

Minutes from Pasvik-Inari Advisory Board online meeting

Date: 17.8.2020, time 9.05-12.50 (Norwegian time)

Participants:

Advisory Board Members:

Jyrki Tolonen, Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife, Finland

Jari Pasanen, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment Lapland (ELY), Finland

Janne Hannola, Inari Municipality, Finland

Tatiana Snegireva, Pasvik Zapovednik, Russia

Kurt Wikan, Øvre Pasvik National Park board, Norway

Bente Christiansen, Troms and Finnmark County Governor, Norway

Absent Advisory Board Members:

Tore Johan Olsen, Sør-Varanger Municipality, Norway

Anna Bagrova, Ministry of Nature Resource and Ecology of the Murmansk region, Russia

Edward Zatona, Pechenga District Municipality (Nikel Administration)

Working Group Members:

Riina Tervo, Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife, Finland

Natalia Polikarpova, Pasvik Zapovednik, Russia

Rolf E. Sch. Kollstrøm, Øvre Pasvik National Park Board, Norway

Tiia Kalske, Troms and Finnmark County Governor, Norway

Observers and other participants:

Kirsi Ukkonen and Tuomo Ollila, Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife, Finland

Aleksandra Sinyak and Ekaterina Boykova, Pasvik Zapovednik, Russia

Svetlana Bulatova, Ministry of Nature Resource and Ecology of the Murmansk region, Russia

Vladimir Chizov and Andrey Fomenko Pechenga Development Centre, Russia

Anne Wikan, NIBIO Svanhovd, Norway

1. Opening of the meeting and presentation of participants

Bente Christiansen opened the meeting 9.05 and welcomed all participants. Participants presented themselves. List above.

2. Selection of chair and secretary

Bente Christiansen was selected as chair and Tiia Kalske as secretary.

3. Recall on the signed meeting minutes from 2019 and adoption of the agenda of 2020

Minutes from Advisory Board meeting in 2019 has been circulated and signed in beforehand, no additional comments and consensus was noted. Agenda adopted with following amendment: Nibio will inform about planned moose project under agenda point 7.

4. Important information and status from all member organizations

Tatiana Snegireva Pasvik Zapovednik. New acting director after Vladimir Chizov is Tatiana Snegireva. Pandemic has affected greatly the work in 2020, all meetings and public arrangement has been either cancelled or postponed. Staff has been working from home in the springtime. Summertime and field season activities have been partly implemented, although with restrictions and changes. Tenders and activities in

projects also affected, postponed or cancelled. In autumn time tenders and project actions will be worked on within allowed pandemic framework. More detailed under the other agenda points.

Jyrki Tolonen Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife. Budget situation is very good and will be good for the two coming years also. Visitor numbers increased in protected areas at least 10-fold also due to pandemic situation. This has created some challenges in some areas. The application of Akwè: Kon- guidelines under the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) between Metsähallitus and the Sámi Parliament are now approved¹. Process for making the plan over sustainable use of natural resources in the state-owned lands and waters in the Sámi home area in Finland for years 2022-2027 has started.

Jari Pasanen ELY-Lapland. Good budget situation also in ELY-centre. Good funding for mapping and inventories activities both in nature protection (Helmi habitats programme²) and water issues. Staff working mostly from home offices, field season has been active. High activity on the EU Water Framework Directive, with classification, management plans including international cooperation. High water levels and spring flooding, some damages locally in Lapland. Projects: Tana river Interreg finalised with good results³ on both nature inventories and water issues, ReArc ENI project and Multi-Use plan ENI project.

Janne Hannola Inari Municipality. Inari Municipality is very satisfied with the Pasvik-Inari cooperation and will support it and looking forward to all the listed activities in the Action plan for the coming years.

Kurt Wikan and Rolf Kollstrøm Øvre Pasvik National Park. 2020 has been the 50-year anniversary year with many celebrations and happenings for the locals. The National Park was established 6.2.1970. 5th of March a jubilee seminar and dinner were implemented, main arrangement 20th June at Gjøken visitor point with expert excursions (old growth forest and archaeological themes) and 15th of August the outdoor concert on Muotkavaara/ Treriksøysa⁴. Restauration activities finally now in progress at Visitor Point Gjøken, the old buildings were in poorer condition than first thought, additional funding has been secured from Norwegian National Heritage Fund. Tromsø University Archaeologist has worked on the Luftwaffe camp. The NP Board has got two new members.

Bente Christiansen Troms and Finnmark County Governor. Staff has been working at home in March-June. Still harmonising work to do after the fusion of the two County Governors in 2019. From October 2020 the Vadsø office will move to temporary location, the main office will have reconstructions. Spring 2020 has been very challenging for the reindeer herders; it was announced crisis and the state has provided extra funding support for foddering. The process with voluntary forest protection in the Pasvik valley and negotiations between County Governor and Finnmark Estate/ FeFo (land proprietor) is finalised. The result will be discussed on the FeFo board meeting in autumn. If accepted a protection process can be initiated. Bente will retire in September, the new Environmental Director is Lisa Bjørnsdatter Helgason, she will start working in end of September.

5. Fulfilling of the given targets in 2019–2020: report from the working group

Details can be read from the working group report, attached to these minutes, annex 1.

a. Management

Korablekk Nature Park (Natalia Polikarpova): Korablekk is now part of the trilateral cooperation, contact person is Anna Bagrova, Ministry of Nature Resource and Ecology of the Murmansk region.

¹ Application of Akwè:Kon guidelines between MH and Sámi Parliament under the CBD can be found here, in Finnish, Inari Sámi, Skolt Sámi and Northern Sámi: https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/assets/pdf/lp/Muut/akwekon_toimintamalli.pdf

² https://www.ym.fi/en-US/Nature/Biodiversity/Nature_conservation_programmes/Helmi_habitats_programme

³ http://www.ely-keskus.fi/web/ely/ely-lappi/joint-environmental-management-of-the-river-tana-tenojoen-interreg-hanke-;jsessionid=42CC8E6E71F64499C01BACBDD8048801?p_p_id=122_INSTANCE_aluevalinta&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_r_p_564233524_resetCur=true&p_r_p_564233524_categoryId=14253 and <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/GVK/Nyheter/Prosjektet-Tana-Interreg-avsluttes/>

⁴ Anniversary concert 15th of August, [Whole concert video](#), [short video reportage](#)

Results from Workshop on prioritising actions and work group meeting (Riina Tervo): own national workshops (held in January) and a trilateral workshop 13th February were implemented to prioritise the actions in the action plan. Results presented in attached annex 2.

Trilateral working group meeting in Inari: implemented 13.-14th February.

b. Monitoring activities

Waterfowl registrations (Natalia Polikarpova): late spring and high-water level, joint annual registration along Pasvik river in Pasvik Nature Reserve and Pasvik Zapovednik: spring counting's 26.5. (3386 ind., 41 species) and 3.6. (507 ind., 30 species). Autumn counting's 13.8 (results in preparation) and 1.9. due to pandemic situation registrations in 2020 is without border crossing. Russian side implemented summer duckling counting in mid-July 2020 – PZ will share results with partners.

Bird ringing and ringing database (Natalia Polikarpova/ Riina Tervo/ Tiia Kalske): all three countries will implement bird ringing in 2020. Norway: in period august/ September, open day is cancelled due to pandemic. Norwegian Ornithological Association (NOF) has overtaken the activity at Nyrud. Finland: volunteers are ringing at Mellanaapa, Ivalo in second half of August. Russia: July- mid-August at Varlam, so far >900 ind. Ringed, report in preparation. Ringing database also includes recaptures. Aleksandra Sinyak reported from the 2nd ornithological festival at Varlam in 2019 (5.9), over 60 participants and experts' lectures. 3rd festival is cancelled in 2020.

Golden Eagle (Tuomo Ollila): year 2020 is in general a bad year for golden eagle chick production. Only 3 successful breeding's in Inari and Utsjoki area. East of Lake Inari especially poor year. Whole of Finnmark also poor production in general. **Gyrfalcon**: a medium good breeding success in 2020. Natalia Polikarpova informed about transect counting's of birds between Kaitakoski-Borisoglebskaya power plant, in the protected areas, report in preparation, will be shared in October.

Lake Inari bird survey (Action 2.1.3.) (Tuomo Ollila): is conducted in 2020. Results will be shared later.

Visitors' numbers 2019 and visitor survey, incl. final report (Riina Tervo): Visitation numbers to the protected areas, key sites and visitors' centres are collected annually into a joint database. The numbers for last five years can be seen in the working group report (annex 1). In 2018-2019 a joint visitor survey was conducted. Results are summarised in a report⁵.

Brown Bear results from joint hair snapping project in 2019 (Anne Wikan): under agenda point 7 results from joint activity in 2019 was presented⁶ (Annex 3).

c. Enlightenment activities 2019-2020

10th Anniversary Hike on Piilola Trail gathered 38 participants in the beginning of September 2019⁷. When hikers came to Norway parts of the Øvre Pasvik NP Board was welcoming them and also a scientist working with CMTs (Cultural Marks in Trees).

Trilateral bird watching trips (Kirsi Ukkonen/ Aleksandra Sinyak/ Anne Wikan): Norway implemented bird watching trips for locals 5.6.2020 (more info in Annex 3). Activity was cancelled in both Russia and Finland – but online campaign was initiated so people could go bird watching by themselves. An online video connection between the three countries bird watching groups was planned – implement next year instead!

3rd ornithological festival on Varlam island (Aleksandra Sinyak): cancelled.

⁵ <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Pasvik-Inari/News/Who-are-our-visitors/>

⁶ <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Pasvik-Inari/News/More-Brown-Bears-in-the-Trilateral-Park/>

⁷ <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Pasvik-Inari/News/Piilola-hike/>

50-year anniversary Øvre Pasvik National Park (Kurt Wikan/ Rolf Kollstrøm): ref. to info given under point 4. Planned hike to Galgoaive is cancelled. Great interest from Norwegian side and NP Board hope that the hike is possible to implement in 2021. Jubilee newspaper⁸ printed 5.6.2020 (attached to minutes).

Day of Parks 2020⁹ and online eco-week (Aleksandra Sinyak): online exhibition, many social media activities, online lectures etc. conducted in Russia in May 2020. Links:

https://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/24_maya_evropeyskiy_den_parkov_pasvik_inari_primer_uspeshnogo_mezhdunarodnogo_sotrudnichestva_v_prir/?sphrase_id=304386

<https://www.tv21.ru/news/2020/05/27/zapovednik-pasvik-inari-park-bez-granic>

<http://vmeste.tv21.ru/video/46>

<http://kn51.ru/news/society/ecology/2020/5/18/uznat-bolshe-o-trehstoronnem-parke-pasvik-inari.html>

d. Dissemination of information

List of these activities is in the working group report (annex 1). Partners of the trilateral park are active in disseminating information about the protected areas and the cooperation in presentations, articles, videos, social media, webpages, newspapers, TV and radio and photo exhibition. Russian side has also published and prepared many scientific articles in 2019-2020 (listed in Annex 1).

e. EUROPARC cooperation

Follow up of "homework" in re-verification report:

- **Lake Inari Management Plan** (Riina Tervo) is in action: contents are extracted from different inventories. Timeline for finalisation is not yet clarified.
- **Updating of cooperation agreement from 2008** (Tiia Kalske). Working group got assignment in 2019 to draft an Annex to the cooperation agreement. Drafts has been circulated beforehand and this annex was signed 17.8. in six languages. Attached to the minutes.
- **Participation of indigenous peoples in the advisory Group** (Jyrki Tolonen): issue is under work. Finnish partner will find out the best way to include either Sámi Parliament or the Skolt Sámi Village Association.
- **Guiding rules for the cooperation** (Tiia Kalske): working group got assignment to revise the existing guiding rules from 2008 in the 2019 meeting. Draft rules have been circulated beforehand. Revised guiding rules were adopted by the Advisory Board 17.8.2020. Attached to the minutes.
- **Ramsar status for parts of PZ** (Tiia Kalske/ Natalia Polikarpova): excursion and visit from Ramsar secretariat (Tobias Salathé) was planned for August 2020, activity postponed to, post covid-19 situation.

Best practices from Pasvik-Inari to the tool kit (Riina Tervo): still under making.

Europarc Annual conference (Riina Tervo): meeting will be online meeting 8.-9.9. registration is still open. Theme is "Our new future, are we ready?"

TransParcNet 2020 (TPN) and Transboundary Task Force (Riina Tervo): TPN meeting rescheduled from June to 22nd-25th September, theme Parks and Cultural Heritage (Swiss-Italian TB park is hosting). Transboundary Task Force is an ad-hoc working group, online meeting implemented on the future EUROPARC Strategy for transboundary contents and point-of-views.

STEC participation (Tiia Kalske): two new areas are applying for TB certificate; three areas are re-evaluated. Pandemic situation is causing challenges for the onsite visits.

⁸ <https://kunde.hamar.media/Nasjonalpark50/>

⁹ News on Federal Ministry web site:

https://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/24_maya_evropeyskiy_den_parkov_pasvik_inari_primer_uspeshnogo_mezhdunarodnogo_sotrudnichestva_v_prir/?sphrase_id=304386

f. Implementation of ENI Kolarctic –projects

Point 5 f. was moved together with 6 e. and status for the ongoing Kolarctic projects was shortly highlighted. Multi-use plan for Pasvik and Grense Jakobselv rivers (MUP) and CoASal (Tiia), PAN (Riina) and ReArc (Natalia) – status for the different Kolarctic projects was informed under point 6. e

6. New targets for 2021 – suggestions (action number in joint action plan)

Trilateral working group suggests the following actions for implementation in 2021, based on the workshops prioritising actions in the action plan.

a. Management

Start planning a staff exchange programme (1.3.1.).

b. Monitoring

Three themes of activities: A) Continue the on-going annual activities: waterfowl registration, bird ringing and collect visitation numbers. B) Lake Inari bird survey (2.1.3) – Metsähallitus is leading activity. C) Plan and implement an international seminar om CMTs (2.1.9), Cultural marks on Trees – Øvre Pasvik NP Board is leading activity

c. Enlightenment and dissemination activities

Two themes of activities: A) Keep up on-going annual activities: trilateral bird watching trip, travelling photo exhibition, Instagram pilot (?). B) Day of Parks 2021 (3.3.2) – plan and arrange something trilateral in 2021.

d. EUROPARC -cooperation: follow up the recommendations from verifier

Two themes of activities: A) Ramsar issue – plan and arrange a meeting in 2021. B) Meetings: take part in TransParcNet June 2021 and Europarc Annual conference.

e. Work done in Kolarctic ENI projects – status and targets for 2021

More detailed information can be read in the working group report.

Multi-use plan for Pasvik and Grense Jakobselv rivers¹⁰ (“MUP) (Tiia Kalske): Descriptive part is in translation, will be submitted to the steering group in September. Program of Measures (PoM) will be worked on from now on. Public hearing will be conducted at least in Norway (late autumn-spring 2021) on the plan and PoM, and it is to be ready at the end of June 2021. Due to pandemic the project will apply for 6 months prolongation.

PAN - Phenomena of Arctic Nature¹¹ (Riina Tervo/ Aleksandra Sinyak/Anne Wikan/ Rolf Kollstrøm): some delays and postponements due to pandemic. Actions on tendering, planning and constructing new exhibitions for visitor centres is under way, renovations of old buildings, planned workshops arranged as webinars, information and marketing products produce (i.e. cloth bag). The project has applied for Arctic Awards 2020 prize - theme being innovations in cooperation with tourism businesses this year. Results of the process are published in December 2020. PAN-project is planning to apply for prolongation.

ReArc – Ecological Restauration of Arctic Rivers¹² (Natalia Polikarpova): mappings and surveys on water plants, birds, fish, erosion etc. almost as planned in summer 2020, educational films about each river is in making (also to be used in Nikel visitor centre exhibition), online lectures for school children implemented in May 2020. Thematic maps in making also to be partly use in MUP project.

¹⁰ Project web site «MUP»: <https://www.fylkesmannen.no/troms-finnmark/miljo-klima/internasjonalt-samarbeid/multiuseplan-pasvik-grense-jakobselv/>

¹¹ Project web site PAN: <https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/phenomena-of-arctic-nature-pan/>

¹² Project FB site: <https://www.facebook.com/ReArc.project/>

CoASal – Conserving our Atlantic salmon as sustainable resource for people in the North¹³ (Tiia Kalske): Main objective is to document and examine the effects of new sea salmon fishery regulations, study the growing threats Atlantic salmon populations face today; with climate change, growing cage culture industry and emerging diseases. Laboratory and field sampling almost as planned. All planned meetings are conducted online.

SALMUS (Riina Tervo/ Anne Wikan): field season and making inventories on Freshwater Pearl Mussel were implemented nationally as planned in 2020. No international travels. Live streaming of *M. margaritifera*:

<https://wwf.fi/luontolive/raakku/>

Decision:

The Advisory Board gives unanimously the working group the tasks as presented to be implemented in 2021.

7. Other items

Anne Wikan highlighted many **activities at Nibio Svanhovd**. Details can be found in an own presentation attached to the minutes (Annex 3). Concerning the new Moose project Nibio wishes to get input from all three countries on following questions: information on border crossing moose (please hand in if you have), is Pasvik-Inari cooperation a potential stakeholder in an main project (ref. to action plan 2.1.7), GPS-marking on border crossing moose – challenges?, any other topic to be included in a future project?

Decision:

Working group is assigned by the Advisory Board to collect all inputs on Moose and to send this to the Advisory Board for decision (on e-mail). Deadline: ASAP.

Natalia Polikarpova highlights **activities and PZ**. Autumn activities: small mammal fieldwork, bird counting's (Passeriformes and Galliformes/ Tetraoninae), fish surveys, forest pathology observations and activities in SALMUS project (Nautsi area, juvenile fish and *M. margaritifera* glochidia). Installation of more photo camera traps. PZ is positive to Galgoaive hike after pandemic. Aleksandra Sinyak: PZ applied for Kolarctic **ENI micro projects**. Two of the projects will be financed by Kolarctic: «Aurora borealis monitoring system for tourist business needs» and «Smart parks: digital system of Water and Waste management (for cross-border National parks and Nature Reserves) ».

Øvre Pasvik National Park: great interest from Norway to arrange hike to Galgoaive in 2021, new map and NP brochure is under making.

8. Next meeting

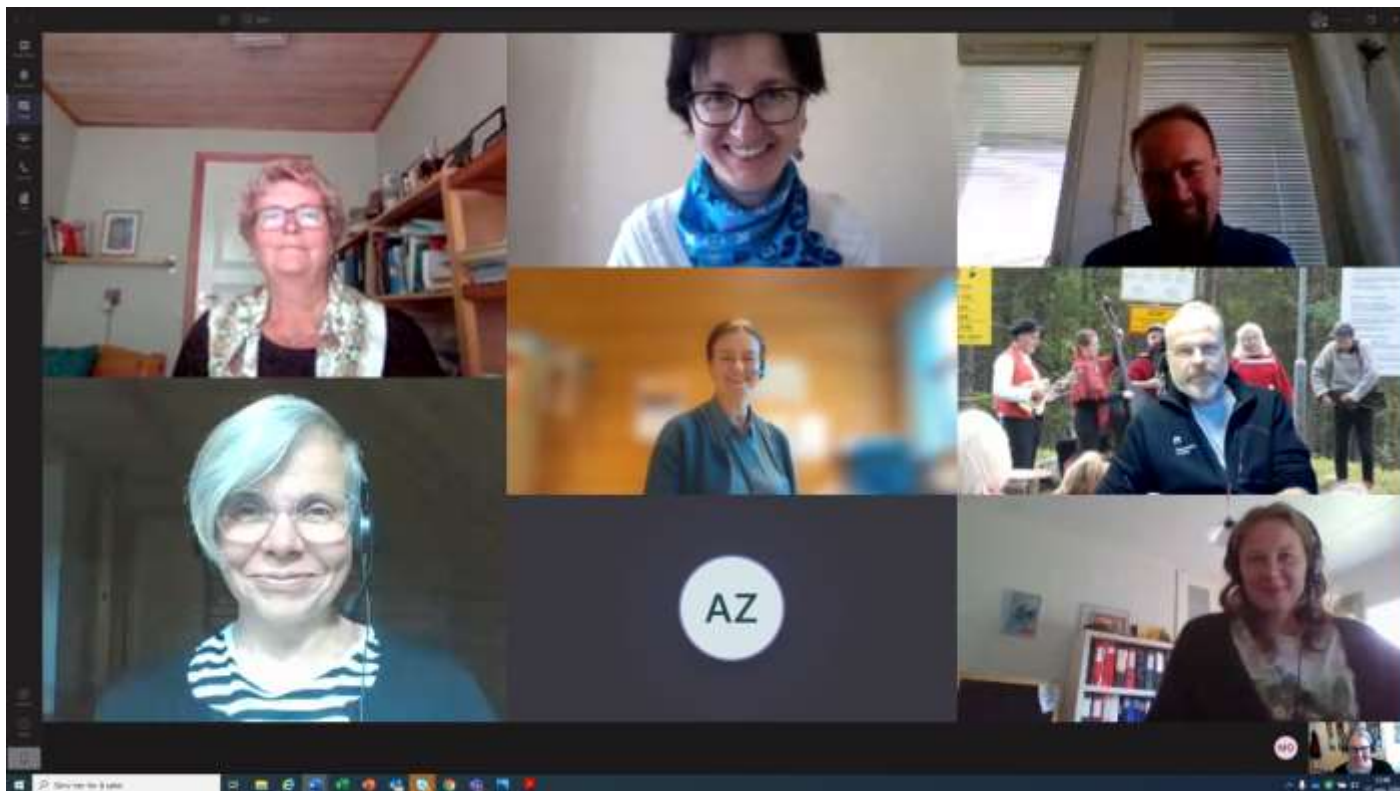
In Russia, Pasvik Zapovednik visitor centre in Nikel, dates 24.-26.8.2021.

9. Closing the meeting

Chair closed the meeting at 12.50

 Bente Christiansen County Governor of Troms and Finnmark	 Kurt Wikan Øvre Pasvik National Park Board	 Jyrki Tolonen Parks & Wildlife, Lapland	 Natalia Sinyakina Pasvik Zapovednik	Ministry of Nature resources and Ecology, Murmansk region
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¹³ Project web site: <https://www.fylkesmannen.no/troms-finnmark/miljo-klima/internasjonalt-samarbeid/coasal/>



Group photo at the end, Bente Christiansen, Natalia Polikarpova, Jyrki Tolonen, Riina Tervo, Anne Wikan, Rolf Kollstrøm, Aleksandra Siniak, Kirsi Ukkonen and Tiia Kalske.