

Minutes of the bilateral Pasvik-Inari cooperation meeting, 15-16.06.2023

Venue: Svanvik Norway (NIBIO Svanhovd)

Opening of the meeting and presentation of the participants

Lisa Bjørnsdatter Helgason wished all very welcome to this meeting in Norway, and conveyed a greeting from Tiia Kalske who could not participate.

The participants presented themselves:

Norway: From County Governor of Troms and Finnmark: Lisa Bjørnsdatter Helgason and Tor Asbjørn A. Simonsen. From Øvre Pasvik National Park Board: Cecilie Hansen and Rolf E Sch Kollstrøm (Øvre Pasvik National Park Manager). From NIBIO Svanhovd: Anne Wikan/ Snorre Hagen (observers).

Finland: From Metsähallitus: Riina Tervo and Tarja Tuovinen. From municipality of Inari: Jaana Seipiharju. Finnish partner conveyed a greeting from Jari Pasanen Ely-centre who could not participate.

1. Selection of chair and secretary

The meeting agreed upon Lisa Bjørnsdatter Helgason as chair and Rolf E Sch Kollstrøm as secretary.

2. Important information from each organization

- a. Short status presentations were given from Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife (i), Municipality of Inari (ii), the County Governor of Troms and Finnmark, the Øvre Pasvik National Park Board and NIBIO Svanhovd.
 - i. Metsähallitus: The funding situation is currently good but Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife is expecting a decline in the near future – thus organizational change is being prepared, and new organization starts in January 2024. A selection of Finnish protected areas and Parks & Wildlife Finland are going through international evaluation on protected areas' management effectiveness. The results from the evaluation will be sent to Pasvik-Inari partners also.
 - ii. Municipality of Inari. There are future investments for day-care and new schools. Municipality will update its strategy for 2030 and road map for economic development. Municipal plan for climate change is required by law, this work is coming up. Open question to Pasvik-Inari cooperation: What about involvement of youth? There is active youth council in the municipality.



Statsforvalteren i Troms og Finnmark
County Governor of Troms and Finnmark



Øvre Pasvik
National Park



METSÄHALLITUS
FORSTSTYRELSEN
MEAHČIRÁÐDEHUS

3. Current situation in cross-border cooperation

The cooperation is very influenced by the war in Ukraine with the suspension of virtually all contact with Russia. Both parties want to strengthen and deepen the bilateral cooperation in nature conservation and management. The tourism industry is in expansion in Finland creating positive possibilities and also challenges for land use. In Norway the management of the protected areas has a focus on dialog and cooperation with the border authorities because of the tension in the border zone towards Russia. Both countries want to increase the involvement of the youth in our cooperation and the climate change has to be addressed in the future cooperation.

4. Pasvik-Inari cooperation 2022-2023:

- a. The meeting is satisfied with the approval from EUROPARC -cooperation: to postpone the reverification of the trilateral certificate to year 2024/2025 (ref. received letter from EUROPARC).
- b. The workgroup regards the trilateral Action Plan as a suitable working tool, even if the Russian partner is suspended. The need for a Bilateral work plan will be evaluated and alternatively start in late 2023.
- c. The meeting is satisfied with the participation of the bilateral workgroup in different networks as TransParcNet, Transboundary Task Force, STEC, EUROPARC annual conference, presentation to Council of Europe (Green Public Administration Strasbourg April 2023), etc.

5. Report from the working group on implementation of the bilateral work so far in 2023 (targets for 2023 – status for implementation):

- a. Management and cooperation: The report from Staff exchange-2022, was finalized in January 2023. Staff exchange for 2023 is under planning and will most likely take place in late summer. The meeting agreed upon that it should also be possible with shorter periods than a week in the trial period of the Exchange program (2022-2025). The work group have had digital meetings 9-10th of February and 9th of April and in addition a couple of virtual coffee breaks on the Teams-platform. Members of the working group are involved in Europarc steering group work as Transboundary Task Force (TBTF) and Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC).
- b. Monitoring: water bird registrations; Norway-spring (25th of May with 37 bird species and 1st of June with 31 bird species) and autumn (17th and 30th of August) and duckling registrations, Golden Eagle breeding monitoring in Finland with nesting localities checked in Norway, in Norway trials with wildlife acoustics for birdlife –“Song Meter” and bird ringing at Nyrud in Pasvik Nature Reserve and bird ringing in Finland at Mellanaapa. Brown bear -hair snare monitoring in Norway and Finland June-August /as scheduled every four years.
- c. Enlightenment and dissemination of information activities: SOME campaign 24th of May- Day of National Parks, Bird watching trips for locals: 2nd of June in Norway and 5th of June in Finland near the Urho Kekkonen National Park (UKK) in connection with UKK celebrating 40 years anniversary, the Gjøken Visitor Point in Norway (open for the public from the 17th of June 2023). NIBIO have launched



cooperation with Finnish schools -DNA lab and Phenology of the North Calotte (PNC).

- d. Current actions from the action plan: Launching the review update Principles of sustainable nature tourism in the Pasvik-Inari area – tentative webinar on sustainable nature-based tourism in late 2023 (Metsähallitus), which was though postponed to year 2024 due to cooperation negotiation taking place in Parks & Wildlife Finland. CLAP (Climate change and managements of PA's) Interreg Aurora project preparation- with Länsstyrelsen i Norrbotten in Sverige as the Lead partner, Cultural Marks in Trees/ CMT – cooperation in future -possible bilateral seminar (Norway).

6. Targets for year 2024

**The suggestions from the working group were discussed
-related measures in the Action Plan (2019-2028) in brackets**

A Management and cooperation:

Staff exchange programme (1.3.1) will continue together with annual meetings in both working group and steering group (action 1.1.2).

Preparations for the re-evaluation and onsite visit in end of 2024 (action 1.1.4/ 3.3.1).

B Monitoring: Implementation of on-going annual activities: reporting on results for brown bear monitoring from 2023 (2.1.1); waterfowl registration (2.1.2), bird ringing (2.1.4), and collecting visitors' numbers (part of action 2.3.1)

C Environmental enlightenment and dissemination:

Ongoing activities: day of Parks 24.5. (3.3.2) and bird watching trips for locals.

Other actions: Phenology of North Calotte (PNC) (3.2.2), Brown bear DNA lab cooperation and conceping the new joint temporary Brown bear exhibition 2025; – work and applying for funding. CMT – seminar (action 2.1.9), Principles of sustainable nature tourism follow up (4.1.3)

D EUROPARC – cooperation: Continue cooperation in EUROPARC networks (Action 1.3.2 - STEC, TB Task Force, TransParcNet, annual conference etc.).

E Application to Interreg AURORA -programme: CLAP – CLimate change adaptation and communication of Arctic Protected areas -project preparation and hopefully implementation from March 2024 onwards (part of action 2.3.4)

Other items

The participants of the meeting also attended the 17th of June 2023 at the official opening of the Visitor Point for the Øvre Pasvik National Park at Gjøken. Here we made a short video greeting for the 50th -year anniversary of the Europarc Federation.



Statsforvalteren i Troms og Finnmark
County Governor of Troms and Finnmark



Øvre Pasvik
National Park



METSÄHALLITUS
FORSTSTYRELSEN
MEAHČIIRÁÐDEHUS

7. Next meeting

Next year's meeting will take place in Finland on Thu-Fri August 29th-30th 2024, supplemented with the possibility to participate on celebration for Day for Finnish nature on Saturday August 31st 2024.

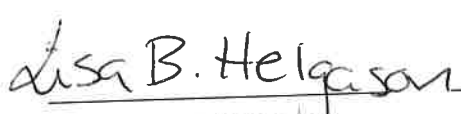
8. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed Friday 16th of June at 11.35 AM.

Date:

Date:

Date:


Lisa B. Helgason


Kurt Wikan


Jyrki Tolonen



Statsforvalteren i Troms og Finnmark
County Governor of Troms and Finnmark



Øvre Pasvik
National Park



METSÄHALLITUS
FORSTSTYRELSEN
MEAHCI RÁDDEHUS