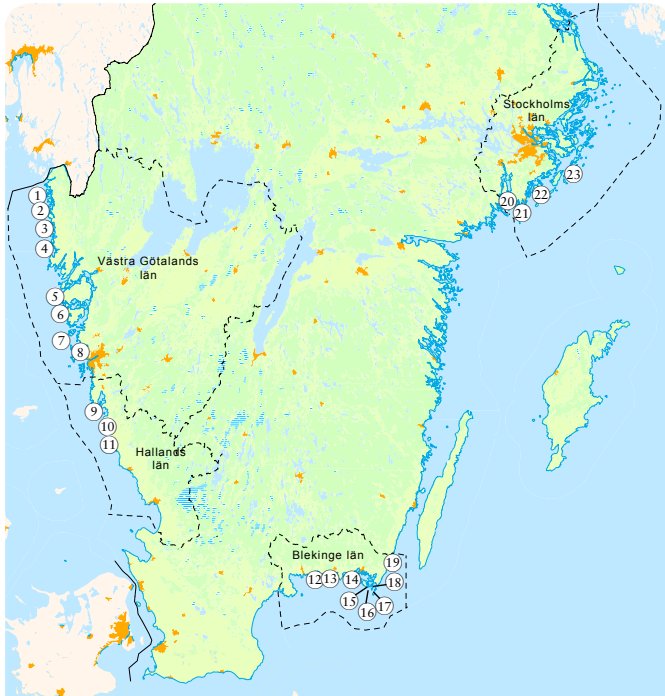


## The project sites

GRACE includes 23 Natura 2000 sites in archipelagos. Restoration will be carried out on a total of 39 islands and two peninsulas.



### Natura 2000 sites

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Koster                          | 13. Sonekulla                   |
| 2. Kosterfjorden-<br>Väderöfjorden | 14. Tromtö-Almö                 |
| 3. Tjurpannan                      | 15. Järkö                       |
| 4. Tanumskusten                    | 16. Hästholmen-<br>Oppenskär    |
| 5. Härmanö                         | 17. Utlängan                    |
| 6. Härön                           | 18. Stora Hammar-Varö-<br>Lillö |
| 7. Sälöfjorden                     | 19. Kristianopels skärgård      |
| 8. Nordre äls eustarium            | 20. Tullgarn, ost               |
| 9. Kungsbackafjorden               | 21. Kåringboda                  |
| 10. Vendelsö                       | 22. Rånö Ängsholme              |
| 11. Balgö                          | 23. Villinge Boskapsö           |
| 12. Tärnö-Harö-Brorsö              |                                 |

## Project partners



Länsstyrelserna

THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
BOARD OF VÄSTRA GÖTALAND  
[www.lansstyrelsen.se/vastragotaland](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/vastragotaland)  
031-60 50 00

THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
BOARD OF BLEKINGE  
[www.lansstyrelsen.se/blekinge](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/blekinge)  
0455-870 00

THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
BOARD OF HALLAND  
[www.lansstyrelsen.se/halland](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/halland)  
035-13 20 00

THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
BOARD OF STOCKHOLM  
[www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm)  
08-785 40 00

## Co-financiers



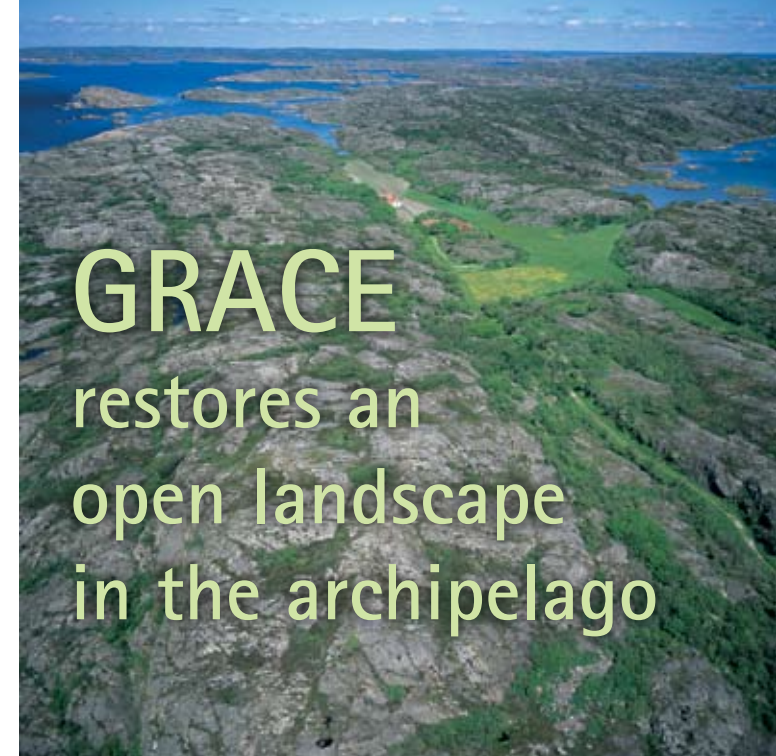
## Life+ and Natura 2000

The project is co-financed by the Life+ Fund; EU's funding programme to support the Union's nature conservation policy.

Natura 2000 is a network of the EU's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The network has been created to stop the extinction of species. Each Member State is responsible for the protection and management of their Natura 2000 sites. The work is based on the EU-Species and Habitat Directive as well as the Bird Directive.

More information can be found at  
[www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm)

[www.graceprojektet.se](http://www.graceprojektet.se)



# GRACE

restores an  
open landscape  
in the archipelago



## The Project

**GRACE** (Grazing and Restoration of Archipelago and Coastal Environments) is a project which aims to restore a rich and varied rural landscape. Restoration will be carried out in four counties; Västra Götaland, Halland, Blekinge and Stockholm. The project started in 2010 and will continue until 2016.

The Project budget is 8,5 million euro and is mainly financed by the EU, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Counties. The Archipelago Foundation contributes to the costs for a large animal shed at Kåringboda.

The management actions will result in some of the most valuable habitats in the archipelago, such as coastal meadows, heathlands and pastures being restored so that they can once again be farmed. This is necessary for the conservation of many of the endangered species in the archipelago, which are threatened by the islands becoming overgrown.

## Traditional land use

Man has made use of the coast for thousands of years. The valuable plant and animal life in the archipelago is there as a consequence of centuries of traditional farming.

Before industrialisation began, the majority of the population lived in the countryside. Sites have been intensively managed up until the middle of the 1900s. In 1870, seventy percent of the population worked within farming, but today less than two percent work with farming, forestry and fishing.



## Why is the archipelago becoming overgrown?

**Rationalisation of farming:** The production of food is carried out on a large scale to deal with low profit margins and increased competition from abroad. A third of our food is imported today. This has resulted in pastures being abandoned. When the animals disappear there is no need to produce winter fodder and the meadows no longer need to be cut.

**Electricity and oil replace wood:** Historically, wood was collected from the land for heat and cooking. When the households gained electricity and oil, this activity declined, and the land began to become overgrown.

**Difficult to farm:** Many small farms in the archipelago have been abandoned in the last hundred years, primarily because they are difficult to access and thus difficult to farm. Expensive transportation of animals, milk and fodder by boat means that coastal farming is not profitable.

## Nature conservation at the right time

The actions in the GRACE Project will make the sites suitable for long term management into the future. After GRACE the local site manager will take over responsibility for managing the land. This could be the landowner or the County Administrative Board's nature conservation department. The aim is that the long-term management will be financed by the Swedish Rural Development Programme.

There is a general trend back towards diversification in the archipelago. Interest for locally produced and organic food is very great. Many also choose ecotourism in terms of accommodation and other activities in beautiful countryside. This means that the situation in the archipelago for the plant and animal life, as well as local businesses, is better than it has been for a long time. We have therefore, high hopes that the archipelagos in Sweden can once again teem with life.

## Actions within GRACE

### Clearing and thinning:

Clearing and thinning is required to open up overgrown heathlands, clear around valuable old trees, and recreate sun-exposed habitats.



**Burning:** Burning creates good conditions for insects and plants. Following burning, grasses and flowers return, the grazing improves and biodiversity increases.



**Grazing:** Grazing animals create the habitats which the plants and animals in the archipelago need as well as keeping the regrowth of trees and bushes under control.



**Information:** Guided walks, seminars and other forms of dissemination of information are an important part of the project.

