

Minutes on Pasvik-Inari Advisory Board Meeting

Date: August 29th 2019

Venue: Wilderness Hotel Nellim, Inari, Finland

Participants:

Advisory Board members:

Jyrki Tolonen, Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland

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

Maire Puikko, Inari municipality, Finland

Bente Christiansen, County Governor of Troms and Finnmark, Norway

Kurt Wikan, Øvre Pasvik National Park Board and Sør-Varanger municipality, Norway

Vladimir Chizov, Pasvik Zapovednik, Russia

Dimitry Ruusalep, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology in Murmansk Region, Russia

Absent Advisory Board members:

Nikkel Administration, Russia

Ministry of Economical Development of Murmansk region, ~~Tourism Division, Russia~~

Working group members:

Riina Tervo, Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland

Tiia Kalske, County Governor of Troms and Finnmark, Norway

Rolf Kollstrøm, Øvre Pasvik National Park Board, Norway

Natalia Polikarpova, Pasvik Zapovednik, Russia

Observers and other participants:

Anne Wikan, NIBIO Svanhovd, Norway

Alexandra Sinyak and Olga Makarova, Pasvik Zapovednik, Russia

Kirsi Ukkonen, Tuomo Ollila and Stefan Siivonen, Metsähallitus, Finland

Elena Babina, translator

1. **Opening of the meeting and presentation of participants.** Meeting was opened at 9.15 am. All the participants presented themselves.
2. **Selection of chair and secretary.** Jyrki Tolonen was selected as chair and Riina Tervo as secretary.
3. **Consensus and signing of the minutes from 2018 and adoption of the agenda of 2019.** Consensus on the minutes from AB meeting in August 2018 has been found during email conversation and minutes were signed. Agenda for this meeting was accepted as such.
4. **Important information and status from all the partners.**

Pasvik Zapovednik. Good news from Pasvik: uniting nature reserves in Murmansk region has stopped, and Pasvik Zapovednik is independent. PZ implements many ENI Kolarctic -projects, which are of benefit to our trilateral cooperation. International ornithological festival will be arranged together with



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border commissioners on Varlam Island on September 5th 2019 - participation for trilateral partners is possible. Marina Trusova has retired and Alexandra Sinyak is now responsible for environmental education. Welcome Alexandra.

County Governor of Troms and Finnmark. Two County Governors are now united, and the main office is in Vadsø, so are also international affairs. This merging has taken lots of working time, and harmonization of practices is now going on. Also, two municipalities have merged in Finnmark (Hammerfest and Kvalsund). Children and youth are the prioritized theme in the re-organised County Governor's Office. Climate change together with other changes as food supply etc. have brought with it a need for new regulations f. ex. for bird cliffs. Pressure on the protected areas grow with the increasing numbers of visitors - especially at North Cape and in Lofoten area. New ways to manage visitors and inform people are needed. There are challenges: tourism entrepreneurs want to develop their business and managers of PAs need to limit visitation at certain sites, like in Vardø (ex. Hornøya). There have been many brown bears in Neiden river valley this year, and conflicts between sheep herders and the bears have arisen. Predators - golden eagle, lynx, wolverine and bear - have possibly killed altogether 50 000 animals (the number of animals that is applied damage compensation for) (sheep and reindeer) in the period of 2018/2019. Invasion of Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) continues, and there is active fishing in order to diminish the number of individuals in several rivers. Voluntary forest protection negotiations continue in Pasvik. There is going on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in the Nature reserve at Tana river mouth delta due to planned dredging activities in the fairway to Leirpollen quartzite mine.

Øvre Pasvik National Park Board. There will be election of new members for County council and for council of Sør-Varanger municipality in the beginning of September. Therefore, members of the National Park Board will change. Visitor strategy (2019) for management of Øvre Pasvik National Park and Landscape Protection area is ready. Main issues are 1: to avoid wear and-tear of PAs f. ex. by guiding visitors through two main routes into national park and by building duck boards; 2. to support interests of reindeer herding livelihood and 3. to establish new visitor point closer to NP. There is mentioned the possibility to develop initiative for cycling trail called The Iron Curtain Trail in the strategy. There is green light from municipality and NP board in Norway to the initiative. Finnish partners would be part of this initiative if they want to join and consider cycling possibilities from Muotkavarre on in Finnish side. New film on National park was shown in the meeting: most beautiful landscapes and interesting species are presented next to people in the nature. Film shows adaptation of visitor strategy into practice. Cooperation with University of Troms has started with documentation of remnants from World War 2. First results are available and over 300 structures were found. Exactly today school classes are visiting Pasvik and learning about old-growth pine forests and bird ringing. Dendrochronological analysis is being made on the trees where bark has been taken earlier by Sámi people.

NIBIO: There is funding from Ministry of Environment in Norway for few bilateral programs between Norway and Russia. Pheonology of North Calotte –project will have its annual school meeting this year in Kandalaksha and Umba in Russia. Research on trout in the River Pasvik continues. There will be new research on the aquatic and terrestrial environment in Pasvik: DNA-analysis is extended to all the fish species, and the monitoring has expanded to many insects and rodents too. Cooperation towards Russia and Finland will be extended. There will be an education lab on DNA for Russian kids, and NIBIO will participate with students from Pasvik Folkehøgskole at the bird festival, which will be held in Varlam Island in September. Open meetings are being arranged with themes on trout, brown bear and Russian-Norwegian cooperation. Farmers, youth club and NIBIO had a joint market-event, which 1 700 persons visited! People are needed: data collection through citizen science is initial for research.

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Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Lapland: Regional reform did not take place, so nothing changed with ELY-centres. There is active work and cooperation with EU Water Framework Directive and Floods directive going on: monitoring, planning and reporting takes place. ELY-centre participates to three ENI Kolarctic –projects, which implement activities for river environments and habitats. New report on state of Lake Inari 1960-2017 is published. Some small changes can be seen, there are marks on climate change from the 1960's on like declined ice cover seasons and risen average temperature of water. But no changes in water quality: waters in our area are really clean! Water regulation in Lake Inari this year was shown, regulation of water level was bit over the ecological zone because of early spring as well as rainy May and June this year. Plans for railroad to Barents Sea and Sakatti mine near Sodankylä, are land use planning issues in Northern Lapland, which affect nature conservation in Natura 2000 areas. ELY-centre has mapped and marked most important rivers used by trout in Lake Inari as spawning areas for land use planning processes. Water scooter prohibition area is planned to Teno water district area on Finnish side. It will be soon known, if prohibition area is established. In Tana municipality in Norway such prohibition area already exists.

Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland. Current year has been financially most difficult since last 10 years: Metsähallitus has been unable to fulfill targets and maintain infrastructure in the field. New government and Ministry of Finances have decided for annual extra funding worth 5 M€ to Metsähallitus. So next three years will be easier from the point of view of funding. Update for Vätsäri Wilderness Area's management plan started in 2016, and the process is still on-going. At the moment there is discussion on practicing husky business according to everyman's right in the Wilderness Area going on. The Akwé:Kon working method which Metsähallitus and Sámi parliament are using, is being updated. It is the method providing means for discussion and cooperation between indigenous people and managers of protected areas. The result will be presented to Pasvik-Inari cooperation later.

Ministry of Natural Resources in Murmansk Region. Ministry has various topics and activities in a large geographical area. New system for treatment and re-cycling of households' waste have been taken into use. There are new practices for waste collection in protected areas also. Planting of 290 hectares of forest has taken place, more organized hunting and new practices for putting down forest fires have been developed. There have been more bears close to settlements this year, and 13 bears have been killed, therefore. Ribachi and River Varzuga areas have been visited by increasing number of visitors: infrastructure and activities in these areas have to be considered.

5. **Fulfilling of the given targets in 2018–2019: report from the working group.** Attachment nr 1 Final Pasvik-Inari working group report contains all the detailed information, only highlights and decisions are written down to these minutes.
 - a. **Management:** implementation of Action Plan 2019–2028 (Tiia). Current action plan was adopted 31.1.2019 by all directors. Follow-up sheet for implementing activities is being developed by the working group, and further trilateral cooperation is needed together with the Advisory Board to make the prioritizing and as well to create ownership to the document and its implementation.
 - b. **Monitoring activities:**
 - i. brown bear (Natalia and Anne). There are preliminary results available from this year's monitoring: altogether 172 samples were collected and that is a good number. Almost every grid in three countries provided samples. PZ has doubled the number of traps, and wildlife-cameras have been used in all grids - a

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wolverine was spotted also! DNA-analysis of the samples starts now in Svanhovd and there will be report later on.

There was discussion on brown bear population in general. There were altogether 138 brown bears in Norway in 2018, and 49 of them lived in Finnmark and 32 in Sør-Varanger. There are 2 500 bears in Finland, and perhaps 40 or 50 of them live in Inari. There are 70 hunting licenses for brown bear in the reindeer herding area in Finland. There are 990 bears in Murmansk region, and 80 hunting licenses are provided but not all of them are used.

- ii. waterfowl (Natalia). One autumn registration day is still coming up (3.9) – two spring and one autumn registrations are done already. Cold summer caused small numbers of ducklings in the summer registrations.
- iii. golden eagle (Tuomo). There were very good breeding results in whole Finland because there has been plenty of food available. There were two successful breeding's in Vätsäri. Norwegian info was not available for the moment, but info will be in data base from October on. Two nests from Great grey owl (*Strix nebulosa*) were found in territory of PZ - species is on the red list of Murmansk region.
- iv. bird ringing (Natalia). In Norway and in Finland the practice is as usual. In Russia there is one new ringer and more visitors have observed the ringing of birds this year compared with last year. List of species has been updated to follow the ornithological order. By the end of 2018 altogether 9 600 individuals have been ringed during the years 2015-2018. Recaptures take place and they provide on survival and info from wintering grounds too.
- v. visitors & visitor survey (Riina). Annual data on visitation numbers in protected areas and visitor centres in our trilateral cooperation is collected, but now our first trilateral visitor survey provides us with more detailed information. Altogether 255 answers were collected, and we can draw conclusions on the typical visitor and f. ex. on most appreciated activities and effects on well fare. The draft of the summary was made by Metsähallitus's intern, Lorenz Ehrenfeldner. Finalising work is required before the summary can be published.

c. Enlightenment activities:

- i. trilateral bird watching trips (Kirsi). Friendly competition between three countries on observing bird species and counting individuals takes place annually in June. This year Norway won - again.
- ii. 10-year anniversary hike along the Piilola Trail (Kirsi). Hike starts tomorrow with approx. 40 hikers. It is notable that Sat August 31st is a theme day "Sleep outdoors" both in Norway and in Finland.
- iii. ornithological festival (Alexandra). Festival will be held for the second time on Varlam Island on September 5th. Last year 60 persons from Russia and Norway visited the festival: teachers, researches, students and border guards. It is wished for, that next year there would be Finnish participants too.

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- d. **Dissemination of information:** presentations, articles, video reports, web-pages and photo exhibition (all). List of dissemination activities show, that Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park and our trilateral cooperation is highlighted in meetings, publications, on tv, on our own websites and in social media. National copies of travelling photo exhibition are circulating in three countries.
- e. **EUROPARC:**
- i. re-verification report (Tiia). Successful re-evaluation of our cooperation and re-certification in Transboundary Parks' programme took place last year. There are five recommendations from the verifier to be worked during following five years. These recommendations are included to our action plan, and it is up to us to decide how we will implement them. Discussion on the management plan for Lake Inari, participation of indigenous peoples in the Advisory Board and Ramsar status for PZ took place, but there were no decisions yet, how we proceed with these matters.
 - ii. TransParcNet 2019 (Riina). Annual meeting of transboundary parks' experts was arranged in Oulanka-Paanajärvi Transboundary Parks. Presentation was given on ENI Kolartic –projects, which partners of Pasvik-Inari cooperation are implementing.
 - iii. Participation in Transboundary Task Force and STEC (Tiia). Pasvik-Inari cooperation is well represented in the Transboundary Parks –programme's Task Force, which Riina is chairing, and Tiia is the chair of the Europarc Transboundary steering and evaluation committee (STEC).
 - iv. best practices from Pasvik-Inari to tool kit: two case studies are in making and one case study on brown bear monitoring is already published earlier.
 - v. Annual conference in September in Latvia. Conference will take place within a month, and some representatives of our cooperation will participate to it.
- f. **Implementation of ENI Kolarctic –projects:**
- i. Multiuse plan (MUP) (Tiia). Local people are participating in making of the multi-use plan for Pasvik and Vuorema rivers. There are several planning themes and a joint programme of measures (PoM) is in making for the future cooperation on the challenging issues.
 - ii. PAN (Riina). Main objective of the project is to increase awareness on vulnerable arctic nature and its phenomena. Visitor centres in three countries form a network, which is being developed. Project activities include f. ex. new permanent exhibitions to the visitor centres. PZ has made a new brand book, which serves the making of the new exhibition to their visitor centre in Nikel.
 - iii. ReArc (Natalia). The goal is to restore Arctic rivers which were changed by man in the past because of floating of timber, mining gold and building hydroelectric power-plants. International experts have worked together with monitoring water ecosystems during the field work season. Active restoration will be made in Sweden, Norway (in 17 rivers in Finnmark, Troms and Nordland counties according to obligations in WFD) and Finland.



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- iv. SALMUS. Aim is to streamline common practices for assessing the status of Freshwater pearl mussel and salmonid fish as indicators of ecosystem's health and function. First field work season was this year.
- v. New CoASal -project (Tiia) will start in late 2019 or early 2020. Aim is to conserve Atlantic salmon as a sustainable resource for people in the North. Major threats are examined and changes on coastal salmon fishery are investigated.

Advisory board thanked the workgroup for the report. Many activities have been implemented in the trilateral cooperation during last year and good work has been done.

6. New targets for 2020 - suggestions

a. Management:

- i. Korablekk nature park to be included in the Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park nature protection cooperation. Korablekk park, with area of 83 km², is located next to Pasvik Zapovednik and managed by Ministry of Natural Resources in Murmansk Region. Area is important for nature conservation, ecological tourism and enlightenment as well as for cooperation. Advisory Board of Pasvik-Inari cooperation congratulates ministry for the establishment of new protected area. Korablekk is suggested to become part of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Parks. Application has been forwarded to members of Advisory Board. The members of advisory board do not have objections. It was decided that member organisations of the Advisory Board will get further material in English through PZ during September. Member organisations will prepare official answers, which are collected nationally and delivered to Ministry by the end of November 2019.
- ii. Arrange a Workshop to prioritize and elaborate the tasks from the action plan. It was decided, that a trilateral workshop for Advisory Board will be arranged in the end of February 2020 in Svanhovd, Norway. Workgroup arranges the workshop. National work is required before this trilateral workshop.
- iii. Annual meetings. Workgroup meeting could be arranged back-to-back with workshop mentioned above. Next year's Advisory Board meeting is suggested to be held in Norway on week 35.

b. **Monitoring:** on-going annual activities like waterfowl registration, bird ringing, visitors and reporting on trilateral brown bear monitoring results. Advisory Board agreed, that listed annual activities and reporting on brown bear will be done next year.

c. **Enlightenment and dissemination activities:** on-going annual activities like trilateral bird watching trip, circulating the travelling photo exhibition; reporting on visitor survey. Advisory Board agree, that the listed annual activities and reporting on visitor survey will be done next year. It was also highlighted, that film festival, which is to be arranged in Kirkenes and Cross-Border-Cooperation days offer possibility to present Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park and our cooperation.

d. EUROPARC -cooperation:

- i. follow up of the recommendations from verifier:
 1. revise the cooperation agreement/or draft Annex. Advisory board decided, that amendment/annex is the best solution. Workgroup will prepare the draft for the amendment.

2. revise the guiding rules. Advisory board decided that the guiding rules are revised. Workgroup will prepare the draft.
- ii. meetings: TransParcNet 2020 and Annual Conference in September. Pasvik-Inari cooperation will participate in the meetings of EUROPARC when possible.
- e. Work in PAN (Riina), and ReArc (Natalia) -projects. Some of the important activities for next year were highlighted from PAN and ReArc –projects.

7. Other items


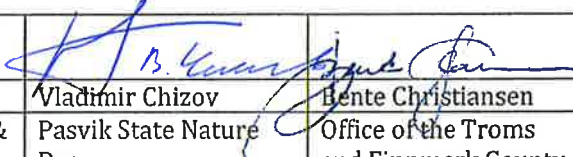
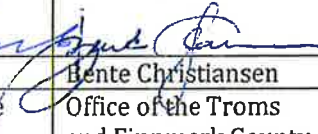

- a. **Overall information from the organizations involved in Pasvik-Inari cooperation.**
 - i. Øvre Pasvik National Park will have its 50th anniversary next year, and partners in Russia and Finland are invited for celebrations. There is idea to have an acoustic concert at Muotkavaara on three countries border point: musicians and audience perform in three different countries and music crosses the borders. More information will be provided later on.
 - ii. Metsähallitus: Sámi Museum and Northern Lapland Nature Siida in the village of Inari is being renewed in two parallel projects: enlargement and renovation of Siida building and renewal of the permanent exhibition. New Siida should open in May 2022.
 - b. **NO-FI Water commission.** This year the transboundary water commission gave two recommendations at its meeting 7. June; more research on Atlantic salmon during its life circle in sea. The second recommendation concerns *Gyrodactylus salaris* infection documented in Tuloma and Kola rivers: more information is needed for fishermen and more cooperation between responsible authorities and research organisations in three countries are needed. Contingency work and stopping further infection are of paramount importance.
 - c. **Water ecosystem and hydroelectric power-plants.** There was discussion on hydroelectric power-plants when it comes to possible technical problems occurring: what is the right forum for discussion on this topic and which are the ways to solve problems. It was concluded, that Pasvik-Inari forum does not have the authority. Each country has responsibility when malfunction should occur, to address the nationally right authority.
8. **Next meeting: date and venue.** Next Advisory Board meeting will be held in Norway on the beginning of week 35 in 2020.

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9. **Closing of the meeting.** Olga Makarova wished farewell to the Pasvik-Inari cooperation. She emphasized that nature conservation and monitoring are the corner stones for this trilateral cooperation. She would like to see list of publications in different languages about Pasvik-Inari cooperation made and employees and photos from Pasvik-Inari cooperation through time collected.

Olga was thanked for her great contribution to the trilateral cooperation through her development ideas and extensive lifework.

Chair thanked all the participants for a fine meeting. Meeting was closed at 4.55 pm.

			
Jyri Tolonen Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife, Finland	Vladimir Chizov Pasvik State Nature Reserve, Russia	Bente Christiansen Office of the Troms and Finnmark County Governor, Norway	Kurt Wikan Øvre Pasvik National Park Board, Norway