

10.3.2025

Report of Raccoon Dog management in Finland for 2024

The Goal for 2024 in Finland was to continue the Actions of MIRDINEC LIFE project to prevent further invasion of Raccoon Dogs to Sweden and Norway.

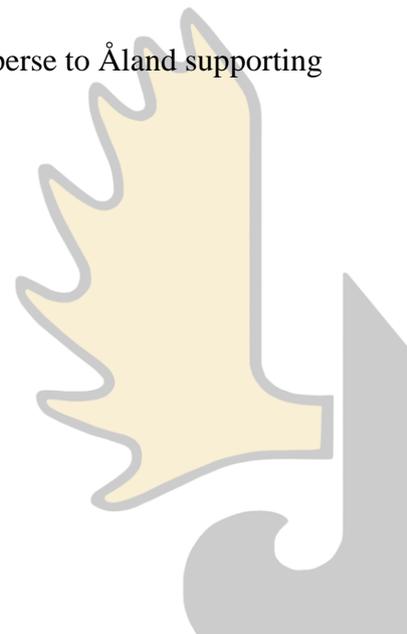
In Finland the following activities were carried out following the project working plan with practical adaptations where needed.

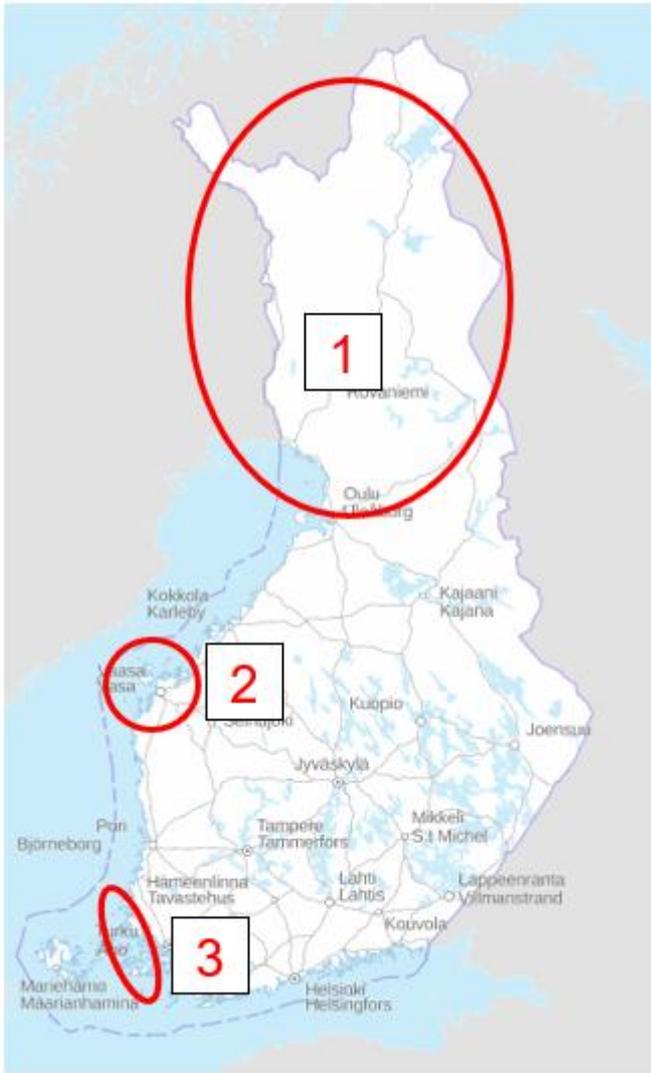
- Continued co-operative management and information activities with volunteer hunters
- Continue the use of monitoring cameras/early warning system EWS and develop the method to allow for rapid response from local voluntary hunters
- Continue the use of Judas animals and develop the method to be more cost effective
- Information about IAS and dissemination of project results
- Legal permissions to allow effective eradication of Raccoon Dogs

The legal context of the Raccoon Dog was changed from game species to an invasive species in 2019, in alignment with the Finnish management plan of the raccoon dog which was produced during the LIFE project.

The project activities were carried out in

1. Lapland, focus areas
 - Tornio River Valley
 - Bothnian Sea coast
 - Inland Raccoon Dog population hotspots
 - Areas of Oulu / Northern Ostrobothnia areas which are adjacent to Lapland and relevant for management from the project perspective.
2. Kvarken area, focus
 - Korsholm archipelago, to decrease the risk of invasion through this potential corridor.
 - especially Valsörarna
3. In South-west archipelago preventing the Raccoon Dog to disperse to Åland supporting effective management in Åland Islands, focus areas
 - Kustavi, Iniö, Keistiö, Houtskari, Korppoo





Working areas

General overview and Raccoon Dog (RD) harvest

Northern Finland, Lapland and Oulu

Juha Mäkimartti implemented project activities in Lapland and adjacent areas in Oulu as external contractor for 2017-2024. The annual level of service depends on available funding.

During 2024 the project achieved the set objectives and succeeded to manage the RD population in the Finnish Lapland. The harvest by the project in Lapland has been at all-time low during 2024. The project harvest numbers are declining as the area effectively covered by project has been increasing in Lapland. As described by Mäkimartti, *“the management front has been pushed down to Oulu River level”*. The messages from hunters on observed or caught Raccoon Dogs in Lapland reflect a clear and continued decrease compared to numbers in 2011-2012. Co-operation with the HELMI-IAS project operating on selected SPA bird areas is successful and strengthens overall impact in Northern Finland.

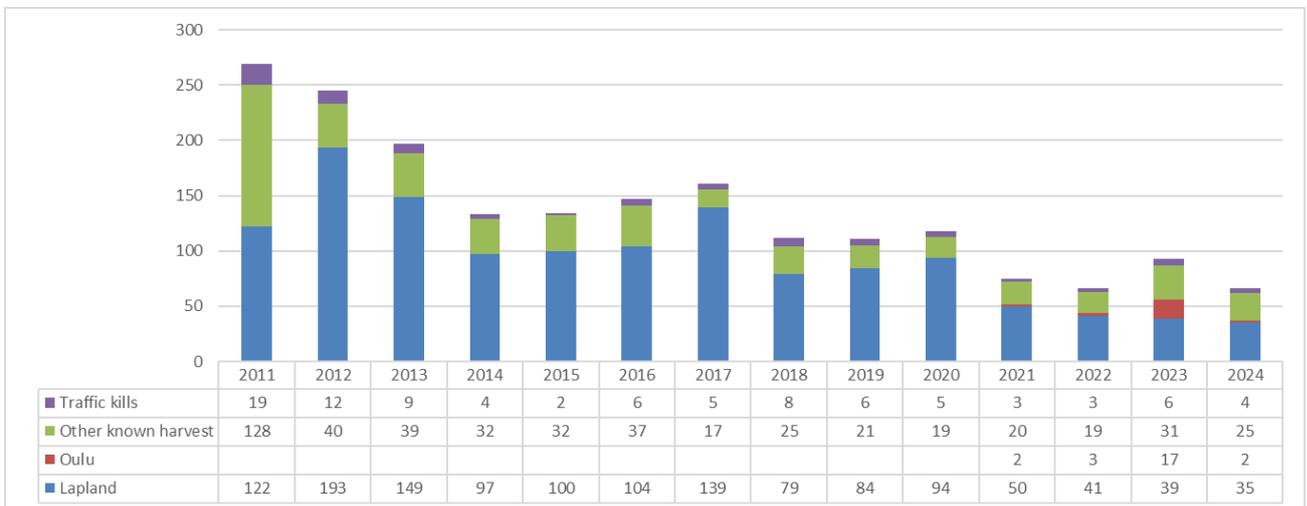
The non-scientific ‘fox index’ indicates that work has been successful and relative proportion of Raccoon Dogs in project traps has continuously decreased and now stabilized while the know-how and

number of traps has increased. Number of foxes in the project traps indicate that traps are functioning well.

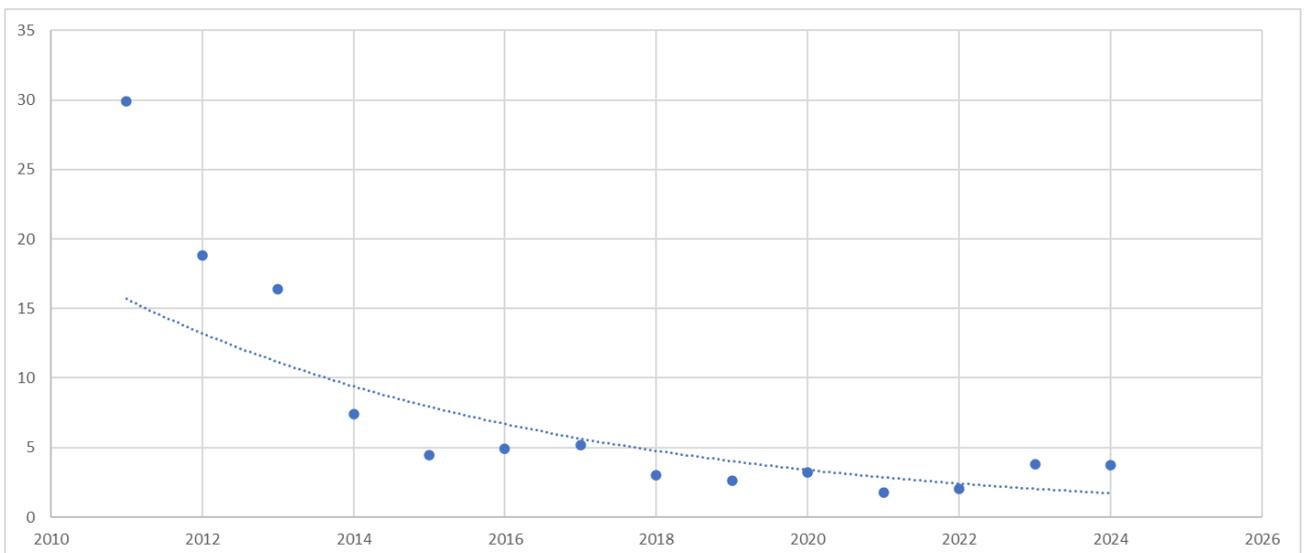
In Lapland, the Raccoon Dog harvest by project staff and involved voluntary hunters was 35 animals. In addition, project staff has received information of 25 RD killed by other hunters and of 4 traffic kills. Total Raccoon Dog mortality known by the project in Lapland was 64 individuals.

Compared to 2023 the number of Raccoon Dogs outside of project framework and traffic kills decreased. The ‘fox index’ indicates that relative abundance of Raccoon Dogs is the same as 2023, while in general at comparable low level.

In addition, the project recorded 2 Raccoon Dogs culled by project activities in Oulu region. The HELMI IAS project is active in Oulu Region, taking care of the majority of the management needs nowadays, so there is less need for activities from this project.



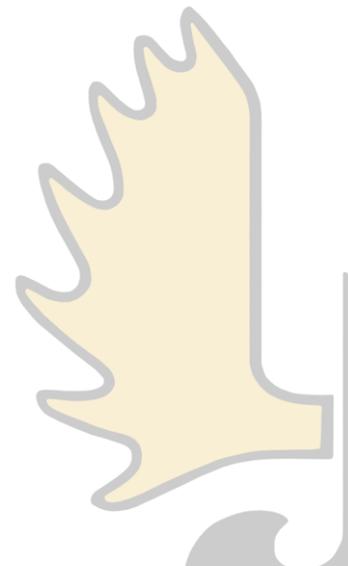
Development of known total harvest and trend and Raccoon Dogs culled in Northern Finland within the project framework.



The ‘fox index’ development. Number of caught Raccoon Dog per individual of other small predator in project activities.

MIRDINEC After LIFE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	0	0	0	3	2	4		5	1	2	4	0	0	2
February	6	4	0	10	4	8	20	3	1	4	0	2	6	0
March	27	40	10	9	2	10		5	6	12	3	5	3	4
April	2	22	23	4	9	12	12	9	6	12	3	0	4	5
May	1	9	14	3	4	12	14	2	7	5	4	0	0	0
June	8	15	0	3	7	8	7	16	17	2	13	16	1	8
July	4	7	15	1	17	11	20	0	0	1	0	2	16	5
August	17	8	9	5	10	12	13	2	8	12	1	1	2	0
September	22	27	17	14	16	13	15	18	14	15	7	5	6	4
October	24	33	28	27	19	8	30	13	15	15	10	9	13	1
November	5	26	30	15	7	4	8	4	9	8	4	4	5	6
December	6	2	3	3	3	2	0	2	0	6	3	0	0	2
Total project	122	193	149	97	100	104	139	79	84	94	52	44	56	37
in Oulu region											2	3	17	2
in Lapland	122	193	149	97	100	104	139	79	84	94	50	41	39	35
Other known harvest,	128	40	39	32	32	37	17	25	21	19	20	19	31	25
Traffic kills, Lapland	19	12	9	4	2	6	5	8	6	5	3	3	6	4
Total removed														
Raccoon Dogs	269	245	197	133	134	147	161	112	111	118	73	63	76	64
Total removed														
Raccoon Dogs														
Lapland + Oulu in	269	245	197	133	134	147	161	112	111	118	75	66	93	66
Other small														
predators, Lapland	9	13	12	18	30	30	31	37	42	37	41	31	20	17
Fox	3	5	6	12	14	15	17	11	23	21	25	20	14	7
Badger	5	6	4	3	10	6	4	11	9	9	7	3	2	6
Mink		2	1		2	3	4	4	4	3	2	4	1	0
Pine marten, Stoat	1		1	3	4	6	6	11	6	4	7	4	3	4

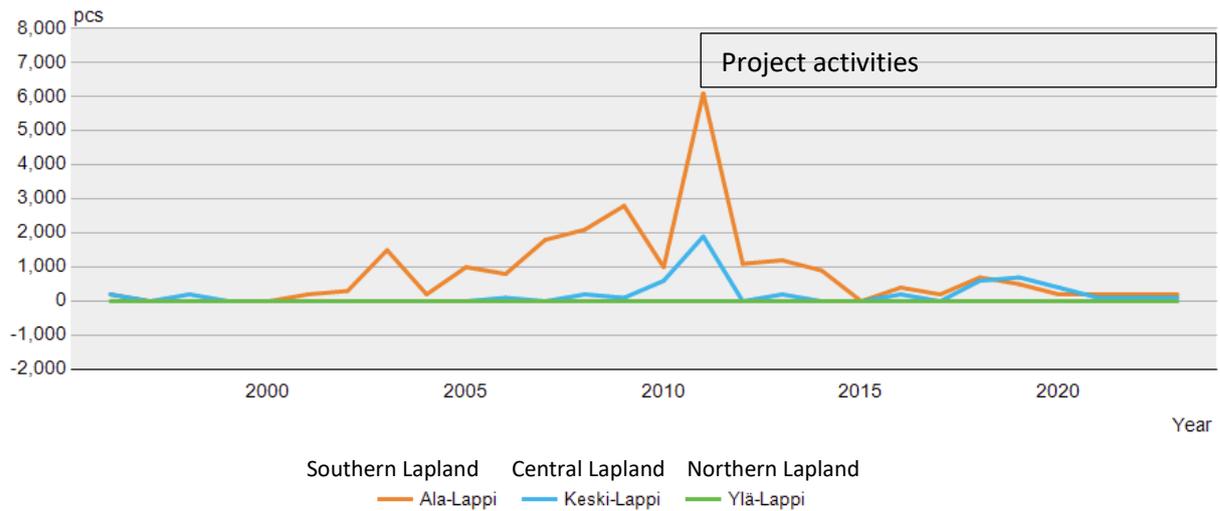
Raccoon Dog harvest of the project in Northern Finland



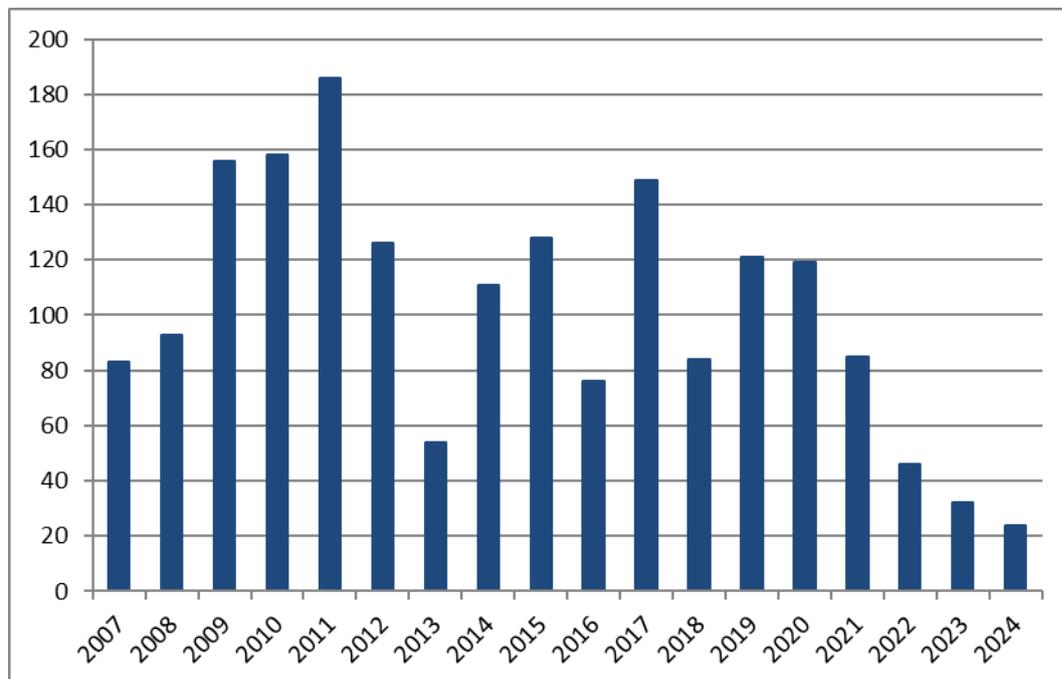
The official game bag statistics is based on hunter questionnaire with relatively small sample size. The official statistics in Lapland can be used as an index reflecting large-scale changes in the Raccoon Dog harvest development.

At large the Raccoon Dog population and harvest increased until 2011, when record harvest, thanks to project activities, lead to significant decline of the population and the harvest.

Game bag by Area and Year. Raccoon dog.



Raccoon Dog harvest in Lapland until 2023 based on official statistics. <http://stat.luke.fi/en/>. 2024 estimates will be available in summer of 2025. Data should be interpreted as an index of population development.



Local Game Management Association organizes annual small predator hunting competitions. Raccoon Dogs reported to small predator hunting competitions of Game Management Associations in Lapland. In 2007 four associations provided data, 2021 data is from 14 associations and 2024 data is from 13 associations. This non-scientific casual data provides an additional insight into Raccoon Dog population and harvest development.

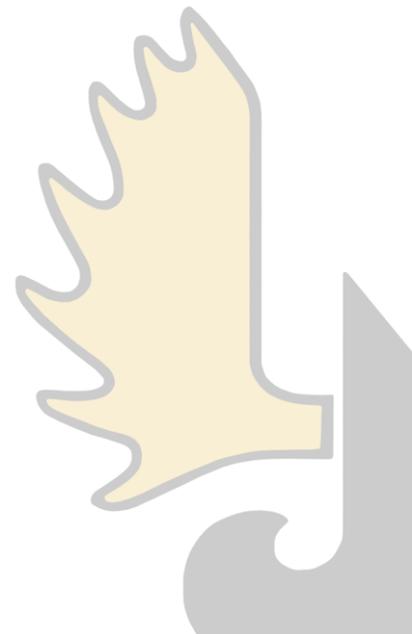
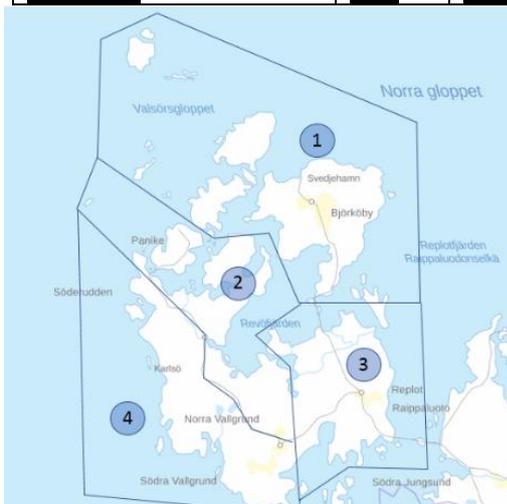
Valsörarna, Kvarken area.

The Kvarken area, Korsholm Archipelago, and Valsörarna in particular, is a focus area since 2018. Co-operation is established with all four hunting associations in Korsholm Archipelago. Network of solar-powered scout cameras, baiting sites and live traps are operative throughout the area along with volunteer hunters using trained dogs. In 2022 and 2023 thermal cameras, which can also be used as a sight, was provided to Björköby and Norra Vallgrund hunting clubs. These devices help local hunters to locate Raccoon Dogs. 2024 Norra Vallgrund hunting club got positive results in using thermal camera as help in eradication.

In addition to voluntary management there were no professional level Raccoon Dog eradication in Valsörarna and adjacent islands during 2024, due to local circumstances. Possible observations from Raccoon Dogs in the Valsörarna exists, and therefore plans and actions will be taken in year 2025 to eradicate Raccoon Dogs from islands.

Total Raccoon Dog harvest in archipelago is provided in table below, divided to areas of four hunting associations. Total harvest decreased from 210 to 163 Raccoon Dogs. There is annual variation in the local hunting clubs harvest levels. Norra Vallgrund hunting clubs harvest stayed at a high level.

Village/hunting area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1 Björköby	44	50	31	13	23	52	28
2 Norra Vallgrund	34	25	38	28	33	85	82
3 Replot	27	29	29	18	35	33	23
4 Södra Vallgrund	25	33	14	36	29	40	30
TOTAL	130	137	112	95	120	210	163



Åland Access

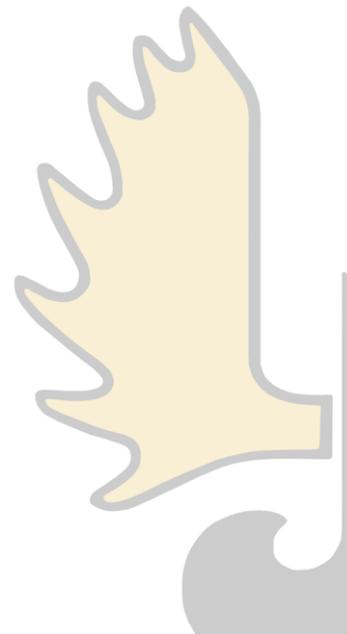
In the Åland Access area the project activities were continued in close co-operation with parallel projects in the South-West Archipelago. Responsible association (SLHSY/Tommy Arfman) continued to build the co-operation with the local hunting association, building up the effective working model. Year 2024 was again a big step ahead in building a network of local co-operation in the management area.

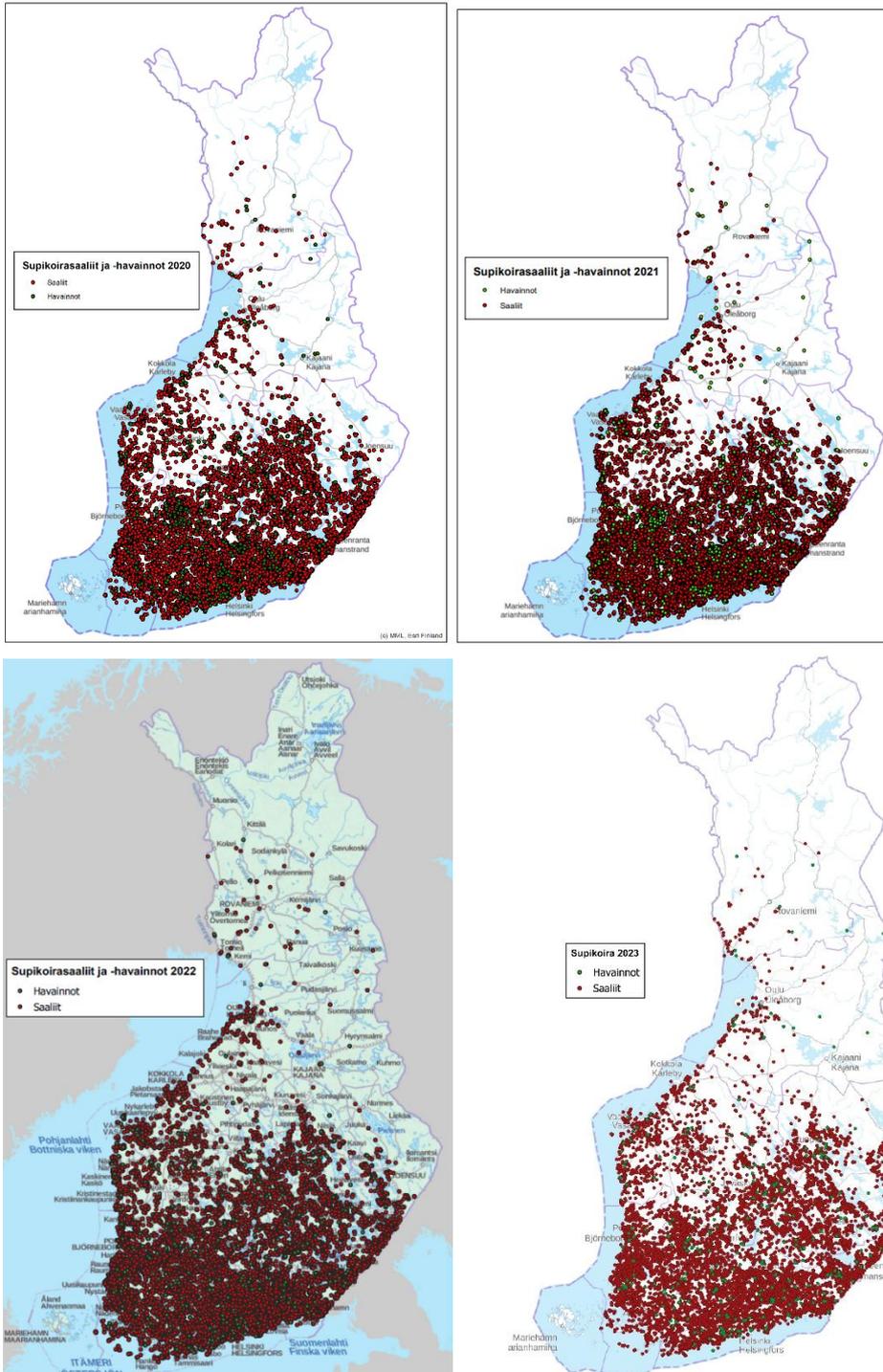
Three trips were made to the management area for assembling and checking and removing of the GPS collars for the raccoon dogs in the area. One individual male raccoon dog was marked with GPS-collars in the Iniö area. All trips included intensive thermal drone search of raccoon dog from the reed beds. At the same occasions 7 gps-collared individuals were found and if they were still live also killed. At the end of the year 2024 all of the GPS-collared animals were removed and GPS-collars stored for future use.

In the end of the year 2024 many new contacts with the local hunting clubs and landowners were established. In the island of Åselholma feeding station with game camera surveillance was also set up. Local landowner has promised to manage the station. Feeding stations are being set up as a network of “magnets” to gather dispersing raccoon dogs for easy removal operations. More stations are planned to put in the area. Funding that was applied (<https://en.itameriprojekti.fi/>) in February 2024 wasn't successful but new funding is applied again in 2025 to boost the technical innovations in this management area.

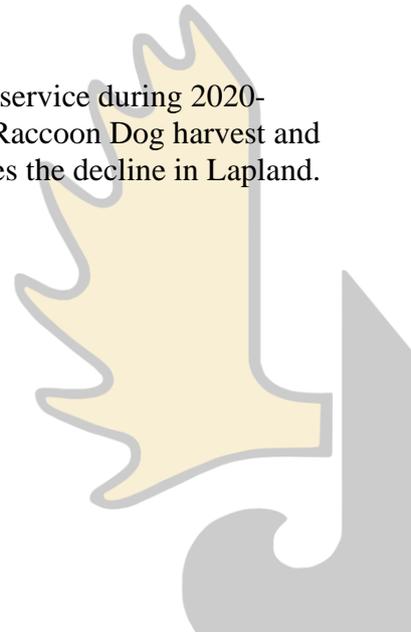
Continued thermal drone testing was very promising. Totally new perspective has been opened for the fast eradication of raccoon dogs from the reed beds. Partly as a result of the experiences from the Åland access Finnish legislation of invasive species was changed during the year 2024. From the beginning of the year 2025 it is also legal to fully use the thermal drone in tracking of the raccoon dogs which makes it even more effective tool.

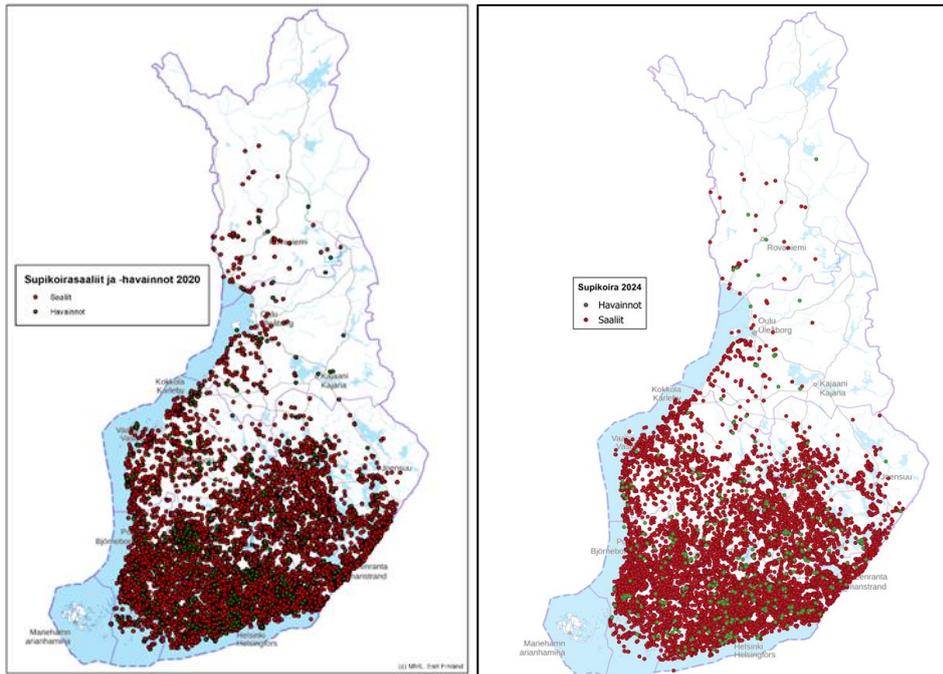
Drone flights have been done again in the Åland mainland with the local hunters. Testing of the drone will be continued during the early winter 2025 in the search of raccoon dog couples that are preparing to breed next spring.





Raccoon Dog harvests and observations voluntarily recorded in Oma riista -service during 2020-2023. *Havainto* – observation. *Saalis* – harvest. The overall distribution of Raccoon Dog harvest and observations has been relatively stable in recent years, while dataset indicates the decline in Lapland. Maps produced by Ville Hokkanen & Holtti Hakonen.





Raccoon Dog harvests and observations voluntarily recorded in Oma riista -service. Comparison of 2020 and 2024 maps. Maps produced by Ville Hokkanen & Holtti Hakonen.

Continued use of monitoring cameras/early warning system EWS and developing the method to allow rapid response from local voluntary hunters.

Lapland

In South-Western Lapland 15 working GSM game cameras were actively used by project staff to follow the RD situation and to assist eradication. In addition, around 40 older, still functioning, cameras were used by voluntary hunters without GSM function. 10 cameras were in Salla, Eastern border, with no Raccoon Dog observations. The shutdown of 3G networks has greatly reduced the availability of and functionality of the GSM cameras, as 3G was the main network for GSM cameras and it had far greater range than current 4G/5G

Kvarken/Valsörarna

Approximately 20 functioning cameras in the area and managed by local hunters.



17)

Continued the use of Judas animals and develop the method to be more cost effective

Lapland

During 2027 there were 37 recorded Judas animal activities in Lapland. The Judas-method has not been used as intensively as before, due to a decrease in the number of functioning collars and also Raccoon Dogs to be collared. Re-evaluation of the effectiveness of the method and optimal collars is needed for 2025 onwards.

Kvarken/Valsörarna

No Judas activities during 2024 due to changes in local project conditions. The reactivation of Judas-work is foreseen in 2025, if necessary local commitment is available.

Åland Access

Currently there are no Judas animals in the area, but there is a plan to mount some collars during the year 2025. These collars should be used to better understand the reed bed behavior of the species in the archipelago. Co-operation has continued with Turku University and currently an article (*“Ice cover and partner removal increase movements of invasive mesopredator in the coastal island mosaic”*) has entered to the review process in Ecological Solutions and Evidence. In the article all of the data from the animals that have been tracked in the archipelago are used to see how raccoon dogs move in the archipelago area during the open water and ice cover seasons. Also, the effect of the partner removal is considered. Results suggest that partner removal increases the movement of lonely individuals. Creation of these wandering individuals should be avoided especially before the breeding season of birds. As a conclusion hunters should always try to remove both individuals.

Continued co-operative management and information activities with volunteer hunters

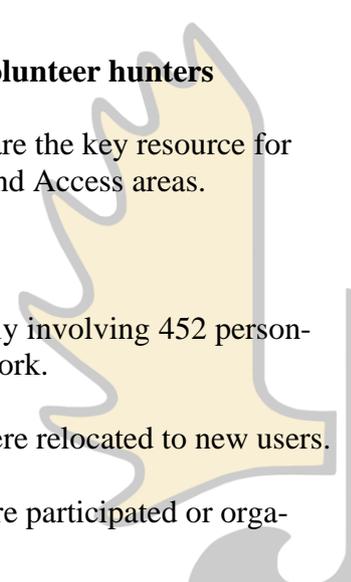
Project continued active working with voluntary hunters. The local people are the key resource for effective Raccoon Dog management in Northern Finland, Kvarken and Åland Access areas.

Lapland

Project recorded 97 working days or events of Raccoon Dog hunting actively involving 452 person-days by volunteer hunters and in the education events in the project framework.

14 new KaNu traps were set in field, 12 game cameras and 6 trap alarms were relocated to new users.

15 education events or project presentation events with 832 participants were participated or organized.



17)

Kvarken/Valsörarna

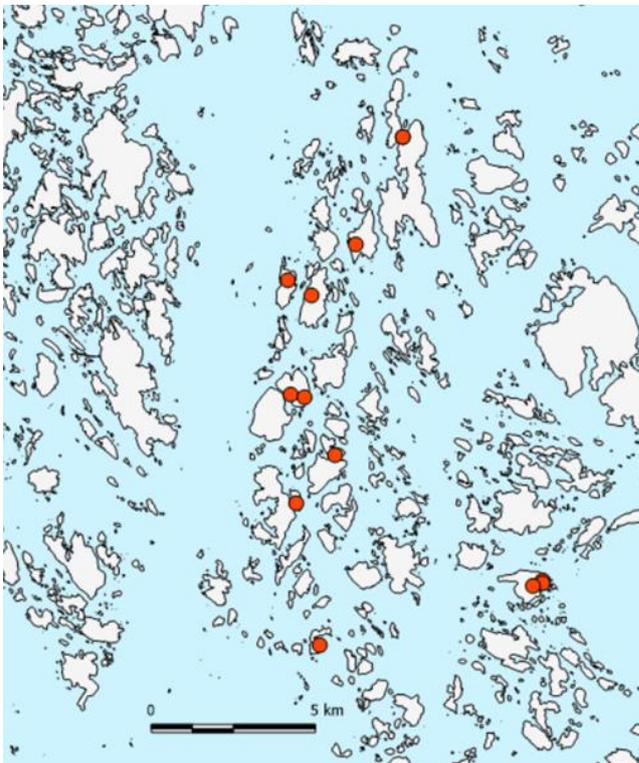
There are active hunters with dogs in all 4 hunter associations.

The Finnish Wildlife Agency regional office kept contact with local hunters. A new thermal sight was provided 2023 for Norra Vallgrund and was in test during 2024. The next volunteer will carry on testing 2025. Gift cards sent to local hunting associations to thank local active hunters.

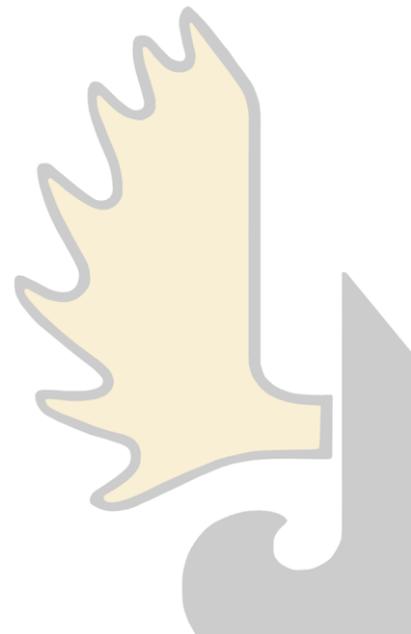
Åland Access

Two separate trips were made to meet the hunters in the border zone of Åland and Finland mainland. Both trips were educational and hunters of the Houtskär and Brändö area were given training guidelines for the management of raccoon dogs and also mink. In the Brändö area there were even field training for the use of thermal drone to locate and remove raccoon dogs in the archipelago reed beds. One trip was made to the Åland mainland and thermal drone was used to remove raccoon dogs from the ice covered reed beds. This trip was made by the professional hunter of SLHSY and contacts were built up with the local hunters and landowners together with the Ådans vänner. New hunting clubs and many landowners have joined the efforts during the year 2023.

Altogether 13 raccoon dogs were removed from the Nätö management area. In the southern part of the Åland access (Jungfruskär-Utö) raccoon dog situation seems to be in control as there has been no observation of raccoon dogs in Jungfruskär or Österskär archipelago.



Removed raccoon dogs in the Management area of Nätö



17)

Gift card –campaign

The idea of Gift-Card campaign was to motivate the hunters to report and return GPS-collars. This is a way to reward active hunters providing animals for collaring and to retrieve the lost collars or to reward hunters who has shown remarkable activity. The planned motivation dinners for hunters were cancelled and resources reallocated to gift cards.

Total of 70 Gift Cards were purchased and delivered as rewards. The campaign has proven successful and raises the awareness amongst hunters and collars has been returning better.

Information about IAS and dissemination of project results

Project was presented in media several times. The project activities were not as actively raised on the channels of the Wildlife Agency as in the previous years due to other IAS management projects with active media work.

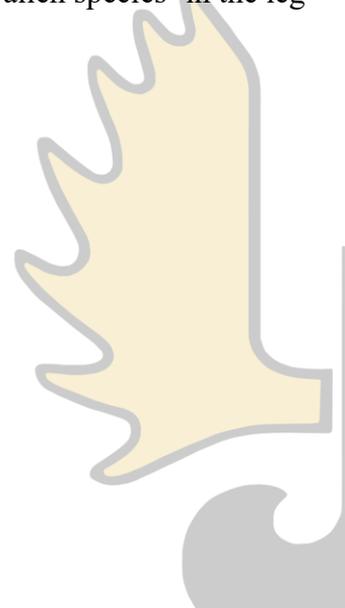
- <https://www.maaseuduntulevaisuus.fi/metsa/3c8499f0-93fa-43dc-b6ad-1046e684e38e>
- <https://www.maaseuduntulevaisuus.fi/metsa/ffd1c27f-0ec5-4a84-8a19-452d72ffa3c6>

SLHSY has their own web pages which present information about the work that is aimed at eradicating raccoon dog and mink from the archipelago areas. Pages were translated also in Swedish and published in 2024. SLHSY have also their own Facebook pages. Updates to these pages about the GPS-work, drone searches of raccoon dog, birdlife development and management principals of alien predators have been actively published during the year 2024. Altogether 27 updates were published on year 2024. One whole article was also written to the “Tidningen jägare” about the development of the Nåtö management area.

The Finnish Wildlife Agency has a website for Invasive Alien Predators <https://vieraspeto.fi/sv/>

Efforts to renew the current legal context of the raccoon dog and its status as an invasive species, in alignment with the Finnish management plan of the raccoon dog, produced during the LIFE project.

The Raccoon Dog, American Mink and other similar species were listed as ‘alien species’ in the legislative change in June 2019 as reported in 2019 report.



Legal permissions

- The project was issued a derogation of Hunting Act for effective working though summer and to use forbidden hunting methods (shooting close to vehicle, snare etc.) for 2021-2024
- Metsähallitus issued permit to use ATV and Snowmobile on state lands and outside of designated trails.
- Project was issued a special permit until 31.12.2024 by Metsähallitus Nature Conservation and the Ministry of the Environment for culling Raccoon Dogs in National Parks and Strict Nature Reserves with some area-specific limitations.
- All key hunting associations have permitted the project to take actions on their hunting areas.
- In Finland the drones equipped with thermal cameras are currently legal for lethal management of Raccoon Dogs and other EU/Nationally listed IAS. This has been greatly influenced by the experiences from the work that has been done with drones in the Åland Access during the year 2023-2024.

Costs of Actions and realized funding

The total costs of project Actions in 2024 was 212861,01 € with cumulative balance of + 15 669,48 €. Saving will be forwarded to 2025 budget.

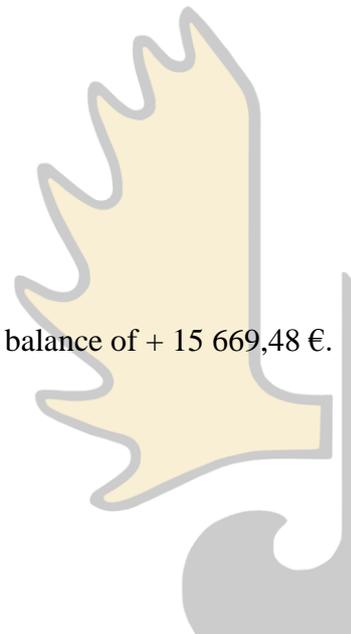
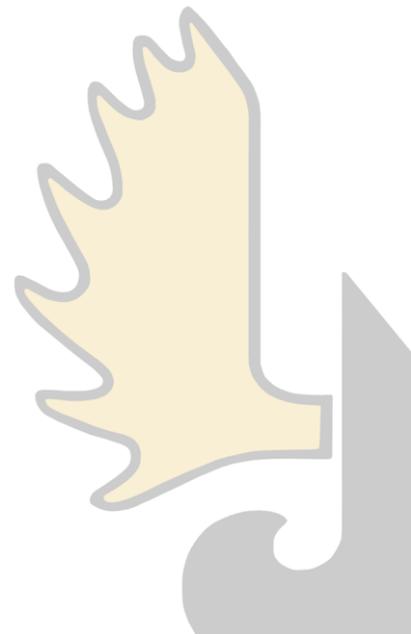


Table 5 Realized costs and funding

Annual costs of Raccoon Dog management in Finland 2024					
	Cost item	€ piece/set	Number needed	Est. total cost	Realized 2024
LAPLAND	1. External assistance, Professional Hunter in Lapland to carry out project activities	8 500	11,5	97 750,00 €	111 329,96 €
	2. Travel costs, estimated total /month	2 000	11,5	23 000,00 €	30 426,26 €
	3. Equipment, traps, trap materials, scout cameras and accessories, trap alarms	250	40	10 000,00 €	- €
	4. Motivating voluntary hunters. Thanks giving dinner etc.	750	1	750,00 €	- €
	5. Gift Cards for Judas-animals and good co-operation	50	30	1 500,00 €	2 500,00 €
	6. Batteries, timber, screws etc small items, pre-paid services. Estimated total	3000	1	3 000,00 €	3 622,67 €
	7. GPS collars, annual replacement of lost&broke	2000	3	6 000,00 €	- €
	LAPLAND TOTAL			142 000,00 €	147 878,89 €
KVARKEN	1.2. Part-time external assistance, professional hunters, to carry out focused project activities supporting local volunteer hunters	8500	1	8 500,00 €	- €
	2. Travel costs, estimated total	2000	1	2 000,00 €	- €
	3. Equipment, traps, trap materials, scout cameras and accessories, trap alarms	250	10	2 500,00 €	149,00 €
	4. Motivating voluntary hunters. Thanks giving dinner etc.	500	1	500,00 €	- €
	5. Gift Cards for Judas-animals and good co-operation	50	10	500,00 €	500,00 €
	6. Batteries, timber, screws etc small items, pre-paid services. Estimated total	1000	1	1 000,00 €	289,90 €
	7. GPS collars, annual replacement of lost&broke	2000	2	4 000,00 €	
	KVARKEN TOTAL			19 000,00 €	938,90 €
ÅLAND ACCESS	1.2. Part-time external assistance, Professional hunter, to carry out focused project activities supporting local volunteer hunters	8500	0,5	4 250,00 €	8 355,72 €
	2. Travel costs, estimated total per month	3000	0,5	1 500,00 €	
	3. Equipment, traps, trap materials, scout cameras and accessories, trap alarms	250	10	2 500,00 €	- €
	4. Motivating voluntary hunters. Thanks giving dinner etc.	500	1	500,00 €	12,50 €
	5. Gift Cards for Judas-animals and good co-operation	50	5	250,00 €	500,00 €
	6. Batteries, timber, screws etc small items, pre-paid services and collar service Followit for old Finnish collars. Estimated total	1000	1	1 000,00 €	1 675,00 €
	7. GPS collars, annual replacement of lost&broke	2000	2	4 000,00 €	3 500,00 €
	ÅLAND ACCESS TOTAL			14 000,00 €	14 043,22 €
	General, Followit service	35 000	1	35 000,00 €	35 000,00 €
	Project administration Finnish Wildlife Agency	5 000	3	15 000,00 €	15 000,00 €
	TOTAL FINLAND			225 000,00 €	212 861,01 €

Balance, from 2024 budget	12 138,99 €
Balance, saved from 2023 budget	3 530,49 €
Total balance moved to 2025 budget	15 669,48 €

ANNUAL Funding	
Finland	
Finnish Wildlife Agency:	85 000
Metsähallitus:	20 000
Sweden:	35 000
Norway:	85 000
TOTAL	225 000



Conclusions

- The Raccoon Dog population of the project area in Lapland has stayed at a low level compared to 2011. Raccoon Dogs are present throughout Lapland. North of Arctic Circle the population is small, or almost non-existing, and scattered to small cells. Special attention is needed on South-Western Lapland to keep up with achieved results. Declining Raccoon Dog populations makes it increasingly difficult to motivate voluntary hunters to continue their activities.
- New establishment of Raccoon Dog in Kvarken area, Valsörarna, is under management and the whole Korsholm Archipelago is under project activities by local hunting associations supported by the project, while local challenges exist in the effective management of Valsörarna and outer archipelago. Active motivation and championing are required to keep the motivation of local hunters at a good level.
- Project activities were successfully developed at Åland Access in close collaboration with parallel projects and local hunting associations.
- Project actions have been cost-effective and generally well accepted thanks to hands-on working model that is easy to contact and participate for the local hunters.
- Service contracts were made on the professional level field-work in Lapland (Juha Mäkimartti) and Åland Access (SLHSY). In Kvarken area service contract was not made 2024 due to local circumstances.
- All available means of Raccoon Dog management are needed and different working tools (active hunting, Judas animals, cameras, trapping) together create the frame to control the population.
- New IAS legislation significantly improves the possibilities of regular hunters carrying out effective management.
- The new legislation allows the use of thermal drones for Raccoon Dog management, which substantially increases the effectiveness of Raccoon Dog eradication in the extensive wetland and reedbed areas
- Project activities for 2025 onwards were planned during 2024. The public tendering of the services in Lapland are on-going and funding requests for funders sent in February 2025. The Finnish Wildlife Agency is looking forward to continuing this fruitful and successful cooperation.

March 5th 2025.

Mikko Alhainen, Sami Tossavainen, Jaakko Hautanen, Mikko Toivola, Eerojuhani Laine, Stefan Pellas, Jarkko Nurmi, Carola Lönnfors
Finnish Wildlife Agency

Juha Mäkimartti, external contractor/coordinator, Lapland
Tommy Arfman, external contractor, Åland Access



Supikoira teki ennätyspitkän riiuureissun Lapissa

Seurantapantaa kantava supikoira on taivaltanut Lapissa yli tuhat kilometriä puolisoa etsien. Otus ylitti itärajan, mutta palasi takaisin Suomeen.

KARI LINDHOLM

KEMINMAA

"Siitoin, kun supikoirakanta on vähäinen, ne voivat etsiä puolisoa uskomattoman kaukaa", Pohjoismaisen supikoirahankkeen kenttämestari **Juha Mäkimartti** Kemimaalta kertoo.

Mäkimartin viime keväänä gps-seurantälähettimellä pannoittama supikoira on tähän mennessä patikoitunut reilun tuhannen kilometrin matkan.

"Otus tepsutteli kesän aikana Kemimaalta Kainuuseen Suomussalmelle, josta se ylitti itärajan ja pistäytyi mutkan Venäjällä Pääjärven länsirannalla."

Muutaman viikon ulkomaanvisiitin jälkeen pantasupi päätti palata takaisin Suomeen, ja matka jatkui Kuusamon korkeudelta Rovaniemen ja Posion rajamaille Auttjärvelle.

"Venäjälle on takavuosina loikkanut neljä muutakin supikoira, mutta kyllä ne sille tiellä jäivät, ja seurantapannat lakkasivat toimimasta."

Lapissa matkaa tahtaa parhaillaan toinenkin supervaeltaja, sillä Ruotsin Nikkalassa pannoitettu supikoira on taivaltanut kesän aikana Kittilään ja sieltä edelleen Kolarin Sieppijärvelle.

Mäkimartti toteaa, että leuto alkutalvi on pitänyt supikoirat liikkeellä poikkeuksellisen pitkään. Lajin edustajat vetäytyvät



Pohjoismaisessa supikoirahankkeessa paltsi metsätetään supikoiria, myös seurataan niiden liikkumista maastossa. Kuvassa Juha Mäkimartti ja Susanna Mäkimartti pannoittavat supikoiraa gps-seurantalähettimeitä.

"Tulostakin on saatu aikaan, sillä maastossa on tällä hetkellä ennätysvähän supikoiria."

JUHA MÄKIMARTTI

talvihorrokselle vasta, kun keli kylmenee riittävästi. "Talvien lyhentymisen on auttanut supikoiraa levittämään Pohjois-Lappiin, ja kauimmaisat havainnot on tehty Inarissa."

Juha Mäkimartti on seurannut supikoirien liikkeitä työksensä lähes parinkymmenen vuoden verran.

"Kun tätä hommaa aloitettiin, Lapin supikoirakanta oli voimistumassa, eivätkä riiuureissut olleet silloin pitkiä. Lajikumppanit löydettiin lähialueelta."

Suomen riistakeskuksen vetämän supikoirahankkeen tarkoituksena on estää tämän haitallisen vieraslajin leviäminen Ruotsiin ja Norjaan, joissa niitä ei juurikaan esiinny.

Torjuntatyössä on mukana satoja lappilaisia metsästäjiä, jotka poistavat suveja elävänä

pyytävien loukkujen ja metsästyskoirien avulla. Suveja on myös ammuttu haaskalta.

Mäkimartin mukaan loukkuja on valmistettu hankkeen aikana kymmenittäin joka vuosi ja lisäksi pyynnissä on myös metsästäjien hankkimia loukkuja.

"Puhutaan varmaan jo tuhansista loukuista. Tulostakin on saatu aikaan, sillä maastossa on tällä hetkellä ennätysvähän supikoiria."

Oviun ja Lapin maakuntien alueelta on löydetty viime kesän ja syksyn aikana vain parikymmentä supikoirapentuet-

ta, jotka nekin on poistettu vahvuudesta.

Mäkimartti huomauttaa, että supikoira on erittäin voimakas lisääntyjä, ja tästä syystä pyynnissä ei kannata pitää taukoja.

"Metsästäjät saattavat kylästä pyyntiin, jos saalista ei tule, mutta loukut on hyvä pitää viireessä."

Elävänä pyytävät loukut pitää kokea päivittäin. NykYTEKNIikka on tullut loukkupyytäjien avuksi, ja loukkujen laukeamista voi seurata sähköisen loukkuilmaisimen avulla etänä.

Hankkeen aikana on hankittu lukuisia määrä riistakameroina, joilla supikoirien liik-

keitä seurataan. "Puhelimeen on kilahdellut viestejä keskellä yötäkin, kun koiraharrastajat ilmoittavat saalista."

Supikoira julistettiin haitalliseksi vieraslajiksi yhdessä villiminkin ja piisamin kanssa vuonna 2019, eikä näiden tappaminen edellytä metsästyskorttia.

Supikoiran tiedetään uhkaavan rauhoitettuja kahlaajia ja sammakkoeläimiä sekä maassa pesiviä taantuneita sorsakan-

toja. Supi kantaa ja levittää muun muassa rabiasta, ekinokkia, trikiiniä ja kettukapia.

