DEVELOPING THE FENNOSCANDIAN GREEN BELT IN SOUTH-EAST FINLAND

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Why GB in South-East Finland?

- South-East Finland = GAP of biodiversity and habitat protection
  - Protected forest lands 0.35%, extensive forestry & centre of paper and pulp mill industry, peatland drainage 60-85% -loss of diversity
  - GAP-analysis in NW Russia (Karelian Isthmus & Ladoga Karelia): lack of existing protected areas but several planned + wide areas of intact forest tracts & landscapes, salmon spawning rivers

- Conservation values exist!
  - Unique Forest-Wetland-Stream-Lake mosaics retain biodiversity values and potential for restoration; urgent need for ecological corridors utilizing river channel networks
    - Taiga protection activities by NGOs
SE-Finland conservation values connected to the conservation needs in the Russian side:

“The second priority is to protect intact forest landscapes in the southern boreal forest sub-zone which are characterized by highly productive forest types maintaining especially high biodiversity.”
Il Salpausselkä, salmonid rivers, wetland-stream-lake mosaics, Siberian Jay

I Salpausselkä mires, salmonid rivers
GB SE-Finland with counterparts in GAP of NW-Russia (Kobyakov & Jakovlev 2013), examples

1: Gulf of Finland National Park><planned Ingermanland Strict Nature Reserve,

2: River Urpalanjoki
3: River Hiitolanjoki,
4: Ladogian Karelia zone-Karelian Pyhäjärvi
2. River Urpalanjoki

**Finland**: extensive restoration activities (sea trout, stream habitat), connectivity to the mire area of the southern I Salpausselkä area, **Russia**: salmonid spawning, intact forest tracts/landscapes, also mires?
3. River Hiitolanjoki

**Finland**: restoration activities pending (Lake Ladoga salmon), connectivity to the mosaics of old-growth forests (Haarikko-Saarijärvi, Lohikoski State Forest area), streams and lakes, **Russia**: connectivity to the planned Ladoga skerries National Park + salmonid spawning and intact forest regions and planned zakaznik Karelsky Forest.
3: River Hiitolanjoki, 
4: Ladogian Karelia zone-Karelian Pyhäjärvi
Forest-wetland-stream-lake–MOSAIC in the Haarikko-Saarijärvi region, northernmost part of the Hiitolanjoki river basin
4. Ladogian Karelia zone and Pyhäjärvi region

Finland: lush deciduous forest zone, Siikalahti nature reserve, border lakes Russia: connectivity to the planned Iso Iijärvi complex landscape zakaznik, Hiitolanjoki river area & planned Ladogan skerries NP
3: River Hiitolanjoki, 4: Ladogian Karelia zone-
Karelian Pyhäjärvi
**Actions: developing GB in SE-Finland**

- **Conservation:** voluntary/METSO funding + state acts
  - Large areas priority: forest companies/state
    - e.g. UPM Kymmene, Tornator: Haarikko-Saarijärvi, municipalities, state: Lohikoski region,
  - Smaller areas: marketing programme (private landowners) focus on hot spots

- **Land use planning**
  - Overall plan of the special needs of the ecological zones & connectivity to the SW-Russia GAP sites

- **Propagation of continuous cover forestry**

- **Habitat restoration projects**
  - Focus on forest-wetland-stream-lake –mosaics, especially riparian corridors along channel networks
List of some key GB targets

- Gulf of Finland National Park + other eastern islands
- Mire/bog/morass areas
  - south from Salpausselkä I, incl. Konnunsoo
  - North from Salpausselkä II, incl. Eräjärvi-Kemppilä mire area
  - Tohmajoensuo-Rillinki
- Forest areas: Lohikoski State forest, Haarikko-Saarijärvi & other forest-wetland-stream/lake mosaics
- Border rivers: Vaalimaanjoki, Urpalanjoki, Vilajoki, Rakkolanjoki, Mustajoki, Vuoksi, Helisevänjoki, Hiitolanjoki, Suonpääänjoki
- Border lakes: Pukalusj., Nuijamaanj., Tyrrjänj., Pyhäjärvi
Sposibo!

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K-M Vuori

Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto