

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 (sometimes also referred as Ecological 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. One goal was also to incorporate all the Natura 2000 Network areas but it was kind of complicated because of in most of the cases county thematic plans were validated before the official Natura 2000 areas list was created in 2004. 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). In most of these county level thematic plans Estonian Base Map was used in compilation process. Comparisons with Natura areas were also carried out to find how big is the share of Natura areas incorporated into the Green Network.

List of 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

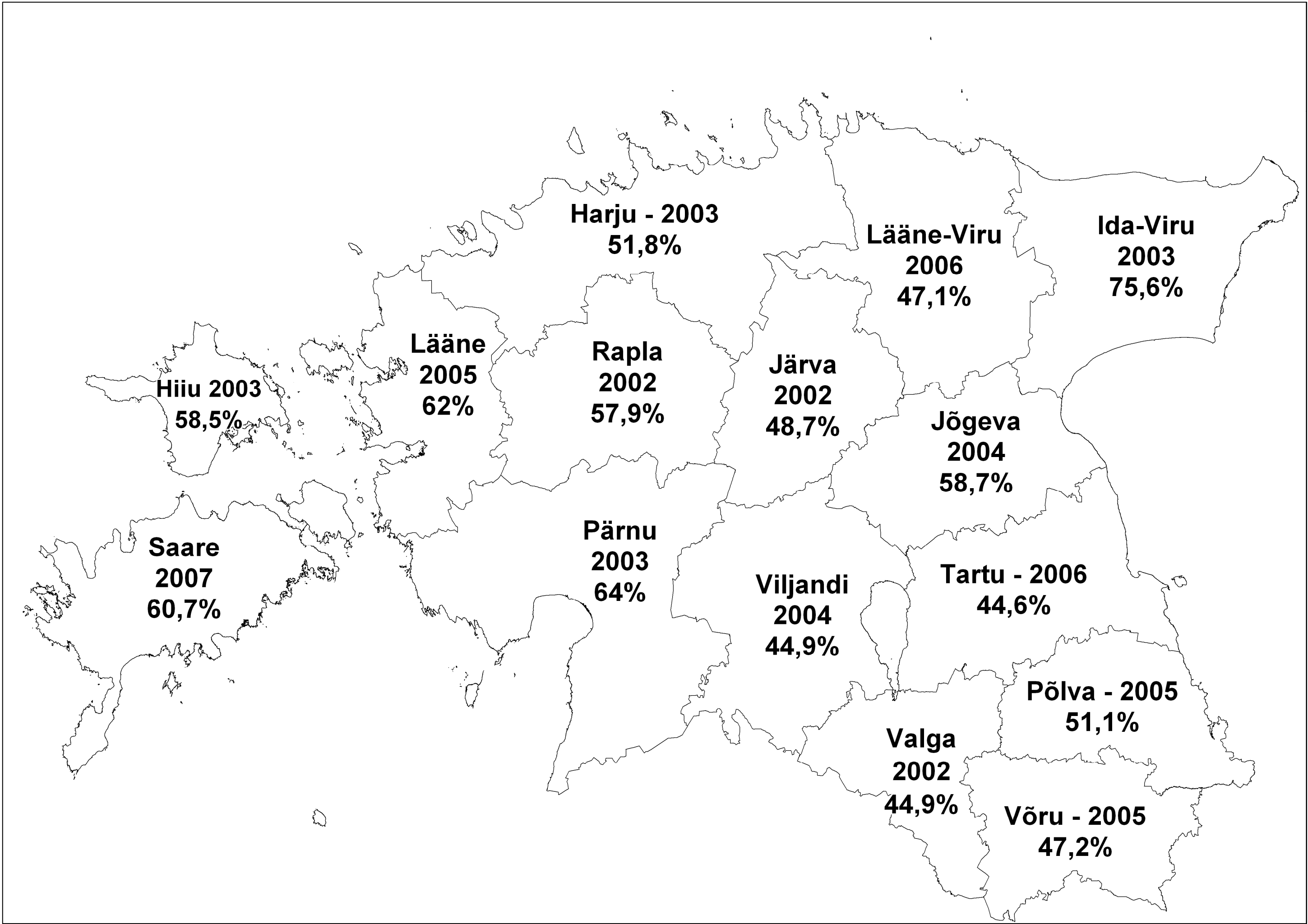


Figure: Validation year of county thematic plan and the share of county territory the Green Network is covering

Figure: The Green Network of Estonia

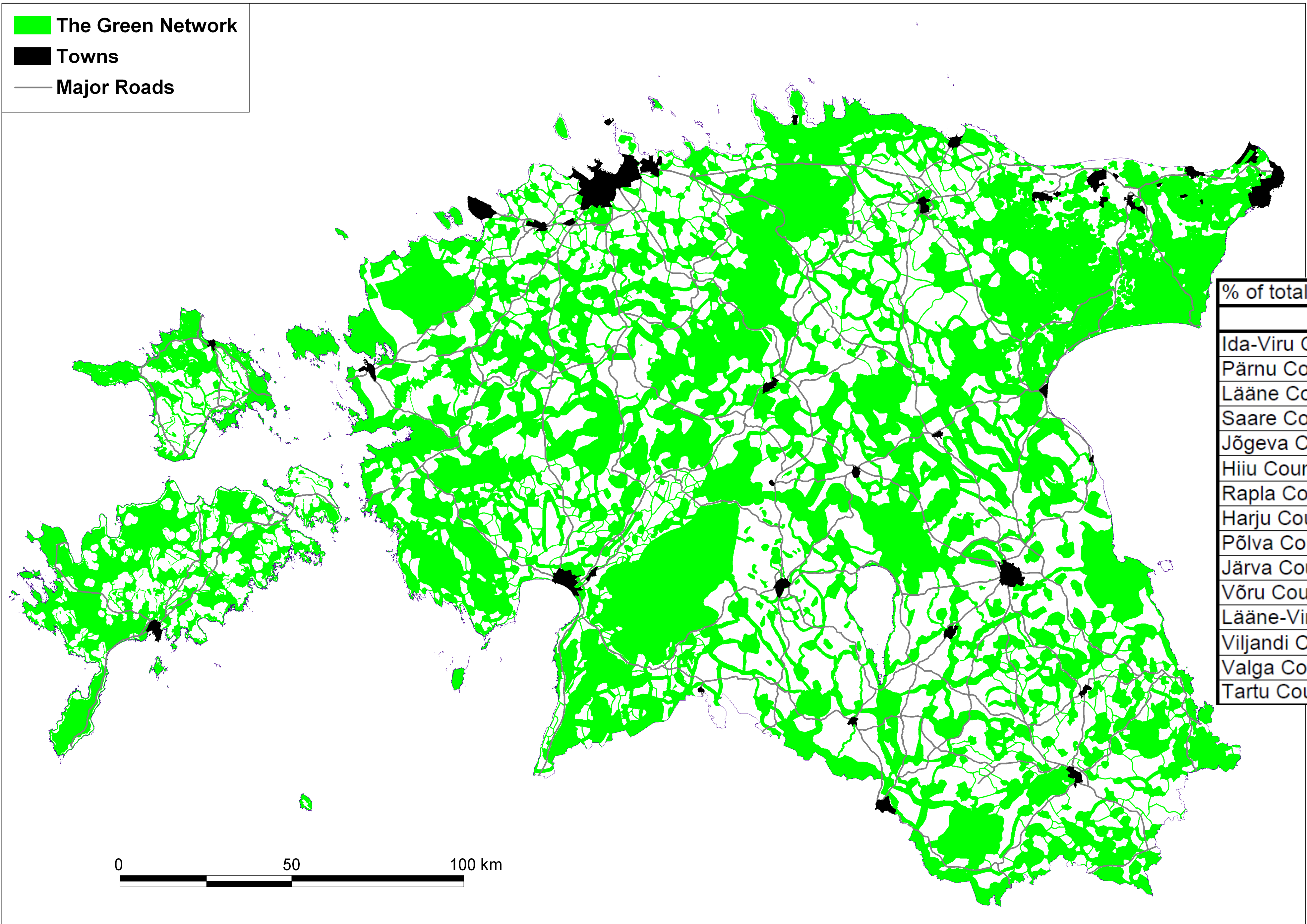


Table: Comparison of some land use classes. The consistence of the Green Network according to Estonian Base Map (1:50 000) and Estonian Basic Map (1:10 000). Much bigger differences were expected to be here to be caused by the different generalization level of maps.

% of total area:	Forest		Field		Yard		Other	
	BaseM.	BasicM.	BaseM.	BasicM.	BaseM.	BasicM.	BaseM.	BasicM.
Ida-Viru County	81,2	73,9	1,2	4,3	0,6	0,4	17,0	21,3
Pärnu County	74,5	68,5	7,8	11,0	0,6	0,5	17,1	20,0
Lääne County	65,1	51,9	10,3	19,7	0,9	1,0	23,7	27,4
Saare County	79,9	65,1	10,2	15,1	0,8	0,6	9,1	19,2
Jõgeva County	74,7	69,2	15,5	17,6	0,8	0,7	9,0	12,5
Hiiu County	82,9	68,4	8,7	16,3	1,6	1,6	6,8	13,7
Rapla County	73,1	67,5	10,6	13,1	0,7	0,7	15,6	18,8
Harju County	80,5	71,7	3,5	7,2	0,8	0,8	15,2	20,3
Põlva County	71,5	66,4	15,7	16,8	1,0	0,8	11,8	16,0
Järva County	74,0	70,9	12,2	14,0	0,5	0,4	13,3	14,7
Võru County	79,1	70,8	12,9	17,1	0,9	0,8	7,1	11,3
Lääne-Viru County	78,7	71,4	13,2	17,9	1,3	0,9	6,8	9,8
Viljandi County	76,0	68,1	6,5	10,2	0,6	0,5	16,9	21,2
Valga County	83,6	75,1	11,9	15,0	0,6	0,7	3,9	9,2
Tartu County	63,4	58,1	11,3	13,6	1,1	0,9	24,2	27,3

Table: Distribution of Natura 2000 areas along the Green Network areas. Is Green Network incorporating all the Natura 2000 areas? (only the share of dry land areas was taken into account in these numbers here)

	Bird areas/Linnualad			Conservation areas/Loodusala		
	County Total, Ha	Green Netw. Ha	%	County Total, Ha	Green Netw. Ha	%
Ida-Viru County	48413,5	48391,0	100,0	51972,8	51415,5	98,9
Pärnu County	92265	82943,4	89,9	90556,0	81872,6	90,4
Lääne County	68994,0	67632,5	98,0	75548,5	73993,0	97,9
Saare County	40235,1	39391,9	97,9	52856,9	51740,1	97,9
Jõgeva County	19248,4	18018,8	93,6	20958,6	19907,0	95,0
Hiiu County	11201,0	11180,1	99,8	23743,5	23710,6	99,9
Rapla County	20450,1	20281,3	99,2	51872,5	50688,4	97,7
Harju County	60432,9	53657,7	88,8	73409,8	64854,1	88,3
Põlva County	6251,8	6023,5	96,3	14406,8	13789,5	95,7
Järva County	22329,4	22110,5	99,0	22662,5	22230,4	98,1
Võru County	28120,7	20782,8	73,9	34166,3	25714,9	75,3
Lääne-Viru County	36709,7	36334,6	99,0	45539,2	44676,7	98,1
Viljandi County	42207,0	42012,0	99,5	45970,8	45323,3	98,6
Valga County	33105,5	19446,0	58,7	37838,8	24291,6	64,2
Tartu County	44837,1	40815,8	91,0	51739,2	47264,4	91,4

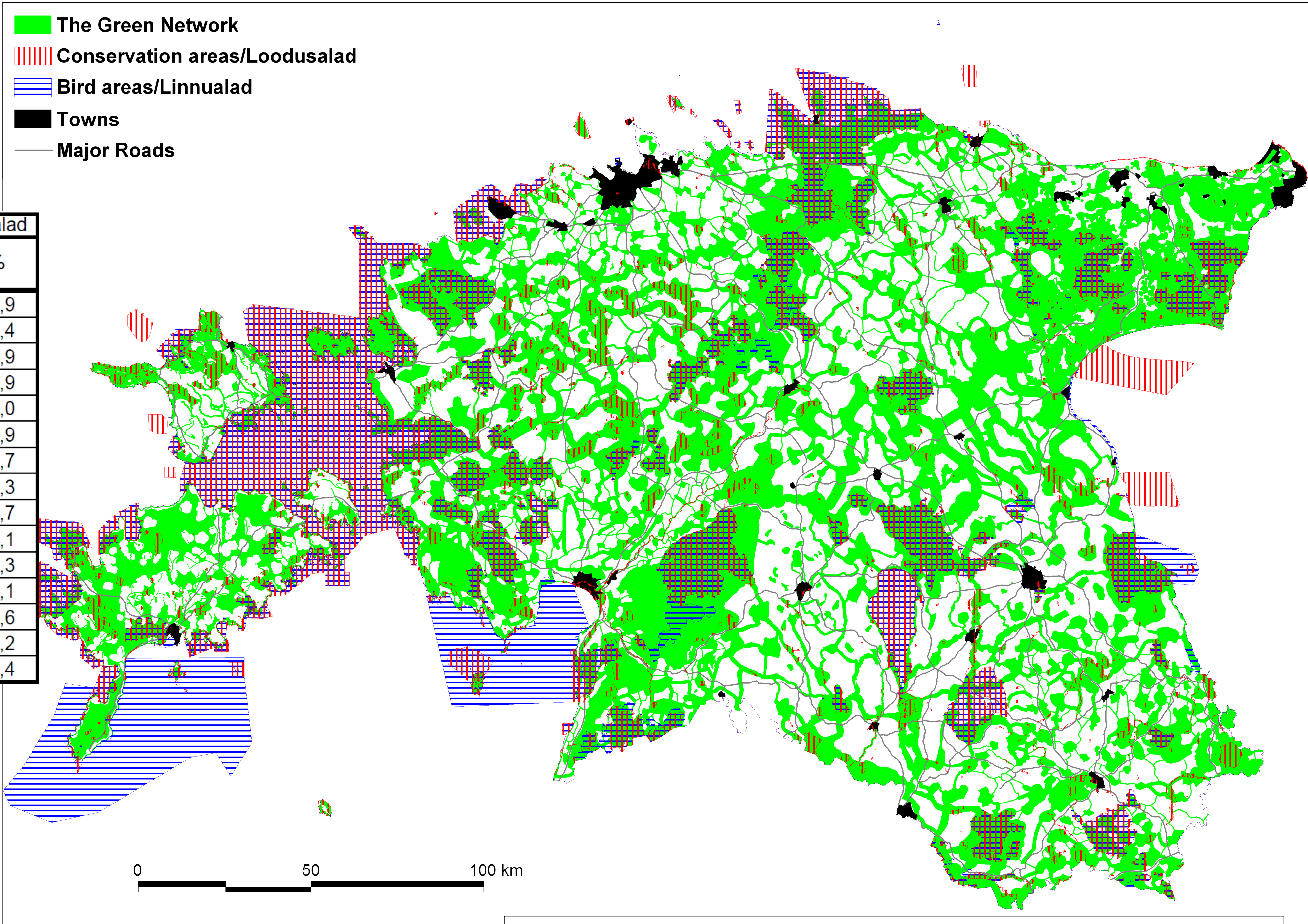


Figure: The Green Network and Natura 2000 areas