



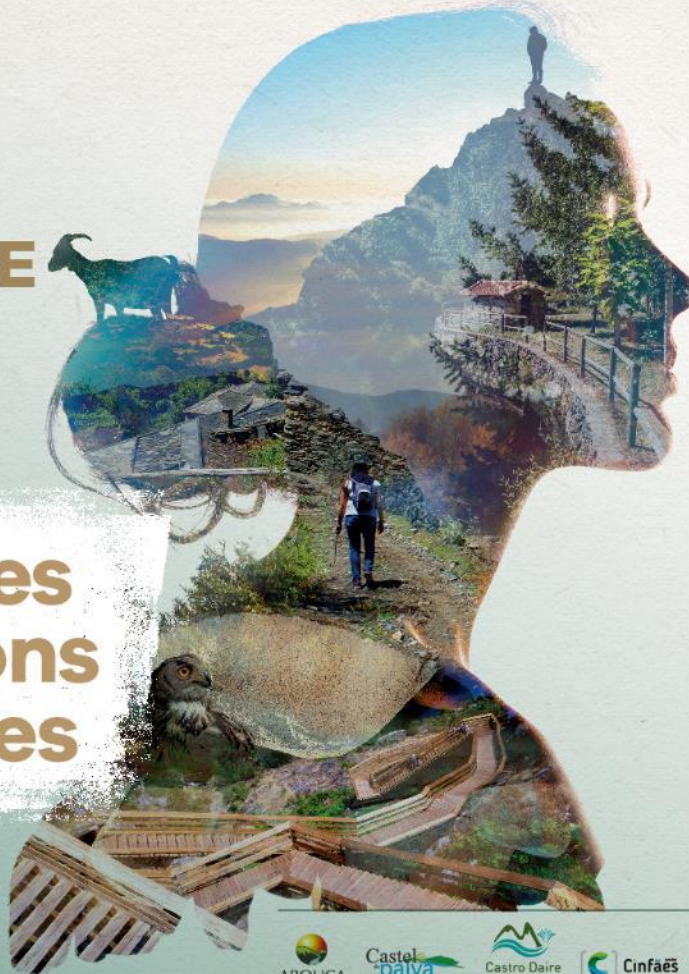
EUROPARC CONFERENCE

06 — 10
Sep 2017
Portugal

Montanhas
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**New Voices
New Visions
New Values**

*for People
and Nature
in Europe*



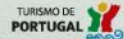
ADRMAG



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2020





Oulanka -Paanajärvi National parks – cross-border cooperation between Finland and Russian

*Regional manager for nature protection,
Parks & Wildlife Finland, Metsähallitus*

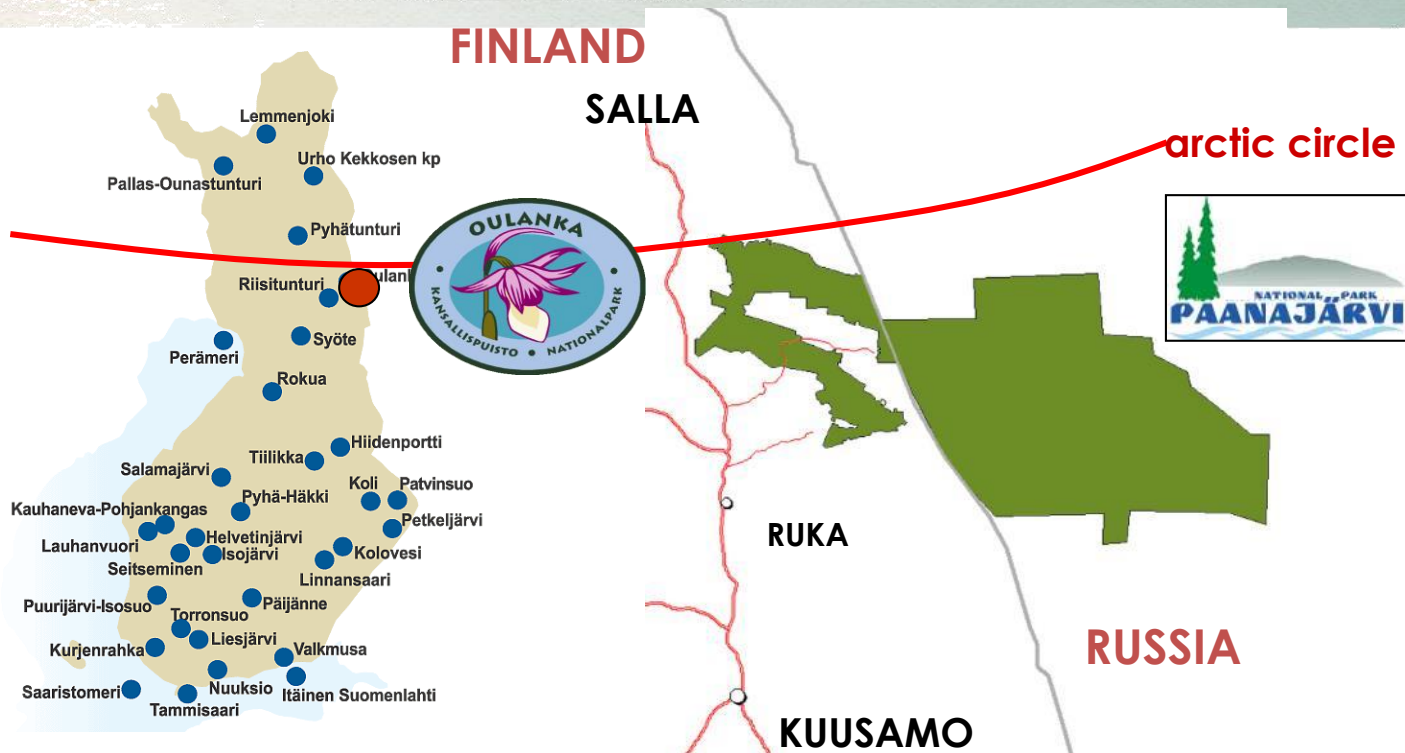
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Oulanka - Paanajärvi National Parks

Cross-border between Finland and Russia







Oulanka – Paanajärvi

Transboundary collaboration of National Parks

Since 1993



METSÄHALLITUS



Why we started cooperation?

- Help needed - The first cooperative agreement between national parks was signed on 17th May 1993
- Interest in
- The fun of it!
- Funding possibilities
- Marketing advantages
- Supporting local livelihoods



- Common natural history
- Common nature
- Common waters
- Common history
- Common visitors?



What does good cooperation require?

- Right people who are interested
- Time
- Money – seed money to initiate; motivator to continue
- Clear (joint) vision



Joint vision 2025

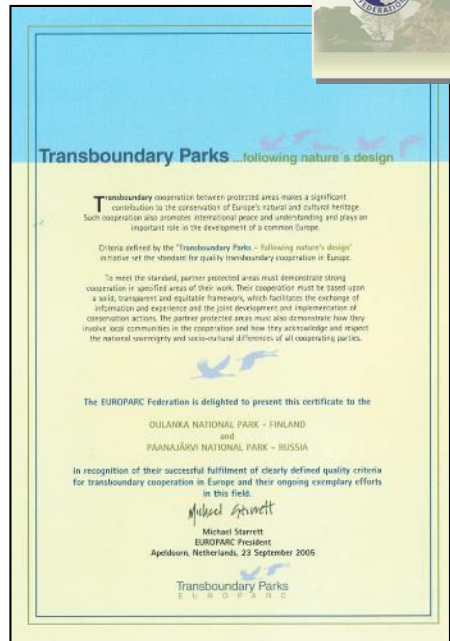
- ✓ Oulanka and Paanajärvi NPs are internationally recognized and cooperation is widely and officially acknowledged and supported.
- ✓ Oulanka-Paanajärvi is a destination with high-quality wilderness tourism products and events across the border.
- ✓ The natural and cultural values are well known and protected, and they serve as resources for recreation in a sustainable way.
- ✓ The staff of both national parks has a common feeling of partnership and shared stewardship.
- ✓ Oulanka-Paanajärvi is an active developer of transboundary cooperation within European Green Belt and other international networks.

What does good cooperation require?

- Right people who are interested
- Some time
- More money
- Clear (joint) vision
- Stakeholders & partners involved
- Trust!
- Instruments for cooperation



INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES





JOINT EU-FUNDING



INTERREG II Karelia

National parks in collaboration from Oulanka to Paanajärvi

1997 – 1998 100 000 €

TACIS

Karelia Parks Development

1999 – 2001 3 600 000 €

From Ladoga to Polar Sea via the Fennoscandian Green Belt

2002 – 2004 400 000 €

INTERREG III A Karelia

Promotion of nature tourism in the Finnish Oulanka and Russian Paanajärvi National Parks

2002 – 2004 290 000 €

NEIGHBOURHOOD programme, Karelia

Wilderness, perceptions and well-being

2005 – 2007 620 000 €



- Paanajärvi Visitor Centre
- Opened 20.8 2002

Recent projects

Karelia ENPI CBC

Quality for Cross-border practices in ecotourism

2012– 2014 600 000 €

Karelia ENPI CBC

*Fennoscandian Green Belt – Welfare from Sustainable Cross Border
Nature and Culture Tourism*

2012– 2014 2 540 000 €

Karelia ENPI CBC

*Quality Saving our joint treasure: Sustainable Trout Fisheries for
the transborder Oulanka River System*

2012– 2014 645 000 €

Kolartie ENPI

Salmus 2017 -

Challenges just now....

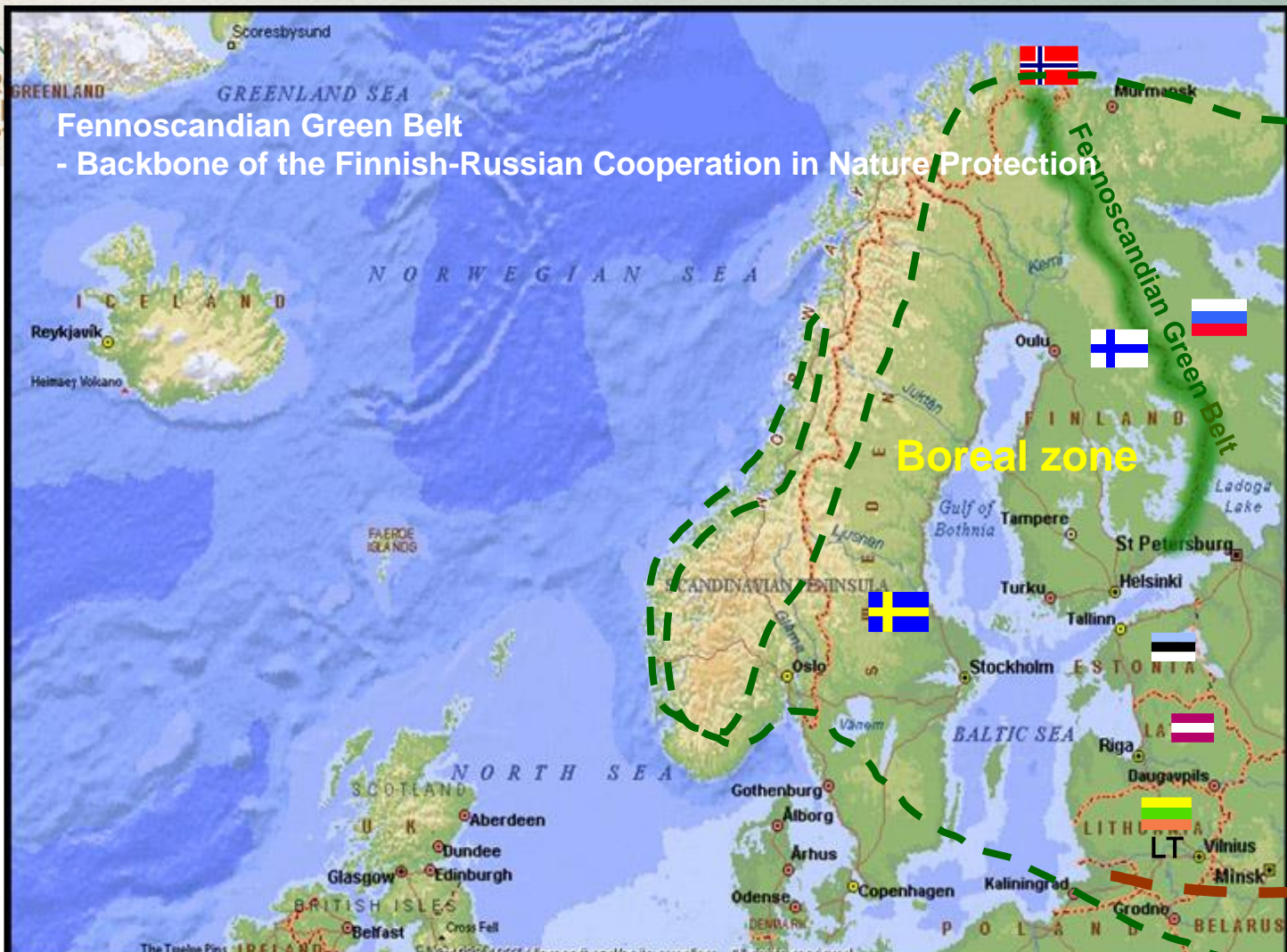
- Changes in the global politics - > the operating environment
- Right people who are interested – new generation?
- Practical issues: need of visa, language barrier etc..
- Instruments for cooperation – very much needed.

14.2.2007

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Fennoscandian Green Belt

- Backbone of the Finnish-Russian Cooperation in Nature Protection



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Green Belt of Fennoscandia (GBF) is an ecological network situating in the territory of three countries: Finland, Russia and Norway. It extends from the Baltic Sea to the Arctic Ocean.

The core of the GBF is made up of a network of existing and planned protected areas including five twin parks. The protected area network with its surrounding areas ensure ecological connections crucial for habitats and migration and protection of species.

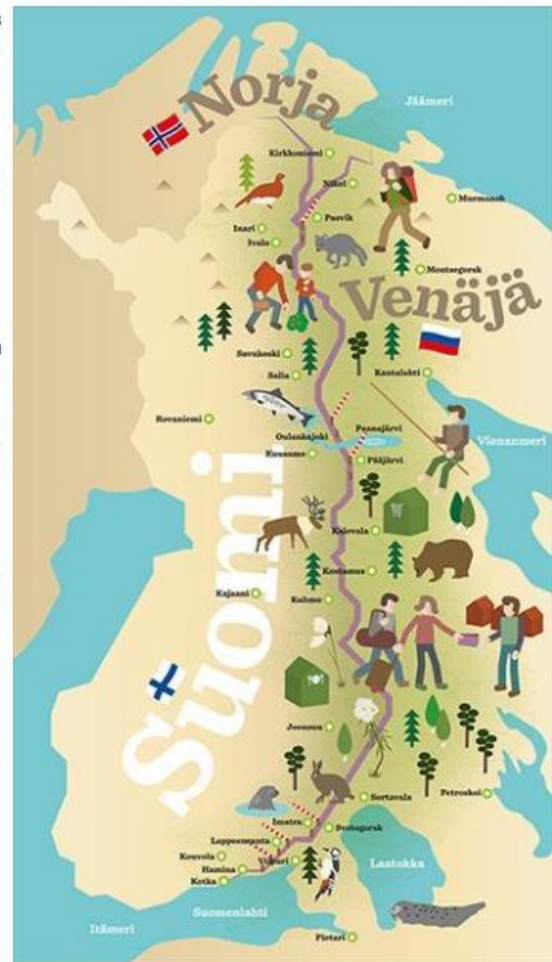
Biodiversity and healthy habitats are also greatly important to the region's vitality: to its economy, culture and social well-being.

The cooperation between Finland, Russia and Norway is now based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2010 on cooperation and development as concerns the Green Belt of Fennoscandia.

In the future the connectivity of protected areas will be developed in transboundary cooperation as the Green Belt provides one of the Europe's most important ecological corridors for species adapting to climate change.

The Green Belt of Fennoscandia is the northern part of the European Green Belt.

- The Fennoscandian Green Belt concept is developing:
 - A chain (ecological corridor) of protected areas in Norway, Russia and Finland
 - PA's as a source of well-being for people
 - Integrates also actors and actions outside PA's
- Oulanka – Paanajärvi is one of the cornerstones !
- A connection to **European Green Belt**



A potential World Heritage site ?

- A new local initiative (although been bubbling under since 1990's)
 - A preliminary study conducted by Parks & Wildlife Finland (assignment from Ministry of Environment) suggested that there are values that might help to qualify to the World Heritage List of UNESCO)
 - There's local support (or at least interest) both in Kuusamo and Louhi
 - The first step would be to get listed on national lists of Finland and Russia
 - The ecological key element is the water system that connects us; and the long geological history which is very evident
- > clearly a project is needed here!

Just a thought at present:

A Shared Vision 2025

...plus a work programme



Europarc TB
Certificate

Border crossing event &
tourism product

More studies on the ecological and cultural
significance of Ou-Pa

Work for UWHL

New projects: Karelia ENPI, Life+ etc...

Support and participation: Fennoscandian and European Green Belt



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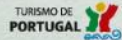
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Thanks!
Tack!
Kiitos!
Спасибо!



ADIRIMAG



- “Fennoscandian Green Belt” Investment project (a shared project with other PA’s in Finland & Russia):
 - Reconstruction of pre-war main building in Arola (Pa)
 - Renovation of trails (Ou & Pa)
 - Updating of exhibitions in visitor centres (Ou & Pa)
 - Renovation of camping site (Ou)



- Protection and sustainable trout fisheries
 - A lot of accurate knowledge on migration pattern and fishing pressure of migrating brown trout (*Trutta lacustris*)
 - Publicity ! Website: Oulangantaimen.fi
 - A good starting point for sustainable transboundary management of trout population
 - The story of the trout continues...

