



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment



# Helmi habitats programme 2021-2030

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The Helmi programme is a key tool for halting biodiversity loss in Finland. The programme's actions will provide help to hundreds of endangered species and most of the endangered habitats in our country.

The Helmi programme is based on voluntary action by landowners.



*Parnassius mnemosyne*

# Active deeds

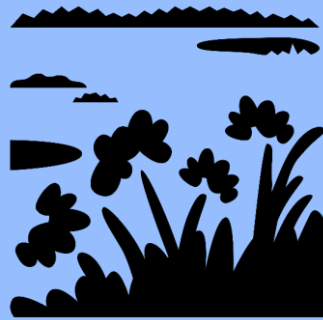


1



Protecting mires

2



Restoring mires

3



Restoring aquatic  
bird habitats and  
wetlands

4



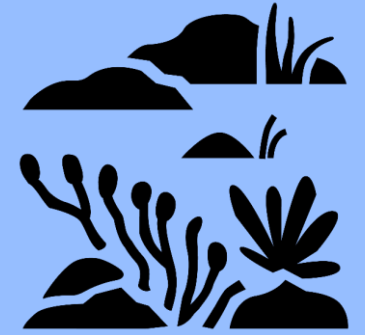
Managing semi-  
natural  
grasshabitats

5



Management of  
woodland habitats

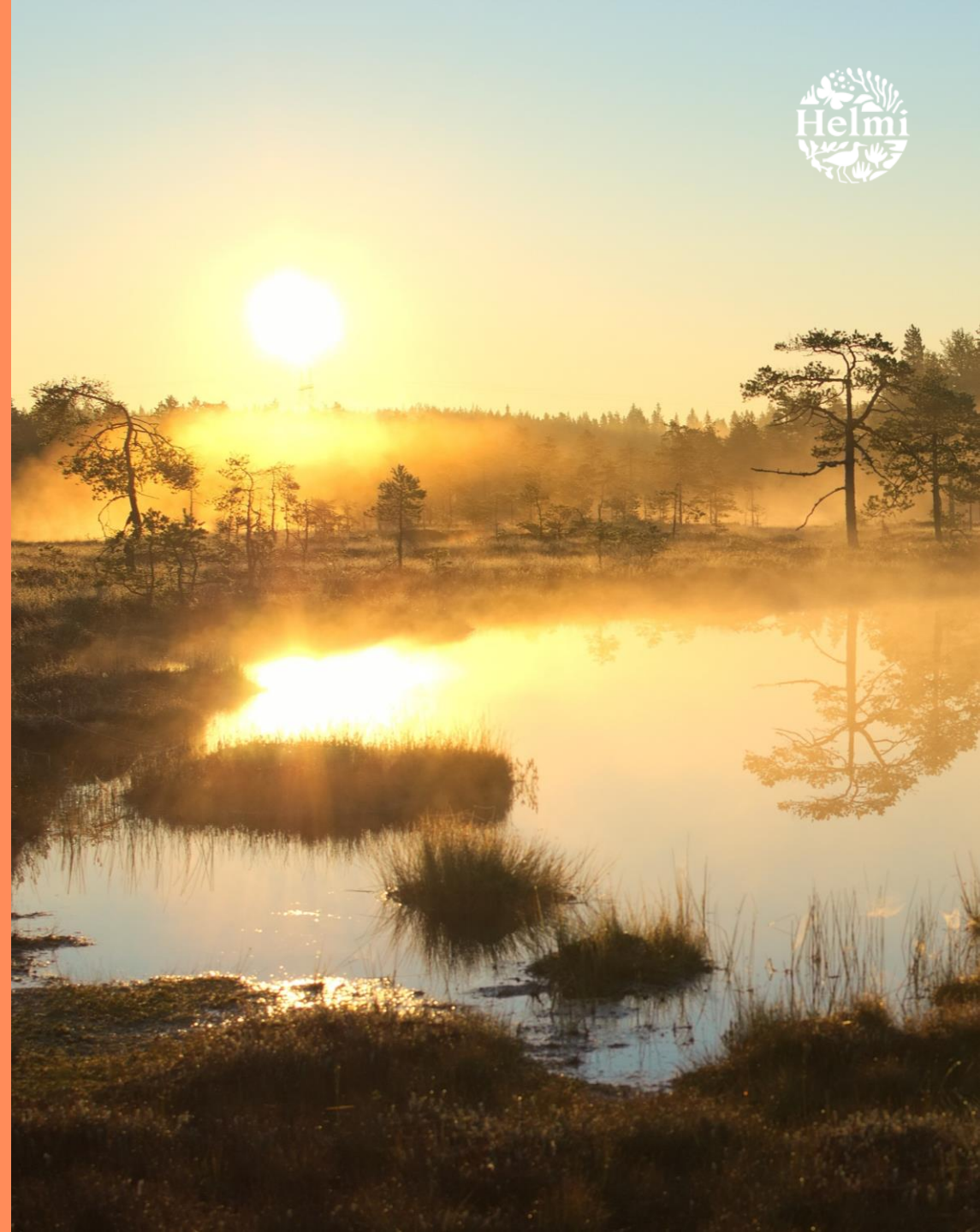
6



Restoration of  
aquatic and shore  
habitats

# Helmi in a nutshel

- The programme is implemented both in and outside conservation areas, and on both state owned and privately owned land.
- The programme comprises a total of 40 measures that besides restoration and management also concern research, communication and stakeholder cooperation.
- The measures of the Helmi Programme support the functioning of ecosystem services and water protection and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.





# Helmi Programme is implemented in extensive cooperation



- The main responsibility for the measures rests with the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- The Helmi Programme is implemented by organisations under these two ministries, together with municipalities, NGOs, local communities, other stakeholders in the environmental and forestry sectors, and private landowners.



# The Helmi programme adopts a broad and holistic approach to habitats



- By the end of 2023, approx. 28 % of the total objectives of the Helmi programme will have been completed.
- This means, e.g.
  - Over 22 000 hectares of protected mires
  - 17 000 hectares of restored mires
  - 100 restored aquatic bird habitats and wetlands
  - Over 600 managed woodland habitats in protected areas
  - Capturing of small alien predators from 73 aquatic bird habitats and wetlands



# Scaling up restoration measures will create:



- Benefits for biodiversity
- Benefits for both species and humans of adapting to climate change
- Work and income for companies carrying out restoration measures (more than 8.2 M€ /year)
- Benefits for recreational use and hunting (e.g. game birds)
- Commitments to national and international biodiversity targets

# Constraints in scaling up



- Resources (HR & and costs of measures)
- Competence: not enough skilled contractors
- Number of suitable machinery
- Weather conditions: no snow, too damp, too dry...
- Regulations!
- Acceptability: scaling up of restoration cannot be achieved if they have sufficient social acceptance
- Ecological impacts: more hectares, more biodiversity benefits? → Prioritisation





# Scaling up is...



- **Possible** with adequate resources, guidelines and policies :
  - many forest habitats (excl. controlled burning)
  - for many mire habitats, wetlands and aquatic bird habitats and small aquatic habitats (if operations are possible at the catchment area level)
- **Challenging** in controlled burning: due to the use of the method depends on suitable weather conditions and the availability of skilled workers
- **Difficult:**
  - for natural grasslands and forest pastures: due to the lack of grazing animals and issues related to CAP support policy
  - with some mire habitats
  - Marine and freshwater habitats: the action is needed on catchment area

# Priodiversity LIFE & Helmi-programme



- A Strategic Nature Project (SNAP) Priodiversity LIFE supports actively the achievement of EU nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Finland (PAF).
- The project is also implementing the National Helmi Habitats Program. Priodiversity LIFE has been designed to support the Helmi habitats programme.
- Helmi programme is a main source of national funding and Helmi supports the restoration of different habitats in LIFE project.



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# Kiitos! Thank you!

[ym.fi/en/helmi-habitats-programme](https://ym.fi/en/helmi-habitats-programme)