

A photograph of a forest with a small wooden cabin in the background. The forest is composed of many birch trees with white bark and green foliage. The cabin is made of dark wood and has a gabled roof. The ground is covered in green grass and some fallen leaves. The sky is overcast.

***Where are species-rich
farmland areas in Finland?***

Response to the CORINE based approach

HNV-Conference in Uppsala, 4th June 2007

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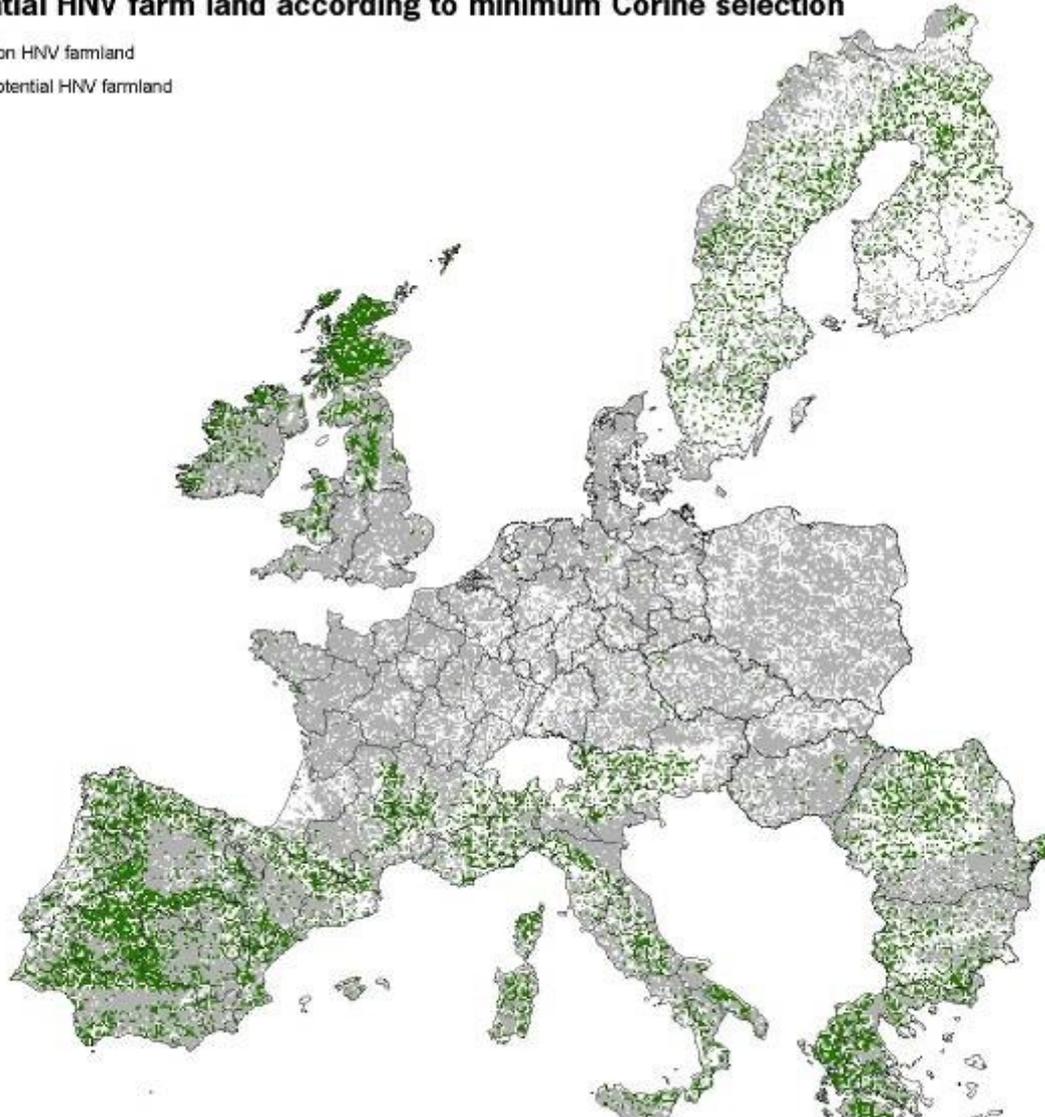
HNV-farmland in Finland?

- The HNV-concept is important and needed
- Valuable for promoting farmland nature conservation
- Financial gain for farmers for supporting nature
- BUT: the current definition of HNV-areas is problematic and non-functional for Finland
- We need to know more so that the HNV-concept can be applied correctly
 - Landscape & biological diversity, HNV-farming practices vs. any chosen criteria to select areas?

EEA has defined the HNV-areas using CORINE Land Cover -data

Potential HNV farm land according to minimum Corine selection

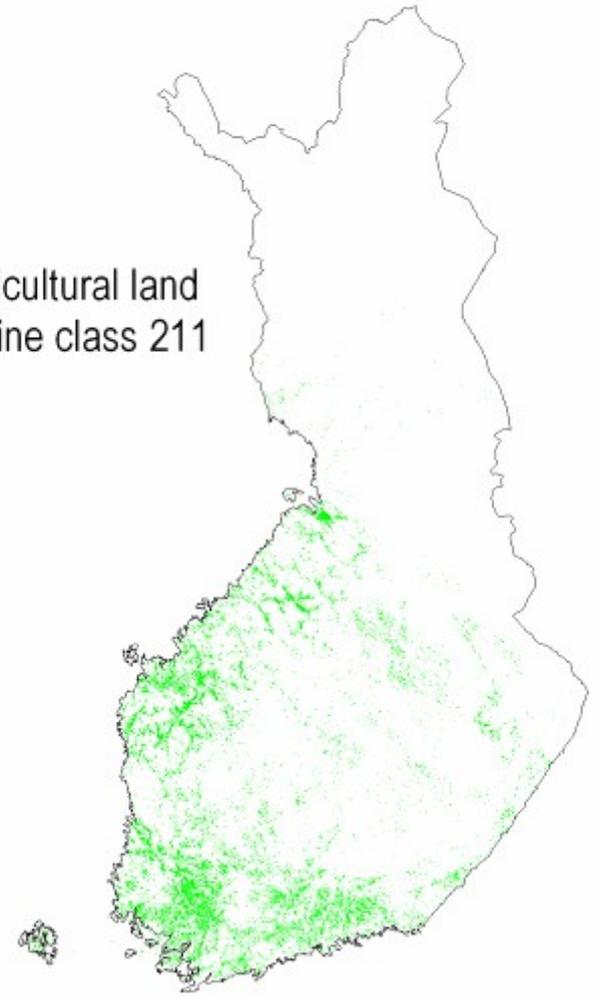
- Non HNV farmland
- Potential HNV farmland



EEA:s HNV-concept vs. farming in Finland?



Agricultural land
Corine class 211



16.07.07

**...Concept currently includes CORINE classes
NOT associated with agriculture**

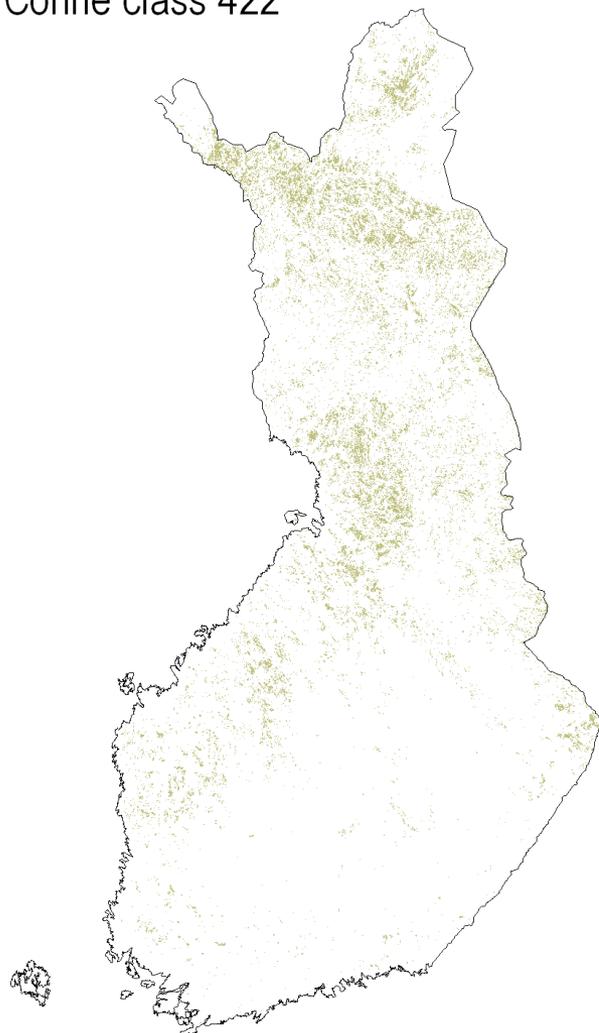


Moors and heath land (3.2.2)



Sparsely vegetated areas (3.3.3.)

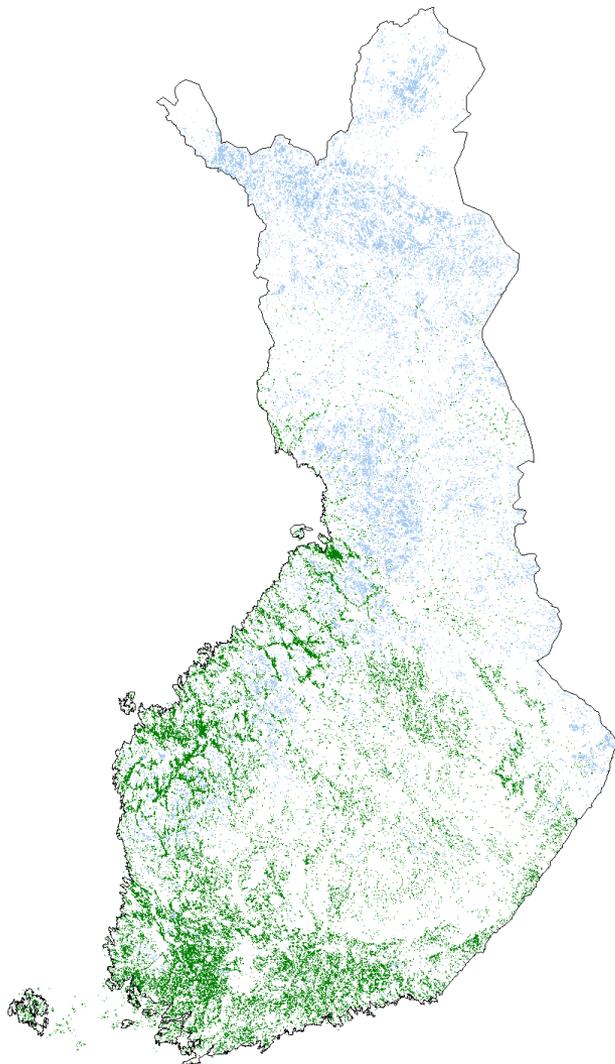
Mire distribution
Corine class 422



Fell areas
Corine classes 331-333



S Y K L

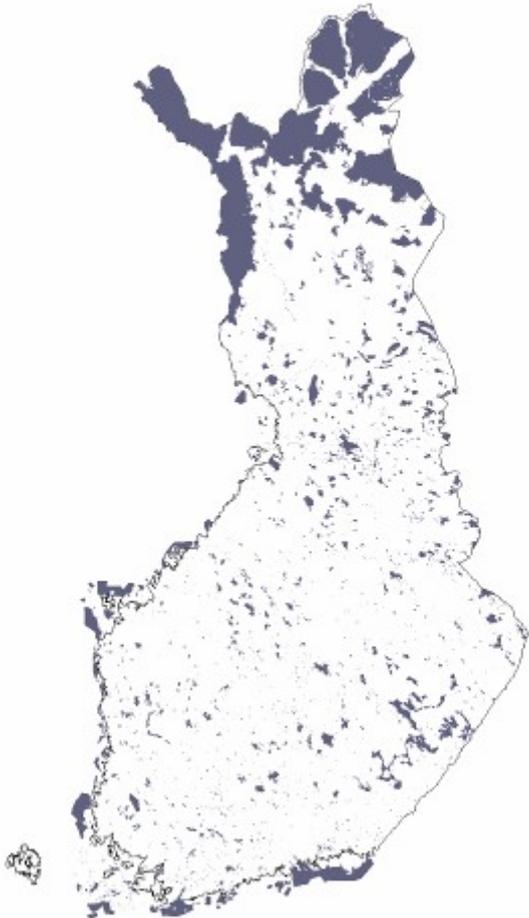


Distributions of farmlands and other open habitats are largely opposite in Finland

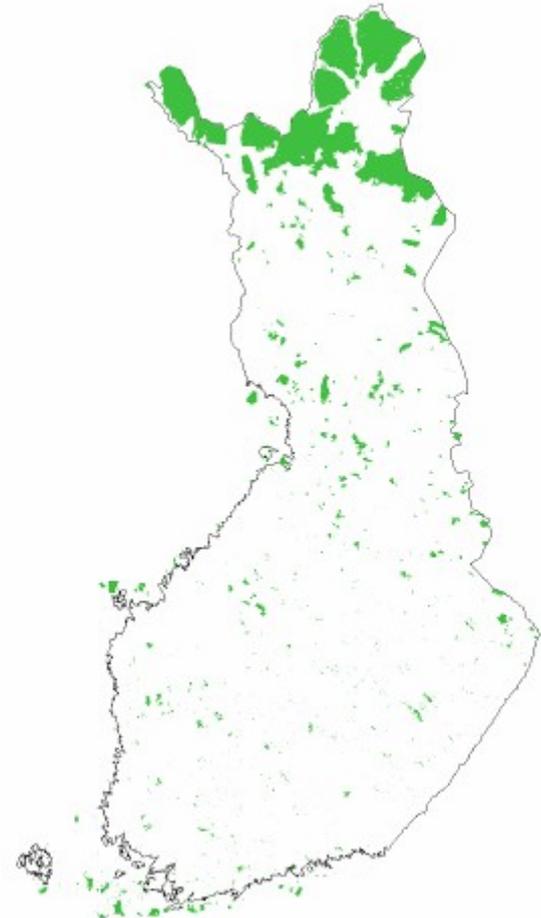
- Blue: peat bog, marsh, fen, heath land
 - absolutely no connection with agricultural production in Finland
- Green: all agricultural land
- Map based on CORINE data

Most of the Finnish Natura 2000 or other protected areas are NOT associated with agriculture → no use!

Natura2000 areas



Protected and wilderness areas



If not so, how then to define HNV-areas?

- Three main alternatives:
 - Land cover (Corine)
 - Farming systems
 - Species data
- All have been tested; each has its faults & limitations...
- EEA supports the first one, for good reasons
- But, **national** redefinements are clearly needed!
- Preliminary work of Luoto & Schulman is now continued



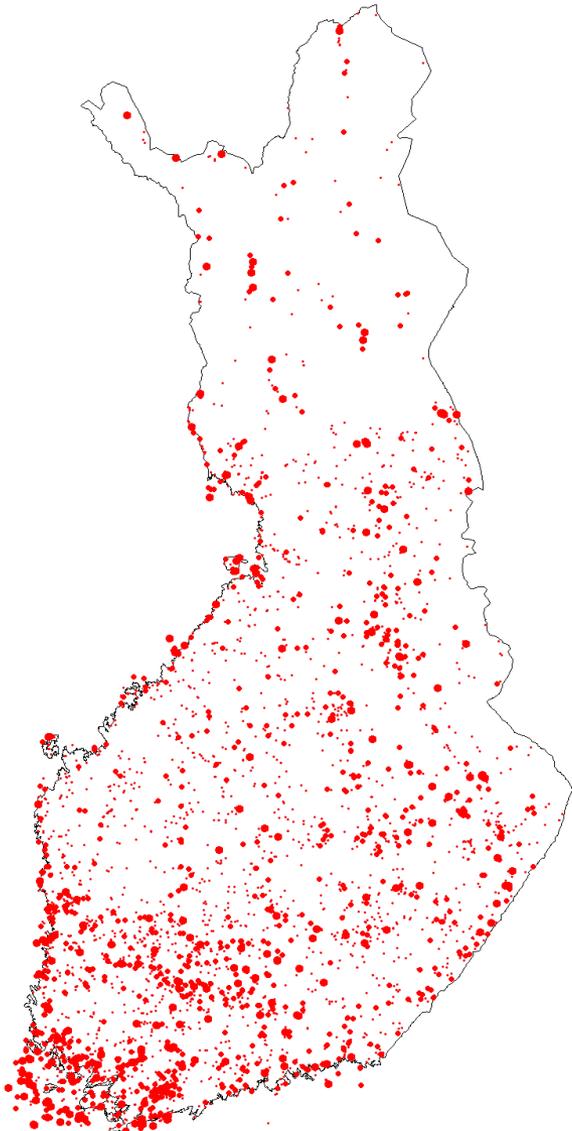
Where are most species-rich farmland habitats?

- Distribution of valuable rural biotopes in Finland ($n = 3800$)

→ Concentrated in SW-Finland

- Paradoxically, farming is also most productive & intensive in SW-areas

→ Suggested combining of HNV & LFA – concepts (Less Favourable Areas) NOT feasible in Finland!



S Y K E

Where are threatened farmland species?

- Also mostly in southern and south-western Finland

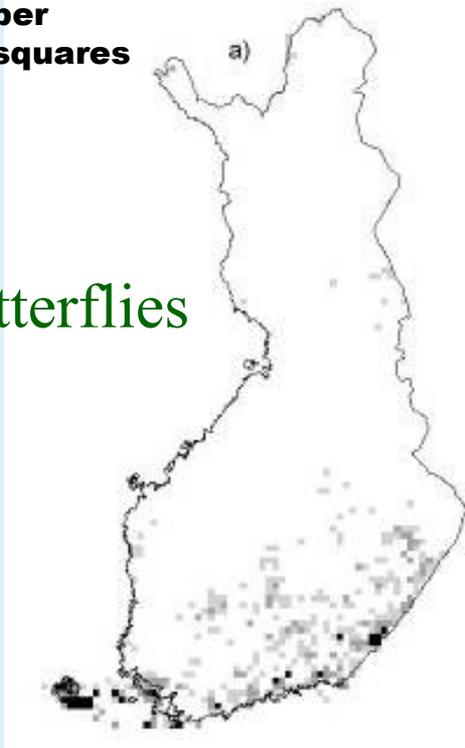
Species number
in 10x10 km squares



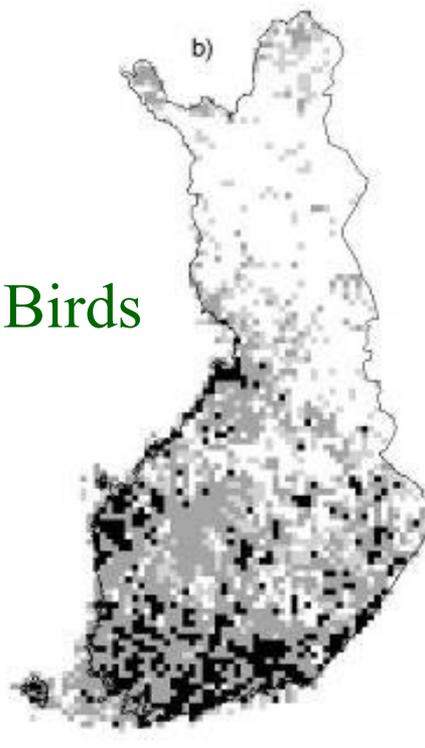
Low

High

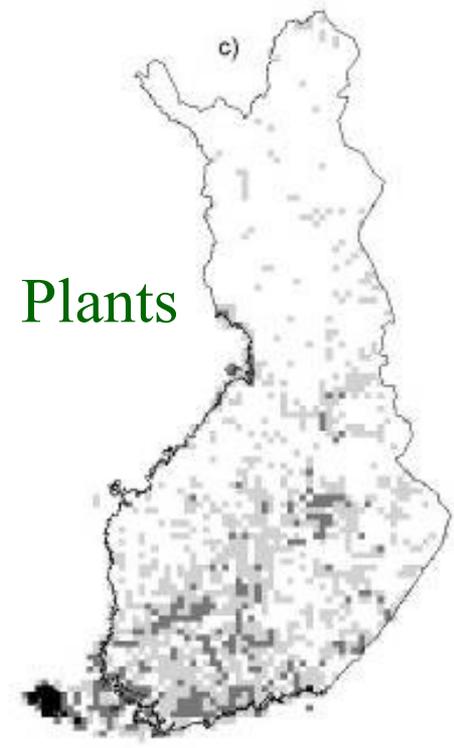
Butterflies



Birds



Plants



Creating alternative definitions for HNV-farmland in Finland

The project just started; results by mid-2008

- Aim is to classify **municipalities** according to their 'HNV-value'
 - Smallest possible administrative unit
- Various approaches using different types of data
 - Statistical data on farms & practices
 - Valuable habitats
 - Species occurrence
 - Finally, all of the above ones combined
- Results available on **farmland birds**

