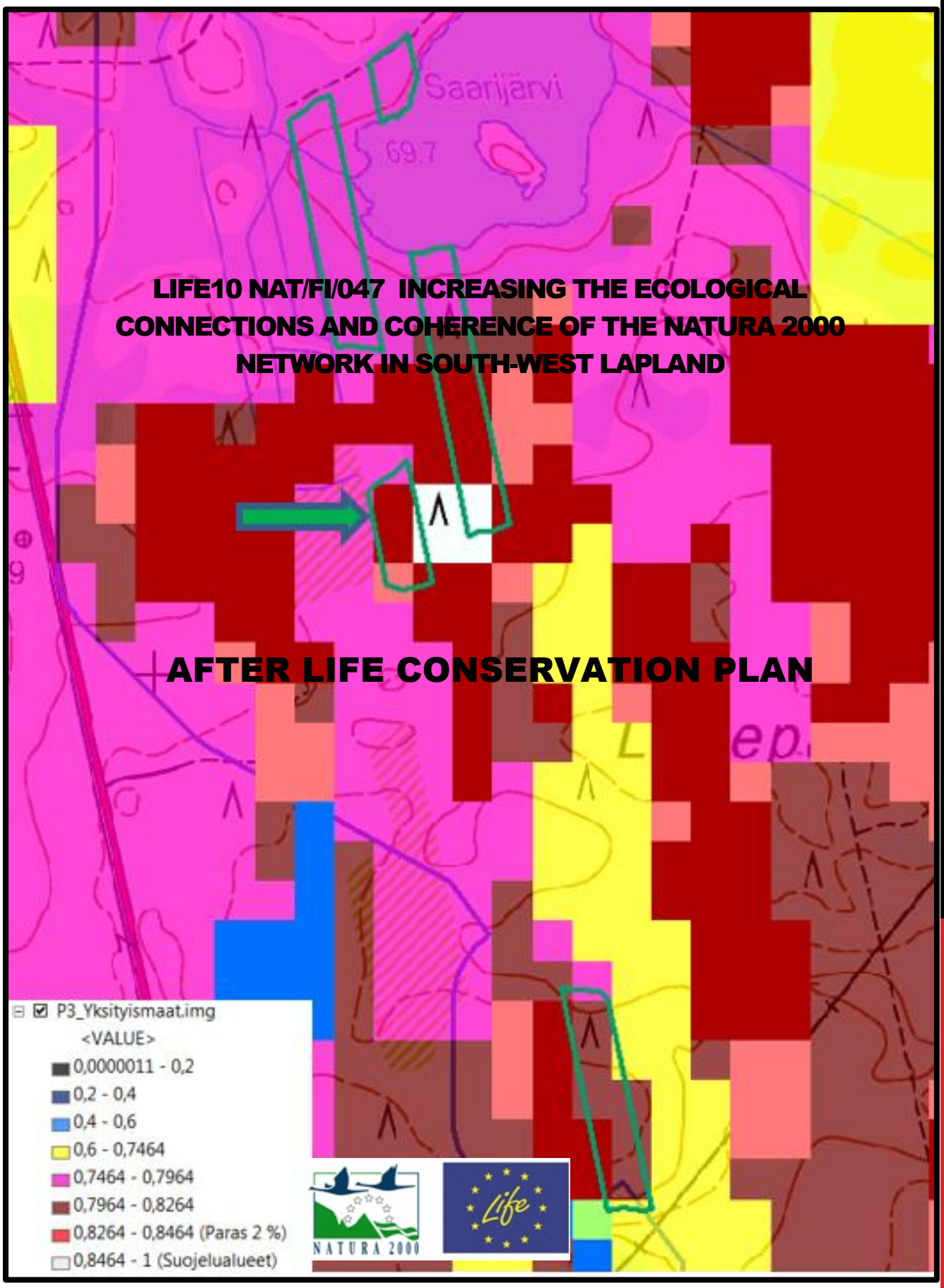
ANNEX 13



LIFE10 NAT/FI/047 INCREASING THE ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS AND COHERENCE OF THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK IN SOUTH-WEST LAPLAND

AFTER LIFE CONSERVATION PLAN

LIFE10 NAT/FI/047

AFTER LIFE CONSERVATION PLAN

1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT HISTORY AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

1.1. Project history

NATNET Life+ project (Increasing the ecological connections and coherence of the Natura 2000 network in South-West Lapland 2012 - 2017) was launched in 2012 and it continued for six years. The project was carried out by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland, the Natural Resources Institute, Metsähallitus and the Finnish Forest Centre. The project also cooperated with the Forest owners' association of Länsi Pohja.

The NATNET Life+ project covered an area of 542,000 hectares in a boreal zone in South-West Lapland, in the area known as the "Lapland triangle". The calcareous and eutrophic soil in the "Lapland triangle" has yielded exceptionally diverse habitats in the naturally harsh conditions of the North, harboring several endangered species. A total of 80,140 hectares of the project area (inside the project area specification) are included in previously established Natura 2000 areas; one of the specific objectives of the project was to increase the ecological connections and biodiversity of the Natura areas and to ensure the preservation of rare and endangered species in the areas. The largest Natura areas partly or completely located in the project area include Kilsiaapa-Ristivuoma, Suuripää, Mustiaapa-Kaattasjärvi and Kirvesaapa. The habitat types on which the protection of the Natura areas is based include alkaline fens, aapa mires, bog woodland, natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, Western taiga, Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with Picea abies and Fennoscandian natural rivers.

The aim of the NATNET Life+ project was to increase the ecological connections in South-West Lapland, particularly across conservation areas that are part of the Natura 2000 network. The ecological connections most suitable for the project's objectives were mapped with Zonation analyses, through which it was possible for actions to target areas where they could best contribute to maintaining biodiversity. A total of 121 permanent, privately owned conservation areas were established during the project under the auspices of Metso Programme. The total area covered by the conserved areas is over 2,800 hectares. This amounts nearly one third of the Metso Programme's goal in the entire province of Lapland (9,120 ha).

The project carried out restoration and nature management actions across more than 1,100 hectares of land used mostly for forestry, improving the biodiversity of the areas. Plans for restoration and nature management covering an area of 1,514 hectares were devised for the actions. In addition to establishing conservation areas and implementing restoration actions, nature management plans intended to replace forestry development plans were devised in the project area for private forest owners, across an area of more than 5,000 hectares. In addition to extensive briefings, the project gave counselling on natural values to forest owners to provide them with comprehensive and up-to-date information on the various options available for attending to biodiversity in their forests.

Action	Hectares – km – estates
Conservation agreements, established conservation areas	2,860 hectares – 121 estates
Nature management plans	5,018 hectares – 27 estates, 35 plans
Mire restoration plans	960 hectares
Forest restoration plans	401 hectares
Controlled burning plans	155 hectares
Mire restorations	810 hectares – 146 km of ditches
Controlled burnings	155 hectares
Production of decayed wood	201 hectares

Table 1. Project plans and actions in figures.

1.2. SWOT analysis

Strenghts	**Weaknesses (difficulties)**
• extensive experience of the project organisation and workers in the field of nature conservation • well prepared project plan • good cooperation with the landowners and forest organisations in the project area	• no actual weaknesses • the weather conditions caused some difficulties: for instance controlled burnings in 2016 were affected by rainy summer and mire restorations 2016 were affected by early spring
Opportunities	**Threats**
• network of the ecological corridors that has been created, established conservation areas and nature management & restoration sites maintain so called stepping stones between the Natura areas; these are important for the connectivity of the habitats • increasing nature tourism and nature awareness through the nature trail implemented in the project and dissemination material produced in the project	• ending of the Metso Programme's funding in Lapland • decrease of fundings in different organisations in general

2. AFTER-LIFE OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. Monitoring objectives and methodology

Follow-up of the monitoring sites established on the restorations sites will be continued by the Metsähallitus after the project. The monitoring will be repeated after five and ten years from the implementation of the actions. The last monitoring will be done in 2026 according the plan.

The calypso inventories are continued by the Nature Resources Institute Finland (LUKE).

The bird inventories will be carried out one, five and ten years after the project has ended.

Monitoring the state of the conservation sites will be continued by Metsähallitus. The monitoring sites that have been established are inventoried next time in 2021. Decision of further inventories will be done after that.

2.2 Nature management planning and methodology

The Finnish Forest Centre will monitor implementation of the nature management plans. The nature management plans will be renewed between 10 – 15 years.

2.3 Protection agreements and methodology

The conservation areas have been established under the Nature Conservation Act and the natural development of the areas will progress. The aim is to establish more conservation sites based on the Zonation analysis within the resources available. The corridor areas defined in the project are prioritized while establishing new conservation areas.

Implementation of the Metso Programme will continue until 2025. The financing in Lapland is about 100,000 euros / year. About 50 hectares of new conservation areas can be established yearly within the financing available.

2.4. Nature education objectives and methodology, dissemination of the results

NATNET Life+ project has already started to cooperate with a new LIFE Preparatory project called “Development of a European Private Land Conservation Network (ELCN)”. ELCN project is coordinated by German NABU Bundesverband and the LAPLAND ELY Centre (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland) is participating in the project as an associated beneficiary. Other associate partner organisations are from Belgium, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Ireland. The aim of the project is to test a number of private land conservation tools in order to find out whether those tools can be replicated elsewhere. Another aim of the project is to develop a robust, well-informed European network on private land conservation with a clear long-term strategy and strong international allies. The project will establish an ELCN (European Land Conservation Network) secretariat that will be charged with the long-term management of the network. As outputs, the ELCN project will produce assessments of the conservation tools tested in the project as well as guidelines and policy recommendations for private land conservation in the EU.

Lapland ELY Centre is responsible for one of the pilot actions in ELCN project. The action is called “Pilot action on using easements for private land conservation” and it’s focus is on the special features of NATNET project: 1) establishing conservation areas by using easements: landowners receive tax-free financial compensation for the profit foregone as a result of the easement but the conservation easement does not change the ownership of the land, 2) landowners were offered free nature management planning with the aim of taking the diversity values of the area into consideration and providing recommendations to retain and increase these values.

The pilot action will test whether so called NATNET model can be adapted to other regions or landowner groups. In particular, it will present the model to colleagues in neighbouring countries (Sweden and the Baltic states) and, by explaining and discussing it with them, investigate the potential for applying it in other regions. The action will focus on an analysis of the legal and financial frameworks in these countries and an identification of gaps that impede the replication of the model. The action will organise a seminar on conservation easements where the preliminary findings will be presented and discussed with the relevant stakeholders. Also a report on the transferability of the model will be drawn.

Lapland ELY Centre and NATNET Life+ project are also participating in another action of the ELCN project: “Workshop on legal tools for private land conservation”. This workshop is one event among three different workshops that focus on “horizontal” issues that private land conservation faces in the EU. The workshop on legal tools for private land conservation will be organized in Rovaniemi, Finland in June 2018.The workshop will investigate the question on how private land conservation can be implemented under existing EU and national legislation and how new instruments could be legally codified in the future. The aim is to critically investigate the potential and the risks of such new legal tools. The focus of the workshop is on conservation, property, tax and charitable law. By bringing together leading experts on these issues and private land conservation practitioners, it will allow to identify where opportunities and obstacles for the reform of relevant legislation lie. Lapland ELY Centre will also participate in the other actions and workshops that will be organised in Romania and Spain. Internet pages of the ELCN Life project: http://elcn.eu/ .

The Municipality of Tervola is responsible for the maintenance of the Kätkävaara nature trail.

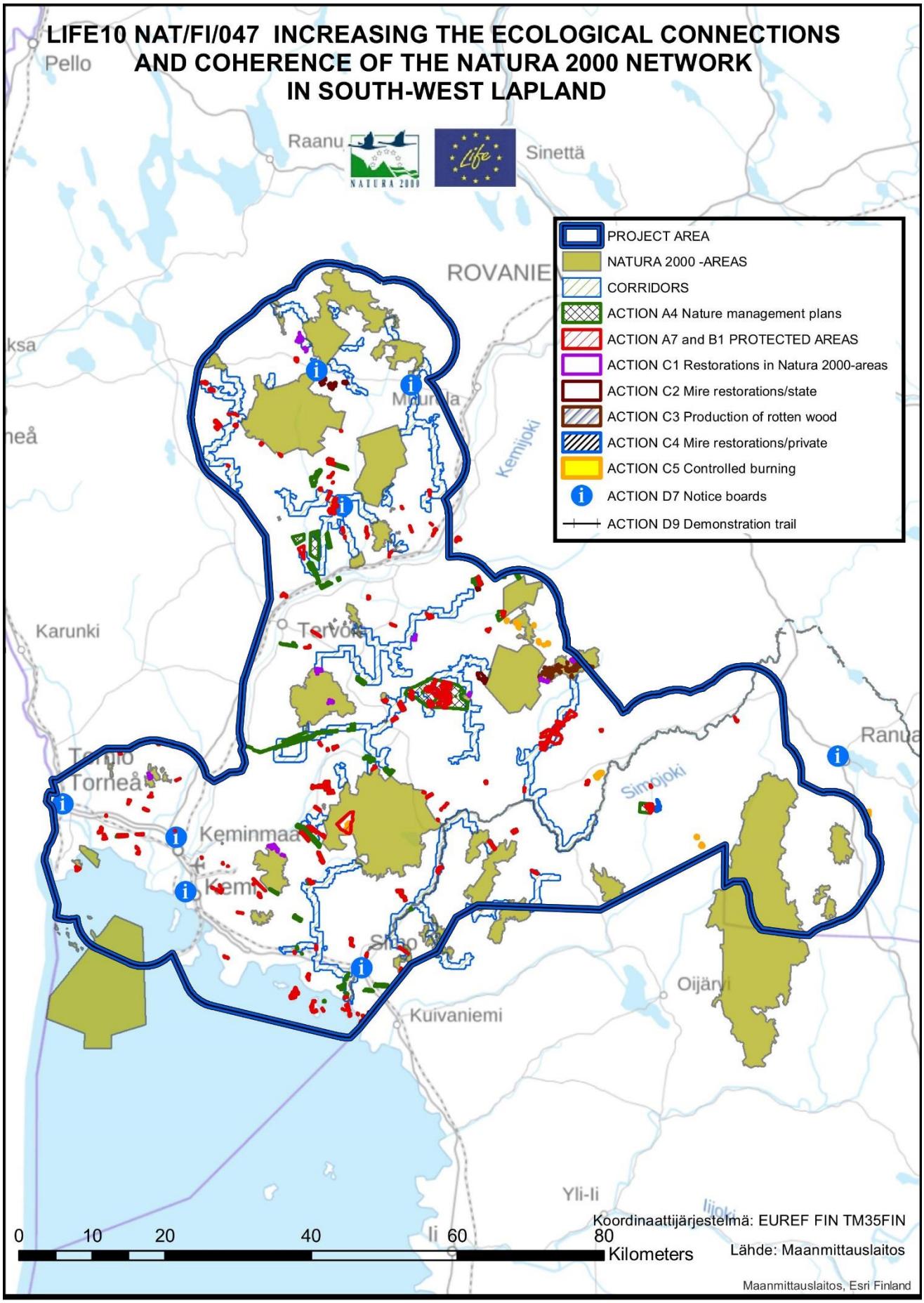
3. FUNDING NEEDS AND THE SOURCES OF FUNDS

The following actions require financing after the project:

- follow-up of the established monitoring sites on the restoration areas
- monitoring of the state of conservation areas
- calypso inventories
- bird inventories
- renewal of the nature management plans
- establishing new conservation areas
- maintenance of the nature trail in Kätkävaara

Financiers:

- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Municipality of Tervola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PROJECT AREA
NATURA 2000 -AREAS
CORRIDORS
ACTION A4 Nature management plans
ACTION A7 and B1 PROTECTED AREAS
ACTION C1 Restorations in Natura 2000-areas
ACTION C2 Mire restorations/state
ACTION C3 Production of rotten wood
ACTION C4 Mire restorations/private
ACTION C5 Controlled burning
ACTION D7 Notice boards
ACTION D9 Demonstration trail
Pello
Raanu
Sinettä
ROVANIEMI
Karunki
Tervola
Kemijoki
Simojoki
Kuivaniemi
Oijärvi
Yli-Ii
0 10 20 40 60 80
Kilometers
Koordinaattijärjestelmä: EUREF FIN TM35FIN
Lähde: Maanmittauslaitos
Maanmittauslaitos, Esri Finland