



❑ Lesser Spotted Eagle

## Greater Spotted Eagle

This eagle is one of Europe's most endangered species of birds, though some few pair do nest in Estonia. The drying and clearing of marshy forests, as well as the end of management of traditional bottom-land meadows have adversely affected the birds.



❑ Black Stork

## Black Stork

In Eastern Europe their numbers have greatly declined over the past thirty years, most likely due to land improvement (melioration) and the diminishing supply of suitable old forests for nesting.

## Lesser Spotted Eagle

This is Estonia's most stable and prevalent Eagle species, though in southern regions of area its population is in decline. This has been connected to lack of food due to intensive farming and lack of suitable forests in proximity to grasslands.

For the protection of these species, the Estonian Ornithological Society has created the LIFE project

## Arrangement of Spotted Eagle and Black Stork conservation in Estonia LIFE04NAT/EE/000072 (EAGLELIFE)

The European Union supports roughly 75% of the EAGLELIFE project

Partners: State Nature Conservation Centre, Ministry of the Environment, The Eagle Club, Estonian Private Forest Union

Project dates: April 2004 – May 2009

The project serves to better the status of the species in Estonia through the following activities:

- Fulfillment and updates of the species protection plan;
- Introduction of the project species and their ecological requirements;
- Development of international cooperation in the area of species conservation;
- Restoration of the Natura 2000 biotope (cleaning river meadows of brush), betterment of the project species feeding opportunities;
- Assistance with species conservation projects of the Ministry of the Environment and State Nature Conservation Centre.



❑ Adult Black Stork carrying transmitter



❑ Image from web camera – young Black Storks

## EAGLELIFE's significant accomplishments:

During the project, more than 100 new nesting locations were discovered (only known nests can be protected), a variety of applied research was completed (e.g., research on use of feeding grounds and the influence of agricultural resources), and additionally, use of satellite transmitters has brought information concerning many new migration routes and wintering grounds for Black Storks and Spotted Eagles, which in itself has enlivened international cooperation.



❑ Seminar for pupils about EAGLELIFE project

With respect to media and public relations, we were successful in the installation of the web camera at the black stork's nest, with public access to satellite transmission information, and as well generated a large number of articles in a variety of publications. For tracking public opinion, sociological research was used at the beginning of the project and is also planned at the project's conclusion.



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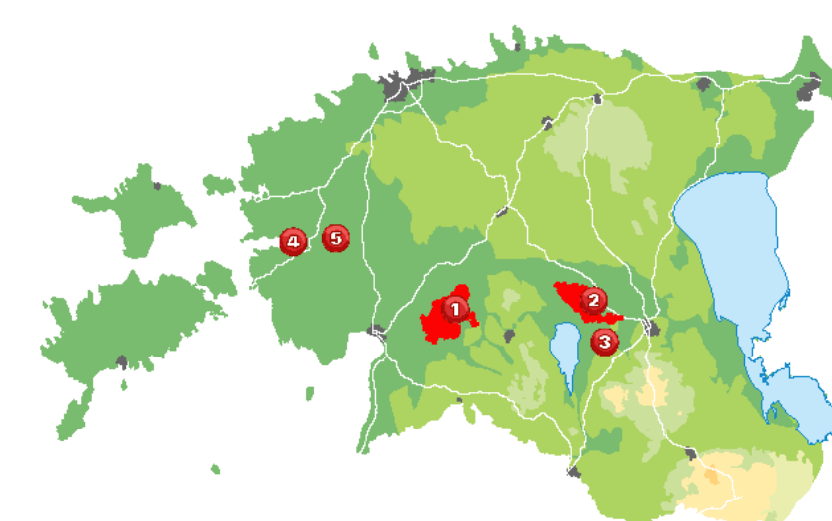
❑ Restoration of meadow

For the preservation of nesting grounds, 65 hectares of forest land is being purchased from private owners and transferred to the state during the course of the project.

Together with Rein Maran, the DVD "Estonian Eagle ABCs" was released, and the booklet "Estonian Eagles and Black Storks."

The most work-intensive project is the river meadow restoration, the clearing of brush and creation of favorable conditions for successive hay cutting. Meadow restoration falls under five different Natura 2000 areas, where Spotted Eagles and Black Storks go to feed:

1. Soomaa National Park, 2000 ha
2. Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve, 300 ha
3. Keeri-Karijärve Nature Reserve, 100 ha
4. Matsalu National Park, 300 ha
5. Käntu-Kastja Special Protection Area, 150 ha



❑ During EAGLELIFE restored floodplains in Estonia

The activities that the EAGLELIFE project started have developed in the following manner:

- Use of satellite transmitters for eagle and black stork research;
- Development of the international cooperation network;
- Meadow maintenance after restoration;
- Development of colored banding programs for eagle and black stork research;
- Cooperation with private landowners and the Ministry of the Environment;
- Media work.



❑ Overflooded wooded meadow in Soomaa