

## MARTIMO AAPA-LUMIA AAPA MIRES

**Location** 65° 50' N, 25° 10' E.  
The area is situated in the province of Lapland, in the municipalities of Simo and Keminmaa.

**Area:** 14 188 ha, comprising about 10 000 ha of mires and 620 ha of water.

**Protection status:** Formerly an area of 7 100 ha was protected from drainage by the Finnish Forest and Park Service. In 1981 12 200 ha of the area was established as a Peatland Reserve which is in the state's ownership. Martimoaapa-Lumiaaapa is already included in the Ramsar Convention sites (area included is 7 400 ha) and in the international Project Mar protection programme. The whole area is included in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

**Site description:** The area includes several extensive mires close to each other. Together with well developed and wet aapa mires the area includes active raised bogs. Martimoaapa is among the best developed northern active raised bogs. There are large ponds and hummocks with old forest in the area. The Kivalo hill chain, which is partly included in the protected area, is clearly richer in vegetation than the rest of the area because of lime in the soil. On lower slopes of the hills there are rich wooded meadows and various types of alkaline fens.

### **International and national importance:**

Martimoaapa area is one of the most extensive examples of the Pohjanmaa aapa mire zone. The area is exceptionally rich in the variety of mire types. The flora of alkaline fens and rich hill slopes include several rare species. The mires generally have many flarks and pools and the waterfowl and wader fauna are valuable.

Both southern and northern bird species are encountered. According to surveys of 1987 30 pairs of Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis*) and 26 pairs of Cranes (*Grus grus*) breed in the Peatland Reserve. The most numerous waterfowl species are Teal (*Anas crecca*), Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) and Pintail (*A. acuta*). The Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) population of the area is evidently the densest in Finland. The breeding waterfowl also includes e.g. Black-throated Diver (*G. arctica*), Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) and Smew (*Mergus albellus*).

There are 16 species of breeding waders with a total of 1 500 pairs in the Peatland Reserve. The most numerous species are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Common

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and Curlew (*Numenius arquata*). Several northbound waders are common, e.g. Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*), Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) and Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Four species of gulls (*Larus spp.*) breed in the area; Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) is the most abundant species. There is also a diverse raptor fauna with e.g. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*).

The location near the coast of the bottom of the Gulf of Bothnia adds to the importance of the area as a resting place during migration periods.

**Protection criteria:** 1b, 2a and 3b.

**Changes in ecological character:**  
None noticed.

**Management measures:**  
The use of non-mire areas will be decided in the management plan which is under preparation.

**Possible threats:** Increasing recreational use may disturb sensitive breeding species.

**Research:** Several studies on mire bird fauna have been carried out on Martimoaapa.

**References:** Committee Memorandum 1976, 1980b, Finnish Forest and Park Service 1991a, Finnish Legislative Collection 44/76, Haapanen 1973, Haapanen & Rassi 1980, Häyrinen & Ruuhijärvi 1969, Junninen 1993, Lyytikäinen 1976, Rauhala 1980, 1987, Väisänen & Järvinen 1977b.