

Annual working plan for Raccoon Dog management Finland 1.3.2021 – 31.12.2024

General

The Goal of the Finnish management until 2025 is to continue the Actions of MIRDINEC LIFE+ project to prevent further invasion of Raccoon Dogs to Sweden and Norway.

The key working areas are Lapland, Kvarken and archipelago bordering Åland Islands.

Raccoon Dogs have been dispersing to Sweden through Lapland during past 20 years and it is possible that Raccoon Dogs disperses to Norway

The Kvarken area is potential Raccoon Dog dispersal corridor where distance between closest islands of Finland and Sweden is only 25 km. If Raccoon dogs disperse over Kvarken, there is relatively short distance to border of Norway (350 km) and Norwegian coast (around 400 km). Based on GPS data the Raccoon Dogs are known to disperse up to several hundred kilometers

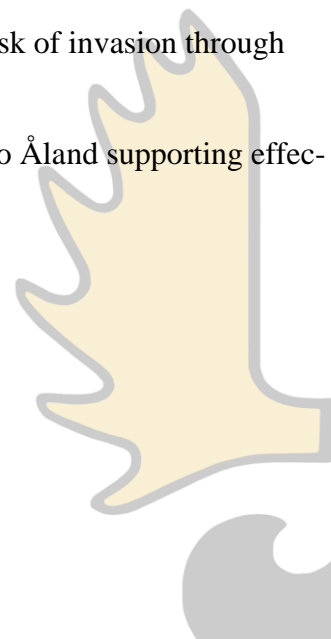
The Åland islands is possible dispersal corridor to Sweden and if Raccoon Dogs disperses from Åland they have direct route in suitable habitats to Southern Norway. The regional government of Åland Islands is developing and implementing effective management of Raccoon Dog. To support these activities the effective Raccoon Dog management on the island chain providing access from mainland Finland to Åland islands is started

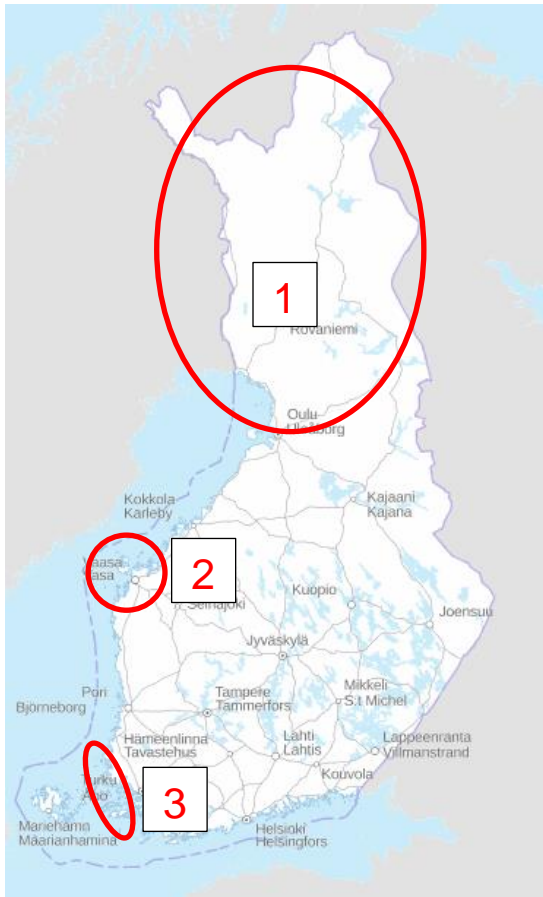
The main actions of the project in Lapland are operated by local volunteer hunters with the support of external contractor under 4-year framework contract which ends March 31st 2025. The services of the contracted professional hunter will be purchased on basis of annual project budget.

The main activities in Kvarken and Åland access are operated by local voluntary hunters supported by a part-time external assistance by contracted professional hunters. The services of the contracted professional hunters will be purchased on basis of annual project budget.

The main focus of project actions is

- 1) in Lapland to continue the good management in the area.
 - a. Tornio River Valley
 - b. Bothnian Sea coast
 - c. Inland Raccoon Dog population hotspots
- 2) in Kvarken area, especially Korsholm archipelago, to decrease the risk of invasion through this potential corridor.
 - a. Valsörarna
- 3) In South-west archipelago preventing the Raccoon Dog to disperse to Åland supporting effective management in Åland Islands
 - a. Kustavi, Iniö, Keistiö, Houtskari, Korppoo





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

Continued co-operative management and information activities with volunteer hunters

Lapland, Kvarken and Åland access

- 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.
- Focus of the events is in the effective local level management/eradication of Raccoon Dogs with variety of hunting tactics.
 - Active hunting with dogs on camera&other observations
 - Effective trapping
 - Active hunting over baits
- Objective of the action is to raise awareness and skills of hunters in terms of Raccoon Dog management/eradication.
- Professional hunters support the management of local hunters in field where needed and seen to have added value in terms of motivation and education of voluntary hunters.
- Annual dinner and education evening is organized for involved volunteer hunters in all areas.
- Contracted professional hunters lead the cooperation with voluntary hunters and carry out eradication of Raccoon Dogs where additional resources are needed alongside local voluntary hunting efforts.

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.

Kvarken

- Regular and solar-powered cameras are used to monitor Raccoon Dog situation in Korsholm Archipelago and to allow rapid response to observations.
- Camera network and focused management is expanded to mainland coast in Vasa and Korsholm areas to support eradication of Raccoon Dog in the archipelago.

Åland access

- A network of regular and solar-powered cameras is established to monitor Raccoon Dog situation in the Archipelago and to allow rapid response to observations.

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 density population and useful in the mapping of key wintering and hotspot areas in the archipelagoes. The received data of the movements of animals is an important tool to focus management efforts, inform people about the species and to motivate hunters for local action.

Lapland

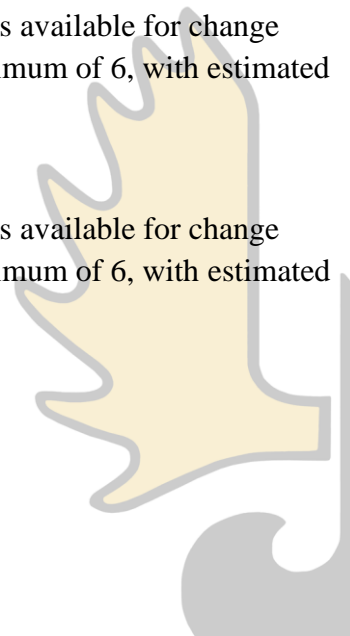
- The objective is to have 4-6 active Judas in key area of South-Western Lapland. In addition at least 3 collars available for change and estimated 3 in service. The total need for working collars is minimum of 12, with estimated annual need of 3 collars to replace lost and broken collars

Kvarken

- The objective is to have 2-3 active Judas. In addition at least 2 collars available for change and estimated 2 in service. The total need for working collars is minimum of 6, with estimated annual need of 2 collars to replace lost and broken collars.

Åland access

- The objective is to have 2-3 active Judas. In addition at least 2 collars available for change and estimated 2 in service. The total need for working collars is minimum of 6, with estimated annual need of 2 collars to replace lost and broken collars.



The 'Gift-Card' campaign

- 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.
- Gift cards can also be used to reward local people for good cooperation and provide positive feedback
- It is estimated that total of 50 x 50 € card are needed annually covering all project areas, 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 key project areas.

Legal permissions

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



Project administration

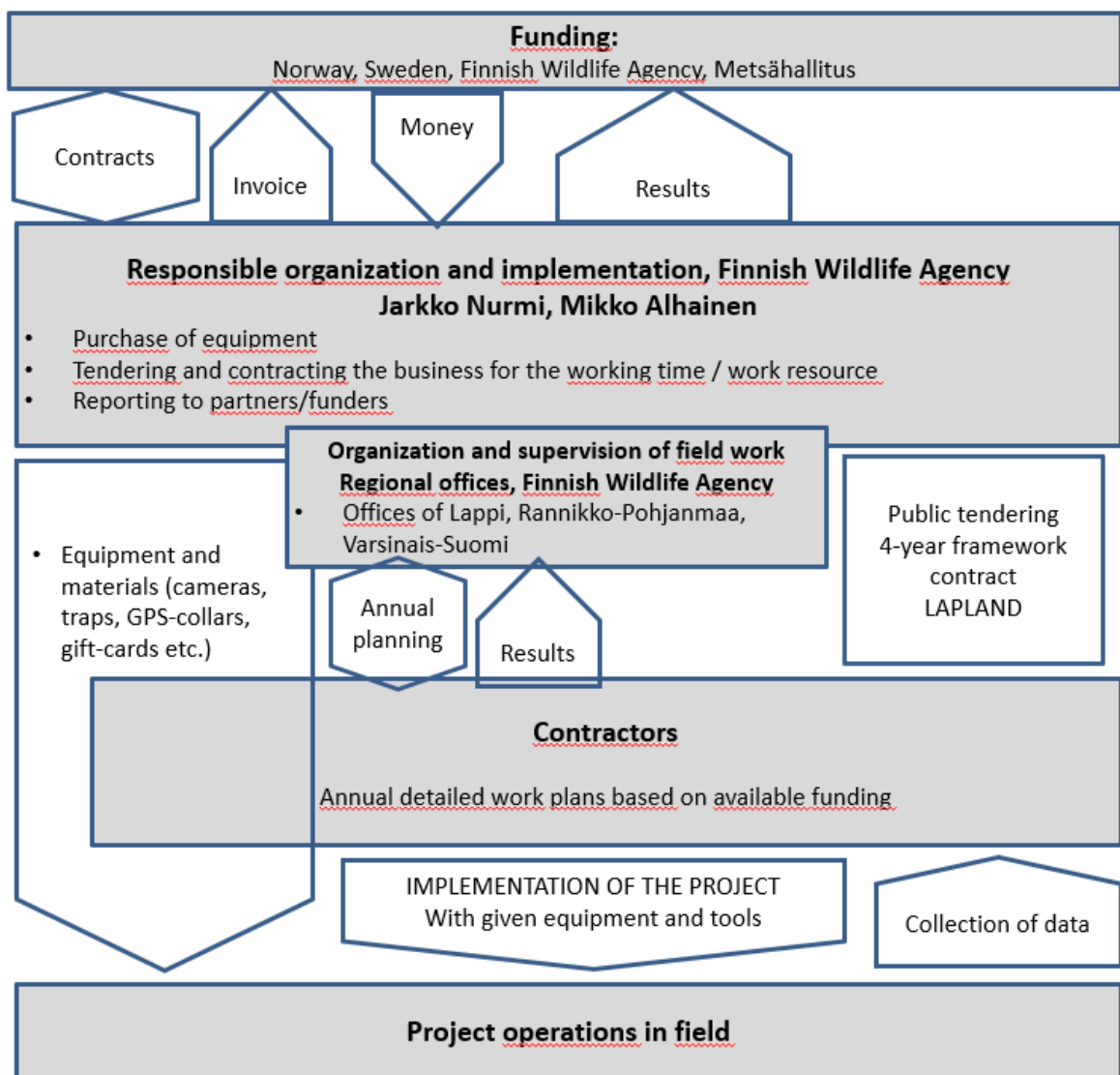
The project is coordinated by Finnish Wildlife Agency.

Overall project management, financial management and reporting: Headquarters

- Jarkko Nurmi, Mikko Alhainen, Carola Lönnfors

Field work coordination, supervision of contractors and day-to-day management: Regional offices

- Lappi – Sami Tossavainen, Rannikko-Pohjanmaa – Stefan Pellas, Varsinais-Suomi – Mikko Toivola



Estimated costs and funding

The budget for 2021 accounts for January-March costs of Professional Hunter in Lapland, which is already included in the funding agreement with Norway for 2020-31.3.2021.

The annual budget estimates for years 2022, 2023 and 2024 are identical.

The framework contract with Professional Hunter in Lapland extend until 31.3.2025. The overall budget and funding from January 1st to March 31st 2025 will be planned and negotiated during 2024.

Annual costs of Raccoon Dog management in Finland 2022-2024				
	Cost item	€ piece/set	Number needed	Total cost
LAPLAND	1. External assistance, Professional Hunter in Lapland to carry out project activities	8 500	11,5	97 750
	2. Travel costs, estimated total /month	2 000	11,5	23 000
	3. Equipment, traps, trap materials, scout cameras and accessories, trap alarms	250	40	10 000
	4. Motivating voluntary hunters. Thanks giving dinner etc.	750	1	750
	5. Gift Cards for Judas-animals and good co-operation	50	30	1 500
	6. Batteries, timber, screws etc small items, pre-paid services. Estimated total	3000	1	3 000
	7. GPS collars, annual replacement of lost&broke	2000	3	6 000
	LAPLAND TOTAL	-	-	142 000
	1.2. Part-time external assistance, professional hunters, to carry out focused project activities supporting local volunteer hunters	8500	1	8 500
KVARKEN	2. Travel costs, estimated total	2000	1	2 000
	3. Equipment, traps, trap materials, scout cameras and accessories, trap alarms	250	10	2 500
	4. Motivating voluntary hunters. Thanks giving dinner etc.	500	1	500
	5. Gift Cards for Judas-animals and good co-operation	50	10	500
	6. Batteries, timber, screws etc small items, pre-paid services. Estimated total	1000	1	1 000
	7. GPS collars, annual replacement of lost&broke	2000	2	4 000
	KVARKEN TOTAL	-	-	19 000

ÅLAND ACCESS	1.2. Part-time external assistance, Professional hunter, to carry out focused project activities supporting local volunteer hunters	8500	0,5	4 250
	2. Travel costs, estimated total per month	3000	0,5	1 500
	3. Equipment, traps, trap materials, scout cameras and accessories, trap alarms	250	10	2 500
	4. Motivating voluntary hunters. Thanks giving dinner etc.	500	1	500
	5. Gift Cards for Judas-animals and good co-operation	50	5	250
	6. Batteries, timber, screws etc small items, pre-paid services. Estimated total	1000	1	1 000
	7. GPS collars, annual replacement of lost&broke	2000	2	4 000
	ÅLAND ACCESS TOTAL	-	-	14 000
General, Followit service	35 000	1	35 000	
Project administration Finnish Wildlife Agency	5 000	3	15 000	
TOTAL FINLAND			225 000	

ANNUAL Funding	
<u>Finland</u>	
Finnish Wildlife Agency:	85 000
Metsähallitus:	20 000
<u>Sweden:</u>	35 000
<u>Norway:</u>	85 000
TOTAL	225 000



