



Oulanka - Paanajärvi

Recent and Future Transboundary collaboration of National Parks

1993-2015-

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PROJECTS ARE STEPS FORWARD

- In 2014, we finalized three projects:
 - Quality CET (a shared project with other PA's in Finland & Russia):
 - A new booklet for visitors, presenting both parks, nature and attractions
 - Training for staff in photography & social media
 - Best practises for international youth camps
 - Feasibility study of crossing border directly between Ou & Pa



- More:
 - "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)



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



Projects need careful planning and steering...



What next ?

Happening around us:

- 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?

Green Belt of Fennoscandia

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.

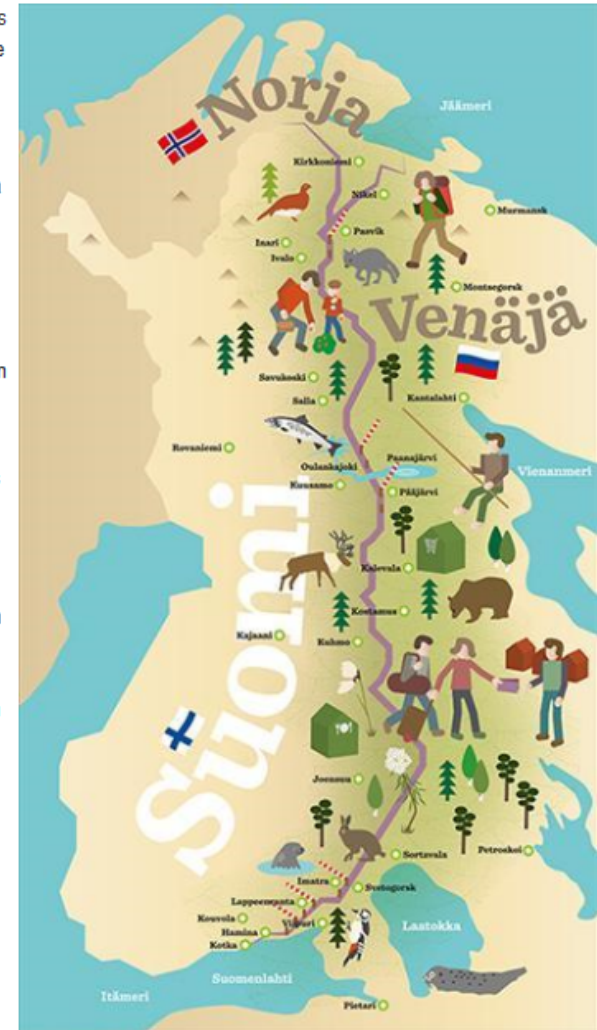
The core of the GBF is made up of a network of existing and planned protected areas including five twin parks. The protected area network with its surrounding areas ensure ecological connections crucial for habitats and migration and protection of species.

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.



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 be high enough to qualify to the World Heritage List of UNESCO
 - There's local support (or at least interest) both in Kuusamo and Loukhi
 - The first step would be to get listed on national tentative 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!

Things to do in the next project... or without it

A Shared Vision 2025



OULANKA- PAANAJÄRVI NATIONAL PARK



Oulanka-Paanajärvi NP Vision 2015

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

- 1) Oulanka-Paanajärvi is officially joint entity of two National Parks
- 2) Management principles, information systems and monitoring methods are harmonised
- 3) Environmental education and research are key priorities in NP management
- 4) Oulanka-Paanajärvi is the most attractive wilderness tourism destination in Europe
- 5) Threats towards losing the core values of nature are prevented through the versatile collaboration
- 6) Oulanka-Paanajärvi twin-park concept works as a model for transboundary collaboration world wide

Just a thought at present:

A Shared Vision 2025

...plus a work programme



Europarc
TB
Certificate

Border crossing
event & tourism
product

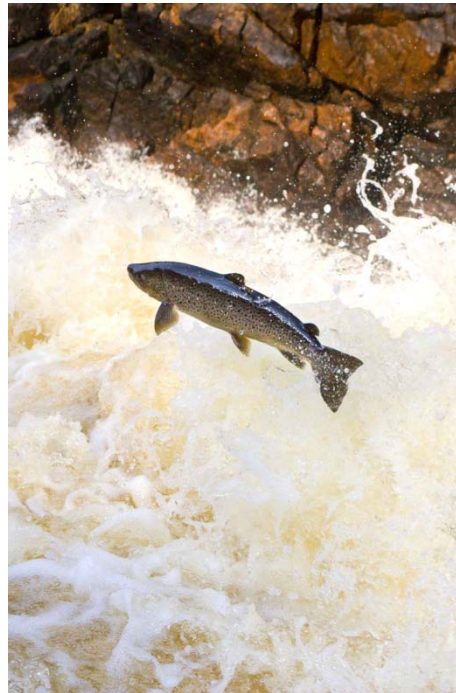
More studies on the ecological
and cultural significance of Ou-Pa

Work for UWHL

Support and participation: Fennoscandian and European Green Belt

The story of the trout continues...?

- Transboundary management of migratory fish populations in two river systems: Oulanka and Tuuloma



A new project to
start already in 2015 ?

Thank You !

