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## Project site fact sheet

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### **EE-30: Kõrgessaare-Mudaste**

SPA: EE0040130; SCI: EE0040122

Protection status: Kõrgessaare- Mudaste project site is part of Kõrgessaare- Mudaste special conservation area (Kõrgessaare- Mudast hoiuala).

#### Habitats:

Coastal lagoons -1150\*

Large shallow inlets and bays -1160

Boreal Baltic islets and small islands -1620

Boreal coastal meadows - 1630\*

Juniperus communis formations on heaths and calcareous grasslands – 5130

Nordic alvar and precambrian calcereous flatrocks - 6280\*

Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels – 6430

#### Animals:

Coastal meadows of Kootsaare are relatively rich in bird species. In spring 2007 total number of 18 species of nesting birds was registered. Most numerous of them were skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Common gull (*Larus canus*), Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). Of the nesting bird species of Coastal lagoons are most remarkable Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) Western Marsh-harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) and Common Crane (*Grus grus*). According to data of 2009 bird count, most common nesting birds on the project areas were Common Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*) - 13 couples and Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) – 14 couples. There were also 8 couples of Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), 3 couples of Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) and 1 couple of Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*).

Latest records of Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*) seen and heard are from the beginning of 1990's. In 1995 there were 3 individuals registered in Allikjärv. *Bufo calamita* was last heard in 2001. Monitoring carried out in 2007 did not confirm existence of *Bufo calamita* in the area.

#### Site description

Project area situates on northwest coast of Estonia's second biggest island. Area protected with European Union habitat's directive lies on 657 hectares. Most widespread are the coastal meadows (ca 250 ha) and coastal lagoons (more than 200 ha), which are in fact habitats of first priority. Coastal lagoons are important for waterfowl as well as birds of coastal habitats. Likewise have the lagoons been an important area for spawning fishes.

#### Project idea

Coastal meadows of the project area are overgrowing or have already overgrown. Project tries to stop the overgrowing process by restoring the overgrown areas and maintain the current coastal meadows. It is very important to co-operate with local landowners on the project area of Kõrgessaare-Mudaste. Actions of first priority are grazing, cutting of tree and bush cover and reedbeds. As one action of the project a management plan is compiled, which determines specific management actions for next 10 years.

#### More information:

Hiiu-Lääne-Saare region of Estonian Environmental Board: [www.keskkonnaamet.ee](http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee)