



KESKKONNAAMET



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



- **West Estonian Archipelago**
- Biosphere Reserve since 1990
- Man and the Biosphere Programme

# Man and Biosphere

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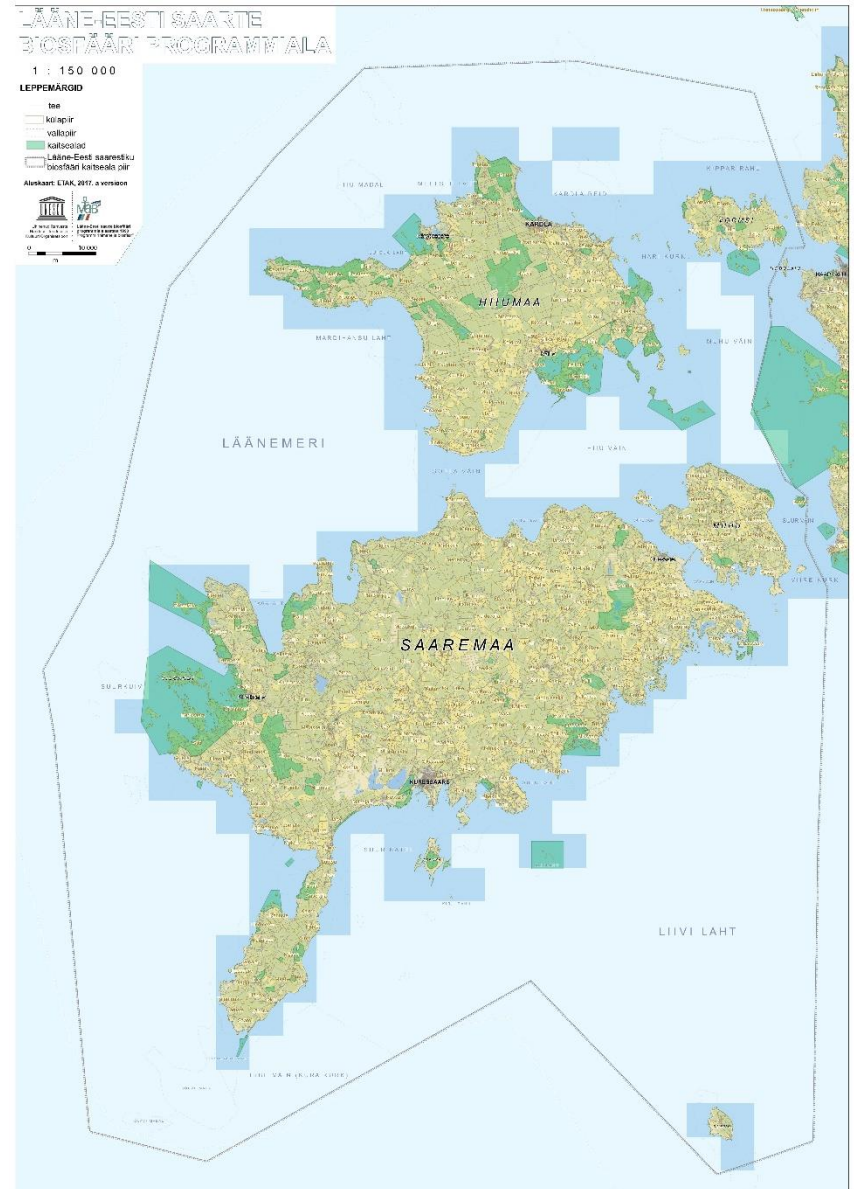
15.09.2017 Hiiumaa

# Map of the area



The biggest islands of Estonia  
– Saaremaa, Hiiumaa,  
Muhumaa, Vormsi + smaller  
ones as Ruhnu, Abruksa etc  
Total area: 15 601 km<sup>2</sup>  
Only 4038 km<sup>2</sup> inland

1/10 of all territory of Estonian  
Republic



## General criteria for a BR

**It encompasses** a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major biogeographic regions, including a gradation of human interventions

**It is significance** for biological diversity conservation.

**It provides an opportunity** to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale.

**It has an appropriate size** to serve the three functions of biosphere reserves (conservation, development, logistic support)

**It includes these functions**, through appropriate zonation, recognizing:

- (a) a legally constituted core area or areas devoted to long-term protection, according to the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserve, and of sufficient size to meet these objectives;
- (b) a buffer zone or zones clearly identified and surrounding or contiguous to the core area or areas, where only activities compatible with the conservation objectives can take place;
- (c) an outer transition area where sustainable resource management practices are promoted and developed.

# West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Program Area



The geographical position, young age of the area,  
limerichness of soils and centuries of human activity



# UNESCO logo and our slogan



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**The islands and the sea • safeguarded environment**

# Governance of the Program

- Since 2009, a state institution, the Environmental Board, started coordination of the programm
- In 2013, the Advisory Council for BPA was formed
- Sustainable development plan with action plan has been confirmed by the director general in 2014
- Biosphere specialist is responsible for implementation of the Action plan 2014-2020

# UNESCO network

- The primary objective of nature conservation areas is to protect specific species and communities, their condition and the natural process. The human impact is as small as possible in the nature conservation areas
- The biosphere reserve is rather a part of the international network of UNESCO as a part of the national conservation system
- The Biosphere Reserve is a place for finding a balance between nature and people. Thus, human economic activity is always a part of the biosphere area

# Sustainable Development

Biosphere reserves focus on the sustainable development and the green economy. It is important to adapt the biosphere programme with the SDG (Agenda 2030)

**P**eople, **P**lanet, **P**rosperity, **P**eace and **P**artnership

## *Green Economy*

It is a path of development that satisfies the needs and aspirations of the present generation, without compromising the same interests of future generations.



# Partnership

Signed the protocols of common intentions with:

- Privat enterprises
- Local Development Centres
- Local LEADER Action groups
- Local Fisheries Initiative Groups
- Local Tourism Associations
- Nature Education Centres

# West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Program Area



- The use of local resources taking into account the environment needs to ensure that people can manage their islands in a sustainable and profitable way.
- As a result of green economy, the human well-being and social justice improve, without causing environmental risks or pressure on natural resources.
- Green production brings advantages in the global market.



# Biodiversity



# Renewable Energy





# Environmental friendly agriculture

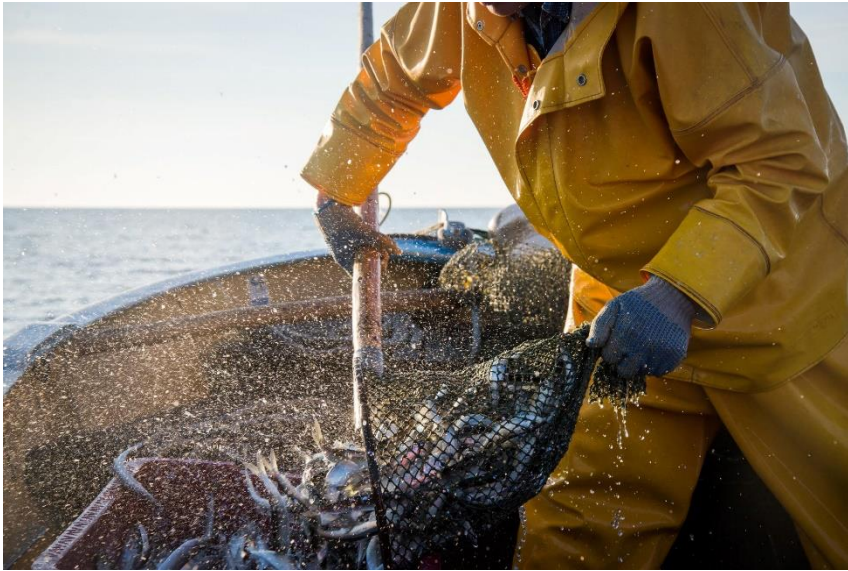




# Sustainable use of local resources



# Coastal Fishery





# Nature tourism



# Environmental awareness



# Culture heritages





# Cooperation and Network





Thank you!

