

	Lahemaa NP	Vilsandi NP	Soomaa NP	Karula NP	Matsalu NP
Coordinates	59°34'57"N 25°51'10"E	58° 22' 48" N 21° 52' 48" E	58° 26' 24" N 25° 6' 36" E	57° 42' 52" N 26° 29' 12" E	58°45'33"N 23°38'45"E
Year of NP designation	1971	1993	1993	1993	2004
Area (km ²)	747	240	398	123	486
Year of original protection	1971	1910	1957/1981*	1979	1957
Accessibility	V. good, ~50 km from capital, ~40 km from reg. centre Rakvere.	Poor, westernmost area of Estonia, on islands, a day trip from capital Tallinn.	Rather poor, ~140km from Tallinn, ~40km from reg. centre Pärnu, only two main roads.	Rather good, but remote, ~240km from Tallinn, ~25 km from reg. centre Valga	Good, ~100km from capital Tallinn, ~20km from reg. centre Haapsalu
Tourism (flows)	Most visited NP in Estonia (foreign and domestic), mainly single day tourists.	Popular destination for bird watching (foreign tourists), seasonal, longer stays.	Popular during a short, flooded "fifth" season (domestic tourists), short or no stays.	Mainly regional domestic backpackers and campers, single day or camping in tents.	Popular destination for bird watching (foreign tourists), seasonal, longer stays.
Tourism as source of income for locals	Insignificant	Significant	Intermediate	Insignificant	Significant
Landscape	Picturesque diverse coastal landscape, 1/3 sea, Baltic cliff, numerous rivers, lakes, waterfalls, swamps, bogs and boulders. 73% of land area is forest, mosaic fields and semi-natural communities.	~2/3 of the NP is a sea with ~160 islands and islets. Coastal meadows with junipers, numerous alvar grasslands, most orchid-rich area of Estonia, 47% of land covered with forests (mainly overgrown semi-nat. com.-s). Ramsar site since 1997.	Pristine natural conditions, 80% covered with bogs, swampy meadows and swamp forests. ~half of the area is periodically flooded (the fifth season). 15 km ² flooded and wooded meadows, arable land only 0,5%. Ramsar site since 1997.	Hilly picturesque landscape, hills covered with forests and fields, depressions with lakes and swamps. ~70% of area covered with various old-growth forests. Rich in semi-natural communities.	Wetland and floodplain, incl. Matsalu Bay, 50 islets, several rivers, numerous semi-natural communities (coastal meadows and pastures, alluvial and wooded meadows). Ramsar site since 1976.
Permanent residents	~4000	~300	~50	~200	~600
Amount of temporary residents	Very high	High	Very low	Low	Intermediate
Terrestrial land ownership	~40% privately owned, ~3% unclaimed private land, ~57% state owned	~66% privately owned, ~26% unclaimed private land, ~7% state owned	~6% privately owned, ~2% unclaimed private land, ~92% state owned	~26% privately owned, ~0,5% unclaimed private land, ~74% state owned	~40% privately owned, ~1% unclaimed private land, ~59% state owned
Main fields of occupation	Large proportion commutes to work outside of NP, private entrepreneurs are occupied mainly in agriculture and forestry, small proportion works for state and local government agencies.	Many people are employed on site in nature tourism, local government and state agencies, education. Agricultural activity / landscape maintenance is concentrated to small group of entrepreneurs. Relatively high proportion retired people.	Very few inhabitants, many of whom are active in the field of nature conservation (also telework) and nature tourism. Few families are active in landscape management and some people commute.	Very high proportion private entrepreneurs active in agriculture and landscape management, high proportion of telework. Some people commute and some work for state agencies.	High proportion private entrepreneurs active in agriculture and landscape management, often doing telework and/or tourism in parallel. High number of people occupied in nature conservation and nature tourism.
* 1957 first patch designated, 1981 last patch incorporated into protected area					