

Intensive Programme theme and learning environment

Detailed challenges and problems (Lahemaa National Park) overview

Hara submarine base



Hara submarine base (Tarmo Pilving)

Hara submarine base (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeFc4isErRo>) was built by the Soviet army between 1956-1958 for demagnetizing submarines (you can google it) and a research centre was also developed at the base. Many locals were forced to leave their homes



before the building started and the entire area was placed under Soviet military control and closed to unauthorised people. The area was reopened to the general public in 1991 when Estonia regained its independence and the Soviet army left but, due to the confusing times it went into the hands of private owners who did not want to invest to conserve the buildings or surrounding infrastructure and today the facilities and buildings are slowly falling into disrepair. The Soviet army left behind pollution and much junk which has for the most part been cleaned up but it takes quite some time for people to overcome those stressful times when Estonia was overrun by a foreign army.

Over the years the port complex has been used by fisherman and divers and since it is quite unique in the world it has become a tourism attraction but there are not any firm plans for what to do with the base. A local NGO, Hara Sadam, was established in 2015 with the aim of building a port there for small vessels and boats and since 2017 the same NGO is operating a sailing school for children and adults.

Hara submarine base area offers many possibilities for development but at the same time there are significant problems and challenges to overcome.

Pärispea peninsula military base and Kirov's kolkhoz fish farm

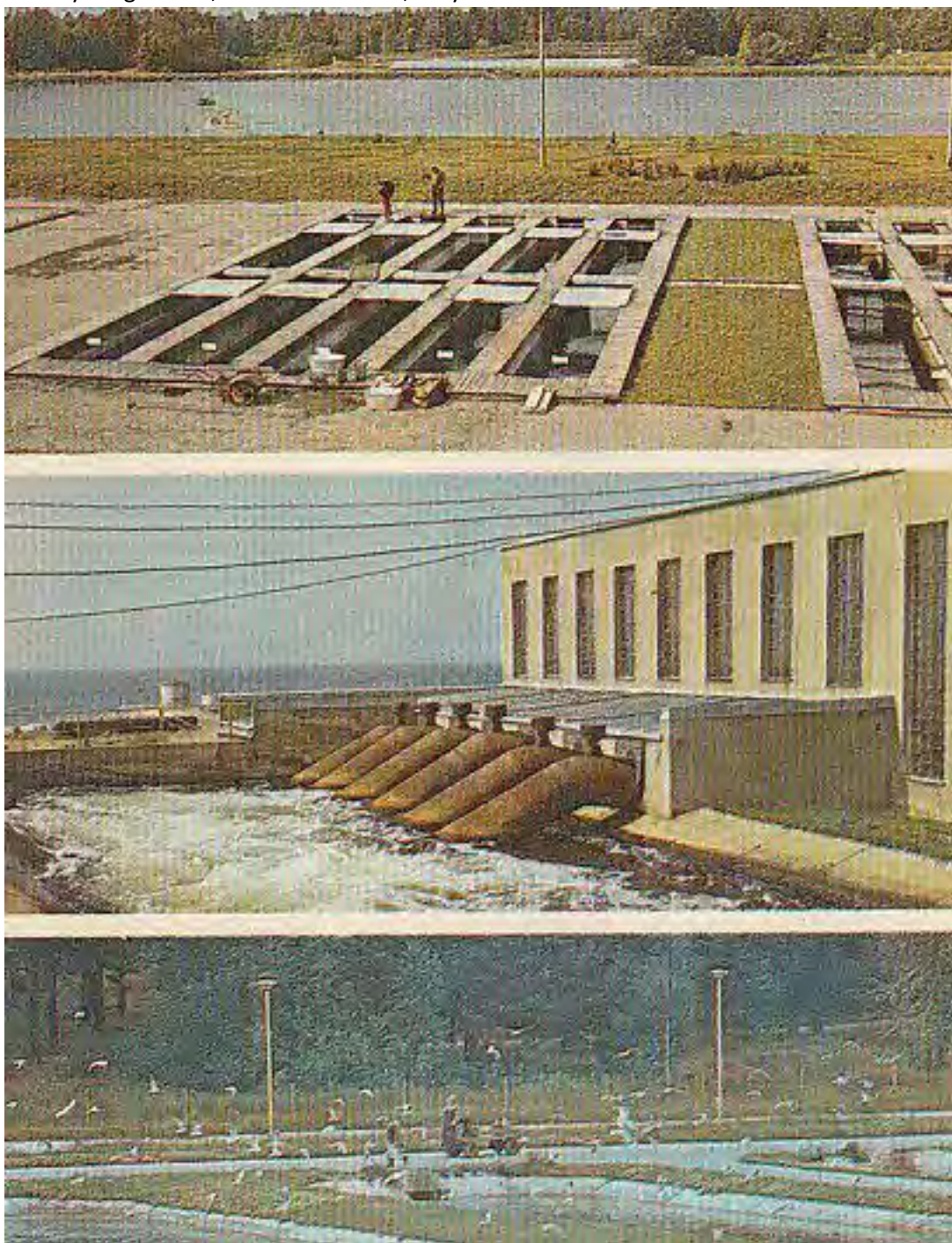


Pärispea military base (Tarmo Pilving)



Pärispea military base (Tarmo Pilving)

Pärispea military base is another legacy from Soviet times. Pärispea peninsula (not far from Loks town) is a beautiful place with a picturesque coastline and offers a range of opportunities for recreational activities, nature and rural tourism but in the middle of it lies a huge abandoned military complex just waiting for new ideas for development and better uses for local people and national park visitors. Part of the military complex is currently up for sale (price 715000€) and included in the sale are 12 buildings including the main building (called the "Institute building") which is over 3000 square meters in floor area.



Kirov's fish farm in Pärismeas peninsula (Postimees)

Another object on Pärismeas peninsula dating from the communist era, was one of the biggest fish farms in the former Soviet Union. Established in 1976 the farm produced over 60% of the country's total trout production. The fish farm continued after the collapse of Soviet Union, but it was conserved in 2007 and is now for sale. The questions here are what to do with it, can a Soviet era fish farm be used today and how?



This video gives a good overview of the military buildings and fish farm:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWyiWCojk_A

Loksa town



Loksa bus station (Delfi)

Loksa village was first mentioned in 1687. Loksa town is located inside the boundaries Lahemaa National Park but is administered separately from the Park and has its own town council and mayor. Loksa shipyard was established in 1903 and the area devoted to this began to grow fast. For a long time Loksa ships were constructed there and a brickyard was also opened (however this was closed in 1981). The shipyard has seen many owners and it is still operational, but the golden era is long gone. Today there are 3000 people living in Loksa town of which over 50% speak the Russian language. Nowadays many people who live in Loksa work in Estonia's capital Tallinn which is not far (by car 40 min). Thus, Loksa is becoming somewhat of a Dormitory/Sleeping Town. Although surrounded by the national park Loksa is not properly connected with Lahemaa.

Kolgaküla community centre

Kolgaküla community centre (Peep Linno)

Kolgaküla community centre (<https://www.facebook.com/Kolgakylarahvamaja/>), built by the people of the village in the 1930ies, has been the local centre for culture and activities for more than 85 years. Before WW2 it housed a choir and hosted dancing, acting and cooking classes. During the Soviet times the centre grew gradually emptier and only a few parties a year were held there. In the 1990ies when Estonia became free again, the house was completely renovated and put into active use again, however during the summer of 2006 there was a tragic accident and the house burned down. In two years the people of the village built the house up for a second time and now it is more active than ever with dance and art classes, family days, theatre and cinema shows, quizzes, parties and all kinds of meetings being held there. The house is also rented out for weddings, birthday parties and jubilees and other private purposes. The centre is owned by the local government and administered by **NGO Kolgaküla village association** which has been one of the most active civic organisations in the area for more than 20 years. Most of its money however, comes in the form of subsidies and projects. The challenge is to make the village association financially more independent and for the community centre to earn more.

**Kolga manor**

Kolga manor (Argo Tammemäe)

Kolga manor (<https://www.visitestonia.com/en/kolga-manor>, <https://www.facebook.com/KolgaSA/>) - with its 50 000 hectares of land and many smaller estates, was once the largest manorial estate in Estonia. Founded in the 13th century and belonging to the Cistercian Order, in 1581, Swedish king gave Kolga and the land around it to one of his generals. From the end of the 17th century to the summer of 2014 the manor belonged to the same noble family – the Stenbocks – who are one of the most famous Swedish families. Among all the family members bearing military titles, there were also those with a different destiny, such as Eric von Stenbock, bohemian poet and a friend of Oscar Wilde. The building's history has had many phases. Kolga obtained its current appearance in the 1820s, when the previous building was completely reconstructed as a stylish Classicist palace. Despite the fact that many of its buildings are in ruins, the manor complex still makes a majestic impression. Here, in the grand Kolga manor, you will experience the atmosphere of mystery and times past. Kolga Museum, located in one of the buildings of the manor complex, showcases the history and rich cultural heritage of Kuusalu Parish.

Today the manor is in the hands of an Estonian family. The challenge is to create ideas for new uses with such a huge manor house in agreement with the community around it.



Viru bog (https://liisapohlak.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/img_6747.jpg)

Viru bog study trail (<https://www.visitestonia.com/en/viru-bog-study-trail>) was built in 1977 as the first bog trail in Estonia. Hosting about 40 000 visitors a year, half of whom are foreign tourists from all over the world, it is now one of the most popular nature trails and a symbol of Estonia. The 3.5 km trail (a lap is 6 km) passes through the forest and bog landscapes characteristic of Lahemaa National Park and Estonia and introduces visitors to the bog's flora, former sand dunes, forest and a peat milling field. There is an accessible boardwalk leading towards an observation tower which is also accessible to wheelchairs and strollers up to the first viewing platform.

The challenge is to cope with the huge mass of visitors in this delicate landscape and the restoration of bog flora in the old peat field.