Species management in Estonia
Challenges and strategies



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All species are equal, but some species are more equal than others...

Species conservation categories are defined by national Nature Coservation Law

I category: Rare species with limited distribution in certain habitats whereas human influence pose a risk of further decrease of population. Extinction of such species is very likely if the threats do not cease

II category: Species that are comparatively rare and are vulnerable to overexploitation or loss of habitat. Current environmental conditions can lead to endangered status in future

III category : Species which are sensitive to changes in habitat and have suffered significant loss in their populations, also species that have formerly been in higher categories but protective measures have improved their conservation status.

Management plan

- Analysis of significant environmental factors
- Aims of conservation, relevant actions and priorities
- Budget

- General aim – favourable conservation status

Criteria of choice

- I category species not involved in other conservation schemes or areas
- Species in II or III protection categories which need additional conservation or management measures
- Species subject to international interest, agreements or conventions (large carnivores)
- Species living in habitats which are exposed to human influence

Birds – 8 species







Plants – 7 species





Mammals – 5 species





An amphibian



A leach



Large carnivores





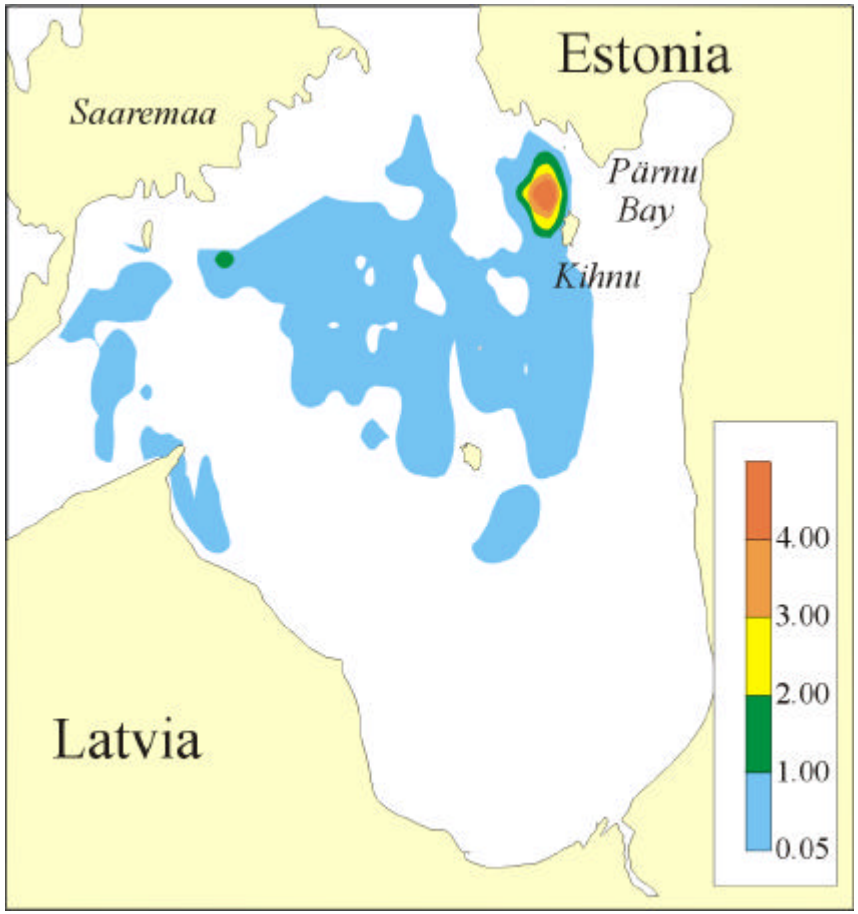
Success and failure

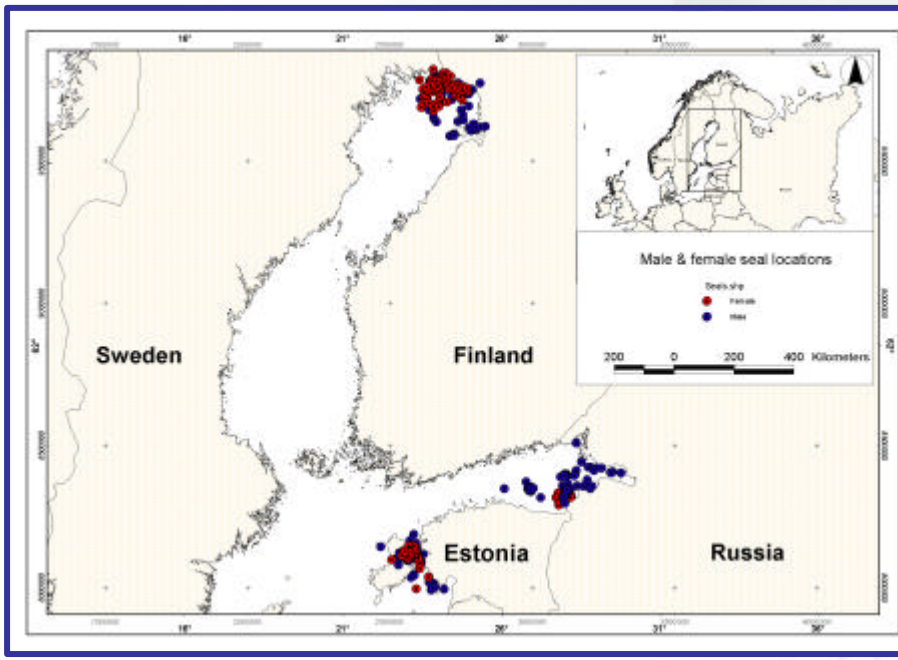
- 36% of management plans fulfilled according to initial setup
- 55% are fulfilled partially
- 9% are not active

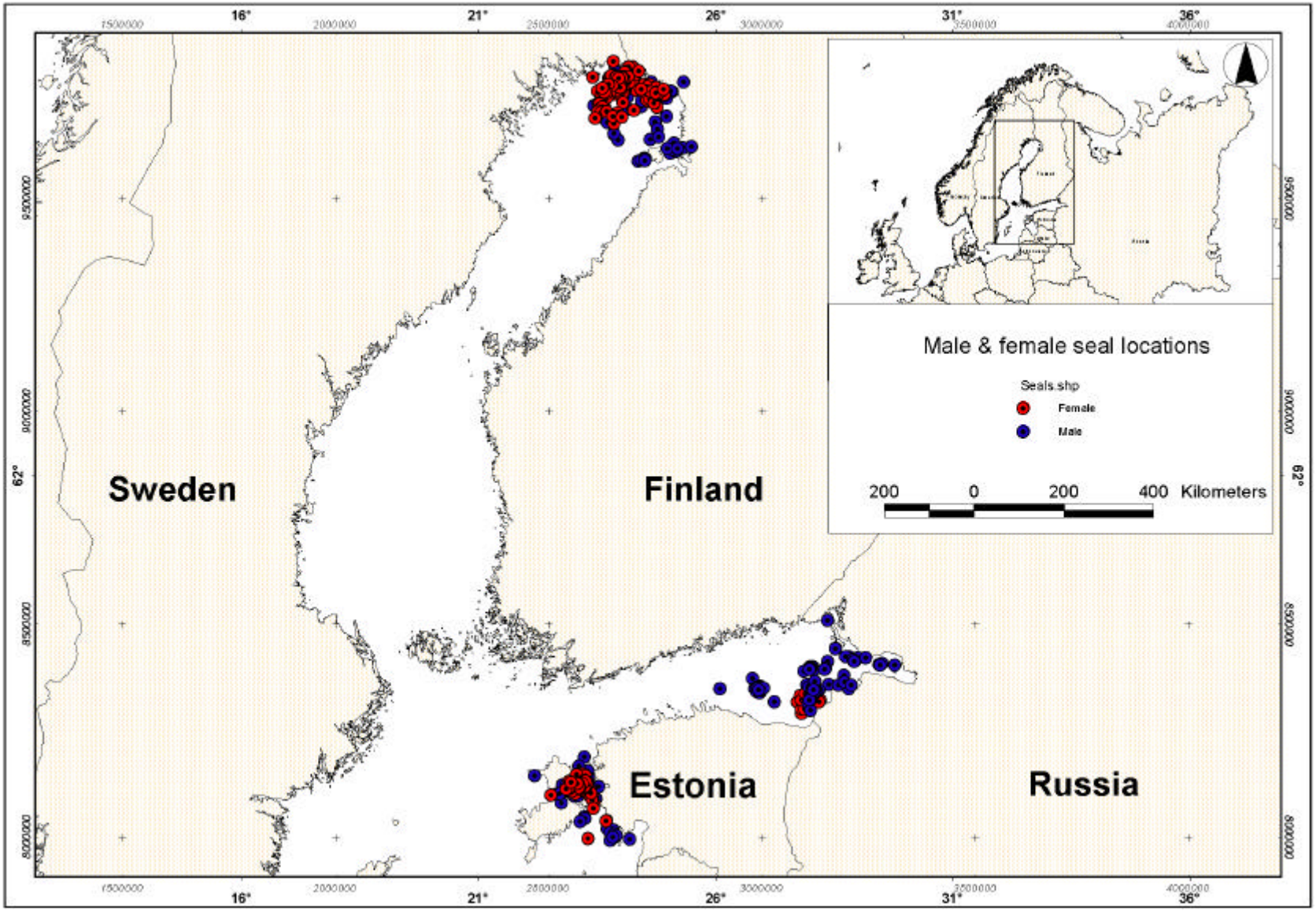
Reasons:

- Engine and fuel
- Wholes are greater than the sum of their parts

Seals, just an example






Sweden
Finland
Estonia
Russia
Male & female seal locations
Seals.shp
Female
Male
200 0 200 400 Kilometers
16°
21°
26°
31°
36°
62°

Perspectives

- Knowledge is power – adequate applied research and inventories
- Steaming up the engine
- Competence centres and efficient transfer of information is basis for successful biodiversity conservation.
- Well informed people protect nature better than 140 pages of strategy