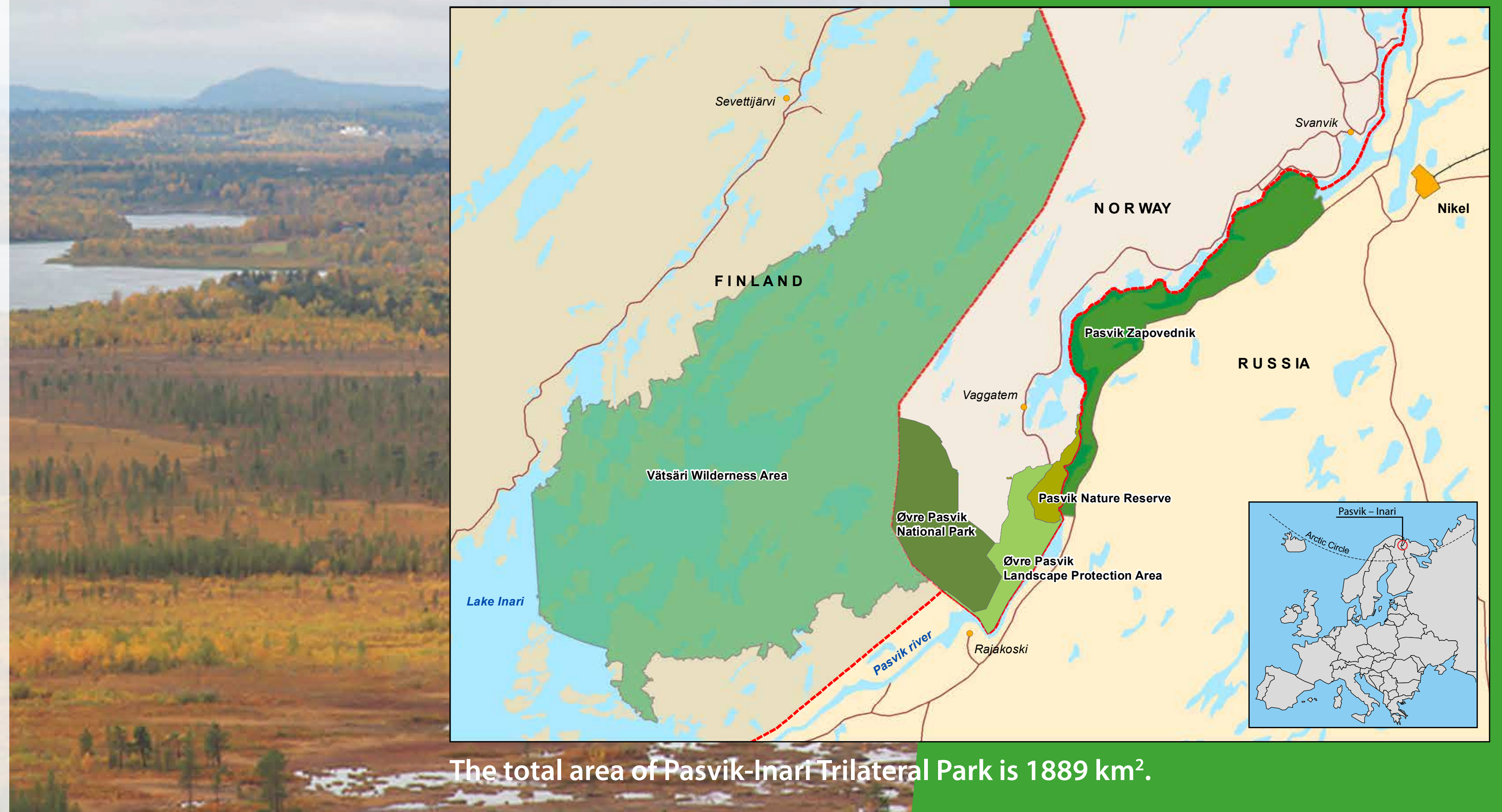


Pasvik–Inari Trilateral Park – “Nature and History Shared”

The Pasvik-Inari region is the area where Norway, Finland and Russia converge. The lush valley of the Pasvik river stretches from Lake Inari in the south towards the Barents Sea in the north, appearing as a vital nerve in the mosaic landscape of small lakes, wetlands and virgin taiga forests. The region comprises a unique nature system where European, Eastern and Arctic species meet. Here, some of the species reach the ultimate limits of their distribution. The area is also an important nesting and resting place for a large number of migratory birds. The area also offers a unique example of cross-border nature protection with three nations working together to protect a continuous stretch of land crossing three national borders.



The total area of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park is 1889 km².

Pasvik–Inari – a meeting point

The region is a meeting point for different cultures too. Different Sámi people live in the area: the Northern, Inari and Skolt Sámi. Since the Early Middle Ages, Finns, Norwegians and Russians have also settled in the region. Even though different cultures coexist in the area and have learned a lot from each other, they have each retained their distinctive traditions.

Trilateral cooperation in action

Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park entity was established in 2008 as a result of long-term cooperation between the nature protection authorities in Norway, Russia and Finland dating back to early 1990's. The trilateral park consists of five nature protection areas: three areas in Norway, one in Russia and one in Finland. Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park is awarded the European certification for EUROPARCs Transboundary Park – following nature's design.

The main themes of the international cooperation are nature monitoring, environmental enlightenment and promotion of sustainable nature-based tourism. Since the mid 1990's annual bird registrations have been carried out along the Pasvik river. The joint brown bear population in the trilateral border area is monitored every four years, since 2007. There is an active network of teachers and schools cooperating through ecological camps and the school network – Phenology of the North Calotte. Informative products about natural and cultural heritage of the area are regularly produced - games are our specialty! The partners and stakeholders of the parks work together in different projects to promote sustainable nature based tourism to support sustainable local development in the border areas. Pasvik-Inari cooperation participates actively in the Green Belt of Fennoscandia initiative.

www.pasvik-inari.net

County Governor of Finnmark, Norway
Øvre Pasvik National Park Board, Norway
Metsähallitus, Parks and Wildlife Finland
State Nature Reserve 'Pasvik', Russia



Photo: Pasvik zapovednik



Photo: Steinar Wikan



Ellen Rognvold Wiessel, Sámi Varanger museum



Photo: Steinar Wikan