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, Aarne 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 Ūn 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
Zoning of Prehistoric Landscapes
Valter Lang 2002
Protection measures – raising awareness
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)

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