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 (Scandinavia to the far West and North), 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 2020 a population of 1.33 million, or 0.29 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

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 Estonia (source: Wikipedia).

Existing polders

Nine polders have been identified. These are listed in Table I.

General characteristics of the polders in Estonia are shown in Table II.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

Pictures of polders

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

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World Population Prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision*. New York, USA.

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, April 2022

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	2000	RLL	58º 23' N	24º 20' E	3	Agriculture and nature
Tarvastu Polder	First half 20th century	520	RLL	58º 15' N	25º 56' E	37	Agriculture
Räpina Polder	1967	1409	RLL	58º 8' N	27º 32' E	32	Agriculture
Valguta polder	1968	484	RLL	58º 11' N	26º 12' E	75	Agriculture and nature
Korva Polder	1970	1463	RLL				
Aardla Polder	1983	1271	RLL	58º 18' N	26º 44' E	33	Agriculture and nature
Kolga-Jaani Polder		317	RLL	58º 33' N	25º 59' E	41	Agriculture and nature
Sikassaare Polder		135	RLL	58º 17' N	22º 30' E	3	Agriculture
Tamme Polder		700	RLL				
Total		8299					

*) 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