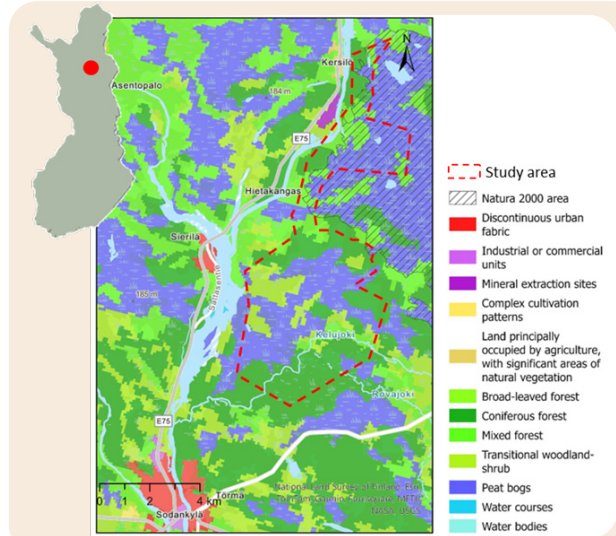


Sakatti is a nickel – copper – PGE mine development project located in Sodankylä in northern Finland. Sodankylä already hosts the Kevitsa nickel and inactive Pahtavaara gold mines and is a focus of intense mineral exploration and another mine development project, the Ikkari gold mine. The Sakatti deposit is located on the margin of the Viiankiaapa mire Natura 2000 area. The area is also dedicated to reindeer herding, hunting, berry picking and other recreation activities.

Fig. The Sakatti project area in Sodankylä. Overall geographical disposition. Corine land use 2018 map + Natura 2000 map and study area (EEA).



**Sakatti is a significant deposit because of its CRM content and Economic importance. It is a good candidate for Strategic CRM project.**

In Finland, there are mineral plans, and land use plans separately, but during application the permit is assessed for environmental and social impacts by relevant authorities. In principle, mining is not possible in a nature protection area and authorities cannot accept any exceptions on that. Regarding Natura 2000 areas, the Mining authority (TUKES) can give a mining license if the nature values are not significantly impacted. Also, the mining activity can be granted permit only if it does not conflict with other land use in the area. During the permitting process, a Natura 2000 report was produced that assessed the area's biodiversity values, habitats, hydrogeology, and the cumulative impacts from other ongoing activities on Natura 2000 area.

Sakatti project raised concerns because of its partial location near Natura 2000 area, recreation areas and reindeer herding areas. Finnish Association for Nature Conservation and Save Viiankiaapa movement NGOs have opposed the project through consultation, and appeals. In winter 2023–2024, the Extinction Rebellion interrupted drilling in the area by direct action.

The company is exploring the development of an underground mine to minimize impacts on the protected area. Despite that, the company has made ecological compensation. Low impacts mineral exploration methods have been applied. They have included full Tensor Magnetic Gradiometry (FTMG)+airborne electromagnetic survey, closed circuit drilling and movement of machineries were restricted to winter to avoid moss damages.

The company has been practiced communication and stakeholder engagement since the very early stage and through different means. Despite of some resistance, most of the local people accept the project. Municipality favors the project as well. The local community has also pressured the company to provide better economic benefits from the project. Sodankylä municipality plans to establish a mining forum, agreement, and program, which would be the first in the EU.

Apparently, this is the very first time when the Extinction Rebellion has extended its activities towards mining.

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