

THE GREEN NETWORK OF ESTONIA

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At the third Environment for Europe conference of Environment Ministers in Sofia on 25 October 1995, the Pan-European biological and landscape diversity strategy was approved. The long-term goal of the strategy was to protect biological and landscape diversity throughout Europe in the 20 years following the adoption of the strategy. The strategy stipulated the development of the Pan-European ecological network for the protection of ecosystems, habitats, species and their genetic diversity and landscapes of European importance (EEIC, 2008).

Estonia also takes part in this process. By Order 763-k of the Government of the Republic, issued in 1999 and entitled “Initiation of thematic plans for county plans,” the plan “Environmental conditions for guiding settlement and land use” was initiated in all of Estonian counties. Two important subtopics of this plan are “Green network” and “Valuable landscapes”. The county thematic plan is the basic material for compiling local governments’ general plans. Section 8 of the Estonian Planning Act points out that one of the specific objectives of the general plan is to establish the conditions to ensure the functioning of the Green Network. Recommended methodology was elaborated for counties to implement on compiling the thematic plan (Sepp and Jagomägi, 2002). The Green Network in Estonia is supposed to complement the network of protected areas, combining them with natural areas into unified system.

To study the consistence of different land use classes within the Green Network, comparisons were made with Estonian Base Map (1:50 000) and Estonian Basic Map (1:10 000). Comparisons with different protected areas layers were carried out to find how big the share of protected areas involved into Green Network actually is.

References

Sepp, K. and Jagomägi J. 2002. Roheline võrgustik. Project rapport. Available: www.siseministeerium.ee/public/roh.vorgustik.pdf EEIC 2008. Estonian Nature Conservation in 2007, Estonian Environment Information Centre, Tallinn, 80p.

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