

Name of the project area:

Skärgårdsreservaten

Surface area (ha): 8,811.100

EU protection status:

SPA X NATURA 2000 Code : SE0220129

pSCI X NATURA 2000 Code : SE0220129

Nature conservation (Woodland 17%, Husbandry 2%, Water 80% and other landuse 1%).
Private land 75%, state owned land 25 %.

Main land uses and ownership status of the project area:

Hartsö is the most southern, permanently inhabited, island in the N2000 area. The landscape is gently undulating with Hargberget (40 m asl) in the west as one of the archipelago's highest points. Eastward descends the land masses into the Baltic sea and the transition zone is characterized by hundreds of islands, islets and rocks in the outer archipelago. In the southern part of Hartsö Lund is a major rubble field. The western part is dominated by coniferous forest. Pine forest alternates with mixed forests and swamp forests. The area is influenced by forestry. The agricultural landscape of the island is unique with large areas of open pasture mixed with lots of grazed forest and hay meadows. There are traces of pollarding on several older trees. South of the main island Hartsö is Enskär which consists of a hilly and small scale farmland with overgrown pastures where a restoration is in progress.

The N2000 area hosts a high diversity of aquatic environments ranging from exposed sand and hard bottoms to shallow protected bays and lagoons cut off. Many of the habitats are important spawning and nursery grounds for coastal fish and provides habitat for several rare algae such as *Chara horrida* (NT). In particular spring-spawning predatory fish species such as pike and perch in recent years have shown reproductive disturbances.

Ringsö is the largest of the archipelago reserve's many islands. It is through a large bay, Västerfjärden, divided into a northern part and a southern part. A feature of the island is the many north-south running mountain ridges with intervening depressions.

Långö is largely covered with coniferous forest where the oldest forest consists of pine-covered rocky heath. Otherwise there are no really old forests with natural forest character. The island's natural assets are mainly related to the northwestern part and the agricultural landscape there.

Lacka is today managed by husbandry with hay mowing and pasture. The long agricultural continuity of the island is reflected in the landscape, traversed by the old fields, meadows and pastures. Also traces of ancient leaf gathering can be seen on old trees. Repollarding has begun and many young lime trees and hazel bushes, now are pollarded by the nature conservation and cultural reasons. For the same reason, hay now is mowed again on some of the old meadows. Meadow residues and pasture has to some extent grown over and restoration efforts are needed to preserve important cultural and natural values.

Scientific description of project area:

Surface description:

natural values.

Sävö is characterized by cultural influences in the form of agriculture, grazing practices, grazing and forestry. The landscape is smallscale diverse with fields and former meadows located in valleys and the older pastures located in mountains, hills and woodlands. Middle-aged oaks grow in the border zones between the mountains and the ancient meadows and fields. Even very large trees occur, as well as other tree species such as lime, ash and pine. On the southern Sävö are well preserved remains of wooded meadows. Nature nourishing repollarding of old trees and new pollarding of mainly young lime trees have been implemented over the past decade. While mowing has been resumed. In forests that have a clear character of historical grazing dominates the pine with a mixture of oak in connection with the settlement. The beaches are varied, often alder fens or grazed meadows.

The site is also of great importance for the birdlife. Bird species listed under the directive that occur here are white tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (NT), osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*, common tern *Sterna hirundo*, Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*, nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*,

barred warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (VU). In recent years, several seabird species declined in the archipelago, partly a result of predation by *Mustela vison*.

Updated data about the site in Natura 2000 have been reported to the Swedish Government, and a governmental decision about updates was taken in August 2012. The data in this application are in line with this update.

This is one of the largest archipelago sites at the coast and it has therefore the largest importance also at an European level. The combination with traditional management is rising the values for conservation of biodiversity. The site is pointed out as of National Interest for Nature conservation. The project will address threats from overgrowing of grassland habitats and grazed forests by measures included in action C1, targeting 23.5 ha.

Habitats that will be improved by action C1:

1630: 0.8 ha

4030: 0.3 ha

6510: 4.4 ha

8230: 2.0 ha

9070: 16.0 ha

Threats against ancient pollard trees will be addressed by action C2. In total 317 trees will be managed.

Habitats that will be improved by action C2:

1630: 4.0 ha

5130: 5.7 ha

6270: 4.2 ha

6410: 0.2 ha

6510: 4.4 ha

6530: 0.3 ha

8230: 35.0 ha

9010: 23.4 ha

9070: 33.8 ha

9080: 3.0 ha

Other grassland habitats: 12.2 ha

Other wooded habitats: 14.9 ha

Other land: 3.6 ha

The long term possibilities to fulfill the needs of grazing animals for grassland habitats in the site will be improved by the action C3 and C4.

49,9 ha will be affected by this new barn, action C3. The islands of Lacka is one of five nature reserves (all islands) included in the Natura 2000 site SE2200129. Lacka is the smallest group of islands and has a small scale farm situated on the main island. The barn is, however, in a very bad state and needs urgently a new floor in the form of a concrete platform. The barn has flaws but by the construction activities planned we expect that the building will last for the next 30 years. During the last 30 years we had a livestock of 20 sheep and a cattle herd of around six animals. The number of animals are rather low relative to area supposed to be grazed, but most part of the land grazed are habitat 8230, which have a very low production of biomass, very much rocks and not much grass for the animals to feed on, but for conservation purposes it's important to keep this low productive land with high biological value grazed to avoid overgrowth in the future. Through the restoration actions planned will additionally 3 ha have to be grazed. We expect that this minor increase in grazing habitat will be able to maintain a sufficient level of grazing with the number of animals present.

Habitats that will be improved by action C3:

6270: 1.4 ha

Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species

/habitat types targeted

at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible):

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6410: 0.26 ha

6510: 1.33 ha

8230: 45.6 ha

9070: 1.25 ha

Threats from predation of *Mustela vison* on bird colonies will be managed by measures in action C5.

The accessibility for visitors will also increase by action E4.