

Pasvik Inari

Trilateral Park

Minutes of the Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park Advisory Board meeting 2015

Venue: Murmansk region, settlement of Verkhnetulomsky, Russia (Tourist base “Lesnaya”)

Date: 26-28.08.2015

Participants:

Norway: Bente Christiansen, Head of the Environmental Department, Office of the Finnmark County Governor, Norway; Tiia Kalske, Senior Adviser, Environmental Department, Office of the Finnmark County Governor, Norway; Anne Wikan, Deputy Director, NIBIO

Absent members: Kurt Wikan, Øvre Pasvik National Park Management Board and Trygve Sarajaervi, Sør-Varanger Municipality

Finland: Jyrki Tolonen, Regional Director, Metsähallitus, Lapland; Riina Tervo, project manager, Metsähallitus; Teuvo Katajamaa, Mayor, Inari municipality;

Absent members: Pirjo Seurujärvi, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife; Päivi Lundvall, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Russia: Vladimir Chizhov, Director, Pasvik Reserve; Natalia Polikarpova, Deputy Director on science, Pasvik Reserve; Oxana Krotova, specialist, Pasvik Reserve; Sergey Gonchar, Chief Administrator of Pechenga municipality; representatives of Norilsk Nickel; Elena Babina, interpreter.

Absent members: Marina Trusova, deputy director on eco-enlightenment; Olga Makarova, scientist; Andrew Ponomarev, head of Nikel administration

1. Opening of the meeting

Vladimir Chizhov, Bente Christiansen and Jyrki Tolonen opened the meeting.

2. Selection of the chairman and secretary

Chairman: V. Chizhov; secretary: O. Krotova

3. Adoption of the agenda 2015 and signing of the minutes from 2014

Agenda was adopted with no changes. The minutes from of the Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park Advisory Board meeting held on August 25-27, 2014, was signed.

4. Introduction of the participants

All the participants introduced themselves and greeted each other. Anne Wikan informed the participants that Bioforsk Svanhovd was given a new name, NIBIO - Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research.

5. Fulfilment of the targets in 2014-2015:

a. Implementation of ENPI CBC Kolarctic ABCG Heritage project and its results

Riina Tervo informed the attendees about the results of ENPI CBC ABCG Heritage project: website of the project, two films about the Trilateral Park, travelling exhibition 'Green Belt of Fennoscandia', book 'Hans Schaanning – the first ornithologist of Pasvik', puzzles 'Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park', workshops for people aimed at utilizing natural materials, different learning games and materials. The project was over in May, 2015; the final report was sent to financier (JMA). The results of the project are currently in use in order to disseminate knowledge about natural, cultural and geological heritage along the Green Belt of Fennoscandia.

Oxana Krotova emphasized that all the achievements within the framework of the project had been achieved thanks to the joint efforts of the stakeholders and the partners.

b. Results of ENPI CBC Kolarctic project 'Environmental Trilateral Cooperation' (TEC-project).

Bente Christiansen presented the main results from TEC-project, including information on the field research carried out within the framework of the project, impact of metallurgical production on the nature of Pasvik, regulation of Lake Inari and the impact from the hydropower stations on the Paz/ Pasvik River. High content of heavy metals (Ni and Cu and others) in the lake sediments was identified, the highest concentrations are observed within a radius of 10 km from Nikel. The conclusion is based on long term measurement data and monitoring of the water chemistry which started in 2004. History of climate changes in the period from 1975 till 2013 show that the temperature of water in the upper part of the river (Vaggatem area) has raised by 2 degrees and it affects the hydrology. All reports are available at www.ely-keskus.fi and www.pasvikmonitoring.org. Elevated levels of mercury are identified in several locations in the river, in lake sediments of the small lakes, as well as in fish. Levels of mercury above background levels are registered in Norway, Finland, Sweden and also Russia. Sources are both, long transported and local/ regional. An international (trilateral) project aimed at studying food safety and health issues was carried out; the report is planned to be published in October 2015.

Vladimir Chizhov invited Pechenga district to take part in the project and addressed Sergey Gonchar, chief administrator of Pechenga district.

Sergey Gonchar expressed his readiness to take part in the project.

Natalia Polikarpova presented the book 'Research and Conservation of Nature in Common Border Pasvik-Inari Region' written by scientists from the three countries and young students from Pechenga district; the latter are participants of Pasvik ecological camp. It was published within the framework of the TEC-project. The students and the scientists expressed their views on science. The book tells, in a popular fashion about the research and monitoring carried out by the scientists in the framework of the project; it has a lot of photos and pictures.

c. Monitoring in 2014-2015

Brown bear monitoring – hair-snare project 2015

Tiia Kalske informed that c. 140 samples of brown bear hair has been collected in Norway, c. 45 samples - in Russia and c. 20 hair samples - in Finland. In total over 200 samples. The trilateral brown bear study was carried out for the third time and the final report from the fieldwork and the DNA analysis will come in the end of 2015.

Anne Wikan told that wild life cameras had been installed in the vicinity of hair snagging stations and they had interesting films while implementing the project. At the moment there are 1200 brown bear samples in the data bank at NIBIO. It will be possible to compare the previously and newly collected samples (when the analyses are ready).

Olga Makarova made a proposal to compile a brown bear migration map of Pasvik-Inari region and the area beyond its confines in 2016. The Russian party also installed wildlife cameras in 2015.

Bente Christiansen thanked the NIBIO laboratory for their good work with and the high quality standards in the DNA laboratory.

Monitoring of waterfowls

Natalia Polikarpova. Bird registration is traditionally carried out by Norwegian and Russian specialists. An additional nor-rus registration was carried out in the area on August 20th so that not to miss the beginning of autumn migration. The next joint registration will take place on September 4th.

Vladimir Chizhov invited Finnish colleagues to take part in the bird registration on the Paz/Pasvik River. To be admitted to the area one should send an application to the Russian and Norwegian Border Services in beforehand.

Natalia Polikarpova: birds nest registration was carried out in Russia. Due to water level fluctuation in the Paz/Pasvik River (in Jordanfoss and in Janiskoski area) which took place at the end of May and in the beginning of June, some nests were flooded and the birds abandoned them. The situation with nesting was critical due to the water level fluctuation. Because of the above mentioned issues, letters were sent to the management of HEP plants in Russia and in Norway. Consultations with energy power companies will go on.

Natalia Polikarpova: we carry out additional bird registration in the common territory (it is 100 km long) in Kaitakoski, Janiskoski, Rajakoski as well as in the vicinity of Kolskaya GMK.

Tiia Kalske: A separate project on ringing birds is carried out in Pasvik Nature Reserve in august 2015. The final report will be available at the end of 2015 and also at the joint website.

Riina Tervo: golden eagle monitoring is on-going in Finland. One nest of a sea-eagle has been registered.

Olga Makarova: raised the problem of the increased number of the peppered moth and informed about future research which would be carried out by specialists of the Forest Monitoring Centre next year. The Finnish and Norwegian colleagues were invited to take part in that research too.

Jyrki Tolonen expressed the readiness to take part in it.

d. Ecological Enlightenment

Natalia Polikarpova informed about the brochure 'Rare species of Pasvik- Inari Trilateral Park'. At present there is a PDF version of it and browser version in four languages. It is available on the park's web site. It will be published in Norwegian (300 copies), Russian (500 copies) and English (500 copies) if there is enough funding for its publishing.

Riina Tervo told about the results from the annual arranged bird trips for locals in the three countries in June, 2015. The Norwegian party counted 418 individuals and 42 species in 2015. Information is available on www.pasvik-inari.net.

Tiia Kalske informed about a new brown bear information trail for visitors in the Pasvik Nature Reserve (c. 500 meter trail besides the trail to the bird hide in the reserve), local schools and the general public got invited and took actively part in the bird ringing activity (23.-25.8), including meeting with researchers in the field with the theme of old - grown forest biodiversity and also telling visitors about the culturally modified trees a Skolt Sami tradition.

e. Cooperation within the framework of EUROPARC Federation

Riina Tervo told about participation in the annual Transparknet meeting and preparing a presentation devoted to our cooperation in the framework of the Trilateral Park at the annual conference of EUROPARC Federation in Regensburg, October 2015.

f. Reindeer impact on nature of the Paz/ Pasvik River Valley

Vladimir Chizhov told about research devoted to the presence of Norwegian domestic reindeer in the territory of Pasvik Reserve and aimed at preparing an intergovernmental agreement between Norway and Russia to regulate that problem. Meetings and consultations were organized with the stakeholders within the framework of the project.

Bente Christiansen added that there has been a NO-RU meeting in Pasvik between all the relevant parties in January 2015. Follow up meetings were decided upon in the meeting.

g. Meeting of the Norwegian-Finnish transboundary water commission

Bente Christiansen: The Finnish- Norwegian transboundary water commission (where the Russian party attended the meeting as an observer) also paid attention to the issue of water level regulation in the Paz/ Pasvik River on its annual meeting. The Commission gave a statement regarding flexible water level regulation in Lake Inari. It is supposed that a more flexible water regulation regime would positively affect the situation in the reserve. Relevant parties are working with this issue and maybe the issues will also be reviewed the Paz/ Pasvik River management plan.

Vladimir Chizhov: it is necessary to provide the administration of HEP plants with information on important dates when seasonal changes take place in nature in order to apply more flexible regulation.

h. Protected territories in the Vorjema River valley - Grense Jakobselv

Natalia Polikarpova told about a large – scale expedition to the Vorjema River valley in 2014; its outcomes and prospects for setting up a protected territory in that region. It would be a part of Pasvik Reserve.

Bente Christiansen highly appreciated the given information on the northernmost territory of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia, and further proposed to organize a symposium in Grense -Jakobselv in 2016. Organise a back-to-back joint expedition/ excursion to the area, and then to disseminate relevant information from the excursion at a joint symposium. It is important to go on cooperating on this issue, carry out descriptive work on both sides of the border and to disseminate information to the general public and among the local people. The area on Norwegian side is private land and as earlier informed more nature protected territory is not likely to be established here. Mapping of nature types has been carried out in the area.

Natalia Polikarpova made a proposal to invite Finnish experts to take part in the expedition and the symposium as there was a lot of historic information on that territory in Finnish archives.

Vladimir Chizhov emphasized the necessity to invite other authorities, military administration to the forthcoming symposium.

6. Main activities in 2015-2016

a. Monitoring in 2015-2016

Following activities are planned in 2016

- 1) Research into the peppered moth and its impact on forest ecosystems
- 2) Possibility to inform about the brown bear monitoring results to the European Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores
- 3) Waterfowls registration, golden eagle monitoring and visitors monitoring actions

Jyrki Tolonen: there might be some extra activities in Vätsäri Wilderness area and carry out research into different themes in the area, with regards to the revision on the management planning process.

Tiia Kalske informed that Riina Tervo would attend the 8th Habitat Contact Forum in Petrozavodsk in October 2015 and told about a plan for a joint trip to Trondheim in October 2015 to disseminate information on the Green Belt of Fennoscandia.

Olga Makarova made a proposal to publish a popular brochure with results from implemented monitoring activities.

b. Ecological enlightenment and nature tourism in 2015-2016

Riina Tervo: we shall go on disseminating information on our cooperation with the results and products made in ABCG Heritage project.

Tiia Kalske informed about a network/ possible new information channel, called Linking tourism and conservation, www.ltandc.org to be used for inform and attract possible visitors/ tourists to the areas and destination zone of the Trilateral Park. Further, information also about possible celebration of the 10th anniversary of Piilola trail in 2019 and to start preparations for this event.

Riina Tervo made a proposal to take part in Natura 2000 competition, to nominate the trilateral cooperation for an award and to submit an application. Applications are to be sent in the period from November till January. Our five-year brown bear monitoring experience would be the target in that application.

Attendees supported the idea to apply for the Natura2000 award (Metsähallitus will be in the lead for this activity), the issue with regards to taking part in the network for Linking tourism and conservation, members of the Advisory Board need more information and time.

c. Environmental cooperation with industrial companies

Vladimir Chizhov told about their cooperation with Norilsk Nickel and Kolskaya GMK in the field of monitoring of natural complexes in the vicinity of GMK and building a visit-centre in Nikel.

The Norwegian and Finnish colleagues agreed that a dialogue with industrial companies is useful. Project funding from industrial companies on the other hand is not possible in Norway, due to legislation and permitting procedures.

d. Cooperation in the field of natural and cultural heritage conservation

Vladimir Chizhov informed about cooperation with Riksantikvaren and Institute for Natural and cultural heritage named after D.S. Likhachev in the course of ABCG Heritage project and expressed hope that cooperation would go on.

e. Fulfilment of recommendations regarding made during EUROPARC verification in 2013

- Buffer zone of Pasvik Reserve

Natalia Polikarpova informed about a complex inspection of the area which could be a buffer zone of the reserve. It was proposed to set up Korablekk Nature Park, a regional protected territory and it would be the buffer zone. It would be possible to promote tourism there. A set of documents for public hearings would be delivered to Pechenga district administration.

Sergey Gonchar had no objections.

- Recommendations regarding the website: fulfilled.

- Ban on hunting: the parties decided to exchange information on hunting rules in every country and publish it on the website of the Park in 2016/2017 period

- Recommendations for socio - economic services: a form for collecting information received from visitors was discussed and a webropol survey will be set up in 2016/2017.

7. Miscellaneous

8. Next meeting

Will take place on August 23-25, 2016 in Inari, Finland.

9. Closing of the meeting

The chairman closed the meeting at 6 p.m. on August 27th.


Bente Christiansen

Office of the Finnmark
County Governor,
Norway




Jyrki Tolonen

Metsähallitus,
Finland




Vladimir Chizhov

Pasvik Zapovednik,
Russia

Stamp