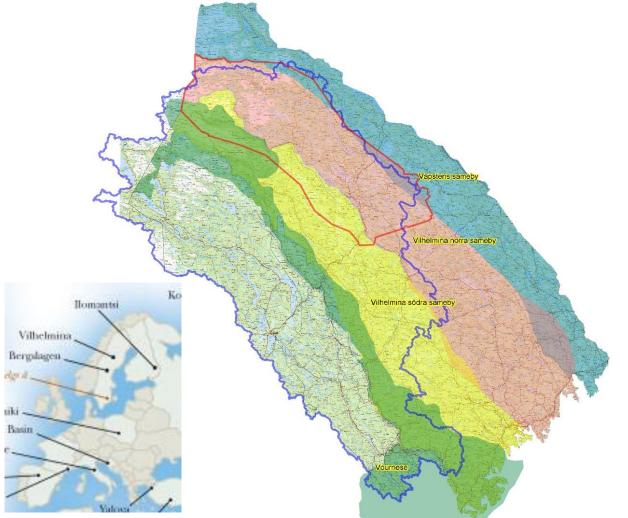


# VILHELMINA MODEL FOREST



## Vilhelmina Model Forest



#### Country:

Sweden

### Location:

• Northern region of the country

### Area (ha):

• 850 000

Year joined International Model Forest Network:

• 2004

Number of inhabitants:

• 6400

#### **Population density**

• 0,7 person per km2

### Number of Sami reindeer-herding communities

• 2(4)



## Strategic goals of the work with Vilhelmina model forest

- To increase knowledge and improve decision making for the use of the different values of the landscape through cooperation and practical efforts.
- To support research for the concrete development of sustainable use of the landscape and its different values.
- To work to secure local support and local exchange of all current activities within and linked to Vilhelmina Model Forest
- To increase exchanges with other Model Forests and similar initiatives, both nationally and internationally.





### The key issues the initiative aimed to address



During the past few decades, there has been intense discussion as to which forestry practices should be used in the western parts of Vilhelmina Municipality.



Photo: Bo Persson

## The key issues the initiative aimed to address

Discussions about issues related to environmental sustainability and land access rights for indigenous migrant reindeer herders vis-à-vis forest practices.



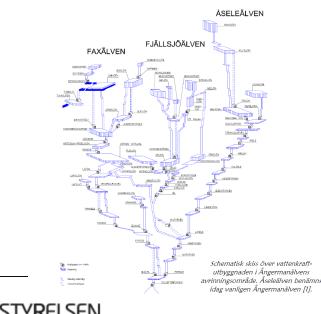


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Another key issue is environmental adaptation of hydro power production in the catchment area of the river Ångermanälven.

The system provides 17% of Swedens hydro power production.

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## The landscape, and how we use it

- The land-base in Vilhelmina is in the transition area from boreal to alpine zones.
- The area is a typical coniferous-dominated landscape of inland northern Sweden.
- It is variable in its topography, from about 340 meters above sea level up to 1000 meters. There is a great variety of natural habitats and degree of disturbance by forestry.
- Some 350,000 hectares are productive forestland, dominated by mature forests (80 years or more). The amount of old forests increases going westward, as does the proportion of forests with high natural values.
- The most common tree species are spruce, pine and birch.
- About half of the people who live in Vilhelmina municipality own some forest property. Around 100 Sami people are organized in indigenous reindeer herding communities.
- Forestry is an important component of Vilhelmina's economy.
- For the informal economy and cultural heritage of the community, as well as for the well-being of the citizens, the forest is of vital importance for supporting hunting, berry picking, fishing and recreational activities.



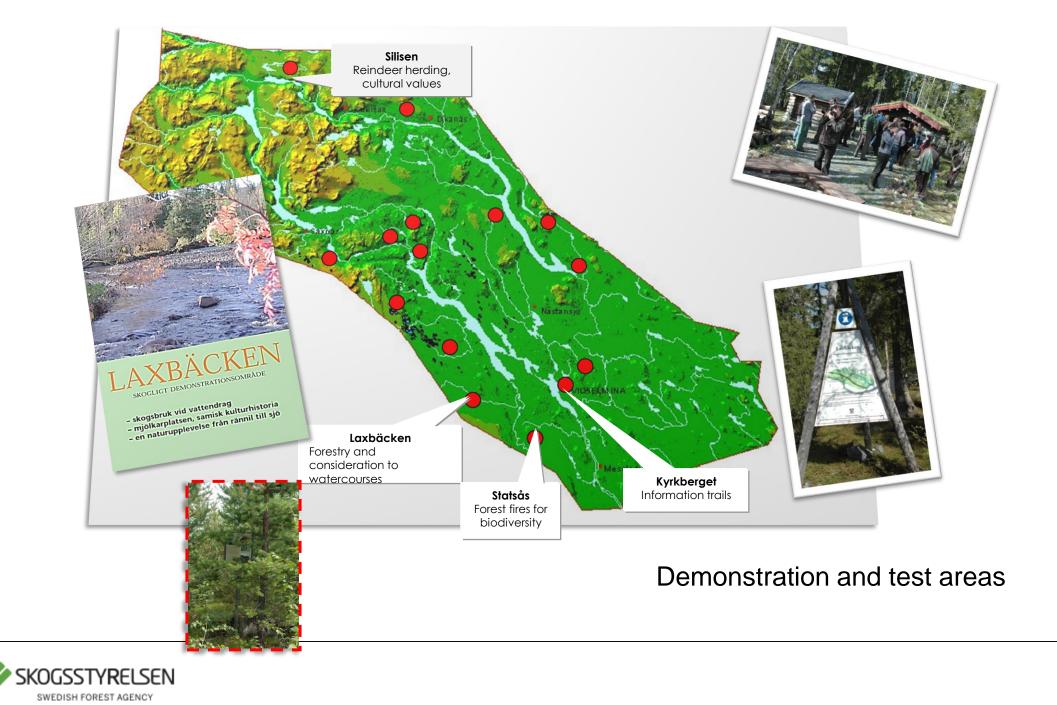


Activities for sharing information and learning together











## The key outcomes

- Between 2012 and 2017 Vilhelmina Model Forest took part in a number of projects (in many cases financed by EU funding), e.g.
  - Baltic Landscape
  - PLURAL
  - Integral
  - Arange
- Within the projects, collaborations were developed on different topics and between different actors such as researchers, Vilhelmina municipality, NGO's and citizens.

- Use of the demonstration sites at excursions and thematic programs
- Continued theoretical and practical work with the river Ångermanälven and its tributary streams
- The formation of a nature reserve highlighting social values of the forest
- Co-operation between the municipality and researchers in the development of municipal comprehensive planning through an extended landscape perspective and an improved participation process.



## Networking and cooperation between different stakeholders

- Creation of thematic groups working on water and climate issues, alternative forestry methods and social values of the forest
- Building of stakeholder capacity through the development and participation in networking activities
- River restoration activities
- Establishment and development of demonstration sites
- Research activities within and about the Model Forest landscape
- Strengthen partnerships and participate in exchanges between the Model Forests in Sweden and the seven participating sites in the Baltic Sea Region
- Release of a periodic newsletter to share knowledge, lessons learned and information about ongoing work.





Illustration Julia Kabell