

NATURE CONSERVANCY WITHOUT THE LOCAL INHABITANTS, IS THIS POSSIBLE?

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The belief into totally objective and humanless steering of different processes is increasing. Fast trains without drivers and cameras without policemen are everyday reality. Is it possible to preserve nature and to expand biological diversity without human attendance, too? Hundreds of webcameras are monitoring life in the rare species' nests, the images of restricted places are distributed all over the world. It seems that without men's penetration into virgin nature, the Creator himself could manage with the balance of the living world.

But real life is opposite. Let's see, what is happening on the Estonian coastline and in our most sensitive areas – in small islands. Let's go to Kihnu archipelago which is a natural space for the unique Kihnu folk culture, recognized by UNESCO as a masterpiece of humanity.

Kihnu archipelago consists of two inhabited islands (Kihnu and Manija, altogether with 550 permanent residents) and about 20 uninhabited small islets which for centuries were kingdoms for many waterbirds. A lot of Kihnu men were living on islets during the whole summer, besides fishing they acted as „Kings of Birds“, regulating subconsciously and according to ancient traditions the number of nesting birds. Today, the visiting of islets is banned for everyone from April 1st to July 31st, most of the islets are occupied by cormorants and the biological diversity have dropped dramatically down. Biological diversity has gone down in inhabited Kihnu and Manija Islands, too. Reduction has taken place in both, in fauna and flora. European money arrived with the Ministry of Environment, the local people are taught by highly educated administrators, there are very strict rules for farming, fishing and hunting are set up but diversity in nature doesn't rise up.

Why?

What was done wrong? Let's discuss this together at the second day of the conference, May 28.