

The Estonian Ramsar sites

- 1. Agusalu** (11 000 ha). A part of an extensive Agusalu-Puhatu mire complex in NE Estonia characterized by different open mire types - bogs, transition mires and fens.
- 2. Alam-Pedja** (34 220 ha). A large, mostly flat wilderness area with a complex of mires separated by unregulated rivers and associated floodplain meadows and alluvial forests, surrounded by extensive forests, including swamp forests. Very important spawning site for several fish species, an important stop-over point for numerous species of migrating waterfowl.
- 3. Emajõe Suursoo Mire and Piirissaar Island** (32 600 ha; will be updated after the revision of protection rules). Area formed by the largest delta-mire complex in Estonia (incl. different types of mires, rivers and lakes), the waters of Lake Peipsi and the Piirissaar Island. Being extremely important for the hydrology and water quality of Lake Peipsi the site is also important as a moulting and staging area for waterbirds and as a spawning area for many fish species.
- 4. Endla** (10 110 ha). A complex of eight bogs, swamp forests, freshwater lakes, rivers and karst springs in central Estonia. Numerous species of vulnerable or endangered waterbirds use the area for breeding. The site is an important area for water supply, and scientific research.
- 5. Haapsalu-Noarootsi** (27 240 ha). A mosaic marine/coastal wetland complex along the NW-Estonian coast, consisting of coastal seascape, shallow inlets and bays, coastal lagoons, coastal meadows, reedbeds and flooded mud- and sandflats.
- 6. Hiiumaa Islets and Käina Bay** (17 700 ha; will be updated after the revision of protection rules). Shallow watershelf sea with small islets, mudflats and bays. Important for breeding and migrating birds, valuable spawning ground for many fish species and regular resting ground for the Ringed Seals.
- 7. Laidevahe** (2 424 ha). A mosaic wetland with broad diversity of coastal and aquatic habitats including lagoons, shallow coastal lakes, more than 40 islets, coastal saltmarshes, and extensive reedbeds in Saaremaa Island. Specific significance for breeding and migrating birds and spawning fish.
- 8. Leidisoo** (8 178 ha). A particularly mosaic wetland complex being a part of an extensive wilderness area in NW Estonia and supporting high variety of mire types and habitats. The most typical are *Myrica gale*-dominated species-rich minerotrophic open fens.
- 9. Lihula** (6 620 ha). An intact mire complex with open plateau bog surrounded by open and wooded fens in western Estonia.
- 10. Luitemaa** (11 240 ha). A mosaic wetland complex in SW Estonia with the diversity of coastal and inland habitats including shallow sea, the diverse coastline with small bays, capes and islands, coastal meadows, reed-beds. Remarkable ridges of dunes formed in various phases of the Baltic Sea, mires and dry and wet forest stands are characteristic.
- 11. Matsalu** (48 610 ha). A shallow islet-rich Matsalu Bay surrounded by 3000 ha of coastal meadows, 3000 ha of reedbeds and 4000 ha of floodplain of the Kasari River delta which serve as excellent roosting and feeding place for large number of species of water and coastal avifauna. Especially the area is important as roosting place for waterfowl on East-Atlantic Fly-way.

12. Muraka (13 980 ha). One of the few extensive wilderness areas surviving in NE Estonia, consisting of an integral complex of various bog types, fens and primeval forests. The species diversity of fauna is one of the highest for mires in Estonia.

13. Nigula (6 398 ha). Extensive bog complex of various mire types, fringed by deciduous forest. The site supports numerous species of summering waterbirds and acts as a stopover place for fall migrating birds. An important area of scientific research. Part of North Livonian Transboundary Ramsar site.

14. Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu Wetland Complex (4 640 ha; will be updated after the revision of protection rules). A wetland consisting of a chain of lagoons together with coastal meadows, alvars, an species-rich wooded meadow and broad-leaved forest, and of species-rich fen typical for western Estonia. The coastal area is a stopover for migrating waterfowl, also the site is important as a nesting biotope of mire birds and roosting place for waterfowl.

15. Soomaa (39 639 ha). A complex of five large bog complexes separated by unregulated rivers with floodplain meadows, alluvial forests and wooded meadows and surrounded by extensive forests, including swamp forests and carrs. Being the most representative and valuable part of the remaining large wilderness area in SW Estonia, the wetland is important as a nesting biotope of mire birds and the stopover site for migrating birds.

16. Sookuninga (5 869 ha). A complex of six different raised bog massifs supporting rare, vulnerable and endangered species of birds and plants, some of them occurring in great numbers or densities. Part of the North Livonian Transboundary Ramsar site with Latvia.

17. Vilsandi (24 100 ha). A complex of varied coastal landscapes, the largest part formed by the low sea speckled with 161 small islands and reefs. It also includes shallow bays, dunes, coastal lakes, coastal meadows and reed beds. Important as a breeding area of seabirds and Grey Seals and wintering area of globally threatened Steller's Eider.