

# CULTURAL HERITAGE AND (ISLAND) BIOSPHERE RESERVES

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# Cultural heritage and UNESCO

- Tangible cultural heritage:
  - movable cultural heritage (paintings, sculptures, coins, manuscripts); immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, and so on); underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins and cities)
- Intangible cultural heritage: oral traditions, performing arts, rituals
- World Heritage Convention (1972). *Linking the protection of cultural and natural heritage.*
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001).

# Biosphere reserves and cultural heritage

The most significant feature of the World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.

Biosphere Reserves and the programme „Man and Biosphere“, as a UNESCO programme, by definition, include Education, Science and **Culture** in their agenda.

From MAB Strategy 2015–2025:

- biosphere reserves **integrate biological and cultural diversity**, particularly recognizing the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management.

# MAB Strategy 2015–2025

**Strategic Objective 2. Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere**

...

Healthy, equitable societies and economies, and thriving human settlements, are essential elements of the quest for long-term sustainability and social development. Achieving this objective requires in-depth knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, socio-economic realities and innovative approaches to increasing resilience.

# MAB Strategy 2015–2025

**Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development (ESD) and capacity building.**

...

Traditional knowledge is used as a ‘knowledge input’ for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous and local communities as guardians of unique knowledge, and of maintaining cultural identity.

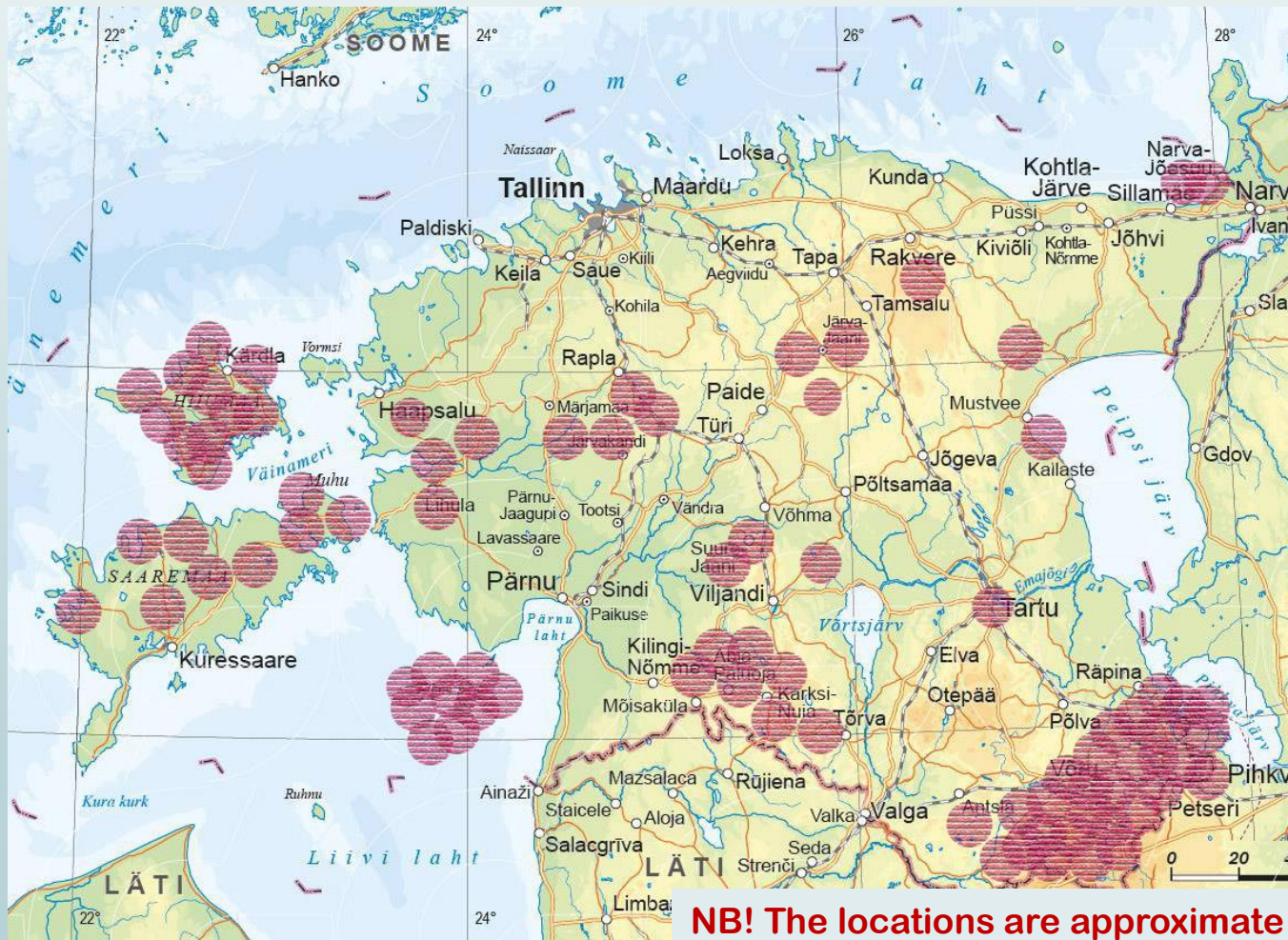
# Estonian inventory of intangible cultural heritage

The List of intangible cultural heritage in Estonia is based on the UNESCO convention. Its main purpose is to serve the interests of local communities.

Communities themselves compile entries for the inventory and decide if they want their intangible heritage to be included in the inventory, which elements should be there and how they want to present them.

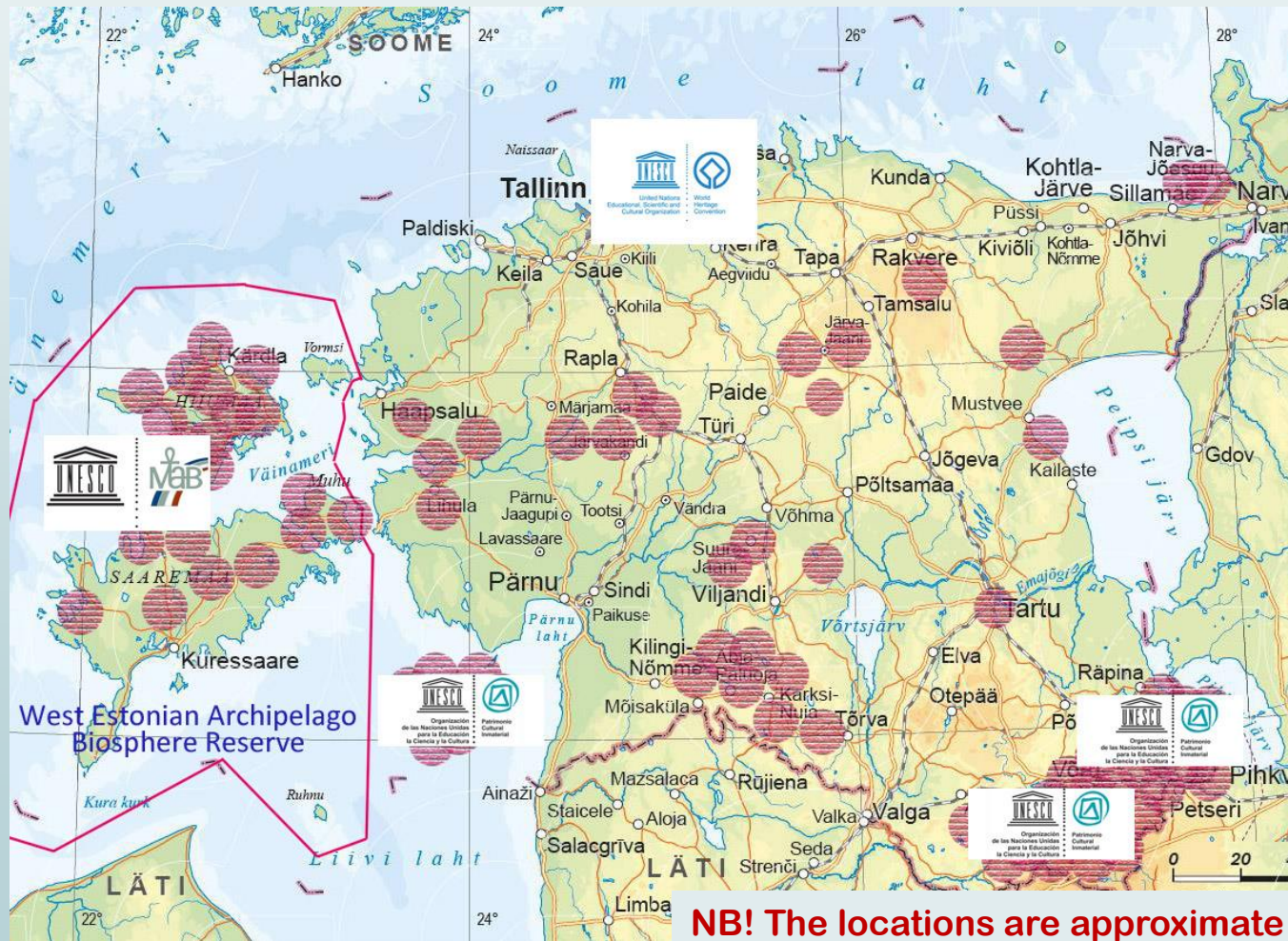
Source: [http://www.rahvakultuur.ee/Estonian\\_inventory\\_of\\_intangible\\_c\\_2428](http://www.rahvakultuur.ee/Estonian_inventory_of_intangible_c_2428)

# Records of intangible cultural heritage in Estonia





# Sites of UNESCO's recognition



**NB! The locations are approximate**



# Sustainable Development Programme 2014-2020

The WEABR works in accordance with the Sustainable Development Programme 2014-2020.

## Strategic objectives of the WEABR:

1. A PILOT AREA FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND USE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
2. BIODIVERSITY HAS BEEN PRESERVED
3. PRESERVED AND EXHIBITED ISLANDS' CULTURAL HERITAGE
4. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND TRAINING CENTRE THAT SUPPORTS A GREEN ECONOMY
5. ACTIVE CO-OPERATION IN ACHIEVEING OBJECTIVES OF THE BR



# Conclusions

- Biosphere reserves are sites where cultural heritage (resp. objects, traditions, habits, indigenous knowledges etc) is safeguarded alongside the natural values;
- Traditional nature uses derive from the millenia of co-existence of human populations in their home ecosystems (adaptation);
- This (historical) heritage is invaluable source for approaches to increasing resilience (prospects for future).

