

Partnership with Landowners: Advising for Grassland Biodiversity

Semi-natural grasslands are biodiversity hotspots of Estonia – restored and well-managed grasslands are home to countless plants,

insects and birds. They also feature historic stone fences and hay barns, reflecting the traditional lifestyle of our ancestors.

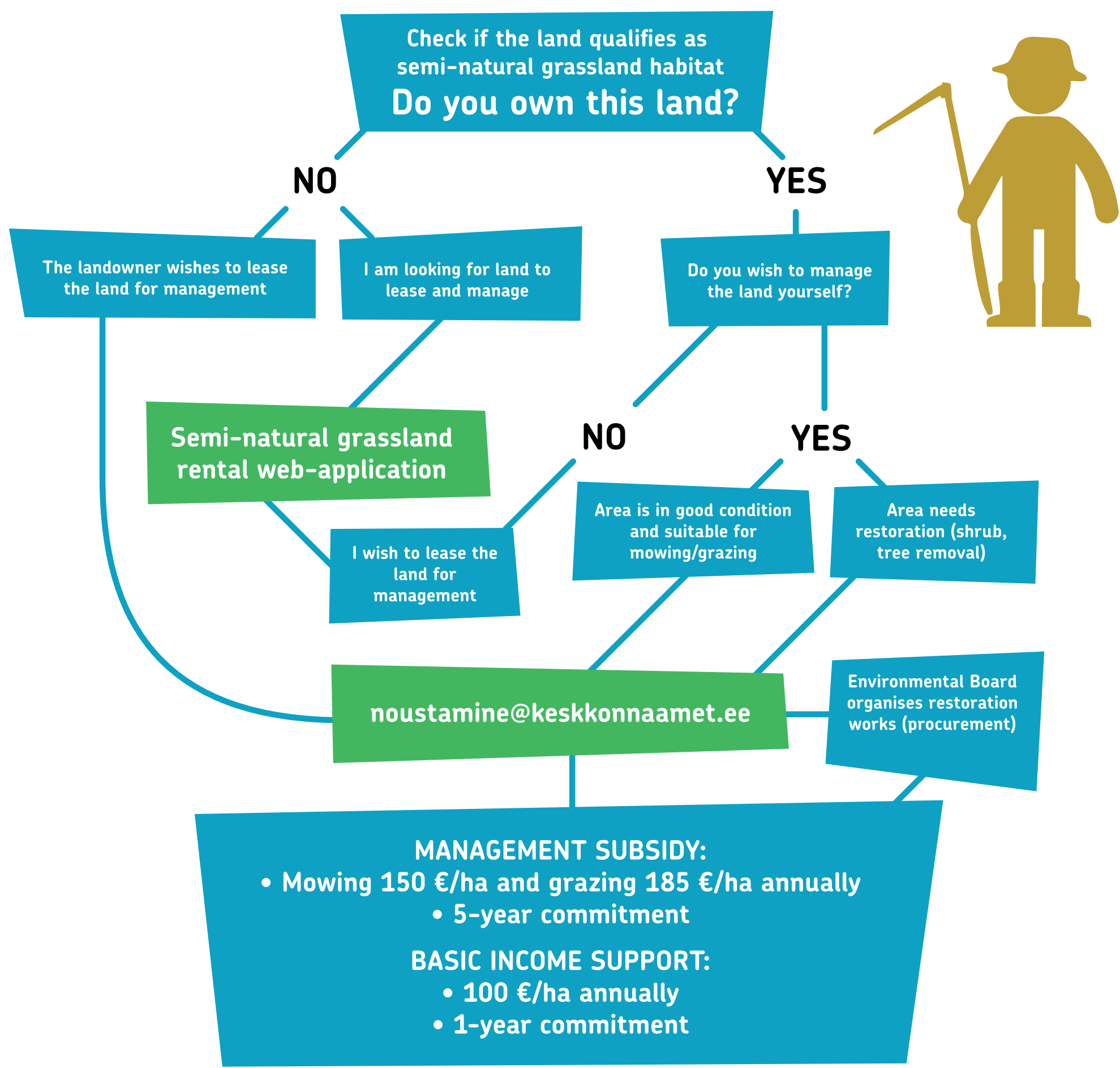
“The consultation service has been a great success. As someone deeply committed to restoring and caring for our landscapes, I now feel I have an ally in the Environmental Board. We’re working toward the same goal — thanks to our collaboration, even more grassland areas are being brought back to life, and sustainably managed.”

Mario Talvist

The best grassland managers 2022.

WITH THE HELP OF THE LIFE IP “FOREST&FARM-LAND” PROJECT, ESTONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD IS BUILDING A CONSULTATION SERVICE TO:

- find new landowners for managing more areas of semi-natural grassland habitats;
- offer advice to landowners to see and discover the value of their land;
- provide expert guidance and practical support for restoration and management.



Our consultation system combines targeted communication, knowledge sharing, and recognition of people to foster sustainable grassland management:

DIRECT OUTREACH

Monthly emails to 30–50 new potential landowners are sent, followed by personal calls

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Thematic e-newsletter sent to 6,000+ recipients, 2–3 times a year

FACILITATING COOPERATION

Web-based platform for sharing land rental opportunities between owners and potential lessees is set up

CAPACITY BUILDING

Trainings for landowners and managers to assess the values of their lands is provided

FINANCING GUIDANCE

An overview of available subsidies and procurements opportunities is made clear and understandable

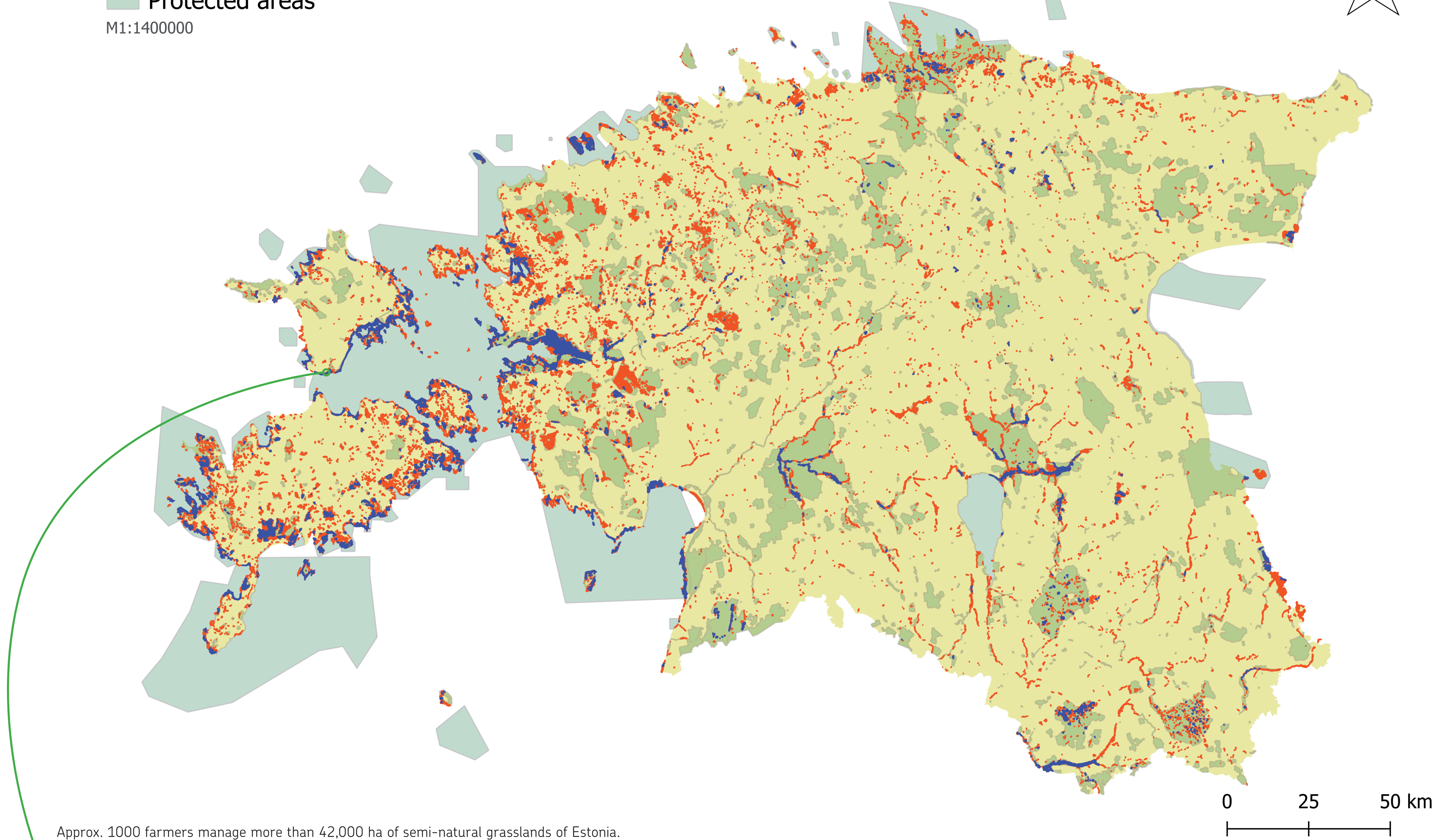
RECOGNITION

Award ceremony to honor most outstanding grassland managers is organised in every second year

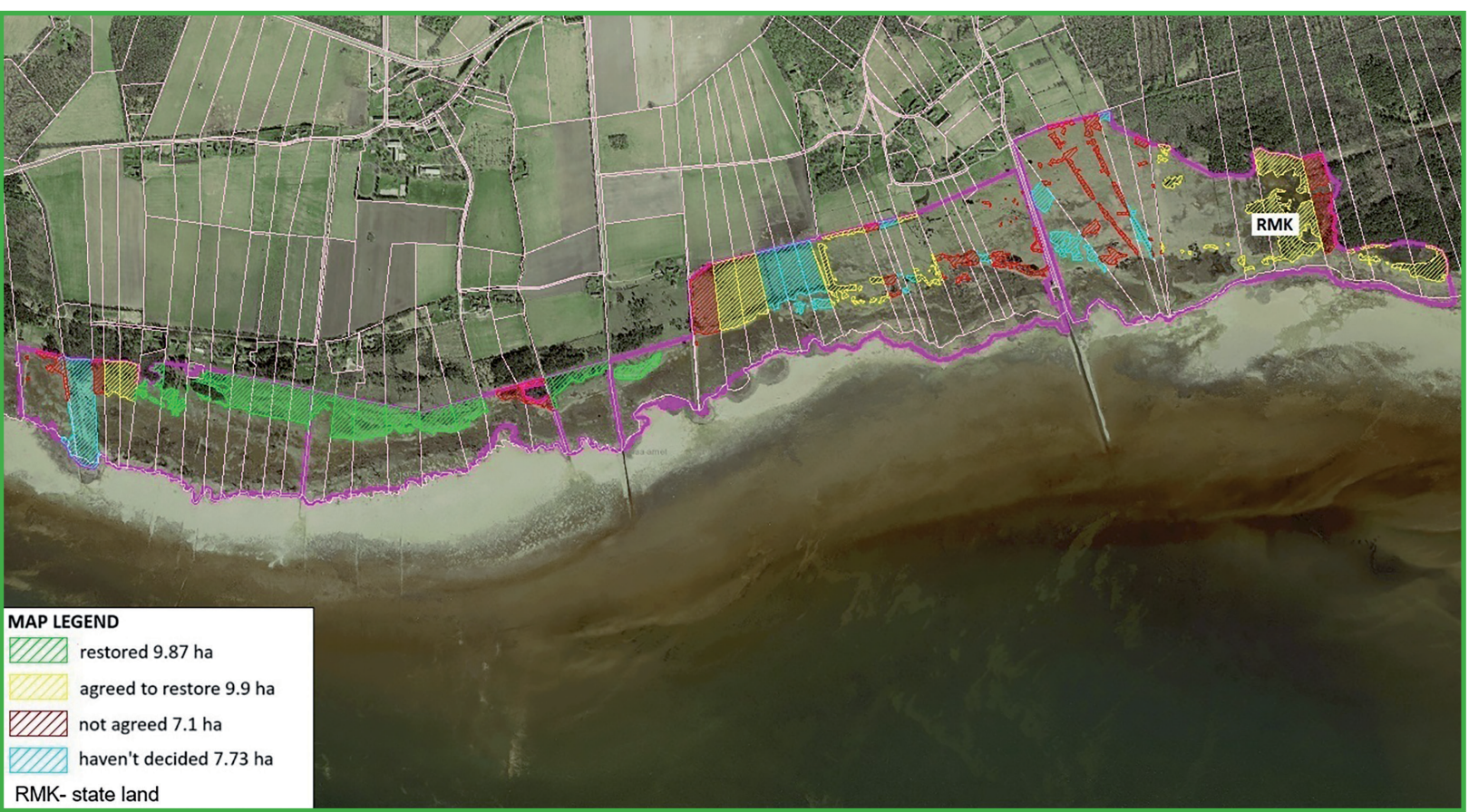
Managed semi-natural meadows
Non-managed semi-natural meadows
Protected areas

M1:1400000

Sources: Maa- ja Ruumiamet/EELIS/PRIA
22/08/2025



Approx. 1000 farmers manage more than 42,000 ha of semi-natural grasslands of Estonia.



During the project we restore 20 coastal meadows and discuss our activities with more than 250 landowners. Tärkma coastal meadow in Hiiumaa is one of the restoration sites. The map shows the willingness of landowners to restore their grasslands.



Well-managed coastal meadow in Hiiumaa.

Effective consultation is more than just sharing information – it’s a partnership that helps landowners to make better choices for nature and themselves

LIFE-IP project ForEst&FarmLand (2020–2029) is designed to protect and restore Estonian landscapes and ecosystems and to improve the condition of the species and habitats in Estonian forests and agricultural lands. The project restores 1000 ha of semi-natural habitats, including 20 coastal meadows.

Read more:
loodusrikaseesti.ee/en



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

