

ESTONIA



Source: esri

General

Estonia - officially the Republic of Estonia - is bordered in the North by the Gulf of Finland with Finland on the other side, in the West by the Baltic Sea with Sweden in the West, in the South by Latvia and in the East by Lake Peipus and Russia. The territory of Estonia consists of a mainland and 2,222 islands in the Baltic Sea. The country has an area of 4.52 Mha (million hectares) with, in 2022, a population of 1.33 million, or 0.29 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2022).

Climate and geography

Estonia is situated in the northern part of the temperate climate zone and in the transition zone between maritime and continental climate. It has four seasons of near-equal length. Average temperatures range from 16.3 °C on the islands to 18.1 °C inland in July, the warmest month, and from -3.5 °C on the islands to -7.6 °C inland in February, the coldest month. The average annual temperature is 5.2 °C. The average precipitation during the period 1961–1990 ranged from 535 to 727 mm per year. Snow cover, which is deepest in the south-eastern part of Estonia, usually lasts from mid-December to late March (source: Wikipedia).

Estonia has over 1,400 lakes. Most are very small, with the largest, Lake Peipus, being 355,500 ha. There are many rivers in the country. Estonia has numerous fens and bogs. Forest land covers 50% of the country (source: Wikipedia).

Existing polders

Nine polders have been identified. General characteristics of the polders in Estonia are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

Location of the polders in Estonia as shown on the World polder map

The location of the polders in Estonia is shown in Figure 1.

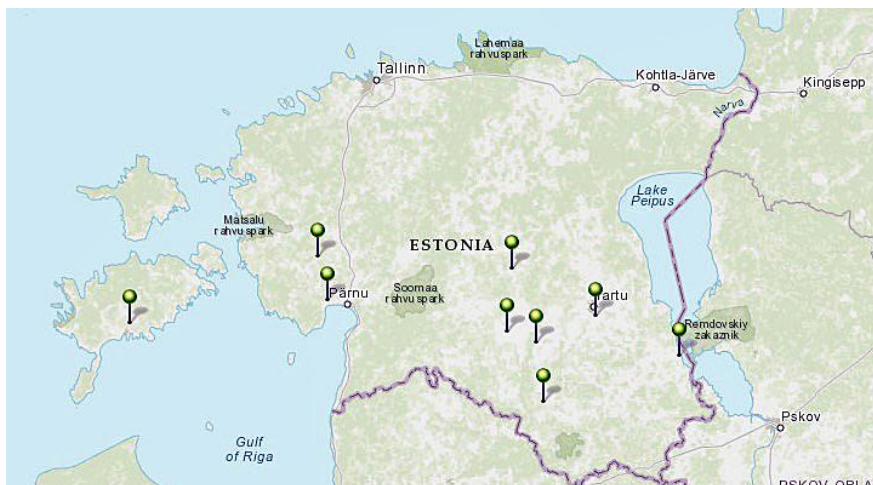


Figure 1. Location of the polders in Estonia (source: esri – Batavialand)

The pictures by Prof. Bart Schultz are shown in Table II.

References

Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982.

Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects. Delft, the Netherlands

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The World Bank, 1998. *Estonia Agriculture Project, Farm Drainage Rehabilitation Component, Aide – Memoire IV.* Natural Resources Management Division, Country Department IV, Europe and Central Asia Region. Prepared by Bart Schultz.

Websites:

- <https://www.visitestonia.com/en/audru-polder>
- <http://www.rapinapolder.envir.ee/eng.htm>. *Räpina Polder*

Bart Schultz





Lelystad, November 2023

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Estonia

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Audru Polder	1938	2,000	RLL	58° 23' N	24° 20' E	3	Agriculture and nature
Tarvastu Polder	First half 20 th century	520	RLL	58° 15' N	25° 56' E	37	Agriculture
Räpina Polder	1967	1,409	RLL	58° 8' N	27° 32' E	32	Agriculture
Valguta Polder	1968	484	RLL	58° 11' N	26° 12' E	75	Agriculture and nature
Korva Polder	1970	1,463	RLL	57° 51' N	26° 10' E	50	Agriculture
Aardla Polder	1983	1,271	RLL	58° 18' N	26° 44' E	33	Agriculture and nature
Kolga-Jaani Polder		317	RLL	58° 33' N	25° 59' E	41	Agriculture and nature
Sikassaare Polder		135	RLL	58° 17' N	22° 30' E	3	Agriculture
Tamme Polder		700	RLL	58° 36' N	24° 14' E	19	Agriculture
Total		8,299					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake

Table II. Pictures on polders and lowlands in Estonia by Prof. Bart Schultz

			
D6 11 033/XI-33 Drain maintenance, 3-10/8 1997	D6 11 034/XI-34 Drain maintenance, 3-10/8 1997	D6 12 036/XII-36 Bank mower, 11 – 17/10 1998	D6 12 037/XII-37 Bank mower, 11 – 17/10 1998