

## **Minutes from the Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park Advisory Board meeting 30.8.2011, at the County Governor of Finnmark, Vadsø Norway**

### **1. Opening and welcome**

Bente Christiansen opened the meeting at 8:35 and welcomed the participants. Participants presented themselves shortly. Presence of a quorum was noted (members are underlined).

#### **Finland:**

Tapio Tynys (Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services)

Absent: Pirkko Posio (Lapland ELY –Centre), Mariia Feodoroff (Inari Municipality)

#### **Russia:**

Vladimir Chizov, Marina Trusova and Natalia Polikarpova (Pasvik Zapovednik)

Absent: Viktor Kirjuskin (Nikel town Administration), Oleg Krapivin (Murmansk oblast Administration)

#### **Norway:**

Bente Christiansen, Tiia Kalske and Jan-Erik Knutsen (County Governor of Finnmark), Trygve Sarajärvi (Sør-Varanger Municipality), Helge Sterk (The Management Board of the Øvre Pasvik National Park), Alexander Kopatz (Bioforsk Svanhovd) and Anne Sikanen (Translator)

### **2. Selection of the chair and the secretary**

Bente Christiansen was selected as the chair and Tiia Kalske as the secretary.

### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was approved without amendments or comments.

### **4. Signing of the protocol of the previous meeting**

Comments and corrections to the minutes from 2010 had been taken care of via e-mail. The minutes from 2010 was signed by Bente Christiansen, Tapio Tynys and Vladimir Chizov.

### **5. Short introduction to the history and background of the cooperation**

Tapio Tynys presents shortly the background and achieved results of the trilateral cooperation. The parties have been cooperating since 1991, conducting annual meetings, joint projects and nature management and conservation actions.

### **6. Action Plan**

At the Advisory Board meeting in 2010 a small 'action working group' was appointed (see the year cycle). The task for this group is to coordinate, delegate and carry out 1-3 of the chosen and prioritised actions from the mutual action plan. The group reports back to the Advisory Board at the annual autumn meeting on the results for the fulfilled actions and propose 1-3 'new' priority actions for the following year from the action plan to be carried out.

#### **a. Report from the 'action working group' on the chosen actions for 2011**

**Common Red list of the Pasvik-Inari area (action 5.4):** *Tapio Tynys* presents the status for the red list work. The areas included in every country and the design/ set up of the list was presented. The list is for

now almost complete with all the groups of animals (mammals, birds, fish, insects and molluscs), plants and mosses, fungi and lichen. The IUCN international and three national categories are listed for every species. Some checking and control will still be done on the Russian insect list. The list is a unique base for further work with chosen red list species of the area (see proposed actions for 2012).

*Vladimir Chizov* briefs the Advisory Board on a work shop on chosen red list species in Svanvik in late June 2011. Experts from Russia, Finland and Norway met to discuss, compile and make further joint plans for actions on chosen red listed species. This expert group focuses primarily on marine mammals, some bigger mammals and birds. The group discussed red listed species in all the countries and also the definition of geographical areas and areal limits for this work. Results from the work shop were joint recommendations and bilateral Norwegian-Russian recommendation on the polar bear.

#### Comments and Conclusions:

The Advisory Board notes the presentation on common red list for Pasvik-Inari and commends the brilliant work that has been done by Tuomo Ollila, Sara Tynys, Gunhild Lutnæs and Natalia Polikarpova in compiling the list for Pasvik-Inari area. The Advisory Board notes the information from the international experts work shop and high lights the importance to follow up and avoid double work. Trygve Sarajärvi comments the activities in Sør-Varanger Municipality regarding the mapping of the biodiversity in 2011. Fungi and arachnids have been mapped in Pasvik area (Norway) in 2011. In Pasvik Zapovednik also a mapping of mosses and insects is in progress. The Red List for Murmansk oblast will also be up dated starting in 2012. The red list work is a continuous work and lists will be up dated when new material and data is available.

**Brown Bear monitoring (action 8.1):** *Alexander Kopatz* (Bioforsk Svanhovd) reports on the implementation and results from the field work of the hair snare project. In total 82 hair samples was obtained in the project during summer 2011 (9 samples from Russia, 59 from Norway and 14 from Finland). In addition faeces were also collected when found (11 from Russia). The project was a replicate from the project in 2007. The non-invasive hair snare method was presented. The estimated population size for the Pasvik valley is around 40-50 individuals, approximately 10-20 of these individuals is estimated to contribute to the reproduction. Genetically the Pasvik population is isolated but healthy. Migration from eastern populations is seen in the genetic structure of the Pasvik-Inari bears. The project also had two (2) wild life cameras placed and nice footage and film was obtained. The field work part of the project was a success and now the genetic analyses are still to be funded and done. The Russian and Finnish DNA analysis are funded, the Norwegian once are still uncertain at this point.

*Natalia Polikarpova* briefs the Board about the annual bird registrations in Pasvik River. The spring registrations have been implemented in the same fashion as every year. The autumn counting will be conducted in early September. These registrations have been carried out since early 1990s.

**The Pilot tour (action 14.1):** *Vladimir Chizov* briefs the Board regarding the plan for this action. This action has not been possible to fulfil this year, due to funding, border issues and the time aspect. The idea of a round trip in all the protected areas is very good, but implementation has to wait for a better situation. Vladimir also wants to thank all the parties for the support and practical arrangements in connection with the Vice Minister of natural resources and environment Mr Sergey Donskoj's visit in early spring 2011.

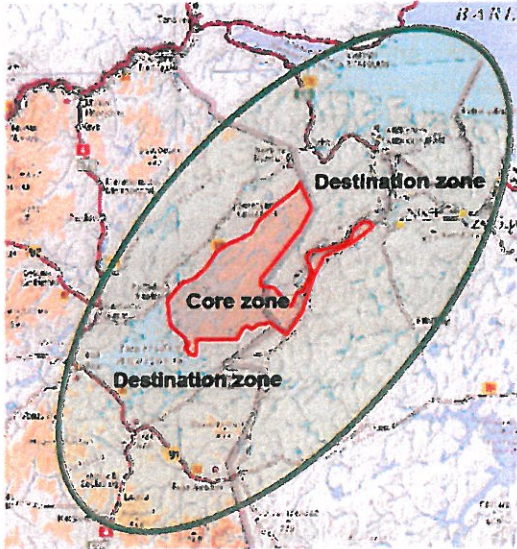


Comments and Conclusions:

The Advisory Board acknowledges all the presentations and briefings.

**Report on other implemented actions in 2011:**

**Updating of the action plan and the mutual vision:** *Tiia Kalske* shortly presents the revision of the 50+ listed actions in action plan part B. The listed actions have been checked corrected and numbered. The list of actions has been sent to all partners for comments and amendments during 2010 and 2011. No actions concerning Norway and Finland have been modified; Russia has modified one action concerning its own territory. The revised document has been known to all participants before this meeting. Regarding the revision of the mutual vision; the action working group has submitted a proposition for revision to the Advisory Board (Annex 2). A revision of the vision was recommended by the Europarc verifiers in 2008. *Tapio Tynys* presents the map concerning the Destination zone/ Core zones, also a recommendation from the verifiers in 2008.



Conclusion:

The Advisory Board adopts the revision of listed actions/ part B in the Action plan (Annex 1). The revision of the mutual vision is postponed to next year's meeting (proposition in Annex 2.). The map was adopted as presented above.

**Updating of the web sites, external and internal:** *Tapio Tynys* shortly present the external web site, [www.pasvik-inari.net](http://www.pasvik-inari.net). The external web site is for now handled and up dated by Metsähallitus. The link pages will be checked and revised. A draft will be circulated to all for input and comments. A discussion on how to make the *news page* more visible will be under taken later in 2011/ 2012. Since the pages were established in 2008 the visits have increased four times, in 2008 approximately 500 visits a month, and now in 2011 over 2000 visits per month. Approximately 11 000 visits on the pages by 30.8.11. The online web site to follow the visits statistics is: <http://www.pasvik-inari.net/awstats.pl>

**Status for the joint application ENPI CBC – ABCGheritage project:** *Tapio Tynys* presents the status for the project Arctic, Biological, Cultural and Geological heritage (ABCGheritage). The project



proposition was delivered in time to the Kolarctic ENPI CBC program in June 2011. The organisation of the activities will be in 9 working groups and over 40 different small and bigger activities in the frames of Biology, Cultural heritage and Geology will be under taken the next three years if the project is granted the funding. Metsähallitus is the lead partner. The funding decision will be taken in October-November this year.

#### **b. Proposition from the 'action working group' on actions for 2012**

The action working group proposes the following four (4) actions in prioritised order to be implemented in 2012. In addition to the four listed actions the ongoing annual activities in all organisations will also take place f. ex the participation in the Barents skiing event, Bird watching on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, Norwegian-Russian annual bird registrations etc.

1. Kolarctic ENPI CBC ABCGheritage project (KO368) – start implementation if funding
2. Follow up on red list work issues (action 5.4) – an analysis of the lists and plans for further actions will be discussed.
3. Cooperation with Oulanka-Paanajärvi Transboundary Park and TransParcNet issues (networking) – visit Oulanka/ Paanajärvi see best practises and develop our own cooperation.
4. Compile a trilateral list of relevant publications from Pasvik-Inari area (action 5.6) – compile an Excel file with existing publications.

The action Working group will meet in early February 2012 (6.-7.2.12) at Bioforsk Svanhovd, to plan and discuss the implementation of actions in 2012 and follow up the decisions of the Board. The cooperating partners (Metsähallitus, County Governor, Bioforsk and Pasvik Zapovednik) have also got a smaller grant from the North Calotte Council to arrange a work shop on Brown Bear, this seminar is planned to be held in November-December 2011.

#### **c. The Advisory Board priorities the proposed actions**

##### Conclusion:

The Advisory Board approved the proposed actions and priorities listed under with comments. The funding for 2012 is still uncertain, but the actions will be funded and fulfilled in the frames of existing budgets for 2012 and if external project funding is approved.

1. Kolarctic ENPI CBC project ABCGheritage – of highest priority if funding is granted.
2. Follow up the started red list work – analysis and follow up is very important.
3. Cooperation with Oulanka/ Paanajärvi – a smaller group from all three countries is proposed to travel and visit Oulanka/ Paanajärvi in spring 2012 (May-June) to learn about their cooperation and to disseminate about our own cooperation. The Oulanka/ Paanajärvi cooperation is then invited to participate at the annual Advisory Board meeting in 2012 in Russia.
4. Compile a trilateral list of publications - NB Bioforsk Svanhovd has a centre for documentation important to find out what they have and to see the possibilities to include Finnish and Russian documents here if appropriate.

#### **7. The new management regime for the national parks in Norway**

*Bente Christiansen* and *Helge Sterk* shortly present the new management regime for all national parks and bigger nature protected areas in Norway. The information given on last meeting in 2010 is still

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valid. From January 1<sup>st</sup> in 2011 all national parks and bigger nature protected areas have been managed by local inter municipal management boards. The board members are politically elected in their respective Municipalities and appointed by the Ministry of the Environment in Norway. The management boards will take care and manage the national parks and the bigger protected areas on behalf of the Norwegian people and the whole nation. Development actions and f. ex nature tourism is now the new boards' responsibility, monitoring activities and species inventories are still tasks handled by the County Governor. The new boards manage the areas in the already existing legal frames and protection regulations for the protected areas in question. Four of five boards in Finnmark are appointed and have started their work. The appointed and working boards are; Seiland NP Board, Stabbursdalen NP Board, Varanger Peninsula NP Board, Øvre Pasvik NP Board. The board for Øvre Anarjokka is not yet appointed because of the process for extending the area is still in progress. All national park boards will have an own national park manager, this manager will be an employee under the County Governors Offices, but only work for the boards. The park managers will be employed in regular employment process for the Norwegian state. Nature Reserves and Ramsar areas are still under the jurisdiction of the County Governor.

*Helge Sterk* is the leader for the Management Board in Øvre Pasvik. This Board consists of two politicians from Sør-Varanger Municipality, Linda Randal and Helge Sterk, Marianne Voldmann from the Sami Parliament and Knut Mortensen from the County Council. This Board was appointed 1.2.2011 and has until now had one meeting. Rolf Kollstrøm is employed as the national park manager for Øvre Pasvik.

#### Discussion and Conclusion:

This new management regime will in one way or another influence our existing trilateral cooperation. On the Norwegian side from now on there will be two (2) management authorities to relate to in questions concerning the management and protection issues. The board will apply the existing managing plan for the national park and landscape protected area, when time for revision the board will be the one revising the management plans for the areas they manage. The County Governor together with the new management board for Øvre Pasvik will work out a joint proposition for the Norwegian side of the Advisory Board and present it to the rest of the Advisory Board on next year's meeting for decision.

#### **8. Information on the management planning for Pasvik nature reserve in Norway**

The other two protected areas in Øvre Pasvik have valid management plans (Øvre Pasvik NP and Øvre Pasvik Landscape Protected Area). The Norwegian nature reserve (Pasvik Nature Reserve) has not yet a management plan. The work with the management plan for the nature reserve is the responsibility of the County Governors Office. This work has started and the first meeting with the reference group that will be involved in the process was held in mid June 2011. The plan will be sent to the Norwegian Directorate for nature management for checking and approval in late 2011. After this the plan will be sent on a public hearing. The plan will also be sent to the Russian and Finnish partners for comments.

#### **9. Information from the Counties and participants**

**Murmansk region and Pasvik Zapovednik:** *Vladimir Chizov* briefs the Board with following information. A new Committee for Industrial Development, Nature Management and Ecology has been established in Murmansk region (environmental issues are subjected to this Committee). Mr Oleg Krapivin is the leader for the new committee and Mr Alexey Smirnov is the vice leader. Pasvik

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Zapovednik and Bioforsk Svanhovd have presented some of the activities in the cooperation in a TV program called "Russia Today", the program will be broadcasted in September-October. The trilateral cooperation has support from the Murmansk oblast. At the moment a cultural heritage book about Varlam Island, the transboundary area in general is being written in Russia. The environmental school projects are successful and a water education program will be followed up with new activities between Russia and Norway in 2011/ 2012. The mosquito exhibition and seminar has been a real success in Nikel, over 5000 visitors have seen the exhibition. For the moment Pasvik Zapovednik is very busy in preparation of the international Ramsar conference 13.-15.9 in Murmansk, they have also prepared a moving exhibition for this occasion. The annual spring water birds registrations are conducted and the autumn registration will be in early September. Inventories of lichens, mosses and vascular plants and status of mires and forests with reference to Ramsar issues have been conducted in Pasvik Zapovednik this summer.

**Finland:** *Tapio Tynys* briefs the Board with following issues. The parliament elections in Finland were in spring 2011. Composition of the new government was a difficult and time consuming process. EU is also in an economical crisis and this influences of course all member states. The program for the new government is released and states that Metsähallitus and the Natural Heritage Services will prevail; also the economic framework will be almost the same. New forest management legislation is under preparation in Finland, there is a question if Metsähallitus will be a state organ or a special governmental enterprise. Finland will also strengthen the rights for indigenous peoples and are planning to ratify the ILO convention under this new reign. In Inari Municipality a proposition for a new land-use-plan has been on hearing. The plan in question concerns the south-western part of Lake Inari area, not the Vätsäri area or the island in the Lake Inari. The plan proposes many new areas for building and development activities, in connection to already existing infrastructure and residential areas. The proposed plan gave a lot of discussions among the residents of the area concerning the amount of possible building permits. The land-use-plan has been adopted unanimously by the municipal council of Inari. **Green Belt issues:** a core group was proposed to be created (Green Belt meeting in Svanvik December 2010); the Finnish Ministry of the Environment has not yet made any decision concerning this issue. For the moment there are budget proposition for 2012 and the first draft proposed wanted to make 3 mill € cuts in the total national Metsähallitus budgets. The total Finnish budget deficits have to be covered in some ways. Metsähallitus has made an evaluation strategy for all its nature centres; Siida scores in the top level in all categories in this national evaluation.

**Norway:** *Trygve Sarajärvi* and *Bente Christiansen* briefs the Board with following information. Sør-Varanger Municipality in cooperation with the County Governor conducts environmental projects in the Jarfjord area; Pink salmon projects in Grense Jakobselv and in Karpelv and surveys on the effects of air born pollution on benthic animals in chosen rivers in the same area. Reports from all these activities will be ready during the autumn this year. Salmon cooperation and the management in the River Neiden between the Norwegian and Finnish fishing eligible is fruitful and good. Mining issues and the outlets from this activity in the Bøkfjord are very important at the moment in the area. Environmental Assessment is being made by the mining company. These will be sent on hearing to both Russian and Finnish authorities, with reference to the Espoo convention. The Norwegian-Finnish transboundary water commission has conducted its annual meeting in this year in Kirkenes in late May. The mining issues were also in focus at this meeting and the commission follows these issues close. A follow up project for the Pasvik Programme – Trilateral environmental challenges in the Border areas between Finland, Norway and Russia has been delivered to the Kolarctic ENPI CBC programme in June 2011.



Funding decision is waited in late autumn. This project will follow up and focus on water issues, pollution and climate issues. With regards to implementing the EU Water Frame Directive the border areas between the three countries is challenging; different status with regards to EU and they share the same water recourse. A work shop on comparing the EUs Water Frame Directive with the federal Russian Water Strategy will be conducted later in 2011. Also a seminar on Brown Bear will be held later in 2011 (under the North Calotte umbrella). The County Governor also leads a three year Kolarctic ENPI CBC project – Kolarctic salmon 2011-2013 (*Trilateral cooperation on our common recourse; the Atlantic salmon in the Barents region*). This project is a Norwegian, Russian and Finnish cooperation and cooperation between salmon fishers, fisher organisations, management and scientist in all three countries, to improve the knowledge and management regimes concerning the salmon resource in the area. For more information: [www.fylkesmennen.no/kolarcticsalmon](http://www.fylkesmennen.no/kolarcticsalmon).

#### 10. Date and place for the next meeting of the advisory board

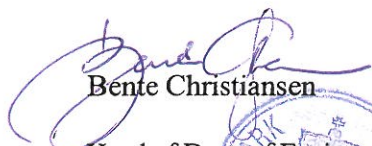
The chair and secretariat was handed over to the Russian partner, Pasvik Zapovednik. The meeting in 2012 will be held in Russia in the end of August. Place and dates will come later.

#### 11. Miscellaneous

No further information.

#### 12. Ending

The chair closes the meeting at 15:30.



Bente Christiansen

Head of Dept. of Environmental  
Affairs  
Office of the County Governor  
of Finnmark



Vladimir Chizov

Director  
Pasvik Zapovednik




Tapio Tynys

Senior Adviser  
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