

## Estonian nature conservation system – in constant change



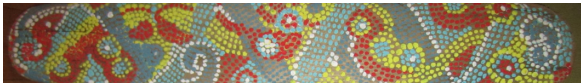
Leelo Kukk  
Environmental  
Board



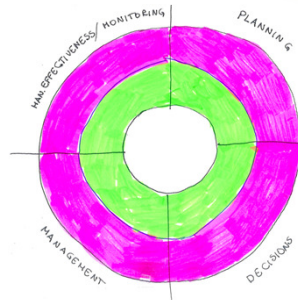
- First protected area 1910 – Vaika islets (Riga Nature Conservation society and Kihelkonna parish)
- First law of Nature Conservation in 1935
- Before WWII ca 50 protected areas
- Around 500 entrusted persons
- 1957 – first Nature conservation law in SU, Four protected areas (Vaika (Vilsandi), Viidumäe, Matsalu, Nigula), central organisation
- 1966 – under forestry management organisations nature conservation inspectors
- Lahemaa National Park 1971
- Matsalu Conservation Area 1977 (Ramsar area)
- 1991 eight new administrations of protected areas



It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change



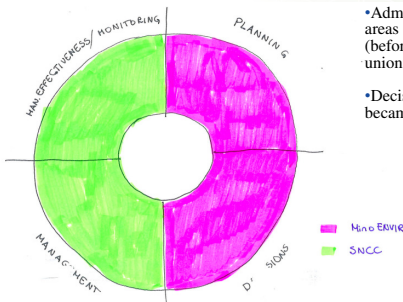
### 1991-2006



- 1993 11 administrations and local county governments
- 2000 – environmental issues from county government to the department of ministry of environment
- Natura 2000 process



### 2006-2009

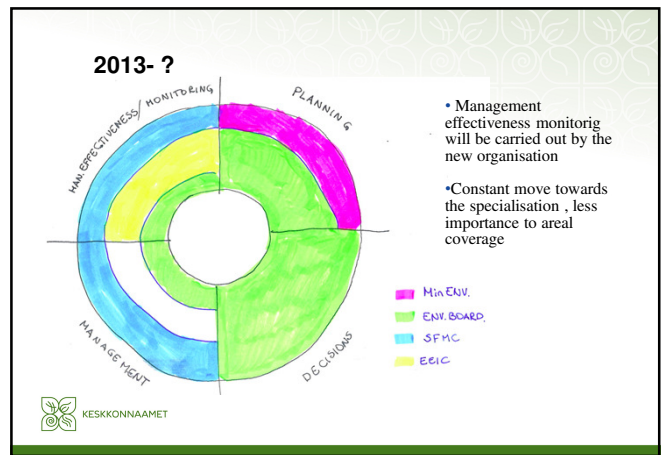
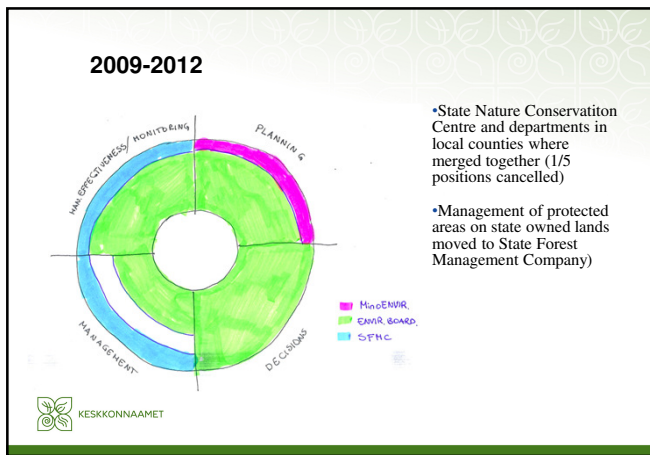


- Administrations of protected areas (16) merged together (before umbrella organisation union of protected areas)
- Decision making process became clumsier



An organism can pass on characteristics that it acquired during its lifetime to its offspring





- Homogenized decisions all over Estonia
  - Better cooperation between nature conservation-forestry-environmental issues
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- 1/3 of protected areas on private owned lands
  - 30 000 inhabitants in protected areas
  - offices in towns;
  - “face” and message carrier of protected area
  - National Parks Stakeholders Committees
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- NGOs role smaller than in the “beginning” – more controller than initiator
  - Initiator of nature conservation on the sea
  - To sustain the regional/protected area touch more input is expected from local initiatives
  - Projects control
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- Nature conservation rules (areas) – obligation to negotiate with landowners and local governments; awareness of ownership has risen sharply
  - Species protection rules – no obligation, but *de facto* it is carried out
  - Management plans – plans with public interest published – under preparation more than 400 plans – strong input from NGOs – good platform for discussions
  - Species management plans – plans with wider interest (capercaillie) published, under preparation ca 140 plans
  - Environmental impact assessment
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In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed

*Charles Darwin*



**Thank you!**