

Name of the project area:

Virbo med Ekö

Surface area (ha): 584.800

EU protection status:

SPA X NATURA 2000 Code : SE0330127

pSCI X NATURA 2000 Code : SE0330127

Nature conservation (woodland 40% and water 60%).

Private land 27%.

State owned 73%.

Main land uses and ownership status of the project area:

The area consists of peninsulas, islands, islets and reefs, and bays, straits and inlets. To the west runs the river Virån into the Baltic.

Ekö archipelago is representative with exposed outer areas and a wooded inner archipelago areas, where Ekö is the largest island. Pine is the dominating tree species on the ridges while oak is dominant on the lower parts, but spruce is common here as well. Many trees have reached a considerable age and some have fallen over, which gives the island a primeval forest character. The old pastures and hay meadows has been or is about to grow over.

The area contains a large number of islets and small islands, many of them, especially those in the outer archipelago, have very little vegetation. In many tree-free islands several coast specialised birds are nesting such as shelduck, shoveler, greater plover, redshank and turnstone. Måskärssakripelagen, located in the area's easternmost part, is included in a bird sanctuary.

The island Ekö has belonged Virbo manor in ages and was used as grazing area for horses during the 1500s The archipelago seems largely functioned as an outfield for Virbo manor.

Scientific description of project area:

The site is pointed out as of National Interest for Nature conservation.

The project will adress threats from overgrowing of grassland habitats and grazed forests by measures included in action C1, targeting 7.6 hectares (ha).

Habitats that will be improved by action C1:

1620; 7.6 ha