving its recognition;*

RECOMMENDATION 2: *Consider adopting a common approach to monitor the “Global Change” concept and assess the specific impact of climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, land use and all human factors which could modify and deteriorate the ecological conditions of species, habitats and ecosystem services.*

RECOMMENDATION 3: *Enhance the monitoring and management of marine birds, namely eider (*Somateria mollissima*). Explore the opportunity to strengthen conservation measures to improve their breeding success in collaboration with local research facilities and organisations.*

RECOMMENDATION 4: *Explore the feasibility to extend the European Diploma to the Segelskär area once its designation as Conservation Area is completed.*

RECOMMENDATION 5: *Assess and analyse the environmental impact of tourism and the human presence on the natural values of the protected area, including disturbances to the bird nesting process, trampling soil, vegetation and invertebrates, etc., in order to, if appropriate, adapt, and improve the tourism strategy and awareness raising activities.*

RECOMMENDATION 6: *Pursue the efforts and improve the efficiency of the methods for the eradication of the invasive alien species, such as the racoon dog, mink and white-tailed deer. Exclude the use of glyphosate for the eradication of *Rosa rugosa* and *Acer pseudoplatanus* or reduce its use a strict minimum and where there are not better alternatives and with all precautionary measures to avoid damages to aquatic species and habitats.*

RECOMMENDATION 7: *Make the monitoring results of marine ecosystems available to the public, to develop scientific knowledge and promote measures to fight against the pollution in the Baltic Sea.*

RECOMMENDATION 8: *Reinforce the staff of the Warden Corps and of technicians to improve the capacities to cope with the increasing challenges resulting from the “Global Change” and the rising tourism pressure. Secure the financial resources to pursue the monitoring programmes.*

RECOMMENDATION 9: *Make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors’ centres and on the website.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The undersigned wishes to warmly acknowledge the Finnish authorities for the organisation of the appraisal visit and for all the attentions received during the trip. First of all, I would like to thank to the Regional Director of the National Parks Finland, Coastal and Metropolitan Area of Metsähallitus, Mr Mikael Nordström, for all the arrangements made during the visit, to facilitate the logistics and to optimise the available time.

A particular mention deserves both Ms Tiina Kanerva and Ms Annuka Rasinmäki for their warm welcome, their continuous support during the whole visit, the constant dialogue during the whole process of assessment and for their help. I also appreciate the participation of the technical team and the scientists, in particular Lotta Söderlund, Aija Nieminen, Asko Ijäs, Simon Anderson, Matti Tapaninen, Hans-Erik Nyman, Antti Bellow, Sanna Kuningas, Anne Muuri, Esko Tainio and Matias Scheinin. All of them were extremely kind, patient and polite, answered all my questions, provided valuable information and helped a lot to enrich the draft appraisal report.

I would also like to mention to the Tourism Manager of the Municipality of Raseborg, Mr Ville Vourelma, who kindly presented the achievements of his Administration in the effort to make compatible the tourism and the environment.

The journalist Mr Thomas Sundström, made me an interview and published a couple of articles in the local press highlighting the importance of the European Diploma for Protected Areas of the Council of Europe. With these publications he contributed to disseminate the message of international recognition for the environmental values of this wonderful National Park.

The entrepreneur Robert Holmberg, drove his boat taxi Myggen III during the tour across the Ekenäs Archipelago.

I want to finish this report with a few words of recognition and appreciation for the personal commitment, professionalism and availability of the site managers and all stakeholders involved, which make an excellent job for the joint successful achievements in managing a wonderful landscape, in an area of high biodiversity that visitors and specialists can enjoy with safety and welfare. To all of them, with my personal gratitude and respect, my very best wishes of progress and success.

Granada, Spain, December 2023

Blanca Ramos
Conservation Biologist

ANNEX I



Programme for the Diploma appraisal visit of Ekenäs Archipelago National Park 8-9.6.2023

Wednesday 7.6.2023 (evening)

Ms Blanca Ramos arrival to Ekenäs (Tammisaari), check-in and accommodation in Alapiha apartment.

Thursday 8.6.2023

9:00-11:00 Themes of the morning: Nature tourism, customer service and services in the National Park, and terrestrial habitat management and restoration

Venue: Meeting room in restaurant Fyren, Ekenäs North Harbour (address: NorraStrandgatan 12)

9:00 Welcome to Ekenäs! By Ms Annukka Rasinmäki, Metsähallitus

Short presentations and discussion on development and current situation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park accompanied by the following topics:

9:15 Nature tourism in the National Park: Specialist/Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Management, by Ms Anne Muuri, Metsähallitus

9:30 Customer service and nature interpretation: Specialist/Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Management, by Ms Lotta Söderlund, Metsähallitus

9:45 Discussion

10:00 Coffee break with sandwich

10:20 Visitors and services in the National Park: Specialist/Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Management, by Mr Hans-Erik Nyman, Metsähallitus

10:40 Terrestrial habitat management and restoration: Senior Specialist/Nature conservation by Ms Tiina Kanerva

11:00-11:30 Get ready to the boat trip

11:30-18:00 Theme of the afternoon: visiting the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park with Metsähallitus staff

11:30-12:45 Boat transportation to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park from Ekenäs harbour, entrepreneur Robert Holmberg, [Boat taxi Myggen III](#)

13:00 Welcome to the island of Jussarö by Ms Anne Muuri and Mr Hans-Erik Nyman

Lunch: Salmon soup, Archipelago bread, coffee, and cinnamon bun

14:00-14:15 Local entrepreneur Tea Hertell

14:15-17:30 Walk on the island: Kullakojan's traditional landscape, nature trail and observation tower, old open-pit mine and history of mining by Ms Lotta Söderlund, Ms Anne Muuri, Mr Hans-Erik Nyman, Ms Aija Nieminen, Ms Tiina Kanerva and Mr Esko Tainio

Further information on [Jussarö island](#)

17:45-19:00 Boat transportation, coffee, and sandwich on board: boating through the National Park towards Ekenäs harbour

20:00 Dinner at restaurant [Knipan](#)

Friday 9.6.2023

9:00-14:00 Themes of the morning: management, marine nature, research and cooperation, and the importance of the National Park to Raseborg City

Venue: Meeting room in restaurant Fyren, Ekenäs North Harbour (address: NorraStrandgatan 12)

9:00 Regulations, enlargement of the National Park and management plan: Senior Specialist/Land Use Mr Asko Ijäs and Land Use Manager Ms Annukka Rasinmäki, Metsähallitus

9:20 Beneath the surface: biological survey methods and underwater marine nature of the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park: Senior Specialist/Nature Conservation, Ms Aija Nieminen, Metsähallitus
Scientific work and collaboration in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park:

9:40 Video greeting from Tvärminne Zoological Station (University of Helsinki)

9:45 Coastal essential fish habitats and restoration: Researcher Ms Sanna Kuningas/Natural Resources Institute Finland (remote presentation)

10:05 Determining the loading status of the National Park – the method of Coast rider: Researcher Mr Matias Scheinin/Havsmanualen-project <https://www.bsag.fi/en/projects/havsmanualen-2-3/>

10:30 Coffee break with discussion

11:00 Practical experiences and the importance of the National Park for tourism in Raseborg City and the importance of the National Park in the future: Tourism Manager/Raseborg city, Mr Ville Vuorelma

11:30 Final words by Metropolitan and coastal area Regional Director Mr Mikael Nordström, Metsähallitus

12:00 Conclusions and final discussions with Ms Blanca Ramos and Metsähallitus staff: Land Use Manager Ms Annukka Rasinmäki, Metsähallitus

12:30 Possibility for media to ask questions

13:00 Lunch at restaurant Fyren

14:00 Leaving Ekenäs