

Working plan for Raccoon Dog management in Finland for 2019

General

The Goal for 2019 in Finland is to continue the Actions of MIRDINEC project to prevent further invasion of Raccoon Dogs to Sweden and Norway.

The main actions of the project in Finland are operated by external contractor Juha Mäkimartti under 4-year framework contract. The services of Juha Mäkimartti will be purchased on basis of annual project budget.

During 2016-2017 it was found out that Raccoon Dogs had established to Valsörarna, a group of islands only 25 kilometers from Swedish Archipelago. The invasion of Raccoon Dog to Sweden over Kvarken on ice during cold winter is a real threat.

The main focus of project actions is

- 1) in Northern Finland to continue the good management in the area.
- 2) in Kvarken area, especially Korsholm archipelago, to decrease the risk of invasion through this potential corridor.



In Finland the following Actions for Raccoon Dog management will be carried out:

Continue the use of monitoring cameras/early warning system EWS to observe Raccoon Dog presence and to allow for rapid response by local voluntary hunters

Lapland

- Local voluntary hunters will be continuously trained to use the cameras and to rapidly respond to Raccoon Dog observations.
- The cameras will be set to best available sites based on local experience and information from GPS data of Judas animals.
- New cameras purchased to replace old broken equipment.

Valsörarna

- 2-4 solar-powered cameras set and active in Valsörarna to detect existing Raccoon Dogs
- 2-4 solar-powered cameras set and active at areas of each of the 4 hunting clubs in Korsholm archipelago to increase the Raccoon Dog hunting pressure at wider scale in the archipelago.

Continue the use of Judas animals and develop the method to be more cost effective

- The Judas animals are an effective way to eradicate individuals in low densities and the received data of the movements of animals is an important tool to inform people about the species and to motivate hunters for local action.

Lapland

- The objective is to have 10-15 active Judas animals in Finland and to have at least 5 collars in available for future use when collar change is needed.

Valsörarna/Korsholm archipelago

- Objective is to have 2 Judas animals to the area and recollaring of new animals as needed. Purpose is 1) increase the awareness of Raccoon Dog movements in the archipelago and 2) motivate hunters to manage Raccoon Dogs using Judas animal and gift-card reward.

Continued co-operative management and information activities with volunteer hunters

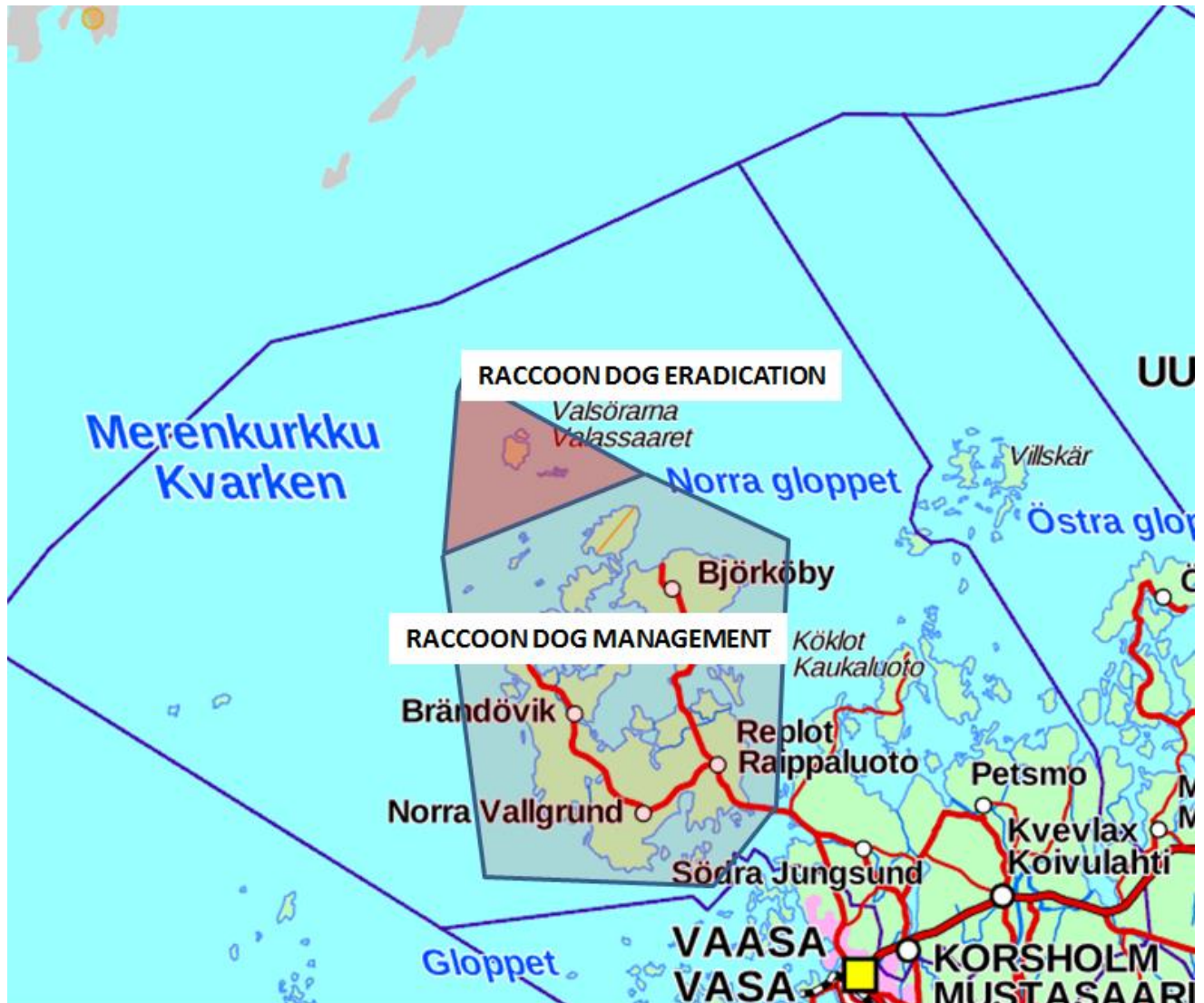
Lapland

- Education events will be organized to local hunters, hunting associations and interested general public about the Raccoon Dog and the methods to manage the population. The education work will be organized in co-operation with Swedish and Finnish field staff as seen appropriate. Events can be organized in all of Finnish Lapland and adjacent municipalities of Northern Ostrobothnia based on interest of hunters.
- Focus of the events is in the local level management/eradication of Raccoon Dogs with variety of hunting tactics.
- Objective of the action is to raise awareness and skills of hunters in terms of Raccoon Dog management/eradication.

Valsörarna

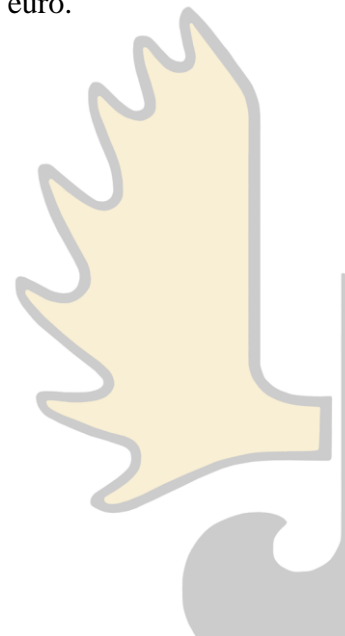
- Raccoon Dog management meeting(s) will be organized in the Korsholm archipelago. The objective is to keep local hunters organized to effective Raccoon Dog management in the whole

archipelago and to motivate and support skilled local hunters with good dogs to eradicate the Raccoon Dogs from Valsörarna.



The 'Gift-Card' campaign of 2015 -2018 will be continued.

- The idea of Gift-Card campaign is to motivate the hunter to report and return GPS-collars. This is a cost-effective way to increase hunting pressure and to retrieve the lost collars.
- It is estimated that 50 x 50 € card are needed for 2018, total of 2 500 euro.



Information about IAS and dissemination of project results

- The work and results of the project will be delivered to general public through different channels. Active media work especially in Lapland in Kvarken area.

Legal permissions

- Necessary legal derogations and permits will be applied to continue the effective management/eradication of Raccoon Dog.

Nordic reference group meetings 2019

- Finland will organize annual face-to-face meeting of the Nordic Reference Group for Invasive Alien Predators.
- Meeting is foreseen to be organized in March-April with a section of Raccoon Dog hunting demonstration and education.

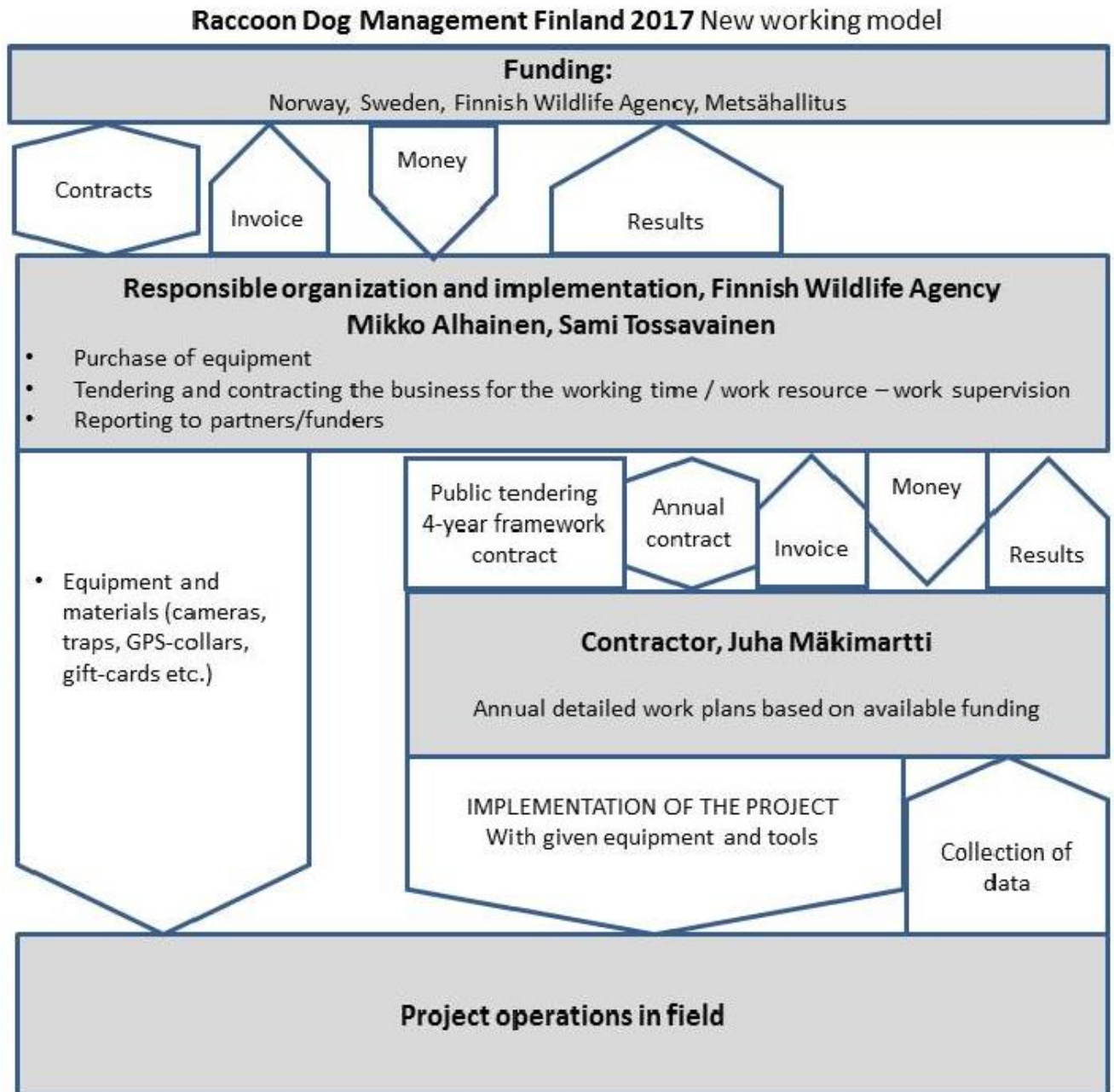
Key Working areas

- Tornio River Valley is the key working area of the project where Raccoon Dog numbers have been decreasing.
- The number of Raccoon Dog observations in Central Lapland has increased in recent years. Project will follow situation in Central and Eastern Lapland to prevent dispersal towards Norway
- Project funding permitting and depending on situation in Lapland and Kvarken, more focus is given to northernmost municipalities of Northern Ostrobothnia.
- Special focus area is Kvarken and specifically Korsholm archipelago and Valsörarna to prevent the invasion to Sweden over the Bothnian Bay.



Project administration

The project is coordinated by Finnish Wildlife Agency and field work outsourced to contractor Juha Mäkimartti.



Estimated costs and funding

To continue the project actions minimum of 170 000 euro is required to ensure effective working including the new strategic are of Valsörarna, special interest of Sweden.

Raccoon dog management in Finland 2019			
Estimated costs of materials and equipment.			
ANNUAL COSTS			
Cost item	€ piece/s et	Number needed	Total cost
1. Mission, Juha Mäkimartti to carry out project activities	8 000	10	80 000
2. Travel costs, estimated total	25 000	1	25 000
3. Equipment, traps, trap materials, scout cameras and accessories, trap alarms	200	50	10 000
4. Motivating voluntary hunters. Thanks giving dinner etc.	1 500	1	1 500
5. Gift Cards for Judas-animals	50	50	2 500
6. Batteries, timber, screws etc small items. Estimated total	2000	1	2 000
7. Followit service	35 000	1	35 000
8. Operation costs of Valsörarna (travel costs of voluntary and project staff, game cameras, Judas-animal collaring, Traps and trap alarms)	5 000	1	5 000
9. Meeting of Nordic Reference Group	5 000	1	5000
Total			166 000
ANNUAL Funding: Country: cost item			
<u>Finland</u>			
Finnish Wildlife Agency: 1-9	40 000		
Metsähallitus: 2,3	15 000		
<u>Sweden: 7</u>	35 000		
<u>Norway: 1</u>	76 000		
TOTAL	166 000		

