

Pasvik Inari

Trilateral Park

Minutes from the Pasvik-Inari trilateral park Advisory Board meeting

Date: 21.-23. August 2017. Venue: Bugøynes, Norway

1. Opening of the meeting and presentation of participants

Christer Michaelsen opened the meeting 16.30 on the 21st August. All participants presented themselves. All participants listed in at the end of the minutes Annex 1.

2. Selection of chair and secretary

It was decided that Christer Michaelsen chair the meeting and Tiia Kalske is the secretary – both Office of the Finnmark County Governor.

3. Consensus of the minutes from 2016 and adoption of the agenda of 2017

Minutes from 2016 has been circulated and they are signed and approved. Agenda for the 2017 meeting was approved with no changes.

4. Important information and status from all partners

Norway

Christer Michaelsen informs about the on-going regional reforms in Norway. The offices of both Troms and Finnmark County Governors will fuse to one office from 1.1.2019. The head office will be in Vadsø and the number of employees will be on the same level as today. Secondary office will be in Tromsø. However, there can be changes in structure, tasks and some employees may have to move between the two cities. Organisation processes also including the employees and employee unions are initiated on all levels.

Tiia Kalske highlights the ongoing Norwegian-Russian parallel auditing of the bilateral environmental commission and its projects under biodiversity and transboundary cooperation. The Norwegian and Russian Offices of the General Audit is performing a joint audit in 2017.

Trygve Sarajævi highlights the municipalities work on waste water issues (both results from questionnaires and works on surveys), brown trout projects in the Pasvik river catchment (follow up from a brown trout seminar December 2016). The brown trout projects focus on gathering all known information and knowledge from at least 10-15 years, DNA sampling in main river and tributaries (Norwegian and Russian tributaries, both adult and juvenile fish are sampled – in cooperation with NIBIO Svanhovd and Pasvik Reserve), and habitat surveys. Main aim is to increase knowledge and to aim at improving the duty employments due to the hydro-electro power stations. The actions are funded by the Norwegian Environment Agency.

Russia

Marina Trusova informs about the re-organisation of state nature reserves in Russia. The three zapovedniks (state nature reserves) in Murmansk region (Laplandskij, Pasvik and Kandalaksha) will be fused into one structural organisation – “Protected Area of Russian Arctic”. “State Protected Area of Murmansk region” Currently there is no more information or process on how this new structure will be unfolding or organised. Still waiting for decision, all reserves are expecting an order in mid-October.



Finland

Jyrki Tolonen informs about the new act on Metsähallitus (laki Metsähallituksesta). The law has been in force now for 1,5 years. Parks & Wildlife and the fisheries and game department – now divided in two separate organisations. Also, a new national act in force on fishing on state owned land (kalastuslaki). Local resistance towards the new fishing act.

Riina Tervo highlights the Finnish proposal for extending the Finnish part of Pasvik-Inari trilateral park with the Lake Inari Natura 2000-site (proposal in Annex 2) to be included in the international nature protection cooperation and to the certified transboundary park. This extension gives positive input to the trilateral park and the international cooperation. Landscapes, with oligotroph lake environment and islands, salmonid fish and white fish, birdlife and recreational actions.

Decision: every country and organisation in the Advisory Board takes this issue home and will send answer to Metsähallitus within the autumn 2017.

Jari Pasanen informs about the ongoing regional re-organization in Lapland. Regional governmental health reform indices also re organization in other sectors. Both regional and state level tasks are reviewed: c. 60% of ELY-centre staff to be transferred to regional level, 40% of staff to state level. Nature protection staff will be divided 50:50 between the region and state. The regional reform will be in force from 1.1 2020. Mineral prospecting activities in Lapland are increasing.

5. Fulfilling of the given targets in 2016–2017: report from the action plan working group (Annex 3) - reporting from Natalia Polikarpova, Tiia Kalske and Riina Tervo

a. Monitoring activities:

Water fowl: Natalia Polikarpova highlights the numbers of water birds registered in the spring and autumn registrations going on in the Pasvik zapovednik and Pasvik Nature Reserve, years 2016 and 2017. Autumn registration in 2017, will take place 25th August and 5th September.

Golden Eagle: Tuomo Ollila highlights the Golden Eagle breeding success on Finnish side in 2017: poor breeding result in northern Finland. In Inari-Utsjoki area 65 occupied territories, only 10 successful breeding and 11 young birds. In the Finnish side of the trilateral park area 11 occupied territories and three successful breeding's with tree young. Tiia Kalske informs about FMFI funded actions on Golden Eagle and other birds of prey in Finnmark County. Second year in a row NINA (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research) together with SNO Alta (State Nature Inspectorate) has recorded nests and activity. No Golden Eagle nests in Norwegian PAs of trilateral park area– four nests recorded in northern parts of Pasvik valley (3 was decorated, 1 empty). All data reported into the Norwegian predator database (rovbase). Two reports finalised from 2016, both are delivered to Pasvik-Inari tp partners.

Brown bear: next joint trilateral hair-snare action will be implemented in 2019, planning and seeking for funding should be started already in 2018. In 2016 FMFI funded NIBIO Svanhovd to perform hair-snare activity in northern parts of Pasvik valley in Sametti area. Good results from 20 hair-traps – 10 bears identified (6 females and 4 males), 5 known bears and 5 new bears identified (4 females and 1 male). In 2017 NIBIO Svanhovd carry out family structure DNA analysis on materials from Sør-Varanger area and years 2004-2016 included. Hair-trapping in Nesseby area is carried out and some modelling in reindeer calving areas. Natalia Polikarpova informs about hair collecting action in cooperation with border authority along the river and photo cameras.

Bird ringing: All three countries now have bird ringing activity. Action is mainly implemented by volunteers. Results and future cooperation will be discussed on a North Calotte Green Belt Fennoscandia workshop 1.-2. September.

Visitors monitoring: collection of visitor's numbers in all three countries from visitor centres, hiking trails and special sights etc. Joint database. Visitor survey developed – will be launched in the autumn.



b. Enlightenment activities:

Visitor centre in Nikel: Natalia Polikarpova informs about the new visitor centre has been constructed and opened in Nikel by Pasvik zapovednik. Opened the year of ecology in Russia in January and the 25-year anniversary celebration for Pasvik zapovednik in March. People are eager to come to visit the new visitors centre. Year 2017 is the year of ecology and 100-year anniversary for Russian Nature Reserves.

Trilateral bird watching trips for locals: annual bird trips for locals arranged in every country in June. Web news and list of observations published on cooperation web site¹.

North Calotte funded Green Belt Fennoscandia work shop 1.-2.9.2017: two-day seminar for bird ringers, ornithologist, managers of nature protection areas, local schools and local bird enthusiast will be arranged in Svanvik Norway.

Joint info materials and info actions: Norway: Anne Wikan informs about NIBIO Svanhovds open meetings on "Living together with Brown bear". NIBIO Svanhovd implements a series of open public meetings in cooperation with SNO in 2016 and 2017. Meetings also in Trøndelag and Troms counties, in combination with the brown bear science lab for schools. Russia – Marina Trusova presents planned Brown bear info materials: make scientific information suitable for the general public. The materials also combine the spirit of brown bear, folklore, songs and myths with biology and ecology. A short film about brown bear research in Pasvik zapovednik was shown.

Discussion

Questioner about brown bear – Pasvik zapovednik request if a questioner from a Russian brown bear researcher could be made available (f. ex as quest back or webropol poll) either in Finland or in Norway – purpose to also get answers to the questioner from abroad.

Decision: every organisation will consider the possibilities for this and reply to Pasvik zapovednik.

c. Dissemination of information:

Communication and marketing plan for the trilateral park cooperation: has been circulated once, amendments to be worked into it and an advanced draft for final see through whit in late autumn early spring.

Results from the brown bear monitoring: monitoring methodology compiled by partners and published on EUs platform on coexistence between people and large carnivores². Natalia Polikarpova will present the Trilateral brown bear monitoring scheme in Sochi (September/ October).

Natura2000 award - application: the plan last year was to apply for this EU award focusing on the joint brown bear population in the trilateral park area. During the preparations, it became obvious that the population status for the species is too good, so it disqualified for application.

Presentations and articles: Best practices from Pasvik-Inari cooperation was presented in the plenary session of the 9th Pan European Green Belt Conference in Koli, November 2016. A poster from the cooperation was presented in the same seminar. **Pasvik Times** newspaper is published regularly and current themes are presented.

Web-pages and social media: the cooperation web pages are updated continuously, with relevant news, reports etc. Pasvik zapovednik is active on Facebook; publishing information on f. ex bird registrations, biodiversity info and field expeditions etc.

Photo exhibition: about the landscapes, species and cultural heritage in the trilateral park was put on hold in spring. Work with it will commence in autumn.

2.-5. October Paul Aspholm form NIBIO Svanhovd will participate in conference "ILTER" in France, he will present the brown bear monitoring as a poster, water bird registrations and small mammal registration as oral talks.

¹ <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Pasvik-Inari/News/Bird-watching-in-2017/>

² <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Pasvik-Inari/News/Transborder-Brown-Bears/>



Bird festival on Varlam: Pasvik zapovednik will arrange a bird festival 5.9. back-to-back with the autumn water fowl registrations.

d. EUROPARC –cooperation:

Activities according to verifier's recommendations:

- 1) *Visitor survey:* the questionnaires are translated into most national languages (Russian translation to be delivered/ checked): the work was put on hold in spring time due to alerted re-organisation on Russian side, the questioner will be launched in autumn.
- 2) *Hunting database:* in preparation.
- 3) *Buffer zone of Pasvik zapovednik:* a regional protected area the "Nature Park Korablekk" was established in April 2017 in Russia. The size of the area is 90km² (9000ha). The area is managed by the Regional Environmental Ministry. Map in annex 4. Experts from Pasvik zapovednik were involved in preparations of the documents and surveys of the area. This nature park be a kind of buffer zone for Pasvik zapovednik.

Annual meeting of EUROPARC Transboundary Parks: 9th TransParcNet meeting, "Changing climate, changing parks" was the theme of the annual meeting in Julian Alps Transboundary Eco region (Italy/ Slovenia) in June 2017³. Radical loss of glaciers in the Alps, guidebook for Natura2000 sites about mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Meeting in 2018 is scheduled to 5.-8.6.2018, to the Podyji-Thayatal Transboundary Parks (Czech/ Austria) with the theme of water management.

EUROPARC Transboundary Task Force and transboundary strategy: Tiia Kalske represented the trilateral park in an ad hoc transboundary task force in January 2017. The ad hoc group worked out a strategy for the EUROPARC transboundary work. EUROPARC has since January drafted the TB strategy, and it has been circulated in the action plan working group. Also, presented in the TransParcNet meeting in 2017 for input. The strategy can be highlighted to the advisory board when it is finalised.

Discussion

Rolf Kollstrøm informed that the Øvre Pasvik National Park Board is in contact with Sør-Varanger municipality, with regards to discussing and creating a 1km *consideration zone* for the National Park and the Landscape Protection Area. The wish is to reduce all noisy activities close to the National Park.

e. Updating the Pasvik-Inari action plan

Tiia Kalske reported on the implementation and status for 53 listed actions in the current action plan. The listed actions are either short-term (first year/2008), mid-term (first 5 years/2008-2013) or long-term actions (10 years perspective/2008-2018). The action plan contains both annual and continuous actions, e.g. cooperation, monitoring actions, meetings and networking and specific one-time actions like infrastructure action, temporary exhibition, film etc. Of the 53 listed actions 37 are either finalized or continuous, 15 in preparation/or put on hold for funding or other reasons, 1 action is rejected. Conclusion is that the action plan is a good and operational joint strategic and practical tool. Plan for updating the action plan: outline for contents was highlighted, still relevant and unfinalized actions from the existing plan can be included in the new plan if decided. Draft of the new action plan for viewing in the advisory board meeting in 2018, before coming into force in 2019-2029.

Discussion

Finland put forward the wish to launch the updating process in a way that more people from every organisation could pitch into the process also considering internal and national strategies. A brainstorm session was put forward as a suggestion to launch the process.

³ <http://www.europarc.org/nature/transboundary-protected-areas/transparcnet/transparcnet-meeting-2017/>



Decision: Brain storm meeting to be arranged in the beginning of 2018, to launce the updating of the new trilateral park action plan.

f. Info on submitted and approved new project proposals for ENI CBC –programme

Submitted and funded new projects in Kolarctic ENI CBC programme was highlighted.

- 1) ReArc (KO1078) – Ecological Restorations of Arctic Rivers (Lead Partner County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden): water restoration inventories and actions, fish migration barriers etc.
- 2) Pasvik Multi-use plan (KO1110) - Cross-border cooperation and multi-use planning in river Pasvik and Grense Jakobselv/ Vorjema water catchement (Lead partner County Governor of Finnmark).

Proposals – that was submitted but did not get funding in the first call:

- 3) Arctic lights: new services and products combining nature with tourism, environmental education. 2nd call closing 29th of September 2017.
- 4) TransConnect: ecological connectivity and biodiversity. Pasvik-Inari cooperation input was repairing infrastructure on Varlam, new joint brochure, international habitat expeditions (mires, forest and biodiversity), bird ringing, monitoring of brown bear in 2019 and multimedia products for visitor centre etc. 3rd call opening in spring 2018.

In addition, there is a plan to develop a project proposal to EU-LIFE programme, “European Green Belt Life”. Networking managers of NPAs, active conservation work on demonstration sites and common dissemination activities.

6. New targets for 2018

- 1) **Annual activities in monitoring:** Water fowl registrations, trilateral bird ringing and update bibliography meta database. Additional work highlighted by Pasvik zapovednik and NIBIO Svanhovd: new project in DNA salmonid fish (brown trout). Finland wants to get information when results are ready from this Norwegian-Russian DNA project.
- 2) **Annual activities in enlightenment:** environmental education, photo exhibition - finalise, visitor centre exposition in Nikel, publications, web pages etc.
- 3) **Project work:** launch the funded ENI projects ReArc and Pasvik Multi-use plan. Work out and re-apply “Arctic lights” and “TransConnect” projects.
- 4) **New Action plan:** brain storming meeting and writing of new plan. County Governor of Finnmark in lead of this action.
- 5) **Planning work for Brown bear monitoring action:** joint trilateral hair-snare action to be implemented in 2019 and securing funding already in 2018.
- 6) **EUROPARC-cooperation:** preparation for re-verification in 2018. **Decision: one-day workshop in November 2017 at NIBIO Svanhovd – to fulfil EUROPARC Federation re-certification papers together. Fee for re-certification is 2000€. Metsähallitus in lead of re-certification process this time.**

7. Other items

a. Overall information from the organizations involved in Pasvik-Inari cooperation

Øvre Pasvik National Park Board

National Park Manager Rolf Kollstrøm presents. 6th year of local management of National Parks in Norway. As earlier mentioned the NP Board is in dialogue with the municipality areal planners on the question of zonation, to create a 1km consideration zone for reducing noisy activities near the PAs. Further he highlights challenges with the border patrolling activity, disturbance and educational activities for the border patrols. Local interest and number of visits is increasing. Ellenkoia guestbook



visiting numbers shown as an example. Visitor strategy, start point/ gates into the PAs and other visitor points are being worked out. Sortbysttjern and Treriksrøysa/ Muotkavaara lean on shelters under construction/ development. Gjøkhotellet, planning to develop visitor point. Climate change, with more precipitation is a challenge. In 2017 mapping of cultural marks in trees has commenced (CMT survey). Inviting local schools to join the researcher also commencing, under the ringing action in Pasvik valley in August/September. **Voluntary forest protection.** The only method for new forest protection in Norway now is thru voluntary protection. This voluntary system was initiated in 2003, and since then around 300 areas has been protected. C. 4% of forest in Norway are protected, the goal is 10 %. FeFo/ Finnmark Estate is considering offering 100 000 acers for voluntary protection in Pasvik valley. Parts of the offered forest areas have already ties due to nature type and/ or MIS mappings (MIS – miljøregistrering i skog/ environmental registrations of forest – a certifying system). Other parts of the offer are forest that is relatively hard to reach and with low forestry quality. In exchange FeFo wish to get 20 000 acres of protected area, areas close to road with high forestry quality and gravel occurrence. Process is under way, no decisions taken yet.

Office of the Finnmark County Governor

Pilot project in 2017 on satellite/ remote sensing mapping methodology in surveying and management of biotopes. Project is implemented by NORUT research institute.

Pechenga District Municipality

Eduard Zatona highlights the good cooperation between Pasvik zapovednik and the municipality. Positive with the new visitor centre opening in Nikel. The municipality has a goal to simplify the border restriction and application regimes. A transboundary elk project should be launched, to investigate migratory patterns and population dynamics, also some hunting restrictions should be introduced close to PZ area. Fishing issues and Hydro-electro power stations. Suggestion on pilot for building a fish ladder/ fish way should be investigated. The municipality is positive to the plans to establish a new PA, Vorjema regional protected area. Hope that the new regional environment minister will push for the establishment of the new protected area. Annual cross-border days, 5.-6.10 in Nikel. Will be organised in the PZ visitor centre. Official invitation will come to all attendees. Save the dates please.

Nikel Municipality

Andrey Ponomariov highlights the regional PAs Srednij and Rybashij regional, established in Pechenga district. Good potential for nature based activities.

Pasvik zapovednik (PZ)

Under the annual cross border event 5.-6.10, there will be an own panel session for protected areas and there is a wish that as many partners as possible could take part in this session. Program will be sent soon. Phenological atlas is published. In preparation: Vascular plants of Pasvik Zapovednik. New fungi registered in PZ territory in 2015 at the Lake Kaskamajärvi on a fallen tree —*Leptosporomyces mundus* (H.S. Jacks. & Dearden) Jülich. Natalia will send more information on this new species.

Parks & Wildlife Finland

Tuomo Ollila presents the Interreg North project - Arctic fox together, 2017-2019. Expected results: develop cooperation over the state borders, produce a handbook for harmonised monitoring of the species, produce an action plan for the species in Fennoscandia and to disseminate information on this iconic species of the northern nature. The project has close collaboration with other arctic fox project more south in Sweden and Norway.



NIBIO Svanhovd

Anne Wikan highlights a new species of harmless malaria mosquito for Finnmark County. A trilateral mosquito work shop was implemented in summer⁴ at NIBIO Svanhovd and other new mosquito species for both Finnmark County and for Norway was registered.

b. Presentation of water issues in Lake Inari and info on projects carried out by ELY-centre

Jari Pasanen presents background and current information on Lake Inari water issues. Lake Inari is part of an international river basin district. Apart from the river Pasvik the aquatic environment in the area is typically nutrient-poor and clear, and water bodies contain very little organics matter. Lake Inari is regulated for hydropower production. Further the hydro-power cascade, water quality monitoring, nutrient and waste water loading and water management issues in Lake Inari and the International river basin district was highlighted. Water regulation history and present status was presented in more detail. Ely leads and/ or participates in many international projects.

c. Norwegian-Finnish Transboundary Water Commission

The transboundary water commission will have its annual meeting in Kirkenes 4.-6.9.

8. Next meeting in 2018- tentative dates and venue

Nikel visitor centre Russia, 28.-30.8.

9. Closing of the meeting

Chair Christer Michaelsen, closed the meeting at 12.15, 22nd August

Excursions: village sightseeing, boat trip along the coast and visit to Norwegian King Crab



Christer Michaelsen
Office of the Finnmark
County Governor
Norway



Rolf Kollstrøm
Øvre Pasvik National
Park Board
Norway



Marina Trusova
Pasvik zapovednik
State Nature Reserve
Russia



Jyrki Tolonen
Metsähallitus
Parks & wild life
Finland

⁴ <https://www.nrk.no/finnmark/fant-tusenvis-av-malariamygg-i-finnmark-1.13637576>
<http://www.nina.no/Aktuelt/Nyhetsartikkel/ArticleId/4314/Marlariamygg-funnet-i-Finnmark>



Annex 1. List of participants (**members/ vice members of the Advisory Board*).

Finland

Jyrki Tolonen*, Riina Tervo and Tuomo Ollila, Metsähallitus; Janne Hannola* Inari municipality; Jari Pasanen*, Lapland ELY – centre

Norway

Christer Michaelsen and Tiia Kalske*, Office of the Finnmark County Governor; Rolf Sch. Kollstrøm, Øvre Pasvik National Park Board; Trygve Sarajärvi*, Sør-Varanger municipality; Anne Wikan, NIBIO Svanhovd

Russia

Marina Trusova* and Natalia Polikarpova, Pasvik State Nature Reserve (Zapovednik Pasvik); Andrey Ponomariov, Nickel municipality; Edward Zatona*, Pechenga district municipality; Elena Babina, translator

Absent members:

Kurt Wikan – Øvre Pasvik National Park Board, Norway

Oksana Nosareva – Ministry of natural resources and ecology of Murmansk region, Russia

Anna Popova – Ministry of economic development of Murmansk government, Russia

Annex 2 – Proposal of extending Finnish part of Pasvik-Inari trilateral park

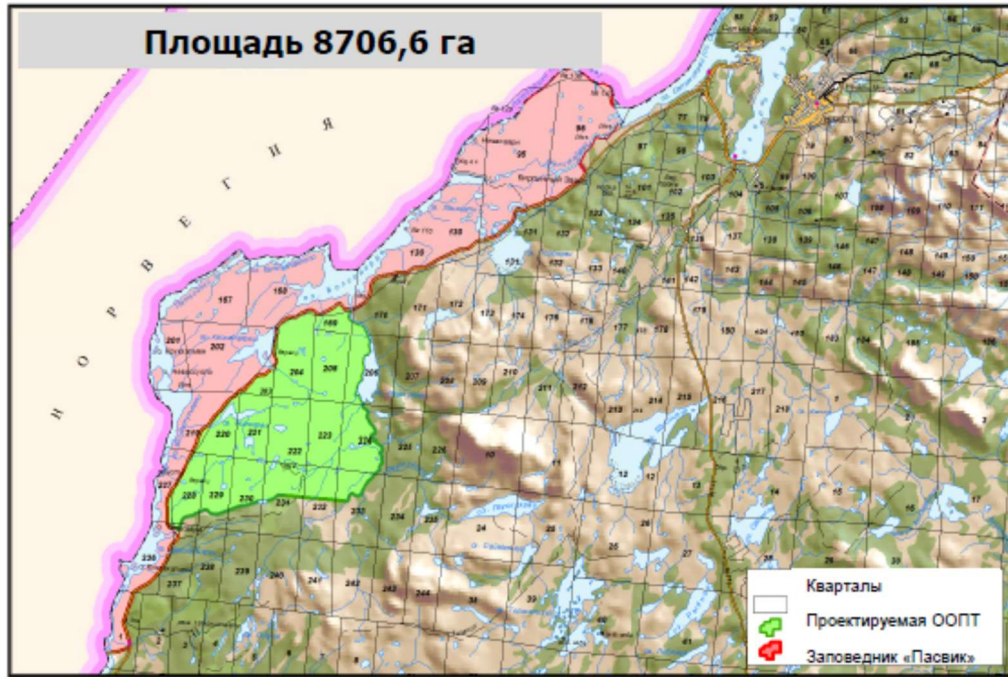
Annex 3 – Report/ presentation from the action plan working group

Annex 4 – Map of *Nature Park Korablekk*



Annex 4 – Map of Nature Park Korablekk

ГРАНИЦЫ ПРИРОДНОГО ПАРКА



8

Map. Delineation of Nature Park Korablekk in Russia. Source: Pashvik Zapovednik

