

Additional information

Ecosystem services

Current scientific research and facilities

During the preparation of the management plan thorough inventories were carried out and 20 special reports were drafted. According the management plan scientific monitoring and research activities occur on a regular basis with an emphasis on monitoring of floodplain meadows to evaluate the management effectiveness of management: botanical research of rare plants, monitoring of spring and autumn migration of birds, counting of birds of floodplain meadows (especially *Crex crex* and *Gallinago media*) and peatlands, also monitoring of mammals: elk, roe deer, bear, wolf, lynx and small predators.

The visitor's centre in Tõramaa also acts as the research station for large carnivores (especially wolf and lynxes) and supporting activities of quest researchers in national park.

Current recreation and tourism

Since its establishment as a national park, tourism load has increased. Yearly approximately 9000- 10000 visitors are registered in visitor's centre. The floods attract many visitors. The area is attractive for nature tourism and in 2009 it received the European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) award. There is a network of local entrepreneurs certified by PAN Park offering sustainable and high quality services for visitors. It is also an important area for traditional seasonal berry picking (*Oxycoccus palustris* and *Rubus chamaemorus*) as well as mushrooms.

Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site

A visitors' centre was constructed in Kõrtsi-Tõramaa in 1998. There are 10 study and hiking trails, several of these are supplied with viewing towers or platforms and board walks in the wetland. A photo album, maps and several booklets have been prepared providing general and conservation information. A memorial museum to the composer Mart Saar is located at Hüpassaare (northeastern part) where a nature trail has also been established.

Local newsletter "Jõhvikas" (Cranberry) is published regularly by NGO "Friends of Soomaa". Since 2009 the visiting management is the responsibility of the State Forest Management Centre.
