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## Project site fact sheet

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### **EE-27: Linaküla-Sääreküla**

SPA: EE0040346; SCI: EE0040313

Protection status: Linaküla-Sääreküla coastal meadow is part of Kihnu limited conservation area (Kihnu hoiuala)

#### Habitats:

Coastal lagoons 1150\*

Boreal coastal meadows 1630\*

Dunes 2120 and 2130\*

Juniperus communis formations on heaths and calcareous grasslands 5130

#### Animals:

*Calidris alpina schinzii*

*Philomachus pugnax*

*Limosa limosa*

*Bufo calamita*

#### Site description

The project area of Linaküla-Sääreküla beholds 76 ha of coastal meadows in Kihnu island, SW of Estonia in Pärnu Bay of Baltic Sea. The project area is located on the Northernmost coast of the island, whereas the coastal meadows spread also in the other coasts of the island. Though only the Northern and North-Western coastal meadows are the ones that are best preserved whereas the meadows in southern and eastern coast are more overgrown with juniper and reed.

The project area is in private ownership and the ownership is divided between around 50 land land units and around the same amount of landowners. This means that there is many stakeholders needed to be involved into the management of the coastal meadow.

The tradition of Kihnu island is a part of UNESCO Intangible heritage and the aging island community indeed is living a traditional life. Among other things, this means that landowners have very strong ownership feeling towards their land and very often people leave areas unmanaged rather than give it to someone else to use. Still at the present date large part of the project area is managed by Kihnu Management company (Kihnu Majanduse OÜ).

Project will work to improve the favourable status of the valuable habitats and species of the area. This will be achieved through combination of appropriate management – restoration and grazing. Local community will be involved into nature conservation to sustain the ongoing management also in the future.

#### Project idea

Linaküla-Sääreküla coastal lagoon habitat complex was grazed by sheep and some single cows before the project started. While the grazing pressure was sufficient to keep the semi-natural communities open, various rare wader species, *Calidris alpina schinzii* and *Philomachus pugnax* in particular, were still witnessing a decline in their numbers, despite constant grazing.

As the area is one of the best *Calidris alpina schinzii* and *Philomachus pugnax* nesting areas in Estonia, taking action was needed to maintain the valuable habitat for the birds.

Actions

Purchase of cattle

Increase of the total area managed

Increase of the quality of the management

Restoration of natural depressions

Raising awareness of the local people and wider audience

More information:

Keskkonnaamet Pärnu-Viljandi region, [www.keskkonnaamet.ee](http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee)