## Protocol from the meeting of the Trilateral Advisory Board of the Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park, 3.-4. September 2008 at Bioforsk Svanhovd, Svanvik Norway

## The Trilateral Advisory Board:

- FIN Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services (Jyrki Tolonen) Lapland Regional Environment Centre Inari Municipality
- NOR The Office of Finnmark County Governor (Bente Christiansen) Sør-Varanger Municipality
- RUS Pasvik Zapovednik (Vladimir Chizov) Pechenga Administration Nikel administration (Lubov Timohina) The Regional Committee of the Nature Resources and Environmental Affairs in Murmansk region (Alexey Smirnov)
- Experts: Bioforsk Svanhovd Sør-Varanger Travel Forum (Kurt Wikan on the 4th)

Translation: Anne Sikanen

**Other participants and observers:** Tapio Tynys, Pekka Sulkava (Metsähallitus), Natalia Polikarpova, Marina Trusova, Olga Makarova, Anatoly Khohlov (Pasvik Zapovednik), Alexey Troytsky (on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ministry of Natural Recourses and Nature Conservation, Moscow), Tor-Arne Bjørn (on the 3<sup>rd</sup>), Ingvild Wartiainen (on the 4<sup>th</sup>) (Bioforsk Svanhovd), Kurt Wikan (on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Sør-Varanger Travel Forum), Tiia Kalske (secretary, County Governor of Finnmark)

Members not present: Lapland Regional Environment Centre, Inari Municipality, Sør-Varanger Municipality, Pechenga Administration

3.9.2008 17-1930

## 1. Opening

Meeting commences at 17 and is opened by Ms Christiansen. She welcomes everyone and thanks the staff at Pasvik Zapovednik for the very nice excursion to Varlamsaari. She also tells about the earlier extinct and now newly rediscovered flower, *Crepis multicaulis*, on the Varanger Peninsula inside the newly established and 30.-31.8.2008 officially opened Varanger Peninsula national park.

## 2. Presence of a quorum

Presence of a quorum was noted. Five of eight organisations are represented. Mr Chizov proposes that also the representative from Nikel administration will be taken up as a member of the Advisory Board. This was approved and Nikel administration (Ms Timohina) is a member of the Advisory Board.









### 3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with a small addition to the 6th point: Pasvik Zapovednik wants to discuss the expansion of the out door museum on Varlam Island.

### 4. Consensus of the last steering committee meeting minutes

No remarks or additions were made to the last Steering Committee minutes. Consensus of the last minutes was agreed on.

### 5. Information exchange (General status reporting from all parties)

**Finland** (Jyrki Tolonen): The process with the Europarc certification has taken up a lot of the staffs' time. The verifier from central Europe also got a clearer view, and broader understanding of the situation up north and the traditions in the area when Finland, took him on a boat trip on Lake Inari on Saturday, after the joint meeting at Svanhovd week 26 (June). Finland also has two proposals for new projects, one for the tourism part (a film) and the other for the nature management part (large carnivores). Work with the Piilola trail on the Finnish side continues as planned and will be finished in spring 2009. Markku Välitalo will start working in the outdoor staff of the park in the cooperation area. Both Tacis and Interreg final reporting has been approved from the financiers of the project. The money transfers to Russia can be done directly after the meeting.

Pekka Sulkava: brown bear, no new information, no hair snare work or occasional scat samples collected this field season. Golden Eagle: in Vätsäri area, poorest breeding season in the last 15 years time, one new territory observed and two 'swap' territories exist. The poorest breeding season in the whole of Lapland as registered the last 15 years. Waterbird countings at the River Ivalo mouth was cancelled because of heavy snowfall in the beginning of June.

Tapio Tynys: the red book (volume I and II) of endangered nature types in Finland, a several year project was finalised and the books published in spring of 2008 ("Luontotyyppien punainen kirja"). SYKE (Finnish Environment centre) was the lead partner and Metsähallitus was heavily involved in the work through all the years. The book is written in Finnish, with an English summary.

**Russia** (Vladimir Chizov): thanks the other parts for the work with the certification and Finland for the final reporting and Tacis reporting. Pasvik Zapovednik has had vivid dissemination in Russian local media, both TV and others. Other business and projects: Zapovednik has decided to start printing a news letter, they also are looking for financiers to the Varlam outdoor museum project, and the reserve has got strong support for its work from both the Nikel town administration and the natural resources committee and economic development committee of Murmansk region and the reserve is included in of a regional tourism development program. The Varlam project fits very well in to this program and is also a part of it.

Natalia Polikarpova: research, bear scats are collected and some hair samples too. There have been difficulties with financial support this field season for activities. Waterbird counting has been done twice, and is going to be done a third time within the coming week. Golden eagle: the work will commence. A first biotope and landscape mapping project has started on the Norwegian side in the Norwegian part of the twin reserves (Pasvik naturreservat). The studies have been undertaken by staff at the Pasvik Zapovednik and Moscow Sate University, and supported finically by the County Governor and practically by Bioforsk Svanhovd. Publication: all the Russian results from the Trilateral Park project has been gathered and published. The report was handed out to all participating partners.









### PROTOCOL

## Trilateral Advisory Board Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Mr Smirnov: the Governors Administration in Murmansk oblast gives their full support to the cooperation and the work done by the staff of Pasvik Zapovednik. No financial support is possible but manage mental support is. Varlam project is included in the developmental work for the tourism in the region, also looking for different possibilities to cooperate with the environmental school in Rajakoski. Rapidly changing situations in all the governmental bodies and administration also on the federal level.

Lubov Timohina: ready to support the project, protocol of intentions is signed, and Varlam project is included in the regional tourism development plan. Tourism plan is under way and the environmental school will also be supported.

**Norway** (Bente Christiansen): Directorate of nature management (DN) has asked the Norwegian Ministry of Environment to nominate 11 nature protection areas in Norway for the Emerald Network of protected areas. The three nature protection areas in Pasvik (on the Norwegian side) are 'one' of totally 11 nature protected areas in Norway nominated to be a part of this network. The network is a direct parallel to Natura 2000 areas. The areas in Pasvik are nominated as nr 1 on the list. There has been arranged one public meeting in Svanvik by the County Governor (and one in Inari by LREC) to disseminate information about the results and further plans of this project. The Pasvikprogramme summary report is finished and printed in 5 languages (English, Norwegian, Finnish, Russian and Sami). Water monitoring in the Pasvik River has proceeded this summer with a smaller project lead by Norwegian College of Fisheries (Tromsø) and financed by EU water frame directive purposes. Also a smaller project on the amounts of heavy metals in cloudberries has been conducted in Pasvik area.

Ms Christiansen also wanted to emphasise that it traditionally in these meetings has been general information about/from the whole area (f. ex the whole of Lapland, Finnmark and Murmansk region in general) where the partners act, not just for the areas closest to the border. <u>General information exchange for the whole environmental field in the regions is emphasised to the next meeting.</u>

Tiia Kalske: short about that also the Norwegian parts reporting and final reporting for the project is finalized and approved. Status for Grense Jakobsleva area, the mapping of chosen area in the vicinity of the river has been done in August; report is waited in the end of October. This area can in the future also be considered as a transbounadry protected area.

Tor Arne Bjørn: *research*; landscape mapping in Pasvik nature reserve done by staff from the Pasvik Zapovednik, financed by the County Governor and administrated and facilitated by staff at Bioforsk. *Brown bear*; Pasvik in year 2008 part of the national monitoring program (every second year) scats from the area is analysed as a part of the national program this year. Very late financing from the for implementation of the hair snare work this year, hair samples from 7 snares, 48 samples in total up to this date, still 14 days to go. *Golden Eagle*; resent information from the police at Nyrud that has to be checked out. Two *hiking maps* over the Sør-Varanger area (1:100 000), one over Pasvik valley and the other one show the northern parts of the municipality. The maps also have information of the protected areas in the municipality's area, marked paths, proposals of where to hike summer as winter time on land and water. This has been a comprehensive work, many different financing sources; Sør-Varanger municipality has been one of the parts which have contributed with a substantial part. This years, *National park project*; Bioforsk has received finances to work out an exhibition called 'Do we need the mosquitoes? Mosquitoes place in the ecosystem.' The work with this will start now. Will this exhibition bee in many languages, can it be moved? Siida is very interested. *National Bear centre*; this is a strong wish from Svanhovd. Pilot project for this has been









implemented, to plan the content of such a centre could be, and also to give a basis for decision making.

### 6. Joint Projects

### 6.1 Europarc site verification session in June – Europarc certification

Ms Kalske sums shortly up the site verification in June and delivers an unofficial report from the sessions to the main partners. It sums up strengths, weaknesses and gives recommendations.

*Discussion:* Very important to continue with the things we are good at, and then look at the recommendations and implement them after common decisions in the future. The official statement of approval as a Europarc transboundary park is on its way by regular post to Mr Tynys, Mr Chizov and Ms Christiansen. We have to analyse the official recommendations, and put them in three different categories; local, regional and national/ international level. Work with the levels we can and where we have influence. Appoint a group to work with the recommendations and who puts forward suggestions how to take the recommendations further.

Europarc also needs us, so the communication and need goes both ways. We can use their criteria but also influence them in the way we use them.

Meeting ended at 1930

### Wednesday 3.9 start 0845

Meeting commences at 0845, and with the 6th point on the agenda.

<u>The proposal to arrange two Advisory Board meetings next year was accepted.</u> The next Advisory Board meeting will be held in Russia in the beginning of March (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March 2009).

The *preparatory group* to be appointed and that has to look through the recommendations given by Europarc, put forward a suggestion on how to take them further in to our work. Also to systemise them at the different levels if possible as mentioned above.

<u>Persons appointed to the preparatory group are: Pekka Sulkava, Tapio Tynys, Tiia Kalske, Kurt Wikan,</u> <u>Natalia Polikarpova and Marina Trusova.</u>

Norway will lead/chair the work with the preparatory work with the Europarc recommendations, and will call together the group for work.

### 6.2 Europarc membership discussion

Annual membership fee (the amount varies on the basis of what level the member is, personal member or f. ex an organisation). The membership has to be applied for. It is up to every individual participating organisation if they want to apply for membership. But more members, we would stand stronger in the Nordic-Baltic section of the federation. Natural Heritage Services already have 6 memberships in total and two of them are in Lapland (Lapland NHS and Pallas-Ylläs National Park). Could the Trilateral Park apply for a membership? This is not supported, because it would give difficulties in elections and other voting.









Finland is asked to look up the membership prices, pros and cones with a membership to the next meeting.

# 6.3 Pasvik-Inari project follow up of actions/Report from the preparatory working group: actions for 2009

Actions Finland: Mr Sulkava: *short time actions;* Preparations for application to Wolverine LIFE + project under way, Finland and Sweden continue the application process, because the financing instrument do not allow activities in Norway or Russia. This would be the first LIFE+ project on wolverine, there has been several projects on lynx and polar fox. So the out look for financing possibilities by this instrument looks very promising. The main aims are monitoring, demography, dissemination of information, problem individuals and protection. The whole wolverine population should be the aim of the project. In addition to the LIFE one could also include the other big predators to get all the partners interested to cooperate. Finland and Sweden make the use of LIFE money to map the wolverine, Norway and Russia could find finances to participate and apply finances through ENPI-instrument. In the border area the focus could be on the brown bear research. ENPI-instrument approved by Norway and Russia, open call for proposals in October 2008.

*Discussion;* Ms Makarova and Ms Polikarpova, research and all the four big carnivores are very important. Of course we have the will to study all four but finances area very scarce, transporting costs high etc. We have also put down a lot of time and resources and concentrated on Brown Bear research, all the four species need their respective methods. Ms Makarova asks if there is financing possibilities in the future from the regional administration in Murmansk. To this Mr Smirnov answers that; very little chance for that, because the Zapovednik is a federal organ, so the regional budgets are not available for them, all financing have to come from the federal level. Monitoring and research on big carnivores is a federal responsibility, and the financing must come from federal budgets, though the work could be done on the regional level. To get finances for a project like this one must have a ready project and results to show to, there have been examples where the regional level has got finances from the federal level, but no money for pilot projects is available. The natural resources and environmental committee that Mr Smirnov chairs do not either have the responsibility for animals/ predators; it is the jurisdiction for the veterinary committee.

Mr Sulkava: LIFE+ is only for EU countries. He is in contact with NINA in Trondheim (Norwegian Institute of Nature Administration/research). There could be synergic effects if one apply for other finances at the same time, one can show to that there is LIFE+ financing in the cooperation area, this can give better possibilities to get f. ex ENPI financing. <u>Finland can again take the lead part in an application process together with this LIFE+ application that already is on its way!</u> As for the other actions Golden Eagle work continues on the Finnish side with own finances. The cultural projects are mid term actions and do not have any direct activities for the time being.

<u>Contact persons from both Norway and Russia take contact with Mr Sulkava, to find out what way to go further; there are questions that can not be taken further today.</u> The manage mental authorities in Norway has to be involved in one way or another, if there is planned activities on questions that concern the management of the species. The practical work is of course done by research institutions.

Actions Russia: *The Database;* simple program and an easy set up. Russian partner can be responsible now n the beginning for data punching. In future all partners punch their own data into the database. Data on waterbird counting, brown bear and insects (Lepidoptera) is already punched into the base. All partners have received a disc over the database. Russia needs and wants to









continue the work with the database. Ms Polikarpova shortly presentes/ demonstrates the data base.

*Discussion and questions:* The place for such a database and who will have the responsibility and maintenance for it have to be discussed and decided on. Should there be one responsible person from every country or a group? Take this question into the monitoring work, and have it as a part of it. People responsible for monitoring questions in the action plan are asked to put forward a suggestion on these questions on the next meeting.

Web pages; Translations to the web pages; Translation of all the information to all languages will continue. Every country has the responsibility to check their respective language; the English version is a 'collective' responsibility. Everybody has to follow up their own language and report any problems etc. to Ms Kalske for both the national languages and the collective English language. The County Governor has the responsibility for updating and corrections on the pages for the years 2008-2009, contract with Finnish consultants who update the pages on the reports from the CGF, three times a year (1.5., 1.9. and 1.12.). Check also that the www.pasvik-inari.net link is linked to the main pages for the main partners (short time action in the action plan).

*Production of information materials to school children;* F. ex. a brochure meant for children, telling about Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park, Pasvik Zapovednik can take the lead in organising work like this. They also have some money to carry out a smaller project like this. Want to use the experiences from the ecological school. <u>Russia takes the lead and contacts the responsible person/s for this action in Norway for further planning for possible action on this field.</u>

*Varlam Island Open Air museum and the pilot trip.* The project has an international character and Pasvik Zapovednik follows it up, the Varlam project is also a part of the regional tourism plan in Russia. To arrange the pilot tour via Virtaniemi, Varlam is a part of this plan on the Russian side. This can be a very attractive product for tourism in the future.

The Advisory Board can give recommendations; <u>an outdoor museum can contribute greatly to the</u> <u>cooperation and to the vitality of the area.</u> The Advisory Board will give its support/ back up the <u>Russian part on this (no financial support though!).</u>

Actions Norway: establish links to the Pasvik-Inari web site from their own web sites (done), update the internal and public web site, and seek possibilities for creating interactive map for the web, opening of the 'Piilola Wilderness Trail' (in 2009), press releases/general dissemination activities, common read list, landscape mapping (ØP NR by PZ staff), promote and support monitoring activities on key species, make joint TP 'hiking map', promote and support ecological school and phenology project, certification of tour guides in the area (project proposed by K. Wikan)

Mr Wikan: *certificating nature tourism guides*. Today many different certification systems exist on the field of nature tourism. Finland have their wilderness guide system, Sweden has 'Naturens bästa' etc. Russia does not have any system like this to certify nature tourism guides. Norway has: GRIP (<u>www.grip.no</u>). It would be important for the authorities, tourists and tourism businesses that there would be a coherent certification system, an internationally harmonised and authorised certification system for all the countries, including themes as nature, history and first aid etc. On Svalbard all businesses have to have authorised guides to act on the Islands. The person who worked out the certification system on Svalbard lives in Kirkenes. This would be a big project with many actors, but none the less of importance for this area. We have to gather more information of the different









#### PROTOCOL

## Trilateral Advisory Board Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

systems, and take this also up in the permanent tourism group. Maybe the Finnish system or the Swedish system could be implemented also in Norway and Russia? What is the Nature tourism working groups' attitude towards this proposal? <u>This matter has to be taken up on the next meeting or by e-mail in the forum.</u> On the Finnish side the Sami educational centre (Saamelais koulutus keskus) can be a natural partner to contact in this matter. To the Finnish system there are always educational events and meetings linked. <u>The Nature tourism working group is asked to work out a suggestion to this issue and present this later to the AB.</u>

Pasvik-Inari logo use: In principle two criteria for the use of the logo have to be fulfilled: 1) to follow the guidelines of sustainable nature tourism that has been agreed upon in the project and 2) that the businesses who want to use the logo has its activities in the Pasvik-Inari area. The logo use is administered and supervised by the respectively country. The cooperation hopes that as many Nature tourism business as possible wants to start using the logo and promote it in their fora. But of course there has to be some kind of supervision and agreements signed so the logo is not misused.

Interactive map for the web: Russia has applied for finances from WWF to work out an interactive map over the Zapovednik area. This matter for the whole Trilateral Park area can also be taken up further in a possible dissemination working group.

#### 5.1 Proposal to a permanent working group on nature monitoring: Pekka Sulkava

Mr Sulkava; the aims and roles of such a possible future working group, we have a long list of actions to implement in the action plan, now we do not want to create anything new just to reserve time for the people responsible for monitoring questions in the action plan to meet and take these questions further.

### 5.2 Plan for possible Trilateral film project: presented by Tapio Tynys (45 min)

Mr Tapio Tynys presents a proposition to a possible future film project ('Last frontier' by: Petteri Saario). A high quality short film with the countries, nature landscapes, history and people. It could be a personal and strong description of people in the area, not just targeted at tourists in the area but also the local inhabitants, to f. ex describe the area through three persons and follow their everyday life and describe their relationship to the northern nature. DocArt is a well known and recognised nature film producer in Finland. Mr Saario has been working with other projects in Norway and Northern Finland, he is also specialised in underwater filming. On the following link you can find out more www.wildfin.com. An 8-12 minutes film has an approximately price of 60-100 000 €, and for 50 minutes film the approximate price is 300-500 000€. Time plan: start in spring 2010, the film finished in autumn 2011. If we want to for this, it has to be rooted in the NT working group, contact persons in all three countries has to be pointed out to really work with this. Bioforsk Svanhovd is also important to have on the team. Tapio Tynys is the natural leader for this work. The AB has to be very creative concerning the financing of such a project. Finances could be applied from f. ex. Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Barents Secretariat, private businesses, mining companies and others.

*Discussion:* decision on a long or short film. Target groups and purposes where the film will be shown and distributed have to be discussed. A 50 minute film is too long to be shown at national park centres. We take as a starting point the short version; and see if we can finance that first, possibly make both if we can finance the long version? The project has also probably to be submitted for tender procedures also. Some financiers demand tender procedures to finance projects. The film also has to be made on all the national languages. The Advisory Board sees this as a fine and interesting









proposal and wants to carry on. A concrete proposal on the budget and other facts to be put forward and discussed on the next meeting. Make the final decision then.

### 5.3 Piilola Wilderness' Trail status and plans for opening the trail

This point will be taken up on the next meeting. Then a more detailed plan can be worked out.

# 5.4 Report from the permanent working group on Nature tourism in the Pasvik-Inari area (logo/name protection, new members etc.)

Ms Kalske shortly reported from the annual meeting of the permanent working group on nature tourism. The main points and decisions were; new members appointed in Russia (Nikel Administration and Barents Travel) and Finland (Inarin Lapin Matkailu RY), short information (main results and future plans) about the Pasvik-Inari project, plans for the opening of Piilola trail in 2009, discussion on the logo use, and transferring the chairmanship for 2009 to Russia.

## <u>Protection of the logo:</u> AB asks every country to check out in time for the next meeting the procedures and prices for the logo protection are.

### 7. Conclusions and recommendations from the meeting

The need for two Advisory Board meetings was recognised. Here will all the conclusions and recommendations from Europarc federation be discussed and decided on. The signing of this protocol will be done on the next meeting. Se annex 1 for all the conclusions and recommendations from this meeting.

8. Other business

No other business.

### 9. Chairmanship and the next annual meeting in 2009

<u>The chairmanship for the trilateral work (Advisory Board) was transferred to Russia and the next</u> <u>meeting held will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> of March in Russia</u> (Nikel or Rajakoski). All papers (copies of passport and copy of visas) have to bee sent in before the end of January, to get the border zone permits in time for the meeting. Mr Chizov also pointed out that the town of Nikel can be opened from January 2009, but this is very uncertain and preliminary information.

**10. Meeting closure** The meeting was closed at 12.10

Bente Christiansen Head of the Environmental Department County Governor of Finnmark

Tolonen

Jyrki Tolonen Regional Director of Lapland Metsähallitus (NHS)

Vladimir Chizov Director State Nature Reserve 'Pasvik'









### PROTOCOL

## Trilateral Advisory Board Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

#### Annex 1. Conclusions and recommendations from the meeting

- Nikel administration (Ms Timohina) is taken up as a member of the Advisory Board.
- General information exchange for the whole environmental field in the regions (Finnmark, Lapland and Murmansk oblast) is emphasised to the next meeting.
- The proposal to arrange two Advisory Board meetings next year was accepted. The chairmanship for the trilateral work (Advisory Board) was transferred to Russia and the next meeting held will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> of March in Russia
- Persons appointed to the preparatory group to work out a suggestion on the basis of the recommendations from Europarc federation are: Pekka Sulkava, Tapio Tynys, Tiia Kalske, Kurt Wikan, Natalia Polikarpova and Marina Trusova. Norway will lead/chair the work with the preparatory work with the Europarc recommendations, and will call together the group for work.
- It is up to every individual participating organisation if they want to apply for membership. But Finland is though asked to look up the membership prices, pros and cones with a membership to the next meeting.
- Finland can again take the lead part in a possible ENPI application process together with this LIFE+ application that already is on its way! *Contact persons from both Norway and Russia take contact with Mr Sulkava, to find out what way to go further.*
- Common database: People responsible for monitoring questions in the action plan are asked to put forward a suggestion on these questions on the next meeting.
- Common web pages: Every country has the responsibility to check their respective national language; the English version is a 'collective' responsibility. Check also that the www.pasvikinari.net link is linked to the main pages for the main partners (short time action in the action plan).
- Information materials to schoolchildren: Russia takes the lead and contacts the responsible person/s for this action in Norway for further planning for possible action on this field.
- Varlam outdoor museum: an outdoor museum can contribute greatly to the cooperation and to the vitality of the area. The Advisory Board will give its support/ back up the Russian part on this (NO financial support can be promised at this stage).
- The question on a harmonised certification system for nature tourism guides in the Pasvik-Inari area. This matter has to be taken up on the next NT working group meeting or by e-mail in the NT forum. The Nature tourism working group is also asked to work out a suggestion to this issue and later present this to the Advisory Board.
- Pasvik-Inari logo use: In principle two criteria for the use of the logo have to be fulfilled: 1) to follow the guidelines of sustainable nature tourism that has been agreed upon in the project and 2) that the businesses who want to use the logo has its activities in the Pasvik-Inari area. The logo use is administered and supervised by the respectively country.
- The short film 'Last frontier': The Advisory Board sees this as a fine and interesting proposal and wants to carry on. The film also has to be made on all the national languages. A concrete proposal on the budget and other facts to be put forward and discussed on the next meeting. Make the final decision then.
- *Protection of the logo:* AB asks every country to check out in time for the next meeting the procedures and prices for the logo protection are.







