



Pakri islands before World War II



Pakri islands after liberation in 1994

Pakri islands today

- In Estonia there are more than 1500 islands.
- Väike-Pakri and Suur-Pakri are ranked 8th and 9th by total area.
- The islands form part of the Natura 2000 network of nature protection areas (as important sites for birds).
- The Pakri islands are also protected by the Nature Conservation Act:
 - Protected area
 - Limited conservation area
 - Different protection regulations for areas

Development plan

The Pakri islands have a long history, with unique cultural heritage and traditions and a dramatic recent history.

The goal of Paldiski City Government and the Pakri Islands Development Foundation is **to create a development plan for re-opening the islands, taking into consideration the demands of different interest groups** (land owners, the local authority and the Environmental Board) and nature protection regulations and creating new socio-economic opportunities.

International experts

To create the development plan we made use of the services of **French Coastal Protection Agency (CDL) expert Denis Bredin.**



Background to CDL

The CDL focuses on **protection policies and strategies for islands and coastal regions**, land use, water management and energy issues in coastal areas. Its activities include creating plans for the development of coastal areas, such as investment evaluations, landscape preservation and re-opening for tourism.

Approach

The CDL manages areas that are important in terms of landscape conservation and which are **unique natural environments visited by tourists** – meaning that the natural environment may be at risk.

Restrictions can be put in place to both protect nature and ensure more visitors. For example, rebuilding pathways and installing signs have influenced people's behaviour with minimum damage to the surrounding nature, giving visitors enough freedom to explore the site while retaining a feeling of 'wild nature'.

Expert advice

“Nature and heritage conservation goals are often misunderstood. **Protection does not mean doing nothing**, which actually makes the situation more difficult and increases the risk. **Protection means opening up sites using the latest knowledge and technology** whilst protecting the natural environment and cultural heritage. Opening up areas using a new way of thinking has surprisingly positive results - the number of visitors multiplies and visitors enjoy modern tourist sector services. **Re-opening means both protecting and developing.**”

Opening up the Skoone area

What would a balanced model be (in terms of protection and business goals) for opening up the Skoone area?

80% protected area

20% new building rights.....?

For example, there is the option of creating a 'theme park' where the private operator must have **realistic money-making potential** to pay for the re-opening of the heavily protected area.



Thank you!