## UNESCO MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and experiences from the Estonian biosphere reserve

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- 1. About UNESCO's programme Man and Biosphere
- 2. About MAB Strategy 2015-2025
- 3. About Estonian experience



UNESCO is the organisation for Sciense, Culture and Education

Hence, UNESCO MAB is not a nature conservation programme. It is a scientific+educationa+cultural programme.

One may say: Humanistic approach to solve environmental issues



After 45 years, the MAB programme gradually became the "programme of biosphere reserves"

There has been a big shift from scientific ecoregional biosphere reserves to the concept of sustainable development sites.

There should be no BR withoul local population.



Concept of Brs is very flexible. Among more than 600 you hardly find two similar solutions.

(My personal emphasis):

BR-s are sites to study and demonstrate the ecosystems as a cultural phenomenon of local populations, their knowledge, and economical solutions. BR-s are a key to resilient (adaptive) nature use.



### MAB strategy 2015-2025 Strategic objectives

- 1. Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources
- 2. Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere.
- 3. Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development (ESD) and capacity building.
- 4. Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.

### MAB Strategy 2015-2025 Strategic actions areas:

- A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning models for sustainable development
- B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves



### MAB Strategy 2015-2025 Strategic actions areas (continued):

- C. Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves
- D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing
- E. Effective governance of and within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

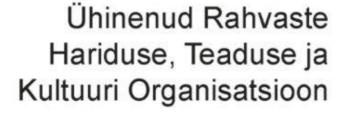
# Links MAB Strategy

http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/MAB\_Strategy\_2015-2025\_final\_text.pdf

#### **Lima Action Plan**

http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/Lima\_Action\_Plan\_en\_final.pdf





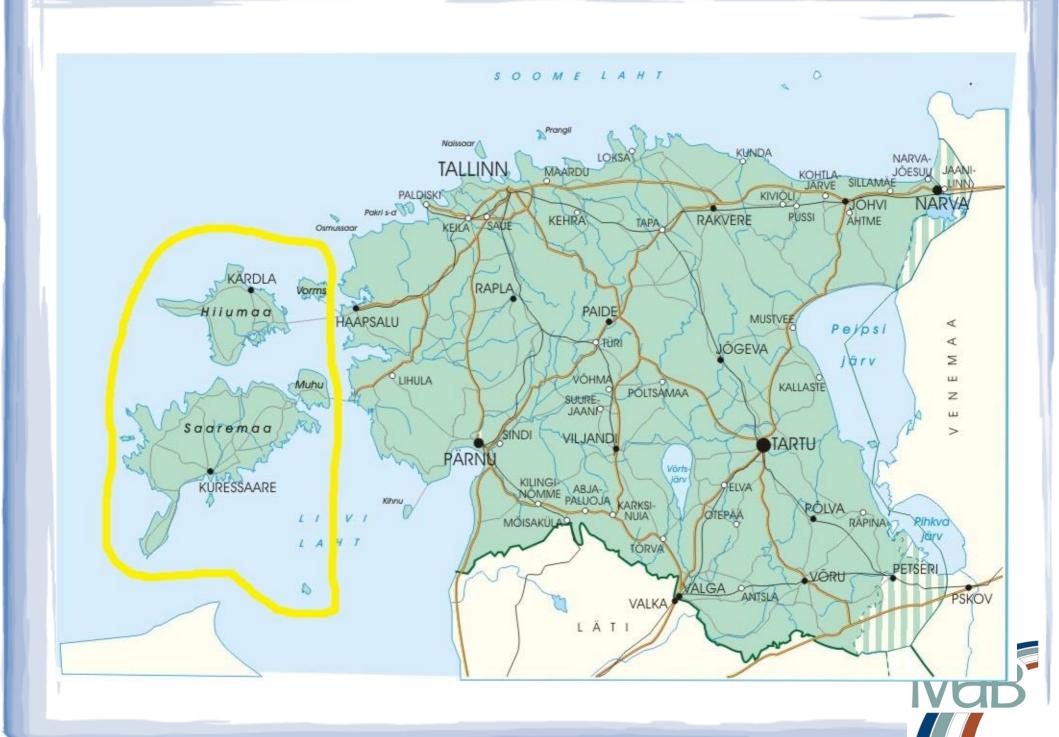


- Lääne-Eesti saarte biosfääri
- programmiala aastast 1990
- Programm "Inimene ja biosfäär"

### Saared ja meri · hoitud elukeskkond

The islands and the sea · safeguarded environment





The West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve

Established 1990.

15600 sq. km, of which 4000 sq.km is land (10% of Estonia).

population around 40000 inhabitants



### Important experiences from Estonia:

- Institutional organisation (governance) is a key issue
- Informing the public is never sufficient enough
- Importance of local partnerships (NGOs, societies, municipalities)
- Scientists (universities) need a clear scientific problem to deal with



### Finally, what are the major benefits?

- UNESCO recognition
- Participation in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

