

# Pasvik Inari

## Trilateral Park

### **Minutes of the Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park Advisory Board meeting 2014**

**Venue:** Kirkenes (Sollia Gjestegård), 25.-27.8.2014.

#### **Participants:**

**Russia:** Victor Kiryushkin (Nikel Municipality), Vladimir Krutskij (Murmansk oblast), Anna Popova (Murmansk oblast), Natalia Polikarpova and Marina Trusova (Pasvik reserve), Elena Babina (translator)

**Finland:** Jyrki Tolonen and Tapio Tynys (Metsähallitus)

**Norway:** Kurt Wikan (Øvre Pasvik National Park Board), Trygve Sarajärvi (Sør-Varanger Municipality), Rolf Kollstrøm (Øvre Pasvik National Park Manager), Anne Wikan (Bioforsk), Bente Christiansen (chair) and Tiia Kalske (referent) (Office of the Finnmark County Governor - FMFI)

**Absent members:** Päivi Lundvall (Lapland ELY-centre, FIN) and Teuvo Katajamaa (Inari Municipality, FIN)

#### **1. Opening the meeting**

*Bente Christiansen* opens the meeting 25.8 17 o'clock and participants present themselves.

#### **2. Selection of chair and secretary**

Bente Christiansen chairs the meeting and Tiia Kalske is the secretary.

#### **3. Adoption of the agenda 2014 and Signing of the minutes from 2013**

Agenda for 2014 is adopted without any amendments. Minutes from 2013 are signed.

#### **4. Presentation of participants and new Advisory Board members**

New members in the advisory board are Anna Popova – Murmansk oblast (RUS) and Kurt Wikan - Øvre Pasvik National Park Board (NOR). Øvre Pasvik National Park manager Rolf Kollstrøm gives a detailed presentation of the National Park Board: its responsibilities and plans. Since 2011 the management for national parks (NPs) and landscape protected areas (LPAs) is transferred from the State to local political boards appointed by the State. The board members are representatives from Sør-Varanger municipality, Finnmark County Council (Finnmark fylkeskommune) and the Sami Parliament (pdf of presentation annexed).

*Discussion and conclusions:* the interaction between skiers and reindeer is challenging. It was decided to start the process of making joint info materials to visitors. There are possibilities to apply for funding from the North calotte environmental Council – Nordkalottens miljøråd.

#### **5. Fulfilling of the targets in 2013-2014:**

##### **a. ABCGheritage -project results focusing on the trilateral park area**

*Tapio Tynys* highlights the gained project results so far, focusing on the Pasvik-Inari trilateral park area. Green Belt Fennoscandia (GBF) temporary exhibition is opened in all three countries (May-June),

a board game for children aged 10-15 years is accompanying the exhibition (it is distributed to schools, libraries, tourism operators etc.), various publications are made, Pasvik-Inari film, seminars and meetings are implemented.

**b. Seminar for conservation specialist and nature types**

*Tiia Kalske* highlights the conclusions from this implemented expert meeting (19.-22.8.2014). New areas for future cooperation are identified; nature types, biotopes, new species, and new persons met and networked. Good and constructive atmosphere (pdf presentation of conclusions annexed).

**c. Status for the Booklet on rare species in Pasvik-Inari area**

*Natalia Polikarpova* and *Tiia Kalske* shortly highlight the status for this joint publication. 17 rare species; plants (2), mosses (1), fungi/ lichens (3), insects (3), invertebrates (1), fish (1), birds (3), and mammals (3) are chosen and texts are almost finalised. The plan is to finalise and publish this booklet as part of the *ABC* heritage project environmental education and dissemination action.

**d. Monitoring in 2014 - selected species, visitors etc.**

*Tapio Tynys* shortly highlight the estimated number of visitors along the Piilola wilderness trail (100 in NOR and 400 on FIN side). Challenge with regards to hikers is transport – organised transport should be arranged on selected days in the summer time. Data on the number of visitors are annually collected from: visitors' centres, protected areas, main sights and surrounding areas (border-crossing, tourist information etc.)

*Discussion and conclusion:* Public transportation is organised in the summer time from Vaggetem. Trans-border transportation is a challenge over the NOR-FIN border- crossing between Norway and Finland at f. ex Neiden-Näätämö. In Siida – visits have increased – 50% of Siidas visitors are foreigners – has a big economic impact on the local level. The challenge on transportation of Piilola trail hikers is given to the local tourist operators in Norway and Finland.

*Natalia Polikarpova* highlights the implemented joint annual bird registrations in Pasvik nature reserves (end of May and beginning of June, and the autumn registration beginning of September). Further Pasvik reserve in cooperation with different specialists has conducted inventories on vascular plants, lichens, mosses and small mammals (rodents). Small mammal bilateral Norwegian-Russian registrations are implemented. Mire ecosystem project also implemented. Brown bear faeces collected when seen – will be delivered to Bioforsk. Three (3) wildlife cameras are installed in PZ area (one on Varlam Island) - no registrations of raccoon dog in 2014.

*Discussion:* Possible raccoon dog sighting in Nyrud in 2014 – SNO and the police was checking. German tourist might have seen raccoon dog - in mid-July.

Muotkavaara the three nations crossing point – visitors monitoring. Border guards are counting the visitors. International value – many foreigners want to visit all the three countries – this is still impossible.

At Kolmasjoki (tributary of Lutto river) – a possible beaver sighting in summer 2014 – Metsähallitus wants to verify if it is European beaver or Canadian beaver.

**e. EUROPARC Federation meetings**

*Tapio Tynys* highlights the EUROPARC Federation meetings the Pasvik-Inari cooperation partners have taken part in since the last advisory board meeting. Transboundary parks re-certification was received in 2013. Participation in the TransParcNet – network: Pasvik-Inari trilateral park is active in this network.

**f. UNESCO World heritage (WHS) – follow up from meeting in 2013 - status FIN and NOR**

This issue was brought up in the advisory board meeting in 2013, from the Russian party. In Finnish opinion, the Pasvik-Inari area does not fulfil the WHS criteria. In Norwegian opinion (information from our superior authority – Environmental Agency) the area in question does not fulfil the WHS criteria.

**g. Other issues**

Green Belt of Europe – is proposed to the World heritage site nomination list. Pasvik zapovednik has answered the circulated questionnaire. In Norway: FMFI has forwarded it to directorate level – Environmental Agency – no current information if the directorate has answered to this questionnaire.

**6. New targets for 2014 – 2015**

**a. Completing the ABCGheritage -project**

*Tapio Tynys* highlights the finalisation process and reporting plan for the project. Metsähallitus (Lead Partner) has applied to the Funding program authority for three months project prolongation, into 2015. No decision yet on this. The final seminar of the project will be held; 14.-15.10 at Bioforsk Svanhovd, back to back with a regional development works shop for the Green Belt Fennoscandia. Important to keep up the pace and implement everything within the budget. Relevant project partners have also started the process on planning a new future project on visitor centres network in the three countries, if/ when Kolarctic ENI -funding programme (Kolarctic European Neighbourhood Instrument) will be available.

**b. Monitoring in 2015**

*Tiia Kalske* informs about the plans with brown bear hair snare monitoring in 2015. All parties have agreed on trying to get funding to implement it in the same scheme as in 2007 and 2011. This monitoring is very successful and yield very important information to the management of the shared populations and also high quality data for science.

*Natalia Polikarpova* informs about the annual water bird registrations – remember to implement the improvements recommended from the bird expert seminar in 2013, f. ex one extra counting in July etc.

New management plan work for Vätsäri wilderness area will be initiated – some investigations may be necessary.

Metsähallitus has conducted archaeological investigations along the Piilola trail in 2013 – no results published yet.

Visitors monitoring – continue to fulfil the excel sheet (meta-database) and Piilola trail counters.

Raccoon dog monitoring – will continue in Pasvik zapovednik.

Methodology seminar on habitats and biotopes is planned to the end of 2014 or beginning of 2015.

**c. A research program about reindeer herding impact on the Pasvik valley nature**

Norwegian reindeer comes annually into the Pasvik reserve and this is a serious problem and a threat to the protection values of the reserve. *Natalia Polikarpova* presents the joint application that was handed in, in the beginning of 2014. One action is to arrange a seminar for reindeer herders, relevant experts and managers. The joint application was unfortunately rejected. Kolaskaya GMK has announced project funds and Pasvik reserve has got funding for its share in the project. The project period is 2014-2015. Russian party wants Norway to solve this recurring problem with border crossing reindeer and wants to have a meeting with Norwegian reindeer herders and management. Further Norway is asked to find the right parties and to organise such a meeting as soon as possible.

*Discussion and conclusion:* in 2013 a continuous reindeer fence was set up in the Pasvik nature reserve (NOR). This should help to solve this problem with border crossing reindeer. In the beginning of 2014 parts of the reindeer management responsibility was transferred to the Office of the Finnmark County Governor (FMFI). Norway will identify the right counterpart for this proposed meeting and find the best meeting time for the reindeer herders and after this FMFI will invite to a meeting in Pasvik area, tentatively October 2014 or January 2015. Norway raises also the issue with Russian wild dogs that cross the border to Norway and disturbs the reindeer – this issue will also be part of the proposed meeting. Further Pasvik reserve expresses a wish to see the reindeer fence in Norway.

#### **d. Co-operation with the power plants**

*Marina Trusova* highlights the challenge - no actual cooperation between the power plants and Pasvik reserve exist today – that's why it is important to highlight this issue and hopefully get the water regulatory authorities attention in the future and resolve the problems caused by water level regulation in the Pasvik reserve, i.e. flooding of birds nest etc. The revision of the multiuse plan and getting focus on this problem is a long term issue.

*Trygve Sarajärvi* highlights the work with the water management plans (2015-2021) in Sør-Varanger Municipality (EU water frame directive work). The catchment area for the Pasvik River is included in the Norwegian-Finnish River Basin District. Finnmark County Authority (Finnmark fylkeskommune - FFK) is in charge of the planning process. The main aim is to keep and/ or improve the water quality and water bodies in good condition. Pasvik River is classified as a heavily modified water body, due to the hydro-electric power stations and nickel pollution. The mentioned plan is on hearing in Norway now. It will be presented for the politicians in the Municipality – the Sør-Varanger plan is one part of the whole water management plan for Finnmark County. The FFK cooperate with Finnish water management authorities, with regards to the international water region.

*Trygve* will convey the link to the official hearing documents to Natalia.

*Discussion:* the water regulation scheme in the Lake Inari and Pasvik River system is handled by a trilateral water board – in Norway the responsible authority is NVE – Norwegian water Resource and energy directorate, in Finland it is ELY-centre – Centre for Economic development, traffic and the environment and in Russia Federal Water Resource Agency (Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of RF)

Norwegian-Finnish transboundary water commission will have its annual meeting the first week in September. FMFI is the Norwegian leader of this commission and ELY-centre the Finnish counterpart. – NVE in Norway is taking part as an observer in this meeting. FMFI will again highlight this problem to the commission.

#### **e. Co-operation with Samarskaja Luka National Park**

*Marina Trusova* asks if there still is interest to implement this visit. Volga River central Volga National Park – has invited us to visit to establish a network – the invitation is still valid.

*Conclusion:* Pasvik-Inari trilateral park cooperation wants to invite them first here.

### **7. Other items**

- a. Transboundary public road between Norway and Finland. *Trygve Sarajärvi* highlights the status. The road plans was not accepted by higher road authorities in 2007, due to costs and the process was put on hold. Sør-Varanger and Inari Municipalities have picked up and continued the process for a road connection between Nellim to Pasvik valley, in 2013. The proposal now is a private forest road. Comments to these new plans are now asked from relevant Norwegian authorities.

*Discussion:* the protected areas legislation is not an obstacle for the plans, in case of a road the borders for the Øvre Pasvik national park have to be re-drawn at three nations border point.

- b. *Natalia Polikarpova* highlights three implemented expeditions to the Russian side of Vuoremi joki/ Grense Jakobselv area (ornithology, landscape and plants), in summer 2014. Planning for new protected area(s).

*Discussion and questions:* with regards to Norwegian reindeer – border agreement from 1949 regulate this also in Grense Jakobselv? Is the procedure the same here as in Pasvik area? The border Agreement from 1949 covers the whole border between the two countries. No reindeer in Grense Jakobselv area. In Korp fjell and Jarfjordfjell areas there is reindeer – not the same district as Pasvik.

No current plans for protected areas on the Norwegian side in Grense Jakobselv. Some deciduous forest areas in Grense Jakobselv were earlier proposed to be protected as a part of the deciduous forest protection plan in Finnmark.

- c. *Marina Trusova* tells about the *Schaanning* book presentation in autumn 2014.
- d. Harmonised methodology in monitoring and research of biotopes, habitats and plants (follow up from expert meeting and part of our joint action plan). Pasvik reserve will invite and arrange a preparatory meeting in the end of 2014 with available project funding. No common actions yet on vegetation research – Brown bear and water bird monitoring is functioning well. The roles of the partners in the cooperation are different – but research and monitoring will always give more knowledge to the management and its decision processes.
- e. Joint web page, [www.pasvik-inari.net](http://www.pasvik-inari.net) – Metsähallitus has agreed on a longer term contract with the external party, Zoo gate, and will agree on the every second year payment terms with FMFI. The cooperation's internal web site will be renewed in autumn 2014. For news and more effective short time dissemination – use own partner sites.

## 8. Meeting excursion

The 26<sup>th</sup> the participants visited Grense Jakobselv, with stops at Karpelva and Karpbukt. Information on anadromous fish, pearl mussel, air monitoring etc. was given.

## 9. Next meeting in 2015

In Russia: Murmansk city area - last week of August. Regional administrative centre and the city is a nice tourist destination. Partners are requested to arrange visas in good time for this.

## 10. Closing the meeting

The chair closed the meeting 10 o'clock, 27.8.

  
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