

## PROTOCOL

Advisory Board meeting of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park

8<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Rajakoski, Russia

### **Russian representatives:**

Marina Trusova, Natalia Polikarpova, Olga Makarova, Anatoliy Khokhlov (Pasvik Reserve),  
Nadezhda Gorina (Foreign Office of the RF)

Elvira Makarova, Olga Kolesnikova (Ministry for natural resources and ecology of Murmansk  
region, in lieu of Alexey Smirnov),

Lubov Timokhina (Mayor of Nikel)

Yegor Shepitsin (border guards, Nikel)

### **Norwegian representatives:**

Tiia Kalske, Johannes Abildsness (Environment Department, Finnmark County Governor Office,  
city of Vadsø)

Invidl Wartainen, Tor-Arne Bjorn (Bioforsk Svanhovd)

Hestmo Ole Andre (FeFo Finnmarkseiendommen),

Kurt Wikan (Pasvikturist travel agency)

### **Finnish representatives:**

Pirjo Seurujarvi, Riina Tervo, Tuommo Ollila (Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services)

Pajvi Lundvall (Lapland Regional Environment Centre, city of Rovaniemi). Ilona Grekela  
attended the second part of the meeting (Lapland Regional Environment Centre, city of  
Rovaniemi).

Sergey K. Fofonoff (Nellim association)

**Interpreter:** Elena Babina (Russian-English)

08/12/2009, 10-13:00 Moscow time

### **Working group on sustainable nature tourism**

Its agenda is based on the minutes of the previous working group meeting held in Svanhovd on  
August 22, 2009:

1. Opening of the meeting and short presentation of all the participants
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Consensus of the memorandum of the Svanhovd meeting held on August 22, 2009.
4. The Pilot – Tour project status and future plans
5. Information on Piilola Wilderness Trail opening and its functioning
6. Information on Varlam project, its process and new projects
7. Information provided by the members of the working group on their activities and  
possibilities of setting up of joint tourist companies
8. Discussion of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park logo
9. Miscellaneous issues
10. Chairmanship and an annual meeting in 2010.

Marina Trusova opened the meeting and informed the attendees about the preparation of the  
round pilot tour which had been planned in the previous meetings. The job done was not  
successful though Pasvik Reserve had sent letters to different agencies, e.g. a newly appointed  
governor of Murmansk region. His reply letter says that border crossing at Virtaniemi check  
point is not in the competence of the regional government, but the Government of the RF.

**Pasvik Inari**  
Trilateral Park



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Lubov Timokhina added that she had contacted FSB of Murmansk region but the request was denied. But nevertheless Pasvik Reserve and Nikel administration expressed their readiness to go on working on that issue.

Yegor Shepitsin emphasized that the border guards were ready to promote the tour.

Nadezhda Gorina said that the tour might be organized in the future.

Tiia Kalske noted big efforts made by the Russian partners in order to open the check point in Virtaniemi and told about the opening of Piilola Trail in the summer of 2009. The idea was generated within the framework of the project which took place in 2006-2008. The trail is 35 km long. It starts in Sortbrystjern, Norway and ends in Kessi, Finland. There are 5 rest places along the trail; it is marked and there is information available on local nature, history and culture. The official opening ceremony took place and more than 100 tourists visited the area last season. We plan to have a teller in order to count the number of visitors. And hope that it will be popular.

Riina Tervo paid attention that it was a very good possibility for ecological enlightenment. Paul Aspholm acted as guide there. Finnish guides were in charge of the excursion too on the Finish side. Finnish tourist operations have been interested in the trail though the distance between its transport points is several hundred kilometres.

Marina Trusova briefly informed about cooperation between Pasvik Reserve and local schools, expeditions organized for schoolchildren from Zapolyarnuy to the reserve. In the meeting the children mentioned above would perform Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park - venue for meeting play.

Varlam Island is a new tourist project which is being promoted by the reserve. It is a part of the Russian Norwegian Environment Commission. First the project was bilateral and then our Finnish colleagues helped us a lot in 2009 and it became trilateral. We organized an inventory of natural and cultural objects (a specialist from Archangel assisted us) and took part in the meeting at the Institute of cultural heritage named after D.S. Likhachov in Moscow in May 2009. It was held within the framework of bilateral cooperation. It was planned there to organize a meeting of experts in June 2010.

We and our Norwegian colleagues have prepared a draft plan. The meeting must be representative. Promotion of the tourist object – Varlam Island and its adjacent territories will be discussed there. The project is considered within the framework of Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park as three countries participate in it.

Kolsk GMK affiliated branch of Nornickel concern funded that activity that is why we managed to do a lot. The joint plans should be presented in the meeting. We shall have published a brochure by the meeting.

Marina thanked everybody for cooperation within the framework of the project in 2009. While being in Finland we got copies of interesting photos and got acquainted with a granddaughter of Nils Rautiola who was born not far from Varlam Island. She visited the reserve and told her life story which might be interesting for a tourist brand.

Olga Makarova has noted that despite of the fact that Varlam Island is small, it is of big natural and cultural importance. Steinar Wikan has been the first guide there; he has collected a lot of information on the Russian part of Pasvik. We are very thankful for it and go on working on it.



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We should cooperate in the future because it is a unique place and we have a good progress in sustainable development. Varlam Island is uneasy but a very promising project.

Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park - venue for meeting play was performed in the meeting. It was used as an example of information dissemination.

Tiia Kalske: it is possible to send an application for ENPI funding now. We shall send an application for funding a film, a travelling exhibition and other projects from Action Plan.

Ingvild Warttainen: Svanhovd Centre has got funding for a construction of the Brown Bear Visit Centre. The existing exhibition centre will be extended; it is at the final stage of the architectural planning. Its construction will start in May 2010 and will be finished in January 2011. It will include a cafeteria, an exhibition hall and a watch terrace on the roof in order to watch birds and to enjoy the view of Svanvik. An exhibition devoted to the brown bear will take place there in 2010 and we shall need help provided by our colleagues. We hope that the centre will be attractive for more tourists.

Marina Trusova raised the question of the logo use and asked about the future actions of the parties.

Johannes Abildsnes: it is in Action Plan on page 61 – every country decides how to use the logo, so there is no necessity to make extra mutual agreements.

Marina Trusova asked the audience a question regarding cooperation within the framework of transboundary parks of Europarc Federation.

Tiia Kalske: our park is a part of the Transboundary Europarc Network (Trans Park Net). Its first meeting took place in Estonia in the spring of 2009. It is planned to have them annually. Next meeting will be in the cross – border area of Austria and Hungary in 2010. There is a park there. It was the first transboundary park which got the Europarc Transboundary certificate and in 2010 they are going to have recertification soon. Lassi Karivalo from metsähallitus has informed the parties about it.

Marina Trusova: we would like to participate in it but it will depend upon funding. Lassi promised to help us.

Tiia Kalske reminded about the idea of making a team representing the Trilateral Park at the Ski Track of Friendship in Rajakoski in 2010, e.g. 2 persons from every country.

Lubov Tomokhina: it is possible to use park's logo and apply to the sports committee to use it as symbolic in Rajakoski. It is possible to organize it under the aegis of the park.

Natalia Polikarpova suggested restoring the idea of celebrating New Year in Muotkavarra Mountain.

The ideas were supported by the audience.



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Tiia Kalske also reminded about the idea of bird watching for nature tourism enthusiasts. Norwegian association of ornithologists actively promotes it. Such a tourist product could be sold at the international market.

Invild Wirttiainen: every year we invite local population to participate in bird watching on May 5 - World environmental Day. It is important to organize it at the same time in three countries. It is rather problematic to visit three countries but it is possible to have it organized in every country at the same time.

Marina Trusova: to begin with it will be possible to have it in every country on May 5, 2010. We can collate and publish data in Pasvik-Times afterwards.

The question of chairmanship of the tourism group in 2010 is discussed.

Pirjo Seurujarvi: Finland will be a chair country in 2010. The next meeting will take place in Inari in August or September 2010. The date will be discussed and sent by e-mail later. Preliminary dates (from September 1 till September 3) are quite suitable for all.

We delegate authority to our Finnish colleagues and hope that it will be easier for them to chair the Trilateral Park than it was for us because at the time of our chairmanship there was no funding.

The meeting of the working group was over at 01.00 pm Moscow time.

08/12/2009, 14:00-17:00 Moscow time

### **Advisory Board Meeting**

Agenda:

1. Presence of quorum
2. Consensus of the minutes from the meeting held on March 4, 2009
3. Discussion on the EUROPARC membership application draft
4. Action Plan correction according to last meeting decision and the follow up work with the specific recommendations from the EP verifiers
5. New projects preparation status and future plans
6. Report of the sustainable nature tourism working group
7. Other information from the member organisations of the AB
8. Miscellaneous issues
9. Chairmanship and annual meeting in 2010
10. Closure of the meeting

1.

Marina Trusova welcomed the audience and introduced the new comers. The quorum was reached.

2.



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The Russian party signed in triplicate the Protocol of the Advisory Board meeting which was held in Zapolayrnuy, Russia in the period from March 3, 2009 till March 4, 2009. The documents were given to the Norwegian party (Tiia Kalske) to be signed by Mrs. Kristiansen who would forward them to the Finnish party for signing. The parties will exchange the signed document in the next meeting.

### 3.

Tiia Kalske suggested sending an application for Europarc membership under category C. It was not too expensive and Finnmark County Governor Office could be in charge of annual fees. Both Russia and Norway were interested in it; details could be discussed by e-mail.

### 4.

Natalia Polikarpova: Action Plan is an operating document; it can and must be changed. The question is about strategies and actions which we plan for trilateral park development. She has made the presentation of the addendum to Action Plan which the Russian party was going to make before.

The partners promised to think them over and to send their comments by e-mail later. All the amendments should be made prior to the next Advisory Board meeting.

Johannes Abildsnes: there are a lot of actions in the Plan. It is worth making a priority list. Some of the actions have been fulfilled. Can Natalia go on working on it? Can she take something away or combine actions?

Natalia Polikarpova: the project team has applied a lot of efforts to make Action Plan. It is really good. We just advise to make it more up to day: to review some deadlines and some of the actions.

Johannes Abildsnes: we agree, but we suggest making a priority list, e.g. to choose 5 actions and to prepare a new trilateral park project based on them.

The parties agreed to discuss it by e-mail and to make the list prior to the next Advisory Board meeting in 2010. Natalia Polikarpova will have prepared the priority list by January 1, 2010 and forward it to all the partners. Norway and Finland should respond before February 1, 2010.

Tiia Kalske: as for recommendations made by the verification commission, I have started working on them but the document is not ready yet. It will be forwarded soon to Riina Tervo and Natalia Polikarpova.

Marina Trusova: it should be done as soon as possible. The recommendations are to be taken into consideration prior to the next certification in 2013.

### 5.

Tiia Kalske: One discussed a possibility of sending applications for new projects in the Europarc meeting in Estonia.

Pirjo Seurujarvi: Such a possibility was discussed in a meeting held in Finland on December 12, 2009. We made a proposal to participate in the project, discussed the film making and the travelling exhibition. There is a geological project, we can join it. Lapland Reserve and



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Geological Institute have taken part in it. Projects aimed at developing transborder parks are preferable for ENPI Instrument but not pure scientific and research projects.

Marina Trusova: We got information on PAX NATURA CBC Programme 2007-2013. The project has been in preparation since January 1. Is it the same project?

Pirjo Seurujarvi: Yes, it is. Pertti Itkonen is in charge of application preparation (Sodankula).

Natalia Polikarpova: we need to hurry up because a month is left before application starts. Let's decide who will be in charge of application preparation for the trilateral park and have a meeting to discuss it in the nearest future. New ideas are to be based on Action Plan; we need to follow it and to choose priorities.

Ms Ilona Grekela from Lapland Environment Centre thanked the audience for a possibility to participate in the Advisory Board meeting and presented information on a new project which had been initiated by Lapland Environment Centre. The first round of application of Kolarctic ENPI Programme will start on January 11, 2010. It will be a real competition as a lot of applications will be sent. We need to think about our contribution to the project.

At the beginning of her presentation Ilona Grekela presented information on water level regulation and its impact upon Lake Inari and local environment as it had been asked by Pasvik Reserve. The partners took it into consideration.

The project is called Development of ecological cooperation, climate change and environment pollution in the Paz River basin. This new project is predecessor of other one which was running at the time when Pasvik Inari Park was set up. Monitoring programme has been developed. There will be a lot of cooperation partners in the project. Among them will be Pasvik Reserve, we have always remembered about it. Its main goal is management of climate change in the cross-border area.

Pajvi Sundsvall's idea: to have a study of the terrestrial ecosystems by means of unification of natural landscapes together with Metsähallitus. Trilateral meetings can be held to have this study organized as it was earlier suggested by Natalia Polikarpova in her presentation regarding addendum to Action Plan.

It is necessary to choose the most suitable classification for joint monitoring of aqueous ecosystems.

It can be served as a basis for future projects and future cooperation including climate change.

Sergey Fofonoff who lives in Inari region is very concerned over Lake Inari regulation and thinks that the population should have more detailed and objective information.

Ilona Grekela: it is not easy to recover environment but we try to find a balance and go on working on it. We are aware that the spawning area of the whitefish and the brook trout is in poor condition.

The partners thanked Ilona Grekela for detailed information on the project and took it into consideration.



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Natalia Polikarpova advised to think about application to Barents Secretariat for a round tourist tour funding and asked the Norwegian party to be in charge of the application.

Invild Wartiajnen: Barents Secretariat provides funding for a certain period of time and one can fail to meet the deadline after getting money.

6.

There were no discussions and addenda regarding the two above paragraphs.

7.

Tiia Kalske informed that their office had renewed the web-page of the park and Metsalallitus would be in charge for it in 2010. Tiia and Johannes could place information and news at the web-page of Finnmark County Governor Office at any time.

8.

Finland will be a chair country in 2010. The next Advisory Board meeting of the Trilateral Park will take place at the same time as a working group meeting on nature tourism at the end of August and at the beginning of September in 2010.

9.

The Advisory Board meeting of Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park was over at 5 pm Moscow time.

The minutes were kept by N. Polikarpova.

Inari 3.9.2010

Portti Hea

Tiia Kalske Johannes