



## Appointment in the Ministry

**Dr. Vesa Ruusila** was appointed as the new Head of “Recreational Use of Nature” / -unit (*Enheten för Vilt och Fiske*) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The unit was formerly led by **Christian Krogell** who retired earlier this year. Dr. Ruusila starts his new duties in 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

Dr. Ruusila has a long history as a director of Wildlife and Game research. He is currently working as a Director of Expert Services (Game, Fisheries and Reindeer Husbandry) for the Natural Resource Institute Finland.

Dr. Ruusila is a long-time member of the CIC.



## Wild Forest Reindeer LIFE -project launched in October 2016

The current world population of Wild Forest Reindeer (WFR) Finland and Russia together is approx. 4.500, of which the Finnish population is around 2.000. WFR is listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive and its conservation status was assessed as “unfavourable-inadequate” in the most recent reporting. The major threats WFR is facing are excessive mortality caused by large carnivores and traffic, and the genetic risks of in-breeding. Habitat change is exacerbating large carnivore predation.

Metsähallitus, a member organization of the CIC, prepared and launched a LIFE project titled “*The wild forest reindeer (Rangifer tarandus fennicus) of Finland: Conservation and recovery of historic range*” with a main objective of to achieve a “favourable” conservation status for the Finnish Wild Forest Reindeer by 2023.

Specific objectives of the project are to increase the range of the WFR via reintroductions in two Natura 2000 Areas, improve the genetic diversity of the ex situ population both in Finland and in Sweden, improve habitats in multi-use forest landscapes and improve the knowledge base of local communities and the general public in terms of WFR conservation.

The project budget is 5,16 million euro, with EU contribution for 60 %. Co-financers are the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (1,32 million euro), Ministry of Environment, Finnish Hunters’ Association and all nine project partners.

Read more about Wild Forest Reindeer: [www.forestreindeer.fi](http://www.forestreindeer.fi)

Description of the project (EU Commission):

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=5841&docType=pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5841&docType=pdf)





# NEWSLETTER (#1) CIC Finnish Delegation

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016

## Oma riista (My Game) e-Service widely adopted by Finnish hunters

Oma riista is a modern hunting journal, which is already used by 90.000 Finnish hunters and 4.900 hunting associations. Hunters can quickly and accurately record game observations and harvests to their private journal on the field using mobile applications, or back at home with computer or tablet. Hunters and license holders can also submit mandatory harvest reports using the service.



This year Oma riista introduced features with which hunting associations have been able to easily document their hunting areas, which members can further transfer to their dog tracking and mapping applications. Hunting associations have been able to record and submit moose hunting related harvest, observation and daily circumstances data to be further used by Finnish Wildlife Agency and the Natural Resources Institute Finland. In return, associations have been provided with daily reports, heat maps and graphs based on the data collected during ongoing and earlier hunting seasons. This gives new tools for hunting association to manage their moose hunting during the hunting season.

Oma riista has received very positive feedback from individual hunters, hunting associations, license holders, game management authorities and research as well as commercial partners. Service has significantly helped to reduce paper work, aided in distributing information to relevant stakeholders as well as increased the amount of reliable and accurate game data. The use of modern tools for crowdsourcing game data helps to ensure sustainable use of wildlife.

Oma riista service (<https://oma.riista.fi>) has been developed by Finnish Wildlife Agency (Member of the CIC). Using the service is free for all Finnish hunters. Mobile applications are available for Android, iOS and Window Phone devices.

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## Hunting bag 2015 - key statistics

According to survey made by Natural Resources Institute Finland (NRIF) approximately 202.000 people went hunting in 2015. However, 306.000 hunters paid the annual hunting management fee.

Due to the natural variation and a decreasing trend in forest grouse populations, the hunting bag was 20 % lower than previous season. The number of Black Grouse shot was roughly 105.000 and Capercaillie 28.000. Other important small game species were Mallard (249.000), wood Pigeon (235.000), Raccoon Dog (160.000) and Arctic Hare (153.000). The small game bag in 2016 will be evaluated before late summer 2017.



The total moose bag in 2015 was approximately 44.100. For the first time they were hunted according to the new moose management regime. The number of moose hunting associations or groups is roughly 6.000 with 100.000 hunters. In 2015 the white tailed deer bag was 26.600 and roe deer 4.800.

Detailed statistics by NRIF (small game): [http://stat.luke.fi/en/hunting-and-small-game-bag-2015\\_en](http://stat.luke.fi/en/hunting-and-small-game-bag-2015_en)

More about moose bag (in Swedish): <http://riista.fi/sv/storleken-av-mangden-avgbyte-motsvarade-planerna/>

More about deer bag (in Swedish): <http://riista.fi/sv/rekordartat-mycket-vitsvanshjort-och-radjur-som-byte/>

**CIC Finnish Delegation**  
Mikko Rautiainen, secretary

Metsähallitus  
P.o. Box 81  
FIN - 90440 Oulu

[mikko.rautiainen@metsa.fi](mailto:mikko.rautiainen@metsa.fi)  
Tel. +358 40 547 2392  
[www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org) / [www.cic.fi](http://www.cic.fi)