



## Recent trends in nature conservation

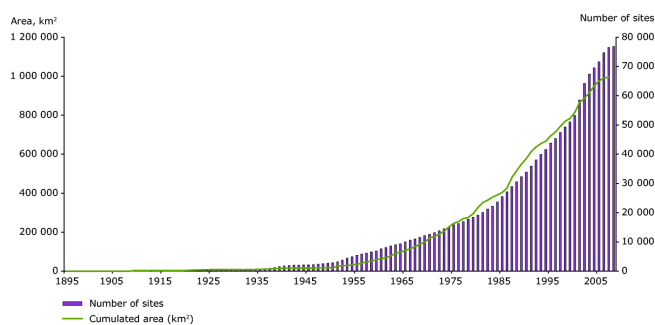
Kaja Peterson  
SEI Tallinn  
28 May 2010



[www.seit.ee](http://www.seit.ee)

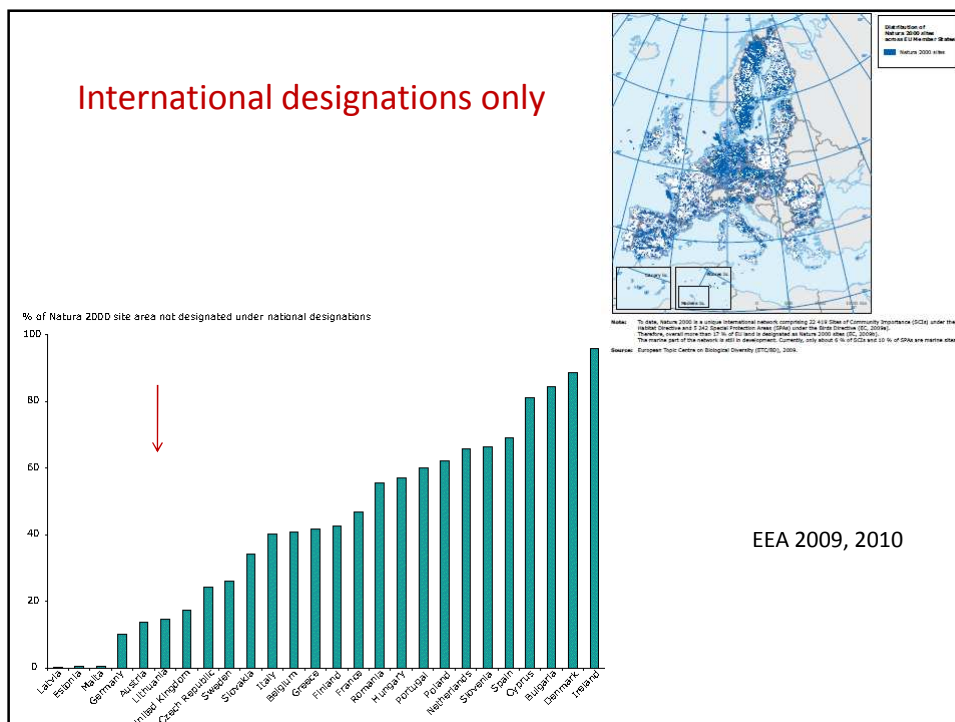
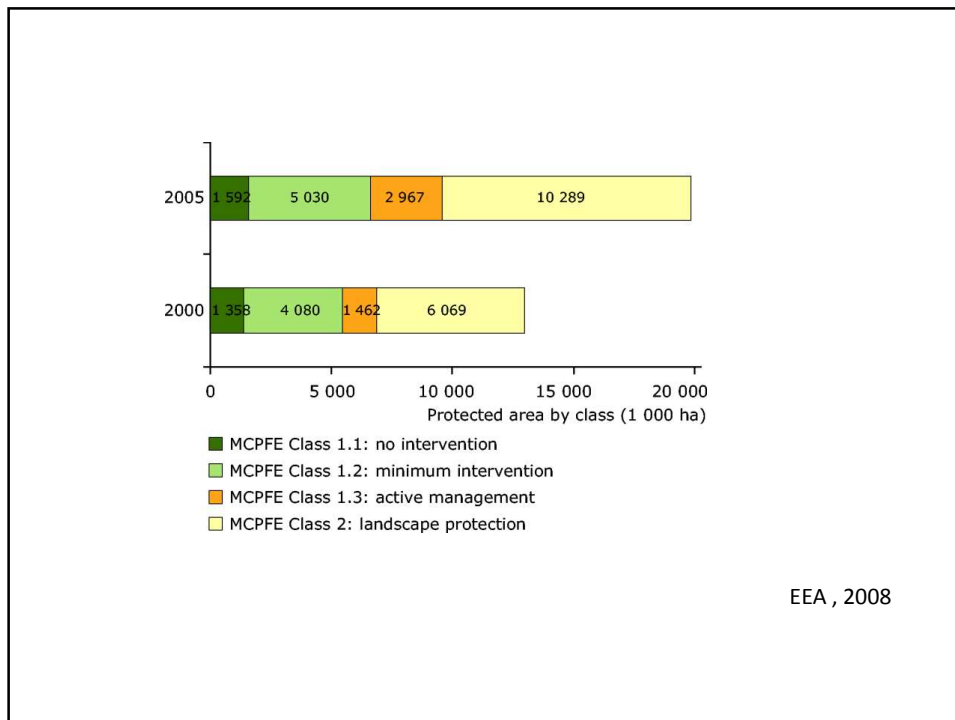


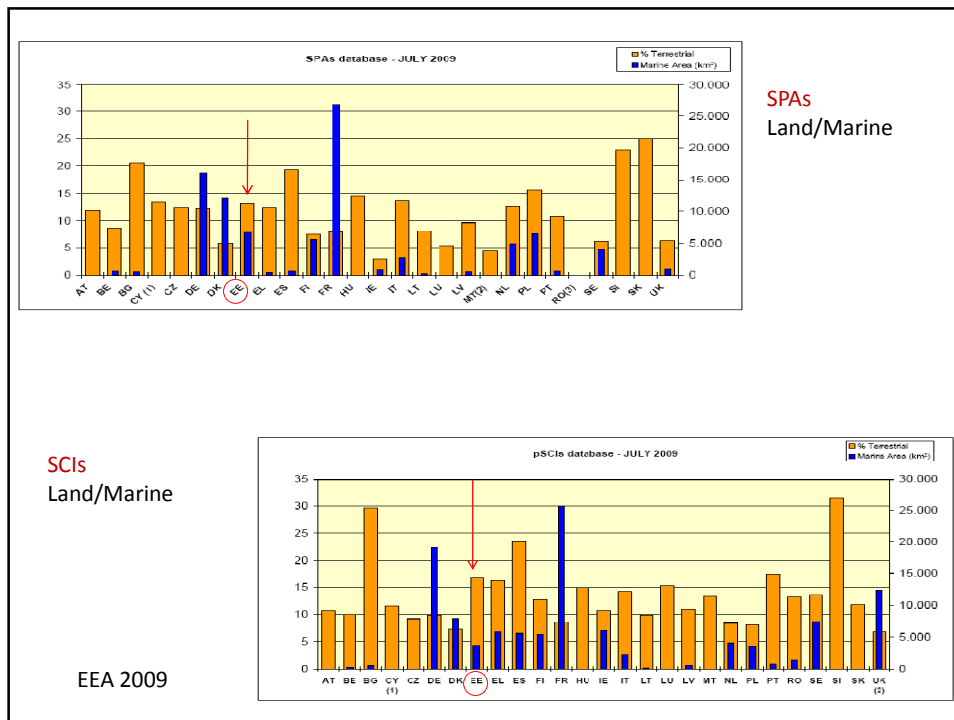
Number of sites increases but  
not in pace with area increase



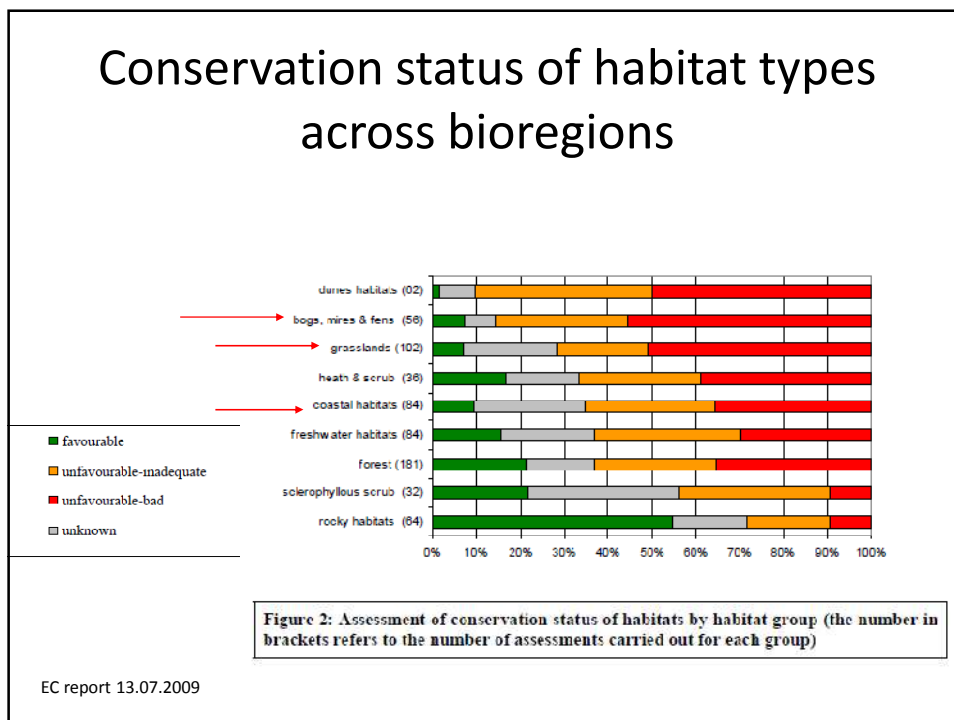
EEA 2009

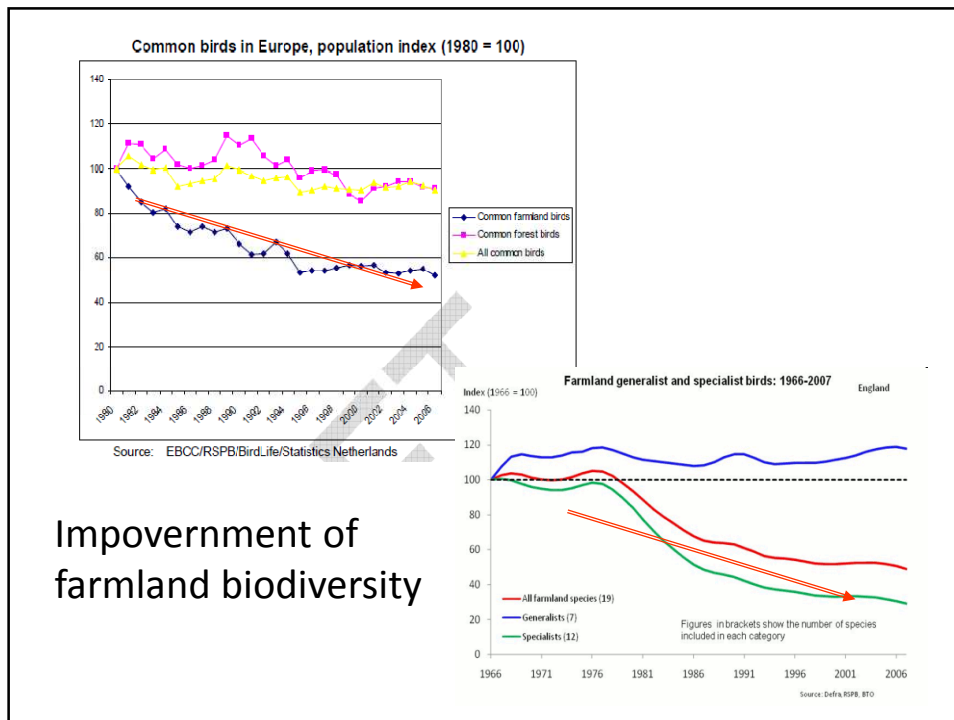
In 2007, the total number of sites for 39 European countries  
in the Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA) was  
76 876, with a combined surface of 994 550 km<sup>2</sup>



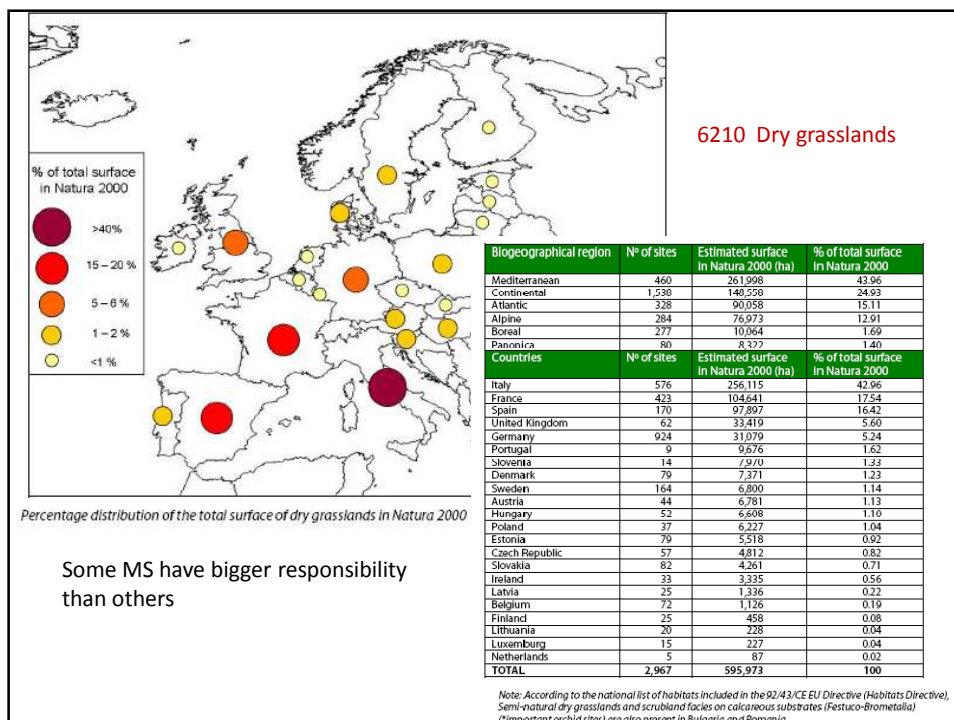


## Conservation status of habitat types across bioregions

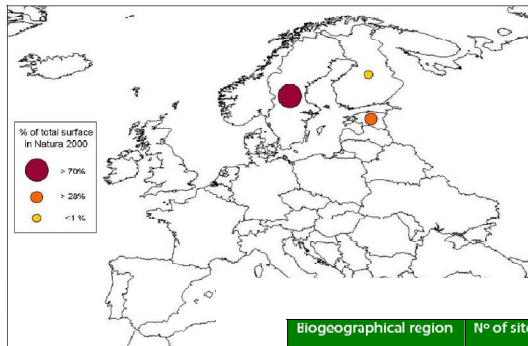




Impoverishment of  
 farmland biodiversity



## Estonia has special responsibility for semi-natural habitats



Percentage distribution of the total surface 2000.

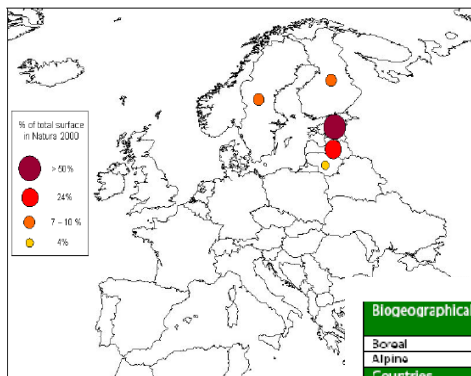
6280\* Nordic alvars

71% Sweden  
 28% Estonia  
 1% Finland

Biogeographical region	N° of sites	Estimated surface in Natura 2000 (ha)	% of total surface in Natura 2000
Continental	2	16,145	62.0
Boreal	153	9,893	38.0
Countries	N° of sites	Estimated surface in Natura 2000 (ha)	% of total surface in Natura 2000
Sweden	71	18,475	70.9
Estonia	66	7,323	28.1
Finland	18	240	1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>26,038</b>	<b>100</b>

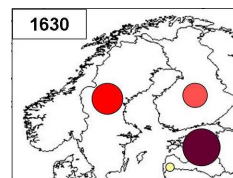
Note: 123 (79.3%) of the 155 sites belong to the Nordic alvar subtype (see below), including the two sites in the Continental region, making a total of 25,682 ha (98.5%) with 57 sites in Sweden 18,359 ha and all sites in Estonia. All sites in Finland and 14 sites in Sweden belong to the Precambrian bed/rock subtype.

## Estonia has special responsibility for semi-natural habitats



Percentage distribution of the total surface of Boreal alluvial meadows in Natura

1630\* Coastal meadows  
 67% Estonia



6450 Alluvial meadows  
 54.7% Estonia

Biogeographical region	N° of sites	Estimated surface in Natura 2000 (ha)	% of total surface in Natura 2000
Boreal	174	27,022	60.5
Alpina	6	144	0.5
Countries	N° of sites	Estimated surface in Natura 2000 (ha)	% of total surface in Natura 2000
Estonia	67	15,348	54.7
Latvia	26	6,639	23.7
Finland	29	2,839	10.1
Sweden	45	2,169	7.7
Lithuania	13	1,051	3.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>26,066</b>	<b>100</b>

100 yrs of Estonian nature conservation system				
Law	No of areas	Categories of areas	Administrative structure & management	No of staff
<b>1910</b> <i>Rental contract</i>	1	Bird sanctuary of the Vaika Islands	Academic association "Riga Nature Conservation Society"	1
<b>1935</b> <b>First law</b>	5+	Bird sanctuary, curative seamud area, forest sanctuary	1935-1940: State administration of parks ( <i>Riigiparkide Valitsus</i> )	?
<b>1957</b>	1957: 47 protected areas (sh 4 on-site admin) 1971: 1st NP adm 1981: 30 bog-areas	Nature cons areas; permanent and temporary restricted access areas, natural heritage objects, nature objects 1971: First NP (Lahemaa)	1957-1962: Nature Protection Admin ( <i>Looduskaitse Valitsus</i> ); 1962-1966: Forestry and Nat Prot Directorate ( <i>Metsamajja LK Peavalitsus</i> ); 1966-1988: Ministry of Forestry and Nat Prot ( <i>Metsamajja LK minist</i> ); 1988-1990: Committee of Nat Prot and Forestry ( <i>LK ja Metsamaj Komitee</i> )	Less than 100?
<b>1990</b>	1990: MAP Biosphere res 1991: 62 protected areas	1 NP, NCA, Biosphere reserve	<b>1990:</b> Ministry of the Environment+ on-site administrations+ MIA county administrations	Ca 100
<b>1994</b>	1996: 226 protected areas 2000: 318 protected areas	4NP, NCA, LPA, single natural objects; species, minerals, a.o.	MoE+ MIA county administrations+on-site admin; <b>2000:</b> MoE county env boards+ 31 on-site administrations	400?
<b>2004</b>	+509 SCI and +66 SPA (Natura 2000)	343 Protection areas ( <i>hoiuala</i> ), 1038 permanent habitats, 5 NP, 131 NCA, 148 LPA, 11 local areas, 531+66 Natura sites, 1203 single natural objects;	<b>2006:</b> MoE county env boards+ Nature Conservation Centre in 8 regions	~200?
<b>2010</b>	Over 3500 objects, incl <b>over 750 protected areas</b>	'green network'	<b>2009:</b> National Environmental Board in 6 regions+ State Forest Management Centre (RMK)	<b>220+</b>

## Status of nature conservation administration in Estonia today

- High level of ITC tools
- Cross utilisation of registers and databases
- Information publicly available X-GIS format
- Single organisation – National Environmental Board in 6 regions, 'easy system'

BUT...

## Conservation status of species and habitats in Estonia 2007

Status of Species

Unknown	26	26,8
Favourable	23	23,7
Insufficient	41	42,3
Unfavourable	7	7,2
	97	100

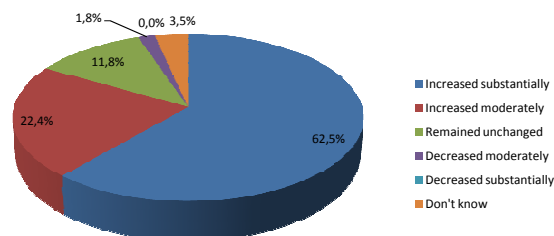
Status of Habitas

25	41.7 Favourable
19	31.7 Insufficient
9	15.0 Unfavourable
7	11.7 Unknown
60	100 %

*Ministry of the Environment , 2007*

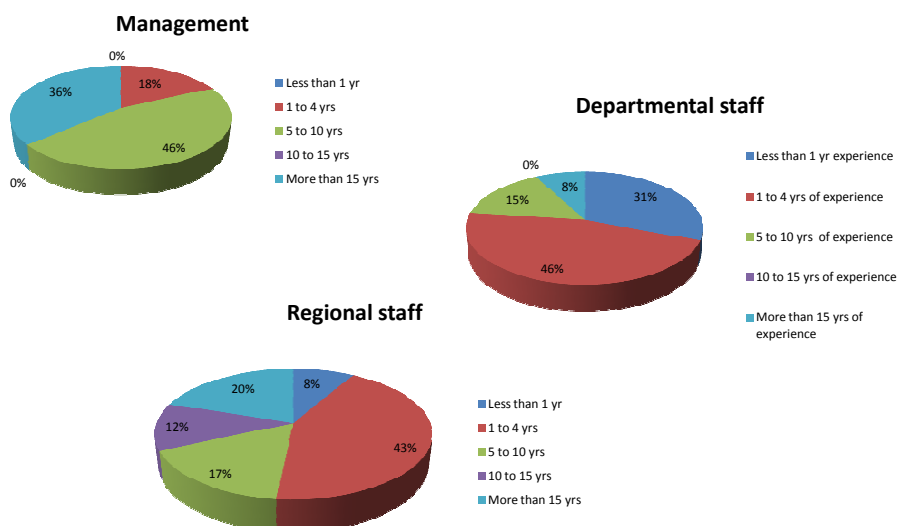
## Substantial increase of office work

Office work has...



K. Peterson, 2010

## Working experience in nature conservation has become short

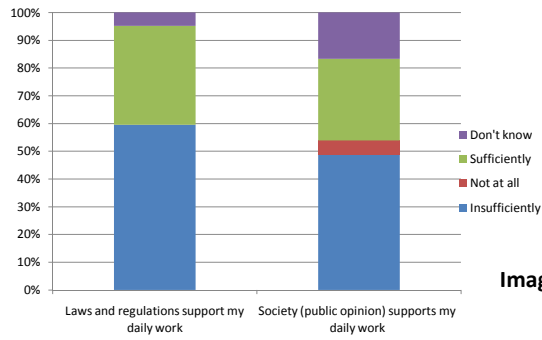


## Outcome of administrative reforms in 2006-2009

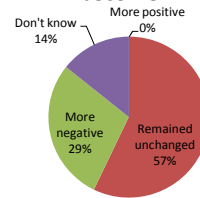
- 2/3 of staff 1 to 4 years of experience in nature conservation
- Office (indoor) management
- Extensively based on ITC tool application, less checks in the field
- More paperwork than personal communication with land owners
- Distancing from (local) people
- Resulting in 'we' and 'others'



## Support to nature conservation efforts

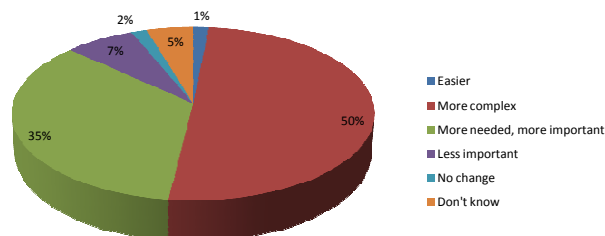


### Image of nature conservation has become...



K. Peterson, 2010

## Nature conservation is becoming ... more complex and more important



K. Peterson, 2010

## Conclusions

- Since natural areas as a resource is depleting, ie limited possibility to expand protected area system in Europe, other concepts and measures need to be applied
- Biodiversity conservation should not matter to designated administrations only but it should matter to the whole society
- Society cannot afford to be divided into nature conservationists and 'others'
- People should become engaged in nature management decisions and implementation, i.e. inclusive management at local level need to be applied



Thank you for your attention!

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