

**SAARE COUNTY** 

# Natural Values of **SAARE COUNTY**

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# ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OF PROTECTED NATURAL OBJECTS

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# ARRANGEMENT OF VISITS TO PROTECTED NATURAL OBJECTS

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ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD



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The year of 1910 saw an important event in the history of Estonia's nature conservation: on the initiative of Artur Toom, the lighthouse keeper of Vilsandi Island, the first nature reserve was established in Estonia – the Vaika Special Protection Area for birds. On August 14, the Kihelkonna Parsonage and the Riga Naturalists' Society concluded an agreement to protect the birds breeding on the island. That was the beginning of nature conservation both in Estonia and in Vilsandi National Park.

The objective of the protected areas and objects is to preserve the most distinctive and valued features in Estonia's nature. Nowadays, nature conservation is based on habitats. When conserving habitats, we protect the endangered species there. We also take care to preserve the diversity of habitats. In 2012, the protected natural objects cover approximately 18.5% of Saare County's territory.

For this publication, a selection from among the county's most distinctive protected areas and objects has been made. Their descriptions include the types of habitats, which gives a survey of the varied protected areas and their biodiversities. The most typical and common or very rare protected species have been mentioned. The years of placing the areas under protection have been added, which tell us about the long protected status of some areas or objects, sustainable revision of the Nature Conservation Act, or a need to expand the protected region.



# NATIONAL PARK (1) Vilsandi National Park NATURE RESERVES (28) Abruka Nature Reserve Allirahu Nature Reserve Aula Karst Area\* Jõempa Sinkholes\* Kesknomme Nature Reserve Koorunomme Nature Reserve Laidevahe Nature Reserve Laidu Islet Nature Reserve Lepakõrve and Küdema Sinkholes\* Lepna Oak Forest\* Liiva-Putla Nature Reserve Lake Linnulaht\* Loode Oak Forest\* Loodenina Beach (6 km)\* Habitat of European Crab Apples\* Pamma Stronghold / Hills of Kooljamäed\* Pühametsa Nature Reserve Rahuste Nature Reserve Siplase Nature Reserve Säärenõmme Nature Reserve Tagamõisa Wooded Meadow\* Teesu Nature Reserve Tuiu-Paka Sinkholes (4)\* Tupenurme Cliff\*

# LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREAS (LPA, 15)

Järve Dunes LPA Kaali LPA Kalli LPA Kasti LPA Kaugatoma-Lõo LPA Kesselaiu LPA Koigi LPA Kübassaare LPA

Vesitükimaa Islets\*

Viidumäe Nature Reserve

Viieristi Nature Reserve

Võhma Boulder Field\*

\*area with old rules of protection

Lindmetsa LPA
Odalätsi LPA
Ohessaare LPA
Panga LPA

Rannaniidi Cliffs LPA Suuremõisa Bay LPA

Üügu LPA

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Abruka LCA

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Kotlandi LCA
Kura Kurk (Irbe Strait) LCA

Kuressaare LCA Kõinastu LCA Küdema LCA Küdema Bay LCA Laasi LCA

Laasi LCA Laidunina LCA Lannasmaa LCA

Liigalaskma-Orinõmme LCA

Lindmetsa LCA Madise LCA Mullutu-Loode LCA

Mäe LCA

Nihatu LCA
Nässuma LCA
Nõmmküla LCA
Oina LCA
Paatsa LCA
Pajumaa LCA
Pammana LCA
Pidula-Veskioja LCA

Põduste Flooded Meadow LCA

Põduste-Upa LCA Põldeniidi LCA Ranna LCA Ranna-Põitse LCA Rannaniidi LCA Riksu Coast LCA Ruhnu LCA Saaremetsa LCA Sandla LCA Sepa LCA Sepamaa LCA Siiksaare-Oessaare LCA

Sutu Bay LCA Tagamõisa LCA Tahula-Reo LCA Tammese LCA

Tehumardi Heath LCA

Tumala LCA
Tõnija LCA
Uustalu LCA
Uustlamaa LCA
Vana-Lahetaguse LCA
Vanalõve LCA

Vainalove ECA Vesitükimaa LCA Väike Väin LCA Väinamere LCA Võilaiu LCA Võrsna LCA

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A. Alas' Dendrological Park\*

Audla Park\* Koikla Park

Kudjape Oak Forest Kuressaare Castle Park

Kärla Park Liiva Park\* Lööne Park\*

M. Rand's Dendrological Park\*

Black Pine Stand Mõntu Park

Oti Park's Horse Chestnut Grove /

Oti Park\* Pidula Park Pädaste Park

Pärsamaa Dendrological Park\*

Roobaka Park\* Tumala Park

\*with unrevised borders



# INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS (82)

Spring (1)

Surface form (2)

Trees and groups of trees (57)

Erratic boulder (22)

## SPECIES' PROTECTION SITES (111)

Grey seal, Tortella moss, northern goshawk, Sowerbyella imperialis, yellowdrop milkcap, natterjack toad, Sparassis crispa, orchids, Sarcodon fuligineoviolaceus, white-tailed eagle, black stork, green spleenwort, Saaremaa yellow rattle (Rhinanthus rumelicus subsp. osiliensis), Tricholoma apium, Leucoagaricus nympharum.



#### **PROTECTED AREAS**

Protected areas are areas maintained in a state unaltered by human activity or areas with partial restriction on economic activities where the natural environment is preserved, protected, restored, researched or introduced.

According to the objective of protection and the strictness of restrictions on economic activities, the protected areas are divided as follows:

- a national park is a protected area prescribed for the preservation, protection, restoration, research and introduction of the natural environment, landscapes, cultural heritage and balanced use of the environment of the protected area;
- a nature reserve is a protected area prescribed for the preservation, protection, restoration, research and introduction of the natural environment:
- a landscape protection area is an area prescribed for the preservation, protection, restoration, research, introduction and regulation of use of landscapes of the protected area.

Saare County includes one national park, 28 nature reserves and 15 landscape protection areas. The zones possible in a nature reserve are:

- a strict nature reserve is a land or water area of a protected area whose natural status is unaffected by direct human activity and where the preservation and development of natural biotic habitats is ensured only through natural processes. All types of human activity are forbidden within a strict nature reserve, and persons are prohibited from staying in such reserves;
- a conservation zone is a land or water area of a protected area prescribed for the preservation of natural and semi-natural biotic habitats established or to be developed therein. Mineral resources present within a conservation zone are not deemed to be resources intended for exploitation;
- a limited management zone is a land or water area of a protected area where economic activities are permitted, taking the restrictions provided by the Nature Conservation Act into account.

#### VILSANDI NATIONAL PARK

Location: Kihelkonna and Lümanda Rural Municipalities

Area: 23,760 ha (land 7,497 ha, water area 16,263 ha)

Under protection since 1910 - Vaika Special Protection Area for birds, 1957 - Vaika State Nature Reserve, 1971 - Vilsandi State Nature Reserve, 1993 - Vilsandi National Park

Habitat types: mudflats and sandflats, coastal lagoons, reefs,

drift lines, perennial vegetation of stony banks, annuals colonizing mud and sand, islets and small islands, coastal meadows, foredunes, coastal dunes fixed with herbaceous vegetation, wooded dunes, humid dune slacks, *Juniperus communis* formations, oligotrophic to mesotrophic lakes, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, species-rich dry to mesic grasslands, alvars, *Molinia* communities, alluvial and wooded meadows, springs and springfens, calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*, species-rich fens, limestone pavements, natural old and old broad-leaved forests, herb-rich forests with *Picea abies*, wooded pastures, deciduous swamp woods, forests of screes and ravines.

Species: shoreweed, greater sea-spurry, Danish scurvy-grass, black bogrush, herbaceous seepweed, long-bracted sedge, sea wormwood, sea holly, green-winged orchid (*Orchis morio*), Saaremaa marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza osiliensis*); pyramidal, burnt, early-purple, musk, fly orchids; sword-leaved and red helleborines; lady's slipper orchid, black pea, hop trefoil, mountain St. John's-wort, Alpine butterwort, Saaremaa yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus rumelicus subsp. osiliensis*), marsh pennywort, blackthorn, common ivy, European yew, rock whitebeam, eider, Steller's eider, long-tailed duck, arctic tern, barnacle goose, rock pipit, white-tailed eagle, Eurasian eagle owl, Baltic dunlin, avocet, purple sandpiper, grey seal, natterjack toad, medicinal leech, bullhead.

The values of Vilsandi National Park are its coastal meadows and the sea, small islands and cultural heritage. Vilsandi National Park is Estonia's most maritime national park, most abundant with islands. Estonia's westernmost point – Nootamaa – is located here. The national park has always been known as the "Birds' Kingdom", being an essential breeding, stop-over and wintering area for birds. 250 species of birds have been recorded, 114 of which nest here. Estonia's largest colonies of grey seals also occur in the national park. Splendid views of the sea can be enjoyed from the cliffs of Elda and Soeginina. Several sparsely-populated villages, windmills and lighthouses and a manor house (Loona) have preserved. Some sites of settlements dating back to the Stone Age as well as some ancient burial sites have been found not far from the manor. The national park has been entered into the Ramsar list of wetlands and, as a Special Protection Area and a Special Area of Conservation, into the Natura 2000 network.









#### ABRUKA NATURE RESERVE

Location: Kaarma Rural Municipality

Area: 412.2 ha

Under protection since 1937

Habitat types: islets and small islands, coastal meadows, deciduous swamp woods, alvars, wooded meadows, natural old and old broad-leaved forests, deciduous swamp woods. Species: tree lungwort, *Gyalecta ulmi*, fir clubmoss, lesser hairy-brome, blue bugle, long-bracted sedge; early purple and heath-spotted orchids; broad-leaved helleborine, shiny geranium, ramsons, velvet scoter, ringed plover, avocet, Baltic dunlin, black-tailed godwit, lesser back-backed gull; Caspian, sandwich and arctic terns; white-tailed eagle.

The Abruka Nature Reserve is one of the oldest reserves in Estonia. In 1932, the minister of agriculture delivered a resolution which placed the forests of Abruka Island under



departmental nature conservation. The official protected area was established five years later. Abruka's broad-leaved deciduous forests are unique in the region of the Baltic Sea because they date back to warmer climatic periods. Limes prevail in the forest, and maples, elms and ashes occur in places. The nature reserve belongs to the Natura 2000 network as a Special Area of Conservation.

#### LAIDEVAHE NATURE RESERVE

Location: Valjala and Pihtla Rural Municipalities

Area: 2,442 ha (land 1,672.3 ha, water area 769.7 ha)

Under protection since 2002

**Habitat types:** coastal lagoons, reefs, islets and small islands, coastal meadows, *Juniperus communis* formations, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, alvars, wooded meadows and pastures, deciduous swamp woods, old broad-leaved forests.

Species: yellow dragon's-teeth, ramsons; early-purple and greater butterfly orchids, lady's slipper orchid; narrow-leaved, marsh and broad-leaved helleborines; cut-leaf water parsnip, thin-leaf brookweed, hairy bittercress, European crab apple, common redshank, ringed plover, Baltic dunlin; arctic, black and common terns; white-tailed eagle, western marsh

harrier; red-necked and Slavonian grebes; great bittern, crane, little gull, European crayfish, bullhead, otter, grey seal.

The Laidevahe Nature Reserve is a valuable complex of wetlands which has been in the list of Ramsar wetlands of international importance since 2003. The local avifauna is rich in numerous different species, which results from the plentiful different habitats. Several species of birds, relatively rare in other parts of Estonia, occur here. The nature reserve is an important breeding and stop-over site for waterfowl.





#### LAKE LINNULAHT

**Location**: Kaarma Rural Municipality

**Area**: 283.9 ha

Under protection since 1927

**Habitat types:** coastal lagoons, *Juniperus communis* formations, species-rich dry to mesic grasslands, alvars, *Molinia* communities, wooded meadows, calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*, species-rich fens, natural old forests.

**Species:** holly-leaved naiad, lady's slipper orchid, twayblade, yellow dragon's-teeth; early purple, fly and military orchids; black and common terns; little gull, crane, great bittern; red-necked and great crested grebes; Geyer's whorl and narrow-mouthed whorl snails.

Lake Linnulaht (*Bird Bay*), formerly Väike laht (*Small Bay*), was placed under protection in 1927 as the Small Bay's Birds Home, where it was prohibited to hunt, pick eggs, destroy the nests and disturb the birds. Lake Linnulaht, 2.7 km long and up to 0.6 km broad, is a shallow relict lake, once detached from the sea. Linnulaht is one of Estonia's bird-richest lakes and an essential breeding and stop-over site for waterfowl, thus forming an object of research for naturalists. It is a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area in the Natura 2000 network.

#### LIIVA-PUTLA NATURE RESERVE

Location: Pihtla Rural Municipality

**Area**: 101.3 ha

Under protection since 2007

**Habitat types:** calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*, natural old forests, wooded pastures. **Species:** *Tricholoma apium*, burnt spine-cap, drab tooth, spruce tooth, black tooth, white elm; fragrant and lesser butterfly orchids; Tengmalm's owl.

The Liiva-Putla Nature Reserve is unique for its rare species of fungi, being one of the five protected areas of mushrooms in Europe. Twelve rare species of fungi have been found here. It was Erast Parmasto, an academician and acknowledged mycologist, who made a suggestion that a protected area for fungi should be established in Liiva-Putla. Now the nature reserve is a Special Area of Conservation in the Natura 2000 network.











#### **LOODE OAK FOREST**

Location: Kaarma Rural Municipality

Area: 55.5 ha

Under protection since 1959

Habitat types: alvars, wooded meadows, natural old forests.

Species: white adder's-mouth; fly, burnt, green-winged, early-purple, common spotted, lesser butterfly, fragrant, military, greater butterfly and lady's slipper orchids; broadleaved helleborine, hop trefoil, purple-globe clover, European crab apple, European pear, *Haploporus tuberculosus*, hen of the woods, tawny owl, Eurasian wryneck.

The Loode Oak Forest was the first in Saaremaa to be placed under protection as a recreational forest about 200 years ago. The rule of protection of 1959 aimed at the conservation of the natural oak stand and its unique undergrowth. A big part of the oak forest was once a wooded meadow. By now, the impact of human activities has significantly decreased. The oldest generation of the trees is at least 450 years old. The Loode Oak Forest is both a Special Protection Area and a Special Area of Conservation in the Natura 2000 network.

#### **RAHUSTE NATURE RESERVE**

Location: Salme Rural Municipality

Area: 689.5 ha

Under protection since 1965 as Ooslamaa, since 2007 as nature reserve

Habitat types: coastal meadows.

**Species**: herbaceous seepweed, barnacle goose, arctic and Caspian terns, lesser blackbacked gull, ringed plover, common redshank, Baltic dunlin, avocet.

The nature reserve was formed on the basis of the avifauna prohibition area of Ooslamaa Islet. The islet is a place of interest for both waterfowl who breed, feed and stop over here and for researchers who study the movement of marine sediments and coastal processes. The maritime Kriimi Islet (strict nature reserve) is a home for plentiful water and coastal birds. The Rahuste coastal meadow is one of the best preserved and most attractive meadows in both Saaremaa and Estonia.







#### VIIDUMÄE NATURE RESERVE

Location: Kihelkonna and Lümanda Rural Municipalities

**Area**: 2,597.6 ha

Under protection since 1957

**Habitat types:** species-rich dry to mesic grasslands, *Molinia* communites, wooded meadows, raised bogs, transition mires and quaking bogs, springs and springfens, calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*, species-rich fens, natural old and old on glaciofluvial eskers forests, herb-rich forests with *Picea abies*, coniferous forests broad-leaved, deciduous swamp woods, bog woodland.

Species: varnished hook-moss, feathered neckera, large white-moss, tree lungwort, maidenhair spleenwort, Mackay's horsetail; woolly milk-vetch, Kashubian and spring vetches; common ivy, Alpine butterwort, mountain St. John's-wort, blunt-flowered rush; narrow-leaved and red helleborines; Baltic, narrow-leaved marsh, fly, fen and early-purple orchids; scented gymnadenia, lady's slipper orchid, great fen-sedge, black bogrush, wood fescue, Saaremaa yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus rumelicus subsp. Osiliensis*), dewdrop dapperling, poroid fungus, yellowdrop milkcap, marsh and scarce fritillaries; Tengmalm's owl, European nightjar, black woodpecker, common crane, black stork, white-tailed eagle, stock dove, moor frog, northern bat.

The Viidumäe Nature Reserve aims at the protection of the local diversified natural complex. The reserve, with its highest point at 59 m a.s.l., is located in the highest and oldest part of Saaremaa. The most remarkable surface form is a coastal terrace of Ancylus Lake, which divides the reserve into two: a drier forest area above the scarp and a springfen below. Approximately 85% of Viidumäe is covered with forest and about 10% with wetlands. The local springfens are famous for their plant rarities. The nature reserve belongs to the Natura 2000 network as a Special Area of Conservation.

#### **VIIERISTI NATURE RESERVE**

Location: Salme and Torgu Rural Municipalities

**Area**: 378 ha

**Under protection since** 1965

**Habitat types:** coastal lagoons, *Molinia* communities, springs and springfens, natural old and old broad-leaved forests, herb-rich forests with *Picea abies*, coniferous forests on glaciofluvial eskers, forests on screes and ravines, bog woodland.

Species: large white-moss, blunt-flowered rush; fly, common spotted, heath-spotted, fragrant, bird's nest, lesser butterfly, greater butterfly and narrow-leaved marsh orchids; fir clubmoss, common twayblade, lesser twayblade; dark red, broad-leaved and marsh helleborines; wood buttercup (*Ranunculus polyanthemos subsp. nemorosus*), Kashubian vetch, pyramidal bugle, rock whitebeam, European yew, common ivy, European nightjar, common crane, white-tailed eagle, Slavonian grebe, black woodpecker, redbreasted flycatcher.

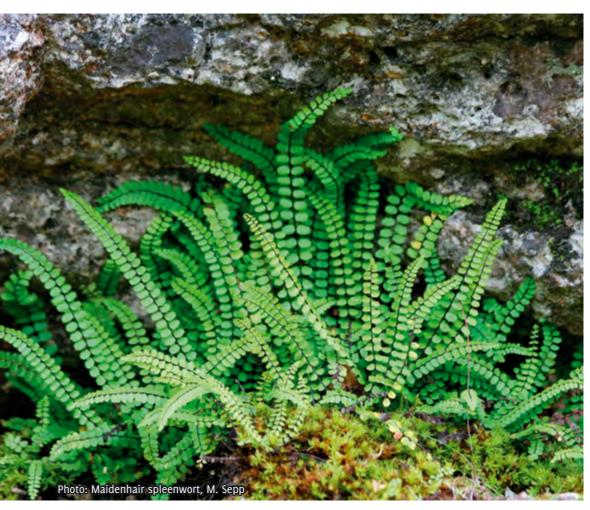
The Viieristi Nature Reserve has been formed to protect the species-rich flora as well as the dunes, Lake Koltsi, coastal terrace and sprinfen. The reserve lies on the marine terrace of the Littorina Sea. The scarp is 24–27 metres high and a 10–50-metre-wide lime-rich springfen zone spreads at its foot. Lake Koltsi is a temporary body of water which fills with water only in spring and during continuous rainfalls. The nature reserve is a Special Area of Conservation within the Natura 2000 network.















## JÄRVE DUNES LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

Location: Kaarma and Salme Rural Municipalities

Area: 95 ha

**Under protection since** 1959 as Järve Dunes, since 2005 as landscape protection area **Habitat types:** sandy beaches with perennial vegetation, foredunes, shifting dunes ("white dunes"), fixed dunes ("grey dunes"), wooded dunes.

**Species**: *Alyssum montanum subsp. gmelinii*, sandy pink, woolly butterbur, dark red helleborine, small pasque flower, spring vetch, wood lark.

The main values of the Järve Landscape Protection Area are its dunes in terms of habitat types, landscape objects and habitats of several protected species of plants. Both the approximately four-kilometre-long and two-three-metre high berm scarp and the 1.5-5-metre high dunes behind it are remarkable. The species of plants worth mentioning are the *Alyssum montanum subsp. gmelinii* and *Dianthus arenarius ssp. arenarius* (sandy pink) – they both have here their largest habitat in Estonia. The protected area belongs to the Natura 2000 network as a Special Area of Conservation.

#### KAALI LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

**Location**: Pihtla Rural Municipality

**Area**: 83.3 ha

Under protection since 1938

**Habitat types:** dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, species-rich dry to mesic grasslands, wooded meadows and pastures.

**Species**: fox-tail and wall feather-mosses; Jungermann's platydictya moss, Elm's gyalecta, snail *Cochlodina orthostoma*.

The main objective of the Kaali Landscape Protection Area is to conserve the meteorite craters, most presentable in Europe, and their surrounding landscape. The "Kaali Meteorite" was the last to bombard a populated region on the Earth, which happened 3,500-7,600 years ago (estimates vary). However, the Kaali Craters were among the first ones whose meteoritic origin was proved. The main crater has a diameter of up to 110 m and a depth (with sediments) of 22 m. Eight smaller craters are located in the fields around Kaali.

#### KAUGATOMA-LÕO LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

**Location**: Salme Rural Municipality

**Area**: 499.5 ha

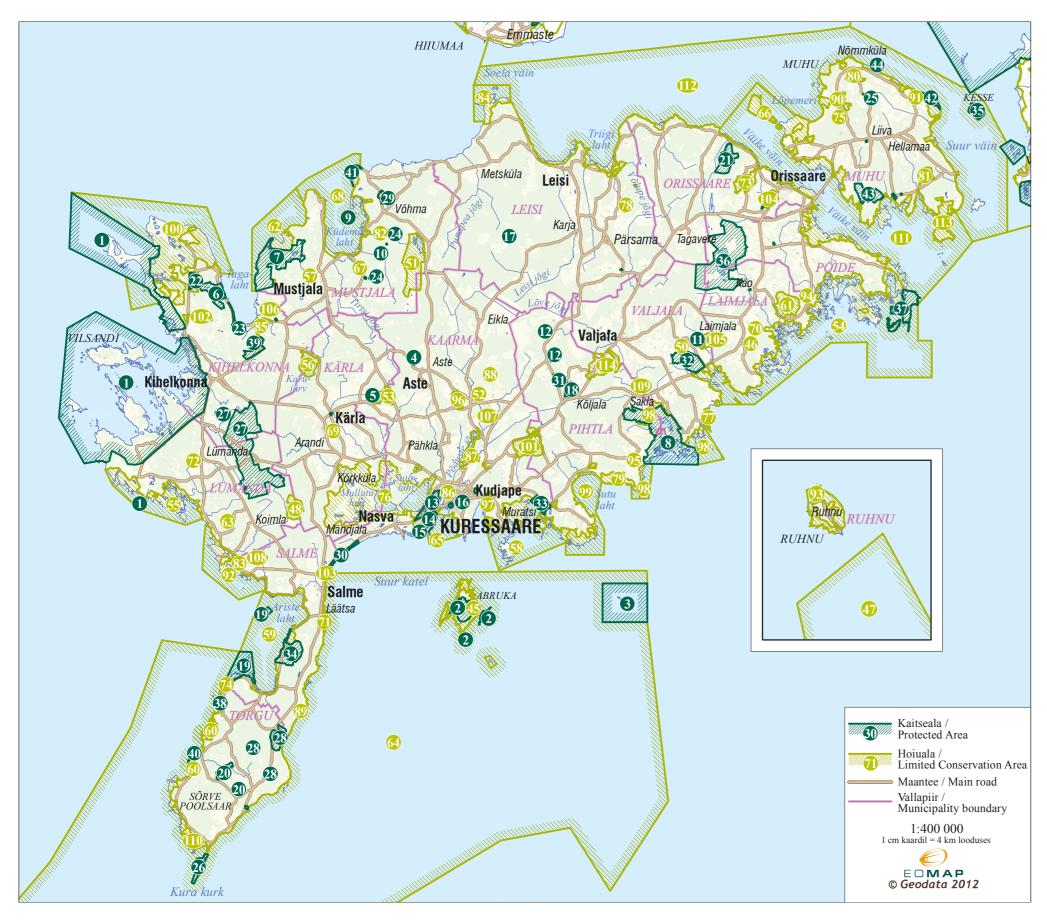
**Under protection since** 1973 as individual object of Kaugatoma Cliff, 2000 as landscape protection area

Habitat types: perennial vegetation of stony banks, *Juniperus communis* formations, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, species-rich dry to mesic grasslands, alvars, *Molinia* communities, lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*), species-rich fens, limestone rocky slopes, natural old forests.

**Species**: chocolate chip, bracted sulphur and scaly breck lichens; *Cladonia convoluta*, *Vulpicida tubulosus*, wall rue, herbaceous seepweed, wild garlic; fly, musk and pyramidal orchids; marsh helleborine, prostrate hedge mustard, fragile amanita, whooper swan, white-tailed eagle, wood lark, barred warbler, red-backed shrike, common crane.

The Kaugatoma-Lõo Landscape Protection Area aims at the conservation of the Kaugatoma Cliff and the Lõo Alvar, Saaremaa's largest alvar. Several different and also rare types of alvars as well as rare species of plants and lichens occur here. The cliffs in the protected area are relatively low but may arouse interest due to their fossils and rock layers. The protected area is both a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area in the Natura 2000 network.





#### NATIONAL PARK

1 Vilsandi National Park

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- \*area with old rules of protection

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#### **KESSELAIU LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA**

**Location**: Muhu Rural Municipality

**Area**: 178.1 ha

Under protection since 1938

**Habitat types:** coastal lagoons, drift lines, cliffs open to sea, coastal meadows, perennial vegetation of stony banks, alvars, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, species-rich fens, limestone outcrops, natural old forests.

**Species**: pigeon scabious; dark red and red helleborines; lady's slipper; bird's nest and greater butterfly orchids; common twayblade, white-tailed eagle, red-backed shrike, barred warbler.

Kesselaid Islet is unique for its rare and scientifically valued bedrock, berm scarp, alvar spruce forest and semi-natural habitats. The Kesse Cliff, 13 m in height and 800 m in length, lies on the islet's northern and north-western coast. It was broken by the intruding Littorina Sea and is a part of the West Estonian Klint. About a third of the islet is covered with an old alvar spruce forest with a rare community of spruces and limes. There are also plenty of alvar juniper stands. A spruce form called 'snake spruce' grows in the north of the island.

#### **KOIGI LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA**

Location: Laimjala, Pöide and Valjala Rural Municipalities

**Area**: 2,359.2 ha

Under protection since 2005

Habitat types: Juniperus communis formations, dystrophic lakes and ponds, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, hydrophilous tall herb communities, lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis), wooded meadows, raised bogs, degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration, transition mires and quaking bogs, species-rich fens, natural old and old broad-leaved forests, deciduous swamp woods, bog woodland.

**Species**: sweet gale, great fen-sedge, broad-leaved helleborine, water lily, black tern, little gull, wood sandpiper, common redshank, black-tailed godwit, common crane, water rail, red-necked grebe, spotted crake, marsh harrier, golden and white-tailed eagles.

The landscape protection area has been established to protect the valued habitats, diversified wildlife and landscape, as well as some rare species. The Koigi Bog, the largest wetland on West-Estonia's islands, together with its lakes is a large fresh water reservoir and an important source for the groundwater layers in East Saaremaa. The bog encompasses four lakes: Koigi, Pikkjärv, Ümarjärv, and Naistejärv. The area is important in terms of the protection of avifauna: the eutrophic Lake Koigi is a breeding and stopover site for waterfowl; the breeding birds in the bog and fen are of high protected value. The protected area is both a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area in the Natura 2000 network.









# ODALÄTSI LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

Location: Kihelkonna Rural Municipality

Area: 163.1 ha

Under protection since 1959

**Habitat types:** wooded dunes, inland dunes, rivers and streams, *Molinia* communities, springs and springfens, natural old forests, deciduous swamp

woods, bog woodland

Species: green shield-moss, Ramalina elegans, Alpine butterwort, sweet gale, cut-leaf water parsnip, small pasque flower, great fen-sedge, lady's slipper orchid; military, fragrant and heath spotted orchid; lesser twayblade, creeping lady's tresses; marsh and dark red helleborines; black tooth, stock dove, wood lark, black woodpecker, mistle thrush, parrot crossbill, river lamprey.

The Odalätsi Landscape Protection Area was established to preserve the karst springs, their natural communities,



habitats and protected species. The Odalätsi Dunes consist of two parallel rolling dune ridges with the relative height of up to 10 m, which is quite remarkable against Saaremaa's generally flat topography. Plenty of small artesian springs rise from Lake Karujärv with the total discharge of up to 200 l/s. According to a legend, the name of the area originates from a battle between the Great Tõll and his enemy the Old Heathen. When the latter was beaten and had lost his spear, he trampled in the springs in despair, crying "Oda läts! (*Spear gone!*)" The protected area belongs to the Natura 2000 network as a Special Area of Conservation.

#### PANGA LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

**Location:** Mustjala Rural Municipality

**Area**: 26.4 ha

**Under protection since** 1959 Panga Cliff as individual object, since 1999 as landscape

protection area

**Habitat types:** drift lines, cliffs open to sea, *Juniperus communis* formations, alvars, natural old forests.

**Species:** candle snuffer moss; red, narrow-leaved and dark red helleborines; fragrant and lesser butterfly orchids; common twayblade, house martin.

The landscape protection area aims at the conservation of the Panga Cliff (the highest part of the West-Estonian Klint) and its plant communities. The cliff is 2.7 km long and up to 21.3 m high. The stratifications of the Jaagarahu and Jaani Stages are denuded here. The added value of the landscape protection area is its natural old forest on the cliff which is a habitat of many threatened species. A sacrificial site used to be on the cliff and there was a sacred grove in the present grassland.





## ÜÜGU LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

Location: Muhu Rural Municipality

Area: 9.6 ha

Under protection since 1959 Üügu Cliff as individual object, 1996 as landscape protection area Habitat types: coastal meadows, *Juniperus communis* formations, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, alvars, springs and springfens, woo-

ded pastures.

Species: golf-club moss, wall rue, maidenhair spleenwort, limestone oak fern; fly, burnt, fen, early-marsh, fragrant, greater butterfly-orchid, musk, and military orchids; dark red, marsh and broad-leaved helleborines; common twayblade, wall whitlow grass, pigeon scabious.

The main objective of the landscape protection area is to conserve the Üügu Cliff and the spring mire, and to preserve the protected species and habitats. The Üügu Cliff, approximately 450 m in length and up to 5.5 m in height, lies 150 m afar from the coast and was actually formed as a result of the abrasion of the Limnea Sea. In the scarp, dolostones of the Kesselaid Stratification of the Jaagarahu Stratum are exposed. Two springs flow down from its foot. The Üügu Landscape Protection Area has been entered into the list of the Väinameri Special Protection Areas and Special Area of Conservations of international importance.





#### LIMITED CONSERVATION AREAS

Limited conservation areas have been formed for the conservation of habitats, where only such activities which do not damage the species or communities are permitted. Most limited conservation areas have been entered into the Natura 2000 network as Special Area of Conservations or Special Protection Areas. The Special Protection Areas are meant to protect the habitats of the species of (migratory) birds in danger of disappearance in Europe, while the Special Area of Conservations aim at the maintenance of species of plants and animals (excl. birds) and endangered habitat types. Actually, birds cannot be separated from other wildlife and that is why these areas fully of partially overlap. While the network of limited conservation areas converges everything essential for the European Union as a whole, our protected areas cover what is important for Estonia. Only the most presentable areas have been selected as limited conservation areas. It is important to choose as many areas for the protection of each species and its habitats as is needed to ensure their preservation for coming generations. There are 70 limited conservation areas in Saare County.

#### KARALA-PILGUSE LIMITED CONSERVATION AREA

Location: Lümanda Rural Municipality

**Area**: 2,494.6 ha (land 1,144.7 ha, water area 1,349.9 ha)

Under protection since 2006

Habitat types: coastal lagoons, drift lines, cliffs open to sea, islets and small islands, coastal meadows, sandy beaches with perennial vegetation, shifting dunes ("white dunes"), fixed dunes ("grey dunes"), *Juniperus communis* formations, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, alvars, *Molinia* communities, calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus, speciesrich fens, natural old forests.

**Species:** sea pea, yellow dragon's-teeth, woolly butterbur; musk, fly, Baltic and fragrant orchids; marsh helleborine, cut-leaf water parsnip, herbaceous seepweed, barnacle goose, white-tailed eagle, common crane, avocet, Eurasian eagle owl, wood lark, barred warbler, red-backed shrike.

Besides Vilsandi National Park, the Karala-Pilguse Limited Conservation Area is another region of sea and coastal landscapes, which are typical of West Saaremaa. Natural and semi-natural habitats as well as the habitats of numerous species of birds and plants can be found here. The limited conservation area has been entered into the Natura 2000 network as a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area.

## KARUJÄRVE LIMITED CONSERVATION AREA

Location: Kihelkonna and Kärla Rural Municipalities

**Area**: 352.8 ha

Under protection since 2006

Habitat types: oligotrophic to mesotrophic lakes with moderately hard water, deciduous

swamp woods.

Species: water lily, bullhead, Daubenton's bat, pond bat, northern bat, European crayfish. Lake Karujärv (*Bear Lake*) separated from the sea approximately 8,000 years ago, making it the oldest lake in Saaremaa. Its outlet is through the Kalja Brook into the Kalja Sinkhole. The shoreline of Karujärv is jagged, its shores are mostly sandy and gravelly, and its depth is six metres at the maximum. There are five islands in the lake. The limited conservation area is a Special Area of Conservation within the Natura 2000 network. According to a legend, the lake was named after a fight of seven bears, which could be separated only by a heavy rain. The rainfall formed a lake and the bears left in different directions, which explains why the lake has seven creeks.











# VÄIKE VÄIN STRAIT (SMALL STRAIT) LIMITED CONSERVATION AREA

Location: Orissaare, Muhu and Pöide Rural Municipalities

Area: 16,643.3 ha (land area 2,815.3 ha, water area 13,828 ha)

Under protection since 2006

**Habitat types:** coastal lagoons, large shallow bays, drift lines, cliffs open to sea, islets and small islands, coastal meadows, *Juniperus communis* formations, dry grasslands on calcareous substrates, species-rich dry to mesic grasslands, alvars, wooded meadows, calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*, species-rich fens, wooded pastures, natural old and old broad-leaved forests.

**Species**: long-bracted sedge, fly orchid, marsh angelica; tundra and whooper swans; greylag goose, barnacle goose, Baltic dunlin, black-tailed godwit, Eurasian curlew, barred warbler, red-backed shrike, grey and ringed seals, terns, gulls.

The limited conservation area aims at the protection of the habitats and avifauna. The Väike Väin Strait (*Small Strait*) with its width of 2-4 km and depth of less than 3 metres is a part of the Väinameri Sea (*Sea of Straits*). There are about 15 islets and small islands in the Väike Väin Strait. The strait is divided into two by a dam, completed in 1896, which connects the islands of Muhu and Saaremaa. Historically, the coastal areas have mostly been used for grazing and reed cutting. The area is a staging post of all-European importance for waterfowl.



#### PROTECTED PARKS

Parks resemble semi-natural habitats, which disappear without continuous human impact. Although most parks have been formed around manor houses, there are parks founded on old strongholds or near farms or churches. There are 17 protected parks, tree stands and arboreta in Saare County.

#### **KURESSAARE CASTLE PARK**

**Location**: Kuressaare City

Area: 6.3 ha

Under protection since 1959

Species: Sclerophora pallida, Sclerophora peronella, wall feather-moss, Botryodontia millavensis, barn swallow, European serin, common noctule, northern bat, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, pond bat, common pipistrelle.

The foundation of the park started in 1861. The park in the English garden style has a splendid landscape with alleys of primeval trees and plenty of species. There are 69 species of ligneous plants, incl. 18 domestic species, in the park. The rarest species include the European beech, red-leaved beech, purple European beech, Amur corktree, Caucasian lime, field maple, Japanese yew, and yew. In 2002, the Kuressaare City Government initiated the Park of Heads of State, where the latter can plant a tree when they visit the city.

#### MIHKEL RAND'S DENDROLOGICAL PARK

Location: Neemi Village, Pöide Rural Municipality

Area: 1 ha

Under protection since 1959

Mihhail (Mihkel) Rand, the village smith, founded a dendrological park on the southern edge of Neemi Village in 1925. The park includes plenty of rare trees. Besides the small pyramid-shaped junipers, yew and common ivy, typical of Saaremaa, there are plenty of foreign species, such as the Nordmann fir, white and black mulberries, Amur corktree, *Ginkgo biloba*, pitch pine, cork bark fir, *Thujopsis dolabráta*, western red cedar, Persian walnut, bladdernut, northern catalpa, and common hoptree.



## **MÕNTU PARK**

**Location**: Montu Village, Torgu Rural Municipality

Area: 8.6 ha

Under protection since 1959

**Species:** wall whitlow grass, hairy bittercress, wild garlic, fumewort, spring vetch; greater butterfly, lesser butterfly, military orchids, broad-leaved helleborine.

Among the parks of Saare County, Montu is the most diversified in species. This is Saaremaa's oldest and largest habitat of the European fir. A Persian walnut tree growing here was already acknowledged before the war. The park also provides habitats for the trees of lime, oak, black alder, and Swedish whitebeam, and for the scrubs of lilac, sweet mock-orange, common snowberry, white willow, and hawthorn.

#### PÄDASTE PARK

Location: Pädaste Village, Muhu Rural Municipality

Area: 14 ha

Under protection since 1959

**Species:** *Sclerophora pallida,* broad-leaved helleborine; lady's slipper, lesser butterfly and early-marsh orchids; barn swallow, lesser spotted woodpecker, northern bat.

Pädaste Park and the local coastline are well known for the variety of habitats and biodiversity. The present composition of the park dates back to 1875. The values of the park are two arbor vitaes (*Thuja occidentalis*), three American basswoods (*Tilia americana*), a European beach (*Fagus sylvatica*), and an abele (*Populus alba*).

# **INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS**

Plenty of significant individual objects – trees, springs, erratic boulders, terraces and other forms of relief – are located outside the protected areas. They may have scientific, aesthetic, historical or cultural value. Mostly primeval trees, followed by erratic boulders, have been placed under protection as individual protected objects in Saare County. In addition, the Maapera Rock Field, the Laugu Scarp, and Pühatu Spring are under protection as individual landscape elements.

#### **PRIMEVAL TREES**

57 primeval trees are under protection in Saare County. The list is, however, continuously updated: new objects are included and the perished ones are excluded. The "record trees" growing in Saare County are:

- Täri tamm (Täri Oak) the oldest and thickest small-leaved oak in Estonia, approximately 400 years old;
- Sepise jugapuu (Sepise Yew) the thickest and tallest yew in Estonia.

The primeval trees in Saare County\*

(measurements: circumference C (cm), height H (m))

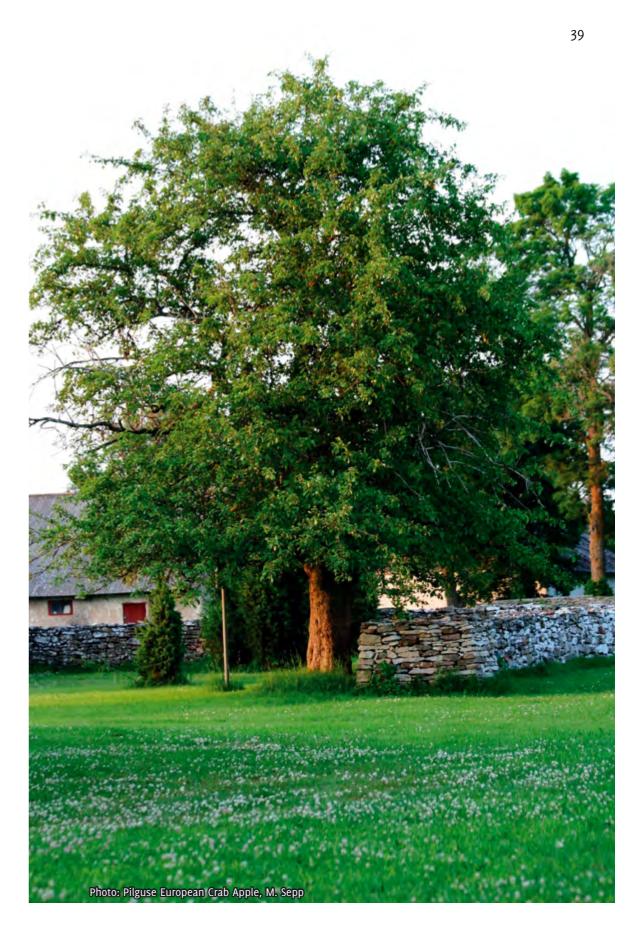
\*The known destroyed primeval trees have been excluded from the list.

Name	Location	Under protection since	C (cm) H (m)
Alliku tammed (Alliku Oaks)	Viira Village, Kaarma Rural Municipality	1959	Tree 1 C = 324, H = 16; Tree 2 C = 308, H = 15
Asuküla tamm (Asuküla Oak)	Nõmme Village, Kaarma Rural Municipality	1959	C = 457 H = 22
Harilik robiinia (Black locust)	Kuressaare City	1964	C = 91 H = 11
Harilik robiinia (Black locust)	Kuressaare City	1976	C = 116 H = 13
Harilik robiinia (Black locust) (3 trees)	Kuressaare City	1964	Tree 1 C = 179, H = 12 Tree 2 C = 129, H = 11 Tree 3 C = 124, H = 11
Kaali tamm (Kaali Oak)	Salavere Village, Pihtla Rural Municipality	1959	C = 489 H = 20
Kopli jalakas (Kopli Elm); Künnapuu (White elm)	Kavandi Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1959	C = 530 H = 13
Kreeka pähklipuu (Persian walnut)	Kuressaare City	1964	C = 30 H = 7
Kuralase tamm (Kuralase Oak)	Metsa Village, Kihelkonna Rural Municipality	1965	C = 325 H = 13
Kägi-Jaani tamm (Kägi-Jaani Oak) / Käägijaani tamm (Käägijaani Oak)	Kavandi Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1937	C = 685 H = 9
Kõiguste pärn (Kõiguste Lime)	Kõiguste Village, Laimjala Rural Municipality	1965	C = 368 H = 20
Laugu jalakas (Laugu Elm) / künnapuu (White Elm)	Laugu Village, Leisi Rural Municipality	1960	C = 547 H = 21
Lepna pappel (Lepna Poplar)	Röösa Village, Valjala Rural Municipality	1970	C = 417 H = 22
Metsküla tamm (Metsküla Oak (two-branched))	Metsküla Village Leisi Rural Municipality	1959	C = 640 H = 22
Must mänd (Black pine)	Kuressaare City	1964	C = 178 H = 13

			5/
Mustjala valge mänd (Mustjala White Pine)	Silla Village, Mustjala Rural Municipality	1970	C = 172 H = 21
Nonni mänd (Nonni Pine)	Pidula Village, Kihelkonna Rural Municipality	1965	C = 282 H = 10
Nõlvaku tamm (Nõlvaku Oak)	Põripõllu Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1974	C = 462 H = 22
Oidika kadakas (Oidika Juniper)	Hindu Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1937	C = 168 H = 9
Pidula tamm (Pidula Oak)	Kõõru Village, Kihelkonna Rural Municipality	1959	C = 447 H = 19
Pihtla punalehine pöök (Pihtla Red-Leaved Beech)	Pihtla Village, Pihtla Rural Municipality	1970	C = 225 H = 19
Pihtla tamm (Pihtla Oak)	Pihtla Village, Pihtla Rural Municipality	1970	C = 345 H = 23
Pilguse metsõunapuu (Pilguse European Crab Apple)	Jõgela Village, Lümanda Rural Municipality	1960	C = 176 H = 9
Põldetaguse tamm (Põldetaguse Oak)	Väike-Pahila Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1965	C = 402 H = 14
Põrdi kask (Põndi Birch)	Asva Village, Laimjala Rural Municipality	1959	C = 238 H = 21
Raagi mänd (Raagi Pine)	Liiva Village, Muhu Rural Municipality	1965	C = 288 H = 15
Raugu tamm (Raugu Oak)	Raugu Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1937	C = 473 H = 15
Roosu tamm (Roosu Oak)	Kungla Village, Valjala Rural Municipality	1959	C = 434 H = 19
Rämmi tamm (Rämmi Oak)	Rannaküla Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1965	C = 325 H = 13
Sassi tamm (Sassi Oak)	Paküla Village, Kärla Rural Municipality	1959	C = 615 H = 16
Sepise jugapuu (Sepise Yew)	Sepise Village, Kihelkonna Rural Municipality	1959	C = 104 H = 12
Söoja mänd (Söoja Pine)	Koimla Village, Lümanda Rural Municipality	1960	C = 322 H = 23
Tammevälja tamm (Tammevälja Oak) / Ohvritamm (Sacrificial Oak)	Vanalõve Village, Valjala Rural Municipality	1959	C = 404 H = 17
Tuiu haab (Tuiu Aspen)	Kandla Village, Kärla Rural Municipality	1970	C = 530 H = 30
Tumala tammed (Tumala Oaks )(3)	Ariste Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1959	Tree 1 C = 314, H = 18 Tree 2 C = 307, H = 14 Tree 3 C = 282, H = 23
Täri pärn (Täri Lime)	Liiküla Village, Mustjala Rural Municipality	1959	C = 666 H = 12
Tõlluste tamm (Tõlluste Oak)	Tõlluste Village, Pihtla Rural Municipality	1959	C = 484 H = 20
Uuetoa kadakas (Uuetoa Juniper)	Hindu Village, Orissaare Rural Municipality	1937	C = 89 H = 7
Veske pärn (Veske Lime)	Veske Village, Leisi Rural Municipality	1965	C = 530 H = 24
Veske saar (Veske Ash)	Rannaküla Village, Valjala Rural Municipality	1959	C = 343 H = 23
Õunapuu tamm (Õunapuu Oak) / Õunapuu põline tamm (Õunapuu Primeval Oak)	Põlluküla Village, Kaarma Rural Municipality	1959	C = 435 H = 15







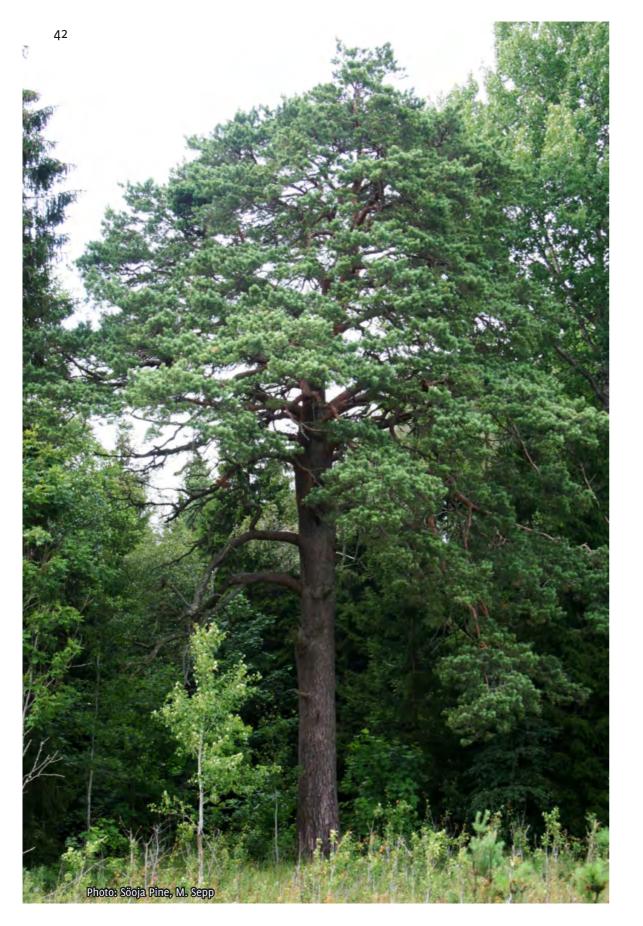
# **ERRATIC BOULDERS**

There are 22 protected erratic boulders in the county. The largest ones are situated on Vahase Island near Abruka. Vahase Island's Giant Boulder I is one of Estonia's 20 largest erratic boulders.

Name	Location	Under protection since	Circum- ference (m)
Aavakivi (Aavakivi Rock) / Kõrkvere hiidrahn	Kõrkvere Village, Pöide Rural Municipality	1937	26.5
(Kõrkvere Giant Boulder)	Polue Rural Mullicipality		
Abruka metsavahi rändrahn	Abruka Village,	1937	9.43
(Abruka Forester's Erratic Boulder)	Kaarma Rural Municipality		
Abruka saare I suurkivi	Abruka Village,	1937	22.4
(Abruka Island's Rock I )	Kaarma Rural Municipality		
Abruka saare II suurkivi	Abruka Village,	1937	17.8
(Abruka Island's Rock II)	Kaarma Rural Municipality		
Hiiukivi (Hiiukivi Rock) /	Väkra Village,	1959	16.0
Hiiekivi (Hiiekivi Rock)	Valjala Rural Municipality		
(Sacred Grove Rock)			
Hookivi / Hobusekivi /	Parila Village,	1937	13.8
Ookivi Rock (Horse's Rock)	Kaarma Rural Municipality		
Kaarekivi (Kaarekivi Rock)	Varkja Village,	1938	17.2
	Kihelkonna Rural		
	Municipality		
Kiratsi rändrahn (Kiratsi Erratic	Kiratsi Village,	1940	12.2
Boulder) / Kiratsi ristikivi	Kaarma Rural Municipality		
(Kiratsi Cross Rock)			
Koogila kivi (Koogila Rock)	Viltina Village,	1959	21.0
	Laimjala Rural Municipality		
Liiva rändrahn	Liiva Village,	1965	19.7
(Liiva Erratic Boulder)	Orissaare Rural Municipality		
Pireti kivi e Silla suurkivi	Kõiguste Village,	1939	17.9
(Pireti Rock / Silla Large Rock)	Laimjala Rural Municipality		
Ratsi kivi (Ratsikivi Rock) /	Suur-Pahila Village,	1937	22.0
Raudsikivi (Raudsikivi Rock) /	Orissaare Rural Municipality		
Rautsi kivi (Rautsi Rock)			
Rändrahn "Päästekivi"	Varkja Village,	1938	11.4
(Erratic boulder "Päästekivi")	Kihelkonna Rural		
(Saving Rock)	Municipality		
Sauemäe kivi (Sauemäe Rock) /	Ohessaare Village,	1970	21.0
Saumäe kivi (Saumäe Rock)	Torgu Rural Municipality	_	
Sepa suurkivi (Sepa Large Rock)	Lahetaguse Village,	1938	14.0
/ Riksu rahn (Riksu Boulder) /	Salme Rural Municipality		
Laste liukivi ( <i>Children's Sliding</i>			
Rock)			



Suure Tõllu kerisekivi	Kõõru Village,	1959	19.0
(Great Tõll's Hearth Stone) /	Kihelkonna Rural		
Raka kivi (Raka Rock)	Municipality		
Tõllukivi (Tõllukivi Rock)	Kulli Village, Lümanda	1937	20.0
	Rural Municipality		
Türiseniidi kivi (Türiseniidi Rock)	Võhma Village,	1937	21.2
	Mustjala Rural Municipality		
Vahase saare I hiidrahn	Abruka Village,	1937	30.3
(Vahase Island's Giant Boulder I)	Kaarma Rural Municipality		
Vahase saare II hiidrahn	Abruka Village,	1937	29.0
(Vahase Island's Giant Boulder II)	Kaarma Rural Municipality		
Võlla rändrahn	Võlla Village,	1959	18.5
(Võlla Erratic Boulder)	Muhu Rural Municipality		
Võlupe rändrahn	Mujaste Village,	1959	20.0
(Võlupe Erratic Boulder)	Leisi Rural Municipality		









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