

Report from the working group Pasvik-Inari Transboundary Area cooperation

**Incl. agenda for the Advisory Board meeting
22.-23.9.2025, Svanvik Norway**

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and presentation of the participants
2. Selection of chair and secretary
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Important information from each organization (c. 5-10 minutes each)
5. Current situation in cross-border cooperation: Issues for discussion and information from Pasvik-Inari cooperation, incl. report from the working group on implementation of the bilateral work, so far in 2025
6. Targets for year 2026
7. Status updates Interreg Aurora projects, CLAP and Our Precious Transboundary Waters
8. Other items
9. Next meeting
10. Closing of the meeting



5. Current situation in cross-border cooperation: Issues for discussion and information. Report from the working group.

5a. Management and cooperation:

EUROPARC-cooperation: EUROPARC
Federation re-evaluation on-site visit results
from April 2025: report from the verifier.

Primary fields of work:

- Official cooperation agreement: signed
- Vision and mission: revised and approved by email
- Stakeholder involvement: Involvement of the youth in Pasvik-Inari cooperation: status development.



Photo: Tiia Kalske



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

Transboundary Parks...following nature's design

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT – Pasvik-Inari Transboundary Area

Agreement between Metsähallitus Parks&Wildlife Finland, County Governor of Troms and Finnmark and Øvre Pasvik National Park Board Norway.

Article 1 – Purpose

Purpose of this agreement is to uphold and carry on the active cross-border nature protection and management cooperation between the signatories and the mentioned protected areas. The region is navigating complex environmental and geopolitical challenges, and with shifts in international relations since 2022, the cooperative framework has also evolved. Two Russian protected areas are no longer part of the transboundary collaboration, and as a result, the area now continues under the name Pasvik-Inari Transboundary Area, reflecting its current partnerships. The commitment to protecting nature, fostering sustainable management, and promoting dialogue across borders remains. Since 2024/ 2025 Norway and Finland continue a bilateral nature protected cooperation in the Pasvik-Inari Transboundary Area.

Vision and Mission for Pasvik-Inari Transboundary Area

Pasvik-Inari Transboundary Area is a unique cooperation for the benefit of nature and people.

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

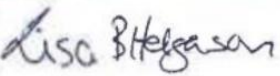
Pasvik-Inari transboundary area cooperation consists of five (5) nature protection areas. Two (2) in Finland and three (3) in Norway. These areas are situated in two municipalities, Inari Municipality in Finland and Ser-Varanger Municipality in Norway. The protected areas are managed by three (3) different management bodies, listed in article 2.

Article 2 – General matters and scope

In Finland, Metsähallitus Parks&Wildlife Finland is the management authority for the Väsäri Wilderness Reserve and Lake Inari Natura 2000 Area, both protected areas are situated in Inari Municipality Lapland County. In Norway, County Governor of Troms and Finnmark is the management authority for Pasvik Nature reserve, Øvre Pasvik National Park Board is the management authority for Øvre Pasvik National Park and Øvre Pasvik Landscape protection Area. All three protected areas are situated in Ser-Varanger Municipality Finnmark County.

Article 3 – Application and validity

This agreement can be terminated in writing with one year's notice to the signatories' organisations. The agreement becomes valid at the moment of signing. The agreement exists in four (4) language versions: English, Finnish, Norwegian and Inari Sámi.

Enontekiö Finland, 6.5.2025	Tromsø Norway, 7.5.2025	Svanvik Norway, 14.05.2025
 Pekka Suikava Metsähallitus Parks&Wildlife Finland	 Lisa Bjørnsdatter Helgason County Governor of Troms and Finnmark	 Kurt Wikan Øvre Pasvik National Park

Vision and Mission

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An updated vision and mission statement for the cooperation, was worked out by the Pasvik-Inari TBA working group, and sent for comments and approval in the Advisory Board.

Updated vision and mission approved via e-mail by the Advisory Board, by May 15th, 2025

Finland

Lapland ELY-Centre: Jari Pasanen

Inari municipality: Jaana Seipiharju

Metsähallitus, Parks&Wildlife Finland:

Riina Tervo

Norway

Øvre Pasvik National Park Board: Kurt Wikan

Sør-Varanger municipality: Ida Helland

County Governor of Troms and Finnmark:

Lisa Helgason



Stakeholder involvement

- The youth council of the Municipality of Inari has announced to be interested in in part Pasvik-Inari cooperation. In which way, is still open.
- The Sámi parliament in Finland has nominated a member into Advisory Board.



Foto: Biotope AS.



Illustration: Yara Nieuwenhuis based of Photo by Rolf Kollstrøm



Pasvikseminaret 2019 Foto: SFTF

Issues to discuss and decide on

- Logo: status for tender/ procurement, incl. short brainstorm session on background info to designer.
- Update of guiding rules: discussion and approval
- Joint website updating - status and discussion. Pasvik – Inari Trilateral Park

Brain storming

- Kirisi will give us the task...

Guiding rules for the Pasvik-Inari **Transboundary Area** cooperation

1. Cooperation is coordinated by a working group and supervised and guided by an Advisory Board. Cooperation follows the timetable of the jointly agreed annual cycle.
2. The members and deputy members of the Advisory Board are nominated by the participating organisations. Participating organisations are; the cooperating nature protection area authorities, relevant municipalities and **other relevant authorities** in each country, i.e. **environmental authorities and Sami Parliament/ organisations**.
3. Members of the working group are nominated by the national organisation responsible for the nature protection areas taking part in the cooperation.
4. Relevant observers¹ can be invited to take part in the **cross-border** cooperation and its annual meetings.
5. The level of involvement in the cooperation is defined internally by each participating organisation according to the current resources.
6. The Advisory Board holds annual meetings.
7. The working group holds at least one annual meeting (other meetings according to resources and tasks at hand).
8. A chairperson and a secretary of the Advisory Board are chosen for one-year period, and the place of the annual meeting is rotated between Finland and Norway every year.
9. The hosting country keeps the record of the meetings.
10. The official working language is English, essential documents are translated to national languages.
11. The Advisory Board is a steering and if needed a decision-making body in international cooperation actions in areas concerning issues mentioned in the Action Plan.
12. The Advisory Board can give statements and recommendations regarding development and the management of the nature protection areas in accordance with national legislation and issues mentioned in the Action Plan.
13. Topical working groups can be assigned by the Advisory Board when considered necessary.
14. Chair and secretary of the working group(s) are chosen for one-year period and the hosting country is responsible for record keeping.
15. The working group(s) reports and makes suggestions on joint actions to the Advisory Board at the annual **Advisory Board** meeting.
16. Each County carries the costs of their own participants.

*These Guiding rules were adopted by the Pasvik-Inari **Transboundary Area** cooperation Advisory Board at their annual meeting **xx.xx.2025***

Draft revised Guiding rules Discussion and Approval?

¹ Examples of relevant observers can be: Environmental NGOs, representatives from indigenous and local groups, research institutes etc. This list is not exhaustive.

5b. Monitoring activities 2025

Waterfowl registrations in Norway (NIBIO):

- Spring registrations dates: 28.5. (472 ind., 26 species) and 5.6. (413 ind., 22 species)
- Autumn registrations dates: 20.8. (280 ind., 17 species) and 3.9. (357 ind., 13 species)
- Summer duckling counting: no counting on Norwegian side in 2025

Golden eagle in Finland:

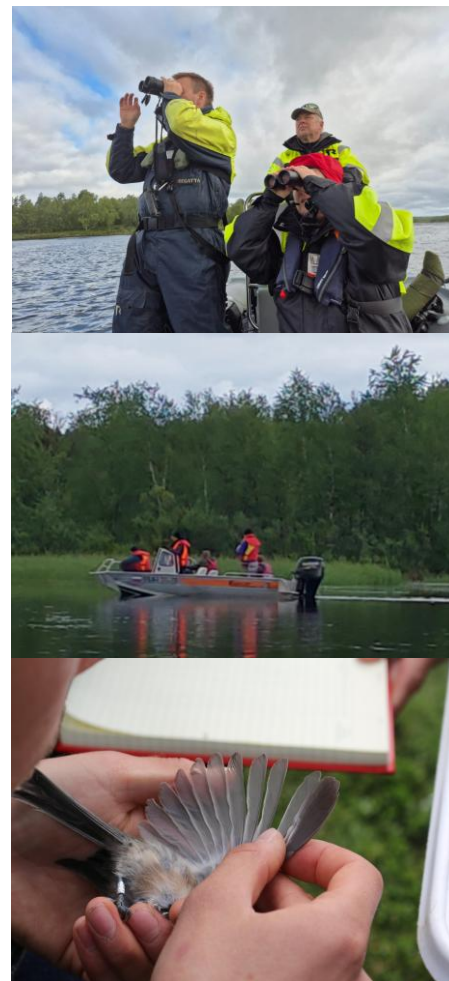
- **FI:** In the municipalities of Inari and Utsjoki altogether 61 (Inari 52, Utsjoki 17) territories and 11 (Inari 9, Utsjoki 2) successful breedings in 2025.
- **NOR:** 2024/2025: 1 uncertain breeding at Sametti. 1 documented golden eagle damage on livestock (reindeer) at Lyngklumpen in December 2024. No other golden eagle activity other than this.

Bird ringing

- **Norway:** periode august to october at Nyrud in Pasvik NR and at Skrøytnes (mid-Pasvik). Birdlife Norway in charge of the activity. Continuing bird audio studies in Pasvik (using wildlife acoustics - "Song Meter"). BirdLife stand at Markdagen – popular activity.
- NIBIO Svanhovd together with BirdLife Norway have ringing activities to the local schools.
- **Finland:** Volunteering ornithologists are ringing birds at Mellanaapa, Ivalo, dates: 4.-11.8. and 31.8-6.9.2025

Counting visitors

Each organisation follows the visitor numbers annually. They are collected in a joint table.



Bird ringing

The database is updated for both Norway and Finland, 2015-2024.
Incl. also recapture data/ controls, when we get it from the ringing centers.



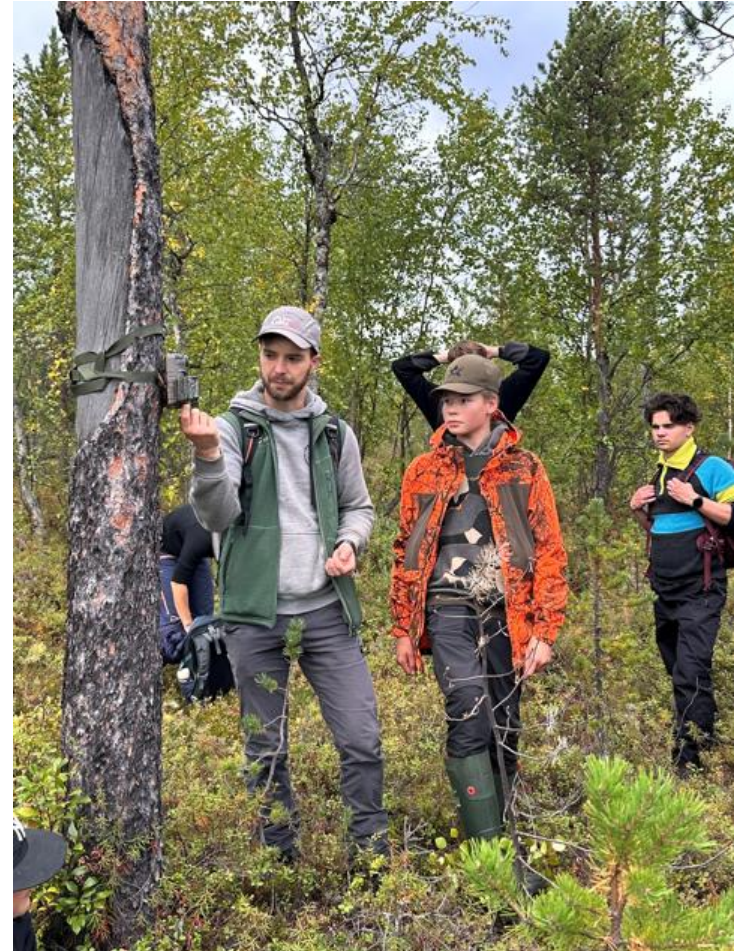
5c. Enlightenment

- Day of parks 24.5. SOME post.
- Brown bear DNA-laboratory in Finland.
- Phenology of North Calotte in Pasvik, a few pupils from Inari taking part as well.



PNC - Phelology of the North Calotte

NIBIO Svanhovd activity



6. Targets for 2026 – suggestion from the working group

a. Management and cooperation

- Staff exchange: Evaluation of the Staff exchange program – task to WG
- Annual meetings WG and Advisory board in 2026
- EUROPARC cooperation: TaskForce, TransParcNet, STEC, annual meeting etc.
- Implement and finalize Interreg Aurora projects: OPreWa and CLAP.

6. Targets for 2026 – cont.

b. Monitoring

- Start to prep. for Brown bear monitoring in 2027, in 2026 start planning and work to secure funding.
- Continue collecting visitor numbers, bird ringing, bird registration etc.

c. Environmental enlightenment and dissemination

- Brown bear DNA-lab?
- Temporary exhibition: Illustrations by Yara Nieuwenhuis – circulation in Norway and Finland?

7. Status updates from CLAP and other Interreg Aurora projects in the Pasvik-Inari area.
8. Other issues: presentation of LAC work in Finland.
9. Next meeting in Finland 2026: time and venue
10. Closing of the meeting



Takk! Kiitos! Takkâ! Spä'sseb! Giitu!