

30: Kõrgessaare-Mudaste

30.1 Change of the site by project activities:

Before the project started the coastal meadows of the project area were overgrowing or already overgrown. Project set a goal to stop the overgrowing process by restoring the overgrown areas and maintain the current coastal meadows. The project targeted an area of 150 ha from a protected area of 657 ha.



Figure 1 Kõrgessaare-Mudaste project site is a large protected area from which the project targets about 150 ha of coastal meadows

The project has removed unwanted vegetation to increase the managed areas from 26 ha (2005) to 180 ha (in 2011). This has been done by project measures (restoration interventions, purchase of sheep and building of fences) as well as encouragement of site managers (restoration has been done by their own cost).



Figure 2 Work camp in Kõrgessaare-Mudaste in 2008

30.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

- Management plan approved
- Continuous improvement in management

30.3 Public perception:

Local people are involved to the management of the site and know the management demands. Still some landowners are not in favour of the protected area and need to be convinced to expand the management to a larger area.

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



Figure 3 Removal of juniper

what kind of management is needed for the protection values. In Kõrgessaare-Mudaste project site there has been 2 such work camps where junipers were removed from the coastal meadow.

An information panel has been set up, where project and the value of the habitats is explained.