



The Holocene history of Baltic Sea evolution is definitely one of the most interesting and intriguing stories of environmental change in Europe. To date, the key information on changes in sea-level and shifts in the environment associated with climate fluctuations were found in coastal lakes, marshes and wide stripe of barrier-lagoon systems of southern Baltic. Only limited research was conducted along rocky coasts, so characteristic features for Baltic islands from Bornholm, through Oland, Gotland, Fårö, Hiiumaa, Saaremaa to thousands of isles of Åland Archipelago.

Among the most thrilling natural wonders found along Baltic coasts are *rauks* or *raukars*, unique limestone stacks—often with humanlike features—that tower above rocky shore platforms in northern Gotland and on Fårö, Gotland's sister island. Raukar coasts are one of the greatest touristic attractions in Sweden and the mythical coastal landscape of northern Gotland and Fårö had inspired many artists, including one of the greatest directors in the cinema history – Ingmar Bergman. Surprisingly, what attracts tourists and art and culture people, have been neglected by geomorphologists and those fascinating landforms still wait for detailed explanation of their origin and preservation.

The **RAUK** project is designed to 'cross swords' with raukar's mysterious history and explain what controlled the formation of hundreds of limestone stacks along coasts of Gotland and Fårö, and to test if the morphology of those rocky landforms bear traces of numerous environmental changes that occurred in Baltic region over the Holocene.