



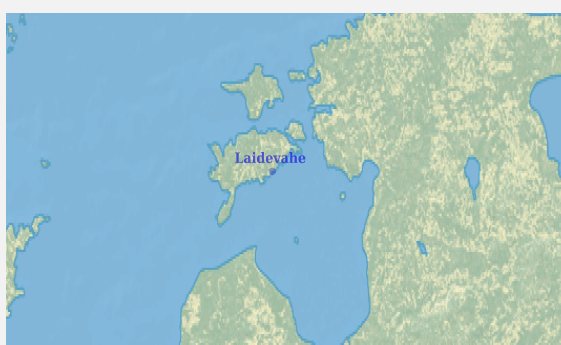
Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 29 April 2020

Update version, previously published on : 31 March 2003

Estonia

Laidevahe



Designation date	24 March 2003
Site number	1271
Coordinates	58°18'54"N 22°51'53"E
Area	2 424,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Laidevahe is a mosaic wetland complex on the southern coast of Saaremaa Island with a broad diversity of coastal and aquatic habitats including lagoons, shallow coastal lakes, more than 40 small islands, coastal meadows, saltmarshes and extensive reed-beds. Between wet areas also patches of terrestrial communities such as fresh boreo-nemoral (broadleaved) forests, alvars and dry meadows can be found. The wetland has a specific significance for breeding and migrating birds and spawning fish.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Kai Kimmel
Institution/agency	Environmental Board
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2003
To year	2018

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Laidevahe
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2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? No

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

The boundary of the Ramsar Site is the same as the Laidevahe Nature Conservation Area.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Saare County, Saaremaa Island

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Sakla, Sandla

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 2424

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from
GIS boundaries

2455.21

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Boreal

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Baltic

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided	The lagoon system with its reed-beds acts as a sediment trap.
Other ecosystem services provided	Supporting services: biodiversity, soil formation, nutrient cycling, pollination. Cultural services: spiritual and inspirational values, scientific and educational opportunities. Provisioning services: fish, livestock fodder, reeds and fibre.
Other reasons	The site is a particularly good representative of natural and near-natural coastal brackish lagoons, shallow freshwater lakes, shallow marine waters and seasonally flooded coastal meadows as well as the whole mosaic coastal wetland complex representative for the Boreal Biogeographical Region. The area contains one of the best-preserved seminatural coastal meadow complexes in Estonia (especially from the viewpoint of bird protection).

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The site supports populations of plant and animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region. Coastal meadows and rich paludified grasslands are rich in rare plant species, orchids in particular. At present, 541 plant species are registered in the area of which 31 species are protected in Estonia.
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- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

- Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification	The wetland is an important source of food, spawning ground and nursery for several fish species: <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> (Rudd), <i>Carassius carassius</i> (Crucian carp), <i>Tinca tinca</i> (Tench), <i>Esox lucius</i> (Pike), <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> (Perch), <i>Blicca bjoerkna</i> (White bream), <i>Alburnus alburnus</i> (Bleak), <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> (Roach), <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (Eel), <i>Gobio gobio</i> (Gudgeon), <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i> (Three-spined stickleback), <i>Leuciscus idus</i> (Ide), <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i> (Dace).
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3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	QTES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	Fen Orchid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	WJ in Red Data Book of Estonia	
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	WJ in Red Data Book of Estonia	
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-Rush	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	WJ in Red Data Book of Estonia	

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion			Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7								
Birds																	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN in Red Data Book of Estonia	breeding area. Critrion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	320	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CR in Red Data Book of Estonia	Criterion 4: migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Eurasian Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	Criterion 4: breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Barnacle Goose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5300	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>	Dunlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	2013-2017			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN in Red Data Book of Estonia	Criterion 4: migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh Harrier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	Tundra Swan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	180	2013-2017			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU in Red Data Book of Estonia	Criterion 4: migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	500	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	Breeding, stopover during migration.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2013-2017		LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NT in the Red Data Book of Estonia	Criterion 4: breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Little Gull	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	420	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU in Red Data Book of Estonia	migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU in Red Data Book of Estonia	migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	White-winged Scoter; Velvet Scoter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2013-2017		VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Smew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	Migration stopover
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Horned Grebe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	2013-2017		VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Porzana parva</i>	Little Crake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2013-2017			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	200	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	Breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	150	2013-2017		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	breeding
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Alburnus alburnus</i>	Bleak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Eel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				CR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Blicca bjoerkna</i>	Flat bream	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Carassius carassius</i>	Crucian carp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Esox lucius</i>	Pike	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	Stickleback	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Gobio gobio</i>	Gudgeon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Leuciscus idus</i>	Golden orfe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>	Common dace	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	European perch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Siberian roach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic Salmon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN in Red Data Book of Estonia	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Sea Trout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU in Red Data Book of Estonia	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>	Rudd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Tinca tinca</i>	Tench	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Wetland supports 0,8% of the individuals of the Western Siberian & NE Europe/North West Europe population of *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (180 ind.) during migration, 0,6% of the individuals of the Russia/Germany & Netherlands population of *Branta leucopsis* (5300 ind.) during spring staging and 0,9% of the individuals of the Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa population of *Calidris alpina schinzii* (30 ind.) during migration staging and breeding.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Boreal baltic coastal meadows (1630)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Priority habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens (7160)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
Coastal lagoons (1150)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Priority habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
Mudflats and sandflats (1140)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
large shallow inlets and bays (1160)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
Reefs (1170)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
Alkaline fens (7230)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (9080)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Priority habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
Boreal Baltic islets and small islands (1620)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		habitat of Annex I of EU Habitats Directive

[Optional text box to provide further information](#)

Protected sites management and activities in Estonia is based on habitat types listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Wetland habitats occurring in Ramsar site and listed in Annex I are: mudflats and sandflats (1140), coastal lagoons (1150*), large shallow inlets and bays (1160), reefs (1170), Boreal Baltic islets and small islands (1620), Boreal baltic coastal meadows (1630*), Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens (7160), alkaline fens (7230) and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (9080*).

Alkaline fen communities *Cladietum marisci* and *Primulo-Seslerietum* belong to the list of endangered plant communities in Estonia.

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The site is a complex of shallow bays and relict lakes with small islets, vast reedbeds, coastal meadows and saltmarshes. There are more than 40 islands and islets in the area. When the level of water is low, mud-flats are exposed and several islands are connected to each other. The area contains one of the best-preserved seminatural coastal meadow complexes in Estonia (especially from the viewpoint of bird protection). Also, different non-wetland habitats with high nature conservation value (broad-leaved forests and alvar patches with juniper copses) are distributed in higher and more calcareous coastal areas. Large patches of former meadows are overgrown with Phragmites. A diverse selection of migratory waterbirds uses the site for staging and/or breeding.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1	695	Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		4	7	Representative
H: Intertidal marshes		1	427	Representative
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons		3	58	Representative

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		4		
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		2	116	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		4	2	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		2	78	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> W: Shrub-dominated wetlands		3	15	

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
2: Ponds		4		

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
broad-leaved forests, alvar patches, juniper copses	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Berula erecta</i>		rare in Estonia
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>		rare in Estonia
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>		belongs to endangered plant community in Estonia
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>		rare in Estonia
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis baltica</i>		rare in Estonia
<i>Dactylorhiza russowii</i>		rare in Estonia
<i>Hemium monorchis</i>		rare in Estonia
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>		rare in Estonia

Optional text box to provide further information

Coastal meadows and rich paludified grasslands are rich in rare plant species, orchids in particular. At present, 541 plant species are registered in the area of which 31 species are protected in Estonia.
The broad-leaved deciduous forests growing on higher ground are relicts of former milder climate periods.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Great Reed Warbler	20	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	300	2013-2017		migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler	300	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green-winged Teal; Eurasian Teal	660	2013-2017		migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon	3000	2013-2017		migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	730	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey	150	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	500	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	600	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Bean Goose	140	2013-2017		migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	500	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck	290	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common Goldeneye	2800	2013-2017		migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	10	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck; Oldsquaw	8000	2013-2017		migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan	250	2013-2017		breeding area and migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eurasian Coot	2500	2013-2017		migration stop-over area and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus canus</i>	Mew Gull	300	2013-2017		migration stop-over area and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		100	2013-2017		migration stop-over area and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	2	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Merganser	90	2013-2017		migration stop-over area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	110	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe	50	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red-necked Grebe	10	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Water Rail	5	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	40	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	30	2013-2017		breeding area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	1200	2013-2017		migration stop-over and breeding area

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Mbist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfb: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, warm summer)

Climate is maritime. The average rainfall is 650mm per year, the mean January temperature -3.0°C and mean July (August) temperature 16.0°C.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The flat and low-lying area belongs to the region of Lowland of West Estonian (Moonsund) archipelago. The catchment of the Lõve River falling into the Laidevahe Bay is 16 000 ha.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The bedrock of the area is formed by Upper-Silurian (Gotlandium) limestone. Soils are thin loamy Rendzic Leptosols, Gleyic Podzols and young coastal soils.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from rainfall	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Inland waterbodies (coastal lakes and the Laidevahe Bay) are shallow with water depth 0.5- 3 m (average 1-2 m). There is the outflow into the sea.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself:

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Low
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Low
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	Low

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	Low
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Low

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	High
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Low

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Low
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium
Pollination	Support for pollinators	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The waters are rich in biogenic materials. There are thick layers of curative mud in the bottom of the relict lakes.

Within the site:

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

- iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction
with local communities or indigenous peoples

Description if applicable

Maintenance and management of traditional habitats (especially coastal meadows) depend on local farmers. The activities, provided by farmers are grazing and mowing. It keeps the coast from successional development of vegetation and turning ot into reedbeds or shrubs.

- iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological
character of the wetland

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

The agricultural land (incl semi-natural coastal meadows) belongs predominantly to private owners. Agriculture: small-scale farming, including grazing on seminatural meadows and reed-cutting. Cattle and sheep breeding have been traditional practices. Subsistence fishing and hunting. Small-scale forestry.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Environmental Board, Lääne Region

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Kadri Hänni, Senior Nature Conservation Specialist

Postal address:

Roheline tee 64
80010 Pärnu

E-mail address:

kadri.hanni@keskkonnaamet.ee

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Housing and urban areas	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Logging and wood harvesting	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Gathering terrestrial plants	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Storms and flooding	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Biodiversity can decrease due to the overgrowth of coastal meadows caused by a decrease in grazing and mowing. A potential threat is an increasing impact and disturbance from commercial activities (forestry, too intensive fishing, reed-harvesting) and recreation (tourism, hunting).

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Global legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (WEBR)		whole

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Siiksaare-Oessaare		whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Conservation Area	Laidevahe		whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Siiksaare-Oessaare		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Partially implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented

Other:

Estonian Native Horse Conservation Society and Society for the Protection of Seminatural communities have initiated special voluntary work camps to restore and manage coastal meadows and pastures.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but a plan is being prepared

Further information

There is no special restoration plan. Restoration needed for maintenance of traditional semi-natural communities (incl coastal meadows) is planned in the management plan of the site.

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

Regular monitoring of breeding and migrating waterfowl is going on.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Klaos, K. 1993. Lääne-Eesti Saarestiku Biosfäärikaitseala Laidevahe tuumala flora ja vegetatsioon. Tartu Ülikool. Tartu. Lõputöö: 44 lk. (Flora of Laidevahe core area of the West-Estonian Biosphere Reserve).

Kuresoo, A., Kukk, T. & Luigujõe L. 1998. Zooloogilis-botaaniline inventeerimine Laidevahe-Siiksaare kaitseala moodustamiseks Lõuna-Saaremaal. 38 lk. (Zoological-botanical inventory of Laidevahe-Siiksaare area /Southern-Saaremaa/).

Kuresoo, R., Kuresoo, A., Luigujõe, L., Vetemaa, M., Eschbaum, R., Lotman, A., Tamm, A., Truuma, T. & Kikas, T. 2000. Laidevahe looduskaitseala üldplaneering. Tartu. 54 lk. (Master Plan of Laidevahe Nature Reserve).

Leibak E. & Lutsar L. 1996. Estonian coastal and floodplain meadows. ELF Library 2. Tallinn. 247 p.

Mäemets, A. 1977. Eesti NSV järved ja nende kaitse. "Valgus". Tallinn. 263 lk. (Estonian lakes and their protection).

Ojaveer E. (ed.) 1995. Ecosystem of the Gulf of Riga between 1920 and 1990. Estonian Academy Publishers. Tallinn. 277 p.

Szeliga-Mierzyewski, W. 1995. Die Vögelwelt der Insel Oesel. - H.-J. Winkhardt, Gustav-Mahler- Str. 26, D-70195 Stuttgart.

Trei, L. 1998. Siiksaare ümbruse rannikujärvede haudelinnustikust 1997. - Linnurada 1998/1: lk.7-14 (Breeding birds of the Siiksaare coastal lakes in 1997, Saaremaa).

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



shallow sea (*Hardis Fridolin,*
07-08-2015)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation