



**Lahemaa National Park (1971):
how people care in 21st century**
Ave Paulus, Environmental Board of Estonia

EUROPARC SIGGEN SEMINAR march2018



CULTURE IS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

TRADITIONAL CULTURE IS ALL ABOUT UNDERSTANDING NATURE:

1. **RESPECT** of the surroundings – HOME
2. **KNOWLEDGE** – sustainable nature use, objects and traditions
3. **EDUCATION** – people, from generations to generations

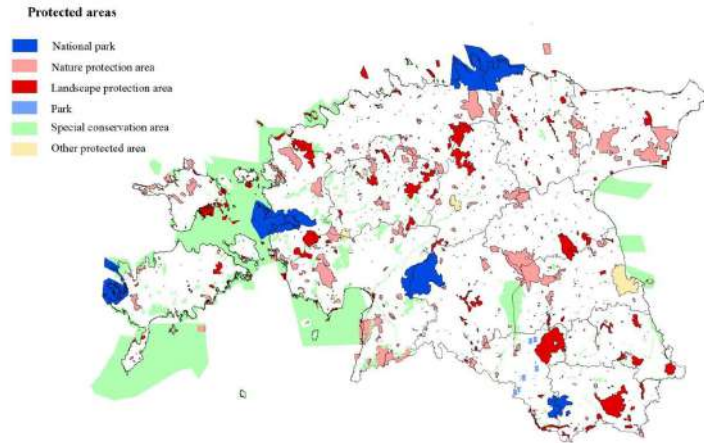


PLAN :

1. **Setting the scene**
2. **PEOPLE OF LAHEMAA IN ACTION**
3. **HAPPY END**



ESTONIAN NATURE IS PROTECTED Ca 18 % of land and 33% of water

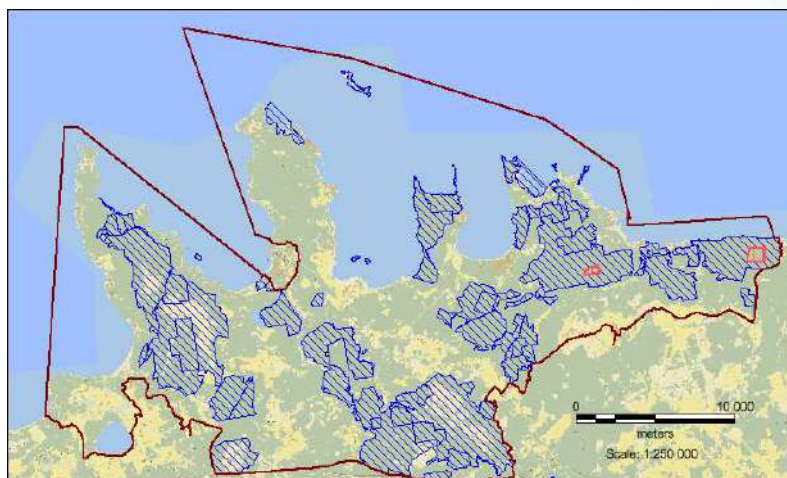


- 165 nature protected areas, 150 landscape protected areas, 5 national parks, 306 parks, 328 limited conservation areas
- Species conservation areas 1342
- Natura 2000 Network – 66 bird areas, 541 nature areas

LAHEMAA NATIONAL PARK 1971, Natura 2000 site

74 784 ha, land 47 910 ha, sea 26 874 ha)

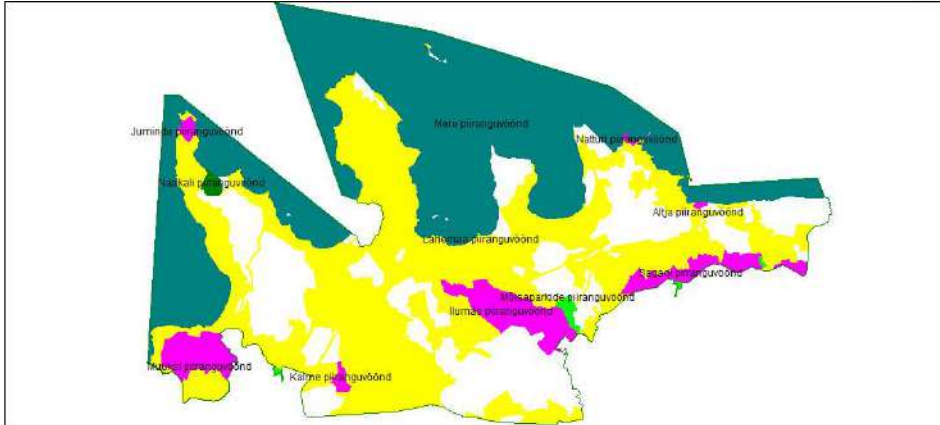
1. **strict nature reserve** – 74 ha, no access or management
2. **special management zone** – 12,700 ha, natural development of ecosystems, access and management restricted
3. **Limited management zone** – 34,000 ha dry land, 25090 ha sea, sustainable economic activity permitted



WHERE PEOPLE MOSTLY ACT?

Limited management zone : protection of cultural landscape and cultural heritage

- 72 villages
- Most of the land is in private ownership
- Circa 7000 landowners,
- approx 10000 buildings, 2500 valuable vernacular buildings
- more than 500 listed monuments (manors, churches, archeological heritage)



Local community owns and carries cultural heritage

Participation in:

1. Defining heritage
2. Preservation of heritage
3. Introducing heritage

Lahemaa council
Government
Management



EMPOWERMENT OF COMMUNITIES IN Lahemaa NP Council Consensus principle

1. **Duty-bearers (public authorities)**
2. **Right-holders (landowners, local communities, religious groups)**
3. **Stake-holders (developers, tourism companies, forestry)**
4. **Experts (scientific councils, work-groups)**



Lahemaa NP Rules 2015, together with locals

- Cultural heritage
- Cultural landscapes
- Sustainable use of environment
- Agricultural use of landscapes
- Fishing traditions
- Settlement structure
- Vernacular architecture
- Folk culture



Lahemaa NP management plan was made together with locals:

Lahemaa council 2014 june -2015 june – 2016 march

20 open meetings with 300 participants, 350 proposals

MAIN OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Local community should define (or be active participant in defining) cultural heritage**
- 2. Local community should preserve and introduce (or be main partner in preserving and introducing) heritage**
- 3. Local community should have historical rights of using nature and heritage as resource**
- 4. Local community should be acknowledged and actively supported by state**

Lahemaa NP Management plan 2016-2025 COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE

- 1. Historical land use**
- 2. Settlement structure**
- 3. Archeological sites and landscapes**
- 4. Vernacular architecture**
- 5. Listed monuments**
- 6. Military heritage**
- 7. Sacred natural sites**
- 8. Cultural places of villages**
- 9. Folk Culture and language**
- 10. Traditional lifestyle and crafts**



EXPERTS + LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

- *Zoning of prehistoric landscapes* **Valter Lang 2002**
- *Analysis of historical land use of Lahemaa* (University of Life Sciences, **Kalev Sepp, Valdo Kuusemets, Are Kaasik, Janar Raet, Arne Luud, Anne Kull, Maaria Semm**) 2010
- *Inventories of the architecture and settlement structure of Lahemaa villages* **Leele Välja and Artes Terrae (Mart Hiob, Sulev Nurme, Lilian Hansar, Juhan Maiste, Nele Nutt)** 2010, 2012
- *Lahemaa military heritage* by **Mati Õun** 2007
- *Inventory of sacred natural sites* (**TU, Ahto Kaasik**) 2009
- *Inventory of local folklore and legends by Estonian Literary Museum (Tõnno Jonuks)* and project *“Memoryscapes of National Parks”* 2010

INVENTORIES IN THE PROGRESS MADE BY LOCALS

1. **Lahemaa memoryscapes 2015-2019** Local communities themselves search the stories of their villages and culturally relevant places
2. **LAHEMAA MARINE AND COASTAL FISHING TRADITIONS**
3. **LAHEMAA AGRICULTURAL TRADITIONS**



Iiumäe küla

Iiumäe küla asub Lääne-Võrumaa Virtsu vallas ning on ajalooliselt Väike- ja Suur-Läbi, Põhja- ja Lääne-Läbi küla. Küla kesksel kohal asub Iiumäe kirik, mis on üks vanimaid kirikuid Lääne-Võrumaal. Küla kesksel kohal asub ka Iiumäe kool, mis on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

Kotkamägi
 Iiumäe kooli ja kiriku vahel asub Kotkamägi, mis on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

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Hiloinneme
 Hiloinneme on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

Färvi talu
 Färvi talu on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

Aikiikere talu
 Aikiikere talu on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

Vabadussõjas 1918-1920 langenute mälestusmägi
 Vabadussõjas 1918-1920 langenute mälestusmägi on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

Võõre talu
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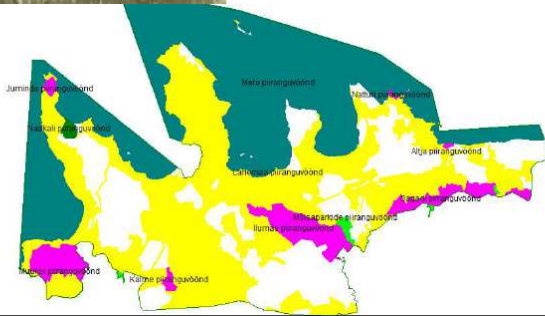




Kolgaaküla
 Kolgaaküla on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

Lahemaa Rahvuspark
 Lahemaa Rahvuspark on üks vanimaid kooli Lääne-Võrumaal.

Zoning of Prehistoric Landscapes Valter Lang 2002





Protection measures – raising awareness

KUNINGAKALMED

Needle-grass (Kuningakalm) is a rare and valuable species. It is found in the Kuningakalm area, which is a natural monument. The area is located in the Kuningakalm area, which is a natural monument. The area is located in the Kuningakalm area, which is a natural monument.

KUNINGAKALMED (RINGE) GRASSES

These grasses are the staff in the Kuningakalm area. They have been named because of their unique and rare characteristics. The grasses are found in the Kuningakalm area, which is a natural monument. The area is located in the Kuningakalm area, which is a natural monument.

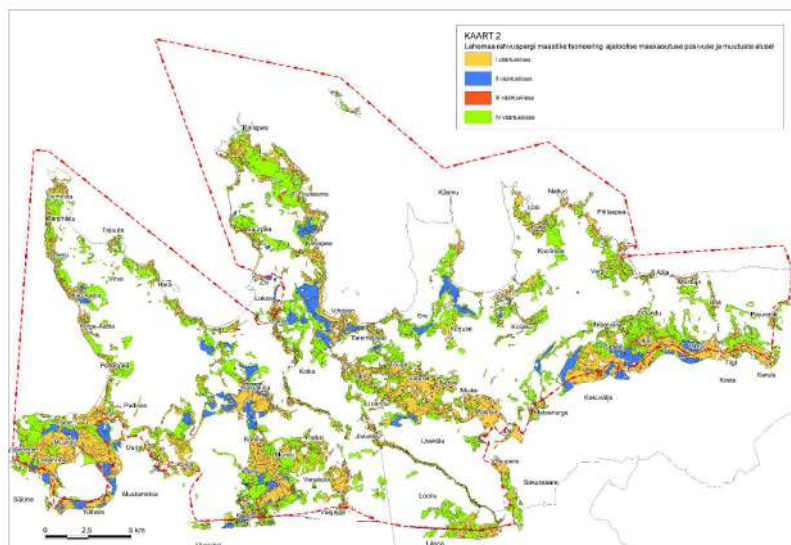


Protection measures - preservation



Historical land use

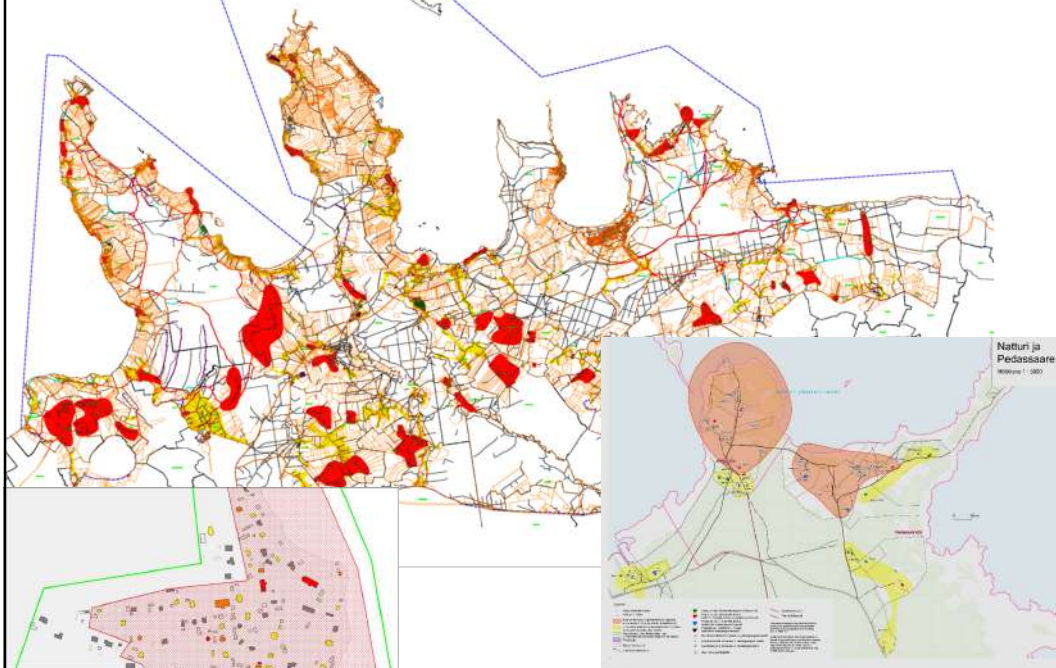
Analysis of historical land use and cover of Lahemaa (University of Life Sciences, Kalev Sepp, Valdo Kuusemets, Are Kaasik, Janar Raet, Aarne Luud, Anne Kull, Maaria Semm) 2010



PROTECTION OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING TRADITIONS

72 villages and more than 10000 buildings in Lahemaa

2500 houses of valuable vernacular architecture



KEEPING ARCHITECTURE TRADITIONS and BUILDINGS

INVENTORIES+ architectural contest+ working together with locals for best protection regime

1. Building regulation – 400 appeals per year

Environmental Board + Lahemaa Architectural Council

Lahemaa NP Rules and management plan – 350 proposals on HOW AND WHERE to build, 12 on values

2. special programme to help maintain valuable buildings (2500) and promote local building traditions





Architectural contest 21st century home in Lahemaa

Ideas about new housing in Lahemaa
Discussion about building rules in
Lahemaa

– You must take into consideration

Historical village type

Specific historic environment

Specific natural environment

Local building traditions and materials



30 projects



Raising awareness with local communities

2006-2017

Approx 15 000 participants, 12 workshops/seminars per year

2015 Europa Nostra prize in educational programmes
category, part of Estonian Open Air Museum nomination

TEACHING OF VALUES, SKILLS AND TRADITIONS

Extremely popular events 😊



CAMPAIGNS INITIATED BY LOCALS:

2015 „Living landscapes“ –
traditional farming and local breeds

„Traditional forest use“

2016 „Traditional Fishing“ and
„Lahemaa boats“

2017

„Let's colour Lahemaa“

Traditional lifestyle and
built heritage program preparations
(12 meetings, proposals)

Teeme Eestile
kingitusi!



BRIGHT FUTURE - COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM

1. LOCALS TAKE PROFIT OF VALUES
2. LOCALS CONTROL TOURISM
3. LOCALS HAVE JOINT MARKETING

CARDS IN HAND:

1. MORE THAN 100 enterprises
2. Junior rangers



In the PROCESS:

1. Charter of sustainable Tourism
2. Interactive web-page
„Lahemaa circle“ –
Estonian eldest National Park
Opens its villages



HAPPY END

