

29: Teorehe

29.1 Change of the site by project activities:

During the project planning period the management of Teorehe coastal lagoon habitat complex had just started and the first hectares of coastal meadows had been taken out from the extensive reed bed. With the help of the project the managed area has expanded to 113,8 ha. The project helped with building of fences, removal of unwanted vegetation and removal of bushes and junipers from the meadow.

The project has had a strong effect also to the management quality. In 2005 the grazed areas were managed with very low grazing pressure and in the areas that were mowed sometimes the hay was left behind. In the present moment the grazing density is sufficient in most of the area and only in some parts the density should be higher (dairy cattle is used in that area, but the effort is continuously made to convince the manager to use more efficient beef cattle).

Restoration of lagoons (restoring sea water inflow and purification of water bodies from extensive reed beds and sediments) has had a good effect on the ecosystems (lagoons are fast inhabited by characteristic invertebrates and bird fauna).

Restoration interventions have also had strong effect on the target species, dunlin has been breeding in the area after restoration.

29.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

Management plan approved

Continuous improvement in management

29.3 Public perception:

As said before in 3.1 the project has had a strong effect on the management quality, which is partially influenced by the better awareness about the value specific management requirements among land managers.

In addition the project has contributed to the awareness rising among local children. There has been performed several guided tours to get acquainted with the nature values of coastal habitats.



Figure 1 Teorehe site in 2006



Figure 2 Teorehe site in 2009



Figure 3 Purification of lagoons (removal of reed and sediments)

In addition to the involvement of local community the project has also raised wider awareness on coastal meadow management with organizing work camps in cooperation with Estonian Fund for Nature. The participants of the camps come all over Estonia, during a weekend they work for the site and hear why the area has to be protected and what kind of management is needed for the protection values. In Teorehe project site there has been 1 such work camp. An information panel has been set up, where project and the value of the habitats is explained.



Figure 4 Guided tour in Matsalu NP to get acquainted with the nature values of coastal habitats.