

Name of the project area:

Rågö (Västerviks skärgård)

Surface area (ha): 875.500

EU protection status:

SPA **NATURA 2000 Code** :

pSCI **X NATURA 2000 Code** : SE0330164

Nature conservation (Woodland 30%, husbandry 15% and water 55%).

State owned land.

Main land uses and ownership status of the project area:

The Rågö island grouping lies in the inner portions of Tjust archipelago. The majority of the islands are covered by pine forests. The most common vegetation type is flat rock pine forest and heathland coniferous forest. Spruce, which requires richer soils than pine, are more common on Horsö island where gabbro is the main bedrock. Deciduous forests with oak trees are more common around the village of Rågö and around fields. The majority of the islands and islets within the area have a porphyritic granite bedrock.

Along Rågö, there are number of coastal meadows (*1630, 2ha), some of which have been created recently. Here, species that thrive in wet conditions and under grazing pressure are commonly found – *Triglochin maritima*, *Triglochin palustris*, *Samolus valerandi*, *Plantago maritima*. On the drier lands, species that thrive under grazing pressure include *Linum catharticum*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Pimpinella saxifraga* ssp. *saxifraga*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Briza media* and *Polygala vulgaris* (9070, 136ha).

Scientific description of project area:

The values found in Rågö are entirely dependent on the continued management of the lands. If agricultural activities in the area decrease, not only will the rich floral diversity disappear, but also the sea-birds that use the coastal meadows as breeding sites and resting sites. In consequence, birds of prey dependent on the sea-bird population will also be affected. Archipelago farming is found only in Sweden and Finland. Over the past few decades, it has declined drastically so that all remaining examples should be supported. The natural values of Rågö have been declared as being of national interest.

The project will address threats from overgrowing of coastal lagoons by restoring 0.1 ha of habitat 1150, action C9.