

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

Place: Hotel Kultahovi, Inari, Finland

Date: 24.–25.8.2016

- 1. Opening of the meeting.** The meeting was opened at 9.05 am, and participants were welcomed to Inari.
- 2. Selection of chair and secretary.** National park superintendent Pirjo Seurujärvi from Metsähallitus was selected to be the chair and Senior advisor Riina Tervo from Metsähallitus as the secretary.
- 3. Signing of the minutes from 2015 and adoption of the agenda of 2016.** The minutes from the Advisory Board meeting held in August 2015 in Russia were signed. The agenda for this meeting was adopted as such.

4. Presentation of participants.

Russia:

Park director Vladimir Chizov, Pasvik State Strict Nature Reserve
Researcher Olga Makarova, Pasvik State Strict Nature Reserve
Mayor Edward Zatona, Pechenga Region
Mayor Andrew Ponomarev, Municipality of Nikel
Interpreter Elena Babina

Absent members from Russia:

Representative of Ministry of natural resource and ecology of Murmansk region
Representative of Ministry of economical development of Murmansk government

Norway:

Senior advisor Tiia Kalske, Office of the Finnmark County Governor
Vice director Anne Wikan, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) Svanhovd
Environmental advisor and board member Trygve Sarajärvi, Municipality of Sør-Varanger

Absent members from Norway:

Director Bente Christiansen – Office of the Finnmark County Governor



Finland:

National park superintendent Pirjo Seurujärvi, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Regional director Jyrki Tolonen, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland, attended the meeting on Thursday morning

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

Board member Teuvo Katajamaa, Municipality of Inari

Senior advisor Tuomo Ollila, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Senior advisor Riina Tervo, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

5. **Fulfilling of the given targets in 2015–2016: 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 a report, which was gone through (Attachment 1).

a. Monitoring activities:

- i. **Brown bear.** Joint trilateral monitoring of the Brown bear, using the non-invasive method has been implemented three times, and now we are having comparable results from years 2007, 2011 and 2015. There were many samples collected in year 2015, many new bears identified and there was evidence that bears cross borders of all three countries. The report is written in English, and there are many photos and videos available. The three countries are devoted to repeat the monitoring after four years again, in the summer 2019. Results from the monitoring are used in managing the brown bear population. These monitoring results are included into a Norwegian national brown bear database, roibase run by roivdata and an own database at Nibio. The national database contains information from hunted bears too and all the scats collection done by moose hunters.

The same monitoring method has been used in Pasvik valley north, in the vicinity of the Sametti-Skjelvatnet nature reserve in Norway in summer 2016. Results and report will be shared with Russia and Finland when finalized.

There was discussion about brown bear populations in the three countries, and about the importance of delivering information to the locals. Russia: there is growing number of bears, and individuals are getting closer to the settlements. There were 80 licenses given last year for hunting bears in Pechenga area. Finland: population in Eastern Inari is stable, and 5-10 bears are hunted annually. Norway: bear population is regulated through license hunting (the Counties of Troms and Finnmark have 3 bears on the license quota in 2016), and if bears roam too close to live-stock or housing and cause damage, those individuals can be taken down with special license. Nibio cooperates with local people in order to get more samples too.



- ii. **Waterfowl.** The annual joint registration of waterfowl was implemented in the border area in River Pasvik by Pasvik zapovednik and Pasvik Nature Reserve in spring and in autumn. Same method is used since mid-1990's, and the event itself is unique and interesting. Spring counting was implemented on two days and gave results of 29 and 26 species, and on this very week will the autumn counting take place. The results from the registrations are available in a common database. There was a suggestion from Nibio, that Paul Aspholm will visit Finland in October-November and Russia in November to meet the participants of the registration and produce a common report. Advisory Board agreed that, it is a good task to implement.

- iii. **Golden eagle.** The two known territories on Norwegian side of Pasvik river valley are checked annually by SNO personnel. In 2016 there is a specific project running where new territories of golden eagle, white-tailed eagle and other birds of prey in Eastern Finnmark are surveyed. Breeding result of golden eagle was somewhat better than normal in northern Finnish Lapland: the successful breeding sites are close to village of Näätämö. Elsewhere in Finland the breeding was not too successful. There is intensive cooperation in sharing results of monitoring golden eagle and other birds of prey between Finland and Norway.

- iv. **Bird ringing.** This is a new activity in the trilateral cooperation. Norway: professional bird ringers do the surveys. There will be event for local schools and chance for the pupils to meet the researchers and participate in the ringing. Russia: Pasvik reserve has ringed birds this summer in their territory. Few recaptures of birds was done, which had been ringed earlier in Norway. Finland: local branch of Association of Nature Conservation in Finland is doing bird ringing in Ivalo area this summer and autumn. International standardized ringing method is used – the birds are not harmed by the action. The results from three countries will be shared trilaterally. Perhaps international cooperation could be intensified in the future by project money, which would enable partners to bring ornithologists and researchers together.

Additional information about mapping of arctic wader birds on three mire sites in Norway was given by Tiia Kalske. Fewer birds were observed than expected perhaps due to high water level and unusually early spring/ summer. Report will be delivered later trilaterally. Norway is having as well a 3-year pilot project to assist nesting of Arctic tern on platforms built on the bridge ruins in River Pasvik. Olga Makarova commented that it is a human-influenced activity for increasing the number of bird individuals next to Pasvik zapovednik's area.

- v. ***Epirrita* moth info exchange.** Contact information of researchers and websites containing *Epirrita* moth research results have been shared trilaterally.



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vi. **Visitors.** Number of visitors in the five nature protection areas comprising the trilateral park and visitors in the nature centers are collected annually. It is recognized, that our nature protected areas are remote with altogether c. 11 500 visitors in the trilateral park in 2015. Olga Makarova pointed out, that Pasvik zapovednik is restricted border area, where access is limited. And yet researchers, school children, teachers and other groups visit the area regularly. There were altogether 122 800 visitors in the three nature centers of the trilateral park in 2015. We reach our visitors in the centers! A fourth visitor centre in the cooperation, the new nature center of Pasvik zapovednik, will open soon in Nikel. The permanent exhibitions in Siida in Inari will be renewed in the near future, and the theme of international nature protection and cooperation will be included in the themes presented.

b. Enlightenment activities:

- i. **Brochure of rare species in Pasvik-Inari area.** Freshly printed brochure in English, Russian, Norwegian and Finnish is now available. Brochure is a popularized product aimed at schools, local people and visitors.
- ii. **Trilateral bird watching trip.** This year most individual birds and species were observed in Norway on the annual bird watching trip arranged for locals. The names of birds in Inari Sámi and Northern Sámi were added to the species list.
- iii. **Info-material about brown bear.** Popularized version of the scientific results is in preparation. Info-material will include text, photos and video clips.
- iv. **GBF-workshop for locals.** There have been two previous workshops held in Finland and Norway, and this year's workshop is postponed to year 2017 and to be held in the new visitor center in Nikel, Russia. There is additional funding from Nordkalotträdet available in Metsähallitus for GBF-workshop. Partners will plan together the arrangements.

c. Dissemination of information:

- i. **Communication and marketing plan.** Plan is in preparation, and it is made to share best practices, improve in general and to find right channels for delivering our messages to our target groups. Advisory board suggested adding given presentations to Pasvik-Inari internal website, and that suitable marketing products could be pins and magnets. Memory stick is in production at the moment.
- ii. **Distribution of results from brown bear monitoring.** Short text about monitoring method and its results is prepared to EU's platform on Coexistence of people and large carnivores, and text will be sent soon further. The application for Natura 2000 award is still in preparation.



- iii. **Presentations and articles and web-pages.** An exemplary list of given presentations and published articles about our trilateral cooperation and photo about informative event arranged in library in Nikel was shown. Our cooperation will be presented at the 9th Pan-European Green Belt conference in Koli in November. Pasvik-Inari internal website is updated with news about brown bears and results from the bird trips. Four best practice cases identified as good results from the project “Promotion of nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in Inari-Pasvik transboundary protected areas” will be published on Panorama-solutions platform made by University of Vienna for transboundary cooperation. There is a request from Anna Kuhmonen to write a short article about our cooperation to the Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN)-website before the end of this year.
- d. **EUROPARC –cooperation.** Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park was re-certified in EUROPARC’s Transboundary parks’ programme in 2013, and cooperation is working with the recommendations listed by the verifier.
- i. **Visitor survey.** Draft of the survey is prepared based on visitor surveys used in Finnish national parks, and the questions were gone through (Attachment 2). It was considered, that twelve questions are quite many and might evolve as threshold for answering. Olga Makarova suggested to add a question about human impact on nature. Working group will modify the questionnaire to meet the requirements of managers of nature protection areas.
- ii. **Hunting database.** Hunting in nature protected areas or in their vicinity is not common in Middle-Europe. Therefore information about hunting – hunting times, number of sold licenses and catch, hunting regulations – in the three countries is being collected into a joint document and meta-database.
- iii. **Possible project in the network of transboundary parks evolving.** Pasvik-Inari cooperation is open to discuss about participating in the project planning and implementation when plans for the project are more concrete.
- iv. **Annual meeting of Transboundary Parks.** This year’s annual meeting took place in Saxon Bohemian Switzerland (DE/CZ). Parks’ landscape is governed by Elba river valley and sandstone walls and pillars. Millions of visitors visit the famous lookouts. National parks had good visibility in the public transport. Pasvik-Inari cooperation gave presentation about bears and visitors highlighting that we know more about our brown bears than our visitors. The European reflection was that we can be happy with our remote areas and rather limited number of visitors. The next meeting will be arranged by Julian Alps Transboundary Ecoregion (IT/SI) in June 6th-9th 2017.



- e. **Addition to working group's report was given by Olga Makarova** (Attachment 3). There is a GIS-research project going on in Pasvik zapovednik. The scientific research made in the reserve covers topics from registration of birds and small mammals to investigation of vascular plants, lichens and mushrooms. The reserve participates in the work aiming at establishment of new nature protection areas in Pechenga district (Korablekk mountain – designed to be a buffer zone for the Pasvik reserve). Reserve cooperates intensively with different medias and involves always information about Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park. Phenoatlas-book is to be published in Russian and in English. Active international cooperation takes place in the fields of nature conservation, research, education and cultural heritage connections. Year 2017 will be 100 year anniversary for Russian zapovedniks and their ecological work, and 25 year anniversary for Pasvik zapovednik (1992–2017).

Olga Makarova gave a proposal to the Advisory board and working group to discuss monitoring of different species and repetition of monitoring works in the trilateral cooperation. Brown bear and waterfowl are having tradition, bird ringing is something new. On the other hand numbers of red fox and raccoon dog are increasing, rabies is problem – those seem to be some of the future topics. Olga Makarova suggests a common workshop to be arranged, where joint monitoring program is discussed – Tuomo Ollila supports this. Advisory board decided, that working group will work with the future monitoring themes.

6. New targets for 2017

- a. **On-going annual activities.** There are common activities, like bird trips, and national annual activities, like environmental education, which continue.
- b. **Updating the Pasvik-Inari action plan.** Trilateral cooperation is working according to the current Action plan containing 51 actions. It has approved to be a good tool. It is suggested to update the action plan with short description of the nature protected areas, and concentrate on objectives and strategies and concrete actions. There would be draft available on next year, and when the current action plan expires in 2018, there would be a ready updated plan. Norway can take the lead in updating the plan, and Russia and Finland give their input for the common plan.

Edward Zatona informed that year 2017 is Year of ecology in Russia. Attention is paid on recycling and waste management, and municipalities are having intensive cooperation with nature protection areas. Aim is as well in promoting nature tourism.

Nature tourism is included in the Pasvik-Inari action plan: for example pilot trip covering the three countries was organized to managers of European transboundary nature protection areas. Round-trip for other target groups could be included to the new action plan. It was notified, that bird watching is an increasing field of nature tourism.

Advisory board decided, that updating of the joint plan is to be started.



- c. **EUROPARC-cooperation: preparation for re-verification in 2018.** Cooperation has worked on the recommendations given in the previous re-verification. Finland offered to lead the re-verification process in 2017. Pirjo Seurujärvi concluded, that is important to have valid certification as transboundary park. Advisory board accepted this target for year 2017.
- d. **Planning new projects for ENI CBC –programme.** We are waiting for the new funding programme to begin and the call for project applications to open. Two project plans were introduced, which both provide possibilities for Pasvik-Inari cooperation. Arctic Network of nature education and tourism – plan led by Metsähallitus aims at developing operational cooperation between nature centers and creating new services together with tourism entrepreneurs. Plan called TransConnet and led by Finnish Environment Institute concentrates on connectivity of existing NPA's and on inventories of valuable areas and thus creating green belts.

Advisory board agreed on this target too.

7. Other items

- a. **Grense Jakobselv/ Vuorjiema –seminar.** Pasvik Reserve, Russian and Norwegian botanic researchers and Office of the Finnmark County Governor implemented the seminar discussing the natural and cultural values of the area, also a field trip to the area was arranged. Intensive mapping of natural values and species has been made on the Russian side: there are numerous red list –species in the area. Vladimir Chizov concluded, that the area should have a status as nature protection area – preferably not as strictly preserved as a nature reserve is.

On the Norwegian side the natural values for some biotopes are mapped and known, and the cultural heritage of the area is important the area is part of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. But because of the privately owned lands and because there are no current protection plans, a specific protection status is not planned. Note was made by Tiia Kalske, that in the past the Russian area has been part of Finland. There is common trilateral cultural heritage in the area.

- b. **Norwegian-Finnish transboundary water commission.** Next meeting of the commission will take place in Saariselkä in few weeks. Tourism will be discussed and many water-related issues are on the agenda – like impact of gold prospecting on waters in Lemmenjoki and Ivalojoki rivers. Members of the commission from Norway and Finland (ELY-centre, Office of the Finnmark County Governor, and municipalities) and observers from Russia will participate. It is a good forum dating back to national agreement made in 1980.

Vladimir Chizov pointed out, that water level regulations in Lake Inarijärvi and River Pasvik has effect in the Pasvik Reserve. Jari Pasanen noted that there is an own



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trilateral commission for the water regulations in Lake Inarijärvi, but the NO-FI water commission will also discuss this topic in their next meeting.

Pirjo Seurujärvi suggested, that it would be interesting to have a presentation about water issues in Lake Inarijärvi and about projects carried out by ELY-centre in the next AB meeting. It was decided that working group will cooperate with Jari Pasanen.

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

- i. Teuvo Katajamaa, Municipality of Inari:** Councilman in the municipality of Inari has signed out, and the process for finding new one is going on. The road from Ivalo to village of Nellim and further to Virtaniemi will be repaired.
- ii. Vladimir Chizov, Pasvik zapovednik:** There are new researchers working in the reserve, and for example new nature cameras and other equipment are used in the monitoring work. New visitor center in Nikel will get ready in November this year, and partners are invited to the opening event in the beginning of 2017. The new center provides good place for meetings. Year 2017 will be 25th anniversary of the Pasvik Reserve. There is cooperation with municipality and reserve, and in order to promote nature tourism a new path to Korablek-mountain will be built.
- iii. Edward Zaton, Pechenga Region:** He is for the first time attending Pasvik-Inari Advisory board meeting. It is a common effort to nurse the ecological heritage.
- iv. Andrew Ponomarev, Municipality of Nikel:** It is difficult to add anything. September 11th will be a celebration day in Nikel – welcome to participate in festivities!
- v. Trygve Sarajärvi, Municipality of Sør Varanger:** The municipality is working actively to implement the EU's water frame directive, River Pasvik being one of focal points for the work. There is a project on monitoring influence of households to the water quality in River Pasvik this year. Survey was send to 600 owners of cottages, houses and farms – from 40 % answers were received. Municipality and the local inhabitants are worried about the pollution from Nikel, and this issue will be discussed in meetings between Norwegian and Russian ministries. Results from two different EU projects on water quality and food and health security in Pasvik area are collected to a popular report, and information has been given to local people. Some alarming results have been found in natural foods (wild berries, mushrooms and fish). The plan for extending the road going through Pasvik Valley with five more kilometers to Norwegian-Finnish border, is not going forward in Norway.

The meeting was paused at 1.30 pm as the field excursion to River Juutua began. The meeting was continued on Thursday morning at 9 am.

- vi. Tiia Kalske, Office of the Finnmark County Governor:** There are reorganizations in the level of municipalities, regions and the state aiming at



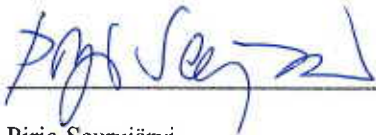
decreasing numbers of units and combining working areas. Process is not yet ready, and the result is unknown.

- vii. **Øvre Pasvik National Park Board, Tiia Kalske on the behalf of Park manager Rolf Sch. Kollstrøm (Attachments 4 and 5):** The current activities in the national park are mapping of biodiversity and Sámi cultural heritage, and arranging events for schools under “Join a researcher” to bird ringing and mapping old forests. Visitor strategy is being developed, and the work is based on new infrastructure (information point, shelters) for recreational use.
- viii. **Anne Wikan, Nibio Svanhovd:** The institute is running and planning several projects, and following ones include Trilateral Park’s area. There is a plan for fresh-water fishing project covering whole of Finnmark, North of Lapland, Murmansk and Karelia, common meetings are coming up. There is a project on genetics of farmed trout in River Pasvik together with Pasvik Kraft Energy – company. Partners are working together in marine pollution –project in Svanhovd’s PNC project this year.
- ix. **Jari Pasanen, ELY-centre:** Organisation has gone through several changes. Mining activities in Lapland require Natura-statements and it will keep the centre busy. Natura-hearings are on the go: background information is collected of existing protected areas. Several Interreg –projects are in implementation or in application phase: 1. river restoration work for salmon population in River Simojoki; 2. application for juvenile salmon in River Tana-river: information will be collected and changed between research institutes and municipalities, and there is linkage to tourism through infrastructure and catch of salmon; 3. application for landscape management planning in Kilpisjärvi area.
- x. **Jyrki Tolonen, Metsähallitus:** New act on Metsähallitus got ready in spring. There was big political discussion about roles of business units and Parks & Wildlife Finland prior to it, but after all changes were not so big. Biggest change in Northern Lapland is, that business units manage areas (350 000 ha) nearby roads and f. ex. around River Juutua. Executive director of Parks & Wildlife and Managing director of Metsähallitus will change in two weeks. Vätsäri Wilderness Area’s management plan is being renewed: in future dog-sledging will be allowed on Lake Inari, and no new licenses are given for building Skolt Sámi fishing bases. Number of visitors in national parks is increasing and there are new customers from Asian countries – especially from China, Japan and South Korea. This new customer group is provided with paths nearby the hotels and other services and cooperation with entrepreneurs is intensified in order to guide the Asian visitors. Malla Strict Nature Reserve celebrates its 100 year anniversary. Kevo Strict Nature Reserve and Lemmenjoki National Park are having their 60-years-anniversary this year.

There was a short discussion about number of reindeer, coverage of lichen, monitoring of the state of pastures and possibilities to build fences around Malla Strict Nature Reserve in Finland.



8. **Next meeting date and venue.** Next Advisory board meeting will take place in Norway for example in Stabbursdalen (Porsanger Municipality), where Lesser white-fronted geese are resting in the autumn, and the preliminary dates are August 22nd-24th 2017 (week 34).
9. **Closing of the meeting.** Jyrki Tolonen concluded, that the meeting has been good, and there are fine plans for next year's and future work. The cooperation is going strong, and like this it is wanted to be. Hopefully there will be external funding for the planned projects. The chair closed the meeting on August 25th at 9.50 am.



Pirjo Seurujärvi
Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife
Finland



Vladimir Chizov
Pasvik State Strict Nature Reserve



Tiia Kalske
Office of the Finnmark County
Governor



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