Agriculture and the protected areas Nordic-Baltic perspective

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No agriculture in Yellowstone…

Original National Park concept of 1872 excluded agriculture from the protected areas

All over the world National Parks started to be created with similar ideology. Europe got its first National Parks in 1909 in Sweden Ängsö – „meadows island“

Need to continue mowing and grazing understood in 1930-40ies

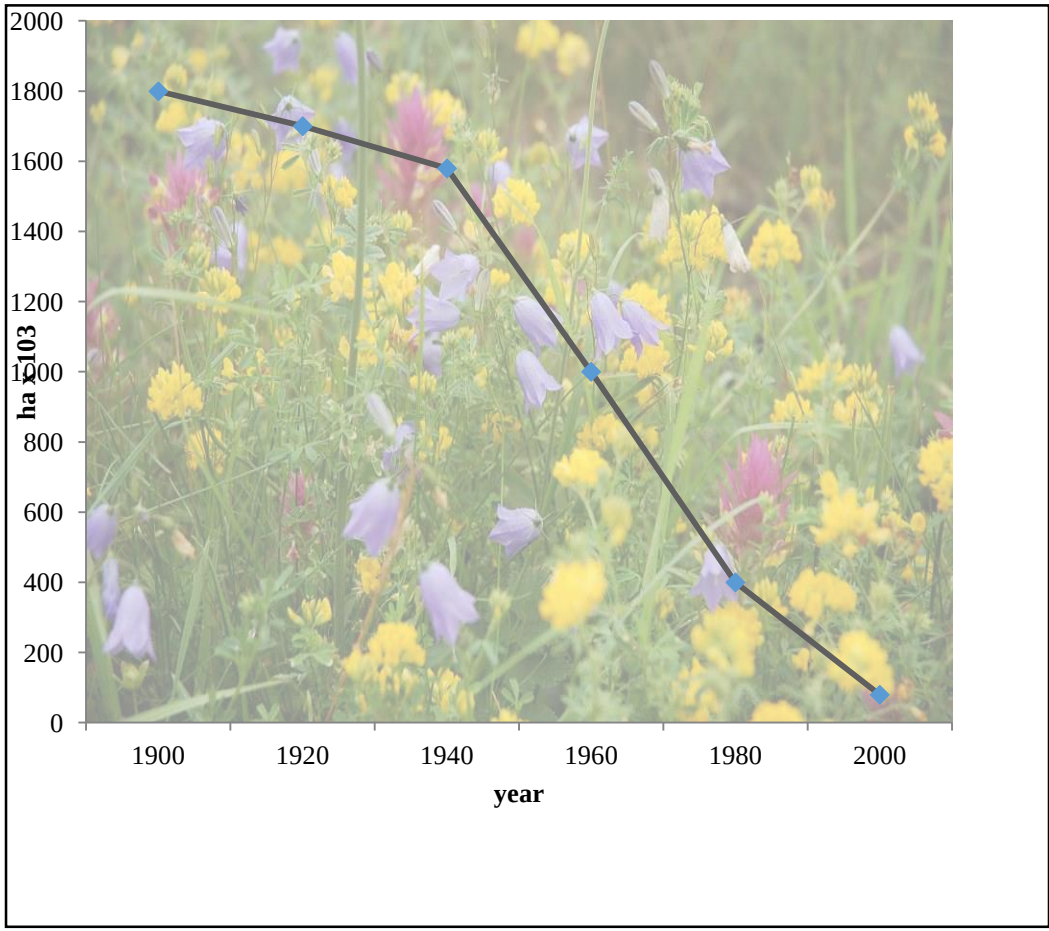
The idea of need for traditional extensive agriculture for meadow management have been spread in Nordic-Baltic countries

Estonia

Vaika islets 1910 – first protected area, banning of traditional use

Matsalu NP - traditional grazeing and mowing in nature conservation aspect was accepted with management plan in 1994 with support Swedesh WWF

Many LIFE Projects followed



WWF Väinameri project

Project goals

Maintenance of biodiversity by sustainable use of natural resources

Restoration of semi-natural grasslands

- Establishment of beef cattle stocks
- Securing of production lines
- Setting up of model grazing areas
- Training of cattle farmers
- Study visits
- Indicator species (birds/plants)

Development of handicraft

- Use of wool, reed, wood
- Training of craftsmen
- Improved marketing
- Study visits

Development of local tourism

- Strengthening the natural and cultural values in the area
- Training of tourism entrepreneurs
- Improved marketing
- Study visits

Modern times scaling up

Since the turn of millennium national scheme of N2000 semi-natural meadow and pasture management – task 40 000 ha for 2020

Since 2007 support for semi-natural meadows and pastures is a sub-measure of agri-environmental measure under Rural Develpment Plan

Restoration of meadows and pastures are paid from national budget or different Project support

Some Nordic and Baltic seminatural habitats dependent on grazing or mowing in EU habitats directive

1630 Coastal meadows

6210 Seminatural dry grasslands on calcareous substrates

6270 *Fennoscandian lowland species-rich dry to mesic grasslands

6280*Nordic alvars and precambrian calcareous flatrocks

6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils

6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities

- 6450 Northern boreal alluvial meadows
- 6510 Lowland hay meadows
- **6530 *Fennoscandian wooded meadows**
- 9070 Fennoscandian wooded pastures

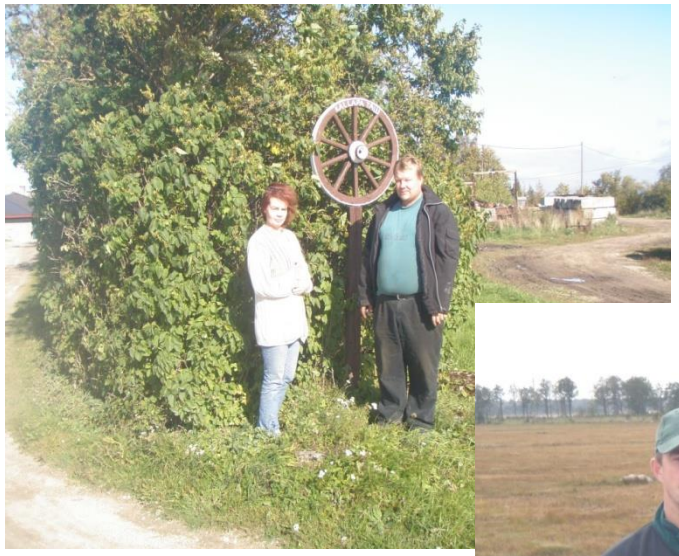
Species affected by overgrowth

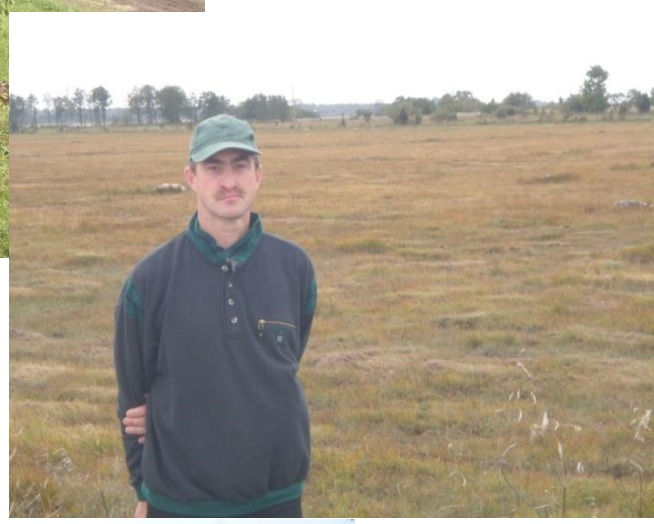
Waders: Baltic Dunlin, Avocet, Ruff, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Lapwing, Corncrake

Geese, Raptors, Amphibians (e.g. Natterjack Toad)

- Orchids, Moths e

Farming that supports natural values, especially biodiversity





- Semi-natural habitats that without periodic disturbance would change into shrub/forest or reed-bed

- Species that depend on these habitats or sometimes also directly on the agricultural activities

- Mosaic landscapes that include both semi-natural habitats, small arable fields and landscape elements like hedges, stone-walls, open ditches etc.
- It is also important for rural communities, and often small-scale

CAP – twin role

Support by agri-environmental measures undres RDPs can be sometimes very important

CAP direct payments (main part of the budget) however are discriminating against HNV agriculture:

Commission delegated regulation (EU) No 640/2014

Summing up

Semi-natural meadows and pastures are important part of biodiversity

It is also recognised by the Habitats directive

It can be supported by agri-environmental payments

It is however discriminated by other parts of CAP

HNV farming needs better support

National award for environmental action 2016 for meadow manager