



INTERREG IIIA Pohjoinen

FINAL REPORT



Promotion of nature protection and sustainable
nature tourism in the Inari-Pasvik area

Eija Ojanlatva
2008

Front page photo: T. Kyykkä

Project fact sheet

Project title: Promotion of nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in the Inari-Pasvik area

Programme: EU Interreg III A North – Kolarctic Neighbourhood Programme

Project schedule: 6.3.2006–31.1.2008

Main objectives:

- 1) To develop the protection of the diversity of nature, sustainable nature tourism and cooperation of authorities, municipalities, enterprises and other stakeholders involved.
- 2) To harmonise research and monitoring systems of the nature diversity.
- 3) To prepare an action plan and service facility plan for nature tourism in the area and carry through some facilities.
- 4) To formulate instructions for sustainable nature tourism together with tourist entrepreneurs.
- 5) To support nature tourism by producing educational material and by organising public events dealing with the nature of the area and its sustainable usage.
- 6) To prepare the establishment of a trilateral park by applying for the Europarc Transboundary Park certificate for transfrontier cooperation.

Funding:

The project funding consists of both EU-funding (Interreg and Tacis) and national funding.

Finland	285 534 €
Norway	211 250 €
Russia (Tacis-funding)	109 332 €
Total	606 116 €

Target groups and beneficiaries:

Local tourist entrepreneurs specialised in nature tourism, local inhabitants and tourists are the main target group that will benefit from the information material and the service facilities and the information channels created during the project. Furthermore the municipalities of the project area, environmental authorities, research and educational institutions and authorities will benefit from the increased communication and the development of the research and monitoring systems.

Steering Committee member organisations:

Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Lapland	FIN
Lapland Regional Environment Centre	FIN
Inari Municipality	FIN
The Regional Council of Lapland	FIN
Sør-Varanger Municipality	NOR
Sør-Varanger Travel Forum	NOR
Office of the Finnmark County Governor	NOR
Pasvik Zapovednik	RUS
Pechenga Administration	RUS
Regional Committee of the Nature Resources and Environmental Affairs on Murmansk Region	RUS
Observing member of the SC: Bioforsk Svanhovd	NOR

Project staff:

Eija Ojanlatva, Project Coordinator	FIN
Tanja Kyykkä, Project Information Designer	FIN
Johannes Abildsnes, Project Coordinator	NOR
Natalia Polikarpova, Project Coordinator	RUS

Person in charge:

Pekka Sulkava, Metsähallitus	FIN
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LAPIN
YMPÄRISTÖKESKUS



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Attachment 2. Publication: Inarijärven linnustoselvitys

Attachment 3. Book: Birds of Pasvik

Attachment 4. Leaflet: Karvannyhtöasemat suurpetojen tutkimuksessa)

Attachment 5. Action Plan for Nature Protection and Sustainable Nature Tourism in Pasvik-Inari Area

Attachment 6. www-prints from www.pasvik-inari.net

Attachment 7. Sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik River Valley -seminar, programme and list of participants

Attachment 8. Trilateral working group for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area – meeting, programme and list of participants

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1 Project background

The Pasvik-Inari area is made up of five protected regions and their surrounding areas that stretch across the borders of the three countries; Finland, Norway and Russia. The protected areas are in close vicinity to the Pasvik River valley. The area is renowned for its cultural values and rich nature. The Pasvik River and surrounding wilderness comprises a unique nature system where European, Asian and Arctic species meet.

The area is also offers a unique example of continuous transboundary nature protection. Trilateral cooperation between the management authorities in the three countries has been strong since 1991 when the first trilateral meeting was organised in Kirkenes. The initial annual trilateral meetings on nature management and protection were attended by Metsähallitus, the Ministry of Environment and later Lapland Regional Environment Centre from Finland, the Office of the Finnmark County Governor, the Directorate of Nature Management from Norway, and the State Committee on Environment. Later these organisation were joined by the Regional Committee of nature resources and environmental affairs in the Murmansk region, and the administration of Pasvik Zapovednik from Russia. The municipalities of Inari, Sør-Varanger and Pechenga joined the cooperation in 1999.

In order to maintain and strengthen the cooperation on nature protection and sustainable nature tourism, the cooperative partners initiated a trilateral project called '*Promotion of nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in the Inari-Pasvik area*'. The project was coordinated by Metsähallitus (Natural Heritage Services, Lapland), the Office of the Finnmark County Governor and Pasvik Zapovednik. The project commenced in 2006 with the following aims:

- 1) To develop the protection of the diversity of nature, sustainable nature tourism and cooperation of authorities, municipalities, enterprises and other stakeholders involved.
- 2) To harmonise research and monitoring systems for nature diversity.
- 3) To prepare an action plan and service facility plan for nature tourism in the area and establish new facilities.
- 4) To formulate instructions for sustainable nature tourism in cooperation with tourist entrepreneurs.
- 5) To support nature tourism by producing educational material and by organising public events dealing with the nature of the area and its sustainable use.
- 6) To establish an accredited trilateral park by applying for the Europarc Transboundary Park certificate for transfrontier cooperation.

Harmonising the methodologies used for the research and monitoring of species and habitats is essential for providing comparable and accurate knowledge about the environment. This knowledge forms a basis for sustainable management of the areas, including planning for the recreational use of the environment. Nature tourism and appropriate recreational use of the environment can only be achieved if the natural

and cultural values of the area are respected and sustainable management is prioritised. Well structured information material will guide travellers to places of interest, providing information aimed at deepening their understanding of the environment, culture and history of the area.

Furthermore, one of the main objectives of the project was to unify the area under a common name and logo, and establish a formal framework for the management of the area. The project aimed to create a permanent network for the cooperation between different stakeholders and strengthen the cooperation between the partner organisations. Enhancing the cooperation between the authorities, municipalities, nature tourism entrepreneurs, local inhabitants and other interest groups was considered essential for future development.

The decision about funding the *'Promotion of nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in the Inari-Pasvik area'*-project from the research and development entity of Interreg III A North - Kolarctic Neighbourhood was received on 6.3.2006 from the Regional Council of Lapland. The project staff started their work in Finland and Norway in April 2006. Tacis funding for the Russian partner was solved on 4.9.2006 and the actualisation of the project started on 5.9.2006 in Russia.

2 Target area

The project area is made up of five protected regions and their surroundings areas in Finland, Norway and Russia. These regions were established based on different national legislations, therefore the principle aims and level of protection differs from country to country. The Pasvik-Inari area is part of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia, a chain of protected areas from the Barents - to the Baltic Sea.

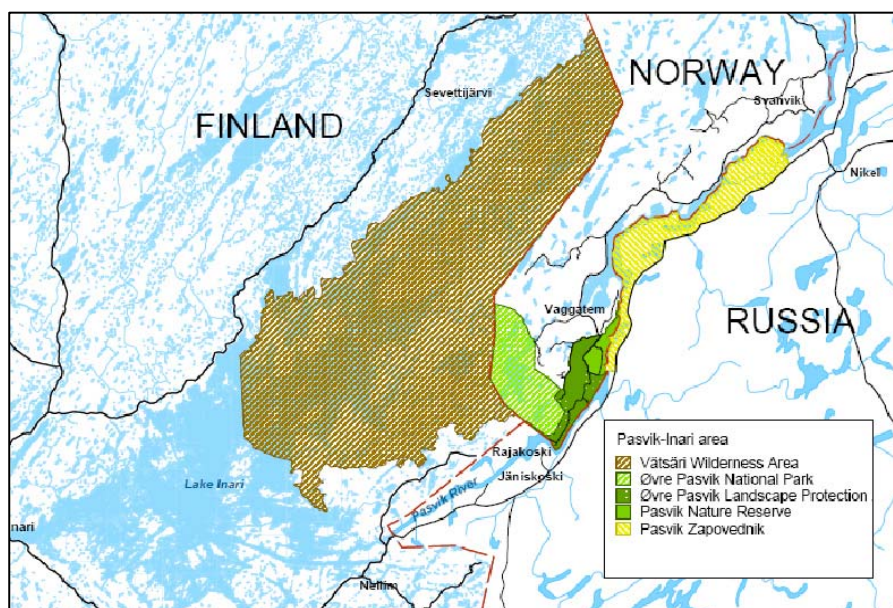


Fig 1. Protected areas in Pasvik-Inari.

2.1 Finland: Vätsäri Wilderness Area

Vätsäri Wilderness Area (1550 km²) is one of twelve wilderness areas in Finland and it is located in the Inari Municipality in the county of Lapland. Vätsäri Wilderness Area covers the north-eastern part of Lake Inari and a vast forested area extending from Lake Inari up to the Norwegian border in the east. The large continuous pine forest region is fragmented by lakes, bogs and ponds. The hilltops are mostly forested but alpine heath covers the ground in the Vätsäri highland.

Wilderness areas were established in 1991 (Wilderness Act 62/1991) in order to protect the unique wilderness areas, safeguard Sámi culture and traditional subsistence use of the land and to develop the potential for a diversified use of nature. These wilderness areas are managed by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services. Although the areas are not directly designated under the Nature Conservation Act, they do serve the conservation aims.

Vätsäri Wilderness Area is also part of the Finnish Natura 2000 network (FI1300204), which places the wilderness area under sections 65 and 66 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996). The southern-south-western part of the lake, measuring ca 900 km², is also part of Finland's Natura 2000 network (Lake Inari FI 130 0212). In the IUCN (World Conservation Union) protected area management categories, Vätsäri Wilderness Area is classified in category VI: *"Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems"*.

2.2 Norway: Øvre Pasvik National Park, Øvre Pasvik Landscape Protection Area and Pasvik Nature Reserve

Altogether in Norway there are three protected areas, these are: Øvre Pasvik National Park, Øvre Pasvik Landscape Protection Area and Pasvik Nature Reserve. The areas are located in the Sør-Varanger Municipality, in the County of Finnmark. All areas were established through the Nature Conservation Act and managed by the Office of the County Finnmark Governor.

Øvre Pasvik National Park is one of 28 National Parks in Norway. The national park was first established in 1970. In 2003, it was extended from 66 km² to 119 km². National parks in Norway are established in order to protect largely untouched environmentally unique areas of interest. Consideration of recreational use may also play a role in protection. National Parks are protected in their entirety, this means that the landscape, flora, fauna and cultural relics are all protected under the 'National Park' title. Øvre Pasvik National Park is classified in category IUCN II: *"National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation"*.

Øvre Pasvik Landscape Protection Area (54.2 km²) was established in 2003 at the same time that Øvre Pasvik National Park was extended. Landscape Protection Areas in Norway are established to protect

important or distinctive natural or cultivated landscapes. Protection of the overall landscape is important here, and activities that may change the character of the landscape are usually prohibited. Øvre Pasvik Landscape Protection Area is classified in category IUCN V: *“Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation”*.

Pasvik Nature Reserve (19.1 km²) was established in 1993. The nature reserve has a twin reserve on the Russian side of the border, Pasvik Zapovednik. Nature reserves in Norway are established in order to protect characteristic environmental types that are intact or nearly intact, as well as areas that are important for educational and scientific investigations. Nature reserves may be protected due to certain areas of interest such as forest reserves, mire reserves and bird reserves. A Nature reserve is the strictest form of protection in the Nature Conservation Act. Pasvik Nature Reserve is also included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Pasvik Nature Reserve is classified in category IUCN Ib: *“Wilderness area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection”*.

2.3 Russia: Pasvik Zapovednik

Pasvik Zapovednik (147.27 km²) in Russia is situated in the Municipality of Pechenga, Murmansk Region, Russia. Pasvik Zapovednik was established in 1992, following two governmental decisions: the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No 493, from 16.07.1992 and the Order of the Ministry of the Nature Resources No 202 from 08.09.1992. The whole territory of Pasvik Zapovednik is under the supervision of the Ministry of Nature Resources of the Russian Federation. The total area is excluded from the territory of Pechenga Forestry (Act No 283 from 27.08.1993) and was handed over for lifelong and free use within the frames of Pasvik Zapovednik.

The main goals for Pasvik Zapovednik are: protection of the aboriginal northern pine forests in Europe and Russia, complex monitoring of the northern ecosystems, protecting the wetlands of global importance, protection of the northern micro population of elk and protection of the cultural heritage of global importance. The brown bear population, golden eagle and the waterfowls are included in complex monitoring. Pasvik Zapovednik is classified under the IUCN category Ia: *“Strict nature reserve/wilderness protection area managed mainly for science or wilderness protection”*.

3 Project organisation and staff

3.1 Main partners and members of the Steering Committee

The lead applicant of the project was the Lapland Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus in Finland. The person responsible for implementation of the project was Senior Advisor Pekka Sulkava from Natural Heritage Services in Hetta. Main partners of the project were the Office of the Finnmark County Governor

in Vadsø, Norway and Pasvik Zapovednik in Russia. Other cooperative partners were Lapland Regional Environment Centre and Inari municipality in Finland, Sør-Varanger municipality, Sør-Varanger Travel Forum, Bioforsk Svanhovd Jord og Miljø and Finnmark County municipality in Norway and Pechenga Administration and Regional committee of the nature resources and environmental affairs in the Murmansk region, Russia. The Sámi Parliament in Finland also joined in the cooperation in 2007.

The members of the Steering Committee represented the following organisations:

Finland

Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services (chairperson Jyrki Tolonen)

Lapland Regional Environment Centre (Päivi Lundvall)

Inari municipality (Teuvo Katajamaa)

Regional Council of Lapland (Päivi Ekdahl)

Norway

Sør-Varanger municipality (Trygve Sarajärvi)

Sør-Varanger Travel Forum (Kurt Wikan)

Office of the Finnmark County Governor (Bente Christiansen)

Russia

Pasvik Zapovednik (Vladimir Chizhov)

Pasvik Zapovednik (Natalia Polikarpova)

Pechenga Administration (Viktor Mavrin)

Regional committee of the nature resources and environmental affairs on Murmansk region (Nikolai Bichuk)

The Steering Committee had one observing member from Bioforsk Svanhovd in Norway. The person in charge, Pekka Sulkava was also another observer and advisor on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee met five times during the project; on 21.4.2006 in Inari, Finland, on 24.10.2006 in Zapolyarny, Russia, on 28.3.2007 in Svanvik, Norway, on 17.10.2007 and 24.1.2008 in Inari, Finland.

3.2 Project staff

The project employed three project coordinators, Eija Ojanlatva in Finland, Gunhild Lutnæs (1.4.2006 - 30.4.2007) and Johannes Abildsnes (1.5.2007 - 31.1.2008) in Norway and Natalia Polikarpova in Russia, and the information designer, Tanja Kyykkä in Finland. In Finland, the project also employed five research assistants during the 2006-2008 period. In Russia, many employees of Pasvik Zapovednik worked with the project for short periods of time, these engagements were decided upon according Tacis budget specifications: bookkeeper, chief, chief researcher, driver, expert on nature tourism and certification, laboratory assistant, 5 research assistants, scientific researcher, 2 state inspectors and senior state inspector.

Finland

Project staff from Lapland Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus

- **Eija Ojanlatva** in Ivalo. Project Coordinator 1.4.2006-31.1.2008. Member of Nature Tourism and Certification working group.
- **Tanja Kyykkä** in Ivalo. Information Designer 1.4.2006-31.1.2008. Member of Dissemination and Monitoring working group.
- **Esa Aalto** in Ivalo, Research assistant 1.6.-31.7.2007
- **Matti Heino** in Ivalo, Research assistant 11.6.-19.8.2007
- **Timo Leppänen** in Ivalo, Research assistant 15.9.-14.11.2006
- **Sari Magga** in Ivalo, Research assistant 1.3.-30.8.2007
- **Jyrki Vähälummukka** in Ivalo, Research assistant 1.3.-30.9.2006

Other people involved in the project from Lapland Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus

- **Pekka Sulkava** in Enontekiö. Person in charge of project and of preparing the application in 2005, leader of Certification working group and member of Monitoring working group.
- **Joel Erkkonen** in Rovaniemi. Member of Nature tourism working group (1.4.2006-19.3.2007).
- **Kimmo Gröndahl** in Ivalo. Compiling information for project maps.
- **Jussi Kahlos** in Inari. Member of Dissemination working group (4.6.2007- replacement of Riina Tervo).
- **Salme Kiviniemi** in Ivalo. Bookkeeping, finances and travel expense accounts.
- **Aimo Leppäkangas** in Ivalo. Member of Nature tourism working group.
- **Pasi Nivasalo** in Inari. Member of Dissemination working group.
- **Tuomo Ollila** in Rovaniemi. Member of Monitoring working group.
- **Olli Osmonen** in Ivalo. Providing expertise on the Birds of Lake Inari report.
- **Petteri Polojärvi** in Ivalo. Field inventories and reporting in monitoring the brown bear.
- **Juha Sihvo** in Ivalo. Compiling information for maps.
- **Riina Tervo** in Inari. Member of Dissemination working group (1.4.2006-30.4.2007).
- **Jyrki Tolonen** in Rovaniemi. Chairman of the Steering Committee and member of Certification working group.
- **Eija Tukki** in Ivalo. Bookkeeping, finances and travel expense accounts.
- **Tapio Tynys** in Inari. Leader of Nature tourism working group.

People involved in the project from Finnish Sámi Parliament

- **Elen Anne Sara**, member of Nature tourism working group (1.6.-31.12.2007).

People involved in the project from Inari Municipality

- **Teuvo Katajamaa**, member of the Steering Committee and Nature tourism working group.
- **Riitta Näkkäläjärvi**, member of Certification working group.

People involved in the project from Lapland Regional Environment Centre

- **Taina Kojola**, member of Monitoring working group.
- **Päivi Lundvall**, planning of project, member of the Steering Committee and Nature tourism and Certification working group.

Norway

Project staff from the Office of the Finnmark County Governor

- **Gunhild Lutnæs** in Vadsø. Project Coordinator 1.4.2006-30.4.2007. Leader of Dissemination working group and member of Nature Tourism working group.
- **Johannes Abildsnes** in Vadsø. Project Coordinator 1.5.2007-31.1.2008. Leader of Dissemination working group and member of other working groups for the planning and writing of the application during 2005.

Other people involved in the project from the Office of the Finnmark County Governor

- **Bente Christiansen** in Vadsø. Planning of the project, public financing. Planning and writing of application during 2005. Member of the Steering Committee and Dissemination working group.
- **Paul A. Nilsen** in Vadsø. Expert and advisor on nature monitoring (1.4.2006-30.4.2007)

People involved in the project from Bioforsk Svanhovd

- **Paul Eric Aspholm**, member of Monitoring working group.
- **Hans Geir Eiken**, observer of the Steering Committee (1.4.2006-31.3.2007).
- **Ingrid Jensvoll**, (1.4.2006-15.5.2007) member of Nature tourism working group.
- **Leif Ollila**, fieldworker in brown bear monitoring.
- **Martin Smith**, expert on brown bear, in charge of method development for brown bear hair snares.
- **Ingvild Wartianen**, member of Dissemination working group (1.4.2006-31.3.2007), and observer of Steering Committee (1.4.2007-31.1.2008 replacement of Eiken).

People involved in the project from Finnmark County Municipality

- **Erland Loso**, member of Nature tourism working group (1.4.2006-1.2.2007).
- **Roy Åge Ugseth**, member of Nature tourism working group (2.2.2007-31.1.2008 replacement of Erland Loso).

People involved in the project from Sør-Varanger Municipality

- **Trygve Sarajärvi**, member of Steering Committee and Certification working group.

People involved in the project from Sør-Varanger Travel Forum

- **Trine Beddari**, member of Steering Committee and Nature tourism and Certification working group (1.4.2006-30.9.2007).

- **Kurt Wikan**, member of Steering Committee and Nature tourism and Certification working group (1.10.2007-31.1.2008 replacement of Beddari).

Russia

Technical staff from Pasvik Zapovednik

- **Natalia Polikarpova** in Rajakoski. Project Coordinator 5.9.2006-31.1.2008. Leader of monitoring working group, member of Steering Committee. Planning of the project during 2005.
- **Olga Makarova** in Jäniskoski. Chief Researcher 5.9.2006-31.1.2008, member of Dissemination working group. Planning of the project during 2005.
- **Anatoly Khokhlov** in Jäniskoski. Chief 5.9.2006-10.5.2007, Scientific researcher 11.5.2007-31.7.2007, member of the Steering Committee and Certification working group. Planning of the project during 2005.
- **Marina Trusova** in Nikel. Chief and member of the Steering Committee and Certification working group 11.5.-31.7.2007, Expert on nature tourism and certification and member of the Nature tourism and Certification working group 21.8.2007-31.1.2008.
- **Vladimir Chizhov** in Nikel. Chief 21.8.2007-31.1.2008, member of the Steering Committee and Certification working group.
- **Kirill Konovalov**, Expert on nature tourism and certification 5.9.2006-31.7.2007, member of Certification and Nature tourism working group.
- **Nadezhda Vorobyeva** in Jäniskoski, Rajakoski, Ryazan. Research assistant 2.5-5.7.2007.
- **Nikita Zuyev** in Jäniskoski, Rajakoski, Ryazan. Research assistant 2.5-4.7.2007.
- **Galina Sherbakova** in Jäniskoski, Rajakoski, Ryazan. Research assistant 2.5-5.7.2007.
- **Aleksei Savkin** in Jäniskoski, Rajakoski, Ryazan. Research assistant 2.5-5.7.2007.
- **Sergei Zhiryakov** in Jäniskoski, Rajakoski, Ryazan. Research assistant 2.5-6.7.2007.

Administrative staff from Pasvik Zapovednik

- **Nina Gladchenko** in Nikel. Bookkeeper 4.6.2007-31.1.2008.
- **Galina Panicheva** in Nikel. Bookkeeper 20.10.2006-30.5.2007.
- **Sergei Khlebutin** in Nikel. Driver 22.7.2007-31.1.2008.
- **Oleg Makarov** in Rajakoski. Driver 7.5.2007-31.1.2008.
- **Sergei Tkachuk** in Nikel. Driver 19.3.-19.7.2007.
- **Gennady Dimitrenko** in Rajakoski. Senior state inspector 23.6.2007-9.11.2007.
- **Nikolai Sergachev** in Jäniskoski. State inspector 6.8.-7.11.2007.
- **Alexander Karachevtsev** in Jäniskoski. State inspector 3.7.-7.11.2007.
- **Aleksander Merschiev** in Jäniskoski. Laborant, 23.5.-21.8.2007.
- **Irina Bulycheva** in Jäniskoski. Scientific researcher, 23.4.-17.8.2007.

People involved in the project from Regional committee of the nature resources and environmental affairs on Murmansk region

- **Nikolay Bichuk**, member of the Steering Committee and Certification working group.

People involved in the project from Pechenga Administration

- **Victor Mavrin** (represented by Oleg Kovas and Tatjana Bazanova), member of the Steering Committee and Nature tourism working group.

Other people involved in the project

- **Eugene Khlebosolov** in Ryazan-Rajakoski. Waterfowl registration, unifying methodology ornithological of ornithological research. One of the authors of the book The Birds of Pasvik. Expert of Steering Committee, member of monitoring working group.
- **Olga Khlebosolova** in Ryazan-Rajakoski. Waterfowl registration, unifying methodology ornithological of ornithological research. One of the authors of the book The Birds of Pasvik. Database work.
- **Ivan Zatsarinny** in Ryazan-Rajakoski. Waterfowl registration, unifying methodology ornithological of ornithological research. One of the authors of the book The Birds of Pasvik.
- **Elvira Rakovskaya** in Rajakoski-Moscow. Biotope methods description, unifying methodology.
- **Vasili Neshataev** in Saint Petersburg-Rajakoski. Field vegetation description, botanical researches.
- **Nino Natsvaladze** in Saint Petersburg-Rajakoski. Field vegetation description, botanical researches.

3.3 Working groups

3.3.1 Four main working groups

Four working groups were established during the kick-off meeting on 20.4.2006 in Inari, whose job it was to compile and present tasks and activities of the project to the Steering Committee: Nature monitoring, Nature tourism, Dissemination of information and Certification. The working groups were composed of representatives from main partner organisations, environmental authorities, tourism entrepreneurs, municipalities and research institutions in the Pasvik-Inari area. Working groups often met one day prior to the Steering Committee meetings, and otherwise made the use of e-mail and other technologies for ongoing communication. All working groups participated in four meetings during the project, the Nature monitoring working group however met five times (extra meeting on 22.2.2007 in Inari). Meetings were held on 20.4.2006 in Inari, Finland, on 23.10.2006 in Zapolyarny, Russia, on 27.3.2007 in Svanvik, Norway, and on 16.10.2007 in Inari, Finland.

Composition of working groups

Nature monitoring

Natalia Polikarpova (leader of the working group), Johannes Abildsnes, Paul Eric Aspholm, Eugene Khlebosolov, Taina Kojola, Tanja Kyykkä, Tuomo Ollila, Pekka Sulkava, Tuomo Ollila

Nature tourism

Tapio Tynys (leader of the working group), Johannes Abildsnes, Teuvo Katajamaa, Aimo Leppäkangas, Päivi Lundvall, Eija Ojanlatva, Elen Anne Sara, Marina Trusova, Roy Åge Ugseth, Kurt Wikan

Dissemination

Johannes Abildsnes (leader of the working group), Jussi Kahlos, Tanja Kyykkä, Olga Makarova, Pasi Nivasalo, Ingvild Wartianen

Certification

Pekka Sulkava (leader of the working group), Johannes Abildsnes, Nikolai Bichuk, Päivi Lundvall, Viktor Mavrin, Riitta Näkkäljärvi, Eija Ojanlatva, Trygve Sarajärvi, Jyrki Tolonen, Kurt Wikan

3.3.2 Action plan working group

In order to promote and schedule the implementation process of the Action Plan for nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area, the project staff decided to establish an action plan working group in spring 2007. Members of the working group were Pekka Sulkava (leader of the working group), Johannes Abildsnes, Tiia Kalske, Tanja Kyykkä, Eija Ojanlatva, Natalia Polikarpova and Tapio Tynys. The working group met two times during the project, on 28.5.2007 in Inari and on 24.9.2007 in Vadsø. Otherwise, the group communicated via e-mails throughout the project period.

4 Project management, reporting and cooperation with other projects

4.1 Project management

The Finnish project coordinator was in charge of the implementation of the total project. Her tasks were economic follow-up and control (Tacis, Interreg), tender procedures, communication with the financiers (Tacis, Interreg), reporting (Tacis, Interreg), cultural heritage, agreements, image processing, layouts of produced materials, informing Steering Committee and issues concerning certificate and nature tourism working groups. The information designer was in charge of producing information material, maps and publications, layout and processing pictures, external and internal dissemination, meeting arrangements, preparing and compiling the Action Plan, contacts with entrepreneurs and harmonising

the monitoring methodologies and planning and implementing the monitoring activities. Also, the labour input of permanent staff of Metsähallitus was vital in project implementation.

The Norwegian project coordinator was in charge of the Norwegian economic follow-up, tender procedures and reporting, development of internal web pages and leadership of dissemination working group. The Russian project coordinator was responsible for Tacis reporting, tender procedures and publications in Russia and leadership of monitoring working group.

4.2 Reporting

The project had a reporting schedule which was determined by the Regional Council of Lapland and the Delegation of the European Commission to Russia. The Finnish coordinator took care of the actualisation of the joint schedule. Norwegian and Russian coordinators provided financial and literary information for the interim reports to the Finnish coordinator. She compiled the reports and sent them to the members of the Steering Committee for comments by e-mail a couple of weeks before deadline.

Interim Interreg reporting periods were:

1.4.-30.6.2006 – reported by 30.8.2006

1.7.-31.10.2006 – reported by 30.11.2006

1.11.-31.12.2006 – reported by 31.1.2007

1.1.-30.6.2007 – reported by 30.8.2007

1.7.-31.10.2007 – reported by 30.11.2007

1.11.2007-31.1.2008 – reported by 31.3.2008

Tacis six-month report periods were:

5.9.2006-4.3.2007 – reported by 4.3.2007

5.3.2007-4.9.2007 – reported by 4.9.2007

5.9.2007-31.1.2008 – reported by 31.3.2008

Interreg and Tacis final reports ready by 31.3.2008

4.3 Archiving the project documents

In Finland, the main project documents are stored according to the procedures adhered to by the Metsähallitus archive system, these documents will be held until 2013. These documents have been scanned into the electronic Lotus Notes -based database while the originals can be found in the project folders at the local archive in Ivalo. All communicative documentation in the form of information letters, invitations, announcements and published newspaper articles etc published in Finland have also been stored according to this system. E-mails belonging to the Finnish project staff have been stored on DVD-disks that can be found in the project folders. The publications produced by the project are also found in the Metsähallitus library.

Financial archiving in Metsähallitus is centralised. All financial documents concerning Finnish implementation of the project have been scanned and stored by the Basware Invoice Processing 3.0 - operating system. Posting, controlling and acceptance of electric invoices took place within this system.

Images, postings and circulation log files of the invoices were stored on DVD-disks in Tikkurila according to the centralised archiving process.

In Norway, the reports, documents of tender procedures, information letters, announcements and published newspaper articles are stored on the electronic archive system of the Finnmark County Governor (Ephorte)

In Russia, all relevant Tacis documents concerning finance, project implementation and reporting are stored in the archives of Pasvik Zapovednik in Rajakoski even though Lapland Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus was the lead applicant of the project. When the expenses and invoices take place in Russia, the original financial documents must be always stored in the Russian archives according to the Russian Bookkeeping Act. During the project, Metsähallitus received copies of the original documents verified by the stamp and signature of the Russian partner for the internal interim finance reports. These copies were adequate for Metsähallitus bookkeeping system, and they can be found in the projects Tacis folders in the archives in Ivalo.

4.4 Cooperation with other projects

In the project application, under the title of 'cooperation with other ongoing projects' the Orthodox Trail and Barents Environmental School, have been emphasised. Unfortunately neither of these projects received ongoing funding during the Pasvik-Inari project, but the best practises and achieved results of both concluded projects were considered by project staff. In Finland, the information designer contacted the coordinator and working group members of the Pasvik programme (Development and implementation of an environmental monitoring and assessment system in joint Finnish, Norwegian and Russian border area) coordinated by the Lapland Regional Environment Centre to clarify possibilities to join monitoring information of Pasvik-Inari project to an existing database in spring 2006. Cooperation in monitoring was also strong between the North Calotte Council project '*Development of monitoring and research of brown bear population in North Calotte area*' and the Finnish large carnivore DNA research project by the University of Oulu and the Finnish Game and Fisheries institute. The Norwegian and Finnish project staff also attended the final seminar (11.12.2006 Saariselkä, Finland) for the Pasvik programme to find out the results of the project.

During the project, the cultural heritage data from the target area was collected for the Action Plan. A field survey in Vätsäri old reindeer fence was attended by the Finnish coordinator, the coordinator of Lapland Regional Environment Centre and the reindeer owners association on the 18.09.2006. The coordinator also organised archaeological field surveys on 12.-18.6.2006 and 6.-10.8.2007 in the Inari Lake area together with the project manager of 'Recalling Ancestral Voices - Repatriation of Sámi Cultural Heritage – project'. The other participants of the surveys were Giellagas Institute and General Archaeology of Oulu University, and the Sámi Museum Siida. The field surveys produced new information about Ukonsaari and

Ukko, and the holy islands of Inari Sámi in Inari Lake area. The coordinator and the project manager of Recalling Ancestral Voices also organised another two seminars in Sámi Museum Siida; the Ukonsaari Island –seminar on 16.9.2006 and field surveys in Inari area in 2007–seminar on National archaeological day, on 1.9.2007. Both seminars were organised to inform local people about the holy places and their research results in the Sámi area of Finland.



Fig 2. Cooperative research team in the front of sieidi on Ukko Island in August 2007. Team composed of representatives of Pasvik-Inari and Recalling Ancestral Voices projects, Sámi museum Siida and Giellagas Institute, and students of General Archaeology of Oulu University. Photo E. Ojanlatva.

5 Primary objectives and achieved results of the project

5.1 Primary general objectives and expected results

The primary objectives of the project were to develop the protection of the diversity of nature and sustainable nature tourism in the area as well as to intensify the cooperation between the main partners and other stakeholders. The objectives and results of the project were divided between four working groups; monitoring, nature tourism, dissemination and certification, which were established at the beginning of the project.

Expected results of the project:

- To establish permanent and ongoing cooperation between authorities, municipalities, enterprises and other stakeholders.
- Achieve formal trilateral agreements concerning the nature protection work and its development in the Inari-Pasvik area, and have these signed and ready for Europarc certification.
- Establish a harmonised system for the monitoring of biological diversity.
- Create a common vision and database for protection and sustainable tourism work in the area.
- Compile Instructions for sustainable nature tourism.
- Organise educational meetings.
- Compile and implement a service facility plan within resource limits.
- Organise cooperation with other environmental projects.

5.2 Objectives of working groups

5.2.1 Objectives of the monitoring working group

Nature research and monitoring methods in Finland, Norway and Russia differ from each other. The principle aim of the working group was to harmonise the different national practices used for monitoring certain target species. Harmonised methodology in monitoring ensures that the data collected is comparable. Unified methodology also makes data exchange and data handling easier. By using harmonised methodologies it is possible to gain a better overall picture of the populations and possible changes in the population structures. Important key species, vulnerable species or species characteristic for the area were chosen for monitoring. The target species/groups were brown bear, Golden Eagle, waterfowls and insects. The insect groups were later defined as butterflies and ants.

Information about the natural habitat types is needed for nature management and planning. In all three countries the natural habitat types have been studied using different methodology. The working group aimed to clarify the practices used and harmonise the methodology and terminology.

The data compiled in the common monitoring activities should be easily available to all the participants involved in the cooperation. The working group aim was to clarify the possibilities for creating a mutual database; begin by mapping all the possibilities to include the data collected in an already existing database in order to share the information compiled and enable easy data handling. Another aim of the monitoring group was to stimulate the trilateral research institutes to increase the number of their networks. Furthermore the group was expected to provide material for other groups as a basis for their work. Material was needed especially for the dissemination group work, for Internet-pages and other information material.

Main tasks of the nature monitoring group:

- to harmonise the monitoring methods of certain target species (brown bear, golden eagle, waterfowls and insects)
- to exchange data on natural habitat types and the inventory methods used
- to map the possibilities for creating a mutual database
- to promote networking in nature research and monitoring
- to provide information material for other groups in the project

5.2.2 Objectives of the nature tourism working group

One of the main objectives of the nature tourism working group was to prepare an action and service facility plan for the area. It became clear during the project that this would be part of a more comprehensive action plan whereby the principles of cooperation and the issues concerning nature protection as well as dissemination of information would be documented. Because the plan covered all fields of work it is described in more detail in the dissemination of information part.

The working group was also assigned to formulate instructions for sustainable nature tourism and to support nature tourism by producing information material and organising public events. Defining the mutual principles for sustainable nature tourism in the area was also requested. To guarantee the continuance of the work, a permanent trilateral working group was to be established with representatives from environmental authorities, nature tourism entrepreneurs and municipalities who would work together to promote sustainable nature tourism in the area.

Proposed facilities were also to be built within resource limits. One idea of particular interest was the establishment of a path leading from Vätsäri, Finland to Øvre Pasvik National Park in Norway. The path would connect with the existing path in the national park. This proved to be an impossible task within the time limits, primarily because the Regional Plan of Lapland was yet to be confirmed.

Main tasks of the nature tourism group:

- to create an action and service facility plan
- to support nature tourism by producing information material and arranging public events
- to establish a permanent working group in sustainable nature tourism
- to formulate principles for sustainable nature tourism
- to improve and build proposed facilities within the resource limits

5.2.3 Objectives of the dissemination working group

The dissemination group for the project was established to intensify cooperation between authorities, municipalities, enterprises and other stakeholders in the area. The group also planned to produce information material about joint environmental and cultural interests in the area and to coordinate the

production of project publications. An English web-site (www.pasvik-inari.net) had been published about the environment in the Pasvik area by the cooperating partners in the beginning of the 21st century. It was the responsibility of the Dissemination Group to expand the site and create national language versions (Norwegian, Finnish and Russian). Furthermore the group was also to compile basic information about the area in a brochure. Other publications that were planned include; the plan of action, instructions for sustainable nature tourism, compile information on inventories of nature, species and methods and write the final report. The group was also in charge of arranging workshops, seminars and the public meetings. Environmental education and co-operation with the environmental project "the Barents Environmental School" was also on the working group agenda.

Main tasks of the dissemination group:

- Production of information material, project brochure, leaflet, inventory lists
- Development of the Internet pages
- Public meetings
- Arrangement of seminar on nature tourism and nature monitoring
- Writing of reports, plan of action and instructions for sustainable nature tourism
- Environmental education

5.2.4 Objectives of the certification working group

All the project activities were aimed at creating a stable basis for future cooperation. The project partners aimed also at applying for an internationally acknowledged Europarc certification for transboundary cooperation. The Europarc Federation is an umbrella organisation of protected areas in Europe. Certification has earlier been granted for 6 cooperation partners. The certification process provides managers of protected areas with a guide for identifying the priorities and essential elements of transboundary cooperation. It also provides tools for analysing existing cooperation and identifying fields of work where practical action is required. A Transboundary Parks certificate is an established and acknowledged standard to which protected areas can aspire, and it will bring national and international recognition to the work of the recipient parks, and raise the profile of the area.

It was essential to identify the legal platform for Europarc Transboundary Park certification. This included collecting and analysing the laws, regulations and different practices concerning the protected areas in the three countries. The formal agreement concerning the trilateral cooperation was also needed after defining the future aims and visions of the cooperation.

The principle aims of the certification working group were:

- to map the possibilities for applying the Transboundary Parks certificate
- to identify the legal background for the certificate
- to sign the cooperation agreement

5.3 Results of working groups

5.3.1 Results on nature monitoring

5.3.1.1 Target species

In the early phase of the project, information about the national practices for monitoring the target species and groups was exchanged between the partners. The methodologies currently in use were analysed and the benefits of each method discussed. External expertise was also needed when developing the methodologies, and several researchers and research institutes participated in the work. In addition, the methodologies chosen were tested in each country and the results have been exchanged between the partners.

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

The Pasvik-Inari region has a important brown bear population which is part of the large Russian bear population. The bear population is common for the three countries since bears cross the national borders. In order to gain more information about the Pasvik-Inari brown bear population, modern DNA-methodologies were tested in the whole area. By compiling the genetic information it is possible to identify the bears and define their sex and family relations. This provides a wider picture of the population as a whole.

The DNA-methods have been developed in Finland and in Norway over several years. Bioforsk Svanhovd has used this method when compiling the genetic information based on faeces samples collected from the border area. Since faeces-collecting is based on random sampling another non-invasive method was tested in order to get more information on the population using a systematic sampling method. Bear hair was collected for DNA-analysis using hair snagging stations scattered around the area. In addition, local residents, in particular hunters and co-workers in the field were encouraged to collect the faecal samples. Information fieldwork methodology and laboratory analysis was discussed by several experts in a workshop arranged in February 2007 and the testing was carried out with the help of various institutions. Before testing the method in Finland a public information event was arranged in the village of Nellim where the study was introduced. All interest groups, eg. Border authorities, reindeer herders, hunting associations and the local residents were informed about the study.



Fig 3. Senior Curator Jouni Aspi and Research Technician Jari Ylönen from University of Oulu and Research assistant Matti Heino from Pasvik-Inari project establishing a hair snagging station in Nellim. Photo E. Ojanlatva.

This method proved to be successful but also resource consuming. The fieldwork in 2007 yielded 196 hair samples in total. The samples were analysed at Bioforsk Svanhovd. From 129 samples a positive DNA-restriction was successfully made and 24 bears were identified. The data was compared with the previous data from the faeces samples. In 2004-2007, altogether 85 brown bears have been identified in the area. Organising the monitoring work on a regular basis requires extra funding in the future.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

The golden eagle is one of the great birds of prey in the northern hemisphere. Compensation to reindeer husbandry is paid for damages caused by the golden eagles. The size of the payment depends on how many territories are occupied each year by golden eagles and the production of offspring within the area of each herding association. Data compiled across borders is needed in order to make more accurate estimations about the population.

International cooperation in golden eagle monitoring has been lively between the Nordic countries. Criteria for monitoring and surveillance of golden eagles in Finland-Norway-Sweden were drafted in 2004 by a working group with representatives from Finland, Norway and Sweden. This method was used as a basis of golden eagle monitoring in the Pasvik-Inari area. In Russia, the methodology were extended so that some parameters of the Russian methods were also observed.

Monitoring was also carried out according to the methods in each country. In Finland, the known territories were surveyed according to the criteria, unknown, new territories were also searched for. According to the data it was possible to estimate the nesting success of the golden eagles in the area and compare the results with the data collected previously. In Norway and Russia work concentrated on locating territories.

Waterfowls

In Finland, birds of Lake Inari have been observed by several researchers and bird enthusiasts. The national Atlas-mapping of bird fauna in Finland aims at clarifying the distribution of the birds nesting in the country and studying the changes in the distribution. In Norway and Russia, the waterfowl nesting in Pasvik valley have been observed yearly since 1995. In 2006-2007, the differences and similarities in methodologies used in waterfowl monitoring in Finland, Norway and Russia were analysed. Some small differences in the recording of results were discovered, however the basis behind the counting methodology was similar. The Russian partner compiled the information into a field guide. The main objective of the registration was to observe the occurrences of each species and to compile information on the variability, and development of the bird populations. Both the breeding species breeding in the area and the species using the area for resting during their migration are documented.



The registration was conducted on the Pasvik River and in the mouth of the River Ivalo in Finland. In Finland, the surface of Lake Inari is wide and the waterfowl counting cannot be conducted yearly over the whole area. Therefore, a smaller area of interest was chosen for monitoring, and waterfowl counting was carried out at the mouth of the River Ivalo in June 2007 by three experts. These results were exchanged between the partners. Information compiled from Finland is included in the Birdlife of Lake Inari publication and the Russian data is included in Birds of Pasvik publication.

Fig 4. Paul Eric Aspholm from Bioforsk Svanhovd registering the waterfowls on the Pasvik River. Photo E. Ojanlatva.

Insects

Several insect species or groups of species are known to react rapidly on the changes in their environment and therefore several insect groups, such as butterflies, beetles and ants, are considered as an ideal group for monitoring. The methodologies used for monitoring ants and butterflies were exchanged between the partners and ants were chosen as a test group for harmonising the monitoring methods. Ant monitoring method was tested in each country. In addition, the methodology used in Finland for monitoring day active butterflies was tested in Russia.

In 2007, ants were studied in Pasvik-Inari along transects in each of the three countries. Simultaneously, possibilities in the exchange of expertise was mapped. The study was conducted in all countries by a Russian expert. The information was compiled in a report. Altogether, 17 ant species were identified in the Pasvik-Inari area. The diversity of ants in Pasvik valley is limited by abiotic factors rather than biotic. The main limiting factor is the duration of high temperature periods needed for foraging and reproduction. Sensitivity to temperature varies and the more tolerant species dominate. Distribution of hydrophilic species is limited by high soil humidity and low soil temperature.

5.3.1.2 Natural habitat types

In order to find out similarities and differences in mapping the natural habitat types, information about the different practices was exchanged. In Finland the information on natural habitat types was compiled according to the definition of the European Union. The natural habitat types in Vätsäri were surveyed as part of the biotope inventory mapping conducted in Lapland 1996-2000 and altogether 14 natural habitat types, listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive have been recorded in the area. The habitat types in Norway are mapped within the national biodiversity mapping programme. The information is comparable with the EU system. In Pasvik Zapovednik surroundings in Russia, a landscape mapping was conducted in 2002-2006. More information is needed in order to estimate the comparability of this data.

5.3.1.3 Database

Data on species and habitats is stored in national databases with limited access. In order to improve the accessibility of the data the possibility of shared databases were considered. Another cooperative project, the Pasvik monitoring programme, was in the process of creating a database for environmental data collected during the monitoring work. This data proved to be very different from the data collected about the target species of this project and other options needed to be considered. The partners wished to keep the database as simple as possible and therefore it was agreed that a simple Excel-format would be used. Additionally, an Access-programme database was developed in Russia.

5.3.1.4 Workshop and exchange of expertise

To exchange information about the methodologies and to enhance the cooperation between the researchers, research institutions and environmental authorities dealing with nature monitoring, a **workshop on monitoring** was arranged on 21.-22.2.2007. The workshop focused on the brown bear and golden eagle monitoring. A methodological meeting of the working group was arranged in connection with the seminar.

The participants comprehensively presented the on-going research in each country and recent experiences with DNA-techniques and bear hair traps. It was emphasised that the DNA-methods should, however, not be used simply for research but also for routine long term monitoring. Information on population numbers and structure, brown bear hunting, calf mortality, bear-human conflicts and problem bears was presented from each country. Practices and experiences in golden eagle monitoring were also exchanged. Administrative viewpoints was also presented. The workshop resulted in a strong cooperation between the different institutions especially in brown bear research. (Attachment 1. Workshop on monitoring, programme and list of participants)

Cooperation and **exchange of expertise** was especially intense within brown bear research. Cooperation with the North Calotte Council project '*Development of monitoring and research of brown bear population in North Calotte area*' and the Finnish large carnivore DNA research project by the University of Oulu and the Finnish Game and Fisheries institute was indispensable. Expertise was also exchanged concerning the waterfowl counts that were completed at Pasvik River during the 2006 and 2007 summers. The Finnish experts participated in the work which also presented an excellent opportunity to discuss methodology. In addition, a Russian ant expert conducted an ant survey in all three countries in July 2007. The Pasvik monitoring programme coordinated in Finland by the Lapland Regional Environment Centre discussed the database development with us.

5.3.1.5 Information material

Birdlife of Lake Inari - publication

The oldest published observations of the birds of Lake Inari are from 19th century and the first systematic research expedition was completed in 1959. Since then, several studies on the nesting patterns of birds in Lake Inari have been conducted. The old and new data from the area was compiled in the '*Birdlife of Lake Inari*' publication. The report includes observations of the birdlife in Lake Inari compiled from various earlier publications and unpublished sources dating back to the 19th century to today. Estimates of bird species' local breeding populations have also been calculated. Surveys conducted since 2000 have enabled comparisons with earlier data from surveys of land birds on the lake's islands during the 1970s.

The Birdlife of Lake Inari was published in December 2007 in the series Metsähallituksen luonnonsuojelujulkaisuja. Sarja A 171. The A4-size publication contains 69 pages. The language of the publication is Finnish. The abstract is available in five languages. The publication can be downloaded from the Internet (www.metsa.fi/publications or www.pasvik-inari.net/publications). Additionally 200 copies of the publication were printed by Edita Prima Oy, Helsinki and the copies were distributed to partner organisations, environmental authorities, research institutions, local libraries, local bird enthusiasts etc. The first print was so small that the need for a reprint of another 200 copies was required. The printed versions are available free of charge from Metsähallitus Customer Service Point in Ivalo. (Attachment 2. Publication: Inarijärven linnustoselvitys)

Birds of Pasvik - book

Information for the book '*Birds of Pasvik*' has been collected over a long period of time by Pasvik Zapovednik in Russia. During the project, this work was finalised and the book was published. The book contains plenty of information on the birdlife of Pasvik Zapovednik, for instance a species list and observations and information on habitats and foraging behaviour. The book contains 174 pages and was published in English. (Attachment 3. Book: Birds of Pasvik)

Hair snagging stations leaflet

A leaflet on brown bear research using DNA-methods and hair snagging stations as non-invasive sampling methods was produced in Finnish, in cooperation with the Finnish Game and Fisheries Institute and University of Oulu. Hannu Tikkanen from Tikkanen Workshop in Inari designed the layout and graphics of the leaflet. 250 copies of the folded two-sided leaflet were printed in Painatuskeskus Finland Oy in June 2007. The leaflet was distributed to the main service desks in Inari, and to local co-workers and local people during an informative meeting in Nellim on 13.6.2007 and on the. A Russian language version also exists, the photocopies of this version have been distributed in Russia. (Attachment 4. Leaflet: Karvannyhtöasemat suurpetojen tutkimuksessa)

Information for Internet, area brochure, Action Plan etc

In addition the working group has provided environmental information for other publications and reports written during the project. Information concerning the protection of the area and rare species found in the region is also included in the Action Plan. More popular information was produced for Internet-pages and the area brochure.

5.3.2 Results on development of sustainable nature tourism

5.3.2.1 Principles for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area

The main partners requested a set of joint guidelines for sustainable nature tourism that will help guide the visitors and entrepreneurs towards sustainable use of nature. The Finnish coordinator collected different kinds of principles guiding towards sustainable nature tourism in Norway and Finland in

summer 2006, such as the principles of Metsähallitus and SMART-Sustainable Arctic Tourism. A draft of joint guidelines for sustainable nature tourism combining the guidelines from Metsähallitus and SMART was prepared in October 2006 and presented to the Steering Committee on 24.10.2006. The final modifications to the guidelines were made during November, and were circulated for final comments among the entrepreneurs, nature tourism working group and Steering Committee in December. In February 2007, the principles were also introduced at the Sustainable nature tourism seminar in Pasvik River Valley . The guidelines were added to the Action Plan for nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari Area, and published also on the project web pages in January 2008. (Attachment 5. Action Plan for Nature Protection and Sustainable Nature Tourism in Pasvik-Inari area, Attachment 6. www-prints from www.pasvik-inari.net)

5.3.2.2 Sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik River Valley -seminar

In December 2006, a project team began organising the Sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik River Valley -seminar for entrepreneurs, stakeholders and authorities responsible for the administration and management of the land in the Pasvik-Inari area in the three countries. Information concerning the seminar was sent directly to entrepreneurs, associations of entrepreneurs (Northern Lapland Tourism Ltd, Inari Lapland Matkailu Ry and Sør-Varanger Travel Forum) and other stakeholders in the target area. In Finland, three advertisements about the seminar were published in the local newspaper Inarilainen. In Norway, Sør-Varanger Travel Forum distributed invitations, contact information etc. Travel companies in Kirkenes were contacted about information on Russian cooperation firms. Staff of Pasvik Zapovednik had a meeting with Pechenga municipality and contacted the Economic Development department of the Murmansk region to find local entrepreneurs for the seminar.

The seminar was held on 6.-7.2.2007 at Bioforsk Svanhovd, Svanvik, Norway. The programme contained introductory guidelines for sustainable nature tourism, presentations of entrepreneurs, different participating organisations and persons in charge of the administration and management of protected areas. The guidelines for sustainable nature tourism were accepted by the seminar participants. The restrictions and opportunities for sustainable nature tourism and facilities of protected areas in question for each country were introduced and discussed. Requirements for the trilateral permanent international workgroup for nature tourism between local stakeholders, authorities and entrepreneurs was also discussed and voted upon. Establishment of the group got 18 votes out of the 22 seminar participants. It was agreed that the main task of the working group was to promote sustainable nature tourism in the area in the future after the project. (Attachment 7. Sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik River Valley -seminar, programme and list of participants)

5.3.2.3 Trilateral working group for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area

As mentioned before, the requirements for the trilateral permanent international workgroup for nature tourism between local stakeholders, authorities and entrepreneurs was discussed and voted for at the

seminar for Sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik River Valley on 6.-7.2.2007 in Svanvik. During the seminar it was agreed that the main task for the working group was to promote sustainable nature tourism in the area, and to prepare proposals concerning nature tourism for the trilateral meeting, authorities and other stakeholders where needed. It should also provide information about nature tourism in the area to all interest groups in the Pasvik-Inari area. It was also agreed that the working group would have unofficial meetings, and provide an strong communication network. The first meeting would be arranged in autumn 2007 in Finland, Finnish project staff would be responsible for calling the meeting together. The composition of the group was discussed and each country proposed representative organisations for the group. The Finnish project staff sent the letters of appointment to the directions mentioned below in February 2007. The nominated persons were confirmed by the end of April 2007. Nominees for the permanent working group were:

- Finland: Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus (Tapio Tynys), Municipality of Inari Teuvo Katajamaa (replacement Sisko-Mirja Jefremoff), village societies of Keväjärvi-Nellim (Jouko Lappalainen) and Näätämö (Sergei KP Fofonoff),
- Norway: Sør-Varanger Travel Forum (Kurt Wikan, replacement Britt Åse Mortensen), Finnmark County Governor (Johannes Abildsnes), Finnmarkseiendommen (Søren Karlstrøm),
- Russia: Pasvik Zapovednik (Natalia Polikarpova), Pechenga municipality (Oleg Kovas, replacement Tatjana Bazanova), Pechenga tour operators (Sergey Deryagin, replacement Valeriy Dzhanaev), Border Commissariat (Borzov Sergei Pavlovich) and Economic Development Department of Murmansk Region (Olga Kolesnikova).



Fig 5. Attendees of the trilateral working group for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area had the first meeting in the Wilderness Hotel of Nellim in October 2007. Photo E. Ojanlatva.

The first meeting of the trilateral working group for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area was held on 17.10.2007 in Nellim, Finland. The group will continue its work independently and in 2008, it will

meet in Norway. (Attachment 8. Trilateral working group for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area –meeting, programme and list of participants)

5.3.2.4 Establishing and marking of routes

Possibilities to establish and mark a hiking route connecting the routes of Finland and Norway was considered during summer 2006. In Finland, there was no existing route or path in the Vätsäri Wilderness Area. In Øvre Pasvik National Park of Norway there was a four kilometres long hiking route. Norwegian and Finnish project team (Lutnæs, Abildsnes, Kyykkä and Ojanlatva) made a field survey of two possible transboundary routes 1) Kantojärvi-Muotkavaara/Treiksrøysa-Grenseberget, and 2) Ellenvatnet-Piilola-Kessi, so called old Piilola path, in the beginning of October 2006. The Finnish project team walked both of the routes mentioned above on 2.-4.10.2006. During the field survey, it was obvious that establishing the Piilola path was the preferred option due to of the existing path on the Norwegian side and two existing wilderness huts along the path. The wet places along the Piilola path on Finnish side were marked and measured with GPS for building duckboards in the future.

Iron Gate path in Finland

In Finland, the establishment of the transboundary Piilola route faced challenges in late October 2006. Before marking and establishing the route, it had to be added to the Management Plan of Vätsäri Wilderness Area as well as to the Regional Plan of Lapland. Due to neither of these plans being finished or ratified by the end of 2006, Finnish project staff decided to concentrate on establishing a route with information boards in the surroundings of Nellim village. In autumn 2006, the local newspaper Inarilainen had published articles about the unmarked and forgotten remains of the Second World War history in Nellim area. Locals had also asked for information boards telling about the war history of the area. In response the project staff prepared an amendment letter and cost estimate to the Regional Council of Lapland on 26.11.2006 so as to implement information boards for the Iron Gate path of Nellim. An amendment letter was accepted during the spring of 2006.

Researcher Irja Jefremoff from Keväjärvi was asked to write the texts for the information boards because of her knowledge of local history and culture. The texts were translated in autumn 2007 to five languages: Inari Sámi (Ilmari Mattus), Skolt Sámi (Erkki Lumisalmi), Russian (Annikki Haapalainen), English and German (Traduct Oy). Photos for the boards were sourced from the private local archives of Max Peronius and Paavo Von Pandy and museums. Maps and layout were designed by Pasi Nivasalo from Metsähallitus in Ivalo. Aimo Leppäkangas from Metsähallitus in Ivalo was in charge of building the boards and marking the route with piles of orange-coloured ends in September-October. Actual work was carried out by Antti Kytölä, Keijo Sarre and Veijo Sarre from Virtaa varantoon –project and Employment Office. Altogether four big (size 125 x 92 cm) and three small (size 60x45 cm) information stickers were printed by Sata C printing house in November

2007 in Oulu. The stickers will be placed to the boards in spring 2008 when the temperature reaches +5°C. (Attachment 9, Prints of 7 information boards)



Fig 6. Antti Kytölä and Veijo Sarre established the stands for the information board along the Iron Gate path in Nellim in October 2007. Photo E. Ojanlatva.

Piilola Wilderness Trail in Norway

In the Øvre Pasvik National Park in Norway there is a four kilometres long hiking route. A continuation of the hiking route to the Finnish-Norwegian border was sketched to a map in the beginning of the project in 2006. An agreement was made between the owners (Police, Military) of the Piilola cabin in 2007, close to the Finnish border and the Office of the Finnmark County Governor, in order to take charge of the cabin to make it open for the public. Park rangers of the Norwegian State nature inspectorate and the Norwegian project staff made a field trip to the cabin to examine the status of the cabin in spring 2007. A detailed plan for the improvement of the cabin was prepared in autumn 2007. In spring 2007, the new management plan for Øvre Pasvik National Park and Øvre Pasvik Landscape protection area was sent out to the public for comments, the plan included also information about the establishment of the Piilola Wilderness Trail.

In spring 2007, an agreement about preparing the texts and pictures to the information boards and signposts along the Piilola Wilderness Trail was made between Steinar Wikan and the Office of the Finnmark County Governor. The Norwegian coordinator made two field trips to plan the set up of the signs with Wikan and the carpenter Leif Ollila who was responsible for building the information boards along the trail on 5.7.2007 and 23.10.2007. Altogether 11 information boards in English and

Norwegian were printed in late autumn 2007; one board at the Norwegian – Finnish border and 10 boards along the trail. The boards will be erected during spring 2008.

Routes of Varlam Island, Rajakoski, Jäniskoski and Korablekk Mountain in Russia

In the beginning of the project, several discussions and meetings with local authorities, such as Pechenga District Administration, Murmansk Region Nature Resources Committee, and Ministry of Nature Resources, were organised in Russia in order to gain a better understanding of nature tourism in the Pechenga area. The Russian project staff also contacted the Paanajärvi National Park to exchange information about best practices for marking and establishing routes. After field surveys in summer and autumn 2006, it was decided to concentrate on four hiking routes during the project: Varlam Island (Vaarlamansaari), Rajakoski, Jäniskoski and Korablekk Mountain.

At the beginning of each path, the project staff prepared an information board with environmental and cultural information unique to the path, these signs were in both Russian and English. In spring 2007, tender procedures of wood material for building path constructions were organised. In summer and autumn 2007, altogether 100 metres of walking trails were constructed for the Varlam Island (40 metres) and Korablekk (60 metres) routes. Some reconstructions were also completed on Varlam Island.

5.3.2.5 Visitor surveys

Visitor surveys were completed in Finland and Norway in 2006-2007 in an attempt to find out information about visitors to the area for the Action Plan process. In Russia, the visitor survey was not conducted because of very limited tourism in Pasvik Zapovednik territory. All Pasvik Zapovednik visitors were registered. (Attachment 5. Action Plan, paragraph 3.5.1.3).

Visitor Survey of Vätsäri Wilderness Area

A visitor survey was also organised in Finland in the Vätsäri Wilderness Area at the same time as the one in the Inari Recreational Area. A visitor counter mat was supplied, and placed at the beginning of an old path to Piilola in Vätsäri Wilderness Area. A box with a questionnaire in Finnish, French, English, German and Swedish was also carried out at the open cabin of Piilola. The counter mat and questionnaires provided detailed information about the number of visitors for the Action Plan.

The visitor counter mat was checked during the summer by project staff and field workers of Metsähallitus. It was removed from the path in October. The box with visitor questionnaires in Piilola cabin was checked during the field surveys in October 2006 and in April and July 2007. During the surveys, the completed questionnaires were collected, and new questionnaires were supplemented.

The box was removed from the cabin in February 2008. (See Attachment 5. Action Plan, paragraph 3.5.1.1 for the results of visitor survey)

Visitor Survey of Øvre Pasvik National Park and its surroundings

The Finnish questionnaires were delivered to the Norwegian project coordinator for comparison purposes between Finland and Norway. Four boxes with questionnaires were placed in Øvre Pasvik National Park and its surroundings during summer and fall 2006. The questionnaires were analysed in November 2006. (See Attachment 5. Action Plan, paragraph 3.5.1.2 for the results of visitor survey)

5.3.3 Results on dissemination of information

The EU-flag and project cooperative logo was used in trilateral invitations for tenders, advertisements, official papers and exchange of letters. Along with EU-flag and project logo, the logos of lead applicant Metsähallitus and partners Inari Municipality and Regional Environmental Centre of Lapland were used in the official documents in Finland. The Finnish project coordinator also designed project paper sheets with logos which was mainly used during dissemination.

During the project period, the project employees stayed in close contact with each other and provided information for Steering Committee members and other project participants. In the last phase of the project all material was circulated between the members of the project. In particular the Internet pages, the Action Plan for nature protection and sustainable nature tourism and the Europarc application forms were circulated widely in order to ensure that all opinion and ideas were considered. The local interest groups were informed about the project activities both directly and via newspaper articles.

Information about project activities, results, working groups, seminars etc. and those press releases published in all languages were collected on the internal project web space. Detailed information for the partner organisations can only be reached from the log in -page

5.3.3.1 Cooperation logo and name

In the beginning of the project it became clear that the cooperative partners referred to the cooperative area differently. It was mutually agreed that the trilateral cooperation area will be referred to as “Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park” and the brown bear paw logo be used during dissemination. The Finnish coordinator modified the original logo.



Fig 7. Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park –cooperation logo.

5.3.3.2 Internet pages

The existing Internet pages were considered non-informative and complicated for the users. Basically, the whole structure of the site was reformulated and the texts renewed with more up-to-date information. The technical work was completed by a Finnish expert who collected resources for the site from all the involved partners. The old pages were finally replaced by the new ones in January 2008 when all language versions (English, Finnish, Norwegian and Russian) were completed. Links were established to national pages from these cooperation pages and vice versa. The pages will be maintained by the Office of Finnmark County Governor and Metsähallitus while Pasvik Zapovednik will provide information for updating. (Attachment 6. www-prints from www.pasvik-inari.net.)

5.3.3.3 Intranet pages

Information about project activities, working groups, seminars etc. and those press releases published in all languages were collected on the internal project web space. The Norwegian coordinator was in charge of preparing the Intranet pages which work as a cooperative library. The pages are maintained by the Office of Finnmark County Governor and they can be accessed by clicking on the Members-bar on the Pasvik-Inari internet pages. The pages can also be opened via the link placed on the cooperative Internet pages. Detailed information for project staff can only be reached via the log in -page.

5.3.3.4 Project leaflet

The project leaflet presents the main objectives for the project and a brief background of the cooperation. The text and layout were finalised by the Finnish project staff. The leaflet consists of a folded A4-size paper. The leaflet was printed in English, Finnish and Norwegian (in 300, 400 and 300 copies, respectively) by Koillismaan Kirjapaino printing house in Kuusamo in January 2007. During the spring the leaflet was printed in Russia in both Russian and in English. The leaflet was distributed to the main service desks in Inari-Pasvik area in Norway and Finland and at all events and seminars etc. (Attachment 10. Four language version of the leaflet: Promotion of nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in Inari-Pasvik area)

5.3.3.5 Area brochure

Pasvik-Inari – Nature and history shared -brochure contains general information about the nature, culture and history of the area and about activities and destinations in each country including a map of the area. Russian and Norwegian coordinators were responsible for gathering the information from their countries. Finnish staff compiled the information about Finland and other details for the brochure. Hannu Tikkanen from Tikkanen Workshop in Inari prepared the layout and graphics of the brochure. The 16 page (20x20 cm) brochure was printed in Finnish, English, Norwegian and Russian (7000, 12500, 7000 and 10500 copies, respectively) in Kalevaprint printing house in Oulu in 2008. The brochure is available on the Internet pages for the cooperation (www.pasvik-inari.net) and at the Metsähallitus customer service points in Finland. The brochure was also distributed in the villages of Nellim and Sevetijärvi and handed out to

all partners involved. In Norway the brochure is available from the office of the County Governor, Sør-Varanger municipality, Bioforsk Svanhovd and the tourist office in Kirkenes. (Attachment 11. Four language versions of the brochure: Pasvik-Inari – Nature and history shared)

5.3.3.6 Action Plan for Nature Protection and Sustainable Nature Tourism in Pasvik-Inari area

In order to ensure the future of the cooperation, the vision statements and objectives, development ideas and planned actions were included in the Action Plan for Nature Protection and Sustainable Nature Tourism in Pasvik-Inari area. The information designer was in charge of completing the plan. This plan is considered as an advisory plan, focusing on common long-term guidance. Background information concerning the area, legislation, nature protection and nature tourism facilities etc were also included in the plan. By compiling this background information an attempt was made to provide a manual for those involved with this cooperation. The basic information concerning the area was compiled so that it will benefit not only the authorities but also be of use for anyone who wishes to learn more about the area. The plan was written in originally in English, translations to Finnish and Russian have also been completed. Three language versions of the plan can also be found on the Internet site for the project. (Attachment 5. Action Plan for Nature Protection and Sustainable Nature Tourism in Pasvik-Inari area)

5.3.3.7 Memory game

In Norway, a memory game for children displaying 48 different bird species that are typical of the Pasvik-Inari area was designed. The game is trilingual; Norwegian, Russian and Finnish. The memory game will be ready and distributed free to schools in the three countries during the spring 2008.

5.3.3.8 Internal dissemination

The project staff informed the Steering Committee and members of working groups about the current issues in between the meetings throughout the project. The Finnish and Norwegian project staff had communication of a day to day basis via e-mail. The Russian telecommunication connections did not work properly in Rajakoski during the project. Therefore, project staff occasionally suffered from several weeks of disconnections of e-mail, fax and phone. Russian and Norwegian project staff tried to solve these communication hassles, however solutions to these problems were difficult to solve. Connections were more reliable in the Nikel office and vital project information could be exchanged between staff from Rajakoski via Nikel.

Meetings among the project staff on essential project issues

Trilateral project staff meetings

28.-30.6.2006 in Zapolyarny

22.2.2007 in Riutula

26.3.2007 in Svanvik

23.1.2008 in Inari

Bilateral meetings, Finland – Norway

2.-4.10.2006 in Øvre Pasvik National Park and Vätsäri Wilderness Area (field survey)

15.11.2006 in Kirkenes

11.12.2006 in Saariselkä

Bilateral meetings, Finland – Russia

21.-23.8.2006 in Rovaniemi

23.2.2007 in Riutula

13.-14.3.2007 in Ivalo

29.5.2007 in Inari

27.-29.8.2007 in Nikel, Rajakoski and Pasvik Zapovednik

13.-14.1.2008 in Ivalo

5.3.3.9 External dissemination

Seminars, workshops and meetings

Four workshops/seminars were arranged during the project. The monitoring workshop is described under monitoring activities while the nature tourism group's results cover the practical workshop on nature tourism held in Nellim, Finland and the nature tourism seminar arranged in Svanvik. The first meeting of the permanent working group in nature tourism was held in Nellim on 16.10.2007. In addition, the final seminar presenting the results of the project was arranged in Inari on 24.1.2008.

Several public events were also arranged during the project. In Finland, two informational events were arranged during the beginning of the project, one in Nellim on 31.5.2006 and one in Sevetijärvi on 30.5.2006. The project staff discussed the objectives of the project. The cooperation with the local village societies, especially the Nellim village society was active during the project. An informational event was also arranged about the brown bear research methods in using hair snares in Nellim on 13.6.2007. An informational event about the project results was held in Nellim on 30.1.2008. (Attachment 12. Informational meetings in Finland, lists of participants)



Fig 8. Attendees of the informational event listened carefully all objectives of the Pasvik-Inari project in the Wilderness Hotel of Nellim in May 2006. Photo E. Ojanlatva.

Press releases, newspaper articles, radio and television programmes

Public information about the project proceedings was disseminated to local and regional media in each country. Press releases were sent about the planned and completed activities. In Finland, the press releases were sent to the relevant media (local/regional/all) either directly by e-mail or via the Observer Online system according to the relevant delivery list. The press releases were also published on Metsähallitus Internet pages (www.metsa.fi) and in the organisation's Intranet pages. Press releases connected to nature tourism were also published in outdoors.fi-pages of Metsähallitus. The list of newspaper articles and television programmes where the project activities were introduced are compiled in attachment 13.

5.3.4 Results on cooperation and certification process

5.3.4.1 Collecting acts, agreements, regulations and management plans of three countries

The acts, agreements, regulations and regional plans for the three countries concerning the project area were collected during June-August 2006 so as to compile information for the Action Plan and to identify the legal background for the Europarc certification. From November 2006 to February 2007, all substantial regulations and parts of regional plans were translated into English and circulated among the project staff and working groups for further comments. (See Attachment 5. Action Plan, paragraph 3.3)

A list of essential acts and bi- and multilateral agreements from the three countries was circulated many times among the working group members during 2007. Comprehensive listing was not ready until December 2007. The list was attached to the self assessment documents of Europarc Federation. (See, Attachment 5. Action Plan, Annex 4)

5.3.4.2. Vision and guiding rules for cooperation

Creating a joint, long-term vision and guiding rules for future cooperation was one of the main requirements in applying the Europarc certification. Vision and guiding rules were also essential in guaranteeing the continuation of trilateral cooperation and making explicit, operative rules for actualising the cooperation in the future. The initial suggestions for the vision and guiding rules were circulated among the working group members during the end of 2006. The Steering Committee agreed on the vision in March 2007. (See Attachment 5. Action Plan, Annex 2)

The main attractions in the area were identified as the unique wilderness characteristics and the diverse natural, cultural and historical values. Preserving these values and raising the profile of the area as a destination for travellers will be the main focus areas in cooperation. This aspiration should be achievable within the next 10 years. To achieve the level of aspiration described in the vision, several strategies and actions were needed. In order to clarify and classify these strategies and actions, the vision was split into five main objectives, from here strategies and actions were categorised under each main objective. (See Attachment 5. Action Plan, paragraph 4.2)

Vision

“Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park is an internationally recognised sustainable nature tourism destination known for its wilderness characteristics and natural, cultural and historical values. Promotion of nature conservation and sustainable nature tourism preserves the core values and contributes to the sound development of the area.”

5.3.4.3 Preparation of new agreements

In Norway, there were meetings and discussions between representatives from the Office of the Finnmark County Governor and the Government of the Murmansk region about implementation of the project in summer 2006. A proposal for an agreement between the authorities was worked out in autumn. The agreement on the implementation of the project and the continuation of cooperation was signed by the Office of the Finnmark County Governor and the Government of the Murmansk region at a meeting on 24.11.2006. (Attachment 14. Agreement between the Office of the Finnmark County Governor and the Government of the Murmansk region)

As the bilateral and multilateral agreements between Finland, Norway and Russia were examined, the need to prepare a trilateral cooperative agreement on nature protection between the main partners was acknowledged by the Steering Committee in March 2007. The Finnish coordinator prepared the first draft of agreement in Finnish in May 2007. The agreement was circulated in Metsähallitus during the summer and translated in English in September. In autumn, the agreement was adjusted in three countries, and in January 2008, it was translated into Norwegian and Russian. The Cooperative Agreement between Lapland Natural Heritage Services of Metsähallitus (Finland), Pasvik Zapovenik

(Russia) and the County Governor of Finnmark (Norway) was signed on 23.1.2008 in Inari. (Attachment 15. The Cooperative Agreement)



Fig 9. The trilateral cooperative agreement between the main partners of the project was signed by Vladimir Chizhov, Bente Christiansen and Jyrki Tolonen in Inari on 23.1.2008. Photo P. Sulkava.

5.3.4.4 Applying the Europarc certificate

The Finnish-Russian Oulanka-Paanajärvi National Park obtained the Europarc certificate in 2005. In spring and summer 2006, the Finnish project staff was in contact with the Oulanka-Paanajärvi National Park to clarify the official procedures for obtaining transboundary park certification. Mr. Lassi Karivalo, the member for Europarc Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee in Metsähallitus informed about the requirements, scheduling and procedures for applying for certification.

The Europarc criteria and the possibilities of obtaining a certificate for transfrontier cooperation between the main partners was analysed in autumn 2006. The partners examined the application and self assessment forms of Europarc certificate in winter 2007. In March 2007, the Steering Committee decided to launch the certification process after successful progression of the project. The application was filled out by the coordinators in spring, and circulated for signatures in July-August. After defining the schedule for the certification process in the Steering Committee meeting, the application was sent for the Europarc

Federation in October. Unfortunately, the application was lost in post transfer, and it had to be sent again in the end of November.

In December 2007, the partners jointly filled out the Europarc forms; Details of organisations, Basic Standards of cooperation and Self assessment. The Norwegian and Finnish partners halved the application fee, the Russian Tacis budget had restrictions concerning this. The last changes for the forms were noted in the certificate meeting on 23.1.2008 in Inari, and the additions and corrections were circulated and agreed on by the end of January. The forms were sent to Lassi Karivalo and Arnold Boer, the nominated evaluators of Europarc Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee, on 10.3.2008. The on-site evaluation will take place in June 2008, and the process will require participation of each organisation on the first and last day of the evaluation week (Mon and Fri). During the week the evaluators will visit each organisation separately. Final decision about obtaining the award will be announced in August. All partners should also be prepared for the certification festival and Europarc meeting held in Brasov, Romania on 24.-28.9.2008.

6 Main implemented actions and materials produced in chronological order

Compiling the legal background for Europarc certificate (June 2006 – December 2007)

Visitor surveys conducted in Finland and Norway (Finland: June 2006 – April 2007, Norway: June – September 2006)

Intranet-pages of the cooperation established (November 2006)

Cooperation logo and name were agreed on (December 2006)

Principles for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area (December 2006)

Project leaflet printed (January 2007)

Seminar on sustainable nature tourism in Svanvik, Norway (February 2007)

Workshop on monitoring in Inari, Finland (February 2007)

Waterfowl registrations in each country conducted (May-June 2007)

Hair snagging stations leaflet printed in Finnish (June 2007)

Golden eagle method was tested in each country (June 2007)

Ant Monitoring method was tested in each country (July 2007)

Butterflies monitoring method was tested in Russia (June-August 2007)

Brown bear monitoring method tested in three countries (June-August 2007, report January 2008)

Trilateral working group for sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari area established (October 2007)

Birds of Pasvik book published (November 2007)

Birdlife of Lake Inari – publication published (December 2007)

Iron Gate Path (materials ready in December 2007, the boards will be placed in spring 2008)

Pasvik-Inari nature and history shared – area brochure printed (January 2008)

Internet-pages replaced by the new pages (January 2008)

Action Plan for Nature Protection and Sustainable Nature Tourism in Pasvik-Inari area (January 2008)

Cooperative agreement on nature protection the main partners was signed (January 2008)

Europarc application form was completed (January 2008)

Final seminar of the project was held (January 2008)

Improvements and information boards for four paths in Russia 1) Korablekk 2) Varlam, 3) Rajakoski and 4) Jäniskoski (materials ready in November 2007, the boards will be placed in April 2008)

Piilola Wilderness Trail, Norwegian part (materials ready in January 2008), the path will be opened in summer 2008)

Memory game – Birds in Pasvik Inari (materials ready in January 2008, the game will be ready by spring 2008)

7 Finance of the project

The project funding consisted of Interreg IIIA North Kolarctic Neighbourhood- and Tacis-programmes as well as national funding. The total funding for the project; 606 116 euros was divided between the countries; Finland 285 534 euros (EU funding 58,6 %, Lapland Regional Environment Centre 37,9 % and Inari municipality 3,5 %), Norway 211 250 euros (EU funding 50%, Norwegian Department of Environment 33,61 %, Finnmark County Municipality 2,84 %, Sør-Varanger Municipality 2,84 %, Office of the Finnmark County Governor 2,25 %, Barents Secretariat 2,78 %, Bioforsk Svanhovd 2,13 %, Finnmarkseiendommen 3,55 %) and Russia 109 332 euros (EU funding 88,89 % and Pasvik Zapovedniks self-funding 10,11 %). Russian Tacis budget estimation differs from the cost breakdown which was planned in the Interreg application because the budget was modified during the summer 2006.

Budget estimations

Finland	2006	2007	Total
Project staff	94 084	92 450	186 534
External Services	14 673	12 227	26 900
Administration	8 600	8 500	17 100
Material	6 000	12 000	18 000
Investments	0	0	0
Travel costs	20 182	16 818	37 000
Total	143 539	141 995	285 534

Norway	2006	2007	Total
Project staff	53 750	46 250	100 000
External Services	32 125	22 500	54 625
Administration	1 875	1 875	3 750
Material	5 375	7 500	12 875
Investments	5 000	12 500	17 500
Travel costs	11 500	10 000	22 500
Total	109 625	100 625	211 250

Russia	2006	2007	Total
Project staff	29873	4747	34 620
External Services	22598	13298	35 896
Administration	5784	1368	7 152
Material	13304	0	13 304
Investments	6000	0	6000
Travel costs	10 862	1498	12 360
Total	88 421	20 911	109 332

The funds reserved for the first project year were not completely used by the partners because the project started three months later than planned. In Russia, the start date (5.9.2006) was delayed more than eight months. In April 2007, an extension of three months for the project time by 31.1.2008 was applied from the financiers in all countries. The reasons for application were; the delay of the start time and unused funds of project staff reserved for that period especially in Finland and in Russia. Also, an extension was vital for analysing the results and finalising all activities of the project.

In the end of November 2007, changes for the types of cost in the Finnish budget were applied. The amount of travel costs and external services had to be increased. The project employed 3 field workers for 10 months in 2007, and their travel costs were higher than estimated in the original budget. Also, costs for external services were needed for translations and DNA-analyses.

As seen in the following tables, in Finland 1460.65 euros of total budget were not used. Costs reserved for the project staff and external services were exceeded, but the exceeding sums were less than 10 % of each type of cost, which is acceptable. In Norway, only 219.99 euros was left unused, and the costs reserved for the external services, materials and investments were exceeded by less than 10 %. In Russia, total 16 945.37 euros were not used and more than half of the sum was originally reserved for the project staff. One reason for this was the late starting time of Tacis-part of the project. Total project costs in three countries were 587 489.99 euros of 606 611 euros, indicating that 18 626.01 euros left unused.

Total costs by countries and overall costs of the project 2006-2008

Finland	Actual costs	New accepted budget	Difference
Project staff	186 980,16	186 534,00	446,16
External Services	34 288,19	33 400,00	888,19
Administration	14 036,17	15 500,00	-1 463,83
Material	11 028,99	11 500,00	-471,01
Investments	0,00	0,00	0,00
Travel costs	37 739,84	38 600,00	-860,16
Revenues	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	284 073,35	285 534,00	-1 460,65

Norway	Actual costs	Accepted budget	Difference
Project staff	99 997,25	100 000,00	-2,75
External Services	54 758,33	54 625,00	133,33
Administration	3 492,18	3 750,00	-257,82
Material	12 879,88	12 875,00	4,88
Investments	17 717,00	17 500,00	217,00
Travel costs	22 185,37	22 500,00	-314,63
Revenues		0,00	0,00
Total	211 030,01	211 250,00	-219,99

Russia	Actual costs	New accepted budget	Difference
Project staff	23 130,61	32 250,00	-9 119,39
External Services	41 678,79	45 300,00	-3 621,21
Administration	6 043,00	7 076,00	-1 033,00
Material	10 263,70	12 000,00	-1 736,30
Investments	5 795,03	6 000,00	-204,97
Travel costs	5 475,50	6 706,00	-1 230,50
Revenues		0,00	0,00
Total	92 386,63	109 332,00	-16 945,37

Total	587 489,99	606 116,00	-18 626,01
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8 Future of the cooperation and utilisation of project results after the project period

The members of the Steering Committee stated in the final meeting on 24.1.2008 in Inari that the Pasvik-Inari that the project in many way exceeded the expectations defined in the application. If some of the expected results were not carried out, there was always justified reason for it. Launching the Europarc certification process during the project and filling out all the necessary documents for Europarc Federation was considered particularly meritorious.

After finalising the project, the future cooperation of the main partners is planned to continue through annual meetings of the Advisory Board as specified in the guidelines for cooperation, and the Cooperative

Agreement between the partners which conduct the trilateral cooperation in conformity with the best practises and mutual understanding. The long-term vision, objectives of the cooperation and future actions are defined in the Action Plan for nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in Pasvik-Inari. The main partners in cooperation have nominated people responsible for a future field of work within the organisation. Mutual projects will be planned for the future.

At the final project meeting, the Steering Committee decided to establish a working group to outline concrete themes for the future projects. The themes will be based on the strategies and actions defined in the Action Plan. Each country nominated two persons for the working group: Pekka Sulkava and Tapio Tynys from Finland, Tiia Kalske and Kurt Wikan from Norway, and Natalia Polikarpova and Vladimir Chizhov from Russia. Norway will have the leading responsibility for the working group. Suggestions will be ready by September 2008 when the next meeting of trilateral Advisory Board will be organised in Norway, and the next project application can be prepared in time for the Kolarctic ENPI-programme.

In 2008, the focus for trilateral cooperation will be the certification process. Collected legislation and regulations as well as the signed bilateral and trilateral agreements on cooperation and nature protection will have vital function in the evaluation process for the Europarc Federation which will take place in June. Also, the Action Plan for nature protection and sustainable nature tourism in the Pasvik-Inari area will guide the cooperative work at all levels. It includes the joint, long-term vision, objectives and strategies as well as the short-, middle- and long-term actions how the vision can be achieved.

The monitoring work will continue resources permitting, in each country using similar methods. Information about the activities will be exchanged via regular contacts and in the annual meetings of the Advisory board. Monitoring of waterfowls and Golden Eagle will continue in each country by funded by separate national funds reserved for the monitoring work. External funding is needed to carry out the brown bear monitoring in the future. External funding will be sought after for, and mutual projects concerning monitoring will be planned.

The Trilateral working group for sustainable nature tourism in the Pasvik-Inari area established during the project will function independently in the future. The next meeting of the working group will be organised in summer 2008. At the same time, the group will organise a round-trip of three countries to study the procedures in crossing the borders of neighbouring countries. Information boards for the Piilola Wilderness Trail already exist in Norway. The information boards and facilities required on the Finnish part of the path will be constructed in 2008. The Finnish part of the Piilola Wilderness Trail and the Iron Gate Path in Nellim will be maintained by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services.

Information about the cooperation will be disseminated in the future by the cooperative partners by using both the organisation's own information channels and those created within the project. The Internet pages

of the cooperation will be updated in spring 2008, and then two times each year in connection with the Advisory Board meetings. The Office of Finnmark County Governor is responsible of updating the pages whilst other partners will provide information for the pages. The cooperation's Intranet pages will be maintained in the future by the Office of Finnmark County Governor. The main partners have nominated persons responsible of dissemination of information. The information material and the publications will be distributed in meetings, seminars, events etc, and they are also available in customer service points.

