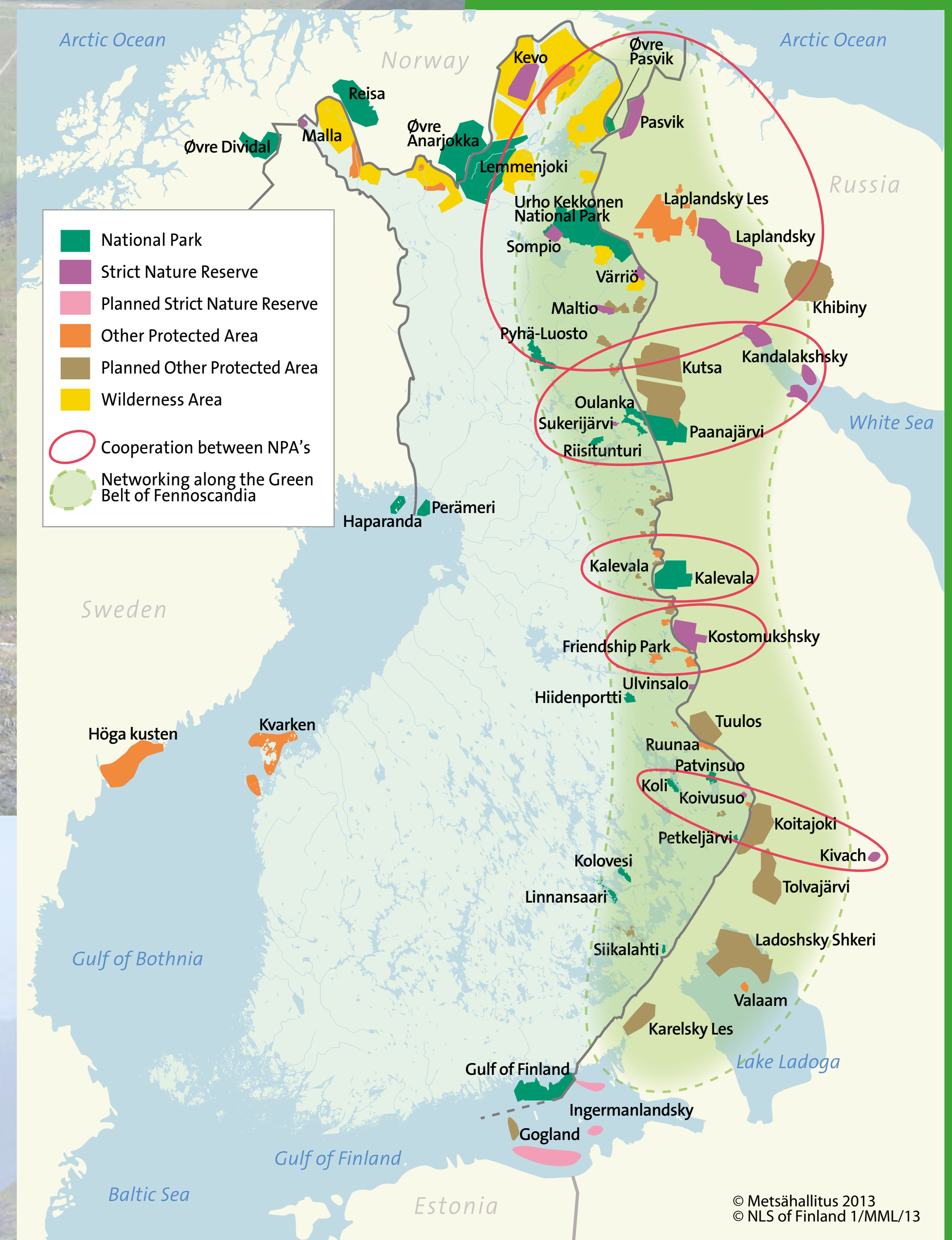


Our Common Arctic Heritage - Developing the Trilateral Cooperation along the Northernmost Part of Green Belt Fennoscandia

National borders are nothing more than artificial lines drawn on a map. These borders do not represent actual natural habitats or define traditional human livelihoods and ways of using nature. Nature and cultural history in the northern Fennoscandia – Norway, Finland and Russia – form our common heritage.

Widening the trilateral cooperation on a larger geographical scale

Three countries, three different currencies, three different time zones and six languages. Ten partners presenting managers of nature protected areas, research institutes and governmental organizations. Six hundred kilometers to be covered in south-north direction. The joint project "ABCgheritage – Arctic Biological, Cultural and Geological heritage" was carried out in the years 2012–2015. Main aims were to increase the knowledge and sustainable use of our nature protection and recreational areas and to develop new networks under the Green Belt of Fennoscandia initiative.



Long-lasting results

Basis for sustainable tourism taking place in vulnerable, arctic nature protection areas is **infrastructure along with knowledge** offered about biodiversity, cultural and geological heritage of the area. New infrastructure and information signs were built: bridges, duck-boards and campfire sites guide the visitors to a sustainable recreational use. The built infrastructure is maintained by the rangers and managers of the nature protection areas. Information posts increase knowledge about the protected areas among visitors.

Geological and cultural heritage inventories were made and created the basis for **multilingual educational materials** requested and needed by our target groups – teachers, pupils and nature tourism entrepreneurs. A guidebook promoting cross-border geotourism and information boards presenting results of the laser-scanning surveys (LiDAR) made on cultural heritage sites are fine examples. Maps, guidebooks, brochures, games, travelling exhibition, documentary films and a mobile guiding service –app were among the other products we produced.

Activated networks along Green Belt of Fennoscandia were formed especially by schools. Existing network of Norwegian and Russian schools, teachers and pupils implementing Phenology of North Calotte -programme was complemented with Finnish schools. Future possibilities and development needs were defined in a regional development plan for Green Belt Fennoscandia and in a Development plan for Geotourism in Khibiny area and Pyhä-Luosto National Park.

Future cooperation based on active and good partnerships as well as good results

Project partners are actively taking part in the national and international development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. New project applications are in preparation to future EU cross-border cooperation programmes in order to develop and continue the fruitful work.

ABCgheritage – Arctic Biological, Cultural and Geological heritage –project (KO368)

Partners:

- Norway: NIBIO Svanhovd, County Governor of Finnmark, Finnmark County Authority and Nordland Research Institute
- Russia: Geological Institute of the Kola Science Centre, Lapland State Natural Biosphere Reserve and Pasvik State Nature Reserve
- Finland: Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Lapland, Geological Survey of Finland and Metsähallitus (Lead Partner)

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Project website:
www.metsa.fi/fi/web/en/abcgheritage

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