

An aerial photograph of a winding river flowing through a vast, dense forest. The river is a deep blue color, contrasting with the green and brown tones of the surrounding woods. The forest appears to be a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees. The sky is a pale blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed landscape.

RUF DER WILDNIS!

Nationalparks Austria Jahreskonferenz 2012

11. & 12.12. KULTURFABRIK HAINBURG

**Oikean villi: Wilderness and national
parks Finland**

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Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services Lapland



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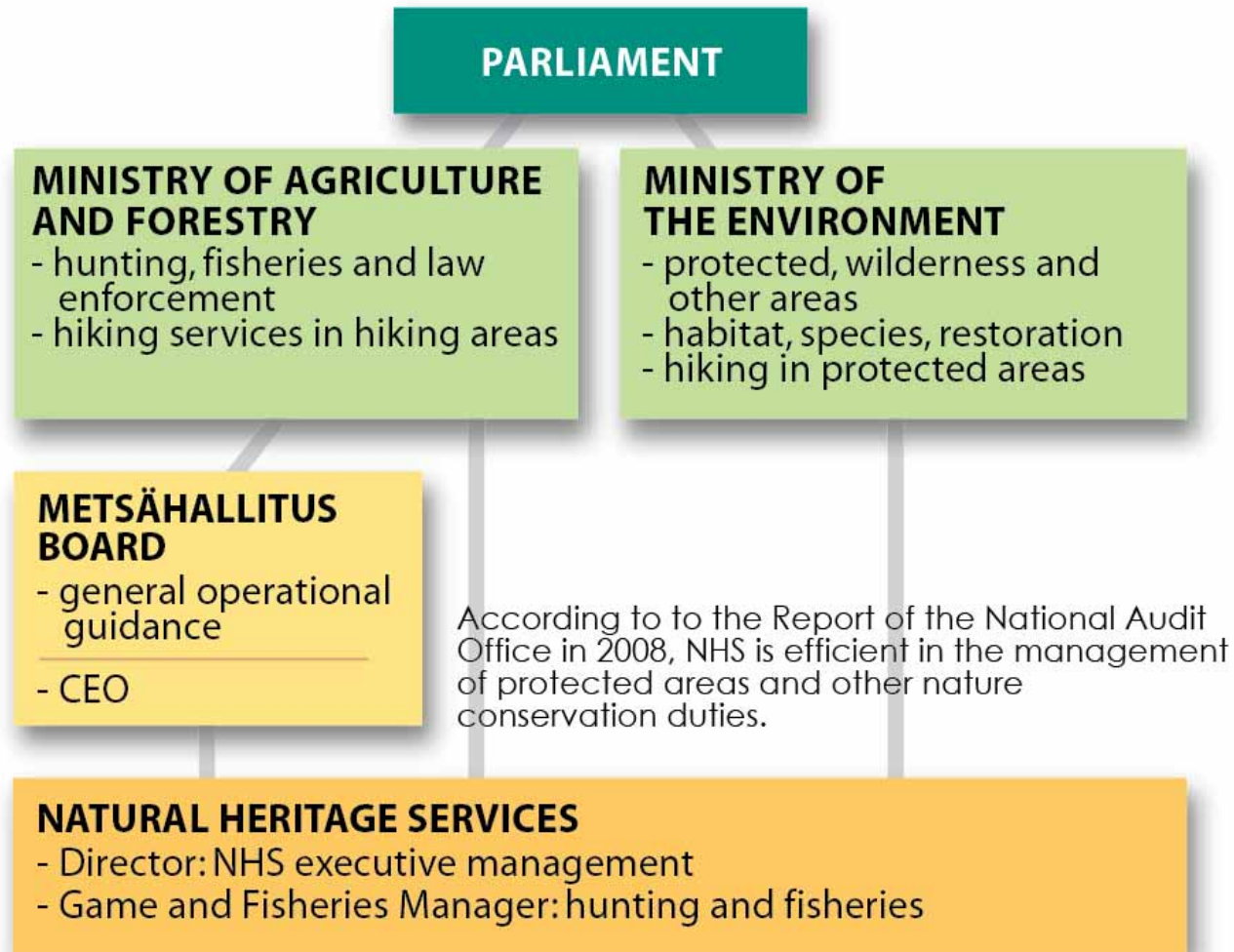
- 1. Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services managing protected and wilderness areas**
- 2. National parks, tourism, economical impacts**
- 3. Wilderness areas, goals, principles in management**

Organisation of Metsähallitus, former "Forest and Park Service"

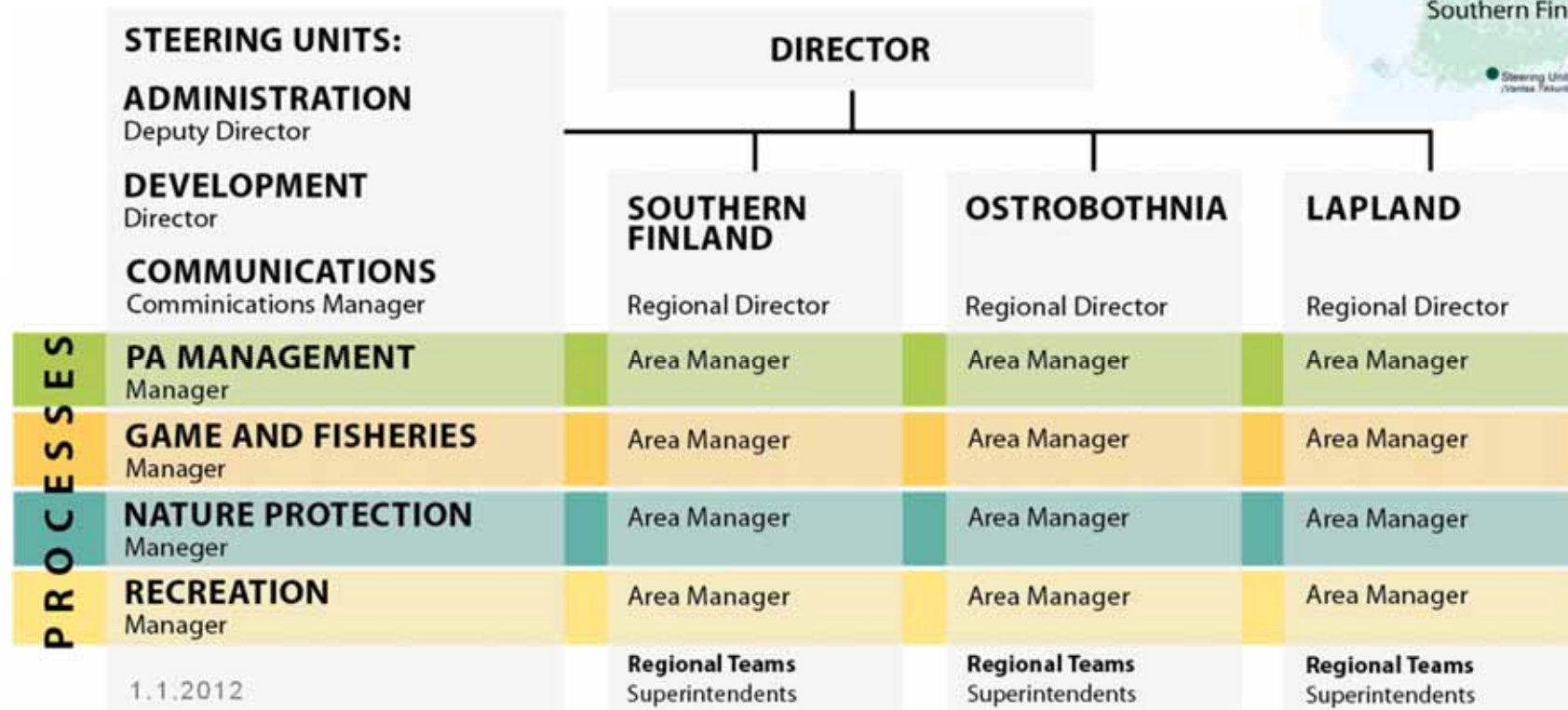


State enterprise taking care of all the state owned lands and waters in Finland, both protected and commercial forests.

Supervision of Natural Heritage Services

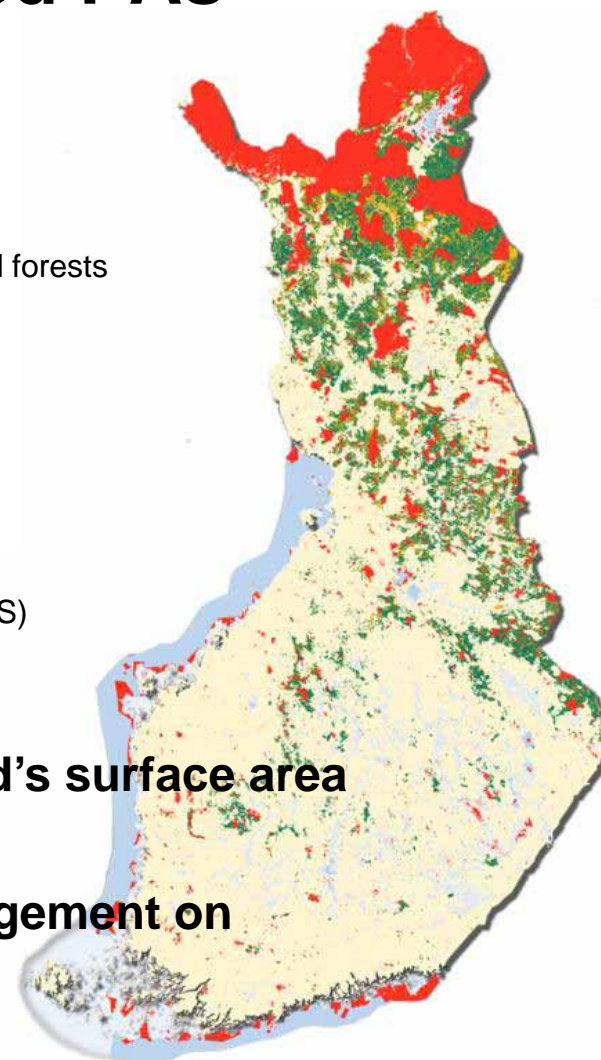


Organisation of Natural Heritage Services



NHS manages all the state-owned PAs

- **37 national parks**
- **19 strict nature reserves**
- **7 national hiking areas**
- **12 wilderness areas**
- **almost 500 other PAs**
- **public water areas**



Altogether over 7 million hectares, 18% of Finland's surface area

- **Fishing and hunting, fisheries and game management on all the state owned lands and waters**



NHS of Lapland, budget 2011 (thousand €)

Ministry of environment	6 698
Ministry of agr.&for	2 566
Ministry of labour	2 101
Incomes	1 970
Metsähallitus business	328
Eu etc.	510



NHS of Lapland, personnel

Permanent staff

Recreational services for nature tourism and local people 75

Nature protection 21

Game and fisheries, permits to hunt and fish 12

Landuse planning, management plans 6

Totally 112

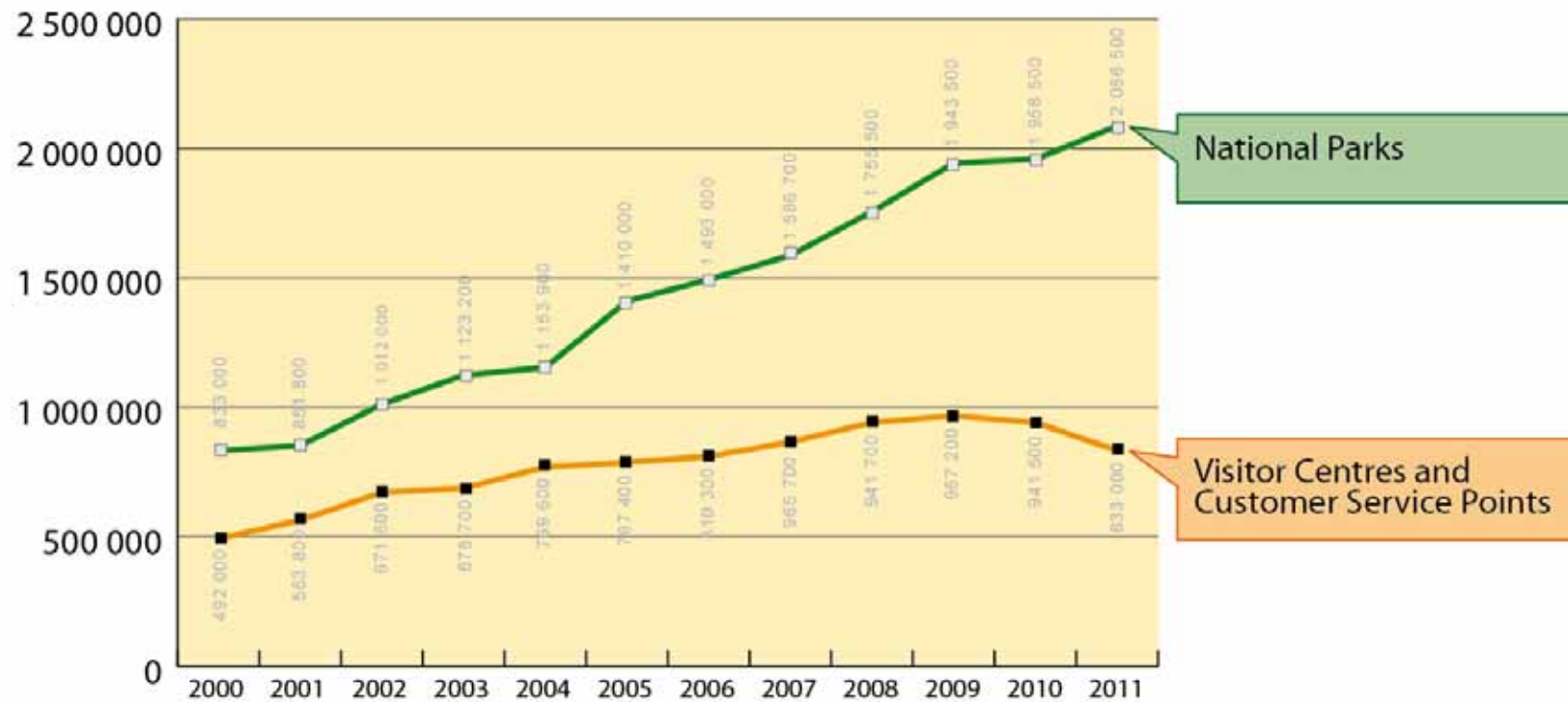
Seasonal staff 50-100

National Parks in Finland

- on state owned lands
 - extensive nature conservation areas
 - minimum 1000 hectares
 - ensuring biodiversity
 - giving people the opportunity to relax and enjoy nature
 - nature education
-
- a total of 37 national parks
 - 9 790 km²
 - 2,1 million visits in 2011



Number of visits to national parks and visitor centers



National Parks and Tourism



National Parks are attractions for tourism

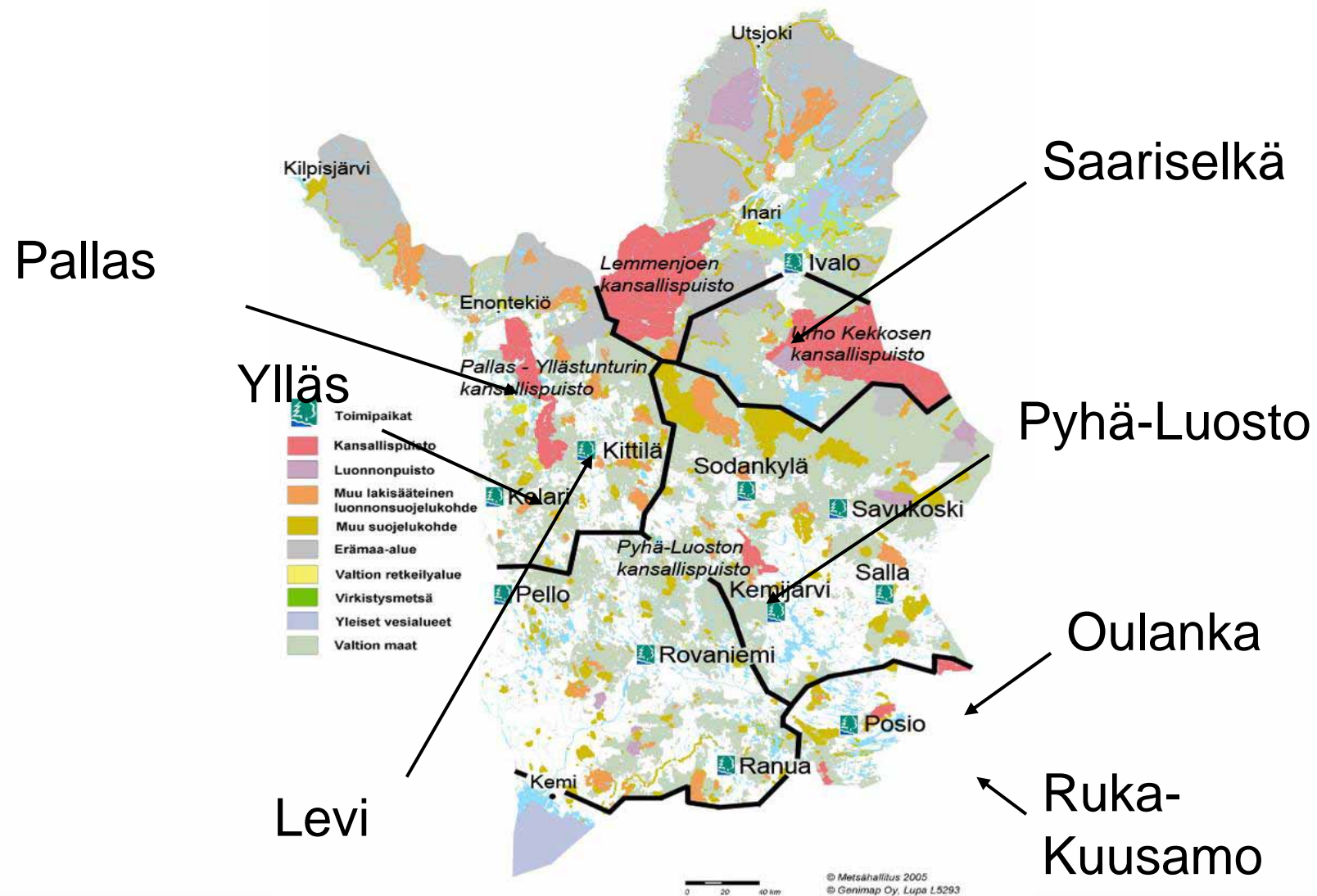
- **Important part of Lapland's brand**
- **National Parks and tourism destinations share the same customers**
- **While safeguarding nature values in NP's, the attraction of tourism destinations will be improved at the same time**

National Parks and Tourism



- **Infrastructure which is funded by the state is also a basis for local tourism services.**
- **Both social and private investments (tourism) create preconditions for remarkable local economic impacts.**

National Parks and tourism destinations in Lapland



National parks of Lapland create local incomes

Economical value of the tourism generated by the national parks.

The visits of the persons with main reason to come was national park

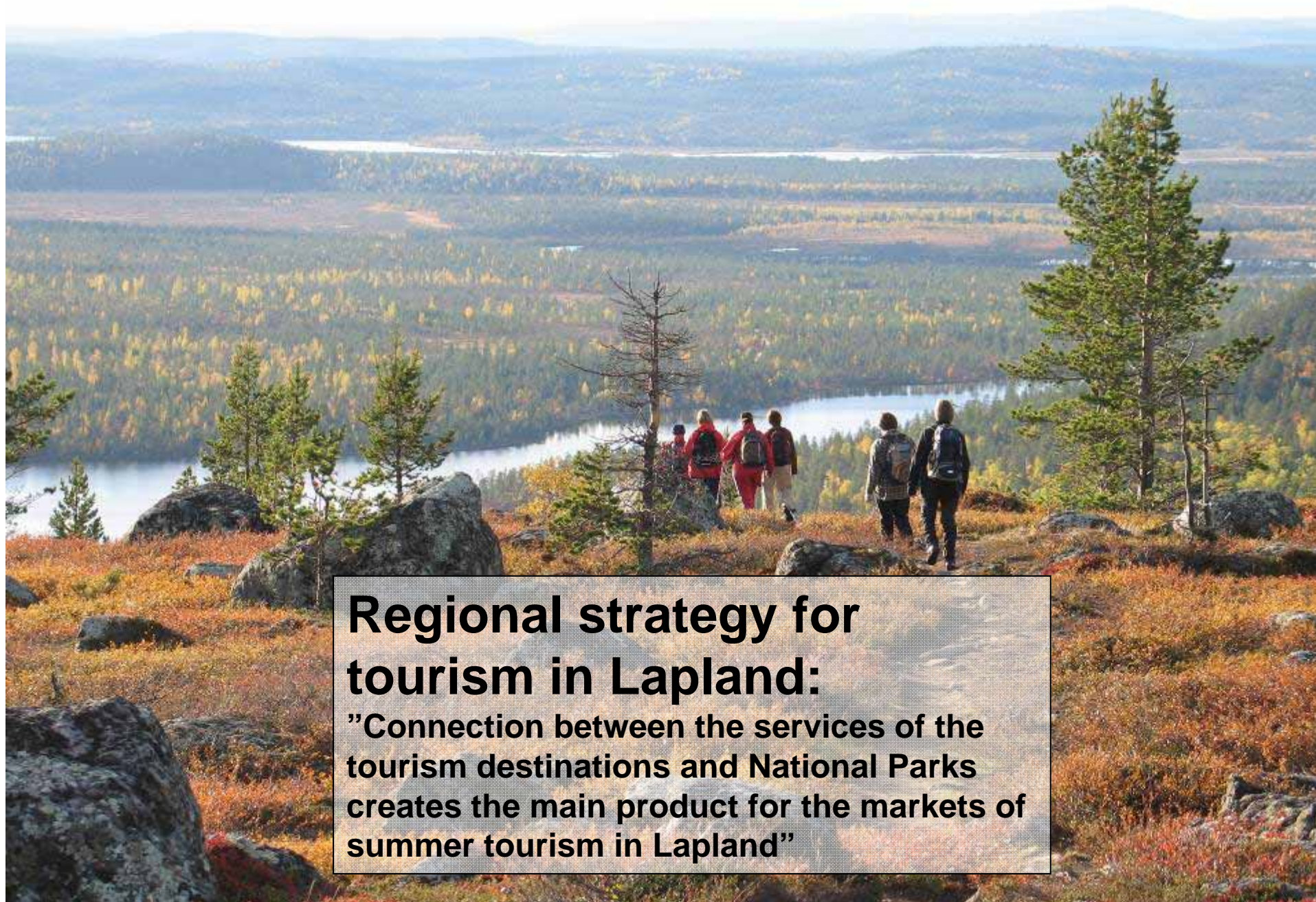
National park	milj. €	Person years	Visits
Lemmenjoki National Park	0,4	5	10 000
Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park	18,7	246	435 893
Pyhä-Luosto National Park	3,4	45	118 571
Urho Kekkonen National Park	10,5	138	287 632

National parks of Lapland create local incomes

Pallas-Yllästunturin NP, recreational facilities, costs 1,2 milj.€/y

- Close to 350 km of marked hiking trails
- Close to 500 km of ski trails
- 26 open/ reservable wilderness huts
- 3 visitor centres





Regional strategy for tourism in Lapland:

**”Connection between the services of the
tourism destinations and National Parks
creates the main product for the markets of
summer tourism in Lapland”**



**Safe recreational services for hikers,
Urho Kekkonen National Park**



**Nature Centre Kellokas
Pallas-Yllästunturi NP**



**Customer Service Point Kiehininen
at Saariselkä tourist destination**

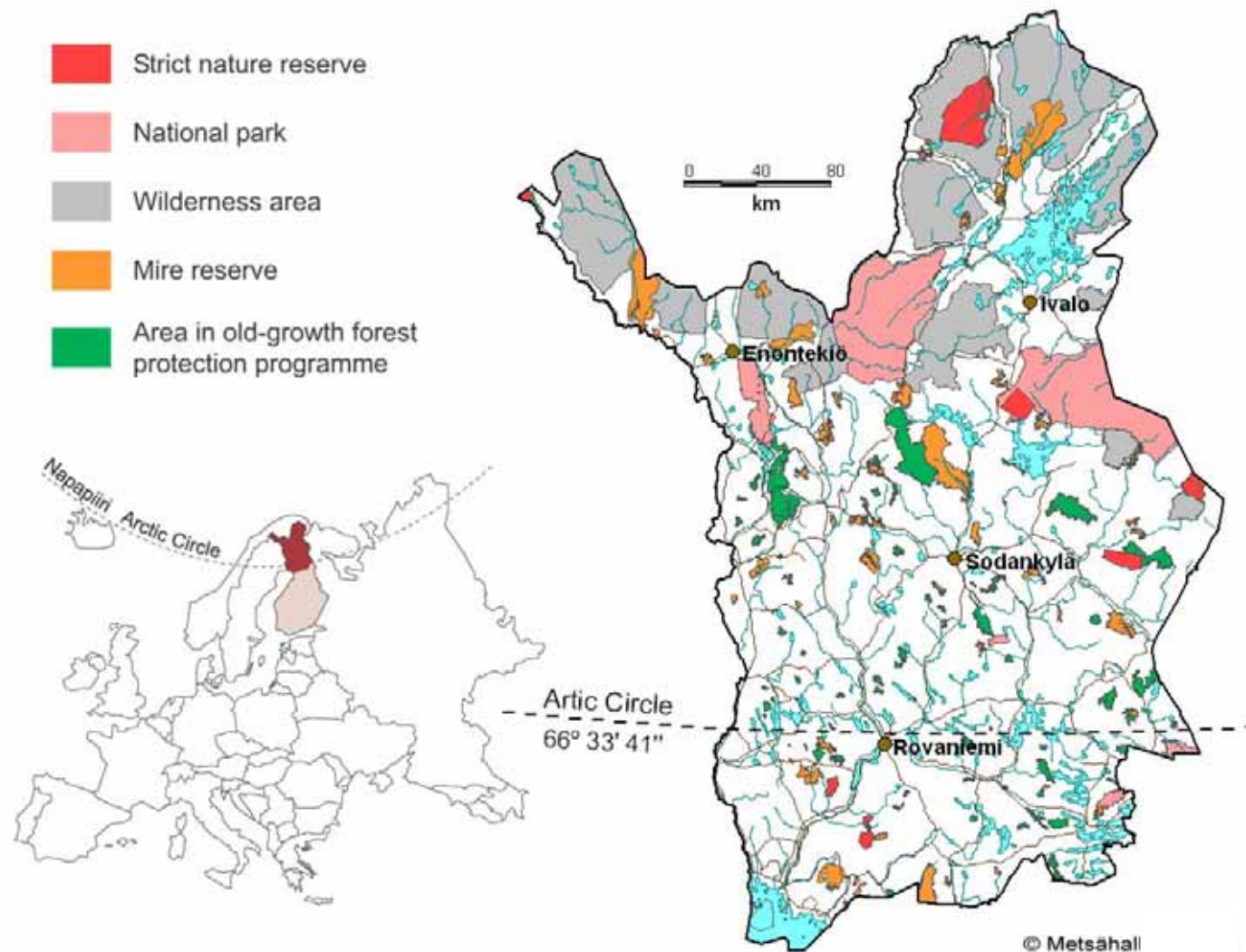


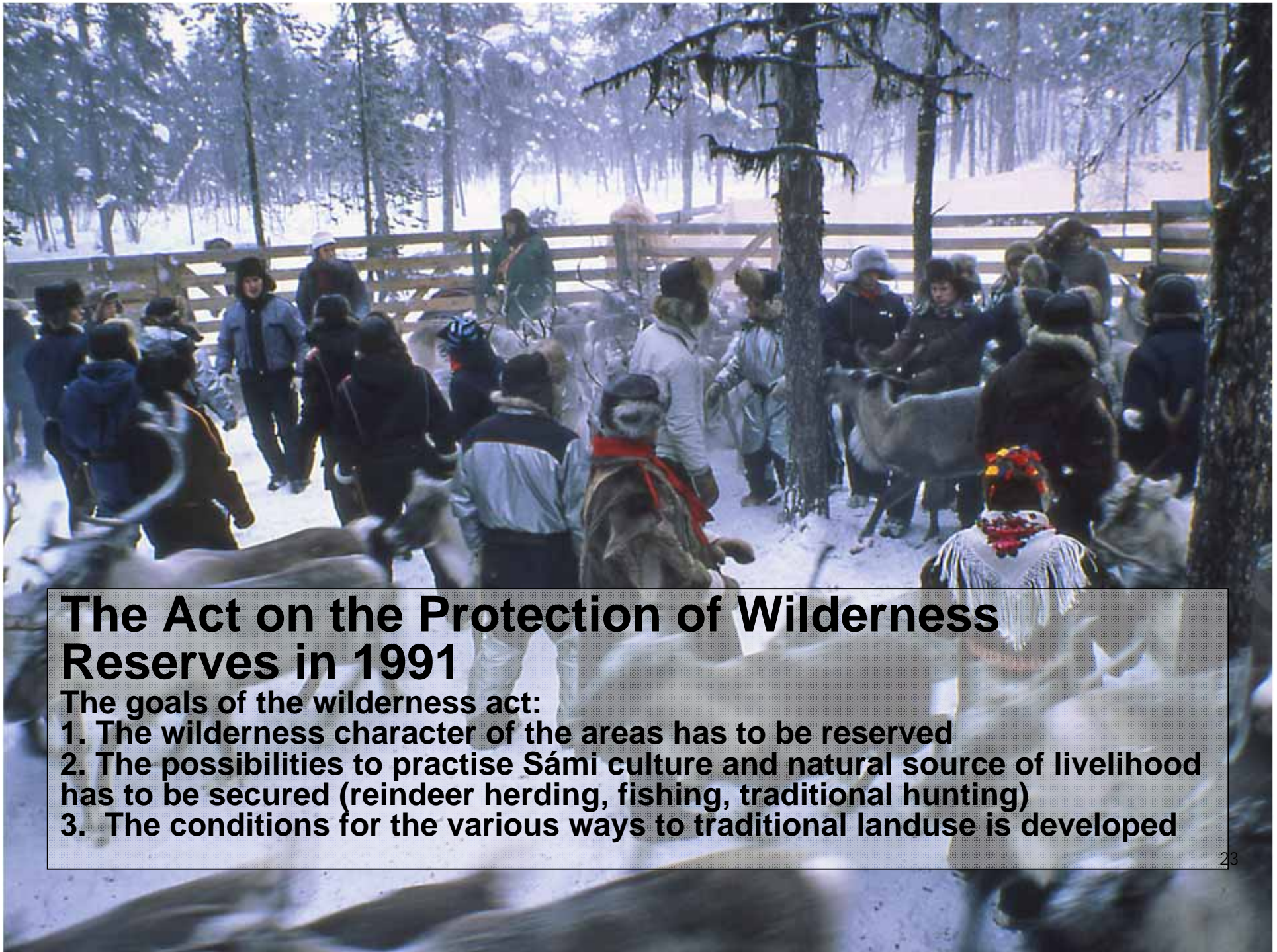
Nature centre Naava at Pyhä-Luosto National park was built 2011-2012, already 50 000 visits



**Protection of cultural heritage
Sámi culture, Lemmenjoki
National park**

Wilderness Areas





The Act on the Protection of Wilderness Reserves in 1991

The goals of the wilderness act:

- 1. The wilderness character of the areas has to be reserved**
- 2. The possibilities to practise Sámi culture and natural source of livelihood has to be secured (reindeer herding, fishing, traditional hunting)**
- 3. The conditions for the various ways to traditional landuse is developed**

The Act on the Protection of Wilderness Reserves

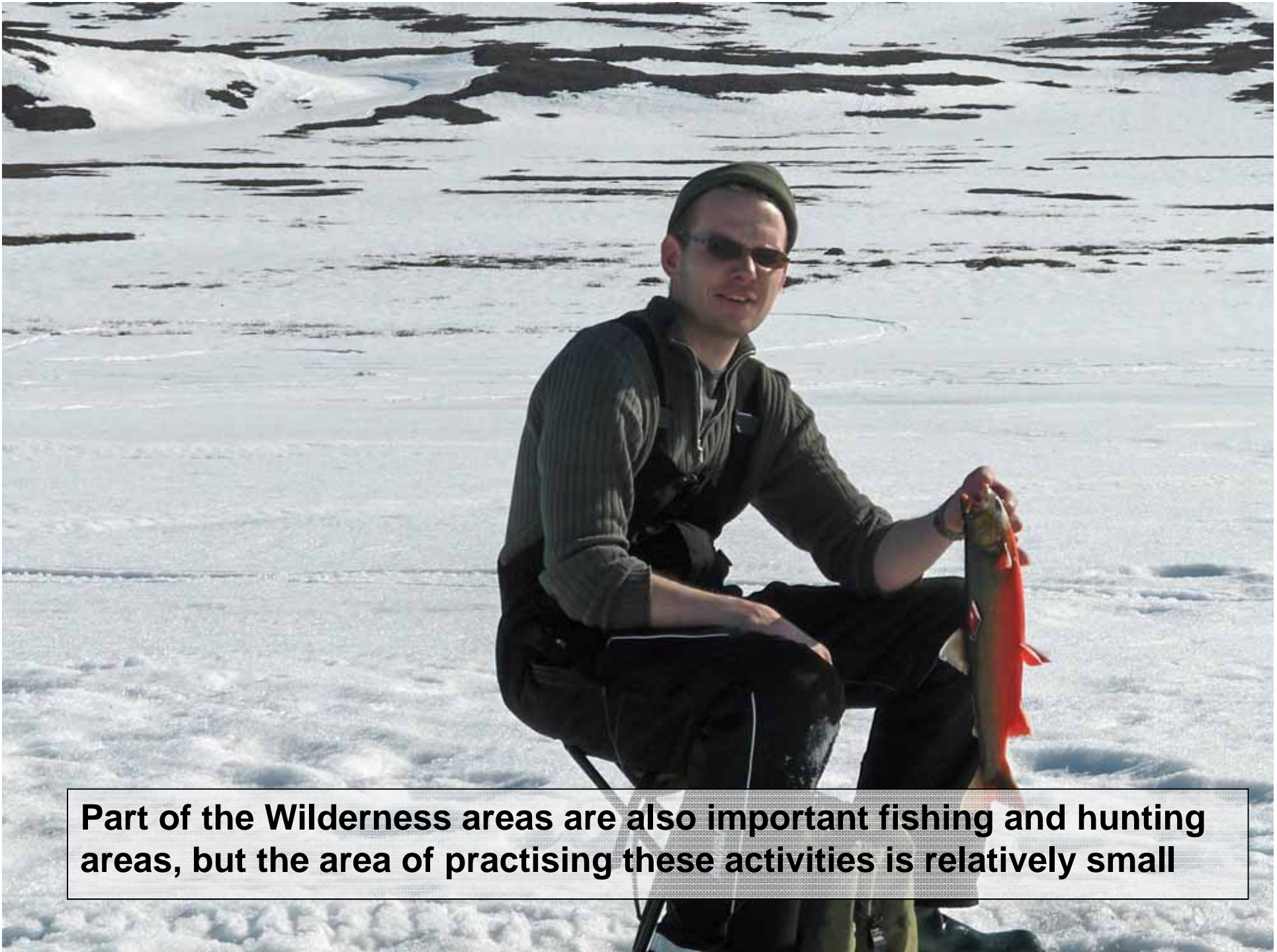
- 12 separate areas
- 1,5 million hectares totally
- Each wilderness area at least 15 000 hectares, practically no roads
- Building roads and mining only with the decision of the parliament
- Limited forestry would be possible in 5 wilderness areas, but Metsähallitus has decided not to practice forestry since year 2005
- Wilderness areas have not been founded by the Nature Conservation Act, but they belong to the Natura 2000 network
- NHS compiles the management plans to the wilderness areas, plans are verified by the ministry on environment



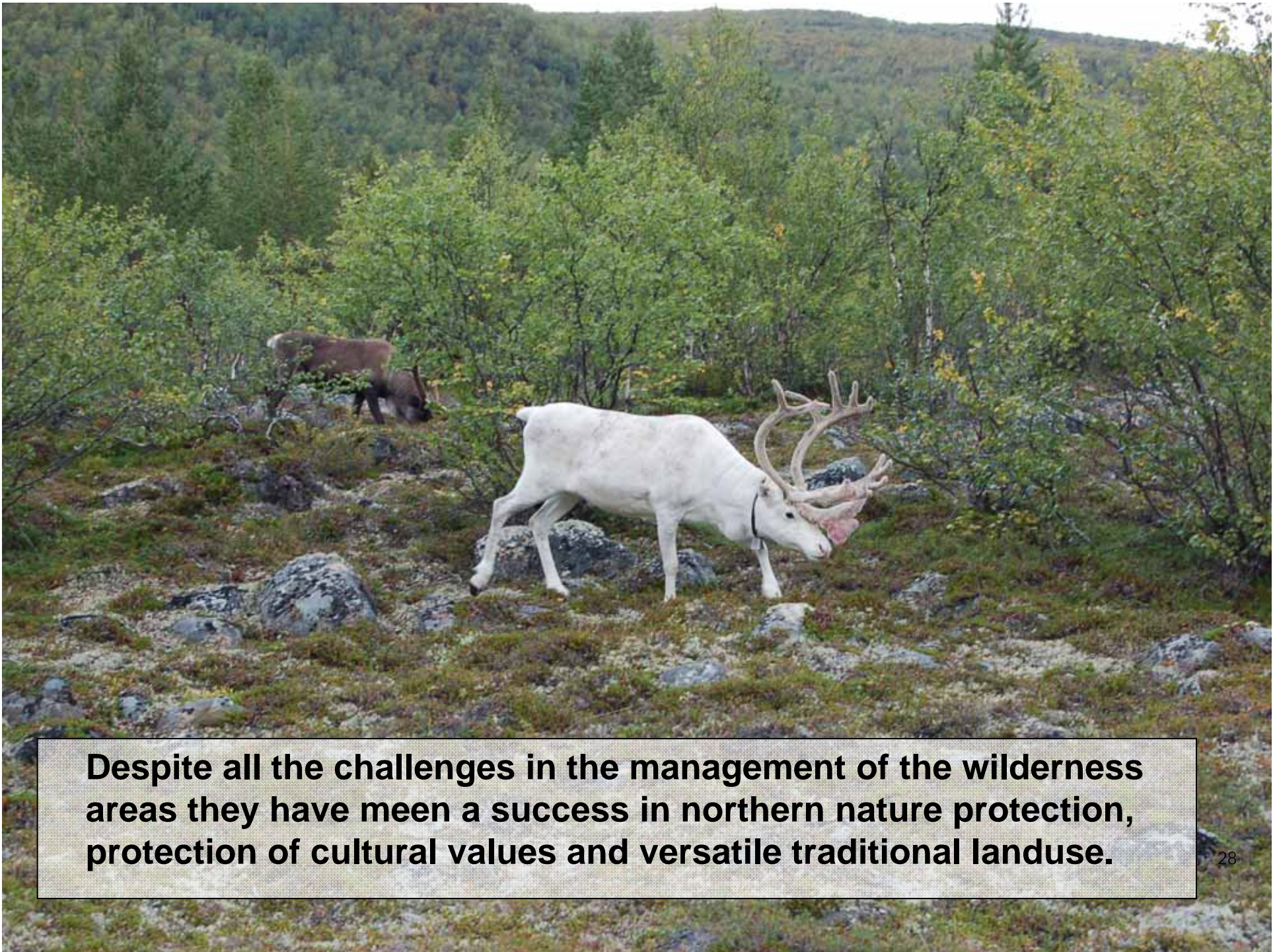
Wilderness areas are important part of the nature protection network in Finland. Their cultural value is significant . Hunting pits for deer in Tsarmitunturi wilderness area from end of stone age – start of metal age

Recreation and tourism zones in wilderness areas


Wilderness area	Total area, hectares	Recreation and tourism zone, % of total area
Hammastunturi	182 500	
Kadoaivi	292 400	5
Kemihaara	30 200	0
Käsivarsi	220 600	11
Muotkatunturi	157 000	2
Paistunturi	157 000	11
Pulju	61 400	-
Pöyrisjärvi	128 000	0
Tarvantovaara	67 000	8,5
Tsarmitunturi	15 000	0
Tuntsa	21 200	8
Vätsäri	155 000	5
Totally	1 487300	0 - 11 %



Part of the Wilderness areas are also important fishing and hunting areas, but the area of practising these activities is relatively small



Despite all the challenges in the management of the wilderness areas they have been a success in northern nature protection, protection of cultural values and versatile traditional land use.



**Thank You, and welcome to enjoy
finnish national parks and
wilderness areas!**

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