

# Estonian methodology for evaluation of protected areas' management effectiveness

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### Main objective



To develop, in consultation with the Estonian authorities, and accounting for Estonia's resource capacity, a methodology to assess the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation measures in Estonia at a national and protected area level.

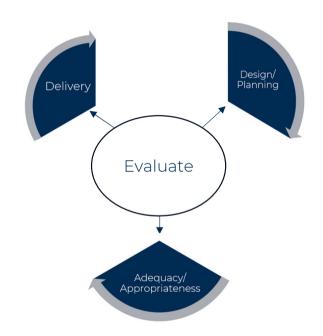
## Main inputs



- Baseline study on effectiveness of conservation and its evaluation in Estonia
  - Included Estonian experiences with PAME evaluation by Külvik, M. et al. as well as those from other countries
- Existing methodology, mostly available for protected areas, especially:
  - IUCN WCPA framework for PAME
  - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)
  - Proposed EU-wide methodology for PAME tracking
- Lots of discussions and reviews with EEB, KAUR, and others + piloting workshops

## Conceptual underpinning





- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
- Each element focusses on specific aspects of evaluation, with individual indicators/criteria
- A <u>circular</u> process with repeat evaluation, enabling learning of complex systems to feed back into practice



- Context
  - Condition of site (species and habitats)
  - Pressures and drivers- identification, assessment of severity/extent
- Objectives
  - Establishment of SMART objectives
  - Target conditions
- Conservation Measures
  - Needs assessment, linkage to pressures



- Inputs
  - Assessment of knowledge gaps
  - Monitoring of outputs and outcomes
- Process
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Conflict management



### Outputs

- Implementation of measures
  - Conservation measures
  - Monitoring activities
  - Inventories
  - Studies

### Outcomes

- Condition status
- Ecological coherence
- Violations
- Evaluation of rules and values (adequacy/sufficiency)

### Approach: Overview



#### **Snapshot evaluation**

**PA-level**: Reporting progress on conservation measures (outputs) and new pressures & threats.

#### National-level:

Assessment of overall progress and new common pressures and threats. Short summary report for decision makers with proposed follow-up action.

#### Mid-term evaluation

**PA-level**: Evaluation halfway the management cycle to evaluate need for changes in operational management.

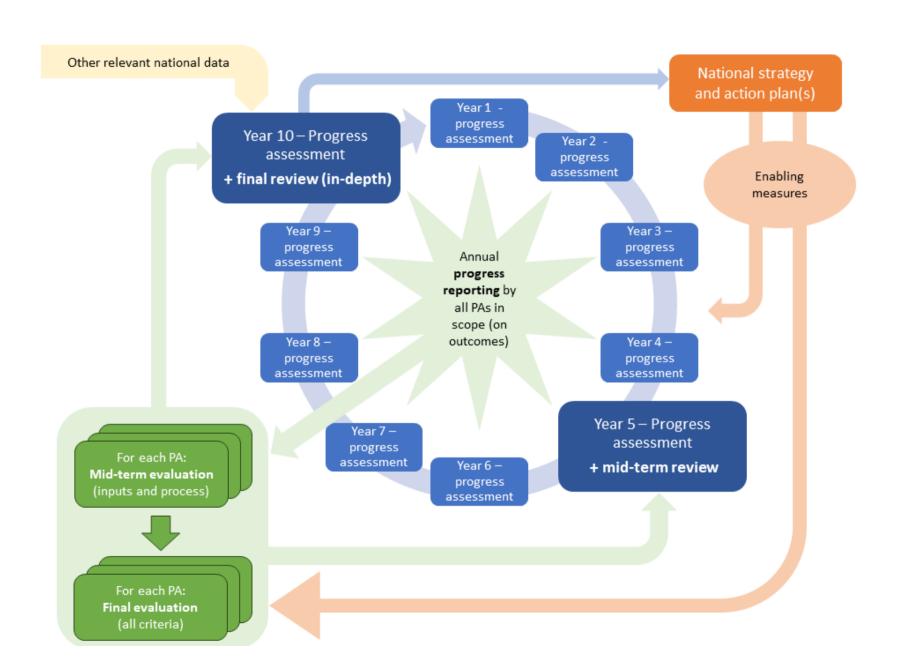
#### **National level:**

Evaluation halfway the strategic cycle to assess need for national-level intervention e.g. through enabling measures (e.g. financing or enforcement).

#### **Full evaluation**

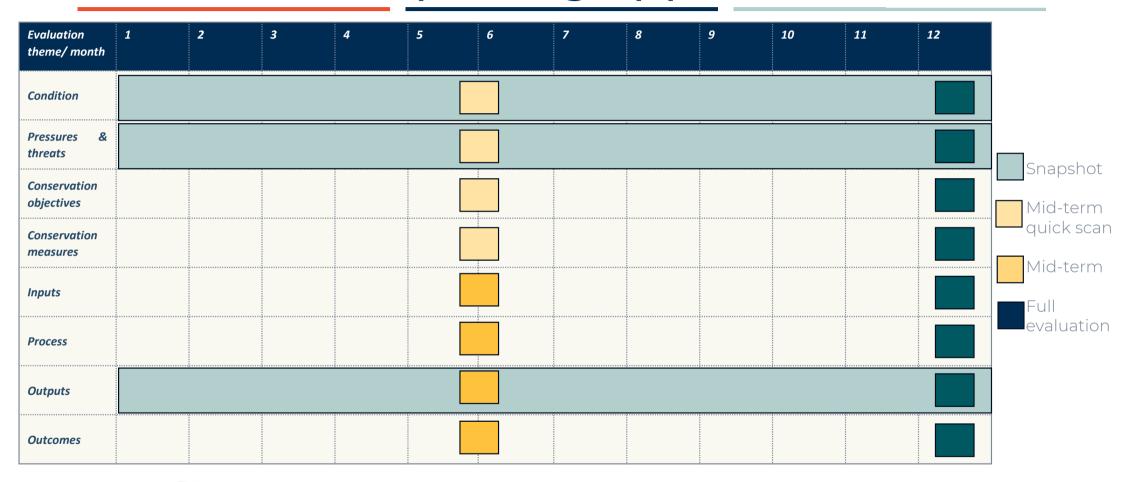
PA level: In-depth evaluation at end of management cycle on all relevant criteria to inform new management objectives and measures in next planning cycle.

National level: In-depth evaluation on underlying drivers of success and failure, with aim to inform more structural changes to policy- and strategic framework for nature conservation.



# Evaluation/reporting approach





### National level evaluation





- 1- Articulate a strategy to biodiversity conservation, key measures to implement
- 2- Assess state and trends of nature, evaluate trends
- 3- Prioritise assessment of conservation success/failures, underlying challenges and solutions
- 4- Draft national biodiversity conservation mgmt. recommendations
- 5- Evaluate assessment process

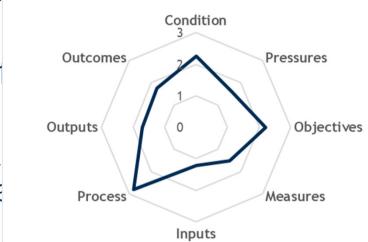
### Site Level-PAME Tool



The excel tool presents a series of questo each (sub) component

 Response options predefined and/or of for qualitative responses

The response options can be 'scored', to of management effectiveness (interpretation)



Context- Pressures and drivers	,
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					inputs
	Question		Type of response		
	No.	Question	required	Guidance on response	
				Pressures on the ecological values (see definition tab- biological values nere refer to	No pressures were identified for the site
3.		Were pressures (direct drivers) on the conservation of all values for which the	Scoring scale/Drop	'biota' and 'habitats') for which the site was designated hinder the site from reaching	Pressures identified at national level, site-specific pressures n
	3.a	site was designated, identified?	down response	objectives and targets. Steps should be undertaken to identify these pressures and	Pressures identified for some values
				analyse their impact on values, in order to inform measures to tackle these pressures.	Pressures identified and assessed for majority of the values.
				Direct drivers include: changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms,	Pressures identified for all values for which the site was desig

# Supporting elements



