

Pasvik Inari

Trilateral Park

MINUTES

Annual meeting of the Advisory Board of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park

Place: Pasvik Reserve` visitor-center, Nikel, Russia

Date: 28-29.08.2018

1. **Opening of the meeting.** The meeting was opened at 16.30 pm, and participants were welcomed to Nikel.
2. **Selection of chair and secretary.** Pasvik Reserve director Vladimir Chizhov was selected to be the chair and Vice director for science Natalia Polikarpova as the secretary.
3. **Consensus of the minutes from 2017 and adoption of the agenda of 2018.** The minutes from the Advisory Board meeting held in August 2017 in Bugøyenes, Norway had been signed electronically in pdf-format before the meeting. The agenda for this meeting was adopted as such.

4. Presentation of participants.

Russia:

Vladimir Chizov, Director, Pasvik State Nature Reserve (Pasvik Zapovednik)

Marina Trusova, Vice director for ecological enlightenment and international cooperation, Pasvik Reserve

Natalia Polikarpova, Vice director for science, Pasvik Reserve

Olga Makarova, Senior researcher, Pasvik Reserve, Honored Member

Dmitry Ruusalep, Minister of natural resources and environment of the Murmansk region

Edward Zazona, Mayor, Pechenga administration municipality

Oleg Sutkaitis, Head of Barents office of World Wild Fund (WWF), invited expert (observer)

Ekaterina Boykova, Interpreter

Absent members from Russia:

Representative of Ministry of economical development of the Murmansk government

Andrew Ponomarev, Mayor, Nikel administration municipality

Norway:

Bente Christiansen, Director, Office of the Finnmark County Governor

Tiia Kalske, Senior advisor, Office of the Finnmark County Governor

Kurt Wikan, National Park Board Leader, Øvre Pasvik National Park Board

Anne Wikan, Research Station Manager, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)

Svanhovd, invited expert (observer)

Astrid Nærum, Consul, Norwegian Consulate in Murmansk, invited guest

Absent members from Norway:

Trygve Sarajärvi, Environmental advisor and board member, Municipality of Sør-Varanger



Finland:

Jyrki Tolonen, Regional director, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Jaana Seipiharju, Board member, Municipality of Inari

Kirsi Ukkonen, Specialist, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland, invited expert

Tuomo Ollila, Senior advisor, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland, invited expert

Riina Tervo, Senior advisor, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Jari Pasanen, Board member and Head of department, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Lapland

Sami Rantamäki, coordinator on culture and mass-media, General Consulate of Finland Republic in Murmansk, invited guest

5. Important information and status from all partners

Tiia Kalske: Troms and Finnmark County Governors Offices will merge 1.1.2019. The main office of the fused Troms and Finnmark County Governor office will be in Vadsø. Tromsø will also keep its office. The department of Environment will have its head office in Vadsø. Most functions will be on both locations (Vadsø/ Tromsø), the different departments Directors and vice directors will be divided between Vadsø and Tromsø.

Kurt Wikan: The Norwegian government wants to unite political power, but we don't want it on the ground in the regions. More than 80% of the population of Finnmark as a result of the poll was against this regional fusion.

Jyrki Tolonen: Changes in the structure of Metsähallitus occurred in 2017-due to renewal of law over Metsähallitus, but changes were not big. Numbers of visitors in national parks are in a constant grown, but the budgeted money for maintenance of these sites has been declining. Very positive news is that Sámi museum and Northern Lapland Nature Centre Siida has received funding for extension of the building and renewal of the permanent exhibition.

Olga Makarova: What is the situation with forest fires in Finland this year?

Jyrki Tolonen: more or less normal, although there were many small fires, but we put them out easily. There were no fires in the protected areas.

Vladimir Chizhov: In the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia the new minister is Dmitry Kobylkin. A new Department of Protected Natural Areas and the Baikal Natural Territory has also been created, headed by Alexey Titovsky. The Pasvik Reserve is still in the process of reorganization, along with two other reserves in the Murmansk region. We opposed this, asked for support from the region, and certain steps were taken by the regional administration in our support. At a video conference with the Ministry of Natural Resources on August 25, 2018, together with the Government of the Ministry of Defense, they reported on our vision of the situation, and Mr. A. Titovsky promised to clarify the situation by the end of September.

6. Fulfilling of the given targets in 2017–2018: report from the working group

Pasvik-Inari working group – Tiia Kalske, Natalia Polikarpova and Riina Tervo – coordinating the implementation of common action plan, had prepared presentations.

- a. Monitoring activities: Brown bear, waterfowls, Golden Eagle, bird ringing and visitors
 - i. **Brown bear.** Joint trilateral monitoring of the Brown bear, using the non-invasive method will be implemented the fourth time in 2019. Last week a working meeting was held between all participants at Nibio. The Russian party plan to increase the number of hair-traps and use more photo cameras on all traps. Funding for 2019 is included in TransConnect II project (3rd call in 21.9-21.12.2018). In case if TCII-project will be rejected, the parties will use own



national funding to implement this regular monitoring activity. The monitoring results are included into a Norwegian national brown bear DNA database, which contains information from hunted bears too and all the scats collection done by moose hunters. NIBIO Svanhovd will work to find funding for DNA-analysis for all sides.

Anne Wikan told about national Norwegian program for Brown bear monitoring for 2017. NIBIO had about 1034 samples of BB (i.e. 776 of excrements, 249 hairs and 9 biopsy). There are 70 males and 55 females known in Norway totally, i.e. 37 in Finnmark.

Dynamics shows a decline in the number of bears in the recent years. In Sør-Varanger, the situation is as follows: 266 samples were collected in 2017 (171 excrement, 94 fur/hair samples and 1 tissue), 115 of them were successful and allowed to identify 23 individuals (while 6 were not previously detected, these are 3 males and 3 females; 17 individuals were known, these are 7 males and 10 females). A lot of samples are collected near the roads, volunteers help in collecting fur/ hair samples, we carried out information work to attract more volunteers.

- ii. **Waterfowl.** The annual joint registration of waterfowl was implemented along the border on River Pasvik by NIBIO Svanhovd and Pasvik zapovednik in both twin reserves Pasvik zapovednik and Pasvik Nature Reserve in spring 30.5, 5.6. and in autumn 21.8. Final autumn registration will be on 4.9. Same method is used since 1996, and the event itself is unique and interesting. Spring counting was implemented on two days in 2018 and gave results from 400 to 600 individuals and from 13 to 23 species. One autumn registration was done and second will be on the first week of September. The results from the registrations are available in a common database. Advisory Board agreed that, it is a good task to implement.
- iii. **Golden eagle.** Norway: It was none successful nesting in 2018 on Norwegian side of Pasvik river valley, known territories are checked annually by SNO personnel. Finland: it was only one successful nesting in 2018. Russia: Pasvik Zapovednik observe their area and surroundings to the south and north and it was not found birds in 2018.
- iv. **Bird ringing.** Norway: professional bird ringers do the surveys in Pasvik Nature Reserve (NO) week 34-35 (24.8.-2.9.) + meet the researcher visits by local schools at Nyrud. There will be event for local schools and chance for the pupils to meet the researchers and participate in the bird ringing. Russia: Pasvik reserve has ringed birds in their territory on Varlam Ringing Station in May-June 2018 and during 7.8-10.9 by two ornithologists: own staff and invited birder from Saratov State University (South of European Russian part). Few recaptures of birds were done, which had been ringed earlier in Norway, a few birds ringed by Russian ornithologists were recaptured as well. A new event – The First Ornithological Festival on Varlam Island will be organized in 7th of September 2018 as competition for locals and bird ringing will be shown for all participants. Finland: local branch of Association of Nature Conservation in Finland is doing bird ringing in Ivalo area from 11th of August 2018 until October in Mellanaapa. The results from the three countries will be shared trilaterally within the joint database and exchange of reports in the end of the year. Perhaps international cooperation could be intensified in the future by project money, which would enable partners to bring ornithologists and researchers together.



- v. **Visitors.** Number of visitors in the five nature protection areas comprising the trilateral park and visitors in the nature centers are collected annually into a joint database. Visitor survey in 4 languages launched in April 2018. It is recognized, that our nature protected areas are remote with altogether c. 10 820 visitors in the trilateral park in 2018. There were altogether 134 520 visitors in the four nature centers of the trilateral park in 2017 including new visitor center of Pasvik Reserve in Nikel. In 2018 we launched a visitor survey in 4 languages: results will be summed up after 6 and 12 months. Number of answers by August: NO 70, FI 23 and RU 0. In Finland visitor survey as well in Inari Hiking area 2018-2019.
- i. **Other activities.** Pilot study in 2017 for using satellite imaging in habitat mapping, in Pasvik and Grense Jakobselv areas was done in Norway. Study was made by NORUT (Northern Research Institute in Tromsø). Good potential for future cooperation and new projects. National park Board (NO) has been mapping the cultural marks on trees in Øvre Pasvik National Park and in Øvre Pasvik Landscape protection area. This theme is interesting for international cooperation. Trilateral database of hunting species was fulfilled in 2018, and Olga Makarova mentioned that in Russia it was done with help and consultations from Ministry of nature resources and environment of the Murmansk region. Third year monitoring was done in 2018 of terrestrial vegetation cover (i.e. lichens status) in Russia in Pasvik Zapovednik and surroundings. Report - during 2018-2019 (Forest Institute Karelian RC RAS). In July-August 2018: inventory of fungi, lichens, mosses and vascular plants species. The new checklist of lichens of PZ (573 species!) will be publish in the end of 2018 (INEP KSC RAS). Manuscript of checklist of vascular plants of PZ (590 sp. in local flora, i.e. 462 in PZ area) is ready for publication. Dendrochronological studies in PZ, 2018: organizing 6 complex stations for monitoring of pine forests status and dynamics. Full description of landscapes (vegetation, soil, relief), sampling of needles, cores and soils. Study made by Forest Institute of the Karelian Research Centre RAS + PZ. Description of the most northern spruce forest massif in Green Belt Fennoscandia is also made, there are registered several new species, full forestry investigation and report was implemented.
- b. Enlightenment activities: visitor center in Nikel, trilateral bird watching trip, etc. Visitor center in Nikel is working since 2017 and very actively in 2018, the numbers of visitors is around 800 persons in 2017 and 1030 in 2018. Trilateral bird watching trip was done in the beginning of June 2018: <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Pasvik-Inari/News/Bird-watching-and-friendly-competition/>.
- c. Dissemination of information: presentations, articles and web pages, photo exhibition, video films etc.

Presentations at:

- EUROPARC's TransParcNet meeting in Austria/Czech, June 2018
- Visit of Korean researches in Nellim, Finland, July 2018
- Arctic Biodiversity Congress by Arctic Council/CAFF in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 2018
- International and interregional connectivity of PAs on the European North, Petrozavodsk, November 2017 (oral presentation, thesis and poster)

Articles:



- two articles in Norwegian ornithological paper, Lappmeisen 2018
- Metsähallitus's metsa.fi -magazine 04/2018
- 5 scientific papers in Russian about TP PI, monitoring activities and species etc. (in Russian and English).

Web pages: updated regularly, information about trilateral park published on the joint website and on each partners web sites too.

Photo exhibitions: landscapes, species, people; printing and opening in autumn 2018

Video films: about TP PI was shown in visitor center during 2017-2018 and one short video film about visitor-center (was shown for Advisory Board members).

d. EUROPARC re-verification in 2018, results and annual conference in Scotland

Re-verification in Transboundary Park's programme

- Visit of the verifier 28.-30.5.2018 – it was third verification for our park: <https://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Pasvik-Inari/News/Evaluation-visit-from-EUROPARC-Federation/> Park was re-certified according to 14/14 basic standards is achieved (all 4 primary criteria, 5 secondary criteria and 4 secondary fields of work is achieved), verifier Rolands Auzins visited 3 countries during 3 days and participated in spring waterfowls registration. The cooperation was estimated as successful, the verifying report sent to Europarc Federation.
- Discussion about inviting new organizations to the advisory board (member/observer): Sámi organizations - Sámi parliament (FI), Skolt Sámi Village Council (FI) and WWF Barents branch (RU). Special procedure in guiding rules and see AB minutes 2011 and 2012 when NP Board was included and procedure when Lake Inari N2000 area was included. In Norway, Norwegian Sami parliament is a member of the National Park Board and in this way represented in the trilateral advisory board, NP Board is a management body for protected areas in Norway.
- Annual EUROPARC conference with Awards ceremony in Scotland, Cairngorms National Park, 18-21 September 2018, TP PI is invited.

TransParcNet 2018 in Podyji-Thayatal National Parks (CZ/AU) in June

- Theme "Bridges over troubled water": <https://www.europarc.org/nature/transboundary-cooperation/transparcnet/transparcnet-meeting-2018/>
- Presentation about Transboundary water issues in Pechenga-Pasvik-Inari area

Contacts and exchange of experience with TransParcNet` people: meeting on 27.8 in Svanhovd with carnivores` researcher Sara Vezzaro from Italian part of transboundary park Julian Alps, <https://www.parcoprealpigiulie.it/en/Home.aspx>

The partners in Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park cooperation have agreed that Lake Inari Natura 2000 area is included to trilateral park from year 2018 on. And Lake Inari was included to EUROPARC's verification in summer 2018.

Same kind of process as for Lake Inari N2000 inclusion into the trilateral cooperation, should be followed for Korablekk Nature Park (RU) – to include into TP PI as a functional buffer zone of Pasvik



Zapovednik. Present the area for inclusion, hand over a written letter incl. map and info on nature values etc. and then ask other parties to give a written statement within a certain time period.

- e. Reporting implementation status for actions in the current Action plan and adoption of updated the Pasvik-Inari Action plan for 2019-2029

During the end of 2017 and in first half of 2018 the new Action Plan for 2019-2028 was created. Special meeting for brainstorming ideas was held in April 2018.

Decision: The new vision, mission and main objectives was adopted by the Advisory Board.

Vision

Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park is a unique cooperation for the benefit of nature and people

Mission

Through transboundary cooperation we cherish nature and raise awareness on biodiversity conservation and living cultural heritage. We promote sustainable development in the joint border area of Finland, Norway and Russia, as well as human health and wellbeing

Main Objectives (5)

1. Enhance transboundary cooperation and contacts at all levels.
2. Conserve natural and cultural values of the Pasvik-Inari region on a long-term basis.
3. Raise awareness and promote recognition of the area.
4. Contribute to the sustainable development and create positive local economic impact.
5. Facilitate for health and wellbeing of the people.

There is a need to translate the new vision and mission into all national languages after they are adopted and updating all this information on the joint website. The Action plan document itself will also be finalized in the end of 2018/ early 2019, including concrete actions and projects. Also, the drafted Communication and Visibility plan, needs to be finalized. It will be an integral part of the Action plan document.

The meeting was paused at 18:30 pm and was continued on next day morning at 9 am.

7. New targets for 2019

- a. On-going annual activities: project work and applications MUP, PAN, REARC, Promotion of sustainable tourism in Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park

Implementation of ongoing annual activities: bird trips for locals, bird ringing and waterfowl registration, brown bear monitoring activity, dissemination actions, Barents ski, databases and lists, meetings.

Action plan: adoption late December 2018 or early January 2019, popularized version containing mission, vision and actions -> leaflet about P-I TP strategy will be worked out in 2019.

10th anniversary hike along the Piilola Wilderness Trail will be organize in summer/autumn.

Establishment of a share-point for all Pasvik-Inari documents on existing platform in Metsähallitus.

Projects to be launched: contracting, kick off, implementation, i.e. MUP, PAN and ReArc projects. Possible funding "Promotion of sustainable tourism in Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park" from Nordic Council of Ministers, EGB Transconnect Life application (concept note delivered June 2018). TransConnect II – project, the application is in progress but the result is not clarified.



b. EUROPARC-cooperation: annual TransParkNet meeting and conference of EUROPARC Federation

TransParkNet 2019 in Oulanka-Paanajärvi National Parks (RUS/FIN) in June; Europarc Annual conference in September. It is needed to decide about our participation and possible themes of speech. Best practices from Pasvik-Inari to Tool kit are "waterfowl registration" and "Annual cycle and Action plan" - texts need to be written.

c. Buffer zone of Pasvik Zapovednik: Korablekk nature park to be included in the international nature protection cooperation

Dmitry Ruusalep: the nature park «Korablekk» was established in April 2017 with Pasvik Reserve` initiative. The park has two parts: western – «Kaskama» and eastern – «Korablekk», park was established for:

- Conservation the biodiversity of flora and fauna, including rare species
- Conservation of ecosystems and complexes in natural status
- Development of ecological enlightenment, eco-tourism and recreation
- Development of scientific research

The total area is 8340 hectares (83,4 km²), the area is in the border zone of Russian Federation, park is located to the east of Pasvik Reserve area and it is the shared ecosystem. The regime of park is more open for people than the reserve and it is possible to have different events in the park area with participation Pasvik Reserve. Regional Ministry of nature resources and environment is applying to support the idea of including Korablekk park into Trilateral park Pasvik-Inari. It will give more possibilities for development nature-based tourism on the Russian side of the park. The Government of the Murmansk region is interested in such transboundary cooperation, it is very important.

Bente Christiansen: do you have own staff or you buy services?

Dmitry Ruusalep: we have Direction of protected regional areas; also, we have cooperation agreement with Pasvik Reserve. We mean that the management regulation is not change and all events could be realize in framework of cooperation between our organizations.

Jyrki Tolonen: it is very important that Russian tourist can visit this area and we are interested in cooperation.

Vladimir Chizhov: we are different organizations but we have joint point for cooperation – research and ecological events, for example, Varlam Island visitors can visit Korablekk park as well. From the nature protection point of view – our federal state inspectors can assist in preservation function, they may observe this area and inform about problems to the regional Ministry. Pasvik Reserve observed and studied this area traditionally and attract researches and funding. The management plan for this area have to be made.

Dmitry Ruusalep: Capital construction, logging, land cover violation, using of motor boats, farming, etc. are limited in the nature park.

Bente Christiansen: we need to think about your positive proposal and we will discuss the proposal. The inclusion of Lake Inari Natura 2000 area in 2017, was not either approved over the table in the first meeting at once. We are not against it, we most likely will include Korablekk into Trilateral park next year. Using the same procedure as for Lake Inari in 2017 (i.e. written request/ document including map and central info of the PA, and then each organization can reply to this in own written letters).

Marina Trusova: the verifier recommended making buffer zone for our Trilateral Park, and Korablekk Park can be such kind of buffer zone, the proposal is according to Europarc recommendations. We



applied to the Ministry by official letter – to include Korablekk Park into Trilateral park Pasvik-Inari, the Minister is not against it and that's why he is applying and presenting the park now. So, this is Pasvik Reserve` initiative originally.

8. Other items

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

Tiia Kalske: issue about members and observers in the Advisory Board meetings. Currently there are NIBIO Svanhovd and WWF Murmansk as observers. The current members of the Trilateral park Advisory Board are protected area management bodies, local municipalities and national protected area authorities. Norwegian Sami parliament is part of Øvre Pasvik National Park Management Board and in that way included in the cooperation via the park board.

Jyrki Tolonen: Involvement of Sámi people (Indigenous people) into our trilateral cooperation and the Advisory Board. This issue was brought up under re-verification session. Finland wants to come back to this important issue again in next year's advisory board meeting.

Jari Pasanen: told about current ecological status of Inari Lake, monitoring and regulating the water level in the lake.

Vladimir Chizhov: it is very important to include Trilateral park Pasvik-Inari in annual meetings between energy companies and authorized/responsible persons.

Bente Christiansen: it is important to meet with ELY-center annually, to discuss and exchange information on all our challenges.

Jari Pasanen: it is possible to participate in some regular events – for example in meetings with authorized persons for water level regulation, I will discuss with them about it and inviting people from trilateral park cooperation (TP PI).

Inari Municipality: I impressed of your work. Nature-based tourism is growing from year to year, about 280 000 people visited Saariselkä and Inari during the first 8 months of 2018. Pay attention to tourism activities and the education in tourism. In Finland, we offer education in: basic tourism education, education for tourist guides and education for nature guides. We are very interested in your Communication plan. It must always be remembered that most people come in the summer time.

Bente Christiansen: challenges in how to regulate and manage tourism? This issue with growing tourism is part of our Barents region environmental cooperation for the next two years.

Kurt Wikan: presented information from Øvre Pasvik National Park. It was mentioned that the NP Board has good dialogue and cooperation with the Norwegian Border patrol, national park manager takes part in the biannual training sessions etc. One part of our new visitor management strategy is to sustainable increase the numbers of visitors in 2018, also focus on branding the national parks is central. The strategy outlines existing infrastructure (portals into the park etc.) and future plans. Iron Curtain Trail and the plans and site analysis for visitor point "Gjøken" were highlighted. Mapping of Sami cultural marks in trees and join the researcher activities was informed about.

Bente Christiansen: Finnmark Eiendommen, FeFo/ Finnmark Estate, own and is responsible for 95% of the lands in Finnmark County. Last, 5% of areas in the County is in private ownership. Forest protection in Norway is now based on voluntary forest protection approach. This kind of voluntary forest protection process is going on now in Pasvik. A lot of meetings and negotiations has been held between the County Governor's office and the Finnmark Estate to conserve more valuable areas and also establish protection regulations.



Fusion of Troms and Finnmark County Governors offices: the head office for environmental department will be kept in Vadsø, the international cooperation will also be kept here. Bente will be the new Director of this new joint Department.

Anne Wikan: presented the fish genetic project in the Pasvik river. NIBIO Svanhovd is doing scientific genetic database for Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). Pasvik Reserve is our important partner of this project on the Russian side. Volunteers are involved in this cooperation by providing fish samples and catch information. Pasvik river is divided in few different zones, and big differences in the trout genetics are observed/ registered, the results show that the most natural population of trout is inhabiting the upper parts of the river on the Russian side.

b. NO-FI transboundary Water commission

Bente: next Commission meeting will be held in Utsjoki, Finland on 4-6th of September 2018. Additionally, issue with the invasive species of Pink salmon (*Onchorynchos gorbusha*) was mentioned: in 2017 high numbers of pink salmon was observed and caught in the Tana, Vuorjema and other rivers in Finnmark and more south in Norway. Issues like this will also be addressed in the MUP-project. In 2018, as expected the numbers and observations of pink salmon is low, next year although it is to be expected great invasions of Pink salmon again.

9. **Next meeting date and venue.** Next Advisory board meeting will take place in Finland, and the preliminary dates are August 28th–30th 2019 (week 35), possible it will be join with the Piilola trail 10-years celebration hike.

10. **Closing of the meeting.** The chair closed the meeting on August 29th at 13:00 pm.

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





Fig. 1. Trilateral Park Pasvik-Inari Advisory Board meeting on 28th of August 2018. Photo by Natalia Polikarpova



Fig. 2. Trilateral Park Pasvik-Inari Advisory Board meeting on 28th of August 2018. Photo by Natalia Polikarpova





Fig. 3. The leaders of Trilateral Park Pasvik-Inari, 29th of August 2018. Photo by Natalia Polikarpova



Fig. 4. Expert members of Trilateral Park Pasvik-Inari Advisory Board – Olga Makarova and Astrid Nærum on 28th of August 2018. Photo by Natalia Polikarpova





Fig. 5. Celebration of 10-anniversary of Trilateral Park Pasvik-Inari in Pechenga administration on 28th of August 2018. Photo by Natalia Polikarpova

