

# Parks & Wildlife Finland

Mikko Tiira, Development manager

LIFE training

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METSÄHALLITUS

## Mikko Tiira, the LIFE line



- *Engaged with LIFE since 1999*
- *WWF Finland, first Finnish NGO managed LIFE Project 2000 - 2003*
- *LIFE Monitoring Team (Astrale) 2005 - 2009*
  - *Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland*
- *Unofficial National Contact Point 2010 -*
- *LIFE trainer for National Info Days 2010 -*
- *LIFE trainer for LIFE capacity projects and IP*
  - *Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania and Hungary*
- *Managed 2 LIFE projects (other best of the best; Boreal Peatland LIFE)*
- *Involved with the preparation of several traditional LIFE projects (mostly Nature)*
- *Consultation of the ongoing LIFE projects at MH and beyond*
- *Development of LIFE management tools*
- *Midwife of Finnish LIFE IP*
- *Currently Development Manager at MHPWF (MH since 2010)*
  - *e.g. Project portfolio management, LIFE promotion (MH and National LIFE group)*



# LIFE projects in Finland

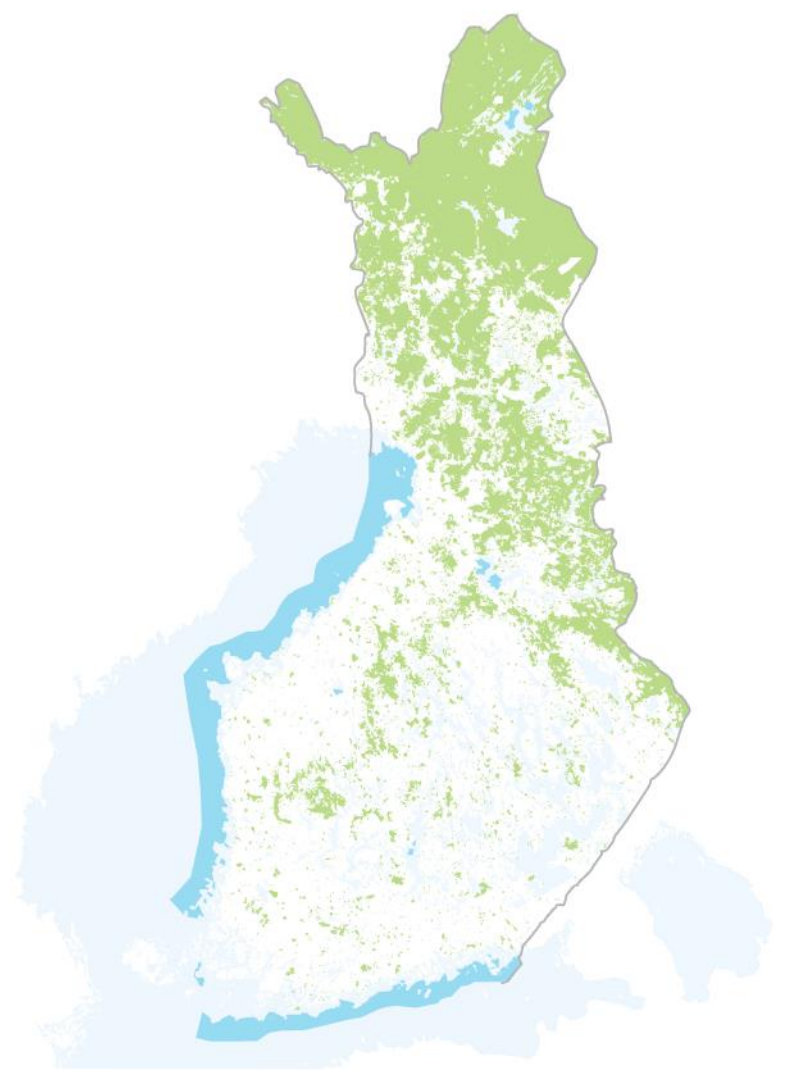
1. What is Metsähallitus? - Background for LIFE success
2. How LIFE project proposal management is organised in Finland
3. LIFE projects of MH PWF



# What is Metsähallitus?

A state enterprise governing all state-owned lands and waters.

- Business activities include a forestry company Metsähallitus Metsätalous Oy, seed production and selling of holiday plots and forest estates (Estate Development)
- Public administration duties and services are under **Parks & Wildlife Finland** -unit
- Responsibility covers an area over **12 million hectares** - one third of Finland's total area
- [www.metsa.fi/web/en](http://www.metsa.fi/web/en)



# Parks & Wildlife Finland

- Parks & Wildlife Finland (MH PWF) is a Metsähallitus unit responsible for public administration duties and services in the fields of:
  - *nature conservation*
  - *outdoor recreation*
  - *sustainable game and fisheries*
- Parks & Wildlife Finland:
  - manages protected areas both state and to a large extent also privately owned
  - maintains outdoor recreation facilities free for public
  - guarantees sustainable hunting and fishing including permit sales





# What do we do in practice?

- We protect and manage Finland's most valuable nature: species, natural environments and cultural heritage - *nature conservation*
- We provide free facilities for outdoor recreation and create opportunities for sustainable tourism - *recreational use*
- We manage state's hunting grounds and fishing waters - *game and fisheries*
- We sell permits for hunting, fishing and snowmobiling and control and monitor the areas to prevent illegalities and negative impacts to nature - *game and fisheries*
- We collaborate actively with other sectors and players on land use planning - *Protected area management*



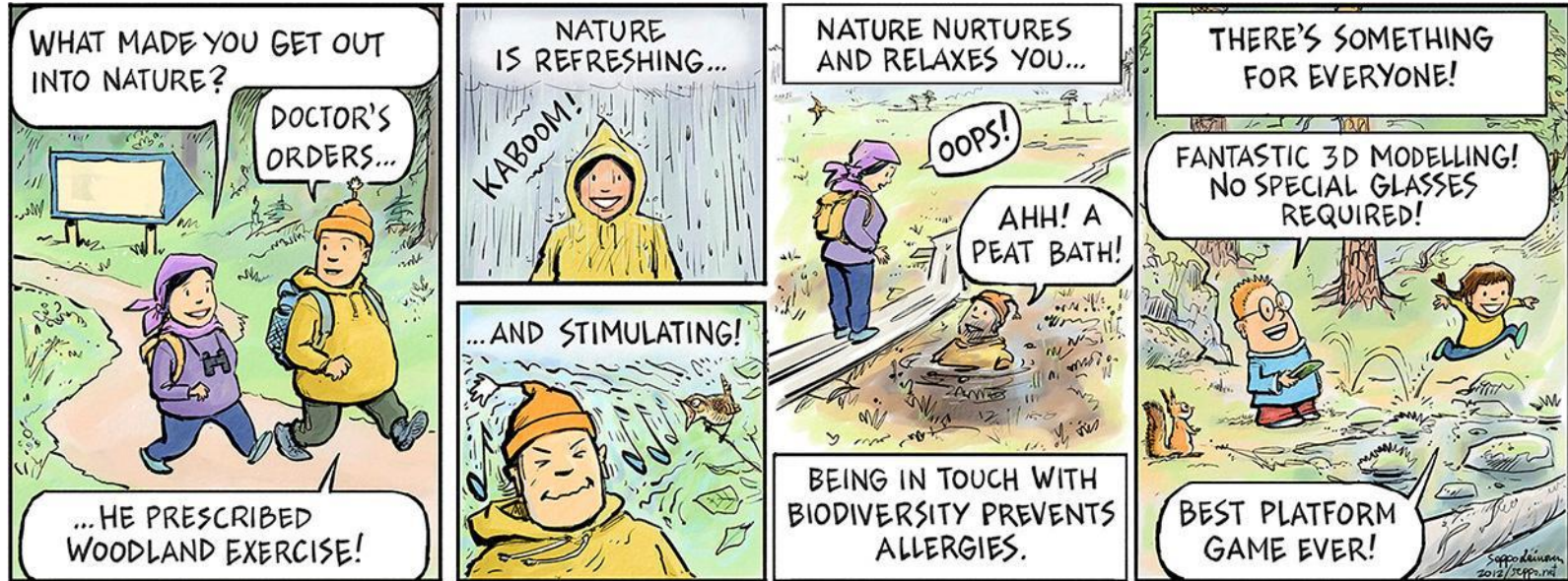
# Parks & Wildlife Finland manages our most pristine nature

- We manage all state-owned areas reserved for nature conservation and hiking:
  - 39 national parks (40<sup>th</sup> Hossa 17.6.2017)
  - 19 strict nature reserves
  - 6 national hiking areas
  - 12 wilderness areas in Lapland
  - almost 3,000 other protected areas
  - and cultural heritage sites:  
ca. 350 protected buildings,  
ca. 2,000 ancient sites.

A total of 3.9 million visits were made to national parks, hiking areas and nature centres in 2015.



# Inspiring experiences and well-being outdoors!



NATURE THERAPY

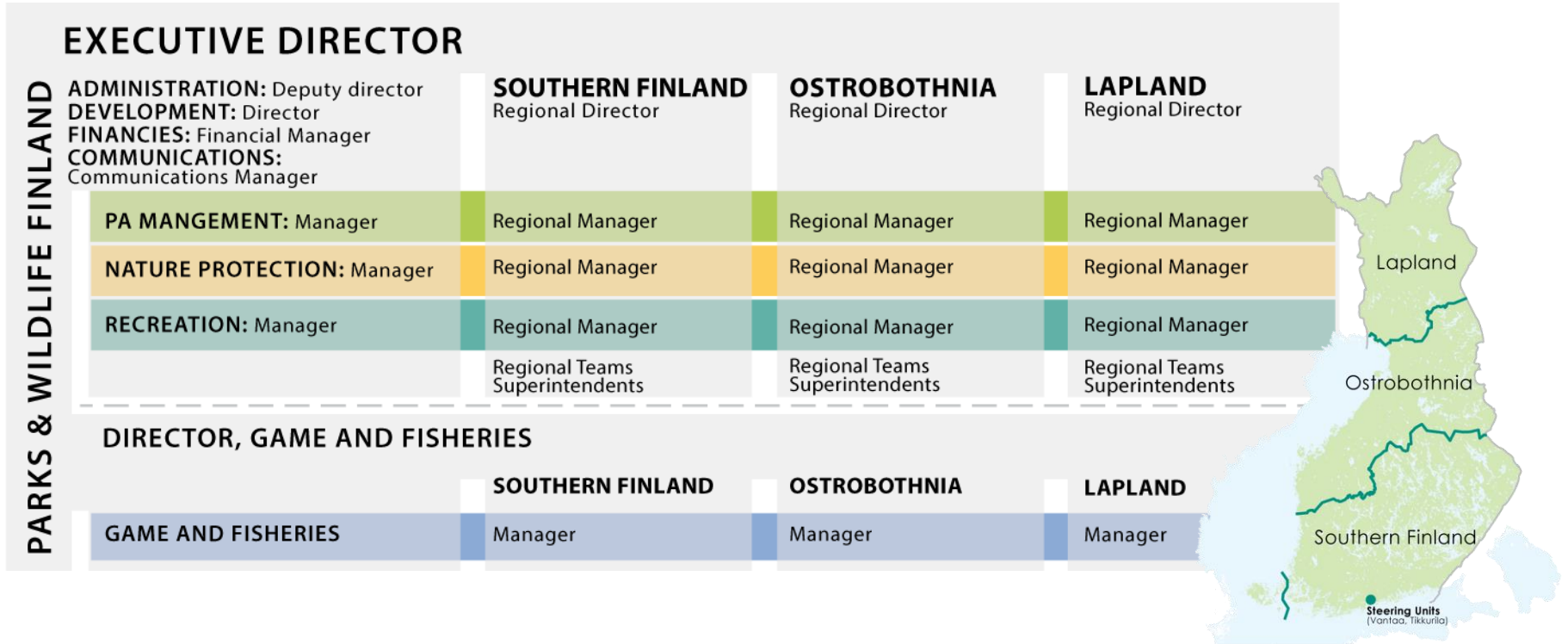


# National parks create health, wealth and work

- In Finland, everyman´s rights let us all enjoy the unique nature and its richness.
- Parks & Wildlife Finland provides basic facilities: safe and guided trails, shelters and wilderness huts, information and customer services.
- The visitors´ spending brings in direct income to the local people and businesses ca. 10 € for every € the state has spent on the services.
- Sustainable tourism based on national parks creates jobs.
- Nature is good for your health



# Organisation of Parks & Wildlife Finland

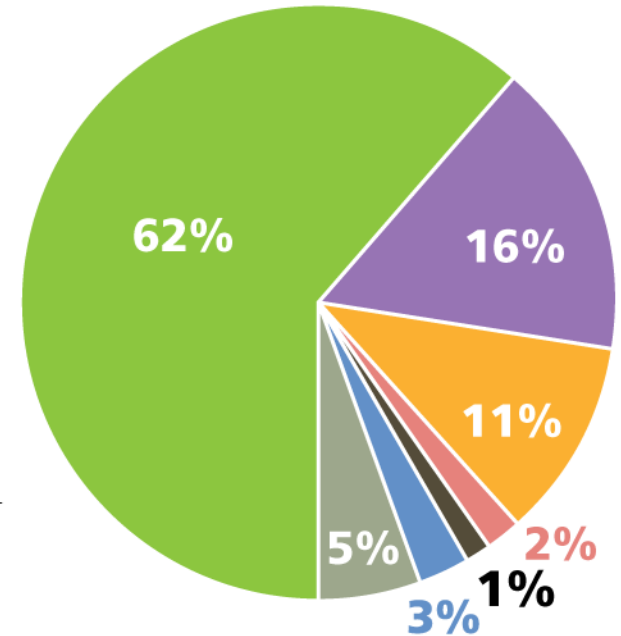


# P&WF's finances in 2015

- P&WF's activities are largely financed from the national government budget. Additional funding is obtained from EU programmes and fees paid for hunting and fishing permits.

→ Projects  
Clear increase in EU funding in 2016

→	Ministry of Environment	36,6 milj.€
	Income	9,7 milj.€
	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	6,4 milj.€
→	Ministry of Employment and the Economy	1,2 milj.€
→	Ministry of Justice	0,8 milj.€
→	European Union	1,7 milj.€
→	Other funding	3,2 milj.€
Total		59,6 milj.€









# LIFE projects in Finland - organisation



## *National level*

- Chaired by MoE (NCP)
- LIFE NATURE working group with all key beneficiaries - MHPWF, FEI, NRI, REG ENV, GFC, NGOs
- Meeting twice a year; spring and autumn
- Discussing ideas
- Coordination who makes the proposal
- Experiences from ongoing projects
- General comments on application round feedback

## *Role of MoE*

- Cofinancier (30 - 70t€ per project)
- Organaisis Info days - General and Writer's
- (MHPWF unofficial assistance to all applicants)



# LIFE projects in Finland - organisation



## MH PWF

- Full-time project manager - at least 9 months (replication projects 2-3 months)
- Additional expert on budget and maps
- Focus on logical structure! - strategy
- Core concept from nature conservation - engaging other processes, whole house onboard
- Team work; regional experts, regular Skype and workshops (themes e.g. communication, monitoring, stakeholder involvement)
- Engaging partners through workshops; participatory methods
- Tools for preparing budget and defining actions per site (excel)
- Clear timetables - site selection closed in May, application completed at least 3 weeks before DL
- Quality control, final workshop - analysing the proposal with selection criteria





# LIFE projects in Finland

- Since 1995
- In total 49 LIFE projects (50. and 51. under revision)
  - 20 CoB (Nature 18, LIFE co-op 1, LIFE IP 1)
  - 29 AB (Nature25, Environment 2, info 1 and BD 1)
- Total budget 95 M€ (EU share 49,3 M€)
  - Total MHLP 42,3 M€ (EU share 23,1 M€)
- Mostly habitat related but also species projects
- Currently involved in 9 LIFE projects (5 as CoB)
- Typically 3-5 beneficiaries but also very large consortiums (nearly 30 beneficiaries)
  - Regional environment authorities (private areas, permits)
  - Universities, research institutes (monitoring, assessments)
  - Forestry (private and commercial); protection and restoration
  - NGOs (volunteer, dissemination, nature education)
  - Municipalities and ministries (co-financiers)



# Typical content - usually quite conservative, lately more innovative but...

- Planning; management and species actions plans and technical/restoration plans (approval of the plans) - *recently justifications needed*
- Supplementary inventories on habitats and species included indirectly affected (lately also cultural heritage) - *avoid showing you lack essential data*
- Restoration and management actions (implementing the plans) - peatlands, forests, eskers, broad-leaved forests, meadows, alien species eradication, also recurring actions for limited duration; *usually at tens of different sites around the country, main bulk of the work*
- Land purchase/one off compensation; *used as co-financing*
- Dissemination (exhibitions, leaflets, DVDs, social media...); *stakeholder approach*
- Engaging volunteers (co-operation with NGOs)
- Mediawork - social media, excursions, best practice guidelines
- Infrastructures; nature trails, camping sites, observation platforms, toilets...
- Monitoring actions and effectiveness (more focus on socio-economic) - *universities, RIs*

# Habitat projects

- Peatlands (over 20)
- Boreal forests (app 15)
- Wetlands (app 10)
- Seminatural grasslands
- Broad-leaved forests
- Eskers (sun exposed habitats)
- Sandy habitats
- Marine inventories
- Sustainable use (ENV)
  
- From few sites to over 100 N2000 sites
- Only 2 international (3rd in revision)



Suoverkosto-LIFE  
Boreal Peatland LIFE



Paahde-LIFE  
Light & Fire LIFE

Luonnonhoito-LIFE  
Species-rich LIFE

METSÄHALLITUS



# Species projects

- Lesser white-Fronted Goose (x3)
- Arctic fox (x2)
- Flying squirrel
- Wild forest reindeer (x2)
- Saimaa Ringed Seal
- Cray fish (info)
- Lady's Slipper



# Integrated LIFE

- FRESHABIT LIFE IP NATURE
  - Road map to implementing the PAF
  - LIFE as a catalyst





# Some reasons for success

- Broad variety of actions; focus on best practices
- Organisational structure; PWF works throughout Finland
- Geographical coverage and many habitat types/ sites targeted
- Broad scope in beneficiaries (Authorities - academia - NGOs - citizens) - cross cutting, engaged at early stage. participatory approach
- Combining MHPWF's, national objectives and steering with LIFE
- Use of METSO (voluntary protection program) and VELMU (underwater inventory program)
- Combining LIFE and rural development program
- Increased cost awareness (financial tools for monitoring and planning)
- Development of best practices (habitat restoration)
- For common people; voluntary work
- Increased international co-operation
- More focus on demonstration and innovation aspects - multipurpose
- Experience in managing projects shared openly

