

## Prioritization for habitat restoration and management around the Finnish Natura 2000 network

**Short description:** Analysis to identify priority areas for the habitat restoration and management of Natura 2000 areas (N2k) and habitat types. Part of MetZo-II -project. The analysis accounted for the state of N2k habitats now, their expected state after restoration or management, the absolute improvement expected from restoration or management, the numbers of endangered species on N2k habitat types, and operational costs of actions. The analysis was replicated ranking entire N2k sites (Fig. 1a) and as a continuous prioritization (raster) surface (Fig. 1b).

**Area:** The protected Natura 2000 sites of the whole Finland (both those managed by Parks Finland and private conservation areas). Covers 40 800 km<sup>2</sup> of area with Natura 2000 information entered into the SAKTI conservation area spatial database.

**Data:** The SAKTI database of the environmental administration (Natura 2000 areas, N2k habitat types and their representativeness and naturalness), the Hertta database about occurrences of endangered species in Finland. In total, there were 1541 N2k areas in analysis, including 610 000 spatial delineations of habitat types. Effects of habitat restoration and management were obtained from expert evaluations, including the ELITE-work (ELITE = Promotion of condition of habitats in Finland).

**Aim:** Prioritization for habitat restoration and management of Natura 2000 habitat types. Separate priority rankings were development for prioritization between areas and prioritization inside N2k sites.

**What is this analysis used for?** It has been used for targeting of habitat restoration and management in and around the N2k network. It is also used for area selection for EU LIFE-applications submitted by Parks Finland.

**Special characteristics of analysis:** Search for areas with good potential for habitat restoration or management to produce significant ecological benefits. Both the end result of action (level of naturalness) and the degree improvement produced by actions were evaluated. Technically, this was implemented via use of two separate condition layers. Complementarity with existing high-quality areas was implemented via use of hierarchical mask.

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